



Happy
 Thanksgiving
 From all of us at the
 Courier-Tribune to
 all of you, have a
 happy and healthy
 Thanksgiving!

Run to state | Smithville Warriors, Liberty North
 Eagles continue their run towards a state title | **Page B1**

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MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT

Area Shop with a Cop fundraising efforts underway

BY KELLIE HOUX
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For local police departments, Shop with a Cop is a chance for area law enforcement personnel to make kids happier during the holiday season. Each year, police departments fundraise to take underserved children on a shopping spree for gifts and necessities.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

To help raise funds for Shop with a Cop, Liberty officers are selling Christmas tree ornaments with the charity effort's logo.

Kearney
 In Kearney, officers chat with Kearney School District, learning which families need help.

"We are hoping for 25 kids," said officer David Parker, current department event co-organizer. "The school district gets us in touch with families who are struggling. I like to ask for kids who may be having a rough time."

Last year, COVID-19 changed up the shopping efforts with officers and their spouses shopping for two days from the kids' lists, wrapping and delivering packages. Parker said Target has also been generous with help creating a holiday meal basket.

"We are hoping to get back into the store," Parker said. "We try to get the pressing needs such as winter clothing. Most years, we

aim for \$250 per kid. Not that all officers stick to that. If there's a little over, we have a buffer."

To help out, donations are being accepted at the department, 725 W. Highway 92, and at Kearney Trust, a local bank in the city. Parker said officers will also be at the Kearney Price Chopper off Watson Drive Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 27 and 28, to take donations.

"Some of the officers, especially the new guys, think it's going to be chaotic, but it's one of the best days of the year," Parker said. "In the future, I hope to add fundraisers to the rest of the year. Stay tuned for that."

Liberty
 Unlike other police

departments trying to get back to in-person shopping, the Liberty Police Department will model this year effort after last with kids providing shopping lists and officers shopping for the kids.

Lori Sutton, support services supervisor for the Liberty Police Department as well as this event coordinator, said this year the department created a new fundraiser, offering a Liberty Police Department ornament for purchase.

"We have about 50 ornaments left," Sutton said. "They are \$15 per ornament or two for \$25."

Currently, the department is looking at shopping for about 10 kids and the

CHARITY/Page A3



METRO CREATIVE

The FDA announced Friday, Nov. 19, emergency authorization for Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine boosters for anyone age 18 and older. Previously, a single booster dose of the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines was authorized for administration to individuals 65 years of age and older, individuals 18 through 64 years of age at high risk of severe COVID-19 and individuals 18 through 64 years of age with frequent institutional or occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2.

FDA expands eligibility for COVID-19 vaccine boosters

On Friday, Nov. 19, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration amended the emergency use authorizations for both the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines, allowing use of a single booster dose for all individuals 18 and older after completion of primary vaccination with any FDA-authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine.

"Throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA has worked to make timely public health decisions as the pandemic evolves. COVID-19 vaccines have proven to be the best and highly effective defense against COVID-19. Authorizing the use of a single booster dose of either the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for individuals 18 years of age and older helps to provide continued

protection against COVID-19, including the serious consequences that can occur, such as hospitalization and death," said Acting FDA Commissioner Janet Woodcock.

Prior to Friday's authorizations, a single booster dose of the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines was authorized for administration to individuals 65 years of age and older, individuals 18 through 64 years of age at high risk of severe COVID-19 and individuals 18 through 64 years of age with frequent institutional or occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2.

"Today's action expands the use of booster doses of both vaccines to include all individuals 18 years of age and older at least six months after completion of the primary vaccination series of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine or Pfizer-BioNTech

COVID-19 Vaccine or at least two months after completion of primary vaccination with the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine," states a Friday FDA release.

"The FDA has determined that the currently available data supports expanding the eligibility of a single booster dose of the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines to individuals 18 years of age and older," said Peter Marks, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. "Streamlining the eligibility criteria and making booster doses available to all individuals 18 years of age and older will also help to eliminate confusion about who may receive a booster dose and ensure booster doses are available to all who may need one."

VACCINE/Page A3

Local groups need help to help needy

As the holiday season starts to roll out, several Northland seek a variety of help to help others.

Synergy Services
 Synergy Services, with locations in Platte and Clay counties, needs donations of food items to help to "fill a Thanksgiving plate."

The shopping list of needs includes 16-ounce boxes of instant potatoes, packets of gravy mix, cans of green beans, French fried onions, cans of cranberry sauce, pie crusts, cans of pumpkin or fruit pie filling, stuffing mix, and a 12-pack of soda or juice boxes. Also needed are \$20 gift cards for Walmart so that a turkey can be purchased.

For delivery arrangements, questions or other information, contact

Jennifer Hurst at jhurst@synergyservices.org.

Liberty Christmas Tree
 The Liberty Christmas Tree needs volunteers to adopt families in need who signed up to receive presents and food for the holiday.

Each year, more than 350 families apply for assistance from the Liberty Community Christmas Tree program.

Volunteers must attend a shopper meeting to select a family to purchase items for. Families are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Bring a valid driver's license to the meeting. Meetings are 6 to 8 p.m., Nov. 30 to Dec 2, in Heritage Hall, 117 W. Kansas St.

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SCAM ALERT

Potential thieves manipulate Caller ID

Missouri Capitol Police report scammers are manipulating Caller ID so calls appear to be coming from Missouri Capitol Police.

"This is a scam known as spoofing and can be used to try to obtain personal information from you. Do not fall for this scam," states a release from Capitol Police.

More than two dozen people who received these

fraudulent calls reached out to Capitol Police. The greatest number of reports of fraudulent calls appear to have come from people in Missouri and Texas.

"Unfortunately, spoofing phone numbers of trusted organizations or local numbers by fraudulent callers is all too common," states the release.

State Capitol police are not

the only law enforcement reporting an uptick in scams. Clay County Sheriff's Office reports several recent scams have been circulating in the area. Scams have included a person calling registered sex offenders claiming to be a sheriff's office detective and people making spoof social profiles to defraud residents

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