

Hedrick denied bond, Judge recuses self from Ashcraft case

Lisa Brotherton-Barnes
Staff Writer

Tiffany Hedrick, the Poppy's Playhouse 2 employee who was indicted on Aug. 14 for the May 16 death of three-year-old Conrad Ashcraft, had her initial appearance on Aug. 15 via WebEx video conferencing from the St. Francois County Jail.

The Honorable Joseph A. Murray presided over the hearing. The State was represented by Special Prosecuting Attorney Courtney Goodwin. The defendant was represented by Attorney T.J. Hunsaker, standing in for Scott Rosenblum. The defendant waived arraignment [the formal reading of charges] and entered a plea of not guilty. Hunsaker declined a bond review, so there was no consideration made by the court for any changes to the defendant's current bond status.

A substitute indictment issued to correct a clerical error on the original indictment, where "Jefferson County" was listed instead of "St. Francois County" in one section of the document for Count III [the charge for murder second degree-felony murder of Conrad Ashcraft]. On Aug. 22, Hedrick appeared in person at the St. Francois County courthouse for a confined docket hearing with Attorney T.J. Hunsaker, standing in for Attorney Scott Rosenblum. The State was again represented by the special prosecuting attorney for St. Francois County, Courtney Goodwin.

Hedrick waived the formal reading of the charges and pleaded not guilty. Hunsaker requested the court's consideration for a \$180,000 bond and the defendant's release from confinement at the jail to her home with the use of an electronic monitoring device. He stated that the defendant "had an obvious violation," but also strong connections within the local community, noting that her familial relations also included her children in the home.

Goodwin objected to the request and stated that she had spoken with Conrad's mother [Tara



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HEDRICK - See Page 2

Tiffany Hedrick was transported by the St. Francois County Sheriff's Department to the SFC Courthouse.



Submitted photo

Twelve of the thirteen BJC Scholars, not pictured is Alaina Pulliam.

Two Farmington residents receive scholarships

Two Farmington residents have received a scholarship from BJC HealthCare and The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis: Lily Dowell and Alaina Pulliam.

Dowell plans to attend Truman State University in the Fall. "This scholarship means that I will be able to earn my degree without as much stress and with more support. My future can be what I want it to be because of this scholarship," said Dowell.

Pulliam, who will attend Missouri State University, said, "I am honored to have been chosen as a recipient for the BJC Scholarship. This scholarship allows me to focus on my academic coursework, helping me to achieve my dream of becoming a pediatric nurse anesthetist."

As the 2025-26 school year begins, 13 new BJC

Scholars are headed off to college to pursue their dreams—with support from BJC HealthCare and The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis. From studying music, mechanical engineering, and nursing to information technology, business administration, and more—this year's class marks the ninth cohort of BJC Scholars to embark on their college journey.

"It is gratifying and humbling to play a part in removing a financial barrier for these bright young students," says Joan Magruder, BJC East Region group president and a member of The Scholarship Foundation board of directors.

"They have accomplished so much already—both academically and personally, and through their grit and fortitude when faced with challenges in their

own lives. The extraordinary resolve they have shown will serve them well as they chase their academic dreams. All of us at BJC and The Scholarship Foundation applaud their achievements and are excited for what the future holds for each of them."

The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis administers all aspects of the program and supports the awardees and their families in taking full advantage of other state, federal, and institutional funds, and additional available resources, to ensure that the BJC scholarship award completes the funding required for full year attendance. The Foundation also provides ongoing support that includes advising, workshops, financial aid counseling, participation in paid internship programs, and additional funding opportunities if relevant.

Tax Levy Hearing

The St. Francois County Health Center Board of Trustees will hold a tax levy hearing on Thursday August 28, 2025, at 4:00pm. The hearing will be held prior to the regularly scheduled monthly Board of Trustees meeting at 1025 W. Main St. Park Hills, Mo 63601.

Grand jury indicts Huff for sex crimes

Lisa Brotherton-Barnes
Staff Writer

A St. Francois County Grand Jury has indicted Aaron M. Huff, 22, of Bonne Terre on five counts of statutory sodomy or attempted statutory sodomy of a person less than 12 years of age. Huff was charged in June by the St. Francois County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for the offenses that took place in May 2018.

The defendant's \$75,000 bond was reduced to \$50,000 cash or surety with special conditions added that included no contact with any person under the age of 18. He posted bond on June 25.

The grand jury indicted him on July 17. The defendant waived formal arraignment and pleaded "not guilty" to the charges at his initial hearing on Aug. 8. Trial setting is scheduled for Nov. 14 with the Honorable Brice Sechrest presiding.

Perpetrators of these crimes often go unpunished because they go unreported due to the victims' fear of retaliation from their abusers. Sadly, the victim is sometimes ridiculed or harshly judged by society for the nature of the incidents. Huff's victim chose to make a report, which launched an investigation into the allegations that caused Huff to be charged in June with sexual crimes against a minor.



Aaron Huff

Historical Society Presentation: The Life of Constable Sam Doss

Pam Clifton
Contributing Writer

A St. Francois County lawman was gunned down in August 1926. The controversy surrounding Constable Sam Doss's life is a complicated one.

Anyone who'd like to learn more about Constable Doss's life should attend Wednesday's St. Francois County Historical Society meeting when Farmington resident and retired Mineral Area College instructor Jessie Williams shares details about him.

The meeting takes place Aug. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Farmington Fire Department's community room. In addition, anyone who is interested in portraying people for the St. Francois County Historical Society's Cemetery Tour can meet at the firehouse at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday before the 7 p.m. presentation.

Doss was from Desloge and dabbled in racing scams. For years, he ran a saloon and gambling hall. When he fell in love with a girl from a well-respected local family, she changed his life when they married. Doss became a deputy sheriff and then became a payroll guard for the National Lead Company.

In 1922, he was elected constable for Randolph Township and unsuccessfully ran for sheriff in 1924. He fought against bootleggers and apparently made many enemies because of this opposition.



The Sam Doss house.

Photo courtesy Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bryan of Desloge