

New Hearing Resource Arrives in Cameron as Audiology Services Expand Locally

Dr. Pamela Nelson of Quality Hearing and Audiology Center brings hearing evaluations and prevention-focused care to Cameron Regional Medical Center

By Sean Shaughnessey

Editor
editor@mycameronnews.com

Hearing loss often happens gradually — missed words during conversations, turning up the television volume, asking people to repeat themselves more often, or noticing persistent ringing in the ears.

Now, residents in Cameron have a new local resource for hearing care.

Dr. Pamela Nelson, an audiologist with Quality Hearing and Audiology Center in St. Joseph, has begun seeing patients twice each month at Cameron Regional Medical Center, bringing specialized hearing evaluations and audiology services closer to home for local residents.

One of the biggest challenges with hearing loss, Dr. Nelson explained, is how slowly it often develops.

“People adapt without realizing it,” she said. “By the time someone notices they’re struggling in groups or asking people to repeat themselves regularly, changes may have already been happening for years.”

Common warning signs of hearing loss



- can include:
- Persistent ringing or buzzing in the ears
- Difficulty hearing conversations in groups

- Struggling to understand conversations from another room or the back seat of a vehicle
- Frequently asking others to repeat themselves
- Feeling mentally exhausted after social situations because of the concentration required to hear

Dr. Nelson recommends adults begin considering baseline hearing screenings around age 50, much like routine eye exams and other preventative health checks.

“Hearing is really important to cognitive health and healthy aging,” she said.

The conversation around hearing health also extends beyond hearing loss itself. Tinnitus — often described as ringing in the ears — affects many adults and can have multiple causes.

“Tinnitus is really a symptom,” Dr. Nelson explained. “It can be related to hearing loss, stress, cardiovascular issues, earwax buildup, metabolic health concerns or other underlying conditions.”

Because causes vary widely, persistent ringing should not automatically be ignored, especially if symptoms suddenly worsen or begin interfering with daily life.

Dr. Nelson also emphasized prevention, particularly for younger residents exposed to loud environments through work, recreation, farming, hunting, power tools, concerts or prolonged earbud use.

Simple steps can help protect hearing:

- Wear hearing protection around loud equipment
- Lower headphone and earbud volume
- Take breaks from prolonged noise exposure
- Seek evaluation early rather than waiting years after symptoms begin

The addition of audiology services locally may also remove one of the biggest barriers for rural healthcare: distance.

Patients can now access hearing evaluations and related services locally through twice-monthly appointments at Cameron Regional Medical Center.

For residents who have been putting off hearing concerns, Dr. Nelson said the message is simple:

“Sometimes having a baseline gives people peace of mind,” she said. “And if there is something changing, you catch it earlier.”

Missouri gas prices fall 17 cents as national averages decline

By Patrick DeHaan

Contributed

Missouri drivers are seeing some relief at the pump as average gasoline prices dropped sharply over the past week.

According to GasBuddy’s survey of 3,940 stations statewide, the average price for regular gasoline in Missouri fell 17.2 cents per gallon during the last week to \$4.01 per gallon. Prices remain slightly higher than a month ago — up less than a penny — and are still \$1.15 higher than this time last year.

Nationally, gas prices also moved lower, falling 19.5 cents per gallon to an average of \$4.26. Diesel prices dropped 15.5 cents nationwide to \$5.44 per gallon.

Missouri drivers continue to see significant price swings depending on location. GasBuddy reported the cheapest fuel in the state Sunday at \$3.48 per gallon, while the highest reported price reached \$4.99 — a difference of \$1.51 per gallon.

Closer to northwest Missouri, regional prices were lower than the state average:

- Kansas City:

\$3.89 per gallon, down 26.7 cents

• Topeka: \$3.91 per gallon, down 8 cents

• St. Louis: \$4.22 per gallon, down 13.6 cents

“Average gasoline prices declined in all 50 states over the last week, offering motorists some of the most widespread relief seen in weeks,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

De Haan attributed much of the drop to lower oil prices and easing concerns over global supply, but cautioned prices could rise again if geopolitical tensions increase or energy negotiations abroad stall.

Historical data shows current prices remain elevated compared to recent years. Missouri drivers paid an average of \$2.87 per gallon at this time in 2025 and \$3.16 in 2024.

Allied Arts Council Marks New Chapter with Ribbon Cutting, Rebrand

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — After more than 60 years serving Northwest Missouri’s arts community, the Allied Arts Council will celebrate a new brand identity with a ribbon cutting ceremony and community open house Thursday, June 4.

The event begins at 4 p.m. at the organization’s headquarters, 118 S. Eighth St., and is free and open to the public.

Guests can expect refreshments, photo opportunities, a look at the organization’s new branding and vision, and opportunities to connect with local artists, supporters and community members.

Executive Director Jessica Agnew said the rebrand reflects both the organization’s history and its future.

“This rebrand represents more than just a new look,” Agnew said. “It represents renewed energy, community connection and our continued

commitment to making the arts accessible, engaging and inspiring for everyone.”

Founded in 1963, the Allied Arts Council has supported arts programming, advocacy and creative partnerships throughout Northwest Missouri for more than six decades.

Community members are encouraged to attend and learn more about upcoming programs and the organization’s plans moving forward.

Event Details:

What: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Community Open House
When: Thursday, June 4, at 4 p.m.
Where: 118 S. Eighth St., St. Joseph
Admission: Free and open to the public

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