

Barry County Reports First COVID-19 Case

Isaac Estes-Jones

It is official: Barry County has its first confirmed case of coronavirus COVID-19. The individual is confirmed to be recovering at home and the Barry County Health Department is contacting anyone who may have had contact with the individual during the period they were contagious.

Barry County Emergency Management reported the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Barry County on Friday, March 27. David Compton, Director of Barry County Emergency Management, said, "We don't have an age range or gender to report right now, but this was a community spread case. That means this person did not travel to a known COVID hotspot like New York City

or Wuhan, China." The patient is currently quarantined in their home and is recovering there.

"At this time, the health department is doing their investigation. That means they have interviewed this individual about who they have been in close contact with during the incubation period, so the last 14 days. They will then be talking to those individuals, checking if anyone else is symptomatic and following that same line of questions," Compton said.

The patient was tested Thursday at an out-of-county testing site after contacting a doctor when they started to show symptoms. "This person was very smart in that as soon as they thought they might be showing symptoms that match, they immediately

contacted a physician who then referred them to a testing site outside of the county," Compton said. "The test was done yesterday through a private lab and the positive result was reported this afternoon. The good news is, as soon as this person had symptoms, they took appropriate actions. This person is self-quarantined in their home right now."

While this is a case that was spread through community contact, Compton says people should not be overly worried. "We aren't changing our recommendations for people right now. That's not necessary at this time," he said. The health department's investigation will go through anyone who had close con-

See COVID 3A

Spring arrives in Barry County



It's officially spring when the river of creeping phlox begins to flow alongside 8th Street in Cassville.

Young area mother in need of kidney



Chelsie Dick and husband Pete Janis.

Caden Swearingen

Chelsie Dick, 27, of Fairview, is a wife and the mother of three children. In 2014, Dick was diagnosed with

Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis (FSGS), after the birth of her second child. FSGS is a disease in which scar tissue develops on the

parts of the kidneys that filter the waste from the blood.

Dick is currently at the end stages of kidney failure, with her kidney function at 11 percent. It continues to decrease at the rate of 1 percent per month. A transplant is the only cure. Without it, Dick will be forced to go on dialysis until a kidney becomes available.

She faces many dietary restrictions, including the careful measurement of her fluid intake.

"I can only drink thirty two ounces of fluid a day including fluid from food," said Dick.

Both of her children were

born prematurely due to her kidney failure.

Kidney failure, however, hasn't stopped her from working.

Dick works at Cassville Walmart, as does her friend, Adriana Franco, of Cassville.

After time spent talking at work, Franco, who had two children of her own, learned that Dick was in kidney failure. It lay heavy on her heart to know that a hardworking young mother was carrying such a load, although they didn't speak of it often.

"I just prayed for her," said Franco.

A few months later, Dick transferred to another store, but the two women kept in contact.

Sometime later, while shopping with her fiancé in Rogers, Franco ran into Dick again, and learned that her condition had deteriorated further.

Franco prayed for her every night, wishing there was more she could do.

Days later, she discovered there *might* be.

She saw a Facebook post created by Dick, asking for a living kidney donor. Included was a link to Mayo Clinic, non profit medical academic center based in Rochester, Minn. Franco immediately started crying, and clicked on the link to fill out a health questionnaire for possible donors.

See KIDNEY 3A

The Barry County Advertiser welcomes new editor and reporter



EDITOR,
SHEILA HARRIS

I'll be honest. I have mixed emotions about taking on this position of editor.

On one hand, I'm thrilled. I'm grateful for the chance to do my favorite thing: tell people's stories, tell *your* stories.

On the other hand, I'm terrified. I knew full well I'd be in over my head when I accepted this job, but I also knew it would provide me with a great learning opportunity.

So, here I am, up to my neck, treading water wildly, and getting a paid education.

My dad asked, "You do realize, don't you, you'll sometimes have to write about things that don't interest you?"

His words gave me

See EDITOR 5A



REPORTER,
CADEN
SWEARINGEN

I'm very excited about my new journey at the Barry County Advertiser.

I've owned my own photography business, CS Photography, specializing in infant and senior portraiture, for five years.

I'm 19 years old, a native of Cassville, and the son of Gary and Sara Swearingen of Cassville. I graduated from Cassville High School in 2018.

I have always loved photography and writing. When this position became available, I took the opportunity and applied. I was hired on at the Advertiser in the beginning of February. One of my main goals for my position is to capture the greatness of the county and the people who make it great.

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COVID-19 from FRONT

tact with the patient. For example, Compton said, "If this person had a child and that child's friend came to the house, the health department would contact that family to let them know to be cautious and aware."

"When things come out this early, we don't always have all of the details," Compton said, "I got a text message and a phone call this afternoon as soon as the results came back. I will say that, as far as I know, this person was under the age of 50."

Barry County officials are not considering a stay-at-home order or shelter in place order presently. "A lot of the people in Barry County are in the food or emergency response fields anyway, so they would be considered essential personnel," Compton said. "If the situation changes to the point that we feel that is necessary, we will look at it then, but right now, there are no plans to do that."

Barry County Emergency Management and Barry County Health Department say people should continue to follow the suggestions for

prevention. "The best way to protect yourself is to follow the guidelines," Compton said. "Cover your mouth when you cough, keep at least six feet between you and other people; that's how we prevent this from spreading in this community," he said.

Additionally, Compton stressed the importance of staying safe against all threats, not just the virus. "We are in tornado season now. If sirens go off, heed the storm sirens and go to your shelter. In the shelter, do your best to keep away from other people, but don't stay away just because there are more than 10 people there. You might catch this virus, but when it comes to a tornado, it is pretty likely to catch you. We want people to stay safe."

The United States of America is currently leading the world in confirmed COVID-19 cases, according to the World Health Organization.

More information on this developing case will be reported as it becomes available.

"I wanted to do whatever I could to help her," Franco said. "She is an amazing woman, and deserves to live a long, beautiful life with her family."

"I talked to my family about what I wanted to do, and they were very supportive of my decision," she added.

Thirty minutes after filling out the form, Franco got a call from a nurse at the Mayo Clinic. The nurse told her she was a good candidate as a kidney donor for Dick, and asked her if she wanted to get tested. She answered yes.

The Mayo Clinic sent a box in the mail to Franco, who took it to Mercy Hospital in Cassville where her blood was drawn, then sent to Mayo Clinic.

Both Dick's and Franco's labs were tested to see if they would fight against each other or work together.

Five days later, Dick transferred back to Cassville Walmart, where she continues to work.

It was the same day Franco got her results back from Mayo Clinic. They told Franco she was a compatible match.

"I instantly started crying happy tears," said Franco.

Franco then went to Mayo Clinic for a battery of tests to make sure she was healthy enough for the surgery. The following four days consisted of twenty-four-hour urine tests, an echocardiogram, a CT scan of the kidney and

KIDNEY from FRONT

bladder, a kidney function test, psychological exams, twenty four hour blood pressure monitoring, and classes to explain the surgical process.

"The nurses I met were all amazing and supportive," said Franco.

At the end of the testing, Franco met with the doctors and nurses to discuss her results. Unfortunately, one her tests didn't meet the required standards, so Franco was ineligible as a donor.

"But," Franco said, "I still want to be a voice for Chelsie and for anyone who wants to get tested in the future."

"We raised money to get me there and I'm so grateful for every single person who helped make the trip happen," she added. "God has a plan for everything and we just need to trust in him."

Dick now has insurance that will help with hospital bills and will cover the cost of the trip for anyone wanting to test in the future.

Through what's called the "Paired Program," even if you're not a direct donor match for Dick, you might be a match for someone else, who has a donor who might be a match for Dick.

"This experience changed my outlook on life," Franco said. "Everything is in God's control and timing."

Just because Franco can't donate her kidney, doesn't mean she can't donate. In the future, Franco plans to help

others by donating blood.

To help Chelsie Dick, type A or O blood may be donated, designating her as the recipient.

Prospective kidney donors may visit MayoClinic.org/livingdonor, then enter "Chelsie Dick" and "04/30/1992."

Fundraisers will be planned at a later date.



Chelsie Dick's sons, Elijah, 7, and Laben, 5.

Candidate filings close for August primary

Sheila Harris Tuesday, March 31, marked the close of filings for Barry County office positions with terms beginning in 2021. The following names will appear on the ballot in the August 4 primary.

Incumbent Sheriff, Gary Davis, will face Travis Hilburn, of Cassville, and Danny Boyd, of Purdy, on the Republican ticket. Both contestants are former Missouri State Highway Patrol troopers, with Boyd currently serving as a Detective with the Cassville Police Department. Sheriff Davis is a former FBI agent.

In the Northern Commissioner seat, Republican incumbent Gary Schad, of Purdy, will be challenged by Kyle Forgey, a Republican from Monett, in the August 4 primary.

The Southern Commissioner race is also contested, with Gene Robbins, of Exeter, and Wade Hermansen, of Cassville, going head-to-head on the Republican ticket in the August 4 primary. The winner will face Democratic incumbent, Wayne Hendrix, of Cassville, in the November election.

Sam Madsen, of Cassville, the sole candidate for Public Administrator, filed on the Republican ticket to fill the vacancy which will be left by Keith Daniels, who did not file for re-election.

In other uncontested races, incumbent Sherry L. Smith, a Republican, filed for another term as Assessor, and Jim Fohn, from Cassville, filed for another term as Coroner on the Republican ticket.

Situational Update

As of March 31, Barry County Health Department and the Office of Emergency Management reported that 37 tests for COVID-19 had taken place in the county, not including those which may have been conducted at pri-

vate labs. 27 tests yielded a negative response. Nine were still pending. One positive response for COVID-19 was confirmed. The subject remains quarantined at home. Eight close contacts are in home isolation.

Fraud surrounding COVID-19 is increasing

The Missouri SMP (Senior Medicare Patrol) is warning older adults about the potential for fraud during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Missouri SMP is asking people to call its hotline at 1-888-515-6565 to report any suspected fraud.

This national fraud SMP fraud alert contains information that all seniors need to know:

- As the number of people and communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic grows, so do the scams associated with it. Scammers use public health emergencies as opportunities of new fraud schemes, and because older adults are at greater risk for serious illness from COVID-19, they may target older populations.
- There is currently no FDA-approved vaccine for COVID-19 and although there may be treatment for symptoms, there is no "cure." However, scammers often use fear-based tactics to convince people that a vaccine or cure is now being offered.

• It's also important to remember that although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other public health officials may contact you if they believe you may have been exposed to the virus, they will not need to ask you for insurance or financial information.

The Senior Medicare Patrol recommends that Medicare beneficiaries:

- Contact your own doctor if you are experiencing potential symptoms of COVID-19.
- Do not give out your Medicare number, Social Security number, or personal information in response to unsolicited calls, texts, emails, home visits, or booths at health fairs and other public venues. If your personal information is compromised, it may be used in other fraud schemes as well.
- Be suspicious of anyone going door-to-door to offer free coronavirus or COVID-19 testing, supplies or treatment.



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Community Calendar

Community Calendar page is free as a courtesy to local events. If your event is relying on advertising for attendance, then it is vital for you to place a paid ad. There is no guarantee that your event will be placed in Community Calendar. The deadline for community calendar is Friday at 4 p.m. The contact person is Elaine Phaneuf, class@4bca.com or (417) 847-4475. Thank you for keeping us informed of all updates/changes to local events.

Notice:

Please Note: Because of safety measures to slow the spread of the coronavirus including social distancing, many events will or have been cancelled or postponed. It is recommended to call ahead if you are unsure of the status of an event. The Barry County Advertiser has been informed of cancellations and postponements of formerly published events. Those cancellations are indicated in this section. Thank you.

As OATS Transit continues to adjust to the COVID-19 crisis, they are only offering essential service trips at this time. They are limiting the number of individuals on their buses to facilitate social distancing, and drivers are cleaning buses on a routine basis. The essential trips only service will remain in effect until further notice. Individuals can call the OATS Transit office at 417-887-9272 or 1-800-770-6287 for information on local service. Visit their website at www.oatstransit.org/health for updated information on this topic.

Essential service transportation is defined as dialysis, doctor appointments, grocery shopping, food banks, etc. “This is a difficult decision and one we are not taking lightly, but it is the right thing to do during this national crisis,” said Dorothy Yeager, Executive Director. Individuals who are sick should stay home.

Several measures have been put into place to ensure the safety of everyone on board the buses:

- Drivers are doing routine cleaning and disinfecting on the buses throughout the day, and cleaning surfaces that riders may come into contact with.
 - The amount of people on each bus will be limited to ensure safe distances for riders and drivers.
 - Non-essential appointments should be delayed if possible to limit exposure.
 - During the COVID-19 crisis, riders should expect drivers to refrain from touching any personal belongings and packages. OATS asks riders to be understanding and prepared for this adjustment to our normal routine.
- The Seligman Train Ride for May has been cancelled** and will be rescheduled at a later date.

Beginning Wednesday, March 25, the Cassville City Hall lobby will close to the public. Payments can be made online, in either of the two outside drop boxes, or over the phone. Please call 847-4441 if you need any services related to water, sewer and trash utilities or Municipal Court. Please call 847-3121 if you need any services related to making a police report, or to have an officer contact you. Please call 911 if you have an emergency.

Haven of the Ozarks Animal Sanctuary of Washburn has closed to the public temporarily due to the coronavirus, Covid-19, as a cautionary measure. All scheduled appointments will still be honored.

All Branches of the Barry-Lawrence Regional Libraries will be closed until April 6, 2020. *The following message has been sent out from the Cassville Library: Our library and the other libraries in the Barry-Lawrence Regional Library system will remain closed until April 24th. Some things to remember: Free Wi-Fi is accessible in our parking lot from 6am-11pm. Use your library card to access ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, movies, and music at hoopladigital.com and Missouri Libraries to Go (Overdrive). Please don't use our Dropbox. Keep your library materials and return them once we reopen. You will NOT be charged a late fee. Stay well. We miss seeing you all.*

The Chairperson of the Barry County Democrats has announced the mass meeting scheduled for Monday, April 6, is cancelled. There are new guidelines coming out for selection of delegates for the state convention. Those who are interested in becoming a delegate should email maella.blalock@gmail.com. Instead of a Barry County meeting, delegates from all counties in the local congressional district will be selected on May 30, 2020, at a mass meeting. Location and other information to be released as it is confirmed. The state convention has moved from KC to a central Missouri location, to be announced, and the original date of June 20, 2020, is now uncertain. The form to file for a state delegate on online.

Starting in March, the Wheaton Depot Museum will be open on the second and fourth Sundays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Watch the Community Calendar for updates on the time and the dates. The Wheaton Depot Museum is the major project of the Wheaton Historical Society.

Habitat for Humanity is looking for families to apply for a home in Wheaton. For more information or to apply, stop by the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, 900 10th St. in Cassville. They are open Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

2020 Southwest Yearbooks are on sale now. The cost is \$25 and the deadline to order is May 31. For more information, contact Mr. Voyak at svoyak@swr5.net.

Seligman Chamber will host a dance every Saturday at 7:00 p.m. For information, call (417) 662-3612.

The Seligman Chamber Dance for Saturday, April 4, 2020, has been cancelled.

April 3rd

Due to the Coronavirus, Ozark Country Quilters of Cassville is canceling their 16th Biennial Quilt Show, “O C the Quilts”, April 3, 2020, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and April 4, 2020, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Crowder College, 4020 N. Main, Cassville.

How to clean when faced with a shortage of supplies

In light of concerns about COVID-19, various health organizations have issued specific instructions on how to maintain personal safety and cleanliness. These recommendations involve using common household products to sanitize homes, offices and public spaces. As people take such precautions, many are stocking up on extra essentials - resulting in shortages.

Everything from hand sanitizers to paper towels may be hard to find on grocery store shelves, leaving some to wonder what they can do to remain safe without sanitizers?

The Environmental Protection Agency states that coronaviruses are some of the easiest types of viruses to kill because they have an envelope around them that enables them to merge with other cells and infect them. If that protective coating can be disrupted, the virus can't do its job. For those having trouble finding well-known cleaning agents, these alternatives may suffice.

Hot water and soap. The reason hand-washing is at the top of the list of sanitizing methods is because it is so effective at washing away viruses and bacteria. Friction from scrubbing with soap and water can help break the protective envelope, states the EPA. Soap and water can clean all surfaces in a home, especially when applying a little extra elbow grease.

Hydrogen peroxide. As people clear isopropyl (rubbing alcohol) off the shelves, do not discount hydrogen peroxide. The CDC says household hydrogen peroxide at 3 percent concentration can deactivate rhinovirus, the virus that causes the common cold, within six to eight minutes of contact. Coronavirus is easier to destroy than rhinovirus, so hydrogen peroxide may be effective at combatting that virus as well.

Natural items can be used for general cleaning, but have not been endorsed for use on COVID-19 disinfection. In lieu of shortages, white vinegar, baking soda pastes and citrus oils and juices could fill the void of chemically-based cleansers for other home tasks.

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EDITOR from FRONT

pause for consideration, but then I thought of crack reporter, Murray Bishoff, of The Monett Times, who once told me he eventually *became* interested in topics and events after writing about them often enough. Words of wisdom from one who wore shoes out to prove them!

I'm looking forward to getting to know more people in the community after social-distancing becomes a thing of the past, whenever that might be.

For the time being, here's a short introduction:

I've lived in Barry County for 47 years, long enough to know it would be difficult to leave it. It has me by the heart. The regimented cornfields of my native state of Iowa can't compare to the glorious disorder of the wooded hills and rippling creeks of southwest Missouri.

Besides, I've got people here, including a baby granddaughter. With her birth in November, I learned the meaning of "Unto us a child is born." That single, simple sentence describes not just an event, but an all-encompassing *emotion*. She's a breath of fresh air in my world. A gift.

In addition to this little smidget, I have two adult children and an almost-adult grandson.

My interests are constantly evolving. This year's focal point – so far – is Barry County's Civil War history, which, for some reason, I was oblivious to until recently. Now, I'm consumed with re-tracing its pages. My hope is to share a few tidbits as time permits.

My *prayer* is that we all survive COVID-19.

Be safe. - Sheila

COVID-19 Testing Available for First Responders and Health Care Workers

JEFFERSON CITY – First responders on the front lines are working hard to protect Missourians during the COVID-19 pandemic. In an effort to both keep them healthy and keep them on the job, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is expediting COVID-19 testing and test results for qualifying first responders and other public health and safety professionals by processing their specimens through the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory.

The Missouri State Public Health Laboratory includes the testing of Missourians working in health care and public safety who have had close contact with suspected COVID-19 patients and subsequently experience symptoms such as fever, cough

or shortness of breath. The lab can provide test results within 24 hours of receiving the specimen — a faster rate than the 8-9 days of some commercial laboratories. This means front-line professionals who test negative and recover from symptoms may return to work sooner and continue providing critical services to fellow Missourians.

Testing is not available for people who are asymptomatic. For testing at the state laboratory, first responders must meet two criteria:

- Close contact with a suspected COVID-19 patient
- Symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath

First responders who meet these criteria can ask their health care providers to call the COVID-19 24-hour

hotline at 877-435-8411 to request testing. If the patient is approved for testing, the hotline representatives will assist with the completion of a PUI (person under investigation) form and send a copy to the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory.

For more information, please see the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services health update: <https://health.mo.gov/emergencies/ert/alertsadvisories/pdf/update32320.pdf>

Cassville RV Board calls special meeting

Sheila Harris

The Board of Education of Cassville RV Schools held a special meeting Tuesday, March 24, for information purposes surrounding COVID-19 and the subsequent Wellness Break.

Plans were established for cleaning, sanitizing, summer projects, event postponements, and food service meal preparation, which remains an ongoing service.

Plans were discussed for each building's teachers to become involved in wellness checks on students, hopefully on a bi-weekly basis.

Part of the wellness calls will involve gathering information about the availability of home internet access and educational materials, as well as implementing high school instructional plans for core or credit-related courses.

Dr. Asbill presented information to the Board regarding current fiscal plans, including continuing monetary

"Wellness Break" extended

After consulting with the Barry County Health Department, the superintendents of Newton, Lawrence, McDonald and Barry County Schools made the joint decision to extend the Wellness Break of all school districts in the counties through April 24. These include the Cassville, Southwest, Exeter, Purdy and Wheaton districts.

The closure impacts all extra and co-curricular events, activities and practices, and before and after school programs.

Buildings will remain closed to the public and all non-essential personnel.

Schools will continue to provide meal options for students under the age of 18.

Access Dental Care Limits Services

On March 18, 2020, the American Dental Association (ADA) issued guidance to Dental Practices across the United States, in response to the Covid-19 outbreak. The ADA guidance suggests Dentists see patients only with urgent or emergent (emergency) dental issues. The ADA guidance instructs Dentists to postpone all routine hygiene and non-emergency care.

ACCESS Family Care established a Team to review this guidance and the best interest of our customers. This review led to the very difficult decision to suspend all elective, routine hygiene, and non-emergency dental procedures until the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ADA, and / or other regulatory bodies indicate it

is responsible to reschedule patients. This suspension of care was effective March 23, 2020. We sincerely apologize to our customers as we know this will be a major inconvenience and gap in healthcare.

ACCESS Family Care is hopeful the ADA guidance, pandemic conditions, and economic climate quickly recover. We are hopeful to recall as many or all of our laid off Team, as soon as possible.

We will maintain a small Dental Team, at each of our Dental Clinics, to see urgent and emergent (emergency) patients, those with pain and swelling. Patients may email info@accessfamilycare.org, or visit our website at www.accessfamilycare.org to request an emergency appointment.

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FAMILY-RUN BUSINESS PROVIDES VITAL LINK IN THE FOOD CHAIN

Sheila Harris

When asked if the COVID-19 outbreak is affecting cattle prices, Chris Hammen, a behind-the-scenes voice at Four State Stockyards in Exeter, was philosophical.

“Fear and greed drive the market,” he stated. “That’s just the way it is. When the virus first started showing up in the Midwest, there was a downward spiral in prices as people reacted to a perceived threat. Then there was an uptick, in part, because there was a greater demand for packaged beef with people staying home and cooking. Now prices are heading down again.”

Chris Hammen’s son, Cade, attributes the current downward trend in beef prices to restaurants being closed as a result of the spread of COVID-19.

“People typically buy high-dollar cuts of beef when they go out to eat,” he said, “whereas the average person who buys meat in the grocery store buys mostly ground beef.”

While the demand for packaged beef in grocery stores is higher, with prices higher accordingly, it doesn’t necessarily translate to better profits for producers - those who raise the cattle - according to Chris Hammen.

“Everything’s so intertwined in our economy,” he said. “We all depend on each other, in a very real sense. Beef producers contribute to the food chain; we provide a substantial portion of what people eat, but we’re near the bottom of the chain. We don’t always reap the rewards of a good market for retailers.”

Hammen’s four oldest sons, Clay, Colby, Cale and Cade, and his wife Kim’s brother, Chris Keeling, are the owners of record of Four State Stockyards, but the elder Hammen was instrumental in helping his sons make their part of the purchase of the stockyards a little over a year ago.

Chris Hammen, his wife Kim, and Kim’s brother, Chris Keeling, and his wife, Kerry (who is also Chris Hammen’s sister), grew up on cattle farms in the Purdy area and raised their respective children in the same environment.

By the time Cade Hammen was 16, he had developed such a good eye for assessing cattle that it caught the attention of the stockyard’s previous owners.

“They asked me if I wanted to go to work for them,” Cade said. “I told them, no, but that I would be interested in buying the business. They just laughed, probably because of my age. A few years later, though, they came back

and asked me if I still wanted to buy it. I did. I had to run it by Dad first, since he had the checkbook, but he thought it was a great opportunity, especially if I bought it jointly with my brothers.”

Chris Keeling, too, was eager to participate in the joint venture. After many years of working for other livestock auctions, he looked forward to the challenge of helping his own family grow a business.

Also contributing their time and skill to Four State Stockyards are Chris Hammen’s two youngest sons, Chad and Chet, and Chris Keeling’s sons, Colt, Cash and Carter. From unloading trailers to shuttling cattle in and out of pens, there’s plenty of work for everyone.

“These boys of ours are so responsible, and are such hard workers, they could go to work anywhere. With the stockyards, we get to work together as a family and the boys can make a living at the same time,” Chris Keeling said.

Since their purchase of the stockyards in January 2019, the Hammens and Keelings have added more fenced pens with feeders and automatic waterers, plus other improvements to increase the stockyard’s efficiency.

Sales, so far, have exceeded their expectations. Chris Hammen credits part of the reason to the sale day being moved from Saturday to Tuesday.

“People like to have Saturdays free for family activities, without being afraid they’ll miss a sale,” he said.

Having an award-winning auctioneer doesn’t hurt anything either. Justin Dodson, from Welch, Oklahoma, is happy to drive to Exeter on sale days to support the Hammens and Keelings with his services.

The women in the family help out with the business, too. Both Chrisses’ wives, mothers (Kitty Hammen and Leona Keeling) and daughters (Katy, Kloe and Kori Hammen and Lexi Keeling) cook and serve food in the café, which is currently closed to inside dining. Or-

ders may be called in and carried out, though.

Cale Hammen’s wife, Breanna, also contributes a valuable service to the business in the position of office manager.

While the names and relationships can be a bit confusing, on any given sale day, it’s possible to find up to 18 members of the Hammen and Keeling families working together on the premises: a satisfactory arrangement for all involved.

In response to an Exeter resident’s concern about the large gathering at Four State Stockyards Tuesday morning, Chris Hammen would like to reassure the community that they are abiding by the Livestock Marketing Association’s request to minimize crowds.

“We have asked our sellers to drop cattle off prior to the sale, either the night or morning before, and that’s what they’re doing,” Chris Hammen said. “Then we just mail them a check after their cattle sell. They don’t have to attend the event.”

“We were told by the Association that we’re exempt from the gathering ordinance, since we provide a needed food commodity,” he continued.

According to Hammen, the large Tuesday morning crowd at the sale barn was made up of buyers.

“People like to buy cattle when the grass turns green



Tuesday morning’s calf auction at Four State Stockyards had large turnout of buyers.

and begins to grow,” he said. “Now’s the time to buy calves to allow them to grass-feed. We don’t want to discourage them from buying. They provide the beef that ends up on our tables.”

Cade Hammen and Chris Keeling have mixed feelings about the current depressed cattle prices.

“There’s a lot of uncertainty right now,” Keeling said. “COVID-19 is a global problem; it’s a legitimate concern, so we don’t want to rush things, but people need to get back to work. We’ve got to get past the scare first, though.”

Cade Hammen believes fear is the only thing keeping cattle prices down.

“Our imports and exports are good. We don’t have a lot of cattle standing around, so

everything’s in place to push the market back up,” he said.

“We’re a ‘go-go’ society,” Chris Hammen said. “We like to go places and do

things. Once we’re allowed to get back out and do them, there’ll be a huge economic rebound for everybody.”

SALE TIMES

Four State Stockyards, 9735 Highway 76, Exeter, holds calf sales Tuesdays at 10 a.m., and replacement cow sales Tuesday at 6 p.m.

They hold a sheep & goat sale the second Friday of every month at 6 p.m. They may be reached at 417-835-3000.

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Barry-Lawrence Regional Libraries extend closure dates

WI-FI ACCESS AVAILABLE

In an effort to flatten the curve and protect the health and safety of our patrons, staff, and community during the COVID-19 outbreak, the Barry-Lawrence Regional Library's nine branch locations will remain closed through April 24, 2020. All scheduled classes, storytimes, activities, outreach, and meeting room signups are cancelled as well.

The decision to remain closed was a difficult one to make. We care deeply about serving our community and recognize that the Library and its many services are an invaluable resource. But, we feel this is the responsible thing to do at this time.

The library's administrative team will continue to monitor developments and respond accordingly. Follow us on our Facebook page and check out our website (www.blrlibrary.org) for updates.

All checkout periods, as of now, will be extended through April 27, 2020. All holds will be maintained until the Library reopens. Patrons are asked not to return books and other Library materials via our outside drop boxes during this time even if the items are due for return.

There will be no penalty for overdue materials during this time.

Patrons with a library card can still access the Library's menu of digital resources 24/7, including e-books, e-magazines, downloadable audio books, streaming movies, music, and television shows, as well as online research and learning tools. For more information, visit our web page at www.blrlibrary.org. If you are having issues logging in to your Hoopla or Libby (Overdrive) accounts, please contact Lee Ann Santee, leeann@blrlibrary.org via e-mail for assistance.

Wifi coverage has been extended at each branch location from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. and can be accessed from outside each building. Select "guest" network. No password is needed.

BLRL is encouraging patrons to stay informed on the outbreak through the Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov), the World Health Organization (www.who.int), and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (www.health.mo.gov).

Cassville florist will donate to local charities and programs.

Caden Swearingen
Carey Howe of Exeter has been in the flower business for the past 37 years. Howe started when she was only 19 years old after she fell into a job at Lonnie's Floral in Cassville. After working five years at Lonnie's Floral, Howe took a 10-year break. After the 10-year break, Howe went back to Lonnie's Floral after Sheryl and Vaughn Smith had purchased the shop. After Sheryl passed away, Howe bought the store from Vaughn Smith in 2002. Howe owned Smith's Floral for 12 years before moving to the new location and changing the name to Carey's Cassville Florist.

Howe creates arrangements for weddings, funerals, sympathies, birthdays, anniversaries and any other occasion you may have. In her shop, Howe has many items to choose from: fresh floral, plants of all varieties, silk arrangements of all designs, uplifting Christian home decor, plush animals and balloons.

Howe loves creating arrangements for people to make them feel better and to put a smile on their face. "I've always been a people person; it makes me happy to make people happy," Howe said. Creating is one of Howe's favorite parts of her job. Howe creates whatever people desire.

During the pandemic, Howe will donate 10 percent of sales from weekly featured specials to local charities and programs in the area.

"It's a hard time for most people, and if I can make people smile, that's what I want to do," she said.

Each week there will be a special advertised on Carey's Cassville Florist's Facebook page.



Pictured above, Carey Howe, of Carey's Cassville Florist, displays a silk floral arrangement.

Howe is offering curbside pick up and delivery. Sanitizing vases and decor before they leave her shop is just one of the many precautions Howe is taking to insure safety for her customers. Howe is also calling before delivering to customers' houses to ask if they would like her to place their items at the doorstep.

Carey's Cassville Florist is open weekdays 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturday until noon. They are located at 200 W. 1st St., in Cassville. Carey's Cassville Florist may be

contacted by phone at (417) 847-2363. Visit the website for information, and to place your order: <https://www.cassvilleflorist.com/>. Find

them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/clhflow-ers/>. At this time, the shop is still

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old tortie who is looking for her family. She came to the Haven pregnant, raised a gorgeous litter of babies, and she would now like someone to baby HER! Cali is a little shy at first but will thrive in a real home after a very short adjustment period. She just needs someone to choose her for their new best friend. Cali is litter box trained and gets along well with other cats. The Haven is currently closed to the public, but please give us a call about Cali and we'll arrange for you to meet her just as soon as possible. Our number is 417-835-3647.

Go wild at nature's free salad bar

Spring greens from the woods can add variety to your diet



Cutleaf-toothwort

Article and photos courtesy of University of Missouri Extension

COLUMBIA, Mo. – Spring greens from the woods can add variety to your diet.

Wildcrafting—the gathering of plants from their natural habitats—is a throw-back to the days of our distant ancestors, says University of Missouri Extension horticulturist David Trinklein. Our ancestors’ winter diets lacked the variety of fresh produce we enjoy today. Therefore, when spring arrived, they combed the woods for wild edibles to add flavor and nutrition to their meals.

Trinklein cautions beginning wildcrafters to study plant identities before they begin. “The cardinal rule to remember when hunting wild greens is to be certain to know what you are gathering,” he says. “If in doubt about the identity of a plant, definitely pass it by.”

Trinklein recommends Edgar Denison’s “Missouri Wildflowers,” published by the Missouri Department

of Conservation. Beginners also can benefit from going with seasoned wildcrafters until they learn what plants can be eaten safely, he says.

Avoid harvesting roadside plants, which may contain vehicle exhaust residue or pesticides from adjoining cropland. Wash all plants at least twice after gathering, changing the water each time. Check for insects and debris. Eat small amounts when trying a new plant to avoid possible allergic reactions.

Prepare wildcrafted greens by putting them in a saucepan with a little water and salt. Cook until tender; do not overcook. Mix bitter plants with sweeter ones. Add pan drippings, vinegar or lemon juice to taste. Drain water before serving. A common “working man’s diet” in the past included soup beans, fried potatoes, cornbread, raw onions and wild greens.

Trinklein recommends these Missouri plants for wildcrafting:

- Cutleaf toothwort. Also known as crow’s foot, this

low-growing plant is found in woodlands and on wooded slopes. It bears five narrow, deeply lobed leaves that look like the toes on the foot of a crow. The leaves are edible, but cutleaf toothwort is prized for its rhizomes. Their spicy, radishlike flavor livens up salads. Some wildcrafters ferment toothwort to sweeten it; others boil it.

- Dandelion. Gardeners hate them; wildcrafters love them. Dandelions are high in vitamin A and iron. Their flavor peaks during March and April. To gather, cut off the whole crown close to the soil, pluck out the flower stem and sort out any debris.

- Lambsquarters. Also known as wild spinach, this later-producing green is rich in vitamins and minerals. Its light green, oval to lance-shaped leaves fare well throughout the summer. Pinch off young plants just above the ground and use the entire plant, or harvest just the leaves.

- Nettle. Known for its antisocial behavior, stinging nettle bears egg-shaped



Dandelion Flowers

to oblong leaves with heart-like bases and toothed bristly margins. Wear gloves to gather this green. Nettle tastes best in the early spring. It loses its bristly margins when boiled and tastes like spinach.

- Shepherd’s purse – Named for the shape of its seed pods, it springs to life from a prostrate rosette of deeply cut, lance-shaped leaves. It has long been mixed with less savory greens like lambsquarters to add pep. Use raw in tossed salads. “Legend has it that old-time raftsmen floated downstream in great flotillas of logs to gather shepherd’s purse from riverbanks because of its pepperlike taste,” Trinklein says.

- Watercress. Related to mustard and radish, watercress floats on ponds, pasture creeks and cold springs. Its bright green leaves taste best April to June. Its pungent flavor works well in salads or as a meat garnish. It was a favorite with early pioneers because its high ascorbic



Stinging Nettle

acid content helped prevent scurvy.

- Wild lettuce. This plant grows in lowland pastures and along stream banks. It becomes bitter after early April. The smooth, deeply lobed, light-green leaves set it apart. When broken, the leaves produce a sticky, milk-like sap. Eat it raw or as wilted lettuce salad.

- Winter cress. Called “creasies” in days gone by, winter cress is a superb pot-

herb picked and enjoyed by generations, Trinklein says. Mature winter cress becomes bitter, so gather early in spring.

Trinklein also reminds wildcrafters that pokeweed is NOT on the list of recommended plants. Though relished as “poke salad” in the past, its toxic compounds make it unsafe to eat.

All State Boys Basketball



Cameron Weston, of Exeter, was chosen 2019-2020 Missouri Basketball Caoches Association All State Boys Basketball Player.

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CAROLYN MAE NORMAN

Carolyn Mae Norman, age 75, of Wheaton, passed away at her home on Friday, March 27, 2020. Mrs. Norman, daughter of Albert and Ruby (Henderson) Norman, was born on February 22, 1945, in Caney, Kansas. Mrs. Norman worked for Tyson Foods in Neosho for twenty-two years and subsequently went on to work

at Justin Boots in Cassville for thirteen years until her retirement. She loved her family dearly and enjoyed every moment she could with them. Mrs. Norman's favorite pastime was fishing, especially at Grand Lake in Grove, Oklahoma. She was a member of the Free Will Baptist Church in Purdy.

Survivors include two sons, Gary Mullins, of Powell, and Jerry Mullins and his wife, Barbara, of Jane; one daughter, Becky Garcia, of Anderson; eight grandchildren, Jessica, Amanda, Lindsey, Eli, Jake, Beverly, Cory, and Aaron; two great-grandchildren, River and Koda; one brother, Jerry Norman, of Pea Ridge, Arkansas; one sister, Nancy Rosentretter and her husband, Pat, of Wheaton; and several nieces and nephews.

OBITUARIES

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her sister, Betty Norman.

A private graveside service for family will be held at Chitwood Cemetery in Wheaton at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society and entrusted to White Funeral Home and Crematory P.O. Box 890, Cassville, MO 65625.

Cremation arrangements are under the direction of the White Funeral Home and Crematory, Cassville.

White Funeral Home and Crematory
www.whitefuneralhome.org
417-847-8400 or 417-858-8400

RYAN DAVIS BIZZELL

Ryan Davis Bizzell, age 37, of Golden, passed away Thursday, March 26, 2020, at Willard Walker Hospice Home in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Services will be held at a later date. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.

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DARLENE M. LUPPEN

Darlene M. Luppen, 85, of Cassville, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at Cox South Hospital in Springfield.

Services will be announced at a later date. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.

FOHN FUNERAL HOME CASSVILLE, MO. 417-847-2141

DONNA MARIA WILKINS

Donna Maria Wilkins, age 59, of Washburn, passed away Thursday, March 26, 2020, at Circle of Life Hospice in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Services will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.

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LAWRENCE DALE NEWMAN

Lawrence Dale Newman, age 62, of Wheaton, passed away Sunday, March 29, 2020, at his home.

Services will be held at a later date in Wichita. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.

FOHN FUNERAL HOME CASSVILLE, MO. 417-847-2141

SARA ANN ROBB

Sara Ann Robb, 45, of Kansas City, formerly of Monett, passed away Thursday, March 26, 2020. Visitation will be today, Wednesday, April 1, 2020, from noon until 7:00 p.m. A private graveside service will be held with the family. A celebration of life will be held at a later date in Kansas City. Arrangements have been entrusted to Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett.

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Farmers need to maintain their health as well as equipment

Farmers know that well-maintained equipment is key to success.

Yet they often do not listen to the "check engine" warning signs of stress, says Sean Brotherson, family science specialist for North Dakota State University. Brotherson was the keynote speaker at the recent University of Missouri Crop Management Conference.

"Ag has its own rhythms. It has its own culture," Brotherson said. When those rhythms go awry, stress can result.

"Health is the most important asset to any operation. If it is the most important asset, it also needs to be the most important priority," he said.

Many sources of stress, such as weather and prices, are beyond the control of farmers. "You are at the mercy of things," Brotherson said.

Research from the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration ranks farming as one of the top 10 stressful occupations. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Pre-

vention reports that the suicide rate for farmers is 1.5 times the national average.

MU Extension farm health and safety specialist Karen Funkenbusch said that in 2019 farmers faced flood, rains, late planting and uncertainty about commodity prices. Issues beyond a farmer's control can weigh heavily and lead to depression, anxiety and suicide even in a typical farm season, Funkenbusch said. Debt, illness and injury also add to pressures.

"Farmers, because of their strong and independent nature, often are reluctant to talk about these issues," she said. "Fortunately, resources are available. If you need help or know of someone who needs help, reach out."

Funkenbusch leads the Missouri AgrAbility Project, an MU Extension program that works with partner organizations to provide practical education and direct assistance that promotes rural independence.

Funkenbusch offers these suggestions for farmers, ranchers and their families:

- Know the warning signs of stress. Physical signs include headaches, aches of the back and neck muscles, fatigue, labored breathing, weight gain, rising blood pressure, sweating, stomach issues, and sweating. Emotional signs include anger, restlessness, irritability, inability to sleep and relax, increased alcohol or drug use, and withdrawal from other people.
- Slow down.
- Get a physical checkup.
- Seek local resources, including clergy and medical professionals. Talk with other farm families and neighbors.
- Exercise daily. Take regular breaks throughout the day.
- Additional resources:
 - Missouri AgrAbility Project, AgrAbility.missouri.edu.
 - MU Extension Show-Me Strong Farm Families, on Facebook at ShowMeStrongFarmFamilies.
 - MU Extension Mental Health First Aid classes help people learn to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders in communities. Visit extension.missouri.edu/hes/families.
 - Farm and Ranch Stress, North Dakota State University, www.ag.ndsu.edu/farmranchstress.
 - National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-8255.

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The Real Deal

CORONA VIRUS IMPACTS REAL ESTATE SALES IN SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

Rob Lotufo

This pandemic is affecting us all. We all read the news, we hear about things on a national level: what's going on in New York, what's going on in New Orleans and Washington. The struggle is real, and it is impacting Barry County and all of its residents.

Employment has gone from a record-high to a very precarious position in just a few weeks. People's retirement funds and portfolios have taken a major hit and are subject to the daily surging up and down of the market.

The big news of the relief package being passed is a consolation to many, but it is already having far-reaching ripple effects on other markets.

Investor concerns are affecting home loans. Right in our front yard, where we depend on Rural Development,

FHA and FSA guarantees to keep mortgages and farm purchases within the reach of the working Missourian, things are getting tough. In just one week, a person who needed a 610 credit score to qualify for a loan now needs a 640. Some mortgage companies are requiring as high as a 700 score. Some are refusing to make these loans at all.

Changes like this will certainly put the brakes on many real estate deals in this part of the country.

Uncertainty as to employment and income, as well as public health, will certainly rattle consumer confidence. Large-scale investors, particularly those considering buying farm operations, have begun to postpone decisions. These types of trends can often take much longer to correct than they did to start.

Still, I think we are going to see a lot more inventory

on the market, particularly second homes and lake properties. It's very possible that people will consider downsizing to a less expensive home in Barry County, especially if they feel they can get a decent price for the one they are moving from.

Then there are the Preppers. I have gotten quite a few calls from people in big cities who think they want to move out to the country, even possibly go off-grid. They sell, then things don't turn out quite the way they planned. In times like these, there are bargains to be had and many investors will ramp up their purchasing to take advantage of this.

The rental market in Cassville and Barry County has been tough, even before this crisis, with rental units in high demand and low supply.

With first time mortgage loans moving more and more

out of reach, the transition from rental to home ownership is going to be significantly impacted.

With any luck, in a few weeks Covid 19 will be nothing more than a memory: gone the way of the Bird Flu, SARS and Y2K. I fear that's probably a little bit of wishful thinking, though.

Hopefully, in the meantime, we can all keep our wits about us, make good decisions, and not jump to conclusions. I don't think any of us doubt that we will get through this. The question is, "Just how much collateral damage will we incur?"

I'm going to keep praying for health, healing and peace for our country.

Take care and God bless.

-Rob

Robert Lotufo is a Realtor who specializes in rural property and farm sales.

Opportunities for immediate mortgage relief

Effective March 19, borrowers with USDA single-family housing direct and guaranteed loans are subject to a moratorium on foreclosure and eviction for a period of 60 days. This action applies to the initiation of foreclosures and evictions and to the completion of foreclosures and evictions in process.

Guaranteed Loan Program:

Guaranteed Loan borrowers who are in default or facing imminent default due to a documented hardship can have payments reduced or suspended by their lender for a period not to exceed 12 months delinquency. Once the hardship is resolved, the lender can modify the loan to cure the delinquency or make up the missed payments based on the borrower's individual circumstances.

Guaranteed Loan servicing questions should be directed to: program@usda.gov.

Direct Loan Program:

USDA has waived or relaxed certain parts of the application process for Single-Family Housing Direct Loans, including site assessments, and has extended the time period that certificates of eligibility are valid.

A Direct Loan borrower who is experiencing a reduction of income by more than 10 percent can request a Payment Assistance package to see if he/she is eligible for payment assistance or for more assistance than currently received.

Moratorium Assistance is available for Direct Loan borrowers experiencing medical bill expenses (not covered by insurance) or job loss because of COVID-19. Qualifying borrowers can receive a moratorium on house payments for a period of time, repaid at a later date.

Direct Loan questions should be directed to USDA's Customer Service Center at 800-414-1226 (7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Eastern Time Monday-Friday) or <https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/loan-servicing>. Call volume and wait times are high at this time.

MDC, CFM thank participants for sharing the harvest

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) thank the thousands of Missouri deer hunters who donated 348,535 pounds of venison to the state's Share the Harvest program this past deer season, including 6,795 whole deer. MDC and CFM also thank the more than 100 participating meat processors throughout the state who grind the donated deer meat into ready-to-use packages, and the many sponsors who financially support the program.

Meat-processing fees are covered entirely or in part by numerous local sponsors, along with statewide sponsors that include: Shelter Insurance, Bass

Pro Shops, Gateway Area Chapter Safari Club International, Missouri Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation, Midway USA Inc., Missouri Food Banks Association, and MDC.

The donated deer meat goes to local food banks and food pantries to help feed hungry Missourians all around the state. To get Share the Harvest venison, contact local food banks or food pantries.

Share the Harvest is coordinated by MDC and CFM. Since the program was started in 1992, it has provided more than 4.3 million pounds of lean, healthy venison to help feed hungry Missourians, including this past season's donations.

"Hunters started Share the Harvest because they

saw a need in their communities and hunters remain the driving force behind this popular program that helps feed our fellow Missourians who are in need," said MDC Director Sara Parker Pauley. "We sincerely thank the thousands of deer hunters who support Share the Harvest, along with the many participating meat processors and sponsors who help make it possible."

CFM Executive Director Tyler Schwartze added, "We greatly appreciate the hunters, processors, and sponsors for their support of Share the Harvest. The donated venison stays in the local areas where the deer were harvested so it truly

is helping out neighbors in need."

The National Institutes of Health state that children need protein in their diets for proper growth and development, and adults need it to maintain good health. Yet many Missourians can't afford or can't get to good sources of protein. Through Share the Harvest, Missouri hunters can help provide those in need with high-quality protein in the form of naturally lean, locally harvested deer meat.

For more information on Share the Harvest, visit CFM online at confedmo.org/programs/outreach/share-the-harvest/.

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Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.

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all you who hope

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The Family of *Floyd Allison*

would like to express their gratitude for prayers, cards, visits, phone calls, food, & flowers from our many friends & family members. A special thank you to Fohn Funeral Home, Bro. James Weaver, Sharon Sater, Steven Arnold, and Carol House for the beautiful service.

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Nancy & Brad Schneider

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Plant native trees and practice proper tree care.

Seedling deliveries extended through May.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) encourages Missourians to celebrate the value of Missouri trees and forests during Arbor Days in April by planting native trees and practicing proper tree care.

This year’s Missouri Arbor Day is Friday, April 3. Missouri has been observing the state’s official Arbor Day on the first Friday in April since 1886 when the General Assembly declared that day be set aside for the appreciation and planting of trees. National Arbor Day is recognized on the last Friday of April, which is April 24 for 2020.

Missouri forests cover about one-third of the state and provide outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, natural beauty, jobs, timber for many wood products, and much more. Spending time in Missouri woods and forests can also provide health benefits. Exposure to nature contrib-

utes to physical well-being, reduces blood pressure and heart rate, relieves stress, and boosts energy levels. Trees also work to help our wallets, our families, our communities, our environment, and our economy. Learn more about how trees work at treeswork.org.

Get information on backyard tree care – including types of trees for urban and other landscapes, selecting the right tree for the right place, planting tips, watering and pruning info, and more -- at mdc.mo.gov/tree-health.

For more information on Arbor Day and Missouri's Tree City USA communities, visit the Arbor Day Foundation at arborday.org.

Order Seedlings from State Forest Nursery

MDC’s George O. White State Forest Nursery near Licking offers residents a variety of low-cost native tree and shrub seedlings for reforestation, windbreaks, erosion control, and wild-

life food and cover. Orders are accepted through April 15. MDC has extended the seedling shipping time frame through the end of May.

According to MDC, the shipping season typically winds down in early May after nursery staff have shipped millions of seedlings to schools, landowners, and MDC staff for planting all over the state. Since the precautionary measures in place to decrease the spread of COVID-19, the nursery has been closed to the public and has plenty of seedlings left.

Order seedlings online at mdc.mo.gov/seedlings, or fax an order form to 573-674-4047. Contact the nursery at 573-674-3229 or email StateForestNursery@mdc.mo.gov for an order form.

Take a virtual tour of the nursery at short.mdc.mo.gov/Zey.

Try some edgy veggies for a groovy garden

COLUMBIA, Mo. – “Create some interest in your garden patch by adding unique vegetables this spring,” said University of Missouri Extension horticulturist David Trinklein.

“One of the joys of gardening is trying something new each year,” Trinklein said.

“Less common vegetables can challenge your gardening skills and tease your taste buds. They also can disappoint, so center your garden on tried-and-true favorites,” he said.

According to Trinklein, salad lovers have several robust choices to liven up the taste and eye appeal of garden greens. The deep red, veined leaves of radicchio, also known as Italian chicory, make salads pop with contrast and color. Radicchio’s slightly bitter taste intensifies when the season grows hotter. Start very early for a spring crop, or grow as a fall crop, so that its small heads can mature while it is still cool.

“Otherwise, it has the same cultural requirements as lettuce,” he indicated.

Some plants are the “fast food” of salad gardening, according to Trinklein, because they can be picked about six weeks after seeding. Arugula, also known as rocket or garden rocket, adds a spicy, peppery taste to salads. However, arugula is more than just another pretty face in the garden. Its high fiber, antioxidants and glucosinolates offer many health benefits.

Other quick growers in-

clude Malabar spinach and an upland cress called peppergrass, or curled cress. Malabar spinach, or basella, produces greens similar in appearance to spinach. It tastes like mild Swiss chard. Unlike spinach, it tolerates heat and produces throughout the summer. This climbing vine grows up to 6 feet on a trellis. Start seeds indoors or plant outdoors after the danger of frost passes.

Raw or cooked, peppergrass leaves offer a pleasant, spicy flavor. A member of the cabbage family, it grows best in cool weather. Its small plantlets—microgreens—offer nutrients and flavor only 10 days after planting.

Romanesco’s chartreuse green buds look like something an extraterrestrial gardener may have left behind to delight earthly gardeners. The unusual appearance comes from its “self-similar” growth habit. In other words, the whole is the same shape as its smaller parts. Its smaller buds, or curds, are arranged in a logarithmic spiral. Closely related to broccoli and cauliflower, it prefers cool growing conditions. Its crunchy edible buds have a delicate, nutty flavor.

“Some unusual vegetables may not live up to their names and, unless the gardener knows what to expect, may be disappointing,” said Trinklein.

One such example is the vine peach. This vining plant, related to melons and cucumbers, produces fruits about the size of a peach with a light orange color. “However, they

are nothing like a peach in flavor,” said Trinklein. “Vine peach is not good when consumed for fresh eating but is useful for making preserves, marmalades and chutneys.” You might say it is the pits for eating fresh.

Gardeners also may sour when planting lemon cucumber. The cucumbers from this plant are about the size of a lemon and develop a yellow color. Their flavor, however, is that of a cucumber—making it a lemon for lemon lovers.

For more information, visit <https://extensiondata.missouri.edu/NewsAdmin/Photos/2020/20200327-romanesco.jpg>

MSSU announces provisional enrollment process for Class of 2020

MSSU announces provisional enrollment process for Class of 2020

Joplin, MO – In response to the postponement of ACT testing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Missouri Southern State University will offer provisional admission to students registering for the Fall 2020 semester who have had their test postponed.

The ACT national test date had been scheduled for April 4. The organization, which administers the standardized test, has rescheduled testing for June 13.

The university is committed to making sure the class of 2020 is ready to begin their college experience in the fall, said Michael Sanders, dean of admissions.

“COVID-19 is requiring us to rethink how we do things as an institution,” Sanders said. “It has disrupted all departments on campus, and we know it has disrupted seniors and families in their preparation for college in the fall. We want to remove as many of the roadblocks as we can during this pandemic.”

Students who have already completed their application or are preparing to do so can provide a self-reported GPA or test score to admissions staff in order to move forward with the fall enrollment process. Provisional admission for students will be granted pending receipt of official documentation.

Sanders said the university intends to be flexible and innovative throughout the process.

“We will utilize technology to help them along the way,” he said. “Whether it’s a phone call, text, email or video conference, we can still communicate with students and parents to make sure all their questions are answered.”

For more information, contact Missouri Southern’s Admissions Office at 417-625-9378 or admissions@mssu.edu.

-WWW.MSSU.EDU-

SKITS Spring Play Postponed

SKITS Spring Play Postponed

In light of growing concerns over COVID-19, SKITS has made the difficult decision to postpone our Spring play, Farce of Nature,

until further notice.

Our top priority at SKITS will always be the health and safety of all guests, volunteers, actors, and others involved in bringing the Arts to Shell Knob.

Members and sponsors will still enjoy their benefits over two plays, no matter when the plays take place.

SKITS sincerely thanks you for your support and understanding.



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Commitments to those dependent on government assistance

As the COVID-19 crisis continues, Governor Mike Parson and his administration are taking steps each day to respond accordingly and protect the health and well-being of Missourians.

“My administration and I are committed to providing quality healthcare to those most dependent on state assistance and ensuring access to those in need of medical services or medications,” Governor Parson said. “A health care provider’s primary focus should be on delivering what a MO HealthNet participant needs to remain healthy during this time, not on the participant’s coverage.”

Governor Parson grants flexibility for the Missouri Department of Social Services to provide reassurance and clarity regarding services to our state’s most vulnerable population.

Missouri Medicaid-MO HealthNet

- Eligibility for any Medicaid participant will not be

terminated unless the individual requests a voluntary termination of eligibility or the individual ceases to be a resident of the state through the end of the federal emergency COVID-19 declaration.

- 90 days of MO HealthNet coverage will be extended to Missourians ages 19-64 who test positive for COVID-19 and meet the income and resource eligibility guidelines.

- Requirements will be relaxed related to prescription refills and prior authorizations to ensure participants have access to essential medications.

- New provider enrollment applications will be expedited and certain enrollment requirements will be waived, such as application fees and on-site visits to enable providers to serve Medicaid participants.

- Co-payments will be waived for any services provided by means of telehealth.

Food Stamp/Supple-

mental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- The Family Support Division is waiving all work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents for 90 days.

Child Care Subsidy Program

- Child Care Subsidy benefits are extended for 90 days.
- Provider application renewals are extended for 90 days.

- Additional hours of care for families will be approved on a case-by-case basis.

Family Support Division has requested waivers from the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service to:

- Waive all Food Stamp adverse action notices for 90 days.

- Waive initial in-person Food Stamp interviews for 90 days.

- Extend Food Stamp certification periods by 6 months from the time this waiver has been received .

Health care community asks for support from citizens and businesses

Hospitals and health care organizations are accepting public support in efforts to address the COVID-19 crisis in Missouri. The Missouri Hospital Association is requesting that businesses and individuals with stocks of personal protective equipment donate unused supplies to health care workers to help protect hospital and health care staff, patients and members of the community.

“Any PPE that businesses or individuals have that can be put into the health care pipeline will support hospitals and health care providers at this critical time,” said Herb B. Kuhn, MHA President and CEO. “Supplies like N95 protective masks are in short supply. These and similar masks are used in many non-health care functions and could immediately be put into use if donated. We’ve made more than 1,500 contacts with individuals and organizations, but will accept

any approved, unused PPE Missourians can supply.”

Hospitals and other providers are beginning to experience shortages of PPE. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state health authorities recognize the N95 mask as the gold-standard for protection against transmission. Although the state and federal stockpiles of PPE are being delivered to the health care system through state agencies, these resources are likely to be inadequate as the number of cases increases in Missouri. Other items, including approved goggles, face shields and disposable gloves, are also essential and increasingly at shortage levels.

A small number of hospitals also are beginning to report workforce shortages. Many frontline caregivers and the staff that support them are working extended shifts. At the same time,

since the virus is present in the community, health care workers — just as all Missourians — can be exposed outside of the health care setting.

“Our health care system is dependent on the availability of skilled caregivers,” Kuhn said. “Individuals with health care training and certification are being encouraged to assist with the staffing challenges that could materialize.

Individuals and organizations with supplies they are willing to donate should contact: Daphney Partridge at dpartridge@mhanet.com.

The Missouri Hospital Association is a not-for-profit association in Jefferson City that represents 140 Missouri hospitals. In addition to representation and advocacy on behalf of its membership, the association offers continuing education programs on current health care topics and seeks to educate the public about health care issues.

Governor Parson Mobilizes Missouri National Guard to Assist with COVID-19 Response

Governor Mike Parson has signed Executive Order 20-06 to begin mobilizing the Missouri National Guard to assist in the state’s COVID-19 response efforts. This will increase the amount of coordination among state government partners in combating the spread of COVID-19.

“The COVID-19 crisis is constantly developing and changing, but we are taking steps each and every day to slow the spread and protect public health and safety,” Governor Parson said. “Mo-

bilizing the National Guard will help us provide more immediate resources to our citizens and enhance Missouri’s ability to overcome this global pandemic.”

Governor Parson made the decision to mobilize the Guard after conferring with his state emergency management team, including officials from the Missouri Department of Public Safety, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, and the State Emergency Management Agency.

Missouri’s healthcare sys-

tem is receiving extensive real time or near real time information and guiding data-driven priorities and decisions. Engagement with stakeholders like the Guard will help define priorities and coordinate from the planning stage to implementation.

Adjutant General Cumpston said the Guard is providing specialized health and safety training to all personnel that are being mobilized in addition to guidance that all soldiers, airmen, and civilians have already received from the Department of

Defense and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“The National Guard is ready and poised to assist local and state civilian authorities in response to COVID-19,” Brigadier General Levon Cumpston said. “The Guard has flexibility in utilizing resources and deploying them around the state where

they are most appropriate.”

On March 13, Governor Parson declared a state of emergency in Missouri and directed the Missouri State Emergency Operations Plan to be activated. Several measures have already been taken to respond to the increased health threat posed by COVID-19, including the signing of Executive Order

20-04 to ease regulatory burdens that interfere with Missouri’s response efforts.

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April 18, 2020 - 11:00AM

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Tract 4: 43.42 Acres pasture—2 ponds. Pierce City School District

Tract 5: 20.53 Acres mostly wooded, Pierce City School District

Tract 7: 20 Acres pasture—gently sloped. No water. Overlooks Capps Creek. Pierce City School District

Tract 8: 117 Acres Currently planted in wheat—crop does not convey. 2 ponds. Includes bottom land. Pierce City School District

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**Auctioneer's Note: Due to the recent retirement of Mr. Rakoski, RAKO Ranch is downsizing. Land of this quality and location is not often available at auction or otherwise. Please arrange your financing and come prepared to buy—as the property is subject to a very reasonable reserve!



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Real Estate: Older 4-bedroom 1 bath home. Living room w/large picture window & hardwood floor, kitchen/dining combo, 4 bedrooms w/hardwood floors, 1-bathroom w/walk in shower. Full unfinished basement w/laundry hook up, wood stove & outside entry door. This home needs some TLC & is on 39 wooded acres m/l w/Kings Creek running through the front corner of the property plus a spring. **Note:** Selling to settle estate. For the person wanting a hunting retreat, this would be a good one. Or if you or someone you know would like a private place to call home. Country living however not too far to Northwest AR. The Thompson's have lived here for 50 plus years. Buyers get preapproved to purchase this property. Call to preview before auction date. 417-847-2507. Please read Terms & Conditions of sale. These properties with creek access are hard to find. *****Special Note***** We will be holding this Real Estate Only Auction on April 11th at 10:00 A.M. The auction will be held outside in the wide open where there will be ample space for social distancing. We also are limiting the number of bidders to the 1st 10 registered bidders, so the 1st 10 to pre-register will be the only bidders allowed at the auction. To pre-register for a bidder's number call 417-847-2507 & remember only open to the 1st 10 pre-registered bidders so hurry and get your number. **Terms:** Cash or good check w/2 forms of current ID. Must have current drivers license to obtain bidder number. All terms on bidder card apply. All sells as is where is w/no warranty or guarantee expressed or implied. Any announcements made day of auction supersede any and all printed material. **Real Estate Terms:** Qualified buyers only w/pre-approved bank letter of confirmation. Nonrefundable 10% paid day of auction w/balance due in cash or certified funds within 30-45 days. Buyers and sellers will be responsible for their own portion of their closing cost. Taxes will be prorated to date of close. Sells as is where is with no warranties or guarantees. Bidders, buyers or agent of the buyer is responsible for conducting own inspection of property prior to auction and should rely solely upon their own due diligence and inspection. This property is offered with absolutely no contingencies of any kind, no contingencies on financing, surveys, appraisals or final walk throughs. Seller has the right to accept or reject final bid. A 10% buyer's premium will apply. Any announcements made day of auction supersede any and all printed material. **No debit or credit cards.**

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Cassville Intermediate names February Character Kids



Cassville Intermediate counseling staff and teachers team up to present a different character trait every month. Classroom teachers then nominate students for awards in recognition of exemplifying that trait. Students were selected during the month of February for compassion.

Third grade award winners are pictured above, from left to right. In the front row: Neveah Curran, Kason Craig, Joey Velasquez, Molly Cox and Kenzie Davis. Back row: Harlee Carter, Lydia Curbow, Jayden Barker-Ritchie, Makia Golf and Alexis Lands. Not pictured: Paisley Hayworth and Kaylan Marler.



Cassville Intermediate counseling staff and teachers team up to present a different character trait every month. Classroom teachers then nominate students for awards in recognition of exemplifying that trait. Students were selected during the month of February for compassion.

Fourth grade award winners are pictured above, from left to right. In the front row: Arianna Greathouse, Jasmine Reed, Ashton Johnson-Casas, Averi Flipppo and Kaiden Coupland. Back row: Logan Parsons, Easton Griffanti, Trinity Gatson, Molly Pickett, Emaly Costlow and Curtis Grant. Not pictured: Cherish Johnson.



Cassville Intermediate counseling staff and teachers team up to present a different character trait every month. Classroom teachers then nominate students for awards in recognition of exemplifying that trait. Students were selected during the month of February for compassion.

Fifth grade award winners are pictured above, from left to right. In the front row: Addison Elkins, Alex Stouder, Gracie Maher, Kyle Brown, Shayla Stouder and Zeb Blankenshi. Back row: Rylen Holman, Reinna Robinson, Trenton Pyle, Brooklyn Hughes, Leia Crosby and Brextin Sprague.

Cassville awards Most Improved Attendance for January



Cassville Schools affirms attending school is one of the most important things students can do to help achieve academic success. At Eunice Thomas Elementary, every month one class per grade level is presented with the "Best Attendance" trophy and "Most Improved Attendance" trophy. Most Improved Attendance for January was awarded to Ms. Henry's class, Mrs. Rose's class and Mrs. Chappell's class.

Missouri increases feral hog elimination efforts, adapts strategy for 2020

The Missouri Feral Hog Elimination Partnership (the Partnership) eliminated 10,495 feral hogs from Missouri in 2019, and will increase efforts in 2020 as multiple agencies work together to eliminate feral hogs from the state. Partnership members participating in on-the-ground trapping efforts include the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), USDA APHIS Wildlife Services (USDA WS) and the L-A-D Foundation.

Feral hogs are invasive, destructive pests that roam wild in certain areas of

Missouri and other states. They're aggressive animals known to prey on turkey poults, fawns, freshly seeded fields, fully mature crops, as well as other wildlife. They're known to carry diseases that can be transmitted to humans, dogs and domestic pigs such as swine brucellosis, pseudorabies and others.

"This unified interagency effort is critical to eliminating feral hogs on and around the Mark Twain National Forest," said Amy Salveter, the USFS Public Services Staff Officer representing the MTNF on the unified command team. "We look forward to working with our

partners to rid the Missouri landscape of this dangerous and destructive pest.”

Increased efforts include a workforce focused on feral hog elimination in key areas, including Mark Twain National Forest lands, beginning in late January. The Partnership has established a unified command incident command structure to manage the effort efficiently and effectively. This structure allows staff from across the Partnership organizations to work more efficiently together. Jason Jensen, MDC's private land services chief,

See HOG 16A

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60159181 - **PERFECT, UPDATED HOME** for your large family. 6 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 living areas, an outdoor kitchen, plus more amenities, this home check all the marks on your wish list! **\$310,000**

60140872 - **RV PAD**, sunroom, hardwood floors, maintenance free home. Fruit trees. Out of city limits, No restrictions. **\$139,000**

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Southwest awards February Students of the Month

Purdy announces respect medalists



During the month of February, Southwest Elementary students were chosen to be Students of the Month. These students exhibited the character trait of trustworthiness.

Southwest Elementary's February trustworthy students are pictured above, from left to right. Front row: Drake Doke, Penelope Crum, Gunner Paulsen, Bailie Hall, Paisley Hendrix and Christian Johnson. Middle row: Makynlii Cline, Wacey Bradley, Kaden Silva, Kelby Coupland, Madilyn Cook and Julieta Tellez-Monzon. Back row: LJ Epperson, Ayasha Ross, Molly Hendrix, Waylon Pierce, Conner Jones and Ky Miles.



Purdy Elementary principal Julie Dalton announced the kindergarten through sixth grade respect medalists, pictured from left to right above. Front row: Ryden Ozbun, Regina Thawng and Jeremy Tello. Second row: Jordan Conner, Brynlee Moller and Aidan Conner. Third row: Abner Juarez, Kenzi Postlerait, Dhali Lee and Brody Ozbun. Back row: Easten Goetz, Randy Rueda, Jenna Adams, Logan Manwarren and Jackson Lee. Receiving a respect medal but unavailable for the photo were: Brinlee Vineyard, Paige Ozbun and Camila Robles.

HOG from 15A

represents MDC on the unified command team.

“Winter operations where be a large-scale effort where we will scout thousands of acres of public and private lands to pinpoint locations of feral hog sounders, identify areas that do not have feral hogs so we can place the area lower on the priority list, and to trap and dispatch the hogs we find,” Jensen said.

The Partnership’s mission is to eliminate feral hogs in Missouri by implementing the Statewide Strategic Plan for Feral Hog Elimination. This is a strategic incremental approach, clearing each watershed inhabited by feral hogs one at a time.

Land management agencies used public recreational hunting as the primary means by which to eliminate feral swine in Missouri from the early 1990s until 2016. Recreational hunting proved to be an ineffective strategy that resulted in the further spread and establishment of additional populations of feral hogs. Beginning in 2016, agencies involved in the Partnership signifi-

cantly increased feral swine removal efforts and put in place hunting prohibitions consistent with the Statewide Strategic Plan for Feral Hog Elimination. This has resulted in the total elimination of feral swine from 116 watersheds totaling over 2.7 million acres previously occupied by feral hogs across Missouri.

Although the feral hog problem in Missouri increased in the 1990s when hog hunting for recreation gained popularity, DNA research suggests the feral hog population has since spread via truck and trailer, not through natural migration of the species. As groups began raising and promoting European wild boar for hunting, some of them were released intentionally on public land.

Even two feral hogs introduced into a new area is a big problem, because they’re highly adaptable and prolific breeders; their numbers grow at an alarming rate. One sow can give birth to two litters of about six piglets twice per year, resulting in a population growth rate

of about 166% per year. The Conservation Department has received damage complaints from private landowners since the late 1990s. Today, feral hog populations are established in over 30 Missouri counties.

Efforts on private land are only conducted at the landowner’s request and as a partnership with the landowner. Landowners will receive assistance from MDC and USDA employees to trap and remove the feral hogs. Success of the winter operation will be measured in acres covered by staff, sounders of hogs located, sounders of hogs removed, and number of landowners serviced.

“A large majority of Missouri’s land is privately owned, so working together with private landowners is vital to the success of eliminating feral hogs from Missouri,” Jensen said. “If you’re a private landowner and feral hogs are tearing up your land, we want to help you.”

Jensen stressed that complete success will take time. The strategy is to pinpoint the location of a sounder and remove the entire sounder, keep feral hog numbers from increasing in the heart of the population and stop the spread of feral hogs into new areas. Technicians will strategically remove feral hogs along the perimeter of the known hog population,

shrinking it until the hogs are eliminated.

For security reasons, the Partnership is not releasing locations and exact dates of trapping operations.

“We’ve experienced vandalism, theft and interference at trapping sites in the past, so it’s important not to invite that sort of attention to these efforts,” Jensen said.

January through March was an optimal time due to limited food supply. However, feral hog elimination work will continue in the summer months, when the feral hogs are known to root up crops.

“Knowing the habits of these invasive animals helps us to adapt our strategy to

eliminate them at specific times of the year. While we are increasing efforts at this time we still have staff that are working with landowners to eliminate hogs on their property every day. Increasing efforts when hogs are vulnerable allows us to strategically remove more hogs from Missouri’s landscape,” Jensen said.

Report feral hog sightings or damage, and learn more about feral hog elimination at www.mdc.mo.gov/feralhogs. Sign up to receive updates from the Missouri Feral Hog Elimination Partnership at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/ZoP>.



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