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MDC Encourages People to be BEAR AWARE in Missouri

MARCH 16TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

MDC Encourages People to be BEAR AWARE in Missouri

MDC encourages people to Be Bear Aware!
Don't feed bears. Avoid encounters. React right. Report sightings.

[Jefferson City, Missouri](#) - As blossoms and buds emerge each spring, so do Missouri's estimated 350 native black bears. As they leave their winter dens this time of year, finding food is their main focus. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) reminds people to "Be Bear Aware" by not feeding bears and not providing potential sources of food.

“As black bears become active in the spring, they are on a mission to find food,” said Laura Conlee, a resource scientist and black-bear researcher with MDC. “It is very important for Missourians to recognize potential food attractants in their area. Things such as bird feeders, trash, barbecue grills, and food waste left out at camp sites can all serve as huge attractions for bears. Keeping our areas free of attractants, and letting bears find natural foods is in everyone’s best interest. If you see a bear, enjoy the sighting, let the bear be, and be sure you don’t offer it any food. Most importantly, never intentionally feed them.”

Conlee added feeding bears makes them comfortable around people, which can also make them dangerous.

A FED BEAR IS A DEAD BEAR

"When bears lose their fear of people, they may approach people in search of food or may defend the food sources or territory they associate with people, which can make them dangerous," Conlee said. "When this happens, the bear has to be destroyed. A fed bear is a dead bear."

She added a fed bear that becomes a problem in one place cannot be relocated to another.

"Once a bear learns that people can provide food, they will seek out other places such as camp sites, residential areas, and farms in search of food," she explained. "Bears also have an excellent memory and will often return year after year to places where they were provided food."

AVOID ATTRACTING BLACK BEARS

MDC offers these tips for avoiding attracting black bears to possible food sources:

Don't leave pet food sitting outside. Feed pets a portion they'll eat at each meal and remove the empty containers.

Store garbage, recyclables, and compost inside a secure building or in a bear-proof container until the day of trash pick-up.

Keep grills and smokers clean and store them inside.

Don't use birdfeeders from April through November in bear country, or hang them at least 10 feet high and 4 feet away from any structure.

Use electric fencing to keep bears away from beehives, chicken coops, vegetable gardens, orchards, and other potential food sources.

Keep campsites clean and store all food, toiletries and trash in a secure vehicle or strung high between two trees. Do not burn or bury garbage or food waste.

AVOID ENCOUNTERS AND REACT RIGHT

While close encounters are uncommon, MDC offers this advice when outdoors in black-bear country:

Make noise while walking or hiking to prevent surprising a bear. Clap, sing, or talk loudly.

Travel in a group if possible.

Pay attention to the surroundings and watch for bear sign, such as tracks or claw or bite marks on trees.

Keep dogs leashed.

Leave a bear alone! Do not approach it. Make sure it has an escape route.

If encountering a bear up close, back away slowly with arms raised to look larger. Speak in a calm, loud voice. Do not turn away from the bear. Back away slowly. Do not run.

A native to Missouri, black bears were abundant until the late 1800s when they were nearly wiped out from unregulated killing and from habitat loss when Ozark forests were logged. MDC research shows that a small number of native black bears survived. Over time, their numbers increased and continue to do so. Results of ongoing black-bear research by MDC staff and others show that the animals have been sighted in about half the counties in Missouri, primarily south of the Missouri River, with most bears located in the southern third of the state in the Missouri Ozarks.

Black bears are a protected species in Missouri. MDC anticipates a limited hunting season as a population-management method once black bear numbers reach a population estimate of about 500 animals. The current estimate is about 350. No details regarding the anticipated future hunting season have been developed.


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Endangered Silver Advisory for Missing Poplar Bluff Man

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Endangered Silver Advisory for Missing Poplar Bluff Man

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Poplar Bluff, Missouri - Police with the Crestwood Police Department have issued an Endangered Silver Advisory for a missing adult out of Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

The incident occurred at 5467 Route T at 12:30 p.m. on March 11.

Police said the missing adult is David Wills, a white male, 77, height 5 feet 11 inches, weight 220 pounds, gray hair, brown eyes, last seen wearing an unknown color baseball hat, bib overalls and tennis shoes.

Wills has been diagnosed with diabetes and dementia according to police.

He was seen in a white 2008 Chevrolet Trailblazer four door with the license plate number, WD7A8X, leaving the residence in Poplar Bluff.

Police said Wills left Poplar Bluff, Missouri on his way to Crestwood, Missouri at 12:30 p.m. on March 11 and has not arrived. Wills recently had a stroke and may have trouble speaking.

Anyone seeing the missing person, suspect, associate, or vehicle, or anyone having any information related to the endangered missing person should immediately dial 911 to contact the nearest law enforcement agency or call the Crestwood Police Department at 314-729-4800.

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Keller Library Story Hour Schedule for April

2018

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Keller Library Story Hour Schedule for April 2018

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Dexter, Missouri - Keller Public Library will have three Children Story Hours during the month of April.

April 3, 2018 - There not be a story hour as it is Municipal Election Day!

April 10, 2018 - Spring is in the Air on the Air - Presented by Joeli Barbour, KDEX Station Manager

April 17, 2018 - Down on the Farm - Presented by Bree Goldschmidt

April 24, 2018 - The Napping House - Presented by Marsha Lovelady

Thursday, April 26th, 5:15 p.m. Keller Public Library Board of Directors Meeting will be held in the Library Community Room.

Story Hours are held at 10:15 a.m. on Tuesdays.

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Interstate 55 in Scott County Reduced for Median Work

Interstate 55 in Scott County Reduced for Median Work



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Interstate 55 in Scott County Reduced for Median Work

North and Southbound I-55 in Scott County will be reduced to one lane with as contractor crews perform median cross-over work.

This section of road is located between MM 86 and MM 88.

Weather permitting, work will performed Monday, March 12 through Thursday, May 31 from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

The work zone will be marked with signs. Motorists are urged to use extreme caution while traveling near the area.

For additional information, contact MoDOT’s Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636)

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Interstate 55 in Pemiscot County is Reduced for Bridge Repairs

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Interstate 55 in Pemiscot County is
Reduced for Bridge Repairs

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US 51 Ohio River Bridge at Cairo OPEN

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US 51 Ohio River Bridge at Cairo OPEN

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Officials with Kentucky Transportation Cabinet said the U.S. 51 Ohio (Cairo) River Bridge between Wickliffe, Kentucky and Cairo, Illinois is now open after it closed on Friday, March 2 due to flooding.

KY highway personnel spent much of the yesterday clearing drift and checking the levee and roadway for possible damage caused by the floodwaters.

The bridge is an important corridor for commerce between Kentucky, Illinois, and nearby Missouri. The US 51 Ohio River “Cairo” Bridge carries north-south traffic

between Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee on US 51. It also carries east-west traffic on US 60 and US 62 between Kentucky, Illinois and Missouri.

More than 4,700 vehicles cross the bridge between Wickliffe, KY, and Cairo, IL, on an average day.

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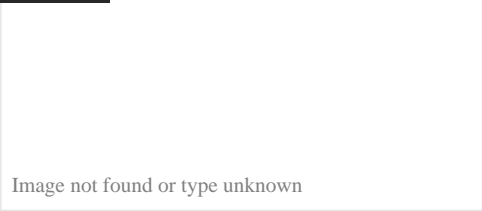
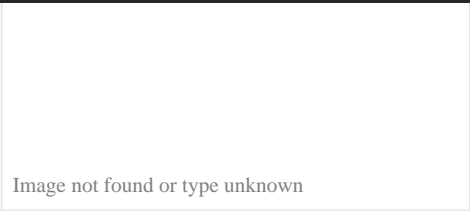
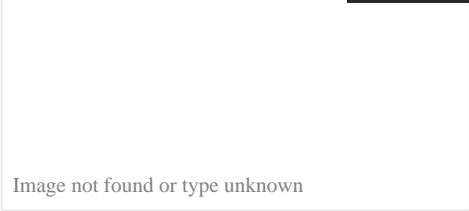


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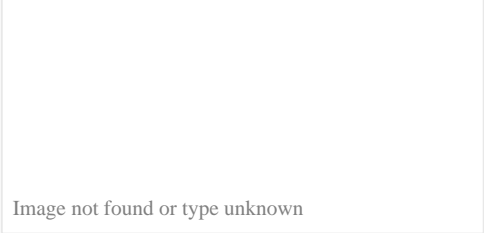


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Dexter Police Dept Steps Up Seat Belt Enforcement



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