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National Missing Children's Day

MAY 23RD 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

National Missing Children's Day

Submitted by

Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer

United States of America - Every year on May 25, Missourians are asked to remember the children who stare back from the posters of the missing. These are the faces of children who have been stolen from their families, run away from their families, or have been abandoned by their families. Regardless of the reason, these missing youth are in danger every day. It is the goal of National Missing Children's Day to bring public attention to the growing problem of missing children.

President Ronald Reagan first proclaimed National Missing Children's Day on May 25, 1983. It now serves as an annual reminder to Missouri and the nation that everyone can play a part in bringing a missing child home, and in preventing the occurrence of future missing children. All Missouri citizens are encouraged to drive with their headlights on throughout the day on May 25, to "light the way home" for our missing youth. The wearing of a white ribbon also symbolizes the continued fight to return children safely home.

In 2012, 5,561 children were reported missing to Missouri law enforcement agencies. These missing reports included runaways, family abductions, and non-

family abductions. At the end of 2012, 91 of these children were still missing. Thus far in 2013, there have been 1,966 children reported missing, 1,787 of which have been located.

The Missouri Missing Persons Clearinghouse reminds all parents and guardians to talk to children about child safety issues as a pro-active approach to curbing child abduction. In the same manner as reminding children to look both ways before crossing the street, children should be reminded often to follow these safety rules:

- **CHECK FIRST:** Check first with a trusted adult before going anywhere or accepting anything from anyone.
- **TAKE A BUDDY:** Never go alone; always take a friend. If a child **MUST** go somewhere alone, remind them to call before leaving, stay on a protected path, and check in upon arrival.
- **SAY NO:** Know that it is OK to say, “NO!” Teach children to tell a trusted adult if something makes them scared or uncomfortable.
- **BE SAFE:** Remind children they always have the right to stay safe.

Parents and guardians should have an emergency child identification kit. To create a child identification kit at home, simply place a quality photograph, such as a school picture, in a file with up-to-date information outlining the child’s height, weight, date of birth, hair color, eye color, guardian information, address, and distinguishing features such as scars, moles, glasses, braces, etc. Since children grow quickly and change a lot, the information should be updated at least once a year. The Patrol’s Missing Persons Clearinghouse has a Child ID System, which can be taken to schools, health and safety fairs, and civic meetings upon request to make free, wallet-sized child ID cards for parents.

Two critical tools in the fight against missing children are the Amber Alert Program and the Missouri Endangered Persons Advisory.

The mission of the Amber Alert Program is to develop and coordinate the efforts of law enforcement, the media, and transportation in order to increase public participation in safely recovering abducted children through targeted education, increased communication, and effective sharing of resources. In 2012, two statewide Amber Alerts were issued for six missing children, and all six of those children were recovered safely. The Missouri Endangered Persons Advisory was established in 2007, to protect missing persons who might not fall under the strict

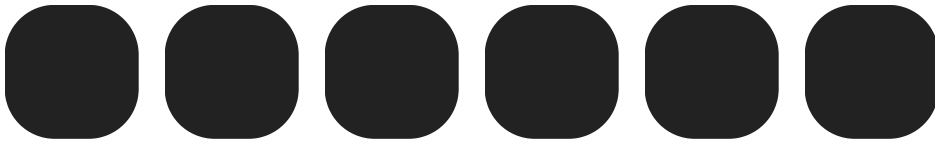
criteria established by the Amber Alert Plan.

For more information on child safety and Amber Alerts, or if you would like a child ID presentation at your local event, please contact the Missing Persons Clearinghouse at (573) 526-6178, or online at www.mshp.dps.mo.gov.

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Jason Smith Speaks With Constituents at Dexter BBQ

MAY 22ND 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Jason Smith Speaks With Constituents at Dexter BBQ](#)

Written by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer

Dexter, Missouri - Jason Smith, candidate for the 8th congressional District was on hand to speak with fellow Republicans at Dexter BBQ today.

With Representative Jo Ann Emerson's resignation from Congress in February 2013, this left an open seat. A special election to be held on June 4, 2013 will determine her replacement.

Missouri Republicans chose Jason Smith, District 120, Speaker Pro Tem, as their candidate.

Jason has pledged to bring back common sense Missouri values. "It's what my campaign is all about," stated Smith at the luncheon. "Our race is going well and we have received some great endorsements, including the National Rifle Association, Missouri Corn Growers Association and the Missouri Cattlemen's Association."

Just yesterday former Governor Mike Huckabee from Arkansas endorsed Jason.

"This morning we toured the Tyson Plant here in Dexter and what a great asset it is to this community." There were several familiar faces at the luncheon, including Missouri State Representative Kent Hampton, Missouri State Representative Dennis Fowler, Billy Pat Wright, Stoddard County Prosecutor Russ Oliver and Judge Rob Mayor's family. He thanked everyone for attending and was very proud to have so many who support him in Dexter.

He continued by saying, "We have beat our opponent at everything during our campaign, from most signs out there, tv ads, most phone calls to our constituents, bumper stickers, and public knowledge. It's all about voter turn-out! I will not be a wallflower in D.C. if elected."

Tonight the Cape County Tea Party has planned a candidate forum at the Cape Girardeau Public Library at 6:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, May 28th, the Southeast Missouri State University, KFVS12 and the Southeast Missourian plan to host an 8th Congressional District debate at 6:00 p.m. at the River Campus.

Anyone wishing to go to either event is encouraged to attend. If you would like more information and would like to contact Jason you may do so at Jason.Smith@house.mo.gov or by snail mail to MO House of Representatives, 201 West Capitol Ave. Room 301, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

LAST UPDATED ON MAY 22ND 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Civilian Conservation Corps 80th Anniversary in Cassville

MAY 21ST 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Civilian Conservation Corps 80th Anniversary in Cassville](#)

Article Submitted to the ShowMe Times *news@showmetimes.com*

Cassville, Missouri - On May 4th an event was held to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Missouri's Roaring River State Park near Cassville. The festivities included the dedication of a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) statue.

The depression-era CCC served as the foundation for today's Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers. The Mingo Job Corps CCC students and Missouri State Park Youth Corps members were in attendance, as well as some former CCC members from the depression era.

In his remarks Governor Jay Nixon said, "In Missouri, we have worked to preserve and embrace the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps. This legacy is more than stone and structures. It is giving young people a chance and preserving our natural resources."

Governor Nixon helped start the State Park Youth Corps program in 2010, and according to the Cassville Democrat, "Through the program, over 2,000 youth corps members have worked more than 500,000 hours."

Bill Bryan, Missouri State Parks Director, also spoke and recently served on the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Federal Advisory Committee. He is also credited by the Cassville Democrat for serving a big role in the creation of the State Park Youth Corps.

Mingo Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center is a residential vocational and educational training program serving students ages 16 to 24, located near Puxico, Missouri.

In addition to seven vocational trades, Mingo Job Corps offers GED or High School attainment, driver's education, and basic health care all at no cost to the student. The U.S. Forest Service administers the program in Southeast Missouri and at 27 other centers across the nation. For more information, call 573-222-3537 or visit www.jobcorps.gov.

LAST UPDATED ON MAY 21ST 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

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The Path of Destruction

MAY 21ST 2013 BY STAFF WRITER

The Path of Destruction

Rescue workers continue to search for survivors from the massive **tornado that ripped through parts of Oklahoma** killing dozens of people and flattening whatever was in its path, including a hospital and at least two schools.

The storm system behind yesterday's twister continues to threaten a large swath of the United States Tuesday, putting 53 million people at risk of severe weather. **Click here** to see severe weather alerts in your area.

What can you do to help? How can you prepare your business and your employees for the storms ahead? Agility has compiled the following resources to help you, your employees and your family plan, prepare and recover from the storm.

- **Helping Oklahoma** – If you're looking for ways to help the residents of Oklahoma ravaged by Monday's tornado, here's a list of several relief organizations are working in the area.
- **Tornado Checklist** – Download Agility's free Tornado Checklist for tips on how to prepare your business before, during and after a storm.
- **Red Cross Tornado App** – Get your family and home ready for a tornado with the official Tornado App from the American Red Cross.

Disaster Recovery has become a concern for many business owners. Many local businesses and others have taken the steps to become more involved with their own preparedness by managing their own disaster plan through Agility Recovery.

Agility Recovery has partnered with your local independent agents at **County Wide Insurance Agency**. In fact, the role that Agility Recovery played in keeping power going

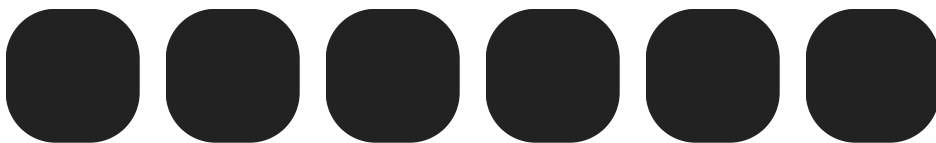
for County Wide was instrumental in allowing them to perform their claims duties during the devastating 2009 ice storm.

For more information about the services or to get partnered with the disaster recovery experts at Agility Recovery, contact your **County Wide** agent, Ed Gargas, Jason Comfort or Alan Hedrick. They will share with you the value of being prepared.

LAST UPDATED ON MAY 21ST 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Hope Epidemic Event in Sikeston

MAY 16TH 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

[Hope Epidemic Event in Sikeston](#)

Submitted by

Beth Farrah, SMT Writer

Sikeston, Missouri - On May 18, the city of Sikeston will be painted red with people performing acts of kindness and service. The over 1000 volunteers will be wearing their free Hope Epidemic t-shirts they received for signing up. This will be the third year for the Hope Epidemic. The organizers see great community impact through this event each year.

"In 2011, we experienced our worst flood in history. Hope Epidemic took place around that same time and we were able to provide support to the flood victims. This had a ripple effect," says Brad Aycock, one of the organizers.

The volunteers will be serving in many different ways on the 18th, including visits to local nursing homes, taking treats to emergency personnel workers, cleaning up local parks and streets, to name a few. They've added some new projects for this year.

"We'll be providing free groceries to the first 500 people to show up between 9am and 2pm at either of the two distribution points, First Nazarene Church and Lincoln Park. All you have to do is show up," says Aycock. "We will also be building a new gazebo in Lincoln Park. This gazebo will be called the Martin Luther King Hope Pavilion and will be used for events throughout the year." Single moms who have been pre-approved will be getting free oil changes at Tanner Street Church of God.

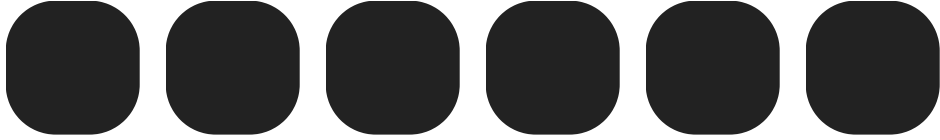
The day begins with a free breakfast and t-shirt pickup for all volunteers from 7:30-8:30am at First United Methodist Church. Beginning at 8:30, the volunteers will disperse to begin serving on their projects until noon. The event will climax at noon with a free lunch at Lincoln Park for the entire community. There will also be live music. "Everyone is invited to come and eat for free from noon-2pm."

This event is a collaborative effort of fourteen local churches. Funding for Hope Epidemic has been provided by many area businesses and churches. Anyone can serve and is encouraged to sign up at hopeepidemic.org. The first 1000 to pre-register will receive a free t-shirt.

"There are no strings attached. We will accept nothing in return. Very few things in the world are free anymore. On May 18th, we'll start the epidemic that we hope will continue. This army of volunteers is passionate about changing the world; beginning right here in SE Missouri," says Aycock.

For more info visit hopeepidemic.org or call 573.421.1824.

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