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Local Siren Tests

JUNE 05TH 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

Local Siren Tests

Written by

Beth Farrah, SMT Writer

Essex, Missouri – Emergency tests are currently being administered throughout the area during the first Wednesday of the new month. City Hall will be testing tornado sirens as well as other alerts over the speakers placed near the fire station. The short tests will give local citizens the opportunity to hear the sirens from their property, to insure that they will be able to hear them during springtime storms or other natural disasters and town emergencies.

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US 60 Reduced to One Lane for Repairs

JUNE 01ST 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

US 60 Reduced to One Lane for Repairs

Submitted by

Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer

Dexter, Missouri - East and Westbound US 60 in Stoddard County will be reduced to one lane as Missouri Department of Transportation crews perform pavement repairs.

The westbound section is located from Route F to one mile west will be performed on Monday, June 3 and Tuesday, June 4 from 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

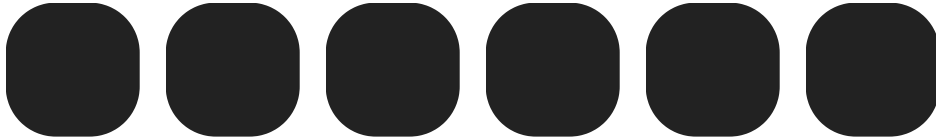
The eastbound lane is located from Butler County line to Route H will be performed on Tuesday, June 4 through Thursday, June 6 from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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) or visit www.modot.org/southeast.

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Boat House Wine Company Ribbon Cutting

MAY 31ST 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Boat House Wine Company Ribbon Cutting](#)

Written by

Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer

Bloomfield, Missouri – In the backwoods of Stoddard County overlooking a beautiful lake there is a perfect little place to spend an evening. The Boat House Wine Company offers that perfect retreat and is not your average winery.

With live entertainment on the weekends and an outdoor stage, the Boat House is the place to be. The Boat House also offers an assortment of foods, wine and beer.

There are currently six wines offered on the menu. One wine called “Masters’ Estate”, named after Dr. Ed. Masters from Sikeston. He was the former owner of

the land prior to it becoming the Boat House back in 2010. As a tribute to the late physician, the specialty Merlot bears his name.

There are even RV hook-ups, cabins, and tent camping available. Fishing, no problem! You can even stand at the edge of the water and feed the catfish. They love tasty treats!

The outdoor movie theater is almost complete. Jared expects to show two movies each month beginning June 7th. Live bands will be performing each weekend with THE BUZZ appearing at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 8th, the following Saturday will be the HUMAN ZOO BAND at 7:00 p.m. and on June 22nd will be the JOHN D. HALE BAND, also at 7:00 p.m.

Want a romantic outdoor wedding? No problem, it's beautifully landscaped with covered seating areas and outdoor lighting for that perfect nighttime ambiance.

"We have had lots of high school reunions, birthday parties, and church groups come out and enjoy the Boat House," stated new owner Jared Chandler.

"It's absolutely beautiful and so very peaceful out here, who wouldn't want to come and enjoy nature, eat great food and visit with friends."

The Boat House is open Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday each week. It may be hidden away, but is relatively easy to get to. Just take Highway 25 to Quila, turn west on route M, turn north on route BB and then a quick right on County Road 252. Watch for Boat House Wine Co. signs! If you would like more information about the Boat House contact Jared Chandler at 573-722-3760, find them on Facebook or check out their website at www.boathousewineco.com.

/images/Boat House FB.jpg

Shown in the picture are Alice Chandler, Jared Chandler (Owner), Marie Chandler, Sandy Chandler, John Allen, Dan Chandler, Cheryl Allen, Jerry McElrath, Benjie Ferguson, Sam Cook, and Janet Coleman.

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MDC Adds 39

MAY 29TH 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

[MDC Adds 39](#)

*Submitted by
Beth Farrah, SMT Writer*

Carter County, Missouri - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) added 20 adult cow elk, 16 yearling cow elk, three yearling bull elk and one newborn male calf to its elk restoration project in the Ozarks Tuesday morning.

Transported via livestock trailer from Kentucky, where they spent the past four months quarantined in a holding pen, the elk arrived at temporary holding pens on MDC's Peck Ranch Conservation Area at first light. MDC staff quickly ushered the hoofed cargo into spacious holding pens, and within an hour Missouri's newest four-legged residents were resting in the shade and grazing on lush clover.

Thirty-nine elk started the journey west, which ended with 40. MDC's Jake Rieken, who made the trip west with the elk after spending the past four months caring for them in

Kentucky, got a wonderful surprise when the convoy stopped so staff could check on the animals. He discovered that one of the pregnant cows had delivered a male calf. To avoid injury to the newborn, Rieken and other MDC staff removed it through a side door in the trailer. They placed it in a large animal crate in the bed of a pickup truck, secured the blanket-covered crate, and continued the trip. The newborn calf, nicknamed “Plus-1,” was reunited with its mother in a holding pen at Peck Ranch.

“He is doing very well,” said MDC State Wildlife Veterinarian Kelly Straka. “He looks good and his heartbeat sounded fantastic.”

Dr. Straka added that all of the elk underwent extensive health and disease testing in Kentucky before being brought to Missouri.

The elk will remain in the holding pens at Peck Ranch for up to several weeks as they acclimate to the area and MDC staff continue to monitor them. Some cows will begin dropping calves while in the holding pens.

“We’ve divided the pregnant cows into small groups in various pens to give them privacy and reduce their stress,” said Dr. Straka. “Those that do not calve before being released from the holding pens will seek out secluded spots to give birth. Most calves should be born by mid-June. This year’s group of 40 elk will add to the approximately 70 already living in the restoration zone. We expect several dozen new calves this spring from established elk, plus more calves from this year’s group.”

The Missouri restoration of this once-native species began with MDC bringing elk from Kentucky in May 2011 and again in May 2012 to the Department’s elk restoration zone covering 221,000 acres in parts of Shannon, Carter, and Reynolds counties.

This year, MDC again worked with Kentucky and Virginia state wildlife agencies to trap elk in January from the Appalachian Mountains of southeastern Kentucky. The effort resulted in 51 elk being trapped with Missouri getting 39, plus the newborn calf. Virginia will receive the remaining elk for its restoration effort.

As done in the previous two years of trapping, Missouri-bound elk received radio collars right before their trip west as part of a research project between MDC and the University of Missouri. The collars help track movement patterns and preferred habitat. The research project is funded by Federal Aid from the Wildlife Restoration Program administered through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation helped fund the 2013 capture and care of the elk in Kentucky. RMEF also donated materials and volunteer help at both Kentucky and Missouri holding facilities.

“This restoration effort is another conservation legacy, for us and for future generations, that could not have been possible without the enormous help and support from our staff and many conservation partners including The Nature Conservancy, National Park Service, LADD Foundation and Forest Service,” said MDC Deputy Director Tom Draper.

“On behalf of MDC leadership,” Draper continued, “we continue to be impressed with the passion, talent and dedication of MDC staff, and thankful for their ongoing hard work on this project. We are also grateful to the states of Kentucky and Virginia for their partnerships in elk restoration. We also thank the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Safari Club International, Big Game Hunters Foundation and Bass Pro Shops for their generous funding and support of this project. We are grateful to the many local landowners who have shown their support by creating elk habitat on their nearby properties, and to the communities of Eminence, Winona, Ellington and Van Buren, which have embraced the effort. We are also appreciative of The University of Missouri and the University of Kentucky for providing research support for the project.”

As in the past two years of elk restoration efforts, the 12,000-acre Refuge Area at Peck Ranch, where elk tend to congregate, is closed into July as new elk acclimate and cows give birth. MDC will open the area to elk driving tours later this summer.

For more information on elk restoration in Missouri, visit mdc.mo.gov.

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Absentee Ballot Deadline is TODAY!

MAY 29TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Absentee Ballot Deadline is TODAY!

*Submitted by
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Writer*

Dexter, Missouri - Missouri Secretary of State Jason Kander today reminded voters that the deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail or fax for the June 4, 2013 Special Election is **Wednesday, May 29**. Voters may vote absentee in person at their local election authority's office until 5:00 pm on Monday, June 3.

To receive an absentee ballot by mail, eligible voters must complete an absentee ballot application and mail it or fax it to their local election authority. Applications must be received by the local election authority no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, May 29.

If requesting an absentee ballot by mail, first time voters must provide a copy of their personal identification in order to vote. Local election authorities will be open for limited hours on Saturday, June 1 for absentee voting. Please contact your local election authority to inquire about their Saturday hours.

The application form and contact information for Missouri's local election authorities are available online at www.GoVoteMissouri.com.

Registered Missouri voters are eligible to vote absentee if they expect to be prevented from going to the polls to vote on Election Day due to:

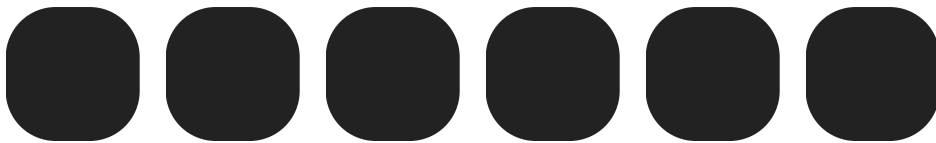
- (1) Absence on Election Day from the jurisdiction of the election authority in which such voter is registered to vote;
- (2) Incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability, including a person who is primarily responsible for the physical care of someone who is incapacitated or confined due to illness or disability;
- (3) Religious belief or practice;
- (4) Employment as an election authority, as a member of an election authority, or by an election authority at a location other than such voter's polling place;
- (5) Incarceration provided all qualifications for voting are retained.

The local election authority must receive absentee ballots no later than 7:00 pm on Tuesday, June 4.

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