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# Jason Smith's Capitol Report - Small Business Week

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JUNE 02ND 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Jason Smith's Capitol Report - Small Business Week

*Submitted by  
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

**8th Congressional District** - In May we celebrate Small Business Week and the many entrepreneurs who take risks in pursuit of the American Dream. Small businesses help tell the story of our Eighth Congressional District. Many of these businesses provide unique goods and services that cannot be found in other stores. Still others are passed from one generation to the next and become cornerstones of our local communities. Too often, Washington gets in the way of success for small businesses in Missouri.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) reports that nearly half of the private sector jobs in America are with small businesses. Over the past 15 years, the Administration found that small businesses produced 64% of new jobs created. With this significant impact on job growth, it is clear that small businesses are vital to the strength of our economy. Small business owners create jobs. Not bureaucrats in Washington.

Unfortunately, too many small businesses are struggling to overcome red tape from Washington. Studies have shown that small businesses are hit harder with the cost of environmental regulations than large corporations. Furthermore, small businesses pay 67% more to comply with the overly complex tax code than big businesses. It has even been estimated that one million small business jobs will

be eliminated as a result of the Obamacare employer mandate.

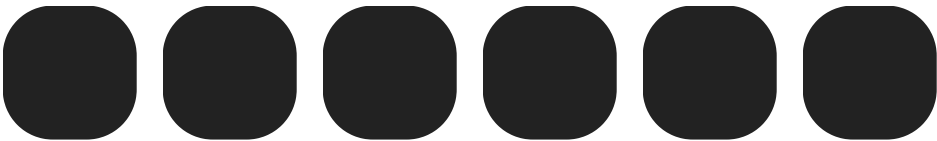
Overregulation from Washington is stifling growth and punishing business owners for their hard work and sacrifice. I am committed to fighting intrusive and burdensome regulations from the Obama Administration. For too long, the EPA and IRS have created unnecessary hurdles that slow economic growth and progress. Now Obamacare threatens to unravel the American Dream of owning a business. The House of Representatives has passed nearly 40 bills aimed at helping small businesses prosper, but the Senate has refused to even bring these bills up for a vote.

The Eighth District of Missouri boasts a diverse and lengthy list of small businesses. From concrete, to lumber, to automobiles and agriculture, our home is full of innovative entrepreneurs. I am proud to represent so many industries and the vitality that they uniquely bring to our communities. I trust small business owners to learn, grow, and thrive without the oppressive scrutiny of a bureaucrat. A small business should be locally owned and controlled, not Washington regulated.

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# Kent Hampton's Capitol Report May 30, 2014

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MAY 30TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Kent Hampton's Capitol Report May 30, 2014

*Submitted by  
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

**Jefferson City, Missouri** - This week's town feature is **Dexter**. Dexter was established by the Cairo, Arkansas and Texas railroad company. At the time, there were already people who had settled in the area. The purpose in establishing Dexter was to have a railroad that went from Cairo to Texas. That dream became a reality in 1873 when the first train went through Dexter. Dexter became one of the main depots for the train companies. The same is true today in Dexter, you can drive through the largest town in Stoddard County and you are bound to be stopped by a train. The main industry of the time was timber. Many businesses were formed specifically to accommodate timber workers. Downtown Dexter today still features some of Dexter's oldest buildings. Also, the Heritage House located on Cooper Street is a house built in 1870 that features farm equipment of the era. If you haven't visited Dexter, it is a great place to visit with lots of history. You can view all Stoddard County attractions on [www.visitdexter.com](http://www.visitdexter.com).

## **Conservation Department's Offer Free Fishing Days June 7-8**

The Department of Conservation is offering Free Fishing Days June 7 and 8. During Free Fishing Days, anyone can fish in the Show-Me State without having to buy a fishing permit, trout stamp, or trout park daily tag. Normal regulations remain in effect, such as limits on size and number of fish an angler can keep. Some private fishing areas may still require permits, and trespass laws remain in effect on private property.

Conservation makes Missouri a great place to fish, and Free Fishing Days encourages people to sample the state's abundant fishing opportunities. Missouri

is blessed with more than a million acres of surface water, and most of it provides great fishing. According to the Department, more than 200 different fish species are found in Missouri, with 40 of them being game fish for the state's more than 1.1 million anglers.

Conservation also enriches Missouri's economy and Missourians' quality of life. Fishing in the state generates more than a billion dollars for local communities and the state's economy, and supports thousands of jobs.

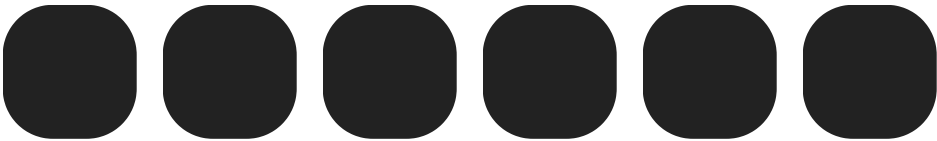
Public fishing areas are available in every county in Missouri. Many state-owned fishing areas also have special facilities for anglers with disabilities. Contact your local MDC office for Free Fishing Days near you, or go online to [mdc.mo.gov/node/3675](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/3675).

As always, it is an honor to serve you in the Missouri House. If you would like to discuss any issue, please call 573-751-3629. You can also email me at [kent.hampton@house.mo.gov](mailto:kent.hampton@house.mo.gov) . I look forward to hearing from you.

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# Jason Smith's Capitol Report - National Military Month

MAY 19TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Jason Smith's Capitol Report - National Military Month

*Submitted by  
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

**8th Congressional District - Missouri** - May marks National Military Appreciation Month when events are organized to honor our brave men and women in uniform and the sacrifices they make defending our freedoms at home and abroad. Across our country, civic groups and average American citizens are joining together to host everything from appreciation dinners to parades and even a fishing tournament to let our military members know we honor their service. In the House of Representatives, I am working to ensure our federal government keeps its promises to members of the military.

Caring for our veterans should be a top priority in Washington. The Veterans Administration (VA) has thousands of doctors, nurses and public servants who work hard to give military members the best healthcare we can offer. But, too often, the VA system fails those it was created to help. An outrageous backlog at the VA has caused veterans to wait months for answers on disability claims. Unfortunately, the same is true of VA medical services where wait lists for some critical services are extremely long. In some tragic instances, veterans have passed away waiting for healthcare services from the VA. This is unacceptable.

This month, the House of Representatives took action to provide critical funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs. In addition to funding, the House has acted to make systemic changes in the VA to improve access to healthcare services for our veterans. The legislation provides specific funding for medical care, mental health services, traumatic brain injury treatment for our most seriously wounded American heroes, homeless services and job training to

ensure that the transition back to civilian life is successful for our veterans. Additionally, the House is working to modernize the VA with a new electronic health record system and an updated paperless claims processing system. These updates are the first step toward ending the unacceptable backlog of VA disability and medical claims.

Another way that Congress can improve access to care for our veterans is through the Patient-Centered Community Care program that allows the VA to contract with local healthcare providers. In our Eighth Congressional District there are veterans who are forced to travel one hundred miles to the closest VA clinic or hospital. Many veterans have injuries or are elderly. Extended travel often times only adds to veterans’ frustrations. The Patient-Centered Community Care program is relatively new and not yet widely available. I am working to grow the program and make healthcare options more accessible for our veterans.

Like other Americans, the House of Representatives is committed to honoring members of the military during Military Appreciation Month. While people across the country are holding special events for our service members, I have been working in the House of Representatives to keep the promises made to our veterans and honor their service to our nation. We must always honor the service and sacrifices of our military members.

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# Kent Hampton's Capitol Report May 21, 2014

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MAY 19TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Kent Hampton's Capitol Report May 21, 2014

*Submitted by  
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

**Jefferson City, Missouri** - The budget has been truly agreed and finally passed: the largest in the state's history of 26.4 billion.

We believe we helped make a difference in many departments across the state, especially Education. The House resumed moving forward on bills with great interest.

The Agriculture omnibus bill was passed by the House and Senate. The parts of the bill receiving the most attention were covering a program to assist the daily operation in remaining prominent in Missouri agriculture.

Our dairy farmers have been leaving the industry because of low pricing they received for their milk and the high cost of feed brought about by drought conditions where our herds are located. With the loss of our dairy farmers the state of Missouri is now having to import 60% of our milk to meet the need.

The other topic that brought the most interest pertained to captive cervids (white tail deer). These animals were classified as livestock and placed under the boundaries of the the Department of Agriculture. Meetings held with both the Department of Conservation and the Department of Agriculture developed in the new Administration Assignment. Here in the last hours of session, as I write this Capitol Report, we are still working with the Senate through conference committees dealing with issues of importance.

Heading the list would be the school transfer bill pertaining to the unaccredited school districts in St. Louis and Kansas City. A tremendous amount of time and input from not only the committees, but other members of the chambers, as well

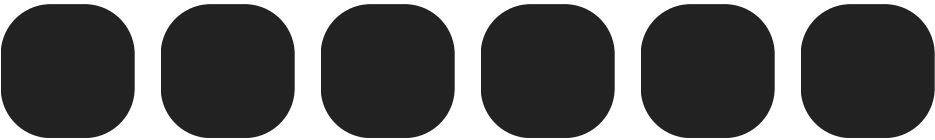
as interest groups associated with education have been working tirelessly on this issue to help ensure these children have the opportunity at a quality education and move forward with their lives.

As another session draws to a close, I want to personally thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you. We, Shana ( the Jr. Representative for District 150) and myself have learned much more about this great state. We have established relationships with state leaders and department heads, and have worked through many constituent issues. Having school groups and folks from home at the Capitol is always a bonus. Our beliefs and positions for District 150 have not and will not be compromised. It truly is an honor and one I will continue to do the best of my ability to serve.

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# Treating Behavioral Health Like Physical Health

MAY 13TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN



## Treating Behavioral Health Like Physical Health

*Submitted by  
Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor*

**Jefferson City, Missouri** - As families in Missouri and nationwide mark National Mental Health Awareness Month in May, approximately one in four adults suffers from a diagnosable mental illness nationwide, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Unfortunately, many don't receive the care they need.

We were reminded of this important challenge last month during the devastating events at [Fort Hood](#), Texas. As Commanding General Mark Milley [noted in the aftermath of this tragedy](#), the suspect reportedly sought help for mental illness, and he had a medical history indicating an “unstable psychiatric or psychological condition” that investigators believe to be a “fundamental underlying factor” in this catastrophe. Army Secretary John McHugh also told Congress the suspect was undergoing treatment for depression, anxiety, and sleep disturbances.

There's no doubt that our military bases on American soil should be the safest place possible for our servicemen and women and for their loved ones. Fort Hood was a terrible loss for all Americans, especially for those who are willing to serve and for their families. In the weeks following, I visited General Leonard Wood Army Hospital (GLWACH) to learn more about the military's mental health services, and I continue to talk to [military leaders in Missouri](#) and in [Washington](#) as part of my role on the Senate's defense authorizing and appropriations committees. My goal is to work with our nation's military leaders to guarantee our servicemen and women, veterans, and military families have access to quality behavioral health treatment – before a mental health crisis takes a terrible turn for the worst.

As part of those efforts, I recently introduced the bipartisan “[Caring For America's Heroes Act](#)” to bring treatment for mental illness in-line with the way physical illnesses are treated for military retirees and their families under TRICARE. I also joined my colleague Senator Debbie Stabenow (Mich.) to successfully pass a version of the “[Excellence in Mental Health Act](#)” last month to help address the nation's fragmented mental health system. This provision establishes two-year pilot programs in eight states to expand access to community mental health services. The original legislation garnered broad support, with 25 Senators co-sponsoring and endorsements from more than 50 mental health, veteran, and law enforcement groups.

Mental illness is just that: an illness. As we recognize National Mental Health Awareness Month, I hope my colleagues will join me in working to improve our nation's policies. We must start treating behavioral health like physical health if we're going to expand access and reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness.

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