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# Northbound Fruitland Rest Area to Be Converted to Truck Parking

JANUARY 27TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Northbound Fruitland Rest Area to Be Converted to Truck Parking

**Fruitland, Missouri** - On Nov. 25, 2014, a fire at the northbound Fruitland Rest Area left the building unusable. The facility has remained closed since that time. The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) will open the facility open Friday, Jan. 23 to primarily serve commercial truck parking.

"We looked at rebuilding the facility versus converting it to truck parking," said MoDOT Assistant District Engineer Matt Seiler. "The cost to rebuild the rest area, not including yearly maintenance contracts, would cost Missouri taxpayers more than \$115,000. We weighed that against the number of nearby private businesses offering 24-hour service to travelers. We feel converting the facility to truck parking is the best option for the taxpayers of Missouri."

Once fully converted, the site will offer more than 15 parking spaces for commercial trucks and vault restrooms. Until the vault restrooms are complete, portable restrooms will be available.

"Currently, the cost to maintain the Welcome Centers at Marston and Hayti, as well as the dual Fruitland facilities and northbound Bloomsdale rest area is nearly \$1,400,000," said Seiler. "Because of the reduced maintenance with the conversion to truck parking, we are negotiating new rest area cleaning contracts. Any additional cost savings to Missouri taxpayers will be spent to repair roads and bridges."

Missouri began constructing rest areas based on criteria established in 1968. At that time, rest areas were constructed to provide travelers with restroom facilities and a place to stretch their legs. With private businesses now providing these same opportunities and better built vehicles, the need for rest areas is not as critical today. But there is a growing demand for commercial vehicle parking.

"Parking space for commercial vehicles is a nationwide concern," said Seiler. "Commercial vehicles comprise approximately 30 to 35 percent of the average daily traffic on our interstates. More parking will help commercial vehicle operators meet their USDOT requirements to rest and will reduce the current, unsafe practice of parking on ramps."

The Southeast District has previously converted four facilities to truck parking along Interstate 55. Those include the dual rest areas located in Steele, the northbound facility at Marston and the southbound facility at Bloomsdale. All feature parking for commercial vehicles and vault restrooms, while the Bloomsdale facility houses a weigh scale also.

For more information, contact Seiler at (573) 472-5340 or call MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636).

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# Eagle Days at Duck Creek and Mingo Coming Soon

JANUARY 26TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Eagle Days at Duck Creek and Mingo Coming Soon

## **Missouri Department of Conservation to co-host Eagle Days at Duck Creek CA and Mingo National Wildlife Refuge**

**Puxico, Missouri** - Bald eagles are large birds of prey and in winter they follow waterfowl flocks that often settle on southern wetlands in large numbers. Together, eagles, geese and ducks provide a dramatic winter show. Hosted by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Eagle Days event includes wildlife viewing opportunities outdoors and indoor nature programs Saturday, Feb. 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pat Holloway, an MDC education consultant, said families and visitors of all ages can expect a fun, adventurous event that will help conquer cabin fever.

”Join us for an outdoor nature experience and discover cool facts about bald eagles, which were chosen as our nation’s symbol in 1782,” Holloway said, adding that visitors are encouraged to dress appropriate for outdoor winter weather.

Staff from Dickerson Park Zoo will present educational programs featuring a live eagle throughout the day. The Mingo National Wildlife Visitor Center will display items related to eagles. Several outdoor spotting scope sites on Mingo National Wildlife Refuge and Duck Creek Conservation Area (CA) will provide opportunities to view eagles, ducks and geese in the wild. Both Mingo and Duck Creek are expansive areas, so visitors are encouraged to pick up a brochure containing a map of the eagle viewing stations when they arrive.

All Eagle Days activities are free. Mingo National Wildlife Refuge and Duck Creek CA are located along highway 51, north of Puxico. For more information about Eagle Days

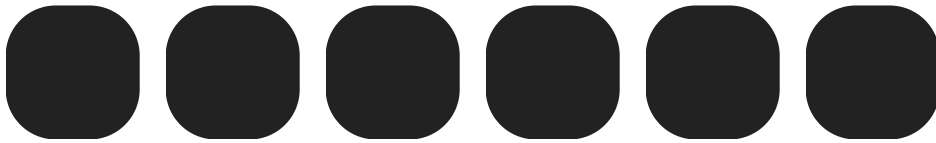
events, call Mingo National Wildlife Refuge at (573) 222-3589 or MDC at (573)290-5730. To learn more about eagles and places to view them in Missouri, visit the MDC website at [mdc.mo.gov/events/eagledays](http://mdc.mo.gov/events/eagledays).

Article by Candice Davis. Photo submitted by MDC.

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# Missouri Deer Season Ends with Large Harvest

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JANUARY 21ST 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Missouri Deer Season Ends with Large Harvest

### **Current-Year Harvest Up Nearly 8,000 From Previous Year!**

**Jefferson City, Missouri** - Missouri's 2014-2015 deer-hunting closed Jan. 15 with the conclusion of the state's archery season. The Missouri Department of Conservation reported that the total deer harvest for the current season was 260,552, which is 7,978 more than the 252,574 deer checked during the previous year.

Hunters checked 51,755 deer during the current archery season with top counties being Jefferson with 1,080, St. Louis with 1,063, and Franklin with 1,032. The harvest for the previous year's deer archery season was 1,248 fewer at 50,507.

The 2014-2015 archery turkey season also closed Jan. 15 with a total of 2,587 birds checked compared to the previous year of 2,546 birds checked. Top counties were Greene with 64, Franklin with 60, and Callaway with 54.

For more information on the 2014-2015 deer harvest, and past-year deer harvest summaries, go online to <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/29442>.

**MDC** also reported 14 hunting incidents during the 2014-2015 deer hunting season. Four were fatal and involved a fall from a tree stand, a heater explosion in a deer blind, a gunshot wound from another hunter, and a heart attack while hunting.

Dates for the 2015-2016 firearms deer season are:

Urban portion – Oct. 9 through 12

Early youth portion – Oct. 31 and Nov. 1

November portion – Nov. 14 through 24

Antlerless portion – Nov. 25 through Dec. 6

Alternative-methods portion – Dec. 19 through 29

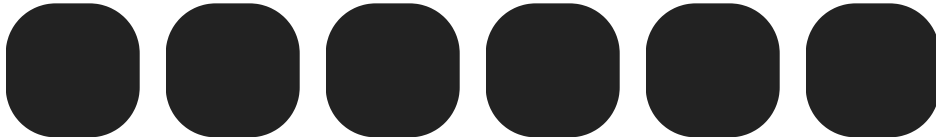
Late youth portion – Jan. 2 and 3

The 2015-2016 archery deer and turkey season will run Sept. 15 through Jan. 15, excluding the November portion of deer season, Nov. 14 through 24.

Conservation makes Missouri a great place to hunt deer and turkey. For more information, go online to [www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov).

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# Apply for MDC Spring Managed Turkey Hunts

JANUARY 15TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Apply for MDC Spring Managed Turkey Hunts](#)

**Online applications opened January 9th and run through February 28th**

Jefferson City, Missouri - Missouri youth, archery, and firearms turkey hunters can apply online for managed hunts during the 2015 spring turkey season beginning Jan. 9 to Feb.

28 through the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) website at [mdc.mo.gov/node/11252](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/11252). Managed hunt details and application procedures are outlined on the webpage. Application results will be available beginning March 13.

Spring turkey hunting youth weekend will be April 11 - 12 with the regular spring season running April 20 - May 10.

Detailed information on spring turkey hunting will be available in MDC's 2015 Spring Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information booklet available online at [mdc.mo.gov](http://mdc.mo.gov) in late January with printed booklets available from permit vendors and MDC offices and nature centers around the state beginning in mid-February.

Conservation makes Missouri a great place to turkey hunt. To learn more, go online to [mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/turkey-hunting](http://mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/turkey-hunting).

*Photo taken by Anthony Beeson.*

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## Missing Woman Considered to be in Danger

JANUARY 12TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Missing Woman Considered to be in Danger

**Bollinger County, Missouri** - Crews are actively searching for a missing woman they consider to be in danger, according to the Bollinger County Sheriff's Department. Deputies say Brandi Lee, 34, was last seen wearing a heavy, pink coat.

She left her home on Highway H on foot around 12:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 12.

She is described as a white female, 5-feet, 1-inch tall and 95 pounds with a petite build.

According to the sheriff's department, her house is located south of Highway FF on Highway H.

They say search crews are staging down the road at a church at the intersection of Hwy. H and County Road 538.

If you don't need to be in the area, deputies ask that you avoid it because the search crews are using dogs to try and pick up her scent. They say they do not need volunteers at the moment.

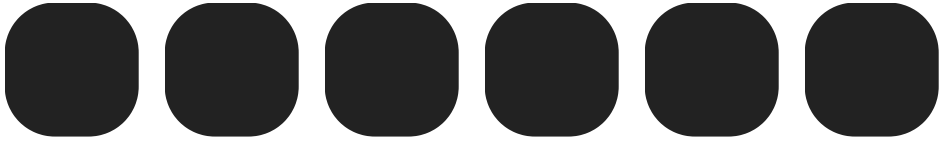
If you have any information, you're asked to call the Bollinger County Sheriff's Department at 573-238-2633.

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