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Monday is Labor Day!

SEPTEMBER 07TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Monday is Labor Day!

It's Monday! Monday's are most people's least favorite day of the week, so what better way to spend it than to have it off of work!

Today we celebrate Labor Day. We add an extra day to our weekend to celebrate the labor movement, which gave to us better working conditions and fair treatment from our employers and the government. Labor Day is also associated by some as the end of summer, before the school year starts.

CELEBRATE

Labor Day is often spent as a vacation weekend by many families. Most campgrounds on this weekend are packed full. As you celebrate this day, consider and appreciate your hard work and how it has added to the well-being and prosperity of our country and use #NationalLaborDay to post on social media.

HISTORY

Labor Day was celebrated for the first time in New York City in 1882.

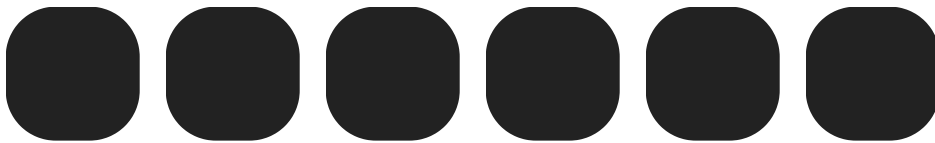
It was originally celebrated on September 5th, but was moved to the first Monday in September in 1884. Labor Day started out as a state holiday, getting voted in by individual states, but gained popularity and was voted a national holiday by the U.S. Congress in 1894.

What are you doing to celebrate National Labor Day? Post your photos and #NationalLaborDay!

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SEMO Electric Members Experiencing Phone Scams

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Possible Phone Scam Occurring in Missouri

Press release from SEMO Electric Coop on the recent phone scams occurring in Missouri - At SEMO Electric Cooperative, it is our goal to keep the personal and financial information of our members secure. That is why we are warning our members that scammers could be posing as SEMO Electric in an attempt to obtain information that would compromise their financial security.

SEMO Electric Cooperative has received reports from other Co-ops around the state, informing us that scammers are calling member’s homes and businesses demanding payment for what they say is a past due bill and if it isn’t paid the electric will be shut off.

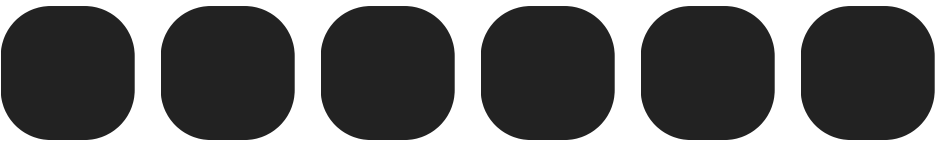
SEMO Electric employees will never ask for your full Social Security number over the phone and if payments are late, SEMO Electric may contact members with an automated phone call to inform members of a late payment, not to ask for payment.

If you feel you are being scammed, write down the number the call came from or any information about the call and contact SEMO Electric Cooperative. Never risk sharing your information. Do not give the person any personal or financial information.

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Troop E Prepares for Labor Day Traffic

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Troop E Prepares for Labor Day Traffic

Captain George E. Ridens, commanding officer Troop E, Poplar Bluff, announces that Troop E will be participating in enforcement operations throughout the Labor Day weekend. The objective of these operations is to promote safety and reduce traffic crashes. Throughout the holiday weekend, troopers within Troop E and throughout the state will be participating in Operation C.A.R.E. (Combined Accident Reduction Effort). In addition to Operation C.A.R.E., Troop E will also participate in a statewide enforcement operation during the peak travel periods on Friday, September 4, and Monday, September 7. During this operation, Troop E troopers will be assigned to Interstate 55 to maximize visibility. Enforcement efforts on secondary roads within Troop E will be conducted during the same time frame.

Captain Ridens said, “Over the entire holiday weekend, troopers will be targeting all traffic violations and will be especially vigilant regarding excessive speed, careless and imprudent driving, and aggressive driving violations. Troopers will also be available to help motorists in need of assistance.”

Approximately 63 percent of Missouri fatal crash victims who are required to be restrained are NOT at the time of the traffic crash. The Patrol urges motorists to protect themselves and their passengers by making sure everyone in the vehicle is properly restrained in a seat belt or child restraint. Join us in supporting the Drive To Zero Highway Deaths. Watercraft operators should ensure that everyone in the vessel is wearing an approved life jacket. Click It 4 Life And Wear It!!

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[61-Mile Yard Sale This Weekend; Drivers Use Caution](#)

Visitors and residents will be out in full force along Route 61 Labor Day weekend in search of bargains at the 61-Mile Yard Sale from Bloomsdale to Jackson, Mo., but MoDOT wants you to remember the greatest savings of the event could be a life.

"It's a fun weekend that people look forward to each year," says Traffic Engineer Craig Compas, "but we want people to remember that there's more traffic and more congestion along Route 61 this weekend than any other and drivers need to keep that in mind."

MoDOT will do its part to bring the safety message to the forefront. Message boards will be in place along the route to alert drivers of the unusual traffic patterns and promote safe driving.

"We really want drivers to be alert-to be aware of their surroundings, to be aware of sudden stops and to look for pedestrian traffic," Compas says. "It's a big event locally, and we want everyone to enjoy themselves and be as safe as possible."

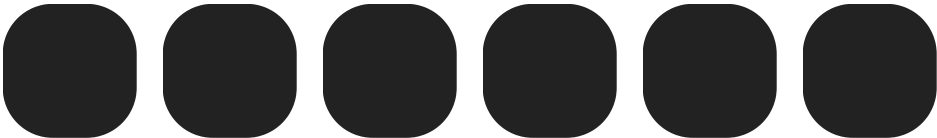
All the fun begins Thursday, September 3rd morning through Saturday.

For more information, contact Compas at (573) 472-5310 or call MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636).

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Bright Futures Poplar Bluff Celebrates One Year Anniversary

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Poplar Bluff, Missouri - Bright Futures Poplar Bluff celebrated its one-year anniversary with a breakfast symposium attended by an estimated 125 supporters on Tuesday, Aug. 25, at the Gamma HealthCare Conference Center. Speakers included original program affiliates from across Missouri as well as members of the national board.

Bright Futures Poplar Bluff is a non-profit organization run by school social workers that, through partnerships, helps to meet the basic physical needs of students so they can focus on academics. Symposium speaker Kim Vann, Bright Futures USA executive director, cited that the national organization currently has 39 affiliate communities in seven states serving 170,000 children. Poplar Bluff R-I is the first district in Southeast Missouri to implement the program model, which originated in Joplin in 2010.

According to a report co-coordinator Carrie Booker provided to the R-I school board on Thursday, Aug. 20, in less than one year Bright Futures Poplar Bluff has helped 17 families seek relief, providing items ranging from a water heater to a cap and gown. Between the overseeing advisory board and the site councils at the district's individual schools, over 65 community partnerships have been forged with parents, faith-based organizations, businesses and human service agencies.

Following the symposium, Lori Amoss (left), who serves as a parent on the Eugene Field site council, visits with speaker Tracie Skaggs, the coordinator of Bright Futures Carl Junction, which was the first community to affiliate with the organization after it became incorporated.

Article and photo submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Coordinator, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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