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Route K in Stoddard County Reduced for Repairs

APRIL 14TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Route K in Stoddard County Reduced for Repairs

Route K in Stoddard County Reduced for Edge Rut Repairs

Route K in Stoddard County will be reduced to one lane as Missouri Department of Transportation crews perform edge rut repairs.

This section of roadway is located from Route 51 to Route M.

Weather permitting, work will take place Thursday, April 14 through Tuesday, April 19 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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OSHA 10 Hour Course Offered in Dexter

APRIL 11TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

[OSHA 10 Hour Course Offered in Dexter](#)

Dexter, Missouri - OSHA 10 Hour Class for contractors or anyone needing training can register by contacting Tish Gentry or Dave Ellinghouse at (573) 624-5540. the cost is \$100 per person.

The class will be on Tuesday, April 12th from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday, April 13th from 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at County Wide Insurance Agency conference room.

Parking is available in the back parking lot at 140 S. Walnut St. in Dexter, Missouri.

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This Fox Says Please Don't Litter

APRIL 11TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

This Fox Says Please Don't Litter

Cape Girardeau, Missouri - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) says there's always a price to pay when someone litters. In a case today, the price is a Red Fox's rear leg.

"It could be the price of a ticket for the person who litters, or something as serious as a limb in this case," said Bruce Henry, MDC's natural history biologist for the Southeast Region. "There's always a price for littering, it's just a matter of who pays."

Henry responded to a call today to a Cape Girardeau neighborhood, where a den of foxes had settled in under someone's porch. When he arrived, he and the residents found a young red fox, about six to eight weeks old, under a nearby bush with a plastic bag wrapped around one of its rear legs.

"The plastic bag had wrapped so tightly, it was wound like twine around that leg," Henry said.

Henry removed the bag from the leg and delivered the fox to Skyview Animal Clinic for treatment.

“In this case the leg must be amputated,” said Dr. Sean Byrd, a veterinarian at the clinic. “Because of the nature of the injury, it will heal very quickly.”

However, Dr. Byrd said the hard part for the young fox will be rehabilitation. It will transfer to Watkin’s Wildlife Rehab in Sedgewickville after surgery.

“We worry if it will be able to jump in order to catch its prey, because that’s an essential motion that a fox must be capable of,” Dr. Byrd said, adding that the young age of the fox is in the fox's favor, because it is still in the learning stage and it may be able to adapt.

“The chances of it being released back into the wild aren’t great, but that’s what we hope for,” Dr. Byrd said. “If not, it might be used as an education animal to serve as an example and educate people about the dangers of litter.”

Henry said the Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center needs volunteers this Saturday for a Riverfront Cleanup, which will directly help other local wildlife like the red fox. The cleanup is from nine to 11 a.m. at the Mississippi Riverfront in downtown Cape Girardeau, Cape Rock and Red Star Access. Another cleanup event is scheduled for Cape LaCroix Creek in Cape Girardeau April 23, from nine a.m. to noon.

“People don’t realize how important these cleanup events are until we look at an animal like this that gets caught in our mess,” Henry said. “He just paid an expensive price for someone else’s littering.”

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Spring Turkey Season Looks Good for Hunters

APRIL 07TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Spring Turkey Season Looks Good for Hunters

Missouri turkey hunters can expect a good spring season overall according to the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). The spring turkey hunting season starts with a youth-only weekend April 9-10. The regular spring season runs April 18 through May 8.

Although turkey abundance in most of the state remains below the peak that occurred in the late 1990s and early 2000s, turkey numbers in many areas have begun to rebound from the poor hatches that plagued the population from 2007-2010.

“Spring turkey harvest has increased each year in Missouri for the past four years and this year’s harvest is expected to continue this trend,” MDC Turkey Biologist Jason Isabelle said. “A good number of two-year-old gobblers from the 2014 hatch should result in good hunting opportunities for this year’s season.”

Isabelle noted that MDC offers turkey hunting opportunities on more than 500 conservation areas and the state’s diverse landscapes mean turkey numbers often vary by region.

Regional Forecast

Northwest and northeast Missouri had the best turkey production in 2014, so hunters should encounter more two-year-old gobblers in both regions this spring.

“This year’s spring turkey harvest should be up in northern Missouri compared to the 2015 harvest total,” Isabelle said. “Although turkey numbers in most of northern Missouri remain well below the population peak that occurred 10–15 years ago, turkey populations have begun to rebound in portions of the region during the last several years.”

Isabelle added that the spring season should be good for hunters in the Ozarks as well, especially in the eastern Ozarks where turkey production has been the highest in the state in three out of the last four years. For several counties in the central portion of the region, the 2016 spring harvest could be among the highest on record.

“Increasing turkey numbers throughout much of the Ozarks, coupled with an abundance of public land, make this region a great choice for hunters this year,” he said.

Turkey harvest should also be up in the Ozark Border and West Prairie regions of west-central and southwestern Missouri.

“Many of the counties in these regions typically rank among the highest in the state for spring turkey harvest, and this year should be no exception,” he said. “The turkey population in southwestern Missouri in particular has experienced considerable growth in recent years, and county-level spring harvests in 2016 are likely to meet or exceed previously-established records.”

Prospects are also good for the River Breaks regions of central and east-central Missouri.

“Similar to counties in the Ozark Border and West Prairie regions, many of the counties in the Union Breaks region from Osage east and south to Ste. Genevieve typically rank among the highest in the state in spring harvest, and these counties are likely to do so in 2016 as well,” Isabelle said.

Find detailed information on harvest limits, allowed hunting methods, hunter education requirements, permits, MDC hunting areas, tagging and checking procedures, regulations and more in MDC’s 2016 Spring Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information booklet available from MDC offices and nature centers, other places where permits are sold, and online at <http://on.mo.gov/1R3JTbH>. For more information about spring turkey hunting

visit MDC's website at <http://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/turkey>.

Hunter Safety

Isabelle stressed that hunters can avoid the main cause of turkey-hunting incidents—mistaking or being mistaken by another hunter for game.

“Most turkey hunting incidents typically involve hunters who fail to positively identify their targets,” said Isabelle. “Before pulling the trigger, be absolutely certain that what you are shooting at is not only a turkey, but a legal turkey, which would be a male turkey or a turkey with a visible beard during the spring season.”

He also advised hunters to wear some hunter-orange clothing when moving through the woods or fields, particularly when hunting public land, and to always know the locations of all members of a hunting party.

“Many turkey hunting incidents actually involve members of the same hunting party,” said Isabelle. “If you're hunting with someone else and you split up, be certain you know where your hunting partner will be.”

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Brandon Bourbon Reported Missing

APRIL 07TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Brandon Bourbon Reported Missing

Potosi, Missouri - Authorities in Missouri are searching for a former football player for Washburn and the University of Kansas. He also has friends living in southeast Missouri and the Dexter area.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol posted a missing person's report that said 24-year-old Brandon Kyle Bourbon has been missing since Saturday, April 2, 2016.

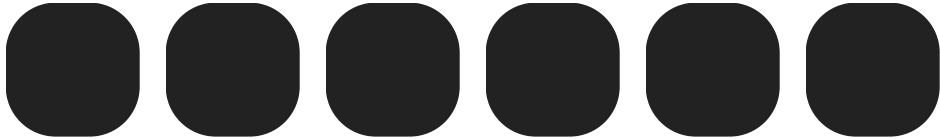
Washington County Sheriff's Capt. Zach Jacobsen said Tuesday that Bourbon's family last saw him Saturday evening in the Potosi area, where his family lives. He says Bourbon's car, a silver minivan, is also missing, and that Bourbon's phone is off.

Bourbon played football for Kansas until 2014, and transferred to Washburn for the 2015 season.

Jacobsen says since leaving college, Bourbon has been living in the Potosi area. He says authorities don't suspect foul play but are concerned because it's out of character for Bourbon to leave without contacting his family.

If you have any information please contact local authorities.

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