Local News

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Students Celebrate President Abe Lincoln's 209th Birthday!

FEBRUARY 12TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Students Celebrate President Abe Lincoln's 209th Birthday!

Abraham Lincoln, aka Honest Abe, the Rail-Splitter, or the Great Emancipator, was born 209 years ago today, February 12th in Hodgenville, Kentucky. he died on April 15th, 1865.

He was the 16th president of the United States (1861–65) who preserved the Union during the American Civil War and brought about the emancipation of the slaves.

Second grade students in Mrs. Banken's art class at Southwest Elementary in Dexter celebrated by created a portrait of Abe Lincoln on his birthday!

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Bootheel Recycling Price Sheet - February 7, 2018

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Bootheel Recycling Price Sheet - February 7, 2018

Dexter, Missouri - "Bootheel Recycling is a Missouri scrap metal recycling company whose customer base includes regional utility companies, large manufacturing businesses, tool and die shops, local Dexter scrap dealers, haulers, farmers and individuals across Southeast Missouri and Arkansas."

"We comply vigilantly with the laws set forth by OSHA, EPA, federal and Missouri. Our scrap metal recycling policies are honest and transparent. Our scales are certified yearly and calibrated twice a year. We belong to the Chamber of Commerce and the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries. We are OSHA 10 certified. We have the highest graded material in the industry."

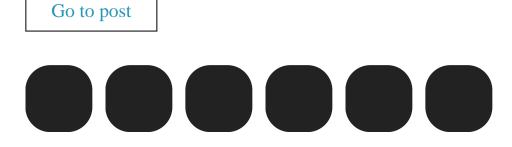
"We buy most forms of ferrous and non-ferrous metals, including copper, aluminum, stainless steel, brass, scrap iron, radiators and catalytic converters. Please consult our Scrap Metal Selling Guide to find out more about how to sell scrap metal, and how to get the most money for your scrap metal. The best indication of our success is our loyal customer base. We are nice people with good business practices. We have a very high level of return business, and our new customers often come to us by way of referral."

"Our friendly customer service staff will ensure that your recycling experience is simple and hassle-free. Our modern and streamlined processing system allows us to offer competitive prices. Please contact us today if you would like to inquire about our services."

Check out their website by clicking HERE.

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Punxsutawney Phil Predicts 6 More Weeks of Winter

FEBRUARY 02ND 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Punxsutawney Phil Predicts 6 More Weeks of Winter

The Groundhog has spoken! 6 more weeks of winter weather! Every February 2, all eyes turn to Gobbler's knob, a small Pennsylvania town as winter-weary Northeasterners await weather guidance from the predictive rodent.

It's a 132-year-old tradition that is held every year and conducted by top hat-donning members of the Inner Circle of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, according to the official Pennsylvania tourism website. The idea is, the groundhog wakes up from hibernation on the 2nd, and if it sees its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter. If it doesn't, warmer weather is just around the corner.

This tradition started in Europe as Candlemas Day, an early Christian holiday involving candles. Germans who settled in Pennsylvania in the 1700s brought the custom to America.

Pennsylvania's Punxsutawney Phil is the most well known, but more than a dozen states celebrate with their own groundhogs, such as Georgia's General Beauregard Lee and Buckeye Chuck in Ohio.

Our own 69 year old box turtle, Murtle the Turtle, said it was still too cold to come out, but predicted that winter has not left Stoddard County just yet.

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Watch Solar Eclipse in Nature at MDC Areas

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MDC and Partners Eliminate More than 6,500 Feral Hogs

FEBRUARY 01ST 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

MDC and Partners Eliminate More than 6,500 Feral Hogs

MDC and partners eliminate more than 6,500 feral hogs from Missouri's landscape in 2017

Increased partnerships and a public awareness campaign led to increased success.

Jefferson City, Missouri - The Missouri Department of Conservation's (MDC) feral hog strike team has tallied up elimination numbers for 2017. The year yielded a total of 6,567 feral hogs removed by MDC, partner agencies and private landowners. In 2016, 5,358 feral hogs were removed from the landscape.

Crews in southeast Missouri removed 2,858 feral hogs, which is where the highest density of feral hogs occurs. The Ozark region removed 2,576 and the Southwest region removed 932 feral hogs. Other regions across Missouri had around 100 or fewer feral hogs removed.

"We're seeing positive impacts in areas with smaller feral hog populations, such as on the western side of the state," said Mark McLain, MDC's feral hog elimination team leader. "Our overall success for 2017 can be attributed to our strategic approach to eliminating populations of feral hogs."

McLain said it's essential that the public understand why feral hogs must be eliminated.

"These are a destructive, invasive species that doesn't belong here; they're not a native species," McLain said. "They out-compete native wildlife for habitat and food. For

example, places with a lot of feral hogs will see their wild turkey and deer population diminish."

McLain said feral hogs present potential for diseases to spread to humans, pets and livestock and that he hopes the message that hunting is not an effective method for eliminating feral hog populations is starting to catch on.

"For over 20 years, unregulated take of feral hogs was allowed in Missouri, during which time our feral hog population expanded from a few counties to over 30 counties," he said.

In 2017, MDC, the Corps of Engineers and the LAD Foundation established regulations against feral hog hunting on lands owned and managed by these three organizations.

"A persistent piece of this story is continued illegal releases of feral hogs, which establishes populations and further spreads the problem," McLain said. "This is illegal and when caught, those who release feral hogs face hefty fines."

McLain said MDC and its many partners are committed to eliminating feral hogs from Missouri. Organizations that have partnered against feral hogs in Missouri include:

Missouri Farm Bureau Missouri Corn Growers Association Missouri Soybean Association Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council Missouri Cattlemen's Association MFA Missouri Pork Association Missouri Agribusiness Association National Wild Turkey Federation Quality Deer Management Association **Quail Forever** Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation Missouri Rural Water Association Kansas City Agribusiness Club Saint Louis Agribusiness Club Missouri Farmers Care Missouri Department of Natural Resources Missouri Department of Agriculture **Conservation Federation of Missouri Charitable Trust** AgriServices of Brunswick Missouri Forest Products Association Honey Creek Media Association of Missouri Electrical Cooperatives (AMEC) LAD Foundation USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services USDA Forest Service, Mark Twain National Forest U.S. Army Corps of Engineers United States Fish and Wildlife Service Ozark National Scenic Riverways (OSNR/NPS) Fort Leonard Wood

Other attributing factors in the success of the feral hog elimination effort include MDC's "Report, don't shoot" message to encourage trapping, prohibiting the take of feral hogs on conservation areas, and a strong public awareness campaign.

"Landowners and the public are a crucial element of this effort, especially since most land in Missouri is privately owned," McLain said. "We must continue to educate on the dangers of feral hogs and engage landowners in elimination efforts."

McLain said landowners are responding to an increased public education campaign, centered on the knowledge that hunting feral hogs is not an effective way to eliminate them. He said more landowners are starting to understand, and are seeing, that hunting feral hogs pushes them onto neighboring property, which causes problems for their neighbors. When neighboring landowners try to control feral hogs through hunting, the hogs simply travel back and forth between the properties, escape and cause more damage. Trapping with no hunting interference is the best method to eliminate them.

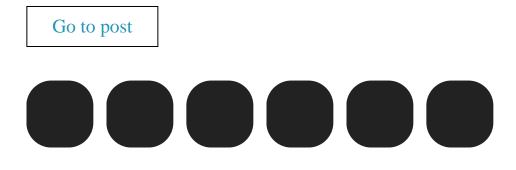
"They're [landowners] reporting feral hog signs and coming to us for help, which is exactly what we hoped would happen," he said. "We help by providing technical advice, on-site visits, loaning equipment and training of the trapping and removal process."

Feral hogs are not wildlife and are a serious threat to fish, forests and wildlife as well as agricultural resources. Economic loss estimates from 10 years ago in the U.S. were at greater than \$1.5 billion in damage from feral hogs per year. Since there are more hogs today, this total is likely higher now. Feral hogs damage property, agriculture, and natural resources by their aggressive rooting of soil in addition to their trampling and consumption of crops as part of their daily search for food.

Feral hogs have expanded their range in the U.S. from 17 to 38 states over the past 30 years. Their populations grow rapidly because feral hogs can breed any time of year and produce two litters of one to seven piglets every 12 to 15 months. Feral hogs are also known to carry diseases such as swine brucellosis, pseudorabies, trichinosis and leptospirosis, which are a threat to Missouri agriculture and human health.

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MO Army National Guard 1221st Meeting on Saturday

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MO Army National Guard 1221st Meeting on Saturday

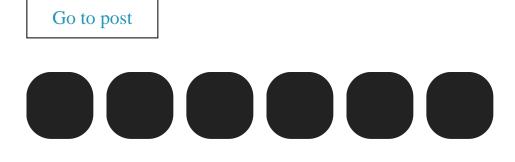
Dexter, Missouri - The Missouri Army National Guard 1221st Transportation Unit "Reunion Crew" will hold their bi-monthly meeting on Saturday, January 27, 2018. Location is Dexter BBQ and the time is 6 p.m.

Be sure to make a quick plan to attend.

Contact Don "Daddy Jack" Mathis with any questions about the meeting at (573) 624-2936.

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