



Ralls County Herald-Enterprise

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Ralls County, Missouri

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Groundhog Day
February 2

Ralls County Bulletin Board

Gift Basket Auction

There will be a gift basket auction held during half-time of the boys' varsity basketball game at Mark Twain's Courtwarming festivities on February 10. Students in grades 6-8 have put together theme baskets to be auctioned by R.C. Harlow. There will be a basket of items for the home, a movie theme basket, and a kitchen theme basket up for bids. The money will go to support the PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support) program at MTJH.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Mark Twain Junior/Senior High School parent-teacher conferences will be held February 16 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

NL Baptist Church To Host Dinner, Concert

The public is invited to spend Sunday evening, February 12, at the First Baptist Church in New London. A meal featuring chicken cordon bleu, twice baked potato casserole, tossed salad, and hot rolls will be served. Everyone is asked to carry in desserts. Reservations are required for the meal. Canisters will be on the tables that evening for Kelsey Harrison's upcoming mission trip. Reservations can be made by calling the First Baptist Church office 573-985-7201. Deadline for making reservations will be Sunday, February 5. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with the exception of the noon hour.

At 6:30 p.m. everyone is invited to a concert by the contemporary worship band, *Soul'd Out*. This worship band has been together for nine years and they are from the Arch United Methodist Church near Hannibal. No reservations or tickets are necessary for the concert, but a love offering will be accepted for the *Soul'd Out* ministry.

Legal Notices

TRUSTEES' SALES

- Riley
- Bastian
- McKinney
- Sims

PROBATE COURT

- Ewens – Final Settlement
- Hilsabeck – Final Settlement

OTHER

- County Clerk – Presidential Primary Preference Ballots
- Assessor – Bid Notice

Additional Funds Needed For 'Buddy Pack' Program

Nearly 350 kids in Ralls County financially qualify for free and reduced priced lunches at school. For several of these children, school lunches are the most if not the only nutritious meals they receive and they do not have access to a sufficient food supply on the weekends or breaks from school. To answer this need, The Food Bank's Buddy Pack program provides the poorest children with healthy food to take home over the weekend.

In Ralls County, The Food

Bank partners with Center and New London Elementary Schools and sends food home with 206 students each week. However, the program may have to be severely cut back or at worse eliminated due to rising costs.

The program faces a number of challenges:

Due to a change in corporate policy a major food manufacturer has had to dramatically reduce food donations earmarked for this program.

Fuel prices have skyrocketed in the past 18 months and

it now costs more in long distance freight to bring food in.

The Food Bank purchases nearly all the Buddy Pack food at wholesale cost. Even with that discount, food expenses have increased anywhere from 15 percent to 30 percent.

Peanut butter, a major source of protein for the children, had a price increase of 40 percent due to failed peanut crops nationally.

At the start of the school year, The Food Bank estimated that a Buddy Pack would cost \$100 per student

for both semesters. Within two months, the cost had increased to \$150. They now estimate the cost will be at least \$180 per child before 2012 is over.

"I've been at the food bank for 20 years and we've never had to cut a program, and I don't want to start now – especially a program that is really changing the lives of children in need," said Peggy Kirkpatrick, executive director of The Food Bank.

The Food Bank is launching an "Adopt a Buddy" initiative in hopes of getting Ralls

County citizens to pay for the cost of a Buddy Pack for one child in 2012. The goal is to find 206 sponsors in this county as soon as possible. To sponsor one child, it costs \$180 or \$15 a month for 12 months.

Kirkpatrick says, "If 206 of our partners in Ralls County 'adopt' just one child, we will be able to sustain this needed program for 2012 and grow it where it's needed."

For more information, or to Adopt a Buddy, visit sharefoodbringhope.org.



Submitted Photo

Fallen Heroes Exhibit

Approximately 200 people toured the "Remembering Our Fallen Heroes" media exhibit at the M.W. Boudreaux Visitor Center at Mark Twain Lake on Saturday. The exhibit features photographs of Missouri soldiers who have died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001. The exhibit features two men from Monroe County, Capt. Ben Smith, son of Bill and Kathy Smith, and Spc. Rob Varga, son of Frank and Cele Varga, all of Monroe City, who died while serving. The exhibit continues through Feb. 8.

12 Petitions OK'd For Circulation For Ballot

The Missouri Secretary of State's office has announced that 12 initiative petitions met state standards for circulation.

The ballot title for one of the petitions relating to local taxes on cigarettes or tobacco products reads:

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- allow voters in cities and counties to set and control local taxes on cigarettes or tobacco products within their city or county; and
- use the proceeds of such taxes for local job creation, health care, public education, reduction and prevention of tobacco use, or other uses specifically approved by local voters?

The proposal has no fiscal impact (change in costs, savings, or revenues) for state and local governmental entities since it would only modify the constitution to allow the establishment of local tobacco taxes if submitted to and approved by voters.

The petition, which seeks to amend Article X of the Missouri Constitution, was submitted by Mark Reading, 2604 Lakeland Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65109.

The ballot title for two of the petitions relating to local taxes on cigarettes or tobacco products reads:

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- allow voters in counties to set and control local taxes on cigarettes or tobacco products within their county; and
- use the proceeds of such taxes for local job creation, health care, public education, reduction and prevention of tobacco use, or other uses specifically approved by local voters?

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The ballot title for the one petition relating to cigarette and other tobacco product taxation reads:

Shall Missouri law be amended to:

- create the Health and Education Trust Fund with proceeds of a tax of \$0.0365 per cigarette and 25% of the manufacturer's invoice price for roll-your-own tobacco and 15% for other tobacco products;
- use Fund proceeds to reduce and prevent tobacco use and for elementary, secondary, college, and university public school funding; and
- increase the amount that certain tobacco product manufacturers must maintain in their escrow accounts, to pay judgments or settlements, before any funds in escrow can be refunded to the tobacco product manufacturer and create bonding requirements for these manufacturers?

Estimated additional revenue to state government is \$283 million to \$423 million annually with limited estimated implementation costs or savings. The revenue will fund only programs and services allowed by the proposal. The fiscal impact to local governmental entities is unknown.

The ballot title for the one petition relating to renewable energy reads:

Shall Missouri law be amended to:

- increase incrementally the total amount of renewable energy produced from sources such as wind turbines, solar, and hydropower that investor-owned electric utilities are

required to purchase, generate, or otherwise acquire to at least 25% of their total retail sales by 2026, and limit rate increases to retail customers for compliance with this standard;

- require that such renewable energy be either procured by an electric utility for Missouri retail customers or generated by such customers; and
- provide for solar energy incentives for retail customers and additional duties for the Office of Public Counsel?

Direct costs or savings to state and local governmental entities is minimal.

However, if the proposal results in increased electric utility retail rates, millions of dollars in higher utility costs may occur for governmental entities. Higher utility costs may negatively impact the state's economy including state and local governmental revenues.

Before any constitutional changes can be brought before Missouri voters in the November 2012 election, signatures must be obtained from registered voters equal to eight (8) percent of the total votes cast in the 2008 governor's election from six of the state's nine congressional districts. For statutory changes, signatures must be obtained from registered voters equal to five (5) percent of the total votes cast in the 2008 governor's election from six of the state's nine congressional districts.

Signatures on behalf of all initiative petitions for the 2012 ballot are due to the Secretary of State's office by no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 6.

County Officials Hold Meeting In Perry

By Carolyn Trower

County officials held a "Meet and Greet" session Tuesday, January 24, in Perry's City Hall. Presiding Commissioner Bob See, Ralls County Collector Connie Berry, Ralls County Assessor Tom Ruhl and Western District Commissioner Steve Whitaker met with a sizable crowd of interested constituents.

See gave an overview of some of the recent happenings in the county.

INDEECO in Monroe City is expanding its work force.

The commission continues to look into gravel screening and has applied for a state mining permit ID number with the Small Mine and Safety Bureau.

The county's budget was approved locally and has been sent to the state.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Bernie Herrick has resigned. The commission is looking for candidates for the position.

Ron Leake, president of the Ralls County Historical Society, talked about the upcoming book on the history of Ralls County. Orders are being taken now. Leake also asked if the commission would provide gravel to help make the access road to Madisonville Cemetery passable. There are several volun-

teers who are planning to work on the cemetery. The county has donated gravel in the past.

John Roy Chipman brought up mineral rights in regards to recent land purchases. The retention of mineral rights by the seller was discussed. This has not been an issue for Ralls County in the past. The commission is researching the surface rights of the buyer and taxing mineral rights.

The county is seeking bids for a survey grade Geographical Information System program. This will be of great benefit to the county and will be utilized by the County Assessor's office to identify properties and their owners and the exact location of a land parcel. Assessment will be done every two years with satellite location of property by the state and the information will be updated in the county's computer system.

The county clerk's office will be able to better track census information and voting precincts. The Road and Bridge Department will use the system to manage road repair and road and bridge maintenance.

All maps will be digital and will be layered with basic road information, waterways, sewer and water lines, 911 addresses, and other information needed by a particular department or municipality in the county.

Chronic Wasting Disease Found In Macon Co. Deer

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) received two positive test results for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) from 1,077 tissue samples taken from free-ranging deer harvested by hunters in north-central Missouri during the 2011 fall firearms deer season. Both positive test results were from adult bucks harvested by Missouri hunters in Macon County, and are the first CWD-positive results for free-ranging deer in Missouri.

MDC plans to obtain more tissue samples for CWD testing by harvesting additional deer in the immediate area where the two infected deer were harvested.

"Teamwork among landowners, hunters and MDC staff allowed us to detect this infection early," said MDC Deer Biologist Jason Summers. "We will be working with local landowners to harvest additional deer for tissue sampling. This is a first step and one of our best hopes for containing, and perhaps even eliminating, what we believe to be a recent localized event."

MDC staff have contacted

the two Missouri hunters who harvested the CWD-positive bucks to inform them of the situation and answer questions.

CWD is a neurological disease that is limited to deer, elk, moose and other members of the deer family, known as "cervids." CWD is spread by animal-to-animal contact or by animal contact with soil that contains prions from urine, feces or the decomposition of an infected animal. Deer and other cervids with signs of CWD show changes in natural behavior and can exhibit extreme weight loss, excessive salivation, stumbling and tremors. CWD can spread through natural movements of infected animals, transportation of infected live captive animals, or the transportation of infected carcasses.

The Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) says there is no evidence from existing research that CWD can spread to domestic livestock, such as sheep or cattle. The Department of Health says there is no scientific evidence that CWD is transmissible to humans.