



» INSIDE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS..... 6
 CLASSIFIEDS 11
 COMMUNITY..... 5-9, 12
 ENTERTAINMENT.....6
 PEOPLE'S FORUM 2-4
 RECORD 7-9
 SPORTS.....10

» BRIEFLY

This is last issue of 2009

The next issue of The Telegraph will be January 7, 2010.
 We will again be following The Telegraph tradition of the last 20 years and take the last week of the year off for vacation.
 Thank you for your support as our newspaper enters its 21st year of publication.
 We offer you our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and the New Year.

Missouri Western closed for holidays

All offices at Missouri Western State University will be closed beginning at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 23, and will reopen on at 8 a.m. Jan. 4, 2010. Classes for the Spring semester begin Jan. 19.

Squaw Creek Deer Hunt Jan. 2-3

Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge will be closed to the general public on Saturday, January 2 and Sunday, January 3, 2010 for the annual muzzle loader white-tailed deer hunt. Only those drawn for the hunt will be permitted on the refuge during these days. Bluff Trail and Callow Memorial Trail are located near the refuge headquarters. Both trails will remain open during the deer hunt. The refuge headquarters is currently closed on weekends for the winter then reopens for the spring bird migration in Mid-March. Current Visitor Contact Station open hours are weekdays from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. The refuge auto tour will be closed during the deer hunt primarily for visitor safety and hunter success.
 Deer hunts were initiated in January 1988 to reduce a rapidly expanding deer herd that was causing considerable damage to refuge habitats. In addition, reduction of the deer herd will help reduce deer-vehicle collisions along State Highways 118, 159, and Interstate-29.
 The annual firearm muzzle loading deer hunt is a continuing effort by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Missouri Department of Conservation to provide quality hunting opportunities

The Farmer's Tale

Denny Banister | Guest Writer
MISSOURI FARM BUREAU

Christmas is not just for those in the city where stores are abundant and bright lights shine pretty.
 Dwellers in big towns would no doubt be shocked to find out that farmers keep Santa Claus stocked.
 Now don't get me wrong, the elf makes the toys and delivers worldwide to good girls and boys,
 But animals get hungry working hour by hour and reindeer don't run on nuclear power.
 St. Nick, he would tire without milk and a snack, but the reindeer must haul that fat elf and his pack,
 So Santa must feed them to finish his task – the farmer will tell all who take time to ask.
 'Twas the night before Christmas, and all 'cross the farm the cattle were moo-

ing as if in alarm.
 I sprang from my bed and put on my wrap, but neglected to button my long-handles flap.
 That wakes you up fast on a cold winter's night, so I went back inside and fastened it right.
 I picked up my flashlight and rifle, what's more, and fully awake again stepped out the door.
 Visions of wrong-doers ran through my mind, rustlers or poachers I expected to find.
 The cattle were herding 'ore the hill that cold night, so I followed their lead toward a very strange light.
 When you follow a cow, as all farmers know, you don't look ahead but directly below.
 Old habits like that are not easy to break, but I gazed straight ahead since much more was at stake.

To the top of the hill the cattle I followed, to the source of the light by the hay in the hollow.
 A whiskered fat man was reharnessing his team – they had stolen my hay, or so it would seem.
 I angered not much for the cost of the hay, but who wants to toss bales on Christmas day?
 "Hold it right there," I yelled at the elf. "You really should be quite ashamed of yourself.
 I planted and harvested a good fescue crop, and you pause here as if it's a roadside rest stop."
 Looking my way, he laughed with a roar. He regained his composure, then ho-ho'd some more.
 My rifle and threats had caused him no fear, and why do I feel such a draft from the rear?
 ■ PLEASE TURN to Page 5.



City Primary Set for March 2nd

The City Council met Monday afternoon and set the municipal primary election for March 2, 2010.
 There are four candidates running for mayor and four for 3rd District City Council.
 Also it is expected Council will add proposed amendments to the city charter to the ballot as well.
 City Council decided the ordinance in a special meeting because the city had to notify the Buchanan County Clerk of the election by 4:30 Tuesday.
 Running for mayor are Council Member at large Bill Falkner, Richard "Dick" Sipe, Norma Jo. "Donna" Maccoux and Steve Warner. Mayor Ken Shearin is not running for a second term.
 Third District Council Member Mike Bozarth faces Steve Sewell, P.J.

"Paul" Kovac and Don Peters.
 Both the mayor's race and third district (southside) races will be narrowed to two candidates in the primary.
 City races with only two candidates automatically advance to the April 6 general election.
 In the First District, Reba (Kendall) Hebert faces Patricia Jones. Incumbent Roger Baker is not seeking reelection.
 Second District Council Member Joyce Starr faces opposition from Sarah Hochschwender.
 In District 4, incumbent Gary Roach faces a challenge from Richard Sharp. Barbara LaBass, who represents the 5th District and Municipal Judge John Boeh are each running unopposed for reelection.



For the three at large council seats, incumbents Donna Jean Boyer and Jeff Penland face Steven F. Haskey IV and Byron Myers.
 The Monday meeting was presided over by Deputy Mayor Donna Jean Boyer as Mayor Shearin was out of town. This was the first meeting Boyer has presided over this term. She replaced Mike Hirter as Deputy Mayor, who passed away earlier this year. Council Members Baker and Roach were also absent.

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