

## Area Legislative Issues Set for Great Northwest Day

As legislators are gearing up for a new season in Jefferson City, so are the citizens of Northwest Missouri. The Great Northwest Day at the Capitol Steering Committee representing the 18 participating counties gathered and prioritized legislative issues for the region's annual visit to the state capitol city on February 2-3, 2010.

On that date approximately 350-400 people will visit Jefferson City to make their regional voice heard in a cohesive message. The Great Northwest Day at the Capitol group legislative platform for the February 2-3rd event includes the following four priorities:

1-- Maintain funding support for highway maintenance, County Aid Road Trust (CART), and Bridge Replacement Off-System (BRO) programs

2-- Remove impediments such as impending legislation banning local governments from requesting voter approval to exceed 1% taxing threshold for general use (commonly known as stacked taxes)

3-- Continue funding support for programs in economic development that positively impact business development, encourage local match and invest in regional tourism and development – such as the Highway 36 Heritage Coalition

4-- Eliminate and/or equalize pricing mandates of federal and state funding for municipal water/wastewater improvements

Along with these four priorities, communities weighed in on legislative items of concern throughout the Northwest Missouri region. The criteria for reviewing issues included – legislative impact, overarching regional impact, non-partisan perspective and timeliness of concern. The four marked priorities will be monitored as the Great Northwest Day Event comes closer and the message to legislators refined during that time.

This will mark Great Northwest Day's ninth consecutive year. Great Northwest Day at the Capitol is an annual legislative event that includes introduction on the Missouri House and Senate floors, time with legislators, a luncheon focused on issues, and an evening event inviting all of Missouri's legislators and department heads to meet with citizens from the eighteen county Northwest Missouri region.

### CONTINUED from Page 1.

tem, plan for arrangements to get them to a location where their needs can be met. In addition, contact KCP&L at 888-471-5275 to make sure we've noted that a life support system exists at that service location.

5--In the event of a power outage, call 1-888-LIGHTKC (1-888-544-4852) to report the outage. And, keep the following in mind:

- Do not open your refrigerator or freezer more than necessary. Undisturbed food will remain frozen in most freezers for up to 48 hours.

For more information on how you can attend, contact the Buchanan County Coordinator, Director of the Community Alliance of Saint Joseph Steve Johnston at (816) 364-4109. For more information about the GNW event, visit the website at [www.greatnorthwestday.com/gnw](http://www.greatnorthwestday.com/gnw).

## Western Offers Chemical Safety Course

The department of chemistry at Missouri Western State University will offer a graduate-level course titled "Chemical Safety and Management" during the spring semester.

"We believe any company or organization dealing with any sort of hazardous materials could benefit by having employees take this course," said Dr. Ben Caldwell, professor and chair of the chemistry department. "We're encouraging members of the local industry to participate, even if they're not interested in pursuing a graduate degree."

The course will meet from 6:30 to 9:20 p.m. every Thursday, beginning Jan. 21 and ending May 6. It will be taught by Verle Cornish, a chemical hygienist with more than 30 years of experience. Topics to be covered include chemical safety, chemical management, risk management, industrial toxicology, industrial hygiene, best practices, chemical compatibility, and regulatory controls and compliance.

For more information, contact Dr. Caldwell at 816-271-4392, or by e-mail at [caldwell@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:caldwell@missouriwestern.edu) by January 13.

## New Church in Southside

A new church is now meeting at the Southside Hall at 302 Illinois called Southside Breakthrough Church. Not church as usual, this is a place where you will find relationship with Christ in a Christian community. Breakthrough Church is an outreach of New Life Cathedral and lead by Mike and Ruth Matthews. Everyone is invited to attend. Come at 10:00 a.m. for coffee and fellowship followed by worship service at 10:30.

- Do not use charcoal grills to heat your home or to cook indoors. Dangerous carbon monoxide fumes can build up and cause serious injury or death.
- If using a portable generator, follow the manufacturer's safety and operating guidelines. Be sure to operate the generator in a well-ventilated area. Never operate it indoors or in your garage. Dangerous carbon monoxide fumes can build up and cause serious injury or death. Never connect to your home's main electrical panel or plug it directly into a household outlet.

## Second Harvest changes name

The St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday to celebrate the re-branding of the Second Harvest of Greater St. Joseph to the Second Harvest Community Food Bank.

Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a community to feed the hungry in Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas. The food bank helps more than 25,000 individuals throughout 19 counties of the area. That is why Second Harvest of Greater St. Joseph has rebranded itself Second Harvest Community Food Bank. Hunger is everywhere, and a "one community" mentality is needed to service the region.

Second Harvest was presented with a Community Achievement Award. For more information call the food bank at 364-3663.

## Tricky Tuesdays at Washington Park

Tricky Tuesdays are back at the Washington Park Library and this time we'll be featuring movies, seasonal crafts and bingo for kids. Tricky Tuesday activities will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the following dates:

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|-------------|--|
| January 12: | Movie: Up                                |
| January 19: | *Bingo for Kids*                         |
| February 9: | Make & Take                              |
|             | Crafts: Valentine's Day                  |
| March 2:    | Movie: The Cat in the Hat                |
| March 16:   | Make & Take                              |
|             | Crafts: St. Patrick's Day                |
| March 30:   | Make & Take                              |
|             | Crafts: Easter/Spring                    |
| April 13:   | *Bingo for Kids*                         |
| April 20:   | Movie: Monsters vs. Aliens               |
| May 4:      | Make & Take                              |
|             | Crafts: Mother's & Father's Day          |
| May 18:     | Movie: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs |

Children of all ages are invited to attend and refreshments will be provided. If you have any questions or for more information call 232-2052 or visit the library at 1821 North 3rd Street.

Support for this program is underwritten by the St. Joseph Public Library Foundation. Find out more information about library programs and services at the library website at

[sjpl.lib.mo.us](http://sjpl.lib.mo.us). Patrons with disabilities who wish to attend the program should contact the ADA coordinator at 232-4038

## Farm Bureau urges rejection of tax increase

In letters sent to the leadership of the Missouri Senate and House of Representatives, Missouri Farm Bureau is urging the General Assembly to make passage of a concurrent resolution rejecting the State Tax Commission's increased farmland assessments a priority for the 2010 legislative session.

The State Tax Commission has approved as much as a 29% increase in farmland productivity values used for property tax assessments. While the productivity values for some grades of farmland would decrease, overall farmers would experience an 11.5% increase statewide.

In the letters to legislative leaders, Missouri Farm Bureau President Charles Kruse states, "As you know, on December 15th the State Tax Commission voted to impose a tax increase on many Missouri farmers which will go into effect on January 1, 2011 unless a concurrent resolution is adopted rejecting the recommendation within the first sixty days of the current legislative session. On behalf of Missouri Farm Bureau, I ask that you support this concurrent resolution and expedite its consideration."

Many Missouri farm and ranch families are facing the most difficult financial pressures they have ever experienced. Extreme market volatility combined with record production expenses, unusually wet weather, and weak demand have left many struggling to manage debt and cashflow. Missouri farmers are carrying some of the highest debtload in the nation. USDA has projected 2009 as one of the worst three years since 1929 for U.S. net farm income in real dollars. Clearly, a tax increase is the last thing we need now."

Several legislators are indicating they will introduce or cosponsor a concurrent resolution rejecting the new farmland productivity values. Missouri Farm Bureau urges Gov. Nixon to also support the passage of such a concurrent resolution.

## Ice & Snow On Sidewalks

In winter, we are reminded how important our sidewalks are to school children, senior citizens, people with special needs, mail carriers ... as well as business customers.

City Ordinance (Section 25-78) states, "it is the property owner's responsibility to remove ice and snow from their sidewalks."

Cleared sidewalks are important to the safety and mobility of our entire community. Be a good neighbor and help keep your sidewalks safe. Offer your neighbor a hand if they are unable to shovel their own sidewalks.



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