

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JAN. 10

CAPE GIRARDEAU - The public is invited to the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Griffin King at 2:30 p.m. Jan. 10 at Grace United Methodist Church, 521 Caruthers Ave.

A reception will follow. King is the grandson of Bob Simpson and Lorraine Simpson of Sikeston.

JAN. 11

ORAN - An American Red Cross blood drive is scheduled from 2-6 p.m. Jan. 11 at the Guardian Angel Parish, 604 Church St.

To make an appointment to donate blood, visit redcross-blood.org or call 1-800-733-2767.

NEW MADRID - Employment Readiness Workshop begins at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 11 at the Family Resource Center. The workshop is open to anyone seeking a job or wanting to increase job skills.

SIKESTON - The Housing Authority Commission will meet at noon Jan. 11.

SIKESTON - The Sikeston Park Board will meet at 5:15 p.m. Jan. 11.

SIKESTON - The Sikeston Public Library will host Family Night for ages 2-5 at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 11.

Activities will include reading "The Nut Family's Sing and Dance in Your Polka Dot Pants," making crafts, having refreshments and doing the polka dot pants dance. Each child receives a free book. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 471-4140.

SIKESTON - The Sikeston Eagles Lady Auxiliary will host bingo from 6 to 9 p.m. every Monday at the club, located at 219 W. Trotter St. It is open to the public.

NEW MADRID - Employment Readiness Class is scheduled every Monday at 5:30 p.m. at the Family Resource Center. Classes are free and open to any community member to help build your resume, fill out online applications, interview tips and more.

JAN. 12

MINER - A soybean crop management conference and Missouri Soybean District 7 Meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. Jan. 12 at Miner Convention Center. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Contact Anthony Ohmes 573-243-3581 or David Reinbott 573-545-3516 to register.

NEW MADRID - Meetings scheduled for Jan. 12 at the Family Resource Center are a Youth-In-Action 4-H meeting at 3:30 p.m. and a New Madrid RAP meeting at 5:30 p.m.

SIKESTON - The Sikeston Department of Economic Board meeting will be at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 12.

SIKESTON - The Board of Municipal Utilities Commission will meet at 4 p.m. Jan. 12.

SIKESTON - The Bootheel Quilters Guild will meet at 10 a.m. Jan. 12 at the First Christian Church Life Center on North Main St. The program will be demonstration on sewing machines.

Visitors are welcome. For more information call 471-7278.

JAN. 14

ORAN - An American Red Cross blood drive is scheduled 1:30-6:30 p.m. Jan. 14 at the Sikeston Factory Outlet Stores, 100 Outlet Drive.

To make an appointment to donate blood, visit redcross-blood.org or call 1-800-733-2767.

PORTAGEVILLE - A RAP meeting will be from 10 a.m. until noon Jan. 14 at the Red Building in Portageville.

MATTHEWS - Community Organization Active in Disaster meeting is scheduled for 11 a.m. Jan. 14 at the Matthews Jaycee Hall.

LOTTERY

FRIDAY

Mega Millions: 11-39-51-57-75, Mega Ball: 2, Megaplier: 5
Pick 3 Evening: 3-2-0
Pick 3 Midday: 3-4-4
Pick 4 Evening: 2-2-2-3
Pick 4 Midday: 9-9-9-7
Show Me Cash: 9-14-17-18-24

Sisters

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Never Give Up

Kellett was always curious about her birth family, leading her to open an account with Ancestry.com. Two years ago, she added her DNA to the search hoping to learn someone was also looking for her.

Without any luck, Kellett was about to cancel her subscription when she received a call from a Greenwood County detective who told her he was the son-in-law of the sister she vaguely remembered from that day in June 1966. At first, Kellett and her daughter, Mychelle Sloan, were skeptical of the call, but discovered that after 48 years, she had a large family that never stopped looking for her.

It was in November of 2015 that Shaw added her DNA to the Ancestry DNA and just a few weeks later on Dec. 17, the two sisters were reunited via Facetime. They talked for hours and made plans to officially reunite on Jan. 1. Neither wanted to end the call via Facetime though.

"I was afraid it would only be a dream if I hung up," Shaw stated fighting back tears. "I just wanted to touch her and make sure she's real."

I Finally Made It!

"I no longer have butterflies, I have bats," stated Shaw as she paced the house. It was obvious she was anxious to reunite with her long lost sister. As the update came in that they were 10 minutes out, Shaw clutched her phone, checking it every minute, getting more anxious as every second passed.

The Christmas miracle arrived shortly before 2 p.m., on Jan. 1, as the two sisters were reunited. When Kellett and her daughter Mychelle arrived, Shaw ran from the house and Kellett quickly got out of the vehicle saying, "I finally made it," and the two embraced each other.

Each joked about how the last 15 minutes seemed like an eternity. As the two began to go inside, Kellett saw her niece's husband, Detective Josh Nelson, who called her just a few weeks ago and went to him; while Shaw exclaimed, "I have another niece, get over here," and embraced Mychelle.

The two sisters gathered and talked about their long journey searching for each other before going inside, where Shaw surprised Kellett with her baby book.

Memories

It included a clipping of hair from her first hair cut, health records, baby pictures and more. As Kellett sifted through photos and notes, she was filled with emotions as she found missing pieces to her own life.

"I write my name just like she (their mom, Doris) did," noted Kellett. "We have the same handwriting." "I wish she was here," Kellett said tearfully talking about their



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROBIN WUNDERLICH, THE EUREKA HERALD
Tonya (Whitaker) Kellett, formerly of Sikeston, Mo., is pictured with her little sister, Troy (Whitaker) Shaw, before the two were separated. Below: Kellett, left, is pictured with Shaw on Jan. 1 at Eureka, Kan., where they were reunited after nearly 50 years apart.



mother, Doris, who passed away in April 2006.

The two sisters, with tissues in hand, consoled each other and continued to look through the baby book, which included Kellett's birth certificate.

She was born at Greenwood County Hospital in March of 1962. "I can't believe you kept this all these years," she commented. Shaw's daughter Tabatha stated, "We've used this book for clues for years, trying to find you!"

Family

"I've always wanted a big family," commented Kellett.

"You've got one!" family members replied.

Kellett grew up with one sister in Sikeston, Mo., and through this discovery learned she had numerous siblings. Her biological mother had a total of six children, two are now deceased, and they also learned through Ancestry they have at least three siblings through their father.

When it was mentioned that possibly 80 people would attend the family reunion on Jan. 2, both Kellett and Mychelle were surprised to say the least. "Mom, what did you get me into?" joked Mychelle.

Coincidence Or A Sister Connection?

The color purple, earrings, dachshunds and finding a good bargain are all things the two sisters enjoy and share in common. As the two were asked random questions, Kellett responded to one of Shaw's answers, "Are you kidding me?" She continued, "Works for me," as the two had the same answer.

adding many like the social aspect of the activity.

"People are realizing that races or half-marathons or full marathons — running — is a great way to get fit. You feel healthier and increase self-esteem," Spencer said.

It's also about having accountability over something, and even if running isn't the right activity for someone, there are numerous other types of activities they can choose, she said.

"During the new year a lot of people make a resolution to get back into shape," Spencer said.

She offered tips for beginning runners.

"I think it's important for a person to map out their goals — whether they're coming right off the couch or not," she said.

Develop short-term goal at first, she said, adding long-term goals are also essential.

"If you're running 3.1 miles, and you haven't been running, 3.1 miles is a big goal," Spencer noted.

Find a training plan, she said. Spencer suggested for those starting out to run and walk in intervals to build themselves up and not get discouraged.

"It's important to have support and friends who you can talk to about this — or an online running community — to encourage you and answer questions. We all have days where we don't feel motivated," Spencer said.

The two discovered they both love finding a good bargain and Kellett asked "Do you like shopping yards?" "Oh I love it," responded Shaw.

Distanced

Although Kellett was raised in Sikeston, Mo., which is just under seven hours away from Eureka, there were times family members were living with in hours of her, unknowingly. Kellett now resides in Hendersonville, Tenn. Since her move, her mother and youngest sister Amanda were also living in Tennessee, just a few hours away.

Additional Siblings

During this search, Shaw was able to find three older half-siblings on her father's side, in October 2015. After talking to Diana, another long lost sister, Shaw learned that their father also kidnapped Diana and her brothers, Andrew and Gary, and tried to give them up for adoption. However, their mother was able to stop the process since their names and birthdates were not changed. Diana, Andrew, Gary, Tonya and Troy plan to get together this spring.

Tears Of Joy

Tears of joy continued through the weekend, as Shaw took Kellett around the town that would have been her hometown.

Both Kellett and Shaw said they were beyond grateful for Ancestry.com. "What a Christmas miracle this has been," Kellett wrote in an e-mail to Ancestry DNA titled "Long lost sisters." Both sisters commented that if you have a loved one you are looking for, don't give up. Keep searching!

Spencer also suggested new runners get fitted for a good pair of running shoes. She suggested the Missouri Running Co. in Cape Girardeau, where they can analyze a person's gait and running form, then advise what kind of running shoe would best suit them.

Running — or any type of exercise and physical activity — should be looked at as a lifestyle change, Spencer said.

"Motivation is what gets them started, and it is a habit or discipline that keeps you going," she said. "When my alarm goes off in the morning — and it's dark and cold — the habit — or the discipline built in to my life — kicks in."

Spencer said she doesn't consider herself naturally talented or athletic, but she is disciplined in running.

Most recently, Spencer completed a marathon last Sunday in Jacksonville, Fla., making it the 32nd state she's completed a marathon. Her next run is Feb. 14 at the Lost Dutchman Marathon in Apache Junction, Ariz.

Having a goal in place and personal accountability are instrumental in running success.

"We want to be healthier for life," Spencer said. "You shouldn't start running just to lose 10 pounds. It's about being the best you can."

For more information, visit Marathon Training Academy's website: marathontrainingacademy.com.

Rone

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ten a whole barrel," Rone said. "I was impressed — as a new member — with the amount of Christians up there — of all ages — and how many are there to do the right thing."

He estimated 90 percent of the politicians are there to serve the people of Missouri.

Transportation is the other major issue the House will face, he said.

"That's got to be addressed," Rone said. "I don't think there's a great feeling for taxes in the House. This House is not inclined to raise taxes."

Of course, the budget will have a high priority, and the university system is a hot topic, the representative said.

"There will be a number of bills come forth pertaining to the university," Rone said.

Bills sponsored by Rone include HB1787, which requires Missouri Department of Transportation district engineers to submit quarterly to county commissions in counties of the third classification a proposed maintenance work list for road projects located in the county.

Rone said he has talked to a commissioner regarding this matter.

Another bill Rone sponsors — HB1788 — increases the membership of the Highways and Transportation Commission to seven commissioners and requires new appointees to be residents of different Department of Transportation districts.

As a former public administrator, Rone said HB1789 is one that needs to be passed. It changes the laws regarding public administrators to require the county to provide a staff if the public administrator handles at least 50 cases, he said.

Then there's HB1790, which allows all-terrain vehicles to be used by individuals 60 or older on conservation land for the purposes of hunting or fishing.

"The reason I did that is because the conservation area in New Madrid County is very rough. You can't walk through woods. It's a back-breaking job for a young man to get out — much less someone over 60," Rone said.

He is also sponsoring HB 2050, which only allows cir-

cuit judges and associate circuit judges to solemnize marriages.

"It's safeguard tax exemption of all the churches," Rone said. "I brought it forth to protect their tax exemption."

In addition, Rone currently serves as the vice-chairman of the Appropriations-Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee and he's a member of the following committees: Agriculture Policy; Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight; Telecommunications; and Transportation.

He also serves on an Interim Port Committee.

"I have a very, very strong feeling on ports," said Rone who is a row-crop farmer. "Inland ports are known for exporting; ports on coasts are for importing. With Missouri having the economy in agriculture we have, exporting will become clearer because of the Panama Canal opening up, and eventually, we will trade with Cuba. When that opens up, it's a big market to us, especially for our rice production."

Of course, Rone said he receives a tremendous amount of feedback from constituents of the four counties he serves, and he listens to them.

"The main thing they're talking to me about is roads," Rone said.

MoDOT has a regulation called 325, which means if a road is not traveled on by 400 cars per day, they won't pay to pave the roads.

"Most of rural roads in Southeast Missouri aren't traveled by 400 cars a day so they're walking away from us," Rone said.

Rone encouraged those with concerns to contact him at his state office, email or message him through his Facebook or Twitter accounts.

"I will respond within 48 hours to anybody who needs me to get a hold of them, and I will start the process of trying to fix whatever problem. I can't fix every problem but I can help you call who you do need to call."

As the new session continues, Rone said he will continue to keep his priorities at the forefront.

"There are two main objectives to my being at the state House," he said. "It's to serve the people of my district and to do whatever I can do to bring jobs to the Bootheel."

Flood

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ages 8, 11 and 15. Among the approximately \$10,000 worth of items ruined in their house were Christmas presents.

"You can't let them see you cry," Justin Shoemaker said of his children. "You're supposed to be strong for your kids."

The Shoemakers were two of about two dozen people who came to the Salvation Army Building in Cape Girardeau looking for help from more than 14 agencies that gathered as a part of a multi-agency resource center. Volunteers from all agencies assisted flood victims as many other volunteers throughout the crisis including volunteers who logged 1,700 hours through the Community Emergency Response Team. The Shoemakers had gathered vouchers for eye glasses, gas and clothing. They also both received tetanus shots and rental assistance -- about two months' worth to help them get on their feet.

"At something like this you feel A.) you're not alone, and B.) there are people who care," Kristy Shoemaker said.

The Red Cross and Salvation Army were providing immediate needs -- food, clothing, help getting prescription medications and some help for shelter. The Red Cross acted as the guide, directing people to organizations that could help with a need.

"It's been awesome helping people," Red Cross intern Kyle Dryer said.

The Cape Girardeau County Health Department provided free tetanus shots and kits to test drinking water.

Other organizations were providing more long-term benefits. Catholic Charities was offering help with cleaning and rebuilding.

"It's our goal to help them until every possible resource is exhausted or they receive the help they need," Catholic Charities Regional Director

MO receives \$1M for road, bridge repairs

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) - Missouri is getting an initial \$1 million in federal funding to help repair roads and bridges damaged by flooding.

The Federal Highway Administration on Friday announced the emergency relief funding.

Federal Highway Administrator Gregory Nadeau says the money is meant to help with the most critical repairs as the state continues to assess damage.

Nadeau says more resources will become available.

Kyle Schott said. "When we talk about long term, we emphasize the word long."

Regional Mental Health Services and Bootheel Counseling services were offering flood victims mental health assessments -- with depression and anxiety being natural reactions to a traumatic disaster. However, they wanted to make sure people knew that they would be there when victims asked for help months later.

"Those feelings of anxiety and being fearful, being scared for your children -- that's going to come back," emergency services specialist Cynthia Vann said.

Meeting the needs of some victims was much harder.

Mark King lost his job as a result of the flood. He was working for the property management company that owned his family's rental house on Highway 74. The home flooded, despite the landlord's promises to the contrary, and when they asked for a different rental property, the property owner fired Mark King, King said. Mark and Emily King have been commuting between St. Louis and Cape Girardeau every day, using both their parents' houses. They too have young children -- Jackson, 4, and Lucy, 10 months.

"It's a nightmare," Emily King said.