

YOUR VIEWS

To the editor:

I recently read an announcement that the Sustainable Ozarks Partnership (SOP) was meeting Tuesday, Nov. 19, so I decided to take the time to attend. I found the meeting to be well structured, providing the audience with good foundational information about the organization, its goals and structural make-up. The SOP has well-established goals meant to better position the region's ability to overcome the drawdown of military installations. Communities, to include ours, must accept the unfortunate reality that as part of the current economic and political environment cuts are coming.

Personally, I have some thoughts regarding these goals we should consider to better position our community during the drawdown decision-making process and prepare for a sustainable future. I understand everyone will interpret these goals in their own way:

■Goal 1) National Recognition – Systematically tooting our own horn may not be the norm. However, if ever there was a time, it is now! We have offerings within our community that should be raised to the national level. We have a diverse business community with a variety of skills, historical events and great recreational opportunities just to name a few. We must take the opportunity to establish many new positive regional activities that show our creative and united poten-

tial. SOP needs you to step forward adding your voice here to get that recognition.

■Goal 2) A Strong Fort Leonard Wood – This is one specific SOP goal spoken with a strong cohesive voice; we need to assist and continue carrying that mantra forward. I encourage everyone to contact local, state and federal political leaders to let them know that there is tremendous support for Fort Leonard Wood and our military community.

■Goal 3) A Strong Region – This includes the four counties surrounding or near the fort —Pulaski, Phelps, Laclede and Texas counties. We have numerous organizations and government entities that operate daily within our region. Without these entities, which provide essential jobs and services, our communities cannot function efficiently. If we, as a community, are to go from good to great, it is imperative that we have strong community support! Every organization to include senior citizen centers, library boards, coffee shops, churches, business and tourism boards should designate someone to attend the SOP meetings. Raising voices raises the region, which will make us more sustainable in the long run. Someone said, "No one of us is as smart as all of us!"

■Goal 4) Cost Reduction – If we get everyone involved, just think of the ideas our people power could generate to become cost effective and energy efficient with good public transportation,

recreation, water, sewer, roads and communities. Certainly SOP has ambitious goals depending on how you look at them as well as my thoughts regarding them.

John F. Kennedy said, "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try." Let's get that one person involved from every facet of our region and prove him right.

DR. GEORGE A. LAURITSON CSM, ARMY RETIRED, AND FORMER MAYOR OF ST. ROBERT ('97-'05)

To the editor:

Regarding monumental events, the question is often asked, "Where were you when...?" Well, I was sitting in Mrs. Violet Miller's first-grade classroom at Mountain View Elementary...when a stranger came to our door.

Mrs. Miller was called out into the hall...and in the remaining silence of the room, we suddenly heard our beloved teacher sobbing. Upon re-entering the room, Mrs. Miller moved sadly to her desk... still crying. Something unimaginably terrible had happened... far beyond the scope of a six-year-old's ability to understand.

Later, when I arrived home at the end of the bus route, I entered the living room to find my father transfixed in front of our little, blue-gray screened Motorola TV listening to Walter Cronkite convey

somber news to an entire nation..."President Kennedy is dead!" My father was also crying...only one of two times I ever witnessed this happen. But I was still too young to understand the full implication of one man's death in Dallas.

However, now that I am old...I fully appreciate the weight of the horrendous tragedy that occurred in our nation that day. For in the single moment Lee Harvey Oswald pulled the trigger of his 6.5-mm Carcano Model 91/38 carbine, the course of our nation changed. A war that John F. Kennedy was dedicated to ending...his replacement, Lyndon Baines Johnson, was determined to expand beyond comprehension! So, just as one, young man unfortunately died in Dallas...countless thousands of other young men would also die in a faraway land known as Vietnam.

The noble man who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, rather ask what you can do for your country!" was gone forever. And in his absence stepped a spurious successor, whose dream for America was the infamous "Great Society" founded upon a giveaway, entitlement plan that would finally bankrupt our economy, driving our entire nation to its knees a short 50 years later.

And now, like Mrs. Violet Miller and my father, I also understand. And with them, I too am crying!

EDWIN WOOLSEY, WILLOW SPRINGS

NUMBERS: Special dates' days are numbered

FROM PAGE A6

Not surprisingly in this world of easy access to mass information, there's plenty out there to interest fans of repetitive and sequential dates – even a website that lists significant events or moments that took place on each of this century's repetitive dates. And for those who want to take the matter a step further, there's even "sequential time," like the moment that occurred one hour, two minutes and three seconds after midnight on April 5, 2006 that can numerically be documented as 1:02:03 4-5-06 (that's so cute that I'll bet more than one person bought a lottery ticket

bearing those numbers that day).

Anyway, here we are on the cusp of a lengthy stretch of years when there won't be any special dates to embroider on hats or create websites over. Wow, think about it: 12-13-14 is only 300 and some-odd days away, and there won't be a similar date for dang near a century.

I guess now's the time to start planning for the big day. Or not.

Doug Davison is a writer, photographer and newsroom assistant for the Houston Herald. His columns are posted on the blog page at www.houstonherald.com. Email: ddavison@houstonherald.com.

Annual Share Your Christmas campaign is under way

The annual charitable drive known as "Share Your Christmas" that aids needy children in Texas County is up and running for another holiday season.

The program is headquartered in the basement of the Houston Lions Club Den on North U.S. 63. Children enrolled are assigned case numbers, and people wishing to help are encouraged to "adopt" a specific case or provide general donations.

The following are summaries of some of this year's cases.

CASE 1
A 3-year-old boy is in need of warm, winter clothes, size 3T, and size 10 shoes. He will be happy with any toys for his age, but he especially loves Sponge Bob.

CASE 2
A Barbie or Princess doll is the toy wish of this 6-year-old girl. She also needs size 7-8 pants and tops, and size 12 shoes. Her 19-month-old sister loves Minnie Mouse and wears size 3T clothes and size 6 shoes.

CASE 3
This 13-year-old boy likes all kinds of sports and is in need of size 16 boys' jeans and shirts, and size 7½ men's shoes. He also needs a size 16 boys' winter coat

and some gloves.

CASE 4
A baby doll with a stroller would make this little 3-year-old girl very happy. She needs size 4T clothing and size 6 shoes. Her 1-year-old baby sister needs size 12-months pants and 18-months shirts, and size 4 shoes. Any toys for her age would be great, and they also need warm coats.

CASE 5
Monster trucks are this 3-year-old boy's favorite toy and he would like a new one for Christmas. Size 4T pants are also needed, as well as size 5T shirts and size 12 shoes.

As of Monday morning, 47 families, including 128 children, have applied for help. Donations and applications are being accepted and from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday, in the Lions Club basement.

New and good used toys, clothing and coats are needed. Anyone wishing to adopt a family can call 417-217-1318 or 217-8953 or stop by Lions Club. Cash donations can be mailed to "Share Your Christmas," P.O. Box 170, Houston, Mo. 65483.

The Angel Tree will be going up this week at the Houston Walmart Supercenter.

ACCIDENTS

The following accidents were reported by the Missouri State Highway Patrol:

■Three persons were injured Saturday evening in a crash five miles west Licking on Highway N, the Missouri State Highway Patrol said.

Cpl. Curtis Haden said a 2012 Chevrolet Captiva driven by Laura A. Buckner, 54, had stopped in the northbound lane facing southbound to check the mail and was struck head-on by a northbound 2001 Dodge truck operated by Mark A. Griffith, 50, of Licking.

Buckner and a passenger, Kylie N. Sullins, 13, of Licking, were taken by ambulance to Texas County Memorial Hospital. Sullins' injuries were minor. Haden said Buckner had moderate injuries. Griffith refused treatment.

Both vehicles received extensive damage, Haden said.

Griffith was arrested for felony driving while revoked and held at the Texas County Jail, according to a patrol report.

■A Summersville man was injured last Wednesday afternoon in a crash on a county road west of Mountain View.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol said a westbound 1998 Chevrolet pickup driven westbound by Terry L. Smith, 32, of Summersville, ran off the roadway and overturned.

Two passengers, Roger C. Blanks, 20, Summersville; and Jamie L. Deason, 35, of Blytheville, Ark., were transported to Ozarks Medical Center in West Plains with minor injuries. No one was wearing a seat belt, according to a report.

Blanks was arrested on

a Howell County warrant for DWI, according to a report.

■Three persons were seriously injured Monday morning in a crash west of Bucyrus.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol said a 1999 GMC 1500 pickup driven south by Matthew F. Sowell, 26, of Satsuma, Ala., crossed the Highway 17 centerline and struck head-on a northbound 2007 Dodge Caliber driven by Adam E. Vasseur, 42, of Bucyrus.

A passenger in the Sowell vehicle was Joe L. Jarvis, 35, of Lucedale, Miss.

The men were taken to Texas County Memorial Hospital in Houston with serious injuries.

The mishap occurred just north of Highway AA and 17. Sgt. George Falterman said the drivers and the passenger were not wearing seat belts. Both vehicles were totaled.

Assisting were the Texas County Rescue Squad, Cpl. Dale Pounds and Tpr. Curtis Hubbs.

ARRESTS

The following arrests were reported by the Missouri State Highway Patrol:

■James D. Jett, 38, of Joplin, was arrested Thursday on two Texas County warrants. He was wanted on felony warrants charging him with possession of a controlled substance, two counts; and a felony warrant charging him with

failing to obey a law enforcement officer, according to a report. Jett was taken to the Texas County Jail.

■Mickey D. Arvin, 23, of Licking, was arrested last Tuesday night on a Dent County warrant charging him with speeding and misdemeanor possession of marijuana. He was taken to the Phelps County Jail.

Morris Township board meets

Members of the Morris Township board met Nov. 4 and received an update on road and bridge work completed in October.

Eddie Fogerson, road and bridge employee, reported 192 hours were completed in 24 working days and half of the township's roads were graded.

The township dump truck, it was reported,

needs repairs to the steel bed.

The board will check on prices and make recommendations for repair.

Completion of grading and repairs related to FEMA work associated with flooding are planned.

The next meeting is 9 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, at Gary Allen's residence. The public is invited.

Got News?
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Thanksgiving

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THE STAKES HAVE BEEN RAISED!!

Play the Sixth Annual Auto Racing Challenge!

FINAL STANDINGS	
1. Shawn Owens, Mtn. Grove	12,523 pts
2. Jamie Woodmansee, Cabool	12,386 pts
3. Ronald Ward, Texas	12,275 pts
4. Mike Haney, Iowa	12,257 pts
5. Lesa Jones, Houston	12,253 pts
6. Gerald Chronister, Cabool	12,229 pts
7. Bonnie Gaston, Houston	12,222 pts
8. Barb Sawyer, Houston	12,216 pts
9. Mary King, Winona	12,200 pts
10. Michael Motzkus, Houston	12,191 pts

Congratulations to Shawn Owens of Mountain Grove, the winner of the 2013 Auto Racing Challenge.

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