

PUBLIC NOTICES

TRUSTEE'S SALE IN RE: Kristina Leahy, a single person Trustee's Sale:

For default in payment of debt and performance of obligation secured by Deed of Trust executed by Kristina Leahy, a single person dated May 9, 2017 and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Texas County, Missouri in Book 2017, Page 1380 the undersigned Successor Trustee, at the request of the legal holder of said Note will on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., (at the specific time of 10:45 AM), at the West Front Door of

the Court House, City of Houston, County of Texas, State of Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate, described in said Deed of Trust, and situated in Texas County, State of Missouri, to wit:

LOT FOUR (4), BLOCK TWO (2), IN HAMILTON ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF LICKING MISSOURI.

to satisfy said debt and cost.

MILLSAP & SINGER, P.C.,
Successor Trustee
612 Spirit Drive
St. Louis, MO 63005
(636) 537-0110
File

211655.030624.438888 FC

NOTICE

Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

PUBLISH ON:
02/08/2024, 02/15/2024,
02/22/2024, 02/29/2024
42/4t

DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE

The following are dissolutions of marriage that were filed in December 2023 – January 2024.

Dec. 12, 2023 — Joaquin Warren of Licking and Pamela Warren of Rolla.

Dec. 18, 2023 — Mason Brown of Houston and Brittany Brown, address unknown.

Dec. 21, 2023 — Ginger Wilson of Licking and John Wilson, Jr. of Ozark.

Dec. 22, 2023 — Phyllis Milligan of Mountain View and Steven Troup of Rocky Top, Tenn.

Jan. 4, 2024 — Adama Coen of Mountain

Grove and Maria Coen of Mountain Grove.

Jan. 11, 2024 — Tyler Roper of Licking and Sharon Roper of Rolla.

Jan. 18, 2024 — Robert Sterner of Cabool and Annette Sterner of Cabool.

Jan. 23, 2024 — Rebecca Loncosky of Raymondville and Clifford Loncosky of Willow Springs.

Jan. 26, 2024 — Jared Martin of Cabool and Christy Martin of Clinton.

Jan. 29, 2024 — Alejo Hamilton of Licking and Kiara Hamilton of Belleville, Ill.

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Prune oak trees this winter to avoid oak wilt

The leaves are down, winter is upon us, and that means it's prime time for pruning oak trees, which can be infected by the oak wilt fungus if they're pruned during the high-risk period mid-March through mid-July.

"Beetles that can carry the disease from tree to tree are not very active now, and the trees are not vulnerable to infection," said Hank Stelzer, state forestry specialist with University of Missouri Extension.

The beetles are attracted to fresh bark dam-

age or wounds where tree limbs have been removed.

Oak wilt also spreads when firewood from infected trees is moved to new locations. If you cut wood from an oak tree that might have died from oak wilt, cover the wood with a plastic tarp and bury the tarp's edges underground to prevent access by the beetles that spread the disease. Ensure the tarp remains intact for six to 12 months until the bark sloughs off. This will kill the fungus and prevent its spread to healthy trees,

Stelzer said.

Tree trimming around structures, limb removal and even construction or clearing that can result in damage to oak trees should be planned outside of the oak wilt susceptibility period.

Waiting for winter assures that trees are dormant, so they won't respond with new growth late in the season that is more vulnerable to winter injury.

Oak wilt, identified in the 1940s, is widespread across Missouri. Red oaks are most susceptible and can die within

weeks of infection. These trees have leaves with pointed tips and include black oak, northern red oak and pin oak. Trees in the white oak group have rounded leaf edges and are less susceptible. Affected trees will suddenly wilt from the top down, rapidly dropping leaves, which can be green, brown or a combination of both colors.

If you suspect oak wilt, you can verify the infection with the MU Plant Diagnostic Clinic. Go to <https://plantclinic.missouri.edu> or call 573-882-3019.

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Ozarks could be key in turning lead mine waste into "the guts" of cutting-edge batteries

Private investment and some high-profile government involvement is propelling hope that parts of Missouri's Ozarks — and the area long known as the Lead Belt — could be transformed into a crucial domestic supplier of "critical minerals" and high-tech expertise for the fast-growing field of modern batteries and advanced energy products.

Already, companies are working to open new facilities that will produce sought-after materials essential for cutting-edge batteries, electric vehicles, renewable energy projects and more — products that some Missouri firms are currently gleaming from recycled electric vehicle batteries and tailings from old lead mines.

And the region is now a potential target for significant federal investment, after being short-listed for consideration to receive tens of millions of dollars in grant money that aims to cement the region as a nationally prominent "tech hub" that helps anchor the industry with an American foothold.

The effort revolves around coveted minerals like nickel, cobalt and rare earth elements, deemed critical because of their increasingly vital roles in technology, often tied to electricity and batteries. Presently, however, the U.S. is enormously reliant on foreign countries — and notably China — to get them.

We're beholden almost completely to Chinese-processed materials," said Michael Hollomon, the commercial director for Missouri Cobalt, which bills itself as the owner of North America's largest near-term primary cobalt reserve, and is the leading entity under its Clayton-based parent company, U.S. Strategic Metals.

"We're trying to get America to have its own supply chain," he said.

That effort took a major step forward in late October, when the Biden administration designated more than 30 nationwide tech hubs as promising hot spots for future innovation and investment — largely outside of the country's established technology epicenters, like Silicon Valley. Missouri's minerals hub spans 14 rural Ozark counties, including Texas County.

The push is being led by Kwame Awuah-Offei, a mining engineering professor at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, as part of a 20-member "consortium" that includes colleges, state agencies and private companies, like Missouri Cobalt and Doe Run, the major lead producer. Doe Run declined an interview for this story.

TECH HUBS

U.S. Economic Development Administration

OFFICIAL DESIGNEE

TECHHUBS.GOV

The group received \$450,000 to develop plans to help build out the industry, and is eligible for far more additional funding. An announcement from the White House said the initiative "aims to position south-central Missouri as a global leader in critical minerals processing to provide the materials needed to support battery technology."

Some of those minerals, which can often occur alongside lead deposits, are already commercially produced in the Ozarks, after being recovered from old mine tailings and batteries and made into concentrates — powdery products that contain a large portion of valuable metal. Those concentrates are then sent out of state to be processed into metal.

But so far, "we haven't actually produced the metal, itself," said Awuah-Offei.

The goal of those behind the tech hub isn't to stop at the extraction stage. They want to see Missouri host as much of the supply chain as possible.

"We are not just interested in the mining side," said Awuah-Offei, who wants the region's involvement to span "from minerals to energy, which would

include batteries."

At Missouri Cobalt, Hollomon shares the same vision for the region, echoing that the plan isn't just mining "and shipping it away."

"Think of the jobs that we're going to provide to rural areas," he said. "Missouri will absolutely be a leader, because we're at the very beginning: the raw material phase."

'FULL STEAM AHEAD'

This year, Missouri Cobalt is pushing to open a large-scale processing facility for multiple battery components in Fredericktown, at an old mine formerly owned by the National Lead Company. Once it's fully running, Hollomon said the facility will support 1,200 jobs directly and indirectly, and possibly twice that many in about five years, as operations expand.

Last month, Missouri Cobalt's parent company announced that it had secured more than \$200 million from a British mining financier, putting the Fredericktown project on track to start processing more than 200 tons of material each day, by year's end.

"We're going full steam ahead," said Hollomon. "It's a very exciting time."

The company already has a smaller-scale facility in Earth City, in the St. Louis region, where it is recovering commodities such as nickel, cobalt, and lithium from mine tailings and electric vehicle batteries. Once impurities and specific metals are removed from the starting material, the refined products are destined to become "the guts" of other batteries, said Mike Cochran, Missouri Cobalt's executive director of operations.

Those leading the region's tech hub effort are working on an application for a second phase of federal funding — "the big prize," said Awuah-Offei — due in February, and are weighing a request of between \$40 million and \$70 million. If the Ozark hub emerges as a Phase Two winner, the plan is to develop a "scaling facility" in Rolla, affiliated with Missouri S&T, where companies can hone commercial-scale production strategies.

But win or lose with the next round of funding, some say the first wave of recognition from the White House already brings significant legitimacy and attention to the area.

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