

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.

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Financial aid online programs to explain FAFSA changes

After hearing about the biggest change to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in 40 years, Missouri's higher education institutions are joining to explain it.

A free, online webinar will provide students and families with an overview of the new, simplified FAFSA as well as tips, deadlines and reminders for maximizing financial aid for the 2024-2025 academic year, it was announced.

Organizers built a coalition of financial aid professionals from public and private universities and community colleges across Missouri united under two common goals: Help more Missourians go to college and maximize the amount of financial aid they are eligible for.

The registration link can be found at <https://bit.ly/3NOFH7E>

A new federal law, the FAFSA Simplification Act, was created to simplify and streamline the application process, reduce barriers and increase access to financial aid by more accurately determining eligibility for federal aid, officials said.

The biggest change is reducing the application length from more than 100 questions to as few as 18 for some applicants.

From Jan. 8-11, MU's Office of Student Financial Aid will be partnering with Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel (MASFAP) to host a statewide "FAFSA Week of Action." Each night from 5:30 to 8:30, financial aid officers from universities across Missouri will be available via zoom to help students and families with specific FAFSA-related questions.

Community Events Streamed Over the Internet... LIVE!
www.houstonherald.com/live

Plans underway for Interscholastic Contest

In just a few weeks, area high school students will converge on Missouri State University-West Plains (MSU-WP) for the annual Interscholastic Contest.

Developed in the early 1980s by university administrators, faculty and staff, the day-long event gives students the opportunity to test their knowledge in a variety of academic disciplines ranging from agriculture, science and math to speech, history and English. Texas County schools are among the participants.

"The Interscholastic Contest is one of the premier events hosted by our campus for area high school students," MSU-WP Chancellor Dennis Lancaster said. "As a learning-centered institution, this event epitomizes what we do every day for our students to help them achieve their personal educational goals."

Students compete as part of teams representing their respective high schools. The participating teams are divided into divisions based on school size. First-, second- and third-place teams are announced in each division. The overall competition winner is determined by a point system based on student scores irrespective of division.

"I coordinated this event for several years, and I can tell you the academic skills and knowledge displayed at the Interscholastic Contest impressed me year in and year out," Lancaster added. "I'm thrilled that we can offer this competitive opportunity to our area high school students again."

This year's contest, the 37th held by the university, is April 5. Members of MSU-WP's Public Affairs Committee are coordinating the event to ensure its success by bringing together more individuals across campus to assist with its planning, according to Ana Estrella, assistant professor of biology/bio-

medical sciences and committee chair.

"Our mission is to make the event one of the most, if not the most, important academic competitions in the region; therefore, teamwork is critical to coordinate effectively prior to, during and post event," Estrella explained.

In addition to Estrella, committee members assisting with the contest's planning include:

- Nursing Instructor Jessica Banning
- Assistant Professor of Nursing Lindsay Hill
- Allied Health Lecturer Carla Neff
- Darr Honors Program Director Alex Pinnon
- Assistant Professor of Accounting Dasha Russell
- Writing Specialist/Testing Coordinator Alexandra Graham
- Associate Professor of Business David White
- Assistant Professor of Computer Graphics and Programming Jacob Poulette
- Director of Student Life and Development Luke Hurtt
- IT Services representatives C.J. Collins, Biff Bird, Mike Scheidt and Dan Wilson

CONTEST PLANS

Banning and White said the academic competitions will be divided into two sessions, at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. In addition to the 18 academic disciplines that made up the Interscholastic Contest last year, this year's event will include poetry, they added.

In between their tests, students can learn more about MSU-WP and its academic and program offerings from various booths and activities that will be taking place that same day in the Lybyer Technology Center and the Carol Silvey Student Union at

Hass-Darr Hall. This includes Grizzly eSports program, Student Government Association and many other student organizations.

"We would like our guests to have a taste of our campus community, so we are planning on having a barbecue and activities around campus before the award ceremony. That will allow the high school students to interact with current students, staff and faculty and truly get a feel for what our campus community can offer them," they said.

"We don't want our guests to just show up for a competition and leave. We want them to have the opportunity to network and to learn about our campus and what we offer here," they added.

Students also will have the opportunity to interact with the university's social media accounts. They're encouraged to post photos of themselves at the event using the #MSUWPInterscholasticContest hashtag on their social media accounts and tagging the university.

"We truly believe academics must be celebrated, and this is our way to do it," committee members said. "The Interscholastic Contest does not just provide students the opportunity to demonstrate their academic capacities, it also allows them to develop collaborative skills and connect with new people while having fun. We are looking forward to seeing the 2024 Interscholastic Contest participants on April 5!"

For more information about the contest and how to participate, contact Estrella at AnaEstrellaRiollano@MissouriState.edu or 417-255-7710; Jessica Banning at JessicaBarton@MissouriState.edu or 417-255-7254; or the MSU-WP Interscholastic Committee at WPISC@MissouriState.edu.

Bipartisan coalition advances Missouri pre-K expansion

The state would pay for preschool for any child who qualifies for free and reduced price lunch under a plan working its way through the Missouri House.

A coalition of six Republicans and four Democrats on the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee voted to advance the proposal recently. Six Republicans on the committee voted against the plan.

State-subsidized prekindergarten would be available at public schools or charter schools for children in income-qualifying families.

Children would not be required to attend pre-K. The state would pay for pre-K, should a family choose to send a child to school.

In Missouri, school is not required until age 7.

If a child lives in a school district that doesn't have any pre-K offerings, the state would not cover costs for attendance in a different district.

Last year, Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican, signed off on a one-time outlay of \$55.8 million for pre-K, though an effort to put the funding into state law failed.

This year, he is again asking the Legislature for \$55.8 million of state revenue to fund the proposal and supportive of putting the program into statute.

A financial analysis of the legislation projects that if 10% of pre-K students who qualify for free and reduced price lunch attend school, the price tag would be roughly \$20 million. If 50% attend, it would be roughly \$100 million.

Rep. Brenda Shields, R-St. Joseph, a former middle school teacher and CEO of the United Way of Greater St. Joseph, is sponsoring the legislation again, as she did last year.

Shields has said the pre-K funding effort is important to her because research shows early education improves long-term life and employment outcomes.

Rep. Ed Lewis, R-Moberly, a former high school teacher who chairs the budget subcommittee on education, voted to advance the measure, but said it merits discussion by the full chamber.

"This is a legitimate question people have," Lewis said. "Do we want the state to be in charge of education of 4-year-olds?"

If the state wants to fund another grade level, "We've gotta make sure we have enough teachers," he said. And budget leaders need to weigh teacher recruitment and retention efforts alongside education program expansion.

The year, the Legislature is considering a wide variety of education-related measures, including increased teacher pay, expanding a private school voucher program, expanding charter schools in the state and instituting public school open enrollment policies.

The Missouri House approved an open enrollment bill that would allow students to attend school in a district where they don't live. It now moves to the Senate for consideration.

This new year: Learn about Social Security online

BY SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Social Security programs touch the lives of more than 71 million people. We work hard to ensure critical benefits and other services are accessible to you. Consider the start of the new year as an opportunity for you to engage with Social Security online. This begins with creating your free and secure personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you create an account, you can:

- Apply for retirement, spouses or disability benefits.
- Apply for Medicare.
- Check your application status.
- Request a replacement Social Security

number card.

If you do not receive Social Security benefits, you can use your personal my Social Security account to:

- Get personalized retirement benefit estimates.
- Get your Social Security statement.
- Get estimates for spouse's benefits.
- Get instant proof that you do not receive benefits.
- If you receive benefits, you can use your personal my Social Security account to:
 - Change your address (Social Security benefits only).
 - Set up or change your direct deposit information (Social Security benefits only).

■Instantly get proof of benefits.

■Print your SSA-1099.

Your personal my Social Security account has a secure Message Center. You can choose to receive the annual cost-of-living adjustments and the Medicare income-related monthly adjustment amount online. Unless you opt-out of receiving notices by mail that are available online, you will receive both mailed and online notices.

Your personal my Social Security account offers easy access to features that save you time when you do business with us online. Check out our other resources available at www.ssa.gov/onlineservices for your convenience.

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