

FUNDRAISERS: Walks to end Alzheimer's planned. **3A** | **CROSS-COUNTRY:** Area high school runners compete. **1B**

U.S. Supreme Court upholds Missouri high court decision

Ruling denies GOP effort to revive gerrymandered congressional map

BY RUDI KELLER

Missouri Independent

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh on Tuesday rejected Missouri Republican officials' last-chance appeal to salvage a congressional district

map favoring the GOP, closing out the monthslong legal saga over the referendum that will appear on the Nov. 3 ballot as Proposition A.

Kavanaugh's ruling upholds a Missouri Supreme Court decision that enjoined Secretary of State Denny Hoskins from using the gerrymandered congressional map drawn during a 2025 special session. The Missouri court ordered Hoskins to use the map in place in 2022 and 2024 because the bill creating

the new map, now subject to a statewide vote, had never legally taken effect.

Other cases are pending over side issues. But Kavanaugh's decision leaves the 2022 map in place as Tuesday's ballot deadline arrives, dealing a potentially final blow to efforts to use the 2025 districts in November. While opponents of the plan lost most major decisions, they won the ones that counted most

SEE **COURT**, 2A



Supreme Court Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh attends the State of the Union address during a Joint Session of Congress at the U.S. Capitol on February 24.

COURTESY PHOTO BY WIN MCNAMEE OF GETTY IMAGES | MISSOURI INDEPENDENT

Prairie Day returns

Sept. 12 event to feature historic crafts, music, storytelling and more

BY ANDY OSTMEYER

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DIAMOND, Mo. — A celebration of one of the 20th century's most famous scientists and the landscape where he was raised returns Sept. 12.

That is when George Washington Carver National Monument will hold its annual Prairie Day, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the monument near Diamond. It is one of the monuments two signature events, along with Carver Day held earlier in the year, according to Curtis Gregory, park ranger.

"We can get between 800 and 2,000 visitors," he said.

The free event will explore life in the late-1800s following the Civil War, and explore life on the Missouri prairie of Carver's childhood.

Prairie Day started in 1986, in the midst of an effort to



Musician Lem Sheppard returns for the annual Prairie Day on Sept. 12 at George Washington Carver National Monument.

GLOBE FILE

restore the prairie in the area, said Gregory.

Restoration began in the early 1980s and wrapped up around 1991.

"It is to connect George Washington Carver's child-

hood experience living on a prairie in the 1870s," said Gregory.

There will be historical skills demonstrations in trades such as basket-weaving, blacksmithing, spinning,

Dutch-oven cooking and more. Visitors also can also expect hands-on educational activities for children, interactive exhibits, booths

SEE **DAY**, 2A



Officials with Neosho Area Habitat for Humanity are joined by others Tuesday at a ground breaking for the group's 20th home.

GLOBE | JASON PEAKE

Neosho Area Habitat for Humanity breaks ground on 20th home

BY JASON PEAKE

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NEOSHO, Mo. — Neosho Area Habitat for Humanity celebrated a milestone Tuesday morning.

The nonprofit, which is dedicated to building decent and affordable housing for families in need, officially broke ground on its 20th local home.

"Starting any house is always exciting," Neosho Area Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Chris Fenske said. "This is the first step in changing someone's life. We look forward to the day we can welcome a family to a new home on this location."

In addition to the groundbreaking, the Neosho Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the launch of the project at 1606 N. Hickory Ave.

"It's fun to know that we'll have a house up here in several months," said John Styron, Habitat board president. "We know there's going to be challenges. There are fundraising and weather risks and things like that. We'll be interviewing families and taking applications. We look forward to seeing someone turn a house into a home. We always talk about the phrase, 'A hand up, not a hand out.' Part of the program is that we help people get loans that are tailored to their financial needs. They're buying the house. And they're required to put lots of sweat equity hours into this house or one of our other houses. So they're earning it."

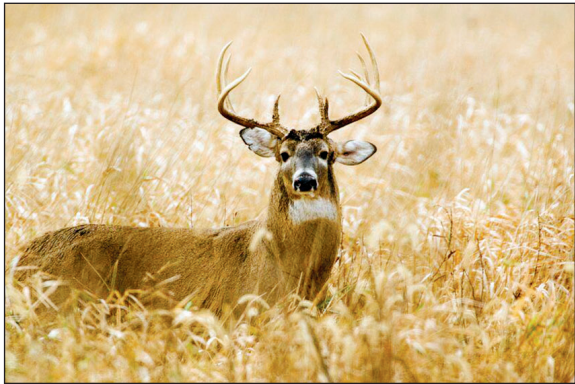
Fenske and Styron both noted Habitat's ongoing collaboration with Crowder College's Area Technical Center program

SEE **HOME**, 2A

MDC landowner meetings to help shape hunter-led, localized management for CWD

Missouri officials have been working to contain the spread of chronic wasting disease in the deer population with new meetings planned this fall to discuss a strategy with landowners.

COURTESY | MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



BY ANDY OSTMEYER

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The Missouri Department of Conservation has scheduled meetings with landowners this fall as part of what it is calling its pilot effort in eight core areas around the state to help manage the deer herd and chronic wasting disease.

One of the meetings will be Carthage on Sept. 28.

The goal is to share information

about deer management and CWD, answer questiona and learn about landowners' deer management goals.

Landowners in the CWD Core Areas will receive an invitation by mail from MDC before their area meeting with additional details.

All landowner meetings will be held from 6-8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. The Carthage meeting will be at YMCA Youth

SEE **CWD**, 2A

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