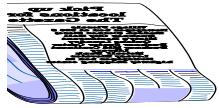


THE GAZETTE



"Your Hometown Newspaper"



"Special 2013 Sports edition of The Gazette"

"Serving the Buckner, Levasy and Sibley Communities"

Volume 19,

Number 5

Monday, September 9, 2013

My AMAZING grandmother Hellen Cook

From the heart of Sara Ellis

Yesterday (8/11/13) my family received a phone call from the Benton County Sheriff's Department concerning "significant findings" that had resulted from the day's search. We rushed into our cars to make the 2 hour drive from Buckner, MO to Warsaw, MO to be met with news that made our hearts sink but yet gave us a small bit of peace for the first time in 29 days. Though DNA identification is pending we believe that Hellen Cook is now in her forever home where she will no longer have to deal with the disease of Alzheimer's that has dramatically changed her life for the last 4 years. She gets to be with her son who died suddenly just 4 years ago.

Today Grandma's face is being flashed all over the news and on social media for the end of her life, I think it is important that the public be made aware of her entire life. There is no one like Hellen Cook. Her petite body was full of large, fiery personality. She was extremely smart and even held the I.Q. record for several years in the county she grew up in. Grandma is also known for her caring love. She loved children and could always be found talking or playing with

a child. Hellen was also an outstanding nurse, being a director-of-nursing for the later 20 years of her nursing career. She was loved and admired by all who knew her. Her most memorable quality is her quick and clever wit. Her husband Howard says, "There has never gone a day when she hasn't made me laugh". Her most used witty saying was: "that's Hellen with 2 Ls, and don't you shorten it!"

The family is sorrowed to know that we have lost our fiery, intelligent, caring, and witty Hellen. We have searched relentlessly over the last 29 days and thank all the wonderful volunteers and media who have joined us in this search. Hellen leaves behind a Husband of 51 years, three children, 12 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. We will still continue Hellen's Heroes in hope of preventing another family from going through this nightmare. Below is a collage of pictures of Hellen throughout her life. (Editors note: We would like to thank the entire Cook family for the information and pictures. More information on alzheimer's on page 5 of this week's edition of The Gazette)



Upcoming events in our community

Buckner Festival in the Valley-September 20-21 (see page 4)

Buckner Truck & Tractor Pull

Saturday, September 14, 2013

Sibley Orchard

GATES OPEN AT 11:30 AM

Chilling in their pool in Levasy, MO.

Saturday, September 7, 2013 was a really hot day with temperatures reaching close to 100 degrees. Chuck and I needed to pick up something in Levasy, MO. and were surprised at what we saw as we entered the town.

A pick up truck was parked facing east on Pacific Street with a plastic liner in the bed of the truck. Directly above the truck bed was the Levasy water spout and you guessed it, the truck bed was full of fresh, clean, cool water.

Sitting in the bed of the truck, full of

water were Buckner residents, Jeffrey Weinzatl, and Laurie Williams, enjoying the view, water and having a blast. Naturally we stopped and asked if we could take their picture and put it in this edition of The Gazette. To our surprise they said yes and stated that they had hoped someone would take their picture. Jeffrey stated that it was really hot and since there was no pool in Buckner, and they didn't have a pool at their home, they would just go to Levasy to cool off. New Cool Spot in our communities!



Jeffrey getting a cold shower



Jeffrey & Laurie enjoying the cool water

Lewis & Clark Trail Days donate school supplies to Buckner Elementary



For the second year in a row, Lewis & Clark Trail Days has donated school supplies to Buckner Elementary School. Back packs, pencils, notebook paper, folders, scissors, etc. were given to Principal

Mr. Farnan before school started this year.

Mr. Farnan was excited and very appreciative of the supplies and stated that they were always needed and very much appreciated.

Buckner Village Florals

Custom made floral arrangements for any occasion and any budget!

Free Delivery within a 10 mile radius: Includes: Buckner, Sibley, Levasy, Wellington, Napoleon, portions of Eastern Independence, and Grain Valley, with a \$25.00 or more order.

No order is too small, we appreciate your business. Please call 816-650-5705 for all your floral needs



We offer Fresh flower arrangements made especially for you, silk flower arrangements, we do weddings, funerals, birthdays, holidays, just because and any other occasion or holiday you need flowers for your friends and loved ones.

Family Owned and Operated!

816-650-5705



Obituary

Edward Neil Norman

Edward Neil Norman, passed away comfortably in his home in Levasy, Mo. on Friday, August 30, 2013 after battling cancer since January.

Ed was born on June 13, 1938 in Joplin, Mo. He is survived by his wife, daughter, 2 sons, 3 step daughters, 1 step son and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Ed enjoyed taking trips, collecting and visiting light houses, and

building wood projects for people. He enjoyed being with his dog Punkin and cat CC.

Ed worked at Schroer Manufacturing Company in Grain Valley, MO. for many years.

There will be a memorial service for Ed on September 28, 2013 at the Buckner Restoration Branch Church in Buckner, Mo. at 2 p.m.

SEPTEMBER AT THE BUCKNER BRANCH OF MID-CONTINENT PUBLIC LIBRARY:

Story Time -- every Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m.

Teens at the Library -- Thursday, September 5, at 6:30 p.m.

*Book Group -- Monday, September 9, at 7:00 p.m.
The discussion will be about Wonderland Creek by Lynn Austin.
Copies may be checked out at the branch.*

Village Crafters -- Wednesday, September 11, at 2:00 p.m.

Young Writers -- Thursday, September 19, at 6:30 p.m.

*Special Programming --
Medicare 101 Wednesday, September 18, at 2:00 p.m. Adults Only
Registration is required
Medicare questions and confusion will be addressed at this meeting*

*Thomas Hart Benton: His Home and His Art Thursday, September 19, at 7:00 p.m. Adults Only
Registration is required*

We will look at some of his typical art, as well as some of his lesser known styles and mediums

The Buckner Branch of Mid-Continent Public Library is located at 19 East Jefferson Street, Buckner, Missouri.

Registration for programs may be completed at the branch, or by telephone at 816-650-3212.

Debbie Gildehaus Substitute Clerk

Have a great 2013/14 Sports season!



From

Misty's Restaurant



M-Sat.

**Dine in or Carry Out
650-5797**

Obituaries

Carla Louise Jeffries

Carla Louise Jeffries, 43 of Sibley, MO passed away, Sunday morning at her residence. Services were held on., Thursday, August 22, 2013 at the Speaks Suburban Chapel, 18020 E. 39th St., Independence, MO 64055. Burial followed in Six Mile Cemetery. The family will greeted friends on Wednesday evening at the chapel. Carla was born in Independence, MO on April 7, 1970. She graduated from Fort Osage High School in 1988 and received her associate's degree from Longview Community College. Carla worked at the Osage Honey Farm during her high school years. She began working for Mutual Benefit Life in 1988, but took a brief break to work at Redfearn Law Firm, before returning to Mutual Benefit Life. The company grew and changed names to Fortis Benefits and now Assurant Employee Benefits, where she was still employed. She cherished the many friendships she developed over the years with everyone she worked with. Carla married her high school love, Troy Jeffries, on April 13, 1991. They made their home in Sibley, MO raising their two beautiful daughters, Samantha Louise and Shannon Elizabeth. Carla enjoyed time with her family and friends. She was a supportive wife, fantastic mother and loyal friend. Carla enjoyed reading, cross-stitch, watching the Royals and, most of all, the countless hours dedicated to her girls cheerleading.

Carla was preceded in death by her maternal and paternal grandparents. Carla is survived by husband Troy Jeffries, daughters Samantha and Shannon, all of the home; her friend by chance and mother by choice, Betty Endecott of Lee's Summit, MO; mother-in-law and father-in-law Pat and Pete Jeffries of Sibley, MO; three brother-in-laws, Steven of KCMO, David (Christine) of Sibley, MO, and Travis (Jonna) of Sibley, MO; five nephews, three nieces, and four great nieces and nephews; as well as her loyal dogs, Jack and Taz; and a wealth of extended family and lifelong friends. She will be missed by all. A fund has been set up at Adams Dairy Bank in Blue Springs to assist with Samantha's and Shannon's education and activity expenses. Donations can be sent to Adams Dairy Bank, 651 NE Coronado Dr., Blue Springs, MO 64014, payable to: "The Samantha and Shannon Jeffries Fund." A special thank you to Mark Bohlen, Joe Sevcik and John Roberts for establishing this fund. Crossroads Hospice has been an incredible source of support and comfort to Carla, her family and her friends. Toni has been phenomenal. Her compassion, honesty and support have been comforting and valued. Online condolences may be expressed at www.speakschapel.com Arrangements: Speaks Suburban Chapel 816.376.3600)

Cecil "Pete" Boyd Jeffries

Cecil "Pete" Boyd Jeffries passed away August 19, 2013, at his home. Services were held Saturday, at New Salem Funeral home followed by burial in Six Mile Cemetery. The family greeted friends on. Friday, at the chapel. Pete was born Jan. 12, 1936, in independence, Mo., at the family home. Pete attended Peace Dale school. He retired from Universal Construction Company in 1997 and was a member of Laborers Local 264 for 22 years. On Jan. 8, 1960, Pete married Pat Coen. They made their home in Sibley, Mo., and were blessed with four sons, Steven Boyd, David Scott, Troy Shannon and Travis Shawn. Pete was a simple man with a heart of gold and never knew a stranger. He enjoyed antagonizing anyone he met and was sure to bring a smile to your face. He had many sayings that most had never heard until they crossed paths with Pete. His greatest joys were his wife, boys and grandchildren. He enjoyed listening

and playing Blue Grass music, mowing, plowing gardens and most of all being surrounded by his family for Sunday dinner. His prize possession was his 1970 one-ton truck, the loud exhaust and silhouette girls on the mud flaps were trade marks that all knew him by. Pete was the seventh born of nine children to Pearly and Ethel Mae Jeffries. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Gale, Nile, Luther, sister, Mildred and daughter-in-law, Carla Jeffries. He is survived by wife, Pat of the home, sons, Steven of KCMO, David (Christine) of Sibley, Troy of Sibley, and Travis (Jonna) of Sibley; grandchildren, Rachel (Jason), Derek, Samantha, Shannon, Trevor, Jana (Garrett) and Daniel, great-grandchildren, Lane and Finnley; brothers, William, Orville, Harold, Nelson and their spouses, numerous nieces and nephews and countless friends. He will be missed by all.

Obituary Policy

It is the policy of The Gazette Newspaper that all obituaries must be submitted to the paper via email from the funeral home. We can not accept obituaries from individuals without confirmation from the attending funeral home. All obituaries are FREE and you may include a picture of your loved one.

Hellen Erlene Cook

Hellen Erlene Cook, age 72 of Buckner, MO was found Sunday, August 11, 2013 at her lake house in Warsaw, MO. Cremation with a memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, August 17, 2013 at the Blue Springs Assembly 2501 NE Duncan Rd. Blue Springs, MO 64029. Inurnment followed in Buckner Hill Cemetery. The family greeted friends from Friday evening at the church. Donations may be made in her name to Alzheimer's Research.

Hellen was born November 30, 1940 in New Madrid County, MO to George and Mae (Smith) Cox. She was a registered nurse and had worked at Independence Care Center until she retired in 2006. She enjoyed flower and vegetable gardening, exercising, going to garage sales and most of all spending time with her family. She was a long time active member of the Blue Springs Assembly Church where she taught Sunday school, VBS and was a greeter. She was a member of

AARP and AMAC. She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Howard Cook of the home; 2 daughters, Terri Cook and husband Ron Weber of Randolph, WI and Darolyn Fagg and husband Brian of Independence, MO; a son, Mike Cook and wife Teresa of Buckner, MO; 2 sisters, Murlene Thurman of St. Louis, MO and Sandra Farris of Pevely, MO; a brother, Donald Cox of St. Louis, MO; a half brother, Jack Cox of St. Louis, MO; 13 grandchildren, Maria Cook, Brent Cook, Krystal Cook, Sara Cook, Rachael Cook, David Cook, Klayton Cook, Derek Teeter, Baili Teeter, Mitch Weber, Emily Fagg, Kevin Fagg and Kyle Fagg and 2 great grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren, Mia and Alexa. She was preceded in death by a son, Kraig Cook and a brother Wayne Cox. Online condolences may be expressed at www.speakschapel.com (Arrangements: Speaks Suburban Chapel (816) 373-3600)

Larry K. Turner

1956 - 2013 Quarter horse Trainer Larry Keith Turner of Levasy, Mo., passed away Saturday, August 17, 2013, at St. Mary's Hospital in Blue Springs, Mo. Larry was born to Jerry and Bobbie (Young) Turner on Oct. 12, 1956, in Independence, Mo. Larry was an avid horse enthusiast with incredible talent and showmanship. Larry lived his dream with passion and vigor each day and was loved by a great number of lifelong friends and family. He created a sense of community with other horse enthusiasts and will be missed by all. In passing, Larry is survived by both parents; sisters, Sherry Turner of Westwood Hills, Kan., and Lori

Schubert of Lee's Summit, Mo.; nephew, Lucas Schubert; and niece, Lindsay Andersen and husband Cole with great-nephew Paxton. He also leaves his extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins that have always meant a great deal to him. Celebration of Larry's life was held in the fashion that he would choose on Sunday, Aug. 25, in Levasy. Larry gave the gift of life through organ and tissue donation. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Midwest Transplant Network, through their website at www.DonateLifeMissouri.org

Barbara Hedger

Funeral services were held for Barbara Hedger on Wednesday, August 28, 2013 at the Schowengerdt Funeral Chapel (660-679-6555) in Butler, Missouri. There was no visitation. Burial was in Appleton City Cemetery, Appleton City, Missouri. Contributions to Buckner United Methodist Church.

Barbara Jean Hedger, age 66 of Buckner, Missouri passed away Sunday, August 25, 2013 at her home in Buckner. She was born April 26, 1947 to Lloyd and Carol Ash Kelly in Appleton City, Missouri.

Barbara is survived by her husband,

Jerry Hedger of Buckner, Missouri; two sons, Scott Hedger and wife Kerrie of Kingsville, Missouri and Mark Hedger and wife DeAnna of Marshfield, Missouri; two grandchildren, DeLainie and Dawson; one brother, Larry Kelly and wife Karla of Appleton City, Missouri; three aunts, Ella Mae Rinehart of Appleton City, Missouri, Betty Robey of Butler, Missouri and Allyene Brownsberger of Destin, Florida; nephews, nieces and many friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; and one sister, Nancy Weedman.

JOSEPH H. TINKER

Joseph H. Tinker, age 51, Wellington, MO passed away Aug. 15, 2013. Graveside services were held on Monday, Aug. 19 at Buckner Hill Cemetery.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.speakschapel.com (Arrangements: Speaks Buckner Chapel (816) 252-7900)

2013 Buckner Festival in the Valley

Friday September 20th 5 pm - 10 pm

Food & Craft Vendors

with all Your Festival Favorites

Bounce Houses

Carnival games (Most will be .50 cents)

Everything will be running all evening for family

Professor Farquar & Pole Cat Annie 5pm-8pm

with Balloon Animals, Magic, Juggling & Palm Reading



Friday Night Live Music - Outlaw Jim and the Whiskey Benders will play from 6 pm -10 pm

Saturday September 21st All Day

9 am - Parade Line Up

10 am - Parade Begins

Immediately Following the Parade:

11:30 am - 3V Dance Studio

12 pm - Turtle Race

12:30 pm - Hula Hoop Contest

12:45 pm - Baby Contest Winner Announcement

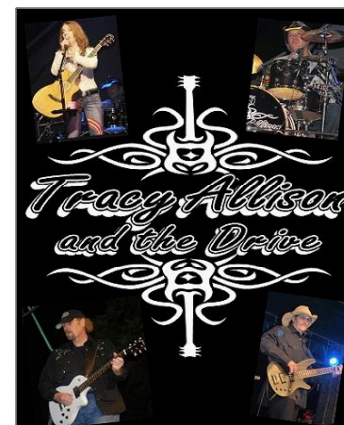
1:00 pm - Mini Bike Race

1:15 pm - Pie Contest Winner Announcement and Auction

2 pm - Henrich's US Tae Kwon Do

Other demonstrations and games with prizes to be announced as they register

**Live Music
Saturday Night
6-10 pm
Tracy Allison
and the Drive**



**Car Show 12 - 3 Registration following the parade till 1pm
Winner announcements at 3PM**

2013 BUCKNER FESTIVAL IN THE VALLEY CAR & TRUCK SHOW

September 21st 1-3pm

Registration 11:30am - 1pm

Judging Announcements at 3pm

CarTrophies Awarded to the TOP 3 in Each Class

Hot Rod Trucks

Hot Rod Cars,

Original Truck

Original Cars

Special Trophy Awards for:
Drivers Choice
Open Class
Hillbilly Jalopy
Ugly Truck

1900 - 1930

1931 - 1960

1961 - 1990

1991 - Current

**Sponsor Prizes and
Give-Aways**

Entry Fee - \$10 per Class, Must be 18 yrs old or older, Must be Registered by 1PM on Saturday September 21st.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Year: _____ Make: _____ Model: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For more information, please contact Sheri Lollar @ 816-813-5345 or sherilollar@comcast.net

BUCKNER FESTIVAL IN THE VALLEY BABY CONTEST AUGUST 12TH TO SEPTEMBER 15TH

WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 21ST

AFTER THE PARADE

3 Categories

Newborn up to 1 year

1 year up to 2 years

2 years up to 3 years

4x6" Pictures (only please)

Can be turned in at Buckner Thriftway

Include first and last name of child along with phone number and age of child



To vote for your favorite baby just place your \$\$ in the envelope.
(located at Buckner Thriftway) Mark envelope with what photo number you are voting for and place in ballot box. Whoever gets the most \$\$ will win. One winner for each category.

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If you have any questions please contact Tonia Richardson at trichardson1229@earthlink.net or 816-696-3454



Buckner's Festival in the Valley Pie Contest



**Deliver your Best Pie & a Extra Slice to be judged
Friday September 20th between 4-5:30pm
Larkin Contracting Office
305 South Hudson, Buckner**

**Pie Winners will be announced & auctioned off on
Saturday September 21st at the Buckner Festival
in the Valley Band Stand.**

1st Place Winners \$100.00

Questions contact Rene' Kellough 816-309-1739



Have you noticed any of these warning signs?

Please list any concerns you have and take this sheet with you to the doctor.

Note: This list is for information only and not a substitute for a consultation with a qualified professional.

___ 1. Memory loss that disrupts daily life. One of the most common signs of Alzheimer's, especially in the early stages, is forgetting recently learned information. Others include forgetting important dates or events; asking for the same information over and over; relying on memory aides (e.g., reminder notes or electronic devices) or family members for things they used to handle on their own. What's typical? Sometimes forgetting names or appointments, but remembering them later.

___ 2. Challenges in planning or solving problems. Some people may experience changes in their ability to develop and follow a plan or work with numbers. They may have trouble following a familiar recipe or keeping track of monthly bills. They may have difficulty concentrating and take much longer to do things than they did before. What's typical? Making occasional errors when balancing a checkbook.

___ 3. Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, at work or at leisure. People with Alzheimer's often find it hard to complete daily tasks. Sometimes, people may have trouble driving to a familiar location, managing a budget at work or remembering the rules of a favorite game. What's typical? Occasionally needing help to use the settings on a microwave or to record a television show.

___ 4. Confusion with time or place. People with Alzheimer's can lose track of dates, seasons and the passage of time. They may have trouble understanding something if it is not happening immediately. Sometimes they may forget where they are or how they got there. What's typical? Getting confused about the day of the week but figuring it out later.

___ 5. Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships. For some people, having vision problems is a sign of Alzheimer's. They may have difficulty reading, judging distance and determining color or contrast. In terms of perception, they may pass a mirror and think someone else is in the room. They may not recognize their own reflection. What's typical? Vision changes related to cataracts.

___ 6. New problems with words in speaking or writing. People with Alzheimer's may have trouble following or joining a conversation. They may stop in the middle of a conversation and have no idea how to continue or they may repeat themselves. They may struggle with vocabulary, have problems finding the right word or call things by the wrong name (e.g., calling a watch a "hand clock"). What's typical? Sometimes having trouble finding the right word.

___ 7. Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps. A person with Alzheimer's disease may put things in unusual places. They may lose things and be unable to go back over their steps to find them again. Sometimes, they may accuse others of stealing. This may occur more frequently over time. What's typical? Misplacing things from time to time, such as a pair of glasses or the remote control.

___ 8. Decreased or poor judgment. People with Alzheimer's may experience changes in judgment or decision making. For example, they may use poor judgment when dealing with money, giving large amounts to telemarketers. They may pay less attention to grooming or keeping themselves clean. What's typical? Making a bad decision once in a while.

___ 9. Withdrawal from work or social activities. A person with Alzheimer's may start to remove themselves from hobbies, social activities, work projects or sports. They may have trouble keeping up with a favorite sports team or remembering how to complete a favorite hobby. They may also avoid being social because of the changes they have experienced. What's typical? Sometimes feeling weary of work, family and social obligations.

___ 10. Changes in mood and personality. The mood and personalities of people with Alzheimer's can change. They can become confused, suspicious, depressed, fearful or anxious. They may be easily upset at home, at work, with friends or in places where they are out of their comfort zone. What's typical? Developing very specific ways of doing things and becoming irritable when a routine is disrupted.

If you have questions about any of these warning signs, the Alzheimer's Association recommends consulting a physician. Early diagnosis provides the best opportunities for treatment, support and future planning.

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Sports season

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Sports season

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Septmeber 14
Sibley Orchard
*Buckner Festival in the
Valley-Sept. 20-21
Downtown Buckner
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The Gazette Newspaper

"Your Hometown Newspaper"
(Serving the communities of the Fort Osage and
Wellington/napoleon School Districts)
Publisher/Editor
Gretchen Ison

editor@gazetteweekly.com
P.O. Box 271, Buckner, Mo. 64016

Public Service Announcements

The Gazette's policy on PSA's
is we print them on a first
come, first serve basis as space
allows and they need to be
submitted 2-3 weeks before
the scheduled publication
date. Some examples of
PSA's are engagements, birth
announcements and church
and community events.

Oh No!
In the Dog House again?
Please Call
Village Florals
650-5705



Buckner Village Florals

We Carry
Fresh cut flowers Silk arrangements
Gift bags custom made gift baskets
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New Laundry Opening Soon in Downtown Buckner



Features include:

- *10 new washers
- *10 New Dryers
- *New plumbing
- *New wiring
- *Open 7 days a week!

Watch for opening in October!

We Care About Our Senior Citizens

Buckner Masonic Lodge #501 has been the host location for the Buckner Senior Center for the last thirty-seven years and provides Northeast Jackson County seniors and disabled people a nutritious meal five days a week, as well as home delivered meals to shut-ins. During that time, the Buckner Area Community Service (BACS) has worked with the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) who funded all expenses for the operation of the food and activity programs. Two years ago, MARC experienced a reduction of funding and we were informed they could no longer payroll the staff required to provide the service. This resulted in a potential of Buckner losing its Senior Program if we could not produce a sponsor who would fund the cost of staffing and managing the program in accordance with MARC's standards.

The Board members of the Buckner Area Community Service stepped up to the challenge when faced with the threat of losing this valuable asset in the Buckner Community. They quickly mobilized key people in the community and coordinated with volunteers who agreed to staff and manage the center. Being relieved of the overhead for staffing, MARC was able to continue assisting by providing the meals and transportation. Over the last year, the Buckner Area Community Service, Inc. formally organized as a Missouri not-for-profit corporation and they applied for Internal Revenue

Service 501(c)(3) status. Early this year they received confirmation that their hard work paid off. BACS is now a not-for-profit tax-exempt corporation operating in conjunction with the Mid-America Regional Council and the Masonic Lodge. MARC recently announced that they will continue to assist in providing meals for at least another year and with the assistance of volunteers we are now entering our second year under this new arrangement.

However, even under this new arrangement, BACS will experience a \$12,000 shortfall if no other support is acquired, and the continued support of MARC past June of 2014 is tenuous. BACS certainly hopes that the relationship with MARC will continue, but they also recognize that there are large changes moving through the government social support programs and BACS is looking to assume more of the financial responsibility for the Senior Program if necessary. Will you assist in helping? We are in need of monetary donations and endowments to be able to move this vision forward. With the 501(c)(3) status an individual is now able to take a tax deduction from their annual tax return by donating to the entity that is supporting the seniors of our area. Please send your check or money order made out to Buckner Area Community Service, Inc. to Stanton Brown, PO Box 230, Buckner, MO 64016.

SEPTEMBER 1 MARKS THE START OF NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH; CITIZENS INVITED TO BE A HERO ALL YEAR LONG

FEMA Region VII's "Be A Hero, Preparing Means Caring" campaign calls on all Americans to exercise an inclusive approach when preparing for emergencies

KANSAS CITY, MO –Superman, Wonder Woman, Batman and Captain America bring very familiar images to mind. This September, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Ready Campaign and FEMA Region VII, in partnership with Citizen Corps and the Ad Council call on all Americans to embrace their own heroic powers to prepare themselves and others for disasters.

"Like so many of the superheroes we grew up watching, the overarching concept behind being a 'hero' is helping others, particularly those who may not be able to help themselves or may need some extra assistance," said FEMA Region VII Administrator Beth Freeman.

On September 1, National Preparedness Month Community members across the nation will respond to the call to help prepare their families, businesses and communities for emergencies of all kinds. This spring's deadly tornado in Moore, OK, summer flooding in the Midwest, and the not-so-distant Hurricane Sandy which struck the Eastern Seaboard in 2012, demonstrate that disasters can happen anywhere at any time.

This year's National Preparedness Month campaign slogan, "You Can Be the Hero", seeks to transform awareness into action by encouraging all Americans to be the heroes in their own homes, businesses, schools and other common places, taking the necessary steps to ensure their communities and the people within those communities are prepared for emergencies of all kinds.

Localizing the national theme with an emphasis on issues true to the Nation's Heartland, FEMA Region VII will launch its regional campaign, Be A Hero, Preparing Means Caring, in conjunction with National Preparedness Month. The initiative includes extensive outreach throughout the Region VII states of Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska.

Freeman said "Our goal in adopting a regional focus for National Preparedness Month is to promote the importance of taking an inclusive approach to disaster preparedness because everyone, regardless of abilities, has something to offer when it comes to preparedness.

"We can be heroes by learning what it takes to prepare, by understanding the variety and complexity of needs in our communities – particularly for people with access or functional needs and to ensure the well-being of pets – and by exercising a few simple activities now to ensure everyone within our community circles is prepared."

Through FEMA Region VII's Be A Hero, Preparing Means Caring campaign, information will be distributed on a variety of topics and issues to consider when practicing preparedness including: caring for the elderly and those with disabilities, ensuring your business is resilient and accessible, and building an emergency supply kit to care for pets.

As the baseline for all FEMA emergency preparedness information, the campaign focuses on starting preparedness with four simple steps:

1. Be informed about emergencies that could happen in your community, and identify sources of local information that will be helpful before, during and after an emergency.
2. Make a plan for what to do in an emergency.
3. Build an emergency supply kit.
4. Get involved.

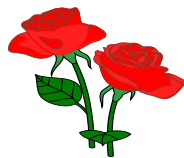
Although a majority of the Campaign's information and outreach will be distributed throughout National Preparedness Month in September, FEMA Region VII is using the initiative as a kick-off effort to taking a more focused, long-term approach to engaging with citizens and community partners throughout the year."

Preparedness is a shared responsibility; it takes a whole community. To join the National Preparedness Community or to make a pledge to learn more, get involved and Be A Hero in your own community, visit <http://community.fema.gov>. Information is also available at 1-800-BE-READY, 1-888-SE-LISTO or TTY 1-800-462-7585. Follow FEMA online at <http://blog.fema.gov>, www.twitter.com/fema, www.facebook.com/fema, and www.youtube.com/fema. Also, follow Administrator Craig Fugate's activities at www.twitter.com/craigatfema.

The social media links provided are for reference only. FEMA does not **endorse** any non-government websites, companies or applications.

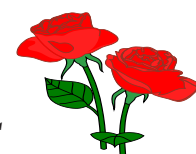
FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

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