

# Galvin's News and Views from *Lake of the Ozarks*

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## News from around the Lake.....

### **New lease on life: Campground owners have big plans for property**

Although plans to develop more than 60 acres below Bagnell Dam into a recreation area failed, the property has a new lease and an opportunity to become a popular destination for locals and visitors. If all goes as planned, the Mountain Man Festival, Christmas Caravan and Bonfire and other events may soon be moving back to the area below the dam that was once home to the American Legion Campground and recreational area.

The new leaseholders, Betsey and Keith Browning, are hoping the access to the Osage River, campground and fishing areas will draw visitors to the 64-acres below Bagnell Dam near the end of the Bagnell Dam Strip. The property had been leased to the Silver Star Development company by Ameren Missouri. When Silver Star failed, the lease reverted back to the utility company.

Earlier this year, the Browning family was able to negotiate a lease arrangement with Ameren Missouri to take over management of the property. The Brownings had subleased from Silver Star to operate a bait, tackle and convenience store on the property that sits on the banks of the Osage River. *Continued on page 2*

## **New lease on life: Campground owners have big plans for property** Continued from page 1.

“We sub-leased the building (the old American Legion Building) from Silver Star Development in July of 2009. This is our 3rd season here as The Dam Bait Shop, LLC. Silver Star Development had complete control of the campground and the rest of the property,” Betsey said. “We made contact with Ameren once we realized the property was going back to them just to let them know we would be willing to take over the lease of the entire property. In March Ameren allowed us to assume Silver Star’s lease, and it was assigned over to The Dam Bait Shop, LLC.”

The Brownings are planning to hold some childrens fishing tournaments and many other community friendly activities. They have remodeled the shower-house and now have a laundry facility for campers use.

“We encourage fisherman/women and children to come enjoy the natural beauty of our newly restored and well kept property for fishing, picnics, hiking, metal detecting or just enjoying the view of Bagnell Dam and the Osage River,” she said.

At one time, an adjoining parcel of land owned by Silver Star was up for sale. The developers had hoped to sell off the adjoining property to develop some recreational uses on the property below the dam. The American Legion had held the lease on the land under an agreement with Ameren for more than 20 years before Silver Star moved in.

The land below the dam is included in the project boundaries of the Osage Hydroelectric Plant and Bagnell Dam. That means the property is included in the flood plain and is subject to the rules and regulations of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Those rules require that the property be open to the public for recreational use. May 06, 2011. Joyce Miller, *Lakenewsonline.com*

## **Shoestring Living: Make your garden grow**

As spring finally turns from lion into lamb, getting the outdoors in tip-top shape for summer enjoyment becomes a priority. But as any homeowner knows, lawn and garden maintenance can prove to be an expensive endeavor. According to Ted Steinberg, author of “American Green: The Obsessive Quest for the Perfect Lawn,” lawn care is a \$40 billion-a-year industry. As good as it makes us feel, most of us need to be realistic when it comes to how much we’ll spend for green grass and beautiful flowers. Here are some tips for getting lots of blooms for only a few bucks.

### **Plan**

To get the biggest bang for your gardening dollars, make sure you select the right grass, plants, trees and shrubs. Choose those that thrive in your area for the least watering needs and highest success rates. When creating a vegetable garden, make sure that tall plants won’t prevent sun from getting to shorter ones that need it. You’ll end up with a bigger crop and more grocery savings come August.

### **Let it grow**

One way to save a little time and money is to set your mower to its highest setting. The folks at [www.richsoil.com](http://www.richsoil.com) say that doing so offers big benefits for your lawn, like providing more shade, encouraging deeper roots and slowing growth. These benefits mean less watering than before, cutting down on water-associated costs. Longer lawns can also encourage thicker grass, which chokes out eye-offending weeds.

### **Feed it the good stuff**

The simplest way to retain the nutrient level in your soil is to leave the post-mow clippings on your lawn. Many people worry about visible clumps of grass or a messy look, but this one tip keeps your soil rich, adds more protection from the hot summer sun and saves you the hassle of bagging it up.

### **Water**

Look to your lawn for signs of thirst. A dry lawn will hold footprints when walked on as opposed to springing back. It may also take on a bluish-purple hue. Remember to water infrequently, but deeply, for maximum results, as regular, short waterings promote shallow roots. Save money by ensuring that you’re not watering driveways and walks, only the lawn that needs it. Before watering, check for restriction guidelines in your community.

*Molly Logan Anderson is a freelance writer who lives in the western suburbs of Chicago with her husband, Mike, three kids and two labs. Join Molly on her family’s journey of living a frugal life and making financial freedom their reality in her columns and on her blog, [www.butterfliesandmudpies.blogspot.com](http://www.butterfliesandmudpies.blogspot.com). May 02, 2011. GateHouse News Service*

## **Heavy rain is heavy factor in road progress**

Thursday was an interesting day weather-wise. The day started out with pouring down rain — nearly two inches fell throughout Lake of the Ozarks overnight through the morning Thursday causing flash flooding and other draining issues. Under the Nichols Road overpass, a muddy, soupy mess formed halting the workday for the Highway 54 expressway before it even started. Heavy machinery sat still at other construction sites for the expressway, and other road projects, as well.

Missouri Department of Transportation area engineer Bob Lynch said rainstorms like Thursday's won't impact deadlines for lake-area road projects; it's only if the rain keeps coming that deadlines will be missed. MoDOT factors in a certain number of rain days per month per project with the contractor, Lynch said. If deadlines are missed, the contractor has to show proof why, such as the dates it rained, which is then validated by MoDOT.

Lynch said there's also the expectation that if there are a number of rain days, delays will be made up in other ways, like working longer hours or bringing crews in on a Sunday. "We want to stick as close to our deadlines as possible," Lynch said.

Contractors can face a financial penalty for missing MoDOT's deadlines on projects. The one place work continued on Thursday throughout the rain was at Route 242 in Lake Ozark. Crews excavated rock, which can be done in any weather.

### **Highway 54 Expressway (Phase 2 - Grand Glaize Bridge south/west to Lazy Days Road)**

#### **What's Happening**

The final stages of grading is coming together to where paving can begin on the final phase of the Highway 54 expressway, Lynch said. Crews will begin paving on the west side, closest to Lazy Days Road and Mexicali Blues, first and work their way the four miles east towards the Grand Glaize Bridge. While that work is going on motorists should expect some traffic switches on State Road KK and Nichols Road. Motorists on State Road KK will be redirected through the roundabout currently used by drivers accessing Swiss Village Road. Lynch said the switch will likely take place in the next month or so and will be a permanent change. The traffic switch on Nichols Road will take place in the next few weeks, Lynch said, and will also be the permanent route drivers will take traveling down Nichols Road. Both changes allow for the expressway to pass through the area and for interchanges to be constructed.

#### **How Rain Can Impact**

Despite paving so close to begin, a few days lost to rain shouldn't make a big difference to deadlines, Lynch said, noting that the days can be made up here and there in the next few months.

#### **If Rain Keeps Coming**

The ground stays wet and paving can't begin.

#### **About the Project**

The 8.5-mile-long expressway will be four-lane divided highway with a raised, center median. MoDOT is responsible for the design and construction of the expressway. Once completed, the department will also be responsible for maintenance.

The city of will take over the upkeep and care of most of Highway 54 and its connections. The city is renaming their portion the Osage Beach Parkway to distinguish the roadway between the expressway and the old Highway 54. Construction on the expressway broke ground in October 2007.

#### **Target Completion Date**

End of 2011/Early 2012

#### **Total Estimated Cost**

\$150 million

### **Horseshoe Bend Parkway extension/Route 242**

#### **What's Happening**

Crews have nearly finished a preliminary grading of the entire two-mile road, Lynch said. Peeking through the trees on the Lake Ozark/Bagnell Dam Boulevard interchange, motorists can see the east end of the highway where it will connect with the interchange. Route 242 will connect on the west end to a new intersection at Horseshoe Bend Parkway and Bagnell Dam Boulevard. "A major grading operation is underway," Lynch said describing the project. Besides grading, crews are also installing several large culverts along the new route. The box culverts are 10-feet and bigger and will help with drainage. "There's a lot of water we have to take care of in that area," Lynch said. *Continued on page 4.*

## Heavy rain is heavy factor in road progress

*Continued from page 3.*

### **How Rain Can Impact**

Right now, very little. Since crews couldn't move dirt on Thursday during the downpour, they made the most of their time and excavated rock.

### **If Rain Keeps Coming**

Once crews are finished excavating rock, they'll need dry days and dry dirt to finish grading and paving.

### **About the Project**

This two-mile, four-lane divided roadway in Lake Ozark will connect current Horseshoe Bend Parkway to the Highway 54 expressway opening up more than a thousand acres of wooded, landlocked ground for development. Plans also include constructing a walkway on the north end of the road and redesigning the intersection where it will tie into the Bagnell Dam Boulevard and State Road MM.

Several agencies including the and and many individuals helped secure a \$4 million federal grant to build the road based on the positive economic impact to the entire Lake of the Ozarks area. The rest will be funded through the state's Highway Fund. Once complete, the road will be renamed Route 242.

### **Target Completion Date**

End of 2011

### **Total Estimated Cost**

\$8.3 million

## **Highway 54/Linn Creek intersections**

### **What's Happening**

Paving is done on this road project, now it's up to the final details.

Lynch said it's still a lot of work though.

The entire section and added lanes need to be restriped, guardrails need to be placed and other finishing touches have to be perfect before MoDOT will consider it a finished product. Until then, MoDOT won't clear the work, Lynch said.

### **How Rain Can Impact**

This project stands to be impacted the most mainly because its deadline looms the closest.

Lynch said the contract's specified Memorial Day as the deadline, though, he's not sure if the contractor will meet it.

Rain will cause delays with restriping because the asphalt has to be completely dry when performing the work, before and after, otherwise the paint doesn't stick.

### **If Rain Keeps Coming**

Nothing can be done but continue to push back restriping until clearer weather resumes.

### **About the Project**

Two intersections along Highway 54 in Linn Creek were completely reconstructed to reduce the number and severity of crashes occurring at both locations.

The Business Park Road/East Valley Drive intersection was reconfigured to reduce the number of turns. Motorists on Highway 54 will still be able to exit at the intersection. However, to enter Highway 54 from Business Park Road, drivers will use a separate, new entrance constructed just east of the intersection.

Turn lanes were also added to the highway median to improve site distance for drivers exiting Highway 54 onto State Road V and Business Park Road/East Valley Drive.

### **Target Completion Date**

Spring 2011

### **Total Estimated Cost**

\$770,000



Work on the Horseshoe Bend Parkway extension/Route 242 stalls due to heavy rainfall throughout Thursday morning.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## June

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT INFO
Memorial Day Fireworks at the LAKE	May 28	Lake of the Oarks	1-800-funlake
Charlie Daniels Band at Lake Ozark Amphitheater	May 29	Camdenton, MO	573-346-0000
HK Golf Tournament Lodge of Four Seasons	Jun 3 - 5	Lake Ozark, MO	573-365-3000
Sandcastle Building Contest Shrimp Boil	Jun 4	Sunrise Beach, MO	573-374-5852
5th Annual Lake Area Master Gardener Walk	Jun 4	Camdenton, MO	573-365-5033
Hot Summer Nights Bagnell Dam Strip in Lake Ozark	Jun 10	Lake Ozark, MO	573-964-1008
Canine Cannonball	Jun 10 - 12	Osage Beach, MO	573-348-9797
4th Annual World's Largest Pontoon Boat Party	Jun 11	Sunrise Beach, MO	573-374-8475
Osage River Pow Wow	Jun 16	Eldon, MO	573-392-3752
Father's Day Scramble Eldon Country Club	Jun 18	Eldon, MO	573-392-4172
Support Our Troops Poker Run	Jun 23 - 25	Osage Beach, MO	573-529-0414
Osage Rock & Mineral Club 10th Annual Gem, Jewelry, Rock, Mineral & Fossil Show	Jun 25 - 26	Osage Beach, MO	573-693-7735
Cobalt Summer Splash Bash 3 mile cove (Jobson Cove)	Jun 25	Eldon, MO	573-365-1800
Town & Country Market Camden County Museum	Jun 25	Linn Creek, MO	573-346-7197

### Lake native singer signs with label, returns for performance

She was raised at the Lake, and now she is bringing her music back home. Singer/songwriter Alecia Arnall has signed on with BMR and will be coming back to the Lake for a pre-CD release performance.

The 2003 School of the Osage graduate won the Eddie's Idol and competed in the Colgate Country Showdown. Her first album was completed in 2007, "Songs of Emotion." VIP tickets include an all-you-can-eat buffet, one ticket for a door prize, a meet and greet with Alecia Arnall with a photo opportunity, and guaranteed balcony seating. Regular tickets include an all-you-can-eat buffet, one ticket for the door prize and chair seating on the main floor.

#### History

After high school, Arnall received certification as a cosmetologist and continued to sing and perform at local events. In 2007 she moved to Nashville, Tenn., to pursue her music career. She grew up in a family of musicians. Her parents, Rick and Debbie Arnall, sang at several local events including in the Jerry Prunty show. She learned how to play the drums and guitar from her father.



Lake of the Ozarks native Alecia Arnall moved to Nashville almost four years ago to pursue a country music career.

Now that she's signed to a record label, she will return to the lake for a pre-CD release performance May 28 at Bootleggers'.

May 13, 2011. [Lakenewsonline.com](http://Lakenewsonline.com)



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## **Day trippin': Winding roads to wineries**

It has been said that wine isn't about brand or cost, it's about stories and memories. The Lake of the Ozarks area in Central Missouri has its own stories and memories, thanks to four local wineries: Casa de Loco Winery, Eichenberg Winery, Grey Bear Winery and Vineyard and Seven Springs Winery. Each has its own unique sights, sounds, smells and tastes to excite the senses and create lasting memories of a relaxing outing or a romantic adventure.

### **Seven Springs Winery**

A winding road leads to Seven Springs Winery, sitting on 160 acres near Linn Creek in the Ozark foothills. Seven Springs' scenic setting is an added treat for those visiting the property to taste the top-notch wines and sample the fine cuisine.

"Our view is magnificent," said Nancy Kellstrom, the winery's events coordinator. "People come away from Seven Springs just shaking their heads at our gorgeous, gorgeous view. The Missouri foothills are a spectacular green in both the spring and summer, and burst with vibrant colors in the fall. We always say, come for the wine, stay for the atmosphere and remember the view."

The view is stunning, but as Kellstrom said, the wine is the reason for the visit and Seven Springs has 11 varieties available. Some of the most popular wines include Seven's Red Heaven (a sweet red), Muscato Sparkling, Norton (a full-bodied red), Chardonal and Vignoles. Fine wine complements food, and Seven Springs keeps that in mind. Its bistro menu includes suggested wine pairings, appetizers, light fare (Lump Crab and Brie Quesadillas or Seared Ahi Tuna Firecracker Lollipops), Panini sandwiches, soups, salads and wraps. Depending on the weather, diners may enjoy inside or outside dining areas. On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, diners are treated to the sounds of "Sax on the Beach," a multi-talented musical duo. The winery is open Sunday through Thursday 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and is open Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. For more information about Seven Springs Winery, call at 573-317-0100 or visit [SevenSpringsWinery.com](http://SevenSpringsWinery.com).

### **Casa de Loco Winery**

When it comes to stories, Casa de Loco might have one of the more unique winery yarns around. This property, a National Historic Landmark, began as a posh fishing resort under the ownership of industrialist Hugo Urbauer in the late '20s and early '30s. Urbauer's rumored guests included 1930s movie stars Clark Gable and Jean Harlow, and President Harry S. Truman. The location's colorful history thread doesn't get cut short there, because the grounds were also the site of the Mozark Health Care Facility — a home for mentally ill patients. Today, however, Casa de Loco's hallmark is its quaint charm. The estate, located on a bluff near Camdenton, features a beautiful 300-person Grand Hall, a large stone terrace and an overlook of the Niangua River. And with the addition of an outdoor brick pizza oven, Casa de Loco has the added appeal of a mini-pizzeria.

Visitors to the winery also have the option of staying in the luxurious rooms that are a part of its on-site lodging facility. "Casa de Loco was born out of a love of wine and a love of people," said owner Larry Owens. "This winery has all of the above — nature gave us a great spot and history gave us a great story. We only came along and provided the rest." History, lodging, food and charm are important, but wine is the most important reason to visit a winery. Casa de Loco is aware of this and offers 13 varieties of wine and spirits, including the popular Group Therapy Champagne, the Call Me a Cab Cabernet, Bella Dolce, Casa Cooler and Kone Port. Casa de Loco Winery is open daily, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. To find out more about Casa de Loco Winery, call 573-377-4269 or go online at [CasaDeLocoWinery.com](http://CasaDeLocoWinery.com).

### **Grey Bear Winery and Vineyard**

The first thing that greets guests to the Grey Bear Vineyard and Winery in Stover is the uncommon deltec design of the winery and the bold, backwoods feel of the surrounding area. The deltec (a building designed with round open spaces) design of the winery is a distinct feature, but isn't the only fun attribute of the Stover, Mo., winery and vineyard. Grey Bear's rugged Southwest theme pulls the visitor in to a cozy space in which to enjoy all 15 of the vineyard's wines. Among the most popular are Chicks & Tiggers (a soft sweet blush), Pride of the Osage (a chocolate cherry cabernet), Trail of Tears (a semi-sweet Norton) and Bear Claw (a dry, chocolate cabernet). The Black Canyon Ale House Brewery & Restaurant also is located over the winery, providing great food and microbrews complete with a 360-degree view of the picturesque vineyard. For the outdoorsman, Grey Bear also offers a 150-acre ranch area available for hunting and fishing rentals. This ranch, complete with two rustic cabins for rent, has roughly 120 acres of woodlands. The land has turkey tracks and whitetail antler sheds galore, so it's the ideal spot for a hunter's weekend getaway. The winery is open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday from noon-4 p.m. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday visits to Grey Bear are scheduled by appointment only. For more information about Grey Bear, call 573-377-4269 or visit [GreyBearVineyards.com](http://GreyBearVineyards.com).

### **Eichenberg Winery**

Family and old German traditions are an important part of the Eichenberg Winery's legacy. Winery owner Roger Luetjen's fond memories of spending summers at his grandparent's vineyard led him to build the Eichenberg Winery in Cole Camp when he became a grandfather. Eichenberg Winery was the site of a blacksmith shop in the early 1900s, which is appropriate because Luetjen forged his business with family love, care and a small-town sensibility. This shows in a family portrait that warmly welcomes patrons to the wine-tasting bar. "This winery has a home-town feeling to it," said Luetjen. "It's easy-going, laid-back and a lot of fun to stop in and visit. The atmosphere and the people are very welcoming. It's very German and family-oriented here at Eichenberg and that shows in everything we do." The German family heritage especially shines through in three acres of German-style grapes, the basis of Eichenberg's wine selection. The selection includes nine wines, including Norton (a full-bodied red), Weiswein (a medium-bodied white), Seyval (a light semi-sweet white), Rosawein (a sweet blush) and Liebersaft (a light sweet white).

The Eichenberg Winery is open Friday from 3:30 p.m.-7 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m.-5 p.m. For more information about Eichenberg Winery, call 660-668-3511 or visit [EichenbergWinery.com](http://EichenbergWinery.com). Many lake-area hotels and resorts have "Sip and Stay" winery packages available, allowing visitors to combine great wine with an equally wonderful lodging experience. For more about wine tastings, lodging, dining, shopping, events and attractions throughout the Lake area, contact the Lake of the Ozarks Convention & Visitor Bureau at 800-FUN-LAKE (386-5253) or visit the Lake of the Ozarks Convention & Visitor Bureau's website, [FunLake.com](http://FunLake.com).

Editor's note: The Lake Sun urges day trippers to travel with a designated driver when traveling to and from multiple wineries. Please drink responsibly. May 21, 2011. [lakenewsonline.com](http://lakenewsonline.com)