

DISABLED CITIZENS ALLIANCE FOR INDEPENDENCE

SPRING / SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2022

Serving Crawford, Dent, Iron, Reynolds and Washington Counties



SPRING 2022

My hope is that this article finds you and your families all doing well. We all have had a rough couple of years with COVID, inflation and cost of living increasing, and isolation in an effort to stay healthy. I am so thankful to have a job and a farm that has kept me busy. Rita has lived with us out on the farm 17 months now. She has adjusted well and loves her home known as the Bunk House. She is ready for the warmer weather so she can get to all of her favorite eating establishments. She is always ready to go somewhere to eat and socialize with everyone.

Spring is always an exciting time on the farm. This year is no different. We have had 13 calves and 7 kittens born in March and April. I am very thankful for all the healthy calves and the 7 kittens were a total surprise. I know all the children that come to the farm are most excited about the kittens. These next few months, we will be working on getting some cats fixed. The problem is every time we get our cats fixed someone drops more cats off at our house. I guess the positive is that we don't have mice or snakes. Cat food keeps increasing my monthly feed bill. But it is okay because Rita loves those cats and just tolerates the cows. I don't believe I will ever make her a cowhand. Mom always said that she is a city girl!

Things at work have been very challenging with all the political changes, the costs of operating a business increasing, and the struggles of finding individuals that want to go to work. I personally have found it difficult to hire help for the farm. We have had to make adjustments in the way that we get our work done. I am praying that things will calm down and get back to the way it was several years ago. Our country needs individuals getting back to work.

Well today is a special day for me. My jogging log now reflects that I have ran 111,111 miles. This number doesn't come by accident. I knew that this will be the only time in my life that I have six numbers all the same in my running totals. It is hard to believe that I started running 44 years ago. I am so thankful that my good friend, Gary Comstock, talked me into running with him. I must be honest that it is at a slower pace and not near as easy to run now days. My fall last September has made it a little harder to do this daily. My running pace is slow and slower each year but I am going to continue as long as the Good

May is the start of my seventh year of raising cattle. Farming has always been in my blood. My family heritage has had many farmers in it. Many of you ask me why I want to raise cattle and live on a farm at my age. My answer includes the fact that I always wanted to do this and didn't have the opportunity until I moved to Viburnum. Losing my eye sight also has been a major factor. First of all, I was told that a blind man has no business raising cattle and that I wouldn't be able to take care of them after I got them. Well I have proved them wrong. I need help from time to time but so do other farmers. Anyone that has seen my cattle know they are taken good care of.

There will come a day that I stop working at DCAI. I am planning on working several more years so don't throw the party yet. Losing my eye sight has limited my ability to travel or go places on my own. This fact doesn't stress me because I will have my farm, cattle, cats, and Rita to take care of. I have never been a person to just sit around and do nothing. I love being outside in the fresh air and keeping busy. If I get bored I just walk to the fence and the cows come to me. Several of the cats go with me when I am feeding the cows or working outside. They feel like they need to supervise what I am doing. The cats love to go out in the pasture so the calves will lick and chase them. I love this! There is always something that makes me smile and appreciate where I am.

I have had a great life and been able to experience more than most. I contribute my success to my faith, the way I was brought up, my family, friends, and the people that I have worked with. I learned at a young age most of your success comes from the company you keep. I have always been surrounded by individuals with great talent. I want to thank you all for your love, friendship, and help along the way. I still need your help so don't stop now, it is always appreciated.

I must say that my priorities have changed the last several years. I have come to appreciate the simpler things in life. I no longer think about advancing my career, recognition, or becoming important. When I think back, I wonder why it was so important for me to take all the courses, get the educational degrees, and advance upward in a company. Don't get me wrong, I realize without that personal drive, I might not have ended up in Viburnum working for DCAI. All the experience and steps in my life have brought me to the place I am now. I am the happiest that I have ever been. I miss my family and friends daily but realize that they are looking for the peaceful life like I am. I hope you find it like I have!

First of all, there is nothing wrong about wanting to advance your career or pursuing additional education. The main thing is that you never lose sight of who you are. Each of us was raised with personal values and beliefs that have been passed on to us by our parents, family, and friends. By advancing with your company or taking another position that utilizes your talents gives you an opportunity to make a difference with your life. Success is achieved through hard work and working with others. Very little is accomplished by being focused on our own selfish desires.

We need to continue to experience spring time in our mind, heart, and spirit. The opportunity to grow and learn something new should be exciting for us. Many of us tell ourselves that we are too old to change. I encourage each of you to pursue the things that you dream of. Learning to live your dreams will bring you extreme joy and happiness. My personal goal is to always live in the mode of spring time. Won't you join me!

I hope my articles and writing bring you a touch of joy. The main purpose of my articles are to encourage all of you to find happiness and joy in everything that you do. Please don't take your life for granted. We are here on earth to make a difference and help others that are less fortunate than we are. I pray that I have been able to touch your life as you have mine.

We all don't know how many more years and springs we will have. I must stress the importance of you taking the time to enjoy this one. Get outside and breathe the fresh air, hear the birds singing, smell the flowers and the new growth of spring, and watch the newly born animals running and playing. Just picture my young calves chasing and playing with my cats. Now doesn't that bring a smile to your face.

Please renew your desire to learn something new. Spring time can be daily in our mind, heart, and spirit. Please don't limit your joy and happiness. Let's make spring of 2022 a time we will never forget!

Dr. Dennis W. Atkins

May 2022



"Keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground."



EXPERTS OF CDS, IN HOME, ISS, & VETERAN SERVICES

We care about you.
Being the best, for the best.

DCAI & FOUNDATION OFFICE

Viburnum, MO

573-244-5402 | 866-844-3316
dcai.us

Effective October 1, 2022
Paying your
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to \$15/hr

Serving: Crawford, Dent, Franklin, Iron, Jefferson, Madison, Phelps,
Reynolds, Shannon, St. Francois, Texas, Washington, & Wayne counties

HUNTER MOORE

ATTENDING ONE OF THE NATIONS TOP FIVE TECHNICAL COLLEGES

Today is moving day for Hunter Moore! Hunter is a 2022 graduate of Iron County C-4 High School. He will be attending State Tech in Linn, Missouri. State Tech is a hands-on learning Technical College that is known for being “the employer’s choice.” It ranks in the top five technical colleges across the nation. DCAI proudly presented Hunter with a \$2,000 housing grant. We are extremely proud of Hunter and wish him the best of luck.



Meet the CDS Supervisors



(Left) Stephanie Warden has been working for DCAI since 2011. She has always been a strong advocate for people and has worked in CDS since her employment began. Her favorite thing about her position is helping people. Outside of DCAI, Stephanie can be found reading and spending time with her family.

(Right) Autumn Hutchens has been working for DCAI since 2007. She has worked in different positions in the organization but her heart belongs to CDS. Her favorite thing about her position is serving and caring for people. Outside of DCAI, Autumn enjoys camping, spending time with her family and drinking lots of coffee!



ARE YOU READY TO VOTE?

- ✓ Register
- ✓ Photo ID
- ✓ Vote



Beginning with the **November** election, everyone wishing to vote in Missouri will be required to show photo identification (ID). A voter must have one of the following:

- a nonexpired Missouri driver's license
- a nonexpired or nonexpiring Missouri nondriver's license
- a photo ID issued by the Missouri National Guard, United States Armed Forces, or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
- a document that meets specific requirements as written in state statute.

Individuals who do not have one of the above forms of identification can obtain a **FREE** nondrivers ID at any local Missouri Department of Revenue (DOR)

For your convenience, Viburnum License Office is located right inside the DCAI building. Office hours are 8:30am – 4pm, closed 12:30-1pm for lunch.

To obtain your free non-driver's ID bring any form of documentation with your current address to the DOR. **You must state you want the free ID.** It will not be asked. DOR will only provide one free ID to those obtaining it for the first time in order to vote.

If you do not have a certified birth certificate, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Bureau of Vital Records can provide a **FREE** copy of a certified Missouri birth certificate. For more information or to request a birth certificate, call (573) 751-6387 or email VitalRecordsInfo@health.mo.gov.

If you are not registered to vote, contact DCAI for assistance or go to <https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/register> for more information and to register.

DCAI encourages all people with disabilities to register to vote and obtain a photo ID, who may not already have one, to allow your voice to be heard in the upcoming local, state, and national elections.

Last day to register to vote in the November election is October 12th.





Wolfner Library Services Overview

The Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library is a division of the National Library Service for the Blind (NLS).

Wolfner Library provides informational and recreational materials in audio, braille, and large-print formats free of charge to Missourians who are unable to use standard-print materials due to blindness, visual or physical impairment, or a reading disability.



Audiobooks and magazines play on a digital talking-book player provided to the patron by the library. All library materials are mailed to and from the patron's home address free of charge through the U.S. Postal Service.

General Services

- Reader Advisory Assistance
- Audiobooks and Player
- Braille and Large-Print Books
- Reference Services
- Quarterly Newsletters
- Audio and Braille Digital Downloads



Adult Programming

- Book Clubs
- Workshops
- Speakers and Programs
- Summer & Winter Reading Programs



Youth Programming

- Virtual Story times and Podcasts
- Online Crafts and Podcasts
- Mail-and-Make Program
- Early Literacy Program
- Youth Summer Reading

NFB-NEWSLINE® Wolfner Library facilitates access to an audio service which includes newspapers and magazines from across the United States as well as some international publications.



Contact Us

Wolfner Library PO Box 387 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0387

(800) 392-2614 Toll-free in Missouri (573) 751-8720 Outside of Missouri

Email: wolfner@sos.mo.gov

Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Closed on weekend and holidays



Missouri Secretary of State
Wolfner Library



INSTITUTE of
Museum and Library
SERVICES

Bard Services

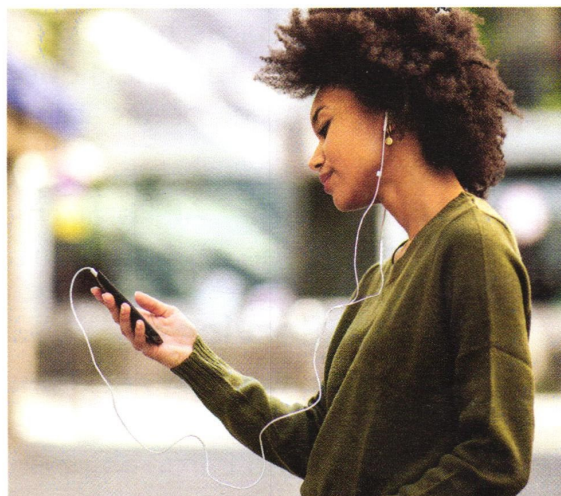


What is BARD?

BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) is a web based service provided by the National Library Service (NLS) that allows users to download audio and/or braille materials.

Authorized users can download audio books and magazines to a personal smart device or phone using the BARD mobile app. They may also download via the internet to a USB device to be played in a digital talking-book player provided by the library, a refreshable braille display, or an authorized third-party reader such as a Victor Reader Stream®.

All Wolfner patrons are eligible to use BARD!
Simply contact the library to sign up for the service.



Available for Download

- 100,000 Audio and Braille Books
- Audio and Braille Magazines
- Braille Musical Scores

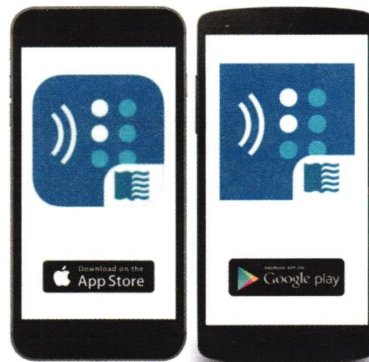
BARD Express

BARD Express software expedites downloading books via the BARD website from a Windows PC to a USB device or refreshable braille display. Users can download the free software from the BARD main page under "Additional Links".

BARD Mobile App

The BARD Mobile app is available for the following smart devices, and allows you to download straight onto your device:

- iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch
- Android smartphones and tablets
- Braille Musical Scores



2022 Edition

2022 Pre-Employment Transition Services

In June, the DCAI Education Department held our annual Pre-Employment Transition Camp. We had 4 students participate this year and were able to provide them with some of the necessary skills to better prepare them for the future.



During this week of camp the students had multiple opportunities to experience things such as; shopping for interview attire, experience job shadowing around the community, budgeting and shopping to create a meal, voluntary clean-up and restoration of Dillard Mill, and preparing for their futures with a college tour.

It was a joy to get to spend this week with the students, watching as they learned and experienced what the future can hold.



We are excited to see what next year brings!



If you would like to know more about DCAI Pre-Employment Transition Services, please contact Ashley Hampton at (573) 244-3038 Ext. 244.



DCAI PEER SUPPORT GROUPS

There is no cost to attend.

Are you interested in making friends and would like to learn more about certain health issues that you or a family member are going through? If so you are invited to attend a Support Group that might be near you. We offer support groups in the following locations, dates and times:

1st Wednesday of the month — Viburnum DCAI Office at 1:00 pm

2nd Wednesday of the month — Potosi Library Basement at 12:30 pm

3rd Wednesday of the month — Salem DCAI Apartments at 1:30 pm

4th Wednesday of the Month — Steelville Telephone office at 12:00 pm

Come and join us and make new friendships that will last a lifetime. We offer encouragement and support to see us through some of the most difficult times in our lives. We share our thoughts, challenges and successes with one another to build and uplift as a network of friends. We have also added BINGO on a 3rd month rotation for a more light and fun activity. I'm sure you have a story to tell and "Everyone is Welcome"!!

If you have any questions or information please contact Debbie Pryor at 1-888-450-5288—Extension 118.



CONGRATULATIONS Tristan, Bailey and Trinity!!!!

Tristan Beck (pictured) has been working with the DCAI Education Department since 2011. He obtained his High School diploma in May 2022. His plans are to attend college in May, 2023 and pursue a career as a radiologist. He currently works at Glik's, Auto Zone, and through DCAI CDS services as an attendant.

DCAI's Education Department has also assisted two young ladies, Trinity Belden and Bailey Stulce, in obtaining their Hi-Set (Equivalent to High School Diploma) this summer. These ladies put in the work and are now able to move on to their college careers. Congratulations, Tristan, Bailey and Trinity! We are proud of you and all your accomplishments!

DCAI ATTENDS THE WASHINGTON COUNTY HEALTH FAIR

On Saturday, September 10, 2022, CDS Director, Angie Jimmerson and CDS Supervisor, Stephanie Warden participated on behalf of DCAI in the Washington County Health Fair in Potosi. The Health Fair combines free services and a wealth of knowledge and information free for all to attend.



(L) Winner of the Fire Pit donated by DCAI, is Emily Looney, along with her sister, Bethany.

(R) Presenting Emily with her prize is Stephanie Warden and Angie Jimmerson.

Congratulations Emily!!



P.O. Box 706; Viburnum, Mo 65566

Phone: 573-244-5510, Fax: 573-244-5512

Toll Free: 1-855-391-4488

****Weekend & Holiday Differential****

DCAI Foundation is accepting applications for Part-Time In-Home and Individualized Support Service Care Aides in Washington, Dent, Reynolds, Iron, Crawford and St. Francois counties.

Must be at least 18 years of age;

Be able to read, write and follow directions; AND

Have at least six (6) months paid experience as an agency homemaker OR at least one year paid or unpaid experience caring for children or for sick or aged individuals.

Pre-employment background screening performed. Qualified applicants may call or complete an application at the office or visit our website at www.dcai.us or find us on Facebook!.