

## Joyce Christopher



On December 1, 2011, Joyce Christopher was promoted to the Counselor IV level with the Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Mrs. Christopher is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. She recently achieved Counselor IV distinction. The qualifications required included: a Master's degree, at least 12 years of experience, and successful (or higher) performance ratings. Additionally, verification of at least seven of 12 work-related leadership activities had to be submitted to the Central Office Review Committee. Mrs. Christopher has also recently received the Mission Champion Award. She has been with the agency since August 1993, and she serves Howell and Ozark Counties. Pictured with Mrs. Christopher is her Regional Manager, Scott Mantooh.

**If you are interested in receiving important information regarding disability issues from Jefferson City, MO, or Washington, D.C., please provide OIL with your email address. Our office will place your email address on a list to receive immediate news regarding legislative disability issues. Please contact Kathy Harrington: 256-8714 or 1-888-440-7500 or email: ozark@townsqr.com**

## Humanitarian Award



Ozark Independent Living (OIL) is very proud to announce Joe W. Davis as the inaugural recipient of the Humanitarian Award. On December 16, 2011, OIL Executive Director Cindy Moore, on behalf of the OIL Board of Directors, presented Mr. Davis with a Proclamation of Honor and an award.

After graduating from West Plains High School, Mr. Davis earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Special Education and a Specialist Degree in Mental Health. This was just the beginning of many years of dedication toward helping the disabled community. Since then, Mr. Davis has been impressively active in community affairs, having held membership and officer positions in an extensive list of local organizations.

In 2006, Joe Davis developed the concept for Students Working At Transition (SWAT), an organization that assists developmentally disabled students to function successfully in the workplace and in society. Mr. Davis continues to facilitate the growth and development of this group.

Joe Davis has envisioned a business concept that, if established, will enable developmentally disabled persons to learn skills and pursue competitive employment integrated within the community. Mr. Davis was honored as the recipient of this award because of his sustained actions over a period of many years; all the while promoting worth of disabled persons and improving their dignity, respect and potential.

NOTE: Our publication reaches a combination of 800+ businesses and individuals each month. If you want to contribute to OIL's cause, the purchase of space for a memorial, special occasion or an ad is available. \$20 for 1/8 page, \$30 for 1/4 page, \$50 for 1/2 page, \$75 for a full page. All contributions will be utilized in our service area.



## More From Moore

The **budget process** is in full swing at our state capitol and this office is attempting to follow the information for you as best we can. March 2, 2012

there is a Missouri State Budget Forum being offered in St. Louis. Several staff individuals are planning on attending; it is sponsored through the Nonprofit Services Center or NSC.

Recently I attended the **State Independent Living Council**. This organization meets quarterly, usually in Jefferson City. However, the next meeting will be in Joplin during the anniversary of last year's tornado destruction. Many activities are planned and I am hoping to not only view the area hit by the tornado, but learn more about how the town has bounced back, best practices of emergency responses that were put into place, and how the town now plans for any future emergencies.

Remember that this fall is a presidential election. If you have not **registered to vote** please consider doing so. Our office has newly printed brochures on the **permanently disabled voting option**. Anyone finding it too difficult to get out and vote can be placed on this roll to always have your ballot mailed to you. Please consider doing this!

As always, this is your Center for Independent Living. Call or come by with any concern you might have.

Regards,  
Cindy

## MSU-WP Trivia Night



Thirty-seven teams of area trivia buffs competed in the ninth annual Grizzly Basketball Trivia Night January 28 at the West Plains Civic Center. The fundraising event, hosted by the MSU-WP Grizzly Basketball team and the West Plains Civic Center, raised \$8,047 for the basketball program. This year's champion was the team from Ozark Independent Living in West Plains. Members included, front row from left: David Dunlap, Cindy Moore, Anniece Moss and Sky Laverentz. Back row: Reid Grigsby, Ron Adkisson, Clifford Moss and Danny James.



## Nurse Birdsong Notes Spring Activities



When springtime comes, it isn't just the young who get spring fever. It is also the elderly who can be just as young at heart. Warmth, sunshine and the amazing scents that we all enjoy are also enjoyed by the elderly. Gardening is a classic way to enjoy nature. It can be a perfect way to participate in a fun, productive outdoor activity, either with friends or alone. Take the time to observe nature and try to capture its beauty by planting flowers or painting a picture. So as springtime approaches, encourage activities that will bring out the best in you, your friends and loved ones. Until next time, enjoy the springtime!

Vicky Birdsong, RN

## Donation to Cystic Fibrosis Benefit Music Show



Ozark Independent Living (OIL) has purchased and donated 50 tickets to Newton's Group Homes and Let's Go Activity Center in West Plains for the John Anderson concert at the 24th annual Cystic fibrosis Benefit Music Show set for March 17 at the West Plains Civic Center Arena. OIL Marketing/Public Relations Specialist Kathy Harrington presented some tickets to Jimmy Miller, a representative of the facilities for individuals with disabilities. The concert is sponsored by Cystic Fibrosis West Plains and K-Kountry 95. The doors will open at 6 p.m. with a silent auction, plus a live auction with auctioneer Billy Sexton. Jessica's Friends, a group of area youth, will present a program of song and dance. Advance tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and younger. At the door they will be \$20 and \$6, respectively.

## Disabled Voters Testing iPads

Recently some Oregon voters used iPads to mark their ballots in a special election. The devices, using software created by Everyone Counts, aid people with conditions such as arthritis or impaired vision. They did not actually cast their votes online with the iPads, but they did fill out the ballots which were then printed out and mailed in or dropped off at the election stations. All U.S. election jurisdictions must have accessible equipment for voters with disabilities, but each state has a different approval process for new devices. Darren Burton, a technology expert at the American Foundation for the Blind, is enthusiastic: "The iPad has built-in access features that allow those of us who are blind or with low vision to use them without the assistance of others."

Resource: AARP Magazine

## Social Calendar

**Mar. 3: Hamlet vs. Zombies** will be presented by Alley Way Productions and The Skinny Improv at the WP Civic Center at 7 p.m. Admission is \$8 or free with a BearPass ID. This event is rated PG-13 for implied violence. For details call 255-7966.

**Mar. 3-4:** The **20th Annual Home and Garden Show** will be held at the WP Civic Center. For more information contact Amanda Niemotka at the Southern Missouri Home Builders Association, 256-2422.

**March 10:** (9 a.m.-3 p.m.): The **Home Accent Extravaganza** will be held in the East Entrance of The WP Civic Center and feature business opportunities for those interested in direct sell companies. For details, contact Stacey Nolan at 417-372-2732.

**Mar. 10:** The **Acoustic Concert Series** at the Avenue Theatre continues with **Eddie & Martha Adcock** and **Scott Shipley & The Model Prisoners**. Concert begins at 7 p.m. All tickets are \$10 and may be purchased in advance from WP Music Store (800-283-9430) or the Avenue Theatre (256-4420).

**Mar. 12:** The WP Community Band, under the direction of Rocky Long, will host a special **St. Patrick's Day concert** at 7 p.m. at the WP Civic Center. Admission is free. For details call 255-7966.

**Mar. 14:** WP R-7 Coffee Talk will host Dr. Julie Thompson and Brenda Bell as they discuss **"The Benefits of Pre-K & Early childhood Education."** The event will be held in the board room at 613 W. 1st Street from 8:30-9:30. For details, call 256-6155.

**Mar. 16:** The 2nd Annual **Celtic Variety Show** featuring local talent will be held at the Avenue Theatre with Pam Burnside organizing dancers and Jem Duffin gathering other talent. Those interested in participating in the show should contact Jem at 293-2216 or jduffin@centurytel.net.

**Mar. 17:** The Cystic Fibrosis Benefit Concert presents **"John Anderson"** at 6:30 p.m. in the WP Civic Center Arena.

**Mar. 31:** The WP Artist Guild will accept entries to the **Art of the Ozarks Competition** from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For details, contact Charlene at 417-274-9735 or Gladys Morris at 255-0920.

**Apr. 3-21:** The **Art of the Ozarks Competition**, sponsored by the West Plains Artist Guild, will be on display at the Harlin Museum during regular business hours of noon-4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. A reception will be held at 2 p.m. on April 21.

**Apr. 6:** The **OMC Easter Egg Hunt** will be held from 10 a.m.-noon at the Civic Center.

**Apr. 12-14** (7 p.m.) & **Apr. 15** (3 p.m.): WPHS Zizzer Theatre, under the direction of Greg Carter, will present **"Beverly Hillbillies"** at the Avenue Theatre. Details TBA.

**Apr. 20:** The **7th Annual Foster Children Benefit** sponsored by the 37th Judicial Circuit-Juvenile Division will be held from 5-7 p.m. at the WP Civic Center. It will include a chili supper, auctions, and door prizes. Chili supper tickets are \$5 per adult or \$3 per child. Contact Judy Hansmann at 256-2432.

**Apr. 20-30:** **"Art Around Town"** exhibit will be displayed on the Mezzanine Gallery of the WP Civic Center during regular business hours.

**Apr. 21:** **"Ozark Mountain Daredevils 40th Anniversary Tour,"** with special guests Big Smith and Liz Moriondo, will be in the WP Civic Center Arena at 7 p.m.

**Apr. 28:** The **"Mountain Home Symphony"** will be in concert at the WP Civic Center. General admission is \$8. Admission is free for ages 13 and under and those with a BearPass ID.

**Apr. 28:** **Bikers United** will hold a fundraiser for the **Animal Shelter** at the WP Civic Center from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. There will be a K-9 demonstration, raffles, bake sales, rummage sale, and "adopt a pet" opportunities. Contact carbon48855@aol.com for more details.

The calendar is posted by Downtown Antiques at:

<http://www.dtantiques.com/calendar>

You can find a complete list of local events at this address.

## Court Square Medical Services

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Becky Gann, CphT/Manager  
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417-683-2011

## Voting Information

### Election Registration Dates:

- March 7 is the last day to register to vote in the April 3 election.
- July 11 is the last day to register to vote in the August 7 election.
- October 10 is the last day to register in the November 6 election.

**Permanent Absentee Voting:** If you have a permanent physical disability, you may request to be placed on a designated list so that your local election authority can automatically mail an absentee ballot application directly to you prior to each election. You will need to make this request directly to your local election authority who will send you further information. If you are interested in being placed on the permanent absentee voting list, please contact the County Clerk in your area. Contact information is listed below.

<b>Douglas County</b> – Karry Davis .....	<b>417-683-4714</b>
<b>Howell County</b> – Dennis VonAllmen .....	<b>417-256-2591</b>
<b>Oregon County</b> – Tracy Bridges .....	<b>417-778-7475</b>
<b>Ozark County</b> – Lisa Hawkins .....	<b>417-679-3516</b>
<b>Shannon County</b> – Shelly McAfee .....	<b>573-226-3414</b>
<b>Texas County</b> – Don Troutman .....	<b>417-967-2112</b>
<b>Wright County</b> – Nelda Masner .....	<b>417-741-6661</b>

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

Enthusiasm and persistence can make an average person superior; indifference and lethargy can make a superior person average.

*William Arthur Ward*

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**KATHY HARRINGTON - EDITOR**

If you would like to add additional names or remove your name from this mailing list please call: 256-8714 or 1-888-440-7500.

**YES !! Please contact me at the following address and phone:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please contact the following friend(s) with O.I.L. information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Information can be sent anywhere, but OIL's service area includes the seven counties of Douglas, Howell, Oregon, Ozark, Shannon, Texas, and Wright - there are other Independent Living Centers throughout the state.)

**The GUSHER can be formatted to fit your need. It is available in three formats: standard print, large print, and cassette tape. You may pick it up at our office location or have us mail it to you. If there is a specific format you want please feel free to contact us at 1-888-440-7500; or just e-mail us a message at: ozark@townsqr.com.**

**CLIP & SAVE**

**IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

Alzheimer's Association  
**800-272-3900**

American Heart Association  
**800-439-2648**

The Americans with Disabilities Act  
**800-949-4232**

Bureau of Deaf Services  
**573-751-0768 (Voice)**  
**573-526-1068 (TTY)**

Elderly Abuse and Neglect Hotline  
**800-392-0210**

Equal Employment  
Opportunity Commission  
**800-669-3362**

Life Care Planning, Inc.  
**816-931-1313**

Missouri Council of the Blind  
**800-342-5632**

National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
**800-344-4867**

Spinal Cord Injury Information Center  
**800-354-7342**

Traumatic Brain Injury Resource Line  
**800-444-6443**