

ADAIR COUNTY



APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

BILL "BEEF" SWEITZER 4/06 DEPUTY
JAMES KEIM 4/21 ROAD/BRIDGE
CHRISTINA PIPES 4/25 CLERKS OFFICE

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

WILLIAM LYONS 2 YRS JAMES KEIM 4 YRS
JEFF WADDLE 4 YRS JOHNNY GUNNELS 6 YRS
BILL SWEITZER 9 YRS ROBERT MCCARTY 12 YRS
PAM ASHFORD 14 YRS JASON LENE 29 YRS
LONNIE HARRIS 35 YRS RANDY SNYDER 46 YRS

ROSE DUNN 8 YEARS

Rose is now vested in both *LAGERS* (5 years) and *CERF* (8 years). So, when she retires, and meets the age requirements, she will receive a monthly pension payment from both. Congrats ROSE!!

APRIL DATES

April 3, Good Friday

April 5, Easter Sunday

April 15, Tax Day

The Spring of 1973 was my family's first spring in Missouri. We moved here from Iowa in the fall of 1972. I remember going out and playing during the Blizzard. The wind was so strong you had to lean into it to walk, and the snow would sting as it hit your face. We laughed about it. Our car was also buried under a drift. Can you imagine parents allowing their 8-year-old out in a storm like that today? Along with the Blizzard that spring were multiple storms and Tornado Warnings. We really wondered if we had moved to "Tornado Alley".

The Blizzard of April 1973 was a historic, late-season winter storm that severely impacted Kirksville and Adair County, Missouri, starting around April 8-9, 1973. It is often remembered as one of the most severe and unexpected blizzards in the region's history, dumping heavy snow on top of already wet conditions and causing significant agricultural and travel disruption.

Storm Details & Impacts in Kirksville/Adair County:

- **Timing:** The storm began late on Sunday, April 8, 1973, with peak intensity on Monday, April 9, lasting into April 10.
- **Snowfall and Wind:** Nearly a foot of snow (approximately 10 to 12 inches) fell in the immediate area, though high winds (up to 73 mph reported in the wider region) created massive drifts, making many roads impassable.
- **Agricultural Devastation:** The timing was disastrous for local farmers, as it occurred during the height of calving and lambing season.
 - **Livestock Losses:** Local agricultural officials reported high death rates for cattle, calves, and pigs, with some farmers losing over 30 head of cattle.
 - **Turkey Losses:** An estimated 12,000 four-pound turkeys were killed in the surrounding area.
- **Infrastructure and Daily Life:**
 - **Travel Shutdown:** Snow and deep drifts crippled travel, with many abandoned vehicles covered in snow.
 - **Milk Spoilage:** Thousands of gallons of milk were lost because trucks could not make their routes, and some farmers could not reach their herds.

- **Power and Communication:** The storm caused severe damage to utility services, similar to other areas in the region.

Regional Context:

The heavy, wet snow followed a period of wet weather, which led to significant flooding in the area after the snow melted.



MEDICARE FACTS THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.

Medicare is a federal health insurance program for individuals 65+ and certain younger people with disabilities, covering roughly 68 million beneficiaries. It consists of Part A (hospital), Part B (doctors/outpatient), Part C (private Medicare Advantage plans), and Part D (drug coverage). People can choose between Original Medicare (A & B) or private Medicare Advantage plans. There is also a Part G now which covers everything that Medicare does not cover completely. You will need to talk to a Medicare specialist for more details on this.

Key Medicare Facts:

- **Eligibility & Enrollment:** Most people are eligible at 65, but must enroll during a seven-month initial period (3 months before to 3 months after turning 65) to avoid penalties, unless they have active employer coverage.
- **Original Medicare:** Managed by the federal government. Part A is generally free if you paid taxes, while Part B requires a monthly premium, an annual deductible, and typically 20% coinsurance.
- **Medicare Advantage (Part C):** Private plans that bundle Parts A, B, and usually D. These plans often have provider networks and may have lower out-of-pocket costs but require using specific doctors.
- **Medigap:** Medicare Supplement Insurance policies help pay some costs Original Medicare doesn't, such as copayments and deductibles.
- **New Cards:** Medicare cards use randomly generated numbers rather than Social Security numbers to protect against identity theft.
- **Costs:** Late enrollment in Part B or Part D can lead to permanent premium penalties.

- **Where to Get Information:** The official website is [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov), or you can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

I decided to include this information since I have been asked questions about early retirement, age 62, concerning Social Security. You can retire at 62 and receive a reduced benefit BUT you will not qualify for Medicare. This means you will have to buy Health Insurance on the Open Market, or get it through your working spouse, until you reach age 65.

You will need to carefully look at your finances before deciding to retire early so you are not left without Health Insurance or put in a financial bind.