FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Local content
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Extension Council Nominees Announced

Elections for representatives to serve on the University of Missouri Extension Council will be held February 2-8, 2016. Any county resident over the age of 18 is eligible to vote in the election. There are nine nominees running for six seats on the Council.

County Extension councils, in accordance with state law, work with University of Missouri Extension faculty and staff in planning and carrying out local Extension programs. The Council has three primary responsibilities: assist in planning and carrying out extension programs in their county; oversee the finances; and recruiting and training Council members.

University of Missouri Extension provides research-based educational programs, assistance and resources that address subjects of interest to Missourians in the fields of agriculture, horticulture, business development, community development, and youth development (4-H).

The Ste. Genevieve County Extension Council is comprised of 10 elected county representatives and five appointed positions. Terms are for two years, a person may be re-elected once, after which they must be off the Council for at least one year before being elected again.

GINA BENNETT received a Bachelor’s in Physical Therapy from Maryville University. She has worked as a physical therapist in various places, also served as a wellness coordinator and primary caregiver/personal aide. She enjoys social media and providing others with local information on social media.

DEANNA CARTEE is a graduate of Farmington High School. Then she attended Mineral Area College for her general studies courses before transferring to Missouri State University and graduating with a degree in accounting. After that, she brewed beer for Charleville Vineyard before starting her position with MFA. She has a small herd of Simmental Cross cows, a few milk cows, and raises bottle calves.

MIKE KERTZ is a graduate of Valle High School. He is a member of the MFA board and Ste. Genevieve Knights of Columbus. He is a diversified farmer, raising hogs, cattle, row crops, and vegetables. He also has high tunnel for season extension growth of tomatoes and cucumbers.

DONALD NAEGER spent 4 years in the Navy after high school before working for 41 years for Union Pacific Railroad. He has been married for 43 years and has 2 children and 4 grandchildren. He is an active Master Gardener and a member of SS Philip & James Parish.

JODY ODEM graduated from Mascoutah High School then joined the Army where he served until 1992. He attended Mineral Area College and received 2 Associate of Applied Science Degrees. He is currently working for Piva Group as an IT/ERP Specialist. His hobbies include amateur radio, shooting, reloading, and computers.
OWEN ROTH is a graduate of Ste. Genevieve High School. In high school he was actively involved in sports, FFA and Dragon’s Lair Production Crew. After high school, he started working for Mississippi Lime. He is a member of the Ste. Genevieve Volunteer Fire Department and is working on completing his Firefighter I & II State Certification. After that, he plans to complete the Emergency Medical Technician class.

NICHOLAS ROZIER graduated from Valle High School and then received a BS in Computer Science and a Master’s in Business Administration from Southeast Missouri State University. He is employed by Travelers Insurance as a Senior Information Systems Consultant. He is involved in St. Agnes Parish and Bloomsdale Knights of Columbus. His hobbies include gardening, beekeeping, hunting, fishing, and woodworking.

JEAN WERNER has been a lifelong resident of Ste. Genevieve County, growing up on a farm just outside the city. She now lives on a small farm in Bloomsdale with her husband Tom. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. She went to Valle and then transferred to Ste. Genevieve High School her junior year. She works at MFA Oil and Propane. She is a member of St. Lawrence Parish and the president of Bloomsdale Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary.

MELISSA WESSELL received her Bachelor’s degree from Southeast Missouri State University and is an Advanced Candidate for National Board Certification in Exceptional Needs. She was an Exceptional Needs teacher for 35 years in MO, AZ, IL, and KY before retiring to Ste. Genevieve. Currently she tutors students in study skills and reading plus volunteering at a few local businesses. She was a member of the Community Choir during the Christmas season.

Beginning Tuesday, February 2, a ballot box for the Extension Council election will be available at the Extension Office. Ballots will be collected for one week, until Tuesday, February 8, 2016. Ste. Genevieve County residents may also choose to vote online by visiting: extension.missouri.edu/stegenevieve

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