LOCAL SCENE

MONDAY, FEB. 22
- Al-Anon, College United Methodist Church, Warrenton, 7 p.m.
- Wright City Lions Club, 678 Westwoods Road, Wright City, 7-10 p.m.
- Warren County Commission, administration building, 9 a.m.
- Alcoholic Anonymous Group 130 meeting, Fellowship Baptist Church, 8-9 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 23
- Virtual storytime for preschoolers, Warrenton Scenic Regional Library Facebook page, 10 a.m.
- Warren County Commission, administration building, 9 a.m.
- Wright City Chamber of Commerce meeting, Will Heiliger Activity Building, Wright City, 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24
- Virtual storytime for preschoolers, Wright City, Scenic Regional Library Facebook page, 10 a.m.
- WHS spring blood drive, Warrenton High School gym, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Truesdale Board of Aldermen, city hall, 5:30 p.m.
- Alcoholic Anonymous Group 130 meeting, Fellowship Baptist Church, 8-9 p.m.

"Wayfair bills," a reference to the 2018 U.S. Supreme Court case South Dakota v. Wayfair, which formally allowed state sales taxes to be applied to out-of-state online retailers. Missouri is one of only two states with sales taxes to not also have a Wayfair tax.

Committee Chairperson Sen. Andrew Koenig, R-Manchester, has been pushing for a Wayfair tax since the 2019 legislative session. Similar bills were again proposed during the 2020 session, which was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but they ultimately failed.

One of the main sticking points, especially for Republicans who control both the House and Senate, has been finding a balance where businesses are all taxed fairly but an increase in revenue does not lead to increased spending.

Koenig’s latest Wayfair bill would lower rates for individual income taxes, something the senator in 2019 called “the most destructive tax known to man.” While this is intended to make the program revenue neutral on its own, if there is any additional revenue, it would go into a new disaster increased revenue by putting in place an Earned Income Tax Credit. She said similar credits, which give tax breaks to low- to moderate-income workers, have proven to be the strongest incentive for low-income people to work and would be needed because of the pandemic and subsequent economic fallout.

"In a time when families are under distress, this would provide much needed relief," Arthur said.

A third bill was proposed by Sen. Denny Hoskins, R-Warrensburg. His bill would decrease the state sales tax over time in order to account for the new revenue coming in from businesses that previously had not been paying.

“My main goal is that our brick-and-mortar stores can compete with online businesses,” Hoskins said.

Multiple witnesses testified in support of all three bills.

The Ways and Means Committee also passed a bill on to the full Senate on Thursday. The bill, another proposed by Koenig, would allow for taxpayers to receive a tax credit if use of their property was limited by local restrictions, including those in place for COVID-19.

Applications open for Missouri Century Farms

If your farm has been in your family since Dec. 31, 1921, you can apply to have it recognized as a Missouri Century Farm.

University of Missouri Extension, the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, and Missouri Farm Bureau sponsor the program.

To qualify, the same family must have owned the farm for 100 consecutive years. The line of ownership from the original settler or buyer may be through children, grandchildren, siblings, and nephews or nieces, including through marriage or adoption. The farm must be at least 40 acres of the original land acquisition and make a financial contribution to the overall farm income.

“Family farms have been among our most vital partners since the founding of extension more than 100 years ago,” said MU Vice Chancellor for Extension and Engagement Marshall Stewart.

“The Century Farm program is one way we express our gratitude to those who have contributed so much to Missouri agriculture.”

Since the program began in 1976, more than 8,000 Missouri farms have received the Century Farm designation.

A $120 fee covers the cost of a certificate, farm sign and booklet for approved applicants. County MU Extension centers present these items.

Details and online application are at extension.missouri.edu/centuryfarm.

Deadline is May 1. You can also contact your local MU Extension center with questions.