

THE OZARK COUNTY Times

Photo courtesy Clarkson Construction

An unidentified car crosses the Cudworth Bridge on CC Highway shortly after it reopened Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 4. The photo was shared with the *Times* by Clarkson Construction of Kansas City, which was contracted June 29 by the Missouri Department of Transportation to replace bridges on CC and PP highways in eastern Ozark County that were washed away by late-April floods. The Cudworth Bridge over the North Fork of the White River was completed about three months after work began the first week in July. The contract was for \$2,797,915.

The James Bridge on PP Highway scheduled to reopen today

The newly rebuilt James Bridge over the North Fork of the White River on PP Highway near Dawt is expected to reopen today, Oct. 11, after being washed away in the historic, late-April floods that wreaked havoc throughout Ozark County.

A second destroyed-and-rebuilt bridge – on CC Highway over the North Fork at what is known locally as Hammond Camp – reopened Oct. 4. The reopening of James Bridge was delayed so that the huge sections of the old bridge that had landed on the nearby river bank could be removed, Robert Fry, Clarkson's general manager of operations, said Monday. Guardrails on the new bridge couldn't be installed until after those giant pieces of debris had been dragged out and hauled away. That work was expected to be finished Wednesday, and Fry said he expected the bridge to open to traffic "sometime Wednesday."

Work on both bridges began the first week in July after contracts were signed June 29 between the Missouri Department of Transportation and Kansas City-based Clarkson Construction. The James Bridge contract was for \$2,636,575,

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Dora-area residents delighted that CC Highway bridge is open again



Photo courtesy Marcie Roberts

Marcie Roberts took this photo Wednesday, Oct. 4, as she and her husband, Wes, drove across the newly reopened Irwin C. Cudworth Bridge on CC Highway southeast of Dora. They were the first vehicle to cross the bridge when it reopened after being closed since April 29-30 floods destroyed the previous bridge at that site over the North Fork of the White River near what is known locally as Hammond Camp.

By Sue Ann Jones

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They had errands to run, so Marcie and Wes Roberts drove the long way to West Plains from their home near the Dora School last Wednesday, Oct. 4. They had to take a round-about route – north on Highway 181, east on Highway 14 and then south on Highway 63 – because the direct route, CC Highway, was still closed at the North Fork of the White River, where the Irwin C. Cudworth Bridge had been washed away in the late-April floods.

But while Wes was getting his hair cut at Dora resident Jay Smith's barber shop in West Plains, Jay told him he'd heard the new bridge over the North Fork was "supposed to open by the time school was out that day," Marcie told the *Times* Monday.

They checked their watches and decided to take CC Highway home to Dora, crossing their fingers the bridge would be open by the time they got there. "We thought we had enough time, if the bridge was still closed, that we could go back and come around and still get to the school in time to pick up the kids," Marcie said, referring to their six children enrolled in Dora School.

They got to the area near the bridge about 2:30 p.m., "and the first sign was still up, but then we got to the next sign, and they were taking it down," she said. "We pulled up, and the construction foreman came up to us and said, 'You guys are the first to cross!' I think he was even more excited than we were. He was jumping up and down and waving his arms. He was so happy. He told us to be sure and take pictures and put it on Facebook."

Marcie recorded video on her smartphone as Wes slowly drove across the brand-new bridge. She posted it on her Facebook page and also shared it on the *Ozark County Times*

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More fall fun in the Ozarks



Music, fun and festivals amid beautiful autumn scenery



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Gainesville resident Rhonda Hardcastle and granddaughter Jade visited the McKenna Family Pumpkin Farm in Forsyth over the weekend.

By Jessi Dreckman, jessi@ozarkcountytimes.com

It's the time of year when pumpkins, apple cider and crisp, fall air set a tone of festivity in the Ozarks. Listed here are Halloween and fall events that residents can visit or attend this week. Watch the *Times* each week for an updated list of fall-related events. Those organizing a local fall or Halloween-themed event should contact Jessi Dreckman at jessi@ozarkcountytimes.com or 417-679-4641 to add the event to the listings.

This weekend

Apple Butter Making Days
Friday through Sunday, Mount Vernon

Apple Butter Making Days, celebrated on the square in Mount Vernon since 1967, will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday this year. The main attraction is the traditional craft of making apple butter using century-old methods in huge copper kettles, many over 100 years old, over open fires. The craft, demonstrated on the southeast corner of the square, begins before dawn each morning and continues throughout the day. Other traditional crafters will also be doing demonstrations

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Gainesville Classmates & Friends

COME HAVE LUNCH WITH US!

All Classes and Everyone Invited!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24 • 1 PM

Golden Corral • South Glenstone • Springfield, MO

For more info call 417-719-4508

