

Informal

News Beat

Turnout troubles for midterm elections

It's almost election time for everyone around the country. Every two years, the midterm election seems to come and go without much attention being paid to the issues and candidates.

With a country that seems to get more polarized between parties, the television campaign ads are more and more laughable. Some are downright embarrassing. The candidates or other groups that are responsible for some of these ads (statewide/national), should be confined in corners for timeouts. Quit campaigning like children. Now, I know most of these candidates will not read this because most are national, but some are here in Missouri, and I needed to get this off my chest. Recent ads are getting more annoying, just like the "elderly gentleman's pill" commercial during the Royals' games.

Historically, midterm elections don't see much participation, which may be a good thing for some of these candidates who have made fools of themselves over their past term. Combine this with no one willing to step up and challenge for their seats, and we get a government that is becoming less educated and more polarized with every election.

Now our local candidates seem to be more mature about the way they have handled their campaigns. Most are unopposed, but there is a race for Missouri's First District Representative between Allen Andrews and Robert Ritterbusch. This is to fill Mike Thomson's seat; Mike has reached his term limit.

I like Mike, even though he knew that I didn't agree with him on many issues and leaned left on most issues. He was, however, aware that I had jumped party lines to vote for him in the past. I will miss working with Mike as he was always a pleasure to deal with.

Mike believed that Missouri newspapers played an important role in keeping the government in check and informing the people on important issues. That is someone I can vote for.

In the current election campaign, Mr. Ritterbusch has placed a huge series of print ads with nearly all of the newspapers in the First District. He believes that print advertising is still a great way to inform voters. I have been paying attention to the information in his ads as he has tried to get his voice heard. I think that Mr. Ritterbusch has some very good ideas, and if he could get some colleagues on board in Jefferson City, some of them could make a positive impact in Missourians' lives. I hope that his advertising dollars were well spent and that the readers of the area's newspapers took the time to get educated on the candidates.

Mr. Andrews has also placed print ads with area newspapers, so I can't call him out. He had to use campaign funds during the primary election when he ran against three other candidates for the Republican nomination. Ritterbusch was unopposed in the primary for the Democratic nomination. I realize that this area votes mainly Republican, but I still think it could be a close race.

It's one thing to try to get your thoughts and stances on issues across to the voters, but it's another to try to smear your opposition. To Mr. Ritterbusch and Mr. Andrews, thank you for keeping your campaigns clean. You both can be proud of that, and the voters in this area appreciate it.

- Adam



The participants, guides and leaders of the Big Muddy Duck Hunt - Stand for a photo on Saturday, Oct. 18.

Big Muddy Duck Hunt welcomes 29 young hunters

The annual Big Muddy Duck Hunt, which took place on Saturday, Oct. 18, drew a crowd of young amateurs eager to learn the ins-and-outs of duck hunting.

"The 2014 Big Muddy Duck Hunt was a success in my eyes," Jade Wright, Missouri Department of Conservation agent, said. "The goal of the event is pretty simple: to give participants a positive hunting experience through hands-on education and a quality hunt. Judging by the smiles and the comments of the participants and adults, I'm sure we accomplished that."

The 29 participants — including seven from United Way's Big Brothers/Big Sisters in St. Joseph, Mo., and Kansas City, Mo. — moved between five education stations at Sportsman's Village in Bigelow, Mo. The hunters learned about duck identification and waterfowl regulations, duck calling and waterfowl management, preparing waterfowl for consumption, beginning shooting skills and intermediate shooting skills. Next, the participants went on a guided duck hunt in private duck clubs adjacent to Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge.

"I love seeing kids going from never shooting a shotgun to dropping birds on their hunt," one of the event observers said.

On the hunt, the participants, each of whom was led by a safety coach and guide and armed with a duck call, blind bag, insulated travel mug, ball cap, sock cap, T-shirt, commemorative coin, camouflage face mask and gloves and a duck carrier, harvested 37 ducks.

"After a long day with the waterfowl clinic and guided hunt, all the hunters and guides came back with huge smiles on their faces," Anthony Maupin, Missouri Department of Conservation agent, said. "I could tell from that point we achieved two things; we had a safe day, and we got them excited (or

hooked on) waterfowl hunting."

The group wrapped up the event, designed to recruit and retain duck hunters, with a dinner at Sportsman's Village. On hand were door prizes and a raffle for a youth-model 20-gauge shotgun donated in part by Open Season Gun Shop. Lunch was provided by the Mound City Kiwanis Club.

"It was the best day of my life," a participant said.

Sponsors, including private and corporate donors, duck clubs and businesses, made the event possible, Wright said.

"The community involvement we receive from the donation of blinds and the support provided to us by guides and safety coaches is a big part of what sets this clinic aside from all others I've been involved with. We simply couldn't do it without them."

The sponsors of the 2014 Big Muddy Duck Hunt were the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, Dick's Sporting Goods, J & B Outdoors, Trial By Fire Outdoors, Alaska Waterfowl Association, Trophy Wildlife Outfitters, Ground Round, Ducks Unlimited (Jones County Iowa Chapter), Ducks Unlimited (Squaw Creek Chapter), Waterfowlers' Hall of Fame, Preco, Inc., Walmart of St. Joseph and Maryville, Mo., Open Season Gun Shop, Central Service & Supply, Inc., Sportsman's Village, Mound City Kiwanis, Phillips Construction, C & M Seed, Al Boyer Taxidermy, Boyd Snider Taxidermy, Vance Vanderwerken Taxidermy, Bigelow Gun Club, Dodson Duck Haven, Grace's Duck Club, Green Head Farms, Green Head 80, Hoepfer's Duck Club, Monback Farms, Napier Duck Club, Quacker's Duck Club, Watson Duck Club, Newcomer's Duck Club, Hayes Duck Club and Web Foot Farms.



Missouri Department of Conservation agents Anthony Maupin, left, and Jade Wright, right - Stand with gun-affle winner Kayne Blanchard at Sportsman's Village on Saturday, Oct. 18.



From left to right, guide William Slusher, Kody Browning, Lane Mapes, Ryan Mapes and safety coach Monty Scroggins - Pose for a photo during the Big Muddy Duck Hunt on Saturday, Oct. 18.

New Point Christian Church to hold revival

New Point (Mo.) Christian Church will be hosting a revival at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 24 and 25, and at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 26. The event will feature Greg Hafer, professor of speech and Christian life at Ozark Christian College. All are welcome to attend.

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Squaw Creek Diner & I-29 Travel Plaza in Mound City.

Graham Lions Club plans dinner

The Graham (Mo.) Lions Club will be holding a dinner from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1, at the Graham Community Building. The meal, which will feature fish, chicken and mountain oysters, costs \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. All proceeds will go toward Sydnie Messner's family.

Tiffany Heights Nursing Home and TCC Rehab Services  
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RESIDENT OF THE MONTH



**JOYCE DIGGS**  
Joyce Diggs, 93, has been a resident at Tiffany Heights since July, 2014. She is from Maitland, Mo. Joyce has two children, Jerry and Judy. She's been married more than 40 years. Joyce's favorite thing to do was "keeping and making a home for her family". The staff at Tiffany Heights says that Joyce is a wonderful person.

Call: 660-442-3146  
for info on care and rehab services offered to you from Tiffany Heights Nursing Home.

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,  
I am opposed to Amendment 3, the irresponsible, standardized-testing amendment which is on the November ballot.

This amendment takes the wrong approach to education, replacing local control with state mandates under a system drawn up by special interest groups. It would even add additional layers of state bureaucracy to schools' evaluation processes, which have historically been left to local districts to determine.

Amendment 3's irresponsible evaluation scheme would require school districts to come up with a system to base their employment decisions at least in part upon standardized testing results, and they would also be required to submit their plans to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for approval, adding yet another opportunity for the state to dictate terms to schools.

In addition to being highly impractical, such a scheme is unfair to teachers. Instead of taking into account the full picture of their work as teachers, Amendment 3 would lead to teacher evalua-

tions based upon standardized test results, and teacher evaluations (which are currently by and large based upon classroom observation and peer comments) would be transformed from a constructive tool to help encourage better teaching into a destructive implementation that would base teachers' employment prospects upon their students' performance on a single test.

Amendment 3 is a bad idea, and it must be defeated this November. Please vote NO on Amendment 3.

Phyllis Dannar  
Atchison-Holt Unit President,  
Missouri Retired Teachers' Association (MRTA)

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