If you were gone from Columbia this summer, you missed a lot of news.

We collected the biggest of it for you here, along with information on some places around town we think are worth a visit.

Enjoy.
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Big 10/Big 12 controversy.
Missouri’s staying put after all. But the Big 10 will have 12 members, including Nebraska. And the Big 12 will have 10. Got it?

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IBM is coming to town.
800 jobs. Millions in incentives. And the secret deal that made it happen.

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A murder conviction. ... A motel room overrun with cats. ... A drug bust that went viral. ... A chemistry lab that went kaboom!

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we know summertime can be packed with so many activities — vacations, picnics, family reunions to name a few — that there's hardly time to keep up with your family's schedule, let alone catch up on the summer's biggest headlines.

So, we'll give you the rundown on Columbia's biggest news:

- **IBM deal.** In late May, the Columbia City Council approved a financial incentive package that helped secure an IBM data center for the city. It is expected to bring 600 jobs within three years.

- **Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts closes.** Missouri Symphony Society members announced in late July that the theater would close its doors during August and September. Three full-time employees also were laid off. The board also intends to seek new management strategies.

- **Big Ten realignment.** Despite rumors and speculation, the Tigers never received an offer to join the Big Ten Conference. MU officials addressed the speculation in mid-June, announcing that Missouri was not interested in joining the Big Ten. Of course this isn't a complete list, but you can always stay on top of the day's news at ColumbiaMissourian.com.

Of course this section doesn't include everything that's great about Columbia. So, if we missed your favorite haunt or hangout, let us know and we'll consider it for future sections. E-mail me at JohnstonLC@missouri.edu.

Gone for the summer? Let us catch you up
Welcome back to the Columbia Missourian's eMprint edition.

Advising Services
107 Lowry Hall
573-882-6411

www.facebook.com/MUArtsandScience

Arts and Science
Welcomes You

Upcoming Events
Check coas.missouri.edu for complete listings.

School of Music
Sun., Aug. 22 — Orientation for new music majors, noon
Tue., Aug. 24 — Director’s Welcome, 5 p.m.

Fall Welcome
Wed., Sept. 15 — Free food giveaways, and live music 11 a.m.–2 p.m., Lowry Mall

Economics
Wed.–Thur., Sept. 15–16
Undergraduate open house
129 Professional Bldg.
9:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Biological Sciences
Thur., Aug. 26 — Fall welcome orientation and barbecue
Monsanto Auditorium, 5 p.m.

Statistics
Welcome reception for students, check with department for date (first week of school)

Student Feature Film Project
To be shot on campus during the spring semester with student involvement in all aspects. Check film studies Web site in September for announcement of organizational meeting.

German and Russian Studies
Join others interested in German culture for biweekly “Sussnisch” at Shakespeare’s summer Thurs., Sept. 2
7:30 p.m.

The Missouri Review
Thur., Sept. 9 — Open house
357 McReynolds Hall, 3–5 p.m.

To view the full content or to search for other articles, please visit coas.missouri.edu.
Other players have stepped up since the Falcons picked Sean Weatherspoon in the first round of the 2010 NFL draft.

By JOAN NIESEN
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

There's a hole in the Missouri defense. It's a bit more than 6 feet tall, with a 240-lb. frame and a big personality.

The hole is Sean Weatherspoon. Picked in the first round of the 2010 NFL draft by the Atlanta Falcons, Weatherspoon is the most conspicuous player missing from the Tiger defense this season, and his teammates acknowledge that playing without their former leader has been an adjustment.

“With Spoon gone, it’s definitely a big hole, but we feel this year that we’ve got five or six linebackers that can get in the game,” said Andrew Gachkar, a weakside linebacker.

Gachkar, who played weakside during his first two years on the team before switching to strongside for the 2009 season, is comfortable with moving back to weakside to replace Weatherspoon.

His coaches are confident in his ability to do so.

“He was the backup last year at that position, so he’s doing great,” defensive coordinator Dave Steckel said.

“With Spoon gone, it’s definitely a big hole, but we feel this year that we’ve got five or six linebackers that can get in the game.”

ANDREW GACHKAR
Weakside linebacker

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PIGSKIN PICKS
What you missed during the conference realignment.

Colorado jumps ship, joins Pac-10
DENVER — The Colorado Buffaloes have bolted from the Big 12, accepting an invitation to become the 11th member of the Pac-10 Conference.

It’s the first expansion of the league since it added Arizona and Arizona State in 1978.

More teams could follow Colorado from the Big 12 to the Pac-10. Reports say Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State could accept invitations soon.

Nebraska’s answer to Big 10 move
IRVING, Texas — Everywhere he looked, Nebraska coach Bo Pelini was surrounded by the Big 12 Conference logo.

So what did Pelini do when given a series of league-branded footballs to sign? He spun each one so he was facing the logo and put his autograph right above the X in the Big XII brand.

This is the Cornhuskers’ last season in the Big 12.

They are headed to the Big Ten next fall as part of an exodus that threatened to make this league extinct.

---

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Missouri sticks with 10-team Big 12

Despite rumors and conjecture, Tigers never received offer to join Big Ten Conference

By DIETER KURтенBACh
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

For now, things are back to normal.

After months of conference realignment speculation, MU Chancellor Brady Deaton, UM System President Gary Forsee and Missouri Athletics Director Mike Alden addressed the media June 15 at Mizzou Arena’s Clinton Club, affirming that Missouri would remain in the 10-school Big 12 Conference.

When the University of Texas announced it had decided not to accept an offer to join the Pac-10 Conference, the Big 12 was saved from disbanding.

Nebraska had decided to join the Big Ten in 2011, and Colorado had decided to move to the Pac-10 in 2012, and Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Texas, Texas A&M and Texas Tech all seemed ready to bolt to the Pac-10 with the Longhorns to form the nation’s first super-conference in the process.

But after a weekend of community and in-house discussions at each Big 12 school, all 10 of the remaining members had pledged to stay in the Big 12 Conference.

But the foundation of the conference is now considerably weaker.

And though the topic of conference realignment has been quieted for the time being, there are no assurances beyond a verbal agreement that the Big 12’s teams will stick together, if the topic does come up again.

On June 15, Missouri officials, for the first time, addressed the speculation that the Big Ten Conference was interested in MU. Deaton said that Missouri received no offer to join the Big Ten Conference and that Missouri was not interested in joining the Big Ten.

“We are not anticipating any discussions with other conferences,” Deaton said.

Alden said the gentlemen’s agreement between the member institutions is strong.

“This is a word, and a trust, Missouri sticks with 10-team Big 12

Despite rumors and conjecture, Tigers never received offer to join Big Ten Conference

Quaterback Ashton Glaser tries to pump up teammate Terrell Resonno during Missouri’s preseason camp. The 2010 season will be the last of a 12-team Big 12 Conference.

so, Deaton said he thinks Texas fairly represented its position at all times and is ultimately committed to the Big 12 just as much as Missouri.

Alden said the gentlemen’s agreement between the member institutions is strong.

“Continued...
The case is on hold so the cats can be moved out of the Humane Society.

By LEE ANN ELIAS
news@ColumbiaMissourian.edu

The criminal case against a woman who kept more than 30 cats in a Columbia motel room won’t go forward until the fate of the animals is resolved.

A municipal court judge granted a continuance in the case against Susan Kohler, so she and her attorney could decide if they would petition to have the cats moved.

They are being kept at the Central Missouri Humane Society through a contract with Columbia/Boone County Animal Control.

In mid-June, 32 cats — four of them dead — were discovered in a room being rented by Kohler.

Attorney Steve Wilson said they had not yet determined if he and his client would file a petition to regain custody or file a request to put the animals into another holding facility.

Because it is illegal to keep that many animals together in Columbia, Wilson said they wanted to see if there was a location for Kohler to keep the cats outside city limits. Such a location would have to be deemed appropriate by Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Kohler is scheduled to appear in court at 1:30 p.m. on Aug. 24.

Charges

- Failing to provide a clean and sanitary habitat
- Not vaccinating domestic pets
- Animal abuse, unlawful impoundment and confinement
- Violating limitations on the allowable number of animals in one space
IBM is coming to town

Computer giant to build data center in Columbia — 600 jobs, tax revenue promised

DEAL APPROVED

On May 24, the City Council voted unanimously to approve the deal with IBM, with many lauding the amount of money the deal is expected to bring to the community.

IBM is projected to bring up to $660,000 in sales tax revenue when fully staffed, as well as an additional $700,000 in property tax revenue by 2014, Mike Brooks, president of Regional Economic Development Inc. said.

In addition to the monetary benefits, the IBM negotiations have also brought Columbia quite a bit of media coverage, Brooks said.

“We’ve had some of the best exposure you can possibly buy,” Brooks said, noting that this exposure was free of charge.

— Abby Rogers

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

The incentive packages offered were mainly in the form of tax credits, tax exemptions and promises to assist IBM in the initial setup processes, such as recruitment and training of new employees.

Both the state and local governments chipped in to ensure success of what were termed as highly competitive bids among dozens of cities.

COLUMBIA’S INCENTIVE PACKAGE:

- Missouri BUILD Program: $8,600,000
- Missouri Quality Jobs: $14,700,000
- New Jobs Training: $4,200,000
- Customized Training Grant: $300,000
- Recruitment Assistance: $400,000
- Sales Tax Exemption on personal property to be determined under chapter 100 bonds
- Purchase of building: $3,000,000
- Work force training and office space donation

TOTAL: $31,200,000

— Washington Gikunju

JOBS

“Big Blue,” as the international information technology company is often called, will be required to create 600 jobs within three years and maintain that number for 10 years to qualify for all the state tax breaks promised in a $31 million incentives package.

CONTINUED...
THE HOUSING ISSUE
It’s been almost a year since IBM opened a customer service center in Dubuque, Iowa, on the edge of the Mississippi River, and the story continues making local headlines.
But it’s the housing market that’s been most affected by Big Blue’s entry into Dubuque, Iowa.
Dubuque City Manager Mike Milligen said the influx of IBM employees created an unforeseen demand for rental housing and pushed some to seek temporary shelter in hotels, bed and breakfasts and even at a senior residents’ home on the city outskirts.
Mike Brooks, president of the Columbia Regional Economic Development Inc., said the city appears better prepared to handle the expected influx of people coming to working for Big Blue.
Brooks said an August survey of the housing market in Columbia found about 376 vacant rental apartments and 949 single-family homes on the market.
The timing of the survey, Brooks said, reflects the “near-optimum rental occupancy” in the local market, whose lowest occupancy level is during the summer school break.
Most single-bedroom rental apartments surveyed in Columbia — about 21 percent — had a monthly rental price of between $700 to $749, while the average sale price of the single-family homes was $167,661.

REDI’S NEXT MOVE
Regional Economic Development Inc. is moving forward after sealing the deal with IBM.
The group held its annual investors meeting Aug. 3 to discuss future plans and celebrate old ones. IBM brought great success for REDI in 2010, said Chairman Dave Griggs, and the company is working on more than seven new projects for this next year.
Confidentiality is important to REDI’s success, and information about the projects is limited, Griggs said. Three data center prospects are expected to be negotiated this year.

IBM will also have to pay a minimum average annual wage of $43,750 to its employees, Mike Golden, a finance officer at the Missouri Finance Development Board, said.
The state government offered IBM more than $28 million in tax incentives that include $8.6 million under the Missouri Business Use Incentives for Large-scale Development, or BUILD, program; $14.7 million under the Missouri Quality Jobs program; and $4.2 million under the New Jobs Training program.
The “BUILD program requires that the company brings the jobs promised within three years,” Golden said.

IBM required a fast-tracked process that would allow it to move into its Columbia location in a matter of months. The Columbia Area Jobs Foundation, a private not-for-profit organization unaccountable to the public, accommodated that stipulation.
IBM also insisted on absolute secrecy during talks that led to more than $31 million in state and local incentives. The involvement of the jobs foundation not only catered to that ultimatum, but it also allowed Little Dixie Construction, the company in charge of renovating IBM’s building, to avoid a public bidding process on subcontractors for improving what will become a city-owned structure.
The city will pay $3.05 million for the building at 2810 LeMone Industrial Blvd., which was sold by the Robert M. LeMone Trust.
The city gave the foundation $500,000 for a down payment to help it acquire the building.
The jobs foundation can work around city purchasing policies and procedures. Dave Griggs, chairman of Regional Economic Development Inc., said that enabled the city, IBM and REDI to negotiate a timely agreement and quickly start work on the building.
As it stands, construction is set to be done by Oct. 15. IBM needs to be in the building by Nov. 1 to keep its promise to clients, company spokesman Bruce McConnel said.
Little Dixie Construction landed the contract to complete the $10 million renovation of the IBM building. That’s because the company is owned by the Robert M. LeMone Trust, which sold the building to the city, John States of Little Dixie said.

THE SECRET DEAL
IBM and quickly start work on the stipulation. The public, accommodated that situation not only catered to that ultimate secrecy during talks that led to the fast-tracked process.

WELCOME BACK 2010 — COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN — eMprint edition
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SHOW ADVERTISERS DIRECTORY
Columbia police investigate series of summer shootings

Only a few arrests have been made so far.

By ALYSHA LOVE
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

Investigators were struggling to gather evidence to arrest the people they “know” are responsible for more than a dozen shootings in Columbia over the summer, a police spokeswoman said July 28.

In an incident July 26 someone fired a shot from a black vehicle that went through the windows of a truck parked at 505 Woodlawn Ave. No one was injured.

Columbia Police Department spokeswoman Jessie Haden said police think that incident is related to the series of shootings.

“We know the people who are involved,” Haden said. “Some of them have histories with one another.”

The danger in the shootings lies in the reckless nature of the shooters’ behavior, Haden said, such as the shooting during the Boone County Fair on July 23 that put a 19-year-old in the hospital.

Haden said although it’s possible the shootings involve the gang Squad Up, police don’t think everyone is in a gang.

“Some of them probably are gang members, and some of them probably aren’t,” she said.

“But (the shootings) are not random. We can tell the community that with certainty.”

The only two arrests made so far in this summer’s string of shootings were in connection with a July 1 incident on the 500 block of Ash Street.

Marquez Lawhorn, 31, was charged with first-degree assault. Richard Dekruyff, 31, was charged with resisting arrest, marijuana possession, armed criminal action, shooting at firearm at a person, vehicle or building and first-degree assault.

Police find no wrongdoing in drug raid that went viral

By MATT PEARCE
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

In May, the Columbia Police Department concluded its investigation into a Feb. 11 SWAT raid that gained worldwide attention over the Internet. In a news conference May 20, Chief Ken Burton said the review found no wrongdoing by the officers involved.

“We were the actions of the officers on scene appropriate, based on policy, law and what they knew?” Burton asked. “Yes.”

The announcement was the result of an internal investigation of the raid, in which police with a search warrant for marijuana entered the home of Jonathan Whitworth while he, his wife and 7-year-old son were home. The officers shot a pit bull to death, wounded another dog and found paraphernalia and a misdemeanor amount of marijuana. Whitworth eventually was fined $300 for possession of paraphernalia.

Burton’s May 20 news conference, his third in two weeks on the subject, continued the familiar pattern in addressing the incident.

On one hand — though contrite about the results of the raid — Burton has shown steady support for the actions of the officers involved; on the other, he has made adjustments to department policy that he said will cause the number of SWAT raids in Columbia to “plummet.”

On Aug. 4, the Citizens Police Review Board sided with Burton against a complaint about the raid from two California marijuana activists.

Burton reiterated his stance that the department made some wrong decisions.

“What I know as your chief is that while our SWAT members are well-trained and are held to strict guidelines, we have utilized SWAT routinely in circum...

CONTINUED...
stances and situations where we should not,” Burton said, referring to the fact that the warrant was served eight days after it was issued and that police did not perform proper surveillance before conducting the raid.

His comments came on the heels of previous announcements about restrictive changes involving SWAT’s command structure, speedy warrant execution and increased surveillance before raids.

But the May 20 news conference added a few new wrinkles to the conversation. Burton said that all SWAT officers now will be equipped with $300 helmet cameras and that the department’s policies regarding paid informants is now under review. He also was open to the idea of monthly reports on SWAT raids.

Burton, who fielded questions from reporters and citizens alike, ran into a back-and-forth over marijuana laws.

Local attorney and American Civil Liberties Union chapter president Dan Viets attended the news conference and challenged the chief on a 2004 ordinance passed by Columbia voters that says the “enforcement of laws against marijuana shall be among the lower priorities of law enforcement.”

Burton said there was a distinction between misdemeanor and felony amounts of possession, but Viets, who helped write the original ordinance, fired back, saying no such distinction existed in the law’s language.

At one point, Burton shrugged. “I’m not sure how to accomplish what the ordinance says,” he said.

“While our SWAT members are well-trained and are held to strict guidelines, we have utilized SWAT routinely in circumstances and situations where we should not.”

KEN BURTON
Columbia police chief

MU learns from hydrogen explosion in biochemistry lab

By NICHOLAS JAin
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

Researchers in the MU lab where an anaerobic chamber exploded June 28 weren’t following the chamber manufacturer’s instructions and mixed hydrogen and nitrogen gas themselves instead of using premixed gas.

Four people were injured, one requiring brief hospitalization.

On July 9, the Columbia Fire Department and MU released the findings of their investigations into the explosion in MU biochemistry professor Judy Wall’s Schweitzer Hall lab on June 28.

Both investigations found that the accidental explosion started after hydrogen gas was introduced into an anaerobic chamber and an ignition source inside the chamber ignited it.

But the real culprit was researchers’ practice of mixing their own gases to save money instead of using premixed gases — a practice that will now cease, according to Wall and the university.

Researchers were washing the interior of the chamber with what they thought was pure nitrogen gas. But it was actually a mixture of hydrogen and nitrogen because a tank containing hydrogen gas was connected to the nitrogen gas and left open, resulting in a potentially explosive level of hydrogen collecting in the chamber.

The chamber contained several potential ignition sources including a heater, a fan and a catalyst material that produces heat.

The chambers are labeled with warnings against using flammable gases like hydrogen. The labels also recommend using only premixed gases.

Wall said she was aware of the manufacturer’s guidelines. “We did not deliver gas to the chambers in accordance with
the manufacturer's instruction because we were mixing our own and had for 27 years,” she said.

Wall said that premixed gases are more expensive and that using them might result in her lab doing less work, “but we’ll be doing it with mixed gases.”

The MU release said the hydrogen was introduced into the chamber because the valve for the hydrogen cylinder was left open after a check for leaks in the hydrogen gas lines.

Also, the laboratory was using a T-connection that had a toggle switch in order to prevent nitrogen and hydrogen from entering the chamber at the same time. At the time of the explosion, a T-connection without a toggle switch was being used. That allowed both nitrogen and hydrogen to enter the chamber.

Wall and her team were studying anaerobic bacteria that cannot live in the presence of oxygen.

The bacteria converts toxic metals, such as uranium, to less toxic forms.

Wall said that the bacteria are found in the soil that people walk across every day and did not pose an airborne danger after the explosion.

The MU News Bureau release said that the bacteria could be used by agencies that clean sites contaminated with radioactive materials or other toxic metals.

**The fixes**

MU has recommended these actions to prevent accidents:

- Replace the use of pure hydrogen with a 95:5 mixture of nitrogen and hydrogen.
- Following a check of gas lines for leaks, all gas cylinders should be closed and only reopened as needed.
- Use of T-connections between gases should be eliminated.
- Investigate the possibility of using hydrogen and/or oxygen sensors that could withstand a corrosive environment.
- Give refresher training to all laboratory personnel.
- Review training, guidance materials and inspection procedures.
- Review MU’s compressed gas cylinder storage area to ensure appropriate safety procedures are in place and look for improvements.

Photo courtesy of Columbia Fire Department

This photo shows the chaos inside a biochemistry lab in Schweitzer Hall after an explosion June 28. Researchers were unknowingly using a gas mixture that contained too much hydrogen to clean an anaerobic chamber in the lab.
Take a traditional stroll during Tiger Walk

By DAN EVERSON
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

Some students remember the symbolism of Tiger Walk, a school tradition for incoming freshmen. Their procession through MU Columns, from one side of Francis Quadrangle to another, serves as a rite of passage into life at MU.

Others remember free food. Carrie Bien, the coordinator of student programs for the Miz- zu Alumni Association, which sponsors the event, said the Tiger Stripe ice cream is definitely part of the celebration. “We let the balloons go, and it’s a mad race for the ice cream,” Bien said.

Most MU students have had some taste of Tiger Walk. The Alumni Association estimates that at least 80 percent of freshmen participate each year.

Here’s what some MU students had to say about the experience:

“I remember the girls I met from my dorm. We all went there in our matching T-shirts from the dorm. And so it was bonding for the girls in the building. And it was just fun to see how excited the other freshmen were.” — Imani Dyson, class of 2013

“I just remember everybody got behind the columns and we were told to rush through, and then they had ice cream at the end. ... I guess the thing is, they say if you don’t walk you won’t graduate — or something like that.” — Sam Jersak, class of 2011

“I was a freshman in the band, so I got to run through in the first wave and then got to play for the kids who came through afterwards. So it’s like a huge thing, you know. It’s my first year and my first time and I’m also playing for people too, so it was really nice.” — Kevin Jerez, class of 2011

Allie Mutz, class of 2010, participated in both Tiger Walk and Tiger Prowl, a similar ceremony where seniors walk through MU Columns — this time away from Jesse Hall — to symbolize their exit from the university. “Especially the senior one, it was just a lot of excitement and anticipation for the future and what we were going to be doing afterwards,” she said. “I thought it was a neat symbolism thing. I really liked going through the columns. I thought it was cool. I like that tradition of Mizzou.”

The ceremony begins at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 22.
Stores provide a touch of nostalgia

Some of the shops in Columbia have a way of reminding their visitors of the past.

By HILARY LAU

Although we live in the digital age and are quite accustomed to gadgets, technology, and convenience, sometimes it’s nice to travel back in time.

Many local businesses offer a perfect nostalgic escape to the past — just brush off the dust, and you’re sure to find some treasures.

Here are five “blast from the past” must-see places in town that are sure to please.

Rock Bottom Comics, 1013 E Walnut St., Suite 101

Phone: 443-0113
Hours: Noon to 7 p.m.
It seems as if traditional comic books have been replaced with technological gadgets, e-readers and video games.

If you still hold deep appreciation for the waxy, fragile pages of a comic, Rock Bottom Comics is a must-see.

The store is jam-packed with bins and shelves of comic books, both old and new.

If you’re looking for a particular issue that isn’t in the store, a trusty Rock Bottom employee will try to locate it for you.

Rock Bottom also supplies trading cards, action figures and video rentals.

Streetside Records, 401 S. Providence Road

Phone: 875-7105
Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Saturday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday
Streetside Records is the perfect place to find new and used vinyl, CDs and DVDs.

This music store brings worlds from past and present together under one roof and has great specials.

Music enthusiasts can sift through rows of records and pick up classics from the 1960s and ‘70s but still find Lady GaGa’s latest in the next aisle.

Maude Vintage, 818 E. Broadway

Phone: 449-3320
Hours: Noon to 7 p.m. Monday to Thursday; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday
Maude Vintage has been a staple in the Columbia vintage clothing market since 2000. They buy, sell and trade clothing and accessories seven days a week.

They also feature designs by more than 40 designers and artists in the store and are constantly adding more. In addition to vintage clothing, shoes and accessories, Maude V has costumes that are available to rent for your themed party needs.

Ernie’s Café & Steak House, 1005 E. Walnut St.

Phone: 874-7804
Hours: 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
This retro diner boasts friendly service and amazing food.

It’s the perfect spot for a hearty breakfast and a good cup of coffee, and their lunch menu is pretty good, too. Though Ernie’s isn’t open for dinner, the bustling environment is worth getting up early for.

Tiger Barber Shop, 118 S. Ninth St.

Phone: 449-5951
Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays; 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday
Those seeking a snappy haircut for a good price will find it at Tiger Barber Shop.

The barbers at this old-timey, authentic shop are welcoming and likable, and here you can get a $12 hair cut.

Loyal customers flock to Tiger Barber Shop for the great prices, friendly faces, excellent service and authentic atmosphere.

Career center supports lifelong development

By NAOMI STEVENS

The Columbia Area Career Center offers a variety of learning opportunities including:

- college credit for high school students
- community classes
- health occupation training
- GED prep
- ESL classes
- “summer camp” classes for children over the summer

The career center is a branch of Columbia Public Schools that has served the community for decades. Although its 4203 S. Providence Road location was established in 1979, most of the center’s programs have existed much longer.

For example, the professional and community education program celebrated its 50th year of operation in 2006.

In its current form, the education program is broken into three different branches, each lead supervisor, Jim Sharrock, said.

First, enrichment, or “leisure-learning” classes, offer opportunities such as dance, finance, woodworking and other self-improvement courses.

Second, workforce development aims to give people skills to get a job or to better equip them for their existing job. These are courses that grant individuals certificates in career fields such as practical nursing and heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

The career center’s programs are shorter and involve fewer general education classes than similar programs offered at community colleges.

Third, the adult learning center teaches literacy, English as a second language and GED preparation. The adult learning center prepares many people to take the certificate classes, Sharrock said.

Pet Central at Stephens College houses furry, feathered friends

The new dorm will offer doggie daycare and programs for students’ pets.

By JOEL KOWSKY

Imagine a college residence hall where you and your pet can live together. This idea has become a reality at Stephens College.

Searcy Hall, which closed in 2009, is set to reopen this fall as Pet Central.

Pet Central was created to accommodate the increasing number of students who desire to bring their pets to campus when they arrive at school in the fall.

In a news release from the college, president Dianne Lynch said “at Stephens, they can bring along that very special family member, even if he has fur, fins, scales or feathers.”

DIANNE LYNCH
Stephens College president

“At Stephens, (students) can bring along that very special family member, even if he has fur, fins, scales or feathers.”

JOEL KOWSKY
Stephens College president

Pet Central expands this policy.

Students will continue to be allowed to keep their pets with them in their dorm rooms.

Pet Central will offer a doggie daycare program and is working to establish new programs for pets and their owners.

“I expect that we’ll have all kinds of new initiatives, which will make Stephens an even better college choice for students interested in careers in veterinary science and other animal-centered professions,” Lynch said.
Downtown shops keep wardrobes looking fresh

By LEEANN ELIAS
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

Living in a college town usually means working off the stereotypical college budget. Despite this, “What am I going to wear this weekend?” still comes soon after, “How will I pay rent?” and “What do I have to eat?” in the list of important questions.

Even though the mall is located a mere 10 minutes away from campus, don’t blow your budget without making a few stops first. Columbia has a variety of secondhand and vintage shops where you can easily snag a deal. Here are some of the best things to look for:

Vintage finds
Why buy retro-inspired clothing from a brand-name chain when you can get the real deal? Check out Maude Vintage, which specializes in clothing from the early 1980s and before.

Selection isn’t just limited to tops and bottoms — Maude and other stores, such as Absolute Vintage, also carry accessories and jewelry.

Students provide haircuts for less

By HANNAH WIESE
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

If you’re stealing your girlfriend’s barrettes to clip your hair back or are cutting your split ends with nail clippers, it might be time to face the inevitable — you need a haircut.

With haircuts costing around $20, sometimes more, you may be tempted to skip the salon to save money.

Even though the mall is located a mere 10 minutes away from campus, don’t blow your budget without making a few stops first. Columbia has a variety of secondhand and vintage shops where you can easily snag a deal. Here are some of the best things to look for:

Shoes
Walking around campus and downtown means your shoes will be taking some damage. Investing in comfortable kicks doesn’t leave much for party pumps. Pick up a loud, flashy pair at Blackberry Exchange for less than $15.

Sweaters
Layering is one of the best skills a college student can learn. Wear something light when walking (or running) to class, but bring something along for sitting in an air-conditioned classroom. Pick a loud pattern that will fit over anything you happen to wear.

Costumes
Costume rentals are the solution for when you want an extravagant outfit you don’t plan on wearing ever again. Both Gotcha! Costume Shop and Maude Vintage have weekly rental options so you don’t have to clear out extra room in your closet.

Recycled items help Habitat for Humanity

By JEFF LAUTENBERGER
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

In a cramped warehouse in an industrial district near Old 63 and Business Loop 70, ceiling-high shelves are packed to the brim with all sorts of building materials in varying stages of disrepair.

Narrow walkways are lined with outdated appliances, and a handful of volunteers joke around while organizing tools in a corner.

The air smells of paint thinner and other chemicals, and the air conditioning units are no match for the hot,drafty fumes.

Most of the recycled and donated products in the Habit for Humanity ReStore have seen better days, but are far from the end of their lives. They will soon be repurposed and used in houses the organization continues to build.

“...
**Diversify your on-campus dining**

By THERESA BERENS
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

MU’s College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources offers several options in Eckles Hall for hungry people who want to stay on campus.

### Buck’s Ice Cream Place

Buck’s Ice Cream Place, known for its Tiger Stripe ice cream, is always trying out new flavors.

The shop, tucked beneath a black-and-gold striped awning, is near College Avenue and Hatch residence halls and is about a five-minute walk from the Student Recreation Complex.

The shop, and everything behind the scenes, serves as teaching laboratory for students in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

**Hours:** noon-5 p.m., Monday to Friday, Saturdays during warmer months

### Culinary Café

Culinary Café offers a dinner series, which usually includes a four-course meal, staffed by upper-level student management teams in the Hotel and Restaurant Management program.

The food, music and décor are all coordinated to a different theme. Examples from last spring include “International Chocolate Dinner,” “Under the Tuscan Sun” and “Down Under.”

### Mizzou Meat Market

Mizzou Meat Market is a training laboratory for MU’s Food Science and Animal Science program.

The store offers USDA approved cuts of beef, lamb and pork in a wide variety of cuts. For MU students with a passion for cooking meat, the market offers student charge orders.

**Hours:** noon-5:30 p.m., Wednesdays and Fridays; special pick-up appointments available.

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**Pick, eat local fruits and veggies**

By TIM WALL
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

Pick and Pick Farm offers sun-ripened blackberries as a welcome back to Columbia.

Whether you are homesick for Grandma’s backyard patch or have never picked fresh berries, a trip to pick blackberries can be a relaxing return to Boone County.

The farm’s owners, Sam and Helen Pickering, maintain the farm on South Rangeline Road.

It is one of several pick-your-own farms in the area. Visitors may pick whatever variety of fruit and vegetable is in season.

Here’s what’s in season locally:

- April: Asparagus
- May/June: Strawberries
- July/August: Blackberries
- August, until frost: Red raspberries
- October: Pumpkins

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**International grocery store offers non-traditional treats**

World Harvest provides shoppers with a variety of unique food options.

By ANJALLI PINTO
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

Hidden behind one of Columbia’s many large grocery stores, World Harvest International & Gourmet foods is truly a treasure.

Each aisle explores a different region’s cuisine or ingredients, be it Northern Europe, Southeast Asia or the Mediterranean. It’s the perfect place to collect all the components of an authentic Tiramisu or to find something new to try.

If you’re a picky eater, don’t bother showing up — this specialty store is all about adventure.

**Suggestions to fill your cart:**

- Fromage d’Affinois: a rich, buttery and easily spreadable French cheese. It takes and looks like butter, only better. This cheese on fresh bread or slices of apple would be a great addition to a picnic as it’s filling and easy to share.
- Piquanté peppers: small peppers imported from South Africa that are sweet at the beginning but leave you with a kick of spice at end. They are sold with the seeds and stems removed, making them a great vessel for other flavors. Fill them with a crumble of feta or a spoonful of pesto, and it will be an easy appetizer.
- Patric Chocolate: locally crafted, deep dark chocolate meant to be savored. The bars range from 65 percent to 70 percent cacao and may taste very bitter in the first bite, but as the chocolate Warms up on your tongue, fruity flavors are released and a bit of sweetness comes through.
- Chicago Flats: simple, but amazingly addictive, these crackers are too good to open alone. The “all flavor” variety is a favorite, as they are the closest taste to a New York City everything bagel in Columbia.

- Kipferl: half-moon-shaped German hazelnut cookies that have the consistency of shortbread but with a nuttier flavor. With a bit of crunch and overall flakiness, these cookies are better than most that come out of a package. The ideal pairing would be a cup of creamy tea or coffee.

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**When and where**

World Harvest International & Gourmet foods is located behind Gerbes off Nifong Boulevard, 3700 Monterey Drive.

**Phone:** 442-3833

**Hours**

Monday to Saturday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sunday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
The Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri serves 32 counties.

By ERIN MCNEILL
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

The low hum of chatting voices is punctuated by the occasional laugh and the sound of rustling plastic in the volunteer room at the Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri. More than a dozen people sit or stand at stainless steel tables, repacking “wheat fuel flakes” from 700 pound boxes into family-size bags.

“I like to have something to get away from the television set,” said Marion Ballard, who has been volunteering at the food bank for about a decade. “And this does somebody good somewhere along the line,” he added.

Ballard, who will turn 86 in August, volunteers five days a week at the food bank. He retired from the MU Agrcultural Experiment Station after working there for 35 years, and he was curious what went on in the food bank’s unassuming brick-faced building he often drove past.

His first day of volunteering had him coming back the next day, then the next.

Back problems prevent Ballard from standing comfortably for more than 30 minutes, but that doesn’t affect his work at the food bank. He can sit at the table as he affixes twist-ties to bags of cereal.

The food bank of Central and Northeast Missouri serves 32 counties in the state, covering an area of about 18,000 square miles.

Unlike a food pantry, the food bank serves as a middleman, acquiring food from donors and redistributing it to other agencies who provide it to people in need.

About two-thirds of the people helped by the food bank are single mothers. Another large portion are older individuals who need a little extra help making ends meet.

“Food banks are meant to be a supplemental food source,” said Mike DeSantis, a promotions staff member at the food bank.

When the costs of housing, medicine and food go up, sometimes people have to make tough choices, he explained.

This is where the food bank and one of its pantries can help meet one of those needs so those people can focus their resources on the others, DeSantis said.

The food bank is not a government agency, a common misconception according to DeSantis. Though the food bank does receive about 9 percent of its food from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, about 70 percent comes from Feeding America and the rest from grants and local food drives.

Walmart is a major donor to the food bank. In addition to big contributions, like a recent $2 billion commitment to Feeding America, local stores can also give smaller amounts of food items. These are items that become a surplus when stores

CONTINUED...
change displays or products get new packaging, DeSantis said. In addition to standard non-perishable foods, the 46,000-square-foot warehouse often holds toilet paper and other non-food products. They are usually donated due to small tears or errors in the packaging that make them unfit for retail, but are otherwise fine. Items like this are important, DeSantis said, because food stamps can only be used to purchase food. These donations help to bridge the gap by providing those in need with other necessities.

Although the acquisition of food is an important part of what the food bank does, volunteers are essential to keeping it going.

Often, the food bank can take donations other places can’t, said Roger Mitchell, a food bank board member and volunteer since 1999. “There will always be a volunteer group to sort it,” he said.

Rebekah Smith, who was working with Ballard and Mitchell repacking cereal, is a relatively new volunteer, with only about five month’s experience. But she’s already a part of the volunteer community at the food bank.

“We have so much fun here,” said Smith, 55, who is unable to work because of a stroke that permanently affected her right side when she was 4 years old.

DeSantis said it’s the excitement and passion the volunteers and donors bring to the food bank that really makes a difference. “We get to feed hungry people,” he said.

**Authentic Mexican food served in Midwest**

By CHRISTINA STIEHL
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

Columbia is approximately 1,000 miles from the Mexican border, but that does not prevent our city from serving authentic Mexican fare. At El Taquería Rodeo, you also can enjoy an atmosphere that feels south of the border.

**Does El Taquería Rodeo have any specials?**
Yes, it has daily lunch specials for less than $5. Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. It also has dinner specials that vary daily, served after 3 p.m.

**Does the restaurant have a liquor license?**
Yes, El Taquería Rodeo serves a variety of domestic and imported beers along with margaritas in lime, peach or strawberry flavors.

**Is the restaurant affordable?**
Meals come with chips and salsa, and the lunch menu has dishes for an average of $5.50. Dinner specials are also typically around $8. The drinks are a little pricier, with margaritas ranging from $3.50 for a small “on the rocks” to $8.99 for a large frozen.

**What would you recommend?**
The chicken tacos are fairly popular and served with small corn tortillas, cilantro and a lime on the side.

**What are the business hours?**
The restaurant is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Custom-

**By WILL GULDIN**
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

The local-food movement is growing as fast as the summer’s crop of locally farmed produce. Here are some great places in town where you can satisfy your fresh produce fix.

**Root Cellar**

With a prime downtown location, the Root Cellar is one of the most obvious places to get your local food fix.

The store is located at 814A E. Broadway and has been there about five years.

You have to go down a small flight of stairs from Broadway to get there, but this buried location makes the store seem more like a cellar.

Once inside, local goods line the outer walls, with a display of other goods in the center. Co-owner Kimberly Griffin said all the produce and most of the meat that is available this time of year comes from local sources.

Her biggest sellers are tomatoes. “They’re able to be picked when they’re ripe, which means a Missouri greenhouse tomato is much more flavorful than a Florida greenhouse tomato,” she said.

She said the Root Cellar started as a way for people to get local food on days when the farmer’s market wasn’t open. “We should be living by our means and that’s what I’m trying to do by getting so much local food,” she said.

**Pierpont Farms**

What’s a better place to get local food than straight from the source? That can be done at Pierpont Farms, which uses Community Supported Agriculture.

To participate in CSA, you purchase a share of the season’s harvest.

People get a range of crops from the farm. This year, the 34 acres produced a range of vegetables and herbs. Fan favorites such as red cherry tomatoes are one option, but there are rarer crops too, such as bok choy. 
Mojo’s rocks summer

End on a high note before class begins with these concerts.

By EMILY MORRIS
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

Coming back to school means a return to long nights of studying, exams and term papers, but every new semester needs a soundtrack.

Be sure to head downtown and let Mojo’s help you get back in the groove.

Depending on where home is during the summertime, leaving Columbia might mean missing lots of great concert venues.

Not to worry, Mojo’s has a calendar full of great shows to get a fix.

Pretend it’s still a carefree summer with Someone Still Loves You Boris Yeltsin. The Bluemoon Concert series presents these Columbia regulars Aug. 26.

The band’s relaxed, catchy tunes make for a great concert to escape to before the first essays are due. “Oceanographer” is a personal favorite, and listeners can get a taste online.

And if the wallet is a bit light, don’t sweat it, because this concert is free.

Spoonfed Tribe, a band based out of north Texas, plays Sept. 9.

From the way the band describes itself on its site, expect a synthesis of sight and sound.

To get the full experience, see this band live.

One concert must-see is Turbo Fruits, who is scheduled to play Oct. 1.

The band’s drug-themed titles and odd lyrics set themselves apart from other indie bands growing in recognition this year.

Their music is fast-paced and multi-layered, with guitar chords interlaced with heavy percussion.

So keep the shorts on — because Mojo’s summertime music proves the season isn’t over yet.

Empire Roller Rink

Floor guard Mark Reagan helps a young skater fix his laces which came untied out on the rink floor June 11 at Empire Roller Rink in Columbia.

- Monday: The rink is closed to the public but can be reserved for private parties.
- Tuesday: The rink is closed to the public but offers roller ball hockey from 7:30 to 9 p.m. and adult pick-up hockey from 9 to 10:30 p.m.
- Wednesday: The rink offers family pizza night and public skating.
- Thursday: The rink will offer a college night from 9 p.m. to midnight, starting in the fall.
- Friday: The rink offers public skating from 7 to 10:30 p.m.
- Saturday: The rink offers youth skating from 9 to 11 a.m. for children under 9 and public sessions from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.
Cooper’s Landing is an adventure waiting for you

By KRYSTIN ARNESON  
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It seems as though Smith Hatchery Road floods whenever there’s rainfall in Columbia, but if that’s bad news for drivers coming up from the southernmost parts of the city’s borders, it’s great news for visitors at Cooper’s Landing.

The marina prides itself on being full-service, but it’s also a destination for families and friends looking for a unique place to spend the day. There’s a wide variety of things to do there, including boating, hiking and eating (and not just convenience store fare).

So if a day’s adventure is on the calendar, this list of things to bring will come in handy:

- Tennis shoes. Whether running, biking or simply taking a stroll, the marina’s immediate proximity to the Katy Trail gives all ages a chance to get some exercise and enjoy nature in a different setting than what may be usual. After a day in a boat, a brisk walk along the path may be just what’s needed to stretch out those legs and get reacquainted with the ground.
- A boat. Boats are always good to bring to marinas, and considering that Cooper’s Landing is one of the few places where they can pull right up to the dock and fill up, it’s an opportune time to take care of business. Besides, the river’s right there, and what better way to explore it than on a free day with a fresh, full tank of gas? Don’t forget the fishing pole, either.
- The best campfire stories. Cooper’s Landing operates one of the state’s few campgrounds along the Missouri River, and setting up under the stars is a great way to cap off a day spent outdoors. Summer and early fall are great times for Missouri camping — the temperatures start to drop off at night, and the bugs aren’t too bad. Stars, s’mores and stories? Sounds smashing.
- An empty stomach. It’s easy to get hungry after being out all day in the boat (or if those fire-roasted hot dogs didn’t turn out quite as planned). Chim’s Thai Kitchen serves some of the best Thai food in the area. And don’t look around for a restaurant. Just walk up to the trailer adjacent to the marina building. It won’t be a decision you’ll regret.
- Should that be lacking, a tapping foot will do. Cooper’s Landing has great live music to listen to while eating at Chim’s or the marina deli. Or if the boat’s still on the river when the bands start up, it’s like a private concert under the stars.

Cooper’s Landing is a full-service destination for friends and family looking to have a day of adventure.
McBaine’s ‘big tree’ worth trip

By ALYSHA LOVE
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An 18-hole course, plus Four, state-of-the-art machine and TRZ Suspension, better known to locals simply as “big tree.”

And they’re not kidding. This tree is big. It’s 90 feet tall, almost 24 feet around and roughly 7 and a half feet in diameter, according to the National Register of Big Trees. It’s estimated that the tree is between 200 and 400 years old.

McBaine itself is a sight to see, particularly for anyone from a big city. Only 17 people live in McBaine, according to the 2000 census.

The only spot to dine in town is a restaurant called Lucy’s, and anyone who drops in will probably see a handful of locals sitting around a table on a hot afternoon. Most of the 12 houses are visible from State Highway K, which passes straight through McBaine. Many towns this size, where everybody really does know everybody, are scattered throughout Missouri’s countryside.

Biking to the tree is easy enough:

- Just get on the MKT Trail at one of the access points and bike the 8.9 miles to the trail’s end. There, it meets up with the Katy Trail, which runs across Missouri.
- At Hindman Junction, take a right toward Rocheport — not left toward McBaine, unless you want to take the 2.5 mile long scenic route through the town.
- Turn left where the paved Burr Oak Road intersects the Katy. The tree is about a tenth of a mile away.
- The ride should take an hour to an hour and a half each way. Use a Google map for a visual guide.

Driving to the tree is just as simple:

- Head south on Providence Road until it turns into State Highway K, which will take you straight to McBaine.
- Pass by Lucy’s — or stop in for burgers, chicken strips and soda — located in the center of McBaine.
- Keep driving two miles down the road; the tree is on the right. There’s a parking area next to the road to pull off and stop a while before heading back to town.
- It’s an easy 20-minute drive through the countryside each way.

Wilson’s Fitness to open new location

The facility, which will host more than 50 classes, is to open on Vandiver Drive moving to Range Line Street.

By MELANIE BARNES
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Wilson’s Fitness has something to fit everyone’s needs with four fitness centers, 229 classes, nutrition programs and student memberships.

The magazine Inside Columbia voted Wilson’s No. 1 place to workout in 2010.

General manager Tia Casady said Wilson’s success comes from what members loyal to Wilson’s.

“They are not just customers, but friends,” Casady said.

Wilson’s downtown location opened in February and is convenient for college students. It is open 24 hours and is the only place that has the Krankcycle machine and TRZ Suspension Training.

New in the fall: Wilson’s on Vandiver Drive is moving to Range Line Street.

The new workout facility will include an indoor track, cardio theater, personal training, men’s and women’s hot tubs, and more than 50 classes.

Student memberships are available by semester. The cost varies depending on what facilities are included.

Wilson’s is also connected with the Missouri Athletic Center. The MAC has college late-night soccer leagues and an indoor swimming pool.

The Females In Training club is also in the MAC.

The club is a females-only exclusive facility with an indoor pool, exercise groups and a nonintimidating atmosphere.

“It is a place you can just go workout without worrying about what you look like,” Casady said with a laugh.

Flat Branch Park is place to splash, or surf the Net

By TOM CARBONE
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Historically, parks have been a place for city residents to gather their thoughts in a calm, outdoor setting. In Columbia, Flat Branch Park serves as an area of the city for both kids and adults alike to interact with each other or relax alone.

“I like to read the newspaper and catch up on my lunch break at Flat Branch Park,” Mike Yerkes said. “It’s quiet, aside from the occasional kids playing in the fountain.”

And while the tradition of catching up with a newspaper in the park has not dwindled, the method has changed.

Flat Branch Park offers all the amenities of a normal park such as a fountain, a children’s play area and plenty of benches. But what Flat Branch Park has that many parks don’t is free Wi-Fi that is provided for park users.

iZones, a local wireless internet service provider, sponsors the program for the city of Columbia, and the park sales tax was set up to fund the equipment. Anybody with a laptop and Wi-Fi card, which is typically built in to newer machines, can access the Internet for free while enjoying the scenery that Flat Branch Park provides.

Flat Branch Park also serves as an area close to campus where MU students may use free Wi-Fi between classes.

City’s ARC can help you stay fit

By STEPHANIE MURPHY
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Staying in shape can be a challenge. When it comes to exercise, some people can be hard to please, craving instant satisfaction over hard work and sweat.

Whatever your desire, you’re likely to find an outlet at the Activity and Recreation Center. It is affordable and can fit into a hectic student lifestyle.

Five things every student should know about the ARC:

- It offers a membership paid in monthly installments of $30 for those students who won’t be in town an entire year.
- There is a 30-day pass for $36, usually used by outdoor exercisers trying to avoid extreme weather.
- For the student parent, there is the Kid Zone, an on-site babysitting service. One visit for one child is $2.25, or there is a 20-visit pass for $40.
- There are more than 20 adult classes available, ranging in price from $5 to $220.
- It provides an indoor walking/jogging track, water zone, cardio/strength training area, gymnasium, lockers and more.

Country Club of Missouri offers variety

By JASON COX
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

The Country Club of Missouri at Forum Boulevard and Woodrail Avenue offers a variety of features to its members, including:

- Tennis. Four, state-of-the-art Deco Turf courts, the same surface used at the U.S. Open.
- Golf. An 18-hole course, plus a driving range, a short game range and putting green.
- Pool. There is no limit to the

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Missouri Theatre to close until September for financial reasons

By WASHINGTON GIKUNJU
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After announcing on July 21 that the Missouri Theatre would be closed until early September, organizers were vague about what happens next.

Eric Staley, the outgoing chief executive officer, who announced in early July he would quit his post July 31, declined to comment on the closure, terming it a “board decision.”

Christina George, board of directors president of the Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts, said the board would meet to chart a way forward.

George had some reassuring words for groups, such as the MU School of Music, which is slotted to perform at the theater Sept. 23.

“All outstanding contracts will be honored,” George said. “We’re working very hard to make sure that happens.”

A calendar of events posted on the organization’s website showed the theater is booked for shows up to May next year.

As part of the closure, three full-time employees were laid off: Kanani May, the director of public relations and management, Taylor Richardson, the technical director, and Afton Thomas, the box office manager and director of arts education.

The board said in a release it hopes to hold an “immediate” fundraiser to rehire Maestro Kirk Trevor, the theater’s artistic director, whose contract ends July 31.

“The temporary closure of the theater is a financial necessity,” the board said in its statement.

Staley said in an interview with the Missourian earlier this summer that the theater needs an urgent cash injection of up to $1 million to become financially stable.

Total costs for a restoration project completed in May 2008 exceeded initial budget estimates by $4 million, pushing the theater into financial difficulties.

A $2.5 million debt — out of the final renovation cost of $10 million — remains unpaid.

An arbitration judgment in a dispute with the renovation’s main contractor, Huebert Builders, is expected by the end of August.

About $400,000 could be added to the theater’s debt load if Huebert wins.

In the interview, Staley said enough money had been set aside to meet the monthly loan payments of $23,000 through the end of this year.

Crush Festival to be held Sept. 18

By NICHOLAS JAIN
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Les Bourgeois Vineyards will hold its annual Crush Festival on Sept. 18.

The event is from 2 to 6 p.m. at the vineyards, 14020 W. Highway BB in Rocheport.

The winery is the third largest in Missouri and has recently expanded.

The festival has existed since the conception of Les Bourgeois Vineyards in 1985. It’s a family event with live music, tours, tastings, a homemade wine competition, children’s games and a fishing derby.

The winery sets up an area where event-goers can crush their own grapes.

“It’s a celebration of the harvest,” said Tim Weiss, director of sales for Les Bourgeois.

He said the winery is expecting a record harvest this year and said the event is a fun day for everyone.

For more information, contact Les Bourgeois Vineyards at 698-2133.
Valhalla’s Gate is a new breed of gaming store
Consumers are able to buy games as well as play in store

By FELICIA KELLEY
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

1. You can buy games and play them in store: Unlike other gaming stores in the area, Valhalla’s Gate gives you the opportunity to browse for your favorite game and enjoy playing it with fellow gamers immediately after purchasing.

2. It’s more than a store; it’s a community: For any incoming students who have not found their niche or group of friends just yet, Valhalla’s Gate is a great place to meet new people while enjoying your favorite hobbies together.

3. The store isn’t going anywhere: It’s the only game store in the area of its kind and has been around for 10 years. Despite other gaming stores coming in and out of the Columbia area, Valhalla’s Gate has managed to beat out the competition and remain the last store standing.

4. They have tournaments: Feel the need to test out your gaming skills, or are you ready for some competition? Valhalla’s Gate hosts tournaments every Friday night and stays open until midnight for late-night games and festivities.

5. Games, games and more games: Valhalla’s Gate is the mecca of games. With a store filled with role-playing, tabletop, war and board games, there’s very little doubt that this isn’t a gamer’s fantasy.

If these five reasons aren’t enough, Valhalla’s Gate will also be celebrating its 10-year anniversary and throwing a party. On Aug. 28, gamers young and old will be invited to celebrate with the Valhalla family, enjoying free refreshments and good company.

Downtown has plenty to do to cure one’s boredom

Arts, crafts and food are all available downtown for people willing to explore.

By ANDREA KSZYSTYNIAK
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

If monotony has gotten you down in the dumps, never fear. There’s a plethora of great things going down in downtown Columbia, including swinging summer concerts and jaw-dropping gallery exhibitions. There’s a little bit of something for everyone.

Learn a new craft
Go get creative at Columbia’s new bead emporium, The Bead Gallery.

The store offers classes in jewelry making while also offering a variety of handmade beads to help give your creations a more personal touch.

If you don’t want to leave campus, the Craft Studio offers a number of classes including screen-printing and pottery.

Get a cone at Sparky’s
With myriad original ice cream flavors to choose from, there’s no way to be bored.

Flavors to try include green tea and brownie, which is made using baked goods from local bakery, Uprise.

Temple aims to offer service, education

The temple hosts such community events as Hindi language classes.

By RAVEN MARAGH
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

As one of the Saturday morning worshipers come to a close, some of the Shanthi Mandir Temple members get up from meditation, put on their shoes — which are not allowed inside — and prepare to leave.

Vellore Gopalaratnam is the former president of the Hindu temple that is tucked away on Holly Avenue. He said the temple’s big goal is making a difference.

“Service to the community is a big focus,” Vellore said.

Adorning the walls are calendars filled with upcoming service events and colorful decorations.

Gopalaratnam’s wife, Anantha, explained that Hinduism does not have a rigid schedule.

“The fact that we have a place to congregate and share our cultures with our kids is what is important,” Anantha Gopalaratnam said.

Shanthi Mandir hosts several community events, such as Hindi language classes on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

One of the coordinators for the temple, Inder Khurana, said Shanthi Mandir is open to anyone in the community looking to learn more about Hinduism.

Many in the community are able simply to come to the temple and engage in their personal worship, said Anantha Gopalaratnam, who has been involved with the Shanthi Mandir since 1985.

The temple started because many Hindus in the surrounding areas wanted a concrete place to gather.

Before the temple’s construction, they met in each others’ houses, Gopalaratnam said.

The Gopalaratnams emphasized how welcoming the temple is to all age groups and people in and around Columbia.

State park contains trails, cave system

By TOMMY PIATCHEK JR.
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

The Devil’s Icebox is part of a large limestone cave system located in Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. A half-mile trail begins at a picnic shelter and from there, it leads to the cave.

On the path to the cave, boardwalks take visitors up the 63-foot climb to the top of the Rock Bridge. Following the path down, the other side will lead visitors to the entrance of the cave. Enough sunlight enters the cave’s entrance to allow visitors to walk a short distance into an underground stream.

The cave has more than six miles of passages. Many, however, are filled with water. The first half-mile is one such passage and should be crossed by boat. There is a low spot in the main passage at which guests must lie flat in their boats while passing under it.

Visitors are not allowed into the cave except on a guided tour. Tours have been canceled this year due to a fungus disease found in the park’s bats.

Rock Bridge State Park has a total of eight trails suitable for hiking, mountain biking and walking.

The Karst Trail travels 100 feet over the Devil’s Icebox. Another path, Grassland Trail, has a 30-foot-deep sinkhole that is fenced off so visitors will not fall into the pit called Hog’s Graveyard Cave.

The Gans Creek Wild Area offers horseback riding June 1 to Oct. 31.
Lutheran church seeks funds for $1.1 million renovation

By JESSICA BARNETT
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

St. Andrew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, 914 West Blvd. S., is currently working on designs for its “Building for Christ’s mission” campaign. The campaign will expand the church as well as upgrade the current building.

St. Andrew’s was organized more than 50 years ago but has had to defer needed renovations mainly because of the budgetary effects of staff increases.

The renovations will include:
- Roof repairs.
- Installing a new and more efficient heating and cooling system.
- New flooring.
- Making the restrooms larger and handicap-accessible.
- Creating a new driveway onto West Boulevard that is safer.

Church provides space for market

By STEVEN SPARKMAN
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

Until recently, Columbia lacked a farmers market location that was easily accessible to the residents in the southern part of town. At the beginning of the summer, however, Columbia Farmers’ Market joined with Forum Christian Church to open a new location.

The church provided space and support for the market, seeing it as an extension of its other community service programs. The church also has members who participate in Habitat for Humanity and the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen downtown. Participating in the farmer’s market was an easy choice, church leadership said.

“For us, it just makes sense,” said Scott Sutherland, senior minister of Forum Christian Church. “It just seemed like a very natural fit.”

The church is undergoing renovations this summer, which made some of its normal facilities unusable. The church has had to scale back its Vacation Bible School program to a single day, instead of a weeklong program.

Members are planning a tailgate party for students to be held on Aug. 29, and a large service combining both of its campuses on Sept. 5.
Amy Gearhart was assigned in March to Missouri United Methodist Church.

By JEN APOIAN
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

Senior pastor Amy Gearhart owns a voice that reaches the farthest pews of the Missouri United Methodist Church sanctuary chapel.

"By about eighth grade I knew I wanted to be a pastor," she said.

Every year, Methodist Bishop Robert Schnase evaluates and assigns pastors to serve the 900 churches in Missouri. The process begins in January.

This year, Gearhart learned in late March that she was reassigned to Columbia's Missouri United Methodist Church on Ninth Street.

She is replacing Rev. Jim Bryan, who served Columbia for 10 years.

"I felt very excited about that because I was ordained in this church in the '90s and have known all the pastors in the recent years," Gearhart said. "This church has a great reputation for serving its community and the student community."

On Gearhart's first Sunday, the choir came out, she said. "Usually they take a little break in the summertime, but they were all there."

The turnout was as big as an Easter crowd, which was remarkable since Easter is typically the biggest day for churches, she noted.

"I sensed the congregation was checking me out," she said with a laugh, "and wanting to know about me. But they also wanted to welcome us and make us happy to be here. The service went beautifully."

With her luminous blue eyes shining, she recounted the wealth of experience she gained before she was an officially ordained pastor.

Gearhart readily admits that attending church when she was a teenager "was not a fun, popular thing for me to do."

"Then I got caught up in a youth group in the church I was a part of," she said. "It really helped me experience leadership skills and realize there were gifts I had to offer to lead other teenagers. They saw something in me that made them want to cultivate the gifts in me."

Gearhart grew up in a family from the St. Louis metropolitan area that regularly attended church.

It was a family of helping professions — teachers, nurses and doctors — so she felt right at home honoring her passion for helping others.

"Usually when you talk to pastors about what you hear is that their stories might be very different in the past, but they'll often say 'we felt God guiding us into experiences that taught us and called us more into this job,'" she said. "That's what I feel I had. Lots of people, lots of experiences that told me this is what God wanted for my life."

She recounted a particular experience in eighth grade. She sat at a church camp, she sat in the middle of a beautiful field and "just felt the love of God come over me. And this sense of 'you're mine, I love you and I have this incredible job for you.'"

She attended Illinois Wesleyan University, a private liberal arts school, majoring in religious studies, where she said she was the only "religion major on the whole campus."

"I had a lot of opportunities on campus to preach and lead worship services," she said. "I was in charge of the student government of getting the big names to come to campus."

Duke Divinity School proved another positive experience for Gearhart. She attended in the early '90s and earned a master's degree in divinity.

"It's a long process because you're not only getting educated, but you're working with the church in a series of interviews, confirmations and papers to demonstrate that God has placed this call in your life and that you're effective in your ministry," Gearhart said. This was not an obstacle for her, but instead "part of the professional development."

What proves challenging to Gearhart is not education or service but sexism and ageism.

She said she struggles when "I feel misunderstood or undercut by my gender or age."

Growing up, women mentors surrounded Gearhart. "There were a lot of women clergy in my pathway, so I saw pictures of women doing things that in our culture are still considered pretty unorthodox," she said. "But I saw women who were pastors and lay leaders in the church, and that made me feel really comfortable."

Since 1956, the Methodist denomination has officially ordained women with full rights. Prior, there were branches of the movement ordaining them.

"The core doctrine of our church is that God calls all people by their baptisms to be in service," she explained. "So we started pushing that and saying 'Ok, if by our baptism we're all called to be in ministry, then why would our gender get in the way of that?'"

Gearhart said, "Now we believe in the next 20 years the church will be half and half, led by women and men."

Before Bishop Schnase appointed her to Columbia, she worked at Central United Methodist Church in Kansas City, a smaller and more urban church.

"The reason they wanted me to come here was because I have a lot of experience working with the student communities of the churches," she said. "I was next to UMKC at my last church. I have a lot of experience helping churches financially."

Gearhart has two daughters, Hannah, 14, and Chloe, 11, and two cats, Max and Prince — "Who's really king of the house," she joked.

Her goal for serving Columbia is simple.

"Helping people to know there's hope in the world. There's a lot of hard, hard realities in this world, but there's more hope, more light than darkness," she said.

"I know some folks who are grieving and missing their former pastor because he was a great pastor, but I think they're ready for us to go forward," she said. "What I preached about was not that I wanted them to deny their history to love me. I'm asking them to welcome me to this next chapter of the story."
The alleyCat Yoga studio offers classes for prenatal yoga and stress reduction.

By MALLORY BENEDICT
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

The mission of alleyCat Yoga, located in downtown Columbia, is to create a safe and sacred space so the benefits of the practices of yoga can be fully realized by all, according to the studio’s website.

Walking into the studio on the ground floor of the Tiger Hotel, participants will first notice the soothing sounds of the music and the sweet smell of incense wafting through the large, naturally lit room.

Aside from creating a relaxing space, the studio focuses on “individualized attention, as well as safety and comfort in each pose,” said Jan Wheeler, instructor of the senior chair and Yoga Nidra classes.

AlleyCat emphasizes Kripalu Yoga — a combination of meditation and poses, but also includes Vinyasa and prenatal yoga classes, as well as stress reduction.

The 11 instructors represent a different form of yoga and all teach a different class.

Fees
- Drop-in classes range from $5-16, depending on class length.
- Participants may also purchase a yoga pass:
  - 14 classes over 12 weeks: $172
  - 8 classes over 12 weeks: $110
  - 8 classes over 8 weeks: $105
  - 6 classes over 8 weeks: $84
  - 10 classes nonexpiring pass: $150

By WILLIAM LOUNSBURY
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Getting around Columbia can be done cheaply and easily through Columbia Transit’s bus system. In early August, Columbia Transit expanded its bus routes to cover more areas where students live.

The Wabash Station, 126 N. Tenth St., is the main hub of the bus system serving the orange route, blue route, green route, red route and brown downtown orbiter.

The bus routes have been expanded to include:
- Orange: expanded north on Rangeline to Brown School Road and on Oakland Gravel Road between Smiley Lane and Vandiver Drive; south to include Forum and West boulevards and Stewart Road.
- Blue: expanded north on Rangeline, Garth Road and Providence to Smiley Lane; east to include Hanover Boulevard.
- Green: expanded north on Brown Station Road and Paris Road.
- Red: expanded south on U.S. 63 to Discovery Parkway.
- Yellow: expanded east on Nifong Boulevard and Grindstone Parkway; south to Southhampton Drive and Forum Boulevard.

Specific information about routes and times may be found on the City of Columbia website at gocolumbiamo.com by typing “GoNewRoutes” in the search box.

Bus routes change for Columbia Transit

System hours

Monday through Wednesday
6:25 a.m. to 6:25 p.m.

Thursday and Friday
6:25 a.m. to 10:25 p.m.

Saturday
10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

— City of Columbia
Get around, and out of, Columbia

By SARA COX
news@ColumbiaMissourian.com

Sooner or later, everyone wants a ticket to another place. Maybe your vehicle decides to quit working, or maybe you run on clean energy and think cars are not so cool. Luckily there are other modes of transportation to choose from.

Planes’ and trains’ limits

Flights are expensive, especially when you are in a less-urban area.

Although train rides can be an enjoyable way to travel, with plenty of legroom and some beautiful scenic landscapes to scope out, Jefferson City has the nearest Amtrak train station.

Planes and trains are wonderful if you are planning out what you want to do in advance.

Bus lines

Only second to the inevitable automobile, buses are a fast and an extremely efficient way to travel.

Columbia Transit
Wabash Station, 126 N. Tenth St., 874-7282
GoColumbiaMo.com/Public-Works/Transportation/
This is a community shuttle system that operates along different routes throughout Columbia.

Greyhound Bus Lines
611 Big Bear Blvd., 449-2416
Greyhound.com
Daily bus rides are available to and from stations in Kansas City and St. Louis. Air conditioning and bathroom are included on every bus.

Megabus
Wabash Station, 126 N. Tenth St., 877-462-6342
US.Megabus.com
Daily routes are available to and from Kansas City Metro Center and St. Louis Union Station. Air conditioning, bathroom, Wi-Fi and TV are included.

Columbia Transit has no affiliation with Megabus other than to provide Wabash Station for passenger pickup.

MO-X
303 Business Loop 70 E., 256-1991
MoExpress.com
Daily shuttles are available to and from the Kansas City and St. Louis airports.

More than fairly FUN

The Boone County Fair, in pictures

Ken Henderson calls his 5-year-old alligator, Spike, the “humigator” because he behaves like a human.

Twenty-month-old Marley Schuster eats a corn dog with her family at the Boone County Fair on July 28.

Braiden Jackson stands in front of his grandfather, Scott Jackson, at the fair’s Baby Boy Contest on July 25. Braiden placed second among 2-year-olds.

Sally Altena and Jack Daniels share a conversation with a phoning friend at Columbia Pool & Spa’s Splash Super Pool at the fair on July 24.
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