

Primary election today for U.S. Congress, state, local races

Primary elections for several county, state and Congressional races will take place today across Missouri.

To read more about individual races, check out our **voters guide** at ColumbiaMissourian.com/votersguide.

It is **too late to register** to vote, but registered voters can update their address information or name up until the time they vote.

If your **address has changed** since the last

time you voted, you must notify the Boone County Clerk to be assigned the correct polling place. To do so, call 886-4357 by election day.

New voters can **register for the Nov. 2 general election** anytime before Oct. 6.

Polls are open from **6 a.m. to 7 p.m.** today.

For the first time, Boone County precincts will use **electronic poll books** to speed up voter processing. Voters who received a notice

with a bar code and instructions in the mail should bring that paper to expedite voting. If the notice was misplaced, machines can also scan the barcodes on the back of Missouri driver's licenses.

The electronic books are designed to reduce paper waste from the traditional thick binders containing rosters of registered voters. Election officials will no longer have to look up voters by name, and digital scans will replace hand signatures.

Missouri has an **open primary system** and does not register voters by party. However, when voting in the primary, you must specify a party ballot and will only be able to vote for candidates of that party.

According to the Secretary of State's office, **statewide turnout** is expected to be 24 percent.

Boone County turnout is expected to be about 18 percent.

— Jeff Lautenberger

MISSOURIAN

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Drinking ban proposed for three parks

Complaints of drunk homeless people prompted officer to write proposal.

By **WILL GULDIN**
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Richard Craghead wants his park back.

He lives in Paquin Tower and used to enjoy the small park behind it.

But most people now are too afraid to use Paquin Park, he said.

"There's a lot of people using the park for drinking,"

said Craghead, the outgoing resident association president. "They tend to get a little bit inebriated, and they tend to bother the residents here."

A proposal to ban alcohol in this and two other downtown parks would close a loophole in city law for these areas and would try to decrease public drunkenness among the city's homeless population.

The two other parks targeted by the ordinance are Flat Branch Park and Village Square Park.

Citizen complaints led to Columbia Police Department Officer Tamera Adams proposing in a memo she wrote in early July that an ordinance be written.

In her memo, Adams, a three-year veteran of patrolling the downtown area, said the second biggest complaint she hears involves homeless people drinking or passed out.

She said she noticed people were getting around the city's open container law by drinking in the parks.

City law prohibits open alcohol containers on city streets, sidewalks and parking garages.

However, drinking is not prohibited in a city park, as long as the person is not "under the influence of intoxicating liquor."

In a 2006 document, Parks and Recreation Department Director Mike Hood said the

language of this ordinance is difficult to define but generally police only arrest people if they are intoxicated.

Whether someone is intoxicated is determined by a combination of clues including the person's behavior or blood alcohol content.

Adams said she enforces this ordinance and another law that bans sleeping in a park, but she said that hasn't solved the problem.

Police spokeswoman Jill Wieneke said this proposal would be a preventative measure.

"Addicts are going to find places to go and drink, no matter what the legal prohibitions are."

STEVE JACOBS
St. Francis House volunteer

"It's 10 times easier — from a law enforcement standpoint — to prevent the problem in these parks, instead of people going to the park, getting drunk and then arresting them," she said.

Business owners near Flat Branch Park formed one of the groups that complained to the city.

Dawn Hessler manages a Phillips 66 gas station next to the park. She said she often finds empty bottles and makeshift campsites in the small woods behind the station.

"It's almost to the point where it's scary to go down to the park," she said, speaking from personal experience.

This proposal looks like a double standard to Steve Jacobs, a volunteer at St. Francis House.

He said he feels the city turns a blind eye when college students drink.

If the city wants to get serious about solving this problem, they should help fund substance abuse programs and regulate cheap drinks with high alcohol content, Jacobs said.

"Addicts are going to find places to go and drink, no matter what the legal prohibitions are," Jacobs said.

The city council is expected to vote on the issue in about two months, according to Sgt. Chris Kelly with the Columbia Police Department.

Young Skillet Summer Camp

Ingredients: Assorted fruit, eggs, flour, video cameras, aprons

Directions: Combine in kitchen with children and instructors. Add attention, enthusiasm and empowerment. Stir for three weeks. **Enjoy.**

Campers learn recipe for success

By **KRISTINA CASAGRAND** and **THERESA BERENS**
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Mornings are busy. There are fruit salads to make, cucumbers to chop, crackers to bake and a lot of excitement for the 15 apron-clad children at Young Skillet Summer Camp.

Meet Young Skillet

What: A fundraiser for Young Skillet. The Gemkow brothers will show a documentary on the program and answer questions in a panel that will include one Young Skillet participant.

When: 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 4

Where: Ragtag Cinema, 10 Hitt St.

Admission: \$10

But Myke Gemkow is a calming presence. On a recent Wednesday, the Columbia Community Montessori teacher repeats a mantra to harness the kids' attention: "Show me you are ready. Show me you are ready."

His patience pays off. The kids know the day won't progress if he doesn't have their full attention — and there's a lot to do in a day.

Young Skillet, organized by Columbia Community Montessori, is a three-week long day camp available to the children of the city's

Please see **SKILLET**, page **8A**



ERIK HAUGSBY/Missourian

Wheat and flour become bread, melons and toothpicks become kabobs, and oranges and lemons become juice, as Lamont Minor and others at the Young Skillet Summer Camp discovered June 21. The children begin each day with raw ingredients and finish with a full lunch; "all the crazy stuff in between produced the food they eat," director Myke Gemkow said.

Calif. protesters to attend police review meeting

Marijuana activists warn that SWAT raids foster creation of a police state.

By **ABBY ROGERS**

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Two California marijuana activists plan to come to Columbia this week to talk to the Citizens Police Review Board about February's SWAT team raid and warn the community against the dangers of becoming a police state.

The board received an appeal in early June from the activists, Ed Rosenthal

and Angela Bacca, about the Feb. 11 SWAT raid in which a pit bull was shot to death by police. A small amount of marijuana was found in the house. A 7-year-old child was also present during the raid.

According to a previous Missouriian article, Rosenthal filed a complaint with the Columbia Police Department after watching the YouTube video of the SWAT team's actions during the raid at 1501 Kinloch Court. After Police Chief Ken Burton found the actions of the officers involved in the raid to be justified, Rosenthal filed an appeal with the review board.

Rosenthal is a representative of Green Aid, a medical marijuana defense and education fund. The group tries to use the court system to change marijuana laws. Columbia residents voted in 2004 to decriminalize possession of less than 35 grams of marijuana and to make marijuana enforcement a lower priority for the Police Department.

Green Aid is arguing that the raid shows the department is not listening to Columbia voters.

Rosenthal said he and Bacca are traveling from Piedmont, Calif., to Columbia to attend the meeting because the role

of the review board — and the decision it makes regarding his appeal — is important for both the community and the entire country.

Rosenthal said SWAT raids are very dangerous and foster a police state. The people of Missouri and the U.S. as a whole need to decide whether such raids are defensible.

"This society has a choice to make," he said. "Are we going to be a civil society, or a police state?"

And if the review board won't hear his appeal, Rosenthal said it's time for new review board members.

Please see **BOARD**, page **8A**



ERIK HAUGSBY/Missourian

Motorcyclists converge in Columbia for roundup

Go to ColumbiaMissourian.com for continuing coverage of the event, which will run through Sunday and bring an estimated 35,000 bikers.

FUNERAL HOME SUIT CHANGES

An estimated 200 potential plaintiffs against Warren Funeral Chapel will have to pursue their claims individually. **Page 6A**

HAM BREAKFAST

View an audio slideshow online about the hours of preparation for the annual ham breakfast at the Boone County Fair. ColumbiaMissourian.com

MOVING OUT

Trash collectors worked extra hours over the weekend as many tenants either started or ended leases around Columbia. **Page 6A**

NEW FORM OF IDENTITY THEFT

Hundreds of online businesses are selling Social Security numbers that aren't being used — such as those belonging to children — to people looking to boost their credit scores. **Page 4A**

TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Sunny. Heat index could reach as high as 107.
Temp: 99°
Tonight: Partly cloudy.
Temp: 75°
Page 2A



Heat advisory in effect through Wed.

The National Weather Service in St. Louis has issued a heat advisory for the Columbia area for today and Wednesday. The service issues heat advisories when afternoon heat indexes are expected to be 105 or higher.

The high today is expected to be 100 degrees with a heat index of 110. The high Wednesday is expected to be in the upper 90s with a heat index between 105 and 110.

The service recommends drinking plenty of fluids and staying in air-conditioned areas. If you work outside, wear light-colored clothing, avoid caffeine and alcohol, and take frequent breaks to avoid heat-related illness.

— Steven Sparkman

INDEX

Abby	7A
Calendar	2A
Classified	5B
Comics	7A
Life Stories	6A
Lottery	2A
Nation	3A
Opinion	5A
Sports	1B
Sudoku	6B
World	3A

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