

Opinions

Editorials

Our goal is to report on the events of Lincoln County, doing our best to be the community in print. In reporting the news, it is our goal to do so in a way that is fair and impartial.

We will speak out - and offer opinions - openly on issues that affect our community and urge our readers to do the same.

School, community remember teams, hope to keep tradition

A night of nostalgia was held for many of us when Troy Buchanan and the community welcomed back members of teams advancing to Final Four competition in basketball. It was the 40th anniversary of the boys team from 1977 (coached by Bob Wilhoit) and the 25th anniversary for both the boys and girls teams from 1992. The boys were coached by Mitch Wilkins and the Ron Wilhoit was head coach for the girls.

Bob Simmons
Managing Editor



Capping the evening was recognition of the school's only two state softball champions. Those teams were led by current coach, Lance Richardson.

A short summary highlighting each team was read, bringing good memories back not only for those players but the community as well. These players have all gone on to successful careers in life with many of them filling important roles in our community.

It takes a lot of hard work to attain the success levels of these teams. They each finished their seasons with two losses in Columbia, resulting in fourth-place finishes.

Parents who attended that evening remember the hours of practice and commitment of their kids. Each, no doubt, had memories or highlights of those special years. The players didn't realize then but I hope they do now the values they were taught, preparing them for their life's journey. Those values still may not be readily felt but they have guided them through their lives as they are raising families of their own.

On a personal note, I appreciated those players who still recognized me and stopped to share a memory or two about a photo taken which appears in scrapbooks.

The 2011 and 2016 softball teams reached even higher levels as they competed and finished at the pinnacle of achievement, a state championship. The 2010 team almost made it but lost a quarterfinal game 1-0. This provided determination and more grit the following year. The 2016 team also faced adversity, pulling out a win in the district with a bases-loaded double by Kaitlynn Williams in extra innings. They rallied with two outs in the frame and was down to their last pitch before Williams later delivered her walk-off winner.

All of us face roadblocks on our journey and most overcome them. A look at the past will hopefully energize current and future players to reach out and see what hard work can do.

On another issue, I sit back and am amazed about the expression of surprise people have in reaction to many of President Donald Trump's actions during his first days in office. While I don't agree with all of them, I certainly am not surprised about the actions. Mostly I am virtually shocked on the pace of some of them. I worry about what is more important to him, make positive changes or a race to judgment. Being a senior citizen, I worry about future changes in healthcare for myself, family and for all Americans. I am a believer in that health care should be available to all with reasonable costs. Changes in the ACA are about to be announced in weeks. No doubt, I will be listening. Hope you are.

Beyond the pages....

Don't miss the video of the recognition night held at Troy Buchanan at www.lincolncountyjournal.com. Also while on the home page, look for Associated Press (AP) videos which brings the latest national and world news to our Web site 24 hours a day. If you hear about it, go SEE IT by clicking on AP Videos. Be sure to sign up for TextCaster and get the latest local news for free on your mobile phone. More people are joining each week.

Be informed both at the local level as well as national and world news through www.lincolncountyjournal.com. Connecting you to the world!!! Join up today to get the latest news on your cell phone.

All letters to the editor must include a phone number to be considered for publication. Send emails to: [Bob Simmons at lceditor@lcs.net](mailto:Bob.Simmons@lcs.net). No letters pertaining to political issues will be published one week prior to election. Also, limit one letter, per writer, per month.

Lawmakers Numbers

U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt (202) 224-5721	State Sen. Jeanie Riddle (573) 751-2757
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U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill (202) 224-6154	State Rep. Randy Pietzman (573) 751-9459
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U.S. Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (202) 225-2956	State Rep. Robert Cornejo (573) 751-1484
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Quite Frankly...

We asked Lincoln County parents: What do you miss most about childhood?



Dominick Tumminello: Being able to run free.



Sue Welch: Having no worries and being free to explore and learn new things.



Anissa Lapointe: Having no responsibilities.



Jamie Blakely: I really miss riding my bike.

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Letters to the editor...

Habitat alliance opposes Port of Lincoln project

Dear Editor:

We are all familiar with horror movie plotlines where some unfortunate character's nightmares come to life.

For the many Missourians who treasure our great rivers and value, their beauty and heritage for eastern Missouri, the Port of Lincoln project is exactly that, a nightmare threatening to become reality.

In all honesty, it would be impossible for the Port of Lincoln project to get much worse. It has just about everything you should fear such a destructive proposal might have.

The proposal includes:

- A new, huge levee that will "protect" the project but will further channelize the river and simply move the next flood elsewhere along the Mississippi.

- Radical and constant increases in traffic, noise, and light that will turn thousands of acres of irreplaceable wetlands and floodplain into a concrete

and asphalt desert.

- A newly expanded Winfield lock and dam system that can threaten fish and mussel populations.

- New, unnecessary bridges and expanded highways that will change what people love about Lincoln County into just another overly congested suburb.

The time has come to ask a simple question. Is there no place left in Missouri we can allow to remain as it is? Do we no longer value what remains of rural Missouri and nature's grace?

Great Rivers Habitat Alliance believes that there is value. We are a nationally recognized organization determined to fight this project as we have many such projects over the last 20 years.

We will fight it by any and every means necessary. We will oppose it during the regulatory process, from the public square, within the political arena, on the antennas of the media, and along the networks of the inter-

net.

We recognize the rights of the landowners who wish to sell their land. We likewise appreciate the admirable desire of hard-working Missourians who wish to work on the Port of Lincoln project. However, recognizing their rights and goals does not mean the rest of us must relinquish ours.

Many other people of Lincoln County and surrounding areas have a right to keep the natural essence of their communities as it has been.

That silent majority should not be forced to accept these changes to their way of life. Conservationists throughout our state have a right to preserve the beauty of this region and protect the health of the river and wildlife.

Public safety advocates should be fearful of adding another 500-year levee to our system which will certainly increase the severity of the floods for those not immediately behind the giant, new levee.

Sportsmen are justifiably concerned about how

this will impact the Mississippi Flyway, where an estimated 60 percent of all migratory birds in North American travel twice each year.

Above all, taxpayers should be wondering who is going to pay for the damage done by the impact of the new levee when it moves the next big flood along the river to someplace that was previously outside the floodplain.

You will hear much more from us in 2017. If you want to preserve the heritage and beauty of great rivers such as the Mississippi and special places such as Lincoln County, we hope you will help us fight Port of Lincoln. We would all hate to wake up one day and see that our nightmares have come true.

Please do not let this happen in Lincoln County.

David Stokes
Executive Director
Great Rivers
Habitat Alliance

Liberals protesting what they deem un-American

Dear Editor,

I have never written to the newspaper in 12 years of living in Lincoln County.

In reply to "Liberals continuing disruptive methods against Trump", first of all, the liberal Democrats are using the playbook from the "tea party activists." They are protesting what they deem un-American and bad for the American people.

The Republican Congress was complacent in confirming Trump's unqualified picks for his cabinet. Betsy DeVos is a perfect example of an unqualified pick. She

has donated millions to the very people that confirmed her and has no experience in education, not one day.

I have not seen or heard of anyone wanting to "kill Trump". We would like to kill his executive orders, but liberals are not violent. Remember we are "Snowflakes".

Liberals will do whatever they can to prevent the rollback of any laws that protects the American people from a Republican Congress and their corruption.

That includes the environment, education, immigration, social security, women's health, workers

rights and Medicare.

The American people need to know that the people in power only represent the richest 1 percent of Americans and will take from the pockets of the rest of us. This will affect future generations for years to come.

The 2008 bailout and subsequent stock market crash transferred 5 trillion dollars from average people to rich millionaires and billionaires worldwide.

America is the land of the free and built on the backs of immigrants and refugees.

We need to open our minds and our hearts and

reach out to get to know them, listen to their stories. They are so happy and grateful to be here, and in turn, will be our allies in keeping America safe.

Christians should focus on spreading love and compassion, not hate and distrust for their brothers and sisters from another nation, WWJD?

This man's letter reinforced my belief that if you don't expand your sources of news, you will never know the difference between real news and fake news.

Laura Ziemann
Troy

Got an opinion? Submit a letter to the editor.

Governor gets it wrong with cuts to education

Megan Myers
Staff Reporter



For being a so-called "political outsider," our new governor certainly has one of the tools of the trade down pat: He knows how to sell his agenda.

After announcing his budget restrictions earlier this month, Greitens promised that no money would be taken out of our K-12 classrooms.

But his decision to cut millions more from already cash-strapped school transportation funding forces districts to do just that.

No one wants their child riding around for hours on a school bus ev-

ery day, or walking home along a busy stretch of highway.

Inevitably, the money will have to be made up by cutting other programs and services the schools offer.

And the cuts are inevitably going to hurt rural districts like ours more than urban schools, because we have hundreds more miles to cover every day.

So much for that promise.

Of course, the lion's share of the cuts made were to higher education, which is easier to stomach in the public opinion, but a tone-deaf move, none-the-less.

In his state of the state address, the governor has repeated his assertions that we need more jobs in Missouri.

The problem is, as lo-

cal employers have been saying for years, we already have jobs here.

The unemployment rate in Lincoln County is the lowest it's been in a decade.

What we don't have are people with the technical training to perform these jobs — training that they receive from institutions like Missouri S & T and local community colleges, and through programs like Missouri Works.

Yet these are the institutions and programs targeted for millions more in funding cuts in Greitens's plan.

To be fair, Greitens is not alone in misunderstanding this issue.

I'll never forget attending Senator Roy Blunt's campaign stop at Elite Tool and Die this past fall, and listening as owner Frank Roth repeatedly

explained that he wanted to expand his business, but couldn't find enough qualified workers to hire.

Less than 10 minutes later, Blunt was standing in front of a crowd of Elite employees giving the standard spiel about — you guessed it — bringing more jobs to Missouri.

There's no doubt that we need to cut state spending — after all, balancing the budget is not optional.

And I applaud Greitens for standing up for fiscal responsibility after years of wasteful government spending. But education doesn't fall under this category, in my opinion.

Shortchanging our investment in the future workforce is a shortsighted solution to our present economic woes.