

SUNDAY
November 28, 2004
Partly cloudy, cool
High 46 Low 35

MILESTONE WIN
STATHAM TIES DEAN SMITH
SPORTS D1



FALLUJAH
VICTORY COMES
AT PERSONAL COST
NATION/WORLD A7

ANSWER MAN
BELLEVILLE'S LINK
TO HINDENBURG
LIFESTYLE C1

BELLEVILLE NEWS-DEMOCRAT

Serving Southwestern Illinois

Dual registration: a 'recipe for fraud'?

Some voters on rolls at more than one site

By Mike Fitzgerald
mfitzgerald@bnd.com

Allison Anderson cast her vote Nov. 2 at Pontiac-William Holiday School in Fairview Heights, even though her name remains on the voter rolls in East St. Louis.
She hasn't lived in East St. Louis for 12 years.
"I thought that it would automatically follow me," Anderson, 40, said of her voter registration.
The same goes for Valerie

Adams, 60, who with her husband moved to Centreville in 1997. She voted at a firehouse off Lake Drive, but remains a registered voter in East St. Louis.
"I can't even remember voting from there last," she said of East St. Louis.
They are among 891 men and women who are dually registered to vote in East St. Louis and elsewhere in St. Clair County, or in two different precincts in East St. Louis, according to research by the Belleville News-

Democrat.
Critics contend these duplicate registrations help explain why East St. Louis has 20 percent more registered voters than it has residents age 18 and older — 25,243 versus 21,196, U.S. census figures show.
The fact so many people are registered in two places "is a recipe for massive fraud," said Steve McGlynn, a Belleville lawyer and co-chairman of the Illinois Republican Party.
A federal grand jury earlier

Please see VOTERS, A2

Compromising the vote

How voting can be rigged

Vote buying
Votes are bought by literally giving voters \$20 - \$50. Money may be given to homeless people to vote for a particular candidate.

Absentee voting
Votes may be bought by paying absentee voters, where the money is harder to trace, and is nearly impossible for election judges to oversee.

The power of persuasion
Undue pressure or persuasion may be used to convince a captive voter, such as those living in a boarding house or in a nursing home, to vote in a particular direction.



Ghost voting
Votes are cast with false names, the names of the deceased or people who have moved away.

Motor voter
Votes are bought and cast by the same person visiting several polling locations. Or voters may be paid and then transported to polling places in car pools or vans.

Jim Mettler/News-Democrat

Gun turns ball game serious

Security cameras capture altercation

By Mike Fitzgerald
mfitzgerald@bnd.com

BELLEVILLE — A pickup basketball game in the Signal Hill Elementary school gymnasium turned scary when a player threatened another with a semiautomatic pistol Saturday morning and fled the scene.
Belleville Police still are looking for a suspect, described as a black male who is in his 30s. His hair is braided in "corn rows," and he was dressed in basketball shorts and a white T-shirt.

The suspect aimed the handgun at a young man in the gym he knew, then left the gym and drove off in a vehicle believed to be a white Pontiac Grand Prix, the year unknown, Detective Mark Eschman said.
"We searched the area for him and we were unable to locate him," Eschman said.
Police do not know the suspect's name. Eschman said the others he was playing with knew him from previous games, but did not know his name.
The incident occurred about 10 a.m. Saturday at the school, located at 41 Signal Hill Place.

Please see CUN, A2

LENDING A HELPING HAND

Charity groups still satisfy critical need

By Jennifer A. Bowen
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Nearly every charity, locally and nationally, is reaching out a hand asking people to dig deep and give a little this time of year.

November and December are the biggest months for charitable donations, and many organizations rely heavily on donations to help restock food pantries, provide needy children with toys for Christmas and help make someone's holiday a little cheerier.

"Donations are already looking really good," said Capt. Jason Puff, corps officer of the Belleville Salvation Army. "We're already at just under \$60,000, and we're really pretty pleased. We have such an aggressive goal this year that we're really just keeping our heads down and reaching for that. People have been very generous so far, and it's still early in the season."

The Salvation Army is one of the most visible charities during the holiday season, with bell-ringers and the organization's signature red kettles in front of many retail stores. The goal for the Belleville Salvation Army this season is \$370,000 — which is \$70,000 more than last year's goal.

Gary Watkins has been manning Salvation Army kettles for



Salvation Army volunteer bell ringer Gary Watkins puts out the call for help at the Carlyle Avenue Wal-Mart in Belleville.



The Salvation Army

What it wants
Accepts donations of cash, food and new, unwrapped toys. The goal this season is to raise \$370,000 locally during the holiday season.

How you can help
Volunteer bell ringers are needed for donation kettles. Companies or families can adopt a local family for the holiday season and help buy Christmas gifts.

Get in touch
Call 235-7378. All donations can be dropped off at the Belleville Salvation Army at 20 Glory Place, at 42nd and West Main streets.

Starting Monday, the News-Democrat will tell you about local charities and their needs in Lifestyle, Page C1.

Please see CHARITY, A3

School districts in a pinch as they replace textbooks

State reduced the amount spent per student

By Elizabeth Donald
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amount has been cut to about \$32 per student — down from \$45 last year and larger numbers in prior years.

On average, districts must replace textbooks about every seven years as they become worn out or the information and teaching techniques become outdated,

books.
"It puts more of a burden on local tax monies in providing up-to-date textbooks," Collinsville Superintendent Dennis Craft said.
On average, districts must replace textbooks about every seven years as they become worn out or the information and teaching techniques become outdated,

school officials said.
"You just have to use district funds, which cuts into budgets already in deficit," said Julie Miller, Collinsville's director of curriculum.
Textbooks aren't cheap. The book alone might be \$50-60, but often it's more to in-

Please see TEXTBOOKS, A2

Please see ONLINE, A2

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REAL ESTATE CLASSIFIED

LOTTERY FOR ILLINOIS
Pick 3-Midday: 0-3-8
Pick 3-Evening: 9-1-9
Pick 4-Midday: 8-1-9-7

Pick 4-Evening: 3-3-4-4
Little Lotto: 2-9-12-19-36
Jackpot: \$3.5 million

FOR MISSOURI
Pick 3-Midday: 8-3-3
Evening: 0-7-1
Pick 4-Midday: 1-1-4-9
Evening: 3-2-2-1

Show Me 5-Midday: 4-21-26-36-43
Show Me 5-Evening: 4-21-26-36-43
Lotto: 2-8-17-27-31-35

POWERBALL: Game: 16-28-35-36-47 Powerball: 31 Jackpot: \$109.5 million Power Play: 02



INFORMATION FOR READERS

Profits

By the banks, the...
The Fed...
to deliver some...
growth — for in...
at interest rates —
the U.S. Federal Re...
board.

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ABOUT US

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VOTERS | Ex-attorney general scrutinizes ESL

Continued from Page A1. This month began investigating how the city Democratic Party in St. Clair County spent money to get out the vote in the last election.

Nine Democratic precinct committeemen in East St. Louis, including two of their top leaders, testified before the grand jury on Nov. 18. An undisclosed number of other Democratic precinct committeemen have been subpoenaed since then.

It is not known whether the investigation stretches beyond how party money was spent, since federal investigators do not comment on grand jury proceedings.

For years, East St. Louis has had its own election department that operates independently of the county.

James Lewis, executive director of the East St. Louis Board of Election Commissioners, downplayed the importance of dual voter registrations.

"I do not feel that is something of any great significance," Lewis said. "There were no margins involved that brought about a difference of 800 voters" in the most recent election.

St. Clair County Clerk Bob Delaney said that while it's possible someone could vote in two different places, "I think it's more of a clerical screw-up than anything."

Both Lewis and Delaney said they undertake voter purges every two years, as well as deleting voters' names when notified of address changes.

Delaney blamed many duplicate registrations on the

"I do not feel that is something of any great significance. There were no margins involved that brought about a difference of 800 voters."

James Lewis, East St. Louis Board of Election Commissioners, executive director.

Motor Voter Act of 1993, which made it easier to put names on voter rolls, but hard to prune them because voters can register by mail without listing their previous addresses.

Lewis declined to say whether he believed election fraud is a problem in East St. Louis, citing the subpoena he received from the grand jury.

"Obviously, they're asking the questions that voters in this county have been asking for countless election cycles," McGlynn said.

For decades, St. Clair County Republicans have been their candidates, holding leads or trailing in tight county-wide races on election night, only to see the Democrats swept to victory once the East St. Louis votes came in.

That happened Nov. 2 in the race for St. Clair County Board chairman. Republican Steve Reeb had captured 52 percent of the vote in St. Clair County, compared with 47.6 percent for Democrat Mark Kern.

But Kern, the Belleville mayor, received 82.7 percent of the vote in East St. Louis and won the seat.

TEXTBOOKS | Schools try to conserve books

Continued from Page A1.

clude all the instructional materials needed for the curriculum. For a first-grade class, with three classrooms of students, one textbook could run about \$3,500, plus another \$500 to \$700 for teachers' materials.

Belleville District 118 will use the \$60,000 it's getting this year for a new set of science textbooks. But the total cost will be about \$105,000 to cover 2,000 students.

"Obviously, we'd like to have more," said Jeff Dosier, assistant superintendent of curriculum.

History, social studies and language arts books tend to age the fastest, though districts often try to use rebinding services to squeeze a few more years out of aging books.

Another way to make the books last longer: language arts sets that come with four smaller books for each student instead of one large book. The books don't wear out as quickly when they only use them for one quarter, Dosier said.

Cahokia District 187 has

"(We buy) books for the accelerated reader program, and the kids use it as a supplement. We never rely heavily on the state. So they pull some more dollars from us, so what else is new?"

Darrell Sy, Pontiac-William Holiday District 105 superintendent.

made updating its textbooks a priority, according to curriculum director Judy Smith. Before last year's state textbook funding, not every student had a book. Often, the books had to remain in the classroom and two students would share during class.

"What costs (the state) doesn't cover, the district has to supplement," Smith said. "That has been a burden for the district, but we see it as a priority."

For Pontiac-William Holli-

Fax us your classified ad at 235-6846 or 343-4223.

Advertising Notice: On page 2c of the November 26th - December 4th American TV preprint, the Sharp 15" LCD TV is inadvertently shown with a Sharp Aquos Logo. This model is not an Aquos TV. We apologize for any inconvenience or confusion this may have caused American TV customers.

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Baby gorilla in Boston zoo has adoring fan club

Associated Press. BOSTON — With shutters clicking and cameras rolling, dozens of people crowded into the Franklin Park Zoo's indoor "tropical forest" on Saturday for the debut of its newest celebrity resident: a tiny 3-day-old western lowland gorilla.



Kiki, a western lowland African gorilla, cradles her newborn at the Boston zoo.

Children with faces and hands pressed to the glass of the steamy enclosure gasped and oohed as Kiki the gorilla ambled from her nighttime quarters with her 4-pound baby tucked under her arm.

Kiki sauntered between areas of the enclosure, the baby held in her arms or hanging from her chest, as the crowds rushed from window to window to follow her movements.

The baby doesn't have a name yet because its gender wasn't known for several months, until zoo officials can physically examine it without upsetting Kiki, said John Linehan, the zoo's president and CEO.

ONLINE | Cities offer service

Continued from Page A1.

ment agency decides to take it. For years, utilities have offered this service, Verizon Wireless, SBC Ameritech, Ameripol and others offer an online payment service, where a customer receives a bill or e-mail, goes to the Web site and pays online from a checking account or credit card.

The service ePay (www.e-pay.com) is set up via the Illinois state treasurer's office, and is becoming more popular as time goes on.

"Little by little, municipalities start to participate," said Carolyn Barry, spokesman for state Treasurer Judy Ear Roginska, who organized the program. "We have to make sure our systems all hook up... It depends on how the village needs and how electronically savvy they are. We're building it more and more into our system."

Some government agencies have expanded online bill paying beyond utility bills. The St. Clair County and Madison County regional offices of education allow teacher license renewals through the ePay program. Students at Lewis & Clark Community College can pay tuition. Granite City allows payment of ordinance violation fines and school fees, and Edwardsville residents can pay ambulance bills online.

For some towns, like Collinsville, it's the only way they can pay a bill with a credit card — something frequently requested by residents.

"No one was really asking often for (online pay)," White said. "But people asked if we take Mastercard."

Edwardsville belongs to another service called Convenience Pay (www.conveniencepay.com). Administered by The Bank of Edwardsville, residents can pay one-at-a-time or have the bill automatically deducted.

Online bill paying

Here is a list of local governments and other tax-supported agencies that offer online bill paying: ePay, www.illinoisepay.com

- Alton, Collinsville, Collinsville Public Library, Granite City, Highland, O'Fallon, Convenience Pay, www.conveniencepay.com, Collinsville Chamber of Commerce, Edwardsville, Granite City, Granite City Community School District, Lewis & Clark Community College Foundation, Metro-East Sanitary District, SIUE Alumni, SIUE Foundation, St. Clair County Clerk's office, Wood River.

ed. It's the choice of the Metro-East Sanitary District and the St. Clair County clerk's office, among others.

Convenience Pay also is used by non-government groups, such as the Southern Illinois University Alumni Association and the Collinsville Chamber of Commerce.

Convenience Pay has a flat \$5 service charge for all bills over \$100, and goes up from there. ePay's fee is on a sliding scale — \$1 for bills up to \$25, \$1.25 up to \$50, etc.

The fee is paid by the consumer, at no charge to the city. "Municipalities are not making money off it," Barry said. "It's just for the convenience."

Lead holiday cheer one window at a time. The holidays are coming! Make your home sparkle for family and friends with Hunter Douglas window fashions. Don't wait - shop now to guarantee delivery in time for the holidays! The celebrations are about to begin! Table advantage of our special holiday savings: Save \$75 each (2 unit min) on Laminate Privacy Sheers. Save \$25 each (3 unit min) on Alouette Light Screens, Silhouette and Vignette window shades, and Heritage hardwood shutters. Contact us for a free consultation: Collins & Sons Flooring AMERICA, 2431 N. Illinois St. Swansea, 618-234-2915. Hunter Douglas window fashions.