

# Columbia Missourian

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Good Morning! It's Saturday, July 15, 1978

14 Pages — 15 Cents

Sutton ejected;  
Cardinals win

See Sports, Page 6

## Fewer join A.S.C.S. program

### Farmers skeptical of wheat, grain aid

By Ringo Chu  
Missourian staff writer

Only 64 percent of Boone County farmers who joined last year's wheat and grain program of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service have signed up for the same program this year.

Farmers are skeptical about the government's attempt to protect "the farm from the farmer himself," and the working of the impersonal free market forces of supply and demand, says Walter Johnson, an expert on farm produce and grain prices and associate professor of economics at the University. He says the passive response of the farmers is due to a better understanding on their part of these government programs.

### Insight

"The industry has been in trouble for some time. If we (the government) just sit back and go away, the problem may go away. But we like to 'assist,'" Johnson says. "American farmers in the past quarter century have seen a myriad of government programs — some good and some bad — come and go."

Many American farmers have been operating at a loss because, in the years of high farm income, land values escalated and interest-carrying charges rose. As a result mortgages have become higher and the cost of growing has gone up. Johnson says farm income is a yield in dollars and if the number of dollars goes up, the land value will go up leaving farmers stuck with expensive land.

"The government is being 'kind' to the farmers and trying to restore some degree of profitability to farming in the short run, thereby giving agriculture time to straighten out."

John Sam Williamson Jr., Route 4, says farmers are at the mercy of the market price and some of them would go broke without government intervention.

"The government is trying to help smaller farmers," says Williamson, who grows corn and wheat. "The only way to survive is to farm a lot of acres. Smaller farmers can't afford to buy more land, and they can't produce enough to stay in business."

Don Emery, Boone County executive director for the A.S.C.S., says the program originally was set up to save farmers from bankruptcy.

"It's a myth that all farmers are rich. American farmers have been operating at a loss for many years," Emery says. "Only the strong farmers can survive with this program, and only the strong ones can survive without this program."

Emery thinks the decrease in participation in the program this year can be traced to a new regulation that prohibits farmers growing only soybeans to sign up. Last year they were required to sign up.

Another reason, Emery says, is some farmers do not like government intervention in any form.

"Some farmers feel they'd fare better without government," Emery says. "But the government is so involved in everything that there is bound to be some participation somewhere."

Larry Hargis of Route 4 is one such farmer. Hargis grows grain and hay, and raises livestock, but he is not concerned with the government program.

"I haven't paid much attention so I really don't know much about it," Hargis says. "It's really got nothing to do with me."

The grain set-aside program is intended to lower the amount of land placed in production, and thus total grain production, Emery says. If enough farmers participate, grain stocks will be drawn down and prices could go up. That would mean more money for growers. Crops covered by the program in Boone County are (See FARMERS, Page 14)



Raymond K. Gehman

## Hotline to heaven

Lightning appeared to strike the steeple of the Westside Christian Church, 1108 W. Ash St., a second time during an electrical storm Friday night as Columbia

firemen fought a small blaze in the roof insulation. Actually the steeple was struck only once.

## Group forms to fight Stephens rezoning

By Babbette Morgan  
Missourian staff writer

"Columbians to Save Stephens Park" was formed Friday to oppose a rezoning application by Stephens College which would allow conversion of a 40-acre (16.1-hectare) tract of mostly open parkland to apartments and commercial development.

Eighteen people met at the home of Sarah Bess, 1601 E. Broadway, to form the group.

The area, which may be leased by the college to Joe Morrissey, a developer from Clayton, lies north of East

Broadway and east of Business 63, and is also bounded by William and Windsor Streets.

A petition drive by the group is planned to begin this weekend in the neighborhoods surrounding the land. Citywide circulation of petitions may follow, according to Karl Kruse. Kruse, 1505 Windsor St., Al Tacker, 507 W. Ash St., and Nanci Mon, a May graduate of Stephens, are members of the steering committee coordinating the group.

Proposed rezoning of the area would change 5.5 acres (2.2 hectares) of the land from R-1, single-family residence zoning, to R-3, or multiple family

residence zoning. About 8.8 acres (3.5 hectares) would be converted from R-1 zoning to C-P zoning for a planned business district.

Petitions to be circulated by the group ask for signatures from persons who "do not want the requested zoning of C-P at the northwest corner of Business 63 and East Broadway." The petition requests a turndown of the rezoning application from the Columbia Planning and Zoning Commission and from the City Council.

Reasons for its rezoning protest were cited in a statement released by the committee at the group's Friday

meeting. "The area is one of Columbia's finest, easily accessible, undeveloped areas," it said. "It is a resource used by all Columbians."

The statement also noted that the area already has "inadequate streets, services and shopping facilities to which 1,600 to 1,800 new residents would be added with a 416-unit apartment complex proposed by Morrissey."

The group also accused Stephens of not attacking the root of its financial problems. "Stephens' real problem is declining enrollment," the statement said. "At present they are operating at only two-thirds of capacity. No amount

of land development activity will make Stephens viable unless their root financial problem is solved."

In addition to petitions, Ms. Mon said the group may try to organize a neighborhood association and plans to encourage letter-writing to City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission members and to local media by persons opposed to the zoning.

A subsequent meeting of the group and of any other persons interested is planned for 7 p.m. Wednesday at the pavilion in the northwest corner of Stephens Park.

## She's not sure why

# Rochepoint fires only police officer

By John Morris  
Missourian staff writer

ROCHEPOINT - Three months ago, Mike Grathwohl was fired from his position as a Rochepoint police officer. Thursday night, when the City Council fired the community's remaining police officer, Gisele Morgan, Rochepoint found itself without a police force.

Ms. Morgan, who was hired late last year, is not sure why she was fired. "They really haven't given me a reason. I'm waiting for them to send me a letter," she said Friday.

Ms. Morgan, however, said her supervisor, Leon Morris, criticized her almost daily for her alleged failure to enforce the town's dog registration ordinance. "That's all Leon would talk

about," she said. Morris, who declined to comment, also is a member of the council.

"I don't believe Leon ever liked her," said Joann Coates, a local resident. "We feel like she was unjustly terminated. The dog tags are hard to get, since most people in City Hall work during the day."

"A lot of people got their dog tags, and still he (Morris) criticized me," said Ms. Morgan.

Mayor Charles Talley said he did not want the firing publicized. With the dismissal of Ms. Morgan, Talley becomes the community's acting law enforcement official. He said the council would hire someone to take Ms. Morgan's place.

Ms. Morgan's former supervisor,

C.B. Brooks, said she "was the most trouble-free person that worked under me. She did a damn good job." Brooks formerly served on the City Council.

Brooks' wife, Betty, a former municipal judge here, said a petition drive to have Ms. Morgan reinstated is probable, and she called for a full investigation of the dismissal.

Wanda Stockton, a local resident, said Ms. Morgan "had real good connections with the kids. The kids really respected her. They really liked Gigi."

"The kids were out in protest last night shooting off fireworks all over town," she said.

Ms. Morgan, 22, said she always has wanted to do police work and is hoping to find a law enforcement position in a larger town.



Gisele Morgan

Missourian photo

## In town today

- 7 p.m. "Anything Goes," Summer Dinner Theater, Columbia College. Show time 9:30 p.m.
- 7:30 p.m. "The Taming of the Shrew," Maplewood Barn Theater, Nifong Park.
- 8:15 p.m. MOSSPAC Festival Symphony, featuring solo pianist Jane Allen, Jesse Auditorium, University.
- 8:15 p.m. "Of Mice and Men," Summer Repertory Theater, University Theater.

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**Willie and his fans**

This year, progressive country singer Willie Nelson moved his traditional Fourth of July picnic from Texas to Kansas City. A crowd of nearly 40,000, as diverse as the list of performers, showed up to listen, dance and cheer. This Sunday, Vibrations takes a look at the fans.

**Playing 'possum**

Guinea pigs of the world beware: a University scientist has come up with what he says is a better research laboratory animal — the lowly opossum. William J. Krause, an associate professor of anatomy at the University's School of Medicine, is involved in the study of these unusual creatures, and he says the use of the animals might help further efforts toward determining the effects of radiation and pollutants on birth defects. Read all about it in Sunday's Missourian.

**A Summer Selection**

Sunday Missourian readers will get another glimpse of the work of Missouri's best-loved humorist this Sunday. This week's offering of short stories by Mark Twain is a little-known classic entitled "How I came to edit an agricultural paper."