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Good Morning! It's Saturday, April 30, 1983

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Missouri teens flock to city to show their musical skills

By Julie Boyle
Missourian staff writer

Linda Williams traveled 225 miles to perform for 14 minutes. But it was worth it.

"One! One! I can't believe it!" she squealed, hugging her flute case tightly to her chest. The 16-year-old from Bell City, Mo., had just learned that she had been awarded the highest rating possible in the Missouri State High School Music Festival for a solo and her part in a woodwind ensemble. She had driven 4½ hours for the two seven-minute performances.

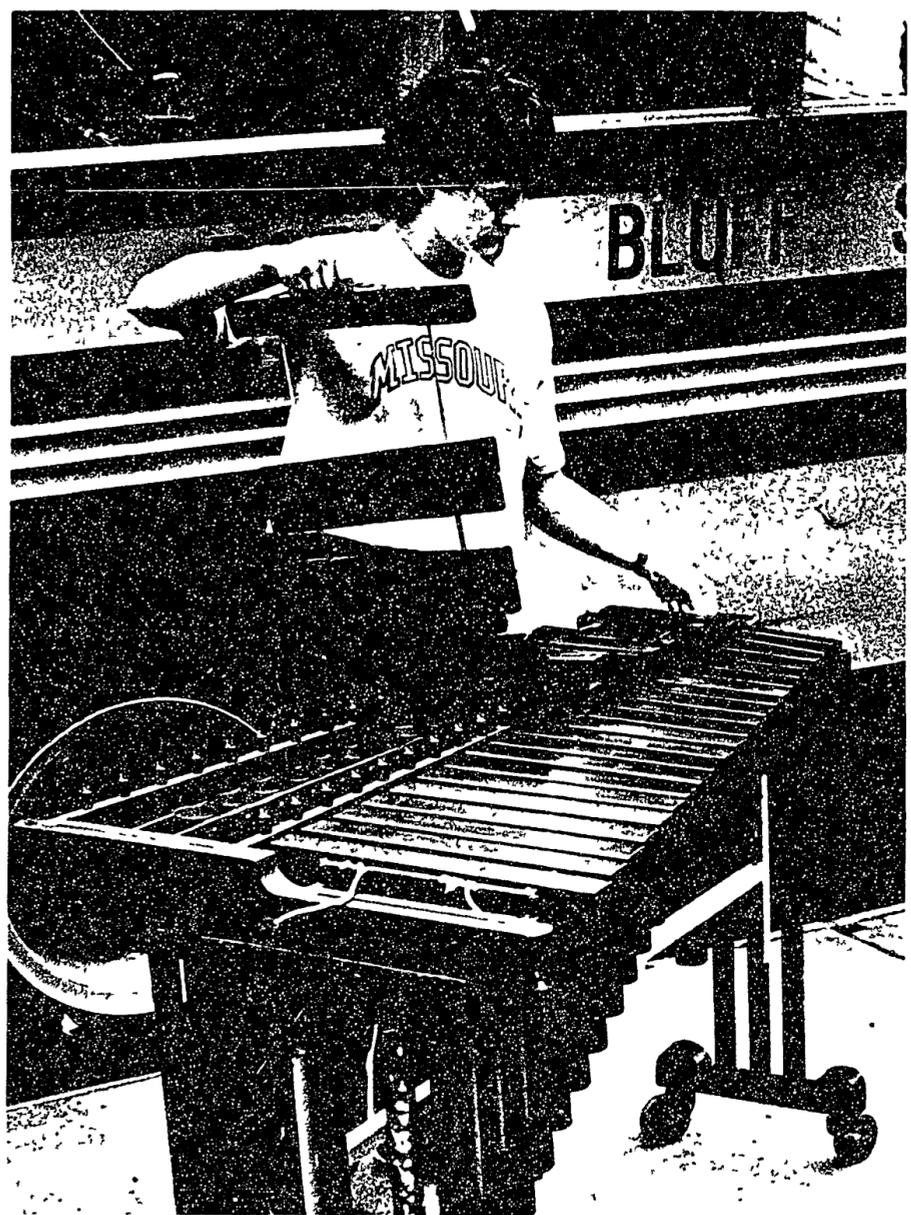
Linda is one of 7,135 Missouri high school students who traveled to Columbia for the music fest. They are delegates from 361 high schools who have qualified for the state festival by receiving a "one" rating at the district level. They play before music instructors who evaluate their performance on a one to five basis. One is "excellent" and five is "unsatisfactory."

Preparation for the festival began last summer. Jack Miles, executive secretary of the Missouri State High School Activities Association, has worked on the event for the past 21 years and calls it his full-time job. He and festival manager Richard Hills prepare for the event as if it were an assault by the Russian army.

Room 140 of the Fine Arts Building is festival headquarters, where all late arrivals or confused participants report. The performers occupy Jesse Hall's auditorium and band room, the Fine Arts recital hall and 23 rooms of the Memorial Union.

Each solo or ensemble is allotted seven minutes, not one second more. "We've got the whole thing figured out by computer," said Hills. "If someone runs over, that throws the whole schedule off."

Friday, Lowry Mall was teeming with tense, chattering teens and their parents. Nervous? "Yes, definitely," said Sherri Morris, 14, of Neosho, Mo., who was perched on her alto saxophone case outside the Fine Arts Building. A fellow stu-



Moiry Dolle of Poplar Bluff disassembles a xylophone.

dent, David Johnson, was glad his trombone solo was over. "Aw, I got a two," he said, slurping his cherry sucker. "But so far everybody from Neosho has got two's."

Several of the parents weren't

quite as relaxed. "We've been standing out here for almost an hour waiting for them to post Jenny's rating," said Mary Haggard, Kansas City, Mo. Jenny, 16, performed a piano solo Friday morn-

ing. "She was so nervous, I don't think she did as well as she thought she could have. She's been practicing that piece for months."

The festival continues from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today.

Taking account of city banking

Council may shift city funds to Boone County National

By Ted Griggs
Missourian staff writer

The city soon may be doing its business with a new bank.

If the City Council Tuesday night follows a city Banking Services Review Committee recommendation, Columbia's central depository bank — the one that provides the city with basic banking services — will become Boone County National Bank, 720 E. Broadway.

Under the city's current Central Depository Agreement, which expires June 1, Columbia does its banking with Centerre Bank of Columbia, 800 Cherry St.

The five-member committee, appointed in March by Finance Director Harold Boldt to review and rank proposals by banks, chose Boone County National over three other competitors.

Centerre was ranked second. The others submitting proposals were First National Bank and Trust Co., 801 E. Broadway, third, and Commerce Bank of Columbia, 500 Business Loop 70 W, fourth.

"These rankings do not necessarily mean that any one institution is less capable than the others in providing the bank services requested," the committee report to the council states. "The ranking reflects a total package of services offered, cost of services to the city and the rate of return on overnight invested funds."

The committee considered the costs of a range of basic banking services; interest rates on short-term, overnight investments, the financial strength of each bank, and the ability of each bank to provide necessary services. Among those services are checking and savings accounts for city revenue and overnight investment of some of those funds.

One committee member, who asked not to be identified, said Boone County National offered the highest interest rate on short-term investments and proposed to sweep all excess cash from city accounts

into overnight investments, something the other banks did not propose.

Such investments, the committee report says, constitute 10 percent of the city's total investment portfolio.

In other financial matters Tuesday, the council expects to hear a Parks and Recreation Department report that puts a \$175,000 price tag on new lights for night baseball at the American Legion Baseball Field on East Broadway.

The lights, which the report says are not worth repairing, were the subject of heated debate at the council's April 18 meeting. Legion members protested a council proposal that would give city leagues and teams limited use of the University's Simmons Field for the next 25 years in exchange for \$175,000 in city funds for lights for Simmons.

That plan, legion members argued, would leave their field to fall into disuse. The council tabled the resolution pending a report on the cost of new lights for Legion Field and repair projects the city has scheduled for that field this year and next. The repairs will cost \$80,000, the report says.

The council also will hear on first reading a proposed amendment to the city's hotel and motel tax ordinance. The amendment would base such taxes on gross daily rental receipts, including amounts paid out in state, federal and local taxes.

In a memo to the council, City Counselor David Evans said the ordinance currently is ambiguous about whether those taxes can be exempted from gross receipts.

In other business Tuesday, the council will

Hold a public hearing on proposed curb, gutter and sidewalk construction on Rollins Street from Maryland Avenue to Fifth Street.

Vote on whether to proceed with \$40,000 worth of curb and sidewalk construction on Richmond Avenue.

Schedule a public hearing for May 16 on how to use a \$216,000 community development block grant the city soon will receive.

Dioxin crisis could spread nationwide

By Joe Lamba
State capital bureau

JEFFERSON CITY — Missouri's bountiful supply of dioxin has catapulted the state into national prominence, but according to industry spokesmen, scientists and the Environmental Protection Agency that prominence may fade as reserves of the toxic chemical surface at sites across the nation.

The most dangerous variety of dioxin — 2,3,7,8-TCDD — is an unwanted byproduct in a variety of industrial processes that have been common since 1946. The greatest sources of this dioxin were production of trichlorophenol (TCP) and the herbicide 2,4,5-T, an ingredient of the Agent Orange defoliant used in Vietnam.

"I'm really concerned about what happened to the waste from all those plants," says James Singmaster, a scientist who is writing a book on dioxin.

PBI-Gordon Spokesman Skip Skaptason says he is amazed more

INSIGHT

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dioxin problems haven't appeared. His Kansas City, Kan., firm used to package 2,4,5-T, he says, and dump its waste into the Kaw River — just as every other area factory did. As a packager rather than a producer, the company would have generated only trace amounts of dioxin wastes from solvents used to clean the bottling machinery. But Skaptason admits the discarded solvents themselves were far from healthy.

"Industries 20 years ago really, really didn't have an appreciation of what they were doing," he says.

National EPA spokesman Don Barnes says the agency shares Singmaster's concern about dioxin wastes. An investigation is under way to trace where they were deposited, he says, but progress has been slow.

When the hunt begins in earnest, Barnes says, it's sure to turn up dioxin. Studies indicate that about 106 million pounds of 2,4,5-T alone were produced in the United States between 1960 and 1970. Depending on the production process used, according to an EPA publication, dioxin would be present in the waste or even the finished product.

Yet until 1980, there were few laws regulating the disposal of wastes from these factories. This problem was compounded because officials in industry and government were largely unaware of the extreme toxicity of dioxin until the early '70s, says Dan Bishop, a spokesman for Monsanto Co. in St. Louis.

Research by Dow Chemical Co. in 1964 showed that dioxin in 2,4,5-T caused skin lesions and severe liver damage in rabbits. Yet this discovery went unreported, according to Singmaster and The New York Times. The company was afraid the research findings would spark gov-

ernment regulation of the industry, according to company memos recently cited by the Times.

At a secret 1965 meeting, Dow told four of its competitors of the dioxin problem and advised them to mend their ways, to reduce dioxin in their herbicide. But as late as 1978, tests revealed high levels of dioxin in 2,4,5-T. Production declined when the EPA restricted the use of the herbicide to rangeland, sugar cane and ricefields in 1979.

Some dioxin waste sites already have surfaced. One is Love Canal, N.Y., the dumping ground for the residue of Hooker Chemical Co.'s TCP production.

Another is the Vertac plant in Jacksonville, Ark. A series of companies produced 2,4,5-T at the plant for years, says Bill Hathaway, director of the EPA's District Seven Division. Most of their waste was buried at two poorly designed on-site landfills, he says, with the result that dioxin and other contaminants have seeped into area groundwater. In ad-

dition, hundreds of barrels of dioxin waste remain on a concrete pad at the plant, pending court action to determine how they will be disposed of and who will pay for it.

Many residents and workers have complained of medical problems believed to be linked to Vertac's herbicide production and wastes, Hathaway says. Medical interviews and some physical tests were performed at the plant in 1980, but the results are not yet available. A second health study may be performed soon, he adds.

EPA and Kansas Division of Health officials clad in white protective suits began taking samples this month at the Thompson-Hayward plant in Kansas City, Kan. Closed since 1978, the plant used to produce TCP. Landis says some of its waste went into an on-site landfill near an area that has become a playground for motorcyclists and four-wheel drive enthusiasts. Other waste went to the Doepke Municipal Landfill in Kansas City, Kan.

TODAY

All Day Missouri State High School Music Festival University Fine Arts Recital Hall
Noon Missouri baseball vs Kansas State T shirt day Simmons Field
7:30 p.m. Beyond Therapy University's Gentry Studio Theater seating limited tickets \$1
8 p.m. An Evening of Dance Stephens College dance concert, Assembly Hall tickets \$4 students and \$5 public
8 p.m. The Doctor in Spite of Himself and 27 Wagons Full of Cotton, University Theater, tickets \$25 students and senior citizens \$45 faculty and staff

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Financial bargain may help area college retain students

By Chris Bentley
Missourian staff writer

FAYETTE — Central Methodist College administrators wish that students leaving for the summer, like Gen. MacArthur leaving the Philippines, would promise to return.

So CMC is offering students an old-fashioned bargain to encourage them to return to school next fall. The school, beset by financial troubles that caused 21 teachers to be laid off in 1982, is offering full-time students a \$100 discount off next semester's \$2,100 tuition.

To receive the discount, students must sign up to return to school next fall as full-time students, and must pay \$100 of next fall's tuition before the end of this school year on May 8. The payment is non-refundable.

"It's probably the only place I

know of where you can put \$100 down and get 100 percent interest on it in three months," said Bob Bradshaw, CMC's dean of student affairs, who proposed the plan. "It's a real good deal for students and their parents."

Bradshaw said 80 percent to 85 percent of CMC's spring-semester students return in the fall every year. The administration would like to raise that figure.

"Lots of larger schools would be thrilled to have that retention rate, but we're so small we just can't afford to lose 10 percent of our students every spring," Bradshaw said. "When you only have 600 students, 60 is a lot to lose."

Letters explaining the offer were sent to students two weeks ago and to their parents at the end of this week. So far 17 of the school's 600 students have accepted the offer.

City home for new flight center

By Tom Allen
Missourian staff writer

City officials are glowing over the Federal Aviation Administration's decision Friday to build a computerized flight service station at Columbia Regional Airport.

Assistant City Manager Bob Black called the decision outstanding, "an excellent opportunity... certainly a shot in the arm for Columbia."

Steve Faber, chairman of the Airport Advisory Board, said, "It will be good for the whole area," he said.

City Manager Dick Gray said the city and the FAA agreed that the city will build the \$700,000 flight station and lease it to the FAA at \$1 per year for 21 years. The FAA will maintain the facility.

The 10,000-square-foot building will house computer systems that will provide weather conditions, navigational information, airport conditions and other data to pilots flying through the station's service area — western Missouri and eastern Kansas.

The new facility will be one of 61 large, automated stations across the country. When fully staffed, the Columbia station will employ 80 people, said Ed Dubay, contracting officer at the FAA's regional office in Kansas City, Mo.

Columbia Regional Airport is the site of one of the nation's 318 flight service stations and employs 13 people. Those employees probably will have the option of staying here, if they wish, Dubay said.

Direct benefits for the Columbia area will be numerous.

The station's 80 employees will earn some \$2 million annually. Their spending in retail stores alone will provide a substantial economic boost to the area, Black said.

There are a few indirect benefits for the airport as well.

With the new flight service station, it will be easier for airport authorities to obtain FAA grants for future airport improvements, such as more sophisticated radar equipment.

Faber agrees. He said the facility would increase the number of land-



Architect's drawing of the new FAA facility.

ings at the airport — one of the numbers the FAA uses in calculating the amount of federal grants.

Black first submitted a bid for the facility late last September at a cost of \$7,500. When the FAA amended the specifications for the building a month later, the city submitted a second proposal, which cost an additional \$5,000.

Those bids were sent to Dubay, who examined a wide range of criteria from cost of construction and maintenance of the building to the total quality of the airport, adjacent land and surrounding communities.

He judged Columbia's proposal as the best package of building, price and community. Based on his findings, he asked that the FAA's national review board accept the Columbia site.

Construction of the facility should begin this summer, Black said. The FAA can build the station west of the airport access road, across the street from the US Postal Service building or east of the road between the postal facility and the airport terminal.

The FAA plans to begin operation in the new facility by October 1984.