

# Missourian Sports Week

## All in the family

Frerking boys follow athletic tradition  
Pages 6-7B



# Columbia Missourian

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Good Morning! It's Monday, September 17, 1984

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## Fiddling around

### Stephens hosts state contest

By Forrest Wombwell  
Missourian staff writer

Listen to my fiddle — kingdom come — kingdom come  
Hear the frogs a-chunkin' 'Jug o' rum, Jug o' rum'  
— Stephen Vincent Benet, "The Mountain Whippoorwill"

Kingdom Come' nearly had arrived when the contestants at the Sixth Missouri State Fiddling Championship finally packed up their instruments.

Saturday night was nigh on Sunday morning when Pete McMahon of Harrisburg walked away with first prize in the open division to become state champion for the fourth time. Nolan Boone of Mexico was first in the senior division.

Master of ceremonies Kenneth "Polly" Burre of Tebbetts announced the winners at 11:30 p.m. after four hours of hoedowns, hornpipes and waltzes.

The fiddling contest was held at the Stephens College Dorsey Street Auditorium, and organized by Charles Walden, president of the Missouri Old Time Fiddlers' Association. The contest was sponsored by the Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation, and partially funded through a grant from the Missouri Arts Council.

Each of the 24 fiddlers from across the state played a waltz, a tune of his or her choice and a hoedown — a piece suitable for square dancing that includes breakdowns, reels and hornpipes. They were allowed one or two accompanists who played guitar, banjo or bowed cello.

Tun-a-tun-a-tunika' while the judges told the crowd  
Them that got the mostest claps'd win the bestest prize.

Though applause might influence the judges' decisions, it was not the determining factor. Judges Al Cooley of Hannibal, Francis Kepner of Rothville and John Griffin of Millersburg were all fiddlers who would know a standout when they heard one.

In the open division, Rhonda Vincent of Greentop finished seventh and Michele Ogle of Kirksville fifth. Leroy Cannaday of Moberly was sixth, Jake Hockmeyer of Mokane fourth, Travis Inman of Stover finished third and Junior Merritt of Stover was second.

Ray "Bill" Eddy of Slater finished fourth in the senior division, Jim Gilmore of Jefferson City was third and Columbia's Taylor McBane was second. Four trophies were awarded in each division.

It was McMahon who won the judges' votes, if not their hearts. McMahon played "Ozark Mountain Waltz" and "Bitter Creek" his first time up, and "Flowers from Heaven" and "Tom 'n Jerry" his second.

Up-and-coming young fiddlers such as Merritt and Inman, who are not "fazed" by a crowd, will inherit McMahon's tall trophy someday. But the trophy will not be as important to them, perhaps, as the attention they get from those folk who can listen to a fiddle and hear a whippoorwill.



Cathy Lander photo



Pete McMahon, above, of Harrisburg played his way to a fourth state championship over the weekend at Stephens College. Tuning up outside Dorsey Street Auditorium, left, were Becky Hamilton of Ray town and Travis Inman of Stove, third-place finisher in the open division.

## Mondale has a first crack at Gromyko

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Democrat Walter Mondale insisting 'I am not meddling' announced Sunday he will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko Sept. 27 a day before the Kremlin official talks with President Reagan.

Mondale said his main aim during the meeting in New York will be to emphasize the importance of renewing negotiations to control nuclear weapons. He also stressed he is not trying to undermine Reagan's session with the Soviet envoy planned for Sept. 28 at the White House.

And, with a pledge that if elected he would "not sign any agreement that fails to protect American security," the Democratic presidential candidate sought to dispel claims he would not be as tough an arm negotiator as Reagan.

Vigorous debate on arms control will continue in this campaign, Mondale said in his weekly paid political radio address. "But whatever our differences, Mr. Reagan has my support on Sept. 28. My meeting with Mr. Gromyko will make that abundantly clear."

"This meeting will not be negotiations with the president negotiates with foreign powers. It will be a discussion," Mondale told reporters following his radio broadcast.

"I'm not planning to upstage anybody. As a matter of fact, I think the effect of my meeting may at least make clear to Mr. Gromyko that they should be under no confusion about domestic political campaigns," he said.

Mondale said he had 'no fears' the Soviets might use him or play him off against Reagan because 'I can't be used. I've been around the track.'

Mondale, who as a senator met Gromyko once and as vice president met him twice, was asked if he was meddling in Reagan's foreign policy.

"No, I am not meddling," he said. "I am not negotiating at all."

While professing support for Reagan, however, Mondale set a high standard for success far beyond expectations expressed by White House aides. Millions want the Reagan-Gromyko talks to produce concrete results, he said during the radio talk.

Americans hope that meeting will produce an agreement on a U.S. Soviet summit, he said. "They want U.S.-Soviet arms control negotiations to resume. They want progress on human rights."

Polls show Mondale trailing Reagan from 15 to 30 points. His campaign strategists, grimly confronting those numbers as Nov. 6 draws closer, have been juggling staff and sifting through issues in an effort to generate more excitement among voters.

Reagan announced last Monday he had invited Gromyko to Washington and the Soviet diplomat accepted. Gromyko 75, who has been Moscow's top diplomat since 1957, will be in the United States to attend the U.N. General Assembly session.

## Poll shows Reagan ahead by 30 percent

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A new poll Sunday showed President Reagan leading Democrat Walter Mondale by a commanding 62 percent to 32 percent and indicated Geraldine Ferraro's popularity has diminished since the Democratic National Convention.

Of the 1,496 voters surveyed for the NBC News poll Sept. 9-11, those who identified themselves as Democrats indicated by a 3-1 ratio that they would vote for Reagan over Mondale.

The leadership question seemed to bedevil Mondale with 31 percent of all voters saying they did not think the Democratic candidate was a strong leader. Seventy-one percent believed Reagan was a strong leader.

By a 2-1 ratio, those polled said they felt politically closer in views to Reagan than Mondale, and among those who identified themselves as liberals, 44 percent said they felt closer to Reagan than Mondale.

Of voters who supported the Mondale-Ferraro ticket, 49 percent said they wished they had another choice. Twenty-three percent of the Reagan-Bush supporters expressed the same desire.

Because of Ferraro's presence on the ticket, 18 percent of those polled said they were more likely to vote Democratic while 29 percent said they were less likely.

Fifty percent said she would make no difference as to which ticket they would choose.

Fifty-two percent of voters said they never were excited about Ferraro being chosen for the ticket while 15 percent said they were pleased when she was picked but were not now. Three out of 10 said she was an asset to the ticket.

Mondale, who has promised to seek a superpower summit within six months of taking office, repeatedly has pointed out that Reagan is the first president who has not sat down with the Kremlin leadership since U.S.-Soviet relations were established in 1933.

Mondale said he had not consulted the White House or State Department before setting up the meeting because, "I know what I'm doing."

A White House spokesman said the administration had no advance knowledge of the Mondale-Gromyko meeting and declined any comment on it.

In his radio talk, Mondale noted the Reagan-Gromyko meeting comes barely five weeks before our presidential election. "But he said the Soviets should not mistake the heat of our political contests" to mean "we are divided on all things."

## Major renovation puts new face on city schools

By Mary Bolduc  
Missourian staff writer

Principal Richard Muzzy has been forced out of his office at West Boulevard Elementary School and into the hall.

But he shrugs off the inconvenience. The hallway traffic and construction noise are a little distracting, Muzzy conceded, but he seems enthusiastic about the school's first major renovation since it was built in 1950.

The changes at his school are part of an \$8.5 million bond issue passed by Columbia Public School District voters in February 1982.

The projects are worth waiting for, Muzzy said, because the building is so worn from more than 400 students using it every day.

Project list ..... Page 8A

Actuals actually will bounce higher on special kind of carpet in the gymnasium/multipurpose room, Muzzy said. And the carpet, a pilot project in the school district, doesn't show dirt and is more comfortable to sit on, he said.

Other renovations include the installation of new ventilation systems in the kitchen and library areas, smoke alarms and night lights, new exterior doors and new counter tops and cabinets in classrooms.

Although the construction contract that includes work on West Boulevard Elementary, 319 West Blvd. N., allows for more time, Muzzy said the intent was to try to complete

the renovations during the summer. Muzzy and his staff are making do with a hallway marked by paper signs that say "office" while construction workers renovate and install central air conditioning in their regular work space. They are not the only people affected by the school district's current construction projects.

At New Haven South School on Route 1, administrators and faculty members worked recently to cover desks, books and other materials with plastic after a recent rain seeped through parts of the roof, which is under construction, said Henry K. Fisher, the school district's associate superintendent for administration.

The rain damaged ceiling tile in the school's hallways, seven classrooms and

part of the office, and damaged carpet in the office. Classes were not canceled, Principal Gene Nichols said.

Potts Construction Co. of Sedalia is working on the school's roof, and also is replacing the damaged ceiling tile and carpet, Fisher said last week.

Despite temporary inconveniences, Fisher said most projects financed by the bond issue are on schedule. Most of the second construction phase, which began this summer, will be finished around January 1985. Fisher does not know when the addition to the Columbia Area Career Center, 4203 S. Providence Road, will be completed because the estimated \$960,000 project has not begun yet.

The career center addition will be funded by \$480,000 in state money and matching lo-

cal funds, Fisher said. Money for the career center expansion is part of the second phase of construction.

Before this summer, the school district had awarded about \$3.5 million worth of construction contracts. Beginning this summer and into fall, the district will have begun an estimated \$2.5 million more in construction and repairs, Fisher said.

The district has completed or is in the process of designing all of the major additions that the Columbia Board of Education cited as priority projects prior to passage of the 1983 bond issue, except for the addition of a multipurpose room originally estimated at \$180,000 at New Haven North School, Route