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Vote set on fees to register pet cats

Measure is similar to dog registration

By JENNIFER KAPIOLANI SAXTON
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The Madison County Board is voting today on a proposal to require cat owners to pay an annual registration fee for their pets.

"This is very similar to the same practice people are already required to do with registering their dogs," said David Hall, Madison County animal control administrator.

The ordinance requires cat owners to pay \$15 for each cat over six months old that is not spayed or neutered; \$5 for each one spayed or neutered, or for any cat under 6 months old. Currently, dog owners are required to pay the same rates in Madison County.

The ordinance also requires cats to be vaccinated against rabies. One-year and three-year inoculations are available. Pet owners also will be required to register new litters of puppies and kittens for \$25 within 60 days of birth.

The state is mandating cat registration effective January in an attempt to control overpopulation. Rabies vaccinations are not included in the mandate. If approved, the county's registration and rabies vaccination requirement also will take effect in January.

The county's Animal Control Committee has discussed the registration fees for the past 10 months, said County Board member Tom Hoechst, D-Alton.

"We were in a hurry to meet the state mandates and guidelines," Hoechst said. "I expect the committee to make a few more amendments to the animal control act and revisit issues we still want to address."

Cat owner Maryanne Kaminski of Collinsville, owner of a purebred seven-month-old Persian cat, Raja, said she doesn't see anything wrong with having to register cats with the county.

"There are just as many stray cats as there are stray dogs," Kaminski said. "I already have to register my dog, (so) why not my cat?"

Please see CATS, A2

HEAD OF THE CLASS



DERIK HOLTSMANN/News-Democrat

Milken congratulated Wamser, who received a \$25,000 Milken National Educator Award.

O'Fallon teacher earns national award

By TANIA E. LOPEZ
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Kelly Wamser, a math teacher at O'Fallon Township High School, sat clueless in the school gym, surrounded by students and teachers at an assembly Tuesday.

Wamser, 29, had no idea the assembly was organized to award her a \$25,000 Milken National Educator Award — the "Oscars of Teaching."

Even students and administrators were left in the dark. "Oh, my God," Wamser said after her name was announced. "Can someone wake me up right now, please?"

Wamser is one of two teachers in the state to receive

the award and one of 100 in the nation.

Lowell Milken, chair of the Milken Family Foundation, flew in from Los Angeles to announce her as the winner of the award.

"She's done so much for the students and for the school, it's impressive," Milken said, adding one teacher has the power to influence thousands of students in his career.

Wamser, a teacher at O'Fallon for eight years, said every teacher in the audience was hoping his name would be called.

She said there was never a

Please see TEACHER, A2

Raw sewage poses major health risk

Ex-mayor ties crisis to lax maintenance

By GEORGE PAWLACZYK
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A concrete basin nearly 20 feet deep with raw sewage at the bottom posed a deadly danger to children who played nearby Tuesday in a crowded Alorton neighborhood.

Instead of being locked, the basin's cover was missing its padlock, hasp and hinges and was easily lifted off. The smooth-walled sewer basin near the corner of 37th and Market streets was not equipped with an escape ladder.

In overgrown, thick brush beside the Lakeside Motel just off Illinois 15, another sewage basin was wide open. This one was missing its cover entirely and a gate had been left open.

The basin was nearly filled with sewage. A large green hose



Owens pointed toward the bottom of the sewage-filled basin at 37th and Market streets in Alorton.

siphoned raw waste directly into a drainage ditch 40 feet away that flowed down toward a wheat field. Allowing raw sewage to drain on public or private land is a violation of state law.

Please see SEWAGE, A2

Longtime civic leader to replace Burroughs

By ELIZABETH DONALD
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A longtime Collinsville mainstay will take the late Susan Burroughs' seat on the school board.

The board voted Tuesday to invite Bill Jokerst, the retired chief executive officer of Collinsville Building and Loan, to take Burroughs' seat.

"He has great expertise in the financial area, and that's a key area of concern," said board President Ron Ganschinetz.

Jokerst served on the school board in the early 1980s, as well as on the City Council and as finance commissioner.

"I feel very honored to have the opportunity to replace Miss Burroughs," Jokerst said. "I respected her very much in regards to her educational enthusiasm."

Jokerst, 70, is a lifelong

Collinsville resident and graduate of Collinsville High School. His father also served on the school board from 1925 to 1950, and his four children went through the Unit 10 system. He worked for Collinsville Building and Loan for 43 years before retiring in 1998.

Jokerst said he hopes to bring his financial background to the board as it deals with a \$4 million deficit.

"All the school systems and cities are having problems financially," Jokerst said. "It's a very difficult time. Those things don't happen overnight and they can't be fixed overnight. It's something you have to plan, and I think I can help show some leadership in that regard, to plan for the future."

Burroughs, 49, died Sept. 3 in her home. Jokerst said he does not plan to run again when the seat comes open in March 2005.



Five-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong

TOUR OF HOPE TO COME THROUGH METRO-EAST

Lance Armstrong to attend cancer event

By DANIELLE MCNAMARA
Belleville News-Democrat

Lance Armstrong, five-time Tour de France winner and cancer survivor, and cyclists from a team trekking across the country in the name of cancer research will stop today in St. Louis.

The eight-day Tour of Hope is a 3,182-mile journey

from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C., with the goal of raising awareness and participation in cancer clinical trials. Clinical trials, when a patient volunteers to take part in new medical treatments, help doctors find better ways to prevent, diagnose or treat disease.

Twenty-six cyclists are traveling relay-style 24 hours a day. The group is divided into four teams that each ride for about

three hours before a nine-hour rest period. A team is scheduled to pass through Mascoutah between 9 p.m. and midnight today. Armstrong joins the teams periodically to support them.

Armstrong, who was diagnosed with testicular cancer that spread throughout his body, will visit a public event in Forest Park in St. Louis to share his experience with cancer and appreciation for those who participate in clinical trials.

"He credits those before him

INSIDE: Tour of Hope event and ride schedule. PAGE A2

who participated in clinical trials for saving his life," said Arlinda Warren, marketing manager for the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center. The center, which is hosting the event, is in the Washington University School of Medicine and Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

Sheila Davies, Tour of Hope cyclist and 25-year cancer nurse at the Rush University Medical

Center in Chicago, said her mother died from lung cancer in 1992.

Davies, of New Lenox, Ill., said she wants people to know clinical trials are a viable option for those diagnosed with cancer.

"People think (clinical trials) are a last-ditch effort, but they are actually receiving the best care that is available at the time," she said.

Please see TOUR, A2

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LOTTERY FOR ILLINOIS

- Pick Three-Midday: 1-9-2
- Pick Three-Evening: 7-0-5
- Pick Four-Midday: 1-6-5-3
- Pick Four-Evening: 6-5-4-3
- Little Lotto: 12-14-18-19-25
- Jackpot: \$3 million

FOR MISSOURI

- Daily Pick 3: 1-8-5
- Daily Pick 4: 1-6-2-6
- Show Me 5: 2-11-28-30-37

E CLASSIFIED

MEGA MILLIONS Game: 18-19-21-33-40 Mega Ball: 29 Jackpot: \$12 million

