



# SUNDAY NEWS-DEMOCRAT

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**3:30 p.m. Thursday**

17-year-old Ashley Reeves of Millstadt is last seen leaving home for a job interview in Belleville.

**11:30 p.m. Thursday**

Police find the car she was driving at Laderman Park in Belleville.

**2 a.m. Saturday**

St. Clair County Sheriff's investigators find Ashley in an overgrown area of Citizens Park, where she had lain for at least 30 hours. Her neck was broken.



**10 p.m. Friday**

Police end massive search along Radio Range Road, but probe continues.



**Saturday**

Samson "Sam" R. Shelton, 26, a Freeburg High School teacher and a professional wrestler, faces two counts of attempted first-degree murder and one count of kidnapping.

## Political golf day raises money

Fundraiser goes on without Seitz

BY MIKE FITZGERALD  
News-Democrat

CAHOKIA — Kevin Malone's campaign fundraiser had just about everything you could want in a golf tournament.

Beer. Bratwursts. And birdies.

It all happened Friday at The Prairies Golf Course, where Malone carried on the tradition of the late Leo Seitz, his predecessor as chairman of the St. Clair County Board of Assessment Review.

Something else was evident at Malone's \$100-per-ticket fundraiser: The financial aid of those with business past and future before the three-member review board, which determines whether a property owner's assessment — and annual tax bill — is too high or too low.

Signs lining a path outside The Prairies clubhouse advertised holes "sponsored" by Kenny Fortner Properties, of Belleville; C. Grantham Co., of Columbia; and Hawk Properties of East St. Louis.

Critics of Seitz, a Democratic Party mainstay who died in November, have pointed to the hundreds of thousands of dollars he hauled in from previous golf tournaments as giving off the appearance of a conflict of interest.

"It's the same old game," Riley Owens, the former Republican mayor of Centreville, said of Malone's tournament.

"It's just a repeat of what was done before," said Vicki Avedisian, the Republican running for Malone's review board seat in November.

Malone, a Democrat who joined the review board a year ago, said tournament participants can't buy anything more than a chance to play golf.

"It just gives them a reason to golf," he said.

Mike Olish, owner of a Cahokia junkyard and tavern, ticked off the tournament's virtues.

"Good prizes, plenty of

Please see GOLF, A2

# Millstadt teen found alive; Freeburg teacher charged

Girl was left to die in park with broken neck

BY GEORGE PAWLACZYK  
News-Democrat

BELLEVILLE — A Freeburg High School driver's education instructor and professional wrestler, whose ring name is "The Teacher," has been charged with breaking the neck of 17-year-old Ashley Reeves of Millstadt and leaving her in dense woods to die.

She was found by police at 2 a.m. Saturday. First listed in critical condition, Reeves had improved somewhat as of late Saturday afternoon after being evacuated to Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital in St. Louis.

On Saturday evening, hospital spokesman Bob Davidson listed Reeves' condition as serious.

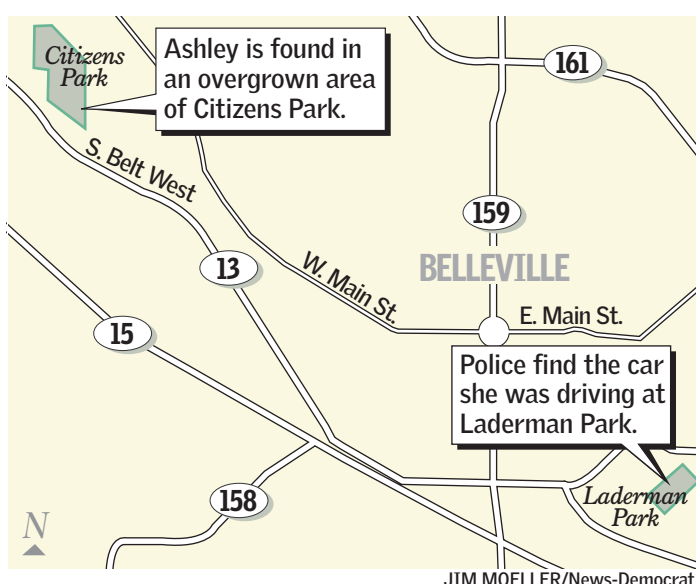
The sheriff's department held a press conference at 11 a.m. Saturday to announce the charges against Samson "Sam" R. Shelton, 26, of Wildwood Lake Estates in Smithton. Shelton was charged with two counts of attempted first-degree murder and one count of kidnapping. He is being held at the St. Clair County Jail with bail set at \$1 million.

Shelton teaches both driver's and physical education and is a volunteer assistant baseball coach at Freeburg High School.

The formal charges state that Shelton "used his forearm with such force as to break the neck of Ashley



Announcing Ashley Reeves had been found are, from left, Sheriff Mearl Justus, investigator Michael Hundelt, chief investigator Lt. Steve Johnson and investigator Danny Stockett during a press conference Saturday morning.



JIM MOELLER/News-Democrat

## Suspect is 'The Teacher' in his pro wrestling role

BY GEORGE PAWLACZYK  
News-Democrat

For his wrestling league promotional photograph, Samson R. "Sam" Shelton wore a graduation gown and held an apple as befits his ring name: "The Teacher."

But even at only 6 foot 1 inch and 200 pounds — small for a wrestler in a league of giants — the high school driver's education teacher has

his moves.

According to the Ultimate Wrestling Alliance, Shelton of Smithton favors a "finishing maneuver" called the "X-Ponent — face buster." Another is the "top rope head butt."

Shelton is charged with using his forearm to break the neck of 17-year-old Ashley Reeves of Millstadt, who re-

Please see SUSPECT, A2

Please see TEEN, A2

## Residents will revote on expansion of Mississippi Valley Library District

First vote confused issue of annexation

BY ELIZABETH DONALD  
News-Democrat

COLLINSVILLE — Residents will get another chance to vote on the expansion of the Mississippi Valley Library District.

Ballots in St. Clair County

did not include the question of annexing new properties into the district, formerly known as the Collinsville Public Library District. The district asked to annex all properties in the Unit 10 school district not already served by a library, including Fairmont City and State Park Place.

Maryville, which is in the Unit 10 district, created its

own library district in the same election.

Now the question will appear on the Nov. 7 ballot during the next general election. Madison County will get to revote, and St. Clair precincts will get the chance to vote.

Head librarian Barbara Rhodes said the board was most comfortable with a complete revote, so there will be no

questions about whether the vote was proper.

"We could have tried a special election, but why pull people out for that?" she said.

In addition, the Illinois State Library has extended the grant currently allowing the district to provide free library service to those areas until the vote. Free library cards will be available to all residents of the

expansion areas until the end of the year. That also means children in the expansion areas will be able to participate in the summer reading program.

"I'm very pleased with the way it's come down," Rhodes said. "After all, frustration could have ruled, and they could have decided not to bother going through this again."

As to how the question was left off the ballots in the first place, Rhodes said they've never nailed down exactly where the system failed. But she said there were several such errors around the state during the primary.

Contact reporter Elizabeth Donald at edonald@bnd.com or 345-7822, ext. 21.

## Residents will revote on expansion of Mississippi Valley Library District

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LOTTERY FOR ILLINOIS Pick 4-Evening: 0-5-3-2 Pick 3-Midday: 5-1-5 Little Lotto: 04-18-20-23-35 Pick 3-Evening: 1-4-1 Lotto: 03-08-10-15-26-45 Pick 4-Midday: 0-2-0-7 Jackpot: \$3.25 million

FOR MISSOURI Pick 3-Midday: 4-3-5; Evening: 7-9-1 Pick 4-Midday: 5-3-8-4; Evening: 7-1-8-7 Show Me 5-Midday: 7-16-24-36-40 Show Me 5-Evening: 1-2-15-24-27 Lotto: 7-13-26-31-37-42

POWERBALL Game: 19-30-35-40-41 Powerball: 14 Power Play: 5 Jackpot: \$50.4 million

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