



Why Students Should Refuse 'The Test'

Page 2

Now on Facebook!

Green Dragon Gazette



The Word Corner: Harassment

Page 3



Run For Your Life! MOGA Is In

By Abigail Adams

CORRECTIONS: Green Dragon Gazette, a digital newspaper of Missourians, by Missourians, and for Missourians, puts its corrections on the front page! It may have surprised some that a Democrat Representative and 2 Democrat Senators were finalists for the 2017 Locke & Smith Award. Well, seems they so hate how Republicans vote that sometimes the Dems actually vote "on the right!" We must apologize for the party confusion!

Send your news, unknown or little known facts, enlightening history, and best way and time to contact you, to adamsabigail1800@yahoo.com We are Missouri-centric--we will be in touch!

ORDER PAPER COPIES OF THIS ISSUE! AS LITTLE AS 52 CENTS EACH FOR B & W, OR 84 CENTS EACH IN VIVID COLOR FOR 500 PAPERS. MINIMUM ORDER IS 50 BLACK & WHITE. CONTACT ABBY AT ADAMSABIGAIL1800@YAHOO.COM

Despite the fact that we ran this quote in last month's issue, with MOGA in session again for the next 5 months, it bears repeating:

"Evil never moderates itself, it never takes a step backward, it is only stopped by good men who are willing to push back against it. If good men and women stand by and pretend that they don't see it and allow it to progress unmolested, then it will only grow stronger and be harder to stop at a later time." Raymond Kish

In This Issue:

DESE Commissioner	Page 2
Trusting Mob Justice	Page 3
Breaking News	Page 4

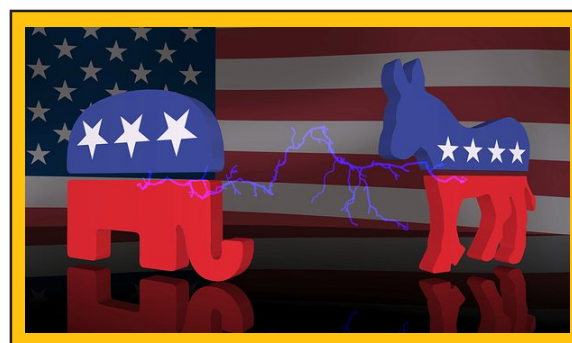
Session!



Green Dragon Gazette is a digital "e-news-paper of Missourians, by Missourians, and for Missourians. Monthly, we will fill these few pages with stuff you never knew about the goings-on in Missouri, about your economy, your health, your family-only matters, your privacy, your security, and your government, and the history of much of the above and the pickles we have let ourselves get into because of it all. It's news, it's truth, but with a twist.

MO, Did Ya Know?

MO, Did Ya Know? is a regular feature of each issue, and is a gathering of information and news not widely known around the state.



On December 1, 2017, the Missouri House and Senate members could pre-file bills to be considered in the 99th General Assembly that began January 3, 2018. Many are either frivolous or more messing with your life and livelihood. And we have only just begun looking into them! It is time-consuming, but can be great entertainment, as you will see when you read our faves. It is just the tip of the iceberg, so stay tuned to future issues. Meantime, See "You Need To Pay Attention!" Next column.

(More MO Did Ya Know on Page 2)



You Need To Pay Attention!

By Abigail Adams

The Missouri General Assembly (MOGA) is again in session as of January 3, 2018. Thus, your "life, liberty and (your) pursuit of happiness" are now in extreme peril--especially if you are not paying attention! Some of the brilliance of MOGA (most likely, your own representative and cronies) shines through in the following bills pre-filed in December. Here are a few of our absolute faves:

Representative Doug Beck: tax credit for new grocery stores willing to locate in a "food desert"

Representative Pat Conway: absentee ballot voting without stating the reason

Representative Donna Baringer: students in school can apply sunscreen

Representative Cora Faith Walker: puts Missouri on the hook financially for the CHIP program if there are no federal funds provided to fund it!

Representative Stacy Newman: all sorts of anti-2nd Amendment infringements

Representative Rusty Black: DESE to handle funds from career/tech student organizations (great choice!); make July 7th "Missouri Sliced Bread Day"
(Continued on Page 2)



More MO Did Ya Know?

Whistle Blower Protections are now in place for reporters of illegal acts in the abortion industry. **See more on the new laws in Missouri's abortion industry "Missouri Now The 'Follow Me' State?," Page 3.**

2018 taxpayers no longer have to pay the Affordable Care Act mandate fine. But how much good will that do you? **See "The End?" Third column this page.**

Nearly 700 bills had been pre-filed by members of the House of Representatives and **over 300 bills pre-filed** by the Senate when the first gavels came down on January 3 for the start of the 99th Session of the Missouri General Assembly. **The deadline for filing bills for the 99th Session is March 1 for the House and March 15 for the Senate.**

Hits and Misses From The Governor's State of the State Address

Greitens claimed that 33,000 state regulations are now off the books for good, but also said that figure represented "1 in 3" regulations. So we still have to put up with 66,000 state regulations? How about getting rid of 33,000 more? Or maybe 60,000? Heck, just can 65,000 more and see how that goes. And why not ditch that ridiculous teenager tanning bed bill right now (See HB1260)?

Greitens said the Missouri Department of Natural Resources had 2000 backlogged permits, including one all the way back to 1997. Shouldn't someone have to explain this to their bosses, even if they HAVE all been approved by now? You know the bosses: **We the People.**

Greitens claims our state government is the smallest it has been in 20 years. We like to know where, specifically...

First we've heard of it...how does an employer's veteran hiring preference invite a lawsuit? The state agencies have had such a preference for years, as has (or maybe had) the federal agencies. Can SOMEBODY please explain?



Why Students Should Refuse 'The Test'

By Dr. Mary Byrne, Ed.D.

A majority of board members voted to remove the DESE commissioner on December 1, citing "a need to move in a new direction for public education in Missouri" as their motive. Specific issues were not identified, but speculation included DESE's decision not to report 2016-2017 End of Course (EOC) assessment results in Algebra I and English II as a possible motive for the board's dissatisfaction with the former commissioner.

No minutes of the meeting with DESE's Technical Advisory Committee meetings are available giving the reason for withholding the assessment results at the September 2017 board meeting. The presumption is the results showed declining scores in the three years of instruction under the Common Core Standards Initiative (CSSI). Either instruction in Missouri classrooms sharply deteriorated since the previous year, or assessment forms used were flawed somehow. Funding of Missouri's membership in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) was stopped in 2015, but documents available on Missouri's .gov websites indicates that DESE continued to administer two alternating forms of the Common Core-aligned assessments between Fall of 2014 and Spring of 2017. Rotating the administration of two Algebra I forms over three years would have exposed one form as more difficult than the other, hence a problem in year-to-year comparability. DESE compounded the problem recommending districts incorporate EOC exam raw scores in student grades as final exam scores. Districts that aligned their grading policy to that recommendation created inequalities in graduate grading criteria across several years of classes.

Commissioner Vandeven's exclusion of Common Core-aligned EOCs in Algebra I and English II assessment results violates RsMO 161.122, which describes her duties as commissioner: "The commissioner shall study and evaluate and test the progress, or lack thereof...and shall promptly make public by free electronic (Continued on Page 4)



The End?

By James Coyne - Broker

Coyne Agency Inc.

Health and Life Insurance

Well, we no longer have to pay a penalty for failing to buy "ObamaCare." The talking heads, both for and against, say it is the end of the Affordable Care Act.

But how can that be true? Absolutely nothing has changed about the act but that we no longer have to buy it. The huge subsidies to pay your premium remain. If premiums go up, so do the subsidies – so your net cost is the same or lower. It is still, by design, the only game in town. Selling or buying any health insurance outside of the Affordable Care Act remains illegal. The long list of mandates and guaranteed issue with no underwriting remain on every policy. If it is the only choice and it costs many nothing, how exactly is it going away? Even if coverage is poor, will all Americans suddenly decide to be uninsured and turn down free insurance? I think not.

It is just reasonable we should not be forced to buy a government-sanctioned product. What we really need is a choice – in fact, many choices. Choices just like we have with every other product or service. Choices just like we have with life insurance or car insurance. Or like we used to have in health insurance! Only when people have a real choice and pay the true cost for what they buy will sanity return to our health insurance. And I hope, for all of us, that it is soon.

You Need To Pay Attention!

(Continued from Page 1)

Representative Becky Ruth: Make June 27 PTSI Day. Don't we have enough?

Representatives David Gregory, Scott Fitzpatrick and Nathan Beard: regulate fantasy sports? Come on, people.

Representative Karla May: Designate the pawpaw tree as the state fruit tree of Missouri. We really need that...

Representative Wanda Brown: Archie, MO needs a local tourism tax? Really?



In Mob Justice We Trust

By James Coyne

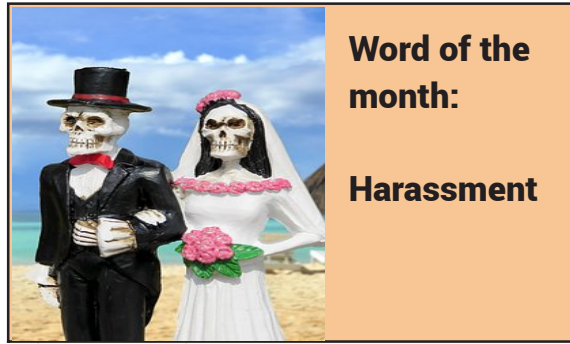
The newspaper just reported 4 women have accused a public figure of sexual harassment. It took an hour and a half for him to become a total scumbag, lose his job, and lose the rest of his life. Maybe he deserved it, but who knows – or really cares. The invisible jury has spoken--it is all over in the blink of an eye.

Innocent until proven guilty in a court of law is such a quaint idea. Who needs courts or laws when we have the mob. We act on information we are fed about a public figure and never ask who is feeding it to us, what their goal is, or why they are talking about it at this exact moment in time.

When great political power and big money are at stake, those entities commonly do opposition research on an individual they cannot agree with. It can be done by a political party, but more often the nastiest stuff is dug up – or created – by well-funded organizations with media connections. Potential accusers are sought out, encouraged to come forward, and sometimes paid to do so. What is asserted may be 100% true, half-true, a little true, or a total fabrication. It only matters that it is believable. The volume of accusations is important, and the timing of the release to the public. The sheer number of accusers and the lack of time to investigate or digest the claims makes it impossible to defend oneself against.

Over and over we see these “stories” break 30 days before a critical election or when the target becomes a thorn in the opposition’s side. Soon new revelations are released in rapid fire until the target is destroyed in the public consciousness forever. Then it stops and is dropped from the news forever. No one knows, or cares, if it was ever true to begin with. The damage is done and it is too late to get your reputation back.

This "people's court" has no defined law and no way to prove your innocence. A good mob prosecution has a 100% conviction rate. We are expected to make a snap judgment and side with the mob



The Word Corner

By Merryman Wagnel

This regular feature is dedicated to the idea that words can truly mean something, and that there actually is right and wrong--not relativism only.

Harassment

Harassment - Wikipedia

In the legal sense, behavior that appears to be disturbing or threatening is harassment. Sexual harassment is persistent, unwanted sexual advances, usually in the workplace, where potential consequences of refusing would be very disadvantageous to the victim. Harassment covers a wide range of offensive behaviors. It is commonly understood as characteristically repetitive behavior that disturbs or upsets.

Wikipedia Harass | Definition, Merriam-Webster--Legal Definition: to subject persistently and wrongfully annoying, offensive, or troubling behavior. Harassment as employment discrimination violating Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is unwelcome conduct based on race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information. It is unlawful where: 1) enduring the offensive conduct becomes a condition of continued employment; or 2) the conduct is severe or pervasive enough to create a work environment considered intimidating, hostile, or abusive. Laws also prohibit harassment of individuals in retaliation for filing charges, testifying, or participating in an investigation or lawsuit under these laws; or opposing employment practices that discriminate.

Petty slights, annoyances, and isolated incidents (unless extremely serious) do not rise to a level of illegality. To be illegal, the conduct must create a work environment intimidating, hostile, or offensive to reasonable people.

Harassment Definition (English) Oxford Dictionary Aggressive pressure or intimidation. Note: The definition itself opens up far-reaching definitions, using such phrases as “wide range of behaviors” and non-specific “offensive behavior,” Even the legal definition includes such ambiguous terms as “reasonable person”. While I may believe myself to be (Continued in next column)



The Word Corner

Continued from previous column

reasonable, others might not. The only thing that makes harassment harassment is a repeated act after it has been repudiated. If continued, and it affects the workplace environment, or if it was an abuse of power of one over another, then it raises the stakes. Example? The alleged individual behaviors of Harvey Weinstein. If exhibited by a governmental agency like the IRS, it often becomes barbarous.

It is impossible to protect everyone from all slights. You do NOT have a right to never be offended. You should be able to leave, avoid, or not participate by choice. When it involves abuse of power, that becomes very serious stuff. This is a perfect example of what I am beginning to call Left-handed Language: A term that can be used to smear, at the smallest pretext, while actually covering some really serious stuff.

Missouri Now The "Follow Me" State?

By Mart Staggs

Many states are now looking to Missouri to follow suit on our Abortion Laws. We are the only state with a law requiring the abortion doctor to counsel women about both the physical and or mental problems that could occur during or after the procedure. Nurses, physician assistants, and other providers are not allowed to give abortion consultation under this law.

This past summer, Governor Greitens called a special session in response to the St. Louis City’s anti-discrimination ordinances. Those ordinances made it illegal to ask job and housing applicants whether they had had an abortion. Governor Greitens was quoted as saying; “I do not want St. Louis City to be an abortion Sanctuary.” <http://tinyurl.com/y7sdcobf>

There were five new provisions in the abortion omnibus bill:

- 1. More power given to the Attorney
- (Continued on Page 4)



Why Students Should Refuse 'The Test'

(continued from Page 2)

media the results of all studies and evaluations and tests insofar as consistent with student or parental privacy rights contained in federal or state law.” The mandatory language identifies no conditions that allows the commissioner to use personal discretion in whether or not to release assessment results. If a need to explain unusual results to the public is in order, then evaluation findings should be released, but data is not to be withheld.

Since the fall of 2014, DESE has contracted with vendors to administer the Common Core-aligned EOCs and these EOCs were developed under a contract awarded to CTB/McGraw Hill in September 2013. DESE awarded the EOC development contract despite HB002 (effective August 2013). Section 2.050 of the statute stated, “no funds shall be used to implement the Common Core Standards.” Every appropriations legislation passed since that time has included similar prohibitive language.

All agents of Missouri government, elected officials, appointed board members, and government employees—are to be compelled to comply with all Missouri laws. DESE’s decision to administer the Common Core-aligned EOCs and withhold assessment results violates that compliance. Coerced participation in statewide assessments is nothing short of government tyranny. No data was available to the public that assessments are valid and reliable, or that test results will be used appropriately. Parents have every right to protect their children from the indefensible actions of government officials, and should instruct their students to refuse to participate in statewide assessments of questionable quality. The consequence of violating the law and the people's trust should fall on the government violators—not on Missouri students and their families.

Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man. - Benjamin Franklin



In Mob Justice We Trust

(continued from Page 3)

because the charges are so heinous and numerous. Failing to go along with this avalanche of outrage puts us on the wrong side of public opinion and calls our own character into question. No need to worry about opposition to the prosecution – there will not be any.

Troubling? Yes. An hour on TV in front of Judge Judy would be a huge improvement to the media crucifixions we have now. At least accusers would be required to lay out their case, be cross-examined on the facts – and the accused party could present their side of the story.

I wish I had a nifty solution--a way we could know the whole truth of a person's life. I wish there was a way to stop ourselves from being manipulated by puppet masters with vast resources and evil intent - and at the very moment we must make a judgment call on a political future or the life in general of any given person thus accused. But I got nothing.

Perhaps we can start to see that often these attacks are indeed orchestrated – even when containing some truth. To give the person accused the benefit of the doubt until more real evidence is presented, and he or she is given the fair hearing we would like to have if we were in their shoes.

I fear the pendulum soon will swing too far in the other direction. Powerful people can and do abuse those under them. Those wronged need a venue to have their case fairly aired without fear of retribution. But when everyone is immediately considered guilty, soon no one is. Real abuse gets quickly crowded out by bogus and politically motivated lies. Ultimately, when we cannot trust that any accusation is true, we begin to assume none are.

Definition of a Veteran:

"A veteran is someone who, at one point in one's life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United States of America,' for an amount 'up to and including my life.' That is honor, and there are way too many people in this Country who no longer understand it."

Author Unknown



BREAKING NEWS:

Governor Eric Greitens, before the text of his State of the State Address had been transcribed, was forced by a **media report out of Kansas City** to admit that he had had a extramarital affair shortly before he ran for governor. While he and his wife both have denied the **allegation that he blackmailed the other woman with a picture of her naked** for her silence about the affair, if that allegation turns out to be true and she files a complaint, it **could mean jail time for the "Good Governor."**

Representative Mike Moon (R-157, the district just west of Springfield) has beat out 5-time winner Representative Nick Marshall (R-13, Parkville and northwest almost to Platte City) to win the 2017 Locke and Smith Foundation Award in the House. Senator Will Kraus (R-8, eastern Jackson County) reclaimed the 2017 Award in the Senate, after losing only 2 out of the last 6 years to Senators Jim Lembke (2011) and Rob Schaaf (2016)

Missouri Now The "Follow Me" State?

(Continued from Page 3)

General so that office can prosecute people and organizations statewide who are not following Missouri abortion laws.

2. Complication Plan - Must be approved by the state's Health Department. One in four abortions is medically induced, and this law addresses possible problems and complications during such a procedure.

3. Whistle Blower Protections for reporters of illegal acts in the abortion industry

4. Allows for unannounced on-site inspections at abortion clinics.

5. The abortion doctor must counsel women and requires a waiting period of 72 hours before the abortion can be performed. <https://tinyurl.com/y7sdcob8>

I am proud to live in a state that is trying to uphold the law. Section 10 of the Missouri Constitution states: “That **no person** shall be deprived of **life, liberty or property without due process of law.**”