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Green Dragon Gazette



**The Word Corner: "Assault Rifle"**

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# Ameren Buys An Increase 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! Yes, we know we are yet AGAIN late with this month's issue, but at least we are only a week late this month. And AGAIN, we promise to do better next month. We must, once again, apologize for being the mere humans that we are...

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

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**Overheard:** "My wife and I have horses, cows, and a bull. When I went to the barn with a plan to go fertilize the pasture, you might imagine my surprise when I found a *New York Times* reporter digging through the pungent contents of my fully-loaded manure spreader. When I asked him what the heck he was doing, he turned and looked at me, and with a huge grin, said he had just uncovered three more "unnamed sources." (And now for the really serious, bad stuff >>>)

## Rates



*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.

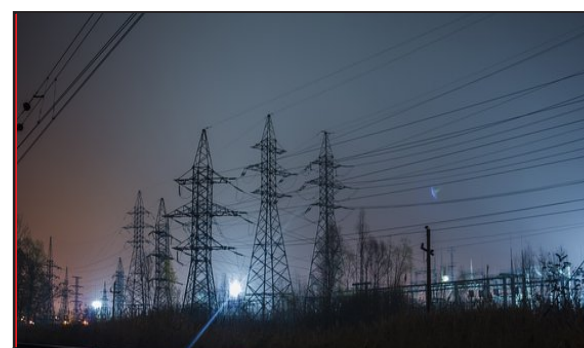
### MO, Did Ya Know?

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.



The U.S. has 3.5 million more registered voters than there are living Americans, but we don't have a voter fraud problem? Rep. Paul Curtman has sponsored a "Paper Ballot" bill, HB2208. See "Tracking Your Vote," Page 2.

Rep. Mike Moon (District 157) is doing what he can to draw attention to the new moronic EDL restrictions on agricultural trucking. "Cattlemen (will) realize costly hurdles to cross (via additional handlers, potential animal loss, lost sales, increased disease, etc.) the effect over the entire trucking industry will trigger increased prices for consumers."



## Missouri's Electric Bills To Skyrocket?

*By Lisa Pannett*

Missouri Senate Substitute Bill 5 (for SB564) has passed the Missouri Senate. Now the House Utilities Committee has the bill, and there are big problems—not only with this bill, but with already existing state statutes regarding electric rates in Missouri. Most responsible for this bill passing in the house right now is Chairman of the Utilities Committee, Rep. Rocky Miller (R-124, Lake Ozark—including the Ameren-owned Lake of the Ozarks area—hmm. His number is 573-751-3604 if you want to call).

Proponents of the bill deceptively note how our electric rates have increased about 5% over the last several years, but that this bill "would cap the rates somewhere around 3%." It is partially true. But remember when your mom told you that a half truth was still a lie? That cap is limited to one line item per year! And what this bill does not address are the many single line item charges on your bill that have no cap. Those, Ameren, and their related companies, will be able to increase. If there are currently 5 charges on your bill of \$320 for the one charge on usage, as an example, the additional 4 line items would add up to \$50 a month on that bill. In the Senate bill verbage, this is known as "decoupling," but an increase under any other (Continued on Page 3)

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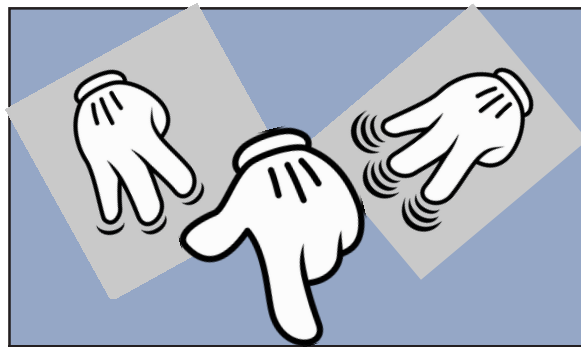
**More MO Did Ya Know?**

(Continued from Page 1)

**Medicaid is literally giving away opioids to Medicaid clients for \$1 each,** and without what the government calls an 1115 waiver from CMS, a state cannot use Medicaid money for substance abuse treatment! Only government can be THIS inept at managing pain, and what is "the poorest of the poor" likely to do with a product that cost them \$1 but is worth \$80 a piece on the street?

**More from Christian County's Republican Central Committee's values plank:** "Most of what is important in life we do for ourselves, without the government. We form our own families and raise our own children. We choose what we want to do in life. We pray to our God as we choose; we form and join the religious and civic groups that care for our neighbors in need and shape the direction of our state. There are only a few things we need the government to do for us; but it should do those things well and faithfully. Citizens of Christian County deserve a county government (and local governments) with the vision to see the bright future ahead and the effective leadership that knows to do just enough to set the stage, and then to get out of our way and let us get there on our own. We pledge to provide both the vision and the effective leadership the people of Christian County deserve."

**Can someone tell us why suddenly we have all these newscasters, weather people and reporters doing all these flailing hand modeling and "cutesy" hand movements during reports?** Do they have any idea how stupid it looks not to mention an incredibly ANNOYING distraction? It may even be offensive to the hearing impaired, as it makes a complete mockery of sign language's hand motions. Oh. And how come KRCG in Jefferson City reports more of EVERYTHING happening in Columbia? Good to know not a single thing of interest EVER happens in Jefferson City most days. Guess that goes for what happens at the Capitol too--short of the Governor or some other politician getting in trouble, of course. People should start complaining, because apparently no one is watchdogging state government and (STILL More MO Did Ya Know, next column)



**STILL More MO Did Ya Know?**

(Continued from Previous Column)

what it is up to anymore.

**Missouri House investigative committee is in closed meetings behind glass doors** covered with black plastic at the Jefferson City Police Department. Committee is led by Jefferson Citians' own state representative Jay Barnes, and is hearing testimony from witnesses involved in the Governor's felony invasion of privacy case. The entire committee is completely tight-lipped. Good thing it is in Jeff City, though. Local media would have nothing to report on otherwise!

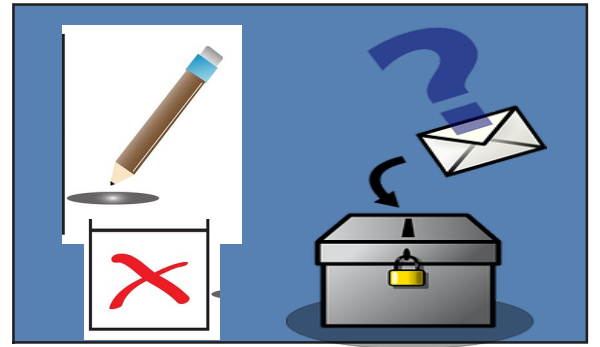
**Want to know how your city council is spending your money? There's a new Municipal Checkbook website** see ShowMeInstitute.org for more info. Now if we could just get city councils to stop purposefully running into the wee hours of the next morning so most working taxpayers can't afford to stay to the end. Then again, even with all kinds of opposition to any given proposed nonsense, city councils still seem to do whatever they please.

**District 106 (St. Charles) Rep. Chrissy Sommer's bill (HB2418) makes sex offenders reveal who they are** when staying at a hotel! Each night they stay without telling hotel management is a separate Class D felony! We say, you are some compassionate Republican, Chrissy, if you push this BEFORE the legislature fixes the enormous inequality of what Missouri considers a 'sex offender!'

**Rep. Paul Curtman, a "former" Marine who is running for State Auditor this year,** tweeted this: "A citizen & his AR-15 helped stop a shooter at a church in TX. An armed deputy in FL stays outside during a school shooting. Becoming a hero has less to do with what kind of gun you have & far more to do with what kind of person you are. Same can be said about becoming a villain."

"People like to use the government to legalize theft." *Walter Williams, Economics Professor*

"Colored people are like human weeds and are to be exterminated." *Margaret Sanger, Founder of Planned Parenthood*



**Tracking Your Vote**

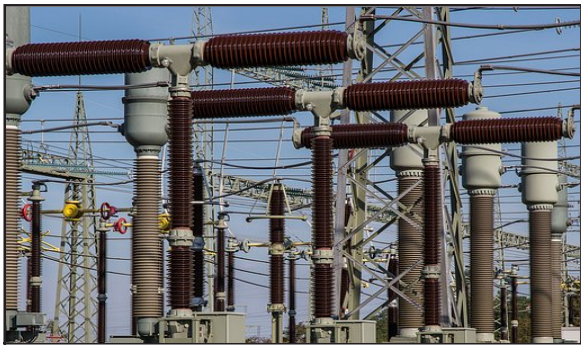
*By Freida Keough, Missouri Coalition for Transparent and Secure Elections*

At the DEFCON hacking conference In July of 2017 in Las Vegas, every type of DRE (Direct-Record Electronic) voting machine currently in use in the United States was easily hacked. There are now 16 states (Alabama, Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and just recently, Virginia) where all voters (with the exception of those who physically need assistance) vote by marking a paper ballot by hand, and no DREs are used at all.

Current Missouri House Bill 2208 would eliminate the use of electronic voting machines and make the hand marked paper ballot the official ballot for the State of Missouri. The bill has moved through the various committees in the House and, if Majority Floor Leader Rob Vescovo will allow it to come to the floor for a vote, it could potentially pass the house IF it can come to the floor before spring break starts March 18. After that, time may run out to get it passed this session and in time for the November 2018 election.

We strongly encourage Missouri voters to support the elimination of the use of DREs and to support the use of hand marked paper ballots. All who are concerned with a fair and honest election process are urged to call Representative Rob Vescovo (573-751-3607) now to request he bring the bill to the floor for the vote, and then call your representative and urge them to pass HB2208. For your representative's phone number, or to read the bill for yourself, go to [www.mo.house.gov](http://www.mo.house.gov)

Although many counties in Missouri already conduct elections with hand marked paper ballots, St. Louis County is one of the few counties that continues to heavily use DREs for both disabled and non-disabled voters, typically deploying three to six DREs per polling place. While they have never acknowledged the long known, serious hacking risks associated with these machines, St. (Continued on Page 3)



## MO Electric Bills To Skyrocket?

(Continued from Page 1)

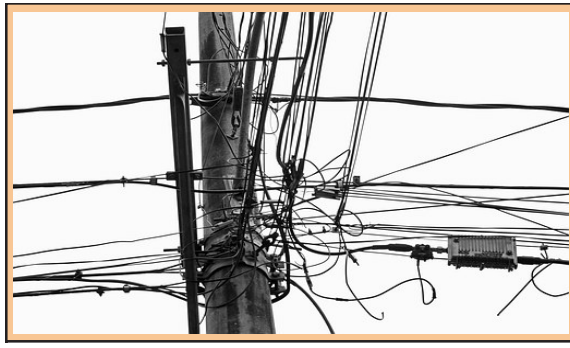
name is still an increase. Current statute 393.1075 already enables the electric companies to authorize periodic rate adjustments OUTSIDE the general rate proceedings in eligible customer classes for increases or decreases in usage for weather, conservation or both. This bill doubles down on those efforts. What does this mean? They can charge us more as we use less! And yet, they will be allowed to offer a 40% discount to some of the largest electricity users, like industrial plants. This bill mandates we spend millions in solar also, but solar equipment does not have to reside in Missouri. The money can be invested in any state adjacent to us, so conceivably, our money could be used to bail out our economically-failing neighbor, Illinois.

There is no opt out for smart meters, which already increase your electric bill just from the use of them instead of the previous analog meters, because they regularly use YOUR electricity on YOUR dime to transmit detailed information about your electricity use habits back to your electric company. If one day your electric companies decide, say, that you shouldn't be using any electricity at 3 a.m. in the morning, how are we to be assured our electricity is not going to be cut off from 3 a.m. to 4 a.m.? And as if all that weren't enough, smart meters' "modernization" of the grid leaves us more vulnerable during solar storms or, God forbid, an EMP attack.

Another horrid provision in the bill is an unorthodox, complicated "accounting" method called "Plant In Service Accounting," or PISA. This allows Ameren to go back in time when accounting for costs. If they are going to be able to go back in time to pick up costs, will they be able to go back in time to charge customers?

So who wrote this consumer-unfriendly bill? Lawyers—paid by Ameren. Do you think Ameren wrote a bill that would decrease the amount of money they can charge us? Missourians should know this government-sponsored monopoly is the second largest contributor in the state to Missouri state legislators' politi-

(Continued on next column)



## MO Electric Bills To Skyrocket?

(Continued from previous column)

cal campaigns, to organizations like the Urban League, and buys luxury suites at sporting events on our dime. Why does this bill fail to mandate that Ameren be prohibited from using customers' electricity payment to work directly against them and do these things? If the cost of doing business includes these items, Ameren will never have enough of our money. Fiscal notes must be attached to bills to show how much it will cost the state, but per legislative rules, this kind of bill does not require a fiscal note because it will come directly out of the pockets of Missourians!

Customers of Ameren, KP&L, and Empire District should notify their state senators and representatives that Senate Substitute 5 is the worst idea in a post-over-regulation era. We thought we were through with such nonsense. Other representatives on the House Utilities Committee that seem to need urging to stop it at the House Committee level:

Rep. Dean Plocher (R-89, St. Louis), Rep. T. J. Berry (R-38, Kearney), Rep. Jack Bondon (R-56, Belton), Rep. Lyndall Fraker (R-137, Marshfield), Rep. Rick Francis (R-145, Perryville), and Rep. Bill Kidd (R-20, Independence).

THESE are the representatives that can stop this bill dead in its tracks simply by not voting it out of their committee. If you think this bill is pure craziness, it is time to light up the Capitol switchboard (573-751-3659) and ask for any of these representatives. We will try to keep you posted as to how they voted, and we advise you to keep all your old and future electric bills. When we rally later to show these Republicans what they did to us, we will read the names of each one of them that betrayed their oath of office right in the face of the people of Missouri!

No truer words: "Charter schools are, in fact, public schools." *Brenda Talent, Show-Me Institute* (and former 2nd Congressional District US Senator Jim Talent's wife). Just what we need--more public schools (and this time without an elected school board) to improve failing public schools...



## Tracking Your Vote

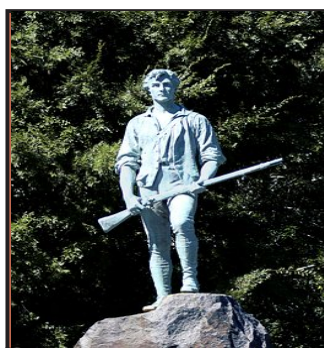
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Louis County's Elections Directors, at a Missouri House Elections Committee hearing last spring, admitted that its DREs were at the end of their life span. Their plan? They would like to replace them, they said, with paper ballot marking devices (BMDs) so that all voters would vote using a BMD, even those who are fully and physically capable of marking a paper ballot by hand. As other Missouri counties (and other states) have shown, one BMD in each polling place for those who need assistance, and one optical scan machine per polling place, is all that is needed to conduct any sized election smoothly.

We do not agree with St. Louis County Elections Directors' solution. Their plan, while eliminating easily hacked DREs, still would not provide election officials with a reliable, software-free, unhackable record of each vote and nor provide actual hard copy voting records for recount purposes. There is simply no substitute for such an important security feature as a software-free hard copy record of the vote, nor for such a great cost saving as the passage of HB2208 would bring. We need this bill's model for elections, not only for St. Louis County, but for all the counties in Missouri.

"I want parties to help me know what a candidate stands for and to give me some idea as to the solutions that might be supported. The elections process should be structured in such a way in order to help the parties accomplish a clear choice. The parties have a structure which can help vet a candidate's positions and viability in the public arena. If parties do not yield a clear choice, independent candidates can seek to fill the gap after they have provided evidence of viability through a significant signature drive." *Rep. Dan Stacy, District 31, Blue Springs*

"We have a lot of gimmicks in our classrooms that almost always share two things: they were lavishly promoted as breakthroughs; and they don't work very well. So forgive my hesitation when I read praise of "mass customized learning," which the developers hail as "the only way to achieve true education reform. We have to redesign student learning from class time to curriculum and from teaching styles to learning spaces." Translation: throw everything out the window and start anew with a big blank check." *Bruce Deitrick Price*



Word(s) of the Month:

Assault Rifle

### The Word Corner

By Merryman Wagnel

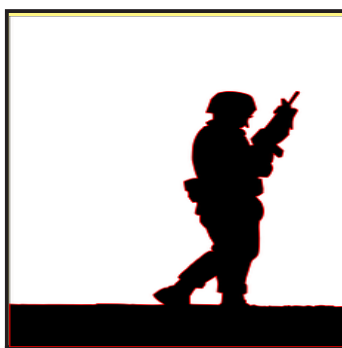
All firearms are built around the cartridge. Before WWII, cartridges came mostly in 3 types: rifle, pistol, shotgun. Until WWII, troops were equipped with rifle and pistol cartridge guns. The first "Assault" cartridge was developed by the Germans toward the end of WWII. It was smaller than the regular military rifle round but significantly larger and more powerful than the pistol round. The assault rifle cartridge is a smaller rifle cartridge than those that were used in the common battle rifles of the time.

Of equal importance to the discussion is a basic knowledge of various actions--the parts that load, fire, and unload the cartridge from the gun. The most tried and tested types are hinge, lever, pump, bolt, and cylinder (as in a revolver), all of which require the operator to perform some physical action between shots. The only exceptions are for multiple-barreled (double-barreled shotguns, revolvers, etc.) guns, which require reloading once all of the multiple barrels (or cylinders) have been emptied.

The last class of action part is the auto-loader, where, once the firearm has been fired, the mechanism's design will cause it to eject the spent cartridge or shell, and then reload the chamber of the firearm with a fresh cartridge.

The press quite deliberately uses this to confuse those unfamiliar with firearms into making no distinction between the semi-automatic where 1 pull on the trigger yields just 1 shot and the fully automatic where 1 pull on the trigger yields continuous shots until the trigger is released. Only fully automatic firearms are the machine gun types seen in movies and are true "assault rifles." A Luger, a Marlin semi-auto .22, an M1 Garand, and any 12 gauge semi-auto duck gun are all one trigger pull, one shot fired, regardless of what hyperbole the media tries to sell you.

At the beginning of WWII, most all small arms looked like the rifles and the pistols that came before. With ergonomic advances, firearms began to look differ-



Word(s) of the Month:

Assault Rifle

### The Word Corner

(Continued from previous column)

ent. Our soldiers came home and kept up their skills as they plinked, target shot, and hunted stateside. It is no wonder that they felt most comfortable with the firearms they learned to shoot in the military. But those who see all guns in a bad light seem to only focus on the "scary look." The main reason we like these guns to hunt with is because they are designed to take game, ranging from 90 to 300 pounds in weight, and from a range of 10 to 300 yards. **Deer!!!**

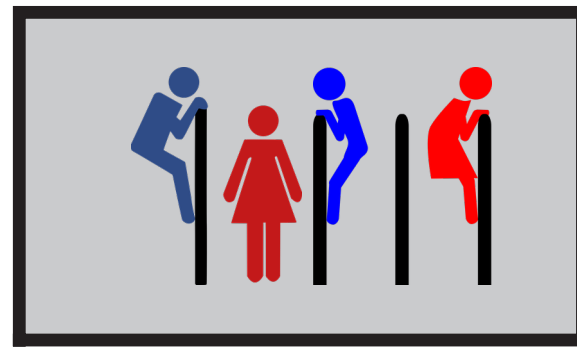


### Student Locker Room Protection Act

By Lisa Pannett

SB690 is what we used to call common sense. If a student at a public school is a boy, he goes to the boys' restroom and the boys' locker room. When a student at a public school is a girl, she goes to the girls' restroom and the girls' locker room. If you are suffering from gender dysphoria (the medical term for those confused in their identity), a single stall option can be made available. The determination as to which facility you use is made by what is on the birth certificate, and it does not change even if the person changes the birth certificate. Senator Romine (573-751-4008) is the Chairman of Education. Apparently, he thinks there is no need to protect our children's privacy while at school since he refuses to allow this bill to be heard in his committee.

Where the state legislature goes with this bill will determine Missouri as a society. We are heading down a slippery slope. What happens to us when we have a 40-year-old man that now wants to be a 5-year old girl and leaves his family? Do we pay for him to go to school with our kids? Does he have to pay child support? Five-year-old girls are not required to pay child support. (Continued, next column)



### Student Locker Room Protection Act

(Continued from previous column)

And what about the transabled? A boy wants to be a girl but also feels disabled. Will we be paying for disability too?

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### **BREAKING NEWS:**

Just what we need--Ameren and KCP&L are in merger talks...

Congress has changed the name of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial to Gateway Arch National Park. That legislation was sponsored by Sens. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., and Claire McCaskill, D-Mo. Funny, we don't remember it being a "thing..." and we sure weren't asked.

The American College of Pediatrics says transgenderism is child abuse.

The current 'abstinence-based' sex ed being pushed down on our schools comes from UNESCO. It teaches deviant sexual behaviors to children as young as kindergarten. Missouri schools are participating in this perversion by way of hiring third-party vendors to come into the schools to teach it. Concerned Women for America is fighting this. They welcome your help to rid our state of this shocking curriculum.

**What should happen with the bad electric bill:** ALL solar mandates stripped out; smartmeter opt out for one time only fee; hard cap on general rates AND all taxes, fees and surcharges, including future ones Ameren might create, and any for weather or conservation prohibited. Increase of no more than 2.25% total, and existing Energy Efficiency Investment Fund eliminated. ALL monies to candidates, organizations, or luxury accommodations come out of Ameren's profits—end of story. No buying lawmakers and others off with our money in order to ask for increases! Only GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) will be used, not PISA. Protections against EMPs and solar storms currently included should be stripped out and the EMP bill that was created with the help of the Executive Director of Homeland Security and Special Task Force on EMPs should be used, not anything that Ameren creates to try to wiggle out of compliance! We want language NOT written by Ameren!