



What's Wrong With Grain Belt Express?

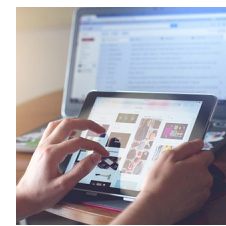
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Now on Facebook!



Online Shopping Sales Tax?

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Ameren Is Missouri's Biggest Donor

By Abigail Adams

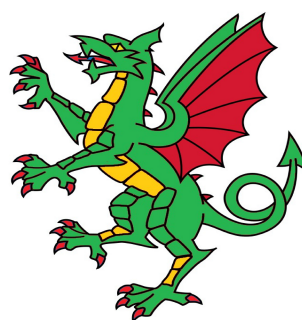
CORRECTIONS: Green Dragon Gazette, a digital newspaper of Missourians, by Missourians, and for Missourians, puts its corrections on the front page! **IT WAS MISTAKENLY REPORTED THAT UNITED MISSOURI** filed a lawsuit against St. Charles. That was incorrect. **The name of the organization is UNITED FOR MISSOURI.** We sincerely apologize for our error.

TELL US your story! Here are the requirements: It must be written by a Missourian; it must have happened in Missouri; it must be information or news Missourians really ought to know; and finally, we must be able to verify the facts of the story from a minimum of two independent sources. Submit a short summary, best time to contact you, and your contact information to adamsabigail1800@yahoo.com--if we decide to use your story, we will be in touch.

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"Government is like fire-a fearful servant and a brutal master." George Washington

Donor



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.



Ameren Missouri's territory is shown in blue

Ameren Missouri is the second biggest contributor to Missouri state political candidates' campaigns --only outpaced in its spending by the Republican and the Democrat parties themselves. What influences do they pedal each session at the state Capitol? Many, but we know of one bill that always seems dead in the water. See "Electronic Home Invasions," Page 2. Still, rural electric cooperatives (REAs) are no better. They are installing these 'smart' meters as well.

More "MO Did Ya Know?" on Page 3



Woe to You, MU!

By Stacy Shore and Abigail Adams

Mizzou is going to rent out vacant dorm rooms to short-term guests who attend football games and other such university events. Is that not competing against area hotels?

They are competing with the hotel industry in addition to the vacation home industry. Will the hotel industry send the same attack dogs after Mizzou as they have sent after the vacation home owners? Does Columbia zoning allow for "transient guests" in those dormitory rooms? Do the parents who pay out the nose for residence halls have a say as to whether or not they feel okay with transient guests sharing the same living accommodations as their kids? Is this the government competing with private industry? After all, tax dollars are paying in full for those dormitories.

The point to this? Is ANYONE going to make a stink about this? Taxation regulators of the residential homes sure waste no time bringing up such things. So now I will ask them: will "renters" of dorm rooms pay the tourism tax? What about hotel sales taxes? Do they conform to Columbia zoning requirements? Or are they exempt? You know--one rule for them, and a different rule for US! You get the picture, right? What is good for the goose is good for the (continued on Page 2)

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What's Wrong with GBE?

by Ronaldo David

I stood visiting with a woman at her home overlooking the farm that has been in their family well before Missouri became a state. If the Public Service Commission and Grain Belt Express Clean Line, LLC (aka GBE) have their way, she'll be viewing two, maybe three, 150 to 200 foot tall electric transmission towers spanning the width of her land. The lines will be carrying 3500 megawatts of direct current power generated by a wind farm in western Kansas that will annually kill thousands of migratory birds and other endangered bird species, who know no better than to fly into the blades. The line will glow from the ionization of the air around the cables and release more ozone into the atmosphere. That's right, ozone, the stuff environmentalists howl about, and the reason we had to get rid of freon and the propellants in aerosol spray cans a few years back. Even the United Nations Bio-Diversity white paper states power transmission lines are unsustainable.

GBE's arrival on the energy scene is in response to the Obama administration's "war on coal" and the subsequent closure of many eastern coal-fired power plants. These plants provided much of power needed during peak load demands during extremely hot and extremely cold. Without these coal-fired plants, there must be an alternative source or there is no ability to produce enough energy to handle the loads. It is what causes brownouts--or even worse, total black-outs--in extreme weather. The GBE business model is to become an energy arbitrage supplier of very expensive and unregulated power to the eastern United States. Some of you might remember a similar company named Enron based in Houston, Texas, which bilked California utilities, and ultimately their customers, with exorbitant prices per kilowatt during peak demands.

GBE has convinced the Missouri Public Service Commission commissioners that there is an overwhelming benefit for the
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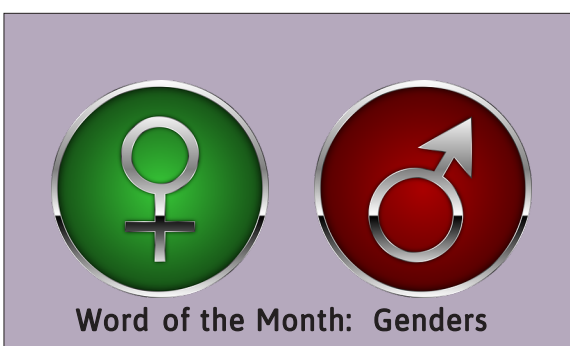
Woe To You, MU!

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gander, as our parents used to say.

The university is in a financial pickle. Enrollment is sharply down (Editor's note: Reported MU enrollment this year is the lowest in 10 years) because of the protest nonsense last year. If it is not because of the parents refusing to pay for MU's spinelessness (and even worse, its spendthrift ways with our taxpayer money), then it is potential students who rightly believe it is in their best interest to find a different school where disruption of learning is handled as it should be. A new college student has enough on his or her plate than to have to figure out how to physically and mentally survive any protests that might break out and still be able to get the learning they or their parents paid for.

So MU seeks to generate income using their empty residence halls? Interesting. Now the government is competing for a piece of the "transient" renter pie too. Just thought you should know.



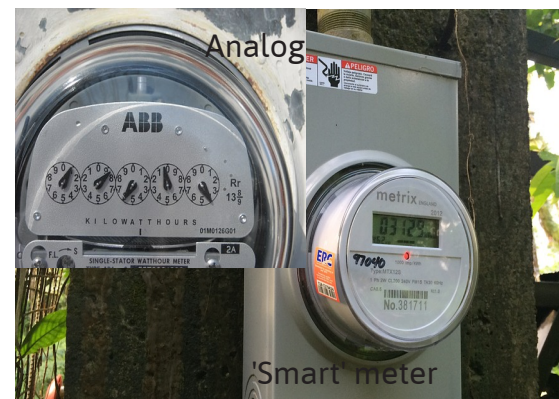
The Word Corner

By Merryman Wagnel

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

Latin is used to name things in the biological science world because it is a dead language (i.e.: no longer spoken), so the meanings of the words are fixed. Living languages have meanings attached to words, but because it is spoken as well as written, new meanings become attached to a word, or the meaning can change over time.

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Electronic Home Invasions

By Blacksmith

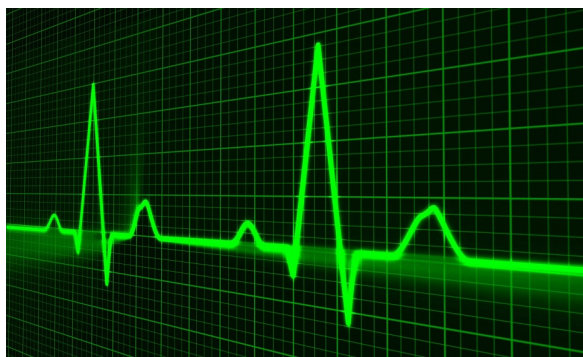
A 'smart meter' is any utility meter that is capable of measuring, recording and sending data from a customer to the utility company using one- or two-way communication. They are a component of a larger plan to change the electrical grid to a so called "smart" grid although there is controversy about whether individual customer meters are actually crucial for that change.

Where traditional analog meters measure only the amount of energy used, utility companies are now installing smart meters on our homes that gather more information than is needed for billing, exceeding the consent we have given these companies with regard to data collection.

Smart meters collect granular energy usage information that exposes the habits and behaviors of a home's occupants. Meters have the ability to communicate with individual appliances within the home. Utilities often deny that they are doing so, but even if they are not, the capability exists and utility companies can upgrade software on smart meters in a manner very similar to the way cellular providers update cell phones. The meter updates are done without notification or actual consent of the utility customer. This is effectively a form of surveillance. More information is available in the article *Smart Meters Are Spying on You for Profit, According to Global Data Firm*, from www.naturalhealth365.com

Given that utility companies are effectively monopolies granted by governments, customers should be able to choose to opt-out of participation in smart metering. If customers are not given the ability to opt-out, then they should have the ability to choose the utility companies they do business with. That is not going to happen without deregulation.

"A man's admiration for absolute government is proportionate to the contempt he feels for those around him." Alexis de Tocqueville



Escaping From The ACA

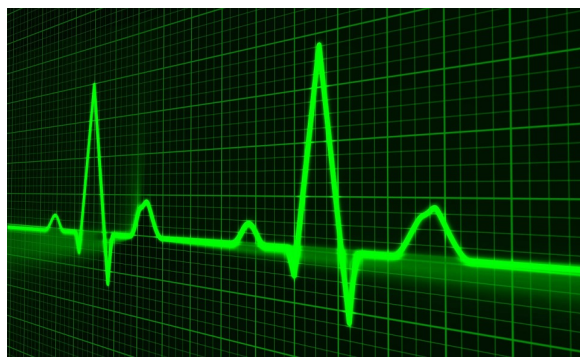
By James Coyne, Coyne Agency

A few years ago before all this went into effect, most everyone could just buy what they wanted or needed. It was a whole lot cheaper, you could see most any doctor you wanted, and a wide variety of products from many companies were available. Most people did not need to be on welfare and they could pay their own premium without it being subsidized by the government; that is, paid for with taxpayer money.

The talk about people losing their health insurance is ridiculous – it was taken away from, and made illegal for, most of them to start with! Still, the point is, if somebody wants to stay on the ACA government program, knock yourself out. Just leave the rest of us out of it. Is that really too much to ask? Stop talking about repealing ACA and just start allowing us alternatives to it. How to do that? Simple: stop fining people for not buying it. Let insurance companies sell and people buy, whatever they want and need. And if you are one of the very few who has an old plan that has not been canceled, let them keep it (remember that promise?).

In a couple of years, companies that had been put out of business by the ACA would revive, and a variety of products would be available once again. The marketplace will fill any and every need. Folks will run away from ACA and buy what they want or decide they do not want to buy anything. Hey, it's a free country, remember? If government just gets out of the way, there can be plenty of options. The free market actually works - with insurance policies, and with every other product and service you can name. Real insurance in a real, true, free market costs the taxpayer nothing. It is a business. If you don't have an "Obamaphone," your cell phone costs the taxpayer nothing and there certainly is no shortage of choice in cell phones.

Given the choice, only those who have most or all of their ACA premium paid for with taxpayer subsidies and people
(Continued, next column)



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who become ill while they have no insurance would buy into the ACA government program. It would be a small group indeed. Then pare back taxpayer subsidies to 50% of the actual premium and almost everyone would be leaving the ACA program. Game over for the ACA. For the few that would be left, we reopen state high risk pools that were closed by the Affordable Care Act and sign them up. It costs taxpayers nothing, everyone can get the coverage they want and need to buy and legislators can understand it without having to read a five-thousand page bill. Sounds like a winner to me.



More "MO Did Ya Know?"

Local media think the Missouri District 50 race was a close one between Walsh and Skelton August 8. Not so. If you look at the historic voting records, the Republican vs. Democratic votes were nearly identical when Republican state representative Caleb Jones was running (and winning) in that district.

New billboard spotted on Highway 54 West out of Jefferson City showing 2 pictures of AG Hawley, one in November 2016 where he won the AG office, and one in July 2017 where he is running for the November 2018 U.S. Senate Race in a challenge to McCaskill. Still to learn who is behind this billboard...hard to read at 65 MPH...

It was learned last week that the Jefferson City Catholic Diocese has decided to allow transgender students to use the same restrooms in their Catholic Schools.

MO GOP is having a "training session" on September 9th in Jefferson City. We will let you know how that goes.



Online Shopping: A Small Business Owner's Perspective

Part One

By Mark and Susan Taylor

Online shopping continues to be popular. It is convenient, you may never have to leave home, there is a much greater selection, and sorry, but done only *partly* because sometimes a sales tax is not required. When sales in local stores decline, of course local sales tax revenue goes down, and it burdens local governments who generally struggle financially. Requiring businesses to charge sales tax on online goods may sound like a good idea at first blush, but it would lead to many small online businesses going out of business.

It is a myth that brick-and-mortar stores are at a disadvantage because they pay the overhead costs of having a physical building. Online stores still require a rented warehouse space to house inventory, and that usually requires a controlled environment. Several workers are needed to fill orders. Shipping fees are paid on every single purchase, and is a substantial expense. Shipping costs for China are being subsidized by the U. S. government through the e-Packet program. The ePacket program is an agreement between eBay, the US postal Service, and Hong Kong Post that allows small parcels to be shipped for as little as \$0.50 from China. American online stores are at a significant competitive disadvantage in such an environment as this. Further, domestic shipping costs have gone up 25% and international costs are up 100% in the last 2 years. Shipping costs alone far exceed any overhead that brick and mortar stores deal with. There is no need to "level the playing field" via more government regulations.

Next issue: Local government's bright ideas for the taxation of online sales are discussed.

MORE RESULTS OF FEEL-GOOD LAW-MAKING: Better hope that your elderly relative doesn't die "as the result of a fall." The wait for death certificates in such cases (without which no business can be conducted in the name of the deceased) is 12 to 13 weeks while a Missouri medical examiner "investigates" the death, even when the elderly person lived alone and was still completely independent! Great help for grieving families --no hardship at all!



What's Wrong With GBE?

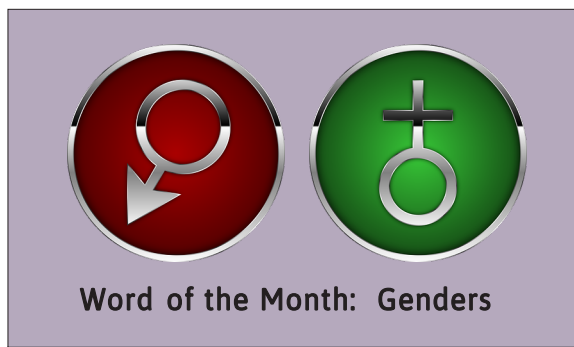
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eminent domain to force landowners in to giving GBE the right of way for this project. The PSC's own staff of experts analyzed the documentation provided by GBE and its supporters and concluded differently: most benefits claimed are short term economically and will not continue beyond completed construction. Cities clamoring for cheap energy of any kind (like Columbia, Hannibal, and Kirkwood) are being offered cheap green energy rates to sucker them into supporting GBE's effort. But you can be certain that the citizens of these cities will not see a reduction in their electric bills. There is no requirement to do so because PSC does not regulate city utilities. The only lasting benefit is more tax revenues for Missouri and for only 8 of its 113 counties. Apparently, 6 of these 8 counties involved (Buchanan, Clinton, Caldwell, Carroll, Chariton, Randolph, Monroe and Ralls) have already figured out the hidden costs associated with this venture far exceed any new revenue.

One final thought: GBE is merely the American face needed to give cover to the politicians and the PSC for awarding GBE authority to use eminent domain to get their rights of way. There is nothing anywhere in this to prevent GBE from selling out to a British firm--one is already a minority owner. Rural counties have one asset: the land in its pristine state, and unblemished by the massive steel towers that will be strung across the countryside. The residents of these counties have already footed the bill for three years of legal fees, public hearings, and expert witnesses, only to be betrayed by the political appointees of the PSC. All of this information can be found in the public records of the Missouri Public Service Commission.

FACTOID:

Missouri graduates 89% of its 12th graders, but they are only reading at 32% proficiency on average. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) hold states accountable for high school graduates regardless of their competency. About half in less selective colleges are ready.



The Word Corner

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Changing word meanings has become an instrument of "The Left," the socialists, the Communist Party, and the "Progressives" of whichever political party. It is being used to specifically change the meanings of certain words for political or social reasons. In fact, to attack the very foundations of a civilization, one only needs to change the meanings of a few key words to force one's ideas on others. Marriage, entitlement, gender--do not mean the same as in 2000.

Marriage used to mean a joining of a male and a female as the base pair for a family. Today it is used to force acceptance of things that were previously not a marriage, such as two husbands or two wives. It is even being considered to cover polygamy (male + two or more females), polyandry (female + two or more males), and group (male + female + male + female + ...). Even bestiality is being considered (human + nonhuman). You can take your pick.

Changing the foundation of society by forcing the unacceptable into the realm of supposed acceptability is wrong when any hint of nonacceptance is met with abuse, derision, shaming, or a blunt use of government force. It does not matter if it is by legal, bureaucratic, or by marketplace sanctions. To force what was unacceptable down the throat of the majority is not the way to win a cause that will stick. In the process, the meaning of the word has been changed without consensus, has made what was certain uncertain, and has bred a new contempt for those who promoted the new meaning of the word and its cause.

Genders heretofore had been specific. You were either male or female, or you were a hermaphrodite (biologically having both male and female organs), or you were androgynous (biologically neither masculine nor feminine). What was once certain is now very uncertain. In the process, we become uncertain of what is truly right and wrong, and that is a very dangerous place for any society to be in.



BREAKING NEWS:

Anthem -Blue Cross of St. Louis pulling out of 16 counties in Missouri and St. Louis City in 2018. Barry, Boone, Christian, Franklin, Greene, Jasper, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Newton, St. Charles, St. Francois, St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve, Warren and Washington are the 16 counties will be left with no companies offering individual medical coverage on or off the exchange.

The penalty for not having compliant coverage will be 2.5% of Modified adjusted gross income in 2018, and "no company offering coverage" will not stop the Affordable Care Act penalties.

In 2009 before the ACA went into effect, 11 health insurance companies sold individual major medical plans in Missouri. All but one of those has gone bankrupt, has stopped selling any health insurance, or was bailed out by a larger company's purchase. Selling individual major medical that is not compliant with the ACA remains illegal under this Federal law, and a plan purchased can be changed in subsequent years or voided if the company decides they no longer want to sell in a particular county.

Employer-based insurance, Medicaid, Medicare Supplement and Medicare Advantage health plans or "grandfathered" or "grandmothered" plans (purchased before March 2010 or before October 2013, respectively) will not be impacted by these changes at this time.

Representative Dan Stacy (District 31) is on somewhat of a speaking tour explaining his 2 bills from the 2017 session (which he intends to introduce again in 2018) regarding the closing of the currently open primary elections. He will be in both Ellisville and Columbia in mid-October. More details next issue.

Speaker of the House Todd Richardson (District 152) will apparently not be running for state auditor in 2018.

"Take away a nation's heritage and they are more easily persuaded." Karl Marx