

FORE '08: GET READY TO HIT THE LINKS

Your St. Joseph area golf guide | Special Section 183B

St. Joseph News-Press

ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI • 164TH YEAR • FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2008 • NO. 3 • 50 CENTS

stjnews.com



Teachers not LOL over teen lingo :(

Informal style dips into assignments

By JESSICA BARNES

St. Joseph News-Press

NEW WORDS ... It's nothing to LOL about. Despite their efforts to keep a strict no texting or e-mailing policy, two-thirds of 100 teachers surveyed at a recent school conference said they had seen informal language in their students' assignments.

The Pew Research Center's 2007 Language Attitudes Survey found that 67 percent of teachers surveyed said they had seen informal language in their students' assignments. The survey also found that 67 percent of teachers surveyed said they had seen informal language in their students' assignments.

"This is a trend that is not going to go away," said Jennifer Larkin, a senior English teacher at St. Joseph. "It's not that we're not teaching grammar, but we're not teaching it in the way that we used to."

Larkin said she has seen a lot of informal language in her students' assignments, but she said she is not sure if it is a problem. "I think it's a trend, but I don't think it's a problem," she said.

For more on this story, visit stjnews.com.

Two Central freshmen arrested in drug probe

BB gun discovered in Bode incident

By JESSICA BARNES

St. Joseph News-Press

Police reported to two St. Joseph schools Thursday that they had found a BB gun in a student's possession. The gun was found in a student's possession at Central High School.

The BB gun was found in a student's possession at Central High School. The gun was found in a student's possession at Central High School.

For more on this story, visit stjnews.com.

VOLUNTEER TRAIL WATCH PROGRAM | Safeguarding the Parkway System



Trail Watch volunteers help to keep the Parkway System safe and clean. They monitor for litter, illegal dumping, and other safety issues. Photo by St. Joseph News-Press.

Police call for volunteers to help keep Parkway safe

Program formed after woman was assaulted 4 years ago

By JESSICA BARNES

St. Joseph News-Press

They were pulled over and then arrested. After a woman was assaulted while jogging on the Parkway 4 years ago, the Women's Trail Watch Program was formed.

The program is a volunteer-based organization that monitors the Parkway for safety issues. The program is a volunteer-based organization that monitors the Parkway for safety issues.

For more on this story, visit stjnews.com.

"They'll do anything from give directions to just talk with people, letting them know where they're going and what's going on."

For more on this story, visit stjnews.com.

Tracy Dyer, who coordinates the program, said volunteers aren't required to do anything. They just show up and help out.

She said the program is a volunteer-based organization that monitors the Parkway for safety issues. The program is a volunteer-based organization that monitors the Parkway for safety issues.

The program is a volunteer-based organization that monitors the Parkway for safety issues. The program is a volunteer-based organization that monitors the Parkway for safety issues.

In fact, she said, she's never seen a woman get assaulted on the Parkway. She said she's never seen a woman get assaulted on the Parkway.

The program is a volunteer-based organization that monitors the Parkway for safety issues. The program is a volunteer-based organization that monitors the Parkway for safety issues.

With lead assistance, the program is working to make the Parkway a safer place for everyone.

For more on this story, visit stjnews.com.

SCHOOL PLAN CURBED 8-0

Planning Commission recommends rejecting conditional use permit

By JESSICA BARNES

St. Joseph News-Press

The city of St. Joseph's Planning Commission voted 8-0 against the St. Joseph School District's request for a conditional use permit for a new elementary school.

The school board has asked for a conditional use permit for a new elementary school. The school board has asked for a conditional use permit for a new elementary school.

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For more on this story, visit stjnews.com.

Missouri House defeats bill lowering tipped workers' pay

By JESSICA BARNES

St. Joseph News-Press

MISSOURI STATE SEN. ... The Missouri House of Representatives has defeated a bill that would lower the minimum wage for tipped workers.

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For more on this story, visit stjnews.com.



A woman working behind a counter, possibly a server or cashier. Photo by St. Joseph News-Press.



Map showing the location of a proposed elementary school in St. Joseph, Missouri. Photo by St. Joseph News-Press.

STYLE INSIDE



Before a winter... Springfield's... Fashion for pumpkins...

ONLINE NOW

Who gets... Online now... Get the latest...



Rest your... Rest your... Rest your...

Rest your... Rest your... Rest your...

YOUR COMMUNITY



Recycling is... Recycling is... Recycling is...

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CATHOLIC HIGH GOLFER EMILY POTTS IS A FORCE ON THE BOYS' GREENS / D

SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER

State to determine square's fate

Officials have 30 days to decide if it's eligible for historic listing... Lawrence Hogue... The square was designed...

Cut off since March



Robert H. Hogue... John P. Hogue... The boat is on the river...

Shell Knob residents must shovel by hand to avoid a riot



Shell Knob residents... The snow is piled up...

Shell Knob residents must shovel by hand to avoid a riot... The snow is piled up...

CU completes most audit recommendations

Written policy... CU completes most audit recommendations... The audit was completed...

LA BOY FURNITURE GALLERIES Pick a pair. PICK A ROOM. Comfort. It's what we do.

Suspect in girl's rape persistent criminal

Girl documents... Suspect in girl's rape persistent criminal... The suspect is a persistent criminal...

Do 500 people... Suspect in girl's rape persistent criminal

Do 500 people... Suspect in girl's rape persistent criminal... The suspect is a persistent criminal...

Recycling is social obligation

Recycling is social obligation... Recycling is social obligation... The recycling industry...

Recycling is social obligation

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What we look for

- ▣ Impact: will the story matter to readers? Will it effect their wallets or their lives?
- ▣ Immediacy: Did it just happen or is it about to happen? Timeliness is crucial in a competitive environment.
- ▣ Proximity: How close is this story?
- ▣ Novelty: Is something odd or strange going on?
- ▣ Prominence: Does it involve a well-known public figure?
- ▣ Conflict: Is there a clash or political battle?
- ▣ Emotions: Does this story make us sad, happy, angry?

Sometimes news is obvious

- ▣ One ordinary man =
- ▣ No news.
- ▣ One ordinary man with an extraordinary story:
- ▣ News.
- ▣ One woman with one husband =
- ▣ Not news. One woman with six husbands =
- ▣ News.

- ▣ One bank cashier =
- ▣ No news.
- ▣ One bank cashier - \$100,000 =
- ▣ News.

Our audience

- ▣ Journalists write with the general public in mind.
- ▣ We distill information so a sixth grader would understand it.
- ▣ If it's not interesting to a truck driver or someone's grandmother, we don't write it.
- ▣ Readers generally aren't interested in institutional stories – actions of the Highways Commission, city council, etc.

Readers are...

- ▣ In a hurry
- ▣ The average reader spends just 26 minutes a day with a newspaper
- ▣ “I don’t have time to read it” is the most common reason for cancelling subscriptions.
- ▣ Impatient.
- ▣ They prefer short stories to long ones, and they’re distracted.
- ▣ 74 percent of Americans say they read the newspaper and watch TV at the same time.

- ▣ Diverse
- ▣ Some are hard-core news junkies, others love long, in-depth profiles. Some read the newspaper for the obits.

Readers want

- ▣ Stories they can relate to
- ▣ Stories told in a compelling way
- ▣ Stories told clearly and with focus

A story is born

It starts with an idea

- ▣ The reporter's observations
- ▣ Conversations with sources, friends, family members and sometimes conversations overheard at the mall.
- ▣ Public meetings
- ▣ Press releases
- ▣ Actual events

Newsgathering

- ▣ Sources are called
- ▣ If there are multiple sides to the issue, talk to all sides. Find experts, people affected
- ▣ Documents
- ▣ Is there anything in writing about the topic? A formal plan, proposal, reaction?

Reporting ethics

If reporters are so great, why doesn't everyone love us?

- ▣ 62 percent of Americans say they don't trust the press.
- ▣ 59 percent think newspapers are more concerned with making profits than serving the public interest.
- ▣ 58 percent don't think journalists are concerned about complaints of inaccuracies.

What we look for

- ▣ Nuts and bolts – the basics
- ▣ Who, what, when, where, why. And how.
- ▣ Sense of scale
 - Biggest, largest, dollar amounts, size
- ▣ Understanding of how things work
- ▣ Any complications
- ▣ The next step

Putting it together

- ▣ Writing
- ▣ Graphics
- ▣ Photo
- ▣ Editing

“It was due 10 minutes ago”

- ▣ Print journalists have multiple deadlines
- ▣ 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9 p.m., 10:30 p.m. and midnight
- ▣ Online deadlines: immediately.

How to best tell your story

- ▣ Think like a reporter
- ▣ Avoid technical information
- ▣ During an interview, avoid tangents
- ▣ If a reporter seems to not have the facts correct, make sure he/she is getting them
- ▣ Don't wait until the end of the day to return the phone call

Avoid Jargon

- ▣ Vertical curve
- ▣ Way finding signs
- ▣ Dwelling unit
- ▣ TLA's - Three Letter Acronyms
- ▣ Construction terms - bents, pier caps, hammer heads

Use instead

- ▣ Hill
- ▣ Signs
- ▣ Homes
- ▣ The words that acronymns stand for – Average daily traffic, vehicle miles traveled, etc.

Why can't I get my story told?

- ▣ If it's a story that hasn't changed much, or it occurs every year, find an angle that's fresh.
- ▣ Ask yourself, would this interest my non-engineering buddy across town?
- ▣ Are you explaining yourself clearly?

How the news comes together

- ▣ 6 a.m. – reporters for the website are gathering news and getting it online.
- ▣ 9 a.m. – reporters start to arrive in the newsroom.
- ▣ 10:15 – eight editors for the Metro staff gather and start talking about days news, and planning Page One. Reporters are gathering information.
- ▣ 10:45 a.m. top editors from metro news, business, sports, features and online gather to talk about the best of what they have for the next day. They negotiate Page 1 stories



VIEWIMAGES™

- ▣ Noon – wire editors are choosing the top national and world news stories. Many reporters are starting to write.
- ▣ 1 p.m. – graphic artists are designing maps and graphics. Page designers are designing the next day's pages.
- ▣ 3 p.m. – reporters update editors on where stories stand.
- ▣ 3:30 p.m. – editors meet again to discuss whatever news has broken since morning, and what info is known in stories.

- ▣ 4 p.m. – reporters are starting to file copy. Reporters who were out gathering information are back, writing quickly and furiously.
- ▣ 5 p.m. – more stories are coming in. Editors are busy at work. Photos are being filed. Copy editors are looking over the wire stories.
- ▣ 7 p.m. – Copy editors are reading stories for grammar and accuracy. They're writing headlines.
- ▣ 9 p.m. – deadline for first edition.

MINNEAPOLIS BRIDGE COLLAPSE

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BIG CLOSE FOR A BIG SEASON

'Les Mis' finale is at the heavy this week... **A32** | **F1**

SUNDAY POST-DISPATCH

75¢
 40¢

EARLY METRO EDITION

August 19, 2007 | PRINTED BY LOGAN-PULLER IN 1078 | STC.COM | 310

Midpark Village

Project's developer hits delay in K.C.

By Thomas Clay
 A delay in construction of a new office building in Kansas City is expected to push back the start of the project by several months.

By Bill Lewis - Construction of a new office building in Kansas City is expected to push back the start of the project by several months.

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THE RACE TO REPAIR AREA BRIDGES

Aging spans gobble funds



Bridge and tunnel road just west of Highway 101. Many miles of these types of infrastructure need major repairs, but the budget is under city control. The city says it will be forced to build a bond in the future.

High priority - Maintenance is becoming more important in Missouri's Illinois has a multi-year plan.

Missouri's - The state's infrastructure is in a state of disrepair, and the state is expected to spend billions of dollars on repairs over the next several years. The state's infrastructure is in a state of disrepair, and the state is expected to spend billions of dollars on repairs over the next several years.



MISSOURI BRIDGE PLAN

MISSOURI BRIDGE PLAN

- 1. \$1.5 billion for bridge repairs
- 2. \$1.5 billion for bridge repairs
- 3. \$1.5 billion for bridge repairs
- 4. \$1.5 billion for bridge repairs
- 5. \$1.5 billion for bridge repairs
- 6. \$1.5 billion for bridge repairs
- 7. \$1.5 billion for bridge repairs
- 8. \$1.5 billion for bridge repairs
- 9. \$1.5 billion for bridge repairs
- 10. \$1.5 billion for bridge repairs

Bluest

Bluest

Bluest



MAD ABOUT PLAID

Unfussy competitors - Outside sports in local Catholic school tartan traditions.



Representative of the school's tartan tradition. The school's tartan tradition is a mix of Scottish and American influences.

Musical

Musical

Musical





ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2011 | PUBLISHED BY GUYSON PULL TOON IN 1878 | STLOUIS.COM | 1.90



TOP NEWS

POLICE CHIEF ON LEAVE
 The police chief is on leave for several weeks while the city searches for a replacement.

LOCAL NEWS

RECYCLING
 A new recycling program is being implemented in the city.

OUR COUNTY'S
 A report on the economic state of the county.

COULD BE
 A story about a local event or person.

ELSEWHERE

LAWRENCE
 News from Lawrence, Kansas.

NEWS
 General news items.

SPORTS
 Sports news and updates.

ONLINE

ST. LOUIS
 Local news and events.

ST. LOUIS
 Local news and events.

ST. LOUIS
 Local news and events.

NEWS TRACKER

ST. LOUIS	ST. LOUIS
ST. LOUIS	ST. LOUIS
ST. LOUIS	ST. LOUIS

Bridge inspections usually take a naked-eye approach Cracks in the system?

BRIDGE INSPECTION METHODS
 Inspectors use a variety of methods to check for damage on bridges.



Visual inspection is the most common method used by bridge inspectors. It involves walking or driving across the bridge and looking for signs of damage, such as cracks, rust, or missing pieces of concrete. Other methods include ultrasonic testing, which uses sound waves to detect internal flaws, and laser scanning, which creates a 3D model of the bridge structure. Drones are also being used to inspect hard-to-reach areas of bridges.

2008 Olympics begin a year from today in Beijing. The world will see whether vows of reform become reality.

China masking tarnished image

As the world watches the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, the Chinese government is trying to mask the country's tarnished image. The government is using various tactics to control the media and public opinion. It is censoring news reports and blocking access to the Internet. It is also trying to control the behavior of its citizens. The world will see whether the Chinese government's vows of reform become reality.

Picking up the torch

The torch relay for the 2008 Summer Olympics is underway. The torch is being passed from hand to hand across the world. The torch relay is a symbol of peace and friendship. It is also a way for the world to see the torch that will be used to light the Olympic cauldron in Beijing.

Many actors are great, but the best roles often Just plain 'Misérables'

Actors are great, but the best roles often are just plain 'Misérables'. The movie 'Misérables' is a story about a man who is wrongfully convicted of a crime. The movie is a classic of the genre. It is a story of redemption and hope. The movie is a must-see for anyone who loves a good story.



The best actor role of the year is in 'Misérables'. The movie is a masterpiece of storytelling. It is a story that will stay with you long after you have seen it.