



Voters reject use tax in Columbia, Boone County

BY YUE YU
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After rejecting use tax measures in 1996 and 1998, Columbia voters narrowly rejected a local use tax again on Tuesday, 51 percent to 49 percent.

Voters in Boone County, Ashland and Harrisburg also rejected use tax measures. The margin in Boone County was slightly higher than in Columbia, at 55 percent to 45 percent.

It overwhelmingly failed in both Ashland and Harrisburg, where voters rejected the tax by 60 and 79 percent, respectively.

The use tax applies when shoppers buy goods outside Missouri and includes many online sales. Shoppers are only required to file use tax with the state when they buy more than \$2,000 worth of goods outside Missouri in a year.

Online retailers with a physical presence in the state collect use tax at the point of sale, while others

outside the state do not.

Fifth Ward Councilman Matt Pitzer said it was the natural tendency for voters to oppose the use tax measures, since they weren't given compelling reasons to vote in favor of it. He also said he believes voter distrust in government spending of tax dollars played a role in the result.

The failure to pass a local use tax will impact the city's ability to provide better services in the near term, Pitzer said.

He said the city should focus on earning back the trust of voters over the long term by spending tax money more responsibly.

"We do that by making smart financial and fiscal decisions," Pitzer said, "and being open and transparent in our spending and where the citizens' tax dollars are going."

Low voter turnout

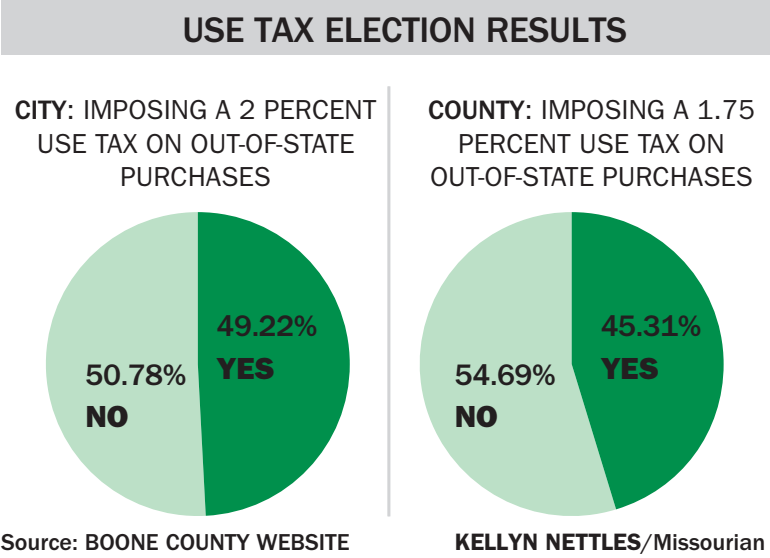
Voter turnout in Tuesday's special election was the second-lowest

among the last four special elections in Boone County.

Eleven percent of registered voters in Boone County turned out on Tuesday. They included a total of 295 voters in Ashland and 24 voters in Harrisburg.

In a special election on August

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Low voter turnout was no surprise

BY BROOKE JOHNSON
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Someone is about to get some new purple and white hand-knit washcloths.

Paula Barnes, the Democrat supervisor election judge at Memorial Baptist Church for Tuesday's special election, spent her ample down time Tuesday knitting the washcloths for her sister-in-law.

"We have to have something to do," Barnes said.

Barnes has been an election judge

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Publisher ready to wash ink off his hands

BY ABIGAIL PERANO
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Bruce Wallace got to do one of his favorite things of the year Tuesday night: take pictures of hundreds of Ashland children in their Halloween costumes.

The children, dressed as superheroes, princesses, witches — and one as a chicken — queued up with their parents outside the Ashland Optimist Club on the north side of town and filed through the building. Wallace took their photographs as fast as he could. Even a few dogs showed up for photos in costumes.

The photographs were just one of the activities at the third annual Optimist Spooktacular. Wallace will publish the photos — a full four to five pages of them — in next week's edition of the Boone County Journal, a paper he has owned and operated for the past 16 years.

"In a silly sort of way, on a really fun day, it allows the newspaper to be a part of the community in an important way," Wallace said of the Halloween photos.

The Journal has been in operation for nearly 50 years. Dan Fichel founded it in 1969, and after three ownership changes it was sold to Jane and Dick Flink in 1986. The Flinks kept the paper alive for 16 years before selling it to Wallace and his wife, Susan Wallace, in 2001.

"Jane Flink ... was in your face, 100 percent honest about the community, the paper and what I was getting myself into when buying the paper," said Wallace, who learned through newspaper brokers and a previous employer that the paper was up for sale. "And that was important to me."

For the past 16 years, Wallace has been the owner, editor, publisher, advertising manager, photographer and even occasional delivery boy of the Boone County Journal. Now, he's ready to give the paper up to the next buyer.

Wallace has been in love with newspapers ever since he was a kid in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, where he would wait diligently for the newspaper to arrive so he could keep up with the most important thing in the world to him: baseball stats.

"I grew up reading a newspaper," he said. "That was how I followed Major League Baseball."

That love of baseball kindled his passion for journalism. To this day, the walls of his office are lined with baseball memorabilia, including a bat signed by the St. Louis Cardinals' Hall of Fame left-fielder Lou Brock, which he won at a charity auction for local baseball programs.



Bruce Wallace prepares the Boone County Journal on Tuesday in Ashland. Wallace curates most content for the paper, which is distributed every Wednesday.

For the past 16 years, Bruce Wallace has run the Boone County Journal. It's time, he says, to look for a new owner



Owner of the Boone County Journal Bruce Wallace, right, learns that Nora Collins, left, is four years old before taking her portrait at the 'Spooktacular' event hosted Tuesday by the Ashland Optimist Club. Collins is an Ashland Native who has had her photograph taken by Wallace every year. For 2017, she was dressed as peacock in a costume made by her grandmother.

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Shooter in Texas once fled mental hospital

BY NOMAAN MERCHANT, JIM VERTUNO AND WILL WEISERT
The Associated Press

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, Texas — The gunman who carried out the massacre at a small-town Texas church briefly escaped from a mental health center in New Mexico in 2012 and got in trouble for bringing guns onto a military base and threatening his superiors there, police reports indicate.

Devin Patrick Kelley was also named as a suspect in a 2013 sexual assault in his Texas hometown of New Braunfels, about 35 miles from the scene of the church attack.

Please see **GUNMAN**, page **4A**

Church safety on minds of pastors, churchgoers

BY MISSOURIAN STAFF
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CENTRALIA — Associate Pastor Scott Westfall believes in being prepared for the worst.

Westfall, of First Baptist Church of Centralia, is no stranger to church violence. In 2009, the pastor who officiated Westfall's friend's wedding was murdered by a gunman at the First Baptist Church in Maryville, Illinois, during Sunday services.

After Sunday's church shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas, Westfall said his church began looking into safety training for churches. The congregation already has safety protocols in place in collaboration with both local schools and the nearby police station.

But Westfall is committed to a closer evaluation of the church's

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ELECTION OBSERVERS

Election officials from two counties shadowed County Clerk Taylor Burks to learn how Boone County holds an election

FACT CHECK

Gov. Geitens said Missouri has 113,000 regulations, enough to fill 40 dictionaries. He's mostly right

SUPREME COURT

Former Missouri State Sen. Robin Wright-Jones was brought before the Missouri Supreme Court for multiple campaign finance violations

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