

WEATHER



TODAY'S FORECAST:

HIGH 40° LOW 20°

Mostly sunny and breezy.

Sunrise 6:50 a.m.
Sunset 5:55 p.m.

FRIDAY

High 39° Low 29°
Partly sunny.

SATURDAY

High 51° Low 36°
Mostly sunny.

SUNDAY

High 60° Low 50°
Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain all day.

Data for FEB. 22, 2023

HIGH	LOW
65°	55°
48°	Normal 28°
76° (1995)	Record 2° (1978)
61°	Year ago 18°
101° Falcon Lake, Texas.	-31° Seagull Lake, Minn.

PRECIPITATION

Daily value: 0.94
Normal daily value: 0.09"Total month to date: 2.52"
Normal month to date: 1.60"Total year to date: 3.53"
Normal year to date: 3.72"

DEATH NOTICES

Lael von Holt, 95, of Columbia died Feb. 20, 2023. Arrangements are under the direction of Memorial Funeral Home.

Esther A. Flaigle, 101, of Columbia died Feb. 20, 2023. Visitation will be from 1 to 2 p.m. March 1 at Memorial Funeral Home, 1217 Business Loop 70 W. Services will follow at the funeral home.

Ysmael S. Torres, 93, of Columbia died Feb. 22, 2023. Arrangements are under the direction of Parker-Millard Funeral Service and Crematory.

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ASHES IN SPEAKERS CIRCLE



Caroline McCone • Missourian

Rebes Bennet from Missouri United Methodist wears a glitter cross on her forehead during a mobile Ash Wednesday event on Wednesday at Speakers Circle in Columbia. As part of the first day of Lent, Bennet said glitter was meant to be another option with the traditional use of ash. "A downside is it gets all over your hands," she said.

Vets say cannabis is a common poison for dogs

BY GRACE KENYON

news@columbiaindependent.com

Cannabis toxicity — what happens when animals ingest products with THC — is one of the more common toxicities veterinarians see, according to Elizabeth Easley, an emergency veterinarian at the MU Veterinary Health Center Small Animal Hospital.

However, vets said there hasn't been a significant increase since marijuana was legalized in Missouri.

Katie Rericha, a vet who works for R Veterinary, said the clinic has seen a slight increase in cases of THC toxicity recently. She attributes the increase to pet owners being more willing to seek treatment and admit that their dogs may have consumed marijuana products.

Easley also said the increased willingness of owners to be honest about what products their dog could have consumed is extremely helpful, since there are other problems that can cause the same symptoms and are a lot more dangerous and difficult to diagnose.

"If we can have people be willing to tell us that there was a known exposure, that makes it much more simple for us to get to the bottom of the problem and help their pet," Easley said.

Symptoms and treatment

Some common symptoms of cannabis toxicity include dogs seeming disoriented, being quieter than usual, being wobbly on their feet or having dilated pupils, Easley said.

In some cases, they may overreact to sounds, touch and movement near their head. Another common symptom, which Rericha uses as a diagnostic indicator, is dribbling urine.

In most cases, Rericha said dogs who have ingested THC — the compound in marijuana that causes a high — don't usually need special treatment. The important thing is to keep them hydrated, and the symptoms should clear up within a day. In cases of mild exposure, they can be monitored at home, but it never hurts to consult a vet, she said.

Easley said the most severe cases come from dogs consuming edibles, which often contain more concentrated amounts of THC. In these cases, she recommends bringing the dog into a vet clinic. Rericha also noted that it can be helpful to bring the product packaging for the vet to look at, since other ingredients may be more harmful than the marijuana itself.

Vet clinics and hospitals can put the dog on an

IV to help keep them hydrated. Additionally, treatments such as activated charcoal or IV lipid emulsion can be used to help clear the cannabis from the digestive system.

Use of CBD

In some cases, cannabis-derived CBD products have been promoted for use by humans and animals. However, the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association emphasized in a news release from Jan. 9 that the legalization of cannabis products for humans does not change the legality of those products for animals.

An attached research memo noted that the FDA has not approved any use of cannabis for pets, and it is illegal for veterinarians to recommend it.

According to the same research memo, there is some existing research indicating that products such as cannabidiol (CBD) oil may be helpful for uses such as pain relief or seizure treatment.

Still, the FDA has not approved any products intended for pets, and vets are not allowed to prescribe it. Even so, Easley said this could change in the future as interest and research into CBD treatments grows.

Talk held about '39 Missouri Sharecropper Strike

BY ANDREA MERRITT

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The historical significance of the Missouri Sharecroppers Strike of 1939 as an early civil rights movement was highlighted in a lecture on MU's campus Wednesday.

Roughly 20 people gathered in Ellis Library to hear art curator Joan Stack discuss the strike, its leaders and the change that occurred in the aftermath.

Stack works for the State Historical Society of Missouri — which has displayed an exhibit on the strike since earlier this month. The exhibit is titled "The Missouri Sharecroppers Strike: Black Resistance in

the Depression Era" and is in Ellis Library.

The exhibit shows photographs from January 1939 of the about 1,500 people who participated in the strike — which was held along U.S. 60 and U.S. 61 in southeast Missouri — near Charleston and Sikeston. It will be on display until the end of the spring semester, per Stack.

During the Great Depression, landowners and sharecroppers experienced income loss due to a decrease in the demand for cotton. When the federal government passed the Agricultural Adjustment Act of the New Deal, landowners were given federal funding — a portion of which, was meant to go

to sharecroppers. However, due to a lack of government oversight, landowners kept the money and evicted sharecroppers from their homes, Stack said. The 1939 protest was held in response to this.

"These photos reflect the importance of an early pro-civil rights movement, that were structured similarly to later civil rights movement events," Stack said. "We had an African American preacher who got people to demonstrate and was actually successful protest and change happened."

The strike was hosted by preacher and African American labor leader, the Rev. Owen Whitfield. Whitfield got the involved press, the St.

Louis Post-Dispatch and the Pulitzer Papers, to harness their power of spreading information, Stack noted.

"The leader, Owen Whitfield, was aware that he needed to make this known to the press to make change happen," Stack said. "He got the publicity he needed to create a ground swell for change."

During the 1939 strike, Lorenzo Green, a Lincoln University professor discussed the strike with his students in Jefferson City. Members of the university's Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority were moved by his discussion and donated \$150 (equivalent to about \$3,000 today) to purchase land for sharecroppers in Cropperville, a previous

settlement in Butler County.

During the talk, Stack highlighted certain photographs from the strike that carried an emotional impact, including a photo of girls carrying buckets of water from a well pump in Cropperville.

"I think this picture reflects the quiet dignity of people sharing in the work involved in building a communal life for themselves and their fellow residence," he said.

The photographs were taken by Arthur Witman — an award-winning photographer at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and inductee of the Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame.

FAMILY SUBMITTED OBITUARIES

Phyllis Black Aug. 30, 949 — Feb. 20, 2023

Phyllis Elaine Black, age 73, of Columbia, passed away on Monday, February 20, 2023, at the University of Missouri Hospital. She was born on August 30, 1949, in Columbia, Missouri to Elmer and Virgie (Chick) Gallup.

Visitation: 11-12, Funeral Service 12 pm, Friday, February 24, 2023 at Nilson-Millard Cremation & Burial Center Entombment will follow at Memorial Park Cemetery immediately following.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nilson-Millard Cremation & Burial Center, 5611 E. St. Charles Rd.; Columbia, MO 65202. (573) 474-8443. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.nilsonfuneralhome.com

Obituaries should be submitted at columbiaindependent.com/obituaries or emailed to obituaries@columbiaindependent.com. The first 100 words are free. Over 100 words is \$.50/word. All obituaries must be paid in advance.

Barriers going in Monday on Fifth and Walnut garage

BY JULIA WILLIAMS

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The installation of 150 steel window barriers on the Fifth and Walnut parking garage will begin Monday. The project, which consists of work on levels five through eight, is expected to be completed March 24.

The parking structure will remain open for hourly and permit users during construction, according to a news release from the city. Signs will display restricted parking spaces allocated for workers.

The city anticipates additional safety precautions will put Fifth and Walnut on par with the shorter garages in downtown Columbia. The project is in its second phase. The first phase, completed last year, included lining the garage roof with a 10.5 foot fence.

The Columbia City Council approved Phase Two construction last March, however manufacturing delays prevented panel delivery. Public Works spokesperson John Ogan said in an email.

The city allocated \$500,000 for Phase Two, but spent \$423,000 in total on installation costs — staying under budget.

State employee pay raise heads to governor's desk

BY RUDI KELLER

Missouri Independent

All that is needed for Missouri state employees to receive their biggest pay raise in decades is a signature from Gov. Mike Parson.

The Missouri Senate voted 29-4 Wednesday to approve a \$627 million supplemental spending bill that will add 8.7% to paychecks issued in March as well as boost the night differential for workers in 24-hour state facilities to \$2 an hour from the current 30 cents.

The only opposition came from conservative Republicans who decried the growth of employment and spending in state government in recent years. The raises will go to everyone who receives a state paycheck except lawmakers, statewide elected officials and judges.

Parson asked in January for lawmakers to approve the raises in time for the money to be added to paychecks issued at the end of March. The vote Wednesday ensures that the deadline will be met.

The bill is the first in this year's session to pass both chambers.

The raises, which will cost about \$145 million for the remainder of the year including increases to retirement contributions, are needed to hold on to state employees, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Lincoln Hough, R-Springfield, said during Wednesday's debate.

In the fiscal year that ended June

30, every department of state government struggled to remain fully staffed. Only 87.5% of budgeted jobs were filled and agencies that house and care for veterans and mental patients, as well as juvenile and adult offenders, are battling high turnover and inadequate staffing.

"Every department that has testified in front of our appropriations committee has talked about the struggle to keep, retain or recruit employees for those positions," Hough said.

The raise, equal to the cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security recipients, builds on another large raise approved last year. After providing a 2% bump initially in last year's budget, lawmakers added 5.5% in a supplemental budget that also set the base wage for state jobs at \$15 an hour.

The state is struggling to compete with rising wages in private employment and for years Missouri has been ranked near the bottom of states for public worker wages.

"I hope this is the first step of many to get us on the right track," said state Sen. Lauren Arthur, D-Kansas City.

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