

*“There she stands, proud in all her glory.”*

# Missouri County Record

Winter 2012



**Taney County Courthouse, Forsyth, MO**

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## Taney County

**Dennis Weiser**

*Missouri Courthouses: Building Memories On The Square*

In 1837, the court met in private homes while a courthouse site was being selected in Forsyth. Before a permanent structure could be built in that community, the state Legislature appointed commissioners who decided to relocate the county seat to a site near Bull Creek. This impulsive move annoyed the citizens of Forsyth, and they vigorously lobbied the Legislature in 1845.

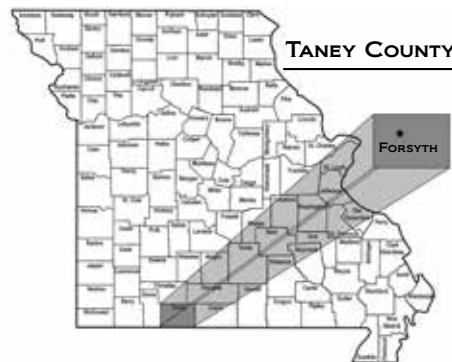
Around 1855, the community constructed a three-story courthouse, which was considered a rare structure for this period. This building was severely damaged on July 22, 1861, during a Civil War battle. Following the war, the building was either repaired or a new building was built. The record is unclear which took place. In either case, a fire destroyed the building on Dec. 19, 1885.

A replacement courthouse was completed in 1891, but when Bull Shoals Lake inundated the area in 1951, the courthouse had to be abandoned. This was the third Missouri courthouse to be flooded by a man-made lake. Before the waters covered the building, the

county sold it to the School of the Ozarks (renamed College of the Ozarks or "Hard Work U"). The building was dismantled, and its stones were used to build a campus building in 1952.

The county selected higher ground to build its present courthouse. This courthouse, occupied on Aug. 1, 1952, reflected architect Volney A. Poulson's unique interest in Southwestern design.

In 1990, a Springfield architectural and engineering firm, extensively remodeled the building.



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**Carol Green**

*"I look forward to leading such a great organization that strives to serve the taxpayers of Missouri. I feel my experience as a member on the MAC Self-Insured Workers' Comp Trust Board of Directors and the National County Reinsurance Limited Board of Directors has prepared me for the duties I am to assume."*



**Shelley Harvey**



**Bonnie McCord**



**Darryl Kempf**



**"Doc" Kritzer**



**Rodger Reedy**

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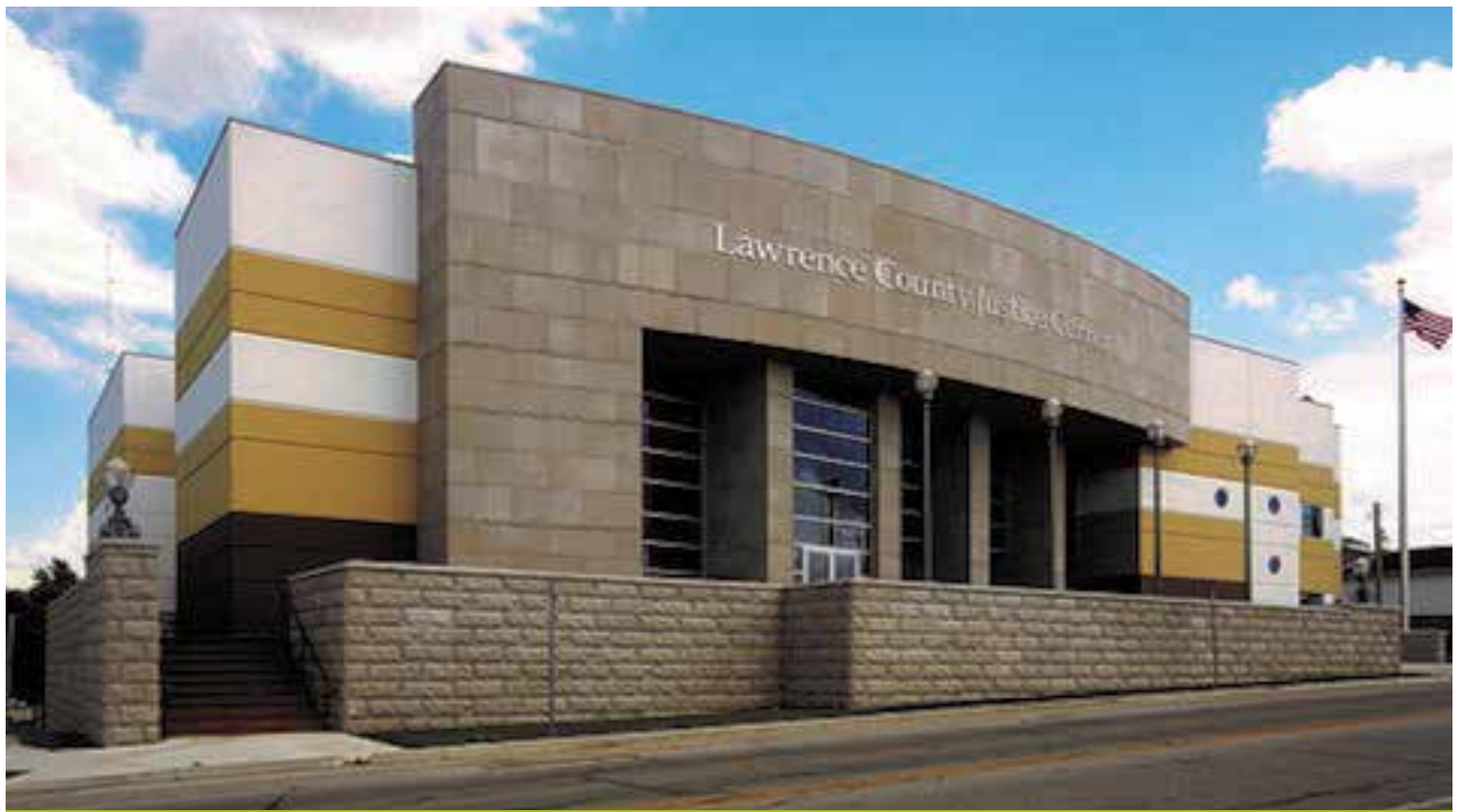
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# 2012 Missouri Awards For County Excellence

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## **Audrain County - Emergency Notification System Project**

Audrain County received an award for funding an alternative life-saving notification system for severe weather and other disasters. When the emergency management director evaluated the county's notification systems, only outside warning sirens, local news and/or door-to-door notification existed as ways to inform citizens. However, 16 different notification systems were researched, and several agencies and cities were asked to help fund the new project.

Without costing citizens any extra tax dollars, stakeholder agencies funded the new web-based notification system that can operate from anywhere there is computer or phone access. The system can contact 18 different devices and send a message in eight different languages. This extra time will allow citizens to seek shelter sooner, possibly saving lives. The system also has the ability to focus on specific areas that will be impacted the most and avoid unnecessary county-wide notifications. In addition to the mandated severe weather notification, the system also has four additional option notices: public safety, public health, disaster response and community events. Audrain County EMA has shared the program with 13 other counties in the Highway Patrol's Region F of Missouri to contact all county emergency management directors to increase response resources.

## **Boone County - Boone County's Unclaimed Property Database**

Boone County received an award for the first county-based online tool in the state that allows its citizens to search and claim unclaimed property held by the county. Under the statute, the county is required to hold unclaimed property (checks issued by the county which are not cashed within 180 or more days) in trust for owners and their heirs for three years.

Before Boone County's database existed, citizens were directed to the Missouri unclaimed property list. However, it was difficult for citizens to see if they had unclaimed property being held by the county; they would have to call or email the Boone County treasurer's office to inquire. Additionally, there was no official claim form or procedure for individuals to claim the property. There was a sum of \$50,000 belonging to 3,000 different owners that wasn't being claimed. Boone County wanted to make the process easier and more efficient for the public to access their unclaimed property.

It took approximately 200 hours to create the program which is updated in real time and can be accessed

24/7. Users simply type in and search their name, and results are returned in an easily read table that includes name, address and dollar range that they can save or print for reference. Since the database's launch in October 2011, approximately \$10,000 has been returned to Boone County residents.

## **Holt County - Missouri River Management Program**

Holt County received its first award for implementing changes and developing a future plan between the county and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to put income back into the community. In Holt County, the Corps of Engineers bought land for mitigation projects which resulted in the land's being tax-exempt and caused a large decrease in revenue. County Assessor Carla Markt worked over a 10-year span to create a successful collaboration between Holt County and the Corps for sustainable land usage and tax recoupment that benefits the Missouri River Basin stakeholders. Additionally, Markt found a loop-hole policy that required the Corps to return any cash-rent they earned from any agricultural acreage the Corps owed to the county.

Markt also testified before the Missouri Legislature to request the Missouri Department of Conservation return of 75 percent of the cash-rent they received be given back to the county. Furthermore, Markt requested the Legislature to cease acquisition of county land by state and federal agencies. Her success implemented a five-year agreement to return cash-rent proceeds adding up to \$400,000 back to the Holt County taxing districts that were affected.

Markt then went on to form a partnership between the Corps and the county to expand the county's role along the Missouri River. She was appointed to the Missouri River Recovery and Implementing Committee to find solutions for the restoration of the Missouri River. Her involvement and commitment led to Holt County's having a leading role in the Corps' future policy. While planning for the future, Assessor Markt secured a federal grant to hire a planner through the Northwest Regional Council of Governments. The planner will begin an 18-month planning process to bring together regional stakeholders that will work with the Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Nature Conservancy, local land owners and other government agencies to create a pilot project befitting and maintaining the river land. In all, Holt County received \$456,530.40 in land management contract payments over five years, and the Corps has agreed to extend the contracts for an additional three years.

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### **Holt County - Holt County Emergency Operations Center Team Approach**

Holt County won its second award for their county officials' teamwork that helped the county citizens through disaster times. Since 2007, Holt County has faced five presidentially declared natural disasters and four local disasters ranging from floods to blizzards. Holt County is a third-class county and has fewer than 5,000 residents. This leaves the county limited resources and lacking the funds to hire a full-time emergency management director. This shortage led to the use of The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Team Approach. The approach utilized all county officers to share roles in planning and response for disaster recovery to make sure the infrastructure was protected and repaired and funds were secured and distributed.

Presiding Commissioner Mark Sitherwood, First District Commissioner Bill Gordon and Second District Commissioner Don Holstine had executive responsibility and efficiently led the county's EOC.

Presiding Commissioner Sitherwood served as chief elected official and oversaw the entire process.

Commissioner Gordon, head of sandbag operations, made sure that the 20 different political subdivisions had volunteers and the equipment needed to protect against flooding. He coordinated volunteers from the Missouri National Guard, Missouri Department of Corrections, local residents and the Red Cross. This saved the county from paying overtime to employees.

Commissioner Holstine surveyed the county's 52 miles of levees and provided real-time observations of ground conditions to the EOC. He also worked with 17 levee and drainage district boards, local enforcement and the National Guard to monitor Missouri River conditions. His efforts lessened the strain on hourly employees and saved overtime compensation.

County Clerk Kathy Kunkel kept the EOC organized by keeping meeting minutes, tracking resources and monitoring logistics and fiscal operations. She worked with FEMA and SEMA to ensure the county was reimbursed for expenses. Kunkel was the primary grant administrator for the funds available which allowed the county to move forward and rebuild.

Sheriff Scott Wedlock held the primary law enforcement role for the EOC and utilized a mobile command response trailer on the edge of the flood zone. From there he was able to monitor state-aid personnel and resources for extended periods of time. This reduced the strain on his staff so they could focus on law enforcement duties.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Daryl Bierman was the main liaison with MoDOT and inspected all the bridges and roads. He kept a log of all closed roads and

provided damage estimates to FEMA and SEMA. He was also responsible for the use of heavy equipment for hauling and excavating.

Health Department Administrator Brenda Nelson provided local public health advice, oversaw vaccine distribution and environmental concerns, and monitored social media and economic indicators of families that were impacted. She also partnered with numerous state agencies to provide quality water testing and monitored stagnant water.

Assessor Carla Markt aided in the recovery process by providing current property value data assessing damages. She ensured that each home, business and farm received an accurate re-assessment. Her involvement allowed the county to provide the accurate data without costs for appraisers or outside firms.

County Collector Donna Cotton and Treasurer Gay Quick provided fiscal expertise and county knowledge to help throughout the many challenges that the county faced during the disaster times.

Prosecuting Attorney Robert Shepherd provided legal counsel throughout the phases.

Through the EOC, the county saved over \$100,000 and recouped nearly every dollar spent on emergency measures.

### **Howard County - Energize Missouri Communities Grant For Energy Efficiency**

Howard County worked together with Moniteau County and the City of Glasgow, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission to receive the Energize Missouri Communities Grant. Howard County, in need of updating their HVAC equipment, didn't qualify for the grant due to their smaller-sized project, and even if they were granted the money, they couldn't match it.

Howard County combined projects with Moniteau County and Glasgow in order to apply for the competitive grant. Howard County worked with DNR to obtain an interest-free loan to match the grant portions. The Energize Communities Grant awarded the county \$186,440, and DNR awarded \$75,557 interest-free. The project, which was started in January 2010, was finished in August 2012.

The project consisted of the installation a new cooling tower and boiler heating system in one of its buildings that hadn't been updated since 1962. DNR estimated that for the seven-year loan period, 3,106,492 kwh will be saved and will greatly reduce emissions of (MTCO<sub>2e</sub>) of 2230.46. Howard County will save an estimated \$248,519 over the next seven years.



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# MAC Outlines Priorities For 2013 Legislative Session

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During the annual conference, MAC members passed eight resolutions to focus on and implement change during the 2013 legislative year.

## **Upgrade Missouri's 9-1-1 Wireless Emergency Services**

Since Missouri is the only state in the nation without a state wireless recovery fee, the system is behind and outdated. MAC will support legislation to design a complete and detailed plan for upgrading the system. The life of 9-1-1 service equipment is seven years, many of which are already outdated. Without the recovery fee, Missouri will never attain statewide enhanced 9-1-1 services.

## **Support Fully Funded State Mandates On County Government**

MAC will respectfully request that the Missouri General Assembly and Gov. Nixon include in the state's fiscal year 2014 budget (1) an increase in the appropriation for prisoner per diem reimbursement authorized under Sec. 221.105, *RSMo*, (2) an appropriation to fully fund state assessment maintenance reimbursements, (3) an appropriation to fully fund any new obligations placed on the election officials of this state, (4) both an appropriation to fully fund the reimbursement for the detention and care of neglected and/or delinquent juveniles and the salaries of juvenile court personnel in single county circuits, (5) an appropriation that would relieve counties of the cost of providing office space and certain utility expenses for the various state public defenders' offices, and (6) also request that the General Assembly continue to refrain from implementing the

requirements of SB 711 relating to property tax enacted in 2008 until full state funding for the same is authorized. Additionally, recognizing the difficult budgetary constraints that the state of Missouri is experiencing and the dim prospects for additional state appropriations for these programs and, as a partner with the state in the delivery of these services, MAC requests that Gov. Nixon and the Missouri General Assembly hold county governments harmless from any further state budget cuts in these areas.

## **Oppose The Pre-Emption Of Local Authority**

MAC will oppose legislation that would prevent a county's authority to deal with local issues and problems. It is critical for county government to be able to protect their citizens, which includes complying with local planning and zoning and other ordinances.

## **Oppose Legislation That Erodes The Local Tax Base And Call Upon The General Assembly To Address Missouri's Antiquated Tax Structure**

In response to annual increases for the cost of county services, MAC will be calling upon the General Assembly to limit legislation that would have a negative budgetary effect on local governments without guaranteed replacement revenue. Additionally, MAC will request the General Assembly address Missouri's antiquated tax code, especially as it relates to sales tax, so that both state and local governments are well-positioned in the future to meet the increasing service needs of their citizens. Local governments are losing billions of dollars because of the lack of enforcement for "use" tax collections for online, telephone

and catalog sales, which also puts local businesses at a competitive disadvantage.

## **Support A Transportation Funding Package That Will Address The State's Dire Infrastructure Needs**

Missouri's agricultural industry, a strong economic engine for the state, heavily relies on the state's roads and bridges to transport livestock and crops. However, there is no new state funding besides the current system, and federal funding is expected to diminish soon. MAC will respectfully request the General Assembly support a new package that will address Missouri's dire infrastructure needs.

## **Support Funding For The County Assessment Maintenance Fund From Additional Withholdings**

MAC will support legislation to allow additional withholding from local property tax collections to offset the lack of adequate funding from the state of Missouri. Additionally, MAC seeks to protect and preserve all current funding levels (which have been consistently cut and are now below the 1990 level), regardless of the source, and to cooperate in finding a new funding source for the betterment of the assessment process.

## **Support Legislation To Centralize Collection Of Restitution With Prosecuting Attorneys**

Currently, there are no provisions in the Missouri statutes that allow for a uniform and consistent method for the service of collecting restitution. Before, many of the services were paid fees collected from bad checks. However, due to the advancement

in technology, these fees have dramatically decreased, hindering the collection process. MAC will support legislation to establish a uniform and consistent system of crime victim restitution centralized with the prosecuting attorneys.

### **Support Legislation To Reduce Costs For Public Defender Services And Provide Funding To Collect Liens**

MAC will support legislation to reduce the cost to be paid by counties for Missouri State Public Defender System office space and provide funding to allow the Public Defender System to collect outstanding liens. A recent audit showed that \$70 million in liens is outstanding; this would create an additional source of revenue for Missouri counties.

## **SAVE THE DATE...**

In conjunction with the Missouri Municipal League and the Missouri School Boards' Association, **MAC** encourages Missouri counties to celebrate **Local Government Week**.

### **Missouri Local Government Week**

**April 28th- May 4th**

Be thinking about how your county can highlight the services it provides to citizens each day. A tool kit will be available in early spring.



**Sandy Neal, SPHR**  
Vice President

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# Commissioners Will Not Appeal Court Decision

**Bill Miller Jr.**

*emissourian.com*, Oct. 3, 2012  
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Saying it is time to move forward and pull together, Warren County commissioners said this week they will not appeal a recent court decision that went against them in a dispute with the city of Warrenton.

The Missouri Court of Appeals ruled Sept. 18 that the county is subject to the city's building code and is not exempt from paying various city building permit fees in connection with the construction of its new \$6.5 million administration building.

Construction of the building, located on Highway 47 and Mockingbird Lane in Warrenton, was briefly delayed after the county initially refused to pay some building permit fees claiming that it was not legally obligated to do so under Missouri law.

City officials disputed the county's interpretation of the law and maintained the county was in violation of city building codes by not obtaining and paying for the building permits.

Under protest, the county commission eventually paid a total of \$27,406 to the city for separate building and storm water permits. Of that amount, \$26,781 was for the building permit. The county commission sued the city asking a judge to resolve the issue.

Warren County Presiding Commissioner Arden Engelage said he was glad the issue is over because it's time for both the county and the city to move on.

"At this point, we're going to let it go," Engelage said. "I think we did as well as we could. I wish the outcome could have been different. It wasn't a total waste of time because the decision did clarify some issues for all of the counties in Missouri. It would have been better if we had won, but we don't want

to waste taxpayers' money on a further appeal."

Northern District Commissioner Dan Hampson said he believes taxpayers will ultimately pay the price because the cost of the permits will trickle down to them since counties have to pay for building permits.

"In my opinion, the taxpayers lost," he said. "Taxpayers will end up spending more money for permits."

Engelage said Wednesday he didn't know the exact cost the county spent litigating the issue because they were still reviewing attorneys' invoices. He said that a portion of the litigation expense was paid by other entities including the Missouri Association of Counties who had an interest in the final decision.

In February county officials said they had spent \$30,635 in legal fees.

"We get along well with the new mayor and while we don't totally agree with the outcome it's time to

pull together," Engelage added.

Warrenton Mayor Jerry Dyer said he met with the three county commissioners after he was elected and they agreed informally that both sides in the dispute would abide by whatever decision the court made.

"We are trying to work together," he explained.

Construction began on the 36,670 square-foot building in early October 2010. Commissioners filed the lawsuit the same month after the city posted a stop work order at the job and issued a summons to an employee of T.S. Banze Construction after he continued performing grading work that same day.

In a 19-page opinion, the appeals court for the Eastern District held that Warrenton, in the exercise of its police powers, could require the county to comply with its building codes to protect the welfare, health and safety of the public.

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# ISLANDS IN THE SUN

## MAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO









# Car Shoppers Can Save On Taxes By Buying In Illinois

Virginia Young

*Post Dispatch*, Sept. 26, 2012

Article Reprinted With Permission

JEFFERSON CITY • Would you like to avoid paying as much as \$1,200 in local sales taxes on the purchase of a new \$30,000 car?

You may be able to. Just cross the state line and buy it in Illinois.

That's the pitch Illinois auto dealerships are making to Missouri residents in light of a Missouri Supreme Court decision and an election-year stalemate in Jefferson City. Buyers in some areas could save as much as 4 percent.

"It's something we can offer as a possible savings, just due to the law alone," said Dave Vogel, general manager for the George Weber Chevrolet dealership in Columbia, Ill.

In a decision that took effect in March, the high court exempted cars, trucks and boats that Missourians buy in other states from local sales taxes.

The court said that only cities and counties that have adopted local "use taxes" can collect a tax on out-of-state vehicle purchases. Forty-one [now 43] of the state's 114 counties and about 92 of the state's 850 cities have passed such taxes.

The ruling has exasperated Missouri auto dealers and municipal officials, particularly in border areas such as St. Louis, Kansas City, Cape Girardeau and Hannibal, who fear they'll lose millions of dollars in vehicle sales and tax revenue.

In May, they persuaded the Republican-led Missouri Legislature to pass a bill that would have reinstated the local taxes. But Gov. Jay Nixon, a Democrat, vetoed it, calling it a new tax that needs voter approval.

Hopes of overriding Nixon's veto disappeared after the governor pointed out that the bill also would have imposed a retroactive tax on thousands of people who had

bought vehicles since March.

Now, auto dealers are waging fierce bistate battles, local officials are watching to see if their sales tax receipts plummet and at least seven counties are seeking voter approval of use taxes in the Nov. 6 election.

Meanwhile, legislators say they will take another run at the issue when they reconvene in January.

"We need to fix this thing right," said Sen. Mike Kehoe, R-Jefferson City, a former car dealer. "The dealers and bordering communities are hurting severely."

The tax brouhaha started with Craig Street, a Springfield attorney who objected when he was forced to pay \$191.19 in local sales taxes to register a fishing boat, outboard motor and trailer that he bought in Maryland in 2009.

He sued the Missouri Department of Revenue, arguing that the sale was not subject to local sales taxes because the purchase occurred outside Missouri. The tax could not be collected as a use tax, Street said, because Greene County had no local use tax.

In a unanimous decision issued in January, the Supreme Court agreed.

When buying a car, consumers pay the sales tax rate for their home city and county, as opposed to the rate at the dealership. But contrary to the way Missouri handled vehicle registrations for more than 60 years, local sales taxes should be charged only on sales made in Missouri, the court said.

Cities and counties can impose use taxes equal to the sales tax on vehicles and other property bought out of state but used in Missouri. But those taxes "must be authorized by the voters in local referendums," the court said.

Legislators voted in May to

overturn the decision by amending a bill that was already in the pipeline.

In vetoing the measure, Nixon called it "an affront to every Missourian who has not yet had the opportunity to vote on whether to impose a local use tax, and especially to those voters in jurisdictions that have explicitly rejected such a tax."

Some lawmakers say Nixon politicized the issue because he is up for re-election this fall.

The fight fits nicely with Nixon's theme of being a fiscal conservative who opposes tax increases. Moreover, his Republican challenger, St. Louis businessman Dave Spence, supported the bill reinstating the tax.

The Democratic Governors Association trumpeted the governor's veto in flyers that were sent to targeted legislators' districts before this month's veto session. Nixon's stance also drew plaudits from anti-tax advocates, such as retired St. Louis investor Rex Sinquefeld.

Republican leaders, though, blasted the governor.

Nixon "seems to want to incentivize Missouri citizens to purchase products outside of Missouri," said House Speaker Tim Jones, R-Eureka. "In this economic climate, I just find that extremely disturbing."

## IMPACT ON CONSUMERS

Car dealers say that, so far, they haven't noticed a lot of consumers who understand the tax disparity. But as radio ads on the subject increase, buyers are likely to catch on, especially if the savings are substantial.

Cloyd Barden, pre-owned sales manager at Lou Fusz Toyota in Kirkwood, expects that some consumers will try to use the threat of

shopping out of state as a bargaining chip. "Once they figure that out, they will throw it our way," Barden said.

Others may still buy cars in Missouri because they like patronizing a convenient dealership that will later service the vehicle.

"The dealers will learn to compete on price, they'll compete on service, and they'll make up for" the tax disadvantage, predicted Robert Weagley, an associate professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia and chairman of the personal financial planning department.

It's too early to gauge the effect on local governments' coffers.

In late August, Nixon said that since mid-March, about 14,000 Missouri residents had paid no local tax when they bought cars at out-of-state dealerships.

That number is likely to get

"bigger and bigger and bigger," said Sam Barbee, president and CEO of the Missouri Auto Dealers Association. "We don't really want to talk about it. The more we talk about it, the more it spreads and the worse it gets."

The state revenue department estimates that about 21 percent of local sales taxes on motor vehicles involve out-of-state or person-to-person sales. Person-to-person sales are affected by the court ruling because they, too, fall under the use tax.

With no use tax to cover those transactions, St. Louis County government pegs its probable annual loss of sales taxes at \$1.8 million to \$2.2 million. Other county entities, from the Metro transit agency to the children's service fund, also would take hits.

St. Louis County officials have no plans to ask voters for a use tax.

It has already been defeated three times — in 1996, 2001 and 2008. The last vote was the closest, but still, 55 percent of county voters said no.

It's a sticky situation for George Weber Chevrolet, which has three locations in Illinois but maintains its oldest dealership on the Missouri side — in Creve Coeur.

The company's website encourages consumers to use a state calculator to determine their potential tax rate — and savings.

"There really needs to be a level playing field, but while it's law, the awareness had to be there," said Vogel, the general manager in Illinois. "We're not aggressively pursuing it. It's on our website. They can look into it if they choose."

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# Missouri Counties Able To Safely Invest Funds Short-Term

Missouri counties now have another option when looking to invest county funds. Recently, the Missouri Association of Counties (MAC) sponsored the Missouri

Securities Investment Program (MOSIP), a cooperative of Missouri school districts, municipalities and political subdivisions. MOSIP offers cash management series for

short-term monies and a MOSIP Term CP/BA series for investments of \$1 million or more with a maturity of 60 to 180 days. The MOSIP cash management series is rated AAAm by the Standard & Poor's Rating Service, and the MOSIP Term CP/BA is rated AAAs.

In addition to these two series, MOSIP participants may purchase, through PFM Assessment Management LLC (the fund's registered investment advisor), other permitted fixed-rate/fixed-term investments to meet the county's individual goals and objectives. All of the purchases are held at U.S. Bank N.A. under the county's name.

"When we deal with tax-paid dollars, we should try and use the best revenue packages," said Cooper County Clerk and MAC 3rd Vice President Darryl Kempf. "We are all comfortable with the same things. However, MOSIP allows us to think outside the box for a better return on funding."

The Missouri School Boards' Association established MOSIP in 1991 as a way to provide affordable investment strategies and professionally manage portfolios for school districts. As a result of their success, MOSIP expanded to include all municipalities and political subdivisions in Missouri. The program is owned by its participants and governed by a board of directors elected by the participants. The board has 13 members, including MAC Executive Director Dick Burke. In order to be eligible to be a board member, the entity must be a participant of MOSIP.

At each quarterly meeting, the board of directors reviews the investments of the fund and the strategy being implemented to make sure the investments meet the objectives of safety, liquidity and yield. All of the investments owned by the MOSIP program are

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held at U.S. Bank in the fund's name. U.S. Bank has over 2,017 branches in 114 counties across the state and is a federally insured institution through FDIC.

"MOSIP is a safe place where counties can invest," said Boone County Collector Pat Lensmeyer. "This is a great tool for counties to take advantage of. MOSIP will provide more of an opportunity for short-term management investments for counties."

There is no cost for counties to participate in the program. In order for counties to take advantage of the services offered by MOSIP, the county must obtain authorization from the county commission.

For more information on **MOSIP...**

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# High-Quality Technology Services Now Available For Counties

Does your county website need a face lift? Do you find your website difficult to maintain, or are you in need of one? What about secure e-mail accounts and other technology-related services such as training or cloud computing? The Missouri Research and Education Network (MOREnet) can help. They offer customized service packages that are designed specifically to serve the needs of Missouri counties and cities. These two communications service packages are designed for those that require e-mail and web-hosting services in a trusted, secure facility or a technology service package for those that also require technical support, network security, local area network consulting, and technical training. MOREnet also offers a variety of cloud-based services and disaster recovery solutions. From the smallest to the largest county, MOREnet is available to assist with specific technology needs.

So what is MOREnet? MOREnet is a consortium of more than 700 Missouri-based K-12 schools, public libraries, state government agencies, higher education institutions, and health care organizations. Established in 1991, MOREnet was created to deliver secure, reliable and robust Internet connectivity to its member organizations. It has evolved into a member-driven, service-oriented consortium focused on supporting its members' missions through technology services. MOREnet operates as a separate business unit within the University of Missouri System and only serves the public sector.

MOREnet members consistently rate its support and technology services as high-quality and essential to their organizations. For the 2012 fiscal year, overall member satisfaction was 95 percent.

"With years of experience working with Missouri's small to medium-sized schools and public libraries, our technology staff is

very cognizant of the needs of these organizations and are able to communicate with members on a variety of technical levels," said Nancy Piringer, program manager in MOREnet Member Relations.

To find more information on these services visit: <http://www.more.net/content/cities-and-counties>. For more information on MOREnet visit [www.more.net](http://www.more.net) or contact Member Relations at [info@more.net](mailto:info@more.net).

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MAC Summer Board Meeting  
(Exact date to be determined)

October 20-22  
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# MVE Partners With Clark County On Courthouse Project

**Charlie Lindquist**

*Missouri Vocational Enterprises*

The citizens of Clark County witnessed a new chapter in their history as the new Clark County Courthouse was officially dedicated on Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2012, in Kahoka, MO. The new two-story structure boasts nearly 9,000 sq. ft. on each floor, making it about twice the size of the old courthouse.

Built in 1871, the former courthouse was in a state of rapid deterioration before it was torn down. According to former Presiding Commissioner Shawn McAfee (who was in office in 2009), it was literally crumbling before the county's eyes when the issue of constructing a new courthouse arose. The new courthouse is truly a landmark in Clark County and will be for many years to come.

Attendees at the dedication ceremony included Supreme Court Justice Mary Rhodes Russell, Attorney General Chris Koster, State Senator Brian Munzlinger, State Representative Craig



*Opening Ceremony for the Clark County Courthouse*

Redmon, Senior U.S. District Judge E. Richard Webber, Circuit Judge Gary Dial, Presiding Commissioner Ron Brewer and several other state, county and city government officials.

Also, members of the sales and administrative staff of Missouri

Vocational Enterprises (MVE) attended the ceremony. MVE provided Clark County with furniture restoration services, as well as office and custom courtroom furnishings. MVE has a long and productive history with county governments throughout the state of Missouri.

The MVE program was established by a state statute to create meaningful job training for incarcerated offenders. MVE utilizes offender labor, along with supervisors and administrative staff to provide quality products and services to state agencies and other not-for-profit entities.

MVE is a unique business that operates on a capital revolving fund and does not receive any tax dollars from the general revenue. Funds generated from the sale of products and services are used to pay for all operating expenses and the salaries and benefits for MVE employees.

"Our objective is to provide relevant job training and education for adult offenders so they may become employable, productive citizens," Assistant Division Director John Scott said. "Many

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people are unaware of the fact that MVE offers offenders over 50 positions that qualify for the U.S. Department of Labor's apprenticeship program."

With this goal in mind, MVE funds on-the-job training in 25 different industries and services located in 14 correctional institutions throughout the state. Offenders learn good work ethics and transferable job skills that prepare them for successful re-entry into society.

"We were pleased to be able to participate in the efforts to provide the citizens of Clark County with a new and up-to-date building for their use," Scott said. "MVE provides a much-needed program that is improving the lives and futures of Missourians. When you  
(Continued On Page 30)

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*(Continued From Page 27)*

purchase from MVE, you become a partner in this vital program.”

The custom wood furnishings built by MVE at the Jefferson City Correctional Center Furniture Factory included the circuit court and associate court benches, the circuit court jury box, the associate court desk, the circuit recorder desk, six catalogue shelves and two circuit court room dividers. MVE also provided office desks, chairs and tables for various offices in the court house.

In addition, MVE’s Furniture Refinishing Factory refinished and reupholstered multiple benches, chairs and tables from the former courthouse building. MVE restored 11 chairs that were over 100 years old.

Manager of the MVE Furniture Refinishing Factory Steve Howell gave us his insight on historical restoration. “It is always challenging to restore old furniture to near-original condition. Every piece is unique and has historical significance to the owner. When I complete a restoration such as this one for Clark County, I feel as though I have become a partaker of their history.”

According to one Clark County official, “We are very impressed with the beauty and quality of the MVE-produced furnishings. MVE did a fantastic job and exceeded our expectations. We are very proud of our new courthouse and its furnishings.”

Since its beginning over 50 years ago, the MVE program has been revised and expanded. MVE takes great pride in producing a wide variety of quality products and services. However, the most important MVE product is a successful offender that returns to society as an asset rather than a burden.

## Clark County Courthouse, Past Blends With The Future

Debbie Peterson  
S&V Consultants



For the Clark County commissioners, building a new courthouse was an event that few people are privileged to experience in their lifetimes. The decision required them to become visionaries of the future – projecting forward 100 years to anticipate the needs of county residents in the most efficient way.

With help of S&V Consultants, they evaluated and projected space requirements, including methods of how to store archived information for generations to come. The building contains a fire suppression system; the vault areas received chemical suppression for document preservation. Due to both systems’ functions of removing oxygen from the vaults in the event of a fire, county employees working in those areas received specific training.

The building, designed to resemble the Kahoka Courthouse (the third courthouse of four structures since the county’s existence), has many craftsmanship elements that are rarely seen, including an ornate door and trim with varied patterns throughout the building. Transom windows were also removed for re-installation on the first and second floors.

Since the door and window trim were being reused from the old courthouse, they required removal of many coats of paint. The Monroe City Sheltered Workshop performed the meticulous task of stripping the wood. Care was taken to skillfully blend the rich historical past to function with modern materials.

It is sometimes forgotten that the principal existence of a “courthouse” is to house the court and its functions. This overlooked fact is most likely because the average citizen utilizes other elected officials more frequently. Keeping that in mind, the structure was laid out with the circuit courtroom as the primary interior space, with the associate courtroom and supporting staff offices conveniently located nearby.

The prominent exterior feature of the previous courthouse was the cupola. It has been salvaged, and a group of concerned citizens are raising money for its restoration.

With the Clark County Courthouse finished early, the general contractor enabled the county to move in nearly two months before deadline.



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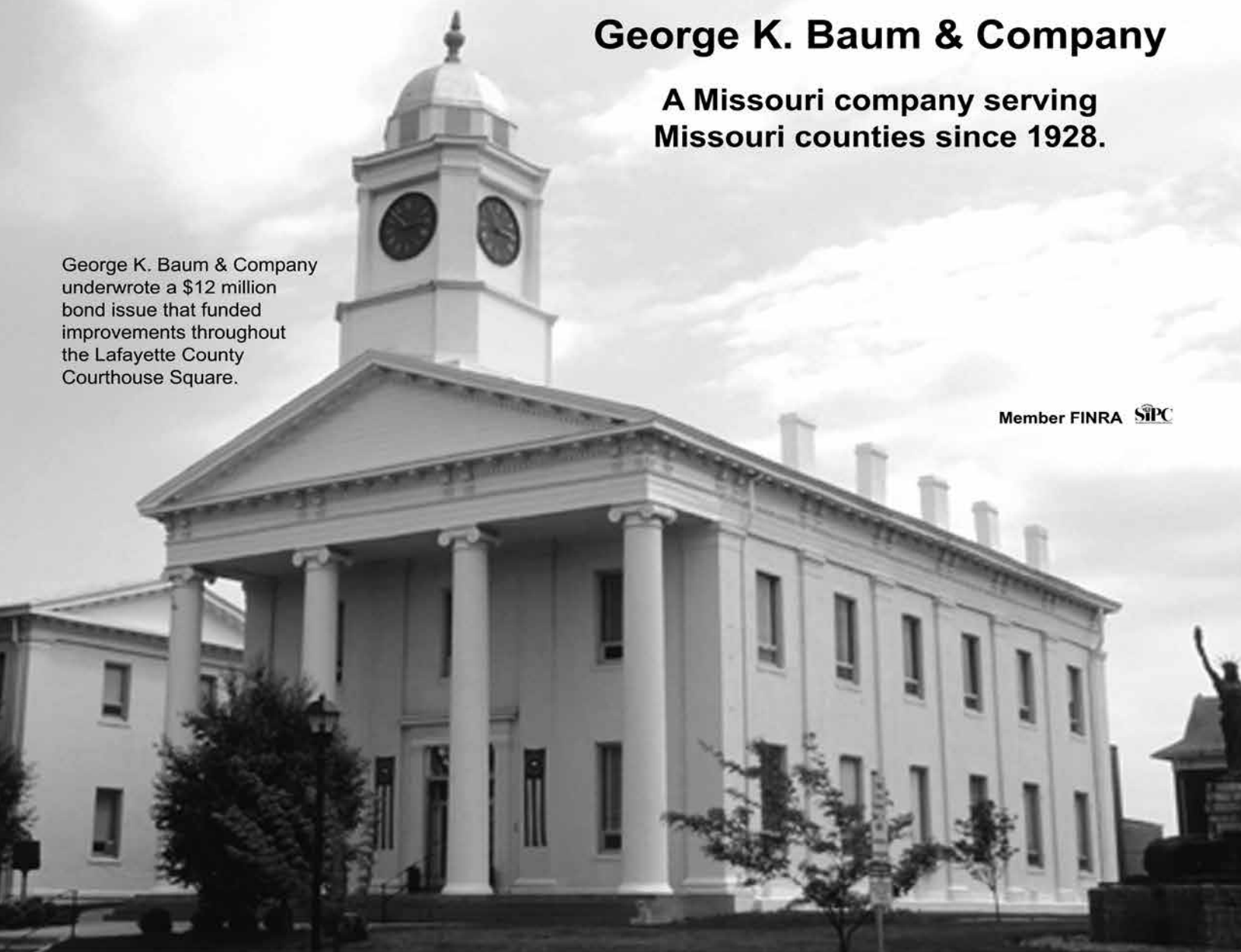
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