



DAILY GUIDE

Local youth going to Junior Nationals

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PULASKI COUNTY

Sewer district to accept credit cards

Customers will be able to pay online

Natalie Sanders
Staff Writer

Pulaski county residents can expect greater convenience when paying their sewer bill soon.

The Pulaski County Sewer District Board of Trustees voted to choose a company to handle their credit and debit card transactions Tuesday.

Up to now, the Sewer District has been unable to take credit or debit cards.

The Board of Trustees has been exploring the ability to allow online bill paying for county customers and the ability to accept credit cards is an important step in that process.

Nola Wood presented a chart to the board comparing three companies with comparable bids.

The companies were Smith Holdings Merchant Services from the Laquey area, Elavon Merchant Services from the Lebanon area, and Paytech Solutions, a national chain.

Treasurer Nathan Purdome was asked for a recommendation on which company to choose.

After weighing offers from each one on points such as annual fees, equipment cost, and transaction fees, Purdome recommended that the board choose Elavon Merchant Services.

Purdome said, "A couple of things that I keyed on that gave Elavon a little bit of an advantage was the transaction fees. Transaction fees are what's going to add up. Every time someone swipes a card, there's where your going to have it (stacking fees). Elavon doesn't have a transaction fee on debit and is a little cheaper on credit."

The board voted and agreed to choose Elavon.

When asked how soon they could expect the com-

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ST. ROBERT

City to drop appeal

City responds to union election; changes job descriptions

Madeleine Leroux
Staff Writer

The City of St. Robert is dropping an appeal to the Missouri State Board of Mediation after the results of a recent union election.

On June 29, city Public Works employees voted by secret ballot on whether they wanted to be represented by a union. Of the 37 employees who voted, nine voted

in favor of union representation and 28 voted in opposition of union representation.

At the St. Robert Board of Aldermen meeting Tuesday, City Attorney Tyce Smith said he needed a resolution or a motion from the board to dismiss a city appeal to the Board of Mediation, who ruled in May that certain personnel were employees rather than supervisors and eligible to vote in

a union election.

In 2008, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local # 2, out of St. Louis, requested the city recognize the union as the exclusive collective bargaining representative for the employees of the Public Works department.

At the time, a representative of the union said he had been contacted by several St. Robert Public Works

employees mainly about verbal abuse within the department.

The then- Board of Aldermen, instead of voluntarily recognizing the union, voted to hire a lawyer and seek a worker vote supervised by the Missouri State Board of Mediation to decide if a majority of employees wanted to be represented by the union. Since then, the

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COST OF LIVING COMPARISON - PART 2

Why is it more expensive to live in the Waynesville area?

Average cost of buying a home

Natalie Sanders
Staff Writer

The population of Pulaski County is 42 percent military and another 10.8 percent are federal employees.

Area real estate agents agree that soldiers and their families make up the bulk of their clients.

"I would say our military buyers really drive our market," said real estate agent Julie Bray.

A typical family moving to the area is likely to discover very quickly that if they want to live close to the base and work, they will pay a much higher price for their home, whether they are buying or renting.

"More people want to be closer to post," said Realtor Jena Thornton.

A three bedroom, two bathroom, two-car garage home on a quarter lot with around 2,500 square feet of living space in the Waynesville/St. Robert area today is selling on average for between \$145,000 and \$160,000, depending on updates, location, the age of the home and other factors.

A comparable home in Dixon is listed at \$110,000, but will typically come with a larger lot.

A comparable home in Rolla is listed at 130,000 and has an even larger lot.

Typically, real estate listings in areas farther away from Fort Leonard Wood

will have larger lots or more acreage for less money.

In 2000, the average house in the Waynesville/St. Robert area was valued at between \$75,100 and \$86,200.

In 2009, the average house in the Waynesville/St. Robert area was valued at between \$147,000 and \$170,029.

The price rose nearly \$100,000 on the high end in nine years, although it has seen a down turn in the last year or so due the economy.

The state average house value for 2009 was \$139,000, showing that the Waynesville/St. Robert area cost is higher than the state average.

Interesting Trends

■ A buyer may be able to get more house and more land for their money farther away from Fort Leonard Wood.

■ Homes closer to Fort Leonard Wood have a tendency to be newer.

■ The typical home buyer in Pulaski County is affiliated with the military, either as a soldier or federal employee, has two or more children, and is looking for a house within 10 miles of either gate.

■ A typical home for sale in Pulaski County has three or more bedrooms.

LOCAL

Time to sell that old gold and jewelry

Ohio Valley Gold and Silver Refinery is in St. Robert

Michael Misfeldt
Staff Writer

Starting on Tuesday, anyone with any kind of old collectables, coins, gold or jewelry can go over to the Hampton Inn on St. Robert Boulevard and turn those items in at the Ohio Valley Gold and Silver refinery.

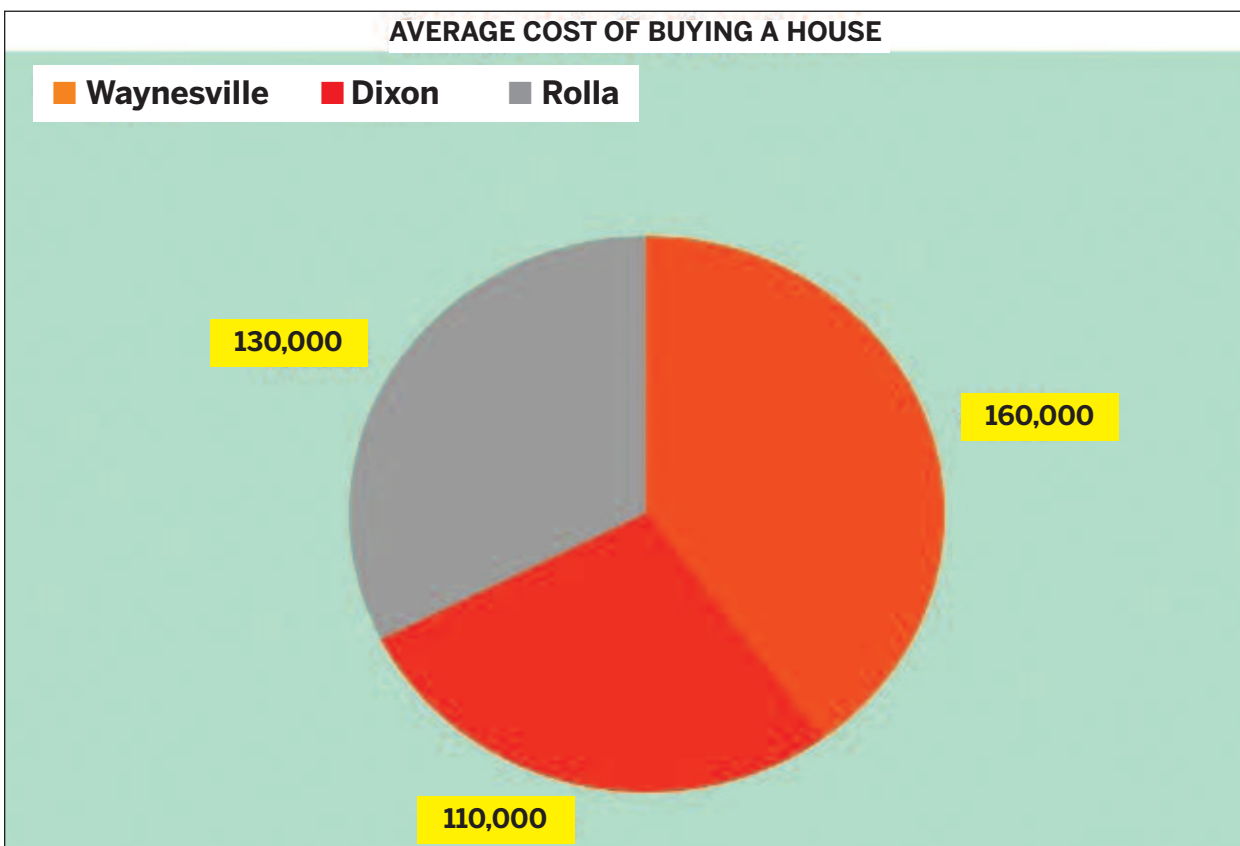
"We are here to buy antiques, collectables, precious metals, and any pre 1965 coins," said Patty Jayne, Ohio Valley Gold and Silver Refinery field manager.

"We basically want to spread around some money the St. Robert and Fort Leonard Wood area."

Items they will accept include scrap jewelry, dental gold, sterling silverware, sterling silver, tea sets, silver dollars, all pre-1965 coins, industrial scrap, all forms of platinum, vintage guitars, wrist and pocket watches and war memorabilia from WWII and older.

This is just one of 90 teams that are out in the field right now, throughout various parts of the United States, Canada and Europe trying to find that rare antique, said organizers.

This event will run through Saturday and is open to the public every day until 6 p.m.



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■ Photos from Fort Leonard Wood Independence Day celebration

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■ Local students win gold

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MOST-VIEWED STORIES

Our readers' top three favorite stories online:

- Race wars now playing in Peoria
- State wide sobriety checkpoints
- Last sports camps to be held in July

COMING TOMORROW



« COST OF LIVING COMPARISON - PART 3
What is causing the inflation of the real estate market?
Get the facts in Thursday's edition of the Daily Guide.

DEATHS

■ No deaths

GREETINGS to James Logan, a valued subscriber from St. Robert... For home delivery or customer service, call (573) 336-3711

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