



For Seniors

New section for Ozarks Seniors. Page 21



Straight Shooters

Ozark JROTC Rifle Team. Page 15

Mother, School Clash Over Education



Photo by Kristen Linsenbard

Dawson Burlison (left) who has been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, shows off his Pokemon card collection as younger brother, Dallas, wants to play too.

Local mother of child with Asperger's Syndrome disagrees with school official's decision.

By Maggie McConnell
CFP Contributor

What happens when parents and school officials can't agree about what's best for a child? That's what one Springfield mother and her son's school have been struggling with

for two years.

Mellony Burlison's son Dawson just started the second grade. Two years ago, he was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome — a high functioning form of autism.

"Immediately I had a meeting with the principal, the special education process coordinator, the school's counselor, and his future teacher," Burlison said. "The meeting ended. I was told I would hear from them in a few weeks after

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Local Haunted Castle Investigated

Paranormal team spends the night at Pythian Castle to study unexplained events.

By Meredith Flenner
CFP Contributor

With its daunting stairway leading to the porch and massive tower, Pythian Castle has the look of something right out of an old horror movie.

Owner Tamara Finocchiaro said several things that have happened inside the castle has made some people feel the same way. Reports of cold spots, doors slamming, whistling, and even singing have become part of her daily life since purchasing the castle.

The Arkansas Paranormal and Anomalous Studies Team (ARPAST) recently set out to investigate Pythian Castle and the events Finocchiaro and several others have experienced.

"When we were up in the tower room, I was using the FLIR (forward looking infrared) to scan a small Victorian sitting couch," Tiffany Pressler co-founder and vice president of ARPAST said. "I noticed two distinct



Photo by Angela Stamps

Pythian Castle, located at 1451 E. Pythian St. in Springfield, has long been thought to be a hot spot for paranormal activity.

cold spots located on one end of the couch. I touched each of the cold spot locations. The heat from my handprint registered on the camera.

"Within minutes, the cold spots began to reappear and bleed through the heat signature of my hand. This happened repeatedly. We could find no explanation in the room for the appearance of the cold spots in those two specific locations."

ARPAST President Larry Flaxman and his team set up infrared video cameras in the basement, theater, tower, and a bedroom in the castle. They hoped to catch any movement or lights while no one was around.

"Normally we like to map a place out, but this space is so big we will just have to do the best we can," Flaxman said.

The history of Pythian Castle could be part of the

reason people believe something unnatural resides there. The castle was an orphanage in 1913. It was later bought by the military for use as a recreational facility, and used to house Japanese prisoners of war.

Being inside a huge castle with such a diverse history might terrify people, but Pressler said she has seen

see HAUNTED, 3

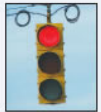
QUICK TAKE

Election Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Local voters will decide if Ozarks Technical Community College should receive more funds. The college is asking for a 12-cent increase in property taxes to pay for more technical programs. Greene County Clerk Richard Struckoff expects voter turnout to be less than 15 percent. Page 2

New red light cameras added

Two more photo red light cameras were activated at the south and eastbound corners of Campbell Avenue at Battlefield Road.



Warning notices will be given to violators during the one-month probationary period that began October 17. A red light violation is defined as crossing the wide white line or stop bar at the intersection after the signal has turned red. Motorists who cross the stop bar on yellow or are in the intersection when the light turns red are not in violation of the ordinance. The fine for running a red light is \$100 with no points deducted.

Flu vouchers available

Adults with a high risk of catching the flu are encouraged to pick up a flu voucher. This voucher allows older adults, adults with chronic health conditions, and women who may be pregnant during the flu season to receive the first shots. Implemented in 2005, the voucher system reduces long lines and ensures that those who need the shot the most receive it. For information on clinic times, call the Influenza hotline at 417-864-1166.

Free Press archives in MSU library

Meyer Library special collections received copies of every issue of the Community Free Press. Students and the public can view these newspapers when classes are in session from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Special collections is located on the third floor of the library. For more information, contact Anne Baker at 417-836-5428.

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