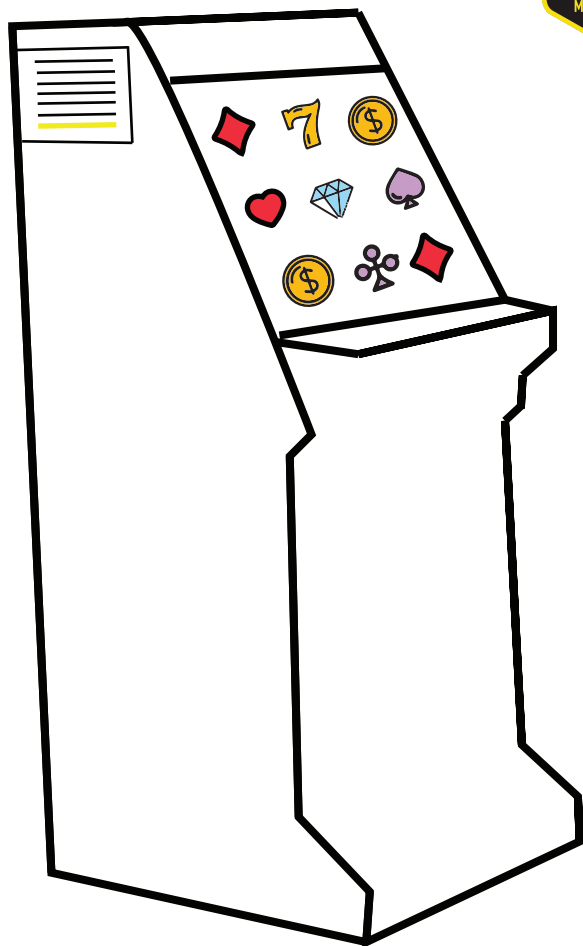


Agencies unclear on who regulates gaming machines

When contacted by the Missourian, several agencies said they haven't done anything about the gaming machines.



"After speaking with a number of people, this really is not a police issue," Steven Sapp, department spokesman, said. The Missouri Gaming Commission would need to be involved in any actions taken against the business or the provider of the machines if they are illegal, he said.



If machines are found in the county, the department doesn't have a "legal definition" for whether they are legal, said detective Tom O'Sullivan. He said the department would have to get a legal definition from the prosecuting attorney and an understanding of what kind of cases the office would prosecute.



The prosecuting attorney's office hasn't seen a case related to the machines, said Roger Johnson, assistant prosecutor for the Boone County Attorney's Office.



Typically local law enforcement will investigate and can ask the patrol for assistance, and if a case is made it will be passed on to the prosecuting attorney in the jurisdiction where the machine is found, said John Hotz the public division director.



The Missouri Gaming Commission only regulates legal gambling activities and doesn't have jurisdiction over illegal machines, said Leann McCarthy Public Information Coordinator. She also said the machines are not under the commission's control.