



# Arnold-Imperial LEADER



'Once a week but never weakly'

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TEEN ADVISORY BOARD SPECIAL REPORT: PAGES 15-19

# Vaping

## An epidemic among Jefferson County teens

*Editor's note: The Leader Teen Advisory Board's final Special Report of the 2018-2019 school year tackles the epidemic level of vaping among Jefferson County teens. Student journalists struggled with how to report the story because the teens involved may be breaking both the law and school rules. The board conducted an online survey to gather information and give teens an opportunity to share information and comments. In addition, the team conducted interviews with both a school resource officer and an expert on addiction.*

**By the Leader  
Teen Advisory Board**

After patrolling the campuses of the Windsor C-1 School District for seven months last school year, Jefferson County Sheriff's Deputy Will Scott was surprised when he got the call – a student had been smoking a cigarette in the restroom.

Previously, Scott had responded to



Katelyn Mary Skaggs photo

**A few of the vaping devices confiscated last school year at one area high school.**

dozens of calls about "cigarette" rule-breaking, but every single one was for students using e-cigarettes or vapes.

It's a sign of the times, school, law enforcement and health officials agree, and they are scrambling to respond.

Three years ago, few teens were using vapes, a nicotine delivery system invented to help adults quit smoking traditional cigarettes. But as the devices

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# Staying put

## Arnold not following other cities in moving municipal courts

**By Gordon Bess  
and Kevin Carbery  
For the Leader**

Municipal courts are on the move in parts of Missouri – but not Arnold or Byrnes Mill.

Last month De Soto became the second city in Jefferson County to announce it is moving its municipal court to the Associate Circuit Court in Hillsboro, in Missouri's 23rd judicial circuit. Festus made the same move back in June; in both cities the transfers are expected to be completed by Jan. 1, 2020.

According to the Office of State Courts Administrator, as of last week 91

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Ron Rigdon photo

## Hands-on history

Jayne Lamouria, 10, of Imperial, launches a spear with the atlatl at a primitive hunting demonstration at the Mastodon State Historic Site. See more details on Page 4.

# Behind the wheel

## School districts almost always need more bus drivers

**By Tony Krausz  
For the Leader**

Transportation directors at school districts are always on the lookout for qualified bus drivers, and it's getting harder to find them.

At least that's the message from most of the transportation departments or contractors for school districts in Jefferson County and the surrounding area.

"In all of my years in this business, this is one of the worst I have seen as far

as driver availability," said John Byrne, director of transportation for the Fox C-6 School District, who has worked in transportation since 1974. "All you see in the trade magazines is lack of drivers."

Even when school districts appear to have enough staff to cover their transportation needs, that could change at anytime, according to representatives from the Crystal City, De Soto, Dunklin R-5, Festus R-6, Hillsboro, Jefferson R-7,

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**LEADER ARNOLD SENIOR EXPO**  
Wednesday, October 9  
8 a.m. - Noon  
Arnold Recreation Center, Arnold