



Pokin Around: Frustration mounts for Cardinals fan

NEWS, 3A



New York Night

SEPT 21, 2019
Pre-Concert Talk: 6:30 PM
Performance: 7:30 PM

Bernstein - *Three Dance Episodes from On the Town*
Gershwin - *Rhapsody in Blue* and *I Got Rhythm Variations* With Alexander Tutunov, Piano
Bernstein - *West Side Story Symphonic Dances*

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SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER

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FORGING HISTORY



Sparks fly as Collin Miller uses a hammer and anvil to shape a piece of iron that will become a guard for a sword he is making at his home in Springfield on Monday. ANDREW JANSEN/SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER

Local bladesmith gets chance to wield tools on television

Sara Karnes
Springfield News-Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

With coal dust smudged on his face, shirt drenched by sweat and hammer in hand, Collin Miller is completely at home in his blacksmith shop.

Miller crafted his first knife when he was 11 years old in an old barbecue grill. Now at 19, he's bladesmithing full time at the forge he and his father built at

their home in Brookline.

While forging a piece of wrought iron for a commissioned Viking sword, Miller spoke with the News-Leader about his latest adventure as a contestant on The History Channel's "Forged in Fire," which airs Wednesday at 8 p.m. local time.

The show puts contestants to the test in re-creating historical edged weapons, according to The History Channel's website. Four people compete each epi-

sode to forge blades, which are then tested by a panel of judges. The finalist earns \$10,000 and is named champion.

Miller was first asked to be a part of the show when he was about 15 years old, he said. However, when the casting agent discovered that he was underage, he couldn't compete yet. It happened again when he was 17.

See **BLADESMITH**, Page 5A

Petition may force reckoning on school funding

Austin Huguelet
Springfield News-Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

Republican legislators have made a bit of a show about funding schools of late.

In each of the past three years, GOP budget writers have appropriated the full amount prescribed by a special funding formula and highlighted it at every opportunity.

But a Missouri teachers union appears to want lawmakers to do better.

DeAnn Aull, the executive director of the Missouri National Education Association, recently filed six initiative petitions with the Missouri Secretary of State's office laying the framework for a new approach.

It's not completely clear what the MNEA is planning. Some of the petitions contain provisions the others don't.

But one thing present in each is a series of sentences declaring "equality of educational opportunity ... a fundamental right" and giving the legislature "an affirmative duty to adequately and equitably fund the free public schools established by this article."

Beyond sounding like typical constitutional lingo, the terms "adequate" and "equitable" have special meaning when it comes to school finance.

Generally, adequate funding would ensure schools have enough money to provide students a quality education;

See **PETITION**, Page 4A

Music festival will remain in Greene County in 2020

Katie Kull
Springfield News-Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

An event dubbed "Missouri's largest free Christian music festival" is coming back to Greene County next year.

Commissioners on Monday voted 3-0 to approve the lease of county land near Rogersville for the two-day festival, which organizers expect will draw more than 40,000 people to the area.

Light the Way Ministry founder John Wilson said this year's festival was a great success, and he expects the event to grow with "big plans" for next year.

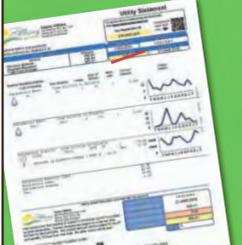
The concerts will be held at the failed Jamestown housing development, which has been a thorn in the side of county officials for years.

The land was initially planned for a housing development, which was

See **FESTIVAL**, Page 6A



The 2019 Light the Way Ministry Christian music festival brought nearly a dozen acts for two days of music. LIGHT THE WAY MINISTRY

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USA TODAY

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