



Vying for state berth
REGIONAL TENNIS HERE THIS WEEK | 1C

Marysville

THE ADVOCATE

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Trooper Ben Gardner, an author and former Kansas Highway Patrolman, gave a public Lunch & Learn talk presented by Landoll Company to about 35 people at noon Tuesday at Landoll Lanes Conference Center. The speech was part of Mental Health Month. He earlier spoke to students from across Marshall County at Marysville High School. Gardner's book, "Awkward: In a Thin Blue Line," is about his childhood and teen experiences growing up and often feeling like the awkward outsider who was bullied and "thumped on" by other kids.



Sarah Kessinger



Newspaper week

The Marysville Advocate has served the community since its beginnings as the Bugle Call in 1885. A column on this week's editorial page, 4A, tells why newspapers are important yet today.

Register to vote by Tuesday

By Chris Pannbacker

news@marysvilleonline.net

Just a few days remain to register to vote for the Nov. 3 general election. Registration closes Tuesday, Oct. 13. Those who need to register by Tuesday are anyone who will be 18 on or before election day and anyone who has moved or changed their name since the last election. People can register to vote in the county clerk's office in the

See Voter, 3A ▶

Farmers wait for fields to dry

By Chris Pannbacker

news@marysvilleonline.net

Slowed by last week's rains, which topped six inches in some parts of Marshall County and produced flooding and closed roads, farmers are working to get back in the fields as soon as possible knowing that typical harvest stress intensifies as they face two additional challenges — sprouting crops and mud. This week's weather forecast promised mostly sunshine and more seasonal fall temperatures with highs in the high 70s to low

See Weather, 4B ▶

Trooper Ben: Find those moments where you can help other people

By Sarah Kessinger

skessinger@marysvilleonline.net

Trooper Ben Gardner spent his childhood school years being excused from his regular classroom and walking down to a small room for one-on-one learning. Growing up in poverty, he was singled out by his classmates for being different, but he was grateful to the

teachers who helped him through, sending him on eventually to a career in the military and then in law enforcement. "You learn you do fit in this world, you just can't see it," he said of his early life and later realization that his challenges helped him better empathize with those he encountered in his job as a state highway patrolman. "What I want you to understand is that sometimes we wander or we try to figure out how we fit in this world,

but we're just not at the right time with the right people." "We haven't arrived. We haven't gotten where we belong, though, because you are all special." Gardner gave a public Lunch & Learn talk presented by Landoll Company to about 35 people at noon Tuesday at Landoll Lanes Conference Center. The speech was part of Mental Health Month.

See Trooper Ben, 3A ▶

Brummer to lead partnership

By Sarah Kessinger

skessinger@marysvilleonline.net

Courtney Brummer has been named executive director of economic development by Marshall County Partnership for Growth. Jeff Keating, partner-



Courtney Brummer

See Brummer, 4B ▶

USD 380 voters to decide fate of school improvement plan

By Chris Pannbacker

news@marysvilleonline.net

Voters in Vermillion USD 380 (Frankfort and Centralia schools) will consider a two-question school improvement bond in the Nov. 3 general election. Question 1 asks voters to vote yes or no for a \$16.83 million bond proposal that can stand independently. Question 2 is a \$1.99 million proposal that cannot pass without approval of Question 1. USD 380 includes the

towns of Frankfort, Lillis, Vermillion and Vliets in Marshall County and Centralia and Corning in Nemaha County, with the surrounding rural area. The district operates attendance centers in Frankfort and Centralia. Enrollment at Frankfort for pre-kindergarten through high school is 299. At Centralia, the enrollment is 332. The district office is located in Vermillion, along with a pre-kindergarten program. Question 1 provides for eight projects in Frankfort and four projects in Cen-

tralia. The Frankfort improvements: • An improved car drop-off lane for enhanced site safety and traffic flow. Bus lanes and parent drop-off will be separated for increased school safety. • An upgraded/renovated playground that is Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible. • A new west entry ramp canopy to improve building access and weather protection.

See Bond issue, 5A ▶

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ROAD RELECTIONS

Sean Spoons turned to cycling for time to think and see the little things. 1B



Calendar	1B	Menus	2B	Public Record	3A
Classifieds	7A	Obituaries	4B	Sports	1C
County Kitchen	2B	Opinion	4A	Weather	3A
Crossword	3C	Public Notices	5B	Yesterday	7B

