

THE STATE

Illinois Sen. Carol Moseley Braun, retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark, former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich, and the Rev. Al Sharpton.

It's unclear if a primary will actually be held in Missouri in 2004. The state legislature failed to fund the election but didn't repeal the law requiring that counties hold it next Feb. 3. The office of Secretary of State Matt Blunt — Missouri's top election official — has said counties must hold the primary regardless, but some lawmakers have disagreed.

KANSAS CITY

Man found dead after standoff with police

A man was found dead in his Kansas City home Tuesday after a standoff with police.

Authorities did not release the man's name, pending notification of relatives, but he would have been 26 on Friday. The cause of death also was not released.

Authorities were called around 3 a.m. Tuesday after the man became upset and shot at his brother and nephew inside the home. The man continued to shoot at the brother and nephew as they fled. They were not injured.

When officers arrived, they heard a gunshot from inside the home. Officers weren't sure if the man had shot himself or if he was shooting at them.

The officers called in a tactical team and about five hours later, those officers went into the home, where they found

State in a mess, McCaskill says

Gubernatorial candidate stumps in Ozarks; Holden says Democrats should stand together.

By Jeff Arnold

NEWS-LEADER

Saying the state needs to be run more like a bottom-line business, State Auditor Claire McCaskill said Tuesday that when it comes time to elect a new governor, voters need to conduct a job interview and then review the resumes.

McCaskill announced Monday in Kansas City that she will run against incumbent Gov. Bob Holden for the state's top political office. On Tuesday, she spanned the state, making six stops, including one in Springfield.

During her Tuesday stop at the Springfield-Branson Regional Airport, McCaskill called for more accountability in Jefferson City, saying she respects Holden, but that it's time for a change.

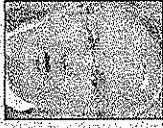
"Missouri is in a mess," McCaskill said. "...Clearly the state is not headed in the right direction."

Holden disagreed, saying in a statement that he is sorry that McCaskill is not standing with him as he "fights for education, health care and jobs for Missouri's families."

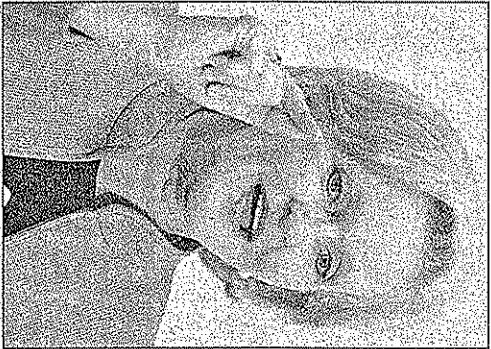
"By standing together, Democrats can make real progress on the issues that matter to Missouri," Holden said.

But McCaskill, who said her Monday announcement was inspired by the recent political uprisings against California governor Gray Davis, said she can no longer stand for the direction Holden has Missouri moving in.

McCaskill hopes her campaign seeking accountability and fair play will resonate with voters in southwest Missouri. Although the region is a Republican stronghold, she believes her record as auditor and prosecutor will sway voters. "(People) are tired of the excuses; they are tired of the mistakes; they are the tired of the same old politics and the same old government and they are tired of the blame game," McCaskill said. "They want somebody (in Jefferson City) that is not going to attack people, but rather attack problems."



BOB UNDER/NEWS-LEADER



State Auditor Claire McCaskill

talks about her run for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination during a campaign stop Tuesday in Springfield.

Finance reports show Holden has \$2.3 million, nearly twice as much as McCaskill. But they also show McCaskill has received money from some previous Holden supporters.

McCaskill, the former Jackson County prosecutor, said Tuesday she plans on running a positive campaign, choosing to point toward what she can do for the state.

A few supporters showed up at the airport to greet their can-

didate.

"We realize that it's time for someone else to take over," said Steve Reed, the founder of the statewide grass-roots group, Citizens for Supporting McCaskill for Governor. "Personally-wise she's honest, she knows statewide issues and she knows how to articulate them."

Dan Chiles, vice president of marketing for Watts Radiant in Springfield, feels that accentuating the positive will sit well with local voters.

"I think people (in southwest Missouri) will look beyond labels and they'll look to the person," Chiles said.

McCaskill does not believe that her run at the Governor's Mansion will divide the Democratic party as some political pundits have suggested. Instead, she said that by the time next year's election arrives, the party will be more unified.

"Republicans and Democrats and independents — we agree on some things," she said. "We agree that we want this to be the best state in the union, we agree that our children need to be educated well, we agree our roads need to be safe."

In his statement, Holden pointed to his performance during "this difficult time in Missouri's history."

Paper carrier trades shots with robber

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
KANSAS CITY — A newspaper

In the past 10 years, price has climbed 40%

four-year public campuses jumped 14.1 percent to \$4,694

SMS, MU surpass national average in size of cost boosts