LOCAL BRIEFS

ST. LOUIS AREA

Expressway opens in Maryland Heights

Maryland Heights officials on Tuesday opened the Maryland Heights Expressway from Pritchard Farm Road to Sportport Drive.

The four-lane road is the first of two segments that would link the new Page Avenue Extension with the Riverport area.

When complete, the Maryland Heights Expressway will provide an alternative to Riverport attractions that avoids heavy traffic on Interstates 70 and 270.

HERCULANEUM

Girl, 12, drowns while swimming with friends

A 12-year-old girl drowned while swimming with friends in Joachim Creek on Tuesday night.

The girl was swimming in a pool of water created by an old dam near where the creek feeds into the Mississippi River, according to Herculaneum police. The girl somehow got caught in the dam about 6:30 and couldn't come up for air.

Friends ran for help and called 911 when they realized the girl was in trouble, but she was dead when rescuers arrived. Police withheld her name Tuesday night because her relatives had not been notified.

LAW & ORDER

JEFFERSON CITY

Supreme Court backs penalty for junk faxes

The Missouri Supreme Court says you can fight back against