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I'm Cynthia Spratt with a look at Regional News on Big Country 99...

The polls have opened in the Ozarks. Nation wide, voters will select a presidential ticket as well as Senate and House of Representative seats. Missouri voters will vote on two constitutional amendments and three statutory amendments during today's General Election. A simple majority of votes cast, for each individual issue, will determine whether the issue passes or fails.

A 14-year-old boy found passed out in a ditch last Thursday spent several hours in the county hospital emergency room. Houston police say boy's blood alcohol limit was measured at .218 - nearly three times the legal limit for DWI. Authorities charged Evan Dugger, 17 also of Houston with providing him alcohol. Dugger said the intoxicated boy was taken outside of Houston Wal-Mart after he was falling in the store. Dugger told authorities they went to the business to buy bread and water in an attempt "to sober the boy up." Police said additional charges may be filed by the county prosecutor.

The Second Annual Texas County Memorial Hospital Healthcare Foundation Chili Cook raised over \$35,000 in donations to benefit TCMH Hospice of Care. Over 400 people were in attendance at the event, including 19 chili-cooking teams. Donations came in the form of sponsorships by area businesses for chili teams, corporate and entertainment sponsorships, cash donations and donations of items for the auctions. Chili teams also raised money prior to the event and at the event. In addition to musical entertainment, a live auction, a homemade pie auction and a cakewalk also provided entertainment. A festive atmosphere filled the fairgrounds on Saturday as attendees poured in to taste over 20 different types of chili. Chili booths were decorated in everything from a baby nursery called "Special Delivery Chili" by the TCMH obstetrics department to "lifeguards" wearing swim attire and sun block on their noses at the "Chiliguards" booth by Houston Community Betterment YOUTH. Three chili judges representing sponsors of the event were Bill Senter from Tree Terminator in Plato, Cordie Wimberly from Souls Harbor Church and Earleen Holder from Progressive Ozark Bank, both in Houston. Prizes were given to the chili teams who were competing in several different categories.

Young hunters were in the woods over the weekend as part of the annual youth deer season. Travis Mills, an agent with the Missouri Department of Conservation says the count was down from last year. The tally was 153 deer, putting the 2008 season down 52 from 2007. The breakdown left 77, antlered deer; 30, button bucks; and 46, does taken during youth season.

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That's Regional News on Big Country 99, I'm Cynthia Spratt.