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Stewart says he didn't leave MU volunteer role by choice

By MIKE DeARMOND
The Kansas City Star

It doesn't sound as though Norm Stewart is stormin' over the situation. But Stewart, the legendary Missouri basketball coach, wants to make sure people know he didn't volunteer to walk away from his long-held position as special assistant to University of Missouri chancellor Brady Deaton.

Stewart, back from a family vacation to Canada and Alaska, told The Star on Monday what he also told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. He said some accounts of his separation, such as those reporting that Stewart agreed with Deaton's decision to end Stewart's formal role with MU, were wrong.

"There was an attempt to spin the story locally into something it was not," Stewart told The Star.

Stewart said the decision was made by Deaton sometime last fall after the end of the school's capital campaign. Stewart said he sent a letter to the university expressing his feelings, including encouraging the school to continue to prosper and move forward.

Last week, Deaton, in an interview with The Star, praised Stewart's past efforts on behalf of the school and downplayed any controversy.

"I never thought this was much about Norm not having a title," Deaton said. "He certainly has a title as Coach Emeritus of the University of Missouri.

"Norm and Virginia (Norm's wife) have provided great support for the University and I'm sure will continue to."

On Monday, Stewart reiterated that would be the case.

"I've had some disappointments," he said, "but I know how to handle those."



Near-drowning bares insurance's weakness

Monday, August 10, 2009

Editor, the Tribune: Your July 31 update on the condition of Yirui Wei, the MU graduate student who almost drowned, neglected to explain that fundraising efforts are necessary to help pay for her medical bills because her insurance had a \$250,000 maximum, which was quickly exceeded. She now faces an expensive period of rehabilitation with no health insurance.

This sad case is a prime example of our current health care system's hidden limitations. We who have insurance commonly believe that our health care decisions are between our doctors and us. It is only when we are faced with serious injury or illness that we encounter the reality that our health insurers absolutely limit our choice in health care. The insurance company, not our doctor, has the final say on what procedures we may receive and what costs will be reimbursed. Insurance is a for-profit business, and caring for a seriously ill or injured person is unprofitable.

As our country debates reforms to our profit-driven health care system and the creation of a so-called "public option," we must seriously consider whom we can trust more to implement a plan with coverage that is in the best interests of the insured: civil servants working for the American people or insurance companies working to make a profit for their stockholders.

Sadly, under the current system, we are all one illness or injury from financial ruin, even those of us with insurance. We need a public option now.

Mary Catherine Jurczyk

3808 Bedford Drive

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Barkley House finds temporary home at Stoney Creek Inn

By [Erik Haugsby](#)

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COLUMBIA — **The Barkley House, a proposed facility supported by the MU College of Veterinary Medicine**, has found a temporary home at Stoney Creek Inn. An open house and ribbon cutting for the Barkley House room will be held Friday at Stoney Creek Inn.

The Barkley House is “a venture to provide temporary lodging for families whose pets are receiving treatment” at MU’s Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, according to a news release from the College of Veterinary Medicine. While construction of the Barkley House has not yet started, the Barkley House room at Stoney Creek Inn is one step in the project, said Tracey Berry, director of external relations for the College of Veterinary Medicine.

“We have set up this room working with Stoney Creek Inn, and while we will continue to work toward a permanent facility, in the meanwhile this will provide pet owners a place to stay with their pets,” she said, adding that the open house at Stoney Creek Inn will help make the community aware that this facility has been established.

The Barkley House takes its name from a dog, a Great Pyrenees named Barkley. The dog was driven daily from Kansas City to Columbia for treatment at MU. His owner was injured, however, and unable to drive him, according to [the Barkley House's Web site](#).

As a result, Carolyn Henry, a veterinary oncologist, came up with the idea of a guest house, the Web site states.

The Barkley House room has a nonslip, nonporous floor for easy cleaning, hypoallergenic bedding for pets and their owners and necessary supplies for pets in long-term care, according to the release. There is also a library stocked with pet-oriented literature.

Henry and Neil C. Olson, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, will speak at the event.

The idea of a home for ill pets and their owners goes back as far as May 2000, Berry said. As reported by the Missourian in May 2005, the Barkley House is estimated to cost nearly \$2 million. At the time, \$99,000 in funds were raised from individuals and businesses, with another \$400,000 promised through estate gifts. Land on the east side of the campus, near the vet hospital, is being held for future construction of the facility.

Funding for the Barkley House room at Stoney Creek Inn has come from donations and fundraisers put on by the College of Veterinary Medicine, and part of the nightly rate paid by guests of the Barkley House room will benefit construction of the Barkley House.

“The Barkley House is a concept as much as anything. It is an evolving process and this is the latest evolution of this concept,” Berry said. “The opening of this facility marks an event that a lot of people have been working for many years to establish.”