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MU study predicts reactions to health reform ruling

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

An impending decision on the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will create "great political theater" and likely will have an effect on the presidential election, a pair of University of Missouri professors concluded after studying public reaction to possible outcomes.

The researchers recently announced the results of a study conducted by the MU Political Economics Research Lab. The conclusions, including the determination that the public will be more disappointed by a decision that upholds health care reform than if the law is struck down, echo other independent and partisan surveys focused on the Supreme Court's ruling.

Most observers with knowledge of Supreme Court actions believe a decision will be handed down by the end of the month.

"The results of the Supreme Court's decision are likely to have serious repercussions on the presidential election," said Jeff Milyo, Middlebush professor of social sciences in MU's Department of Economics.

Milyo and Lilliard Richardson, a professor in MU's Truman School of Public Affairs, suggested the imminent decision is likely to provoke strong partisan reactions regardless of how the court decides.

The professors conducted a survey to gauge how public confidence in the objectivity and fairness of the court might change in response to a divided decision that upheld or struck down the Affordable Care Act. The 1,000 participants answered questions on their approval of health care reform, approval of the court and how they expected the court to decide versus how they thought the court should decide.

The potential outcomes of the decision and, specifically, how the political machinery will respond to the decision were not part of the research.

Consistent with other national opinion polls, Milyo and Richardson found that most respondents disapproved of health care reform, expected the court to strike at least part of the law and preferred that the court strike down the entire law. The professors said Democrats were much more favorable toward the law than Republicans.

Milyo cited the portion of the study that noted that the odds on a popular betting website, Intrade, suggest at least part of the health care reform law President Barack Obama signed in 2010 will be struck down.

"In that event, proponents of health care reform will react strongly and probably attack the integrity of the court," Milyo said. "It will be great political theater."

The survey was conducted as a part of the Cooperative Congressional Election Survey, a nationally representative survey designed to observe public attitudes before and after elections.

The full report is available from the Political Economics Research Lab at the University of Missouri.

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MU agriculture college examining facility after steer escapes at slaughterhouse

By Stephanie Proffer

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COLUMBIA — MU's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources is looking at ways to prevent future accidents after a steer jumped a fence at an MU slaughterhouse Tuesday and injured one man.

John Brune, the father of the steer's owner, was in fair condition at 5:50 p.m. Wednesday at University Hospital after the runaway steer struck him at the Paquin Street side of the University Avenue Parking Garage. MU police later killed the steer.

Officials in the college of agriculture are still reviewing the incident but so far are considering adding to the physical structure of the slaughterhouse as well as adjusting some procedures to ensure better safety, MU spokesman Christian Basi said Wednesday afternoon.

"It should be noted, though, that our facility and the procedures that were being used at the time are in compliance," Basi said, "and everyone was carrying out their responsibilities in the proper manner when the steer escaped."

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.

Steer victim listed in fair condition

A man injured yesterday trying to capture a 1,300-pound Angus steer that escaped into Columbia's East Campus neighborhood remained hospitalized today.

A spokeswoman with University Hospital said John Brune was listed in fair condition. Brune is the father of Duane Brune, who owned the steer that was headed for slaughter at the University of Missouri's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources' abattoir. The animal escaped while being unloaded.

Brune suffered broken facial bones.

MU police officers, vet school staff and the steer's owner attempted to capture the animal, which ran across parking lots, sidewalks, roads and yards. The steer was shot and killed just before 11 a.m. in the backyard of 1502 Anthony St.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Missouri one of six states selected for Harvard initiative

BY JESSICA BOCK • jbock@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8228 | Posted: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 10:30 am | [\(3\) comments](#).

NO MU MENTION

Missouri is one of six states selected for a national initiative that calls on educators and employers to take a new look at preparing high school students for career training after they graduate.

The Pathways to Prosperity initiative, led by the Harvard Graduate School of Education and Jobs for the Future, is focused on ensuring that many more young people complete high school; attain a postsecondary credential with value in the labor market; and launch a career while leaving open the prospect of further education.

It stems from a [report](#) last year contended the nation places too much emphasis on graduating from a four-year college as a single pathway to success.

St. Louis Public Schools Superintendent Kelvin Adams and June Fowler, a vice president at BJC HealthCare, will co-chair Missouri's effort.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education said the need for such an initiative is great. For every 100 Missouri ninth graders, only 21 students will eventually earn a four-year college degree, according to the department.

Recent national studies show that even among those under 25 who have earned a college degree, as many as half may be unemployed or, more typically, underemployed. For those young people with no postsecondary education or no high school diploma, the unemployment situation is even more serious.

“We believe all Missouri high school graduates need post secondary education, whether that’s a degree or career training for successful, productive lives. They need to graduate twice,” Missouri Education Commissioner Chris Nicastro said in a statement announcing the partnership today.

Illinois also is among the states participating in the Pathways to Prosperity Network. The others are: Maine, Massachusetts, North Carolina and Tennessee.

THE ST. LOUIS AMERICAN

Susan Taylor visits Education Sunday at New Life

Susan Taylor, editor in chief emeritus of *Essence Magazine* (right), joins Bishop Geoffrey V. Dudley Sr., senior pastor of New Life in Christ Interdenominational Church in O'Fallon, Ill. during the church's annual Education Sunday Service that was held on June 10. Eighty graduates and transitioning students were honored during the event. The church also presented seven scholarships totalling \$21,000 to graduating seniors from the Metro East. Taylor is also founder of the National Cares Mentoring Movement. New Life is part of the initiative through its Metro East Mentoring Cares Unit.

New Life in Christ Interdenominational Church in O'Fallon, Ill. presented scholarships totaling \$20,000 to seven high school graduates on June 10 during its annual Education Sunday worship service at 11 a.m.

Education Sunday recognizes church members who are graduating from high school and college and transitioning from elementary and middle school levels. More than 80 graduates and students will be honored during the special service.

Susan Taylor, Editor in Chief Emeritus of *Essence Magazine* and founder of the National Cares Mentoring Movement program, was the guest speaker. The church has partnered with Taylor's initiative and through the Metro East CARES Mentoring Movement, New Life adopted the 2011 and 2015 graduating classes at East St. Louis High School.

For the past nine years, New Life in Christ has awarded scholarships to students based upon high academic achievement and their ability to demonstrate a love for serving others as well as their communities. The 2012 scholarship recipients are:

- **Joel M. Sarmiento**, Belleville Township High School East, John H. McCants Hope Scholarship, \$5,000, attending University of Illinois
- **Raven Sanders**, Belleville Township High School East, Bishop Geoffrey V. Dudley, Sr. Pastoral Scholarship of Excellence, \$4,000, attending University of Alabama
- **Heather M. Guetterman**, O'Fallon Township High School, Ida Dorothy Dudley Memorial Scholarship, \$2,500, attending University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- **Ebony D. Holmon, O'Fallon Township High School, NLICIC Life Changer Scholarship, \$2,000, attending University of Missouri**
- **Brianna Taylor**, Belleville Township High School West, NLICIC Life Changer Scholarship, \$2,000, attending Southwestern Illinois College **Alexis B. Wilson**, Belleville

Township High School East, Minister Sheila Renee Swygert Memorial Scholarship, \$2,500, attending Southwestern Illinois College

- **Justin Hill**, O'Fallon Township High School, NLICIC Life Changer Scholarship, \$2,000, attending Columbia College

“Through our scholarship program, we are providing a tangible ministry that will change generations educationally for life,” said Bishop Geoffrey Dudley Sr., New Life in Christ senior pastor.

To date, New Life in Christ has presented more than \$126,000 in scholarship awards.