Former MU surgery chief Hugh Stephenson dies

By Janese Silvey

A former University of Missouri administrator and curator credited with helping establish the university's four-year medical program has died.

Hugh Stephenson, 90, passed away this morning at the family's second home in Delaware, said Dave Knight, a friend and Stephenson's attorney.

"He'll be remembered by not hundreds but thousands of people who have gone through the medical school," Knight said. "He was a good man. We've lost, I would say, an icon."

Stephenson graduated from the university's medical school in 1943 when it was a two-year program. When he returned from military service, he was one of the main advocates of expanding the school to a four-year medical program and became one of the college's first faculty members.

Stephenson served as chairman of the surgery department and was chief of general surgery, chief of staff and interim dean at MUs School of Medicine. The medical school renamed its surgery department after him in 2003, and an annual American Heart Association event and a medical award also are named in his honor.

"The entire health system is mourning a great leader," said Hal Williamson, vice chancellor of the MU Health System. "No account of our health system's history is complete without crediting" Stephenson.

MU archives credit Stephenson with helping establish the first course in cardiac resuscitation and designing the first cardiac defibrillator.

"I speak for the entire MU family when I say how very saddened we are to learn of the passing of one of the true giants in the history of the University of Missouri Hospital and Clinics and the School of Medicine," MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said in a statement. "His interests were varied, his skills were legendary and his legacy will live on."

Stephenson served on the UM Board of Curators from 1996 to 2001 and was active in Beta Theta Pi fraternity, which is in the midst of a fundraising challenge honoring him.

Funeral arrangements are pending.
MU School of Medicine pioneer Hugh Stephenson served in many roles

By Emma Kessinger
July 26, 2012 | 5:41 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Hugh Stephenson, a former MU administrator and surgery chairman of the MU School of Medicine, died Thursday morning.

Stephenson, instrumental in converting the two-year medical program into a four-year one, died at the age of 90 in his summer home in Delaware, friend and family attorney Dave Knight said.

Born June 1, 1922, Stephenson lived more than nine decades in Columbia. He was a highly respected person, Knight said.

Stephenson attended Hickman High School and graduated in 1943 with two bachelor's degrees from MU. He joined the Zeta Phi chapter of Beta Theta Pi while in college, and remained involved with the fraternity throughout the rest of his life, Stephenson's daughter, Ann Cameron, said in an email.

Stephenson remained connected to the university after graduation. He became a member of the faculty in 1953 and was chairman of the department of surgery from 1956 to 1960, according to a document from Beta Theta Pi's website. He was later named chief of general surgery (1976-87), chief of staff (1982-94), interim dean (1988-89) and associate dean (1989-92) of the School of Medicine. He became the president of the UM System Board of Curators in 1996.

Stephenson lobbied in Jefferson City to extend the medical program at MU, helping secure $13 million in state money to launch the new four-year medical degree, according to a document by the Office of Communications of the School of Medicine.

In 2003, the medical school's surgery department was renamed in his honor, according to the School of Medicine document.
"I speak for the entire MU family when I say how very saddened we are to learn of the passing of one of the true giants in the history of the University of Missouri Hospital and Clinics and the School of Medicine," MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said in a statement. "His interests were varied, his skills were legendary and his legacy will live on."

Services for Stephenson are scheduled for 11 a.m. Aug. 11 at First Baptist Church in Columbia.

*Supervising editor is Jake Kreinberg.*
The University of Missouri lost “an icon” today.

“There never has been and never will be anyone as influential to this school and this hospital as Hugh Stephenson,” said Dr. Greg Flaker, a cardiologist at University Hospital. “This was his heart and soul.”

Stephenson died this morning. Hours later, the university hosted a pre-scheduled celebration recognizing a $13.3 million grant awarded last month to the health system.

You can read more about Stephenson’s background in today’s print story. As Flaker said, his death is a “huge” deal.

The medical school’s surgery department, an annual heart ball and awards are named in Stephenson’s honor.

Here are the full statements from top officials about his passing:

“I speak for the entire MU family when I say how very saddened we are to learn of the passing of one of the true giants in the history of the University of Missouri Hospital and Clinics and the School of Medicine, Dr. Hugh E. Stephenson, Jr. He was a distinguished cardio-thoracic surgeon, developed the first defibrillator and led the effort to establish a four-year medical school at the University of Missouri in Columbia. He faithfully and selflessly served the university as a faculty member, chair of the Department of Surgery, as interim dean and associate dean and as a member of the Board of Curators. His interests were varied, his skills were legendary and his legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of us all. Our sincere condolences to the Stephenson family as we share in this immense loss.” -- Brady J. Deaton, Chancellor

“The entire health system is mourning a great leader. No account of our health system's history is complete without crediting Hugh E. Stephenson Jr., M.D., a 1943 graduate of the University of
Missouri School of Medicine. More than 60 years ago, the young surgeon guided the state through a heated debate over where to build its new medical school and teaching hospital. Dr. Stephenson often said he was most proud of his role building the university’s medical school and teaching hospital, and his legacy will live on through our health system.” -- Hal Williamson, vice chancellor of MU Health System.

UPDATE: For an in-depth look at his life and contributions, check out this story/obit from MU.
Some University of Missouri professors want system president Tim Wolfe to rethink his decision to revamp the school’s academic publishing business.

The Faculty Council on the Columbia campus voted unanimously Thursday to ask Wolfe to "postpone" closing the University of Missouri Press, at least until professors can participate in the decision.

Faculty members said they were blindsided by Wolfe’s late May announcement to scrap the 54-year-old press and fire its 10 employees in favor of a digital-driven alternative that would rely heavily on student editors. The new press is to be overseen by Speer Morgan, a creative writing professor who edits the Missouri Review literary journal.

Morgan was invited to speak to the faculty group and listed on its agenda but did not attend Thursday afternoon's meeting.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

GEORGE KENNEDY: Press decision follows national trend of corporatization of universities

By George Kennedy
July 26, 2012 | 5:30 p.m. CDT

Having fled the city in a failed attempt to escape the heat, I returned to discover that the controversy over the closing of the university press hasn’t cooled.

Even The New York Times took notice, with a headline last week that read, "Plan to close University of Missouri Press stirs anger." So it has. Angst, too.

Both, I think, are justified. The former is earned by the ham-handed way in which the closure has been handled, with good people losing their jobs on short notice and minimal transparency about the decision-making process. The latter is likely to be longer lasting, because what we’re really experiencing is a chapter in the transformation of our university.

You might call it the corporatization of higher education. It’s a national phenomenon, perhaps inevitable and almost certainly inexorable. We may not like it, but we’d do well to understand it and prepare to live with it.

The most obvious manifestation at the national level is the rise of the for-profit "universities." More disturbing, at least to us traditionalists, is the impact on universities like ours, the ones we call "public," but which the public no longer supports. The corporate "public" university cuts costs, raises tuition, forms partnerships, coddles customers and emphasizes entrepreneurialism. For the actual instruction, it relies more heavily on non-regular faculty. Looks familiar, doesn’t it?

I can understand and sympathize with governing boards, such as our curators, who find themselves faced with rising costs, conflicting demands and declining state appropriations. What are they to do?

In our case, the curators have twice now dipped into the ranks of unemployed business executives to find presidents. Just as we teach what we know, so does a businessman lead as
he has learned to do. That's pretty much the opposite of the traditional academic model of collaboration, faculty involvement and openness.

Tim Wolfe, like Gary Forsee before him, was paid the big bucks to make decisions. President Forsee, I thought, worked hard at understanding the institution he was hired to head. He frequently professed his appreciation for scholarship and teaching. Still, during his reign, the university focused on a fourth mission – economic development – along with the traditional three of teaching, research and service.

President Wolfe hasn't been here long enough to have established a track record, but it didn't take long for him to see that an academic press that was a certain money loser wasn't a core function of the university system. Not much economic development there.

So despite the anger and the angst, we shouldn't expect a reversal of the decision to close the press.

To be fair, despite the headlines, the plan isn't to close the press, exactly. Instead, the Columbia campus will take it over and reshape it along the lines of the Missouri Review, our long-standing and respected literary quarterly. Speer Morgan, novelist and English professor, will add oversight of the press to his editorship of the Review.

As Morgan explained the new approach to Publishers Weekly, a smaller professional staff will work with student interns to produce and market 20-25 books a year, beginning next spring. Scholarly manuscripts will be peer reviewed by faculty from all four campuses. Books will be published both on paper and electronically, as they are now.

Morgan noted, as the Times article also reported, that university presses across the country are in trouble, with several closing and others looking for ways to limit losses. In a corporate university, there isn't much room for loss leaders.

I discussed these developments with my boss, the dean of the Missouri School of Journalism, who has been involved — though not in a leading role, he made clear — in the year or more of behind-the-scenes discussions that led to President Wolfe's May 24 announcement.

He told me the hope is to find a viable model for academic publishing that will serve not only our university but possibly others. The old model, he said, was simply no longer sustainable.
That conclusion is why all the outrage expressed Tuesday, in a meeting convened by the campus chapter of the American Association of University Professors (and well reported by the Missourian’s Fareeha Amir), isn’t likely to change the minds that matter.

Author and alumnus Bill Trogdon, aka William Least Heat Moon, stirred the small crowd with a call to action. "We’ve got to take this battle to the streets," he said, and the Missourian reported.

If I’m right, and I’m afraid I am, the battle is already lost.

(Disclosure: The University of Missouri Press published in 2007 a little-noticed book I helped to write and edit. Copies of "What Good Is Journalism?" are still available, I’m sure, at a good price.)

George Kennedy is a former managing editor at the Missourian and professor emeritus at the Missouri School of Journalism. Questions? Contact Opinion editor Elizabeth Conner.
Faculty Council calls for delay in press closure

By Janese Silvey

The University of Missouri Faculty Council on Thursday voted unanimously to ask UM President Tim Wolfe to postpone the closure of the UM Press pending further discussions with faculty members.

The press is being phased out, but there is no exact date for the closure. The first of 10 employees was laid off today, but others are expected to remain on staff until later this year.

Speer Morgan, the English professor expected to direct a new type of university press on the MU campus, did not attend the meeting. Council Chairman Harry Tyrer told the Tribune earlier this week that Morgan had committed to attending.

Faculty Council is the official governing body of faculty at MU and is supposed to have the power to share governance with administrators. Wolfe has acknowledged he did not consult with faculty groups - including the council that represents all four campuses - before making the decision to shut down the press.

Several faculty members say it might make sense for the UM Press to be shifted out from under the UM System and onto the MU campus. But they were adamant that Wolfe should have consulted with them and came up with a transition plan before making an announcement.

Lee Wilkins, a curators' professor of journalism, served on the press' editorial board and said that group also was not involved in discussions to do away with or change the press. Moving forward, Wilkins said, faculty should encourage Wolfe to seek guidance from people who understand how university presses work.

"Those are the people we fired," Karen Piper, an English professor, said, referring to press staff.
MU Faculty Council requests postponement of University Press closure

By Zac Boesch
July 26, 2012 | 8:30 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The MU Faculty Council voted unanimously to send a resolution to University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe to stop the closure of the University of Missouri Press.

Members of the Faculty Council expressed anger about the failure by the system administration and Wolfe to include faculty input in the decision-making process about the University Press closure. MU officials later disclosed plans for a digital press as a replacement.

Sudarshan Loyalka, nuclear engineering professor, proposed the resolution, which included six points pertaining to various aspects of the closure. The council only voted on the first point during Thursday's meeting and will act on the remaining five during its next meeting on Aug. 23.

Usually, faculty members are prohibited from voting on resolutions introduced the same day, but the council unanimously suspended the rule Thursday.

Members of the council viewed the lack of discussion as a larger issue the faculty has dealt with previously, citing the disintegration of the Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute in March without faculty input. The institute later reopened following discussions with faculty, students and alumni.

"We have a rogue administration, which has a long history of not following rules and regulations," pathology professor Eddie Adelstein said.

Adelstein commented after the meeting how the Faculty Council was trying to apply rational thought to an irrational decision. The administration's dealing with faculty has been brutal, Adelstein said.
"If we lose the University Press, we lose the university," said Stephen Montgomery-Smith, mathematics professor. If that happens, we might as well give up and go home, he said.

When a vote came on the resolution, it included language that said to also "stop the layoffs of the current staff."

Johannes Schul, a biological sciences professor, motioned to remove the section involving layoffs because he did not believe it was under the Faculty Council's responsibility to control staff layoffs. The motion passed, 8-6

The council's agenda listed Speer Morgan, director of the new press, as a guest speaker, but he did not attend.

The other points in the resolution to be voted on at the next meeting read:

- Guarantee that the citizens of Missouri and the University of Missouri continue to be served by the University of Missouri Press and that the Press continue to publish a broad range of important literary, scholarly, peer-reviewed, and Missouri-based books.
- Guarantee that the Press continue to publish and print books as it expands its already substantial list of digital editions and explores other opportunities presented by new media.
- Follow the industry standard and establish an independent Advisory Board of alums, scholars, and editing professionals that would raise funds and oversee the direction of the Press.
- Hire an experienced director for the Press so that it does not have to continue, as it has for the last three years, under "temporary" leadership.
- Guarantee that the Press continue to train student interns but not use them to replace trained professionals.

_Supervising editor is Jake Kreinberg._
Curators differ on perception of UM Press situation

By Janese Silvey

A member of the University of Missouri Board of Curators says he's worried that the closure of the traditional UM Press and subsequent national stir is affecting the university's reputation.

"I think we are all concerned when something rises to this level," said Wayne Goode, who also is a former state senator. "I don't think I'm alone. Most people in the administration as well as the Board of Curators and other university people are concerned. I hope this can be resolved."

Other curators, though, said they have confidence in a new experimental model being developed on the MU campus. MU released plans for that new press last week, two months after UM President Tim Wolfe announced the system would no longer fund the traditional publishing house.

"It's not closing," Chairman David Bradley said. "It's getting a fresh start."

Goode — who wrote a foreword for "The Art of the Missouri Capitol," published by the UM Press — would not discuss whether he thinks Wolfe should reverse the decision to replace the press. But he did say he thinks Wolfe "probably made a quick decision based on advice that he got and maybe didn't have a feel for the ramifications."

Even having insight into how the press operates, Goode said, "I did not see this rising to the level that it has."

News about the university's plans for the press has made national headlines. During a concert in Columbia this week, Grammy winner Lucinda Williams asked the university to "take a second look at saving" the traditional publishing house.

Williams' father founded the University of Arkansas Press. A video of her comments was posted on YouTube.

Current press employees and others familiar with the industry have questioned the legitimacy of the new press, which is expected to rely heavily on graduate students. Several UM Press authors have asked for the rights to their books back, saying they don't want to be associated with the new press.
Bradley and Curator Warren Erdman said they have faith that the proposed model will be successful. Administrators are "committed to implementing the new model in a way that can be a template for others to look to in the future," Erdman said.

And if it doesn't work, Bradley said, "they'll keep tweaking it until it does make sense."

The decision to close the traditional press prompted the daughter of a former UM System president to publicly call on Wolfe to resign. Mary Ratchford Douglass' father, C. Brice Ratchford, was a longtime university employee who served as president from 1971 to 1976.

In an email, Douglass said she believes Wolfe is not qualified to lead a major university system.

"How could he be?" she asked, noting that he has not attended graduate school, been a faculty member or been involved in grant or research proposals.

"If he has even half the leadership skills required for the president of the University of Missouri, he will recognize he is in over his head and leave gracefully," said Douglass, a businesswoman who has also said she will redirect a "two comma" donation from MU. "I am sure he is good at running something. Clearly not the University of Missouri."

In a statement, Wolfe said he was honored to be asked to serve and knew the job would require making "difficult tradeoffs."

"After nearly six months on the job, I can safely say I learn more and gain even more understanding about the university every day and will continue to make the difficult decisions required of this position in consultation with faculty, academic and administrative leaders at the system and at our four campuses," he said.

Erdman and Bradley shrugged off Douglass' suggestion as "ridiculous."

"I think Tim Wolfe is a good person," Goode said. "I think he's solid, and I think he'll do a good job at the university."

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.
Missouri receives $13M health care grant

The University of Missouri Health Care system has received a $13.3 million federal grant to help Medicaid and Medicare patients bridge the digital divide.

The school announced the grant on Thursday, calling it the health system's largest single gift. Missouri was one of 107 recipients among 3,000 applicants.

The new program will create 30 jobs and train hundreds of workers as care coordinators and "health information analysts." Those workers will focus on preventive care by providing better access to patients' electronic health records.

The program extends a 2009 partnership between the university and Cerner Corp. known as the Tiger Institute for Health Innovation. Cerner is an international health-care information technology firm based in North Kansas City.
4 Columbia TV stations sold to St. Joseph group

A St. Joseph-based media group plans to buy four Columbia television stations.

JW Broadcasting announced Wednesday it had signed an agreement to sell KMIZ-TV, Fox-22, MyZouTV and Me-TV for $16 million to the News-Press and Gazette Co. of St. Joseph.

The Federal Communications Commission must approve the deal.

JW Broadcasting is part of Boston-based private equity firm Alta Communications. The News-Press & Gazette is led by David Bradley, who is also chairman of the University of Missouri Board of Curators.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports (http://bit.ly/MLrHHHn) Bradley plans to avoid any conflict of interest problems by recusing himself from any curators business involving KOMU-TV, which is owned by the university.

The sale is expected to close in November.
MU School of Medicine awarded $13.3 million grant for health care innovation

By Meredith Hood
July 26, 2012 | 6:27 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The MU School of Medicine plans to use a $13.3 million federal Health Care Innovation grant to deliver enhanced medical care to Medicare and Medicaid recipients who use MU Health Care as a primary care facility.

The grant is the largest ever received by the School of Medicine; it came from The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation and will fund a series of initiatives to develop more coordinated and effective interaction between patients and physicians, as well as proactive, multifaceted health care.

Last year, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced it would fund various projects that proposed new ways to provide improved health care at lower costs to beneficiaries of Medicare, Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance programs. Of 3,000 applications, 107 projects were funded. Awards between $1 million and $30 million went to clinicians, medical suppliers, hospitals and health centers to institute change nationwide.

On Thursday morning, Brady Deaton, MU chancellor; Robert Churchill, dean of the medical school; Jerry Parker, medical school associate dean for research and co-director of the MU Institute for Clinical and Translation Science; and Joanne Burns, MU Health Care chief information officer and executive director of the Tiger Institute for Health Innovation, outlined elements of the program, which will be known as LIGHT².

"Although we spend more on health care and health-related research than any other nation in the world, our citizens score relatively low on indexes of overall health," said Parker, who will direct LIGHT². "As a result, there's a great need for innovation, creativity and for novel approaches to the delivery of health care."
LIGHT² stands for Leveraging Information Technology to Guide High Tech, High Touch Care. The program will directly affect the roughly 10,000 Medicare and Medicaid patients who use university hospitals and clinics as primary care providers.

The "high-tech" part of the program is intended to change physician workflow and enhance patient engagement.

Burns said doctors will use electronic dashboards for health care evaluations, which will eventually lead to better decision making processes in the industry.

"As a physician is engaging with their patient at the point of care, they can see: How is this patient doing? How are they embracing their care? And how are we proactively managing?" Burns said.

Doctors can review populations of patients with similar conditions. A physician treating a number of patients with diabetes, for example, will be able to evaluate how they compare with each other. Burns said a physician will be able to compare his or her patient group with larger populations. Based on that data, he or she can ask what needs to be done better or differently, and what can be learned from colleagues who have been successful.

Patients will have access to a personal dashboard online so they can be active in their personal preventive care. People with chronic diseases will learn how to better manage their illness and have access to tools to help them do so. Burns said based on a patients' needs, they might be able to monitor their own blood glucose level, weight or blood pressure.

"It's pretty exciting to think about enabling that," Burns said.

LIGHT² also will remind patients about medications they should take and about preventive health screenings.

LIGHT² was designed to build on MU Health Care's partnership with Cerner Corp. — a global supplier of health information technology headquartered in Kansas City — which led to the development of the Tiger Institute for Health Innovation in 2009. The shift from reactive to proactive care is one of the Tiger Institute's primary goals.

The wellness empowerment aspects of LIGHT² are expected to reduce emergency room visits, prevent unnecessary procedures and avoid prolonged or unnecessary hospitalization. Those involved with the program say that should result in a savings of $17 million over the next three years.
The "high-touch" component of LIGHT² will rely on a specialized work force to assist in primary care. The innovation positions include health care coordinators and health information analysts.

Parker said health information analysts will work behind the scenes and focus on tracking the health statuses and specific needs of assigned patient populations. By reviewing data, analysts will be able to gain "actionable" insight to manage patient care.

Health care coordinators are a direct source of support and guidance for patients to become more engaged in their own health. They will offer advice for leading healthy lifestyles and tips for managing chronic conditions. Coordinators also will help patients build strong relationships with their doctors. Parker said these intermediaries will create fast effective interactions when patients visit with their primary care physicians.

About 30 new jobs will be created as LIGHT² develops, and an estimated 420 workers will train for different elements of the program.

*Supervising editor is Scott Swafford.*
Looking for the nuclear bonanza

By Henry J. Waters III

On Monday area residents got another taste of the small modular reactor potential as Gov. Jay Nixon and other boosters visited the University of Missouri to tout a possible nuclear power manufacturing operation in Callaway County.

Expectation has ramped up in recent months as the consortium between Ameren Missouri and Westinghouse Electric Co. maintains momentum. The latest boost came with the announcement by Nixon of a promotional task force made up of presiding commissioners from area counties, with Dan Atwill of Boone County as chairman.

The prospect is to build smaller generating plants in the United States rather than rely on hitherto large plants made largely overseas. Not only is made-in-America encouraging; small generators have other advantages. They are less expensive to build and can be installed in series to produce large output. Ameren says it might add as many as five smaller units to its original Callaway Nuclear Plant installation, which produces more than 1,000 kilowatts. Additional units could be built locally and shipped to smaller generating operations everywhere.

Ameren figures just one of the smaller units would produce 9,500 direct jobs and more than 9,000 indirectly. Imagine the impact if five units are built and put into operation — or more.

The other huge development, which really has nothing to do with Ameren or Callaway, is the long-overdue interest in spent fuel recycling. Reconstituting and reusing fuel already used and in storage can power America's nuclear needs for generations, not only saving money but mitigating concern over long-term waste storage.

It all adds up to a bright future for nuclear generation in a nation in need of a dependable, non-polluting electrical power supply. The new small modular technique fits right in, and according to Nixon & Co., Central Missouri is positioned to get in on the action.

Ameren and Westinghouse look forward to collaborating with University of Missouri campuses in Columbia and Rolla, and Nixon mentioned Linn State Technical College as a partner in producing trained workers for the enterprise.

Not many economic development projects can match this, and the enterprise would serve a basic national infrastructure need. Keep your fingers crossed.

HJW III
UM curator's company to purchase KMIZ-TV

By Jacob Barker

A company headed by a University of Missouri curator intends to buy the company that owns four local TV stations, including local ABC affiliate KMIZ-TV.

JW Broadcasting said yesterday it had signed an agreement to sell its four television stations — KMIZ-TV, Fox-22, MyZouTV and Me-TV — to the St. Joseph-based News-Press & Gazette Co. The deal is subject to approval by the Federal Communications Commission. FCC filings indicate the purchase price is $16 million.

JW Broadcasting is part of Boston-based private equity firm Alta Communications. News-Press & Gazette President and CEO David Bradley serves as the chairman of the University of Missouri Board of Curators.

The deal is interesting because the university owns and operates KOMU-TV, the local NBC affiliate. In a statement, university spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said Bradley had informed curators of the pending purchase and the potential conflict of interest with regard to decisions about KOMU.

"Curator Bradley will voluntarily recuse himself from any discussions or votes by the board concerning KOMU, which comports with the requirements of the Board's conflict of interest rule," she wrote.

FCC rules could complicate the deal. The regulator's "dual-network rule" bars more than one of the top four networks — ABC, NBC, CBS and FOX — from being owned by the same company. The question is whether Bradley, as a curator, owns KOMU, said Sandy Davidson, an associate professor of journalism at MU who focuses on media law.

"Technically, does he own KOMU?" she said. "That would be the question. If he doesn't technically own it, is there an FCC violation?"

In an FCC filing, the News-Press & Gazette argued that Bradley had no direct involvement with KOMU and as a curator is responsible for broad policymaking for a vast institution.

"Mr. Bradley's personal lack of any substantial time devoted to or focus on the university's broadcast assets during the past four years, coupled with his broadly encompassing recusal pledge going forward, reasonably requires the FCC to conclude in these circumstances that he
should be deemed to hold 'no attributable ownership interest' in one of the university's specific broadcast assets," the filing says.

Marty Siddall, KOMU's general manager, said he sees no conflict with the purchase. "We've not had any contact with" Bradley "or with his company at all over the years," he said. "There's absolutely nothing that comes to mind from my perspective that would be any sort of conflict."

Bradley said KOMU has never been a topic of discussion since he has been on the Board of Curators, and he said he doesn't foresee the FCC scuttling the sale.

"We'll keep giving them the tools they need to keep it a premiere station," he said of KMIZ. "We'll give them the tools they need to have strong community involvement and great management there. ... They're happy to see somebody who wasn't out of New York or Los Angeles buying it."

KMIZ Manager Gene Steinberg said he approached the News-Press & Gazette about buying JW Broadcasting when he heard Alta was ready to sell. There will be no changes in programs, staff or operations, he said.

The News-Press & Gazette owns TV and radio stations in eight media markets. The sale is expected to close in November.

Reporter Janese Silvey contributed to this report.

Reach Jacob Barker at 573-815-1722 or e-mail jtbarker@columbiatribune.com.
Tigers’ new home at KC Zoo is grrrrreat!

KC Zoo moves its two Sumatran tigers to bigger area with pool, waterfall.

By MATT CAMPBELL

It’s come to the point there are more Sumatran tigers in zoos than there are left in the wild.

So when you have a couple, you want to make them as comfortable as possible.

The Kansas City Zoo this week moved its two Sumatrans into a new exhibit that has living grass and bamboo, rocky shelves to climb and a waterfall — all in an enclosure five times as large as their former cage.

The new tiger exhibit opens to the public at 8 a.m. today, and zoo officials hope visitors will be as pleased as the cats seem to be.

“We gave them a swimming pool they can walk around in, they can lie down in and they can actually swim in,” said zoo director Randy Wisthoff. “Sumatrans love water.”

The tigers, which are brothers about 8 years old, explored and marked their new territory on Thursday. It was carved out of a hillside on the “Tiger Trail” north of the polar bear exhibit, and it incorporates a natural limestone outcropping. The peaceful area is surrounded by shade trees and there are benches for visitors. The animals are separated from people by a strong mesh instead of bars.

The exhibit was relatively inexpensive at about $500,000. It was built with funds from a 2004 bond issue approved by voters and with donations from Karen and Wes Dixon, the University of Missouri and the Kempf family in honor of their late 9-year-old son, Mason, whose favorite animal was the tiger. The university’s mascot is the tiger.

The former tiger exhibit was considered adequate for the animals, but grass could not be maintained and the pool was small. It was the exhibit most complained about by visitors, who wondered why such a large zoo could not make more room for its tigers.

Kansas City’s tigers are named Manis and Langka. They came here in 2006 from the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle. Sumatrans are the smallest tiger species, but still average eight feet in length. These two weigh 297 and 268 pounds.
There are about 361 Sumatran tigers in zoos worldwide, more than the estimated 300 still in the wild on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. They are endangered, as are all tiger species. The main threats are loss of habitat and poaching.

Kansas City’s tigers did not have an audience of zoo visitors Thursday, but they were being eyed closely by primates in another exhibit on the hillside just above them. There, langur monkeys swung from their branches and made barking sounds of warning.

“They’ve never seen a cat before,” said an amused Wisthoff, “and in their world that’s public enemy number one.”

To reach Matt Campbell, call 816-234-4902 or send email to mcampbell@kcstar.com.
Smoking, sex in movies influences teens' choices

by Sari Harrar

When I was little, the Disney movie Peter Pan inspired me to jump off furniture — trying to fly like Peter, Tinkerbelle and Wendy. Today, researchers say kids and teens who watch movies (and TV shows) where characters smoke and/or have sex open an earlier door for making those choices in real life. And ratings that keep more teens out of theaters showing films with this stuff influences some to say No longer.

The news:

An “R” rating for movies with smoking could cut teen smoking 18 percent: A new study from the Norris Cotton Cancer Center in New Hampshire suggests that an R rating — rather than the current PG-13 — for any film showing smoking could substantially reduce smoking onset in U.S. adolescents. The study checked in with 6,522 U.S. adolescents. Movie smoking exposure was estimated from 532 recent hit movies, categorized into three of the ratings brackets used by the Motion Picture Association of America to rate films by content — G/PG, PG-13, and R. They compared smoking rates and movie attendance. Teens went to more PG-13 movies and so were three times more likely to see smoking on the big screen at those movies. The more smoking they saw, the more they were likely to smoke. The less they saw, the less likely. The conclusion: Adolescent smoking would be reduced by 18 percent if smoking in PG-13 movies was largely eliminated.

Researcher quote: "We're just asking the movie industry to take smoking as seriously as they take profanity when applying the R rating," James Sargent, M.D., co-director of the Cancer Control Research Program at Norris Cotton Cancer Center. "The benefit to society in terms of reduced healthcare costs and higher quality of life is almost incalculable."

Watching sex on screen boosts odds for earlier sexual experiments: University of Missouri researchers checked the movie habits of 1,228 teens and preteens, ages 12 to 14, then returned six years later to find out how sexually active they were — and if they practiced safe sex. They found that teens exposed to more sexual content in movies start having sex at younger ages, had more sexual partners, and are less likely to use condoms with casual sexual partners. According to researcher Ross O’Hara, watching more movies with sexual content amped up teens’ drive for “sensation-seeking.” It’s a natural desire for new and intense stimulation of all types that’s particularly strong between ages 10 and 15. Add hormone surges and the fact that 57 percent of young teens get most of their sexual info from the media and the influence of movies makes a lot of sense.
**Researcher quote:** “Parents need to restrict their children from seeing sexual content in movies at young ages,” O’Hara said. That can be challenging. In an earlier study, O’Hara found that 84 percent of top-grossing movies had sexual content, including 68 percent of the G rated films, 82 percent of PG movies and 85 percent of PG-13 movies. Most of the recent films do not portray safe sex, with little mention of using contraception.

What can parents do? You can’t avoid all sexual content — so get ready to talk with your kids about what you see. Does the behavior on-screen match your values and what you want for your kids? What do they think?

You can also avoid surprises by getting a read on a movie’s quotient of “risky and bad behavior” — sex, violence, profanity, smoking, drinking, drug use — by checking reviews on parent movie sites like Parent Previews, Kids in Mind, and Screen It.