MU researcher earns National Medal of Science

By Rudi Keller

A Columbia researcher who wants to kill cancer with tiny nuclear bombs loaded into each diseased cell will be honored early next year at a White House ceremony celebrating the nation's top scientists and innovators.

Fred Hawthorne, director of the University of Missouri's International Institute of Nano and Molecular Medicine, is one of 12 researchers who will be awarded the National Medal of Science. Another 11 scientists will be awarded the National Medal of Technology and Innovation.

Hawthorne is pioneering the use of boron as an anti-cancer agent. His research, he said yesterday, is intended to replace lengthy and painful radiation treatments with one effective session that wipes out the diseased tissue.

To do so, he and his team are developing techniques that load the cancer cells with boron. The tissue is then bombarded with neutrons, which are easily absorbed by the boron.

"That capture event causes a tiny nuclear explosion, which degrades the boron atom and the neutron," Hawthorne said. "That releases a lot of energy locally, and it kills it very selectively."

The date for President Barack Obama to present the awards has not been announced. The science award program was created in 1959, and the technology and innovation award was begun in 1980.

"I am proud to honor these inspiring American innovators," Obama said in a White House news release announcing the recipients. "They represent the ingenuity and imagination that has long made this nation great — and they remind us of the enormous impact a few good ideas can have when these creative qualities are unleashed in an entrepreneurial environment."

Hawthorne began studying the element boron in 1956, he said. In 2006 he moved to MU from the University of California-Los Angeles because of the facilities — including the nation's largest campus-based research reactor, which is the source of neutrons for his research. The ability to draw on the School of Medicine, the reactor and other disciplines made the university an attractive choice for his research.

When he needed a chemistry lab, he said, the university built one.
"We have everything we need provided by the university, and we are very, very thankful," Hawthorne said. "I feel they have done very, very well by us, and we are bringing home the bacon."

A set of animal trials testing the use of boron as an anti-disease agent went well, and Hawthorne said the research is being prepared for publication. He expects the treatments might be ready for human use in about five years.

"There is no reason it shouldn't work, given a chance," he said. "What we needed is a demonstration in animals that it is effective, and that is coming along very nicely."

Boron capture therapy also holds promise as a potential treatment for arthritis, heart disease and Alzheimer's, an MU news release said. "When Dr. Hawthorne came to UM in 2006, I was sure that he would advance MU's national leadership in nanomedicine and cancer research while providing breakthrough technology and medical solutions for the world," Chancellor Brady Deaton said in the news release. "This acknowledgement by President Obama of Dr. Hawthorne's work is especially gratifying and well deserved."

Hawthorne, 84, has more than a theoretical interest in the research. Since arriving in Columbia, he has been treated for a cancerous growth on his tongue, which required surgery, a dozen chemotherapy treatments and 35 radiation treatments. If boron treatment had been available, it would have replaced the radiation therapy, he said.

The boron is delivered in a method that takes it directly into the cancer cell and no other cells of the body, he said. "It goes to the proper place, it is irradiated down there and it's finished. It is all over, and that is all he needs."
Sibling arguments can cause problems

BY THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

A University of Missouri researcher has found that two types of sibling squabbles can have different effects on the emotional health of young people.

Nicole Campione-Barr, MU assistant professor of psychological science in the College of Arts and Science, and her colleagues studied 145 pairs of middle-class siblings for one year. The siblings, mostly European-American, had average ages of 15 and 12 years old.

The siblings rated topics of possible conflict, and the arguments were organized into two categories: violations of personal domain or conflicts over fairness and equality. The researchers then examined correlations among the arguments and teens' reports of depressed mood, anxiety and self-esteem after one year.

"Our results show that conflicts about violations of personal space and property are associated with greater anxiety and lower self-esteem one year later in life," Campione-Barr said. "Conflicts over issues of equality and fairness are correlated to greater depression one year later."

Campione-Barr said one limitation of her study was that it was constrained to white, middle-class Americans.

Other cultures and economic classes might have different relationships among privacy, fairness and emotional well-being.

She said although some adolescents might not have their own rooms, they still need respect for personal space from parents and siblings.

"Although parents may be inclined to step in as arbiters, previous research has found that parents' interventions into adolescent sibling conflict can be detrimental," Campione-Barr said. "In concert with those prior findings, we believe our research suggests that setting household rules such as 'knock before entering a sibling's room' can be the best means for parents to resolve disputes and avoid appearing to play favorites."

The study, "Differential associations between domains of sibling conflict and adolescent emotional adjustment," was published in the journal Child Development.
UM Press controversy,...........were among 2012’s top local arts stories

By Aarik Danielsen and Amy Wilder

Like street corners, stories intersect.

Thus, the task of identifying individual narratives as being among the most notable of the past year is an imposing task. To extract one story and treat it as a singular moment might do a disservice to the greater plot, denying the ways in which moments build off and interact with one another. The eight stories we have chosen as being among the most notable in the local arts scene this year tell much of the tale but not the entire thing. Consider this a look at some of the larger pieces in the mosaic that was Columbia's culture-making in 2012, ones that might just point to a larger, more satisfying picture.

PRESSING ON

They say all press is good press. Try telling that to stakeholders in the future of the University of Missouri Press.

One of the early chapters in UM System President Tim Wolfe's tenure was marked by discord after he announced in May that the publishing house would be phased out in favor of a sleeker operation with new leadership and a new emphasis on digital publication. The Tribune's Janese Silvey dutifully detailed the ways in which the decision rankled a wide swath of the population, both locally and within academic and publishing circles nationwide.

After numerous shows of support — including an on-stage shout-out from alt-country diva Lucinda Williams during a July concert at Stephens Lake Park — and many UM Press authors vowed to reclaim rights to their titles, Wolfe essentially reversed field, restoring the press to its original design. Functionally, it was almost as if the whole debacle had never occurred — save, of course, for the bruised feelings of thousands.

Supporters not only received their desired recompense, their efforts also catalyzed the reinstatement of Editor-in-Chief Clair Wilcox, who had lost his post in the move. A new advisory committee is now guiding the press into the future, seeking ways to improve operations even as its essential practices and processes remain the same.
OSCAR NIGHT AT TRUE/FALSE

READ MORE

Complete coverage of True/False Film Fest

MU graduate Dan Lindsay and his partner-in-crime T.J. Martin introduced a packed Jesse Auditorium to their new best friend.

The pair, who directed the film "Undefeated," set their Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature at the front of the stage to the delight of a True/False Film Fest crowd in March. The much-heralded film, ostensibly about high-school football but truly a meditation on family and adversity, brought just one of many emotionally charged, creatively exhilarating moments at this year's festival.

The festival's creative vision was further validated — and its Oscar connections strengthened — when it was announced that seven of the 15 films chosen for the Best Documentary Feature shortlist were screened at True/False this spring. Past T/F films with the potential to receive gilded honors in February include "Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry," "Bully," "Detropia," "How to Survive a Plague," "The Imposter," "Searching for Sugar Man" and "The Waiting Room."

THE SEARCH IS OVER

Breathless crowds exited True/False venues in March, overwhelmed at having found something that, until two hours earlier, they hadn't even known was lost.

Viewers of director Malik Bendjelloul's "Searching for a Sugar Man" bore witness to a story that almost seemed too cinematic to be true. Part rock doc, part detective story, the film chronicles the life of Sixto Rodriguez, a Dylan-esque singer-songwriter whose early 1970s records were so criminally underrated that he gave up on the music business altogether. Little did Rodriguez, as he's called, know his music found its way across the globe, spurring young South Africans to forge a new cultural identity and work for change. As the Internet age dawned, two of that country's most ardent Rodriguez fans tracked down their hero and the artist finally learned of his true impact. Some who saw the film wandered aloud if Rodriguez might ever work his way to the Columbia concert calendar.

Nearly seven months later, many of those same people were caught breathless yet again as Rodriguez took the Roots N Blues N BBQ stage, backed by members of fellow festival act Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros. The set, humble as it was, brought many Columbians full circle, completing a journey they felt very much a part of, and signified yet another fantastic chapter in the story of "Sugar Man."

WORKING IN CONCERT

Late August saw the end of the first year — and beginning of the second — of the newly established relationship between the Missouri Symphony Society and the University of Missouri.
The arrangement is a three-year agreement in which MU leases the Missouri Theatre with an option to buy at the end.

By all accounts the first year has been a success. In an August interview with the Tribune's Silvey, MU Event Productions Services Manager John Murray said, "We're just really, really pleased with how it's going." The deal works in MU's favor, allowing them to expand their concert offerings throughout the year. Previously they had to turn away some performers.

The Missouri Symphony Society benefits from the removal of the pressure of administering a facility in addition to managing an orchestra. "The theater has been a very vibrant place since they took over, and they can do a lot of things that we can't because they have a facility staff," Music Director Kirk Trevor said in a recent interview. MOSS will always call the Missouri Theatre home, said Trevor, while expanding performances to reach audiences at other venues in town.

**NOVEL CITIZENS**

Two Columbia-based novelists made significant marks in the literary world in 2012. Alex George and Keija Parssinen were both born on foreign soil and moved to Columbia as adults after studying at prestigious institutions — George at Oxford, Parssinen at Princeton. Their novels are centered on characters navigating family drama and upheaval while coping with the demands and stresses of a new cultural milieu.

Parssinen's "The Ruins of Us" is set in Saudi Arabia, where she herself was raised until the age of 12, the daughter of American expats connected with an oil company. The story, published by Harper Perennial in January, follows the fortunes of the American wife of a Saudi man — who, after two decades of marriage, takes a second wife — and their teenage children.

Amy Einhorn Books/Putnam published George's tome, "A Good American." The story is that of a German couple, Frederick and Jette Meisenheimer, immigrating to Missouri via New Orleans and the way their decisions affect their descendents in the New World — a tale with which many Missourians can likely relate. George drew on his own "experience of moving to Missouri and moving 4,000 miles away from where I grew up, with no expectation that I would ever return — that's something worth writing about," the Brit told the Tribune's Jill Renae Hicks in February.

**ALL IN A LIFE'S WORK**

The careers of several area artistic greats were celebrated during the year. Three such iconic figures boast talent and drive that has not slowed down with the arrival of what might otherwise be traditional retirement age. On the contrary, the prolific work of artists Frank Stack and Ben Cameron and translator Margaret Sayers, or "Petch," Peden has arguably gotten richer and fuller of late.

Painter and underground cartoonist Stack, who spent years as the art department chair at the University of Missouri, celebrated — amid a flurry of other exhibitions — a retrospective at the Missouri State Historical Society in honor of his 75th birthday. Stack's
gestural, saturated paintings will be on display until early next year. "You make the color do all the work," said Stack of his paintings. "It actually frightens a lot of people. I've even had people look at my landscapes, and if anybody says they're 'light-filled,' I'm flattered that they get it."

Cameron also utilizes saturated colors and expressive technique and himself celebrated a retrospective exhibition this year at Columbia College, where he taught fulltime for years. He is still teaching in a part-time capacity and directing the Larson Gallery there. As we reported in September, "Ultimately, the show reveals Cameron to be an artist intimately acquainted with the rhythms of life ... there are undercurrents of activity and personality and age and color and beauty everywhere, verve inherent in the simplest black-and-white strokes and the boldest sweeps of color."

Peden, professor emerita of Spanish at MU, has spent a lifetime translating literary works from Spanish to English. Her long career as a translator was specially recognized in New York this year with the PEN/Ralph Manheim Medal for Translation, as reported by Hicks, "only a handful of translators have been recognized with the award since its inception."

KICKSTART YOUR ART

Over the past several years, area artists and musicians have availed themselves of an increasingly popular way to catalyze creative action and, at once, generate community investment in their work. Kickstarter is a funding tool that harnesses both the immediacy and wide reach of the Internet to give interested parties a quick, easy way to support inspired thinkers and doers, becoming stakeholders in a shared future.

In 2012, Ragtag Cinema most notably used Kickstarter in its bid to ensure it remains a fixture on Columbia's cultural landscape for years to come. Ragtag took to the website and raised funds for a conversion campaign, a drive that became necessary when distributors pulled the lever on a looming promise to make the theatrical experience an entirely digital one. Ragtag was able to surpass its $80,000 goal, receiving a boost from 957 backers and guaranteeing continued screenings of larger-scale independent features, which drive the moviehouse's finances and allow it to show more obscure and historical fare.

RISING FROM THE ASHES

A little thing like seeing its historic home burn to the ground in April 2010 couldn't stop the forward momentum of Maplewood Barn Community Theatre. After rallying and rebuilding, the company's 40th season got off to a great new start with the old classic "Fiddler on the Roof." The new barn's roof was even utilized in the production.

Director Molly Dodge spoke of the evening of the fire in an interview with Hicks this spring: "I went back the next morning" to see it, she said, "and I was just heartbroken. ... Your heart just falls. It was such a horrible sight, all that gone."
Improvements came along with the rebuilding of the theater, such as reshaping the ground upon which the audience sits to give them a better view of the stage. In interviews with the Tribune, Maplewood Board President Michael Scott credited the city's Parks and Recreation Department, as well as theater patrons, with help making the rebirth possible.
Book news: a press almost closes and the ties that bind

December 29, 2012 8:00 am  •  By Jane Henderson jhenderson@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8107

No one can read and review more than a small portion of the thousands of books published every year, but here are some choices. Read more

This week, arts and entertainment critics pick their “year’s best.” Post-Dispatch reviewers already did that, choosing 50 favorite books of the year for a story that ran this month.

So this week we’ll look at some of the year’s biggest book-related news. Arranged loosely by importance, here are some of the St. Louis area’s top book stories from 2012:

1. University of Missouri decides to close, then remake, then revive its press • The University of Missouri system announced in late May that it was going to stop “subsidizing” its 54-year-old press and look for a new kind of publishing model. After a summer of negative commentary and protests from newspapers, academics and Facebook users, the pressure became too much. Editors were given a chance to keep their jobs, and the press was told to continue under the auspices of the university’s Columbia campus. Social media appeared to achieve a major victory, but the press’ future still may be a bit wobbly.

2. Central Library reopens and county system wins tax increase • Libraries got some love this year as the historic St. Louis Public Library reopened after a beautiful, $70 million restoration. Paid for out of the library budget and bond issues, along with private donations, the 100-year-old building kept its lovely, historic rooms while remaking some gloomy storage areas and office space for 21st-century use. Meanwhile, the St. Louis County Library system won a tax increase to help renovate, or even replace, its buildings. Details of what will happen to its headquarters and branches will be discussed and finessed in the coming months.

3. Soft-core bondage bedazzles readers and Pulitzer Prize shuns finalists • Even local libraries and bookstores couldn’t keep the nation’s No. 1 best-seller on the shelves. The “Fifty Shades of Grey” romance by Brit E.L. James was by far the year’s biggest seller, with 35 million copies of the soft-core bondage series sold. Publishers Weekly named James the Publishing Person of the Year and unsuspecting citizens learned that the romance genre is far racier than it used to be. Many criticized Publishers Weekly’s pick heralding an author whose novels started as “Twilight” fan fiction. But more serious authors were also snubbed this year by the Pulitzer Prizes, which did not name a fiction winner for the first time since 1977. Judges who chose the three finalists (published in 2011) criticized the decision.
4. The ties that bind • St. Louis book buyers supported a number of new books with local ties. Tony La Russa’s “One Last Strike” sold more than 5,000 copies through Left Bank Books. The retired Cardinals manager received national attention for his memoir (with Post-Dispatch writer Rick Hummel) about the team’s surprising 2011 World Series win. Other popular titles with local ties: “Most Talkative” by Andy Cohen, “Never Hug a Nun” by Kevin Killeen, “Bitter Brew” by William Knoedelseder and “Second Chance” by Heather Brewer. Big national author events included signings with Temple Grandin, Cheryl Strayed, Jon Meacham, Hal Holbrook, Jodi Picoult, Mo Willems and others.

5. Two independent stores close • Sadly, Pudd’nhead Books owner Nikki Furrer announced late this month that she would close her four-year-old Webster Groves store. It would be the second independent bookstore to close in St. Louis this year, following Sue’s News of the St. Louis Galleria. One of the most creative booksellers in St. Louis, Furrer helped organize the area’s first book mob, tours of indie bookstores and other activities with the St. Louis Independent Bookstore Alliance. Furrer said that although her store was in the black its first two years, she had been struggling this year.
Missouri Athletic Director Mike Alden, right, speaks to Coach Frank Haith after last season’s NCAA Tournament selection show.

Sunday, December 30, 2012

Q: You've now been through one fall season in the SEC. How would you evaluate the transition?

A: I would evaluate it as, I suppose, it's going well. I've been pleased with our fan response. Our fan response has been outstanding, from season-ticket sales to Tiger Scholarship Fund to the various measuring components we have of fan enthusiasm. I think recruiting has gone extremely well for all of our programs. We knew it was going to be a work in progress, but overall we've been pleased with what we've seen.
Q: The first losing football season in eight years coincided with your first year in the SEC. I guess you could judge that two ways. You could look at that and say there were a lot of injuries and the season was an aberration. Or you could say you're in a tougher league and you couldn't compete. How did you view the football season?

A: I certainly wouldn't look back at it and say injuries or the new league or what have you. We've become accustomed to going to bowl games and doing things in the postseason, so it's disappointing certainly that we finished at 5-7. But at the same time, I think the way recruiting is going right now and the way our kids are hopefully going to be able to regroup — and I think they will — I think that bodes well for next year and beyond. But I don't know that I could necessarily pin it on one thing this year, other than just being disappointed we weren't able to get to a bowl game.

Q: Three positions on the coaching staff got pretty significant bumps in pay after the season. Why did you think that was important or necessary?

A: When we made the decision to join the SEC, we knew there was going to have to be a commitment from us across the board in everything we did, and that includes compensation for our coaching staff. That was something that we always anticipated and planned for and budgeted for. And I think it was important that we looked at that as this was more the market that we stepped into. It's not necessarily focused on merit as much as it is on market. We had already planned on that and thought it was important to be able to continue to commit and invest in all the areas, including salaries as well as facilities.

Q: Do your expectations change based on the salary investment you have, regardless of the sport?

A: For me, I try not to correlate pay and expectations. I look at our entire staff, whether it's a graduate assistant or whether it's the highest-paid person on our staff, we have extremely high expectations for those. I think, though, that when compensation is elevated at a much higher level, those expectations can become greater from outside an organization than inside the organization.

Q: When you were in the Big 12, you said your expectations were for your teams to finish in the top third of the league. Does that change in the SEC since you're dealing with a more competitive league?

A: You still need to have goals in what you're trying to focus on. From an expectation standpoint, for us, as we stepped into the SEC, our expectations still should be in the top half to the top third of the league. So, over the course of time in the Big 12, our goals initially were to finish in the top half and then in the top four of the Big 12. Now as we step into the SEC, we want to be in the top half to the top third. You want to win it. The main thing you're trying to do is win the league in every sport. But I think when we've been able to invest in and get our feet on the ground in the SEC, you would say your goals would be to be in the top half to the top third.
Q: For the first time in a while there was some turnover on the football coaching staff. What do you see as your role in the hiring of assistant coaches?

A: I try to play a support role with all of our sport programs. With me, that role needs to be as a counselor, to be as an adviser, to be as a sounding board, to be as someone who is a resource for our coaching staff, whether that's Coach (Gary) Pinkel or Coach (Ehren) Earleywine or whoever that might be. I want to be a resource for them.

Q: You announced the expansion of the stadium over the summer. It's going to be 75,000 in a few years and then up to 80,000 at some point. Are you confident the demand will be there for a stadium that big?

A: I am confident in that. Our whole business model on that and financial planning on that had to do with stepping. Those are a couple of phases we're doing with our program. I think that going from 71,004 to 75,000, that's realistic to think that demand is going to be there. Then the next phase is the second phase, which really gets it to 83,000. That piece, we wouldn't even be starting to design that, starting to work on that, until we can get those first couple of pieces done.

Q: Have you made a final decision on whether you'll be able to move up the completion date for the east-side addition from 2015 to 2014?

A: We're much closer to believing we'll be able to bring that thing together and have it in place for the 2014 season. There's still a couple of things that need to take place that need to be bid out. We need to see how those bids come out. The designing of that is close to being completed. Then we have to look at weather patterns, delivery and steel and all these things. But with our fingers crossed, we think there's a chance we could have that completed for 2014.

Q: Any idea of when the south end zone addition might happen and when the new indoor practice facility will be ready?

A: You would probably see us step into that. The south end zone complex and the indoor facility and possibly the human performance center — that's a piece that goes along with the Devine Pavilion that we showed in our renderings — I would see the indoor facility and possibly the human performance center being pieces that would be in place before the south end zone center. I think that south end zone piece is just a massive structure. It's so big. And it's important that you've got your financing in place and your funding sources in place. We feel comfortable on that for the indoor facility and the human performance center, but that's still a couple years away on the south end zone complex.

Q: And then is the idea ultimately to have all of the football offices in the south end complex?

A: Yes, ideally. That would provide a much broader space for all of our Olympic sports that are currently in the (Missouri Athletic Training Complex).
Q: In two donations you've received $36.4 million this year. Generally speaking, from most of your donors, have you seen continued enthusiasm since the initial novelty and excitement about moving to the SEC has worn off?

A: We have. I've been pleased with that. We're working on a few other significant gifts, as well. That's an ongoing process with all of us at Mizzou. We've been pleased that the enthusiasm is still there. I think folks recognize that this is an investment, not a short-term play. This is a long-term play.

Q: How do you think the SEC will affect the national profile of the basketball team? For instance, how does the TV exposure compare to what you had in the Big 12?

A: Frank (Haith) and I have talked about that, and we really haven't seen anything where we'd have concerns about television exposure or the brand itself being impacted from a national standpoint. I think our focus is if we can continue to do the things we're doing in nonconference scheduling — which we have with UCLA and VCU and Louisville and the Illinois game — and we continue to recruit at the level we are, I think whether we were in the Big 12 or the SEC, the television package is a neutral type of deal.

Q: Is there a desire to bump up the basketball schedule a little bit, whether it be more marquee games or better lower-tier opponents? I think the strength of schedule is lacking this year.

A: It is. Yes, we do have an interest in enhancing our nonconference schedule. Ideally, we've always looked at this as saying, "How can we get one or two BCS teams at home, one or two on the road, in addition to that Illinois series?" We thought we had the Syracuse game this year at our place, but because of the quirks, it didn't work out that way for us this year, but I think you'll see — I know you'll see — us focus on trying to enhance that nonconference schedule next year and in the coming years, as well. I think you saw us schedule Arizona (in 2015-16), and there are a few others we're working on right now.

Q: Obviously, a big story this year was the Michael Dixon situation. Is there any light you could shed on that? In the aftermath of the announcement of him leaving, there wasn't much explained. Could you explain at all, going back to his 2010 situation (when an MU athletic tutor accused him of rape), why he remained on the team?

A: I said this before — and I know it's frustrating for a lot of people, frustrating for us and I know it is for perhaps you and others — but there's really little we can say publicly on that. We've not talked publicly on that. As we've looked at that internally — and that's from the leadership on our campus and beyond — I think all of us feel we did the appropriate things necessary here at Mizzou to make sure we were consistent in the way we dealt with it.

Q: What is holding you back from being able to talk publicly about it? This obviously isn't a discussion of his academic records or anything like that.

A: No, but there's probably a point also where we take a look at it and we've talked about it internally — that's not in the athletic department, that's in the entire institution — and we feel
comfortable we've dealt with that in the appropriate way internally, and we have. And I think that for us, we know it's been an issue that we dealt with and it certainly was unfortunate but we've moved on from that. So that's something we're going to look in the rearview mirror to talk about things that perhaps have taken place over the last couple of years knowing that we've already had those discussions internally.

Q: Your wrestling program is the only one that competes outside the SEC (which does not sponsor the sport). Your thoughts on the wrestling team ending up in the MAC? And Part 2, is there any progress being made on the qualifying system for the NCAA Championships being tied to regional tournaments rather than conference tournaments, which would allow you to be an independent in wrestling if you wanted to be?

A: I haven't seen any progress on the second part of your question. My hope is that there is, because I do think the future of wrestling as a whole in our country and in the NCAA is going to be geared more toward regional types of setups and matchups. I think that's really important for us for the future strength of the sport of wrestling. The following of that sport is outstanding. For us at Mizzou, the move to be able to partner with the MAC has been a good one according to (Coach) Brian Smith and (associate athletic director) Sarah Reesman and other people I work with. I love where our wrestling program is right now and how well our kids are doing. The MAC relationship is going to be real positive for us.

Q: With the football program, or at least with the freshman class, you've had a lot of issues with marijuana arrests. Have you guys considered whether your testing policy is strict enough?

A: I think drug testing is certainly part of an overall program of drug education. It's just one piece of that. Do I feel good about our drug education program? Yeah, I do. I think our coaching staff and our support staff do a good job as far as trying to communicate, trying to educate, trying to recognize what those issues are. I think the drug testing part of that is a positive program for us. But it's still also disappointing when you see kids, even with all those efforts in place, are going to make mistakes and are going to need to learn from them.

Q: One way to look at it is to ask if you need to test more, but the other way is that when you've got states now legalizing marijuana, has there been any discussion at the national level of less stringent testing or making the penalties less severe when you get caught?

A: No, there's been no talk of that. The talk nationally is that this is a national issue. This is not just isolated to us at the University of Missouri. This is a national issue, a national concern for a lot of us.

Q: I understand that even in the states where marijuana is decriminalized it doesn't change the NCAA penalties for testing positive.

A: Right. And in those states — I think it's Washington and Colorado — I think our colleagues in those states are having even more challenges dealing with that, because again the mixed messages you're delivering to your kids. Here's the messages that we're delivering to our kids, that this is inappropriate to be able to do this and we're going to test for this and we're going to be
able to respond to these types of things. It's tougher for us to deliver those types of messages when you're given conflicting statements and positions around the country.

Q: Do you get the impression from the freshmen that walk on campus that they see marijuana as no different than alcohol and don't see anything wrong with it?

A: You're asking a personal opinion, and I want to give you that. It has been interesting to me over the course of all the years I've been in college athletics to be able to see the change in attitude that students in general, youth in general, have towards marijuana use. It just appears to be a much more permissive type of image or culture than I saw when I first got into our profession. I think there's just a shift in our cultural mind-set. At least that's my personal opinion.

Q: Since Missouri announced it was going to the SEC, we've seen the Big Ten, the Big 12 and the ACC add schools, and the Big East has lost a bunch. What changes have caught your eye or surprised you?

A: I don't know that if there have been any that really surprised me too much. You and me may have talked about this, but I know when we first made our move on Nov. 6 — 13 months ago — I said, "This isn't over. There's going to be more coming." I don't know that it surprised me that Maryland or Rutgers did what they did (by going to the Big Ten) or whoever else had made the moves. I guess my only thought on that is I think there's more coming. It's not over. The Big East is at a real, real disadvantage right now for them to be able to regroup and be at the same level as some of the other leagues. But I still think there are schools continuing to try to line themselves up with like institutions.

Q: I guess right now it looks like there are five leagues that are going to be left standing. Do you think they will all survive or will there end up being four super conferences, like many people predict?

A: I think you're going to see 60 to 70 schools at some level be in some type of alignment within the NCAA structure. Whether that means four conferences or five conferences or a consortium of schools, I think that's where you're going to end up. I think if I did the math — and I did that this morning — there's probably about 65 schools that are within the ACC, the Big Ten, the Big 12, the SEC and the Pac-12. I think there still might be a couple of more. How that ultimately plays out, is it going to be conferences or a kind of consortium type of group? I'm not sure exactly what's going to happen. But I do think there's a real possibility that 60 to 70 schools line up and are seen almost as a different division within the NCAA.

Q: Do you see the Big East basketball schools going off on their own and forming a new conference as a smart move for them?

A: I think it's the only move for them. What does it mean from a profit standpoint? I think there's certainly a lot of value with a basketball-playing league and a basketball-playing school, but the data would suggest that the real money is associated with the football side of things. But for the Big East schools saying they're going to line up with like-minded schools, I think that could be a
good move for them. I think there could be some revenue generated. How much, though, that's to be seen. When you look at television opportunities, the big numbers are associated with football.

Q: I realize there's always been conference realignment, but do you think this condensed era of realignment will ultimately be viewed as a good, bad or indifferent thing for college athletics?

A: I think it's a good thing overall for college athletics, because I do think it allows those 60 to 70 schools that really see themselves as like institutions that not only compete against themselves athletically but almost see themselves academically aligned in a lot of different ways — I think it finally puts those institutions in an arena where everybody, for the most part, has always known they've been. But this gives us — gives them — the ability to make like decisions. I think that's good for college athletics.

When I used to be at Texas State, we were always looking at: How can we be like "them"? Well, the reality of that is, the chances of us ever being like "them," there was probably never, ever a chance of that. So it really gives all the other institutions that continue to try to elevate themselves at whatever cost an opportunity to step back and focus their attention more on like institutions.

Q: At Missouri, one big concern about leaving the Big 12 is that now the rivalry with Kansas is over. How much do you still hear from fans who are concerned about that, and do you sense there's any softening of Kansas' position about not playing Missouri again?

A: I still hear from our fans on that. We really hope that there will be an opportunity for us to renew that rivalry. I don't know about Kansas' perspective, and I wouldn't want to speak for them. My hope would be at some point they'll see this as an opportunity to compete against a like institution in one of the great rivalries. Hopefully, we'll be able to get it back again. I do hear from fans that they hope it happens, and I can tell you that we at Mizzou hope it will happen.
From EEZ to SEC: 2012’s top stories in Columbia

BY THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

Sunday, December 30, 2012

S-E-C.

Wherever you went in Columbia in 2012, the University of Missouri's first year of athletic competition in the Southeastern Conference, you couldn't avoid hearing about the SEC. Could the Tigers stack up in the toughest football conference in the country? Would the well-heeled fans from visiting schools mean a boon for local merchants? The on-field results left a lot to be desired, but the excitement remained.
Another unavoidable topic was the severe drought. It was so bad that the champion bur oak at McBaine had to be watered.

And election season was long and, at times, ugly. From allegations of a payoff in a state House race to controversial comments about rape in the U.S. Senate race, Election 2012 was interesting, though there weren't many real surprises when the votes were counted.

Here are the Tribune staff's picks as the top Columbia stories of 2012.

10. RYAN FERGUSON

READ MORE

Complete coverage of the Ryan Ferguson case

Ryan Ferguson

During an April hearing, Cole County Circuit Judge Daniel Green heard two witnesses recant testimony that had placed Ryan Ferguson at the scene of the Nov. 1, 2001, slaying of Tribune Sports Editor Kent Heitholt.

However, in a ruling released one day before the 11th anniversary of Heitholt's death, Green denied Ferguson, 28, a new trial. In his ruling, Green said he believed former Tribune janitor Jerry Trump was telling the truth when he recanted his eyewitness testimony that placed Ferguson at the scene, but the judge said the finger-pointing Trump engaged in to avoid perjury charges damaged his credibility.

Green, however, did not believe Ferguson's co-defendant, Charles Erickson, who altered his story so drastically that he says he no longer remembers the murder he detailed for jurors in 2005.

The judge's ruling was the latest chapter in Ferguson's ongoing fight for freedom. His defense team is expected to appeal Green's ruling.
9. BIG FIRES

A trio of large fires made headlines in 2012.

On April 1, a fire that started in an O'Reilly Auto Parts store destroyed a strip mall at Business Loop 70 West and Garth Avenue. Chemical runoff resulted in a fish kill in Flat Branch creek, and seven charges of miscellaneous property violation were filed by the city against strip mall owner Mark Stevenson, who the city alleges did not clean up the site in a timely manner.

On May 27, fire destroyed part of the Brookside on College student housing complex that was under construction at Walnut Street and College Avenue. Temperatures from the fire rose to as high as 1,500 degrees and melted nearby traffic lights. The fire set back construction and delayed the move-in dates for many tenants.

And, finally, a Dec. 20 fire destroyed the building that houses Sound Performance on Indiana Avenue near Business Loop 70. The 6,000-square-foot building was believed to be a total loss, with damage exceeding $300,000.

The cause of all three fires remains unknown.

— Brennan David

8. TIM WOLFE'S FIRST YEAR

Tim Wolfe began his first year as University of Missouri System president in February and propelled into the spotlight four months later when he announced he was closing the UM Press.

On May 24, Wolfe sent out a news release saying the move would save about $400,000 a year. The decision drew backlash from professionals in the publishing industry, and a "Save the UM Press" campaign drew thousands of supporters.

Wolfe argued that MU could create a new type of press that would operate more efficiently. But he reversed the decision after some authors said they were prepared to sue the university for the rights to their books, a move that could have cost the system some $800,000 in revenue from the backlist. Instead, Wolfe agreed to simply transfer management of the press from the UM System to the MU campus. Administrators also hired back Clair Willcox, who was laid off as editor-in-chief during the proposed phase-out of press operations.

Wolfe spent the latter half of his first year coming up with a strategic planning process that asked each campus to sum up its priorities in a statement that will be finalized next year.
He also is the first president to broach the idea of expanding employee benefits to domestic partners. The UM Board of Curators is expected to vote on that proposal in June.

— Janese Silvey

7. MAMTEK CHARGES

Photo by Kit Doyle

Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster announces felony charges against former Mamtek CEO Bruce Cole in September outside the failed business in Moberly.

READ MORE

Complete Mamtek coverage

One of the biggest stories of 2011 remained in the headlines in 2012 as criminal charges and lawsuits targeted the CEO of Mamtek U.S. Inc., Bruce Cole of Beverly Hills, Calif.

Cole and his partners in 2010 promised 600 jobs making sucralose, an artificial sweetener, to attract $17.6 million in state incentives and $39 million in bond financing from Moberly to build and equip a plant. When the year ended, Cole was in the Randolph County Jail. He will have a preliminary hearing in a few weeks on five felony charges, and his bond is $500,000, cash only.

Cole is charged with stealing from the bond fund and with fraud for, among other issues, misleading investors about the company's Chinese operations. To drain the bond fund, prosecutors allege, Cole submitted $6.6 million in invoices for a fake company, with more than $900,000 of that going into Cole's wife's account. Days later, he saved his home from foreclosure by paying $241,000.

Cole's major asset, $870,000 representing his family's share of the sale of their Beverly Hills home, is frozen under orders from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, where bondholder trustee UMB Bank is suing Cole and his wife.
The Securities and Exchange Commission also is suing Cole and his wife. Shelter Insurance Cos., which purchased $5.6 million of the bonds, is suing Morgan Keegan, the investment bank that marketed them, and Armstrong Teasdale, the law firm that worked on Morgan Keegan's behalf in the bond sale.

Shelter is asking for $390 million. The defendants are trying to add Cole to that suit as well.

Septagon Construction Inc. is suing to enforce its mechanic's lien on the factory property.

In October, UMB recovered about $1.8 million of the money spent when it held an auction. As a result, as the year ended, most bondholders received a payout of 6 cents for every dollar they invested.

— Rudi Keller

6. CITY TRANSIT

Columbia officials had some success in boosting service at Columbia Regional Airport this year, but they experienced setbacks in their efforts to improve bus service.

After months of work by the city and local business leaders to attract more flights, Frontier Airlines began providing twice-weekly service between Orlando, Fla., and Columbia in November and will begin providing a third weekly flight in April.

With the help of a $3 million, two-year revenue guarantee, the city was able to attract American Airlines, which will begin providing service to Chicago and Dallas on Feb. 14. But the ink on the deal had barely dried when Delta Air Lines, which provided service to Memphis and Atlanta, announced it was leaving Columbia.

To improve bus service, city leaders have turned their focus to University of Missouri students, who are among the heaviest users of city buses. The city this year developed the FastCAT Express, a student-centric route that serves the downtown area. It rolled out in August and replaced a downtown orbiter route that offered free rides.

But FastCAT's first semester in operation has not gone as smoothly as officials had hoped. Average weekly ridership in September and October was a third of the downtown orbiter's ridership, and the GPS tracking service for the route that had been promised was not available for several weeks after FastCAT's launch.

Officials remain optimistic about FastCAT's future. The city has been in talks with Stephens College and Columbia Public Schools to examine the possibility of partnering to provide students with rides on city buses.

— Andrew Denney

5. EEZ DEBACLE
Regional Economic Development Inc. officials spent the year trying to win over Columbia residents to the idea of establishing an enhanced enterprise zone to be able to maintain and grow manufacturing jobs.

**READ MORE**

**Complete Enhanced Enterprise Zone (EEZ) coverage**

But this month, after 11 months of pushing the tax incentive program, REDI leaders acknowledged the opposition and voted to ask the Columbia City Council to pull the plug on attempts to establish an EEZ.

The EEZ program, administered by the Missouri Department of Economic Development, provides state tax credits and local property tax abatement to qualified businesses that expand operations within the border of an EEZ.

Residents had myriad concerns about the program, including the fact that it requires local governments to declare the land within an EEZ "blighted." This stoked fears among some residents that the city's participation in the program could open the door to eminent domain abuse. Other residents were upset at the prospect of "corporate welfare" to attract firms to the city and how it could affect the coffers of local taxing entities.

The council is scheduled to take a final vote Jan. 7 on a bill to dissolve the EEZ Advisory Board, effectively ending the effort.

— Andrew Denney

**4. SPIKE IN VIOLENCE**

Columbia police responded to an uptick in violence, primarily shootings and shots-fired incidents, with increased patrols and a "Columbia Ceasefire Initiative" targeting people associated with ongoing violence.

Two teens — 17-year-olds Bryan "Phatman" Rankin Jr. and DeAudre O. Johnson — were murdered as a result of ongoing disputes that originated in schools and spilled into the streets. Johnson was not even the intended target of his killer, and Rankin was reportedly attempting to flee a dangerously escalating situation, police said.

Anthony T. Graves, 19, was charged in Johnson's death, and Lamar Mayfield, 15, was charged in Rankin's death. Durantrae D. Logan, 20, was charged for his role in the drug-related murder of Lamont Sargent in March.

The three murders happened during the winter and early spring along with several high-profile shooting incidents. Columbia City Council members and police administrators started speaking out against the violence as early as February, when feuding teens shot into a Chuck E. Cheese restaurant filled with children.
Members of the community also organized a "Silence the Violence" non-violence initiative.

— Brennan David

3. 2012 ELECTIONS

When all the votes were counted, after all the angry commercials and odd missteps, the 2012 elections gave Mid-Missouri, the state and the nation a status quo result.

READ MORE

Complete election coverage

Perhaps the most surprising local result was the narrow victory of Republican political novice Caleb Rowden in the newly drawn 44th House District. He beat former state Sen. Ken Jacob, a Democrat who had never lost a general election contest in Boone County.

Rowden will be joined in the House by Democrat John Wright of Rocheport. Wright beat Republican Mitch Richards in the 47th District in a race that included allegations of political shenanigans and a seemingly inept attempt by the GOP to select a candidate.

Richards was the third choice of a GOP committee given the task of putting someone on the ballot after an initial candidate withdrew. After Wright won the Democratic primary over Nancy Copenhaver of Moberly, Copenhaver accused Rep. Mary Still, the Democratic candidate for state Senate in the 19th District, of offering her money for her campaign if Copenhaver would run in another district. Still denied the charge. Copenhaver later lashed out at Richards, who secretly recorded a conversation with Copenhaver about the controversy.

Still lost her race against incumbent Republican Kurt Schaefer in the most expensive legislative contest ever held in Boone County. Schaefer raised $1.3 million to keep his seat, and Still raised $365,000.

Republicans retained commanding majorities in the legislature, and Democrats retained the statewide offices they hold. Republican Mitt Romney won Missouri but received 47 percent of the Boone County vote for president as Barack Obama won re-election.

U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, a vulnerable Democrat, piled up her biggest majority ever in a hotly contested race. She was trailing by 10 points before Republican nominee Todd Akin declared in a television interview that a victim of "legitimate rape" is unlikely to get pregnant because a woman's body "has ways to try to shut that whole thing down."

— Rudi Keller

2. SEVERE DROUGHT
Poll: What were the top stories of 2012 for Columbia/Boone County? Vote for your top three choices.

- Missouri’s first year in the SEC 9% 46 votes
- Major fires on the Business Loop and at Brookside apartments 2% 12 votes
- Violence in Columbia: Shootings and murders, followed by a new police initiative 5% 26 votes
- Public safety: Joint comm sees turmoil, police department gets a “toxic” report 1% 8 votes
- Drought: It was so dry that even the bur oak needed water 7% 37 votes
- Tim Wolfe’s first year as university president, including UM Press issues and a new campus planning strategy 0% 1 vote
- City transit: Two carriers arrive at the airport and one leaves, while bus service lags 1% 9 votes
- EEZ: To blight or not to blight, that is the question 0% 3 votes
- Sterling Wyatt: After soldier’s death, community rallies against funeral protest 8% 44 votes
- Elections: Akin/McCaskill, Obama/Romney, Schaefer/Still ... Admit it, you miss election season 3% 16 votes
- Mamtek: The sucralose dream died in 2011, but the charges came down on Bruce Cole in 2012 1% 5 votes
- Ryan Ferguson: Judge denies new trial the day before the 11th anniversary of Kent Heitholt’s murder 54% 269 votes
- Shakir Hamoodi: Community comes to defense of World Harvest Foods owner before he goes to prison 1% 5 votes
- School support: Voters approve tax increase and bond issue 0% 2 votes
- United Way: The new Community Impact model helps kids but leaves out senior services 1% 7 votes

490 total votes.

This year began warm and wet. The warm remained, but the wet did not.

In the first five months of the year, Columbia received 15.8 inches of rain, more than 4 inches above average. Since May 1, however, only 14.6 inches has fallen, almost 16 inches short of average.

March was the warmest since official record-keeping began in 1890. The entire year will go down in the books as the warmest recorded, with an average temperature about 1 degree warmer than any other year.

From June 1 to Aug. 31, Central Missouri experienced the driest growing season on record, with searing heat that dried up corn crops, wilted soybeans and evaporated stock ponds. Only 2 inches of rain that fell Aug. 31, too late to help anything but soybeans, kept the summer from officially being the driest on record.

The dry weather drove up crop prices and led livestock producers to thin their herds. Gov. Jay Nixon opened the state treasury to provide help so farmers could dig deeper wells, install irrigation systems or connect to public water systems.
The drought even threatened John Sam Williamson's pride and joy, the giant bur oak tree near McBaine. With the tree dropping acorns and its leaves curling, in mid-August Williamson hauled 1,700 gallons of water to the 350-year-old tree. Photos of Williamson watching the water spill out around the base of the tree were printed and broadcast around the nation, striking a chord with people from Virginia to California.

— Rudi Keller

1. TIGERS' FIRST YEAR IN SEC

One year and 18 days after the grand announcement that Missouri was joining the Southeastern Conference — when the school fulfilled its "historical frontier tradition," Chancellor Brady Deaton said — MU's signature team in the league's signature sport completed its debut SEC season at Texas A&M. The Tigers came in with a roar and left with a whimper, falling to the Aggies, fellow SEC rookies, 59-29.

Other than the swarms of fans who flocked to Memorial Stadium, Missouri's SEC debut was a dud by every other measure. In Gary Pinkel's 12th year on the sideline, the Tigers finished 5-7, their first losing season since 2004, and went just 2-6 in conference play, beating only hapless Tennessee and more hapless Kentucky. Missouri was the SEC's only team that didn't make a bowl game or get rid of its head coach.

Injuries ravaged the Tigers' offensive line, and a flurry of setbacks sidelined quarterback James Franklin for all or parts of six games. There were a few bright spots, notably tailback Kendial Lawrence, who rushed for 1,025 yards, and defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson, who earned first-team All-SEC honors. There were a few memorable moments, too, especially a thrilling four-overtime comeback win at Tennessee. The Tigers traded blows with two elite SEC teams, Florida and Georgia, but were barely competitive against SEC heavyweights Alabama and South Carolina.

The struggles took a toll on offensive coordinator David Yost, who resigned after a season that saw his offense rank among the league's worst. Pinkel promoted offensive line coach Josh Henson to run the offense in 2013, one of many repairs facing the program for its second SEC season.

Missouri averaged 67,476 fans per home game in 2012, which ranked 24th in the country and represented a 9 percent increase from 2011. Will the fans come back in droves after a losing season?

"When we've got problems and difficulties, I attack," Pinkel said last month. "That's my personality, OK? That's my job. My job is to fix things, take care of issues, take care of problems."

— Dave Matter
Reorganized Student Group Is for Natives and Allies at University of Missouri

Alysa Landry
December 27, 2012

The University of Missouri is known for its rigorous academia and celebrity alumni like Brad Pitt, Sheryl Crow and Jim Lehrer, however, it is not celebrated for being a mecca for American Indian students.

A group of current students wants to change that.
A Native student organization is back at the university's Columbia campus after a nine-year absence. The university in October officially recognized Four Directions: Indigenous Peoples & Allies, a group of 12 students with a growing list of supporters.

"Native American students encounter unique experiences, issues and concerns on college campuses across the United States," Four Directions President Anastacia Schulhoff, said in a news release. "The purpose of Four Directions is to unify students at the University of Missouri and to act as an ally to any student who is interested in Native issues," said Schulhoff, who is Sioux, Apache and Mohawk. "We hope to be a place of support and encouragement for underrepresented students while, at the same time, working for social change."

The group, originally organized in the mid-1990s in response to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), was active for about a decade, said Pablo Mendoza, director of the university’s Multicultural Center. The group dissolved in 2003 when the last of its members graduated.

Students reorganized the group this year to bring Native culture and issues to the forefront of peoples’ minds at a school where American Indian and Alaska Native students historically have made up less than one half of 1 percent of the total student population.

According to data collected during the fall of 2011, more than 26,000 undergraduate students were enrolled at the University of Missouri, or Mizzou. Only 93 of those students were Native.

Of the 6,500 graduate students enrolled during the fall of 2011, only 23 were Native.

Recognizing that Native students are a minority among minorities at the university, the group’s first goal is to seek out other Native students and create a haven on campus, Mendoza said.

"Right now, they want to provide a safe space for themselves," he said. "They want to start by finding out who’s Native on campus and bringing them into the fold. After they become more solid, one of the goals is to start working to attract more Native students and faculty."

The university employs 7,900 full- and part-time faculty members, but only two of the tenured faculty members are Native, Mendoza said. He hopes that number will double within the next three or four years, with help from Four Directions.

The group also wants to actively recruit more Native students, said Sarah Shear, a non-Native graduate student who serves as treasurer for Four Directions.

"We want to start campaigning to bring in more Native students, to be able to say Mizzou is a good place to come to college," she said. "We need more of a presence on campus and more curriculum geared toward Native students."

Since reorganizing, the group hosted two film screenings and campaigned to educate the community about insensitive or offensive Halloween costumes.

A lineup of activities for the spring semester includes a food and clothing drive in January. The group plans to deliver support and supplies to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.
"We want to continue getting faculty support, to continue to start dialogues about Native cultures and issues," Shear said. "You can accomplish a lot on a campus when you have an open dialogue."

Although the group is tied to its predecessor in the 1990s, Four Directions: Indigenous Peoples & Allies organized with some distinctions, Mendoza said. The previous group was called From the Four Directions. The newly reorganized group broadened its scope.

“They really sat down and discussed this and decided this group needed to be open, to include all Native people and a special place for those who aren’t Native but who are considered allies,” he said.

Shear, who is researching the way social studies textbooks portray American Indians and Alaska Natives, said the new group welcomes anyone in the university community.

“This is a great, positive, student-fueled group,” Shear said. “It’s a safe place for Natives and a place for non-Natives to learn more about culture and issues.”

Presidents of Four Directions pictured here include Kent Blansett, Travis Willingham, Ed Smith, Jenny Tonephathoe, and Karen Cockrell.
MU policy analyst looks ahead to 2013 Farm Bill debate

December 31, 2012 By Mike Lear

The Director of the Food and Agricultural Research Institute (FAPRI) at the University of Missouri says the fiscal cliff was at one time thought to be a driver that might get a Farm Bill done quickly. That didn't happen, and now Pat Westhoff says the next deadline is several months away.

“It's probably going to be some time in late spring. I would speculate now, before we'd ever get everything all put together for a final farm bill. There's a chance we might approve a one-year extension of current provisions of some kind before that.”

Westhoff says there is one thing that could change in farm policy that would impact crops grown in 2013.

“Many people speculate there might be a cut in direct payments as a way to reduce the overall budgetary cost of farm programs, even absent an agreement about a longer-term farm bill.”

If direct payments are eliminated, Westhoff says something might take their place.

He says a lot of concern exists over crop insurance, but he says major cuts in that program are not likely.

“We are going to see the government costs to the crop insurance program for the current fiscal year. That will probably draw some attention and there may well be proposals to make cuts in that program, but if this year's debate is any indication there is a lot of support for the crop insurance program in Congress and I would personally be surprised if there were major cuts made in that program.”

Westhoff notes, with the same lawmakers in place that were a part of the 2013 farm bill debate, many of the farm bill proposals will be very similar to what was discussed in 2012.
Who gets custody of the Facebook profile info after a divorce?

43 minutes ago • By Aisha Sultan asultan@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8300

Stacy Thibodeaux was furious when she discovered pictures of her children on her ex-husband’s online dating profile soon after they divorced.

“I went through the roof,” Thibodeaux, 45, of St. Peters, remembers. She confronted her ex, saying it wasn’t appropriate to have their young children’s images on Match.com. She says he simply blocked her from viewing his profile.

Thibodeaux, who has now been divorced for nearly five years and has recently remarried, said she realized she could not control what her ex-husband did with their children’s pictures. But, had it occurred to her during the divorce, it may have been helpful to have established some ground rules about their children’s digital exposure as part of the custody agreement, she said.

That idea of managing a child’s online footprint is becoming part of the conversations during a divorce and even after custody settlements as social networks become nearly ubiquitous ways of sharing information about one’s life and family.

“Social media has become a very big issue in all aspects of divorce,” said Alton Abramowitz, president of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. His firm counsels clients to shut down their social media profiles as soon as they begin considering a divorce. Parents who post questionable pictures that may potentially embarrass a child later might find those same pictures and status updates used against them in court. It speaks to poor parental judgment, he said.

“Even married people can post things about their kids that the other person may not be happy about,” Thibodeaux said. “It’s harder when you’re divorced because you’re already at odds with one another.”

St. Louis-area attorney Josh Knight faced a scenario with a client whose ex-wife wanted to prohibit him from sharing any information about their children on social networks. Knight said that, barring special circumstances, he would argue against such a blanket rule.

“In our highly mobile world, it is sometimes the best way to share photographs and information about children with family members and friends who do not live in the area. That being said, a
party should be careful to take all possible precautions in order to avoid messages and images from falling into the hands of someone who was not designated to receive them,” he explained in an email.

There’s certainly room for compromise, says Stephanie Williams, clinical director with Kids in the Middle, a nonprofit education and support group in St. Louis for families going through a divorce.

She suggested parents consider parameters, such as different privacy settings to control who could see certain types of information, and work toward an agreement on the type of content that can be shared and what is off-limits.

“It’s really about understanding what the concerns are behind it,” she said.

That’s the approach that Meredith Friedman, of Creve Coeur, took when she and husband separated five years ago. Her children were 7 and 8 years old at the time, and their father had strong concerns about their online privacy.

“We decided together not to put our kids on Facebook,” she said. He convinced her that it was more of a security issue. Now that their children are older, they do include some family pictures on their pages.

**texting touted as useful**

But, in many cases, Facebook ends up causing more grief for divorced co-parents than good, Williams said. She has seen instances in which one parent might trash the other on Facebook, which will eventually make its way back to the former spouse, or even worse, their child.

“If you shouldn’t say it in front of your child, why would you put it on Facebook?” she asked. That should be avoided at all costs, she advised.

“Social media is just one more thing that angry ex-spouses can fight about,” said Larry Ganong, professor of human development and family studies at the University of Missouri-Columbia. His research found that technology can be useful when couples fail to get along because text messages and emails may be edited before sending. It’s a way to share facts and manage schedules without getting into accusations and name-calling, he said. But the danger lies in trying to strike a balance between cooperative tech and hostile behavior.

“One of the things that can be hard for divorcing parents to grasp is that you no longer have any control over the other parent,” he explained.

Unless there is evidence of abuse or neglect, each parent is free to parent as he or she wishes. Parents may continue to fight after a divorce if they are reluctant to relinquish the effort to control the other person’s parenting behavior, Ganong said. He suggests including the use of social media in a parenting plan, a legal document required by Missouri for divorcing parents. Illinois does not require a parenting plan.
A snapshot of a Facebook conversation demonstrates just how wrong such communication can become. It was posted last year on happyplace.com, a site that curates funny online videos, posts and pics. The screen shot redacts the full name of the parents involved: a mother posting on a profile she has created for her unborn baby and man, presumably the child’s father.

The mom-posting-as-fetus announces in a status update that she plans to party with her friends next Halloween when she is born. The presumed father-to-be comments on this update, addressing the fetus, identified as a girl: “April, no offense, but your mom is a (expletive) nut. There’s a reason we’re not friends on Facebook anymore and don’t talk anymore. I am excited to have you in my life, and I think you will be the best daughter ever if you are mine, but this is (expletive) ridiculous.”

He asks the mother to take the page down asserting his hypothetical parental rights, arguing that he should have a say in whether the yet-to-be-born April gets a party profile on Facebook.

The mother, in turn, responds in the voice of the unborn baby: “If you would step up and own up to getting my mom pregnant and take full responsibility then we wouldn’t be in this situation!”

The mother/fetus writes that she needs a Facebook page, so that she’s “born into the world with good friends.”

“I refuse to argue with my unborn child via Facebook,” the possible father responds. “I am contacting child services.”

While this exchange may or may not be real, it’s not outside the realm of possibility in the digital age of co-parenting.

“Facebook is such a weird thing,” Ganong said. “It’s a permanent record of what (parents have) communicated, and it could come back to haunt them.”
Notable local deaths during 2012

December 29, 2012 11:48 am • FROM STAFF REPORTS

Mearl Justus died this year, the best-known name in local law enforcement. Amiel Cueto died, too. He was a lawyer turned power broker, turned convict, who was sent to prison and never stopped trying to get back at his perceived enemies.

Others who died in 2012 included Coach Rick Majerus, a big man with St. Louis University basketball; Lee Liberman, once among the biggest corporate leaders here; and Joe Pollack, our town’s best-known critic.

Also, Tom Guilfoil, who helped the football Cardinals move to Phoenix; Jerry Wamser, the Republican Party’s last serious contender for St. Louis mayor; the Rev. Dorris Davis, a recovered drunk who fed and housed thousands of people in East St. Louis; and Fontella Bass, diva with a powerful voice.

July

Frank Bick, 85 • Former Suburban Journals owner, July 18.

Dr. Hugh Stephenson • Helped turn the School of Medicine at the University of Missouri at Columbia into a full, four-year institution, July 26; 90.

Bill Eiseman, 94 • Quit after his boss cut his pay, started U.S. Tape and Label Corp., and turned it into a multimillion-dollar enterprise, July 27.

Robert Campbell, 82 • Unabashed conservative St. Louis County Circuit Court judge with reputation for giving offenders a second chance, July 28.

August

Gregory J. Carter, 54 • St. Louis alderman died in traffic accident, Aug. 1.

Dr. William “Bill” Coxe • Known to colleagues as the busiest neurosurgeon for children in the area, Aug. 2; 82.

STORY CONTINUES...
6 Ways to Ward Off a Hangover

by Amy Rushlow December 31, 2012, 04:00 am EST

Prepare today, party tonight!

Research estimates that 25 to 30 percent of the population doesn’t suffer from hangovers after drinking. To all of you: We hate you. Er, we mean, we love you—will you go out and grab us a Gatorade? And a DVD from Redbox? The sun is blinding!

But hangovers aren’t inevitable for the other 70 percent of us. If you take the right precautions today and tonight, you can wake up tomorrow without a seismic headache, flip-turning stomach, and a wish that the world really had ended on December 21.

1. Place a Water Bottle on Your Nightstand before You Go Out
Before you flop under (or on top of) the covers, chug 16 to 20 ounces of water, Robert Swift, M.D., of Brown University’s Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies tells MensHealth.com. May we recommend a lock-top water bottle instead of an open glass, so that you don’t knock it all over your laptop in your drunken stupor? Not that we’re speaking from experience . . .

2. Drink What You Want
Some people think that dark-colored liquors will make them more hungover. These liquors have more cogeners—chemicals and ingredients other than alcohol, which contribute to a hangover, the story goes. Research is mixed, but most studies have found no effect on liquor type and hangover or inebriation level. It also depends on how much you drink. There might be a difference at lower doses, but drink 10 vodka martinis and you’ll still wake up feeling more Belushi than Bond.

3. Don’t Trust the Appetizer Package
This one’s a no-brainer—eat! Food delays gastric emptying in the stomach, which allows you to process alcohol more slowly. The slower you process alcohol, the better your body breaks it down, Dr. Swift says. Since you’ll probably beeline to the open bar, then hit the appetizers, make sure to eat before you head out.

4. Respect Your Tolerance
A University of Missouri found that people with high alcohol tolerances are less susceptible to hangovers per unit of alcohol. However, since these people drink more, they were actually more likely to be hangover after a night of boozing. The lesson: Your iron stomach will only get you so far.
5. Tip the Bathroom Attendant
Why? Because you’ll be there a lot—and that’s OK. The standard advice to drink a glass of water with every drink is a rule even on a night of heavy drinking, Daniel K. Hall-Flavin, M.D., of the Mayo Clinic tells MensHealth.com. Dehydration is a major hangover cause, so chugging water puts you one step ahead.

6. Take the Supplement That Works
Most hangover pills work because of the placebo effect. But Tulane University research showed that students experienced half the hangover symptoms after taking an extract of prickly pear cactus versus a placebo. Look for a supplement that contains Tex-OE, the extract used in the study, and swallow 1,600 IU 4 hours before you start drinking.

Make a resolution that sticks. Whether you want to Lose 20 Pounds, Makeover Your Finances, or simply Be More Interesting, our New Year’s Resolution Center will help you make 2013 your comeback year.

Additional research by Brittany Risher and Leigh Cole