Killer identified in 2005 murder of MU professor

University of Missouri police officials on Wednesday morning said a man who jumped to his death from a Columbia parking garage last year was the person responsible for the 2005 death of University of Missouri professor Jeong Im.

Timothy Hoag was identified as Im's killer. Hoag jumped off the Fifth and Walnut street parking garage on Aug. 9. He was 35.

The body of Im, a 72-year-old microbiologist, was found in the trunk of his burning 1995 Honda Accord about two hours after he left work at University Hospital on Jan. 7, 2005. He was stabbed to death before his body was stuffed into the trunk and the car set on fire.

Police were called to the scene about 12:30 p.m., an estimated two hours after the incident occurred. Over the years, the MU Police Department has enlisted help from outside agencies, including the Mid-Missouri Major Case Squad and a homicide expert, with no success. Officials blamed the investigative difficulties on the fire and other circumstances at the scene.

Police were offering a $25,000 reward for information leading to an arrest.

The department had a rough sketch of a person who might be connected to the case. The person of interest was described as a slender white male, between 6 feet and 6 feet 2 inches in height with brown wavy hair who was wearing a painter's or drywall mask in the area of the Maryland Avenue Garage that day.

Police found an Old Hickory kitchen knife with an 8-inch blade at the scene. Investigators also are looking for the owner or driver of a faded red 1980s model Ford F-150 pickup spotted near the crime scene.
MU announces $8.3 million gift for athletics

By DAVE MATTER

Missouri senior golfer Jace Long grew up playing on a nine-hole course in Dixon with fairways made of dirt and putting greens covered in sand. His successors on the MU golf team will have flashier amenities thanks to a significant donation the school announced today.

Missouri unveiled a gift of nearly $8.3 million from Don and Audrey Walsworth that will support athletic facility improvements, including renovations to Memorial Stadium and a new clubhouse for the MU golf teams at The Club at Old Hawthorne.

"This is special for me," Long said during a press conference at the Reynolds Alumni Center. "It's special for the guys on the golf team."

The renovations to the golf facility are expected to cost $1.5-2 million, Missouri Athletic Director Mike Alden said. The Walsworth family donation will put MU "over the top" for the golf facility costs and will also go toward renovations to the east side of Memorial Stadium and will contribute to scholarships and endowments.

Don Walsworth, an MU alumnus and CEO of the Walsworth Publishing Company Inc., is a former chairman of the University of Missouri Board of Curators. The Walsworths' son, Ed, and daughter, Lynn, both played on the MU golf teams. The new golf clubhouse will house coaches' offices, team locker rooms, indoor heated hitting bays and the latest in swing instruction technology. This gift brings the Walsworth family's total giving to MU to nearly $14 million.

Alden noted that Walsworth consistently donated to the university long before Missouri decided to join the Southeastern Conference but hopes his gift would have "a domino effect" on the school's fund-raising efforts.

"When" the Walsworths "had a chance to see who we were competing with in the league, that helped escalate a little bit or speed up the commitment they make," said Alden, who presented Walsworth with a framed No. 57 Missouri jersey, commemorating the year he graduated from MU.
The Walsworths' donation is the third major gift received by MU athletics since the school announced its move from the Big 12 to the SEC in November 2011. In June, MU unveiled a $30 million donation from the Kansas City Sports Trust, the biggest the athletic program has ever received. In December, MU received a confidential $6.4 million donation to the Tiger Scholarship Fund. The donations are going toward a projected $200 million master plan that includes renovation and expansion of Memorial Stadium, plus upgrades to MU's facilities for baseball, softball, tennis and golf.

"We think the coaches and the staff have to have the proper facilities to compete in the SEC and compete for the national title," Walsworth said. "Years ago, Missouri didn't compete for the national titles, contrary to what you might think. Now we're competing for the national titles, in all sports."

Construction on Memorial Stadium's east side and north end zone are expected to start in March. The north end zone changes are expected to be complete in time for the 2013 football season, while MU hopes the east-side renovations are done in time for the 2014 season. Renovations to the west-side tower are already under way and will be finished by the upcoming season, Alden said.

"I can't emphasize enough how much this means for our golf program," Missouri men's golf Coach Mark Leroux said. "The new facility will be an integral part of training our student-athletes and helping them improve their skills, but it also will greatly benefit our recruiting process as well."

"Our players will truly have a place to call home like never before," MU women's golf Coach Stephanie Priesmeyer said. "When I played, and even when I began coaching 12 years ago, facilities really didn't matter much in women's golf, from a recruiting standpoint. But now it's everything, and the new facility will allow us to be even more competitive with the top programs in the country."

Alden said the golf facility renovations should be completed no later than September.

MU will next explore renovation plans for the softball team's facility. Alden said MU will spend the next three to four months considering different scenarios for University Field, from renovations to the current structure to building a brand new facility at the same location.
Mizzou announces $8.3 million gift to athletics

COLUMBIA, Mo. – Mizzou on Tuesday announced a gift of approximately $8.3 million to the athletics department from Don and Audrey Walsworth of Marceline, Mo.

The gift will go towards athletic department facilities improvements and expansions, including renovations to Faurot Field and a new clubhouse for the men’s and women’s golf teams at The Club at Old Hawthorne.

“We are so very grateful to the Walsworth family for everything they contribute to the university,” athletics director Mike Alden said in a statement.

The Walsworths are Mizzou graduates, and Don Walsworth is a former chairman of the University of Missouri Board of Curators.

“This gift is indicative of the fantastic leadership of the university and the athletic department, including the outstanding coaches and staff,” Don Walsworth said in the statement. “We are so pleased with the organization and administration. We love the move to the SEC and how far athletics has advanced to achieve national prominence in so many different sports.

“Our gift is also for the-student athletes, as we believe their education should come first—an ideal I know our family shares with the university.”
This gift increases the Walsworth family’s total giving to MU to nearly $14 million.

It’s the third major gift announcement by MU since last June, starting with a $30 million donation by a group calling itself Kansas City Sports Trust as well as another of $6.4 million from an anonymous donor in December.

The athletics department is amid a $200 million improvement campaign.
MU alumnus gives $8.3 million donation for athletic upgrades

January 29   By TEREZ A. PAYLOR

The University of Missouri announced Tuesday that it has received a donation of $8.3 million to help pay for planned athletic facility upgrades.

The majority of the money, which has been pledged by Mizzou alumnus Don Walsworth and his wife, Audrey, is expected to help pay for significant clubhouse renovations at Old Hawthorne, the home of the Tigers' golf team. The money will also go toward scholarships, endowments and planned renovations at Memorial Stadium.

It is the second major gift given by Walsworth, who once served on the University of Missouri System Board of Curators and had two children play for Mizzou’s golf team.

“One of the reasons for this gift is that we think the coaches and the staff have to have the proper facilities to compete in the SEC and for national titles,” said Walsworth, whose family has given $14 million to Missouri athletics.

The new clubhouse will house coaches’ offices, locker rooms, indoor heated hitting bays and the latest in swing instruction technology. Missouri athletic director Mike Alden said the renovations, which should cost been $1.5 million to $2 million, should be done by September, and Walsworth was optimistic the facility will immediately be competitive with others around the nation.

“I think it’s going to be in the top 25 percent,” Walsworth said.

The gift is the third significant donation the university’s athletic department has received since the school made the move to the Southeastern Conference. The Kansas City Sports Trust announced a donation of $30 million in June and MU received a $6.4 million donation from an anonymous donor in December, with most of the money slated to go toward different aspects of the school’s $200 million plan for athletic facility improvements.

“Over the course of the last six months, to have three significant gifts like that for a university, I mean, that’s pretty (impressive),” Alden said. “So our hope would be those dominos continue to fall.”
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Upgrades At Mizzou Memorial Stadium

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) - The University of Missouri's first year in the Southeastern Conference continues to pay dividends away from the field.

School officials on Tuesday announced an $8.3 million gift from Don and Audrey Walsworth of Marceline. The donation follows a $30 million gift from the Kansas City Sports Trust in June and a $6.4 million anonymous contribution in December.

The Walsworth gift will go toward previously announced Memorial Stadium improvements. The school plans to add 6,000 seats to the stadium, which now holds 71,004 fans.

Missouri will also build a new clubhouse for the men's and women's golf teams at a private course in Columbia used by the school.

Walsworth is the CEO of a northern Missouri publishing company and a former chairman of the university's Board of Curators.
$8.3 million gift to benefit Missouri golf, other athletics facilities

BY Ian Frazer

COLUMBIA — With its jump to the Southeastern Conference, Missouri was well aware of the increased competition.

A football conference responsible for the past seven BCS National Champions, baseball teams that currently represent eight of Baseball America's top 25 teams in the country and top softball and gymnastics competition. It was going be a different world than the Big 12 Conference.

On Tuesday, the focus was on meeting the challenges that world poses when the MU athletics department announced a nearly $8.3 million gift from MU alums Don and Audrey Walsworth of Marceline.

"Missouri, right now, has probably the nicest and best facilities of most schools in the Big 12," Don Walsworth said. "Now, when you compare that to the SEC, that's a different ballgame."

The athletics department's current $200 million master plan aims to close the gap. One piece of that plan, and a major focus of the Walsworths' gift, is the construction of a new clubhouse for the men's and women's golf teams at The Club at Old Hawthorne.

The project will include coaches' offices, locker rooms and indoor practice facilities.

"It truly puts us on a level playing field with the rest of the Southeastern Conference," said MU senior Jace Long, a member of the men's golf team.

However, athletics Director Mike Alden estimated that those improvements would only cost around $1.5 million to $2 million, leaving additional funds for other projects.

Alden talked at length with reporters about the athletics department's plans for Memorial Stadium. He said several renovations to the stadium are expected to be complete by 2013. The "Rock M" will be moved closer to the field, the north concourse will be expanded, the press box will be moved up a level and new seating options will be added on the west side of the stadium.

Alden also expressed hope that, with help from the Walsworths' donation, the addition of seating options to the east side of the stadium could be done by 2014, a year earlier than was projected when the master plan was first revealed.

With the most recent donation, along with an anonymous $6.4 million gift from December 2012 and the Kansas City Sports Trust's $30 million from June, MU has experienced a spate of contributions, actions Alden hopes will encourage more potential donors to contribute.
"That would be our hope," he said when asked if he thought a "domino effect" of donations would occur. "It's been interesting. We were talking about that earlier, over the course of the last six months, to have three significant gifts like that, for a university ... and so our hope would be that those dominoes would continue to fall."

While facilities were certainly a focus of the day, illustrated by the numerous conceptual drawings that surrounded the stage and podium, Alden still emphasized the impact the gift could have on academics.

During his speech, he said athletics are "absolutely not the most important program that happens here" and called them a "great advertising vehicle" for MU as a whole, saying the gift money could be used for academic endowments.

"We try not to have all of that money (from a gift) go towards bricks and mortar," Alden said. "We'd like to have some of that money go towards scholarships and endowments, because we're really trying to build that up."

Alden specified, though, that the planned distribution of the gift money was not set in stone.

"The important thing is, we have not pinned that, specifically, on just one thing or another, and we haven't specified exactly how we're going to split that up," he said. "We just know that this, in itself, helps put us over the top for golf."

The Walsworths are both MU alums. Don Walsworth is CEO of the Walsworth Publishing Company and served as a chairman of the UM System Board of Curators as well as numerous other committees at MU.

Two of the Walsworths' children, Ed and Lynn, played golf at MU, and their son, Don Jr., played at Stanford. The golf teams' new clubhouse will include locker rooms, coaches' offices and indoor practice facilities.
MU Museum of Art and Archaeology adds Korean artwork

BY Allissa Fisher

COLUMBIA — In the past few years, the MU Museum of Art and Archaeology has been looking to expand its slim collection of Korean artwork. This effort will get a boost Wednesday with a gift of three noteworthy art works.

Two are pieces of pottery by renowned Korean artist Kim Jeong-ok: a large, porcelain "moon" vase and a smaller Buncheong-ware bottle detailed with flying bat motifs on the exterior. Kim's ceramics have been displayed in the collections of the Smithsonian Institute and the British Museum.

The third work — a small jade turtle mounted on a square base — is the creation of artists Suh Ji Min and Han Yong Tack, both of Korea. Protruding from the lower body of the turtle are two maroon tassels connected by a cord of silk.

The pieces will be presented in a private reception Wednesday morning at the museum.

"Until now, our collection has had few, if any, Korean pieces of such scale and significance," Museum Director Alex Barker said. "The artists of these works have been said to be masters of intangible cultural heritage."

The pieces are being given to the museum via The Wind Institute, an independent institution that has operated in collaboration with the MU Office of the Vice Provost of International Programs since May 2010. The mission, according to the institute's website, is to "encourage scholars in the global community to focus on global issues and to provide guidance to future generations that contributes to a solution to poverty, promotes freedom, and enhances the value of life."

Institute founder Kyungja Lee described the gift as being part of a global cultural exchange. The artworks will allow students a greater global perspective, she said.

For the Museum of Art and Archaeology, this gift means the possibility of presenting a deeper discussion and understanding of traditional art from Korea and around the world, Barker said.

"The university has one of the most important comparative and synoptic collections of ancient ceramics of all of the country's universities," Barker said. "I hope that this gift will allow us to better explain how Korean art has influenced other cultures and, in turn, how other cultures have influenced Korean art."
MU Intercollegiate Athletics receives $8 million gift

Greta Weiderman

Don and Audrey Walsworth of Marceline, Mo., have donated nearly $8.3 million to the University of Missouri-Columbia to fund athletic department facility improvements, including a new golf clubhouse.

The gift, made to the university's Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, will pay for renovations to Memorial Stadium. It also will fund a new clubhouse for the men's and women's golf teams at the Club at Old Hawthorne that will house coaches' offices, locker rooms, indoor heated hitting bays and new swing-instruction technology.

Don Walsworth, an MU alumnus and CEO of family-owned yearbook publisher Walsworth Publishing Co. Inc., is a former chairman of the University of Missouri Board of Curators. Audrey Walsworth is an MU alumna and graduate of the Missouri School of Journalism. This donation brings the Walsworth family's total giving to MU to nearly $14 million.

"The new facility will be an integral part of training our student-athletes and helping them improve their skills, but it also will greatly benefit our recruiting process as well," said Mark Leroux, men's golf coach, in a statement.

Stephanie Priesmeyer, women's golf coach, said in a statement, "When I played, and even when I began coaching 12 years ago, facilities really didn't matter much in women's golf, from a recruiting standpoint. But now it's everything, and the new facility will allow us to be even more competitive with the top programs in the country."

Don and Audrey Walsworth's son Ed, and daughter, Lynn, played on the Mizzou golf teams while attending MU, and their son, Don Jr., was an Academic All-American golfer at Stanford University and won the Pac-10 championship his senior year.

University officials announced in June that the golf clubhouse was among athletic facilities that needed improvements.
Mo. higher ed funding hikes could vary by school

15 hours ago • Associated Press

**M U M E N T I O N P. 2**

Missouri's public colleges and universities would get a $34 million funding increase under Gov. Jay Nixon's proposed budget, but not all of the institutions would be treated equally.

University presidents generally welcomed Nixon's funding proposal as they testified Tuesday before a House appropriations committee partly because it would give them more money after several years of cuts, and partly because they had a role in developing the funding model.

Nixon's proposal seeks to implement a new performance funding plan that would reward some schools with more money than others for meeting goals in such things as student retention and graduation. The result is that some colleges could get as much as a 5.4 percent increase while others could as little as a 2.2 percent bump in state funds.

During his State of the State address Monday, Nixon said that the new funding model should result in higher academic achievement at public colleges and universities with greater accountability to taxpayers.

"While our colleges and universities are doing a great job, and graduating more students than ever before, we're also holding these schools to higher standards than ever before," Nixon said.

Each college and university has its own performance criteria to meet, which were developed jointly by the state and the institutions.

"It's transparent. It rewards results," said Kenneth Dobbins, the president of Southeast Missouri State University, who was the first to testify Tuesday before the House Education Appropriations Committee.

But Nixon's budget wouldn't implement the performance funding exactly as state higher education officials envisioned.
Last fall, the Coordinating Board for Higher Education recommended that the state provide a $25.5 million pool of money for performance-based funding in the 2014 fiscal year, which begins July 1. Each institution could get as much as a 3 percent funding increase if they achieved all their performance measurements, with a 0.6 percent reduction in that funding hike for each goal they failed to meet.

Nixon's budget plan recommends an aggregate funding increase of 4 percent for community colleges and a similar total percentage for Missouri's public universities and its technical college. In order for each sector to get an equal percentage, money subtracted from institutions that didn't meet their goals was shifted to those that did.

For example, the University of Missouri system would get a 4.3 percent increase amounting to half of the $34 million allotted to all institutions because it met all five of its performance goals. Those included retaining at least 83 percent of its students from their freshman to sophomore years, maintaining a high rate of students achieving professional or occupational licenses, and increasing federally financed research and development initiatives.

Lincoln University in Jefferson City, meanwhile, would get just a 2.6 percent funding increase because it failed to meet two of its performance criteria. It had a decline in the percentage of students who completed 24 credit hours in their first year and a decline in the percentage of students who graduated within six years.

Among community colleges, Nixon proposed a 5.4 percent funding increase for three institutions that met all of their performance criteria _ Metropolitan Community College in the Kansas City area, Mineral Area College in Park Hills, and State Fair Community College in Sedalia. But Nixon proposed just a 2.2 percent funding bump for Jefferson College in Hillsboro because it met just two of its five performance criteria. Among other things, the college failed to meet goals for the percentage of students who graduated within three years and who passed licensure or certification exams.
Education poised for funding boost

Tuesday, January 29, 2013 at 2:00 pm

With a steadily improving state economy, Gov. Jay Nixon said Monday night during his annual State of the State address that now is the time for Missouri to further commit to education.

His proposed fiscal 2014 budget calls for a $150 million funding increase for early childhood, K-12 and higher education.

"We now have a unique opportunity to build a better future for our children," Nixon said during the speech. "We must seize it."

Nixon's proposed increases include a more than $100 million increase for K-12 education, a $34 million increase for higher education and $17 million for early childhood education programs.

The additional K-12 funding would amount to $32.5 million more from increased tax collections, an $8.8 million increase for special-education students and a $65.9 million increase in funding the state's foundation formula, which is used to determine funding levels for the state's 124 public school districts.

While funding for the formula would increase under Nixon's proposed budget, it still would fall more than $620 million short of the recommended funding level for the formula.

Nixon also called on school districts to add six days to their school years, saying that Missouri has one of the shortest school years in the country.

In remarks to reporters after Nixon's speech, Rep. Rick Stream, R-Kirkwood, chairman of the House Budget Committee and a former member of the Kirkwood School Board, said although a longer year could compel teachers unions to argue for increased pay, extending school years — or even school days — is "not necessarily a bad idea."

Stream said the governor should look to education reform measures proposed by Republicans to improve education in the state, such as voucher programs and increased teacher accountability measures.
"If we want kids in failing school districts to get a quality education, we've got to think outside the box instead of moving along the same old tracks," Stream said.

Nixon's proposed increase in higher education funding would be doled out through a performance-based system proposed by the state's Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

**Nixon's proposed budget calls for a $4 million cut to the University of Missouri System's core funding, but it would provide the system with a $16.9 million increase for meeting performance standards such as student success, degree production, financial responsibility and graduate achievement in the workforce.**

According to a Jan. 24 presentation to the legislature's Joint Committee on Education, Missouri is one of five states that are transitioning to the performance funding model. Ten states already have the model in place.

Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, who serves as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said Nixon's funding increase is a "good start" and that a performance-based model for higher education funding can work as long as it remains objective.

"There are a lot of things in there that get loaded in simply because of politics," Schaefer said.

Rep. John Wright, D-Rocheport, who serves on the House Appropriations Committee for Education, also said the governor's proposals are a "step in the right direction," noting that the state's per-pupil contributions to higher education have declined in recent years.

"The young people of our state are doing their jobs, and it's incumbent upon the legislature and lawmakers to maintain our end of the bargain," Wright said.
Missouri recently has lost major sports events to other states that offer enticements, but senators intend to get back in the game with legislation that offers up to $3 million annually in sports incentives.

The goal of the bill is to help local communities and sports authorities compete for attractions such as college basketball tournaments, Olympic trials and other amateur sports events.

Although some senators expressed concern about creating a new tax credit, supporters contend that loss would be more than offset by the increased sales tax revenues generated by visiting sports. They also cited the economic boost that major sports events can provide to the bottom line of local restaurants, bars, hotels and retailers.

Senators endorsed the legislation by voice vote Monday. It needs another Senate vote to move to the House.

The bill’s quick endorsement _ coming early in the 2013 legislative session _ marked a dramatic departure from recent years, when newly proposed tax breaks have stalled in the Senate unless they were rolled into a broader package that also pared back Missouri’s existing tax credit programs. Lawmakers ultimately were unable to pass tax credit bills in recent years.

But this year, Senate leaders are taking a different approach, dealing with the sports incentives and tax credits for benevolent organizations as stand-alone bills in an attempt to show they are capable of breaking logjams. A broader overhaul of existing tax credits is to be heard in a Senate committee Wednesday.
"This is big business, and this is an opportunity to re-assert ourselves as a major player" in sports, said Sen. Eric Schmitt, R-Glendale, the bill's sponsor and chairman of the Senate Jobs, Economic Development and Local Government Committee.

Some senators said Tuesday that they still have concerns about creating new tax breaks, but are willing to let this bill advance in the spirit of cooperation.

"Every one of these tax credits, I see as the enemy of real tax reform," such as a reduction or elimination of state income taxes, said Sen. Ed. Emery, R-Lamar.

Under the bill, local governments or nonprofit groups that sponsor amateur sports events could get a state tax credit equal to their full costs or $5 for every ticket sold, whichever is less. The recipients then could sell those tax credits, generating cash to help subsidize the sporting event. The tax credits would be capped at $3 million annually.

Senators voted 25-7 against an amendment by Sen. Brad Lager, R-Savannah, that would have lowered the annual tax credit cap to $2 million.

Schmitt said the hit to tax revenues from the credit would essentially be offset if each visitor to a sports event spent a little over $100—a figure he said is often far exceeded by out-of-state travelers staying at hotels, dining at restaurants and making other purchases.

He said a Southeastern Conference men's basketball tournament—the conference the University of Missouri joined this school year—generates about $12.3 million in visitor spending, including about $296 per day per fan. The NCAA men's Final Four basketball championship draws 92 percent of its fans from out-of-state and generates about $65 million in visitor spending, Schmitt said.

Missouri has hosted numerous NCAA men's and women's basketball tournament games in the past, including the 2005 men's Final Four and the 2001 and 2009 women's Final Four, all in in St. Louis. Kansas City has hosted the Big 12 Conference basketball tournament and NCAA tournament matches for college volleyball and wrestling.

In 2010, the head of the NCAA's Division I men's basketball tournament testified before a Missouri Senate committee that states and cities lacking financial incentives would have a much more difficult time competing for sports events in the future.
Nixon's budget proposal relies on $165M from other legislation

13 hours ago  •  By Elizabeth Crisp ecrisp@post-dispatch.com 573-635-6178

MU MENTION P. 2

Missouri’s Republican-controlled legislature will have to agree to pass several pieces of legislation this session for Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon’s budget proposal to hold together.

The Senate Appropriations Committee met today to discuss Nixon’s spending plan for the fiscal year that begins July 1. Nixon gave a formal overview of his proposal during his State of the State speech Wednesday night, calling for a $150 million boost in education spending, $10 million increase for public safety programs related to mental health and 2 percent pay increases for state employees, effective Jan. 1, 2014.

But it’s not all done just by adding and subtracting within the standard budget framework.

“For the governor’s budget to work, there’s about $165 million worth of legislation that has to go through,” said Appropriations Chairman Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia.

That's legislation outside of the dozen or so budget bills lawmakers will craft in the coming weeks.

Among changes that Nixon’s budget relies on:

• $56.6 million from legislation related to changes in the state’s “circuit breaker” tax credit.

• $51.8 million from a tax amnesty proposal that has been repeatedly shot down in the Capitol.

• $10.5 million that the state could collect through Internet sales taxes.

• And probably the most significant: Nixon’s budget relies on $46.6 million from the expansion of Medicaid – the health care program for the poor -- via an optional provision under the federal Affordable Care Act.

Nixon made Medicaid expansion a key focus of his State of the State speech, but GOP leaders have repeatedly said that they don’t think expansion is the best option for Missouri.
No bills have been introduced to expand Medicaid so far this session.

“We were hoping to have a little bit more discussion with the Legislature about what they might be willing to look at,” state budget director Linda Luebbring said. “Some of these things still need to be worked out before we draft legislation.”

The expansion would add an estimated 300,000 Missourians to the program. The federal government already pays part of Missouri’s Medicaid costs. Under the federal expansion proposal, it would pick up the full tab for new recipients in the first three years and continue paying most of the costs beyond that.

About 881,000 Missourians are now enrolled in Medicaid, which has varying degrees of coverage based on income. More than 60 percent are children, and 18.6 percent are people with disabilities.

The governor’s budget office estimates that the state would see a $300 million boost to its general revenue fund over the next three years if the Legislature expands Medicaid. Once the state’s costs kick in, savings from other programs and estimated new revenue would more than cover the cost of the expansion, according to the estimates.

Luebbring explained today that some of the savings would come through a shift in coverage for some adults.

As an example, she noted that the state pays a portion of the funding for programs for drug and alcohol treatment through the Department of Mental Health. If the individuals who get treatment through those programs qualify for the expanded Medicaid program, then the federal government will pay the total cost and the state will see savings.

The budget office’s estimates also rely on assumptions that the injection of federal money into the health care system will set off a domino effect of economic activity, leading to more revenues for the state. An economic impact study from the University of Missouri recently estimated that the Medicaid expansion would lead to the creation of 24,000 jobs in 2014.

But Schaefer and other members of the committee appeared skeptical.

“As we go forward, I think we’re going to have a lot of discussion about the assumptions that go into that – including all of the new jobs that supposedly are created and the tax revenue that produces,” Schaefer said. “This is not a three-year issue for this committee. It’s a long-term 10-, 15-, 20-, and beyond-year issue for this committee.”
Nixon keeps Medicaid as priority
Governor also backs bonding.

By ANDREW DENNEY

When running in 2008 for his first term, one of Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon's signature issues was expanding Medicaid coverage for hundreds of thousands of Missourians, a position that ran aground with a Republican-controlled General Assembly and an economic recession.

But with a rebounding economy in the state, federal money on the table and a re-election victory behind him, Nixon has proposed expanding Medicaid coverage to 259,000 more Missourians during the next fiscal year.

Nixon's proposed $25.7 billion fiscal 2014 budget includes more than $900 million in federal funding through the Affordable Care Act to expand the state's Medicaid program. The governor expects the expansion to result in $31.1 million in general revenue savings from replacing state expenditures with federal money and $15.5 million in increased general revenue collections.

Nixon said in his State of the State address last night to a joint session of the legislature that lawmakers should put politics aside and not spend time debating the Affordable Care Act, saying it is the "law of the land." Nixon touted support from business groups such as the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry for expanding Medicaid.

"For these business leaders, this is not a political decision," Nixon said. "It's an economic one. And we shouldn't let last year's politics get in the way of next year's economic growth."

Nixon's remarks on Medicaid were met with applause from Democrats, but Republicans were silent. Republicans did cheer when Nixon said he knows some are skeptical that Washington would "live up to its commitment" to provide funds for Medicaid expansion. He said he would propose a sunset provision for the expansion if the feds don't hold up their end of the bargain.

Families of four making roughly $32,000 a year or less would qualify for Medicaid. A recent study by the University of Missouri School of Medicine and consulting firm Dobson,
DaVanzo and Associates LLC found that taking the federal money could create 24,000 new jobs in fiscal year 2014.

From 2014 to 2017, the federal government will pick up 100 percent of states' bills for expanding Medicaid, and then states will begin to pay 5 percent of the costs. States' contributions will gradually increase to 10 percent. By fiscal 2021, an expanded Medicaid program in Missouri will be expected to cost $2.6 billion.

Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia and chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said Nixon's proposal takes a short-term view of expanding health care coverage and that taking on the expense now might make for hard decisions later.

"We have to look at the long-term budget implications and what we are locking Missourians into paying," Schaefer said.

Nixon also called for a bond issue to pay for state construction projects, which could be funded from reforms in the state's tax credit system. State Budget Director Linda Luebbering said the governor has not determined the total value of the bond issue or whether he would seek legislative approval or voter approval.

Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, and Schaefer have filed bills that would borrow $950 million, with $750 million going to building projects on college campuses. Kelly, who has pushed lawmakers on taking up a bond issue in past sessions, said although he was pleased the governor expressed support, he suspected Nixon would support a smaller borrowing amount and likely would use funds to finance projects for state buildings.

"We're in the ballgame on this subject now," Kelly said.

Nixon also called for "strict" campaign contribution limits, a change he called for throughout his first term since the legislature voted in 2008 to eliminate them. "If we continue down this path, there will be no trust at all," he said.

Republicans balked at Nixon's statements on ethics reform, noting that in his latest campaign, Nixon's campaign committee did not refrain from taking large contributions.

According to filings with the Missouri Ethics Commission, in 2012 alone, Nixon's campaign committee took more than 200 contributions of $5,000 or more, which added up to more than $5.4 million.

"No one takes more and larger checks than the governor," Schaefer said. "I was kind of surprised his people let him say that."
MU online farming tool, class encourage students into the industry

BY Caroline Bauman

COLUMBIA — The memory of gathering around the dinner table with his uncles and grandparents after a good day of farming keeps calling Andrew Perry back to his roots.

"I love the atmosphere of a family farm," said Perry, a junior in agricultural economics at MU. "I spent some time working for an agribusiness firm, but there seemed to be something missing. Working alongside my family and watching something grow, that strikes a deep tune in my chest."

Perry spent much of his childhood at his family’s farm in Kirksville. Despite the uncertainties of the farming industry, Perry said, his dream after he graduates is to return to the farm.

For the young, aspiring farmer, determining expenses and profit can be daunting, he said.

A new online tool developed by the MU Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute and an MU farming preparation class share the goal to help make it easier for young farmers to break into the industry.

Funded by a United States Department of Agriculture grant, the Farm Cost and Return Tool, or Farm CART, allows farmers to simulate what their farm will look like financially over the next five years. Beginning farmers can use the tool to estimate start-up costs and future returns, and established farmers can find better ways to grow their operations.

"This tool is very useful to anyone in agriculture, especially young people thinking of getting started," said Peter Zimmel, the institute’s program director. "You may be thinking about purchasing 100 acres for corn but have no idea what that will cost. You can utilize the tool to make more successful decisions."

Free to the public, farmers can customize Farm CART to their state, county, acreage and choice of crop or livestock. Based on the institute’s annual baseline projections and USDA data, the tool predicts prices, revenue, total costs and net returns.

"It’s very easy to ignore the hard facts of finance," Perry said. "There’s a fine line between success and failure when going back to the farm, and I think FAPRI’s tool will help young, aspiring farmers discover where they stand."

The grant was provided through the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program in an effort to educate people nationwide about the costs and benefits of starting a farm, Zimmel said. He and his team received about $300,000 in 2009 to be distributed over three years. They finished Farm CART in September 2012.
"We worked hard to make it as easy to use as any standard Web page," Zimmel said. "The ideal goal is for someone thinking of getting into farming to use the tool to see if it's financially viable for them to farm."

The rising average age and projected decrease of American farmers has renewed interest in funding beginning farmers programs, according to the USDA website. The number of farmers and ranchers is predicted to decrease by 8 percent from 2008 to 2018.

"There's a very expensive barrier for young farmers wanting to get into the business," Farm CART programmer Scott Gerlt said. "With a struggling economy and a lot of farm consolidations, it's just tough right now."

A growing concern

People 65 and older own more than 19,000 farms in Missouri, while farmers younger than 25 own 307 farms, according to the latest USDA Census of Agriculture from 2007. Farmers 25 to 44 years old own more than 5,000 farms, and those 35 to 54 years old own more than 19,000.

Nationwide, only 5 percent of principal farm operators are younger than 35, according to the census.

The gap has continued to grow since that information was gathered, said Kevin Moore, MU associate professor of agricultural economics. The economic climate and immediate uncertainties make it difficult for the next generation to return to the farm.

"What we're seeing is the older generation living longer and staying on the farm longer," Moore said. "It's an increasing challenge to make farming look attractive to the younger generations, as it's by no means an easy or stable job."

Two decades ago, Moore began teaching Returning to the Farm, a class that aids students in overcoming the economic and personal difficulties of the farming industry. About 150 students have completed the course, and three-quarters of them have gone into farming, he said.

"We have the same mission" as Farm CART, Moore said. "We want to help kids make the best decision possible, whether to return to the family farm or start from scratch."

Perry, a member of this semester's 14-person class, said it brings to light important details of the financial and mental feasibility of returning to his family farm.

"Just because I'm a third-generation member of this farm doesn't mean I have to be a hired hand," Perry said. "The course has made me think about what my value is and what I can contribute to make my farm better."

Room for hope

Though the low number of young farmers might seem disheartening, there is optimism that family farmers in Missouri will be successful for generations to come, Moore said.

"I've know the passion that these kids have," Moore said. "The future of family farming in Missouri is not all doomsday and gloom."
Some aspiring farmers, such as MU sophomore Aubrey Ellison, hope to bring back to their farms new knowledge they have gained at college.

"This is just my calling," said Ellison, who grew up on a dairy farm in Mount Vernon. "But when I go back, I want to do things differently. I want to switch to a pasture-grazed farm, because I know this will be more successful."

USDA grants, statewide loan programs and classes such as Returning to the Farm have a renewed mission to provide young people with a foothold in this industry, Moore said.

Zimmel said he agrees that young farmers have plenty of room for hope.

"Many producers grew up on farms, went to school and now are branching out to their own farms or returning to improve their family farms," Zimmel said. "The numbers are dwindling, but there are still bright people in agriculture. There is still optimism."

The passion for farming doesn't stem from a love of money or success, Perry said.

"For me, this is just the way I want to live my life, with great family, doing what I love," Perry said. "That outweighs all of the risks."
Students who graduated into the Great Recession have struggled to find work that fits their learning. But according to research released on Monday, millions of college graduates over all—not just recent ones—suffer a mismatch between education and employment, holding jobs that don't require a costly college degree.

The study, from the Center for College Affordability and Productivity, says that nearly half of all American college graduates in 2010—some three years after the recession began—were underemployed, holding relatively low-paying and low-skilled jobs.

According to a report on the study, "Why Are Recent College Graduates Underemployed? University Enrollments and Labor Market Realities," out of 41.7 million working college graduates in 2010, 48 percent—more than 20 million people—held jobs that required less than a bachelor's degree. Thirty-seven percent held jobs that required no more than a high-school diploma.

The report's authors—Richard Vedder, Jonathan Robe, and Christopher Denhart—used employment data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to calculate that the number of college graduates is growing at a rate disproportionate to the number of jobs requiring a college degree. They question whether America spends too much on higher education, and ask whether society can afford to subsidize higher education for graduates who end up in jobs they could have landed without going to college.

"Student-loan programs and federal assistance programs are based on some sort of implicit assumption that we're training people for the jobs of the future," Mr. Vedder, director of the center and a professor emeritus at Ohio University, said in an interview. "In reality, a lot of them are not."

While most of the analysis centers on broad categories, such as college graduates compared with high-school graduates, the authors also studied differences in graduates' success rates by university and major, using salary data from Payscale.com.

The report notes variations in earnings depend on the type of college graduates attended and the type of degree they obtained. Those who graduated from elite private institutions fared better than those from state flagship universities and other public universities, on average, and those who majored in engineering and economics earned more than those in the humanities.
One way the authors tracked the growth of what they call underemployment was by comparing statistics from the 1970 Census to the 2010 figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The authors selected six occupations in which, they say, the skills required have not drastically changed over the last 40 years—taxi drivers, shipping and receiving clerks, salesmen and retailers, firefighters, carpenters, and bank tellers. In 1970 less than 5 percent of firefighters held a college degree, but by 2010 the share had jumped to 18 percent. Similarly, only 1 percent of taxi drivers in 1970 were college graduates, but by 2010 more than 15 percent were.

The report also cites other research to generalize the trend of underemployment among college graduates. For example, one study based on data from the Current Population Survey calculated that the percentage of underemployed college graduates rose from 10.8 percent in 1967 to 17.5 percent in 1990.

"We have noted for several years a disconnect between the number of graduates and the realities of the labor market," Mr. Vedder said. "It isn't like underemployment was growing slowly and shot up in the last five years. It has been a steady rise."

Mr. Vedder said the number of college-level jobs is growing at a slower pace than the number of college graduates, and it will continue to grow more slowly if government data prove to be true.

Mr. Robe, a research fellow at the center, said that the "bartender with a bachelor's degree" is a classic example of the lack of jobs that require a college education. Many college graduates who take jobs as bartenders or taxicab drivers have better options, he said. But vacancies in those occupations tend to be filled by other college graduates, a trend that slowly crowds out high-school graduates and dropouts.

"Maybe we should incentivize colleges to more accurately counsel students," Mr. Vedder said. "If you get a degree in business administration, you may not necessarily walk into a middle-class life. There's a good chance you may end up being a bartender."
Are colleges teaching the wrong skills?

Nearly half of all graduates end up in jobs that don't even require a higher education. The 'bartender with a bachelor's degree' trend will continue for years.

By Bruce Kennedy 4 hours ago

Does having a college degree make you more competitive in the job market? If you're a recent college graduate, not necessarily.

A new report by the Center for College Affordability and Productivity says nearly half of all employed U.S. college graduates are in jobs that the Bureau of Labor Statistics suggests require less than a four-year college education.

And according to the study, more than a third of those employed college graduates are in jobs that require no more than a high school diploma.

The report also suggests there's a "growing disconnect" between the needs of employers and the training of students in college. It also questions if America is spending too much on its current system of higher education -- especially if college graduates are ending up overqualified for the jobs they get.

"Student-loan programs and federal assistance programs are based on some sort of implicit assumption that we're training people for the jobs of the future," Richard Vedder, director of the Center and a professor emeritus at Ohio University, said in an interview with the Chronicle of Higher Education. "In reality, a lot of them are not."

Vedder believes the trend of what one of his colleagues calls the "bartender with a bachelor's degree" will continue well into the next decade.

But not everyone agrees with the Center's findings. Washington's Committee for Economic Development says that, while America's post-secondary education is faltering, the system has long been "the nation's incubator" for human capital as well as innovation and continued prosperity and competition in the global marketplace.

"Right now you can look around the world and you can see a lot of high-tech, high-value high-productivity jobs that we are not doing in this country, in part because our country does not have the requisite skills," the Committee's Joe Minarik told USA Today. And encouraging people to not attend college, he said, "is not what we should aspire to."
Last spring, the Committee issued a report calling on the nation’s business community to help reform higher education by helping to better outline the industrial sectors’ needs for the future.

Bruce MacLaury, Committee Trustee and president emeritus of the Brookings Institution, acknowledged there is a disconnect between higher education and the business community.

"But business leaders need to get involved," he said in a press statement. "They have the most to gain -- but the most to lose if we don’t improve our higher education."
Trees down, outages as storms rake US midsection

1 hour ago • Associated Press

MU MENTION P. 2

A large storm system packing high winds, rain and some possible twisters tore across several states in the South and central U.S. on Wednesday, blacking out power to thousands, downing trees and damaging homes.

One death was reported when a large tree blew down on a shed in Nashville, Tenn., where a man was sheltering, police told Nashville broadcaster WTVF-TV. Authorities did not immediately release further details when contacted by The Associated Press.

In Arkansas, another person was reported injured by lightning in Arkansas during the storm's eastward trek. The storm was marching just ahead of a cold front as the volatile system headed toward the Eastern seaboard, dumping heavy rain in Kentucky and parts of Tennessee.

The rapidly changing conditions created a risk of tornadoes in the nation's midsection and South. The National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla., said the threat was greatest in recent hours in northeast Texas, northern Louisiana, northwest Mississippi, southeast Missouri and much of Arkansas.

Thousands were reported without power in Tennessee, where tornado warnings and flash flood warnings were issued for various counties and a tractor-trailer truck was blown on its side by high winds.

Entergy Arkansas Inc. reported at least 9,000 power outages in several communities around Arkansas at the height of the storm, including in and around Little Rock.

Authorities in Arkansas said they would be checking reports of possible twisters kicked up near a Little Rock suburb and in two locations in northwestern Arkansas. Power lines fell, trees were
toppled and some homes suffered damage to rooftops around the state, according to emergency officials.

The National Weather Service reported that suspected straight-line winds of up to 80 mph were reported in Arkansas late Tuesday night along with flooding in low-lying areas of Jonesboro in Arkansas' northeastern corner. Police in the Arkansas community of Monticello reported a person was injured by lightning late Tuesday but the injury was not life-threatening.

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency urged residents to be on guard for severe thunderstorms, high winds and the possibility of tornadoes amid the collision of cold and warm weather systems.

"This storm will move through the state while most folks are asleep, which increases the potential for injuries," said the agency's director, Robert Latham, urging Mississippi residents to stay tuned to weather alerts Wednesday.

Tennessee also braced for volatile weather conditions from the front stretching on a slanted arc crossing several states. In Tennessee, a tornado watch was in effect for a wide swath of the state overnight, part of a system that spread buffeting winds and rain over the region.

Earlier this week, a large swath of the Midwest and South bathed in unseasonably balmy temperatures that reached the high 70s in some areas.

The temperature in the central Missouri college town of Columbia reached 77 degrees on Monday, a record for January, and students exchanged their winter coats for shorts and flip-flops as freezing rain gave way to spring-like conditions. Foul weather made a quick return, however, with a Tuesday downpour that flooded some streets near the University of Missouri campus. Early morning snow was expected Wednesday.

Chicago residents also have been whiplashed by recent weather extremes. Workers who suffered through subzero temperatures and brutal wind chills a week ago strolled through downtown without coats Tuesday as temperatures soared into the mid-60s.

Carol Krueger, who lives in the Chicago suburb of North Hoffman Estates, noted that just a few days ago she was struggling to drive through blowing snow. All she needed Tuesday was a light jean jacket, although by Thursday temperatures were barely expected to reach 20 degrees.

"It's bizarre, it's scary," Krueger said of the swiftly changing weather.

On Monday, the National Weather Service predicted a "moderate" risk of severe weather more than 24 hours out, only the fifth time it had done so in January in the past 15 years, said Gregory Carbin, the director of the Storm Prediction Center.

STORY CONTINUES...