Local lawmakers likely to stick to party lines on any override votes

By Rudi Keller

Sunday, August 11, 2013 at 2:00 am

When state lawmakers meet next month to consider Gov. Jay Nixon's 33 vetoes, it appears that Boone County lawmakers will stick to party lines if any overrides are attempted.

The only question, it appears, is whether freshman state Rep. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia, will back plans to override Nixon's veto of a major tax cut bill. Rowden's vote would be crucial in that attempt as Republicans need to hold on to all the bill's supporters and find at least six more votes to be successful.

Rowden said he's being lobbied "fairly constantly" about the tax bill, with school and higher education officials against the override. The message from constituents, however, is in favor of the measure. "I have received plenty of emails and messages on Facebook from people in favor of us overriding," Rowden said. "And frankly, the in-district dialogue I am getting would be more in favor of overriding the veto."

To make a bill law over a governor's objections requires 109 votes in the Missouri House and 23 votes in the Senate. Vetoes have been overridden only eight times since 1875, all in the past 40 years, with five overrides occurring since 2003.

Nixon vetoed 29 bills and four appropriation items. Of the 29 bills, 18 passed both chambers with majorities large enough to overcome his objections.

Rowden's fellow Republicans in the delegation — Rep. Caleb Jones and Sen. Kurt Schaefer — said they will support an override vote on the tax measure. And all three said they would likely support any other override attempts made during the annual veto session, which begins Sept. 11.
"I can't think of anything that I would change my vote on to uphold the veto," Schaefer said.

Jones, who is campaigning to become House speaker, said he is listening to bill sponsors and working with them to decide whether to override Nixon or try again next year with a new bill.

"For me personally, I am still looking at every piece of legislation the governor vetoed" for a potential override, Jones said.

As far as local Democrats are concerned, Nixon can count on them. Of the three Democrats, only Rep. Chris Kelly named a veto he wanted to override, and Kelly's choice is an appropriation item that is unlikely to be brought up.

Reps. John Wright, D-Rocheport, and Stephen Webber, D-Columbia, both said they intend to support Nixon on each vote.

"I have to go back and study the list to make sure I am not missing something, but the major vetoes that you and I have talked about are vetoes I am supportive of," Wright said.

Webber said the tax bill is deeply flawed, and he can't understand why its supporters don't start over instead of insisting on passing the bill.

"It just takes so much money out of schools and that money is going to have to be made up by local property tax increases," he said. "I don't think it is really tax cutting, it is cost shifting from large corporations onto homeowners."

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The Tribune's View

Nixon vetoes

Should be upheld

By Henry J. Waters III

Sunday, August 11, 2013 at 2:00 am

Local Republican lawmakers are being lobbied on their prospective votes to override vetoes issued by Gov. Jay Nixon.

There are two misbegotten laws on the docket for discussion today. One would nullify state enforcement of federal gun regulation laws. It also includes a ban on publishing the name of anyone who owns or has a permit to own or sell firearms. The other would cut state income taxes on business income in half and reduce top personal income tax to 5.5 percent. The third would exempt from the state Sunshine Law any record of ownership or possession of a firearm.

Votes of two-thirds in each chamber of the Missouri General Assembly are required to override these vetoes.

The ridiculous nullification law is clearly unconstitutional, a fact understood and admitted by lawmakers who nevertheless intend to override Nixon's veto. One Democrat justified his irresponsibility by saying his constituents love their guns and hunting so it's not "worth the fight for me to vote against it." He will leave it to the courts to make the right decision.

And this is a Democrat. Republicans have even less hesitation. It has become a staple tactic for Republicans in the General Assembly to pass unconstitutional roadblocks to constitutional guarantees. Think abortion and voting rights. They prove their right-wing credentials to constituents, then blame the courts and Democrats for wrongful denial.

The tax issue is a more substantial debate. Conservatives, encouraged by financier Rex Sinquefield, are engaged in a long-term effort to cut or eliminate income taxes and replace the revenue with increased sales taxes. Their argument makes some sense superficially but fails to
hold up in the end. Even an observer as astute as yours truly has finally decided exclusive or primary reliance on sales taxes will not bring the imagined tax millennium.

Politicians would not, by nature, refrain from redecorating sales taxes with a galaxy of new exemptions, the very infection reformers want to cure by getting rid of the income tax. The kind of gross move to the sales tax Sinquefield & Co. want will never happen because it can't be imposed in a pure fashion, providing equity among taxpayers to mention one central challenge.

The new law envisions passing a federal law taxing Internet sales with the revenue making up for state income tax losses. Internet sales should be taxed, but in the context of the current override debate, Nixon properly refuses to count on any such thing happening. He has reduced general revenue outlays in the state budget to make up for anticipated losses if his veto is overridden.

Much of this falls on education, yet local GOP Reps. Caleb Jones and Caleb Rowden voted for the original bill and seem ready to vote to override the governor's veto. They were among 103 Republicans who voted for the original bill. It takes 109 votes to override a veto. May the Caleb be on the losing side this time.

A troublesome provision of the nullification bill would keep secret any information indicating the identity of anyone owning a gun. Nixon calls publishing "the name or other information of someone who owns a firearm" an infringement on freedom of speech, citing examples. How about pictures in the newspaper of proud young hunters displaying their first turkey or deer taken by shotgun or rifle? How about news coverage in which supporters of gun rights are identified or identifiable? Would a reporter be fined for disclosing the name of a burglary victim whose firearm was stolen?

Nixon says interfering with one constitutional right in an alleged effort to protect another is paradoxical. Protecting Second Amendment rights does not require trashing First Amendment rights.

Permits issued by government authorities should not be secret except in extraordinary circumstances, such as for national defense. Certainly identities of people receiving driver’s licenses or business licenses, building occupancy permits or gun permits should be matters of public record.

Let us watch closely how our esteemed solons vote on these overrides. Already too many came down on the wrong sides with their initial votes.

HJW III

Our surest refuge from governmental overreaching is with an American people who view a secretive government not as just a press issue but as an intolerable affront to their rights under the First Amendment.

— DON WYCLIFF
Tax cut scenarios depend on interpretation

Retrospective effects debated.

By Rudi Keller

Sunday, August 11, 2013 at 2:00 am Comments (1)

As he travels the state battling a Republican tax cut bill he vetoed, Gov. Jay Nixon cites many flaws he sees in the measure.

His main contention is that the bill would cut $1.2 billion from state general revenue in the current year. But for that to happen, several things would have to occur and a veto override would be only the first.

Supporters of the bill, however, argue that Nixon's nightmare scenario not only is unlikely but impossible. A provision of the Missouri Constitution that bars the enactment of laws that are retrospective in effect — part of the state constitution since 1820 — would, they said, block the result Nixon envisions.

Others, less interested politically in the outcome, aren't so sure. And the final word, if all the contingencies come to pass, would likely be supplied by the courts.

"This is deep constitutional theory stuff," said Greg Magarian, a professor who teaches constitutional law at Washington University.

"A retrospective law is one which creates a new obligation, imposes a new duty, or attaches a new disability with respect to transactions or considerations already past," the Missouri Supreme Court said in a 2006 opinion, quoting the 1875 debates of the Missouri Constitutional Convention. "It must give to something already done a different effect from that which it had when it expired."

The debate is over the interplay of the bill's new personal income tax rates and congressional action on a bill requiring Internet and catalog sales companies to collect sales tax.
Congressional action on sales taxes would trigger an immediate cut in state income tax rates. Because of the way the bill is written, Nixon has argued, Congressional action by Dec. 31 would also cause a retroactive rate cut. Anyone who filed a tax return for 2010, 2011 and 2012 would be eligible to seek a refund at an estimated cost of $300 million for each tax year.

"People are entitled under law, if this thing goes into effect in that fashion, to get those refunds," Nixon said to reporters after a recent Columbia appearance.

Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia and a supporter of the tax cut, said he thinks Nixon is wrong. The legislature cannot alter past obligations, whether it is to the state or between private parties, he said. "It has to do with the law that existed at the time of the obligation."

Magarian, however, interprets the ban as a protection for the people. It is not a restriction on altering the law to confer benefits at the expense of government, he said. "State government isn't a citizen," Magarian said. "Any constitutional structure is defining a relationship between the government, the sovereign, and the people as citizens. Ordinarily we don't think of the state governments or the federal governments as the beneficiaries of constitutional protections."

State Rep. John Wright, D-Rocheport, said his research leads him to believe Nixon's view is correct. The bill provides a benefit from government, he said, and the courts have generally allowed those kinds of laws. Tax credits allowing their use to amend returns filed before the credit was created is a good example, he said.

His studies, Wright said, show the courts "have historically only refrained from enforcing laws that create some kind of penalty on a look-back basis."

**The state expects to collect about $8.25 billion in general revenue during the current year. That money is the main support for public schools, higher education, health care and prisons. A loss of $1.2 billion would trigger massive cuts, aimed heavily at education because most money dedicated to health care goes to Medicaid, which cannot be cut.**

Republicans need 109 votes in the Missouri House to override Nixon. The bill received 103 votes, including support from three Democrats, when it was passed in May. The House GOP membership will meet in a summer caucus next weekend and decide whether to pursue the override during the legislative session that begins Sept. 11.

House Speaker Tim Jones said he's not convinced by Nixon's arguments that refunds would be due if all contingencies are met. "I am waiting for Missourians to see the facts," he said. "The governor is obscuring the facts with the fraudulent use of his bully pulpit."

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Posted in **Local, Politics** on Sunday, August 11, 2013 2:00 am.
MU expects smaller freshman class this fall

By Karyn Spory

Sunday, August 11, 2013 at 2:00 am Comments (2)

The University of Missouri is expecting fewer freshmen on campus compared to last year, but this year's entering class still will be comparable to recent record classes.

A memo from Ann Korschgen, MU vice provost for enrollment management, and Barbara Rupp, director of admissions, estimates freshman enrollment at 6,165 based on current deposits.

Korschgen said in an email that the university has "long anticipated" a drop in freshmen as the number of high school students in Missouri and the Midwest declines.

"We are not surprised that there is a decline for this fall in our enrollment deposits from first-time college students," she said.

Applications from Missouri residents have dropped by 675 from last year, and deposits, a fee of $300, have decreased by 417. Overall, freshman deposits have decreased by 477 from last year. In 2011, MU received 6,250 deposits. That number increased to 6,642 last year.

In spite of the decline in freshmen, Korschgen said the university's total enrollment is up. "Our incoming classes have far exceeded the size of our graduating classes, and thus we have had and will have for a while a continuing increase in total enrollment," she said.

Since 2003, MU has expanded its recruiting efforts to Illinois, Texas and Minnesota and has seen "excellent" results in terms of enrollment, Korschgen said.

Applications from out-of-state students have increased by 1,084 over last year, and by 3,398 from two years ago. Deposits from out-of-state students dropped by 61 this year, but that number is still up 423 from two years ago.

Tuition revenue from out-of-state students still makes up a significant portion of the fiscal pie, said Rhonda Gibler, budget director at MU.
For fiscal year 2013, slightly more than 44 percent of the total undergraduate tuition revenue of $261 million came from nonresident tuition.

In fiscal year 2012, slightly more than 40 percent of $242 million tuition revenue came from nonresident undergraduate tuition.

Tuition for in-state students for 2013-14 is $9,430, while non-Missouri resident tuition is $22,822.

The memo also states the university is seeing a decrease in high-achieving students — those with an ACT score of 27 or higher. Korschgen said the university is "theorizing" that these students are being recruited by other schools offering larger scholarship packages.

Korschgen said MU is examining its scholarship program to "ensure it is continuing to be as effective as possible."

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Posted in Local, Education on Sunday, August 11, 2013 2:00 am.
MU expecting fewer freshman this fall

The University of Missouri is expecting fewer freshman this fall compared to last year, according to university officials.

A memo from Ann Korschgen, the university's vice provost for enrollment management, and Barbara Rupp, director of admissions, estimates freshman enrollment this fall at 6,165 based on current deposits. That's a drop of nearly 480 from last year, The Columbia Daily Tribune reported (http://bit.ly/13QLkq3).

Korschgen said in an email that the university has anticipated the drop in freshmen as the number of high school students in Missouri and the Midwest declines.

"We are not surprised that there is a decline for this fall in our enrollment deposits from first-time college students," she said.

In spite of the decline in freshmen, Korschgen said the university's total enrollment is up.

"Our incoming classes have far exceeded the size of our graduating classes, and thus we have had and will have for a while a continuing increase in total enrollment," she said.

Deposits from out-of-state students also dropped by 61 this year, but that number is still up 423 from two years ago. Tuition revenue from out-of-state students still makes up a significant portion of the income, said Rhonda Gibler, the university's budget director.

For fiscal year 2013, slightly more than 44 percent of the total undergraduate tuition revenue of $261 million came from nonresident tuition. In fiscal year 2012, about 40 percent of $242 million tuition revenue came from nonresident undergraduate tuition
Tyrer emphasized shared governance while leading MU Faculty Council

By Karyn Spory

Saturday, August 10, 2013 at 2:00 am

During his four years as chairman of Faculty Council at the University of Missouri, Harry Tyrer sought to ensure that faculty shared authority with university administrators.

Over Tyrer's two terms as chairman, Faculty Council tackled issues ranging from students recording classes to the UM Press controversy. Through all of the discussions and votes, Tyrer said he tried to lead without imposing his views on council members.

"A reporter asked me once what my position was" on a subject, "and I told her I have to lead the discussion, I don't take a position on these things," he said.

Instead, Tyrer said he tried to let the council "take an issue where they thought it needed to go."

Nicole Monnier, MU associate teaching professor of Russian, said the issue of shared governance was the central issue for the council. Shared governance is an ideal endorsed by three national higher education organizations that calls on administrators to share authority with faculty.

Monnier pointed to examples of the UM Press — the system announced the press' closure last summer then backtracked in the face of fierce opposition — and Renew Mizzou — the building project announced in May that will move two museums and two academic departments off central campus.

Some faculty members felt both decisions were made by administrators without sufficient communication and consultation with faculty.
"They are clear examples of why shared governance are such important issues for us because until we find a way to work together on things there will be a huge disconnect between administration and faculty," Monnier said.

Monnier said Tyrer tried to make his second term the "banner year" for the notion of shared governance. Monnier said Tyrer worked to find ways to improve communication with administrators. He "kind of beat on a steady drum of, 'You have to consult faculty council and take into consideration faculty,' " she said.

Tyrer said the largest issue Faculty Council tackled during that time was a vote that gave non-tenure-track faculty a say in campus issues. "Up to that time, non-tenure-track faculty could not vote on overall faculty matters," he said.

The council approved expanding voting rights to non-tenure-track faculty in March, and the issue was approved by the UM Board of Curators in April.

Although Tyrer was nominated for a third term, he was not elected. Instead, the man Tyrer nominated, Craig Roberts, a professor of plant sciences, was chosen to be chairman.

Tyrer said he believes Roberts will do a great job. He said he spent the past several months working with Roberts to prepare him to take the reins. "I continue to be an active member of Faculty Council, but frankly, it's a relief to me that it's over," Tyrer said.

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Posted in Local on Saturday, August 10, 2013 2:00 am.
Columbia man escapes from northwest Missouri jail

Adkison eluded authorities for several days before June arrest.

Sunday, August 11, 2013 at 11:26 am

A Columbia man accused of multiple crimes, including kidnapping and rape, escaped from the Caldwell County Detention Center late Saturday night.

Brian J. Adkison, 23, escaped from the jail in Kingston, Mo., in northwest Missouri at 11:25 p.m., according to the Missouri State Highway Patrol. He was barefoot and wearing white boxer shorts, the patrol said, and he fled on foot in an unknown direction. Adkison is 6 feet tall and weighs about 180 pounds.

Adkison was arrested June 21 in Morgan County after eluding law enforcement officers for several days. The June search for Adkison began after he allegedly kidnapped and assaulted ex-girlfriend and University of Missouri student Lauren G. Crawford.

The search, which centered around the Lake of the Ozarks area, involved a helicopter, more than 50 officers and dogs. Authorities also conducted door-to-door searches. Adkison allegedly stole several boats before he was caught.

Adkison is charged in Caldwell County with kidnapping Crawford, 23, inflicting injury and terrorizing her before dropping her off at a Columbia hospital the morning of June 16. Crawford, who was listed as a medical student at MU, had previously obtained an order of protection against Adkison.

Adkison also is charged in Boone County with first-degree burglary, rape and deviate sexual assault in relation to a May incident. In that case, investigators said Adkison, who provided an address of 4851 N. Route PP at the time, forced his way into the home of a 23-year-old female acquaintance in early May. The victim, whom police did not identify, was forcibly raped after she tried to get Adkison to leave and he refused, police said.
Columbia police Sgt. Joe Bernhard said Adkison is considered dangerous and in his attempts to evade police is known to lead officers on high-speed pursuits, commit burglaries and steal vehicles. He said Adkison has been known to frequent the Columbia area, but police do not have a local address for him.

Anyone with information regarding Adkison’s whereabouts is asked to contact the Caldwell County Sheriff’s Department at 816-586-2681 or the Missouri State Highway Patrol at 816-387-2345.

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Posted in Local, Crime on Sunday, August 11, 2013 11:26 am.
Thousands come to campus for early check-in

By T.J. Thomson, Landon Woodroof
August 11, 2013 | 7:23 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Incoming MU freshman Ashlie Elver, 17, of Overland Park, Kan., stood in the shade of a tree in front of her new home, Jones Hall, and surveyed the belongings that lay scattered around her.

“I’m really not wanting to take all this stuff up six flights of stairs,” she said, eying the bulky, boxed futon at her feet.

Elver was one of about 2,000 students who arrived on campus Sunday for early check-in, a day filled with emotion, both hopeful and bittersweet, and tempered with a healthy dose of organized confusion.

A line of more than 40 people snaked out of Jones Hall, starting from the elevator. The scene around them resembled a huge, unruly yard sale, with compact refrigerators, microwaves and containers of clothes strewn in clumps on the ground.

Grace Cash, 18, of St. Louis, was one of those in line. Wearing sunglasses and precariously balancing a fridge on a dolly, the future nursing student talked about her excitement at the prospect of joining a sorority as well as her relief that the move was almost over. Her mother, Nancy, 49, spoke about her mixed emotions at the thought of her daughter moving away from home, but tried to look on the bright side.

“Well, my house is cleaner now that she’s moved out,” she said.

The desire to join a sorority was the reason most of these young women chose Sunday to move in. Indeed, about 85 percent of students moving in Sunday were planning to join a sorority, Frankie D. Minor, director of the Department of Residential Life, said. The remainder of the students included those from music groups, ROTC and athletic teams.
On-campus enrollment varies each year, but this year Minor expects it to be average. The past few years have had some record-breaking freshman classes.

“It’s pretty typical,” Minor said. “The numbers for (sorority) recruitment are a little high.”

Minor was optimistic about how the check-in process went Sunday.

“The weather’s cooperating and people have been very patient,” he said, noting that the move-in process can be hectic with thousands of people converging into the same areas.

To combat some of the confusion, a cadre of about 420 full-time and student employees directed Sunday’s early check-in efforts, Minor said.

By Wednesday, when official check-in starts, Minor said the Department of Residential Life will have almost half of its students already checked in.

Paige Gorham, 18, of St. Louis, is another incoming freshman eager to participate in a sorority rush. Her parents, Cindy, 48, and Bill, 49, as well as her little sister, Ellie, 16, were all outside Lathrop Hall to help her move in Sunday.

Cindy and Bill Gorham are MU alumni. Cindy wants her daughter to get a good education from MU that leads to a good job, but when trying to identify the most important thing she took away from her own college experience, Cindy was quickly interrupted by her husband..

“Well, she met me here,” he said, readying another cartload of stuff to take upstairs.

Once they’d made some more progress unpacking the car, Ellie was instructed to get a place in line. Before she ran off, she stopped to think about how her sister leaving might affect her.

“I’m a little sad that she’s leaving home,” she said. "But I’m excited to see what she becomes in life."

Supervising editor is Shaina Cavazos.
As maintenance backlog grows, Campus Facilities stretched thin

By Brendan Gibbons
August 12, 2013 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Curtis Hall, on MU’s white campus, has some issues. MU built it in 1940 and hasn’t renovated it since. Cracks are spreading through drywall and bricks, in offices and hallways.

Besides the cracks, Campus Facilities has plenty of other items on the building’s repair list. Campus Facilities estimates it would cost less to build another Curtis from scratch than to fix all of the problems piece by piece.

Curtis is in worse shape than any other academic building on campus, though Campus Facilities keeps a list of 30 buildings it says are in critical need of repair. As MU’s facilities age and its maintenance budget stays flat, the list of problems grows.

MU’s buildings are older, its facilities budgets are lower, and its maintenance staff is spread thinner than most of the universities it competes with for students. In 2006, Campus Facilities contracted with a firm called Sightlines to study its facilities and budgets and compare them to its peers. The results indicate MU is trying to serve more students with less.

Sightlines defined MU’s peers as Indiana, Iowa State, Michigan State, Northwestern, Ohio State, Purdue, Pennsylvania State, Illinois-Urbana/Champaign, Michigan and Minnesota universities. These institutions were chosen because of their comparable density, size and complexity to MU, their membership in the Association of American Universities and their similar winter climates and, therefore, energy needs.

According to Sightlines, MU’s total facilities operating budget over the past 10 years was $4.81 per gross square foot, $1 below the peer universities’ average. MU’s backlog of needs averages $87.40 per gross square foot, compared to an average of $83.05 for the others.
MU’s total repair backlog adds up to $552 million and grows by $22 million each year, said Gary Ward, MU’s associate vice chancellor for facilities.

This means Campus Facilities would need more than 18 times its entire operating budget to tackle all of its maintenance problems. The annual maintenance budget hovers at about $10 million.

Yet aging buildings have not kept new students away from MU. From 2003 to 2013, MU’s enrollment grew about 35 percent, compared to a little more than 10 percent for its peers, according to Sightlines. MU officials anticipate this enrollment growth will level off.

Approaching a breaking point

Ward said the excellence of a university reflects its teaching and research, not its buildings. But he worries about a future where breakdowns in facilities get in the way of the university’s academic mission.

Even though Campus Facilities can’t afford to fix all these problems, it keeps tabs on them.

Every five years, Facilities hires a contractor named ISES Corp. to audit each building for all needed repairs. The company assigns each a score based on how much work is needed; the resulting document is known as a facilities needs index.

One hundred and thirty-four buildings are on this list. Less than a handful are listed as not needing any repairs. Others have relatively low scores, however, many have scores indicating considerable repairs are needed. The list only includes administration, educational and research facilities — dining halls, residence halls and other auxiliary buildings, such as athletics or hospital buildings, are not included.

Each building has a score that Campus Facilities calculates by dividing the total cost of repairs by the cost of building it all over again from the ground up. A score of one means it would be as cheap to build a new building as it would be to repair everything in the old.

Curtis Hall scores the highest, with 1.24. Thirty buildings on campus have a score of 0.4 or higher, meaning their repairs make up 40 percent of their buildings costs.
"Above 0.4, they’re all bad," Ward said.

With a maintenance budget of close to $10 million and no additional help from the state legislature in sight, Ward fears Campus Facilities’ budget is stretched almost to the breaking point.

"That lack of funding has forced a level of creativity and stewardship that you won’t see anywhere else," Ward said. "But there comes a point where it can’t continue. We’re getting there."

Facility operations manager Jeff Brown said the same thing.

"I think we’re getting close to there," Brown said. "I don’t think there’s much more we can do because if it gets to a point where we don’t have funding to at least maintain the exterior, you know, then we start having that collateral damage from that."

Brown said Campus Facilities staff knows where the weak points are in each building and stays on top of preventive maintenance. He used Strickland, a general academic building full of classroom space, as an example.

"If that building was shut down, I mean, can you imagine what that would do to a day?" Brown said. "Well, there’s one air handler in the basement that serves that whole building. And I mean, we really take care of that thing."

**Plans for Swallow Hall**

On a tour through Swallow Hall, built in 1893 on Francis Quadrangle, and one of three buildings next in line for renovation or improvements, Brown pointed out several opportunities to add more academic space to the building.

Swallow’s basement ceiling is about six feet high. Brown said Campus Facilities will probably dig the floor lower, opening the space to be used as at least one classroom.

The top floor has the opposite problem. In this part of the building, ceilings soar about 25 feet high. Adding another floor would open up more classroom and office space here, too.
Other plans include adding central heating and cooling, replacing items such as windows to improve the building’s energy efficiency and spend less on utilities and making it easier to get from one side of Swallow to the other.

"This department here is a growing department, and they’ve hired some top-notch faculty to come here from other universities," Campus Facilities communications manager Karlan Seville said. "Do you want to bring a tour here and say, this is our department? Does this look like a world-class anthropology building?"

"You know, the amazing thing is that it is," Brown said, referring to the department, not the building.

Brown can think of plenty of ways renovation could improve a building’s academic performance, but he can't think of an example of when a problem with a building interfered significantly with teaching or research. Brown said Campus Facilities has worked hard to avoid any such situation.

Seville said Campus Facilities will often make a repair after hours to not interfere with class time or will make temporary repairs until it can schedule a major repair. For example, Facilities caulked one-inch cracks in an Eckles Hall basement research laboratory last winter to minimize the draft until excavation and repairs could be made this summer.

A major point of its strategy has been renovating whole buildings instead of only going after isolated repairs — paying less to renovate now instead of more to repair later.

**A new way of doing things**

Ward came up with what he calls the stewardship model in 2008, after giving former UM System President Gary Forsee a tour of campus. Forsee had just become system president, and Ward wanted to explain to him Campus Facilities’ repair backlog.

"At that particular time, I think we had a needs of, I think, about $480 million," Ward said, referring only to academic and research buildings. "At that time it was growing about $18 million a year. Our budget was less than $12 (million)."
Ward estimated MU had about $19 million in serious repairs needed all over campus. He explained the traditional way of tackling these problems, before the stewardship model:

"Traditionally, the way that you would approach maintenance would be a shotgun approach," Ward said. "You would get, say, a million dollars. And you would go, 'OK, how can I spread this million dollars around?"

Facilities managers would take on as many pesky problems as they could with that million dollars. Ward said this strategy helps Campus Facilities but often does little to improve teaching or research. Ward said if he were to ask a faculty member for his or her thoughts on the repairs, he might hear this response: “I didn’t even know you were in here. I didn’t notice anything different.”

In that case, "we didn’t do anything whatsoever for the academic mission," he said.

That’s why, when Forsee suggested tacking $19 million onto a university bond issue to deal with critical repairs scattered across campus, Ward thought there might be a better way to spend the money.

"I thought, 'Huh, so we’re going to do $19 million worth of work, but no one’s going to even know it.'"

Ward went back to Forsee and asked if they could take a look at the buildings on campus that have the highest level of critical needs with the greatest opportunities for improving teaching or research. He suggested spending the bond money on renovating those buildings.

The idea made sense to Forsee, Ward said. Facilities decided to put it to use for the first time on Tate Hall, where Ninth Street turns into Conley Avenue, and Switzler Hall, on the Francis Quadrangle. In 2009, Facilities began renovating the two buildings, a process that took two years.

**Stewardship model in action**

Campus Facilities added 280 classroom seats and 34 offices to the buildings. It improved the energy efficiency of the buildings by adding central heating and cooling
and improved windows, and it made the buildings compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Vickie Thorp, Tate’s building coordinator, has worked in the building for decades. She pointed out Tate’s new, modern-looking interior, with a few salvaged pieces of the old building — an ornate lamp found in the attic and handcrafted wood panels on the walls.

Thorp serves as a liaison between the English Department and Campus Facilities. If something breaks, she calls in the repair. She said Facilities usually handles all problems within 24 hours.

Thorp said she thinks the department is satisfied with the new building.

"The building is far better than it was before," she said. "We don’t have any asbestos. We have a working elevator."

The additional classroom space "is beneficial for academics because we do have a lot of classes here," she said.

Thorp took pictures of the old building before renovation. She pulled up pictures of metal bookshelves, like those in Ellis Library, that took up space, as well as one room with a sweeping, cathedral ceiling. "There was a lot of unused space in the old building," she said.

Ward said the renovations didn’t just help the English Department, they affected the whole campus. When the buildings reopened, the new classroom space reduced crowding all over campus.

"Two hundred eighty additional seats per hour," Ward said. "So take an hour, times how many teaching hours there are in a day, times five. I mean, that’s a lot of additional students. I will tell you, the classroom problem went away."

Now, Facilities hopes to add classroom space with its Swallow Hall project. Swallow also scores fairly high on the facilities needs index, 0.57.

But another important reason Facilities went after Swallow instead of a building in worse shape is that it found a way to pay for the whole project. By refinancing some of its bonds, the university found enough one-time money to complete the projects in
Swallow, Pickard and Jesse halls.

MU will close Pickard Hall in December to continue a decommissioning process required by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Starting in July 2014, Jesse Hall will receive new sprinklers and fire alarms, a second elevator and updated heating and cooling systems.

"We’re continually looking for one-time money," Ward said. "If we can find enough coins behind the seat cushions, then we can save those things up, and we can try to add some maintenance dollars on, too."

But some projects, such as Lafferre Hall on the quad, are just too big.

"Why can’t we do this?" Ward said, holding up an audit book of one section of Lafferre Hall. "It’s 64 million bucks. It’s too big of a project to find the nickels and dimes. We’ve got to have state support for this."

In June, the University of Missouri System Board of Curators approved a request for $194 million in state capital appropriations that would cover critical facility needs across all four system campuses. MU’s portion of the request adds up to $82.9 million.

After the Swallow, Jesse and Pickard projects, the next items on MU’s list are renovating and adding to portions of Lafferre and Strickland halls, as well as constructing a new School of Music facility. In July, the curators approved a request for $55.9 million for Lafferre, $31.5 million for the School of Music facility and $47.6 million for Strickland.

In Missouri, that kind of support has proven difficult to count on.

Nikki Krawitz, former UM System vice president for finance and administration, summarized the situation at the June Board of Curators meeting.

"State funding for capital improvement projects has been episodic, political and unpredictable," Krawitz said then.

Missouri passed its last capital improvements bond issue in 1994. The bill was known as the Fourth State Bond Issue, and it mostly focused on state prisons. The Third State Bond Issue lasted from 1983 through 1987. That bond had a more varied focus, with $130 million going to higher education infrastructure.
Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, was serving as Columbia’s state senator when the third issue passed. Since 2009, he has been working on passing the Fifth State Bond Issue and seen it die twice in the Senate after passing the House.

"Part of it is that you don’t have enough legislators with long-term perspective on the needs of their state," Kelly said. "They’re going to be gone. It’s not their problem."

Kelly said anything as big as a capital improvements bond issue takes a lot of compromise. He said both bond issues passed as a result of compromise among Democrats and Republicans, both houses of the Missouri General Assembly, the governor, the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and the Missouri Labor Council.

Strong leadership is also important, he said. He attributed that leadership to former Republican Gov. Christopher "Kit" Bond.

"Kit Bond was the driver, no two ways about it," Kelly said.
MU’s facilities needs index for campus buildings:

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<tr>
<th>Building Name</th>
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Columbia named fourth most livable college town

Aug 9, 2013 BY SARAH REDOHL

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Topping national lists is nothing new for Columbia, which topped another August 2. Livability.com ranked Columbia the fourth most livable college town in the United States, just behind Boulder, Colo., Ann Arbor, Mich., and Gainesville, Fla.

“This news will draw more eyes—and visitors—to Columbia,” said Amy Schneider, the director of the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau. “Everyone’s commitment to make sure Columbia is a place where you want to live, work and raise a family is paying off.”

Livability.com, which has published this ranking for the past four years, selected the towns based on economic strength and opportunities for growth. Its editors also narrowed the selection based on quality of life, which they established by a range of factors including cost of living, ability to walk to cultural amenities and pollution levels.

Other factors include whether the university is a top employer and key economic driver, student to resident ratios, educational attainment, college-led community outreach programs and the percentage of the population between the ages of 21 and 34.

“For a small- to mid-sized town, having a great college or university can add immeasurably to the livability,” said Livability.com Editor Matt Carmichael. “Schools provide a level of economic stability, a constant influx of new residents and cultural and sporting events that cities couldn’t produce on their own.”

Columbia has a cost of living that hovers between 10 and 15 percent below the national average, and the University of Missouri and its associated resources account for more than 13,000 jobs—more than six times larger than any other Columbia employer.

According to Livability.com, “Columbia was chosen because of the harmonious relationship between students, faculty and residents. Both the city and the university offer a host a quality of life amenities appealing to all residents—from arts and cultural activities, outdoor and recreation opportunities, top-notch medical facilities and nightlife to economic development assets, such as research and development, continuing education and workforce training.”

Top 10 best college towns of 2013:
1) Boulder, Colo.

2) Ann Arbor, Mich.

3) Gainesville, Fla.

4) Columbia, Mo.

5) Lexington, Ky.

6) Iowa City, Iowa

7) Missoula, Mont.

8) Madison, Wis.

9) Fayetteville, Ark.

10) College Station, Texas
Radiation clinic in Wentzville treats pets with cancer

August 11, 2013 12:15 am  •  By Tara Kulash tkulash@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8114

Dr. Julie Wentz, director of Mizzou Animal Cancer Care in Wentzville, cares for Sadie as the dog awakens following a radiation treatment on Wednesday, July 31, 2013. Photo by Erik M. Lunsford elunsford@post-dispatch.com

After surgery proved unsuccessful to remove a tumor near her spine, one patient tried radiation therapy.

Sadie Salantai, 12, showed up to her appointment July 31 in a brightly colored scarf, which the staff complimented, and Dr. Julie Wentz made sure to rub the patient’s ears as she awoke from her anesthesia.

Sadie is a dog.

And because of the University of Missouri-Columbia College of Veterinary Medicine, she is able to receive cancer treatment at a clinic in Wentzville.

Before the Wentzville center opened in 2011, pet owners had to go to Columbia for the intensive treatment.
Radiation sessions are generally five days a week for 18 to 20 sessions, and many owners can’t make the long daily trips to Columbia, or they feel uncomfortable leaving their furry family member at the center for up to three weeks.

With the Wentzville center, owners in the region can make successful day trips when they might have otherwise put their pets down.

Sadie, a Labrador mix, has one tumor in her back and one in her groin. Owner Gail Salantai of Edwardsville said she was worried her dog would have to be euthanized, but because of the center’s relatively close proximity to her Metro East hometown, she was able to take Sadie for her daily treatments.

“I always thought I wouldn’t do this, but when they tell you, it’s so sudden,” she said.

Sadie was diagnosed with Addison’s disease five years ago and has to get a monthly shot along with daily medicine. She also suffered a ruptured ACL two years ago and had to undergo surgery. Salantai said her dog was in pain and had to endure months of rehabilitation.

“So when she was diagnosed with cancer, it seemed so unfair. She’s such a fighter that we had to give her this chance to feel good again,” Salantai said.

And she does. Wentzville staff and Salantai testify that in the dog’s first visits, she limped so much she could barely walk. By the end of her treatment plan, Sadie was running in the door to greet her doctor and veterinary technicians.

Wentz, who took over as director of the center in mid-June, said the new occupation is a far cry from her last 22 years serving in a veterinary emergency room. Often, she would have to put a pet down five minutes after arriving at work. Now, Wentz is able to build relationships with her patients and give their owners hope.

To a lot of these families, she said, a pet is like a surrogate child, and even if the animal is not able to make it through all the treatments, it buys time so the owners can grieve and say goodbye.

Experts say it’s important to weigh the cost and benefit for the pet, too.

Bernard Rollin is an animal sciences and philosophy professor at Colorado State University and has lectured all over the world.

Rollin said it can be easy to put off a pet’s death because the owner can’t bear to let the loved one go. What the owner may not realize, though, is how treatment can mentally affect an animal.

“The main thing is the dog doesn’t get it. You should try very hard as an owner and as a friend to think about how the dog sees the world, think about its cognitive ability,” he said. “All they know is that they’re comfortable or they’re not comfortable.”
Rollin said the owner also needs to consider other implications, such as the pet’s age and sickness associated with radiation.

However, Wentz said she relies on providing quality of life, not quantity. If the pet seems too weak to endure the treatments or the cancer is too advanced, she doesn’t recommend prolonging the suffering.

For the dogs that do get treatments, though, she said they tend not to be traumatized from the visits.

“They just think we’re new friends,” she said.

Owners are also briefed on what this could cost them. Pet insurance may cover up to 80 percent of the treatment, depending on what coverage an owner has. Without the insurance, though, a CT scan, consultation and 20 visits totals to around $3,600.

Pets aren’t necessarily cured, either. The goal of radiation is to prevent the tumor from reproducing, so sometimes it slows the growth, but sometimes treatment doesn’t work.

Sadie’s tumors shrank.

At her appointment July 31, Wentz, along with veterinary technicians Clare Frederking and Diane Ragen, prepped Sadie with medication to relax her. They then gave her anesthesia to ensure she remained still during radiation and placed a tube in her airway to maintain her breathing.

Sadie, like every other patient, has a cradle molded to her body so the rays hit her at the correct angles and a radiated arc beam reaches the tumor in her groin.

A monitor checks her blood pressure, heart rate and more at least every five minutes. Wentz and the others watch the dog via a live camera from the next room as they map out where the rays should hit.

The facility was previously a human radiation center, so a 6-inch lead door separates the doctor and technicians from the radiation.

After the treatment, Wentz sat with Sadie’s head in her lap so the dog would feel comforted as she woke up.

As Salantai and her pet prepared to leave, Wentz mentioned how excited she was for the next day: Sadie’s last treatment.

The lobby wall has a photo collage of pets who “graduated” from their treatments. Most are dogs, but a few cats visit the center for lymphoma in the nose or brain tumors that are responsive to radiation.

“This place is wonderful,” Salantai said. “It’s never good to get cancer treatment, but they are so positive and (Sadie) loves to see them.”

She said she expected the clinic to be somber and depressing, but other owners at the center are so optimistic and friendly that Salantai has gained hope for Sadie to return to a normal life.
As for Wentz and her staff, their job is done.

“To me, she looks like a dog who is five years younger now,” she said.
Q&A with MU Athletic Director Mike Alden

By Steve Walentik

Sunday, August 11, 2013 at 2:00 am

July 1 marked the end of a difficult first year for Missouri, at least competitively, as a member of the Southeastern Conference. By the end of the month, the Tigers will kick off their second football season.

MU Athletic Director Mike Alden sat down this week with Tribune sportswriter Steve Walentik to discuss the state of the Missouri athletic department and some of the changes needed to be made to make the Tigers more competitive across the board in what he doesn't hesitate to call the "toughest conference in the country." Alden also shared opinions on things he believes must change to improve morale within the NCAA, which has been flooded with controversy over the past few years.

Q: It seemed to be a tougher year than you expected, in terms of on-field or on-court performance. What were your expectations, and was it harder than you imagined it would be?

A: I think our expectations are always very high, of what we're trying to accomplish, whether it's academically or competitively or what we're doing in the community and stuff, so we always have very high expectations, and our expectations certainly were high and continue to be high in our move to the SEC. That being said, I certainly think we saw some signs of some good things — I think some real good things — that happened this past year. We were certainly not satisfied with some of the areas that we could have been even more competitive in, whether that meant winning more games or it could have meant having even higher attendance at certain events or whatever that may be. But I think it was a good year. I think it was a tough year. It's the toughest conference in the country, but I was pleased overall with some of the good things that happened, and I know that we've got to keep improving.

Q: Specific to Gary Pinkel, he's had a track record that few coaches at this university have ever touched. He's within striking distance of being the winningest football coach in the history of the university. But is this a make-or-break year for him as you look ahead?
A: I don't even look at things as like make-or-break-type propositions. I think I look at it based upon what our football program looked like when we brought Gary Pinkel here in 2000 and certainly what it looks like today. You're talking about a complete opposite end of the spectrum from what we were able to see. Now, that's not to be disrespectful of anybody that preceded Gary because everybody, all of our coaches and our student-athletes, have done a remarkable job. But if we take a look at the growth of our facilities, what we've seen as far as growth of attendance, what we've seen as far as the number of games we've won, bowls that we've been to and everything like that — I'd take a look at that, as that body of work has been certainly outstanding. So I think going forward, you don't ever look at things and say, "OK, is this make-or-break on this?" I think the keys on that are, are you continuing to see that progress and continue to move forward? I have every — every — belief that we're going to continue to see that take place as we had into the 2013 season and beyond.

Q: Do you measure progress in ways other than just a winning season?

A: Absolutely. You have to look at the spectrum of things, and I think a lot of folks obviously have a tendency to look back and say, "OK, well, how many games did we win and how many games did we lose?" We got that. We understand that's one measuring component, and it's an important one. But at the same time, we have to take a look at how are we doing as far as graduating our kids? What are we doing as far as operating within the rules? How are we doing relative to the relevancy of our program in the state and the exposure and the attendance and all of these types of things? How is impacting the persona of the entire university? All of those things you have to take into consideration. Again, as I would say, what we've seen over the course of the last number of years, all the measuring components there have been outstanding.

Q: Kickoff for the season opener is now less than a month away now. How is the west side of the stadium progressing? Is everything where it needs to be?

A: It is. I'm going to actually go up there later today, but Sircal is the name of the general contractor on that project. They're doing a terrific job. Really, their guys are on it. Things are looking great. The west tower will be ready to go for the opening game.

Q: Has that had a tangible effect on season-ticket sales for this season?

A: I don't know if that directly has had a tangible effect on season-ticket sales for this season. Now, the west tower itself, all the club seats, these new loge boxes, those are all sold out. So we have all those sold out, which is great. We like that. Season-ticket sales have gone really well for us. I think we're running about where we thought we'd run — probably somewhere at the end of the day in the mid-40s — 43,000, 44,000, 45,000. So we still have some sales to go. But I also like what it's doing for the east tower. That east tower, that hasn't been built. It won't be ready until 2014, and we're already, of those club seats that we're building — there's 800 club seats, 400 loge boxes — we're close to 50 percent pre-sold on those already. So obviously, the appetite for Tiger football is high. The support that we have for Tiger football is high, and I think people are excited about not only this season but also the improvements that we're making by virtue of the fact that 14 months before we even open the other facility, we're already selling a bunch of those seats, which is great.
Q: I know there's been talk of a new softball facility in the not-to-distant future. Aside from that, are there other facilities projects that you would envision in the next, say, 10 years?

A: I think if you look at football specifically, only because we've been talking about that, I do think that we have to keep in mind the south end of the football stadium, the bowling in in the south end, because that's Phase II. Phase I is what you're seeing, which includes the west tower, the east tower and the Rock M and some infrastructure work underneath. Phase II, that's the bowling in in the south end. All that will be predicated about attendance and monies that we raise and things like that, but that's certainly one that you would see out there on the horizon.

I think other things out there on the horizon would be an indoor facility for tennis, which currently we have the Green Tennis Center. At some point, we have to look to replace that with a more bricks-and-mortar structure, so that's out there. A new indoor facility for football, which would open up the Devine Pavilion for other things that we're trying to do there, as well. I think also that you have to have discussions, while we're talking about this, about the future of the Hearnes Center.

Q: That was going to be my next question.

A: The Hearnes Center … 1972 is when we built that.

Q: It just past its 40th birthday.

A: So you have a facility, which was built over 40 years ago, and has served thousands and thousands of people really, really well. But, it's a huge structure. It's not very energy efficient. In today's market, that is a very energy inefficient building.

Q: The concrete isn't great at keeping heat in?

A: No. (smiling) So that facility at some point, Mizzou — the university and us in athletics — have to take a real hard look at the future and the viability of that facility, because it in itself is a tremendous expense load just to heat and cool it on an annual basis, whether you have anybody in there or not. So I think that's going to be something that in the near future we're going to have to have some institutional discussions about that, as they do with other buildings on campus. No different than other buildings other than this is a real visible one.

Q: Those discussions haven't started yet, though? You see that on the horizon?

A: I do.

Q: That's obviously kind of right in the middle of the potential sports complex, so that would be useful land if you do something different with it?

A: Very. I think as you look at the footprint of the Hearnes Center, that's certainly right in the heart of the sports park at Mizzou. It takes up a large footprint. So I think as you go forward, there's a multitude of things that you could look at and envision relative to further improvements...
in the facilities. But again, you're looking at a facility that's over 40 years old, that actually my uncle Jack was the mechanical contractor on that building, so he was part of building that. And I'd be hard-pressed to think that a building of that size is going to be there, in my opinion — now this is my personal opinion — 40 years from now. I mean, it's such a big building that is very energy inefficient. In today's building standards, it's very costly just to maintain, to find parts for, stuff like that.

Q: Switching gears to your basketball program, and not so much it, but the ongoing saga of this NCAA investigation. Are you expecting a resolution in the next month?

A: You know, I want to be able to answer your question, but it's been over two years now. I have no idea. Whenever we hear, we're just going to hear. I asked for an update, just internally with Mary (Austin) and Mitzi (Clayton) and people today, and once again, I just do that pretty much out of habit, as I have now for so long. No, we don't have any news on that, nor do we have any idea when the NCAA will make that decision.

Q: From Missouri's standpoint, this has to feel like it's gone on too long.

A: From Missouri's standpoint, for sure. I can't imagine how it's felt from the other institutions, in particular, Miami. It was two years ago almost to the day. All of the sudden, I learned about stuff I never knew anything about before, nor that anybody knew about. So it's a saga that's ongoing. It's also indicative, frankly, of some issues and concerns that all of us have, not about the Miami case, just I think all of us have relative to the process of the NCAA, the leadership, enforcement, stuff like that. This is a prime example.

You've had institutions and people, individuals, hanging out there with unresolved issues for over two years. Fan bases, media members, everything. And to me, it's indicative of much bigger issues than just the Miami situation.

Q: This case, more than any other, seems to have shined a light on those sorts of things, has it not?

A: It has, and it's not been a very positive light on those things.

Q: You're an interested party, but you're very much a third party in anything that's going on. You've been following some of the twists and turns that have happened. How did you react when some of the missteps in the NCAA's investigation were exposed? Does that color the way that you look at any possible penalties that could be placed on your head coach?

A: I certainly think that based upon my personal observations of what I've seen throughout this case and how it impacts a lot of people, including Frank (Haith) or others, I think it certainly gives you more of a heightened skepticism about the process itself and the people that are involved in it.

So whenever they make whatever decisions they're going to make — which I'm looking forward to whenever that is — I think that based upon how this process has unfolded and what's taken
place, I certainly think it doesn't give you as high a level of confidence as you would hope to have in a process like that.

**Q:** Your basketball program has been operating throughout this process for two years now. Has there been any impact on Missouri's program just because of the cloud?

**A:** I think, yeah, in that based upon what took place at the University of Miami, this investigation, I do think that there has been some collateral impact on our program. I think Frank has done a tremendous job. I think Frank and Tim (Fuller) and Dave (Leitao) and now Mark (Phelps) and Toby (Lane) and Bryan (Tibaldi) and all these guys, Todor (Pandov), I think our staff's doing a great job. I think when that kind of comes out and all of the sudden you have this wow moment on this huge issue that dominates the television media, print media, radio airwaves, it can't not have an impact, even though our school, we have nothing to with that. I think that Frank and our staff have done a great job in the face of that, really keeping a steady hand on the rudder, keeping things moving forward, recruiting well, getting the right kids here and putting together a program that we're proud of.

**Q:** I wanted to ask you about some more big-picture NCAA-related things, and you've touched on a few of them. First, how concerned are you with the enforcement process as it currently stands? How much do you feel like there need to be some wholesale changes there?

**A:** I think versus just looking at enforcement, I'd probably look broader. I'd look at the entire confidence in the organization as a member. We're a member organization, so as one of the members. I think for me, and I haven't been doing this as long as some other folks, but for me I've probably never seen the morale in and around the NCAA and/or the confidence in the organization be as low as it is right now. I just never have. Again, there's other people who've been around longer than me.

But certainly based upon a number of things that are going on out there right now, whether it has to do with the exposure of the Ed O'Bannon case or now this possible concussions class-action coming forward, whether it has to do with this situation at Miami, the Penn State situation, the Ohio State stuff — we can go on and on. It's just a whole series of things that have really created a lot of questions in many people's minds, but in mine in particular.

And looking at that, the morale of the staff — and I've spent a lot of time with those guys at the NCAA in some of the roles that I've had — the morale of the staff in my opinion and the confidence that our membership has in the organization, the staffing, the leadership and all of that, I've never seen it this low before.

I was actually one of the people two years ago right now who was at the presidential retreat in Indianapolis. There were only five athletic directors that were there — Kevin White (from Duke), Jean Letti Ponsetto from DePaul, myself, Scott Barnes (from Utah State) and I think it was Judy Rose from Charlotte — that's it. All these presidents were in there, and then we were in there, athletic directors. I was the chair of the leadership council at that time. All we heard about was, "We're going to do this" and "We're going to do this" and "We're going to do this" and "By gosh, we're going to get this done." It had to do with financial reforms. It had to do with, "We're
going to minimize the rule book" and "We're going to do this" relative to academic efforts and student-athlete welfare, which had to do with the full cost of attendance and everything. Two years later, where are we on all of that?

I think part of the issue is there is a tremendous amount of confidence in our board. I would say that for a fact. Brady Deaton's a member of the board. Harris Pastides from South Carolina is a member of the board. Nathan Hatch from Wake Forest is a member. We have confidence. Those are our bosses. Those are the CEOs of our campuses, right? But those folks that I'm talking about right there — Lou Anna Simon at Michigan State — they're smart enough to know that if there's issues related to athletics, Lou Anna Simon's going to (athletic director) Mark Hollis on her campus and saying, "Let's talk about this a little bit." So what we're seeing is there's just a disconnect between the leadership of the NCAA and the board and the leadership of athletics on campuses. There's an absolute disconnect. There's nobody in those rooms that do what we do, trying to get some advice and stuff. So it's a real challenging time right now.

Q: Should the NCAA take another look at its stance on amateurism?

A: I think it's healthy to do that. I think if you step back and say, "No, we're not going to touch that," it's a different age today. Now, you might not change anything. I have no idea. But should they step back and have the membership and others take a look at that and say, "Hey, do you really want to rethink this model?" Sure. It's no different than when we relaxed all of those regulations on men's basketball, allowing unlimited texting, and everybody thought, "Oh my gosh, this is a whole different thing." Shoot, that's worked out fine. It's been good for the prospective student-athletes, it's been good for the parents, it's been good for the coaches, it hasn't given anybody a competitive advantage, so I think that it's really healthy to analyze your entire organization regularly, and I think amateurism would be an issue that you should look at and say, "Do we have the right model? Is there some tweaking, some adjustment we can make here." ...

It's no different than asking, "Should we take a look at an additional division within Division I?" I happen to think that you should. I think that there are 60-70 schools that are different than everybody else in Division I. Different than anybody else and I think the time has probably come where we need to recognize that, that what goes on Michigan State is different than what they have to deal with at Eastern Michigan. It just is. What happens at Illinois is different than what they deal with at Illinois State. So let's recognize it, let's admit it, and let's just say, "OK, let's find the commonalities of those 60-70 schools and let them deal with some of the issues they need to deal with" while at the same time there are other common denominators that all of us have to deal with — whether it's amateurism or whether it has to do with minimum hours toward graduation or standardized test scores, whatever that may be. All of us should have to deal with that. But I do think the time has come for us to look and to admit that there are 60 schools to 70 schools that are different than everybody else.

Q: That was going to be my next question was about the fourth division. Part of the problem at the core of this is that they in the last 20 years, made it so easy to move to Division I. Did you have a sense as that whole process was going on, that this was getting too big?
A: It's funny you say that because 15 years ago I was the athletic director at Texas State, an FCS, I-AA football program. Their aspirations always were to be Division I — Division I-A. Now, I was there. I'm living this. Texas is right down the road. I'm living in a stadium of 95,000 people at that time. Now it's over 100,000. I'm thinking, "It is so much different at Texas than it is at Texas State. Why should we even imagine that we should be Division I-A?" The answer generally that you'll see is that we want to associate with I-A so we can look like them. We can get the afterglow effect, the ability to be able to be touched by it. So when you saw that happen and when you saw Louisiana-Monroe saying, "This is what we need to do," when you saw Arkansas State saying, "This is what we need to do" and you saw UT-San Antonio. And again, that's not to offend them. That's just the reality of that.

There couldn't be anything more different than night and day between Texas State and the University of Texas. There's nothing. So when you saw the gravitating, going from 110 programs to 112 to 116 to now 120, whatever.

Q: One of the issues that's sort of in the middle of that is the proposed stipend for athletes to cover living expenses. I assume that Missouri would be in favor of some sort of stipend if it were allowable?

A: I would never want to speak for Dr. Deaton, so without talking to him directly, I would tell you my opinion would be, as an SEC school but in particular Mizzou, we would be supportive of that. That's something we as a league feel is important.

If we had the benefits of more attendance at our games, bigger contracts and stuff, if we have the ability to be able to share that with the student-athletes, absolutely you should do that. And the best way people could see to be able to do that in an equitable manner is to take a look at full cost off attendance. So we are supportive of that.

Q: In your opinion, should that full cost of attendance be reserved for athletes in the revenue-producing sports or across the board?

A: No, all student-athletes. I think you cannot differentiate between that. I think it's only fair that if you have the ability within those X amount of schools to do that, then you ought to be doing it for soccer just like you're doing it for football just like you should do it with softball just like you should do it with men's basketball. All your kids should benefit from that.

Q: Even a stipend isn't going to eliminate the problems with impermissible benefits that still exist. But how significant do you think that could be in terms of making the situation better?

A: I don't know if it will ultimately solve that, but I know one thing for sure, unless you do something, you have no leg to stand on when you're turning around telling a student-athlete you can't do this when at the same time, we're not prepared to be able to help them at all, to be able to counteract that. So is it going to stop it? No, I don't think so. But I certainly think it's a step in the right direction, and I certainly think it gives us at least one avenue, one ability to be able to say, "Look, we're trying. We're doing something here to be able to help. So when we tell you it's impermissible for you to accept this car wash or to accept these free movie tickets or whatever
that may be, because you're a student-athlete," we're at least able to say we're trying to help here, so we're trying to provide you with a stipend to be able to help you cover some of those things. I think it at least is a step in the right direction.

Q: Lastly, you've been doing this job a long time now …

A: Fifteen years, here. Two years at Texas State.

Q: How much longer do you want to keep at it?

A: Well, I'll tell you, I enjoy what I do. Very much. I love Mizzou. We love what we're doing, and I'm hoping I'm going to be able to do that for as long as Mizzou wants me to be able to do that, which hopefully, is quite some time, but I haven't set a timeframe on that. Every day I get up, and I'm not trying to be philosophical here, but I do, I get excited every day when I get up to be able to come in and do the things that we're doing. And I love Mizzou. I love the things that we've done. I love the move to the SEC, and I love the challenges that are out there in front of us, the battles that we have to fight. So I'm hoping that we're doing it for quite some time, but really, you want to do it as long as Mizzou wants you to do it. I've been blessed that Mizzou's wanted us to do it for 15 years.

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Posted in Mu, Tigereextra on Sunday, August 11, 2013 2:00 am.
McCaskill's heightened profile runs through Jefferson City

By Jo Mannies, Beacon political reporter

After a solid victory in the country's most closely watched Senate contest in 2012, U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill has become a hot commodity nationally and in Missouri.

Her heightened national prominence is a key reason she was in Iowa on Friday addressing supporters of Emily’s List, a major campaign-finance bundler for women candidates who support abortion rights.

But arguably, McCaskill’s most significant political power play is here at home, where she is taking on a much higher profile in Missouri government and state Democratic politics.

Among other things, she’s the chief driver in the move to make the Missouri Democratic Party more muscular – and outspoken – by installing veteran party activist Roy Temple as the new chairman later this month.

“I just feel very strongly that as Democrats in Missouri, we need to draw the contrast as to which party is worried about education for our kids,” she said. “And which party is worried about our roads and our bridges. And which party is worried about whether or not our kids can afford the tuition at the University of Missouri. And whether or not we have affordable health care accessible to us in this state.”

And what’s wrong with the Republicans controlling the state Capitol?

“It’s like there’s a bunch of ‘Todd Akin wannabes’ down there, and I know that’s not what most Missourians want them to be focused on,” McCaskill said in a recent interview this week. “They’ve lost sight of the moderate middle.”

If it weren’t for the serious stakes, she said, it’d almost be humorous that Republicans in Jefferson City were forging ahead with many of the favorite issues of Akin, the GOP opponent and former congressman who she trounced last fall.
Student borrowers are going broke

August 11, 2013 12:15 am  •  By Jim Gallagher jgallagher@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8390

NO MU MENTION

For kids heading off to college, and their parents, here’s something to worry about:

Of former students with loans today, one out of four can’t pay.

About a quarter are in “forbearance” — meaning payments are suspended because of financial hardship — or in outright default, according to figures derived from a new study by the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

A bank with so many bad loans would go broke quick. But the above estimates are for the federally guaranteed loan program, and Uncle Sam has deep pockets.

The sky-high trouble rate implies some scary things for students today. One is that higher education is now less of a guarantee of economic success.

The cost of college is so high — and the borrowing so great — that many students start their working lives hobbled by debt. The average Missouri graduate with student loans graduates with a $23,000 monkey on his back — and lots owe more, according to 2011 figures from the nonprofit Project on Student Debt. That’s a heavy load in a weak job market.

The combination has consequences, for young people’s ability to start families, buy houses and move into the middle class.

For instance, it used to be that young people with student debt were more likely to own houses by the time they are 30 than those without such debt. That made sense; the better-educated had higher incomes, which more than made up for the debt payments.

That ended in 2011, according to a study by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Young people with student debt are now slightly less likely to own homes.

The same holds for car loans. More graduates seem to be riding their old jalopies from college right into their 30s.

Higher education is still worth borrowing for — as long as the amount is reasonable. A bachelor’s degree boosts your pay by 84 percent over a lifetime, compared to a high school diploma, according to Georgetown University’s Center on Education and the Workforce.
The trick is to borrow as little as you can; and to match your debt load to the expected salary in your chosen career.

For instance, the typical starting salary for a teacher is $27,000 per year in Missouri, according to CareerBuilder.com. For a mechanical engineer, it’s about $65,000 in St. Louis.

You can get an idea of pay and hiring prospects from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook online.

So, how much should you borrow? The Project on Student Debt, in a 2006 study, suggests that a student making $30,000 a year might manage $22,000 in student debt.

That’s the maximum. It doesn’t mean living decently while making payments. It means better than hand-to-mouth. But you don’t go to college so you can just squeak by. Future teachers should choose cheaper schools.

By contrast, a $50,000-a-year grad might support $51,000 in debt with some straining.

The good news is that a third of college students graduate with no student debt at all, according to the Project on Student Debt. Some are lucky duckies with well-off parents. But others work part time during school, live at home, collect scholarships and pick schools that are less outrageously overpriced than most. Those kids play it smart.

Playing it smart can be tough for an 18-year-old. “When young people start their education, they’re so full of anticipation and feeling invincible,” says Vicki Jacobson, chief of the Center for Excellence in Financial Counseling at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

And getting a federal student loan is easy: no credit checks, no income requirement.

The temptation is to borrow too much for a school too expensive for the family budget. They think, “If I have a college degree, everything will work out fine,” says Jacobson.

It usually does — if they don’t become a slave to debt.

Before you borrow, take a look into your soul. Do you have the staying power to actually finish your degree, or get the trade school diploma you’re after?

The payoff in higher ed goes to those who graduate. If you borrow and drop out, you’ll be worse off than if you never started.

Next, take a look at the student loan default records for schools you’re considering. That’s measure of how successful their students become.

The high default rates cited above are for all student loans, no matter how old. The U.S. Department of Education publishes stats on loans in default only three years after a student leaves school. The average default after three years is 13.4 percent.
But some schools — especially for-profit schools that ballyhoo themselves on daytime TV — have horrendous default rates. For instance, 31 percent of students at for-profit Everest College in Missouri are broke three years after leaving. It’s 27 percent at Sanford Brown College and 26 percent at Vatterott College.

By contrast, it’s 12 percent at St. Louis Community College and 7.5 percent at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

The U.S. Department of Education provides an fine guide to college-picking in its website College Scorecard, www.collegecost.ed.gov/scorecard. It will tell you graduation rates, default rates and the average debt taken on by students after receiving financial aid. You’ll notice that schools with low graduation rates have high loan default rates. These schools are rip-offs.

Don’t even think of getting a private student loan until you’ve exhausted all you can borrow under federal student loans, generally called Stafford and Perkins loans.

Federal loans are cheaper, and they’re much kinder to borrowers who have trouble paying. Payments can be reduced to match your income. There is forbearance for people who lose jobs. You’ll get little such mercy with private student loans.

EDITOR’S NOTE: An earlier version of this story misspelled the name of Sanford Brown College.
MU journalism grad finds her way in LA foodie scene, new Bravo series

By Caroline Dohack

Sunday, August 11, 2013 at 2:00 am

There's a constant chatter about whether a woman can have it all: a fulfilling career, a circle of close friends, a hot love life.

These theme plays out in Kate Hudson movies, Jennifer Weiner novels, "Sex and the City" spinoffs and, now, a new reality TV show. Bravo's "Eat, Drink, Love," which follows the lives of five women working in Los Angeles' food industry, debuts tonight.

One of these women, 26-year-old Jessica Miller, might be a familiar face for some local viewers. As a broadcast journalism student at the University of Missouri, Miller reported on agriculture policy for KOMU before she graduated in 2008. It was through Mizzou Mafia, an online network of MU journalism alumnae, that Miller scored an internship on the Los Angeles set of "The Ellen DeGeneres Show." While working there she met "just one hundred million people," one of whom was restaurateur Harry Morton. They hit it off, and today Miller is director of marketing and sales for Morton's ventures.

Basically, Miller's job is to watch trends within the restaurant industry.

"I take little parts of the restaurant, break it all apart and say what's making money, what's not making money. What's our return on investments on all of these little details, and how can we make it more efficient?" Miller explained.

It's a lot of spreadsheets and number crunching, Miller said, but there also are opportunities to exercise some creativity. For example, for Morton's Fukuburger, one of those joints that specializes in huge burgers with crazy toppings, Miller looked to social media to boost sales.

People like to take photos of their food and post them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, Miller reasoned.
"I called friend and asked, 'What if people could live-tweet to our Twitter handle and have it be visible somewhere in the restaurant?' "

The solution was to install a giant television in the middle of the restaurant so people could see what other diners were eating, in a way creating the ultimate form of "I wish I'd ordered what that guy did" regret.

Miller's experience is a departure from that of the celebrity chef typically portrayed in foodie shows, and she said she's excited for the show to expose others in the food industry in the same way that fashion reality shows exposed career trajectories beyond the glamorous fashion designer. In addition to Miller, the show features a food magazine editor, a pastry chef, a culinary publicist and a private chef.

Brownstone Entertainment Executive Producer Drew Brown said what interested him in creating the show wasn't just the opportunity to explore these largely unseen roles but also to explore the struggle in maintaining both professional and personal lives.

"With hit shows like 'Top Chef,' the entire food culture of America has changed. With the rise of the celebrity chef, the Los Angeles food scene suddenly became hot and is now one of the most important culinary cities in the country. We noticed that there were few women in this typically male-dominated industry who were on their way to the top. We met with many of these women and realized that they shared a common story — an intense love of food and tremendous entrepreneurial drive. We learned another thing they had in common was that working in this nightlife-driven world made finding love difficult. We heard many stories of dates, but not many stories of long-term relationships. We decided to look for a unique cast of women whose lives included both of these worlds: food and dating," Brown said in an email.

Although many might find the presence of a camera crew invasive — particularly when they're trying to go about their everyday lives — Miller said her background in broadcast journalism made her comfortable with the experience. In fact, she found it almost therapeutic — an opportunity to honestly examine her professional and personal lives.

"I think because I was on such high alert to really pick apart myself and say, 'Look at the equation, look at the logic and the data that's happening here,' " Miller said.

Miller won't see the video edits until the show airs tonight. She's nervous, she said, just as she used to be when she would watch her own KOMU reports when she was a student. However, Miller also said she's in a self-realization phase in her life, in which she says she realizes she works a lot and hasn't always made time for a personal life. So, the show is a chance to see herself through the eyes of a neutral third party.

"Once I watch it on television, it's definitely going to be different from what I may think about myself. I feel like I'm going to get hit by a Mack Truck and say, 'Oh my gosh, I am so lame.' But I will be able to evaluate 'This is something I need to work on,' " Miller said.
For his part, Brown said he hopes the show will provide viewers the same opportunity for self-examination.

"Each of the women on the show is so vibrant and unique that I hope women in the audience will see parts of themselves in each person in the cast. For guys, you're gonna get a backstage pass to what women are thinking. There's a blend of food and romance, so get ready to be served both. Our love lives and work lives are intimately connected, and this show proves it," Brown said.

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Posted in Pulse on Sunday, August 11, 2013 2:00 am.
MU professor partners with Russian scientist to study weather

MU professor goes to Russia.

By Karyn Spory

Saturday, August 10, 2013 at 2:00 am

For two decades, Anthony Lupo has been jet-setting between Missouri and Russia to study the weather.

Lupo, a professor of atmospheric science at the University of Missouri, has been studying jet stream patterns for two- to four-week intervals.

"There's a phenomenon called blocking that develops over the oceans … and affects conditions elsewhere," he said.

Lupo described blocking as when a ridge becomes stationary, it affects not only the area it's over but also up-stream and down-stream. "Blocking is something we're still trying to unravel … like when it's going to form," Lupo said.

Lupo said the phenomenon happens when the large-scale ridge in the jet steam becomes synchronized with low-pressure systems. Lupo said if there were a blocking event in the South Pacific, it would be cooler in Missouri.

In 1993, Lupo developed a partnership with Igor Mokhov, director of the A.M. Obukhov Institute of Atmospheric Physics of the Russia Academy of Sciences. "We met when I was at Purdue University and discovered we both had a fascination for the topic of blocking and so for 20 years we've been going back and forth on the issue," Lupo said.

Lupo said in 20 years, he and Mokhov have unlocked some of the secrets to blocking — including how blocks are formed, maintained and eventually fall apart.
Mokhov said in an email that one of their joint projects is a contribution to the U.S.-Russia Subgroup, part of the Science and Technology Working Group under the Bilateral Presidential Commission.

"The main topic of our collaboration is associated with atmospheric blockings — blocking anticyclones — and their consequences like heat waves — droughts — or cold waves in winter.

"One of the big things we're looking at, since it has an affect over such a large part of the globe, is how these things may change their character in future climate," he wrote.

Lupo said these questions include if the blocking phenomenon will be stronger or occur more often in the future. He said if the climate does get warmer, he believes the phenomenon will occur at the same rate, but they'll be weaker.

Lupo said that could mean fewer cold snaps or less rain. "We notice if these things occur in the summertime, we get more rain," Lupo said.

Lupo said if he and Mokhov can figure out the mysteries of blocking they might be able to help farmers anticipate the possibilities for summer. "We'll be able to put a percentage or likelihood of a certain type of summer," such as if it will be dryer or wetter, Lupo said.