JEFFERSON CITY — Republicans from both chambers of the Missouri General Assembly caucused Tuesday evening — House members for three hours — trying to find ways to turn their historic majorities into legislative success.

But as they finished, it appeared their most important goals — a tax cut measure and an anti-gun control bill that codifies defiance to federal authority — could elude them as they begin a veto session Wednesday to consider 29 bills rejected by Gov. Jay Nixon, a Democrat.

House Speaker Tim Jones, when speaking to reporters about the $700 million tax cut plan, alluded to the legislative session that begins in January.

“Whether it is accomplished tomorrow or accomplished in a few short months, it will continue to be a priority of the Missouri House to pass tax relief for all Missouri families, farmers and small business owners,” Jones said.

Some of the groups backing the tax cut have said they will find primary opponents for Republicans who vote to sustain Nixon’s veto. If the override effort fails, the tax cut bill could be passed in January with a simple majority and an override vote could be held after the political filing season ends.

On Tuesday night, Jones said the bill will be watched closely throughout the state.

Members of the GOP caucus “will be held accountable by the voters and constituents in their district,” he said.

When they emerged from their caucuses, most Republicans were reluctant to publicly predict the outcome of the veto session. But several said privately that neither the tax bill nor the gun measure, both of which must start in the House, will win the necessary votes.
Work begins in both chambers at noon Wednesday. While lawmakers have up to 10 days to work, the annual session for considering vetoed bills usually wraps up in a day or two. Leaders said they have no reason to believe this year will be different, despite plans in both chambers to call numerous bills up for votes.

The Senate has 12 on its list of potential bills, Senate President Pro Tem Tom Dempsey said. The House has eliminated only one of its bills from consideration, Jones said. Each bill must win a two-thirds majority of lawmakers in the chamber where it began its legislative life before the other chamber can consider it.

Republicans hold exactly two-thirds of the House with 109 members. In the Senate, there are 24 Republicans, one more than two-thirds of the 34 members. The GOP hasn’t held that big a share of both chambers since the 1920s.

If lawmakers override Nixon’s vetoes of four or more bills, it will set a record for overrides in a single year.

The gun bill would make it a crime for federal agents to enforce federal gun laws in the state. It also would bar local agencies from cooperating with federal law officers to enforce the gun laws and allow lawsuits against local police agencies that violate the ban. In addition, the bill would make it a crime to publish commercially the name of any gun owner or gun dealer.

It has drawn late public opposition from police groups and a threat of a lawsuit over First Amendment violations from the Missouri Press Association. A key Senate figure, Majority Leader Ron Richard of Joplin, said this week that he was against it because he believed it was unconstitutional.

Senate Republicans caucused for about 75 minutes Tuesday night. When Dempsey spoke to reporters, he said the 24 members of his party are unified on the 12 chosen bills. They also have the votes to support of a tax cut bill if the House can pass it, Dempsey said.

Divisions remain on the gun measure, Dempsey said.

“Frankly, we are still having a discussion about it,” he said. “We are going to wait to see what the House does with the bill. We may take some time off the floor and make our decision at that point.”

The tax bill would cut the top tax rate by 50 cents for each $1,000 and the corporate tax rates almost in half in 10 steps. It would create an exemption for half of business profits in five steps, making taxes heavier on wages than profits for the first time.

It also would impose further income tax cuts if the state is able to collect sales tax on Internet purchases. The bill also repeals sales tax exemptions for prescription drugs and college textbooks.
The bill is a top priority for Rex Sinquefield, a Republican donor who spent $2.4 million for an advertising and lobbying campaign on behalf of the bill. To counter that fund, Nixon used the power of his office, slowing the rate that state funds are distributed to show the potential for fiscal difficulties he saw in the bill.

Nixon also has traveled extensively, making his case for vetoing the bill. He has been aided by education associations and other groups that have joined a long list of tax cut opponents that locally include the Columbia and Hallsville chambers of commerce, the Columbia School Board and the University of Missouri.

“We have always had an uphill battle on this bill,” Jones said Tuesday. “We had 100 Republican votes during the session, so picking up that last nine was always an uphill challenge. It remains to be, but we will continue to work on what remains a major priority for this caucus up to the veto session tomorrow.”
Missouri legislature likely to debate at least 3 vetoes

MU Mention on Pg. 2

By Zachary Matson

September 11, 2013 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — On Wednesday, the Missouri General Assembly will have the chance to override any of Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon's 29 vetoes from the legislative session.

How the veto session will work

Both chambers of the General Assembly will begin at noon. Each will take up bills originating in that particular legislative body. There will be 10 bills in the House and 19 bills in the Senate. Three line-item vetoes of appropriations will also be looked at.

If the bill's sponsor makes a motion to override, the chamber will debate it and vote. In both chambers, a two-thirds vote is necessary to pass an override and send it to the other chamber for consideration.

It will take 109 votes in the House and 23 votes in the Senate to pass an override. There are 109 Republican members in the House and 24 in the Senate.

Bills likely to be debated

The 29 bills vetoed by the governor range from tax credits for low-income seniors to succession rules for the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. Three bills have emerged as likely candidates for a showdown:

- **Tax-cut bill (House Bill 253):** This bill would cut income tax rates for individuals and corporations by a half-percent over at least 10 years. (Original votes: House, 103 to 51; Senate, 24 to 9)
- **Gun-rights bill (House Bill 436)**: This bill would nullify federal gun laws in conflict with Missourians' Second Amendment rights and lower the age to apply for a concealed-carry permit. (Original votes: House, 116 to 38; Senate, 26 to 6)

- **Change to the sex-offender registry (House Bill 301)**: This bill would remove from the sex-offender registry certain individuals who committed offenses as minors. (Original votes: House, 150 to 0; Senate, 28 to 4)

**The Boone County delegation**

**On the tax-cut bill**: Boone County legislators voted along party lines when this bill came up during the last legislative session.

Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, was absent from the original vote but said that he opposes the bill and that he and the other Democrats are likely to vote against any attempt to override the governor's veto.

Kelly has called the bill "a disgrace to the legislature" and has commented publicly on what he says are its "fatal flaws."

Rep. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia, said he remains undecided but will know for certain when he "hits the button on Sept. 11." **Rowden, who has been targeted by a lobbying effort from University of Missouri System leaders, said his vote will be "highly scrutinized."**

**On the gun-rights bill**: Kelly and Rep. Stephen Webber, D-Columbia, were both absent for the original vote but said they were strongly opposed to the bill and would vote against an override.

Kelly called House Bill 436 "one of the most ridiculous bills of my 17 years in office."

"The words of the bill say it wants to nullify federal law," he said.

John Wright, D-Rocheport, voted against the bill originally and said he plans to oppose an override.

Rowden, who supported the bill originally, said he has concerns about the impact it could have on law enforcement efforts but remains undecided about a veto override.
On the sex-offender registry bill: All Boone County legislators present for the original vote supported the bill, but some say they have changed their minds.

Webber said he planned to vote against an override, citing the governor's case against it. Webber said the governor raised "legitimate concerns" when explaining his veto.

Wright also said he will support the governor's veto.

"By the end of the session, some of the (bill's) better provisions were added to other bills and passed," he said.

He said the registry should be revisited, suggesting that perhaps the courts should be given more discretion over who should be on the registry.

Kelly said he would vote to override the veto.

"The registry is in terrible shape and impossible to enforce," he said, "so we have to clean it up."

Rowden said that the governor "raised legitimate concerns" but that he had not decided how he would vote Wednesday.


Supervising editor is Jeanne Abbott.
MU is slated to receive more funding if the General Assembly does not override Gov. Jay Nixon’s veto of a controversial tax cut bill.

The School of Medicine and College of Veterinary Medicine will receive a total of $10.67 million in state funds if Nixon’s veto of House Bill 253 is upheld Sept. 11.

The university as a whole would receive $13.61 million to begin its five-year strategic plan.

The College of Veterinary Medicine would receive $970,000 to expand its large animal program.

That program trains students to work with farm animals, Dean Neil Olson said.

“Even students that desire to go into small animal practice or research still spend some time with large animals,” he said.

Olson said the funds would be used to increase the college’s class size from 76 to 120 students and bolster various facility, equipment and personnel needs.

“These (changes) are things we’ve had on our radar screen all along,” Olson said. “This is all about vastly improving what we can offer, and we were really appreciative of the legislators that wanted to help. They sought us out to lend a helping hand because we have a shortage of large-animal practitioners in the state.”

The biggest change to the program would concern the college’s training farm, Middlebush Farm. The college is looking to start a clinical skills lab at the farm to instruct students.

Middlebush, a donation to the university, has college-owned livestock and is where many students learn the various skills they need, Olson said.

“We want to expand our facilities, and a modern clinical skills lab would illustrate to our students proper techniques in handling larger animals and treating them for any kinds of problems,” he said.

The college would also expand the cow herd size from 30 to about 60 cows if the projected increase in number of students happens.
“This (change) is more for working on healthy cows, whereas what we currently get here at the hospital are sick cows,” Olson said.

The college would also replace many of its ambulances and hire more large animal faculty and technicians.

At least two of the faculty would be senior-level hire veterinarians with specialty training, Olson said. The college would also hire additional technicians at Middlebush Farm to coordinate activities.

MU’s College of Veterinary Medicine is the only one in Missouri, and the institution is dedicated to expanding its current resources.

“We have a very good program now, but this gives us an opportunity to take it to the next level,” Olson said. “This isn’t the kind of program that gets duplicated on any other campus.”

While the College of Veterinary Medicine might receive $970,000, the remainder of the $10.67 million would go toward the School of Medicine.

One of the school’s main initiatives is a new clinical campus in Springfield, Mo.

The school would partner with Springfield's CoxHealth and Mercy to increase the medical student class size at MU as well.

“By adding a clinical campus in Springfield, that’s going to allow the MU medical school to expand its student class size by more than 30 percent,” MU Health Care spokeswoman Mary Jenkins said. “It’s an expansion of the MU medical school. Eventually a portion of those students, approximately one-fourth, would be finishing up their schooling at the Springfield campus.”

MU, CoxHealth and Mercy have educated physicians together since 2005 through the Rural Track Pipeline program, which educates student physicians in rural areas of the state.

The new collaboration would provide more than 300 additional physicians, add about $390 million annually to the state economy and create approximately 3,500 new jobs for the state.

The total estimated annual funding for operations, including faculty and staff salaries, training materials and other educational resources, would be approximately $10 million per year. The investment required for infrastructural resources is approximately $36 million, $32.7 million of which would be used to construct a new educational medical building.
Showdown over Gov. Jay Nixon’s vetoes set to begin in Jefferson City

NO MU MENTION

By JASON HANCOCK

The Star’s Jefferson City correspondent

JEFFERSON CITY — It all comes down to a showdown at high noon.

A summer of political barbs fired back and forth between Republican lawmakers and the Democratic governor draws to a dramatic conclusion today, when lawmakers return to the state Capitol at noon to consider whether to override any of Gov. Jay Nixon’s vetoes. And the agenda is very much up in the air.

Republicans have long viewed the governor’s veto of a bill aimed at criminalizing the enforcement of federal gun laws as a sure target for override. It passed with bipartisan support, and even Democrats who think it is unconstitutional said in recent months they would support an override to avoid being painted as “anti-gun.”

In the last week, the momentum quickly shifted.

Attorney General Chris Koster, a Democrat who earned the National Rifle Association’s endorsement for his re-election last year, wrote a letter to lawmakers saying the bill could prevent police from cooperating with federal authorities and allow criminals to sue police and prosecutors for referring gun cases to federal officials.

The Missouri Fraternal Order of Police criticized the bill as having “chilling effects on the ability of local and state law enforcement officers to keep themselves and Missouri communities safe,” and the Missouri Sheriffs’ Association said the bill violates a sheriff’s oath of office.

Then on Monday, Senate Majority Leader Ron Richard became the highest ranking legislator to publicly oppose it. The Joplin Republican called the bill unconstitutional because it relies on the theory of nullification, the notion that states can unilaterally void federal laws they disagree with.
“Nullification is OK to make a statement, but if you are going to put it in law, it sends a signal that maybe you haven’t read the Constitution, especially our amateur constitutional scholars,” Richard said in an interview with the Columbia Daily Tribune.

House Speaker Tim Jones, a Eureka Republican, questioned the rationale behind the recent flood of criticism of the gun nullification bill.

“I feel that it is proper to question the motives of people bringing up concerns at the 11th hour,” Jones said in an interview with The Star last week. “Why didn’t they step forward during the five months of the session, when bills are vetted and re-vetted?”

Jones, an attorney, said he doesn’t think the bill would affect the ability of police to enforce the laws and keep the public safe.

The gun bill was just one of the governor’s 33 vetoes this year, and none garnered more attention than an estimated $800 million tax cut proposal.

Republicans argued the bill would aid businesses and help Missouri compete with states such as Kansas that have enacted big tax cuts. But Nixon warned that the tax cuts could cost the state hundreds of millions of dollars and reduce funding for education, mental health care and other services.

Nixon spent the summer barnstorming around the state to rally opponents of the bill, supported by a coalition led by education groups representing teachers and school boards.

Republican supporters of the bill knew they faced an uphill struggle from the beginning, and in recent weeks that assessment was reinforced as a handful of GOP lawmakers said they would join with Democrats to support the governor’s veto.

Even if Republicans come up empty handed on guns and taxes, there’s no shortage of potential targets for an override.

“Our intention is to bring up as many bills that we think we can override as possible,” Jones said. “When we meet as a caucus, we’re going to have a discussion about all of the bills in question.”

A successful override requires two-thirds majorities in both legislative chambers — 109 votes in the House and 23 votes in the Senate.

Republicans currently hold 109 seats in the House and 24 in the Senate.

Among the vetoes that could get a vote this week are bills that would limit foreign laws from being used in Missouri courts and that would ban policies based on the United Nations’ Agenda 21 agreement on sustainable development. Another vetoed bill would bar public entities from restricting celebrations of holidays in an attempt to preserve traditional Christmas and Thanksgiving programs.
Another potential override target is a bill that would limit punitive damages related to liability lawsuits pending against Doe Run Co., a lead mining facility in eastern Missouri. Nixon said the bill violated the state constitution by retroactively limiting damages and by benefiting only certain legal defendants. Doe Run — which employs about 1,600 people in Missouri — has warned that the pending lawsuits could put the company out of business.

An effort to override the governor’s veto of a bill easing the state’s sex offender laws ran into trouble last week when The Associated Press revealed that two political donors were largely behind the push for the legislation.

With so many bills in play, Jones said he thinks that by week’s end, the General Assembly will have overridden a historic number of the governor’s vetoes.

His prediction could prove accurate. Veto overrides traditionally have been relatively rare occurrences.

There have been only 24 veto overrides in the state’s history, and 16 of those occurred from 1820 to 1855, when only a simple majority was required. For the next 120 years, there were no overrides. Since 1976, there have been eight, including five since 2003.

During Nixon’s five years in office, the Republican-controlled General Assembly has been able to override two of his vetoes — a congressional redistricting bill in 2011 and a 2012 bill allowing employers and insurance companies to refuse to provide contraception under employee health plans.

Regardless of the outcome of this week’s veto session, Jones said many of the issues will be back on the legislative agenda when lawmakers return to Jefferson City in January.

“We’re talking about core principles of the Republican Party — tax reform, regulatory reform, litigation reform,” Jones said. “So I feel that whatever happens during the veto session, there will be more work to do in those areas next year.”
A Republican push to cut Missouri’s income taxes is facing resistance as lawmakers convene Wednesday to decide whether to override a bevy of vetoes by Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon.

The income tax cut was the marquee accomplishment this year of Missouri’s Republican-led Legislature, which touted it as a means of spurring the economy and competing with recent tax cuts in Kansas, Oklahoma and other states.

But Nixon vetoed the bill in June and embarked on an aggressive summer campaign in defense of his decision. The governor said the potential loss of hundreds of millions of tax dollars could jeopardize funding for education, mental health care and other services. He also warned that seniors and the sick could suffer from a drafting error that would impose state sales taxes on prescription drugs.

The tax cut bill was the most high-profile issue among Nixon’s 33 vetoes, which also included legislation attempting to nullify some federal gun control laws.

Republicans appear unlikely to get much, if any, support from Democrats in their quest to override Nixon’s tax-cut veto. And several House Republicans already have said they are likely to vote “no” while echoing Nixon’s concerns.

Without party solidarity, Republican legislative leaders face a challenge getting the two-thirds majority needed for a veto override. That’s because the GOP holds 109 House seats _ the exact amount needed for an override _ and a one-vote cushion of 24 seats in the Senate.

The Missouri tax-cut battle has been one of the most intense yet in what has become a nationwide effort by conservatives in state capitols to slice income taxes that for decades have formed the financial foundation for many government services. About a dozen states already have cut income taxes this year, including sweeping changes to tax codes in Kansas and North Carolina and a ratcheting down of rates in Arkansas, Indiana, Ohio, Oklahoma and Wisconsin.
"This is a competitiveness issue for us," said Dan Mehan, president and CEO of the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Retired investment firm executive Rex Sinquefield poured nearly $2.4 million into a marketing campaign promoting Missouri’s income tax cut bill. The Missouri Club for Growth warned it might recruit challengers to GOP lawmakers who oppose the veto override. Texas Gov. Rick Perry even waded into the debate, headlining pro-tax cut events in the St. Louis area and running ads in Missouri denouncing the veto and encouraging businesses to consider relocating.

Education groups were at the forefront of the opposition. A teachers’ union ran ads against the tax cut, and more than one-fifth of Missouri's local school boards passed resolutions against it. They warned of potential teacher layoffs, overcrowded classrooms, longer bus rides and the elimination of extracurricular activities if the income tax cut led to a reduction in school funding.

"Should it take effect, this bill will devastate state services such as early childhood and K-12 education," said Doug Whitehead, the president-elect of the Missouri School Boards’ Association.

The legislation would gradually reduce Missouri’s corporate income tax rate from 6.25 percent to 3.25 percent and its top tax rate for individuals from 6 percent to 5.5 percent over the next decade, so long as state revenues continue to rise by at least $100 million annually. It contains a five-year phase-in for a new 50 percent tax deduction for business income reported on individual tax returns. Another part of the bill would trigger additional income tax cuts if the federal government enacts a law making it easier for states to collect taxes on online retail sales.

The bill's price tag also is in dispute. Legislative researchers put the eventual annual cost at $540 million. Nixon contends Missouri could lose $1.2 billion in tax revenues in a single year.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

GUEST COMMENTARY: Don't believe the scare tactics

NO MU Mention

By Rep. Tim Jones

September 10, 2013 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

Tax cuts are good for Missouri, House Speaker Jones says

Missouri is losing jobs and citizens to other states due to outdated economic development policies—including our tax system.

Our stagnant economy has led to a continually high unemployment rate, which is once again above 7 percent, according to the latest data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Hundreds of thousands of Missourians remain unemployed, and our state has lost more than 30,000 jobs under the Nixon administration.

The stagnant economy and hostile tax environment has resulted in numerous local employers closing down or moving just over the border into Tennessee, Kansas or Oklahoma — taking good-paying jobs and workers with them.

Our stalled economy and high taxes have caused this exodus of people and businesses out of Missouri to other states where it is easier for them to make a living and operate a successful business. These factors also deter new people and industries from moving into Missouri, significantly hampering population growth. As a result of this, we lost a congressional seat and the attendant influence in Washington that it provided.

By overriding Gov. Nixon's veto of House Bill 253, we have a chance to modernize our tax system and lower the financial burden for every Missourian for the first time in more than 90 years. The simple reforms contained in this bill would help Missouri compete for new jobs and pave the way for the growth our state desperately needs.
Unfortunately, Gov. Nixon does not see things the same way. He insists that letting Missouri families and small businesses keep more of their money would be bad for our state because it would lower government revenue and result in cuts to services. As “proof” of this, he unilaterally withheld millions in funding from seniors and education and told the state they could expect more of these cuts if his veto is overridden.

However, Gov. Nixon is wrong. This tax cut would have no adverse impact on seniors or education as he claims.

In fact, lowering taxes will raise revenue in the long run by promoting growth and increasing the amount of taxable revenue earned in Missouri. Simply put, more people and more income means more tax money for the state. Looking back in history, the tax cuts adopted under the Kennedy and Reagan administrations resulted in tremendous growth for our nation. At the state level, we can look to Oklahoma and Texas as successful models to show that lower taxes result in more jobs, growing economies and greater tax revenue for the state.

HB 253 is the right choice for our state and will be a tremendous asset should we successfully override the Governor’s veto. It is not a monumental tax change like the one implemented in Kansas, which has caused them unforeseen budgetary headaches. Instead, it is a well-planned, modest package of updates designed to help Missouri prosper and keep more money in the pockets of our state’s working families.

To me, this legislation is very simple — either you believe in lower taxes for a prosperous Missouri, or you do not. I know where I stand, and during the remaining days left before veto session I will be working hard to recruit a supermajority to stand with me and vote in favor of overriding the veto on HB 253.

*Rep. Tim Jones, R-Eureka, is the Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives.*
Missouri's 2013 Veto Session Begins Wednesday

BY MARSHALL GRIFFIN

Originally published on Tue September 10, 2013 3:38 pm

NO MU MENTION

The showdown between Missouri's Democratic Governor and the Republican-led General Assembly finally arrives this week, as lawmakers return to Jefferson City for their annual veto session. Governor Jay Nixon struck down 29 bills this year, with most of the post-veto attention falling on two bills in particular, a controversial tax cut proposal and an even more controversial attempt to nullify federal gun control laws. St. Louis Public Radio's Marshall Griffin takes a look at what may or may not happen on Wednesday.

Campaign to prevent House Bill 253 override attempt

Governor Nixon has spent the summer campaigning against House Bill 253, which would cut state income tax rates for individuals and corporations. Supporters say it'll enable Missouri to compete with neighboring states that have also cut taxes, primarily Kansas and Oklahoma. But Nixon vetoed the bill on June 5th, and one week later kicked off his anti-override campaign before a group of Higher Education officials in Jefferson City.

"All that we have achieved, and all that we can achieve, is now in peril," Nixon said. "With a price tag of $800 million a year, House Bill 253, which I vetoed, represents the great single threat to public education that I’ve seen in my career."

The Governor would take that same message to cities and towns all across Missouri over the next three months, telling people that the tax cut would drain funding from education, children with autism, the poor, the disabled and the elderly, as well as threaten the state's AAA credit rating. Nixon also harped on language in the bill he says would eliminate tax exemptions for prescription drugs and college textbooks. The anti-253 campaign appears to be working. In late July, House Speaker Tim Jones (R, Eureka) appeared on St. Louis Public Radio's and the St. Louis Beacon's Politically Speaking podcast, where he admitted that he doesn't think he'll have the two-thirds margin needed for an override.
"The number sort of fluctuates every day," Jones said. "Somebody says 'well, I don't know,' or 'yes I am'…unless those individuals and others who have concerns can look me in the eye and say, 'Mr. Speaker, I'm going to vote for the override,' then there is no reason for me to bring it up, because I don't think there'll be a single Democratic vote for the override."

The most recent count shows around a half-dozen Republicans saying they won't vote for an override of House Bill 253.

**Gun control nullification override attempt**

Meanwhile, many observers say the so-called Second Amendment Preservation Act has a better chance of being passed than the tax cut bill. House Bill 436 would declare any federal gun control law that violates Missourians' Second Amendment right to be "null and void." During debates back in April, the sponsor, State Representative Doug Funderburk (R, St. Charles), said the bill is not about guns, but about restoring a proper relationship between federal and state governments.

"This bill removes the noose the federal government has been gradually putting around the necks of its citizens and pulling it tighter, and tighter, and tighter," Funderburk said.

But the Governor and Attorney General Chris Koster (D) are both opposing it, saying it would open up police departments to lawsuits from anyone arrested under the proposed law. And last week, police officials across the state chimed in, including St. Louis County Police Chief Tim Fitch.

"Local police catch over 70 percent of all the bank robberies in this country," Fitch said. "If we make a traffic stop, and a guy's leaving a bank after a bank robbery, and we arrest him and he's got a firearm and we turn him over to the FBI, we have just violated this new state law, should it pass."

The police chiefs of St. Louis city and Kansas City have also condemned the bill, along with the state's Police Chiefs and Sheriffs' associations. David Robertson is a political science professor at the University of Missouri – St. Louis. He says their voices may have turned the tide in the battle over federal gun control nullification in Missouri.

"Two weeks ago, I would have said that this had not just the best chance of being overridden, but it was likely to be overridden," Robertson said. "Concerns about law enforcement may have introduced some wavering among legislators who might have thought (that) this bill wouldn't have had much impact."

Majority Floor Leader John Diehl (R, Town and Country) said last month during another Politically Speaking podcast that he thinks the House will take up anywhere from five to seven bills for override. They include the anti-gun control measure and a bill that would remove the names of people from the state's online sex offender registry, if their crimes were committed while they were juveniles. Veto session is set for Wednesday at high noon, and it could last more than one day, depending on the number of overrides lawmakers decide to attempt.
MU, MSU partner to improve health

Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 2:00 pm

Officials from the University of Missouri and Missouri State University signed a resolution yesterday pledging to work together to expand and improve health care for southwest Missouri residents.

MU Chancellor Brady Deaton and MSU President Clifton Smart signed the resolution in Springfield, the site of the MU School of Medicine's clinical campus, which is a public-private partnership with CoxHealth and Mercy Springfield. Springfield also will be the site of MSU's cooperative Doctor of Pharmacy degree program, which is scheduled to enroll its first class in fall 2014.

According to a news release, the resolution notes that Springfield and southwest Missouri are benefiting from the Caring for Missourians initiative started by Gov. Jay Nixon in 2009 as a means to train more college students in health care professions.

During the signing, Nixon praised the efforts of the two institutions and discussed House Bill 253, a tax cut bill that he vetoed. Nixon said if an effort to override his veto is successful, the $10 million for a MU clinical campus in Springfield and the $1.3 million for programs on the MSU campus would be in jeopardy.

In June, Nixon restricted $400 million in spending, including funding for both of those programs. The General Assembly's veto session is scheduled for tomorrow.
The MU Quality Elementary Science Teaching program recently received a $2.6 million grant from the National Science Foundation, one of the nation’s largest funders of scientific research.

The funding will come from the NSF Discovery Research K-12 program, which promotes the enhancement of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in the primary and secondary education system.

The grant money will be spent in researching the impact that QuEST’s professional development workshops have on teacher learning and the learning of their students, project director Deborah Hanuscin said.

QuEST’s professional development program invites elementary teachers to two-week workshops to practice their teaching methods and develop new strategies. In these sessions, the teachers spend the first week learning science and apply their acquired knowledge during the latter half of the workshop by teaching science to real elementary students.

The inclusion of practice teaching is rare among professional development workshops in the education industry. Many others tend to bring in education experts and teachers remain in the students, Hanuscin said.

“One of the issues is that after the teachers go to these workshops, they have to wait until fall to see if they can apply the strategies they have learned to their students,” Hanuscin said. “In driver’s education, you actually get behind the wheel. In a teaching workshop, you should actually get to teach. That’s why we embed a teaching experience in our workshop.”

Hanuscin referred to a 2012 National Survey of Science and Mathematics Education study to state that only 39 percent of American elementary teachers feel well-prepared to teach science in their classrooms.

“Providing these teachers adequate training for elementary science education is a national need, a Missouri need and a Columbia need,” Hanuscin said.

Despite the project’s unique practical element, its actual effectiveness in preparing elementary science educators still needs to be proven through the scientific study, said Mark Ehlert, a research evaluator for QuEST.
“Our goal with this research is to determine how the professional development program impacts teacher behavior, teacher learning and, ultimately, student achievement,” he said.

QuEST will begin collecting data from teachers as they take part in summer workshops, Ehler said. He added the research will ask the participating teachers what they know coming into the program and what they know at the end of their session.

The research — like an experiment — will include several variables, such as whether teachers from a school get to attend the workshop, whether the participating teachers get to practice teach and whether students are taught science by a teacher who participated in QuEST.

This research design has been carefully planned, Ehler said.

The multi-year grant also opens up the possibility for teachers to come back for more than one year, he said.

Having received 48,622 proposals for research grants with only 11,533 available awards in 2012, NSF’s funding programs are highly competitive.

“I think the main reason why we, out of all of the proposals made to NSF, have actually received the grant is because we have a good research design,” Ehler said.

If the results of the research provide sufficient evidence to suggest that QuEST makes a positive difference in science education, the program’s training model could be replicated and used on a larger scale, Hanuscin said.

QuEST also offers future educators opportunities to get involved.

Among the staff are two graduate assistants, and the program accepts six undergraduate pre-service teachers to assist with the workshop, she said.

“I like the acronym QuEST because it reflects teachers’ constant quest to enhance their practice,” Hanuscin said. “If learning to teach were simply a matter of me telling you how to do it, wouldn’t every teacher we ever had be a great teacher?”
StoryCorps is collecting military stories

Spots still available for this week's event.

By Karyn Spory

Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 2:00 pm

Lee Ann Woolery had been trying to find a way the arts could be used to engage veterans and military families on the University of Missouri campus. She thought the best way would be to use one of the earliest forms of art — storytelling.

Woolery, director of the MU Extension Community Arts program, said that in a serendipitous moment, Lisa Higgins, director of Missouri Folk Arts Program, brought up the fact that she had heard StoryCorps was planning to go to university campuses across the country to gather stories.

StoryCorps' Military Voices Initiative is a national oral history project honoring post-9/11 veterans, active-duty service members and military families by recording and preserving their stories. StoryCorps travels the country, giving people the opportunity to record their stories, which are then archived at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

StoryCorps will be on the MU campus tomorrow through Friday. The visit coincides with MU Chancellor Brady Deaton's Patriot Day Barbecue, which is tomorrow.

Carol Fleisher, director of the MU Veterans Center, said when a spouse goes overseas, leaving the other spouse home with kids, it can be challenging. "That's the time your car breaks down or something goes wrong with the house," she said.

Fleisher said the community tends to focus on veterans themselves and overlook those left at home.

"I was the spouse of a person who was in the Navy for 30 years, and I can tell you" deployment "very much impacts families," Fleisher said.

Woolery said KBIA-FM will host the interviews in its studios. So far, 18 veterans, along with their families and friends, have signed up. At the end of their recording session, participants will decide whether to share their story or keep it private. Those willing to share will have their audio archived at the Library of Congress, Woolery said.
Woolery said the event would not be possible without support from the university, the MU Student Veterans Center, MU Extension Community Arts Project, KBIA, the Missouri Folk Arts Program, Mizzou Advantage and StoryCorps' Military Voices Initiative.

Woolery said space is still available for anyone wanting to share their story. "The storytellers do not have to be associated with MU or a student; this opportunity is open to the full post-9/11 veterans, active-duty service members and their military families community," Woolery said.

To schedule an interview, visit www.extension.missouri.edu/communityarts.
Smoking bans and free nicotine patches? Universities try to get smokers to quit

Story Highlights

- The number of college campuses that have adopted 100% smoke-free policies more than doubled from July 2011 through July 2013

MU MENTION P. 2

With the recent spike in tobacco-free college campuses and smoking bans in outdoor spaces, student smokers are finding themselves in a tough position.

According to Americans for Nonsmokers’ Rights (ANR), the number of college campuses that have adopted 100% smoke-free policies more than doubled from July 2011 through July 2013 and now includes at least 1,182 campuses.

Some universities — such as Emory University in Atlanta, which began the switch to a tobacco-free campus in January 2012 and completed the transition that August — are offering a range of cessation resources. Among these are individual consultations through the Office of Health Promotion or Student Health and Counseling Services and behavioral classes.

As a counselor for alcohol and other substance abuse at Emory, Willie Bannister was certified as a facilitator for Freedom from Smoking, a group intervention developed by the American Lung Association.

"My work focuses on helping students gain an understanding of both the biological and psychological dimensions of their use. We discuss the powerful rituals that seem especially connected to tobacco use — the cigarette with that first cup of coffee or the breaks that provide social contact for them," Bannister says. "We identify people who will support the student in their new tobacco-free lifestyle … also talk about relapse prevention for the future."

Bannister acknowledges that students have reported that it is difficult to commit to the eight-week program, but he says five to eight students seek his help to quit each year, and most of them are successful.
Bannister also works with Emory's clinical provider staff. Students who opt for medical consultations instead of the behavioral course are charged only for prescription costs based on insurance coverage.

Other universities, such as University of Missouri, already had cessation programs in place before enacting a ban. Their on-campus Wellness Resource Center similarly offers students free nicotine patches, one-on-one coaching, personalized quit plans and avenues for peer support. Their Student Health Center offers individual counseling, relapse prevention and prescription therapies.

Mizzou, which phased in its no-smoking policy over a five-year period, first banned smoking inside buildings and vehicles in 2009, then in designated outdoor areas in 2011, and finally on the entire campus this July.

Tiffany Bowman, a coordinator at the Wellness Resource Center, says they have seen hundreds of students, faculty and staff for their smoking-cessation services — nearly a quarter of survey responders claiming to have successfully quit by using a "quit plan."

"The quit plan walks clients through barriers to quitting, reasons for continuing to smoke, reasons they would like to quit and common triggers," Bowman says. "We discuss the supportive people in their life and what type of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) they would prefer. We offer free gum, patches or lozenges."

When the two-week supply of NRT runs out, students schedule shorter follow-up sessions. This process repeats for up to 10 to 12 weeks. Students are also provided with "quit kits," which include sugar-free gum, cinnamon toothpicks and other items like stress balls.

Although many universities have dedicated time and money to such resources, they are not always fully utilized by students on campus.

"I can't think of anyone that has used them," says Vrijen Attawar, an Emory senior and international student from India. "I'm sure they are in place because they've been proven to be somewhat effective, and I think it's incumbent upon the university to make that aspect of it all more prominent than an easily ignored 'no smoking' sign."

Former Emory student and current Carleton College student Josh Elmore, 20, generally dislikes the idea of smoking bans on campuses.

"Even though it might encourage smokers to stop because they feel like pariahs, and even though secondhand smoke can damage the health of others, most smokers aren't hurting anyone but themselves, and they should be within their right to smoke in open, outdoor spaces," Elmore says.

That being said, Elmore personally opted to switch to electronic cigarettes after unsuccessfully trying to quit through traditional methods like the patch and gum.
"Although it took the cravings down a bit, what ultimately brought me back to smoking were the habits — the smoking with friends, outside for a bit of stress relief, the morning cigarette with coffee," he says. "I found that the nicotine addiction was just a part of the smoking problem, and that's why the e-cig helped me so much. I can do all the things I used to do, just without the tar and smell of tobacco."

To increase compliance with new smoke-free policies at colleges with campus-wide bans, universities may need to not only offer cessation resources but also try to challenge student perceptions of the bans and better enforce the policies.

Ohio State University, which effected a tobacco ban on Aug. 21, is one of the newest schools to jump on the smoke-free bandwagon. To allow time for transition, OSU spokesman Gary Lewis Jr. says the university will not enforce student sanctions until January.

For students trying to kick the habit on campuses that lack smoking-cessation resources, Bannister recommends three options:

1. Talk with your campus health professionals. They can often refer you to off-campus resources, such as county health departments that offer smoking-cessation options.

2. Check your health insurance, as many insurers have programs that are open to their customers. They often will involve online classes or telephone coaching.

3. The American Lung Association offers its Freedom from Smoking course in a free online format.

Dana Sand is a senior at Emory University.
Hazy feelings toward effectiveness of smoking ban

By Tom Heagney

Trudging out of class, freshman Brook Swing noticed something peculiar.

The person about to walk past him was smoking.

As he passed, Swing walked through the lingering cloud of smoke. He found it unusual, given all he had heard about MU’s new smoke-free policy.

“Smoking doesn’t really bother me,” Swing said. “But if you have sensitive lungs and you’re personally really affected by smoke, I could see why you’d be mad.”

The smoke-free policy is the product of a student-led initiative, said Tiffany Bowman, Wellness Resource Center’s tobacco cessation coordinator. That initiative led Chancellor Brady Deaton to announce a plan in 2009 that would make MU a smoke-free campus within five years.

The first phase of the plan, implemented in 2009, mandated that smokers stand at least 20 feet from the entrance of campus buildings. The second phase, implemented in July 2011, required that faculty, staff and students only smoke in designated areas, such as the top levels of select parking garages.

The third phase of the plan, creating an entirely smoke-free campus, was originally slated to go into effect Jan. 1, 2014. At the urging of former MSA President Xavier Billingsley, the third phase was implemented July 1, 2013, Bowman said.

According to the policy’s website, violations of the policy are to be addressed by anyone on campus.

“Compliance is everyone’s business,” according to the website. “If you see someone violating the smoking policy, please approach the person in a kind, compassionate way.”

The website goes on to say, “If a person continues to smoke after being reminded about the policy, you’re encouraged report him or her to the dean or building manager in charge of the nearest building. You may report an employee to his or her supervisor or to Human Resources.”

Bowman said that despite a small minority not abiding by the policy, it is still largely successful.
“Like with any student, faculty or staff policy, there may not be 100 percent compliance,” she said. “But it doesn’t mean you shouldn’t have the policy. It doesn’t mean the policy doesn’t work.”

It takes time to educate faculty, staff and students about any large policy changes, Bowman said.

“With anything like this, it’s a yearlong educational campaign process,” she said. “We need a good solid year to remind people, at least. It’s also ongoing with new students coming in every year.”

Bowman said she personally has seen a large drop in the number of smokers on campus, and that when she does see smokers, they are away from areas of major activity.

“If you factor in the fact that it’s only been two months, there might still be an occasional person, but it’s still working,” Bowman said. “You don’t see people congregating in Speakers Circle like you used to.”

Senior John N., a smoker who asked that his full name not be revealed, said he understands making designated smoking areas, but also said he believes the new smoke-free policy is overkill.

“It just basically marginalizes smokers, pushes them to the outer edges,” he said.

John N. said he thinks bringing back smoking areas or lifting the ban in general would be a good idea, but he believes the university should do what is easiest.

Swing, on the other hand, said he thinks the policy is working on campus.

“For the three weeks we’ve been in school, I’ve seen people smoking three or four other times,” Swing said. “I would say the policy is effective. However, I do see a lot of people smoking in Columbia. If they want to smoke, they can just walk a few blocks over there and do it.”
Making Progress: Johnston Set To Open On Time

By Kevin Graeler

Johnston Hall remains on schedule to reopen by August 2014 following renovations, which began December 2012.

Once construction is completed, the hall will have spaces for 301 students along with common areas and study rooms.

“Most of these buildings were built for maximum capacity,” MU Department of Residential Life Director Frankie Minor said. “We have to create spaces that are accessible for all of our students.”

Johnston Hall renovations are part of the master plan developed by the Department of Residential Life.

“It takes us about a year and a half to renovate these (buildings),” Minor said. “Our job is to give students a variety of options of good spaces to live based on their needs.”

Students who lived in Johnston last year were required to move out by the end of the Fall 2012 semester.

One of the primary reasons for starting this project over winter break is that residential halls lose anywhere between eight and nine percent of their students after one semester, Minor said.

“We have done this seven times previously where we shut down halls in the middle of the semester,” Minor said.

MU officials decided to shut down Johnston for renovations well in advance of the closure.

Minor said the master plan for renovations across campus began 13 years ago when his department developed a long-term plan.

“We are trying to bring our facilities up to date. (Even though) it wasn’t in the worst condition, it was time,” said Chase Rother, residence hall coordinator at Johnston Hall before the renovations began.

These changes come as no surprise to at least one former resident.
“The rooms were really big compared to the other dorms, so I understand why they are remodeling,” junior Elena Plackis, who lived in Johnston two years ago, said. “The floor was really old.”

The residents who were forced to move as a result of the construction were given time to prepare and received help from the university when it came time to move their belongings to their new places of living. Minor explained that, in some cases, students had to choose which was more important: sticking with their current roommate or having the choice of which residence hall to transfer.

“(That was) quite an extensive process,” Rother said. “We try to get a sense of what is most important to each student.”

Nearly all of the staff members that were employed at Johnston have moved on.

Rother adjusted to a temporary support role within the department before taking charge of Mark Twain Hall across campus. New staff for Johnston will be hired at sometime in the next year.

Minor said Johnston will boast several new amenities that will improve the experience residents have there. There will be more common living space that further promotes the idea of community within the hall along with several options of places to study.

“With each renovation, we try to create more study places,” he said. “Johnston Hall will be the first residence hall on campus that will be LEED certified (with sustainable features). While we’ve been developing a lot of sustainable features in our prior renovations, the university had never pursued certification like that.”

LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Buildings that are efficiently run and built can earn this certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Sabai, a residential dining facility in the same building as Johnston, will now have its own entrance after the renovation because of the hassle the shared entrance proved to be. Minor said its renovation has been a separate project since the departments of Residential Life and Dining Services split into two entities more than two decades ago.

“The folks at Residential Life have the best plan for students to have a fantastic living experience,” said June DeWeese, a librarian at Ellis Library who lived in Johnston during her college years. “I made lifelong friends there.”
First responders get practice during drill at Columbia Regional Airport

By Alan Burdziak

Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 2:00 pm

Every three years, Columbia Regional Airport and emergency responders in the area have to simulate the worst in an effort to be the best prepared.

To maintain its Federal Aviation Administration certification, the airport runs a training exercise in which the crash-landing of a 50-passenger plane on a runway is simulated, complete with an ensuing fire and passenger victims.

Currently, the largest plane to fly in or out of the airport holds 50 passengers. The airport offers two daily flights to Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport from Sunday through Friday, with one flight on Saturday. It also offers one daily flight to Chicago O'Hare International Airport. The airport has incoming and outgoing charter and private flights, too.

Responders from the airport's rescue team, as well as personnel from the Columbia Fire Department, Boone County Fire Protection District, Southern Boone County Fire Protection District and several ambulance companies, participated in the exercise yesterday evening. About 20 University of Missouri students volunteered to don makeup for fake injuries to add to the realism of the event.

"We want them to be faced with a scenario where they will look at this patient, they will then have to triage them in the field," said Steve Sapp, public information officer for Columbia Public Works, which operates the airport. "They'll have to ask questions and do certain things to come up with what's wrong with that person."

Every part of the scenario was simulated, from the emergency dispatch from a plane's distress call to the call to 911 joint communications. Even the order in which emergency personnel are likely to arrive was thought out and timed, with airport personnel first, followed by Southern Boone fire, Boone County fire and Columbia fire, as well as ambulances and an MU helicopter.

"The clock will start at zero, where it's a beautiful Monday afternoon," Sapp said. "Hot but nice, and all of a sudden from there, the call from the tower comes in that an aircraft has declared an emergency and makes an initial dispatch."
Columbia fire Battalion Chief Brad Fraizer said fire administration from the agencies will review the event from a management perspective and take back any lessons they learned that could result in a change in how they respond to emergencies.

"The most important thing is giving our crews the chance to exercise what they've learned," Fraizer said. "Without something like this, you don't get a chance to work with all these agencies at once on a simulated event that frankly doesn't happen very often. It's a rare opportunity."

In addition to being FAA-compliant and training for each agency, it's important that they train together so personnel know their place in the event of a catastrophe, said Martina Pounds of the Boone County Fire Protection District.

"That's why we do these drills where all the agencies come together," she said. "We can all experience what EMS has to do, what we have to do to work around them to make the emergency still flow and be in the best interest of the patient."

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