Nixon releases $215M frozen in anticipation of tax-cut bill veto override

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon will release part of the $400.7 million he restricted from the budget after the House failed to override a veto of the "Broad-Based Tax Relief Act" during a Wednesday veto session in Jefferson City.

In late June, Nixon froze $400.7 million from the state's public education, health and social services from the fiscal 2014 budget to reflect what might happen if the Republican party overrode his June 5 veto of House Bill 253. On Thursday, after the party came up 15 votes short in its override effort, Nixon thawed some of that money.

A release from Nixon’s office said $215.2 million will be released immediately to help finance education, mental health and "other priorities for the current fiscal year."

Of that amount, $66.4 million will go to K-12 education, $33.7 million will go to post-secondary education, $23.1 million will go to the Missouri Department of Mental Health, and $11.3 million will be sent to the University of Missouri and Missouri State University to "train more health care professionals in southwest Missouri."

The remaining amounts will "represent two-year budget items for capital improvement projects."

"(I) am pleased to make this funding available for these important priorities," Nixon said in a release. "My administration will continue to monitor the numbers carefully to ensure we protect our perfect AAA credit rating and keep the state on a fiscally sustainable path."

Representatives of Nixon's office were not immediately available to specify where the rest of the $400.7 million will go, how it will be accessed and who can spend it.
Tax cut supporters plan to continue efforts

8 hours ago • By Elizabeth Crisp ecrisp@post-dispatch.com 573-556-6186

JEFFERSON CITY • Legislation that would have cut income taxes in Missouri for the first time in nearly a century is dead, but many supporters say they aren’t giving up.

A day after the Missouri House fell 15 votes shy of overriding Gov. Jay Nixon’s veto, legislative leaders vowed that cutting taxes will be the top priority for the Legislature when it returns to the Capitol in January.

And representatives of an effort largely financed by retired investor Rex Sinquefield of St. Louis said they will continue to forge ahead with promoting income tax cut proposals.

“There’s been an overwhelming response and groundswell, and we have the public’s focus,” said Aaron Willard, treasurer for the Grow Missouri coalition. “Going forward, we have a very good idea of something that could be put in another proposal.”

But just as he was this year, Nixon, a Democrat, could prove to be the biggest hurdle for Republicans moving ahead.

Armed with supermajorities in the House and Senate, GOP legislative leaders have called on Nixon to work with lawmakers to craft a bill he can agree with, but the second-term governor typically has stayed on the sidelines during the legislative session and let his veto pen do the talking.

“I’ve not closed my mind to sitting down and having a thoughtful discussion on this, but we’re not going to do tax policy on the back of a cocktail napkin,” Nixon told reporters in his Capitol office this week. “This is serious business.”

Sen. Will Kraus, R-Lee’s Summit, who worked on the tax cut legislation this year, said he’s working on proposals and he wants input from across the aisle.

“We’re going to have to move forward with something,” he said. “I think it’s going to be sooner rather than later.”

Under the proposal this year, Missouri would have modestly scaled back individual income taxes while cutting the corporate income tax rate nearly in half if certain revenue triggers were met. The measure also would have led to further cuts if Congress passed the Federal Marketplace Fairness Act and created an opportunity for a 50 percent tax cut, phased in over five years, for businesses that “pass through” their income to the owner’s personal return.
The legislation was the result of months of hearings and revisions at the Capitol, and some of Nixon’s key criticisms were over provisions that appeared to be drafting errors.

On a media blitz Wednesday, House Speaker Tim Jones detailed his plan to strip out the portions that Nixon found objectionable and push the legislation as the first bill of the coming session.

“We have to provide tax relief for Missourians,” he said.

But Nixon said aside from what he perceived as language that could have led to increased costs in prescription drugs and college textbooks, he thinks the bill had two “critical flaws.”

“It would cost too much and the benefits it offered were dubious,” he said.

For a tax cut to get his seal of approval, it would need several components, he said.

“No. 1, they have to be directly tied to job creation — not in dubious theory, but in a clear way that we can create and add jobs ... No. 2, they have to be affordable,” he said. “We can’t have some risky experiment that hopes that if a whole bunch of money disappears that magic will happen, because our kids don’t get educated on magic.”

Nixon said he also wants tax credit reform, which has been doomed at the Capitol for several sessions, to be included in the proposal.

Missouri’s clash over tax cuts is just the latest in an effort driven by conservatives across the country to chip away at state income taxes. The tax cut proposal here garnered national interest and prompted a statement of support from Americans for Tax Reform president Grover Norquist. Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a Republican who has touted his own tax policies to businesses in states across the country, made a stop in Missouri to speak in favor of the Legislature’s override attempt.

Proponents of such measures say tax cuts spur job creation and economic activity, while opponents often characterize the shifts as risky and potentially harmful to funding for state programs, including education.

A recent report from the National Conference of State Legislatures highlighted income tax cuts adopted this year in Iowa, Maine, Ohio, North Dakota and Wisconsin, which have come in addition to more substantial tax code reforms in North Carolina and Kansas.

“There has been a movement. A lot of states throughout the country have are looking at cutting their income tax or reforming taxes in some way,” Willard said.

In particular, Kansas, where leaders have approved multiple tax cut measures in recent years, has served as a motivation for Missouri lawmakers hoping to respond to the ongoing “border war” over businesses.

“Standing still is moving Missouri further and further behind,” Kraus said. “If we do nothing, jobs will move.”

Nixon said the state’s focus should be on education as a tool for promoting job creation.
“We already have a very competitive tax climate — some of the lowest taxes in the nation,” he said.

Education served as a critical issue for Nixon’s campaign against the override. He made dozens of appearances — many at schools — to speak out against the bill. Several school boards across the state adopted resolutions against the override and pressured their local lawmakers after Nixon withheld millions in funding for education, pending the outcome of the override attempt and its impact on state revenues.

Jones has been especially critical of “edu-crats” whom he blames for the demise of this year’s bill.

Sinquefield, a frequent contributor to political causes, wasn’t available for comment Thursday. He spent more than $2 million on a media blitz that included television and radio ads, as well as rallies — including the Perry appearance.

Willard described the effort as a success — despite Wednesday’s loss.

“We were very proud of the overall effort,” Willard said. “I think there is some benefit to having gone through the way it did. Now we know if people are going to be serious about tax reform.”

Willard said he expects Sinquefield’s involvement in the effort to continue, though he noted that this year’s bill “was not even a Rex Sinquefield bill.”

He said it’s not clear what form the campaign will take as the effort moves forward, but it will heavily focus on grass-roots efforts to inform the public about the tax cut debate.

Meanwhile, lawmakers say they soon will start on the next version.

“We want Missouri to be a job-friendly state. We want more jobs,” Kraus said. “I’m going to work with anyone who wants to sit down and talk about it.”
'Flimsy 15' Republicans facing backlash in Missouri GOP over tax-cut fail

1 hour ago • By Kevin McDermott kmcdermott@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8268

JEFFERSON CITY • Within minutes of losing their epic tax-cut battle with Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon late Wednesday, Missouri Republicans throughout the party zeroed in on some new enemies: 15 of them, to be exact, all fellow Republicans.

“FIFTEEN WORTHLESS REPUBLICAN OFFICE HOLDERS,” tweet-shouted St. Louis conservative radio host Dana Loesch, in a Twitter tirade shortly after 15 GOP members sided with Nixon to sustain his veto of a landmark tax-cut bill.

“Don’t give another dime to the MO GOP,” she implored her conservative audience. “Not another dime.”

Others across the right chimed in, deriding the 15 members for breaking ranks and vowing to see that they’re challenged in the 2014 primaries. Former Missouri House Speaker Pro Tem Carl Bearden posted an online “Wall of Shame” with their names and photos. By Thursday, Republican House Speaker Tim Jones was publicly hinting that those among them with committee chairmanships could lose them.

“We’re going to have to do a better job of recruiting and funding candidates in the future,” he said, ominously.

Several of those 15 said Thursday they weren’t surprised by the backlash, but they maintained they voted in the interests of their constituents.

“I am taking a little heat this morning ... (but) I represent more than just Republicans in my district,” said Rep. Paul Fitzwater, R-Potosi. He supported the original tax bill last spring, but then backed Nixon’s veto Wednesday, citing concerns about hidden costs of the bill and potential loss of education funding.

“Am I worried about a primary? There’s been some threats,” he admitted. “I’m a grown man. No one said it was going to be easy.”

The measure, House Bill 253, would have gradually lowered the state’s top personal income tax rate by one-half of a percentage point, to 5.5 percent, while reducing the corporate tax rate by 3 points, to 3.25 percent. It also would have phased in a 50 percent tax cut for businesses that “pass through” their income to the owner’s personal return.
Republicans, holding a veto-proof “supermajority” in both chambers, passed the measure earlier this year, saying it would spur job creation. Nixon vetoed it, saying it would take hundreds of millions of dollars from education and other priorities, while benefiting mostly the rich. He barnstormed the state this summer to get the public behind him and avert a veto override.

The override attempt died in the House on Wednesday, garnering only 94 of the required 109 votes. Fifteen of those who voted “no” — thus sustaining Nixon’s veto — were Republicans. Ten of them had voted in favor of the original tax-cut bill.

By Thursday morning, the Missouri Club for Growth, a pro-business lobbying group, had dubbed them the “flimsy 15” and had started a campaign to unseat them in next year’s GOP primaries — seeking $15 donations.

The organization is heavily funded by St. Louis financier Rex Sinquefield, who has been a central force in pushing for the tax cut.

“The fact of the matter is, if someone calls themselves a fiscal conservative and they could not vote for their bill, I find that egregious. They voted against a tax cut,” said the group’s chairman, Bev Randles.

“I don’t think the perception of an in-party fight is good, but our primary goal is to get fiscally conservative candidates elected to office. If there are good, conservative candidates who want to run for these seats (in the 15 GOP House districts), we’re going to look at them.”

If those beleaguered 15 think they’re going to find shelter with their own leader, Jones, they should think again.

“We found out how many true hard-core fiscal conservatives we truly have ... We have 94,” Jones said, with palpable anger, on Loesch’s radio show — leaving the 15 “no” voters out of the count.

“All are up (for re-election) next year,” Jones noted. “They’re going to have to answer to the constituents.”

For their part, several of those 15 maintained Thursday that they weren’t abandoning their tax-cut principles by killing the bill, but were standing by them. They argued that the bill in its final form, while cutting the state income tax, also increased taxes on prescription drugs and college textbooks.

“I don’t think there was anybody in the caucus that realized the prescription drug sales tax increase was in there,” said Rep. Lyndall Fraker, R-Marshfield, who voted for the original bill but against Wednesday’s override. “I just didn’t feel I could vote for a tax increase, and that’s what this did.”

Fraker said he is “not one bit” worried about being subjected to a primary challenge next year. “I’ve never let that type of political rhetoric affect my political decision-making,” he said. “We certainly are Republicans, but for anyone to pressure us into one vote to determine whether we’re a Republican or not, that’s wrong.”

Rep. David Wood, R-Versailles, who also supported the original bill but then opposed the override, similarly expressed concern at the pressure.
“There’s a lot of talk of winners and losers, when there should be talk of doing good legislation. It’s not about a win and loss, even though that’s what it’s turned into,” said Wood, who cited the same issues of hidden taxes as the others. “I believe in the Republican Party … but there was a lot of things (in the bill) that would have affected my constituents.”

Fitzwater, the Potosi Republican who is also a retired schoolteacher, also cited the argument, made all summer by Nixon and educators, that schools could take a hit from budget revenue lost to the tax cut.
Book reveals new information in Washington case, criticizes MU tutor program

By Ross Dellenger
Thursday, September 12, 2013

After a week of nonstop news about scandals in college football, prepare for more Tuesday when the book “The System: The Glory and Scandal of Big-Time College Football” is released.

Missouri’s athletic tutoring program comes under fire in a chapter of the book that recounts the story of former running back Derrick Washington, who was convicted of sexually assaulting his tutor.

The Tribune received an advance copy of the book, written by Jeff Benedict of Sports Illustrated and Arman Keteyian of “60 Minutes.” Although much of the material about the Washington case was previously reported by the Tribune and other media outlets, there are new details that emerge from the authors interviews with the Washington family, his victim and her roommate.

For example, Missouri Coach Gary Pinkel wanted to keep Washington on the team in 2010 after his arrest but was told by the UM Board of Curators he could not, according to Washington’s mother. And the prosecution’s key witness in the case convicting Washington was encouraged to come forward by one of Washington’s teammates.

Missouri disputes the notion that Pinkel met with curators about Washington.

The 21-page chapter "The Tutor" portrays Missouri’s Total Person Program as a sex-charged environment where hookups between athletes and female students who served as tutors were common. Specifically, the chapter details the charges against Washington, Missouri's All-Big 12 running back who was convicted in 2011 of felony sexual assault with a former tutor, Teresa Braeckel.

Washington, Braeckel, Braeckel's roommate, Lauren Gavin, and Boone County Assistant Prosecutor Andrea Hayes — who is also quoted extensively in the book — did not respond to requests for comment from the Tribune.

Missouri released a statement on its website Thursday night calling the book's allegations toward the tutoring program "unfortunate" and claiming the book isolates on a "small example" of a program that has 150 tutors instructing 520 athletes.
MU administrators, the statement said, were not contacted by the authors. In an interview Thursday, Benedict said he personally reached out to the university spokesman Chad Moller and to Pinkel but got no response. He emailed them both in March. He still has the emails.

Moller stood firm Thursday that university officials were not contacted and did not become aware of the book until the publication two weeks ago of a column by Yahoo! Sports' Dan Wetzel. Dozens of schools are mentioned in the book. Benedict said "very few" declined comment.

"We reached out to everybody," Benedict said. "Naturally, we would very much have liked to talk to Missouri. It would not make sense to talk to the Washingtons, both the parents and the son, and the victims and the state prosecutor — all of these different people — and not try to talk to the school. That just doesn't make any sense."

Washington, a Kansas City native, served 120 days in jail for the conviction, was released in March 2012 and played for Tuskegee last season. He was set for a banner senior season at Missouri in the summer of 2010 before he was kicked off the team after he was charged on Aug. 30, 2010.

He was dismissed from the team the day the charges were filed. According to university policy, athletes charged with a felony cannot return to the field until the case is resolved.

Washington's mother told the authors that Pinkel called Washington's parents after the dismissal, telling them that he "fought for Derrick for over an hour" in a meeting with curators.

"He said he wanted to redshirt Derrick until after the trial," the book quotes Sarah Washington as saying. "And if the trial went well, he'd re-instate him and play him the following year. But the curators wouldn't go for that."

Moller, in an email Thursday to the Tribune, said Pinkel never met with curators about Washington.

"Our coaches don't have direct access to the curators like that," he wrote.

As Missouri prepared for the season in August 2010 before the case went public, Washington, then still on the team, was offered a plea deal — misdemeanors sexual assault — that likely would have allowed him to play his senior year. He and his attorney, Christopher Slusher, rejected the deal.

"Washington's coaches were hoping to get their star back in uniform for the season opener," the book says. "Slusher was looking a little further down the road."

A misdemeanor sexual assault conviction, the book says, would have put his NFL prospects at risk because he would have to register as a sex offender. After his conviction, he must now register as a sex offender.

The state's case rested on the testimony of Gavin, a tutor who admitted to sleeping with athletes, including Washington. Washington was at Braeckel's apartment to see Gavin when he sneaked into Braeckel's room and assaulted her.
Gavin at first told authorities little about the night of the assault. A week after Washington was charged, Gavin went to Hayes to provide more information. The book says that "one of Washington's teammates" encouraged her to come forward with the full story.

Hayes is quoted in the book criticizing Missouri's Total Person Program and saying the program needs to be "revamped."

"The university created this," she is quoted as saying. "When you put a room of athletes together with attractive girls, some of whom like to sleep with athletes, you are just asking for trouble. It creates a sexually charged environment, and athletes get an opinion of girls that is skewed."

The person in charge of the Total Person Program at the time, Joe Scogin, told the Tribune in 2011 that a review of the program resulted in no changes.

"We believe this is an isolated incident," said Scogin, who now holds a similar position at Tennessee.

Missouri's statement on Thursday included documents of that 2011 review conducted by the National Association of Athletic Academic Advisors in 2011. One of the recommendations is for Missouri to add a second "professional" staffer to help the tutoring coordinator. The tutoring coordinator, who oversees the Total Person Program, was splitting time as an academic coordinator for several teams. A graduate assistant was doing much of the program's oversight.

"Much of the day-to-day supervision appears to be by a graduate assistant, where best practices indicate that a professional staff member should have more supervision," the recommendation in the review states. "Although the" tutoring coordinator "appears to be doing an exemplary job of balancing the two, the lack of coverage exposes the unit to possible improprieties or violations unnecessarily."

Missouri added a full-time staff member in the summer of 2011, Moller said.

Missouri's athletic tutoring program is similar many around the nation, Benedict said. From what he gathered from his reporting, this kind of culture between tutors and athletes is "more typical in these big-time programs."

He spoke to unnamed tutors at Georgia, Miami and South Carolina, who told them tutors would do athletes' homework and sleep with them.

Benedict, though, doesn't agree that this was an isolated incident in the Total Person Program.

"If saying this is isolated, meaning what went on with a couple of tutors and a couple of student-athletics, I think that is not true," he said. "I think this goes on much more than an isolated incident here or there. I think there's a culture here, a breeding ground for inappropriate contact between student-athletes and tutors. I think the reason these two cases became as out of control as they were is because there was a climate and a culture there that cultivated this kind of thing."

Washington's case wasn't the only problem Missouri has had with an alleged sexual assault between an athlete and a tutor.
In the book, Gavin reveals that former Missouri basketball player Michael Dixon is the player she alleged had raped her in January 2010. She reported the incident to MU Police but ultimately decided against pressing charges. In the book, Gavin said she met with then-basketball Coach Mike Anderson about the issue. Dixon later apologized to her.

Dixon was not suspended at the time, but he was held out of competition last year and ultimately transferred to Memphis after details of the 2010 alleged sexual assault and a 2012 alleged sexual assault were publicized.
Missouri athletic department responds to criticism in upcoming book

By TOD PALMER

Five days before “The System: The Glory and Scandal of Big-Time College Football” by Jeff Benedict and Armen Keteyian hits bookstores, the Missouri athletic department issued a response after reviewing an advance copy of the book.

One of the chapters in the book, which will be released Sept. 17, reportedly chronicles former MU tailback Derrick Washington’s 2011 conviction for sexually assaulting a former tutor. The book also reportedly contains a quote from a prosecutor in Washington’s case that said MU’s tutoring program for athletes was a “sexually charged environment.”

Washington, a Raymore-Peculiar graduate, was dismissed from the Missouri football program Sept. 1, 2010, two days after he was charged with one count of felony deviate sexual assault for assaulting a former tutor in her sleep.

“The allegations made toward the environment of our academic support program in this chapter were unfortunate,” the statement from MU’s athletic department said, in part. “Although the authors isolate this small example from a much larger group which currently includes 520 student-athletes and approximately 150 tutors who do outstanding work in a professional and safe environment, we believe this was not and is not reflective of the culture of the academic program.”

Missouri launched an independent review of its Total Person Program in the wake of the allegations against Washington, which Tigers athletic director Mike Alden addressed when he spoke to the Tiger Club of KC last month.

In Thursday’s statement, the athletic department again defended its tutoring program: “The Department of Athletics takes great pride in the academic performance of our 520 student-athletes. Our graduation success rates and Academic Progress Rates (APR) continue to be some of the highest at both the conference and national levels. Without question, the academic support services offered through the Total Person Program are a major contributor to this success and we are very appreciative of the dedication provided by the men and women who serve as members of our tutorial program.”
A review by Yahoo Sports columnist Dan Wetzel said the book contains interviews with Washington’s victim, Washington, his parents and key witnesses.

Wetzel’s review said the chapter also included this quote from Andrea Hayes, a Boone County assistant prosecutor: “Too many tutors were having sex with the athletes, and really filthy conversations were going on between players and girls. It was a sexually charged environment. It was a joke — the whole tutorial situation.”

Hayes later clarified her quote in the book to The Star by saying it was not her opinion and reflected what tutors had told her.

In its statement, Missouri’s athletic department denies being contacted by the book’s authors, a claim that is in dispute.

“I’ve read the statement issued by Chad Moller,” Benedict wrote in an email to The Star, referring to MU’s associate athletic director for media relations. “He is mistaken. I wrote to him personally on March 19, 2013, and requested an opportunity to interview Coach Gary Pinkel. The following day I wrote directly to Coach Pinkel. I have retained copies of both written communications.”

Washington, a graduate of Raymore-Peculiar, served four months in prison for the sexual assault conviction. He played last season at Tuskegee, where he rushed for 1,679 yards and 14 touchdowns and was a finalist for the Harlon Hill Trophy, which recognizes the best player in NCAA Division II.
COLUMBIA, Mo. • **Contrary to Missouri’s assertion, Jeff Benedict, co-author of "The System: The Glory and Scandal of Big-time College Football." told the Post-Dispatch that he sent two emails to Mizzou in the spring requesting comment in regards to a chapter in his upcoming book.**

Benedict emailed Chad Moller, MU’s associate athletic director for strategic communications, March 19, 2013, requesting an interview with Mizzou coach Gary Pinkel in regard to the book’s chapter about the sexual assault case of former Tiger tailback Derrick Washington. The next day, Benedict emailed Pinkel directly, he said. Neither message was returned. Benedict retained copies of the requests, he said.

Earlier today, Missouri released a statement regarding the book's chapter about the school's tutoring program and its connection to Washington. Moller said the authors did not contact anyone from the university or the Mizzou athletic department for comment on the subject.

The Post-Dispatch will have more on "The System" in an upcoming edition.

Missouri’s athletic department has issued a statement addressing a chapter in the new book “The System: The Glory and Scandal of Big-time College Football.” The 21-page chapter entitled “The Tutor” examines the 2010 sexual assault incident that landed former Missouri tailback Derrick Washington in prison for three months and his connection to MU’s tutoring system.

The authors, Jeff Benedict and Armen Keteyian, interviewed Washington and his parents, the Boone County prosecuting attorney, along with the assault victim and her former roommate, both of whom worked as tutors for Mizzou athletes while they were in college.

The authors did not contact anyone from the university or the Mizzou athletic department to comment on the subject, MU spokesman Chad Moller said.

The Post-Dispatch has received an advance copy of the book and will have a thorough recap in an upcoming edition, along with thoughts from the authors.

Missouri’s athletic department recently received a PDF file of the chapter and subsequently issued this release Thursday:

“The University of Missouri Department of Intercollegiate Athletics has acquired an advance copy of the chapter of an upcoming book "The System" which covers various aspects of college athletics. A chapter
related to Mizzou most prominently focuses on the experience of two former tutors in Mizzou’s Total Person Program (TPP), and one former student-athlete, who was dismissed from the football program on September 1st, 2010.

"Mizzou Athletics administration was not contacted by the book’s authors, and we wanted to take this opportunity to provide some perspective on our website.

"The allegations made toward the environment of our academic support program in this chapter were unfortunate. Although the authors isolate this small example from a much larger group which currently includes 520 student-athletes and approximately 150 tutors who do outstanding work in a professional and safe environment, we believe this was not and is not reflective of the culture of the academic program.

"Following this 2010 issue, an independent review of MU’s academic program was performed by the N4A (National Association of Athletic Academic Advisors) through its national certification program. While recommendations were made to further enhance our services, this review determined that our academic support services operate in a comprehensive and professional manner while providing a culture that is conducive to learning.

"It is important to also know the academic program employs regular methods to monitor its integrity, effectiveness, and culture through annual tutor and student-athlete surveys, mandatory orientation sessions, on-going tutor training workshops, signed contracts discussing professionalism and academic integrity, weekly informational email communications sent to all tutors, and an annual review conducted by the Academic Affairs Sub-Committee of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee.

"The Department of Athletics takes great pride in the academic performance of our 520 student-athletes. Our graduation success rates and Academic Progress Rates (APR) continue to be some of the highest at both the conference and national levels. Without question, the academic support services offered through the Total Person Program are a major contributor to this success and we are very appreciative of the dedication provided by the men and women who serve as members of our tutorial program."

Here’s the link to the independent review of MU’s academic program performed by the National Association of Athletic Academic Advisors: N4A Program Certification Review.

Among the comments in the National Association of Athletic Academic Advisors’s performance review was the observation that MU’s tutorial coordinator was busy coordinating academic responsibilities for several teams while overseeing the tutors. The day-to-day supervision of the tutoring program is handled by a graduate assistant, and the review recommended that a professional staff member should have more supervision of the tutoring program. “Although the professional staff member appears to be doing an exemplary job of balancing the two, the lack of coverage exposes the unit to possible improprieties or violations unnecessarily,” the review wrote.
Athletics department releases first comments on claims in book ‘The System’

By Jacob Bogage

Mizzou Athletics released its first public statement Thursday about alleged abuses regarding the university’s athletic tutoring program.

The charges, notably that the “Total Person Program” was a highly sexualized environment, are compiled in a chapter of the book “The System: The Glory and Scandal of Big-Time College Football” by Jeff Benedict and Armen Keteyian, set to be released in five days.

The department called the allegations “unfortunate” in the statement posted to its website and denied the authors had attempted to contact the university prior to publication.

Benedict, as reported by the Kansas City Star, said he emailed associate athletic director for media relations Chad Moller and football coach Gary Pinkel in March.

“The Department of Athletics takes great pride in the academic performance of our 520 student-athletes,” part of the department’s statement reads. “Our graduation success rates and Academic Progress Rates continue to be some of the highest at both the conference and national levels. Without question, the academic support services offered through the Total Person Program are a major contributor to this success, and we are very appreciative of the dedication provided by the men and women who serve as members of our tutorial program.”

One section of the book reportedly covers the conviction of former running back Derrick Washington, who was found guilty of sexually assaulting a former tutor in 2011. Washington was dismissed by the team in 2010.

Another section reportedly quotes Boone County assistant prosecutor Andrea Hayes as saying the tutoring program was “a joke.”

“Too many tutors were having sex with the athletes, and really filthy conversations were going on between players and girls,” the book allegedly quotes Hayes. “It was a sexually charged environment. It was a joke — the whole tutorial situation.”

Hayes later clarified her comments to say it was not her opinion but what tutors had told her.
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.
A new study shows the University of Missouri’s move to the Southeastern Conference increased the effects of MU athletics on the local economy. The Columbia Daily Tribune reports the research was done by graduate students at the university’s College of Business.

The study estimated that the total economic effect from athletic events in the 2012-13 season was $188 million. That was up $41 million or 27 percent from the prior year’s estimate, when the Tigers were still in the Big 12.

The study is based on a survey of about 1,200 people during athletic events and is used to estimate their average spending.

The researchers found that out-of-towners spend roughly $93 on average during football game days in Columbia.
People's Beliefs on Drunk Driving May Change When They're Drunk

THURSDAY, Sept. 12 (HealthDay News) -- People who believe it's wrong to get behind the wheel while drunk may change their minds after actually becoming intoxicated, a new study suggests.

Analyzing 82 young adults, researchers from the University of Missouri compared their attitudes and willingness to drive drunk on two separate occasions: when they were sober and after drinking moderate amounts of alcohol.

The magnitude of the disparity startled study author Denis McCarthy, an associate professor of psychological sciences.

"We all probably know people who make good decisions about lots of things when they're sober, but put four or five beers in them and they make bad ones. So that part wasn't surprising," McCarthy said. "I was surprised, however, that it was such a big effect over and above their sober beliefs."

Funded by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the study was published online Sept. 12 in the journal Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research.

About one-third of all fatal vehicle crashes in the United States each year involve an alcohol-impaired driver. In 2010, that translated to more than 10,000 preventable alcohol-related traffic deaths, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Numerous public-health campaigns contributed to a drop in drunk driving fatalities from the early 1980s to the mid-1990s, but those numbers have stayed relatively stable since.

One potential factor, according to McCarthy's team, is that although people may know that drinking and driving is a bad idea, those sober beliefs may go out the window after a few drinks.

For their study, the researchers recruited 43 men and 39 women (average age 22) to attend two laboratory sessions. At one, participants consumed a moderate amount of alcohol and gave their opinion on how dangerous it is to drink and drive. They also rated their willingness to drive "right now" at various breath alcohol concentrations (BrAC).

At the second session, participants remained sober and appraised the danger of driving at a hypothetical, illegal BrAC.
For both genders, the difference in perception about the dangers of drunk driving was most pronounced as drinkers came down from their peak BrAC levels. They felt it was safer to drive in that circumstance than they did when they were sober and appraising drinking and driving.

"It's a good thing to keep in mind that your judgment when intoxicated is going to be different than your judgment the rest of the time," McCarthy said. "We showed that there are bigger effects on the descending limb of the BrAC curve, which is important because that's when people are typically driving home. People on the way down [the BrAC curve] later in the evening are worse judges of how impaired they are, and they're more impaired than they think."

Jan Withers, national president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), praised the study, saying it "is strong reinforcement of what we already know."

"MADD always says that the safest course of action is to decide before you ever have your first drink how to get home with a designated non-drinking driver," Withers said. "You should decide as far in advance as possible."

McCarthy said the timing of messages that discourage drunk driving is important. He said he hopes further research will lead to efforts that help sway perceptions about the dangers of drunk driving either just before people drink or while they're imbibing.

"One of the reasons I do research like this is that drinking and driving is what I care about in terms of societal improvement," he said. "It's a behavior I think we can get rid of if we try hard enough."
In many states, Political Action Committee rules are so complex citizens can't organize without expensive legal help.

Story Highlights

- Grassroots groups that wish to speak out in elections have to deal with regulations and red tape.
- PACs are the most heavily regulated entities under campaign-finance laws.
- A recent study found that PAC laws provided voters with little useful information.

In the nearly four years since the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its controversial ruling in *Citizens United v. FEC*, there has been a lot of debate about whether corporations and unions should be permitted to spend money on electoral speech. But no matter what side of that debate you come down on, here's something everyone should be able to agree with: When it comes to participating in elections, ordinary Americans shouldn't have fewer rights than corporations and unions do.

Astonishingly, federal courts across the country have rejected that commonsense principle. As a result, in most states, grassroots groups that wish to speak out in elections have to deal with regulations and red tape that the U.S. Supreme Court has already held are unconstitutionally burdensome for corporations and unions.

The culprits are so-called "political committee" laws. In virtually every state, people who pool more than a trivial amount of money to express a political message related to a candidate or ballot issue must form a "political committee," often referred to as a "PAC."

PACs are the most heavily regulated entities under campaign-finance laws. Indeed, they are so heavily regulated that, in *Citizens United*, the Supreme Court held that forcing well-financed corporations and unions to speak through a PAC amounted to a "ban on speech."

Nathan Worley, Patricia Wayman and John Scolaro, residents of Sarasota, Fla., learned about the burdens of PAC laws firsthand in 2010 when they wanted to spend $600 on radio ads opposing a proposed amendment to the Florida Constitution related to property rights.
Had Nathan and the others been a corporation or a union, they could have run their ads without filing any paperwork with the government. Instead, because they were an unincorporated grassroots group, they would have been required to form a PAC in order to spend more than $500. That would have meant opening a separate bank account, paying for all expenditures out of that account, filing reports with the government, tracking and disclosing every contribution and expenditure down to the penny, and complying with a host of other regulations.

For grassroots groups without the ability to hire a lawyer, running a PAC also means stepping into a minefield of potential legal violations. A 2007 study by University of Missouri economist Jeff Milyo found that out of 255 adult subjects, not one was able to accurately fill out the paperwork required for running a PAC. Every one of them would have been subject to legal penalties. And that risk isn't hypothetical. The Florida Elections Commission itself estimates that 98 percent of the complaints it receives are politically motivated attempts by groups seeking to harass or punish their political opponents.

Unwilling to run these risks, but also unwilling to remain silent, Nathan, Patricia and John decided to fight back. Represented by the Institute for Justice, they filed a federal lawsuit challenging Florida's PAC requirement for grassroots groups.

Unfortunately, last June — after nearly three years of litigation — the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected their challenge. In doing so, it joined the 4th, 7th, 9th, and D.C. Circuits in holding that multinational corporations and unions enjoy greater freedom to speak out in elections than do unincorporated grassroots groups.

These rulings essentially outlaw the sort of spontaneous political expression that is vital to a healthy republic. Under the First Amendment, the only thing a grassroots group should need in order to talk about politics is an opinion. But thanks to burdensome PAC regulations, these groups need more than an opinion — they also need a lawyer.

As if the speech-squelching effects of these laws weren't bad enough, there is little evidence that these laws provide any offsetting public benefits. A recent study conducted by University of Rochester political scientist David Primo attempted to measure the effects of PAC laws like Florida's, and found that they provided voters with little useful information beyond what was already available from other sources.

Thankfully, the Supreme Court now has a chance to fix this problem in Florida and across the country. Thursday, the Institute for Justice filed a petition for certiorari asking the Supreme Court to take up the 11th Circuit's decision and make clear, once and for all, that laws that are unconstitutionally burdensome for General Motors and the AFL-CIO are unconstitutionally burdensome for ordinary Americans.

That ruling may come too late for Nathan, Patricia and John, who have already lost forever their chance to speak out in the 2010 election, but it cannot come soon enough for the thousands of Americans who will be silenced during the next election if the Supreme Court does not act.

Paul Sherman is a senior attorney at the Institute for Justice, which represents the petitioners in Worley v. Florida Secretary of State.
Nearly 17 percent of Missouri in 'severe' drought

Nearly 17 percent of Missouri is in severe drought, up more than 5 percentage points over the previous week, after a larger expansion of late-season drought conditions throughout the Midwest.

The U.S. Drought Monitor, updated weekly, indicates that 10 percent of the Midwest is in severe drought, up about 4 percentage points from the previous week.

During last year’s historic drought, the worst since the 1930s, more than 45 percent of the region was in severe drought.

For farmers the new drought conditions represent a drastic change from the earlier part of the summer, which was cool and, in some areas, wet. But as harvest approaches, rain becomes more critical — and there hasn’t been much of that for weeks.

“As corn and soybean plants entered critical seed-filling periods this year, drought returned to some parts of Missouri with a vengeance,” said Bill Wiebold, a University of Missouri Extension agronomy specialist, in a statement.

To sustain yields, Wiebold explained, corn and soybeans need at least 1 inch of rain a week, but that has not happened for much of the past 9 weeks. Some parts of the state have seen no rain at all for 7 of the past 9 weeks.

This August was the driest across northern Missouri in three decades, according to Pat Guinan, extension specialist and state climatologist.

Brent Myers, an extension corn specialist, said future rains would do little to save corn yields, and damage to corn is widespread.

Last year, Hurricane Isaac dumped some late-season rain on the region, coming to the rescue of the 2012 soybean crop. But this year, no relief is on the horizon, specialists said.

Some agriculture experts, the university said, are wondering if this year’s crop will suffer lower yields, repeating the drought-ravaged harvests of 2012.
Truman the Tiger salutes the American flag as Columbia Fire Department firefighters raise the flag with a ladder firetruck at the Francis Quadrangle yesterday at the Patriot Day Barbeque. Chancellor Brady Deaton and his wife Ann held the Barbeque to honor Mizzou’s faculty, staff and student military veterans and their families. The University of Missouri ROTC Joint Services Persian Rifle Drill Team and the Boone County Fire Protection District Pipes and Drums performed.
One Mizzou Panel brings many student perspectives together

By Ross Terrell

Students took part in a roundtable discussion Thursday as a part of the One Mizzou Week activities.

The roundtable discussion was held in the Women’s Center and featured eight students from different areas of MU life. The theme of the discussion was “I Am One Mizzou.”

The eight members of the student panel consisted of student athletes, veterans, Greek life members, LGBT students and participants from the audience.

Most of the discussion was centered around stereotypes and how people are perceived by them.

The first topic was a time in which people were judged.

Senior Justin Cook, the leader of the discussion, answered the question first by recalling a time in which he was judged due to his tattoos and his race. He told of an experience in which people would look at him and think he was uneducated because of how he looked.

Another topic was a perceived privilege that was given to each group.

Senior Katelyn Trevin, a Missouri gymnast, discussed perceptions of athlete privilege. She made the point that people frequently assume athletes throw away scholarship money.

A member of the audience brought up religious privilege that many students are unaware of, such as having school off for Christmas and Thanksgiving without needing special permission.

The last topic of discussion for the panel was “What is your favorite Mizzou experience?”

Cook discussed first joining a fraternity. The brotherhood he found and the friends he made were the best thing that he has experienced at MU, he said.

An audience member brought up the night Missouri beat No. 1 Oklahoma. The audience member said that moment brought people together from everywhere and every angle of life. She said it did not matter who you were, how you looked or your age — everyone just rushed the field as one.
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) - The University of Missouri School of Medicine is hosting a daylong symposium on the science of vocal health in Columbia this weekend.

The second annual university Voice Symposium and Vocal Arts Festival takes place Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Missouri Theatre.

Event organizers and voice professor Ann Harrell say the event will offer "practical advice to help maximize and maintain your voice."

The symposium will include speakers, a panel discussion and vocal performances. Admission is free for high school and University of Missouri students, and $20 for the general public.