Columbia legislators plan to introduce bills for scholarships, MU building repair

Monday, January 6, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CST
BY EMILY DONALDSON

COLUMBIA — Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, will attempt for a sixth time to gain legislative approval for a bond issue that would provide more than $1 billion to repair state buildings, including some at MU.

If successful, Kelly will have played a part in passing the largest bond issue in state history.

It's one of four education issues related to MU in the upcoming legislative session, including additional money for Bright Flight scholarships, higher education funding and a proposal for a student vote on the University of Missouri System Board of Curators.

The passage of Kelly's bond issue would mean funding for repairs of MU buildings, including several engineering buildings located on Francis Quadrangle.

University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe said at a February 2013 hearing that repairs of UM System buildings would create 3,810 jobs and attract donor support from around the state.
"Passage of a bond issue would greatly aid us in addressing the critical repair and infrastructure needs on our four campuses, where we currently face a backlog of $1.3 million in unmet renovation and repair projects," UM System spokesman John Fougere said.

The last bond issue approved by voters was the 1994 Fourth State Building Fund, which issued $250 million to renovate and make improvements on college campuses and state prisons.

The legislative session opens Wednesday and ends May 16.

**Bright Flight funding**
The legislature faces another education issue in Bright Flight funding and expansion, as proposed by Gov. Jay Nixon.

Nixon outlined a proposal in November to award Bright Flight scholars an additional $5,000 if they agree to remain in Missouri following graduation. If students leave the state earlier than guaranteed, they would have to pay back whatever remains.

Nixon said he plans on adding in $15 million for this scholarship adjustment with his recommendations for the 2014 budget.

Bright Flight is a scholarship program for Missouri residents based on ACT or SAT scores. Students receiving this scholarship receive scores in the top 3 percent and are eligible to receive up to $3,000 when the program is fully funded. However, students only receive $2,500 at this time.

**Higher education funding**
One thing Missourians can feel assured about is the future of higher education funding, Rep. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia, said.
He said he feels confident about the UM System achieving its core numbers for budget.

"Given the budget environment right now and the university's representation on both sides in the budget world,

I think we are going to be good," Rowden said.

The biggest obstacle to new dollars being allocated to higher education could be health care costs, Rowden said.
Missouri will probably spend another $150 million in the growing costs of Medicaid, regardless of what is done in to expand Medicaid, just because of the way the budget works, Rowden said.

"It just becomes priorities, and if we say that we want to value education and K-12 education, we need to put our money where our mouth is," Rowden said.

**Board of Curators student vote**
Also in the next session, the Associated Students of the University of Missouri will continue to lobby for a student vote on the Board of Curators.

Amy Johnson from the University of Missouri-Kansas City serves as the student representative on the board but has no official vote in decisions. Her term ended Jan. 1.

"My goal is to increase the amount of information flowing from the Board of Curators back to the students," Johnson said in an online statement.

Ben Levin, president of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri, said it is always an uphill battle with the issue.
"We always recommend students get in contact with their home representatives, but we are also working on additional tools we can give them (students) to make their voices heard," Levin said of ways students can support these issues.
Missouri lawmakers prepare for cash quarrel

From the state budget to taxes to ethics reform, money will be at the center of the biggest battles in Jefferson City this legislative session.

By RUDI KELLER

Sunday, January 5, 2014 at 2:00 am

Missouri lawmakers return to work Wednesday with money on their minds.

They will debate how the state gets its money, how it is used and how much the treasury holds. They will debate business subsidies, how they are used and what the limits should be. And they will debate lobbyists' money, what it buys and how much should be spent for their pleasure.

And before it is over, some lawmakers hope to force a debate on campaign money, including how and whether to limit contributions.

The dynamics of the debate will be dictated by those posturing for higher office, incumbents worried about primary challengers and a newly assertive Gov. Jay Nixon, who begins the year with the halo of victory after a veto-override showdown over taxes and a special session that quickly enacted his plan to use state money to lure a Boeing jetliner factory.

Nixon, a Democrat, has three years left in his final term as governor. Republicans hold historically large majorities in both chambers.

"These leaders all have their own political futures to contemplate," said Peverill Squire, a University of Missouri professor who studies legislative politics. "I think they will be heading in somewhat different directions over the next few years, particularly on the Republican side as you see a lot of their major figures thinking about running for higher office. They are positioning themselves for Republican primary contests, and it is to their advantage to be seen as challenging the governor."

Nixon, who has not discussed his political future, has moved in ways that might align him more with Democrats nationally than in his first term.

"Whatever he anticipates doing after he leaves the governorship, he wants to be advertised as a centrist," Squire said. "To do that, he must persuade enough Republicans that his interests and theirs are not that far apart, and that may temper the more dramatic or conservative interests of the leadership."
BUDGET

For the first time since he took office in 2009, Nixon will present a budget that begins with a healthy surplus and good prospects for accelerating growth. It also will start with a fundamental disagreement with the legislature over the speed of that growth.

For most of the past 25 years, the annual budget debate has been confined to how money should be used, not how much money is available. Because most major budget decisions are based on incremental changes in funding, the growth rate represents most of the money in dispute.

Nixon has promised a 5 percent increase for higher education, expanded scholarship programs and a major increase for public schools. He will again push for expanding Medicaid, a $1.8 billion proposal funded entirely with federal aid.

For programs funded with state taxes, Nixon wants to use an estimate of 5.9 percent growth to allow $500 million in new spending, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, and House Budget Committee Chairman Rick Stream, R-Kirkwood, said. That estimate is too optimistic, they said when they announced they had broken off negotiations over a common estimate.

Stream and Schaefer said their budget will be based on 4.2 percent growth, or $350 million of new revenue, and they will cut Nixon's spending proposals to fit that figure. If lawmakers accepted Nixon's growth figure and it was too optimistic, lawmakers would forfeit to the governor the decisions on what should not be funded, Schaefer said.

"We are very cautious to never leave money on the table with the governor because he will put it somewhere that lawmakers never intended it to go," he said.

Since Nixon took office, Missouri has experienced wild swings in state revenue. As revenue fell off, bottoming at $6.77 billion in fiscal 2010, the budget was kept in balance by a combination of deep cuts and massive federal aid from President Barack Obama's 2009 stimulus act.

In fiscal 2013, which ended June 30, Missouri's general revenue fund took in $8.08 billion and finally recovered from the drop in receipts caused by the recession. The revenue estimate is an attempt to guess how much money the state will have in 18 months.

"By definition, it is never going to be 100 percent accurate because you are projecting out 18 months or more than that," said Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia. "It is important to get a compromise on it and not to politicize it."

The administration isn't ready to confirm the figures announced by Schaefer and Stream, Budget Director Linda Luebbering said. She's confident, she said, in writing a spending proposal that relies on more robust growth than lawmakers expect.

STORY CONTINUES...
Dear Reader,

Columbia College named names when it announced two finalists for president this week. Not so long ago, that would have simply been expected for such a big job, but now it’s the exception to the rule in academia.

Scott Dalrymple, dean of the School of Liberal Arts at Excelsior College in Albany, N.Y., and Randall Hanna, chancellor of the Florida College System, will be in town the week of Jan. 12 to be interviewed by students, faculty and the community at large.

I don’t envy the winner. I imagine the job to be more complex in some ways than that of MU’s incoming chancellor, R. Bowen Loftin. Columbia College is a far-flung affair, with 35 campuses, even if many of them are tiny, and an extensive online program. Most exotic locale: Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The college’s enrollment is around 30,000, shy of 35,000 at its higher profile neighbor, MU.

The job is made more challenging because of the success of its predecessor. For 18 years, Gerald Brouder presided over the college’s unprecedented growth, in students and in money. A Missourian article noted that the college’s endowment grew from $2.5 million in 1995 to more than $100 million today.

Tough shoes to fill.
We won’t know the success of the search for the chief executives at Columbia College and MU for months or years. But I’ll hazard one prediction: Dalrymple or Hanna will walk into the president’s office with more buy-in from students, staff, faculty and the community at large.

In both hires, a board makes the final call (trustees for Columbia, curators for MU). In both searches, outside consultants visited constituent groups to map out the kind of leader who might make the best fit. Both search committees were sworn to secrecy. Both cited the need to keep candidates confidential in order to have the best ones apply.

But Columbia College chose to make the finalists public. (There were three finalists, but one took another job in December.) In doing so, it gave everyone involved a voice.

The Rev. John Yonker is the search committee chair. He negotiated with the finalists for permission to make their names, photos and CV’s public. They readily agreed.

Would the choice of finalists be affected had they not given permission? “Probably,” Yonker told me. This final, public step was important, and to more than the search committee.

He said the chair of the board of trustees, Daisy Grossnickle, also insisted there be some time — two weeks, in this case — between announcement and visit.

No surprises. Everyone has time to prepare.

(Missourian reporters will be looking to profile the candidates in the next week. That’s another chance for all of us to get a sense of our visitors. )

After the public visits, everyone who attended a forum or meeting — including those who watch the forums that will be live-streamed to all those other campuses — will have a chance to have their say through a survey.

It’s a refreshing bit of openness, especially for a private institution.
Consider the change in weather just 1 mile south, at the state’s public, land-grant university.

No names were disclosed before Loftin was introduced on Dec. 5. The University of Missouri System’s Board of Curators didn’t release the number of applicants, semifinalists or finalists before Loftin stepped in.

News of his interest might have affected that severance package he received from Texas A&M University System of twice his annual $425,000 salary, according to a Missourian article. But the ink was dry on that deal on Aug. 20. In other words, at that point, Loftin was a free agent.

I didn't hear a lot of complaints after Loftin was chosen. Maybe that’s because he's a swell guy and talented administrator. Maybe it's because people said, oh well, the choice has already been made.

MU chose all secrecy, all the time. Columbia, the little college that could, found a way to honor the candidates and the people they would serve, from janitors to trustees.
Rob Duncan, former vice chancellor for research at the University of Missouri, now fills a similar role at Texas Tech University.

By KARYN SPORY
Saturday, January 4, 2014 at 2:00 am

Reporter Karyn Spory posed three questions to Mid-Missouri newsmaker Rob Duncan, who served as vice chancellor for research at the University of Missouri until recently taking a similar position at Texas Tech University.

Q: What was it about Texas Tech and its research that attracted you?

A: Texas Tech has grown rapidly in its research over the past five years, but it declined a little last year because of sequestration. The state of Texas is investing very heavily in research at Texas Tech and other emerging universities in order to establish them as “Research Very High” universities in the near future. Texas Tech, like the University of Missouri, is experiencing a very rapid expansion in its student body, and Texas Tech is investing now in a number of very progressive cluster hires and in new research facilities in order to advance at a very rapid rate. It is this commitment at Texas Tech that made this position very appealing to me. Research is given a central and a very high level of emphasis by President Duane Nellis at Texas Tech, and I will be involved much more directly in all
aspects of the central leadership of Texas Tech University once I get there. I will also have the opportunity for promotion to senior vice president soon, if my performance warrants it.

Q: What could MU do better in terms of research?

A: MU is a truly excellent university. I believe that it was Chris Hardin, professor and chair of nutritional sciences, who recognized that if you normalize the performance of all American Association of Universities, or AAU, universities by the level of their state support, then MU ranks within the middle of all 62 AAU universities. This shows that the faculty and staff at MU are every bit as good as their counterparts in the very top universities in the United States. Unfortunately, the very low-level of state support of MU keeps this wonderful university within four places from the bottom of the AAU, which is a very dangerous place to be today when so much of Missouri’s prosperity depends critically upon growing our knowledge-based economy.

The trillion-dollar components of our economy today are based on technologies that had not existed 30 years ago, and the technologies that will be the basis of our world economy in 30 years from now have most likely not been discovered yet. It is of paramount importance that Missouri invest more heavily in research and the creative works of MU, its flagship public university. There is no way to excel economically at the national level by playing it safe and by always following the lead of others. Missouri must innovate extensively and discover new knowledge that improves the quality of life for all Missourians, as MU is doing now.

Look at the companies that have started based solely on MU’s intellectual property over the past few years: Organovo is based entirely on the innovations of MU’s faculty, and it has shot up from nothing four years ago to being worth more than $700 million on the New York Stock Exchange today! Beyond Meat is based upon innovations by an MU professor, and through our licensing agreement, we have anchored their production capability here in Columbia, creating many new higher-end jobs that bolster our economy. Many other companies that have been founded exclusively on MU innovations are doing exceptionally well today.

It is important that the faculty be encouraged and empowered by the administration to take risk and to pursue their vision. The faculty, in turn, must empower and prepare their students to excel for the benefit of us all. MU’s Sheila Grant, professor of bioengineering, and other faculty members mentored student Luis Jimenez three years ago to start EternoGen, and this company now receives millions in venture investment, and it is operating internationally with a very bright future under Luis’ leadership.

In my opinion, these exceptional successes of MU faculty that improve the quality of life for us all should be celebrated in our media at a level that is well above the emphasis that we place on intercollegiate sports, but sadly, most Missourians have never heard of these outstanding successes that have developed from MU’s basic research mission. I don’t think that conventional academic administrators are comfortable giving our economic development mission adequate emphasis. Hopefully this will change.

Q: What do you think about the current state of the research and development industry in Columbia?

A: Columbia’s support of our research-based industry is outstanding — off the charts, in fact! This is evidenced by the Milken Institute’s top ranking of Columbia as the very best small city in the entire United States for creating jobs and sustaining economic growth. I also was delighted to see that St. Joseph — my hometown — was ranked No. 11 on this exceptionally important national list. MU’s leadership and Columbia’s business community work together closely to lead one of the most successful incubators in America, and Columbia’s Centennial Investors has invested millions of dollars in outstanding startups, such as Newsy, which just realized a nice exit.
We now need to attract more top-flight venture investors to operate in Missouri. Simply stated, Missouri’s government, the UM System and MU must have the courage and determination to invest in high-risk, knowledge-based opportunities that the very best minds in our state can create. These great opportunities will naturally be generated at our very top universities, at our most innovative companies and at other think-tanks. Our future depends upon being first to market with outstanding innovations, not on trying to “follow the leader” as we conduct business as we did 50 years ago. Our future depends upon companies such as Organovo, Beyond Meat, EternoGen, Newsy, Zegirid and so many others, and the companies that support them. This approach, which builds our knowledge-based economy from innovations on up, is far more effective at securing our prosperous future than the strategy of trying to attract existing large companies to locate manufacturing plants in Missouri. Really successful high-tech states know this, as do many people within MU and the Columbia and St. Joseph business communities. I hope in the future we can convince others throughout our state’s leadership of this, as well.

Finally, I want to thank MU and Columbia for the opportunity to serve as vice chancellor for research over the past five years! I am very proud of the progress that we made together, and I assure you that the real reward throughout this process is seeing these efforts come to outstanding fruition. It has been a genuine honor to have the opportunity to serve MU, and I wish MU and Columbia all the best in the future.

Disclaimer: Rob Duncan has no personal financial interest in any of the companies mentioned above.
A museum district is a win for all

By WARREN DALTON
Sunday, January 5, 2014 at 2:00 am

A few weeks ago I was in the hospital, and when I returned home I was apprised of the article about the museum district endorsement. I had prayed I would live long enough to see a museum complex in the Columbia downtown area with handicapped parking available and parking garages nearby. It is a natural fit, and the facilities would be in a block the university already owns.

After a University of Missouri meeting, I was introduced to the architect for the proposed State Historical Society of Missouri building and was pleased when he told me he was going to protect the handicapped by including an underground garage as part of the building design. Handicapped visitors would be able to exit their cars safely and have easy access to all three museums: the State Historical Society of Missouri with its art galleries and excellent research facility, the Museum of Art and Archaeology and the Museum of Anthropology.

As a 1939 graduate, I have been a supporter of the university and all its endeavors toward the welfare of its students and faculty. In 1975, I was one of the few merchants who supported the closing of Conley Avenue, Lowry Street and others to protect student pedestrians.

Columbia residents must realize the university is, along with Stephens College and Columbia College, among the mainstays of our economy.

As a senior citizen and handicapped, it is almost impossible to find a parking place at the State Historical Society building when classes are in session. The current home of the two museums — the old Ellis Fischel Cancer Center — was built in the 1940s. Retrofitting that building to provide a proper home for the museums, other university departments and remaining medical offices is an expensive and misguided use of millions of dollars that could be directed to the new museum buildings downtown.

The ideal solution is to have all the museums and research centers within easy walking distance of each other, the university, other schools and downtown amenities. Adequate parking and handicapped accessibility will improve the quality of the visitor's experience. The proposed buildings with infrastructures and technology designed to meet the needs of 21st century museum users will serve our community much better than where they used to be and better than the old Ellis Fischel building.

As residents of Columbia, we must recognize this is a win-win-win. We attract tens of thousands of people for SEC football and tens of thousands of people to enjoy the music and art of the Roots N Blues N BBQ Festival and tens of thousands of people to the True/False Film Fest and its accompanying activities. Having the museums in an accessible location will allow those visitors to easily find and enjoy them. It also will bring thousands of people year-round. A centralized location will make it easier for school children to visit as well.
In my writings over the past seven years, I don't know what I would have done if I had not had access to information from the State Historical Society of Missouri. The information it has provided has made my columns a success. Gary Kremer and his staff are very cooperative in providing me, and others, with resources in all aspects of my writings.

Because of the difficulty in parking and getting into the building, my associate David James now does most of our newspaper research as well as his own. My next column will go into more detail about the wonderful resources and services available at the State Historical Society of Missouri; not just newspapers, documents and manuscripts, but images and informative artwork and people with knowledge of history to share.
The University of Missouri says all of its schools and operations will be open Monday, despite the bitter cold that has closed most elementary and secondary schools across the state.

University officials said in a statement that crews had been out since Saturday night clearing roads, sidewalks and facilities after 4 to 6 inches of snow fell over the weekend in mid-Missouri. The high temperature was expected to be only 0 Monday in Columbia, with wind chills between -15 and -35.

The university rarely closes because of weather conditions, with a full closure only in extreme circumstances.

The university's Health Care's hospitals, emergency rooms and clinics also will be open Monday, as will the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital emergency service.
Legacy of Stormin' Norman Stewart built on his character, charisma, coaching
Monday, January 6, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CST

BY ANDREW WAGAMAN

Editor's note: Boone Hospital will open the Virginia and Norman Stewart Cancer Center on Monday. The center will encompass all of Boone Hospital’s cancer services from screening to treatment.

The center is the latest testament to Norm Stewart’s legacy at MU. When plans for it were announced in 2013 — 20 years after Stewart helped found Coaches vs. Cancer — the Missourian decided to look back at Stewart’s life beyond the sideline at Brewer Fieldhouse and Hearnes Center. The occasion of the center’s opening called for a review of the man remembered by — and sometimes oversimplified to — a moniker, Stormin’ Norman.

Toughness, candor and a competitive spirit are essential qualities of the longtime Missouri basketball coach’s personality. The same qualities are considered characteristic of the regional ethic, in big cities like St. Louis and especially small towns like Shelbyville, Mo., where Stewart was raised.

Sure, victory mattered. But Missouri’s sentiment for Stewart would have stopped at affection had he not won as consistently or as long as he did. And his dedication to the state meant even more.
Stewart chose to play at what was then Missouri University after leading the Shelbyville High basketball team to the 1952 state championship game. At Missouri he developed his leadership as a two-time captain and earned All-American honors. He returned as the head basketball coach at age 32 and spent the next 32 years leading his alma mater to victory, mostly in the boisterous Big Eight Conference.

Over time, the charismatic leader became something more. Stewart developed a persona — “Stormin’ Norman” — and he branded the state university’s basketball program. Really, he branded the university and state, too. Mention the school outside the Midwest, and for a long time the first association for most people would likely have been his name or moniker.

Stormin’ Norman became Missouri’s caricature.

Caricatures magnify specific traits and throw away others. Stewart certainly had his idiosyncrasies, and many didn’t mesh with the absolutes of Stormin’ Norman. Sometimes they clashed, and in public.

He also struggled when others questioned if he’d become too powerful to be held accountable. At such times, the relationship between Missouri and its character was called into question.

Stewart’s wife, Virginia, once suggested he could be the hero of a great novel. That such a distinctive character lived a real life makes his story — and the ones others tell about him — much more compelling.

Once upon a time in the small Missouri town of Shelbyville, a young boy was led to believe he would live an extraordinary life. His mother, a woman of faith, told him not to be afraid.

“Your life is going to be different than anybody else’s in the family,” Leona Stewart said. “It will take you away from us in certain respects, but I just want you to know, we will understand.”

Norm Stewart had the All-American story, bona fide folklore. He knew it, too.
Stewart narrates his mother’s premonition in his autobiography, "Stormin’ Back." It came true, of course — except that he never went that far away. His allegiances were to his home state, and he’d always be a damn proud, small-town Missourian who made something for himself and became a leader.

Stewart was born on Jan. 20, 1935, in Leonard, Mo. A few years later, the family moved 14 miles southeast to Shelbyville, a town of about 1,000 people. His father worked for Standard Oil, supplying gas, oil and kerosene to the local farmers who made up most of the town. His filling station is gone now, and the town was down to a population of 552 as of March 2013.

Many of the farmers are gone too, but it remains the Shelby County seat, and the courthouse is among a handful of non-vacated buildings at the single blinking-light intersection.

A sign outside the courthouse reads, “SHELBYVILLE: home Town of Norm STEWART, COACH, MIZZOU TIGERS — SHELBYVILLE GRADUATE 1952.”

The name “Norm” has all but faded away.

Local options exist to donate bodies for medical training, research

By JODIE JACKSON JR.
Saturday, January 4, 2014 at 2:00 am

Donating a deceased loved one's body for medical training and research can help advance surgical techniques while also saving a family the considerable expense of a traditional burial or cremation.

Jo Ann Gelofsack made it clear to her daughter Debora Urquidez that she wanted to donate her body, and those arrangements were made in advance of Jo Ann's death on Monday. The donation to the Genesis program at the Medical Education and Research Institute in Memphis, Tenn., fulfilled her mother's wishes and helped ease the financial strain on Debora, who along with her husband had been caring for Jo Ann and her sister, Jacqulynn, in their east Columbia home for nearly two years.

"It does take some of the burden off the family members," said Diana Kelly, manager of institutional development at MERI.

Within hours of Jo Ann's death, Debora called Genesis, which arranged and paid for Jo Ann's body to be transported to MERI. Her mom's body will be at MERI for 6 to 12 months, "depending on how good a teacher they are," Kelly said.

At that point, Genesis will pay for cremation and, at their request, send the ashes to the family, also at no cost to the family.

Debora will also receive a research letter that will detail how her mother's donation was used, whether training physicians in a new spinal procedure, training emergency medical technicians, research involving medical devices, or disaster response training.

"It really helps them to know the benefits of the gift," said Kelly, whose father donated his body to MERI. "I felt good that he was still giving back to society after he was gone."

MERI receives 600 or more body donations each year. The institute helps practicing physicians further hone or develop new skills.

"Once they're out of medical school, there's not really a good place to practice," Kelly said. "I know that I want to make sure my doctor has practiced whatever procedure he is performing on me."

The University of Missouri School of Medicine's Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences also accepts some body donations.

"The program is used to teach basic human anatomy to our medical students," said Shannon Wetzel,
coordinator of the department's Gift of Body Program.

**Families must arrange and pay for the cost of transportation to Columbia, and that is typically done through funeral homes,** Wetzel said. **Like the Genesis program, MU's program will have cadavers cremated — anywhere from 12 to 36 months after the donation is made — and send the ashes to the donor's family at the university's expense.**

"The only cost to the family is the initial transportation," Wetzel said.

A five-page packet of information and forms are available to help donors and families understand the process and apply to be part of the program.

**MU will not accept bodies that have been autopsied or had more than the eyes removed for donation. Genesis, however, will accept a body with organs already removed for donation.**

There are other restrictions and conditions that would cause a rejection for a body donation, including the presence of a communicable disease, weight above 230 pounds, or a body not received within 24 hours of death.

Genesis will not accept bodies that are less than 100 or more than 250 pounds.

"They don't make good donors," Kelly said. "Overweight bodies are especially problematic. "It's hard for us to put them in our freezers," she said.

**For MU, the list includes "anything that can expose our students and doctors" to infection,** Wetzel said.

**MU receives 15 to 30 applications each month for the Gift of Body Program and ultimately receives roughly 75 donations each year,** Wetzel said. **Cremains that are not returned to families are interred during a summer ceremony at Memorial Park Cemetery.**

Jacob Luecke, media relations manager at Boone Hospital Center, said staff at BHC will also help families.

"When a person passes away at Boone Hospital, we arrange to have the body transported to the next organization that will fulfill their wishes," Luecke said, "whether that is burial, cremation, body donation or another choice."

*This article was published in the Saturday, January 4, 2014 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Body donations help in medical training, research."*
CT scans of lungs advised
Test only for those with high risk of cancer.

Friday, January 3, 2014 at 2:00 pm

WASHINGTON (AP) — Certain current or former heavy smokers should start getting yearly scans for lung cancer to cut their risk of death from the nation's top cancer killer, government advisers said Monday — even as they stressed that the tests aren't for everyone.

The long-anticipated decision by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force said these CT scans of the lungs should be offered only to people at especially high risk: those who smoked a pack of cigarettes a day for 30 years or an equivalent amount, such as two packs a day for 15 years — and who are between the ages of 55 and 80.

That's roughly 10 million people, but not all of them qualify for screening, said task force vice chairman Michael LeFevre, a University of Missouri family physician. Even those high-risk people shouldn't be scanned if they're not healthy enough to withstand cancer treatment or if they kicked the habit more than 15 years ago.

Lung cancer kills nearly 160,000 Americans each year. Smoking is the biggest risk factor, and the more and longer people smoke, the higher their risk. Usually, lung cancer is diagnosed too late for treatment to succeed, but until now, there hasn't been a good means of early detection.

The newly recommended screening could prevent as many as 20,000 deaths a year, LeFevre said — if it's used correctly. That estimate assumes good candidates seek the scans. There's no way to know whether people at the highest risk will or if instead the overly anxious will flood testing centers.

Why not screen younger or lighter smokers? There are no data to tell whether they would be helped. Lung cancer is rare before age 50, and the major study that showed screening could save lives enrolled only heavy smokers starting at age 55.

But screening isn't harm-free. A suspicious scan is far more likely to be a false alarm than a tumor, LeFevre noted. Yet patients might undergo invasive testing to find out, which in turn can cause complications. Moreover, radiation accumulated from even low-dose CT scans can raise the risk of cancer. And occasionally, screening detects tumors so small and slow-growing they never would have threatened the person's life.
Friends of slain MU student set up scholarship, memorial funds for his son
Mosby shot to death in Illinois.

By ASHLEY JOST
Friday, January 3, 2014 at 2:00 pm

After the death of Jarrett D. Mosby, a senior business major at the University of Missouri, a few of his friends set up scholarship and memorial funds in his honor for his 6-year-old son.

The idea of the funds came during the planning stages of a memorial held in Mosby's honor last week. The venue, disc jockey and the organizing were all contributed in part by friends of Mosby's from MU, said Armani Tatum, a friend and organizer.

"We wanted to make a fund so" Mosby's son "could reach the goal that was his father's dream," Tatum said. "We raised around $5,000."

Some of the money from the event last week went into a fund for Jarrett Mosby Jr., and the rest will go to Mosby's family to offset costs for the funeral, which took place this morning in Collinsville, Ill.

Alana Flowers, a college adviser at Soldan International Studies High School in St. Louis, didn't know Mosby well, but she said she felt affected by his death because she is a younger mother and works at a city school where there are "a lot of African-American students with similar backgrounds."

Flowers, a December 2012 MU graduate, helped with the idea of setting up the fund and got permission from Mosby's mother to proceed. The hope is for the scholarship fund to help with the college application process for students who need the assistance.

Tatum and friends are also researching larger possibilities for the funds and discussing plans for an annual memorial event. With services this week, Tatum said, planning is temporarily on hold while family and friends remember Mosby.

Mosby was killed Dec. 23 by a gunshot wound to the lung in Madison, Ill., after what police say was an argument during a drug deal. Early that morning, Mosby met with Deneshion M. Swope, who was supposed to buy marijuana from Mosby, according to a report in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. The two argued, and Swope, an East St. Louis resident, allegedly shot Mosby seven times in his upper body.

Swope is being charged with first-degree murder and is in the Madison County Jail on $500,000 bail.
Grocery store a big deal in small town
Pilot Grove residents funded new business.

By DONALD BRADLEY The Kansas City Star
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PILOT GROVE (AP) — Loretta Kempf wasn't messing around the day her town got its grocery store back.

She had her mind set on being the first customer and rejected a friend's offer of a ride there.

"You'll be late," she told the woman.

Kempf, 91, walked. She got there first and bought an angel food cake mix, The Kansas City Star reported.

She and others like her are a good part of why this town built a grocery store — literally, the town. A bunch of farmers, the mayor, a doctor, an electrician, business owners, the high school FFA, regular folks and some retirees — 23 in all — pooled money and came up with $320,000 for the new store. It had its grand opening Dec. 7.

The old store closed about four years ago, and the nearest place for groceries had been in Boonville, 12 miles away. Not all that far, but Pilot Grove has a lot of senior citizens among its 800 residents.

And as Kempf put it, "When it snows and school's out, the" transportation service "bus doesn't run."

In a metal building only 60 feet by 72 feet, the new store won't be confused with a Hy-Vee or Price Chopper. It doesn't have a full deli, but you can get a ham sandwich; no fancy java bar, but there is a coffee pot and a place to visit.

Communities lose a lot when they lose the grocery store — convenience, identity, pride. The idea to pass a hat to build a new one says a lot about this little town in Cooper County, and probably something about rural grit.

"When you want or need something bad enough, sometimes you have to do it yourself," said Joe Stoecklein, one of the farmers who pitched in.

Going way back, Elwood Gerke ran a grocery store in Pilot Grove.

But he got old and sick and finally had to sell the place. For whatever reason, the people who took over couldn't make a go of it and closed up about four years ago.
No one came forward to try again.

**Connie Mefford, a program development specialist for University of Missouri Extension, said distributors typically don't like to service small towns because of the time and money necessary for a small order.**

"That's why a lot of towns have lost their stores," Mefford said.

But Pilot Grove folks wouldn't give up. They knew that without a grocery store, young people leave, nobody moves in and businesses close.

"Nobody wants to live in a town without a grocery store, simple as that," said Kathy Meisenheimer, who works at the local bank.

And while older residents don't mind driving around town, they might not want to get out on blacktops to go to other towns to shop.

"Some of them shouldn't be driving at all," Art Schuster Jr., another of the farmers who chipped in, said with a smile.

Pilot Grove does have a Casey's convenience store, but the town wanted a full-line grocery store. In March 2010, townspeople invited Mefford to attend a community meeting on strategy to get one.

"I told them that night that this was going to be a challenge," Mefford said. "But there was also about 120 people there. That told me this town really wants this, and that's what helped me to stay in with them."

They pushed forward, eventually talking to a couple who operate stores in Knob Noster and Waverly. Cody and Paula Tyler said they would be interested but not in the old Gerke building because of its age and disrepair.

So first off, Pilot Grove needed money for a new building.

"At first, we thought we'd get 300 people to give a thousand dollars each," Stoecklein said. But that wouldn't work for the limited liability company the financial structure would take. They needed 25 investors, meaning some would give a whole lot more than $1,000.

The fundraising fell to nurse practitioner Laurie Beach.

"I got the money in seven days, and four of those the electricity was out in my office," Beach said.

The new building went up on a lot adjacent to her office. She had bought the land as a buffer.

"I didn't want cars on blocks or dogs on chains over there," she said.

Rita Schuster gave a tour of Pilot Grove's new grocery store a recent day, proudly, like she was showing off her new house.

Aisle by aisle, frozen section, fresh meat and the produce table. It's not the biggest store, but you can get everything you need for a big holiday dinner, she said.

"I should know because I just had 30 for Thanksgiving," she said.

And if somebody wants an item not in stock, "we'll take requests if it's something they would buy regularly," she said.

Schuster works there part time. She and her husband, John — Art Schuster's son — farm about 1,200
acres. They also contributed to the building fund. It works this way: The Tylers pay rent on the building, an amount determined by sales. At the end of the year, the investors get a dividend based on profit.

New store operator Cody Tyler, a bread man and meat cutter by training, thinks it will work out.

"I was pretty impressed with how the town came together on this thing," he said. "They really wanted a store, and we're happy to be part of it."

Meisenheimer, from the bank, showed up for lunch that day. She said the store and the effort to get it shows what a close-knit community Pilot Grove is.

"But we already knew that."
In pop songs and proverbs, we are exhorted to train up our children, to teach them well, to remember that they do, indeed, personify the future.

And rightly so. Those of us who have gained any sort of light from lessons learned bear a responsibility to refract it for another generation and forward into the days that will succeed us.

Columbia is fortunate to be home to a number of organizations that express community-mindedness by taking on a sort of childlikeness, passing down skills and insights to the youngest among us. Two such groups exist in the local theater world — TRYPS Children's Theater and PACE Youth Theatre Company have become mainstays by correcting an age-old adage and helping us see that while a play is an important thing, it's not the only thing. The latter will celebrate a profound milestone Saturday with a musical 10th birthday bash. The evening of song will mark a mission that is accomplished, in one sense, yet never ceases to matter in another.

"When PACE was developed 10 years ago, we said we would raise up the next generation of theater artists, and we believe this is what we have done and are doing," Artistic Director and co-founder Angela Howard said in an email.

As Howard and other principals reflected on 10 years of PACE, several key themes emerged. The first was the way in which the company has treated its young thespians like adults, never dumbing down its material or spoon-feeding its players — "We have never shied away from the more challenging material," Howard said, pointing to a past repertoire that includes "Les Misérables," "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "The Diary of Anne Frank," all canonical works that traffic in weighty matters.

Working exclusively with younger artists has allowed Howard and her adult cohorts a unique privilege that many other theater professionals never get to enjoy. Teaching youth the "do's" of the stage before they are socialized to see the "don'ts" in life produces performances that are emotionally rich and pure.

"They are willing to take risks at a level beyond adults, who often carry around 'baggage' and play it safe," Trent Rash, one of PACE's directors, said in the same email.

Expecting maturity from its young players has yielded benefits for the entire Columbia theater community. Howard is pleased when students who have stood before the PACE curtain affect other companies — "I like hearing from other directors, 'You've trained them well,' " she said.
Focusing not only on remembering lines and hitting marks but executing technical and behind-the-scenes maneuvers has allowed PACE alumni to graduate to collegiate theater tech programs and work at venues such as Jesse Hall and Battle High School, Howard noted.

During its tenure, PACE also created Limelight Dance Studio, a space that trains young people to be "triple threats," Howard said. But she is being unknowingly modest in assessing the number of skills with which PACE veterans are equipped to encounter the world. By leaning into its role as a community theater group, it has trained students to not only have a positive impact in theater but in many of the spheres that orbit around them.

**The group has created an anti-bullying program and maintained a partnership with Adventure Club, a before- and after-school program put on by the University of Missouri’s College of Education. What’s more, PACE has developed a well-regarded Arts in Health program, putting on plays that call attention to a variety of physical ailments and mental-health issues. The troupe has performed works concerned with childhood leukemia, Down syndrome, autism, hemophilia and more, Howard noted. And, she said, actors with Down syndrome, autism and deafness have performed roles in various PACE productions.**

Such friendships and relationships fostered promise a bright future for PACE and the communities it affects. Howard recalled the words of a former board member who once told her, "If you make it to three years, you have a chance; if you make it to five, you can make it." Now, 10 years and going strong, she is clearly overwhelmed and overjoyed by the number of people who have indelibly impressed themselves upon PACE and its artful activities. She knows it’s the presence of those sorts of people that will ensure her creative child keeps the PACE in Columbia long after she has stepped away.

"My personal goal is to have our former students running the company," she said. "That is a very real possibility."

Saturday's performance, which is cabaret-style and will feature veterans of past PACE productions, will be held at 7 p.m. at Talking Horse Theatre, 210 St. James St. Tickets are $25, $15 for alumni, and include food and beverage. Learn more about the evening and the company’s arc at [www.kidsintheact.org](http://www.kidsintheact.org).