Southwest Missouri rehab center to close

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MOUNT VERNON, MO. - A 107-year-old rehabilitation hospital in the southwest Missouri town of Mount Vernon will close at the end of October.

Missouri Rehabilitation Center was founded by the state in 1907 to treat tuberculosis patients. Its mission has changed several times, and the state transferred ownership to University of Missouri Health Care in 1996.

MU Health Care announced the planned closing Monday, citing several years of low patient numbers and expanded access to long-term rehab care throughout the state. The Mount Vernon facility has 130 beds but had just 24 inpatients on Monday.

The center's 323 employees include 156 clinical staff, 130 support staff, six physicians and 31 administrators/managers. MU Health Care said it would work to help the employees find other jobs.
MU Health Care to close Missouri Rehabilitation Center in Mount Vernon
The center has 323 employees, and they were notified of the closing in meetings Monday.

By ASHLEY JOST
Monday, August 11, 2014 at 3:10 pm

University of Missouri Health Care is closing its Missouri Rehabilitation Center in Mount Vernon effective Oct. 31.

The center has 323 employees, and they were notified of the closing in meetings Monday.

Mitch Wasden, chief executive officer and chief operating officer of MU Health Care, said in a news release that the decision to close the center was made “in light of recent changes to the health care environment.” Wasden called the closure a “difficult decision.”

Mary Jenkins, MU Health Care spokeswoman, said the center has 21 inpatients, with a 130-patient capacity.

“Our first priority today, and in the next three months, will be ensuring continuity of care for our patients and supporting the employees of Missouri Rehabilitation Center,” Wasden said in the statement. “We will work closely with other long-term acute-care centers and rehabilitation centers around the state to ensure all MRC patients receive the care they need.”

The news release lists a number of factors for the closing, including competition from 12 newer long-term care facilities in the state, including two facilities within 40 miles of Mount Vernon.

Wasden also cited “the decade-long decline in patient volumes” at the center. During fiscal year 2014, which ended in June, the average number of inpatients was 28.66. It was 29.40 in fiscal year 2013, 35.38 in fiscal year 2012, 40.44 in fiscal year 2011 and 41.92 in fiscal year 2010, Jenkins said.

Uncertainty about state funding is another issue cited for the closure.

The Missouri General Assembly appropriated $10.4 million for the center, $5.2 million of which was vetoed by Gov. Jay Nixon. The legislature could override the veto, but the governor also might
withhold that money again in the fall if the legislature doesn’t maintain a handful of tax legislation vetoes. The Mount Vernon center received about $10 million annually in the past five years, according to the release.

The uncertainty regarding funding “makes it difficult to successfully manage and staff a hospital and strategically plan for the future in a rapidly changing health care environment,” the release states.

The employees, including 265 full-time workers, will receive transition pay and benefits and priority consideration for other MU Health Care jobs, Jenkins said. Of those 323, 156 are clinical staff, 130 are support staff, six are physicians and 31 are administrators or managers.

Jenkins said there are 85 open MU Health Care nursing positions in Columbia that some clinical staff members are eligible to apply for.

Several million dollars worth of maintenance needed for the Mount Vernon facility created another problem for administrators.

MU Health Care officials also planned to meet with Veterans Affairs officials about the VA outpatient clinic, which operates in 35,000 square feet of space leased from the Missouri Rehabilitation Center. The VA’s lease with MU Health Care runs through Oct. 31.

No decision has been made about what to do with the buildings after the center’s closure.

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The List: University research funding fell in 2013

While the same 11 universities made the Business Journal’s list of the largest research universities in Missouri and Southern Illinois this year as last year, and in the same ranking order, total research funding fell 5.5 percent from last year’s list.

Research funding received in 2013 by the listed universities totaled about $1.32 billion, a decrease of about 5.5 percent, or $77.17 million, compared with funding reported in 2012. The updated list
appears in the Aug. 8 issue of the Business Journal.

“I think there’s been a flattening of the National Institutes of Health [NIH] budget and sequestration hit us very hard,” said Jennifer Lodge, vice chancellor for research at Washington University. “We get so much of our research funding from the NIH so anything that affects them affects us.”

Reports predicting the impact of sequestration on research and development (R&D) funding were as modest as 5 percent and as high as 9 percent. According to the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, the 2013 sequestration decreased funding by 8.8 percent, although the NIH reported that its impact was less dramatic, with a 5 percent decrease.

“We can point to both sequestration and the decline in proposal success rates,” said Craig David, director of the office of sponsored programs administration at the University of Missouri in Columbia. “MU's largest funder is the NIH. NIH recently published a comparison of their success rates over a 20-year period, which shows a decline in funding rates over the last few years.”

Missouri universities lost an estimated $31.75 million due to sequestration in 2013, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Science Works for U.S., but proposal success rates at the NIH have been dramatically decreasing since 2003.

Nasser Arshadi, vice provost for research at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, said that there needs to be an increased emphasis on non-federal government sources, such as industry. “Since two-thirds of the total research and development budget in the U.S. comes from non-federal government sources, we need an effective way of building university-industry research collaboration.”

The List: Research Universities

Ranked by Research Funding Received 2013
Locally Researched by: Katlyn Keller, St. Louis Business Journal

The St. Louis Business Journal ranks the area's largest Research Universities in Missouri and Southern Illinois. Total research funding for the listed universities in 2013 totaled $1.32 billion, compared to $1.4 billion in 2012.

http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/subscriber-only/2014/08/08/research-universities.html
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>University / Prior Rank</th>
<th>Research Funding Received 2013</th>
<th>Research Funding Received 2012</th>
<th>Types of Research Conducted</th>
<th>Types of Funding</th>
<th>Head of Research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Washington University in St. Louis</td>
<td>$548,700,000</td>
<td>$620,400,000</td>
<td>university-wide and multi-disciplinary research with a prominent emphasis on medical, life sciences, public health and renewable energy research</td>
<td>federal (NIH, NSF, NASA, DOE and others) and state governments, private industry and nonprofit agencies</td>
<td>Jennifer Lodge, Vice chancellor for research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>University of Missouri-Columbia</td>
<td>$474,810,350</td>
<td>$479,396,526</td>
<td>research-intensive university with medicine, veterinary medicine, engineering and agriculture in addition to other disciplines</td>
<td>federal and state funding agencies, industry and foundations</td>
<td>Henry Foley, Senior vice chancellor for research and graduate studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Southern Illinois University Carbondale</td>
<td>$61,545,248</td>
<td>$75,527,415</td>
<td>cancer, Alzheimer’s, disaster mitigation/preparedness, coal technologies, engineering, climate change, biodiversity and health policy</td>
<td>federal (NIH, DOE and others), Illinois Department of Natural Resources and other state agencies, foundations and private institutions</td>
<td>James Garvey, Interim vice chancellor for research</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Saint Louis University</td>
<td>$53,072,529</td>
<td>$51,060,870</td>
<td>biomedical, arts and humanities, physical sciences, engineering and clinical trials</td>
<td>federal agencies, state and local governments, private foundations and professional societies</td>
<td>Raymond Tait, Vice president, research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Southern Illinois University Edwardsville</td>
<td>$42,216,712</td>
<td>$43,109,570</td>
<td>biological sciences, pharmacy, environmental sciences, civil engineering, nursing, physics, dental medicine and mechanical engineering</td>
<td>National Science Foundation, NASA, National Institute of Health, Illinois Department of Natural Resources and</td>
<td>Jerry Weinberg, Associate provost for research and dean of the graduate</td>
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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

SEC Network to launch Thursday with or without Mediacom

Tuesday, August 12, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The SEC Network launches Thursday. **Whether many mid-Missouri residents will get a chance to watch it is yet to be determined.**

The cable provider Mediacom is still in negotiations with ESPN for a contract to carry the 24-hour network, which will showcase the conference’s athletics with live events, analysis and game replays. Each of the SEC’s football teams will have at least one game on the station, including Missouri’s Sept. 13 home contest against Central Florida.

As of Monday, the network is available through most of the main cable providers — Comcast's XFINITY Center, CenturyLink, DISH, DirecTV, Time Warner Cable — as well as some lesser-known entities: AT&T U-verse, Bright House Networks, Charter Communications, Cox Communications, Google Fiber, LUS Fiber, PTC Communications and Wilkes Telephone. Some providers also will offer events on SECNetwork.com.

The network's launch includes more than 92 million subscribers.

**What will those subscribers be getting?**

Tim Tebow and Greg McElroy will make their returns to the SEC as analysts. Paul Finebaum will move his popular radio talk show to the network. Brent Musberger will call games. And viewers will get plenty of replays before the live events begin.
With headquarters in Charlotte, N.C., the SEC Network plans to broadcast more than 1,000 live events in its first year, according to Justin Connolly, ESPN senior vice president of college networks.

That’s almost twice as many as the launch year for the Pac-12 Network, which is now up to 850 live events in its third season. The SEC is a different — and more powerful — animal.

"There's enough content in this conference, given the 14 teams and high level of competition, that we feel we'll have more than enough," Connolly said.

The SEC Network, launching Thursday at 5 p.m., will kick off its broadcast with SEC Now – a news show covering all things SEC. The first week's lineup will consist of football team previews and classic SEC games, including the BCS championship games between 2007 and 2013.

Game replays, a staple for any conference-centric network, will fill in the other hours of programming.

The first Missouri-focused program will be a Tigers football preview Aug. 20 at 7:30 p.m. A "Best of Missouri" series will air Aug. 25, beginning at 11 p.m. It'll show four consecutive classic games: the 2005 Independence Bowl against South Carolina, the 2007 Missouri-Kansas matchup, the 2010 Missouri-Oklahoma homecoming game and the 2012 Missouri-Tennessee four-overtime thriller.

Viewers also will get an early peak at the college basketball and soccer seasons. Kentucky's Big Blue Bahamas Tour will air between Aug. 15-17 and Georgia will play Ole Miss in soccer on Aug. 22.

What's the deal with Mediacom?
But, many in the Columbia and Jefferson City area will be left in the dark. Mediacom is also the provider for Mizzou Cable, the campus' television network. Until Mediacom makes a deal with the network, those on campus won't see the network either, according to Jana Bott, manager of strategic communication for the UM System's Division of IT.

"Mediacom is still in negotiations, but hopes to offer it," Bott said in an email Monday.
Phyllis Peters, a communications director for Mediacom, also said the parties are working on a deal to be done before the season begins. The first SEC Network football game will be Texas A&M at South Carolina on Aug. 28.

"The relationship of SEC as part of a bigger media owner (ESPN) doesn’t necessarily make it a tougher proposition but one with many more elements involved. So, that’s why this process takes some time," Peters said in an email. "Detailed arrangements for all the pieces need to be put in place."

The network's promos this summer instructed viewers to tell their cable provider to carry the network. An online petition is also available to sign at getsecnetwork.com. It appears that's all Mediacom customers can do at the moment. Missouri athletics took to Twitter on Monday to urge the provider to carry the network. Mediacom reponded saying there is no estimated time for the SEC Network:

@mutigersdotcom We're actively working with the content provider to reach a deal. No estimated time just yet for SEC Network. *CW

— Mediacom Support (@MediacomSupport) August 12, 2014

**Launching a new network**

A conference-only network is nothing new. Both the Big Ten Conference (launched in 2007) and the Pac-12 Network (launched in 2012) have benefited financially. The Pac-12 saw a $158.1 million increase in total revenue its first year with its network, for a total of $334 million in fiscal year 2013, according to a USA Today report. The Big Ten reported earnings of $318.4 million that same year. The SEC came in third at $314.5 million. The SEC will most likely surpass that number after the network's first year.

The Pac-12, unlike the SEC, has complete ownership of its network.

The Pac-12 Network also created regional networks for each area of the conference, to tailor content to its six regions. Regional networks will not be part of the SEC Network, Connolly said.

"From the start, we looked at doing a single network," Connolly said. "We view the SEC as a national conference, one of national relevance. Our feeling from the beginning was to do a single network feed and have that distributed nationally."

The Pac-12 Conference still has a contract with ESPN and Fox, a rich 12-year, $3 billion deal. But the conference's network is owned by the conference itself, an important distinction.
The SEC Network, given its ties to ESPN, will also have to answer to the sports broadcast leader. CBS will have priority in choosing its mid-Saturday afternoon SEC football broadcast, usually the day's marquee game. The other games will then be doled out between ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU and the SEC Network.

One of the SEC Network's recent victories is its deal with DirecTV, which still doesn't carry the Pac-12 Network.

The SEC Network will charge cable providers in SEC states more than it will charge those outside of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas, according to Scott Pierce, vice president of the Television Critics Association and writer for the Salt Lake Tribune. The Pac-12 Network, meanwhile, has one fee for all providers, no matter the region, according to Pierce.

For the die-hard SEC fans who subscribe to Mediacom, they will have to wait, find a friend with another provider, or switch providers altogether. Certainly the SEC's widespread launch this week and recent deal with DirecTV strengthens its position in negotiations with Mediacom. But when and if that deal will be struck, is still up in the air.

"At this point, I think we've laid a successful foundation to launch this kind of network," Connolly said. "I think most areas have two, at least three options for consumers. Columbia, Mo., is an exception to that, however, as there's no deal with Mediacom yet."

Prosecutors: Court ruling helps sex crime victims

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A recent Missouri Supreme Court ruling removed legal obstacles that made it more difficult to prosecute sex abuse cases, particularly those involving children, prosecutors and victims' advocates said.
The ruling, which received little public attention when it was issued July 29, struck down a rule that allowed appellate judges to set aside convictions on sex crimes if they thought the victim's testimony wasn't credible. The state Supreme Court said the corroboration rule required appellate judges to make determinations they were not equipped to make, The Columbia Daily Tribune reported (http://bit.ly/1kULeNG).

Judge Richard Teitelman wrote in the unanimous opinion that in every other crime, appellate judges assume evidence supporting a conviction is true, and generally consider only if there is enough evidence.

The corroboration rule combined a discredited premise that victims of sex assaults lie more often than other victims with the idea "that judges and juries are uniquely unable to make accurate factual determinations in sex crime cases. Both assumptions are unsupported," Teitelman wrote.

The court also struck down a "destructive contradictions" rule that allowed appellate courts to throw out convictions if a witness contradicts statements made during their court testimony or in earlier proceedings.

The ruling came in the case of Sylvester Porter of St. Louis, who challenged his conviction and 25-year sentence on two first-degree statutory sodomy counts involving a 3-year-old girl. The girl was 5 when she testified at Porter's trial and his attorneys argued in an appeal that her testimony was not corroborated and was contradictory.

Porter's attorneys invoked the destructive contradictions rule because the victim gave different details at different times, which often happens with child victims, said Jerri Sites, child advocacy center program director at Rainbow House.

Child abuse victims "may make a clear disclosure in a forensic interview, and get to court, and they freeze when they are facing their abuser," Sites said.

**The practical effect of the decision is likely to be small but the decision has major significance in the development of the law, said Ben Trachtenberg, an associate professor of law at the University of Missouri.**

"It shows Missouri following a modern trend of getting rid of some antiquated rules that apply only in sex cases and the theory that victim witnesses in sex cases, primarily women, were necessarily more unreliable than in other cases," Trachtenberg said.
Slive: College sports in 'historic evolution'  

NO MU MENTION  

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Southeastern Conference Commissioner Mike Slive says college athletics are "going through a historic evolution."

Slive released a statement Monday after a judge's ruling that players in FBS football and Division I men's basketball are entitled to at least $5,000 a year for rights to their names, images and likenesses. He says the judge on Friday appropriately recognized "the importance of integrating academics and athletics in this decision."

The NCAA says it will appeal U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken's ruling against the NCAA's argument that its model of amateurism is the only way to operate college sports.

Slive says "the ultimate consequences" won't be known until legal questions are resolved. He says the judge's decision and recent changes in NCAA governances represent "a historic evolution of the landscape of college sports."

NCAA seeks clarification in O'Bannon ruling  

By MICHAEL MAROT
The NCAA wants clarification on two points in a California judge's ruling in the landmark Ed O'Bannon case.

The governing body wrote in a brief to the U.S. District Court on Monday that schools want to know which recruits are covered under the ruling which opened the door to athletes receiving a small percentage of the millions of dollars they help generate.

Judge Claudia Wilken wrote it would affect only athletes who enroll after July 1, 2016, at the beginning of the next recruiting cycles.

The NCAA calls the language about the "next recruiting cycle" ambiguous. It wants the court to establish another date, Aug. 1, 2015, when scholarships can first be offered in the 2015-16 recruiting cycle.

"Under existing NCAA rules, student-athletes in the next recruiting cycle (i.e., student-athletes who would first enroll in college in Fall 2016) may receive offer letters from colleges starting on August 1, 2015. Bylaw 13.9.2.2. NCAA seeks to confirm that the existing NCAA rules can remain in force until August 1, 2015, although we understand the injunction would not permit the NCAA to adopt or enforce rules inconsistent with the injunction on or after that date," attorneys wrote in the filing, pointing out that is the first day schools can offer scholarships to players in the 2016-17 recruiting class.

On a second point, the NCAA contends, is Wilken's language regarding the "licensing or use of prospective, current, or former student-athletes" could be interpreted to apply to current players.

"This has prompted concerns among colleges and universities that the injunction might, contrary to the Court's opinion, apply immediately to current student-athletes," the attorneys wrote. "Based on the Court's opinion, the NCAA believes the language of Paragraph 1 refers to compensation only for student-athletes first enrolling after July 1, 2016. Otherwise the injunction would permit colleges and conferences to compensate current student-athletes before the NCAA's member colleges have an opportunity to consider new rules consistent with the injunction."

Attorneys wrote that they want the clarifications to ensure that there are no violations of the permanent injunction Wilken imposed, which allows players at big schools to have money generated by television contracts put into a trust fund to pay them when they leave. Wilken said the body that governs college athletics could set a cap on the money paid to athletes, as long as it allows at least $5,000 per athlete per year of competition. Individual schools could offer less money, she said, but only if they don't unlawfully conspire among themselves to set those amounts.

NCAA President Mark Emmert said Sunday that the governing body would appeal "at least in part" the ruling.
"We look forward to presenting our arguments on appeal, and in the meantime we will continue to champion student-athlete success on the field and in the classroom," NCAA chief legal officer Donald Remy said in a statement released after Emmert's announcement.

Winning on appeal could be a major challenge given the venue in Oakland, California.

Though the NCAA has a stronger historical record in appeals courts, where a recent University of Illinois study found that it wins 71 percent of the time in both the second and third rounds of cases, this would go to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Legal experts say that court has generally been a "labor-friendly" court, which could hurt the NCAA's chances of victory.