Mizzou News

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Editorial: Planned Parenthood, not politics, prevents abortions

Sept. 30, 2015 • By the Editorial Board

Here’s a fact: If grandstanding Republicans in Congress and across Missouri succeed in defunding Planned Parenthood, there will be more abortions.

The one thing people on both sides of the ideological divide — and the millions who occupy a less volatile middle ground — agree upon is that they would like to see fewer women getting abortions.

Planned Parenthood makes that happen. The nonprofit organization, under fire after “deceitfully edited” videos made by abortion foes were circulated this summer, does far more to prevent unwanted pregnancies than to facilitate abortions.

Abortions account for about 3 percent of all services provided by Planned Parenthood, the organization’s data show. The bulk of its services, 76 percent, are for contraception and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases. Cancer screening and prevention are 9 percent and other women’s health services are 11 percent.

More contraception properly used = fewer unwanted pregnancies = fewer abortions. This is not a difficult equation.

But there is no political gain to be had for Republicans by not beating their chests against Planned Parenthood. Primary voters are unlikely to read the fine print describing the multitude of services Planned Parenthood provides. They may not believe the organization’s president, Cecile Richards, when she says the secretly made videos that make it look as though Planned Parenthood is selling fetal tissue for profit were heavily doctored by abortion foes.

They may not agree with Ms. Richards when she said she is “proud” of the work the agency does in helping its clinics retrieve 1 percent of fetal tissue when requested by abortion patients because the tissue is used in research for cures and treatments for diseases.

These same voters may not have found it offensive that U.S. Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, was critical of Ms. Richards for her salary of $590,000 at a not-for-profit. Mr. Chaffetz’s committee is bent on slashing federal funding for Planned Parenthood, even
though federal funds are not used for the tiny percentage of abortions performed at some of the agency’s 700 clinics around the country.

When Wayne LaPierre is lobbying Congress on behalf of the not-for-profit National Rifle Association, does anyone chide him for making more than $1 million a year? Certainly no Republican would.

Congress doesn’t have a monopoly on demonizing Planned Parenthood. At least one Republican presidential hopeful, Carly Fiorina, flat-out lied about what the secretly obtained videos showed. Maybe she didn’t think anyone had actually viewed them and that she could make up details and use them to advance her candidacy.

Missouri lawmakers and political candidates also have found fruit in hounding the organization. Sen. Kent Schaefer, R-Columbia, is an example. Mr. Schaefer was a moderate Republican until he launched his bid for Missouri attorney general. Then he turned sharply to the right, only to encounter a primary opponent in Josh Hawley even more conservative than Mr. Schaefer claims to be.

**Mr. Hawley, on leave from a teaching job at the University of Missouri law school, clerked for Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts in 2007. He took part in writing briefs in the Hobby Lobby case. The court ruled in Hobby Lobby that closely held companies could refuse to pay for contraceptive coverage for employees because of religious objections.**

To get to the right of Mr. Hawley, Mr. Schaefer is leading the movement against Planned Parenthood in Missouri. He formed and is heading the Senate Interim Committee on the Sanctity of Life, which has been investigating the organization’s operations since the doctored videos appeared.

Mr. Schaefer’s committee didn’t even pause on Monday when the current Missouri attorney general, Chris Koster, the only Democratic candidate for governor next year, said that his office’s review of Planned Parenthood’s operations in Missouri had found no evidence that the organization had sold fetal body parts.

**Mr. Schaefer called Mr. Koster’s report “incomplete” and said his committee’s probe would continue. That committee has even bullied the University of Missouri into suspending hospital privileges for the sole doctor who provides abortion services at Planned Parenthood in Columbia.**

After the committee launched its investigation, MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin asked MU Health Care to review the policies it uses to grant privileges. The medical staff’s executive committee then voted to discontinue the privileges beginning Dec. 1. The doctor’s limited privileges had allowed her to refer patients to University Hospital and to follow a patient’s progress, but not to treat or prescribe medication.

Under state law, doctors performing abortions must have clinical privileges at a hospital no more than 30 miles from the clinic where abortions are provided.
This is a war against women, particularly poor women. It is not a war against abortion. These are not attempts to reduce the numbers of abortions performed in the United States. Those numbers are going down sharply, having dropped 12 percent in the past five years.

Health experts do not give politicians the credit for lowering abortion rates. They chalk it up to an increase in the number of women using stay-in-place, continually active forms of birth control that have very low failure rates. This is the kind of birth control that Planned Parenthood dispenses. This is the kind of information Planned Parenthood gives women who don’t want unexpected pregnancies.

This is the kind of prescription that really does prevent abortions.

Planned Parenthood supporters look to turn the tide of the national conversation

Sept. 30, 2015

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Protest signs floated like flat ships on a sea of pink as guest speakers shouted into a microphone that recent attempts by the University of Missouri to distance itself from Planned Parenthood would not stand.

No one was more vocal than Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri’s President and CEO Laura McQuade.

“Chancellor Loftin, welcome to Columbia,” she screamed through cheers. “You just got here a year ago, and you just made a really big mistake. You thought it would be easier to cave to the political pressure to repress women, we are here today to tell you, you made the wrong decision.

“We are going to turn up the heat on you so far, you’re not even going to know what hit you.”

For the last two months, ever since a series of video tapes released by the Center for Medical Progress alleged Planned Parenthood was selling fetal tissue for profit, the organization has circled their wagons and tried to defend their image – both as a haven for low-cost reproductive health care and as legal abortion provider.
If Tuesday is any indication, both in Columbia and across the nation, Planned Parenthood is ready to go on the offensive.

The day saw rallies across the country as part of a national #PinkOut day to support the embattled health care organization and in part to show solidarity with the national President of Planned Parenthood, Cecile Richards, as she testified before Congress.

In Columbia, hundreds of students, faculty members, elected officials, community leaders and citizens crowded into Speaker’s Circle on Mizzou’s campus.

The issue has become especially contentious in Columbia after the university cut what they called obsolete contracts with the Columbia affiliate of Planned Parenthood and revoked the refer and follow privileges of Dr. Colleen McNicholas, the abortion provider for that same clinic. Revoking those privileges essentially takes away the clinic’s ability to perform abortions.

State Rep. Stephen Webber, D-Columbia, whose district includes the university, was one of the first speakers on the docket.

“I’m here to say to you, that you do have some friends in the Missouri legislature, that we will stand up for you, and we will stand up for women, even when others won’t,” he said to raucous applause. “Study after study, the evidence makes it clear, the key to political development, equality, ending poverty, to economic growth, it’s simple: it’s the empowerment of women. The empowerment of women must be a priority and a reality here at the University of Missouri.

“The University must respond to the needs of women, not the convenience of political pressure.”

State Rep. Kip Kendrick, D-Columbia, also appeared at the rally, but he did not speak.

The crowd also had a smaller subgroup from St. Louis that chartered a bus to attend the Columbia rally after rallying at Washington University.

State Rep. Stacey Newman, D-St. Louis, a fervent pro-abortion rights advocate, was among that group.

“I’m the proud wife of a Mizzou alum, and I’m also the proud parent of a Mizzou graduate,” Newman said as she spoke to the crowd. “But I’ll tell you what. Today, I am not proud.”

Many of the students who attended the rally shared her belief, decrying Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and the rest of the administration for appearing to sit on their hands while cowering to political pressure from Jefferson City.

Loftin received much of the criticism. After becoming a popular man on campus when he first came to the university just over a year ago, recent scandals surrounding the university, Planned Parenthood and the student president being called a racial slur among them, have been met with inaction on Loftin’s part, students say.

“I think people see him as the shining figure for Mizzou, someone who represents our campus, and when he does so little or nothing at all to address these issues, it’s really disheartening,” said senior Ellie Busch. “After the initial contract terminations, it was clear action needed to be taken, and once they took away the refer and follow privileges,
something needed to be done. We need to rally, we need to show Mizzou that we’re not going to stand for this.”

After the crowd began to disperse, Newman said her major beef of the whole debacle was with what she called the Planned Parenthood “witch hunt” committees in the House and Senate. She serves on the House Children and Families Committee, one half of a joint committee looking into Planned Parenthood. Newman voiced her frustration with the lack of agenda and public information about the House hearings, while also lamenting the lack of progressives in the General Assembly.

“The majority of our Democratic caucus are progressive, which means that we stand strongly for reproductive justice, but we are in the minority,” she said. “I’m just really tired of people, particularly Sen. Schaefer, using women’s reproductive decisions as political pawns. To me that’s unacceptable.”

Newman said those reproductive decisions are legal, but they’re being constricted by government.

“I work very closely with the Wash. U School of Medicine, and our new doctors that we’re training, they’re appalled on how we set policy,” she added. “This is not based on best practices and medicine, it’s based on people running for office trying to stir up the extremists. As you heard today, abortion is not one of the top services that Planned Parenthood provides, but it is a service. And more of us are speaking out.”

Other students added that Planned Parenthood provided cheap, affordable services in a safe environment.

“My support comes from the fact that I was there on Saturday for a cancer screening and for some other health complications,” Grace Shemwell, who studies juvenile law at Mizzou, said. “There are other clinics that weren’t open at the time. I was in an emergency state, but I did not feel comfortable going to an emergency room. They gave me immediate attention, and they were just the most accepting group of people I have ever met.

“As a woman, it’s important to feel safe when you are getting your health care, and in a lot of places, I don’t feel safe, so that was really refreshing.”

Emma Schiermeier, a junior, said that Planned Parenthood is simply a more affordable option than most other places. She would regularly have to pay $45 for three packs of birth control, but through Planned Parenthood, she only spends $18 on the same amount. She also had an exam that cost $500 at other places but only $42 at Planned Parenthood.

“I had bad insurance, but they make it affordable,” she said. “They take in everything, like if you’re a student, how much you work, how much in scholarships you have, and they make it so the price is that you can afford it.”

She did say however there was one drawback to Planned Parenthood’s services.

“The only negative part has been sometimes, like the first time I ever went there, there were protesters outside of it calling me a murderer and that was kind of unpleasant,” she said.

For that reason, McQuade will continue to fight for her organization.
“You think you can shame them?” she asked the opponents of Planned Parenthood during her speech, “You think you can stigmatize them for seeking the health care they deserve? No way, we tell you, no way.”

The Kansas City Star.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

The high price of appeasing Missouri’s anti-abortion lobby

Attorney General Chris Koster: No evidence of wrongdoing by Planned Parenthood

State investigations to continue

Stem cell research under fire again

The Editorial Board

In a more sane political climate, Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster’s unequivocal report clear Planned Parenthood in Missouri of any unlawful activity regarding fetal tissue disposal would take the topic of legal abortion off the front burner.

But it likely won’t. Not with statewide elections coming up next year. And not after the University of Missouri’s administration handed Planned Parenthood opponents a huge victory by ending hospital referral privileges that a doctor needed to perform non-surgical abortions at a Columbia clinic.

Already, state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, a Republican from Columbia who wants to be the next state attorney general, has said he will continue using taxpayer money to pay staff time and travel expenses for lawmakers to travel to Jefferson City so that he can continue his “sanctity of life” committee investigation. Two state House committees are holding joint hearings about Planned Parenthood and have a meeting scheduled on Oct. 14.
And R. Bowen Loftin, who became Mizzou’s chancellor in February 2014, is learning the steep price of acquiescence to political pressure. Not content with the university’s role in ending abortions at the Columbia clinic as of Dec. 1, Missouri’s leading anti-abortion group has set its sights on certain types of stem cell research being done by university scientists.

Investigators from Koster’s office reviewed about 3,500 pages of documents connected to the disposal of fetal parts at Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri, the only Missouri clinic that performs surgical abortions. They also interviewed staffers from the clinic and its pathology lab before concluding that everything was in order.

“We have discovered no evidence whatsoever to suggest that Planned Parenthood’s St. Louis facility is selling fetal tissue,” Koster said in a statement.

Missouri is at least the sixth state where investigations have cleared Planned Parenthood of breaking any laws. The allegations arose after selectively edited videos showed a Planned Parenthood doctor talking in a cavalier manner over lunch about the program that donates fetal tissue and organs for scientific research, if the patient having the abortion consents.

Cecile Richards, Planned Parenthood’s national president, correctly asserted at a Congressional hearing this week that producers of the sting videos “failed to succeed in convincing even a single affiliate to enter into a procurement contract” to sell fetal parts.

Richards also reminded listeners that federal money is not used for abortions, except in life-saving circumstances permitted by law. Most of the organization’s federal money comes from Medicaid reimbursements for services like birth control, cancer screenings and detection and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.

But conservative Republicans in Congress are still vowing to shut down the federal government to avoid giving money to Planned Parenthood.

An especially dismaying consequence in Missouri is a potential reprise of the stem cell wars of about a decade ago. Certain politicians teamed up with anti-abortion groups back then to contend that scientific research on microscopic cells that came from human embryos equated to the destruction of human life.
It was an extreme position that divided Missouri Republicans and had a chilling effect on the state’s academic and research climates. Now Missouri Right to Life, the state’s most powerful anti-abortion group, is reportedly vowing to make embryonic stem cell research an issue in the 2016 legislative session.

Voters in 2006 passed a constitutional amendment that says the state cannot outlaw medical research that is permitted under federal law. But lawmakers could exert pressure on Missouri’s state-financed universities by threatening to cut funding. That is exactly the tactic that Schaefer, the Senate’s appropriations chairman, used to bully the University of Missouri with regard to the Planned Parenthood clinic.

The message for university administrators and politicians should be clear: Only the end to legal abortion and life-saving embryonic research will satisfy Missouri’s anti-abortion lobby. To pander to it now will lead to more demands down the road.

Following MU Decision Last Week, Hundreds Gather in Support of Planned Parenthood

By REBECCA SMITH - SEPT. 30, 2015
On the heels of a decision made last Thursday that could leave Columbia - once again - without a doctor able to perform abortions, about 1000 people gathered on the University of Missouri campus Tuesday to voice their support of Planned Parenthood.

Speakers at the event ranged from a religious leader, to politicians, to MU graduate students and Planned Parenthood leadership. This event was a part of a national “Pink Out Day” and similar events were being held around the country.

Many of those who spoke and many of those who gathered in support of Planned Parenthood at Speaker’s Circle expressed discontent with the decision made last Thursday by MU Health Care. This decision eliminated the clinical privileges that allow the Columbia Planned Parenthood doctor to perform abortions.

For more information on the specifics of MU Health Care’s decision, please see KBIA’s previous reporting.

Laure McQuade, the President and CEO of the Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri, said the Columbia community is upset by the recent decisions made by MU.

“The University is such an anchor in this community,” McQuade said. “It means so much to the members of the Columbia community. And to be let down and to be so
shamelessly be thrown under the political bus by the university that they so respect and love I think is just - it really drew people here today.”:

LcQuade said the Columbia Planned Parenthood has several demands for the University. These include: its provider’s privileges reinstated, contracts with the medical and nursing schools to be restored and for a public apology for “their behavior.”

“We’re here to tell them that they didn’t just hurt Planned Parenthood, they hurt the women of this community,” LcQuade said. “They hurt the men of this community who seek services.”

McQuade said the Columbia Planned Parenthood is currently examining its options. They are doing “everything in our power” to secure new privileges for their provider through either Boone County Hospital, MU Health Care or both before the December 1 deadline.

She also said the clinic is looking at submitting a complaint to the Federal Department of Health and Senior Services, but has no ability to sue the University over its decision at this time.

One family – a mother and brother pair were at the event in support of their daughter and sister who was raped in Columbia several years ago. They said the Columbia Planned Parenthood assisted her at a “really critical time.”

Kevin, the brother, said Planned Parenthood is an important resource in the community.

“I think there’s a lot of stigma for young women who do get pregnant or need contraception and are sexual active,” He said. “There’s really nowhere else for them to go if Planned Parenthood is defunded and that resource isn’t available.”

Corinna Mann was another supporter at the rally. She was there with her 1 month old daughter, Alayna. Mann said it’s important to support women’s choices.

She added that she is a recent graduate of the social work school at MU and she was disappointed by the University’s decision to not only remove the clinic doctor’s privileges, but also to sever ties between the school of social work and Planned Parenthood.

“It just makes for less practical experiences,” Mann said. “That was a big way that people were able to learn how the legislative process works. We were able to get experience lobbying and doing things like that. Other opportunities like that are limited when it comes to social work. I think it will be really detrimental.”

Lana Coggeshall was also at the rally in support of Planned Parenthood, but she didn’t come alone. She brought with her two children who are 11 and 8. She said she wants them both to be part of the conversation around Planned Parenthood.
“My mom was active for me in the 70s and I want to be active for my daughter now so that in the future she can her choices and have the right to choose her own way through the health care system,” Coggeshall said.

She also said she was depressed to hear of the University’s decision made last week because Planned Parenthood is crucial to the health of the community.

Not everyone at the event was there in support of Planned Parenthood. A handful of counter protesters held signs expressing Pro-Life messages. One of these students was Chris Vas, who is a member of the Young Republicans and the Missouri Students for Life.

“We’re just showing that there are students on this campus who respect life and stand up for life,” Vas said. “And we stood with the university with their latest decisions to cut some ties with Planned Parenthood.”

There was some passive confrontation between the Pro-Life counter protesters and those gathered in support of Planned Parenthood. When one of the counter protestors would move to have their sign visible - groups of supporters would follow them, stand around them and block the view of the counter protester signs with their own signs.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU joins coalition to prepare students for college application process

ELIZABETH SAWEY, 13 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — MU has joined a coalition of about 80 colleges nationwide that is creating a website to make it easier for high school students to apply and prepare for college.

Students will be able to create a digital portfolio to display their classes, activities, athletics and more, Chuck May, MU director of admissions, said. Would-be applicants will also be able to search for schools that have their desired major, look at costs and financial aid opportunities, see deadlines and submit applications.
The portfolio side of the site will go live January 2016, and the application side in fall 2016. Students starting classes in fall 2017 will be able to apply using the new site. Users can create a profile and use the site without submitting applications through it, May said. It will be free for all students.

The group, the Coalition for Access, Affordability and Success, works to improve the college admission process for all students. Its goal is to "recast admission process, broaden access, and encourage college-going mindset for all students," according to a release from the coalition.

"The college admission process today can be stress-inducing and we know it can present barriers for all students, especially for those who are the first in their family to attend college," Zina Evans, vice president for enrollment management at the University of Florida, states in the release.

May said that students will eventually be able to use the new site to submit applications to MU. The application fee will remain the same through the new site.

The fee is $55 for domestic students and $65 for international students.

Now, MU uses an internal application, which means that students cannot use any outside sites to apply, May said.

"We want to give (students) an additional level of support while they're going through the application process," May said.

May hopes the tools will encourage students to prepare to apply earlier. He said some students don't realize just how early they should begin preparing. For example, he said many students wait until their senior year to take standardized tests, but he suggested they take at least one during their junior year of high school.
Leigh Spence, director of counseling at Battle High School, said students have a hard time navigating college websites and finding applications. They also don't know how to complete an application because it's so new to them.

Spence said applying to colleges is a four-year process at Battle. Counselors meet with students in their freshman year to begin the conversation about careers, then they meet each subsequent year to talk about their goals moving forward.

"The most important thing is as much one-on-one attention as possible," Spence said.

She said she hoped an easier application process would increase the number of schools to which students apply. Battle encourages them to apply to four or more schools to increase the opportunity for financial aid.

Students and counselors at Battle use online programs throughout the application process, including SENDedu, The Common Application and Missouri Connections.

SENDedu allows students and counselors to send transcripts and other documents electronically. Missouri Connections is an online career development and planning program accessible to all Missouri residents.

Nearly 800,000 students used the Common Application between August 2013 and February 2014, according to The Common Application Blog. More than 500 universities in 47 states and seven countries use The Common Application, which allows students to submit to multiple colleges at once.

In fall 2014, MU received 21,163 applications, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.
Koster: Missouri should support embryonic stem cell research

Sep 30, 2015, 8:26am CDT

Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster is voicing his support for embryonic stem cell research, the Columbia Daily Tribune reports.

In a Tuesday release, Koster said that efforts to thwart embryonic stem cell research, including research performed at the University of Missouri, sends the wrong message to medical researchers across the globe. That message is "Beware of coming to Missouri," he said.

Recently, Planned Parenthood has come under attack for allegedly supplying donated fetal tissue for research. However, Koster's investigation found that Planned Parenthood in Missouri did not use tissue from abortions for research.

“At a time when we are trying to attract the best and brightest to come and work in our state, it is imperative our government leaders stand up and protect the intellectual freedom of doctors searching for cures to the world’s worst diseases,” Koster said in a release. “Missourians deserve to know where government leaders, and would be government leaders, stand on this important issue.”

MUPD annual report shows increase in liquor law violations

By MEGAN FAVIGNANO

Wednesday, September 30, 2015 at 2:00 pm Comments (4)

There were far more liquor law violations reported on the University of Missouri campus in 2014 than in 2013, according to a recent report.
The MU Police Department on Tuesday released its Annual Fire Safety and Security Report for 2015. The report includes information about campus safety resources, how to report various incidents and crime statistics from Clery data.

The Jeanne Clery Act requires campuses to disclose security policies and crime statistics.

The report’s Clery data show a decrease in the number of liquor law arrests from 444 arrests in 2013 to 274 in 2014. They also show a spike in the number of liquor law violations referred for disciplinary action from 728 in 2013 to 1,059 in 2014.

The increase in violations referred for disciplinary action and the decrease in arrests do not reflect a change in philosophy or staffing at the MU Police Department, Maj. Brian Weimer said.

“You see slight increases and decreases over the years for a number of reasons,” Weimer said.

The drop in liquor law arrests from 2013 to 2014 is not a significant difference, he added. He said there was no specific event or drastic policy change that caused the reduction.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said MU has not made alcohol policy changes but MU police began working with Columbia police officers last fall to provide additional patrols around campus. The collaboration was part of an effort to increase enforcement of alcohol-related crimes, including drunken driving and underage drinking.

Drug arrests were relatively level between 2013 and 2014, the report said. The number of drug law arrests decreased from 208 in 2013 to 179 in 2014. Burglaries increased slightly from 16 in 2013 to 19 in 2014. The report’s Clery data also show an increase in sex offenses from 2013 to 2014. Part of that increase, Weimer said, could be attributed to increased reporting rather than more incidents.

“The campus has made a big push” to encourage reporting, Weimer said.

During the past 18 months, MU has made significant changes to its policies and resources related to sex discrimination and mental health issues on campus, including the creation of a new Title IX Office.

The increase could be because of altered definitions and categories required by a Clery Act amendment, Weimer said. Before 2014, sex offenses appeared in the report in one of two
categories: forcible or nonforcible sex offenses. Starting in 2014, sex offenses in the Clery data are split into more categories: rape, fondling, incest and statutory rape.

When the annual report is released, Weimer said, everyone often pays attention to the crime statistics.

The report contains “much more than just these statistics,” Weimer said. “There is a great amount of information” on campus resources.

Missouri's lack of protection for LGBT people creates problems without easy solutions

By DURRIE BOUSCAREN • SEPT. 30

Sometimes, state and federal law are in conflict.

Rules for the protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people is one example. Even though the federal government prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity on many counts, Missouri state law does not include those protections.

Resolving those conflicts was the focus of a summit Wednesday between members of the LGBT community, their advocates and representatives from five federal agencies.

“We can still be fired from our job, denied access to housing and public accommodation,” said A.J. Bockleman, the executive director of Promoting Equality for All Missourians, or PROMO. “Engaging health and social service organizations in updating their policies has been a huge push from us.”

During a plenary session at Washington University in St. Louis, panelists from the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Justice, Housing and Urban Development and the Small Business Administration outlined their outreach efforts for LGBT people.

Panelist Eddie Wartts, the director of the St. Louis field office for HUD, said his agency recently released new rules for homeless shelters.

“What that rule says is the housing provider should provide shelter based on their gender identity. Despite what ID they have in their pocket, they have to consider what the person
is saying, and also consider any health and safety issues they may incur while in that facility,” Wartts said.

But at the state level, such protections are not always in place. During a workshop on improving public health data for the LGBT community, epidemiologist Janet Wilson from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services said her team has only recently been able to include survey questions about sexual orientation and gender identity in statewide health reports.

While coordinating an anonymous health survey at high schools, Wilson said some high school principals rejected the idea of asking the students questions about their sexual orientation. Because the survey required the state to take data from randomly chosen schools, they would lose the data if the schools opted out.

“I’m not willing to gamble losing the data we have yet,” she said.

But in other statewide surveys, Wilson said questions about sexual orientation and gender identity have been readily accepted by participants. Only one percent of people refused to answer a question about whether or not they were transgender during a 2007 survey.

“We had a greater percentage refusal for questions about their income,” Wilson said.

Another panel discussed high rates of violence against queer and transgender people of color.

Panelist KB Frazier, who works with Queer Trans People of Color STL, said LGBT advocacy must be more inclusive. Racism and the cycle of poverty are often compounded for transgender people of color, but those issues aren’t often a focus for LGBT advocates, he said. Leadership in LGBT advocacy work tends to be white and male.

“We have so many issues and they’re layered. We have to address them simultaneously so that people who are trans and gender non-conforming can live authentically without fear, without fear of rejection from society,” Frazier said.
Panelist Dr. Karen Edison, who helps create health policy surveys at the University of Missouri, said she was once threatened with a loss of funding for including survey questions about sexual orientation. AJ Bockleman of PROMO sits to her right.

CREDIT DURRIE BOUSCAREN | ST. LOUIS PUBLIC RADIO

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Websites on MU server down for time being

MISSOURIAN STAFF, 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — About 20 websites on MU's server have been affected by "code that could potentially be problematic for security," said Christian Basi, the associate director of the MU News Bureau.

Some of the websites have been taken down and are inaccessible.
The specific nature of the "problematic code" is unknown. It is also unknown when exactly the websites will be back online again, though Basi estimated it would be a matter of one to two days.

The websites are monitored by MU's Division of Information Technology.

"It's a regular monitoring system that we use — it's pretty standard," Basi said.

"This is a process of keeping the university websites clean," but it also keeps students and faculty email clean as well, he said.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

KC biotech group says $100 million in venture capital is needed

Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute outlines what it will take to keep the region competitive over the next 10 years

Beyond the venture capital, it calls for a workforce better educated in science, technology, engineering and math

The report sees strengths in the area in several life science fields

BY ALAN BAVLEY
abavley@kcstar.com

The Kansas City region has made strides in the past decade toward becoming a major life sciences industry hub, but to keep growing it’s going to need a better educated workforce and $100 million or more in new venture capital.

So says the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute, which released a new report Wednesday on what it will take to keep the region competitive in biotech over the next 10 years.
“If we do nothing, yes, we’ll grow, but we probably won’t attract entrepreneurs and investors,” said institute president Wayne Carter, whose nonprofit group represents the region’s research universities and hospitals.

The report by the Deloitte financial consulting firm said the Kansas City region has a number of strengths in the life sciences, notably health care information technology with industry giant Cerner Corp., along with several startup companies and the Animal Health Corridor of research institutions and businesses extending from Kansas State University in Manhattan to the University of Missouri in Columbia. Already a major national presence, the corridor is poised for greater prominence when the National Bio and Agro Defense Facility opens in Manhattan in 2021.

With strong programs at the University of Kansas, University of Missouri, St. Luke’s Hospital and Children’s Mercy Hospital, research into cancer and neurological disorders holds great promise, the report said.

But the report also warned that the region has significant weaknesses that threaten future growth if not addressed.

With just 9.3 percent of residents holding college degrees in science, technology, engineering or math, Kansas City trails other cities for high-tech talent. High school students in Kansas and Missouri also are less likely to score well on Advanced Placement exams in calculus and biology than students nationwide, boding poorly for the future.

Life science businesses are able to recruit from other parts of the country, but not having enough homegrown talent is an impediment to development, Carter said. People brought in from outside the region also are less likely to remain here long term, he said.

Despite its reputation for entrepreneurship, the Kansas City area falls short on venture capital and angel investors, the report said. Even taking the size of their economies into account, Kansas and Missouri get just a small fraction of the venture capital investment of major biotech states like Minnesota, Washington and Massachusetts.
The report cites the Kansas City region’s risk-averse business climate and potential local investors with no experience in biotech industries for holding back investment.

To spur life sciences investment, Kansas City will need a venture capital fund of $100 million or more, Carter said.

“That’s an absolute requirement.”

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**A Brief Walk May Be All It Takes To Counter One Negative Effect Of Sitting**

The impact six hours of sitting has on vascular health surprised scientists.

*Jacqueline Howard* Associate Science Editor, The Huffington Post

Posted: 09/30/2015 10:32 AM EDT

Sitting too much has been linked to cardiovascular disease, obesity, cancer and even premature death.

But a new study, published in the July issue of the journal *Experimental Physiology*, suggests that it doesn't take much to reverse at least one of the negative health consequences of a sedentary lifestyle, which is reduced blood flow to the lower legs.

Walking for just 10 minutes may offset the negative impact on vascular health of sitting for a prolonged period. The research is featured in a video posted to YouTube on Sept. 25:

"The prevalence of sedentary behavior in the workplace and increased daily sitting time are common to many professions," Dr. Jaume Padilla, assistant professor of nutrition and exercise physiology at the University of Missouri and lead
The author of the study, told The Huffington Post in an email. "This research not only has applications for employees who sit at desks, but also for truck drivers, airline passengers and anyone else who is seated for an extended time."

For the study, the researchers assessed blood flow in the popliteal artery, a major blood vessel in the lower leg, and brachial artery, found in the upper arm, of 11 healthy men before and immediately after they sat for a prolonged period of time. The researchers found that blood flow in the popliteal artery was dramatically reduced after sitting. Some reductions were also found in the brachial artery.

"We were surprised that just six hours of sitting had such detrimental effects on their vascular function," Padilla said.

The researchers then had the men walk for 10 minutes, and found that blood flow in the popliteal had returned to normal levels.

"While we were able to show that a short bout of walking can improve vascular health after sitting for roughly the equivalent of a typical workday, more research is needed to find out if repeated periods of reduced vascular function caused by sitting leads to long-term -- not just short-term -- vascular complications," Padilla said.

To avoid vascular problems, Padilla said that it is important to get up from your desk once every hour during a typical work day. If you're unable to break up your day with walking there are alternative options that can help your vascular health, he said, including using a standing desk or a treadmill desk.

However, other researchers who have studied sedentary lifestyles insist that getting up from your seat and moving is critical.

"The key is breaking up your activity throughout the day," Dr. Alan Hedge, a professor of ergonomics at Cornell University, who was not involved in the study, told The Wall Street Journal. “Sitting all day and standing all day are both bad for you.”
MU researchers find predictor of disease that affects preemies

Posted: Sep 30, 2015 5:28 PM by Alex Farkas, KOMU 8 News
Updated: Sep 30, 2015 8:01 PM

COLUMBIA - MU researchers have discovered the early presence of white blood cells is a predictor of a life threatening disease that affects premature infants.

The white blood cells, which can have tell-tale orange spots, are found in cases of Necrotizing Enterocolitis, which is a major gastrointestinal disease that causes intestinal tissue to die.

Dr. Michael Sherman of the University of Missouri said the disease is caused by a number of different factors, but breastfeeding does help reduce occurrences.

"Breastfeeding certainly may diminish the intensity of the disease or even prevent it," he said.

The disease can require surgery and has a 50 percent death rate. Sherman said there are a substantial number of cases and it the rate of occurrence can depend on the baby's weight.

"It occurs in about 5 to 15 percent of premature infants below about 3 and a half pounds, so it is pretty common," he said.

Sherman said it is rare for affected infants to start having symptoms while inside the mother, and it is more common after they are born.

"Usually this disease starts at 2 to 3 weeks after birth and up to 6 weeks," he said.
Sherman wants doctors to know that there is a simple test mothers can undergo to get an idea of what is going to happen to their baby if they are born prematurely.

The study was conducted within the Missouri school of medicine and the Sinclair school of nursing.

Watch the story: http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=30755&zone=5&categories=5

Boone County receives updated hazard plan

By JODIE JACKSON JR.

Wednesday, September 30, 2015 at 2:00 pm

Boone County’s updated hazard mitigation plan provides something of a blueprint for the work Terry Cassil will begin Dec. 1 as the county’s first emergency management director.

The new plan, required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for communities to qualify for some disaster relief programs, was presented Tuesday night to the Boone County Commission for a first reading. The commission is expected to formally adopt the plan Thursday.

Cassil, who currently is chief of operations and response branch manager for the State Emergency Management Agency, gave the hazard mitigation plan a strong endorsement and lauded the work of Susan Galeota, planner for the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission.

“Job well done,” Cassil said. “And the folks at SEMA echoed that very thing. We should be very proud of this plan.”

Galeota said she received notice of FEMA’s approval of the plan earlier Tuesday. The county and its municipalities must endorse the plan to qualify for FEMA disaster relief and disaster preparedness funds. The hazard mitigation plan must be updated every five years, and the current plan expires in November.
Mitigation planning aims to reduce or eliminate future hazard risks and is different from disaster preparedness, which targets actual response to man-made and natural disasters. Hazard mitigation plans are designed to identify risks and possible disasters to reduce post-disaster costs.

Past mitigation plans led to some buyouts of homes in flood-prone areas and bank stabilization projects, including along Smith Hatchery Road near Easley in south-central Boone County.

The plan lists familiar natural disasters such as tornadoes, earthquakes, floods and winter storms. It also has new sections on man-made and technological hazards and risks, including cyberattacks, terrorism, civil unrest, nuclear incidents and “active shooter” incidents.

Cassil said the plan will be an important part of emergency management preparedness. The plan’s attention to cyber security and active shooter incidents were “things that maybe five to 10 years ago we wouldn’t have even thought about,” he said.

Galeota said creating the plan involved 19 jurisdictions, including Boone County, each of the county’s municipalities and public school systems, the University of Missouri, Columbia College and Stephens College.

“We had fantastic participation,” she said.

The plan lists potential hazards that the county is particularly vulnerable to, including tornadoes and earthquakes; severe winter weather and severe storms; flooding; extreme heat and drought; and levee and dam failure.

Southern District Commissioner Karen Miller lauded the regional planning commission’s work and emphasized the importance of cooperation among organizations and governments.

“If there’s a disaster, it’s not going to stop at the county line,” she said.
Public seminars on function of local government to begin Thursday

Posted: Sep 30, 2015 6:50 PM by Christian Piekos, KOMU 8 Reporter
Updated: Oct 1, 2015 8:36 AM

COLUMBIA - A series of seminars on the many functions of local government in Columbia kicks off Thursday afternoon.

The seminars, which are booked for the month, will take place each Thursday afternoon in October and are being led by the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy.

Thursday’s seminar will feature Columbia Mayor Bob McDavid and City Manager Mike Matthes. But, throughout October, the following speakers will present:

- October 8: Police Chief Ken Burton, Citizens Police Review Board Member Kate Busch
- October 15: Fire Chief Randy White, a representative from Columbia/Boone County Office of Emergency Management
- October 22: Parks and Recreation Director Mike Griggs, a representative from the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services
- October 29: Community Development Director Tim Teddy, Regional Economic Development Inc. Director Stacey Button

MU Graduate Instructor Dana Angello is at the helm of each session.

"I am very passionate about educating people about government and getting them involved, so we can hold government accountable," Angello said.
Angello said there are few programs available to educate and inform the public on the purpose of local government.

"It's so difficult to find information about local government; there are very few classes on it," Angello said. "Hopefully that will spur them to become more engaged citizens."

Angello thinks local government influences the lives of Columbia residents more so than any other level of government. She said she wants people to leave the sessions feeling more equipped to work with and understand how local government works.

"They'll have more of a context on how government is supposed to run, or understand where they can go if they have a complaint, or how to participate someway in the democratic process," Angello said.

Angello said she hopes those who attend the seminars have an epiphany on how local government plays a role in their daily lives.

"Hopefully, they have an 'ah-ha' moment of how much it affects their life," Angello said. "Maybe realizing that there were some things they were confused about, that they no longer are."

Angello said each seminar is going to start off with attendees getting to know one another, followed by presentations from the speakers, and ending with question and answer sessions.

Angello said each session is capped at 20 people due to budgetary concerns, and all seminars are currently full.

"I hope in the future, we'll have a larger budget or maybe we can find ways to cut the cost a little bit," Angello said.

Watch the story: [http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=30761&zone=2.5&categories=2.5](http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=30761&zone=2.5)

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Car-bike crashes send 2 to hospital in separate incidents

CECILIA SALOMONE, 17 hrs ago
COLUMBIA — A bicyclist was struck by a car Wednesday morning near the intersection of South Providence Road and Kentucky Boulevard. Another was struck just before noon near MU’s Student Center.

In the first incident, MU Police Major Brian Weimer said Max Golden was riding his bicycle along Providence Road near Kentucky Boulevard when he was struck by William Stoecker's car. Stoecker was making a turn onto Providence Road from Kentucky, Weimer said. He looked to the left before his turn but did not look right and hit Golden, Weimer said.

Golden was taken to University Hospital and was in good condition at 10:35 a.m., University Hospital spokeswoman Kathy Richardson said.

In the second collision Wednesday, MU student Lesli Malcolm was hit by a car as she rode her bicycle at the intersection of Rollins and Hitt streets near the MU Student Center.

Weimer said the collision occurred when Malcolm rode up alongside Kaleb Hitchcock's vehicle as he was making a left turn. Police were alerted at 11:44 a.m., Weimer said.

She was taken to University Hospital where Richardson said she was in fair condition.

Weimer said Malcolm was at fault and would be charged. He said he wouldn't be able to say what the charge will be until the report is complete. He said he also didn't know if she was wearing a helmet.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Pesky 'possum puts out power at chancellor's house

KATHARINE ROBERTS, 20 hrs ago
COLUMBIA — An opossum chewed the wires on a transformer at MU on Wednesday morning, blowing out power to the chancellor's residence and five other buildings, Campus Facilities spokeswoman Karlan Seville said.

The initial outage occurred at 5:20 a.m.

Walter Williams Hall, Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute, Pickard Hall, Neff Hall and Gannett Hall also were affected. Seville said the buildings only lost power for a couple of minutes on two occasions. Power was fully restored by 9 a.m.

The power went out twice in the Journalism Library — at 7:30 a.m. and 8:45 a.m., senior library specialist Sue Schuermann said.

Seville said that there was no indication the animal was playing possum — it's dead.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
O’Bannon Ruling Heightens Debate Over Pay for College Players

By Jack Stripling

A federal appeals court’s ruling on Wednesday will fuel and potentially complicate a national debate about whether college athletes are entitled to a bigger slice of the dizzying revenues that they help to generate for top-tier athletics programs.

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit rejected a district court’s ruling that said members of the National Collegiate Athletic Association should be permitted to pay players $5,000 a year for the use of their names and likenesses. The panel contended that the figure was arbitrary and that even small payments to athletes threatened the NCAA’s amateurism model.

But the court affirmed that the NCAA had violated antitrust rules by restricting players’ ability to trade on their images and likenesses, including jersey sales and video games.
The case was brought by Edward C. O’Bannon Jr., a former basketball standout at the University of California at Los Angeles.

The decision gave both plaintiffs and defendants some cause for optimism. Mr. O’Bannon and his lawyers celebrated the court’s assertion that "the NCAA is not above the antitrust laws" and that the association had been overly restrictive of payments to players in the name of preserving its tradition of amateurism.

Mark A. Emmert, the NCAA’s president, said the association agreed with the court’s finding that it was "erroneous" to suggest, as the district court had, that athletes be paid $5,000 on top of the full cost of attendance. The expanded payments go beyond tuition, room, board, and textbooks to cover additional expenses, such as gasoline, groceries, and travel home.

The appeals court’s ruling, which agreed that the NCAA must allow its members to cover the full cost of attendance for athletes, has little practical effect at this point because recent rule changes already allow for that.

The court’s decision, however, could affect other legal challenges to the NCAA, whose wealthiest members have been criticized for paying coaches millions of dollars while some athletes struggle to get by. Among the most closely watched cases is one brought by Martin Jenkins, a former Clemson University football player who seeks a "free market" for college athletes to be paid. A hearing to decide whether the lawsuit may proceed as a class action is scheduled for Thursday.

Mr. Emmert on Wednesday gave no indication of whether the NCAA might appeal the decision, but he bristled at challenges to the group’s autonomy.

"Since August 1," Mr. Emmert said, "the NCAA has allowed member schools to provide up to full cost of attendance; however, we disagree that it should be mandated by the courts."

‘Real Money at Issue’

The NCAA has argued that its amateur model is part of its market appeal, suggesting that college-sports fans are drawn to competition among students who are not paid professionals. The court affirmed that amateurism does have value, but it rejected arguments that small payments beyond educational expenses, specifically $5,000 a year, would not threaten the amateur status of athletes.
"Having found that amateurism is integral to the NCAA’s market," the judges ruled, "the district court cannot plausibly conclude that being a poorly paid professional collegiate athlete is ‘virtually as effective’ for that market as being" an amateur.

Michael A. Carrier, a professor of law at Rutgers University at Camden, said that aspect of the ruling has far-reaching implications for future legal battles.

"If this court is rejecting an amount of even as small as $5,000, then it’s tough to see how players will do better going forward," Mr. Carrier said.

Others saw it differently. Exavier B. Pope, a sports-law analyst, said the ruling was a "Pandora’s box" because it affirmed that the NCAA had violated antitrust laws with its restrictions on player compensation.

"This opens the door ultimately for athletes to get paid," Mr. Pope said.

Indeed, the court did poke holes in some core NCAA arguments. The panel found wanting, for example, the association’s claim that its regulations limiting compensation for athletes amounted to "eligibility" rules, rather than restrictions on commercial activity that should be subject to scrutiny under antitrust laws. That argument, the court found, is "but sleight of hand."

"There is real money at issue here," the decision says.

Wednesday’s ruling adds fodder to an increasingly heated discussion about the welfare of college athletes, who are often perceived as an exploited class in what has become a big-money enterprise.

**Gene A. Marsh**, who served for nine years on the NCAA’s Division I Committee on Infractions, said he had seen a marked shift in public opinion about compensation for players. There may be disagreements about how much athletes deserve, he said, but there is eroding tolerance for the disparities that exist between wealthy coaches and the economically disadvantaged students who often play for them.

"Now very well educated, thoughtful people, who are not necessarily crazy fans, think that a lot — not all, but a lot — of the NCAA model is nuts and indefensible," said Mr. Marsh, an emeritus professor of sports law at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa.

In an interview on Wednesday, Mr. O’Bannon described the ruling as just one step in a long march toward fairer treatment of players.
"It’s a good day for the college athlete," he said. "I think it’s a victory in that we can move forward and take a step forward, but by no means are we done."

Jack Stripling covers college leadership, particularly presidents and governing boards. Follow him on Twitter @jackstripling, or email him at jack.stripling@chronicle.com.