

House, Senate ready to begin budget negotiations

By Rudi Keller

JEFFERSON CITY — House and Senate negotiators who begin meeting this week have a much wider gap between them than would appear from the \$62.6 million that separates them over general revenue spending.

Each chamber has different goals for the coming year on big-ticket items they would like to fund. And to keep the budget in balance, they must find at least another \$7.4 million in cuts from general revenue items.

The House, for example, added \$10 million, including \$5 million from general revenue, to fund expanded child care for low-income families.

The Senate did not use that money and shifted another \$24.6 million among programs that support early childhood care and education. One move eliminated \$11.7 million that funds a program under the direction of Assistant Commissioner of Education Kathy Thornburg, who also runs an early childhood education program at the University of Missouri.

"I just got the overall feeling they don't like early childhood education," said Rep. Sara Lampe, D-Springfield, during House discussion of the upcoming negotiations. "It seems rather pointed that they would go after one individual."

No firm time has been set to begin budget talks. Lawmakers have until May 11 to pass the budget for the year that begins July 1. Many major items are not subject to negotiation, such as funding levels for state colleges and universities and basic aid to public education.

The University of Missouri is slated to receive \$398.2 million under the Senate version of the budget, \$300,000 more than the House but almost \$50 million more than originally proposed by Gov. Jay Nixon.

The budget includes about \$7.6 billion in general revenue, the money that can be used for any function of state government. The rest is federal funds, both grants and to match state spending, as well as earmarked taxes that must be spent on functions such as roads and conservation.

The budget Nixon proposed, and the House approved, spent \$70 million anticipated from a proposal to have a tax amnesty period followed by more vigorous collection practices. That bill, while popular with most lawmakers, is being blocked by a Senate filibuster, and the money is not included in the Senate spending plan.

That means to send Nixon a balanced budget, the House must agree to spend \$70 million less than it originally planned and must give up many things it wanted.

"This time we are going in at a significant disadvantage," said House Budget Committee Chairman Ryan Silvey, R-Kansas City.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, who will lead the Senate negotiating team, said tax amnesty would pass if it could get to a Senate vote. But there is enough opposition that it won't, he said.

"I don't think there is any real way you can budget for tax amnesty," Schaefer said.

But Schaefer said he expects to work closely with Silvey, which would be a contrast to last year's difficult negotiations. "We will have a good conversation about the reality of the budget," Schaefer said.

In the area of early childhood education, the Senate shifted \$11.7 million from Thornburg's budget and \$12.9 million from a grant program for child care centers operated by the Department of Social Services. The money comes from entry fees for casinos and is dedicated to early childhood programs.

The money was used to increase funding to Parents as Teachers and replace \$15.3 million of general revenue used for preschool special education programs and Parents as Teachers. A program of grants to preschool education programs was moved from Thornburg's control to the state Office of Administration.

The grants were supposed to be three-year startup funding for preschool education programs. But 125 school districts have been receiving the money for years, freezing out other communities, Schaefer said.

The Senate also doesn't like a rating system used by Thornburg to evaluate programs and wants her fired.

"We sent a message to DESE that we were serious," Schaefer said.

The goal for negotiators will be to send Nixon a budget that is at least \$70 million below his proposed budget, Schaefer said. That will protect the spending items lawmakers do approve from excessive withholding.

Reach Rudi Keller at 573-815-1709 or e-mail rkeller@columbiatribune.com.

MU crew finds death's silver lining

Morbid thoughts might save lives.

By Janese Silvey

Tombstones. Morgues. Cemeteries.

Thinking about death now? Good. A new University of Missouri analysis shows that a reminder of mortality can actually have positive consequences.

Lead author Ken Vail, a doctoral student in psychology, and psychological sciences Professor Jamie Arndt reviewed past studies on thoughts of death and found that such thoughts don't have to lead to militaristic negative attitudes, as past findings have indicated. Instead, in the right context, thoughts of death can make people feel a part of humanity as a whole, be more helpful and make healthy changes.

According to what's called the terror management theory, people deal with their awareness of mortality by trying to belong to something larger and longer-lasting than themselves, such as cultures or religions, Arndt said. Some studies have indicated people become militaristic or violent when they think about a local catastrophe that jeopardizes that group.

But in one study, those who were reminded of death and thought about a global threat instead were more likely to associate themselves with peace and humanity.

"The basic idea is when folks have a heightened awareness of mortality, they defend and protect their relevant culture group," Vail said. "So in a local disaster, Americans identified with Americans versus" people from other countries. "When you change the relevant group by reminding them of a global threat, you essentially made the relevant group humanity."

In another study the team analyzed, people walking near cemeteries were more likely to help others than those who weren't subconsciously reminded of death. In another example, divorce rates went down in nearby counties after the Oklahoma City bombing.

"Once we started developing this study, we were surprised how much research showed positive outcomes from awareness of mortality," Arndt said in a statement.

The findings don't mean you need to sit around and ponder your demise, though. There are references to death all around, such as in news of capital punishment or debates about federal health care, Vail said.

But directly thinking about death can be beneficial, too. Some studies have shown that people who consider death are more likely to exercise, use sunscreen or stop smoking.

"The most important thing this paper does is remind researchers and clinicians and the public that awareness of mortality isn't some bleak force of destruction," Vail said. Instead, he said, the body of work should turn attention toward how death awareness can improve people's lives.

The paper, "When Death is Good for Life: Considering the Positive Trajectories of Terror Management," was published this month in *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, a journal of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.

Looking on bright side of death makes you healthier

We really should 'look on the bright side of death' - thinking about your own mortality can make you healthier, a study shows.

10:53AM BST 01 May 2012

Awareness of death can also reduce divorce rates, research found.

A new study has shown how contemplating death can result in positive behaviours, decreasing aggressive attitudes and increase peoples' willingness to unselfishly help others.

Previous work into mortality has suggested thinking about death could make people feel glum, aggressive, or feel other negative behaviours.

However, after catastrophic events, such as the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and the Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168, people's heightened fear and awareness of death had both positive and negative effects.

Prof Jamie Arndt said: "Both the news media and researchers tended to focus on the negative reaction to these acts of terrorism, such as violence and discrimination against Muslims, but studies also found that people expressed higher degrees of gratitude, hope, kindness and leadership after 9/11.

"In another example, after the Oklahoma City bombing, divorce rates went down in surrounding counties. After some stimuli escalates one's awareness of death, the positive reaction is to try to reaffirm that the world has positive aspects as well."

To conduct their research, University of Missouri researchers reviewed dozens of existing studies studies to see if thinking about death can lead to positive attitudes.

In one study, American participants were reminded of death or a control topic and then either imagined a local catastrophe or were reminded of the global threat of climate change, with those who were reminded of climate change more likely to express lower levels of militarism than those who imagined a local disaster.

Other studies found thinking about death influenced people to make positive choices, including intentions to exercise more, cut down on smoking and increase sun cream use.

Even subconscious awareness of death can influence behaviour, with one experiment demonstrating how people who overheard conversations mentioning the value of helping were more likely to help others when walking past a graveyard.

Prof Arndt, writing for *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, said: "According to terror management theory, people deal with their awareness of mortality by upholding cultural beliefs and seeking to become part of something larger and more enduring than themselves, such as nations or religions.

"Depending on how that manifests itself, positive outcomes can be the result.

"Once we started developing this study we were surprised how much research showed positive outcomes from awareness of mortality.

"It seems that people may be just as capable of doing the opposite and 'looking on the bright side of death,' as the Monty Python song says."

MU MENTION PAGE 2

Hope from the ashes? Disasters that force people to think about death actually IMPROVE their health - and lower divorce rates

- **Divorce rate falls after disasters**
- **Thinking about death makes people makes positive choices such as exercising and stopping smoking**
- **'People expressed hope and kindness after 9/11' - researcher**
- **Instinct to 'reaffirm' the world's positive aspects**

Most people, understandably, don't think about their own death too often - but doing so can be good for your health.

Catastrophic events such as the 9/11 attacks can actually have positive effects on society - and individuals - as their awareness of death has positive effects on the way they live their lives.

Other studies found thinking about death influenced people to make positive choices, including intentions to exercise more, cut down on smoking and increase sun cream use.

Awareness of death can also reduce divorce rates, research found.

Prof Jamie Arndt said: 'Both the news media and researchers tended to focus on the negative reaction to these acts of terrorism, such as violence and

discrimination against Muslims, but studies also found that people expressed higher degrees of gratitude, hope, kindness and leadership after 9/11.'

'In another example, after the Oklahoma City bombing, divorce rates went down in surrounding counties. After some stimuli escalates one's awareness of death, the positive reaction is to try to reaffirm that the world has positive aspects as well.'

A new study has shown how contemplating death can result in positive behaviours, decreasing aggressive attitudes and increase peoples' willingness to unselfishly help others.

Previous work into mortality has suggested thinking about death could make people feel glum, aggressive, or feel other negative behaviours.

However, after catastrophic events, such as the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and the Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168, people's heightened fear and awareness of death had both positive and negative effects.

To conduct their research, University of Missouri researchers reviewed dozens of existing studies to see if thinking about death can lead to positive attitudes.

In one study, American participants were reminded of death or a control topic and then either imagined a local catastrophe or were reminded of the global threat of climate change, with those who were reminded of climate change more likely to express lower levels of militarism than those who imagined a local disaster.

Even subconscious awareness of death can influence behaviour, with one experiment demonstrating how people who overheard conversations mentioning the value of helping were more likely to help others when walking past a graveyard.

Prof Arndt, writing for Personality and Social Psychology Review, said: 'According to terror management theory, people deal with their awareness of mortality by upholding cultural beliefs and seeking to become part of something larger and more enduring than themselves, such as nations or religions.'

‘Depending on how that manifests itself, positive outcomes can be the result.

‘Once we started developing this study we were surprised how much research showed positive outcomes from awareness of mortality.

‘It seems that people may be just as capable of doing the opposite and 'looking on the bright side of death,' as the Monty Python song says.’

Study says uncollected online sales taxes cost Missouri millions

By JASON HANCOCK

The Kansas City Star

COLUMBIA -- A new study suggests Missouri is losing nearly \$500 million a year by not collecting sales tax on products sold online by out-of-state companies.

David Valentine, research associate professor at the University of Missouri Truman School of Public Affairs, says the state will miss out on \$1.4 billion in potential revenue in the next three years.

Missouri law now requires people to pay sales taxes on online purchases. But the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states could collect only from online businesses that have a physical presence inside the state.

To collect some taxes on sales from out-of-state companies, 24 states — although not Missouri — joined the Streamlined Sales Tax and Use Tax Agreement. It creates a mechanism that makes it simpler for retailers to voluntarily pay sales taxes.

But because online retailers participate voluntarily, the Missouri Budget Project, a liberal policy organization, projected that joining the streamlined sales tax organization would generate only \$16 million in revenue for Missouri.

“The Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement is a short-term fix,” Valentine said. “Since the agreement is voluntary, the amount of revenue collected is much less than the amount of tax we would expect the state to collect if all e-commerce retailers remitted sales taxes.”

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Missouri S&T approves same-sex benefit resolution; curators could be next

By Zach Murdock

May 1, 2012 | 9:31 a.m. CDT

UM curators could review recommendation for domestic partner benefits

COLUMBIA — The stage is set for the University of Missouri System Board of Curators to take up a recommendation on domestic partner benefits.

Last week, the Faculty Senate at the Missouri University of Science and Technology approved a resolution in support of offering same-sex benefits for partners of gay and lesbian university employees.

That puts the issue one step closer to going to the board, because with this resolution, all four UM System faculty councils have now passed resolutions in support of such benefits.

UM System President Tim Wolfe has said that he wants to take a recommendation on such benefits to the board before the end of the year and that it would be ideal to have a consensus among the four campuses.

The Associated Press reported last week that Missouri S&T professor Susan Murray said she hopes Thursday's resolution will send a message to the curators that the benefits should be available on all four campuses.

On Monday, UM System spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead reiterated the president's commitment to bring the issue to the board before the end of this year but could not say whether a recommendation would go to the board at its next meeting in June.

Resolutions in favor of offering benefits to domestic partners of gay and lesbian UM System employees have poured in to the system office since 2008, when MU Chancellor Brady Deaton wrote to then-president Gary Forsee in support of a similar resolution put forward by the Chancellor's Status of Women Committee.

Since then, the system has received resolutions from groups and administrators including the Missouri Students Association, MU Athletics Director Mike Alden, the MU Graduate Professional Council and the University of Missouri-Kansas City deans, among others.

Of the 61 institutions in the Association of American Universities, MU is one of five campuses that have not implemented some form of domestic partner benefits, says a 2011 MU Faculty Council report on domestic partner benefits.

MU Faculty Council representative Leona Rubin said she worries that if the issue is shot down by the board, it could set back the possibility of offering such benefits by several years.

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.



Hinkson Creek committee ready to get to work

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

The next step toward making Hinkson Creek a healthy waterway got started yesterday with the first meeting of a citizen committee that eventually will recommend ways to improve the local creek.

The committee representing homeowners, developers, environmental advocates and local government officials will work with a science team and action team in putting pollution-control measures in place. The Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Natural Resources agreed March 28 to let Columbia, Boone County and **University of Missouri officials take incremental steps toward reducing pollution and restoring aquatic life in the creek that bisects most of Columbia.**

Local officials called that deal "historic" and "monumental," and the superlatives continued yesterday.

"This is a very important moment" to have EPA, DNR and local entities working together, said Shawn Grindstaff, an EPA facilitator who will guide the committee. "It's a pretty big deal. It's actually going to be very groundbreaking."

The agreement didn't come without considerable legal wrangling and costs, however. The city, county and university, which together hold a permit that allows for stormwater runoff to discharge into the Hinkson and other waterways, sued EPA over a Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL, document that EPA adopted in January 2011. The TMDL, required by a federal court order more than a decade ago, spells out the maximum amount of pollutants allowed in a lake or stream.

The Hinkson TMDL called for reducing stormwater runoff by nearly 40 percent, but a process called "collaborative adaptive management" will allow for a more gradual reduction of runoff while allowing additional testing to pinpoint the Hinkson's pollution sources and to restore aquatic life in the creek.

Committee member Hank Ottinger, representing the Sierra Club, said that, aesthetically, sections of the Hinkson "rival anything in the Ozarks. It's a real treasure running right through the middle of the community."

Grindstaff said the 16-member committee likely will be together "long-term — probably for years," as the science and action teams also work to remove the Hinkson from the list of streams

that violate the federal Clean Water Act. The committee yesterday outlined plans for how it will operate, how often it will meet, how to solicit and include public comment in the process, and how to respond to reporters' questions.

Ben Londeree, representing the Smart Growth Coalition, said members should avoid using reporters to air their differences.

Don Stamper, president of Central Missouri Development Council, agreed. "Let's let our conflict be dealt with in here instead of out there."

Grindstaff urged the citizen group to focus, at least initially, on the positive aspects of the Hinkson rather than "what's wrong with the Hinkson."

Boone County Southern District Commissioner Karen Miller read from a lengthy list of ways local entities have improved the stream's health over the past several years. Since 2006, she said, numerous private sewage systems have been closed and connected to the Boone County Regional Sewer District, diverting 700,000 gallons per day of effluent.

Committee member Diane Oerly, representing the Stream Team program, said she was happy to see the Hinkson cleanup process moving forward. "I'm glad that we're finally beyond the stage of having all the lawyers talking," she said.

Reach Jodie Jackson Jr. at 573-815-1713 or e-mail jjackson@columbiatribune.com.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Group envisions bowl game in St. Louis

BY VAHE GREGORIAN | Posted: Wednesday, May 2, 2012 12:30 am | (1) comments.



Missouri coach Gary Pinkel hands over the Independence Bowl trophy to his team after Missouri defeated South Carolina 38-31 in the college football game Friday, Dec. 30, 2005, in Shreveport, La. (AP Photo/Charles Smith)

Coinciding with profound changes probably imminent in college football's bowl system but largely driven by Mizzou's impending move to the Southeastern Conference, the St. Louis Sports Commission is exploring the feasibility of creating a bowl game in St. Louis.

The ideal, Sports Commission president Frank Viverito said Tuesday, would be a game matching opponents from the SEC and Big Ten — leagues that St. Louis is well-accessible between.

"If we were able to produce a wish-list game, that would be the one," said Viverito, who reiterated an interest in the SEC basketball tournament and other potential endeavors with the conference and added, "If the SEC is making a commitment to the University of Missouri, then this is a market we would like to help them develop for the league."

Not that that's necessarily the only ingredient the Sports Commission would seek in a potential game.

"We want to get meaningful conference tie-ins," Viverito said. "We want to have an event that would be considered a home run for the region in every way."

Along those lines, Viverito said any potential bowl — which could be played either at Busch Stadium or the Edward Jones Dome — wouldn't be worthwhile unless the appropriate resources can be mustered.

"If there's (35) bowls, we can't join as Bowl 36," he said. "We have to get in at a level where we don't have to plead with the community to support the event. ... We can't scrape this thing together and keep our fingers crossed that we can grow it. We have to get in at a solid level."

Perhaps the best surface gauge of a bowl's level is what it's able to pay out to the participants.

At one end of the spectrum, the BCS championship game last season paid out \$9 million apiece to Alabama and LSU (in fact, to the SEC for revenue sharing). At the other end, three bowls (the Beef O'Brady's, New Orleans and Poinsettia) paid \$250,000 to each school in their games.

So the crux of the group's "due diligence," as vice president for events Chris Roseman put it, is ascertaining what it would cost to do right.

There are plenty of moving parts in the mix, especially at a time college football power brokers are weighing changing the very format of how the national title is determined and asking such questions as whether bowl eligibility should require a minimum 7-5 record (as opposed to the current 6-6).

That's part of the reason Roseman was in Hollywood, Fla., last week during the BCS meetings.

"We're trying to figure out what the bowl landscape looks like now and what it's going to look like," he said. "Before summer's over, we should have a really good feel about what the landscape looks like."

That includes whether a moratorium on adding new bowls will be lifted, Roseman said.

Meanwhile, though, the sports commission has plenty to continue to investigate as it determines whether to go forward.

"All of the pieces have to come together: Can you get a conference tie-in? Can you get a title sponsor? Can you get a TV deal?" Viverito said. "If you can get two conference tie-ins, then that makes it easier to get a TV deal and a title sponsor deal. If you know you can get a title sponsor contingent on getting a conference tie-in, then it makes it easier to get a conference tie-in."

Another potentially pivotal factor in whether to proceed is proposed legislation in Jefferson City to provide tax breaks to help bring amateur sporting events to the state.

"It's not going to be easier for us to do this as an entirely privately funded organization, and if the legislation that we're currently pursuing in Jefferson City were to pass it would give us a

significant tool," said Viverito, who is bound for Jefferson City today to meet with House and Senate leadership to continue efforts to promote the legislation. "The session ends May 18, so we'll know by May 18 if it passes this year."

Said Roseman: "In our discussions with other bowls, there is a public funding component (for) other bowls... It's part of it. That's not unusual."

The Sports Commission had initially considered working to acquire a bowl for St. Louis in 1998, Viverito said, going as far as applying for and receiving preliminary approval for bowl certification.

That interest faded, though, when Mizzou and Illinois were playing regularly in St. Louis (six times between 2002 and 2010), and the Sports Commission probably wouldn't be exploring the bowl so deeply if that game still were on.

The Sports Commission still wants to revive that game but now it believes there may be room for that and a bowl.

"While Mizzou-Illinois is still No. 1 on our list, now we have 1 and 1A because of what's changed," Viverito said. "With Mizzou now in the SEC, without upsetting anybody on the western side of the state, you're looking east now, which gives us, we feel, sort of a renewed opportunity to look at a bowl."

He added: "Big-time college football has always been at the top of our list, and a bowl game fits sort of more perfectly now than it has in the past."

If everything checks out, from both the St. Louis and bowl oversight perspectives.

"This is a big deal," Viverito said, "and we're going to need a lot of support to get it done."



150 YEARS AGO: Newspaper lauds Rep. James Rollins' speech to House

By Rudi Keller

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. James Rollins' speech to the House was a rare moment that "secured the marked and undivided attention of the House, from the commencement to the closing," the St. Louis Daily Missouri Republican reported.

In an edition that also included the first printing of Rollins' speech, the Republican's correspondent noted approvingly that Rollins had stood firm for "the Union, the Constitution and enforcement of the laws."

That was a euphemistic way of saying Rollins supported restoration of the Union as it was, with slavery intact. Rollins, a first-term congressman from Columbia, was a major Boone County landowner and held 34 slaves at his property in Columbia township, according to the 1860 census.

Rollins delivered an 11,000-word speech on April 24, and the report, dated two days later, had been mailed from Washington along with the transcript of the speech.

The Republican was the state's largest newspaper, and while it had been with the Unionist Democrats in the 1860 election, it had been a Whig newspaper in the past.

Rollins' political roots were in the Whig Party, as were those of President Abraham Lincoln.

"No man more truly or ably represents the loyal sentiment of Missouri in Congress than Jas. S. Rollins," the correspondent wrote. "Brought up at the feet of Henry Clay, and early imbued with the spirit and doctrine of that great statesman, he carries the inspiration of his early political education into the troubles and calamities that now threaten to overwhelm the nation."

Rollins, who had narrowly lost a race for governor in 1856, was one of most well-known men in Missouri. **He is best remembered today in Columbia as the father of the University of Missouri.**

Rollins supported all means of restoring the Union but had "no sympathy with the radicalism that would desolate a continent to realize the mad dream of fanaticism," the correspondent wrote.

Like Rollins, the correspondent concluded, most people of the North were ready for reconciliation, even if it meant accepting the continuance of slavery. Abolitionists, he wrote,

were willing to see the country dissolved if the war did not end slavery, and Missourians should consider them "the worst enemies of the whole country."