After Parkland shooting, Missouri lawmakers debate expanding lawful carry to bars, college campuses

By Sky Chadde

JEFFERSON CITY • For 17 seconds, Missouri House members stood in silence.

It was a day after the deaths of 17 students and teachers in Parkland, Fla., and the Feb. 15 remembrance was requested by Rep. Bruce Franks, D-St. Louis. Before the House fell quiet, Franks had delivered a speech that sucked the air out of the room, announcing he had decided to stop carrying his firearm.

“It might not affect your community like it affects my community,” Franks said. “But it’s all of our jobs to make sure Missouri is a safer place.”

In a cramped hearing room Monday, Missouri lawmakers heard and debated two very different visions of how to keep communities safe.

Measures proposed by Democrats sought to regulate firearm and ammunition sales. Republican proposals would expand the areas where people could carry guns, including in bars, amusement parks and college campuses. Each side said their legislation would make people safer.

Rep. Jered Taylor, R-Nixa, said areas where guns aren’t permitted are susceptible to gun violence as long as residents are not allowed to carry protection.

“It allows individuals to stop an attack if the need does arise,” he said.

But Rep. Tracy McCrery, D-St. Louis, said just the sight of firearms made her constituents feel unsafe.

“You live in a different part of Missouri than I live in,” said McCrery. “Just having men with loaded guns in Starbucks is enough.”

It wasn’t discussed at Monday’s hearing, but Franks introduced legislation Monday that would allow cities and counties to regulate firearms. The idea of local control of gun ownership faces significant resistance, including a proposal heard Monday that would explicitly ban cities from regulating firearms.
Cities shouldn’t “usurp an individual’s right to carry,” Taylor said.

Missouri has expanded gun rights in recent years, but, nationally, there’s broad support for stricter gun laws, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released Feb. 20. Voters support background checks, for instance, 97 percent to 2 percent.

Taylor’s legislation to expand the locations where Missourians could carry — which he introduced last year as well — received the most attention Monday.

The legislation would allow Missourians to carry firearms without permits in a host of new places, including churches, city buses and bars. Under the proposal, it would be up to the owners of the private property whether guns would be allowed on their premises.

“I want to give the business owner that choice,” Taylor said.

For college campuses, people would need a permit. Guns already are allowed on campus in some capacity. At the University of Missouri, for example, students who live in dorms store their firearms in a locker at the campus police department, according to the Columbia Missourian.

Other Republican measures heard Monday included:

• Making it a felony to track firearms.

• Allowing gun owners to keep their firearms in their vehicles in parking garages and lots.

Democratic measures included:

• Giving tax breaks for enrolling in firearm training.

• Banning the sale of ammunition to people under the age of 18.

• Repealing a 2016 law allowing Missourians to carry concealed firearms and to claim a “stand your ground” defense if they use deadly force in a public space without backing away from the threat — the so-called “duty to retreat.”

• Requiring all firearm sales and transfers to include FBI background checks of the purchaser.

Last week, Sen. Jamilah Nasheed, D-St. Louis, introduced a measure that would require licensed gun sellers to provide the buyer with information that guns could “terminate the life of a separate, unique, living human being.” On the Senate floor, she called it a “pro-life” bill.

“All lives matter, student lives matter, teachers’ lives matter, coaches’ lives matter, law enforcement lives matter, white lives matter, brown lives matter, and Mr. President,” Nasheed said, addressing the lieutenant governor who manages the Senate, “black lives matter.”
Missouri legislators to hear bill that would allow concealed carry on public college campuses

By Natasha Vyhoverky

The Missouri House of Representatives will discuss House Bill 1936 Monday, which would expand concealed gun carry laws to include public college campuses.

In addition to removing private property like churches, businesses and the state Capitol from the gun-free zone statute, the bill proposal would once again attempt to permit concealed carry for public higher education campuses. Like businesses, private colleges would be able to choose their own gun policies; public colleges would not.

HB 1936 is sponsored by Rep. Jered Taylor (R-Nixa), who sponsored a similar version of the bill last year that made it through committee but failed on the floor.

“We see time and time again that these shooters, these criminals, go into locations where they know they’re not going to be stopped within a reasonable amount of time, and they’re able to carry out their attack,” Taylor said. “The way to stop them is with force.”

He also cited high rates of sexual assault among college-age people as a reason to allow campus carry.

“Why aren’t we giving these individuals the ability to protect themselves?” Taylor said. “We are making them victims by not allowing them to protect themselves on college campuses.”

In light of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School last week that killed 17, Taylor believes this bill would allow victims of an attack to potentially stop the shooter.

“Let’s just say one of those coaches that was killed protecting those students…was able to carry a firearm,” Taylor said. “We could be talking about a different situation. He could have stopped the attack at that moment.”

He added that mental health also needs to be considered in gun legislation to make it harder for those with mental illnesses to purchase firearms.

Christopher Dade, president of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri at MU, said he believes firearms do not belong on college campuses. He worries it could threaten the ability for students to feel safe expressing ideas or thoughts that could be potentially offensive. As an MU tour guide, he has seen firsthand the comfort of prospective students knowing MU is a gun-free school.
Growing up in a small town in Missouri, Dade recognizes that MU is comprised of students who grew up in towns like his who are comfortable around guns and feel safer with them — as well as students who feel safe explicitly because guns aren’t allowed. This kind of debate is hard because both sides are valid, Dade said.

He and ASUM, whose members will be present at Monday’s hearing to testify against the bill, believe keeping public Missouri colleges gun-free is still the best option for everyone.

“On balance, there’s a greater need to protect public health, public safety and the sort of academic freedom of a university,” Dade said.

Dade said the active shooter alert on campus this past October reaffirmed his belief that MUPD should be solely responsible for handling guns and responding to attacks.

“Seeing how students in my classes reacted to parts that they heard or partial truths that they knew...I know that if they had had a weapon, they would have tried to be the hero, take matters into their own hands,” Dade said. “I am convinced that someone who was innocent would have gotten hurt. MUPD [had] the situation under control.”

He said adding more armed people into the mix, whether they are concealed carry permit holders or trained university staff, would also make it harder for MUPD.

“It just makes the people that we pay to keep campus safe...it makes their job harder and it makes them less effective when we have people that aren’t with MUPD — that aren’t professionals — that may or may not also have guns,” Dade said.

Brian Weimer, University of Missouri Police Department major, said MUPD will continue to enforce laws the legislators set forth. Generally, anywhere where concealed carry is allowed, he said police would face the problem where they would have to take caution identifying the target.

“I think the concern is, just as it would be not just on campuses but anywhere if other people [were] carrying firearms, is just making sure that a person who may be there trying to intervene to do things right is not shot by someone else because they don’t know who’s the bad guy [or] who’s the good guy,” Weimer said.

MUPD did not comment on the pending legislation.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Columbia teen arrested after threatening mass shooting
By Rudi Keller

A teenager in custody at the Boone County Jail was arrested Feb. 15 after threatening to make his foster mother “disappear” and engage in a mass killing spree.

In texts sent Feb. 2, Noah J. Solbrekken, 18, of Columbia told his mother that she had lied to him.

“I’m letting you know now I have chosen a path today,” Solbrekken wrote, according to a probable cause affidavit from University of Missouri police Officer Cain Anliker. “Harris it is.”

The reference, Solbrekken wrote in the texts, is to Eric Harris, who along with Dylan Klebold killed 13 and wounded 24 in a 1999 attack at Columbine High School in Colorado.

“Eric Harris masterminded Columbine ... I’m thinking more home invasions maybe not only the future knows,” Solbrekken wrote.

Solbrekken is being held on a $25,000 cash-only bond for first-degree harassment. His foster mother is an employee of the MU Student Success Center.

Documents released to the Tribune under a Sunshine Law request show the first report the MU police received about Solbrekken was Feb. 7 from his mother about harassment on campus. Maj. Brian Weimer of the MU Police Department said Monday that Solbrekken was issued a trespass warning.

The investigation was conducted jointly by the MU police and the Columbia Police Department until Feb. 15, when the MU police assumed sole responsibility, served a search warrant on Solbrekken’s home and arrested him.

After the initial report, the university sent a notice to all the employees in the Student Success Center with Solbrekken’s photo directing them to call 911 if he was seen on campus, said Christian Basi, MU spokesman.

“We took this very seriously,” he said. “We took as many actions as we could to bring a heightened awareness to the situation and informed individuals of the actions they could take.”

The texts were sent the day Solbrekken’s mother sued him for the second time in three months in small claims court. She won a judgment for $532 in November when he did not appear in court.

When she spoke to officers Feb. 7, the mother said Solbrekken told her he had no morals and could kill someone and get a good night’s sleep with no regrets or remorse, the application for a search warrant for his apartment states. She “continued that Solbrekken stated that if he killed one person he would ‘break’ and ‘go mass,’ ” referring to a mass shooting.
When MUPD Officer Paulina Chinea spoke with Solbrekken on Feb. 9, he admitted sending the texts and said he was upset with his mother because she was suing him. Chinea noted in her report that he praised Harris for his meticulous planning and precision in the attack on Columbine.

“Solbrekken spoke with admiration, saying Harris is a genius, single-minded and brilliant,” Chinea wrote in her report, according to the search warrant application.

Regarding his mother, Solbrekken said “she tells me she’s going to sue me, I tell her I’m going to make her disappear. Its life ...”

When asked if he had made plans to make his mother disappear, Solbrekken said he had not, according to the probable cause affidavit.

The affidavit quotes Solbrekken saying: “I don’t make plans. I’m either going to do it or I’m not.”

The rapid repetition of mass murder incidents, including the most recent school shooting that killed 17 on Feb. 14 in Parkland, Fla., has heightened fears at businesses and public institutions throughout the nation. Unlike some recent local cases with threats, neither MU nor the Columbia police publicized Solbrekken’s arrest the day after the Valentine’s Day massacre at Parkland.

The Columbia police issued a news release Friday that a social media threat targeting Columbia Public Schools was “determined not to be credible.” On Saturday, the department issued a news release that it had arrested a 13-year-old boy who posted threats against a middle school on social media.

The Centralia Police Department on Feb. 16 arrested a high school freshman who brought a handgun and ammunition to school.

Solbrekken is scheduled to be in court March 7 for a status hearing on his case.

**ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

**Mizzou athletics works to keep pace with SEC's big spenders**

By: Dave Matter

COLUMBIA, MO. • When Jim Sterk interviewed for the University of Missouri’s athletics director’s job two years ago, school officials warned him the department probably faced a budget deficit — even with revenue pouring in from the Southeastern Conference.
Hank Foley, MU’s interim chancellor at the time, tried to ease Sterk’s reservations.

“Hank said,” Sterk recalled recently, “‘Hey, they budget conservatively and they’ll work it out.’”

Two years later, Sterk’s department is in the red and could stay there indefinitely as revenue continues to climb but lag behind MU’s growing expenses.

“I was concerned,” Sterk said this month. “And it didn’t go away.”

Such is life in the SEC, in which programs such as Mizzou’s arm themselves with a double-edged sword: Sterk’s department enjoys the largesse that comes with SEC membership but on the fields of play must spend like never before to compete with the richest programs in the country.

For the 2017 fiscal year, Sterk’s first year on campus, Mizzou athletics revenue increased by less than 1 percent, to $97.8 million. But spending surged nearly 9 percent, to $102.4 million, marking MU’s first operating deficit since 2012. That’s when the Big 12 Conference withheld league revenue during Mizzou’s conference change.

In 2016, Mizzou’s revenue total ranked No. 30 nationally but just No. 12 among the SEC’s 13 public institutions, ahead of only Mississippi State, according to USA Today’s annual survey. MU athletics spending ranked No. 32 nationally and, again, No. 12 in the SEC.

Ten of the country’s top-17 revenue producers came from the SEC. Seven SEC schools hauled in at least $130 million, topped by Texas A&M at $194.4 million.

To close that financial gap within the league, Mizzou must “invest strategically,” Sterk said, while also working to balance its budget.

“You build revenues, and we’ve been able to do that some, but not at the rate to get rid of (the deficit),” he said. “We’ve got to do some things differently, and what they are I’m not sure yet.”
“We have opportunity,” he added. “But we have to manage our budgets a little more carefully right now.”

The SEC recently announced that member schools will receive $40.9 million in league-generated revenue this year, much of which comes from the SEC’s media rights contracts. That outside revenue stream, though, isn’t enough to offset MU’s plunge in ticket sales. In 2017, MU athletics brought in its lowest ticket-sales revenue figure ($17.9 million) since 2007. Next year’s figures will see an uptick after MU sold out of men’s basketball season tickets for the current season, though football attendance again dropped last fall. That reflects a trend seen around the nation.

According to a recent CBSSports.com report, attendance across the 129 Football Bowl Subdivision teams in 2017 fell 3.2 percent, the second-sharpest drop since the NCAA began tracking attendance in 1948.

**DONOR SHORTAGE**

At Mizzou, part of the challenge comes with expanding the donor base. MU athletics currently has about 7,900 donors, Sterk said. The SEC average is 12,000. Under Sterk, Mizzou has pushed ticket sales through an outbound sales staff and worked more closely with the university’s extension program to reach more fans around the state.

“It’s not something that’s going to solve (the shortage) overnight,” he said. “But it can help grow it over time.”

On the other side of the ledger, Mizzou’s spending has soared since joining the SEC, up nearly from 53 percent from its last year in the Big 12, when the budget was close to $67 million. Since 2008, salaries for coaches, staff and administration have more than doubled, from $18.8 million to $41.9 million this past year, despite having the SEC’s lowest paid football coach in Barry Odom.

Sterk extended Odom’s original five-year contract after the 2017 season but didn’t add dollars to a contract that pays him $2.35 million per year. Odom’s buyout — his base salary ($450,000) for
every year left on his deal — also remains the cheapest in the SEC and would have ranked second-lowest among all “Power 5” conference coaches last year.

Odom’s modest figures don’t necessarily reflect an overall frugal approach by the administration — men’s basketball coach Cuonzo Martin has a seven-year deal with an average $3 million salary and a coach-friendly buyout — but why an extension for Odom without a raise?

“I wanted to make sure people knew externally and from a recruiting standpoint that he’s a guy we believe in and want to move forward with,” Sterk said. “As we can build back revenues and he has more success — (former coach) Gary Pinkel was making $4 million when he (retired) but he had a couple championships in there — so there’s opportunity to do that, but we need to build it together. And I think Barry’s really doing a good job.”

LIKE OLE MISS

Around the SEC, Ole Miss is Mizzou’s closest peer when it comes to finances. Under AD Ross Bjork, the Rebels have increased their budget from $57 million in 2012 to around $113 million but still rank just ahead of Mizzou in the SEC’s financial rankings.

“Are we going to pay what the Alabama program pays their football coach?” Probably not,” Bjork said in a phone interview. “You have to be creative and find your niche. But you also say, ‘We can do what everyone else can do and offer the same things but with a few less zeroes.’ With a $100 million-plus budget, to me, in a place like Oxford and Columbia, you can do a lot with those resources.”

For Sterk, Bjork and other ADs around the country, two parts of the new federal tax law could further impact their bottom line.

First, boosters no longer can take a tax deduction on the donation required to buy season tickets. In the past, boosters could deduct 80 percent of the donation. Some schools fear the new law could discourage fans from buying season tickets. For now, Mizzou plans to keep in place last year’s pricing structure for football.
“We want to see where it all falls out,” Sterk said.

The law also includes a 21 percent excise tax on universities for employee salaries that exceed $1 million. That tax will affect negotiations when ADs search the job market for their next high-dollar coach.

“Maybe I could have paid a coach at $5 million,” Bjork said. “But now four (million) is my number when you add in the tax.”

The particulars still are uncertain but figure to pose more challenges for programs already waging an uphill battle to stay competitive and turn a profit.

Passport program takes Columbians on a trip through biases
By: Hannah Archambault

A passport in Columbia is letting residents go where many never thought to — on a journey to fix their own biases.

If you think you that you have none, you may be surprised to find out differently.

“If you have a brain, you have a bias,” said Nikki McGruder.

McGruder is the regional manager for Columbia’s branch of the Diversity Awareness Partnership. She is also the director of the partnership’s project, Matters of Social Justice: Journey Toward Inclusive Excellence, also known as the passport program. The program is intended to foster inclusivity and diversity in Columbia, according to their website
The journey begins at sign-up for a passport, which they can get at the Boone County Regional Library, the Department of Public Health and Human Services or any sponsored event, or “experience.” Next, participants test themselves for implicit biases.

The tests cover many potential biases a person can have, said Nancy McKerrow, a participant in the program.

After taking the tests and attending a class on socialization, participants can tailor their journeys by choosing what experiences — a lecture or discussion — to take part in.

With each experience they attend, participants receive a stamp on their passport.

McKerrow has focused on her results from the race bias test that says she has a slight preference for lighter skin over darker skin.

“I surprised myself. I like to think of myself as not being biased on race but then it turns out that I am,” McKerrow said. “I’m a white person. I was raised to have that bias. I was raised in a society that is biased, and I guess I picked up on that.”

Since the test, McKerrow says she has attended a discussion on race.

The class description said it is meant to improve the community’s ability to talk about race relations.

McGruder has a similar story she often tells people who are about to take the tests.

It began when she was advised by her boss to try the tests so she would be familiar with them as a tool.

McGruder began with the race test because, as a black woman, she said she figured she would have no problem with it.
But her results showed a preference for white skin over dark. She immediately took it again, thinking it was a mistake — and again a week later. But, she said, she came back with the same result.

McGruder began to examine her childhood as one of the few people of color in her small community and the only one in a classroom full of white children. Suddenly, things began to make sense.

Then she wondered if her own bias affected those around her.

McGruder said her daughter tans quickly, and it became habitual for McGruder to comment on her daughter’s darkening skin every year.

“So, then I was planting the seed that that is my preference,” she said. “She can maybe think that I don’t think she’s beautiful or maybe I think that she would be more beautiful with lighter skin.”

Because she has recognized and reflected on her bias, McGruder said, she is careful about what she says so that her daughter isn’t socialized into preferring one skin color over another.

This is the kind of success the program likes to hear but even simply participating would be enough, according to McGruder.

“No one should feel like this is for everybody else but them. This is our journey of inclusive excellence,” she said. “Don’t just sit on the sidelines and not take part.”

McGruder said she and the Matters of Social Justice Committee — the group that runs the program — would have been happy with 200 to 300 participants. Instead, they had roughly 600 in the first two weeks alone and still are growing.

The committee itself is made up of people who represent groups, organizations and departments in Columbia and Boone County.
Within the passport, there are more than 40 experiences already listed. At the midway celebration to be held April 19, more experiences will be announced that fit well within the program, said McGruder.

There is also a final celebration Aug. 25 for those who attend eight experiences or more.

**The program is closely tied to MU’s Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity and its Vice Chancellor, Dr. Kevin McDonald.**

McDonald designed the framework of inclusive excellence — part of which is recognizing one’s biases and reflecting on them so one can make their environment more inclusive — that the Journey Towards Inclusive Excellence is based on, McGruder said.

McGruder said the program is being documented for the Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity as well, through aspects like the section of the passport where participants can record the results of their bias tests before and after their journey.

She also connected the program to MU’s 2015 protests.

“We went through a lot here. In 2015, we were in the national headlines for all the wrong reasons,” she said. “This is our opportunity to show were intentional about this opportunity to change.”

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**Research begins for personal financial planning department based on Investment Risk Tolerance Assessment**

*Story generated by MU News Bureau release: Popular financial tool at Mizzou will help investors, financial advisors assess risk*
MU recently acquired an Investment Risk Tolerance Assessment from Rutgers University, which allows individuals to test their willingness to take financial risks.

On Jan. 8, the MU personal financial planning department put the assessment on its website and the faculty began collecting data. The test was created by John Grable, professor of family and consumer sciences at University of Georgia, and Ruth Lytton, professor of financial planning at Virginia Tech, in 1999. This test was one of the first of its kind and is free for all users.

The Investment Risk Tolerance Assessment was acquired by Rutgers after its creation, where researchers have been able to use the data to understand different financial demographics. MU gained the assessment via an institutional transfer after Rutgers was no longer interested in housing it, according to Abed Rabbani, assistant professor of personal financial planning at MU.

A person’s investment risk tolerance is determined by their preference for taking risks, their perception of risk and what that person has done financially in the past, according to Grable. The assessment includes multiple choice questions about how a friend might describe the test-taker, their preferred gambling odds and how one would invest their money.

Rabbani was part of the group that expressed interest in acquiring the risk assessment in the summer of 2017. Rabbani said the test is “immensely popular” in the financial planning and advising businesses.

The risk tolerance assessment originally included 100 questions, which have been gradually cut to 13 since 1999. Rabbani said the test will continue to be a work in progress. Since MU’s acquisition of the test, there have been over 11,000 assessments completed, as of Feb. 22. Overall, the assessment has accrued over 200,000 hits since its creation.

Researchers from MU, Rutgers University and the University of Georgia are currently evaluating data gathered by the risk assessment tool from 2012-2017. Rabbani said the group plans to give the findings to MU Extension programs, which will disseminate the information to other financial planners and consumers.

“We are working together to increase our audience,” Rabbani said. “We are approaching Extension educators to make them aware that there is a tool that they can utilize when they speak with their Extension clients.”

Because MU is a land-grant university, it holds a “federally mandated mission to carry the benefits of university research” outside of campus, according to the MU Extension website. The research from the assessment data will be given to the financial sectors within 69 MU Extension program locations.

Grable said the investment test can be used by consumers to identify how they may handle risk in different situations in relation to other people when presented with the same financial choices.

“Hopefully what [the Financial Risk Tolerance Assessment] helps somebody do is at least get an idea of where they fall on a continuum from being really risk averse to being a risk seeker,”
University of Missouri works to strengthen local food systems

By: David Burton

Working purposefully to connect the various parts of our local food system is important for a number or reasons according to Pam Duitsman, nutrition and health education specialist with University of Missouri Extension.

“Local food efforts improve access to local food and helps us all learn where, how and by whom our food is grown,” said Duitsman. “It also helps to forge new paths for farmers and producers of all types to stay on the farm, make a go of their food businesses and be successful. It connects schools and children to fresh local food and brings grocers and restaurants the quality fresh food they desire.”

Missourians have continued to ask for better access to local food. As a result, MU Extension and community partners have been working in southwest Missouri to simplify, support, educate, connect and strengthen our local food system.

“Healthy local food systems work for us all. They create opportunities for producers and food markets that ultimately benefit all of Missourians,” said Duitsman. “Over the last few years, we have seen a shift. Rural towns in Missouri who have lacked access to fresh fruits and vegetables are getting more.”

According to Duitsman, local food businesses are starting up and farmers, ranchers, and food producers of all kinds are using innovate approaches to sell their products locally.
“The transformation has not just produced more healthy food, but also improved economies in Missouri communities,” said Duitsman.

Over the past several years, there has been an explosion in the number of high tunnels, greenhouses, food hub projects and innovative food businesses. These further support the growth of our already strong Farmer’s Markets, CSAs and existing local food related businesses.

“One of the best ways to keep our food system growing is to get folks from all across the food system together and talking. There are always going to be challenges in food system infrastructure and as our food system continues to grow, challenges change. But so do our opportunities,” said Duitsman.

In an effort to capture opportunities, and connect with key food system players, the University of Missouri Extension partners with communities to convene forums to build clarity for Farm to Table, to hammer out solutions, and help to map a path to take next steps together.

To find out about MU Extension events near you, visit extension.missouri.edu and check the calendar for your local county. Pam Duitsman can be reached in the Greene County Extension office by phone at 417-881-8909 or by email duitsmanp@missouri.edu.
By: Lindsey Grojean

The Missouri Department of Agriculture and the University of Missouri College of Agriculture will hold their last in-person dicamba application training session this week.

Before the start of the growing season, farmers with the intent of purchasing and using synthetic auxin herbicides are required to have a private or commercial applicator license, and training to prevent off-target movement.

Dicamba, an active ingredient in several herbicides produced by Monsanto, has some farmers frustrated by its volatility after the 2017 crop season. While many farmers' fields have benefited from the use of dicamba, it comes at a cost to neighboring fields that have been damaged by it drifting onto planted crops that aren’t equipped to handle it.

In 2017, the Missouri Department of Agriculture received 206 dicamba-related pesticide drift complaints and crop damage. To reduce off-target crop injury, they issued a stop sale, use, and removal order of dicamba technologies on July 7, and approved of special provisions for their use on July 13.

Regional Agronomy Specialist for the University of Missouri Extension, Anthony Ohmes says applicators need to be sure to get the correct Special Local Need product labels that were issued last year.

“There are three labeled products. Those three products- ENGENIA, XTENDIMAX and FEXAPAN- they have a 24c labeling in the state of Missouri,” said Ohmes. “They need to be sure to get those 24c labels.”

The cutoff date for the use of these products is set for June 1 for the southeast Missouri counties of Dunklin, Pemiscot, New Madrid, Stoddard, Scott, Mississippi, Butler, Ripley, Bollinger, and Cape Girardeau. All remaining Missouri counties have a cutoff date of July 15.

Provisions established by the Department of Agriculture throughout last year are still in effect. Applicators must fill out a daily dicamba notification application form before each application.
This form can be found at Agriculture.Mo.Gov/dicamba/notice. The 24c labeled products cannot be applied before or after the application window, which is set between 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m daily.

Uncertified applicators are prohibited from applying 24c labels to crops at any time.

The training session will take place at Fisher Delta Research Center in Portageville on Feb. 28. Ohmes says you can also take University of Missouri Extension online training modules at any time, at your own pace.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

State Rep. Walsh undecided on Greitens’ future

By Rudi Keller

State Rep. Sara Walsh was undecided in her views on the future of Gov. Eric Greitens in a statement issued Saturday — more than 48 hours after he became the first sitting governor in state history to be indicted for a felony.

Walsh, R-Ashland, was the last of the six-member Boone County legislative delegation to make any kind of statement about the governor’s legal troubles. State Sen. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia and the senior member of the delegation, issued a statement within a few hours of the Thursday indictment calling on Greitens to resign and for the Missouri House to impeach him if he refuses.

“Unlike a number of my respected colleagues in the Missouri General Assembly, I believe it is premature to offer an opinion on whether Governor Greitens should go, simply because I respect the legal and House processes to hear the evidence needed to make such a weighty decision,” Walsh wrote in her statement.

Greitens was charged Thursday with a single felony count of invasion of privacy. Greitens is accused of photographing a woman during a sexual encounter in his St. Louis home in March 2015 and transmitting it in a way that made it viewable on a computer.

The indictment stems from an investigation launched in January by St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kimberly Gardner after news reports that included an audio recording of the woman describing
the encounter to her then-husband. On the recording, the woman said she was partially naked, blindfolded and tied up when she saw a flash and Greitens told her she should remain silent about their relationship or he would make the photos public.

Greitens has admitted the affair but denied threatening to make any photos public. His attorney has filed for dismissal of the case, arguing the woman involved had no expectation of privacy during the sexual encounter.

In her statement, Walsh said Greitens has a presumption of innocence in the criminal case. “Having said that, it must be stated that the threshold for impeachment in Missouri is far less than the threshold for criminal conviction,” Walsh wrote.

**The criminal charge would be difficult to prove unless prosecutors have found the photo or electronic evidence of the photo, said Frank Bowman, a professor of law at the University of Missouri who has written extensively about the impeachment process.**

“If you haven’t got a picture, all you have is this woman’s testimony against Greitens’ denial,” Bowman said. “I think it would be a risky approach to bring an indictment if you didn’t have evidence of the picture.”

State executive officers and judges are subject to impeachment for “crimes, misconduct, habitual drunkenness, willful neglect of duty, corruption in office, incompetency, or any offense involving moral turpitude or oppression in office.”

My statement: “As our state comes to grips with the indictment of our governor, lawmakers are being asked to weigh in with their views as to whether Governor Greitens should resign or be removed from office....” : [https://t.co/SPwjcqOA67](https://t.co/SPwjcqOA67)

— Sara Walsh (@SaraForMissouri) [February 24, 2018](https://t.co/SPwjcqOA67)

The constitutional question is whether some of those grounds for impeachment cover actions that took place before an officeholder is elected, Bowman said.

“As far as I know it is an open question,” he said. “I think the most likely answer would be, conduct that occurred before taking office would count but that is a question I would want to raise if I was his lawyer.”

The test for whether he should resign, Walsh wrote, is whether the charges prevent Greitens from performing his duties as governor.

“From what I have observed, Governor Greitens is forging ahead with his plans for moving our state forward,” Walsh wrote. “The House, in which I proudly serve, is doing likewise.”

The Tribune first sought Walsh’s views on the indictment in the hours after it was issued. She issued the statement in a general release to all media on Saturday afternoon.
In response to a phone call Monday seeking to know why she waited, Walsh sent a text message that her statement “stands for itself.”

State Reps. Kip Kendrick and Martha Stevens, both Columbia Democrats, also said Thursday that Greitens, a Republican, should resign. State Reps. Chuck Basye, R-Rocheport, and Cheri Reisch, R-Hallsville, reached Friday at a Columbia Pachyderm Club meeting declined to comment on the charges, with Reisch explaining she might have to vote on impeachment and does not want to appear biased.

Numerous other lawmakers, both Republican and Democratic, have said Greitens should step aside. Republicans hold more than two-thirds of Missouri House seats and the GOP leadership is establishing a special committee to review the allegations.

“While I appreciate some of my constituents and several members of the media asking me to immediately take a position, it would be unwise and irresponsible to do so without all the relevant facts,” Walsh said. “The House committee will be charged with the task of closely studying the facts to determine whether impeachment is warranted. If so, the committee’s findings will be shared with the House prior to the chamber’s vote.”

MU professor comments on the ability to film police officers in public

Watch video at: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=7ad05a6b-943c-4899-b6a2-786e8845907e
Students attend annual Social Justice Symposium to learn more about different facets of MU community

By Skyler Rossi

About 70 students from different aspects of MU campus life came together to participate in the annual Social Justice Symposium on Feb. 24.

The Social Justice Symposium works each year to foster skills of activism, advocacy and awareness through workshops and a keynote speaker.

Workshops focused on various topics such as inclusion, bisexuality, birth control and systematic oppression. Participants were able to attend four of the 12 workshops offered.

This year’s keynote speaker was Dr. Christina Carney, an MU assistant professor in women’s and gender studies and black studies. She researches and writes about the history of queer black women.

In her speech, Carney spoke about issues such as intersectionality, ableism and how arming teachers would affect black students. She emphasized the importance of having a conversation about social justice issues.

“We don’t talk about disadvantaged populations, especially in this current historical moment,” Carney said. “We don’t talk about those people because they are seen as disposable in our society.”

The event was organized by the Department of Residential Life, the Office of Student Engagement, the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center, the LGBTQ Resource Center, the Multicultural Center, the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center and the Women’s Center.

This year, the organizers of the event focused more on the breakout sessions and the keynote speaker rather than small groups as in previous years. Jayme Gardner, coordinator of leadership development in the Office of Student Engagement, said the organizers really tried to hone in on what made the event successful last year.

The organizers hope to expand the symposium by instituting a student committee next year.

Gardner believes the symposium should push students out of their comfort zones by presenting them with new ideas.
“I hope [students] know a little more about something that they don’t personally experience,” Gardner said. “I think that’s the ultimate goal: to allow students who don’t hold certain identities to interact with people that do or to learn more about that and learn more about being better leaders.”

She feels that learning about social justice issues is essential for being an active leader.

“I teach leadership development, and I think that you can’t really call yourself a leader on campus, or in the world, without understanding the tenants of social justice,” Gardner said.

Carney believes the symposium acts as a resource for discussion that you can’t necessarily have other places.

“I think this symposium illuminates a lot of marginalized issues for folks who already have an interest in these topics, but don’t really have a community,” Carney said. “The good thing about this symposium is that you actually have people you can rely on as allies, teachers, listeners, instead of thinking about these issues without any support and feedback.”

Many students attended to learn more about social justice and apply it to their jobs or lives in specific ways.

Junior M.C. Cross heard about the symposium through their work as a peer educator at the RVSP Center.

“[I hope to learn] better ways that we can help our community, a college campus with these particular issues, and maybe onward, as we graduate, how we can help whatever community that we go into with these issues,” Cross said.

Freshman Nathaniel Hartman works for the LGBTQ Resource Center and said he participated to learn skills to improve his community work at his job.

Several members of the Mizzou Black Men’s Initiative, including freshman Brian Amaonye, went to the symposium as well.

“[I wanted to learn] more about social justice and build a better relationship with my brothers in MBMI,” Amaonye said.

Many students attended to learn more about social justice issues.

Freshman Molly Stawinoga said she attended the symposium to find out more about what community organizations’ viewpoints were and to feel empowered.

“I really just want to learn about other ways of life and perspectives,” Stawinoga said. “I’m informed on issues but maybe not different emotional views of the issues because I’m just seeing from my viewpoint.”

All of the attendees had one thing in common: They were excited to be there and eager to delve into social justice issues.
“I feel very passionately about many issues that affect different segments of the population,” Stawinoga said. “I really believe in equality and justice, and I want everyone to have the same opportunities in life.”