



**MU News Bureau**

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# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Two University of Missouri students, Army veterans receive top scholarship

Generated from Joint Office of Strategic Communication press release: [Student veterans named Pat Tillman Scholars](#)

By Ashley Jost

**Two University of Missouri students received a prestigious military scholarship Thursday that will get them free tuition and textbooks through the end of their academic career.**

Army veterans Paul Wade, a law student at Mizzou and a member of the Missouri National Guard, and Heath McClung, an engineering student at UMSL, were both named [Pat Tillman Scholars](#).

The Pat Tillman Foundation taps 60 scholars each year who are active duty, veterans or their spouses, and provides them with financial help to cover their educational costs, living expenses and additional funds along the way for conferences, among other things. The scholars program is also a networking tool for those involved.

Wade and McClung are the only two scholars in Missouri.

“As a veteran, I don’t believe myself to be any better than my civilian classmates, but I recognize that my experiences are drastically different from many other people attending law school,” Wade said in a statement. “The Pat Tillman Foundation recognizes the need to have veteran leadership at all levels to bring the unique experiences and perspectives veterans share into the public discourse. Being in the small group of Tillman Scholars allows me to be part of a group of veterans working to make the country and world a better place.”

Wade is from Chatham, Ill., and received his bachelor's degree from Truman State University. He served in three combat deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

McClung is from Wildwood and also went to Truman State before joining the Army and serving three years active duty. While deployed in Afghanistan during 2011, McClung was injured and had to have one of his legs amputated.

McClung hopes to pursue a career working with and developing prosthetics through UMSL's joint engineering program with Washington University, in which he's enrolled.

"I think it's fascinating technology and really rewarding," McClung said in a statement. "These are things that help people in their daily lives. Ideally I want to work either in a practice and treat patients or work for a company helping to design and make the next generation of prosthetics. The Pat Tillman Foundation is helping me achieve this goal."

## **ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

### **Editorial: Greitens issues a veto, plus the usual round of insults**

By the Editorial Board

Given the state of Missouri's brutal budget situation, Gov. Eric Greitens could have offered a perfectly reasonable explanation Wednesday for vetoing \$48 million the Legislature appropriated for a downtown home for the University of Missouri-Kansas City's music and dance program. But Greitens, being Greitens, felt he had to insult people to advance his political ambitions.

Greitens could have said: Hey, times are tight. We had to cut \$572 million from this year's budget and we're not done yet because state revenue isn't keeping up with spending. A new arts conservatory for UMKC is not in the cards when we're cutting the rest of the higher education budget by 7 percent.

Instead Greitens took to Facebook to announce his veto: "Politicians are addicted to spending your money. This year, they passed a bill that would put taxpayers on the hook for over \$75 million to build and run a conservatory for dancers and art students. I'm vetoing the bill, and I'm ready to fight them on

this.”

Subtext: Lawmakers (he usually calls them “career politicians”) want to help out a bunch of sissy dancers and art students. Meanwhile, he, Eric Greitens “a conservative outsider” and “budget hawk,” is standing up for “Missouri families.”

In his budget announcement, Greitens compared the Legislature’s decision to spend bond money on the conservatory with borrowing money on the state’s credit card. This enabled him to inflate the \$48 million appropriation to \$75 million in debt and interest, plus operating costs.

The state of Missouri, like nearly every other political jurisdiction, goes into the bond market to fund capital projects. Greitens knows this; he is not a stupid man, just a career opportunist. He is never one to let a good crisis go to waste.

**Meanwhile, over in Kansas City, civic leaders — knowing Greitens hadn’t liked the idea in the first place — had reached a deal with the University of Missouri Board of Curators to replace the state’s contribution with \$48 million more in private contributions. City money and private contributions already had been committed to paying for half of the \$96 million project, in hopes the state would fill in the other half.**

**Greitens appeared to take credit for that, too. “Today, the President and the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri System announced that they don’t want any additional taxpayer money to pay for a conservatory. Instead, they’ve committed to develop a detailed plan to pay for it by making tough budget decisions and using private funds along with strong leaders in the Kansas City community.”**

UMKC is the state’s designated campus for the visual and performing arts, an important recruiting tool to attract students from around the country. State support recognizes the importance of the arts to the state. At least it used to.



## University Says It Won't Seek State Funds For Arts Campus; Greitens Vetoes Bill Anyway

By C.J. Janovy

**Update:** *This story was updated at 4:00 p.m. to include Missouri Governor Eric Greitens' veto statement.*

**Despite gaining approval from the Missouri House and Senate for \$48 million in state bond funding for its proposed Downtown Campus for the Arts, the University of Missouri Board of Curators announced today that it would instead "develop plans for an alternative funding match ... rather than seek funding from the state under the 50-50 matching program for capital projects."**

Hours later, Gov. Eric Greitens vetoed the legislation anyway.

It was Greitens' first veto.

The Missouri House approved the [legislation by a vote of 117-39 in March](#), and the Senate approved it [by a vote of 28-4](#) in April. Greitens had until July 14 to sign it. But as weeks passed without the governor's signature, Arts Campus supporters reportedly [grew increasingly anxious](#) about the measure's prospects.

Meanwhile, the University of Missouri System [announced dramatic budget cuts](#) involving hundreds of faculty and staff layoffs across all of its campuses.

In a news release Wednesday morning, university officials said "details of the financial plans for the \$96 million construction project and the \$2 million operating costs are being developed without reliance on state funding. These plans will be presented for approval to the Board of Curators at the September meeting."

“This approach will allow construction to begin sooner and save money by avoiding construction cost inflation on a project that will benefit the students of UMKC, the people of Kansas City and the state of Missouri,” UM System President Mun Choi said in the statement.

Despite the University System's announcement, Greitens made his own, saying he was vetoing a bill that "would put taxpayers on the hook for over \$75 million to build and run a conservatory for dancers and art students."

Greitens said he was "ready to fight" the politicians who had overwhelmingly supported the legislation.

"You know who would have to pay that bill? You. Missouri families. I think that's wrong," Greitens said. "I'm a conservative outsider. And I told you that I'd act as a budget hawk and protect your money. And that's what we're doing. We've told leaders across government to do more with less tax money, and to get better results."

University leaders' earlier announcement was "the really good news," Greitens said.

"I have urged the leaders of Missouri's universities to think and act different, to prioritize, and to make tough decisions to take Missouri in a new direction. And they are taking a stand. Today, the President and the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri System announced that they don't want any additional taxpayer money to pay for a conservatory. Instead, they've committed to develop a detailed plan to pay for it by making tough budget decisions and using private funds along with strong leaders in the Kansas City community. That's how it should be."

Reached by phone after the announcement Wednesday morning, UM System spokesman Christian Basi told KCUR that concerns about Greitens' level of support for the project had "not come up in conversations" about the new funding approach.

"The legislation was designed to authorize state funding for project, but the current legislation would not commit specific state funding to the project — that would need to be decided by later budget bills," Basi said. "We also understood the various financial challenges that were facing the state and believed this action would help us start construction sooner."

Basi said funds would come from within the University System and from UMKC through "re-allocation of resources," and potentially from external sources.

The university's news release said the "new funding mechanism would honor and preserve" pledges of \$48 million from donors, including a \$20 million gift from Julia Irene Kauffman on behalf of the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation.

Choi and UMKC Chancellor Leo Morton thanked "the many donors, civic leaders and state legislators who have labored tirelessly to move the Downtown Arts Campus project forward."

"The Downtown Arts Campus will be a critical element of our performing arts community. It needs to happen," Kauffman said in the statement. "That's why I have supported it, and that's

why I am so grateful to Chancellor Morton and President Choi for taking this bold step to make it a reality. They are providing leadership when we need it most."

The news release also included a statement from Kansas City Mayor Sly James, who said he was "grateful to the business and civic community for prioritizing the state funding for UMKC's conservatory during this legislative session and for the bipartisan support this project received" and that he looked forward to helping make the project happen.

# MISSOURIAN

## Certification process affecting perceived legitimacy of emotional support animals

MOLLY NAGEL

Generated from News Bureau press release: [Study Reveals Recommendations for Certifying Emotional Support Animals](#)

COLUMBIA — Is there a difference between the beloved cat allowed to accompany its owner on an airplane and your own favorite feline at home?

There is, and it's a piece of paper.

The designation of "emotional support animal" is meant to allow the pet to be available for comfort to its owner, who may have a disability, in settings where animals are usually prohibited. However, some owners have taken to registering their pets to benefit from the allowances an emotional support animal gets, without having any legitimate need, as exemplified by servicedogcentral.org's "faker alert" bar that runs along the top of its website.

**A recent study conducted by Cassie Boness, a graduate student studying clinical psychology at MU, and Jeffrey N. Younggren, a forensic psychologist and clinical professor at MU, examined the question of whose responsibility it ought to be to certify an emotional support animal. They compared the evaluation techniques of clinical psychologists and forensic psychologists.**

What they found was that forensic psychologists do a more comprehensive job of proving the need for an emotional support animal, Boness said.

Here's how it works now: A licensed mental health professional can write a letter describing the client's symptoms to certify the need for the person to have an emotional support animal. The animal does not have to be trained.

A forensic psychologist, whose job is conducting psychological evaluations to inform legal proceedings, "isn't worried about the relationship with the client," Boness said, and is able to evaluate objectively, on a

case-by-case basis.

"A clinician doesn't want to jeopardize the relationship with a client, so they may be more likely to write a letter," Boness said.

That's why Younggren and Boness say forensic psychologists should be the primary, if not the sole providers, of certifications of emotional support animals. They're also keen to see policy on the national level that would increase regulations based on advice from psychologists.

### **Online certification**

Because there is no national registry for emotional support animals, there is no corresponding data. However, a quick online search of "fake emotional support animals" produces countless articles about people claiming a disability so they can certify their animals and take them wherever they go. In particular, it [has become an issue on airplanes](#).

Younggren said one of the problems is the proliferation of websites that offer "professional" letters, certifying that a person needs an emotional support animal. The letters are issued for a fee and without an evaluation of a person's health.

Morgan Burkhardt, a dog trainer in Columbia with a background in psychology, has a service dog, Patty. The golden retriever aids her in many ways, particularly because Burkhardt has a fused spine that inhibits her balance, so if she falls or needs help picking things up, Patty helps. Burkhardt also has trauma symptoms from spending lengthy periods in the hospital. Whenever she has nightmares, Patty wakes her up.

"It's really kind of amazing how much (dogs) can help because there's such a wide variety of things you can teach them to do," she said.

Burkhardt said an increasing number of her clients have come to her with applications from online certification sites. She said she doesn't blame them for trying to obtain the certification. But she said the sites can be very misleading.

One of the sites, which Burkhardt calls the "most notorious," is [NSARCO.com](#), where you simply click a box stating that you have some type of disability and another stating that your animal is obedient. You then pay \$64.95 (plus shipping) and receive a certification kit.

NSARCO, or National Service Animal Registry Corporation, has had 165,129 animals registered as of June 28.

Surprisingly, the letters are rarely challenged because businesses and services are afraid to run afoul of the Americans With Disabilities Act, Fair Housing Act or Air Carrier Access Act regulations.

"They're scared to death of it," Younggren said.

### **'Service' versus 'emotional support'**

Service animals are allowed within any public space the owner is in and are protected by the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#).

Emotional support animals are protected through the [Fair Housing Act](#), which states the housing provider must accommodate an emotional support animal and its owner without asking for additional information, as long as proper documentation — a letter — is provided. Emotional support animals are also allowed in

the main cabin of airplanes through the [Air Carrier Access Act](#). Aside from housing and airplanes, however, there are no laws that allow them in any other public space that would not regularly allow animals.

Burkhardt said she wants people to fully appreciate that a big difference between service animals and emotional support animals is that service animals have training.

She said she finds it disappointing that some people get their pets registered as emotional support animals without having a debilitating condition. The practice has affected her, she said. For example, when she has taken Patty with her to hotels, she has been asked to show the dog's registration as a service animal. Hotels that don't allow pets aren't required to allow emotional support animals, but they must accommodate service animals.

"There isn't any official document of registration," Burkhardt said. "But because people bring in emotional support animals and say they have registration, which looks very official but isn't legal, businesses are now expecting everyone to have it."

Ameerah Sanders, an English major at MU, hasn't run into the same issues as Burkhardt, possibly because her emotional support animal is a cat. The long-haired, black feline, Jenny, stays in a pet carrier any time Sanders must travel via airplane, and Sanders makes sure she has a letter describing her need for the animal. Although she doesn't need the cat during the flight, Jenny helps with Sanders' depression when they reach their location. So if Sanders goes somewhere, Jenny does, too.

The point of having an emotional support animal is to provide comfort, so, to Sanders, having a small animal that requires less maintenance than a dog makes more sense. Taking care of a large dog is added stress, she said.

Although Sanders said possible size restrictions for emotional support animals might help dissuade people from getting fake certification, she doesn't believe any actual regulations should be created.

"People should be able to get what they need, regardless of others taking advantage," she said, "because there is always going to be someone trying to take advantage of things like that."

For Sanders, whose family lives in Alabama, going to college in Missouri has been a serious challenge. She grew up in an environment with limited physical affection and struggled with loneliness and depression when she started attending MU. To avoid coming home to an empty house, Sanders would stay out as late as possible, usually at the MU Student Center.

Her therapist suggested she look into an emotional support animal. After researching the specifics and benefits, Sanders began looking for a cat at the Central Missouri Humane Society. As she approached each adoptable cat, she tipped her head, waiting for a cat to bump its forehead against hers, a show of affection among cats.

Sanders, her forehead resting against Jenny's, grinned and said, "She was the cat I was looking for."

Younggren and Boness aren't opposed to the use of emotional support animals like Jenny. They just think that in-depth and objective evaluations of whether a patient truly needs an emotional support animal will reduce the deceit.

"This wouldn't be a problem if the certifications were provided following a comprehensive evaluation," Younggren said, "or if there were professional guidelines in place."

Younggren and Boness are trying to push for more guidelines at the policy-making level, most likely with the American Psychological Association. Boness said new policies could come soon, especially as airlines begin to apply pressure to provide specificity on the types of animals allowed to fly and the documents required.



## [MU hosts fair to soften the blow of university lay offs](#)

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-hosts-fair-to-soften-the-blow-of-university-lay-offs->

COLUMBIA – **MU hosted a job fair for university employees whose jobs were cut.**

Chamber of Commerce President Matt McCormick said he was excited to help.

“It’s focused on the university employees that are looking for jobs and what all is open and the things and opportunities elsewhere here in Columbia,” he said.

About 20 businesses were there and have openings in areas that have been cut at the university. Those areas included:

- Research/Lab
- Business/Finance
- Service and Maintenance
- Communications
- Information Technologies
- Program/Project Support
- Office Administration and Support

But, not all of the companies were there to recruit workers. Some just shared resources.

Jaylon Ball is a fund raising chair for Tiger Pantry and he said laid-off employees can still use the pantry.

“Today we are offering everyone who was laid off recently the opportunity to extend kind of their benefits,” he said. “We are offering them assistance for the next year until they find another job.”

Former employees Gwen Lawson and Adam McPherson said they found the job fair helpful.

“We’ve both been laid off and I decided to look at it as a crossward opportunity,” Lawson said.

McPherson said many companies had openings in his field of work.

“It was very helpful. I met a lot of people. Two or three people were looking for help desk specialists,” he said.

McCormick said the chamber and the university may host another fair like this in the future.



## **Missouri Orthopedic Institute weighs in on cutting edge knee procedure**

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by Kermit Miller

Watch the story: <http://krcgtv.com/news/local/missouri-orthopedic-institute-on-cutting-edge-of-revolutionary-development>

COLUMBIA — A new knee replacement procedure has been introduced that uses the patient's own cartilage cells.

**"The technology of trying to take your own cartilage cells and grow them outside of the body, putting them on a scaffold or matrix and putting them back in is really the Holy Grail," Dr. Seth Sherman of MU Sports Medicine said.**

The surgeon cuts the membrane to size and fills holes in the knee, like filling a pothole. Over time, those cells grow and develop into mature cartilage.

"Though a small scope procedure, we take your cells from a non-essential aspect of your own knee and then we bring it to a laboratory," Sherman said. "And, we actually expand and multiply your own cells and implant them back in."



## **Preventing Fireworks Injuries**

Generated from MU Health press release

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=91b9fb4a-198f-4490-b5dc-e43ca3344cc8>

# **MISSOURIAN**

## **GUEST COMMENTARY: New legislation may make free speech on campus less free**

NEAL H. HUTCHENS

Around the country, state lawmakers have been talking about — and legislating — ways intended to protect free speech on college campuses.

The Wisconsin State Assembly, for example, recently passed a campus speech bill that would require public colleges and universities to punish students who disrupt campus speakers. The legislation is now heading to the State Senate for consideration.

As a higher education law researcher and campus free speech supporter, I view some requirements in these new campus speech laws as positively reinforcing legal protections for student free speech. However, I believe language in several pending state bills, including the punitive legislation proposed in Wisconsin, does more to impede free speech than protect it.

### **Free speech zones**

In an effort to keep campuses safe and avoid disruption, some universities have restricted student speech and expressive activity — such as handing out leaflets or gathering signatures for petitions — to special speech zones.

These "free speech zones" have been subject to criticism and legal challenges. In one illustrative case, a federal court invalidated a University of Cincinnati policy that limited student demonstrations, picketing and rallies to one small portion of campus.

**The U.S. Supreme Court, however, has not ruled definitively on the legality of designated student speech zones. Consequently, legal battles over their constitutionality continue, as shown by pending litigation involving a Los Angeles community college student who claims he was allowed to distribute copies of the U.S. Constitution only in a designated campus speech zone.**

**Some states have recently enacted laws that prohibit public colleges and universities from enforcing such free speech zones against students. At least seven states have passed anti-speech zone laws: Virginia, Missouri, Arizona, Colorado, Tennessee, Utah and Kentucky.**

Public institutions in these states may impose reasonable rules to avoid disruption, but officials cannot relegate student free speech and expression to only small or remote areas on campus. Instead, they must permit free speech in most open campus locations, such as courtyards and sidewalks.

Along with the pending legislation in Wisconsin, which also would ban speech zones, North Carolina, Michigan, Texas and Louisiana are considering similar legislation.

Striking down these “free speech zones” seems a sensible way to promote student free speech: In my opinion, institutions shouldn’t seek to restrict students’ First Amendment speech rights to strict borders on campus.

### **Punishing protesters**

If the Wisconsin bill passes in its current form, the state would do more than ban designated free speech zones. It would also become the first state requiring institutions to punish student protesters. The North Carolina House of Representatives has passed a similar bill, now under review in the State Senate, but this legislation seems to leave institutions more discretion over dealing with students disrupting speakers than the Wisconsin legislation.

Much of the push for campus speech bills has come from lawmakers who believe that college campuses are hostile to conservative speakers. They point to incidents such as those involving Ann Coulter and Milo Yiannopoulos at the University of California at Berkeley as indicative of an overall resistance to conservative speakers on campus.

Provisions in campus speech bills, including ones mandating penalties for students who disrupt speakers, can largely be traced to model legislation from the Goldwater Institute, based in Phoenix, Arizona. The group aims to correct what it views as a left-leaning bias in American higher education regarding campus free speech.

In my view, forcing colleges to take punitive action against all disruptive protesters is troublesome. Such a requirement would mean institutions would be faced with devising overly cumbersome rules for when punishment should or should not occur. But what counts as a punishment-worthy disruption?

A more problematic outcome would be if free speech were chilled. Students might understandably refrain from speech and expressive activity based on fear of punishment,

particularly if the rules around such punishment are necessarily vague and difficult to understand.

Based on such concerns, the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education — an influential group that promotes, among other things, student free speech in higher education — has come out against this particular requirement in the Wisconsin bill. The American Civil Liberties Union has also expressed concern over the similar provision under consideration in North Carolina.

### **Moving forward**

The Wisconsin bill is described by supporters as intended to protect the right of campus speakers to be heard. However, it seeks to accomplish this goal in a way that undermines student free speech of all types.

Hopefully, lawmakers in Wisconsin and in other states considering legislation will stick to workable measures that actually promote — as opposed to hinder — campus free speech.

*Neal H. Hutchens is a professor of higher education at the University of Mississippi. This piece was originally published by [The Conversation](#).*



## **CPS evaluating land for new middle school before buying**

By: Deborah Kendrick

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/cps-evaluating-land-for-new-middle-school-before-buying/568431900>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Columbia Public Schools is a step closer in building a new middle school.

**The proposed land for the school is on Sinclair Road near Southampton Drive and is currently owned by the University of Missouri. Last Thursday, the Board of Curators approved the sale of the land which is selling for \$2,898,000.**

Before finalizing the deal, CPS says it needs to evaluate the land. In an email response, Superintendent Peter Stiepleman said: "Just like any prospective homeowner would approach the purchase of a home, so will we. We're inspecting the property with a third party expert to confirm what the University already knows."

The 63-acre parcel was once used for radioactive research at MU in the 1970s, which has some residents concerned.

Stiepleman said the "Nuclear Regulatory Commission was asked to evaluate the entire 500+ acre farm to determine if there were any concerns that would preclude the University to sell. The NRC as well as other community members who live near the property all know the land is safe."

Before even considering moving forward with the purchase there were about 30 components to the land evaluation the district did including, but not limited to, location, size, water, floodplain, storm sewer, current zoning, annexation, cultural resources, climax forest, telephone, cable TV, gas and electric.

The evaluation of the land will cost \$3,200.

Matt Pitzer, 5th Ward councilman, said the district is doing the right thing in evaluating the land.

"I think that anytime you have that sort of situation you just want to take extra steps to be absolutely certain that it's a safe location," Pitzer said.

Pitzer also said the school district will have to make sure traffic and safety are addressed before moving forward.

"CPS is going to have to do a traffic study to understand exactly what the impact will be to that area," he said.

Michelle Baumstark, district spokeswoman, said there were about 3- plus properties the district was looking at.

Stiepleman said the benefit to the property is the location in the southwest part of Columbia.

If all goes according to plan, the middle school will open by 2020. The school is needed to relieve overcrowding at Gentry Middle School.

# THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

## Bill Self responds to criticism from former Mizzou chancellor over lack of Border War restart

BY PETE GRATHOFF

[pgrathoff@kcstar.com](mailto:pgrathoff@kcstar.com)

Two weeks ago, Kansas basketball coach [Bill Self told The Star's Gary Bedore](#) it was unlikely that the Jayhawks would schedule Missouri in the near future.

**The topic came up (again) after Missouri athletic director Jim Sterk said he would like for the Border War to return.**

“I would think that would probably be something that would be a given when asked a question, ‘Would you like to continue or renew the series?’ I think the obvious answer from his standpoint would probably be, ‘Yes.’ ” Self said after the KVC Hero Luncheon in Overland Park. “From mine (standpoint) that’s a decision that will be made at a university level, not just at a basketball level.”

**If former Missouri chancellor R. Bowen Loftin is to be believed, Self is *the* reason why there hasn't been a return to any Border War games since Mizzou left the Big 12 for the SEC after the 2011-12 season.**

[Loftin told AL.com](#) that while he was still chancellor, he met with Kansas chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little and there was “a lucrative offer on the table for the Border War to restart in Arrowhead Stadium.”

There was one not-so-tiny road block, Loftin said.

“The problem was a man named Bill Self who made it very clear this wasn’t going to happen,” Loftin told John Talty of AL.com.

Self didn’t hold back in his response to those comments.

“I heard about what the ex-chancellor from Mizzou said about me and my ego,” Self said. “I’ll be honest: I haven’t had any discussions with anyone about playing a game in Arrowhead.

“I coach basketball not football. It’d be way too cold to play basketball in Arrowhead Stadium. Whenever he is in Lawrence, I look forward to having an opportunity to meet him.”

The AL.com story focused on lost rivalries since the SEC expanded, and mentions how Texas and Texas A&M are not longer playing.

Loftin is also a former president at Texas A&M, and he thinks the Lone Star State rivalry has a better chance to return at this time.

“I think it’s more likely Texas will bend than Kansas,” Loftin told AL.com, “as long as Self is involved. He has a big ego.”

Whew, that’s not pulling any punches.



*AL.com is the website for Alabama Media Group, which has more than 8.1 million unique monthly users*

## **Treasured rivalries still on indefinite hiatus since the SEC's big expansion**

**BY JOHN TALTY**  
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**R. Bowen Loftin hadn't been at Missouri long before he started working to get the Border War back.**

Although his educational background was in engineering, the new Missouri chancellor recognized the value of college athletics and knew renewing the rivalry would mean a lot to his campus. He privately

met with Kansas chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little about what it would take to get Missouri and Kansas playing each other in sports again. There was a lucrative offer on the table for the Border War to restart in Arrowhead Stadium.

Loftin figured it was a win-win for everyone involved. Yet more than three years since he arrived as Missouri's chancellor, the Border War is still on indefinite hiatus. He doesn't mince words for why it still hasn't happened.

"The problem was a man named Bill Self who made it very clear this wasn't going to happen," Loftin says.

Such is the opportunity cost of realignment.

Missouri and Texas A&M both lost their top rivals after making the move to the SEC five years ago this Saturday. All it took was one decision to end more than 100-year rivalries that were hugely important to their fanbases. The cause? Mostly bitterness with more than a touch of jealousy.

Five years since adding Texas A&M and Missouri, the SEC is a great place. What could lead the SEC to expand again?

Missouri lost its Border War partner, Kansas, which it started playing against in 1894. Texas A&M lost its in-state rivalry with Texas which culminated each year with a football game Thanksgiving weekend. It's not that Missouri and Texas A&M didn't want to keep the rivalries going -- they did -- but their old Big 12 brethren had no interest in rewarding their perceived treachery.

Bill Byrne, Texas A&M's athletic director at the time, expected the rivalry to continue. He even told the SEC to keep the Thanksgiving weekend open when doing conference scheduling so the Aggies could maintain their rivalry with the Longhorns. More than five years later, Byrne looks back and admits that was a bad assumption.

"Their AD (DeLoss Dodds) at the time came out and said we will never play Texas A&M again, and they worked along with Baylor and the conference to have no one in the (Big 12) schedule us," Byrne says. "There were other forces at work to make sure we didn't play."

Life goes on, though, and new rivalries are established. Neither has built a rivalry on the level of the one it lost, but that's to be expected only five years into the move. Texas A&M now plays LSU on Thanksgiving weekend, and there's hope that could develop into a quality rivalry. The Aggies have already had a few memorable games against SEC West rivals Alabama, Ole Miss and Auburn, too. Missouri is in a tougher spot as it doesn't have many natural geographic rivals in the SEC, but it does border Arkansas and there's real potential in that rivalry.

"I think those rivalries will only continue to build the longer we are in," says Missouri athletic director Jim Sterk. "Our students now don't know any different. They are creating a whole new legacy of what they remember. It takes awhile, a couple generations to go."

Sterk has publicly stated he'd like to restart the Border War but it doesn't appear Kansas' opinion has changed. Texas and Texas A&M officials have both indicated some willingness to restart the rivalry but there haven't been any serious discussions about doing so. The most positive sign in the five years since A&M left is Texas AD Mike Perrin vaguely stating in February the rivalry will return "one of these days."

Byrne, who served as A&M's AD from 2003 to 2012, doesn't think there's much desire amongst the Aggies faithful to play Texas again. Texas' decision to end the rivalry was meant to be punitive, but the Texas A&M athletic department is as healthy ever -- even generating more revenue in 2016 than the school residing in Austin. Texas A&M, Byrne says, has already shown it can survive without its in-state rival.

"We don't need them anymore," he says.

Loftin, a former president of Texas A&M, agrees. He was recently back in College Station for his 45th-year class reunion and got the sense fans are relishing being out of Texas' long shadow. "We have been the weak sister too long," he says. "We were regarded as No. 2 for so long and being out of that has been a blessing for A&M."

There is a lot of money to be made for all involved should the rivalries ever resume. And money might be what it takes to get all parties to push aside their issues to get back on the field together again. That strategy hasn't worked yet but everyone, even wealthy schools like Texas and Texas A&M, has a breaking point, in theory at least. However, Texas A&M and Missouri are both making so much money in the SEC now that it could be past the point of return.

Loftin isn't particularly optimistic about either rivalry restarting. But after working to either maintain or restart them as a university leader at both Texas A&M and Missouri, he has perhaps the most qualified opinion on which one is more likely to happen.

"I think it's more likely Texas will bend than Kansas," he says, "as long as Self is involved. He has a big ego."



## **Boonville leaders work to revitalize economy, encourage tourism**

By: Sara Maslar-Donar

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BOONVILLE, Mo. - Over the past 10 years, the city of Boonville has suffered setbacks in the form of several national companies closing their doors, leaving hundreds out of work. The most recent company to take its business out of the city was the heating and cooling manufacturer Nordyne.

**But economic developer Jim Gann, a University of Missouri employee who works part time for Boonville, said that while the city took those losses personally, much of it had to do with corporate decisions.**

"What we failed to realize as a community as broadly as we should have was that there were many larger factors at play," he said. "It was not the inability of our workforce to perform."

That's why Gann and other city leaders have focused on luring local companies into Boonville that have ties to the city. For instance, the Nordyne distribution center is now owned by Spirit of '76 Fireworks, run by the same family that operates the Midway truck stop.

"We've kept with this local ties and it's been really helpful," said Gann.

Gann has helped bring the number of vacant industrial buildings down from seven to two. Right now, the Nordyne plant and the former Hostess bakery are still empty but both buildings haven't been sitting idle.

"We have four prospects actively working on Nordyne and one on the bakery," he said. Caterpillar Inc. also continues to have a plant in Boonville as well. Gann said when he brings people to site visits, they're always amazed at the quality of life and that has helped to be a selling point for the city.

"We have an uncommon quality of life for a community our size," he said. "With the changing dynamics of the workforce, you're going to have to go to where the workforce is and we're seeing that now and the attractiveness of that is the quality of life."

Along the same lines, tourism director Katie Gibson, who took over as director three years ago, said she thinks outside the box to market Boonville as more than just an industry city.

"People are very traditional in that factory industry is essential and we have to have that to survive," she said. "But I think one thing people have seem to have adapted to is that tourism is an industry of its own and it won't hurt us to grow that part of our town to become more of a tourist attraction."

Gibson works out of a renovated grocery store that was built years ago. Now, it's the city's tourism hub, compete with an historic Boonville museum. Many of the items in the museum were donated by locals, including an antique wagon donated by the Mitchell Antique Motocar Museum.

"Boonville is a large enough size but we have that small town charm," she said.