



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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County commission approves \$5.8M for children's mental health

By **BRITTANY RUESS**

Revenue garnered from a Boone County sales tax will benefit more than 25 programs providing mental health and social services programs to youth.

The Boone County Commission on Thursday approved about \$5.8 million in spending from the county's Children's Services fund on local programs offering case management, counseling, mental health screenings, out-of-school activities and more. Boone County voters in 2012 approved a permanent quarter-cent sales tax to fund youth mental health services.

The tax started accruing dollars in 2013 and the first set of contracts were approved the next year, going into effect in 2015.

The Children's Services Fund typically generates \$6.5 million annually.

Going into its third year of funding in 2018, the Children's Services funding was open to any organization providing services that satisfied the county's statutory obligations of improving the safety and well-being of children and their families in Boone County. All the contracts have a one-year term and the option for a one-year renewal for funding.

The majority of organizations receiving funding next year have already been awarded dollars in the past, but there are new recipients, said Kelly Wallis, the county's community services director. The 13th Circuit/Boone County Court will receive more than \$208,000 for its child permanency services, which offer home visiting, behavioral health assessments and case management.

The Columbia Housing Authority Low-Income Services, Inc., also a new recipient, will take in nearly \$400,000 for its Healthy Home Connections program. In the program, family support specialists work with families to connect them with services and help them reach their social, emotional and financial goals.

Nearly \$100,000 will go to new recipient the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture to help youth and families build community gardens.

The Boone County Schools Mental Health Coalition, a partnership between the county's six public schools, a private school and the University of Missouri, will receive the most funding at more than \$973,000.

The coalition screened nearly 23,000 children last year to identify issues related to academic competence, attention, peer relationships, social skills, bullying and suicidal thoughts, among others, according to its 2017 report. Like the year before, the report stated screenings showed children struggled most with academic competence and attention.

The coalition also provides group and individual therapy for children, professional coaching and training for teachers and staff and case management.

Northern District Commissioner Janet Thompson said the Boone County Schools Mental Health Coalition “goes to the heart” of why the Children’s Services fund exists and that schools have seen a noticeable difference in their students’ behavior since the coalition started its work in 2015.

The coalition helps identify children at risk for mental health issues and address their individual issues early, she said.

“It’s to say these are kids that because the kind of tools we have to utilize, we can say these are the kids that are at risk and these are the ones we need to pay a little bit more attention to ... so that everybody around that kid can provide the right can of support so that kid can succeed,” Thompson said. “That’s the goal.”

Other top recipients of funding are the MU Department of Psychiatry’s MU Bridge Program for school-based psychiatry services at more than \$700,000, a MU Department of Psychiatry early childhood program at \$506,000 and Lutheran Family and Children’s Services for its pregnancy and parenting services at nearly \$419,000.

In addition to its open funding, the Community Services Department also has funding opportunities for targeted initiatives. The Boone County Children’s Services Board this year approved sending more than \$3.5 million to early childhood programs and \$2 million to youth homelessness services.

The county is also renewing a dozen contracts for its Community Health Fund, which garners \$500,000 from the county’s lease of Boone Hospital Center with BJC HealthCare. Among the

contracts, the Family Center of Boone County and Burrell Behavioral Health will both receive \$75,000. The family center will use the dollars to continue offering its emergency dental and referral program, while Burrell will use the funding to assist individuals in applying for Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability.



The Caldwell County News

The Caldwell County News is based in Hamilton, Missouri, and serves Caldwell County in northwest Missouri.

Farm Bill Action Possible In Early 2018 If Congress Keeps Much Of Present Law

By STAFF REPORTS

There's an open window for passing a farm bill in early 2018, says Scott Brown, University of Missouri policy analyst. But potential passage gets tough by late spring.

Getting action depends on Congress quickly agreeing to pass a farm bill much like what exists.

Mostly, farmers are pleased with current legislation, Brown told the MU Crop Management Conference. But every commodity group has ideas for tweaks to their parts of the farm bill.

Insurance to cover disaster losses has gained favor with farmers. However, dairy farmers don't care for their margin protection plan added to the last farm bill.

If House or Senate ag committees open talks for dairy changes, other groups will want changes as well. "Proposed changes likely will cost more, not less," Brown says.

In writing a farm bill, spending will be important. With concern about federal deficit, cutting costs will drive most decisions.

If debate opens over spending priorities, that slows passage to a standstill.

Farm groups must watch what's in the appropriations bill that keeps being pushed back. Budget will decide what happens in many areas.

“What happens in dairy support may be affected more by budget than by farm bill,” Brown says.

“How much can this Congress agree upon?” Brown asked the audience.

Action on major legislation often slowed or stalled.

At the start of each farm bill debate there are attempts to remove food stamps from the farm bill. From the standpoint of votes, the removal isn’t likely, Brown says.

The Congressional Budget Office reports 77 percent of farm bill spending goes for nutrition aid.

Legislative votes from farm districts are limited. “Nutrition matters for many more legislators,” Brown says. Previous congressional votes to cut nutrition from the farm bill failed.

“There may be moves to change who qualifies for food stamps,” Brown says.

Congress has been moving away from ad hoc disaster assistance toward insurance programs, Brown says. Some attempt to reduce subsidies to insurance programs.

Overall, insurance spending is a “drop in the bucket” compared to many federal expenditures. Agricultural aid was eased with higher crop prices after the last farm bill was passed. Support comes from the market.

The current farm bill expires in September 2018.

When it comes to writing a new farm bill, there’s a common belief it happens every five years.

“Not so fast,” Brown says. “Few farm bills are written in exactly five years.” Legislators stick with what they have. That could happen with the present farm bill.

“Overall, there’s support for what we have,” Brown says.

Passage of the last farm bill dragged on for four years. “From 2011 to 2014 the ag committees were exhausted updating their legislation annually before one finally passed,” Brown says.

“It took a lot of baling wire to tie together provisions that gathered votes needed to pass a bill.”

The House and Senate ag committee have held many hearings, Brown says. That increases the chance of something happening quickly, but if delayed until after spring other issues take priority.

A mid-term election year ahead slows all action.

However, legislators will look for bills they can agree on so they can show what they have done.

The window for a farm bill remains open.

For more than 100 years, University of Missouri Extension has extended university-based knowledge beyond the campus into all counties of the state. In doing so, extension has strengthened families, businesses and communities.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Spencer receives Ag Alumni scholarship

By TRIBUNE STAFF

Colton Spencer, son of Jim and Janella Spencer, has been selected to receive a \$2,000 scholarship from the Mizzou Ag Alumni Association. A native of Aurora, Spencer is entering his sophomore year at Mizzou as an Agriculture Education major. Spencer is active in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR) Ambassador program and the CAFNR True Tigers where he serves as President.

“Ever since I was old enough to say Mizzou, I have wanted to attend the University of Missouri. I am the 28th member of my family to attend Mizzou, so I hold great pride and am extremely blessed to be able to experience my collegiate academic career through CAFNR and Mizzou,” Spencer said.

The MU Ag Alumni Association provided \$60,000 in scholarship money to thirty CAFNR upper-class students for the 2017-2018 academic year. The association also funded over \$25,000 in teaching and educational enhancements for the College’s students, faculty and staff in the last year.

The University of Missouri Ag Alumni Association and its Board of Directors is dedicated to the goals and traditions of the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR). With 3,300 members, the association provides student scholarships and funding for student academic and professional development programs. Alumni members assist in recruiting future CAFNR students and serve as mentors for current students. CAFNR alumni interested in joining the Ag Alumni Association can find more information at www.cafnralumni.com.

Blue Springs' Parker celebrates signing with Mizzou

By BILL ALTHAUS

On National Signing Day, Blue Springs High School defensive/offensive lineman Daniel Parker got up at 7 a.m., signed his national letter of intent to attend the University of Missouri at 7:02, and it was being faxed to the college by 7:03.

“Short and sweet,” said Parker, who celebrated the signing day with his family and friends Saturday at the gymnasium located at the former St. Mary’s High School in Independence.

“We didn’t want to make a big deal out of the signing, but my family and I wanted to share it with all the members of my family and my friends, so we had this party.”

Saturday afternoon, the gym was filled with black and gold balloons, a variety of Tiger-themed treats and the lively conversation that often accompanies a big day like this.

“This is so special,” Parker said, as a game of pickup basketball was going on in the background. “The closer it gets, the more excited I get. I’m proud of what our teams did at Blue Springs, now, I’m excited about going to MU and playing with, and against, the best of the best.

“When I play against the best players it brings out the best in me, and I can’t wait to see what happens when I get to Missouri and start working out and preparing for next season.”

He said he has talked to former Wildcat Kaleb Prewett, who is now playing safety for the Tigers, and those conversations fuel his competitive fire. “He tells me what it’s like to compete at that level, and I can’t wait,” Parker said. “He talks about the daily challenges – at practice and in games – and I love to be challenged.”

Parker conquered one big challenge in the William Jewell Holiday Classic boys basketball tournament when he joined the 1,000-point club during a 74-67 win over Center. “I almost made it our last game,” he said, grinning. “I needed 29 points and I got 27.”

As he made the comment, his mother, Jenni nods and smiles in agreement. “I’m so proud of Daniel for coming back and playing basketball because it keeps him in shape and scoring 1,000 is special,” Jenni said. “He’s become such a great young man who has made an impact on a lot of lives – and many of those people are here today celebrating with our family. “We are truly blessed.”



New almanac helps Missourians learn about the state's facts and history

By MARY EDWARDS

Did you know that Missouri was once a mecca for health conscious people, that there is a town in the state named Tightwad or there is still a law on the books that cattle can't graze on airport runways? These and a plethora of other facts and histories can be found in the new book "Missouri Almanac 2018-2019." Carolyn Mueller and John Brown, two of the book's five authors, joined "St. Louis on the Air" host Don Marsh to share highlights and the genesis of the book.

Mueller explained the idea for the almanac came from discussions with school librarians. "They all spoke about how kids gravitated toward the 'National Geographic Almanac' and 'The Guinness Book of World Records' and these trivia books about random things," she said. "So we thought it would be cool to make one all about Missouri so kids could learn about their state, where they live and where they come from."

Among the almanac's offerings are a list of the state's 22 symbols, names of all native Missourians who were on professional sports teams in 2017, biographies of famous Missourians and many little known facts such as Springfield native Brad Pitt dropped out of the University of Missouri just two weeks before he would have graduated from journalism school to pursue his acting career in California.

Brown pointed out that the almanac can also be a useful tool to encourage learning. "My daughter picked up the book and she started looking at some the sections," he said. Next thing you know, she's on the internet researching more about what she saw here." He has even heard of teachers using the book as inspiration for the required fourth grade Missouri history project having grown tired of the same 10 famous Missourians that are generally studied.

The almanac can also serve as a guide book for the many state parks within driving distance of St. Louis and Kansas City and everywhere in between. Mueller said, "We do have a really lovely state and we want to encourage kids and families to get out there and enjoy the natural aspects of Missouri and I think the almanac does a great job of highlighting that."

Brown added, "Across the board, there's a lot of great stuff to do, a lot of great places to see and I think this is a great place to start with it."

Listen to the full discussion for other highlights and an explanation of the delay in wide spread availability of the book due to the recent fire in the Reedy Press warehouse.

St. Louis on the Air brings you the stories of St. Louis and the people who live, work and create in our region. St. Louis on the Air host Don Marsh and producers Mary Edwards, Alex Heuer and Lara Hamdan give you the information you need to make informed decisions and stay in touch with our diverse and vibrant St. Louis region.

MISSOURIAN

GUEST COMMENTARY: Higher ed should embrace demand for lifelong learning

NO MU MENTION

By **MARK DORMAN**

Across the nation and the globe, our economy is shifting.

While automation may not replace your job, there's a good chance it'll change it.

The disruption that comes with automation has created new and different types of employment. These new roles could become the "blue-collar" jobs of the future — the positions that can promise middle-class security without necessarily requiring a traditional higher-education degree.

For this reason, there is great hope for the workforce of the future. But to train this workforce effectively, we'll need to change the way we approach education.

How can young people prepare for the future workforce when this shift is occurring so quickly? And how can adults retrain and retool so their skills stay relevant?

In the past, we've often thought about formal education as the acquisition of broad skills at a fixed point in time, with training ending at about age 18, 22 or later for those who need advanced degrees.

In order to succeed in the jobs of the future, the workers of tomorrow will need to become lifelong learners. The brain you graduate from college with at age 22 isn't the one you're stuck with for the rest of your life. And lifelong learning is the education that never ends: an ever-evolving mastery and proof of abilities.

The good news about lifelong learning for employers is that it means more workers will tailor their skills directly to their job functions. Employers who build cultures to support these future opportunities will attract the best talent.

That's why employers and prospective employees will need to get more comfortable with alternative credentialing like specialized certifications, microdegrees and digital badges. Employers will also need to facilitate these new models.

Modernize training

For a lot of companies, the safest way to venture into this new world of lifelong learning and micro-credentialing has been to modernize their own internal training programs and to invest in learning opportunities that expand the skills of existing employees.

Many firms have already taken important steps. Among those helping employees to pay for college are Starbucks, McDonalds and Fiat Chrysler. Meanwhile, PayPal, L'Oreal, AirFrance/KLM and a number of other companies are working with Coursera, a provider of massive open online courses (MOOCs), to give employees access to online instruction.

Traditional higher education institutions and technology companies have a significant role to play as well. Colleges and universities, for their part, can continue to work with employers and industry leaders to ensure they are teaching the skills that are in highest demand today — and that are likely to continue to be in high demand in at least the near future.

These institutions can also expand their certificate program offerings and explore other microdegree options. In particular, institutions already well-regarded for their traditional degree programs are in a unique position to help push alternate degree programs into the mainstream, allowing them to be seen as reputable — and valuable — by prospective employers.

We in the industry must continue to develop and refine technologies not only that extend access to lifelong learning — in the way that MOOCs do — but also that ensure high-quality, meaningfully personalized learning experiences.

As we enter an age where learners will be increasingly responsible for crafting their own educational journeys, it will be crucial to give these students the support they need and ensure the highest quality instruction possible, even when students are taking classes entirely online.

Recent breakthroughs in neuroscience have proven the plasticity of the human brain, revealing how it can continue to change throughout one's lifetime.

That means we, as humans, are perfectly suited to adjusting our skills and learning new things. We are lifelong learners. Embracing that gives us the best chance at success in an uncertain future.

Mark Dorman is the president of the international and professional divisions of McGraw-Hill Education. This was originally published by The Hechinger Report, a nonprofit, independent news organization focused on inequality and innovation in education.