Sigma Alpha Epsilon closed its University of Missouri chapter Monday, the fifth fraternity to be shut down at MU for a long period in the past two years and the third university chapter closed by the national organization since the beginning of classes in August.

The order closing the chapter for at least four years — or until all current members have graduated or left MU — was because of “multiple health-and-safety violations and an inability to adhere to the national organization’s standards and guidelines,” according a statement from the national Sigma Alpha Epsilon headquarters in Evanston, Ill.

The chapter was placed under a cease-and-desist order by the national fraternity in December, directing it to cease all operations until further notice. At the time, the national fraternity said it was working with MU to gather more information about the health and safety infractions at the chapter house at 24 E. Stewart Road.

“The loss of this group is unfortunate, but suspensions are a critical reminder that adherence to risk management policies and educational programming are crucial to Sigma Alpha Epsilon’s future,” the statement read. “When incidents take place that fail to do so, they affect the entire organization and counteract the importance of our values.”

MU supports the action of the national Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, spokesman Christian Basi said.

“When we have determined that the actions were creating a threat to student safety, we have taken the strongest actions that we are able to do, such as dropping recognition of some fraternities and that has happened in the recent past,” he said. “We also have been working diligently with the national organizations and we are very supportive of these recent decisions.”

Through university and national fraternity actions, four chapters have been closed or put on long-term suspension in the past two years.

Kappa Alpha was banned for five years after a freshman, Brandon Zingale, was required to drink so much vodka in a Sept. 27, 2016, hazing that he nearly died of alcohol poisoning. Zingale, who no longer attends MU, is suing the fraternity and the university.
Sigma Pi and Delta Upsilon were suspended for two years after several incidents, including one where a woman fell and hit her head at her dorm after leaving the Delta Upsilon house. The national Sigma Phi Epsilon organization closed its chapter in the fall after several years of violations.

The closure of Sigma Phi Epsilon followed a September assault on two freshmen by pledges. A lawsuit filed last week accuses the national Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, the MU chapter and its president, as well as the two pledges, of negligence and encouraging the assault as a hazing activity. The two pledges are also facing felony charges.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon’s action came less than a week after the MU Interfraternity Council suspended all new member activities after allegations of hazing at member chapters. The suspension, which will end Monday, came after two fraternities, Farmhouse and Beta Theta Pi, were put on disciplinary probation until Feb. 1, 2019, for hazing incidents in the fall.

When the suspension was announced, 11 Greek organizations were being investigated by MU’s Office of Student Accountability and Support. During the fall semester, 12 Greek organizations were disciplined for violations of student conduct rules. Sigma Alpha Epsilon has not been disciplined by MU during the current academic year.

A consultant’s report delivered to MU in October by Dyad Strategies found poor oversight that created a free-for-all atmosphere in which fraternities and sororities could operate as they pleased with little fear of severe sanctions.

Revoking a group’s recognition as a student organization is the most drastic step MU can take and it does it reluctantly, Basi said. Some fraternities have continued to recruit members despite losing their official status on campus.

“In many cases they are under certain restrictions and in many cases where we have dropped recognition of an organization as a student organization, we have no other action we can take at that time,” Basi said.

The national Sigma Alpha has also closed chapters at the University of Texas-Austin and at the University of Mississippi. In each instance, the national organization cited health and safety concerns as well as violations of national rules.
MU chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon suspended

BY NOAH HIGGINS-DUNN

The Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter at MU was suspended due to “multiple health and safety violations,” but it’s not the only shuttered SAE chapter nationwide.

A press release from the fraternity’s national headquarters stated all members of the MU chapter will be suspended indefinitely, and the chapter will remain closed for no fewer than four years before recruiting new members.

“The loss of this group is unfortunate, but suspensions are a critical reminder that adherence to risk management policies and educational programming are crucial to Sigma Alpha Epsilon’s future,” SAE Communications Director Johnny Sao said in the statement.

The Missouri Alpha chapter of SAE was placed under a cease-and-desist order in December after the national headquarters initiated an investigation into health and safety violations committed by the local fraternity. At the time, Sao said appropriate actions would be taken after the investigation.

The Missouri Alpha chapter of SAE’s closure was not unaccompanied in the region. A similar suspension was put in place at the fraternity’s University of Kansas chapter after the national headquarters cited health and safety violations.

The chapter at the University of Texas at Austin was suspended in November after an anonymous tip through a hazing hotline sparked an investigation by the national headquarters, according to previous Missourian reporting. A month later, the chapter at the University of Mississippi was suspended after continuing activities while on a cease-and-desist order.
However, the fraternity’s national headquarters said the fate of MU’s chapter is not finalized.

“After the suspension ends, we remain optimistic that the chapter at the University of Missouri can be re-established with new members who exemplify our beliefs and serve as leaders on campus and in their community,” Sao said in the statement.

**Sigma Alpha Epsilon closes its Mizzou chapter**

By: Sara Maslar-Donar


COLUMBIA, Mo. - **Sigma Alpha Epsilon is closing its chapter at the University of Missouri.**

The fraternity's national director of communications, Johnny Sao, said the closure is a result of multiple health and safety violations and an inability to adhere to the national organization's standards and guidelines.

All of the Mizzou members have been suspended indefinitely and the chapter will remain closed for no less than four years.

SAE president Ben Widger who became president as a sophomore at Mizzou, said he was shocked when he received a phone call from a national representative Monday night who told him the chapter would be shut down.

"Everyone's blindsided," he said.

Widger, who became president last fall, said there were a few things the members felt needed to be addressed within the chapter. While he declined to go into details, he said there were aspects of the fraternity that were being "mismanaged."
"We may have mismanaged the new member process but no one got hurt and there was no malice in anything that was done," he said.

To solve the issues, Widger said, some alumni suggested a membership review based on attitude and involvement. As a result, they expelled about 26 men from the fraternity just before winter break.

Four days later, nationals hit the chapter with a cease and desist order, forcing them to stop all chapter operations until further notice as a result of an anonymous complaint letter. Widger said the chapter complied with the order but wasn't expecting the investigation to end in the chapter being shut down.

"Anything that was done prior to (the membership review) might have been mismanaged but no one was in any harm and we never failed an audit," said Widger. "We were in good standing with the university and I just don't think anything that happened warranted getting shut down for four years."

Widger said he would have liked to see nationals work with the chapter to improve it, instead of shut it down. SAE has only been re-charted since March 2016.

"I'm sure people disagree with my opinion on this issue and that's fine," he said. "I was there in the house and I know the guys more than anyone else that makes this decision. At the end of the day, this is up to them, but I disagree."

The university said it didn't have anything to do with the decision to shut down the chapter but supports the SAE national organization's decision.

Sao said, "The loss of this group is unfortunate, but suspensions are a critical reminder that adherence to risk management policies and educational programming are crucial to Sigma Alpha Epsilon’s future. When incidents take place that fail to do so, they affect the entire organization and counteract the importance of our values."

The organization would not go into details on what health and safety violations are and Widger said he was never told what the allegations were.

Officials for the fraternity said they are optimistic that the University of Missouri chapter can be re-established with new members.
Boone Hospital trustees candidates field lease questions

By Michael Maresh

Boone Hospital Board of Trustees candidates Mark Dempsey and Greg Steinhoff talked about the impending end of the hospital’s current lease with BJC HealthCare, what comes afterward and improving employee morale Tuesday night at the Columbia Public Library.

Dempsey and Steinhoff are running against each other for the empty position on the hospital board.

Steinhoff said when BJC Healthcare entered into a contract with the hospital it was a great opportunity, but BJC’s systems did not line up with what was going on at the Boone County hospital.

Dempsey said figuring out what happened is the first step that has to be taken because it was a great hospital, not far removed from being among the top 100 in the country.

“Find a solution,” Dempsey said. “Find a partner who works to solve this and not bring more problems.”

The St. Louis-based health care group, which had leased Boone Hospital for 29 years, told the trustees in a June 2016 letter it no longer felt the current lease was suitable for either party’s needs.

Steinhoff, who served six years as trustee from 1999 to 2005, said he was proud to be a part of the hospital, but a lot has changed. Steinhoff four months ago was appointed to fill a vacancy and said he discovered the hospital was losing money and the staff was disenchanted. He wants to change both, he said.

Dempsey, while stressing he is not an incumbent, has worked for several years as an athletic trainer and is the chief operating officer of an athletic training facility with 430 employees in 50 different locations.

The Boone Hospital Board of Trustees and University of Missouri Health Care tried to reach an agreement for managing the county-owned hospital, but negotiations broke down and ended in January. The candidates asked whether the hospital should work with MU.
“We need to be working together anyway,” Dempsey said. “Citizens of Boone County deserve good medical care.”

Steinhoff said the discussions with MU has stopped and the hospital needs to concentrate on its mission statement of improving the health care of the people it serves.

On improving revenue, Steinhoff said nothing can be done unless there is money to support it.

Dempsey, however, said people make up the hospital, and right now the morale is suffering. He believes finances will improve when employees get on board and realize they are working for a great hospital.

Dempsey said he and Steinhoff want the same things, but just have different ways on how to accomplish them.

“My goal is to get the Boone hospital back to where it was,” Dempsey said. “It’s getting tough on hospitals, and it will get tougher.”

What concerns Steinhoff is the encroachment from outside the area causing patients to travel to other locations.

“We need to build and strengthen this community,” he said.

**Missouri System Chooses McGraw-Hill to Expand Access to Affordable Materials**

By Mark Lieberman

The University of Missouri system has teamed up with McGraw-Hill Education to expand access to affordable materials through a partnership designed to lower costs on electronic textbooks and offer the publisher’s entire catalog of ebooks to students.

McGraw-Hill electronic textbooks will cost 38 percent less than their current price to meet the system’s definition of low cost. Ebooks will be available through the system’s AutoAccess program, launched in 2014 in collaboration with campus stores, content publishers and faculty members. Students can secure ebooks from AutoAccess through their institution’s learning management system.
Man suspected of taking photos in Ellis Library bathroom

By Columbia Daily Tribune

University of Missouri police officers on Monday arrested a Columbia man suspected of taking pictures of someone in a bathroom stall in Ellis library.

Jacob D. Vanderlinde, 21, of Columbia was arrested on suspicion of felony invasion of privacy, MUPD Capt. Brian Weimer said. He was fingerprinted and photographed at the MU department before being taken to the Boone County Jail, where he was release in lieu of $1,500 bond. Vanderlinde is not an MU student, Weimer said.

Charges had not been filed as of Tuesday afternoon, according to online court records.

MUPD arrest man accused of taking pictures of students in Ellis Library

By: Elizabeth Duesenberg

COLUMBIA, Mo. - University of Missouri police arrested Jacob Vanderlinde on Monday afternoon after officers were dispatched to Ellis Library for reports of a man taking inappropriate pictures.

A man reported to police that someone had taken a picture of him while he was inside a stall in a bathroom at the library.

Officers said they were able to determine Vanderlinde was the suspect and learned he had taken pictures of multiple victims at the library.
Vanderlinde faces possible charges of invasion of privacy. He was taken to the Boone County Jail where he was later released in lieu of a $1,500 bond.

Police said they are still investigating the incident.

**The Maneater**

**IFC pauses all new member activities following hazing allegations**

By Caitlyn Rosen

The Interfraternity Council announced March 6 that new member activities will be placed on hold for two weeks. The decision came following hazing allegations in several MU fraternities.

“The IFC and all 29-chapter presidents unanimously decided to pause new member activities for a period of two weeks,” according to a statement released by IFC. “During this time as the University investigates, chapters will work with university officials and their national organizations to review all aspects of their new member program to ensure activities are positive, educational and comply with all policies.”

According to a statement provided by an anonymous source, pledges at Delta Tau Delta, Phi Gamma Delta, Delta Sigma Phi, Phi Kappa Psi, Sigma Chi, Beta Sigma Psi, Pi Kappa Alpha, Alpha Gamma Sigma and FarmHouse were hazed through a variety of activities.

The statement alleges that pledges from Delta Tau Delta and Phi Gamma Delta were forced to write essays for active members’ homework assignments. One new member was rumored to write up to four essays a week.

It also states that pledges from Delta Tau Delta, Sigma Chi, Pi Kappa Alpha and Alpha Gamma Sigma were subjected to “sleep deprivation that was accomplished through various means, such as scheduling ‘meetings’ at 2 a.m. that would last until sunrise or even the active brothers going into pledges’ rooms to make sure they were awake.”

New members from Phi Kappa Psi, Phi Gamma Delta, Sigma Chi, Delta Tau Delta, Delta Sigma Phi, Beta Sigma Psi and various others were also allegedly “blindfolded at ‘lineups,’ forced to chug various amounts of jungle juice (mixed alcohol), and then forced to do calisthenics,” according to the statement.

During these “lineups,” pledges were quizzed about fraternity history. Beer and other substances, like mayonnaise and mustard, were dumped on them during these events. Lineups could last for hours and could sometimes occur early in the morning or late at night.
Pledges were sometimes ordered to drink concoctions of various substances and alcohol (at Delta Sigma Phi, the concoction was reportedly made of chewing tobacco spit). One pledge was allegedly told to lick spilled beer off the dirty floor.

The document accuses Phi Gamma Delta, Delta Tau Delta, Sigma Chi and Pi Kappa Alpha of driving pledges to the off-campus apartments of “active brothers where they [were] told that ‘there are less rules here and nobody will notice.’ There they would have ‘lineups’ with more intensity and greater length. Pledges for one fraternity were told to drink a ‘foul smelling mix’ out of a toilet bowl with a threat to punish their entire pledge class if they failed to comply — they were told not to let down their pledge brothers.”

Pledges at FarmHouse fraternity were allegedly forced to eat ice cream made of human semen. According to the document, FarmHouse is notorious for a more “involved” pledgeship.

“The allegations made against several IFC chapters demanded that we immediately address the overall situation,” said Matthew Oxendale, IFC vice president of public relations, in an email. “The health and safety of every community member has to remain our utmost priority. Suspending new member activities across all chapters was a decision that our executive board and all of the presidents agreed upon so that we could pause and take a closer look at our operations.”

IFC has not officially named any specific fraternities, as the investigation is active and being handled as a collaborative effort between the national headquarters, each fraternity involved and the Office of Student Accountability & Support.

While new member processes differ for each organization, only activities that are specifically catered to new members are on hold for this two-week period.

“The IFC community does not tolerate hazing and places a focus on the safety of all students,” Oxendale said in the email. “We trust that the investigations will be handled accordingly and anyone found to have broken university policy will be held accountable for their actions.”

Oxendale said that all new member activities are expected to continue March 19. All other chapter activities are set to continue as normal.
National study counters perception of college students as intolerant to opposing views

AYESHA VISHNANI

A new study of college students' attitudes toward free speech shows support for open learning environments that strike a balance between protecting free speech and promoting diversity and inclusion.

With the wide range of tensions on campuses about free expression, and also with a new administration in the White House, Gallup and the Knight Foundation teamed up in 2017 to randomly survey 3,014 U.S. college students. The students came from 39 public and private institutions in different parts of the country, including six historically black colleges or universities. The aim of the study was to determine what college students think about First Amendment issues.

In 2017, researchers found that:

Most college students — 70 percent — had a preference for an open learning environment that allows offensive speech over a positive environment that puts restrictions on offensive speech. That percentage was down from 78 percent in 2016.

Sixty-one percent of college students said the campus climate prevents certain groups from saying things because they might be seen as offensive. That number was up from 54 percent in 2016.

About 90 percent of college students said protecting free speech rights is very important or extremely important. Eighty-three percent said promoting an inclusive society is very important or extremely important.

Black students, women and Democrats are most likely to prioritize diversity and inclusivity, while Republican students are most likely to value protecting free speech rights.
Among voluntary respondents, 66 percent of the weighted sample identified as Democrat or Democrat--leaning. The team of researchers had conducted a similar study in 2016, following a year of race-related campus protests in 2015, including those at MU.

How well do those results reflect the attitudes at MU, which was thrust into the national stage as a campus community struggling with competing First Amendment protections?

When protests broke out in fall 2015, Ben Trachtenberg was chair of the MU Faculty Council and worked with then-Interim Chancellor Hank Foley to appoint the MU Ad Hoc Joint Committee to tackle issues related to the press, protests and free speech.

Trachtenberg said the report provides "useful pushback against a false narrative," in which college students were portrayed as intolerant of speech they disagreed with based on a few isolated situations.

"It turns out that's more of a myth than a reality," Trachtenberg said.

Students of various political groups echoed the view that college students' attitudes about free speech have been misrepresented.

Kayla Everett, communications director for Mizzou Democrats, was a sophomore in 2015 when the protests took place. She said the attitudes of people outside the MU community may have been skewed by news media portrayal.

"I think fall 2015 was used in a very ugly way by some people to say that colleges cannot be trusted because these kids are out of control," Everett said. "I think that really was completely divorced from the narrative that was actually happening."

Everett said black students had been trying to reach out to MU’s administration about issues related to a lack of inclusivity on campus but had received little response.

"So the students were exercising their First Amendment rights to have their voices heard," Everett said.

Free speech versus inclusion
Most college students surveyed said both free speech and inclusion are key to democracy, but the data showed varying responses that pit the two against each other.

College students slightly prioritize promoting an inclusive society over protecting free speech rights, 53 percent to 46 percent.

Around 65 percent of black students, Democrats and women chose a "diverse and inclusive" society over one protecting free speech rights. About 70 percent of Republican students favored free speech.

Since the 2015 protests, MU has seen increased debate about protecting free speech and promoting an open learning environment, with issues of safety and inclusivity called into question.

Mizzou College Republicans President Chris Vas said the organization fully supports the First Amendment everywhere in America and on college campuses. When asked about promoting an inclusive environment or the issue of hate speech, Vas declined to comment further.

The data show that one in four students have felt uncomfortable because of something they heard on campus in reference to their race, ethnicity or religion. Among those, 39 percent participated in protests for diversity and inclusion in 2017.

Black students surveyed were the most likely to say they had been made uncomfortable by speech on campus. The number of black students who had felt uncomfortable by speech was 43 percent, twice as many as white students.

Most students did not protest on their campus last year, but when they did, 26 percent attended demonstrations regarding diversity and inclusivity. Only 12 percent attended a protest related to free speech issues.

Sixty-one percent of students, up from 54 percent in the 2016 survey, strongly agree or agree that the climate on their campus prevents some people from saying things they believe, according to a Gallup/Knight Foundation survey.
Shelby Anderson, president of MU’s Legion of Black Collegians during the 2016-17 year, said in an email that there needs to be a balance between free speech and promoting diversity and inclusion. She said educating people about diversity is important to people speaking freely and students feeling safe. Her concern is that some people use the buzzword "free speech" to avoid having to think about the ramifications of their speech.

"I think free speech allows people to steer away from change and stay in a place of ignorance without being open to being educated because they are free to feel how they feel and say what they say,” Anderson said in the email.

But Anderson said the notion of free speech can be used to create change as well. She participated in the protests as a junior and saw them as a mechanism for progress.

"At times, free speech is used to call attention to the need for diversity and calling out people and places for not being inclusive,” she wrote.

Social media, politics and hate speech

In a rapidly changing digital age, politics have moved to social media, and college students have noticed. Many students — 57 percent — said discussions of politics were happening online rather than face-to-face on campus.

But that means students can sit behind a screen with fewer repercussions.

More than eight in 10 college students see social media as responsible for a rise in hate speech. Overall, 66 percent of college students said schools should restrict hate speech. Although 52 percent of Republicans favor restrictions, they are the least likely group to do so.

Everett, with the Mizzou Democrats, sees social media as an easy tool for people to use because they can maintain anonymity.
She noted that at the time of the 2015 protests, black students were the target of slurs and threats from people on social media, some of which were anonymous. When Everett spoke out in support of black students, she said she was also targeted by a man who threatened to rape her.

"I would say there's a difference between making someone uncomfortable and spewing hate speech," Everett said. She said the university should step in and address problems related to speech that threatens students because it hinders their ability to be safe and to go to school.

Most students — 73 percent — support campus restrictions on slurs against groups, and 60 percent support bans on stereotypical costumes, with black students, women and Democrats most likely to be in favor.

For black students who have often been a target of hate speech on college campuses, Anderson said it's hard to say the administration has done enough. She said MU does not take issues of hate speech seriously unless there is a specific threat.

"Hate speech can often incite violence or harm and should be treated as such," Anderson said in the email. "I think all too often there are simple slaps on the hand but no follow-up with education on why it is wrong or repercussions for those using hate speech."

She said slurs and stereotypes "only gain further meaning when they are reinforced, taken lightly and not addressed. They need to be restricted, but people also need to know why they are restricted."

**Trust in the news media**

In 2017, 50 percent of students said they had "a great deal" or "a fair amount" of trust in the news media, higher than 42 percent in 2016.

Near the end of the Obama administration in 2016, Democrats and Republicans had similar views of the security of First Amendment freedoms. With Trump in office, Democratic students are less likely to see their five freedoms as secure in comparison with Republicans.
But Republicans' trust of the news media has stayed low and unchanged, and in 2017 was at 34 percent. Democrats’ trust in the news media increased by 20 percent from 2016 to 2017 — 44 to 64 percent.

Everett said as a journalism major, she values the role of the news media.

"I personally trust the media in general, as a journalism student I know what to look for," Everett said. "I know what makes an outlet trustworthy, regardless if it conforms with my views."

Black students were divided, with 50 percent saying they trusted the news media "not much" or "not at all," while the other half said "a fair amount" or "a great deal." Students from historically black colleges or universities expressed even less trust in the news media — with 54 percent choosing either "not much" or "not at all."

During the time of the protests, black student activists at MU were often misquoted and misrepresented, Anderson said. Although she said she understood the need for journalists to report on what's happening, her experiences being misquoted and disrespected affected her perception and trust of the news media.

"I don't think it's right when media attempts to exploit students or is not respectful towards students needing space," Anderson said. "A lot of times during the protests my personal space was invaded simply because I was in public, and I don't think that's fair."

**The role of administration**

Six in 10 college students said they were unsure about whether their college had a speech code, a free speech zone or had disinvited a speaker.

Everett said the administration needs to provide more information about the purposes and policies of places, like Speaker's Circle or the resource centers in the MU Student Center, to help students become more aware of free speech issues on campus.

Trachtenberg said there are forms of offensive speech the university must tolerate because of how the First Amendment is written. He said the administration can address that by modeling responsible use of free speech and fostering a healthy dialogue about complicated issues.
"One of the things administrators should do is speak out against intolerance," Trachtenberg said.

Trachtenberg said he also heard protesters express skepticism about how specific rules would be enforced following the protests, which Everett also mentioned was an issue.

He said the administration could address this problem by having an orientation or other method of educating students regarding their First Amendment rights and the resources that are available.

Missouri senator requests investigation into Hawley's fight against releasing records

By Sky Chadde St. Louis Post-Dispatch

JEFFERSON CITY • A Missouri state senator on Tuesday requested that the state auditor look into Attorney General Josh Hawley's fight to prevent records related to his time as a University of Missouri professor and the state's top law enforcement official from being released publicly.

Noting that one of the attorney general's responsibilities is to enforce the state's Sunshine Law, which allows residents to access public documents, Sen. Scott Sifton, D-Affton, said he was asking Auditor Nicole Galloway, a Democrat, to look into the situation. Hawley's campaign paid a Washington D.C. law firm about $90,000 to defend keeping the records private.

"It concerns me the one person who is charged with enforcing this law happens to be spending not a small amount of money to try to fight off Sunshine requests that are directed at him," Sifton said. "Makes you scratch your head."

Sifton wants the auditor to determine whether the records should be released publicly, according to a letter he sent Galloway's office.

On the Senate floor Tuesday, Sifton mentioned an article in the Kansas City Star that detailed how the law firm defended Hawley. Initially, the law firm was not paid, and its services were not recorded on campaign finance reports, according to the Star.

Hawley's office said it welcomed the investigation.
"Our office is happy to work with the Auditor’s Office," Loree Ann Paradise, the attorney general's spokeswoman, said.

The auditor's office confirmed it received Sifton's letter Tuesday.

"We take any requests from public officials seriously," an office spokesperson said.

The open-records request stems from the primary campaign battle between Hawley - who kicked off his campaign for the U.S. Senate Tuesday - and Republican Kurt Schaefer in 2016 to be attorney general.

A former Republican House member, Kevin Elmer, requested two years of Hawley’s emails, internal correspondence about the attorney general’s race and his tenure status, as well as documents created on his work computer.

In a subsequent lawsuit, Elmer claimed Hawley and the university prevented access to public records in order to conceal "the inappropriate use of university property for campaigning and other political purposes."

At the time, Hawley's campaign released a statement blaming Schaefer for the lawsuit.

"Senator Schaefer’s dirty tricks are one more reminder why Missouri voters are disgusted with Jefferson City politicians," the statement read. "After abusing the power of his office to promote his own political career, Senator Schaefer is now trying to abuse the court system. He should be ashamed."

Because of Hawley's efforts to not release the information, Sifton said he worried the situation would not be resolved "appropriately."

"These allegations are particularly troubling given the Attorney General's role as the enforcer of Missouri's Sunshine Law," Sifton wrote in the letter. "Under the circumstances, I am gravely concerned the public cannot assume this matter will be handled appropriately given the inherent conflict of interest presented by the Attorney General defending against application of the very statute he is charged with enforcing."
‘Potential for corruption here is unbelievable’: Who’s paying Greitens’ legal bills?

BY JASON HANCOCK AND LINDSAY WISE
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JEFFERSON CITY - Facing a felony charge of invasion of privacy — and under investigation by a St. Louis grand jury and a state legislative committee — Gov. Eric Greitens and his staff are relying on two nonprofits to pay mounting legal bills.

While not unusual at the federal level, the creation of legal defense funds is a new wrinkle in Missouri politics.

And for a governor who’s faced relentless criticism about his penchant for secrecy and reliance on anonymous campaign donations, the funds also open up Greitens and his staff to renewed questions about donor influence, conflicts of interest and government transparency.

“The potential for corruption here is unbelievable because the governor is in dire straits,” said Craig Holman, government affairs lobbyist for Public Citizen, a liberal consumer rights advocacy group based in Washington, D.C. “This is a legal defense fund, not just a campaign fund. So the governor is desperate, and desperation breeds undue influence peddling.”

Earlier this month a handful of Greitens supporters filed paperwork with the Internal Revenue Service to create ERG Defense Fund. The governor’s full name is Eric Robert Greitens.

The next week, Missouri GOP Chairman Todd Graves’ law firm announced that it had filed paperwork with the IRS to create the Missouri Legal Expense Fund. Its purpose is to pay legal expenses for the governor’s taxpayer-funded staff.
Both funds were created in the wake of Greitens’ indictment on a felony charge of invasion of privacy stemming from a 2015 affair. The governor is accused of threatening to release a nude photo of the woman with whom he was having an affair if she ever publicly disclosed the relationship.

He has admitted to the affair but has denied the blackmail allegations.

In addition to continued investigation by the St. Louis prosecutor and a grand jury, an inquiry also has been launched by a Missouri House committee — the first step toward possible impeachment.

The legal defense funds were each created as “527” organizations, a term that refers to the section of tax code that governs such entities.

Richard Reuben, a professor at the University of Missouri School of Law, said typically 527 organizations are political entities such as parties, candidates, committees or associations organized for the purpose of influencing an issue, policy, appointment or election.

They can raise unlimited funds from individuals, corporations, labor unions and even foreign entities, Reuben said, but they must register with the IRS and disclose their contributions and expenditures.

They also aren’t required to file any disclosure paperwork with the Federal Elections Commission or the Missouri Ethics Commission, Reuben said.

Politicians including New Jersey Sen. Robert Menendez, a Democrat who was accused of public corruption, and former Nevada Sen. John Ensign, a Republican accused of violating ethics and federal lobbying rules, set up 527 organizations to raise money for their legal defense.

More recently, a group called The Patriot Legal Expense Fund Trust was created to help defray the costs faced by aides to President Donald Trump drawn into the various Russia investigations.

Story continues: http://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article204855009.html#storylink=cpy
Boone County ranks high in clinical care in latest annual health rankings

By Waverly Colville

Boone County is ranked the best out of the 114 counties in Missouri and the city of St. Louis in clinical care in the annual County Health Rankings study by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

The ninth annual study looks at factors such as access to medical care, education level, race, premature deaths and pollution to determine the healthiest and least healthy counties in each state. Boone County ranked ninth in Missouri overall for health outcomes.

The healthiest counties were St. Charles, Platte and Christian. The least healthy areas are the city of St. Louis and Dunklin and Pemiscot counties.

The factors for ranking clinical care were the numbers of uninsured people, primary care physicians, dentists, mental health providers and preventable hospital stays along with diabetes monitoring and mammography screening.

Boone County consistently performed better than most other counties in the state and the national average in the study’s health measurements.

“This is not surprising,” said Eric Stann, Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services spokesman. “This is a testament to our tremendous partners in the health care system.”

Boone County ranked fourth-lowest in the state with only 11 percent of adults under 65 years old without health insurance. For children under the age of 19, only 6 percent are uninsured, which is also in the lowest quarter of Missouri counties.

The average health care costs in Boone County are considerably lower than most counties as well.

Boone County also ranked fourth in health behaviors, which examines smoking, obesity, food, physical inactivity, access to exercise opportunities, excessive drinking, drunken driving deaths, sexually transmitted infections and teen births.
Boone County did well in physical activity, with 82 percent of the population having access to exercise opportunities. Boone County’s score of 7.0 in the Food Environment Index showed that 8 percent of the population has limited access to healthy foods and 17 percent of people are food insecure, meaning they don’t always know where their next meal will come from.

Boone County’s rate of sexually transmitted infections is much higher than the state and national averages, with 639.8 newly diagnosed chlamydia cases per 100,000 population. The city of St. Louis and Jackson, Pemiscot and Butler counties were the only places in the state where the rate was higher.

Stann said this could possibly be attributed to increased availability of STD testing leading to more cases being reported or the young population of Columbia, which has a major state university and two other college campuses.

Boone County was also fourth in excessive drinking, with 21 percent of the population drinking too much, behind Pulaski, St. Charles and Jefferson counties.

Kim Dude, the director of the Wellness Resource Center at the University of Missouri and a representative of all higher education institutions in Columbia on the city’s Substance Abuse Advisory Commission, said education and promoting a healthy environment can curb excessive drinking.

“It doesn’t surprise me,” Dude said. “Certainly having a variety of colleges in town makes a difference. We have to make the decision that we all need to work together to deal with this issue. All of us, meaning parents, business, university leaders, student leaders, need to work together to help people of all ages make better choices about alcohol.”

Boone County offers several services to discourage the spread of STDs and excessive drinking. The local health department offers low-priced STD testing, community education, alcohol sales training for servers and staff support to the city’s Substance Abuse Advisory Commission.

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**COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE**

**Canadian official talks trade on Central Missouri trip**

By Rudi Keller

Part of John Cruickshank’s job as consul general of Canada for three Midwestern states is to clear up misunderstandings about the nation of 36 million that stretches for almost 4,000 miles across the northern U.S. border.
Cruickshank, who is based in Chicago, jokes that his wife and other Canadians in the U.S. are apologetic when weather forecasters warn that cold air from the Canadian arctic is making winter weather miserable. He also said many Americans misunderstand the social, political and economic ties that make their relationship beneficial to both sides.

“People look and they see a border there and they can’t see past it,” Cruickshank said during a visit Monday with the Tribune’s editorial board. “I have met people who think you can ski year-round in Canada but that is not the majority.”

About 75 percent of Canada’s population lives within a two hours’ drive of the U.S. border. They see U.S. broadcast television giving them American news alongside their own broadcasts.

“Canadians would really like Americans to know as much about them as we know about Americans,” Cruickshank said. “We’re the younger brother in this relationship, the No. 2 in a buddy comedy.”

Cruickshank, who took over his job in April, is in Missouri this week to build relationships in Jefferson City and to participate in “Canada Days,” an annual event at the University of Missouri sponsored by the Canadian Studies Program. His job right now, he said, is to explain the trade relationship between Canada and the United States as leaders of the two countries, along with Mexico, work to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement, commonly called NAFTA.

At the same time, he said he wants U.S. residents to understand that recently imposed tariffs on soft wood lumber and newsprint are driving up prices in this country and that the same would happen if import taxes on steel and aluminum were extended to include Canada and Mexico.

The lumber tariff, adding about 21 percent to the cost of imported pine used extensively in construction, has driven up the cost of a new home in the U.S. by about 7 percent, according to the National Association of Home Builders.

“It is in essence a tax on Americans,” Cruickshank said. “Canadian producers are doing fine.”

Cruickshank is a former journalist who was publisher of the Toronto Star from 2009 to 2016 and was publisher of the Chicago Sun-Times from 2003 to 2007. As consul general, he is responsible for the states of Missouri, Illinois and Wisconsin and his job is both to help Canadians who have difficulties while visiting the United States and to promote Canadian interests in his assigned region.

Missouri does $8.5 billion worth of business annually with Canada, he said. Missouri enjoys a trade surplus, sending $5 billion worth of manufactured and raw goods to Canada annually and receiving $3.5 billion in return.

Free trade with Canada “is very good for the country and particularly good for Missouri,” said James Endersby, associate professor of political science and director of Canadian Studies at MU. “It is also a mutually beneficial trade that crosses the border and goes back and forth each way.”
In the 25 years since NAFTA was negotiated, companies have become dependent on easy crossings to make their business work. Missouri’s major exports to Canada are automobiles and aircraft, both finished products and parts that find their way into finished products then sold back to the U.S., Endersby said.

One thing that few in the U.S. realize is how fortunate both nations are to have such good relations, Endersby said.

“America would be a very different place if we had a hostile neighbor to the north,” he said. “The world would be much different if we had a militarized border to the north.”

President Donald Trump came into office in part because of his promises to alter trade relationships worldwide with the intent to protect U.S. industries and jobs. He rejected a Pacific free trade deal and demanded that the terms of NAFTA be revised.

Canada wants an updated agreement, Cruickshank said. The pact was written before the internet became publicly available and has outdated provisions, he said.

What Canada is not comfortable with is the timeline for completing negotiations, he said. The U.S. wants the new deal signed before the congressional elections in November and the Mexicans want to finish before that country’s presidential election on July 1.

“It is not clear that all this stuff can be dealt with as quickly as folks would like,” he said. “For us, it is just really important for us to get a new agreement.”

MISSOURIAN

Paper chain help to end mental health stigma at MU

SHOSHANA DUBNOW

In the middle of the chaos of the MU Student Center, several people paused their Tuesday afternoons to add a link to a paper chain. On the links, words like “self-care,” “love myself” and “asking for help” stood out in different-colored markers.
The event, which was called “We Cannot Be Broken,” is one part of MU’s Mental Health Awareness Week.

Mental Health Awareness Week is sponsored by the Missouri Students Association. “We Cannot Be Broken,” on March 13, was hosted by the Counseling Center and Wellness Resource Center.

At the event, counselors answered students’ questions about wellness and coping mechanisms for mental health struggles.

Organizers such as Dr. Kerri Schafer, a psychologist at the Counseling Center, knew the event would draw more students if there was something engaging to do at the table. That’s when they came up with the idea of the paper chain.

“We have this really beautiful, colorful symbolic representation of how we as a community can really support each other through mental health concerns, and also just realize that we are not alone,” Schafer said.

Based on her professional experience, Schafer said many college students struggle with mental health because of the various stressors in their lives.

MU senior Sophie Dieckhaus was one of those students.

“College is such a big transition,” Dieckhaus said. “Freshman year, (mental health) was probably the worst for me. Coming to a place where you don’t know anyone and where things are extremely heightened, that was really hard for me.”

Dieckhaus said as she continued to learn more about MU’s resources, she was able to take control of her mental health. Dieckhaus now serves on the Mental Health Task Force at the Counseling Center, and she helped construct the paper chain at the event.

“Mental health affects everyone,” Dieckhaus said. “If we’re together, we’re stronger.”
More details emerge in Jordan Barnett's DWI arrest

By Dave Matter St. Louis Post-Dispatch

COLUMBIA, MO. • More details have emerged in Missouri basketball player Jordan Barnett's early Saturday morning arrest for driving while intoxicated. The Post-Dispatch obtained the University of Missouri Police report through an open records request.

At 3:13 a.m., an MUPD officer was driving northbound on College Avenue near Rollins Street when he observed Barnett driving southbound on College in a black SUV at approximately 50-55 mph in a 35-mph zone. Most of the officer’s narrative of his investigation is redacted from the report, including the name and address of a witness.

The report states that Barnett consented to giving a breath sample. After several more lines are redacted, the report states Barnett was transported to MUPD headquarters, where he was searched, photographed, fingerprinted and read his rights. The portion of the report that’s left unredacted does not include the results of the breathalyzer test. The officer recorded Barnett’s answers to questions on the Alcohol Influence Report, after which Barnett was issued summonses for DWI and failure to drive within a single lane. The officer gave him a warning for speeding.

Barnett has a City of Columbia Court date on May 2. After surrendering his driver’s license and issued a notice of suspension of driving privileges, Barnett was released. On Monday, a spokesman from the city prosecutor’s office said it had not received the full report from MUPD and expected it within a week or two.

Barnett will not play in Missouri’s first game in the NCAA Tournament on Friday in Nashville against Florida State, though Tigers coach Cuonzo Martin said Barnett will be available for Sunday’s game if MU advances to the second round. Barnett is allowed to practice this week and travel with the team to Nashville. According to the MU Student-Athlete Handbook, an athlete arrested for DWI is suspended for a minimum of one week.

Barnett, 22, averages 13.7 points per game and is among the SEC leaders in 3-point shooting at 41.4 percent. The 6-7 guard spent his first season at Texas and transferred to Mizzou midway through the 2015-16 season.

Barnett, the Post-Dispatch's 2014 All-Metro player of the year when he led CBC to the Class 5 state championship, was in Mizzou Arena during Sunday's watch party for the NCAA
Tournament selection show but didn't sit with his teammates on the court, instead staying in the tunnel outside the team locker room. He was unavailable for comment.

"I've known Jordan for almost three years now and regardless if he’s there or not I’m still super proud to be his teammate," junior forward Kevin Puryear said. "That’s my brother, regardless of the mistakes he’s made. We’re always going to be by his side. Everybody makes mistakes. I guess all you can do from there is learn from them. I still think it’s a great moment for him, a great moment for our team. He’s be a great contributor all season, left it all out there on the floor. He’s done a lot for this university, for this team. That’s my stance on that."

Mizzou starts construction on South End Zone project

By: Jessica Porter

Watch the story: http://www.komu.com/news/mizzou-starts-construction-on-south-end-zone-project

COLUMBIA - After months of anticipation, Mizzou broke ground on its South End Zone project.

According to the South End Zone website, the project will give state-of-the-art training facilities to Mizzou Football, create more premium seating and bring new jobs to Columbia. Tim Hickman, Mizzou's deputy athletic director, said the old stadium needed a better configuration.

"We're gonna get seats closer to the field," Hickman said. "It didn't quite work with the existing seats in the south end zone, so the best option for us was to tear this down and start from a better situation."
When the project is complete, the south end zone will have 16 suites, a 750-person field-level club, a 1,254-seat indoor club area with dining service and restrooms and general seating for about 1,324 fans.

Long-time Mizzou fan Bruce Hackmann hasn't missed a game in more than 30 years and said he's looking forward to seeing the renovations.

"Being in the SEC, it's all about being competitive and you have to have great facilities and you have to have great fan support," he said. "Having better facilities is going to help us recruit better which is really the key to building a winning program."

The project costs $98 million dollars. Hickman said alumni donated part of the money and the rest came from bonding paid off by the premium seating.

The website quotes Coach Barry Odom as saying, "I deeply appreciate each of the donors who have stepped forward to make this happen for Mizzou Football and the Board of Curators' approval of this facility."

The project was approved in August.

"I believe that this facility will have a lasting impact on our football program for the next 40 years, if not longer; it's that impactful," Odom said.

The project is expected to be completed in August 2019.

A farewell to the south endzone

By Daniel Jones

Farewell, south endzone bleachers: the 40-year steward of Faurot Field’s good side.

Since you were finished in 1978, you’ve managed to escape all the bad karma that your counterpart, the nefarious north endzone, has endured.

It got the Fifth Down, the Flea Kicker, the field goal off the upright against South Carolina.
You got the band and the Touchdown Terrace.

Still, you weren’t perfect. The north endzone’s grass berm and white rock “M” shone brilliantly compared to your drab, grey facade.

You hosted press conferences under the bleachers that were drowned out by roaring tractor-trailers and spilled drinks from the concourse.

Your scoreboard was kind of weak.

You were, admittedly, due for an upgrade.

But rest easy knowing your legacy is intact — all concrete, no curse.

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**JCPS names former MU softball coach as new athletic director**

By: Monica Dunn

JEFFERSON CITY- Jefferson City Public Schools named Ehren Earleywine as the new athletic director on Tuesday.

"I am excited for the opportunity to help elevate JCPS toward becoming the premier district in Missouri once again," Earleywine said. "I look forward to working with the entire JCPS team of administrators, directors and coaches to make it happen. For me personally, it’s a beautiful thing that my career and my passion come together in the city and at the school I love most."

Earleywine will start at JCPS July 1, 2018.

“We are pleased to welcome Coach Earleywine home to the JCPS family,” said Gary Verslues, assistant superintendent of secondary education for Jefferson City Public Schools. “Ehren brings a wealth of experience as a collegiate coach, a parent, an athlete and a former Jaybird. He has
many professional connections at the regional, state and national levels that will be extremely beneficial to our district. He is a winner.”

Earleywine worked as MU softball coach for 11 years before he was let go in January. He compiled a record of 482-182 (.726) during his 11 seasons with the Tigers. The softball team also saw 11-consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances with three Women's College World Series trips and eight NCAA Super Regionals during Earleywine's time as the coach.

Former civil rights attorney Jim Turner visits campus to recount civil rights involvement

By Evan Ochsner

Jim Turner, former deputy assistant attorney general in the U.S. Department of Justice’s civil rights division, stood in front of a room of approximately 50 MU students and guests on March 7 inside the Reynolds Journalism Institute and recounted his involvement in the civil rights movement.

Turner was joined by his son, Jim Turner Jr., and together they discussed the senior Turner’s role in the Viola Liuzzo trial. The duo also talked about the Los Angeles Police Department beatings of Rodney King, the Civil Rights Act of 1957 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Associate professor Berkley Hudson, who introduced Turner to the audience, described him as a “living embodiment of U.S. history in the 20th century.”

Turner graduated from the Missouri School of Journalism in 1952. He returned to his home state to earn his law degree from the University of Colorado.

After short stints at the Department of Justice’s Tax Division and in private practice, Turner started working as a civil rights attorney under the Eisenhower administration. He served under 17 different attorneys general, retiring during the Clinton administration.

The Liuzzo case was Turner’s first as a Justice Department official. In it, he was part of a team tasked with prosecuting three members of the Ku Klux Klan who were charged with the murder of Liuzzo following the freedom marches from Selma to Montgomery.

Matt Murphy, who provided the defense for the Klansmen, consistently used vulgar language throughout the trial, language that Turner relayed during his Wednesday lecture.
It is because of Turner’s exposure to Murphy and the atrocities of the Klan that he decided not to capitalize “Ku Klux Klan” in his new book, “Selma and the Liuzzo Murder Trials: The First Modern Civil Rights Convictions,” despite journalistic norms that require it.

“I don’t think they warrant it,” Turner said.

After two hung juries, the Klansmen were eventually convicted of murder.

Turner believes the Klansmen’s conviction holds an important place in American history, as it was the first time an Alabama court convicted Klansmen of doing anything illegal.

The case “was the beginning of the end of excusing illegal Klansman behavior and [the] beginning of] expanding equal protection under the law,” Turner said.

Part of Turner’s rationale for writing the Liuzzo book is his belief that the case teaches valuable lessons that should be considered today. It is a belief that Hudson shares.

“It matters today,” Hudson said. “It matters today in terms of voting rights. It also matters in terms of listening to each other on contentious subject matter such as race relations and violence.”