

8:30 a.m., Boone County Court meeting, County-City Building.

Exhibits

New: Columbia Public Library, porcelain dolls and doll parts made and dressed by Mr. and Mrs. E.F. Morrow and watercolors and drawings by Janet Heltzman See Sunday Vibrations for continuing exhibit schedules.

See page 7B for movie listings.

Tax would yield \$800,000

By Jim Stern
Missourian staff writer

The 47-cent tax increase proposal approved Monday by the Columbia school board would produce about \$800,000 next year.

School officials say the money would be spent this way.

- About \$400,000 for a five per cent pay raise for the district's teachers. This accounts for 24 cents of the increase

- About \$240,000 for five per cent raises for noninstructional personnel. This takes about 14 cents of the rate increase

- About \$100,000 to restore free busing to the two-mile (3.2 kilometer) limit that was changed this fall to 3.5 miles (5.6 kilometers). This requires about six cents of the increase.

- The rest, a little more than \$50,000, for building maintenance and instructional equipment. This is about three cents of the increase

The increase will be voted on at a special referendum Feb. 15. Approval by two-thirds of those voting is required for passage. The district's voters have rejected 44-cent increases twice this year.

Jack Siefkas, chairman of the citizen advisory committee established to help

pass the increase, said one reason for the earlier defeats was the failure of proponents to spell out in sufficient detail the costs and benefits of the proposal.

A committee of the school board last week pinpointed the areas of spending in arriving at the requested increase, said Hank Fisher, assistant to the school superintendent.

Fisher said the figures are based on the district's current assessed valuation of \$177 million. Each penny increase in the tax rate yields about \$17,000.

Fisher and others emphasized that the board cannot be precise in its

spending plans for next year because the amount of state aid will remain uncertain until the legislature passes the budget sometime next spring.

For instance, he said Columbia administrators hope enough state money will be forthcoming to permit salary increases of more than the five per cent provided in the tax increase proposal.

The exact status of busing cannot be determined yet, either, said interim superintendent Russell Thompson, because the costs — which are rising steadily — cannot be calculated.

The school board estimated this fall that it was saving about \$100,000 by

contracting the bus service out to a private company and by reducing the number of students transported free of charge. Board member Patsy Garner said she hopes the amount provided by the tax increase would allow a return to previous bus service.

However, Ed Bartolacci, leader of the busing protest this fall, repeated his complaint that the school board was overstating the savings from the busing changes.

Bartolacci also said the board still is not being clear enough about where the requested tax money would be spent and why it is needed.

Insight State gets funds, must decide use

Conservationists to implement plan by land acquisition

By Brian Finchpaugh
Missourian staff writer

With election night euphoria past, the Missouri Department of Conservation faces the task of implementing an expansive conservation program with funds approved by voters Nov. 2.

Amendment No. 1, calling for the addition of one-eighth of one per cent to the state sales tax, could provide between \$18 million and \$20 million a year to the conservation department.

These funds will support a long-range program called "Design for Conservation" intended for the preservation of natural areas and an expansion of conservation services.

The design proposal sets general priorities which include the purchase of 121,000 acres (48,400 hectares) of upland wildlife habitat, five more wetland areas for waterfowl and natural areas such as oxbow lakes, glades and prairies.

The proposal also includes the acquisition of five state forests, more stream access sites, the development of small community lakes and an expansion of management and research sections in the department.

"As we have said earlier, land acquisition has been the strongest thrust of the proposal," Carl Noren, director to the Department of Conservation, said. But a full realization of the design proposal despite funding beginning July 1 will take many years.

Noren says that the management of areas acquired, research and services may have to wait while attention is devoted to expanding public ownership of lands.

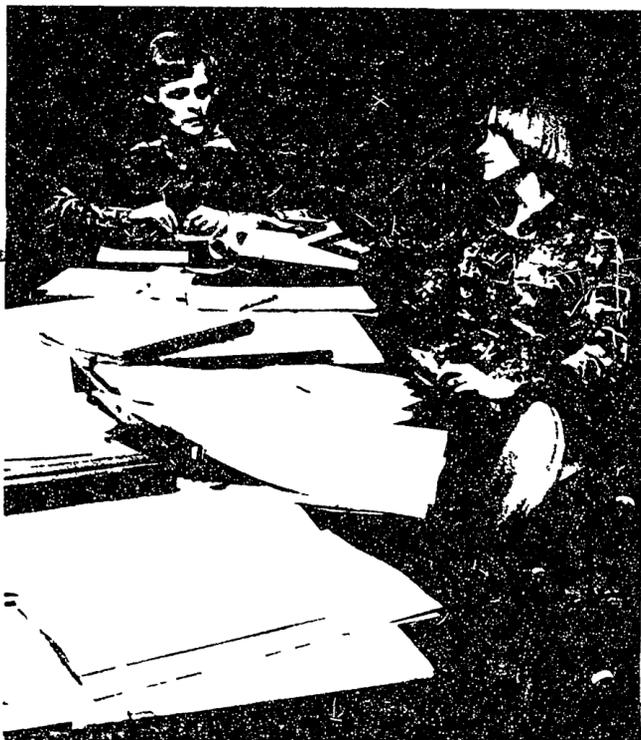
Personal services such as law enforcement by conservation agents, and enlargement in research personnel also may come slowly, Noren says.

At this time, the conservation officials say little other than that they are "gearing up" for the date when sales tax revenue is received.

They are reluctant to speak specifically about areas they have an interest in acquiring because of fear of speculation — with the exception of one tract.

The department's interest is focused on the 8,000-acre (3,200-hectare) Weldon Spring tract owned by the University. The land, located 28 miles (45 kilometers) west of downtown St. Louis, has been called one of the "highest priorities" on the

(See M. U., page 11A)



Shirley Ricks, above left, secretary to the finance director, and assistant finance director Peggy McBride find themselves with a heavy workload while their boss is away for a few days. But deputy city clerk Gladys Neal, right, says that although her boss also is away, she is not as swamped as the finance department. (Missourian photos by Mary Bradford)



Farmers facing hay shortage

Summer's drought hurt production

By Greg Wood
Missourian staff writer

A hay shortage resulting from this summer's drought is making the winter months ahead foreboding and uncertain for most Boone County farmers.

"After three years of bad conditions, farmers around here have their backs against the wall," said Don Emery, manager of the county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). "Some farmers may be forced to sell out. It's not a very bright picture in the community."

"Since drought-stricken pastures forced many farmers to begin feeding hay in September, essentially they're feeding two winters in one," Emery said.

Farmers were hit hard by this summer's drought. Fields normally yielding four cuttings of hay in some cases didn't yield any, and all pastures were far below normal production.

The hay shortage has been compounded by a water shortage, county extension agent Ross Swofford said. Several Boone County farmers have been unable to move their cattle to fields that have good sources of feed because ponds in those fields have dried up. "This is a pretty widespread problem and will probably get worse," Swofford said.

"Hay is scarce," said Harold O'Neal, a local farmer who buys and sells hay. "We're going to have to start bringing in hay from somewhere — if you can afford to feed it."

A 40- to 60-pound (18 to 27 kilograms) bale of hay is selling for as much as \$2.50. The average price is about \$1.50 to \$2.00 per bale, depending on the quality of the hay.

Because of the high cost, farmers are stretching what they have. "I know one man who is having a disease problem because of malnutrition," O'Neal said. "I think you'll see a lot of that."

"I'm supplementing my hay with soy (See HAY, page 11A)

Women 'take over' at city hall

By Ransdell Pierson
Missourian staff writer

Some say it's still a man's world. Not at city hall. Not Wednesday.

Take for instance, the city clerk's office. There you would have found Gladys Neal taking over for her boss, Glenn Wood. Because Wood was out on a special holiday, deputy city clerk Neal had become acting city clerk. Neal, despite her added responsibility, she seemed a little less than overwhelmed at filling the boots of her boss.

"The only thing I can't do as well as Mr. Wood is smoke a cigar," Mrs. Neal

joked. "In reality, the women run the offices around here anyway. The men just can't get along without us."

"Let me give you an example. When the secretaries take a couple of weeks' vacation, a replacement is usually hired, but when department heads take vacations, replacements aren't made."

One of the first things Mrs. Neal did Wednesday as acting clerk was to swear in two special police officers.

Meanwhile, in the city finance office, two more women could be found Wednesday filling the shoes of their boss.

Because Finance Director Mike Scanlan had taken the day off, assistant

finance director Peggy McBride was especially hard at work as acting director (Helping her was Shirley Ricks, secretary and Jill-of-all-trades for Scanlan).

Luke Mrs. Neal, neither of the two seemed especially helpless in the absence of their higher-up.

"It only seems like a man's world," she said, "when we leave the finance department. The larger accounting firms seem surprised when they see me come in with Mike at meetings and introduced as someone other than his secretary, especially since I'm so young (25)."

Even though Mrs. McBride believes

women are making inroads into the business and political worlds, she regrets some lingering traditions.

"There's no system here for determining when secretarial duties become administrative," she said, "and that makes for a world of difference. Someone doing much of the work doesn't always get corresponding pay or recognition."

For her own efforts, however, Mrs. McBride has received both an administrative title and recognition — at least around city hall. She says her title is on the par with that of vice presidents "except they don't have to do anything," she said.

Many businesses to close Friday, Saturday

By Rob Monk
Missourian staff writer

Most Columbia businesses and public facilities will be closed Christmas Day, and some will close early or not open at all on Friday, Christmas Eve. Also, some public service schedules have been changed.

Local grocery stores will be closed on Christmas but, according to the manager, most Columbia Seven-Eleven stores will be open.

Showcase Mart No. 2, 405 S. Providence Road, will be open Christmas.

Pharmaceutical supplies can be obtained at the D&H Prescription Drug Store, 1001 W. Broadway, on Christmas Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The D&H store at 1812 Paris Road will not be open Saturday.

To get gas on Christmas Day, Darrel's Texaco, 809 Business Loop 70 W.; Interstate Conoco, U.S. 63 South, and Lott's Standard Service, 1704 N. Providence Road, will be

open. Columbia banks will close at noon Friday and will not be open Saturday.

The city trash pickup schedule has been changed this week. Those who usually put out their refuse on Fridays should have it out by 8 a.m. today for pick up.

Public Works Director Ray Beck said the last city bus on Friday will leave downtown at 1:45 p.m. There will be no city bus service on Christmas Day.

Since Christmas Eve this year is a federal holiday, government offices, except the Post Office, will be closed Friday. County and city offices will be closed Friday.

The Post Office will make deliveries Friday but not Saturday.

Many religious groups will hold special services and programs; for the times and places of these see page 5B.

The Columbia Public Library will be closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Panel criticizes cancer agency

By Nick Ingala
Missourian staff writer

A legislative committee Wednesday questioned the need for Missouri Cancer Programs, Inc., and said the organization apparently misrepresented itself in an application for funds to the National Cancer Institute.

The report of the House subcommittee on cancer research also said that Dr. Herbert R. Domke, director of the Missouri Division of Health, and Dr. John S. Spratt Jr., former director of clinical research at the Cancer Research Center, may have been involved in conflicts of interest.

Missouri Cancer Programs, Inc. is a private, nonprofit umbrella corporation set up last year to seek funds for cancer research from private and public sources.

According to the report, Missouri Cancer Programs, Inc., is not a formal organization of the agencies it listed in its application for grants from the National Cancer Institute. "While it is true that a representative from each of these organizations is seated on the MCPI board of directors, there are no contractual agreements or articles of affiliation between the agencies listed

as members and MCPI," the report said.

In a written rebuttal, Dr. John Yarbo, director of Missouri Cancer Programs, Inc., denied any misrepresentation. "In fact, the letters detailing the specific extent of the relationship of the various institutions to MCPI were included in the formal grant application to the National Cancer Institute, and the National Cancer Institute was clearly aware of the extent of planning and development of the cooperative program in Missouri," Yarbo's statement read.

The response also said that "the extent to which various institutions have developed contracts, memoranda of understanding and affiliation agreements with MCPI varies from institution to institution, and is, as stated, under development."

Rep. John E. Rollins, D-Columbia, a member of the subcommittee, disagreed with Yarbo. "There is no private or public organization that belongs to MCPI," Rollins said. "There are individual members but no organizations."

"In my opinion they misrepresented their status and in that way got their grant," Rollins said. In its year and a (See REP. ROLLINS, page 11A)

Trustee feared law conflict

By Chris Conway
Missourian staff writer

Concern about a possible conflict of interest contributed to the Boone County Hospital board's decision last year to drop the accounting firm in which Boone County Auditor Don Caldwell is a partner, a former trustee said Wednesday.

"As auditor for the county, I didn't feel he should present the audit for his firm, even though he didn't prepare it," said former trustee Jim Hudson, Ashland.

Hudson said he was concerned that

Caldwell's partnership in the Columbia firm of Williams, Keepers, Oliver, Payne and Rackers could have led "to the possibility of a conflict of interest."

The St. Louis accounting firm of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co. took over auditing responsibilities for the hospital in 1975.

Caldwell's firm, which last audited the hospital's books in 1974, had been the hospital's auditor for at least 10 years. Caldwell, who was appointed county auditor by former Gov. Warren Hearnes in 1968, joined the firm in 1963 and became a partner in 1968.

Caldwell appeared before the hospital's board of trustees in July 1975 to present his firm's 1974 audit of the hospital. Caldwell said Wednesday he made the presentation because Ed Oliver, another partner in the firm who made the audit, was out of town.

"I didn't feel it was (a conflict) or I would not have appeared," Caldwell said.

State conflict of interest laws prohibit a county official "or business entity of which he is an officer, agent or member, or the owner of a substantial interest (to) sell any goods or services to any business entity which is licensed

by or regulated in any manner by the agency in which the officer or employee serves."

Board chairman Jack Estes would not say Wednesday if concern about conflict of interest was a factor in the board's decision to retain the St. Louis

Board member Robert Rutchie said, however, "I didn't feel there was a conflict of interest." Rutchie said he voted to retain the St. Louis firm as the hospital's auditor because "I thought we hadn't gotten too good results (from Caldwell's firm)."