

Columbia Missourian

76th Year — No. 253

Good Morning! It's Thursday, July 11, 1985

2 Sections — 16 Pages — 25 Cents

County wants building money Selling hospital is among four options considered

By Paul Kilby and Karyn Smith
Missourian staff writers

The Boone County Commission announced Wednesday morning that it is considering the sale of some county assets, among them the Boone Hospital Center, its share of the City-County Building and the County Farm.

The sale of assets is one of four methods being considered to raise the \$105 million needed for the courthouse and jail expansion. Presiding Commissioner Billie Tritschler said Wednesday morning the commission wants to quell rumors about selling assets. It is only an option, she said. The other three options, discussed at a County Facilities Commission meeting Tuesday night, include a lease purchase, bonds and a short-term sales tax.

The county wanted to begin expanding the jail and courthouse in 1983, but voters rejected a sales tax increase in November 1983.

The courthouse and jail expansion will be completed 3 1/2 years after construction begins. But construction cannot begin until the commission decides on a financing plan for the project.

Tritschler said Tuesday night that the commission could take three months to decide.

"We are in the investigative and discussion stage," she said.

Boone Hospital Center Board Chairman Jack Estes and hospital Trustee Walter Johnson met Wednesday afternoon with Northern District Commissioner Alex Gates.

"We had a frank discussion of the issues," Johnson said. "I feel reassured that at least one member of the County Commission understands the position of the Board of Trustees."

In an open letter to the commission, Johnson said he does not believe selling the Boone Hospital Center, at 1600 E. Broadway, to raise money for the jail and courthouse is in the best interest of the citizens. The Board of Trustees should decide the hospital's fate, not the commission, Johnson said.

The county does not have the authority to sell the hospital, Johnson said.

"We have no intention of selling Boone Hospital for financing these improvements," Estes said. "It would be an injustice to the health-care system and the services that Boone Hospital provides."

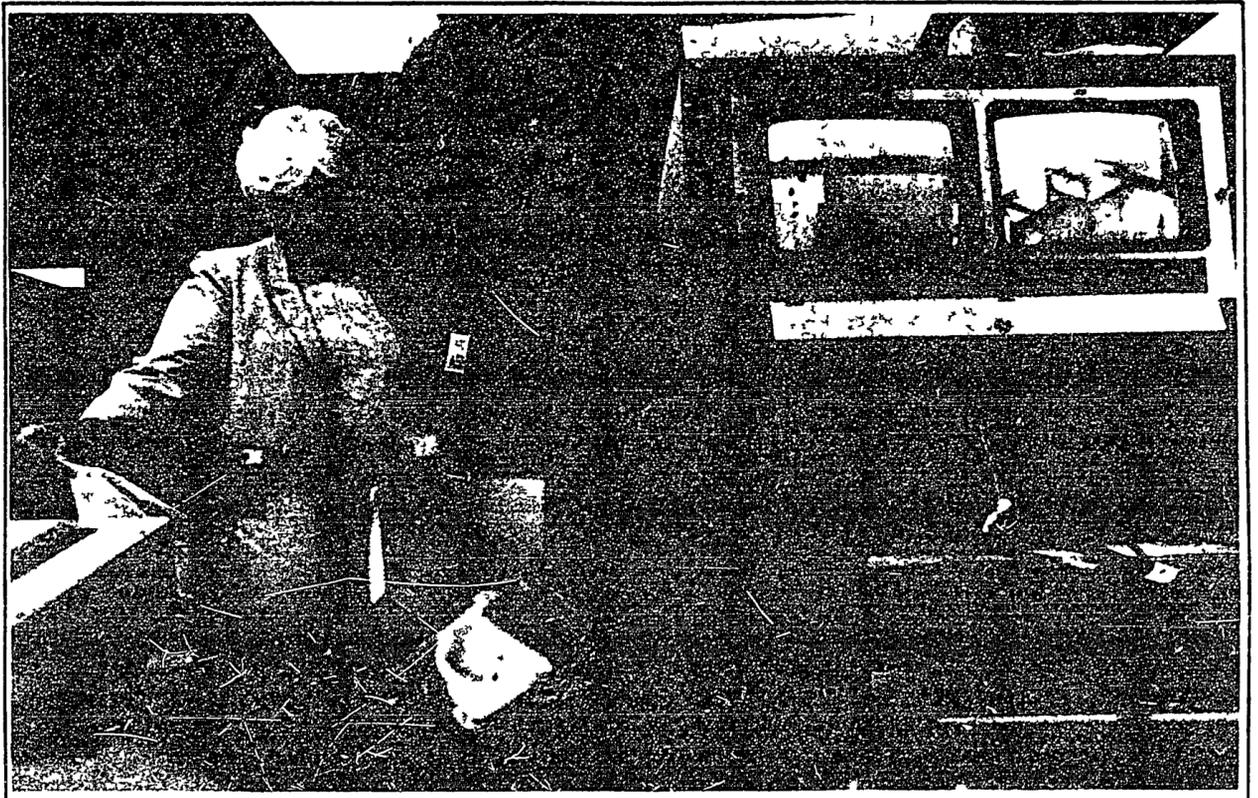
Johnson said Boone County residents will not take the idea of a sale lightly.

"The proposal should generate much interest among Boone County residents, who are still concerned about changing the name from Boone County Hospital," he said.

"If you will promise to leave my hospital alone, I will promise not to tell you where to locate your bridges," Johnson wrote in his letter to the commission.

Johnson has spoken to several citizens about the proposed sale, and the general reaction has not been favorable, he said.

"They make me look like a moderate," he said.



Craig Goodman

Boone Hospital Center Vice President Jan Huggans and President John O'Shaughnessy check progress.

Hospital president settling in to new job

By Jill Goetz
Missourian staff writer

John O'Shaughnessy hires to quote a character from the show 'The Music Man' who says, "Ya gotta know the territory." The newest president of Boone Hospital Center follows

that advice. In fact, he visits every department in the hospital as often as he can.

He's getting more familiar with the hundreds of employees as he pokes his head in doorways to chat with doctors, nurses, technicians and aides. He also gets lost less of

ten as he explores the maze of hallways that makes up the institution.

The 41-year-old second-generation American of Irish descent joined Boone Hospital nearly four months ago following a media investigation into questionable administrative practices and potential conflicts of

interest at the hospital. That media probe focused on O'Shaughnessy's predecessor. But O'Shaughnessy's starting annual salary of \$95,000 — an increase of \$10,000 over the former administrator's salary — also

See ADMINISTRATOR 5 Page 10A

Early faculty retirements to cut course offerings

By Bill Vernon
Missourian staff writer

Some University courses will not be taught next fall because a larger than expected number of faculty have taken advantage of the University's new early retirement plan.

By Sept. 1, nearly 68 faculty members will have retired from the University this year.

Provost Ron Bunn said most of the retiring faculty will not be replaced until 1986 because of the costs in funding the early retirements.

As a result, Bunn said some courses will not be taught at the Uni-

versity. An attempt was made to minimize the effect. Required and core courses are less affected than electives, he said.

"Some faculty will be hired back on a one-semester or one-year basis to cover some instructional responsibilities," he said.

More than half the retiring faculty come from three colleges on campus. The College of Agriculture will lose 19 of its 190 faculty members.

The College of Arts and Science will lose 11 of its 412 faculty.

Ten of the 95 faculty with the College of Education will take an early retirement.

"We're losing some very talented people," Dean of Arts and Science Milton Gluck said.

"Some were uniquely qualified to teach specific courses," Gluck said. "I don't think any will be replaced this year. We're canceling something in all departments because of the loss of faculty."

A series of courses in paleobotany will not be taught because one faculty member is retiring, said Donald Miles, director of the biology department.

James Oblinger, associate dean at the College of Agriculture, said most positions will be left open to pay for

the annuity fund — the fund established to pay the early retirement benefits. "We haven't had to cancel any classes yet. It's a case by case situation, and so far we've been fortunate."

The incentive program started at the University to reduce the number of faculty, give career alternatives to professors tired of teaching and bring in some new faculty to departments where they're needed most.

Faculty worked almost three years to get the program at the University, Faculty Council member David Leuthold said. "The University offered it on a one-time basis this

year for faculty 62 or older, and next year for faculty turning 62. That's all." The program possibly will be extended if it works well, Leuthold said.

Unlike other early retirement programs, there is no financial incentive for a faculty member to delay his retirement until age 70. He would receive roughly the same annual retirement income at age 62 as he would at age 70.

In the first year, the University will create a fund for the retirement benefits. After the first year of the program things should look better, Bunn said. "The trade-off is in one

year, the first year there will be some disruption. In the next year we'll see some advantages."

"The program frees up positions and money to respond to departments with the greatest need for additional faculty," Bunn said.

Most faculty will not return to teach, and others will look elsewhere for employment.

Loren Kuntner is a professor of veterinary pathology who has retired early. "I'll look for another job in veterinary pathology in another state," he said. "I've been here since '49, so it's good for the school and good for me to make a change."



Coke was it!

Old formula a new classic

ATLANTA (UPI) — Staggered by a grass-roots protest to its move to change the taste of Coke, Coca-Cola Co. announced Wednesday it will bring back the "old Coke" within the next few weeks — renamed "Coca-Cola Classic."

The old flavor of Coke will complement the new-formula Coke introduced in April, said company spokesman Thomas Gray.

"Everyone wins," Gray said. "Thousands of dedicated Coca-Cola consumers have told us they still want the original taste as an option."

Company officials have said in recent weeks they have been inundated with compliments and complaints about the taste change.

"The reaction has been mixed," said Ron Coleman, a company spokesman.

Although taste tests by the company indicated a majority of people prefer the new taste of Coke, a vocal legion of longtime Coke drinkers have created a national stir about the formula change, the first in the 99-year history of the soft drink.

Jesse Meyers, an industry expert and publisher of the Beverage Digest newsletter, said the decision to reintroduce "old Coke" was "absolutely" the result of the groundswell of negative reaction.

Fatal bullet in shooting traced to officer

By Steven Bannish
Missourian staff writer

Dean France has been identified as the Columbia police officer who fired the bullet that killed 19-year-old Kimberly Linzie July 3, Police Chief William Dye said in a release Wednesday.

The car Linzie was driving was owned by her friend Tammy Mayfield who, before the shooting, had reported it stolen following an argument with Linzie. After police surrounded the car at the corner of East Broadway and William Street, Linzie, trying to flee, nearly crushed officer Pat Mills against her patrol

car, police said. Fearing that the life of an officer was in danger, four police officers fired their weapons at the car, police said.

The .38 caliber bullet that pierced Linzie's heart was fired by France, Dye said. All the bullets recovered in the shooting were of .38 caliber, he said. The four officers who shot at Linzie fired 12 times. 11 shots from revolvers, 10 of which hit the car, and one from a shotgun, police said.

Initially, police had difficulty determining who fired the fatal shot. Police said the bullet found in Linzie's body lacked its copper jacket with the imprint of the barrel from

which it was fired.

Police first sent evidence to the Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Lab in Jefferson City for ballistics analysis. Since the lab could not make a determination, the evidence, including several copper jackets found in the car, was forwarded to the Regional Criminalistics Laboratories in Kansas City, Mo., where the determination was made, Dye said.

France, 31, was hired by the department in 1978. He was a University undergraduate at the time France was a medical technician at the University Medical Center before becoming a police officer. He was a member of the Columbia Police Reserves for two years.

France and the other officers involved in the shooting remain on administrative leave while an internal police investigation of the incident continues.

Mary Ratliff, local chapter president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said Wednesday that Ina Boon, regional director of the NAACP, met Wednesday with Dye to discuss police procedures.

Police say the investigation will be completed by the end of this week.

Two of three reassessment protests denied

By Scott Cooper
Missourian staff writer

Otto Palmer sat far back in his chair and answered questions in a soft voice at Wednesday morning's Board of Equalization hearing.

Charles Turner was more vocal as he angrily disagreed with board members' suggestions that perhaps his ideas of the reassessment don't quite jibe with the county's.

Neither man was happy with the outcome of his request to change his recent reassessment. In both cases, county office holders sitting as the Board of Equalization refused to reduce reassessments.

The Board was more kind to Donald Powell.

The subdivision owner made a knowledgeable presentation to the board about the value of land and the high costs of improving rough ground. In exchange, he received a \$4,000 reduction in his appraised value of \$65,000.

The three property owners' complaints stem from the statewide reassessment of property ordered this year by the Missouri General Assembly. Under the plan, property values throughout the state have been re-evaluated at fair market value. The reassessment will cause the value of properties not sold recently to rise to levels more reflective of today's real estate market.

Part of reassessment is the appeals process. At the board's third meeting, three property owners objected to their new valuations for a variety of reasons.

Palmer told the board his home on ABC Lane isn't worth the \$45,520 the county has valued it at, much less the \$50,000 he paid for it six years ago.

"It's a good-looking house," he said, but it has a lot of disadvantages to it. It's on a dead end and it's not on a water system," he said.

Palmer also told the board that declining land values around the county had driven down the value of his one-acre homestead.

But the board disagreed.

"It appears to me that you have come out quite a bit better than other people have," Auditor Anne Weirheimer told him, just before the board unanimously rejected his appeal.

Palmer wasn't surprised by the board's action.

He said the county had assigned a value to his home based on sale prices of similar homes.

Charles Turner tried to convince the board that raising his assessment from \$7,350 to \$10,754 was excessive.

First he told the board that another property near 1509 Ross St. is rented out to eight student renters. If he rented out his home, it would house only four students, Turner said.

But Presiding Commissioner Billie Tritschler quickly cut that argument short.

Things that determine value, not how many people you can pack into it," she said.

Next, Turner said appraisals of his property done over the last 10 years should be used to determine his property's value.

"Real estate values have changed considerably in 10 years," Reassessor Guy Long reminded him.

In the end, the board voted unanimously not to change Turner's assessment.

"They didn't seem to understand the problem that assessment does to housing for students," he said, referring to his contention that higher taxes will mean higher rates for renters.

"Their philosophy apparently is to make everything look like Wall Street," he said. Turner said he would appeal the board's decision to the State Tax Commission, but said he didn't expect his appeal to be granted. So why is he appealing?

"Justice," he said.