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POLITICAL FIX

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National Mall gets another house on the block — from Mizzou

By Jacob Carpenter

Post-Dispatch Washington Bureau

About 50 Missouri college students built a self-sustaining house from scratch for the U.S. Solar Decathlon this month in Washington DC.

WASHINGTON — If members of Congress needed a lesson this month in reducing waste, they've only needed to look in Capitol Hill's backyard.

That's where college students from across the world — including a team of 50 from Missouri — have built 20 futuristic, solar panel-powered houses on the Smithsonian lawn for the **U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon**.

The **Show-Me Solar Team**, comprised of about 35 **Missouri University of Science & Technology** students and 15 from the **University of Missouri**, has been showing off its 800-square foot home to tens of thousands of tourists and undergoing three weeks of rigorous judging since the beginning of October.

The students spent thousands of hours in the past two years to build the self-sustaining home from scratch in Missouri. The house includes such environmentally friendly features as 40 solar panels on the roof, wood siding taken from a dilapidated Missouri barn and closet doors crafted from compressed weeds.

As required by rules, the house is designed to fit the needs of a retired couple. But traditional retirees beware — this home could impress even the most technologically savvy Gen X-er.

It features an automation system that controls the windows, lighting, house-wide sound system and the washer and dryer, among other appliances, from wall consoles. There's also a two-way bathroom mirror which can project stock reports and sports scores while you floss your teeth. Not to mention a 55-inch back-lit LED television, which the Missourians boast is the largest among the 20 teams. With a half-million-dollar budget bankrolled by companies and private donors, the list goes on.

The Show-Me Solar Team's competition includes large universities (**Ohio State**, **Penn State** and **Virginia Tech**), smaller schools (**Wisconsin-Milwaukee** and **Rice**) and even foreign

countries (**Germany** and **Puerto Rico**). Currently, the Show-Me Solar Team stands in ninth place with two days of competition remaining.

"Some of these teams have their whole country behind them — like Germany, whose house is covered with solar panels — so it's humbling to know we are near the same level," said **Andrew Adams**, a Missouri University of Science & Technology senior who helped design and build the house.

After the competition ends Friday, the house will be packed up, driven back to Missouri and placed in the Missouri University of Science & Technology solar village, where all four houses built for the project will stay. One lucky student will be chosen to spend the next year living in the house (but don't expect that 55-inch TV to still be there).

Despite missing nearly a month of classes while in Washington, the students are getting a hands-on education that can't be matched, Adams said.

"I've learned more working on this project in six months than I could learn in two years in the classroom," he said.

Tags: Andrew Adams, Germany, Missouri University of Science & Technology, Ohio State, Penn State, Puerto Rico, rice, Show-Me Solar Team, Solar Decathlon, U.S. Department of Energy, university of missouri, Virginia Tech, Wisconsin-Milwaukee



Buck's marks 20 years

Ice cream social set for tomorrow.

By Janese Heavin

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

No need to scream, there'll be enough ice cream for everybody tomorrow.

Buck's Ice Cream Place on the University of Missouri campus is celebrating its 20th anniversary with — what else? — an ice cream social. The event begins at 3 p.m. with ice cream-making demonstrations before attendees can dig in to any of the shop's 15 flavors.

Buck's opened in 1989 with a gift from Wendell "Buck" Arbuckle, an MU graduate who went on to become an ice cream researcher at the University of Maryland, a consultant for Baskin Robbins and, later, the owner of an ice cream shop in Columbia.

Buck's was new to campus in name, but the opening really marked a resurrection of MU's dairy facility, which included a shop that sold ice cream, cheese and other dairy products. That plant had been in Eckles Hall for some 50 years before closing in the early 1970s, according to historical information compiled by Randy Mertens, coordinator of publications for the MU dean of agriculture.

Like its predecessor, Buck's serves as a research lab for food science faculty and students, Manager Rick Linhardt said. That research is as relevant today as it was decades ago, although the emphasis has changed with the times. These days, students and researchers are finding ways to replace the fat in ice cream with healthier substances without losing the flavor.

But don't worry; researchers only use approved food ingredients, and everything manufactured is safe and pasteurized, Linhardt said. And products are tested for quality and taste before they're added to the menu.

That research has led to some unique flavors. At the 1989 opening of Buck's, students sampled flavors such as grass and sweet potato. Today, seasonal flavors such as pumpkin pie, eggnog and peppermint keep frozen treats popular even in the cooler months.

Of course, Tiger Stripe — the gold-colored vanilla ice cream striped with dark chocolate created in 1992 — remains the most requested Buck's flavor.

"It's the most popular, just with the name and coloring," Linhardt said. "All of that resonates."

Mo. gov backs health education programs expansion

By: The Associated Press | 14 Oct 2009 | 05:12 PM ET

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ST. LOUIS - At a time when Missouri is grappling with 9.5 percent unemployment, Gov. Jay Nixon highlighted a new program Wednesday to train more health care professionals.

About 470 future medical professionals will train at four-year schools through the "Caring for Missourians" program, he said. Hundreds more will be able to study at two-year schools.

The program won't be an overnight cure for the high levels of people without jobs, but Nixon said the state is seeking to fund training in good-paying fields in need of employees.

"We know doctors' offices, clinics and hospitals are still hiring, often as quickly as they can," he said at a news conference at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. "The demand for health services is increasing every day."

"Caring for Missourians" is being paid for with \$40 million from federal economic stimulus money, which had initially given some institutions pause about committing to the effort when they weren't sure about future dollars. Nixon said he believes "Caring for Missourians" is going well, and he thinks a strong argument can be made to the legislature to fund the effort in the future.

The College of Optometry's dean, Larry Davis, said the school hadn't needed to debate how to use its share of the money, saying it will help pay for scholarships, new technology in labs and clinics and more teaching time. He said typically the program, which is the only optometry college in the state, graduates about 40

students. The university hopes to boost the number of graduates to 44. The public university has long-term hopes for a new \$70 million building for optometry and nursing to additionally expand those programs.

Nixon said the school for eye doctors will add four students over the next four years with the money, to train an additional 16 people. The St. Louis school will add 31 spots for students in beginning or advanced nursing.

Another 253 nursing degree spaces will be available at the University of Missouri-Columbia, Lincoln University, Missouri State University, Missouri Western State University, Southeast Missouri State University, Northwest Missouri State University, University of Central Missouri, Truman State University and the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Those schools — along with Harris-Stowe State University, Missouri Southern State University and the Missouri University of Science & Technology — will also train more students in other health care fields.

The funds will allow for more new doctors, dentists and therapists, as well as more to train in pharmacy, cardiology, communication disorders and medical technicians. Nixon said of 471 new spots total, 118 will become permanent program expansions.

Optometry student Stephen Purdy, 28, who lives in the St. Louis suburb of Florissant, said he believes the funds can provide a boost to medical training in Missouri, which should lead to health care improvements. "If more primary care health professionals are available, it'll make access to health care more affordable and accessible," he said.

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Missouri universities, colleges get \$33.5 million for health education

No MU Mention

By The Associated Press

October 14, 2009 | 11:05 a.m. CDT

ST. LOUIS — Missouri Gov. Jay **Nixon is visiting the University of Missouri-St. Louis** on Wednesday to discuss a program designed to expand health education programs at public universities.

The program uses \$33.5 million from the federal stimulus package to give the schools a one-time budget boost for the health care programs. The state's 10 universities and Linn State Technical College are participating.

The extra money doesn't have to be used for the health education program, and several schools initially said they would use the funds for other needs. Since then, all the schools have pledged to use the money for health education after encouragement from Nixon's office.

MU students put homelessness on display

Fundraiser uses mall on campus.



Photo by Don Shrubshell

University of Missouri student Jason Lane, left, drives a nail into a board Tuesday as Jack Campbell describes spending the past two nights in a cardboard box on MU's Lowry Mall in a Mizzou Habitat for Humanity fundraiser and homelessness demonstration. Passers-by who donate \$1 are offered the chance to drive a nail with one blow into a 2-by-4 for a prize T-shirt.

By Janese Heavin

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

They know it's not exactly authentic — after all, they're well fed and equipped with laptops and cell phones — but several University of Missouri students this week are trying to see what it's like to be homeless.

It's part of a simulation aimed at raising awareness about homelessness and money for the Mizzou chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

For six days, four members of the club at MU are spending the night in cardboard boxes on Lowry Mall, pledging to leave the site only to attend classes and to eat food only from passers-by.

"This makes it visible," said Jack Campbell, a junior majoring in biology and Spanish. "People see the boxes and ask about it."

The group hopes to raise \$5,000 before they pack up on Friday afternoon, using various games and gimmicks to garner donations. Yesterday students could pay a buck to swing a hammer for a chance to win a T-shirt by driving a nail into a piece of wood with one strike.

The money will be added to the roughly \$17,000 that has been raised by the chapter over the past few years. Mizzou Habitat for Humanity ultimately hopes to raise \$40,000 to build a new home in the community.

The mock homeless camp has grabbed more than attention. It has also attracted new participants, said McClain Thompson, a junior journalism major from Columbia. Some students have been so moved by the display that they've brought their own boxes and sleeping bags to participate.

"That's been the coolest part — getting other people to join us," Thompson said.

Jason Lane, a junior from St. Louis, decided to participate after seeing an e-mail about the event. While he admitted the exercise lets him challenge his own survival skills, it's also personal: Lane has personally known people who live out of their cars.

"I have a lot of compassion for homeless people," he said. "This seemed like a neat thing to be a part of."

Even though winds and rains have made for some miserable days and nights, members of the group yesterday said they're doing OK. Layers of clothes and blankets keep them warm overnight, and friends and strangers have brought them plenty of fast food, hot chocolate and fruit from residence halls. Two nights ago, a stranger brought them a delivery pizza, which prompted a discussion among the group.

"We talk about our experiences," Lane said. "Like I wonder if" the student who brought the pizza "would actually walk up to a homeless person with a pizza. We're probably treated a little differently."

Campbell said he'll be more apt to donate food and blankets to the homeless in the future.

"I've learned that you can make it with minimal material possessions," he said, "but it's not easy, and it's not pleasant, and it takes a lot of help."

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Mock trial at MU highlights controversial history of John Brown

By [Nancy Stiles](#)

October 15, 2009 | 12:01 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Under the cover of darkness on a spring night in 1856, a father and two sons were dragged from their cabin in Pottawatomie Creek, Kan., and slashed to death with broadswords.

The alleged murderers, abolitionist John Brown and his followers, broke into two more cabins and killed two more men. All five were proslavery Southerners, but they were not actively resisting or attacking the insurrectionists.

“That’s something for which Brown was never tried. No one was successfully tried, or really tried at all,” said MU Law Professor Frank Bowman, faculty sponsor of the Historical and Theatrical Trial Society.

The MU student organization is staging a fictional trial of John Brown on Thursday night at the Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts.

“The idea was to have a historical trial about an event that might have happened but never did,” Bowman said.

Brown is perhaps most famous for his 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry, Va., three years after the Pottawatomie Massacre, when he attempted to lead an armed slave rebellion. U.S. Marines led by Robert E. Lee suppressed the revolt, and Brown was subsequently tried and hanged for treason. Friday is the 150th anniversary of the raid.

“Pottawatomie Creek has always been sort of a black mark on his record, if you will,” he said. “Those people who think of (Brown) as being an antislavery hero, something of a martyr for what happened at Harpers Ferry, have to contend with the fact that he had committed what certainly appear to be some fairly brutal killings.”

Bowman said the trial intends to raise questions about heroes, terrorism and the merits of those who advocate violence in the pursuit of righteous causes.

He said the trial will also show what Columbia was like in 1857.

"This was really the heart of slave country in Missouri. Almost all of the prominent people in this community were slaveholders," Bowman said.

The MU president from at the time of the deaths, James Shannon, was a Disciples of Christ preacher who vehemently defended slavery.

"One of the things that'll turn up in the trial is that he was so rabidly proslavery, he actually encouraged Missouri students to put down their studies and go invade Kansas to suppress the abolitionists," Bowman said. "So this was a very different place in every kind of way."

Trial Director Carolyn Hamilton spent the past six months researching Brown and the murders to make the witness and exhibit lists and to cast the characters.

"I just tried to think of who might fit the image of the person I'd been thinking about, and luckily most of them said yes," Hamilton said.

"This isn't canned," Bowman explained. "It's not scripted; we just try it. So it's completely live. Nobody knows what's going to happen."

Cape Girardeau attorney Morley Swingle and MU law student Justin Smith will be prosecuting Brown with Judge Deanell Reece Tacha of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals presiding.

The jury is made of people from the community, including a Rock Bridge High School teacher, a newspaper columnist and the regional officer of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

"This is probably a lot closer to a real trial than it is to a play," Smith said. "I think the theater element is very interesting, so I think it's going to be very exciting and entertaining to watch."

The trial society was founded four years ago by Steve Easton, a former MU Law School professor, and a group of law students.

Past trials have included the theft of a Native American's canoe by Lewis and Clark and the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. Two years ago, the society "tried" former Missouri Gov. Thomas Crittenden, accused of putting a bounty on the head of outlaw Jesse James.

"The Jesse James case had a lot of interesting and surprising political resonance," Bowman said. "This was during the Bush administration— what you had (with Crittenden) was a governor who was unsatisfied with the ordinary course of law enforcement and essentially hires or arranges to have private people arguably shoot James."

John Brown's trial is being presented in conjunction with a regional meeting of the Mid-America Association of Law Librarians, hosted by MU Law Library director Randy Diamond.

"I don't want to say it's going to be fun because it's a darker subject matter with five murders," said MU law student Lindsey Laws, "but it's entertaining." Laws is the defense co-counsel along with Bowman, who is playing the lead defense attorney.

"Anyone who's been a trial lawyer any time at all will tell you there's an intimate relationship between trial and theater," Bowman said. "That's why I was a trial lawyer for a long time — because it is a form of theater."