

MISSOURIAN

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Study: Transit funds to draw from poor households

A city proposal for a transportation utility fee added to bills could have an adverse effect

By MEGHAN ELDRIDGE
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One of the city's funding options for expanding Columbia Transit would disproportionately affect Columbia's poorest, according to a report presented to the Board of Health at Thursday's meeting.

Columbia City Council members began considering a variety of funding options in January 2013 to pay for an expansion of the bus system over the next year through a program called CoMO Connect. Options for funding include a \$10-per-month fee increase in city-owned parking lots and garages and a potential transportation utility fee.

The study assessing the effects of a utility fee, which would add a \$2 to \$4 fee to private residents' and commercial properties' monthly utility

bills, was conducted between February and May 2013. The report's findings were published in August and presented to the council Aug. 19.

The assessment was the second conducted by the Health Department in partnership with the PedNet Coalition and Central Missouri Community Action to evaluate Columbia Transit since 2011. The first report determined the bus system needs extended hours of operation, improved routes and shorter wait times — all of which would benefit

community health.

The study found that the fee would have negative effects on low- and fixed-income households by constraining disposable income. The possible negative effects of a fee for bus service, according to the study, are:

- Limit the ability for some households to pay for stable and affordable housing.
- Less health care access and use.
- Increase physical and mental stress for people already living on a

limited income.

- Increase the level of food insecurity, defined by the Department of Agriculture as the inability to afford enough food for an active and healthy life.

"The added expenses would disproportionately burden low- or fixed-income households," said Lisa Goldschmidt, comment coordinator for the study.

The proposed utility fee would

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STRENGTH IN ASHLAND



The Southern Boone High School marching band gathers together holding hands before their performance on Friday. Band director Andrew Marjamaa told his students how proud he was of them for their unity and support they showed for one another over the past week.

FAREEHA AMIR/Missourian

Sadness, silence, music

Southern Boone's marching band honors a late member the only way it knows how

By SETH BOSTER
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ASHLAND — The friends of Jacob Meadows knew this was something they needed to do.

Halftime approached Friday night during Southern Boone's home football game, and the 30 members of the school's marching band were ready now. Meadows, their friend and saxophonist, had taken his own life earlier in the week.

The week was behind them now, and they were ready to take the field.

But before they did, they stood in a circle

and held hands. Their director, Andrew Marjamaa, stood inside of it, rotating to look at them all. He spoke slowly.

"I'd like you to take a moment to bow your heads," he told them. "And I want you take in the silence."

The game was going on, and there was the cheering from the bleachers. But really there was only this moment. And in this moment, there were only clasped hands and soft whimpers and tears.

"It's been a hard week," Marjamaa reminded them. He took a long pause. "A really hard week."

Tuesday morning had broken over their town and brought the news. Cameron McGeorge, a Southern Boone



Members of the Southern Boone High School marching band wore yellow suicide prevention arm bands during their performance at the football game against Osage High School on Friday.

FAREEHA AMIR/Missourian

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Council will settle energy efficiency dispute

City officials will have a chance to accept or amend proposed changes on Monday

By NASSIM BENCHAAABANE
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Two city panels, the Building Construction Codes Commission and the Environment and Energy Commission, don't see eye-to-eye over energy efficiency requirements, and the City Council will have a chance to weigh in Monday night.

The council will debate the costs and benefits of higher energy efficiency standards at Monday's meeting before voting on proposed updates to construction requirements for homes. The proposal, submitted by the city's Building Construction Codes Commission, would bring most city construction requirements in line with current standards set by the International Code Council, an association that drafts building safeguards used by city governments throughout the U.S. and federal agencies like the Department of Defense.

The debate concerns the energy efficiency portion of the commission's proposal, which does not recommend adopting the code council's 2012 energy efficiency standards in full. That portion specifies requirements for areas including lighting, programmable thermostats, ventilation and insulation.

"The issue that remains is 'What is the rational payback for spending several thousand dollars more on a house, and how soon should you see that money back?'"

PHIL TEEPLE
Building regulations supervisor

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Chrome and Bacon car show revs up and sizzles

More than 85 autos and motorcycles were entered in the show

By JORDON SHULTZ
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Columbia's car show scene is starting to take on a different look as more participants showcase their souped-up daily drivers.

The second annual Chrome and Bacon motorcycle and classic car show was held Saturday at the Woodcrest Chapel parking lot on West Nifong Boulevard. Chrome and Bacon is hosted by the Woodcrest Chapel men's ministry and began in June 2012.

"We moved this year's show into the fall to generate more interest and participation," ministry coordinator Hartley Wright said. "We wanted to build on what we started last year."

The strategy definitely worked, as there were far more registered cars and spectators than during the ministry's inaugural show last year, Wright said.

Wright came up with Chrome and Bacon's unique name to differentiate it from Columbia's other annual car shows and draw more participants.

"Cars and bikes have the chrome, and all of our food is served with bacon," Wright said. "As you know, it's very hard to

find a guy that doesn't respond to bacon."

More than 85 cars and motorcycles were entered in the show, ranging from trailer queens to daily drivers. If anything, the event serves to show spectators that participating in car shows doesn't have to be a high-dollar operation; they just need to have a passion for cars and bring something unique.

The Danger Ranger Chris Patterson, of Columbia, entered a moderately stock appearing 1996 Ford Ranger pickup in the show. Traditional automotive enthusiasts likely

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Visitors look over a 1934 Ford three-window coupe at the Chrome and Bacon car show at Woodcrest Chapel on Saturday. The coupe's 512-cubic-inch big-block Chevrolet engine produces about 1,800 horsepower.

JOEY UKROP
Missourian

UM CURATORS

The University of Missouri System Board of Curators' meeting Friday included discussions on bolstering revenue, increasing enrollment, focusing on research, and recruiting and maintaining faculty. **Page 3A**

RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

At the Boster Castle near Kingdom City, dozens of tents lined the walls as actors, singers and magicians entertained visitors. **Page 8A**

FROM READERS

Amy Pope's daughter, Nola, suffers from a slew of food allergies. She has formed a support group in which parents in similar situations can share recipes and lean on one another. **Page 5A**

TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Partly sunny.
Temp: 84°
Tonight: Mostly cloudy.
Temp: 60°
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