



### From the Desk of... Senator Chuck Graham

Fall 2007

Dear Friends,

As your state senator, communicating with the citizens of Boone and Randolph counties is one of the most important aspects of my job. This newsletter helps accomplish that goal.

A summary of actions during the last regular session and an update about the recent special session are included in this report. As is usually the case, both good and bad legislation was considered during the Senate's sessions. I always work to get positive legislation approved. At other times, however, I tried to defeat bills that would have harmed Missouri citizens and local institutions such as the University of Missouri. It's not always easy to be a state senator, but I never back down from representing my constituents and trying to do what is right.

This newsletter includes contact information for my office and other state government agencies. There are also pictorial features on local citizens who are on state boards and area students who excelled in academics and athletics.

Being elected to serve as your state senator is truly an honor. Representing the 165,000 citizens of Boone and Randolph counties is an awesome responsibility, and it's one I take seriously every day. Thank you for letting me be your voice in Jefferson City.

Sincerely,

#### Senator STAFF Graham's STAFF

Senator Graham (center) is shown here with his staff from the 2007 session. From left to right are David Zobel, a University of Missouri student; Bev Nilges, legislative assistant; Chief of Staff Ted Farnen; and Tom Pauley of Hallsville.

To contact the Senator's office, call (573) 751-2162 or e-mail **chuck.graham@senate.mo.gov** 



## Gubernatorial Appointments

Many citizens from Boone and Randolph counties selflessly devote their time as state employees or volunteers on various boards and commissions. Some of these positions are appointed by the governor and then approved by the Senate. Senator Graham supported the nominations of several outstanding members of the community, and they are shown below with the senator when they appeared before the Gubernatorial Appointments Committee.



**Bo Fraser** is one of the newest members of the University of Missouri Board of Curators, and his nomination was sponsored by Sen. Graham.



Sen. Graham was proud to sponsor the appointment of **Ed Baker** as a member of the University of Central Missouri Board of Governors.



**Jane Drummond** officially became the new director of the Department of Health & Senior Services after her nomination was approved by the Missouri Senate.



Looking after the best interests of children is the top priority of **Stacey Owsley** and the Coordinating Board for Early Childhood.



**Laura Neal** helps regulate policy recommendations for some of Missouri's hardest-working employees as a member of the State Committee for Social Workers.



**Dr. Cheryl Cozette** provides invaluable experience on education issues as a member of the Truman State University Board of Governors.

# Legislative Wrap-Up

The 2007 session of the Missouri Senate was a challenging one. Below is a summary of what happened during the regular session and the special session that ended August 29.

The state's **\$21.5** billion budget, which went into effect July 1, contained several positive items for Missouri citizens. There are increases for all levels of education, and there is a 3 percent pay increase for state employees. There also is a big boost for alternative energy production for products like ethanol and biodiesel.

**Senate Bill 577**, which makes some changes in Missouri's Medicaid program, passed on the final day of the session (May 18) after some tense negotiations.

One of the changes is in the name of the program, which will now be known as "MO HealthNet." There were a few individual good provisions in the bill, and a small amount of the people affected by the 2005 health care cuts will have some of their services restored. But the bill made the 2005 cuts permanent for most of those affected, and that is unacceptable.

Many people are struggling to afford health care insurance, and this bill makes it impossible for many to ever have access to quality health care.

Another bill (**House Bill 818**) that dealt with health care was approved. The bill authorizes tax credits for people who purchase their own health insurance. There was controversy surrounding the bill after another senator deceived the Legislature and added a totally unrelated subject to the bill. The courts, however, have so far ruled that the deceptive section is unconstitutional, so that provision of the bill is unlikely to become law.

Senate Bill 389, which was known as the "MOHELA bill," also passed. While it funds some worthy programs, the bill was not clearly thought out. The bill takes money from the state's primary student loan authority, and it is not clear what the long-term implications of that move will be. The bill's handlers also tried to punish the University of Missouri by trying to dictate what academic researchers could study by stripping money out of the bill for a new cancer hospital and by interfering with the university's ability to govern itself.

Two bills that were approved pursue laudable goals, but the fiscal cost to the state raises some concerns. One bill (**HB 444**) exempts more citizens from having to pay income tax on their Social Security benefits and also gives tax breaks to pensioners who have opted

out of the Social Security system. Another bill (**HB 327**) included a large number of tax credits for businesses and a variety of other purposes. This bill was vetoed and reconsidered during a special session that began in late August. A stripped-down, less costly version of the bill was approved, but some of the individual provisions remain troubling.

Other noteworthy bills that passed included: **SB 62**, which clarifies when people can use deadly force to defend themselves; **HB 952**, which updates laws concerning fire alarms and sprinkler systems in nursing homes and assisted-living facilities; **HB 583**, which toughens the state's domestic violence laws;

and **SB 284**, which makes it easier for telephone companies to offer video services to compete with cable companies.

During a typical session, most bills die, and this year was no different. Many bills deserved their deaths. **SB 364** would have stripped local governments' rights to make environmental and

pollution laws. **HB 265** would have diverted public tax dollars to private schools. **House Joint Resolution 1** would have placed a measure on the ballot that could have compromised the judicial branch's ability to make judgments on public laws. Another resolution, **HJR 11**, would have made Missouri replay the whole divisive stem cell election of 2006.

Some bills that died, however, should have been passed. **SB 49** would have restricted many of those annoying automated phone calls and expanded the state's no-call list to cellular phones and fax machines. **SB 255** would have corrected a glitch in the state's new minimum wage law. The Senate passed this important legislation early in the session, but it was held up in the House for blatantly political reasons. This inaction will cost many law enforcement agencies a great deal of money in extra overtime pay.

The session ended on several sour notes. Besides the deception that I've already mentioned, debate was shut off on several important issues for purely partisan reasons. The inability of the legislative leadership to work with all members of the Legislature could result in poor working relationships during the 2008 session and beyond.

If you'd like to learn more about any of the bills mentioned in this report, you can go to the Senate's website at <a href="https://www.senate.mo.gov">www.senate.mo.gov</a> or the House's website at <a href="https://www.house.mo.gov">www.house.mo.gov</a>.





# Senator LEGISLATION Graham's LEGISLATION

During the 2007 session, I was able to advance several measures that will help (or would have helped) the citizens of the 19<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District.

One piece of legislation I sponsored was Senate Bill 470, which later passed as an amendment to **House Bill 327.** This provision would have helped raise money for the preservation of Civil War battle sites and other historic areas associated with the era. Contributors to eligible groups would have been able to receive a 50 percent tax credit on their state taxes, which would have been a big help in raising money for these preservation efforts. The bill, however, was vetoed by the governor (see Page 4 of this newsletter for more details on that bill), and the veto was not overridden.

Two other pieces of legislation I was involved with were part of **Senate Bill 22**. I originally sponsored SB 218, but later added it as an amendment to SB 22. This

measure allows for the creation of a regional recreation district on land that is owned by the county. Such districts were already a part of state law, but it required that seven people who live in the district be on the district's board of directors. My amendment allows the county commission to control the district's funds in situations where there are not enough people who live on the property to fill the board positions. A regional recreation district could potentially be established on the Boone County Fairgrounds and provide a source of funds for the fairgrounds.

I also added an amendment to SB 22 that adds Boone County and the City of Columbia to a list of areas eligible to establish a Theater, Cultural Arts & Entertainment District. Downtown Columbia ("The District") is currently reviewing many options about its future, and the creation of such a district could be one part of a future plan.

Sen. Graham was on hand May 5th for the 10th anniversary and family reunion for Boone Hospital Center's Intensive Care Nursery. He is shown here presenting a resolution to Marlee Walz, the center's director of Women's and Children's Health. The nursery staff has treated more than 1,200 babies, ensuring the good health of newborn children who need extra care.



#### Why Wait in Line?

Did you know many people can renew their license plates without having to go to a Department of Revenue fee office? Just get on the Internet and go to <a href="https://www.plates.mo.gov">www.plates.mo.gov</a>. This is the Missouri Online Registration Exchange (MORE).

To be prepared, here are the items you'll need when renewing your license plate online: the renewal notice you received in the mail, your paid personal property tax receipt(s), your vehicle insurance card and a filled-out safety inspection certificate (if applicable). You can pay with a major credit card or by using E-checks. This site *can't* be used for renewal of driver's licenses, specialty license plates (like vanity plates or MU plates), boat registrations or disabled placards.

Any questions? Call the Department of Revenue at (573) 751-4509.







## Senator PHOTOS Graham's PHOTOS

The 19th Senatorial District is home to many students who have excelled in the classroom, on the playing field and in extracurricular competitions. Sen. Graham invited these champions to the Capitol in Jefferson City and was proud to recognize them for their achievements.



**Nick Adcock**, (center) won the gold medal in the decathlon at the U.S. Track & Field championships. He is a student at the University of Missouri, and his coach, **Dan Lefever,** is shown on the left.



Mason Murray, a sixth grader at Columbia Catholic School, won the Pitch, Hit & Run contest at Busch Stadium in St. Louis and competed at the Major League All-Star Game in San Francisco.



Roscoe Robinson (second from right), a junior at Westran High School, won the long jump title at the state track championships. Also pictured, from left to right, are Coach Mike Keeney, Willie B. Robinson, Sen. **Graham** and **Dimple** Robinson.

Lauren
Borduin
of Rock Bridge
High School
won a state track
championship
in the 1600
meter race and
won her second
consecutive
state
championship
in the 800
meter race.





Members of the Hickman High School Knowledge Master Team won the state Quiz Bowl championship and also did well at the national competition. They are shown here with their faculty sponsor, Darci Humphrey (third from right).



The Daniel Boone National All-Stars Team from Columbia won the Missouri 10 & Under Little League Championship this past summer.



**Tyler Cuppy**, of Hallsville, receives a resolution from Sen. Graham for being named "Top Cowboy" and for being part of the championship roping team at this past summer's Missouri State High School Finals Rodeo. His parents, Darrell and **Debbie**, are pictured respectively on the left and right.



**Champion Spellers** from across Boone and Randolph counties were treated to a day of recognition at the Capitol. All the honorees won a spelling bee at their respective schools.



**Brooks Yang,** center, was named Missouri's female presidential scholar, the first ever in Rock Bridge High School history. She is now attending Princeton University. Her mother, **Nancy Yang**, is on the left.



The wrestling traditions of the Pescaglia family continued when **K.C. Pescaglia**, a Hickman High School student, won a state championship in his weight class. His father, **Bucky**, and his mother, **Cyndi**, are at left and right respectively.



The University of Missouri Wrestling Team placed third in the nation — its best finish ever — at the NCAA championships. The team had one national champion, Ben Askren, and two All-Americans.



The Rock Bridge Bruin Dance Squad won a national championship in the "jazz/dance" category at the National Dance Alliance Championships in Orlando, Florida.

#### State Officials Contact Information

Unless otherwise noted, the mailing address for the following officials is: State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Avenue, Jefferson City, MO 65101

Governor Matt Blunt(573)	751-3222
Lt. Governor Peter Kinder(573)	
Secretary of State Robin Carnahan(573)	
State Auditor Susan Montee(573)	
State Treasurer Sarah Steelman(573)	
Attorney General Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon(573)	
Supreme Court Building, 207 W. High Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101	
State Senator Chuck Graham(573)	751-2162
State Representative Paul Quinn (District 9)(573)	751-4028
State Representative Steve Hobbs (District 21)(573)	
State Representative Therese Sander (District 22)(573)	751-6566
State Representative Jeff Harris (District 23)(573)	
State Representative Ed Robb (District 24)(573)	751-1471
State Representative Judy Baker (District 25)(573)	
State Capitol Tours(573)	751-2854

### State Departments

Department of Agriculture P.O. Box 630, Jefferson City, MO 65102(573)	751-4211
Department of Conservation P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102(573)	751-4115
Department of Corrections P.O. Box 236, Jefferson City, MO 65102(573)	751-2389
Department of Economic Development P.O. Box 1157, Jefferson City, MO 65102(573)	751-4962
Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102(573)	751-4212
Department of Health & Senior Services P.O. Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102(573)	751-6400
Department of Higher Education 3515 Amazonas Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65109(573)	
Dept. of Insurance, Financial Institutions & Prof. Registration P.O. Box 690, Jefferson City, MO 65102 (573)	751-4126
Dept. of Labor & Industrial Relations 3315 W. Truman Blvd., Jefferson City, MO 65109(573)	
Department of Mental Health P.O. Box 687, 1706 E. Elm, Jefferson City, MO 65102(573)	751-4122
Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102(573)	751-3443
Department of Public Safety P.O. Box 749, Jefferson City, MO 65102(573)	751-4905
Department of Revenue P.O. Box 311, Jefferson City, MO 65105(573)	
Department of Social Services P.O. Box 1527, Jefferson City, MO 65102(573)	751-4815
Department of Transportation P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102(573)	751-2551

All departments can be accessed through Missouri's state government home page at www.mo.gov

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