Nixon and lawmakers see their rift widen

GOP stands more united
As seats become more secure, Legislature pushes its pro-business agenda.

Firing back
Governor drops cautious demeanor that first term, sharply criticizes bills.

BY VIRGINIA YOUNG
vyoung@post-dispatch.com • 314-340-8133

JEFFERSON CITY — Gov. Jay Nixon’s rocky relationship with the Republican-led Missouri General Assembly got rougher this legislative session. Nixon acknowledged an income tax cut over the Democratic governor’s veto, ditched his program to expand Medicaid and insisted that students in unaccredited districts have an option to go to private schools, despite his party’s opposition. He also ignored his call for campaign contribution limits and, for the fifth year, brushed aside his call for tax credit reform. On top of that, they held hearings to impeach him.

Thirty minutes after they adjourned on Friday, Nixon shot back. Eight bills that passed in the final eight hours of the legislative session would hand out special tax breaks that could cost the state treasury between $263 million and $483 million and bust the budget, he said.

Nixon said it was Congress that would hand out special tax breaks that could cost the state treasury between $263 million and $483 million and bust the budget, he said. "We’re just going to have to live with it," he said.

Gorging themselves to greatness

Nathan’s eating contest here comes down to half a hot dog.

BY DANIEL NEMAN
dneman@post-dispatch.com • 314-340-8133

Ten thousand hot dogs were eaten Saturday at Busch Stadium. About 14,000 hot dogs, give or take a few, were eaten at the annual Fourth of July International Hot Dog Eating Contest, held at the Nathan’s Famous hot dog stand at Coney Island in New York.

Contest, held at the Nathan’s Famous hot dog stand at Coney Island in New York.

DAN CLARENCE JONES/DN

Good enough to send him on to the annual Fourth of July International Hot Dog Eating Contest, held at the Nathan’s Famous hot dog stand at Coney Island in New York.

In 10 minutes at Busch Stadium on Saturday.

Here’s a snapshot of the $2 lowest-rated schools in the area.

BY ALISA CROUCH
acrouch@post-dispatch.com • 314-340-8169

Real Story has seen the effects of poverty rise in the Riverbottom Gardens School District in the 15 years he’s been a counselor there. And he believes it has hurt student success.

“Exhaustion,” he said, ticking off the circumstances that confront people daily at Glasgow Elementary School. First-graders with post-traumatic stress disorder. Children whose families have faced multiple evictions. “Sometimes the parents aren’t there at night,” he continued, “I did have visits last month. There were 16 people in that home.” They are the trappings of poverty. And where poverty is found, so too is academic struggle.

The correlation between high-poverty schools and low academic achievement sounds obvious, and it is well documented over decades. But as Missouri has led perhaps its deepest conversation to date about the state of its failing schools, the connection between poverty and performance has never been so plain.

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THE GRADE DIVIDE

Across our region, children from poor households struggle academically most everywhere they are found.

Here are a snapshot of the $2 lowest-rated schools in the area...

叹 Compare with 387 schools rated as fully accredited

37% of students who receive free/reduced lunch pass state math exams

68% of all other students pass state math exams

And where poverty is concentrated, academic failure is pervasive.

BY STEPHANIE B. CONNOLLY
sconnolly@post-dispatch.com

Kindergartner Mackayla James points recently to a word posted in her classroom at Glasgow Elementary School in the unaccredited Riverbottom Gardens School District.

Here’s a snapshot of the $2 lowest-rated schools in the area...

叹 Compared with 387 schools rated as fully accredited

35.7% of students receive free/reduced lunch

27.6% of students are minorities

60.2% of students are proficient in math

3.99% to 4.99%

First Bank will advertise an introductory APR as low as 3.99% to 4.99%. The APR will remain in effect for six months after loan origination. After this, the APR will be 3.99% to 4.99%. The APR is discounted and is based on Prime minus 1.26%. The rate is subject to change.

For complete information, see your line of credit agreement. Applicant’s credit score. As of February 12, 2014, the APR ranges from 3.99% to 4.99%. Applicant’s credit score.

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