

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

# News Tribune



\$1.25

TUESDAY  
JANUARY 31, 2023

VOL. 157, NO. 284

WWW.NEWSTRIBUNE.COM

## Senator touts job bill

Unions call bill that would reduce jobless benefits 'short-sighted'

By Ryan Pivoney  
[rpivoney@newstribune.com](mailto:rpivoney@newstribune.com)

A bill working its way through the Missouri Legislature would reduce the number of weeks unemployed workers can claim benefits. The state's largest union labor organization is taking notice.

"I think it's very short-sighted legislation that's going to hurt the average Missourian at a time when they're most vulnerable in their lives," said Missouri AFL-CIO President Jake Hummel.

Sen. Mike Bernskoetter, R-Jefferson City, is carrying legislation in the Missouri Senate to bring the minimum number of weeks the state would pay unemployment benefits from 13 to eight and tie the duration an unemployed worker could draw down benefits to the state's average unemployment rate. The bill, SB 21, received a committee hearing Jan. 25 but hasn't moved from there.

"Businesses and employers have expressed to us that it's becoming impossible to find employees," Bernskoetter testified while presenting his bill. "I think everybody knows that."

He said local businesses have reported that one or two employees are showing up for work or that employees will only work for a day or two before going back to receiving unemployment benefits.

"I know personally I've had troubles trying to find employees," added Bernskoetter, who has owned and operated Art's Pest Control in Jefferson City since 1986. Despite increasing wages from \$15 to \$18-\$20 per hour, he said he can't find people to work.

Bernskoetter said research indicates people wait until the last few weeks of unemployment benefits to begin job searches. If the state makes benefits available for a shorter span of time, he said, unemployed workers will look for jobs faster.

"I don't think the unemploy-



Julie Smith/News Tribune

## Sing-a-long celebration

ABOVE: Immaculate Conception School kicked off Catholic Schools Week with a performance Monday by Shannon Cerneka of Oddwalk Ministries in front of the student body during an assembly in the gymnasium. Cerneka, who serves a number of roles at St. Peter's in Fulton, brought out the participation of the students, who sang along to the lyrics. Local Catholic schools have activities planned for the week to celebrate their faith and the ability to be educated in that environment. BELOW: Students interact with Cerneka during the afternoon performance that featured songs with a message and involvement with physical gestures.



## Lincoln creating transfer agreements to better retention

By Ryan Pivoney  
[rpivoney@newstribune.com](mailto:rpivoney@newstribune.com)

Lincoln University is establishing pathways for students at two-year colleges to get four-year degrees.

And the model is expected to set Lincoln on a course for better enrollment and retention figures, LU President John Moseley said.

"With where enrollment is, we have seats in upper-division courses that fit suitably with transfers," Moseley said. "So students could come in directly into their major after having completed their general college requirements."

Lincoln formalized its latest agreement Monday with College of Lake County in Illinois. The LU-CLC Guaranteed Admission Program provides students an opportunity to enroll at Lincoln upon meeting certain criteria at College of Lake County, such as specific coursework and a minimum number of transferable credit hours. Admitted students are given Lincoln's Connection Scholarship, which reduces tuition to the rate Missouri students pay.

"College of Lake County is committed to ensuring access to high quality higher education that is affordable and culturally relevant," CLC President Lori Suddick said in a statement. "Through the Guaranteed Admission Program with Lincoln University, affordable paths to a bachelor's degree to sup-

port a student's ongoing academic achievement and personal growth are achieved. We appreciate the collaborative partnership and commitment of Lincoln University to establish this transfer opportunity for CLC graduates."

Moseley said the arrangement will streamline the process for students at CLC to enroll and take courses at Lincoln, even providing the potential for students to take courses at both institutions at the same time.

"We're doing this with a number of universities right now," he said. "They actually reached out to us, initially, to begin the conversation because of their desire to create a pathway for some of their students to HBCUs."

Lincoln is the second HBCU to form a partnership with CLC behind Tennessee State University.

Moseley said the number of transfer agreements and partnerships Lincoln is forming with community colleges is growing.

Last year, it established transfer agreements with City Colleges of Chicago, a public community college system of seven colleges in the Chicago area, and California Community Colleges, the nation's largest higher education system with 116 colleges on the west coast.

Lincoln also has an agreement

[Please see Lincoln, p. 3](#)

## Lawmakers eye incentives for film, music industry

By Cameron Gerber  
[cgerber@newstribune.com](mailto:cgerber@newstribune.com)

Missouri lawmakers are seeking to bring the film and music industries — and all the investments and jobs that come with them — to the Show-Me State with a set of tax credit proposals.

The Senate Economic Development and Tax Policy Committee heard testimony on eight bills Monday afternoon, several of which cov-

urban, rural or blighted area.

An additional 5 percent could be added if the state determines the script positively markets the state, its regions or its attractions.

Sen. Angela Mosley, D-St. Louis County, sponsored the Show-Me State Film and Digital Media Act, which largely covers the same ground under a different name.

Hoskins said Missouri was losing thousands of college graduates who