



ANNIVERSARY PARTY

The Jefferson City Cantorum takes the stage Saturday for an "Anniversary of Song" that features the Beatles, "Annie," "Mary Poppins" and Irving Berlin.

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Botched execution offers new ammo for lawyers

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A bungled execution in Oklahoma provides death penalty opponents with a fresh, startling example of how lethal injections can go wrong. But the odds of successfully challenging the nation's main form of capital punishment will probably hinge on exactly what caused the inmate's apparent agony.

If four-time convicted felon Clayton Lockett suffered because of a collapsed vein or improperly inserted needle, that would

suggest human error was to blame rather than an underlying flaw in the execution system.

If the drugs or the secrecy surrounding them played a role, defense attorneys could have a wider legal opening to attack the injection method, plus powerful new evidence to press the U.S. Supreme Court to get involved, legal experts say.

A day after the execution went awry, attorneys for some death-row inmates

began planning new appeals or updating existing cases based on events in Oklahoma. Many called for moratoriums and independent investigations.

"Every prison is saying, 'We have it under control, trust us,'" said Texas attorney Maurie Levin, who spent Wednesday preparing new briefs questioning that state's execution practices. "This just underscores

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Nixon has no plans to halt Mo. executions

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon has no plans to push for changes in the state's execution protocol following a botched execution in Oklahoma.

Spokeswoman Channing Ansley said Missouri has its own protocol, one that has been upheld by the courts and Nixon continues to support the death penalty for the most "merciless and violent crimes."

Attorneys for Russell Bucklew urged Nixon to reconsider. Bucklew is scheduled to die on May 21 for killing a man in southeast Missouri in 1996.

Growing, learning, feeding



Julie Smith/News Tribune

Lincoln University agriculture students study a plat map to determine the soil type and characteristics of the freshly-turned soil for a large garden. Ted Bruemmer, left, Kendrick Lock, right and Eric Groose, second from right, try to find their exact location on the soil survey map. RIGHT: Russ Hill breaks the soil as he plows a garden plot on Big Horn Drive. Hill is manager of Crown Power and Equipment in Jefferson City which provided the equipment and labor to prepare the soil for the Heart of Missouri Garden project. The garden is in conjunction with the NEEED Project or Nutrition, Energy, Environment and Economic Development. Items grown in the large plot will benefit the Senior Nutrition Center which will provide volunteers, while LU ag students will learn soil management.



Bill passed limiting jobless benefits

By Chris Blank
Associated Press

The amount of time Missouri workers could claim unemployment benefits after losing a job would depend upon how many others also are looking for work, according to a measure given final legislative approval Wednesday.

Missouri residents currently can collect unemployment benefits for up to 20 weeks. Under the legislation, jobless benefits could be claimed for 20 weeks only when the state's average unemployment rate is at least 9 percent. The maximum duration of jobless benefits would decrease one week for each one-half percentage point drop in the unemployment rate, and bottom out at 13 weeks when the state's jobless rate is less than 6 percent.

The bill could make Missouri's jobless benefits timespan one of the shortest in the nation. Florida and North Carolina both have linked the duration of jobless benefits to the unemployment rate with the potential for their pay-