COLUMBIA, Mo. -- Some new street signs painted black and gold and bearing the Missouri tiger mascot are proving popular with more than just motorists in Columbia. The Columbia Missourian reported at least 16 of the signs have been stolen from the University of Missouri campus since they were installed in mid-August. The university's alumni association contributed $5,000 toward the project. Replicas of the signs can be purchased at the campus bookstore for $35 to $40. But bookstore officials said they have not sold many. The problem of pilfered street signs extends beyond the Missouri campus. City officials said nearly 1,500 stolen or damaged signs were replaced over the 12-month period ending last September.
City official says Tiger Avenue name change already official

By Esten Hurtle
September 8, 2010 | 7:13 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — It's official: Maryland Avenue is now Tiger Avenue, and MU will pay for that little extra bit of school spirit.

The City Council unanimously voted to change the name of the street Tuesday night.

Pat Zenner, city development services manager, said the change is already in effect in the city's internal records, and address changes will be coming shortly.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said the university will pay for the sign but that the cost will not be significant.

"This is a single street sign that is being replaced," Basi said.

MU has not yet decided when the street sign will go up or how best to handle the possibility of putting both Tiger Avenue and Maryland Avenue on the sign, he said.

"I think they were trying to figure out the best way to do that, so folks don't get confused," Basi said.

Although the change was made with the intent of fostering school spirit, some Twitter chatter Tuesday night suggested that not all MU students were happy with the new name.

"Basically, my attitude toward it is if it's not broken, don't fix it," MU senior Chelsea George said.
Although George said she didn’t see any benefits to the change, she isn’t planning to take any action against it.

"It's a trivial change to make in the grand scheme of things," George said.
Mizzou kickoff
As the Missouri Tigers prepare to kick off, University of Missouri Health Care is marking a start of its own, a $203 million, eight-story addition to University Hospital in Columbia, Mo. Designed by HOK, led in St. Louis by managing principal Rebecca Nolan, it is expected to be completed in 2012.
MU shuttle adds stop at Stephens College

By Walker Moskop
September 8, 2010 | 7:24 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA – The MU shuttle service now stops at Stephens College to accommodate about 100 MU students staying at Prunty Hall this fall.

The shuttle started stopping at Stephens the Thursday before classes started at MU and will not run next semester. The students will not live in Prunty Hall in the spring.

Buses are scheduled to stop at Prunty Hall every 30 minutes from 6:40 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Monday to Saturday and noon to 1:30 a.m. on Sunday.

The UM Board of Curators is paying the city of Columbia for the shuttle service. This addition to the route cost the board $31,515, said Columbia Public Works Transportation Manager Ken Koopmans.
Ridership soars on MU student bus line

By Janese Silvey

Wednesday, September 8, 2010

More University of Missouri students this year are taking advantage of city transportation to get to and from campus.

During the first two weeks of school, Columbia Transit transported 36,608 students on the Gold Route, up from 24,100 last year, said Jill Stedem, spokeswoman for the city. That’s about a 35 percent increase.

Students waiting at Campus Lodge this morning said they’ve noticed the crowds waiting for city buses, but most haven’t had a problem getting a seat.

“We just usually crowd in,” MU junior Juneall Lane said. “We get close.”

Will Him rode the bus last year and said he’s noticed the increase in ridership this year, especially at the stop near Tiger Plaza on campus.

“I have seen a couple of people not get on,” he said. “Last year,” the bus “would get close to filling up. This year, it fills almost all the way as soon as it gets to Tiger Place. There are a lot more people waiting for the bus.”

Stedem said Columbia Transit credits the increase in ridership to an increase in enrollment.

“When the number of students at the university goes up, the number of riders goes up as well,” she said.

The four-year-old Gold Route transports students from The Reserve at Columbia and Campus Lodge apartments on Old 63 and Gateway at Columbia on Buttonwood Drive.

Together, the apartment complexes pay more than $26,000 a semester to let their residents ride Columbia Transit free of charge.

During the 2006-07 school year, the route attracted about 55,000 riders — a number that increased to more than 300,000 riders the following school year, according to Tribune archives.

“We’ve seen drastic increases every year,” Stedem said.
Last year, The Cottages apartment complex bought two smaller buses that allow Columbia Transit to transport its residents, but Stedem said that route — known as the Black Route — is not experiencing overcrowding this year.

**Students at Campus Lodge this morning said they opt to ride the bus because it’s included in their rent.**

“If I’m already paying for it, why pay for a parking pass?” Lane said, adding that even if she had a pass finding a parking space would likely be challenging.

**That transportation perk was one reason Bridget Hoette, a junior, opted to live at Campus Lodge this year.**

“I like it because I don’t have to use my gas money,” she said.

Having the apartment complexes pay to provide the bus service not only is a “great deal” for the students, it also helps “that much more traffic off campus, and we get increased ridership,” Stedem said. “It’s a win-win-win.”
Missourinet

Weather extremes take toll on crops, pastures, livestock, farmers

by Jessica Machetta on September 8, 2010

in Agriculture, Business, Weather

Harvest season might come later this year for Northern Missouri farmers who battled torrential rains during planting season. Some Southern Missouri farmers might be calling it a loss. It's all related to the weather, which wildly varied, throughout the state during the summer growing months.

University of Missouri Climatologist Pat Guinan says North, Northeast and Central Missouri got upwards 20 to 30 inches of rain in a three-month timeframe. Conversely, areas in the Bootheel got less than four.

He says farmers in Southeast Missouri with irrigation systems were able to combat the drought to a degree. He says it took its toll on crops and pastures ... some are already feeding their livestock hay even this early in the year because fields have dried up.

Guinan says the humidity dewpoint was the highest this summer since totals from the '40s. But he says farmers — and everyone, for that matter — should enjoy a mild fall with less rain and warmer than average temperatures.
Mizzou Meat Market launches football-shaped sausages

By Joan Niesen
September 8, 2010 | 8:09 p.m. CDT

The Mizzou Meat Market is now making a summer sausage in the shape of a football. 

COLUMBIA — Don’t play with your food.

The Mizzou Meat Market, part of MU's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources unveiled its newest type of summer sausage this week. It's shaped like a miniature football — the squishy, foam-filled kind that you probably tossed around with your friends in elementary school.

“We knew football season was coming up, and we were trying to work on a plan,” Lauren Weiker, a market employee said.

Weiker said the idea for the sausages was basically an advertising strategy for football season, and the market would like to eventually sell the edible footballs at games. In order to do so, meat market employees wrote a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan, which outlines the basic information about the product, and sent it to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
"We just mainly have to give a reason why we're going to make that product, what's going into the product and how we're going to cook it," Weiker said.

Weiker and her coworkers worked on writing the plan over the summer, and they hope to hear back from the USDA soon. Once they've gotten approval, they will contact the concessions department at Memorial Stadium to put their plan in the works.

For now, the market is just hoping to get the word out about its new product. Weiker said that she sold a few of the sausages on Wednesday, and in the first round of production, employees made about 25 or 30. The sausage footballs, which sell for $4.25, are now lined up in a market refrigerator, waiting for both football and sausage enthusiasts alike to realize all that the delicacy could add to their tailgates on Saturday.

"We're hoping to get some sold today, so they'll tell people," Weiker said.

The footballs are a typical summer sausage blend, made of beef, beef fat and the market's special blend of seasonings. What's different is the casing, which has a special liner that contains the meat in its football-shaped form. The laces are also the result of a manipulated casing, and the 6.25-inch long meaty creation weighs in at 1.1 pounds and has a 10.5-inch circumference.

The sausage weighs about an ounce more than its non-edible counterpart, the NCAA-approved football, despite its smaller size. It also does not meet lacing or length regulations. It has not eight, but five laces, and would need an extra 10 inches of length to conform to NCAA standards.

That said, the sausage is somewhat aerodynamic, and with enough practice, quarterback Blaine Gabbert might be able to deliver the tasty treat to a plate with a spiral pass.

The only thing that's missing now? The cheddar cheese kickoff tee.