Police search for missing Mizzou student from Weldon Spring

BY SHANE ANTHONY • santhony@post-dispatch.com > 636-255-7209 | Posted: Tuesday, December 21, 2010 3:49 pm

UPDATED 4:33 p.m., corrects description based on interview with family. Adds information about changes to Nicholas Coppola's personality during the past six months.

FORISTELL • Police are looking for a missing University of Missouri-Columbia student from Weldon Spring.

Foristell Police Chief Douglas Johnson said Nicholas Michael Coppola, 25, hasn't been seen since his mother visited his apartment in Columbia on Dec. 10. His 1998 Subaru Legacy was found abandoned on Interstate 70 eastbound just west of the Foristell exit at about 1 p.m. on Dec. 12.

Johnson said officers found Coppola's cell phone and wallet in the car. The driver's seat was reclined, he said.

Johnson said Coppola's father's birthday was on Dec. 15, and family members believe he may have been traveling home. Johnson said friends described Coppola as having been quiet and secluded lately.

Coppola is 6-feet-1-inches tall, weighs about 180 pounds and has blue eyes. He wears black-framed glasses.

Gene Coppola said his son started talking less to friends and family about six months ago, after reading a book called the Celestine Prophecy. He said his son had attended a music festival and met people who talked to him about the book.

Nellie Coppola, Nicholas Coppola's mother, said her son had experienced a "religious awakening" and talked about going to California with some sort of group. She said he wouldn't tell his parents what the group was about or who was involved. "It was very secretive," she said. "He wouldn't give us names or tell us anything."

Gene Coppola said his son lost a great deal of weight in the past year and decided to take a year off from school, where he was a senior economics major.
Gene Coppola said his son decided against the California trip recently, though, and talked about finishing his degree.

Anyone with information on Coppola's whereabouts should call the Foristell Police Department at 636-463-2123, ext. 227 or 636-639-2150 and ask for the on-duty Foristell officer.
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI > Veterinary college nets $3.4 million donation • The University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine has been given a $3.4 million gift in honor of the donor’s dogs. James Redhage, who died in 2008, had a strong bond with his dogs Red, Pepper and Pepper II. A native and lifelong resident of Pike County, Mo., Redhage first became a friend of the college when he took Red to MU for veterinary care. According to the university, Redhage was so pleased with the treatment and care given to Red that he decided to donate to the college.

Redhage’s gift will support the annual salaries of three senior residents in the veterinary program.
Laws conflict about size of UM’s board

Apportionment causes puzzle.

By Janese Silvey

The University of Missouri’s Board of Curators will discuss next month how it will recommend the state deal with a conflict in laws that establish the board.

Missouri will lose one congressional district as a result of the 2010 Census, decreasing from nine seats to eight. The change takes effect in 2013.

The Missouri Constitution establishes the UM Board of Curators requiring nine curators and elsewhere requires all board appointees to be Missouri residents. A separate state law says no more than one curator shall be from the same congressional district.

Gov. Jay Nixon is responsible for appointing curators, who then are confirmed by the Senate. Nixon’s staff did not respond to multiple messages asking whether the governor has a plan to correct the conflicting requirements.

Curators in 2008 — anticipating the loss of a congressional district — voted to recommend that the ninth member of the board be an at-large Missouri resident, which would require lawmakers to eliminate the district requirement or let one congressional district have two curators.

In St. Louis this month, Curator Wayne Goode said he would like the board to reconsider whether the ninth curator should be a voting student member instead.

UM spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said curators will discuss it at the January meeting in Columbia.

The Board of Curators already has a student representative, currently Laura Confer, who serves a two-year term. That representative is not a voting member.

Confer, who attends the Missouri University of Science and Technology, said making the ninth curator a student would make sense because students serve two years instead of the traditional curator term of six years. That would allow representation to shift between congressional districts more often, she said.

Lawmakers in 2008 approved a law that would have made the ninth curator a voting student member if Missouri lost a congressional district, but then-Gov. Matt Blunt vetoed the bill.
Blunt argued that students would have a stakeholder interest on a board where non-student members are supposed to consider the best interest of the university as a whole, according to Tribune archives.

Local state representatives said they would support making the ninth curator a student with a vote. “Students are the reason the institution exists,” Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, said. “They are specifically informed in a very real-time basis about the operation of the university. There’s no argument to be made that student curators are less able to serve than our regular curators because there’s no requirement that any other curator have any particular wealth of knowledge.”

Rep. Mary Still also said she would support a voting student on the board. “Having worked at the university, I observed many board meetings where student curators — even though they couldn’t vote — were every bit as knowledgeable and had the ability to provide valuable input as any other board member,” Still, D-Columbia, said.

State Sen. Kurt Schaefer said it’s too early to conclude how the state should handle the discrepancy.

“I just want the best representation possible on a statewide level,” Schaefer, R-Columbia, said. “It’s not the University of Columbia. It’s not the University of Boone County. It’s the University of Missouri, and it needs solid representation from all four corners of the state.”

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.
Missouri to lose congressional seat

Ken Newton

St. Joseph News-Press

MU mention page 2

POSTED: 10:45 am CST December 21, 2010 UPDATED: 10:51 pm CST December 21, 2010

Missourians will say goodbye to one of their U.S. House members in two years. And all the congresspeople will say hello to more constituents.

This shift — with Missouri dropping from nine representative seats to eight and losing an Electoral College vote — results from population numbers released Tuesday morning by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Numbers showed that Missouri grew in population from nearly 5.6 million in 2000 to almost 6 million on April 1 of this year. But the 7 percent rate of growth did not compare with states like Nevada, which had a 35 percent growth rate since 2000, or Texas, which will add four new congressional districts with the reapportionment.

During the last decade, Missouri dropped from the 17th most populous state to the 18th.

The reduction of a congressional seat means for Missouri a loss of influence in Washington. It also, adding the constitutionally mandated two U.S. Senate seats, brings the number of state electoral votes down to 10, a slight lessening of importance in presidential races.

The apportionment determination also reflects a continuing shift of American population to the south and west.

Of neighboring states, Iowa and Illinois also lost positions in the House. Kansas retained its four representative seats.

“This movement south and west is really a very simple way to note how we as a population have changed and how we’ve moved over the decades,” Census Bureau Director Robert Groves said in a Washington press conference announcing the findings.

Though the calculations had not been completed Tuesday, Dr. Groves said the population center of the United States, which has been in Missouri since the 1980 census, might shift to Arkansas, a further indication of drift south and west.

The national population was announced at 308,745,538 as of Census Day, which was April 1. This is an increase from the 281,421,906 people counted in 2000.
The Missouri General Assembly has the responsibility of redrawing congressional district lines. Republicans control both legislative houses, but Jay K. Dow, a political scientist at the University of Missouri-Columbia, said sufficient controls exist to prevent the drawing of a grossly partisan map.

"Missouri actually has a pretty sensible process for that," Dr. Dow said. "Each party is going to look for some partisan advantage, but the parameters for districting are pretty tight, and there are a lot of things that are simply off the table because they have to adhere to all of the other restrictions on districting."

The last time Missouri lost a congressional seat, dropping from 10 seats to nine after the 1980 census, Democrats controlled both houses of the state Legislature. In the 1982 election, new map boundaries put two Republican congressmen, Bill Emerson and Wendell Bailey, in the same district. Mr. Emerson won, and one GOP congressman fell from the delegation.

With the seating of the new Congress, Missouri will have six Republican House members and three Democrats. Speculation has centered on a map that would eventually force Congressman William Lacy Clay into a race with fellow Democratic Rep. Russ Carnahan in the St. Louis area.

Susan Montee, Missouri Democratic Party chair, called for a map that fairly and effectively represents the state.

"Some want to frame (Tuesday's) census news as the trailer for an upcoming wrestling match between two Democratic House members," she said in a statement. "There will be plenty of opportunities for partisanship between now and November 2012. Today isn't one of them."

The state Republican Party chairman also weighed in.

"I am confident the General Assembly will work diligently to ensure that all Missourians are represented fairly and adequately," the chairman, David Cole, said in a statement. "Once the process is complete, we believe that the Legislature will have produced a fair map that passes legal muster."

Congressman Sam Graves, who represents the 26-county 6th District that takes in Northwest Missouri, will see an increase in constituents and probably in geographical area.

With the reduced number of seats, each House member from Missouri will represent an average of 748,616 people. In the current Congress, the Missouri average per district is 621,690.

Mr. Graves said no matter the district boundaries, he would continue to focus on constituent services.

"One thing we can always count on is change," Mr. Graves said in a statement Tuesday. "The General Assembly has much work ahead in adjusting district boundaries to ensure equal and fair representation."

Knowing Missouri rested on a bubble of losing a congressional seat, state and local officials helped in a promotional campaign to get residents' participation. Seventy-four percent of Missourians submitted the mail-in census questionnaires, slightly higher than the national rate.

Dr. Groves said Minnesota got the 435th, and last, seat in the House, with North Carolina next on the list with a difference of about 15,700 people.
"That is the largest discrepancy in half a century," he said at the Washington event, which was webcast nationwide. "There's a pretty good spread between the 435th and 436th, relative to past censuses."
Missouri loses congressional seat with 2010 census

By Alex Giddings
December 21, 2010 | 7:15 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — The data are in, and Missouri will lose one seat in the next congressional election.

The state, which has had nine U.S. representatives since 1983, will send eight representatives to Congress in 2013.

The U.S. Census Bureau on Tuesday released apportionment data from the 2010 census. Missouri's population was determined to be 5,988,927, which is a 7 percent increase over the 2000 census.

Nationally, the U.S. population rose from 281 million to 308 million during the decade, a 9.7 percent jump.

The bureau uses that data to apportion the 435 available seats in the House of Representatives among the 50 states based on population.

In Missouri, redistricting will put about 750,000 people in each district, compared with the 660,000 it has with nine seats.

Losing a seat means the Missouri General Assembly must redraw the districts to eliminate one district for the 113th Congress, which begins meeting in 2013.

"No preconceived outcomes, no maps have been drawn," state Rep. John Diehl, R-Town and Country, said Tuesday.
"The process of congressional redistricting is just like any other bill. We'll file a bill in the House and work off the existing map," said Diehl, who is chairman of the House Committee on Redistricting.

Although the Census Bureau has released the apportionment data, the local population breakdown within individual states has not yet been released. Without that data, Diehl said, he didn't know which areas in Missouri might be directly affected by the loss of the seat.

Diehl said the map would be redrawn by the end of the legislative session in May.

The redistricting process begins by initiating a bill in the state House, which continues via committee and legislative passage until signed by the governor.

Gov. Jay Nixon released a statement Tuesday regretting the loss of a seat but vowing that the process would move forward "openly, transparently and fairly."

Reapportionment could alter the makeup of the University of Missouri System Board of Curators, as well.

The Missouri Constitution requires the board to have nine voting members, but state law prohibits any two members from being from the same congressional district. With the loss of a seat, the state must find a way to reassign positions to ensure the board still has nine voting members. A student representative serves as a 10th curator but has no vote.

UM System spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said the curators would discuss the issue at their next meeting, in January.
Why It's a Great Time to Be a Journalism Major

December 21, 2010 12:04 PM ET | Lynn O'Shaughnessy | Permanent Link |

Last week, I gave the commencement speech at the University of Missouri's School of Journalism, my alma mater.

I decided to share excerpts of the speech, which I think are particularly relevant to students who hope to major in journalism, as well as those who feel pressured to select a major that is perceived to be a money maker:

Selecting a path less chosen: The biggest percentage of college students today—21 percent—are graduating with business degrees. These graduates want to make money and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that. I'd suggest, however, that the key to succeeding financially and professionally in journalism, business, or any other career is to choose something that you are good at and passionate about.

Unfortunately, I don't think passion is given enough attention when students and parents talk about possible college majors and future career plans. I write a college blog for CBS MoneyWatch, and the two most popular posts that I wrote in 2010 focused on the 20 best-paying college degrees and the 20 worst-paying college degrees. Since this summer, when I wrote those posts, they've had close to a half-million hits. And this is no fluke. The most popular post that I wrote in 2009 was also on the same subject.

If you read my blog posts, you'd discover that journalism isn't on the list of the best-paying or worst-paying degrees. Most of you probably assume that business must be near the top of the most lucrative degrees, but it isn't. It's 60th on the list. What's more, the salary that the typical business major makes in mid-career is close to what the typical journalist earns.

Research has shown that it's not the specific college major that matters once you're in the workforce, but rather the passion and talent you possess for what you end up doing.
Pursuing your passion: It's so much easier today for young journalists to pursue their passions than when I was in journalism school. And yet if you listen to my peers—journalists who are old enough to be your parents—you won't hear that story. Many of these journalists are depressed right now because the media worlds they knew are crumbling.

Journalism certainly is different. I was a young reporter at the *Los Angeles Times* during a period when journalists there routinely referred to the newspaper as a velvet coffin because it was such a cushy place to work. When reporters at the *L.A. Times*, for example, had to fly more than 500 miles, we were booked in first class. Imagine that. No one would ever call newspaper jobs cushy today.

Getting started in journalism: Despite the gloom, I think this is a grand time to be getting started in journalism because the Internet has made the field far more egalitarian today. You can become an expert on anything. You can share your opinions and what you know across the globe thanks to blogs, YouTube, Facebook, and a ton of other platforms.

Young journalists also don't have to deal with the ridiculously small number of gatekeepers that the profession used to have. When I was a newspaper reporter eager to break into better markets, there were typically just two newspapers in every major town. Of course, now there are fewer. If the editor reviewing résumés wasn't interested, you were out of luck. As a newspaper reporter, I lived in Memphis, Kansas City, Mo., and Los Angeles, and I can tell you that I never would have chosen to live in any of those cities—but as a newspaper reporter I felt compelled to follow the opportunities.

Limitless professional connections: Thanks to the Internet, the number of professional connections you can make are limitless and so are the opportunities. Here are three of my favorite examples:

1. *Joshua Fisher*, a Dodger fan and law student at the University of Minnesota, has always been intrigued by the financial side of baseball. When the couple who owns the Los Angeles Dodgers became embattled in a nasty divorce fight, the student began covering the trial. Fisher created a blog called DodgerDivorce.com that went viral, and he has become a go-to-expert on the topic. ESPN has interviewed him and he's a frequent guest on L.A. sports talk radio. He has baseball executives following his commentaries.

2. *Lauren Luke* was a British taxi dispatcher when she decided to sell makeup on eBay. The young woman was passionate about makeup and she videotaped her beauty tips at her computer. Unlike the journalism graduates sitting here today, she didn't know how to edit her videos so she uploaded them to YouTube, mistakes and all. [Luke] became a monster hit on YouTube, which led to a cosmetics consulting job, a beauty columnist gig at the highly respected *Guardian* newspaper, a book contract, and her own makeup line.

3. *Zac Bissonnette*, who I happen to know, is an art history major at the University of Massachusetts—Amherst. He writes a financial blog for AOL, contributes to The Daily Beast and is the bestselling author of *Debt-Free U: How I Paid for an Outstanding College Education Without Loans, Scholarships, or Monching Off My Parents*. How did he manage to do all this?
[Bissonnette] ... decided that it would be easier to succeed if he had mentors. He set about cultivating powerful people in the financial journalism world with a simple tool: E-mail. He started E-mailing some industry leaders with the hopes of networking. That's how he ended up knowing Andrew Tobias, a bestselling financial writer; Suze Orman, [the acclaimed personal finance expert]; and others. Zac's electronic networking has paid off—and he isn't even out of college yet.

**Journalism is alive and kicking:** What I'm trying to illustrate in sharing these examples of young people making their mark is this: journalism is alive and kicking, [but] it just looks different. Please don't let all the 'Debbie Downers' who are whining about the state of journalism today get you depressed. This is a fabulous time for 20-somethings to be in this profession.
Letter to the Editor: Don’t drink, drive this holiday season

During this time many people will celebrate with family and friends and choose to drink alcohol or perhaps use illegal drugs. Please understand the consequences and what could happen if you then decide to drive a vehicle.

My husband was killed on Interstate 70 on Feb. 26, 2008. He was run off the road from behind by a man on multiple illegal drugs.

I lost my best friend. We had been married for 28 years. I can’t begin to describe the loss and the pain that I have felt since that horrific time. Our plans and dreams were shattered in an instant because someone chose to drive while impaired.

Our son is graduating from the University of Missouri this December. To not have his dad there for the graduation ceremony will be extremely difficult.

My husband would be so proud, and we could have shared this moment together. It is one of many life/family events that he already has missed or will miss in the future. There is a deep weight inside my chest that won’t go away.

Please party responsibly. Don’t tear another family apart.

Jane Fuhrage

Rochport, Mo.