Forecasters call for later spring storm season

'Our tornado activity has been well below normal,'
meteorologist says

JOPLIN, Mo. (AP) — Weather forecasters say prolonged cold temperatures over the winter could cause this year's spring storm season to get off to a late start as it takes longer for water in the Gulf of Mexico to warm up.

The Joplin Globe reports University of Missouri professor Tony Lupo says spring is expected to be cooler than normal, followed by a mild summer with plenty of rain.

National Weather Service meteorologist John Gagan says there's also a better chance for hail with storms in the spring because mid-level temperatures in the atmosphere will still be cool.

The Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla., says there have been about 50 tornadoes so far this year, compared with a typical average of about 130 nationwide by now.

Information from: The Joplin (Mo.) Globe, http://www.joplinglobe.com
Four MU athletes arrested on suspicion of marijuana possession

By Dave Matter

COLUMBIA, Mo. • Missouri’s basketball team could be down to seven scholarship players for Tuesday’s first-round game in the National Invitation Tournament after Saturday’s arrest of guards Wes Clark and Shane Rector, along with MU football players Aarion Penton and Shaun Rupert.

All four were cited for suspicion of possession of 35 grams or less of marijuana during a traffic stop in Columbia.

At 11:32 p.m., Columbia Police officers pulled over Rupert’s car at 501 East Broadway in a Commerce Bank parking lot when the officers noticed his expired rear license plates as he made a right turn, according to the police report, Columbia Police spokesperson Latisha Stroer said. Officers detected an odor of marijuana in the car and found a package of Swisher Sweets cigarillos containing what a field test determined to be marijuana. Rupert and his three passengers, the other Mizzou athletes, were arrested and released on signature summons.

Missouri basketball coach Frank Haith said Clark and Rector are suspended and will not practice on Monday. As for Tuesday’s NIT opener, it’s unclear if they’ll play. The Tigers (22-11) host Davidson (20-12) at 8 p.m. on ESPN2. Haith said he wanted to “gather more information on what happened” before deciding on their status for the game.

Clark, a freshman from Detroit, has been Mizzou’s primary backup point guard this season, averaging 4.1 points in 20.4 minutes per game. Rector, another backup guard from the Bronx, N.Y., has appeared in 22 of 33 games off the bench.

Haith didn’t mention their arrest or suspension Sunday night when meeting with reporters to discuss MU’s NIT selection. Asked Monday when he learned about the arrests, Haith said, “I didn’t know soon enough.”

If Clark and Rector are unavailable Tuesday, the Tigers won’t have any backup guards available. Walk-on guard Corey Haith, the coach’s son, suffered a season-ending knee injury earlier this season. Without the freshman backups, MU would be down to seven scholarship players and just three guards, starters Jordan Clarkson, Jabari Brown and Earnest Ross.

Haith couldn’t help but laugh at a reporter Monday who asked if depth could be a problem Tuesday.
“You want me to dress out? Come on now,” he said. “Who else can I put in? Depth could be a problem. No question. It is what it is.”

Haith insisted the team’s depth issues won’t influence his decision whether to hold the players out of Tuesday’s game.

“That’s got nothing to do with it,” Haith said. “We’ve got a program here and we’ve got high standards we expect from our student-athletes. We’re going to make decisions based on what’s right for the development of our program.”

Penton and Rupert are also suspended, football team spokesman Chad Moller said. Their availability for Tuesday’s spring status was uncertain, Moller said.

Penton appeared in every MU football game last season as a freshman. The former CBC star has been working with the first-team defense as a starter in spring practices after making two starts last fall in relief of injured senior E.J. Gaines. Penton made 16 tackles and had an interception. Rupert, a safety from Montgomery, Ala., redshirted last season, his first year at MU.

A new way to gauge college debt, starting salary

By Steve Rosen, Tribune Content Agency Kids & Money

12:30 p.m. CDT, March 17, 2014

Here’s a typical college scenario: Your daughter’s dream job is to be an elementary school teacher and reading specialist. Yet she’ll need to dive deep into debt to pursue her undergraduate degree, and borrow more if continuing to grad school.

She’s worried -- rightfully -- about her financial future, and she’s looking for answers.

How much debt might she be saddled with? How much will her college degree translate into salary once she lands a job? And what budget-squeezing sacrifices might be necessary to repay the swath of loans?
Those types of questions are on the minds of countless college students. And with student loan debt now over the $1 trillion mark, there's a greater urgency for answers and successful outcomes.

A new online service called GradSense connects those costs and benefits questions with helpful data and financial planning advice.

**Launched earlier this year, GradSense is being used at more than 30 schools around the country, including Kansas State University, the University of Missouri-Columbia, Ohio State University and the University of Kentucky.**

The service, developed jointly by the Council of Graduate Schools, a higher education organization with more than 500 member-schools, and financial services company TIAA-CREF, aims to help students better understand the impact of their field of study on their future earnings potential.

The key component of GradSense is an interactive debt-to-salary calculator, which can be accessed at [http://www.gradsense.org](http://www.gradsense.org). While federal data is available for student loan debt and occupation-specific salaries, it's often not easy to mine and requires sifting through several databases. Moreover, there are no financial education resources to offer context to the numbers.

The GradSense debt-to-salary calculator, on the other hand, pools all the relevant data into a simple-to-use tool that give users a baseline to compare. Students start by clicking on the desired degree they hope to attain, the field of study, and a more specific occupation after graduating.

Take teaching, for example. A student seeking an undergraduate degree in education will accumulate a median debt of $27,000, based on data for students who graduated in 2011-2012. The median debt level climbs to $33,250 if pursuing a master's in education, according to GradSense.

Next, the calculator shows expected salary levels -- starting, middle and expert pay grades. A K-12 teacher in a non-science or math field could earn in a range of $12,840 on the low end to $64,200 on the high end, with the median salary of $42,800. That's based on 2010 data of students who graduated with a bachelor's degree and who worked full-time or part-time, according to GradSense.
After using the calculator, GradSense steers users through a four-part program that shows the impact of student spending decisions, provides advice for repaying student loans, offers guidance on transitioning from college into a career and tips for reviewing and negotiating job offers.

Kansas State University is using GradSense as part of its Powercat personal finance education program for undergraduate and graduate students, said Jodi Kaus, director of the program. Powercat reaches about 5,000 students a year through one-on-one counseling, workshops and other events.

The school is holding workshops starting this spring aimed at helping graduate students evaluate health insurance plans, student loan repayment programs and negotiate starting salaries.

"Graduate students have different needs and concerns" than undergrads, Kaus said. "By being able to crunch the numbers, we think they'll be able to be more successful."

COLUMBIA — **Earlier this month, MU drone programs had a brief reprieve when a federal judge ruled that the Federal Aviation Administration does not have the power to enforce a blanket ban on commercial drone use.**

The FAA has since appealed to the National Transportation Safety Board, effectively neutralizing the judge’s ruling until the appeal is heard.

But it gave MU drone programs enough of a boost to put at least one class on the schedule this spring, though the class will have to abide by current restrictions in place.
The class will feature drone flights indoors, where it is legal. Otherwise, acquiring a certificate of authorization from the Federal Aviation Administration takes up to 60 days.

**The College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources is offering an introductory drone application class after spring break.** Students in the 1-credit-hour course will learn to pilot Phantom 1 quadcopters indoors at the Trowbridge Livestock Center at MU, where drone flight is acceptable.

“It’s a good place to fly for a couple of reasons,” said the instructor, Bill Allen. “There are large blocks of time available most Thursday and Friday nights, and it’s not a hard surface — if there’s a crash, it’s a much softer landing.”

The FAA has been fighting commercial use of unmanned aircraft since 2007, arguing that drones pose a danger to pilots in airspace. [FAA guidelines](https://www.faa.gov/uas/legislation/?linkID=2619590) restrict the use of drones to hobbyists flying them less than 400 feet away from airports and populated areas. Guidelines instruct universities to seek permission before deploying drones in civil airspace.

According to the administration, “The agency is concerned that this decision could impact the safe operation of the national airspace system and the safety of people and property on the ground.”

The decisive case began when the FAA fined Raphael Pirker, a commercial drone proponent, $10,000 in 2011 for using a drone to film footage for a University of Virginia commercial. Pirker then asked a judge with the National Transportation Safety Board to dismiss the penalty, which he did on March 6.

MU has several programs involving drones. The MU Information Technology Program sponsors [Drone Lab](https://www.drone-missouri.com), a project focused on drone research and usage.

[The Missouri Drone Journalism Program](https://www.drone-missouri.com) is a collaboration of the Drone Lab, KBIA and the School of Journalism and is intended to explore drone applications in journalism. Last July, MU received a cease-and-desist letter from the FAA for the Missouri Drone Journalism Program.
Matthew Dickinson, who runs MU’s IT Drone Lab program and co-founded the Missouri Drone Journalism project, does not foresee a quick solution. “A full NTSB commission has to take place, and they’ll come up with some resolution to this,” Dickinson said. "I don’t believe it’ll happen anytime soon."

The Missouri Drone Journalism program has produced several videos with National Public Radio affiliate KBIA/91.3 FM, capturing video of flocks of snow geese and a controlled fire over the last natural prairie in Missouri.

“As far as journalism goes, if it’s something like the Fourth of July, you can plan ahead for that,” Dickinson said. “It’s just a case of if that’s an effective use of time.”

At the Missouri State Fair, Allen has taught farmers about the efficiency improvements drones might create on their fields. Although initially skeptical, the farmers indicated that the drones would be useful for watching over sensitive crops and identifying stressed areas without manual inspection.

“They are looking at the potential advantages of SUAS (small unmanned aircraft systems) in monitoring weeds, insect infestation and efficiency in different nutrients,” Allen said.

Until the FAA appeal is settled, Allen’s course will be the face of drone education at MU. The five-week class, “SciAgJ 4301/7301,” will run from April 1 to May 2, with one lecture and one flying lab per week.

“Drones are going to be used by the next generation,” Allen said. “Our graduate students deserve to be on the frontier.”
Central Pa. school to change logo after Mizzou complaint

BLOOMSBURG, Pa. (AP) - A central Pennsylvania school district is giving its tiger-head logo a face-lift after a complaint from the University of Missouri that the feline face was too similar to its own image.

The (Bloomsburg) Press Enterprise says university officials sent a cease-and-desist letter to the Southern Columbia Area School District in November.

Superintendent Paul Caputo says the emblem is on the Columbia County district's marquee, the new gym floor and various booster and sports-affiliated websites and gear. He says the two institutions have come to an agreement under which Southern will tweak its logo enough that it's not infringing on the University of Missouri's copyright.

And the changes will be phased in slowly instead of changing everything at once, although apparel will no longer be made with the emblem.
For the first time in at least six years, the median base salary of professors at public colleges increased at a greater rate than that of their private-college counterparts, according to an annual report released this week by the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources.

The median increase for tenured and tenure-track faculty members at public institutions in the 2014 fiscal year was 2.2 percent, compared with 2.0 percent at private colleges. Over all, the median base salary for tenured and tenure-track professors in 2014 rose 2.1 percent from the year before, the same increase as a year ago.

This year’s increase was better than the inflation rate, which measured 1.5 percent in 2013. But the rise in faculty salaries was below the average 2.5-percent increase that the association recently reported for administrators.

After several years of stagnant or barely rising wages at public institutions, the trend is encouraging, said Andy Brantley, the association’s president and chief executive officer.

"As state economies continue to improve, it is most definitely time for state legislatures to allocate adequate salary-increase funds to acknowledge the great work of faculty and staff," Mr. Brantley wrote in an email to The Chronicle. "High-performing faculty and staff are also becoming more mobile as the economy improves," he wrote, so that retaining "key talent" depends to a significant extent on competitive salaries.

Some institutions, however, both public and private, reported no salary increases this year, he noted.

**Disciplinary Disparities**

The disciplines with the highest average salaries for tenured and tenure-track professors haven’t changed from previous years and are the same at private and public
institutions across all ranks. The top three, in order, are legal professions and studies; business, management, marketing, and related support services; and engineering.

The average salary, across all ranks, for professors in legal professions and studies at public colleges is $112,088; at private institutions, the average salary for faculty members in the same field is $123,541.

The lowest-paid disciplines differed between private and public institutions, as they typically have in the past. The disciplines with the lowest average salaries at public colleges are history, English language and literature, and visual and performing arts. At private colleges, they are communications technologies and support services; theology and religious vocations; and parks, recreation, leisure, and fitness studies.

The report also includes data on instructors and researchers off the tenure track who work full time at four-year institutions. A large proportion of the salary data for non-tenure-track professors comes from teaching-faculty members.

The association does not report an average salary for all non-tenure-track appointments. Instead, the data show pay for non-tenure-track faculty as a percentage of what tenured and tenure-track professors receive.

Comparisons of the two groups show that teaching faculty who worked off the tenure track had a median average salary that was about 90 percent of that received by tenured and tenure-track professors for all disciplines combined, the association said.

By discipline, the earnings of the two groups of faculty most closely matched in multi- and interdisciplinary studies, where non-tenure-track teaching-faculty members earned 96.5 percent of what tenured and tenure-track professors did. The sharpest disparity in median average salary was in legal professions and studies, with non-tenure-track teaching faculty earning only three-fourths of what professors who were tenured or on the tenure track were paid.
The highest-paid disciplines among faculty members who work off the tenure track are largely identical to those for tenured and tenure-track professors. For teaching faculty at both private and public institutions, the lowest-paid disciplines are foreign languages; English language and literature; and philosophy and religious studies. Research faculty who work off the tenure track have the lowest average salaries in the fields of family and consumer sciences, visual and performing arts, and history.

The association’s report reflects the salaries of 178,717 tenured and tenure-track faculty members and about 55,000 full-time, non-tenure-track faculty members at 792 four-year colleges.

**Percentage Increases in Faculty Salaries at Public and Private Institutions, 2008-13**

Faculty pay increased faster at public four-year institutions than at private ones for the first time in at least six years. 2013 was also the first year since the recession when salaries at both types of institutions increased faster than the rate of inflation.

![Graph showing percentage increases in faculty salaries between 2008 and 2013 for public and private institutions, with inflation rates indicated.](image)

Note: Data for 2012 and 2013 include only tenured or tenure-track faculty members. Data for previous years also include full-time, non-tenure-track faculty members. Salaries are reported for November 1 of the year listed. The inflation rate is calculated at the end of the calendar year.

Sources: CUPA-HR; Bureau of Labor Statistics
See also, “Average Salaries of Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty at 4-Year Colleges, 2013-14,” at http://chronicle.com/article/Average-Salaries-of-Tenured/145283/

ArtTalk: MU student uses theater to discover strengths, weaknesses

Tuesday, March 18, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CDT
BY LYNETT VALLEJO/MISSOURIAN READER

The Columbia Missourian is re-launching a project called ArtTalk with the goal of celebrating and discussing local art and artists. To submit one yourself, fill out the form at the bottom of the story. This story was contributed by Missourian reader Lynett Vallejo.

Q: What kind of art do you create? Tell us about your medium and style.
A: I act in theater shows at the University of Missouri through our Department of Theatre.

Q: What is it that inspires you? And why do you create art?
A: I enjoy having the opportunity to find and explore different parts of myself in different characters. It's a way to discover my own strengths and weaknesses in ways that I couldn't in my daily life.

Q: What sets you or your work apart from other artists?
A: In particular, nothing special I think, really. I think the thing that would set me apart is who I am as an individual. Such as how I find ways to connect to my characters, how I portray them, etc.

Q: Can your work be found around the community (or has it been in the past)? If so, where?
A: Yes! I will be playing the role of Kathy in the MU Theatre's production of "Moonchildren." The dates are April 24-26 and May 1-4 at the Rhynsburger Theatre. The most recent show I have been in was "A Midsummer Night's Dream" as Titania.