Mizzou News

Daily Clips Packet

July 23, 2015
Columbia reports 7 suspected mumps cases

POSTED 8:46 PM, JULY 22, 2015, BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) _ Health officials in Boone County says seven suspected cases of mumps have been reported in the Columbia area.

The University of Missouri said in a release Wednesday that the university is helping health officials notify people, including University of Missouri students and visitors, who may have come in contact with people displaying symptoms of mumps.

Mumps, a contagious viral illness, often starts with fever, fatigue and body aches.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says mumps is no longer common in the United States since routine vaccination programs began, though outbreaks do occur.

(KTVI) Watch the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=eb4f4d0c-3cb5-458a-931d-ed019ab3b25f
Mizzou issues alert over suspected area mumps cases

July 23, 2015  •  By Koran Addo

The University of Missouri-Columbia sent out a notice Wednesday informing students and parents that there has been seven suspected mumps cases in the area recently.

Mizzou sent out its alert after the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services announced an investigation into the cluster of suspected cases.

All who have shown symptoms are between 20 and 23 years old. Confirmation of mumps through laboratory testing is pending.

Mizzou's advisory is directed toward all students, parents, prospective students and recent campus visitors.

Mumps is a viral illness that can cause fever, body aches, headaches, fatigue, swelling of the salivary glands or pain with chewing and swallowing. Among men, mumps can also lead to swelling of the testicles. Among women, mumps can lead to swelling of the ovaries, which may cause abdominal pain or swelling of the breasts.

About a third of people who contract the mumps virus do not develop any symptoms.

The illness is most commonly spread when an uninfected person inhales respiratory droplets when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes.

Visit www.cdc.gov/mumps for more information.
Suspected cases of mumps in Columbia

Posted: 07.22.2015 at 9:44 PM

Health officials in Boone County says seven suspected cases of mumps have been reported in the Columbia area.

The University of Missouri said in a release Wednesday that the university is helping health officials notify people, including University of Missouri students and visitors, who may have come in contact with people displaying symptoms of mumps.

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Health department warns of possible mumps outbreak in Columbia

Jessica Quick, Meteorologist & Digital Content Director, jessicaq@kmiz.com


COLUMBIA, Mo. -

The Columbia/Boone County Health Department Wednesday said 7 suspected cases of mumps have been identified in the Columbia area.
The University of Missouri issued a statement Wednesday saying it is helping spread the word to students and campus visitors who may have come in contact with people displaying symptoms.

Symptoms include fatigue, fever, swollen salivary glands, rash, and jaw pain and can last a few weeks.

Once exposed, it can take between 12 to 25 days for symptoms to appear.

The CDC recommends people make sure they're up to date on their MMR vaccine and let your doctor know if you think you or someone in your family may have mumps.


MU sends warning to students, staff of mumps cases in Columbia

Posted: Jul 22, 2015 6:37 PM by Katie Grunik, KOMU 8 Digital Producer

Updated: Jul 22, 2015 8:23 PM

COLUMBIA - University of Missouri issued a health alert Wednesday, warning of mumps in the Columbia area.

Scott Henderson, MD Assistant Director at the Student Health Center, sent a letter to students, staff and recent campus visitors warning of seven possible cases of mumps.

Henderson said Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services said the individuals identified are ages 20-23. He also said they're waiting on lab testing to confirm the cases.
Henderson advised precautions to prevent the spreading of mumps such as ensuring all vaccinations are up-to-date and frequently washing your hands.

Most mumps cases do not lead to serious complications. Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services also said about a third of people who contract the mumps virus do not develop any symptoms.

Anyone experiencing symptoms should contact their health care professional immediately.

Seven cases of mumps suspected in Boone County

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

Wednesday, July 22, 2015 at 4:38 pm Comments (2)

Health officials have identified seven suspected cases of mumps in Boone County.

Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services spokeswoman Andrea Waner said health officials have identified a cluster of seven suspected mumps cases in Boone County. A cluster is an unusually high concentration of a disease occurring around the same time and place.

Waner said the cases were identified based on patients' symptoms, and confirmation is pending laboratory tests. The tests might be done by the end of the week, she said.

Waner did not give more specifics about where the outbreak was located.

University of Missouri spokesman Christian Basi said in a statement that MU is assisting the health department in notifying everyone — including students, prospective students and recent campus visitors — who may have come in contact with individuals who had mumps symptoms.
Basi said medical privacy laws prevent him from confirming whether any cases were found on campus.

"We're helping to make sure the campus population is aware due to the number of potential cases and the age of the individuals involved," Basi said. "We're also sending a notice to our students and parents."

Aaron Gray, a family and sports medicine physician with the university, said late Wednesday on Twitter that a case had been confirmed on the MU campus.

Symptoms include swollen, painful salivary glands, fever, headache, weakness and fatigue, loss of appetite and pain while chewing or swallowing.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website says anywhere from a couple of hundred to a couple of thousand cases of mumps are reported nationwide each year. About 186,000 cases were reported each year before the U.S. vaccination program started in 1967. Most people recover fully from the disease.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Seven mumps cases suspected in Columbia, officials looking for more

LIYING QIAN, 15 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Seven people in Columbia are suspected of having mumps, according to the Boone County Public Health and Human Services.

Health officials are conducting tests to confirm that the patients, all in their early 20s, are infected with the virus, which can do permanent damage. The virus, however, hasn’t killed anyone in the U.S. since at least 2006, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

All the cases were diagnosed Wednesday, said Andrea Waner*, a spokeswoman with the Columbia/Boone County Department of Health. MU is assisting the health department in
notifying students, prospective students and any campus visitors who may have come in contact with the seven patients.

Waner would not say if the patients were students, lived in the same area of town or when they started exhibiting symptoms. She also would not comment on their conditions.

The health department is actively seeking reports of anyone displaying mumps symptoms, even among those who have been vaccinated.

Mumps spreads through saliva and mucus. It infects and swells the parotid glands, one of three sets of glands around the jaw that produce saliva, according to Mayo Clinic. The illness can last for weeks. It usually takes two to four weeks before patients begin to show symptoms, which include fever, body aches, headaches, fatigue, swelling of the salivary glands or pain with chewing and swallowing. Complications can lead to swelling throughout the body, and in rare cases it can cause permanent hearing loss or miscarriage.

Although mumps is no longer common in the U.S., a few hundred to thousands of mumps cases are still reported from year to year. Several small outbreaks occurred on college campuses in California, Virginia and Maryland from 2011 to 2013, according to the CDC. So far this year, 162 mumps cases have been identified nationwide.

To prevent mumps, the health department suggests people stay up to date on their measles, mumps and rubella vaccine; cover their mouth while coughing or sneezing; and wash hands frequently with soap. Patients with symptoms of mumps should stay home for five days.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU loses library science accreditation

ANDREW KESSEL, 19 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — MU will appeal a decision by the American Library Association to withdraw accreditation from the university's master's program in library science.

MU was notified of the ALA's decision on July 7 and has since filed a notice of intent to appeal. A second document outlining the grounds for appeal must be submitted by Aug 6.

According to "Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library & Information Studies" on the ALA website, the association considers a program's objectives, curriculum, faculty, students, administration and resources when making accreditation decisions. The ALA is the accrediting body for university programs across the country.

Laura Dare, accreditation manager with the ALA, declined to comment this week on the reasons behind the decision while the appeal process is underway.

Even if the appeal is denied, current students graduating through 2017 will be allowed to finish their degrees with accredited status. Right now, there are about 160 students in the program, according to MU spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken. MU has the only accredited library science master's program in the state, Dare said.

In 2012, the library science program was placed on conditional accreditation by the ALA Committee on Accreditation. Conditional accreditation allows a program to retain accredited status but expresses a "need for significant and immediate improvement to maintain conformity with the standards," according to the ALA accreditation glossary.

After three years, the committee met again and elected to pull MU’s library science accreditation entirely.
The appeal process usually takes several months, Dare said in an email. After the appeal is considered, the earliest date the decision could be reversed is at the next scheduled meeting. The Committee on Accreditation is scheduled to meet on Nov. 20 and Jan. 10.

Prior to the scheduled meeting, if the Committee on Accreditation reviews the appeal and decides to issue a response, it send copies to the Appeal Review Committee. The review committee assesses the appeal and makes a recommendation to the ALA Executive Board, and the board decides whether to uphold the decision to withdraw accreditation.

If the board decides not to uphold the decision, the appeal is sent back to the Committee on Accreditation. If this happens, the committee is expected to decide whether to reverse its original decision at the next scheduled meeting.

If the board does uphold the decision, the withdrawal of accreditation becomes final.

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Missouri Capitol intern says she declined sexual advances

July 23, 2015
By Alex Stuckey

JEFFERSON CITY • After a few drinks at a January lobbyist event in Jefferson City, a legislative intern says she accepted an invitation to stay at the home of her boss, Democratic Sen. Paul LeVota, so she wouldn’t have to drive home.

When she got there, she claims the senator was flirtatious and twice said, “If you want to sleep with me tonight, I won’t tell you no.” She declined, she said, and slept on his couch.

After that night, she says she was shunned, removed from projects and called derogatory names by the senator from Independence.

The allegations from the former University of Central Missouri intern are detailed in a Senate investigation report released Wednesday.
In a statement, LeVota denied her account and said he never acted inappropriately with her or other interns. He told investigators that the intern, who did not respond to a request for comment, had never been to his Jefferson City home. The report notes, however, that the intern correctly described its layout, the type of door lock and the color of the couch.

The report outlines contradicting accounts of events leading up to the departure in March of two University of Central Missouri interns from the senator’s office. In April, the university informed the Senate it was conducting a Title IX investigation. The following month, the Senate hired St. Louis-based attorney Jim Nowogrocki to assist with a “workplace harassment complaint.”

The Senate released Nowogrocki’s report publicly but did not make any conclusions about the validity of the claims.

In his statement, LeVota said the report “reinforces that these are only allegations made against me, are unfounded and that there is no proof of wrongdoing.”

LeVota, 47, lives with his wife and two daughters in Independence. He received a bachelor’s degree from what is now University of Central Missouri and was first elected to the House in 2002. He served as House minority floor leader from 2007 to 2010 and was elected to the Senate in 2012. His term is up next year.

The night the intern claims she slept on LeVota’s couch, she said he made derogatory comments about her boyfriend and to the effect “she had never had good sex with a man,” the report states. LeVota also denied those allegations.

The report says the intern believes she was the target of retaliation after rejecting LeVota’s advances, saying he removed her from projects and called her names.

Other interns said they noticed LeVota treating her in a derogatory manner and noted her demeanor was “sad and frustrated,” the report says. But a member of LeVota’s staff said he didn't notice any name-calling or change in her attitude.

‘PERFECT AND BEAUTIFUL’

The report concludes that “it is difficult to objectively quantify a change in her work assignments” after the January incident.

The events surrounding that night weren’t her only complaint. She also said LeVota sent her text messages calling her “perfect and beautiful,” saying the two were “secret friends” and asking where she was and what she was doing outside work hours.

The intern did not retain the text messages, the report says, and because she had changed phones, “no text messages could be recovered.” LeVota denied sending the texts and refused the investigator’s request to submit his phone for a forensic examination, “citing privacy concerns about personal information” on it, according to the report.

Additionally, the intern said she cut her hair in February so she would appear less feminine and wouldn’t be treated differently because she is a woman. Before cutting her hair, she reported that LeVota would touch it and say “you have pretty hair.”

The report states the intern didn’t believe a crime was committed but that she wanted LeVota to be held accountable for his actions.

Senate Minority Leader Joe Keaveny, D-St. Louis, said the facts were inconclusive and, unless more information came to light, the Senate couldn’t make a conclusion on the allegations.
Right now, “I’m not convinced there’s a place where ... we can discipline or reprimand or draw a conclusion,” he said.

**POLICY IS VAGUE**

Had wrongdoing occurred, Senate policy is vague on how it would be handled. The Senate Workplace Handbook stipulates that Senate President Pro Tem Tom Dempsey, R-St. Charles, or the Senate Committee on Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics handle disciplinary action involving senators, but the Senate Rules do not outline a way for the committee to discipline a senator.

The state constitution says that each chamber can punish its members for “disorderly conduct” and expel a member with a two-thirds majority vote — 23 in the Senate and 109 in the House. Even without proof of wrongdoing, Rep. Paul Curtman, R-Pacific, said the incident helps legislators know “they’re being watched and that, ultimately, they are held accountable for any actions that violate the public interest.”

Ken Chackes, a St. Louis lawyer who specializes in sexual abuse and employment law, said the intern’s allegations would clearly constitute sexual harassment if they are true.

“Any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature” is considered sexual harassment, Chackes said. “She also alleges that her terms and conditions of work were changed after she rejected his advances.”

The university’s Title IX investigation likely never will become public because of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA, meant to protect a student’s education records. The results would be public only if the intern opted to release them.

Title IX is a 1972 federal law that bars discrimination in federally funded education programs on the basis of gender. Often referred to when discussing equal access to opportunities in sports, Title IX includes bans against unequal treatment based on sex, sexual harassment and sexual violence.

News broke of the harassment complaint in LeVota’s office shortly after former House Speaker John Diehl, R-Town and Country, resigned because of sexually charged messages he shared with a 19-year-old intern from Missouri Southern State University. Missouri Southern is investigating that matter.

Rep. Stacey Newman, D-Richmond Heights, said she hopes both situations lead to better policies, practices and education about workplace sexual harassment.

“This is not a partisan issue; we’re talking about sexual harassment,” Newman said. “There’s an opportunity to make sure young interns are still safe, protected and have safe places they can go when there are unwanted advances when there are things that seem not appropriate.”
Report: Former intern accuses Missouri Sen. LeVota of sexual harassment

By MARSHALL GRIFFIN • 17 HOURS AGO

NO MU MENTION

A former college intern said she experienced unwanted sexual advances from state Sen. Paul LeVota, D-Independence, back in January, according to details of an investigation released today.

LeVota strongly denies the accusations made by the former intern.

The Senate's administration committee authorized the investigation, hiring both an outside investigator and authorizing an inquiry by Senate Administrator Marga Hoelscher.

Most of the details come from the outside investigator, attorney Jim Nowogrocki, and center around a complaint filed by a former intern, who is not named, but is said to be a student from the University of Central Missouri.

In her complaint, she claimed that:

1. She "experienced a pattern of sexual harassment (that included) unwelcome text messages and explicit requests for sexual activity."
2. "After reporting the unwelcome sexual misconduct displayed by the senator to his chief of staff, the student intern was subject to retaliation."

Text messages, 'unwanted advances' and 'retaliation'

According to Nowogrocki's report, the intern received "ongoing text messages" from LeVota in January that were not sexual in nature, but
"possessive," some asking her whereabouts during non-work hours. According to the report, the intern described the content of some his texts as saying "perfect and beautiful," and "we are secret friends."

However, the report also said that the intern does not have any of the text messages, having recently changed cell phones, and that none of the texts in question could be recovered.

Nowogrocki’s report also says that LeVota "has denied sending any inappropriate text messages to the student intern" and that he did not have any texts available for the investigation. It also said that LeVota wouldn't allow his cell phone to undergo a forensic examination as part of the investigation.

The intern also claimed that on Jan. 26, LeVota made two unwanted requests "for sexual activity" following a visit to Gumbo Bottoms, a downtown Jefferson City bar two blocks from the Missouri Capitol. She said that LeVota advised her not to drive back to Fulton because she had consumed a few drinks and so she drove herself to his duplex in Jefferson City.

In the report, she said that LeVota offered her a glass of wine and made "derogatory statements about her boyfriend." She also alleged that LeVota twice said, "If you want to sleep with me tonight, I won't tell you 'no.'" After telling him "no," he "apologized and continued acting in a flirtatious manner." She said that she slept on the couch at LeVota's duplex but said "there was no physical contact between them."

LeVota denied in the report that the intern was ever inside his duplex.

Nowogrocki's report also included the intern's account of what she described as retaliation -- including "being shunned by the senator, her removal from one-on-one projects, her no longer receiving assignments concerning proposed rape-kit legislation, and being subjected to derogatory name calling."

**LeVota's response**

Within two hours of the report's release, LeVota provided the following statement to St. Louis Public Radio:

I just now received the Senate investigator’s report and want to formally respond to it.
Today's independent Senate investigator's report reinforces that these are only allegations made against me, are unfounded, and that there is no proof of wrong doing.

I willingly cooperated with Senate investigators during this process, and it bears repeating what I told the investigators when I was interviewed. At no time did I act inappropriately, through text messages or in person, with this intern or anyone else. I never asked her to do anything inappropriate; I never contacted her after hours, I never made sexual advances toward her, and neither I nor anyone on my staff ever retaliated against her in any way. Given the Missouri Senate's strong commitment to preventing sexual harassment, I am confident that if there had been any evidence to support these allegations, the Senate would have acted swiftly to impose appropriate actions.

While I am deeply disappointed in the allegations, I am gratified that the independent Senate investigators did not find them to be supported by any evidence and I look forward to returning to work for the people of Missouri.

Mo. Senator denies claims that he made sexual advances at intern

Posted: Jul 22, 2015 4:38 PM by Andrea Gonzales, KOMU 8 Reporter
Updated: Jul 23, 2015 12:03 AM

JEFFERSON CITY - Mo. Sen. Paul LeVota, D-Independence, denied two claims that he made sexual advances at an intern in his office, after an independent investigator released its report Wednesday.

This comes after student interns from the University of Central Missouri left his office in April -- before the semester ended. A Title IX complaint was filed, and the university filed a complaint with the senate. Senate President Pro Tem Tom Dempsey brought in an independent investigator.
In the first claim, the intern told investigators LeVota sent her on-going text messages in January, referring to her as "perfect and beautiful" and "we are secret friends."

LeVota told investigators he sent group text messages to the student interns in his office involving their tasks and assignments during the 2015 Sessions of the Missouri Legislature. He also said he asked the intern about her well-being when she had a personal illness. But the report states investigators could not review his text messages.

"The Senator did not have any text messages accessible for inspection as part of the investigative interview," the report stated. "He declined to have a forensic examination of his telephone, citing privacy concerns about personal information on his telephone."

The report also said the intern recalled the night of January 26 -- when she slept at LeVota's duplex in Jefferson City after drinking alcohol at a lobbyist event at Gumbo Bottoms. LeVota told investigators in the report the intern never went to his duplex.

The intern told investigators she felt as though she wasn't given projects she wanted after she declined his sexual advances. In the report, LeVota said "she acted in a manner that she didn't want to be present in the Capitol because of other personal matters."

LeVota released the following statement today:

"I just now received the Senate investigator's report and want to formally respond to it. Today's independent Senate investigator's report reinforces that these are only allegations made against me, are unfounded, and that there is no proof of wrong doing. I willingly cooperated with Senate investigators during this process, and it bears repeating what I told the investigators when I was interviewed.

At no time did I act inappropriately, through text messages or in person, with this intern or anyone else. I never asked her to do anything inappropriate; I never contacted her after hours, I never made sexual advances toward her, and neither I nor anyone on my staff ever retaliated against her in any way. Given the Missouri Senate's strong commitment to preventing sexual harassment, I am confident that if there had been any evidence to support these allegations, the Senate would have acted swiftly to impose appropriate actions.

While I am deeply disappointed in the allegations, I am gratified that the independent Senate investigators did not find them to be supported by any evidence and I look forward to returning to work for the people of Missouri."

This is the second allegation about the relationships between state senators and interns at the capitol. The University of Missouri also has an internship program -- called CLIP.
MU Spokesman Christian Basi said MU has no plans to change its internship program. He said the university works hard to make sure students have a good and educational experience.

Basi said the university is always watching and very aware of current situation. He said students go through an all-day training session before starting work at the capitol, which includes topics like professional relationships. He said he feels as though students at MU are safe.

Missouri Senate report: Intern claims sexual harassment

BY SUMMER BALLENTINE, 13 hrs ago

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — A former Missouri legislative intern claims a Democratic state senator sexually harassed her, made what she felt was a request for sex and retaliated when she refused, according to a Senate report released Wednesday. The lawmaker denied any inappropriate behavior.

The report, which enumerated the intern's claims and drew no conclusions, says she claimed a pattern of sexual harassment that included "unwelcome text messages and explicit requests for sexual activity" from Democratic Sen. Paul LeVota.

LeVota, 47, of Independence, denied the allegations in the report and told The Associated Press he does not plan to resign.
"At no time did I act inappropriately, through text messages or in person, with this intern or anyone else," LeVota said in a statement. "I never asked her to do anything inappropriate; I never contacted her after hours, I never made sexual advances toward her, and neither I nor anyone on my staff ever retaliated against her in any way."

The investigation, which adds to a tumultuous year in Missouri politics, came after two University of Central Missouri students abruptly left an internship with LeVota partway through the last legislative session, which ended in May. Former Republican House Speaker John Diehl resigned on the same day session concluded after acknowledging that he had exchanged sexually suggestive text messages with a 19-year-old Capitol intern.

While LeVota had previously said only that the Senate was investigating after his interns' departures, the report focused on an intern's sexual harassment complaint. It says the intern did not believe the senator committed a crime, "rather she would like to see some accountability for this conduct."

The report included findings submitted by attorney Jim Nowogrocki. He was selected by the Senate to help with an internal investigation after the University of Central Missouri notified the Senate that it was conducting its own review.

The intern said she spent the night at LeVota's Jefferson City duplex after drinking at a lobbyist event on Jan. 26. According to the report, LeVota told her twice that night, "if you want to sleep with me tonight, I won't tell you no." She said she considered that to be an explicit request for sex, declined it, and slept on the couch.

LeVota told investigators he did not make any sexual advances to the intern and that she never was in his duplex.

The intern also said she received texts from LeVota in January, including messages describing her as "perfect and beautiful" and questions about her weekend activities. The intern said she changed phones and did not have a copy of the texts. According to the report, LeVota denied
sending the intern inappropriate messages and declined a "forensic examination" of his phone, citing privacy concerns.

After declining what she believed was the sexual advance, the intern said she no longer received assignments on proposed rape kit legislation and felt shunned at work.

The report said "it is difficult to objectively quantify a change in her work assignments" but that the intern said she had an "uncomfortable relationship" with LeVota thereafter.

LeVota said if there was evidence to support the allegations, the Senate report could have drawn a conclusion and "the Senate would have acted swiftly to impose appropriate actions."

Senate President Pro Tem Tom Dempsey said that was beyond the responsibilities of the committee that oversaw the investigation, and does not believe the report clears LeVota of wrongdoing.

"There will be people who will look at the report and might draw different conclusions," Dempsey said. "It lacks the hard evidence that people would prefer to have when assessing innocence or guilt."

Dempsey and Senate Minority Leader Joe Keaveny both said they're not currently calling for LeVota's resignation.

The Missouri Constitution allows the Senate to expel a member with a two-thirds majority vote.

LeVota, who is married and has two daughters, was elected to the Senate in 2012. Before that, he served in the House for a decade and was House minority leader from 2007 to 2010. He graduated from Central Missouri State University, now known as the University of Central Missouri.
MU Alert and Overnight Burglary

Columbia police are investigating a burglary near the edge of the university of Missouri campus. And yet again, students there are criticizing the university’s active threat alert system. krcg13’s Ashley Zavala talked to officials about the system. She brings us more. For the fourth time in the last four months, mu alert recipients are criticizing the alert system. This time... for a vague alert sent during an alleged burglary on Hamilton way near the northeast side of campus. At 1:05 Wednesday morning the alert read: "there is an active threat near campus. Take precautions. MU alert will be updated shortly." (Jordan Irwin - MU student) "I was a little confused at first because you see active threat you think anywhere between domestic terrorism to a break-in." (Alicia web - MU med student) "I do live downtown and most of the things that go on happen downtown but they don't say exactly where. so it makes it should be worried about kind of hard to know if i something or if i should be taking action at all. "In response to the criticism of the initial alert, MU police captain Brian Wiemer said the alert system is only allotted 140 characters through text and tweet. Twenty minutes after the first alert, the system would specify the incident on twitter and Facebook and eventually go on to say Columbia police pursued the burglary suspect away from campus but the suspect was not arrested. Alert recipients said they’d rather have more detailed information than a vague alert. (Webb)"so i think probably having a little more information, even if it's a little bit longer or choppy sentences or something, would be helpful."(Ashley standup): "the MU police department says those affected by the mu alerts should go to the website for the most updated and detailed information.

Watch the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=a87f5df6-ceea-4fe6-940b-5bd00d88935f
The MU Police Department received a report of a burglary at 1112 Hamilton Way, north of campus, at about 1:20 a.m., according to a post on the MU Alert website. City police chased the culprit, and the pursuit wound on and off campus, the alert said.

A follow-up alert said police had called off the search near the 1400 block of University Avenue without arresting the burglar.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Burglary near MU results in K-9 search

JUSTIN L. STEWART, 20 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — A reported burglary early Wednesday morning prompted an MU Alert.

A resident of 1112 Hamilton Way called Columbia police at 12:43 a.m. Wednesday about a burglary, and officers arrived within three minutes.

The residents reported hearing glass break, though no one was seen inside, said Columbia Police Department spokeswoman Latisha Stroer.

A pursuit led Columbia Police and MU Police officers on and off campus, according to the MU Alert report.

The departments searched with a canine unit from 12:57 to 1:18 a.m. The unsuccessful search ended at the 1400 block of University Avenue, according to the police dispatch report and the MU Alert report.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Forget fingerprints: At MU's Rothwell Club, iris is the new identity
COLUMBIA — The iris, that colored ring around the dark pupil of your eye, is as unique to a person as a fingerprint.

Female members of the membership-only Rothwell Club in the MU Student Recreation Complex have been using iris readers to get into the club's women's locker room since last fall. Later this summer, the men's locker room will also get iris readers.

Iris readers use a camera image of the iris and compare it to data already on file. The readers, which are stationed outside each of two doors to the locker rooms, can capture a picture of the iris from 3 to 10 inches away.

"Iris readers are less invasive, safer and more convenient," MU spokesman Jeff Sossamon said. "Rothwell Club users don't have to keep ID cards with them while they exercise."

The club costs $18 a month and offers extra amenities such as private lockers, towels, shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, mouthwash and hair dryers, according to the MU rec complex website.

The readers replaced fingerprint scanners last September to enhance security and make things more convenient for members.

"It's better than having to wait on recognizing fingerprints," said Hannah Turnbull, a Rothwell Club member who was entering the locker room on Wednesday.

Fingerprint scanners were more difficult for members to use because perspiration and swimming in the pool can cause fingerprints to not be read correctly, Sossamon said.

"Last semester, when I was done swimming, the fingerprint scanners wouldn't work," another club member, Brittany Kuehl, said Wednesday. "I had to grab staff members to let me in."
According to information about the readers from their maker, Fulcrum Biometrics, although both iris and retina scanning are ocular-based biometric technologies, there are some distinct differences: Because the retina is located at the back of the eye, retinal scanning requires a close encounter to get a picture of the retina. A scanning device sends a beam of light deep inside the eye to capture an image.

Iris readers use a camera, similar to any digital camera, to capture an image of the iris. Members simply look into a mirror and wait for a green validation light for access to the locker room.

"It's quicker if I have stuff in my hands," Kuehl said.

Sossamon said iris data is kept on file until Rothwell Club members cancel their membership, after which the data is deleted.

"Only two membership staff members have access to this data," Sossamon said.

Club members’ comments have been mostly positive, he said, and centered on the additional safety and convenience.

"I like knowing other people don't have access to the locker rooms," Turnbull said.

Sossamon said five members expressed concern about privacy and three chose to use the free general lockers instead.

In total, the readers cost $13,000 for the hardware and installation and were paid for through club membership dues.
Odom makes $625K as MU's defensive coordinator

By DAVID MORRISON
Wednesday, July 22, 2015 at 2:00 pm

New Missouri defensive coordinator Barry Odom's annual salary is $625,000, the university said in response to a public-records request.

In an email, University of Missouri System custodian of records Paula Barrett wrote that Odom's contract is in the works but has not yet been finalized.

Missouri hired Odom, who played for the Tigers from 1996-99 and served in various capacities on Coach Gary Pinkel’s staff from 2003-11, to replace former defensive coordinator Dave Steckel on Dec. 23, after Steckel left to become head coach at Missouri State.

Steckel made $600,000 in 2014. Odom, according to USA Today’s database of assistant coach salaries, made $372,113 at Memphis last season. His Missouri salary represents a 68 percent raise.

Offensive coordinator Josh Henson made the second-most on Pinkel's staff last year at $550,000. Pinkel said in May that, as part of the raise and extension he received in April, his assistant coaches’ salary pool increased to put it in the top half of staffs in the SEC. Details of that increase have not been released.

According to published figures, Odom would be the eighth-highest-paid defensive coordinator in the Southeastern Conference, behind Auburn’s Will Muschamp, Alabama’s Kirby Smart, Texas A&M’s John Chavis, LSU’s Kevin Steele, Georgia’s Jeremy Pruitt and South Carolina co-coordinators Lorenzo Ward and Jon Hoke.

In his three years as Memphis’ defensive coordinator, Odom helped the Tigers improve from 117th in the FBS in total defense in 2011, the year before he arrived, to 27th by the time he left.
Safeties coach Ryan Walters, whom Missouri hired from Memphis in February, is making an annual salary of $240,000. Walters replaced Alex Grinch, who left the Tigers after three years as safeties coach to become Washington State’s defensive coordinator.

Grinch made $260,000 as Missouri’s safeties coach last year, according to the university’s salary report.

WARD TO TRANSFER: Junior safety Chaston Ward has decided to transfer from the Missouri football program, team spokesman Chad Moller said.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch first reported the news.

The 6-foot-1, 200-pound Ward totaled five tackles in 20 games during his Missouri career, with all of his action coming on special teams.

Ward was listed as second-string strong safety in Missouri’s prespring depth chart while senior Cortland Browning and redshirt freshman Tavon Ross recovered from injuries, but he was not included in the team’s preseason media guide.

Rivals.com listed Ward as a three-star recruit out of Cleburne, Texas, High School in the Tigers’ signing class of 2012. He is the eighth member of that 19-signee class to leave Missouri before his eligibility ran out.

Ward is one of six players to leave the Tigers since the end of spring practice. Cornerback David Johnson, safety Shaun Rupert, Ward, offensive lineman Jordan Williams and defensive tackle Evan Winston chose to transfer, while defensive end Marcus Loud was dismissed for a violation of team rules.

City considering 'scramble' crosswalk to improve pedestrian safety

By CAITLIN CAMPBELL

Wednesday, July 22, 2015 at 2:00 pm Comments (5)
Pedestrians might soon be “scrambling” through a busy downtown Columbia intersection.

The city is considering testing a new type of crosswalk downtown, called a “pedestrian scramble,” designed to reduce incidents involving walkers and drivers.

The Public Works Department wants to install the three-phase pedestrian scramble at Ninth and Elm streets.

Public Works spokesman Steve Sapp said the intersection would be repainted and the signals replaced with new ones that would cycle through three phases. In one, vehicles move north and south on Ninth. In the second phase, vehicles going east and west on Elm get green lights. The third phase stops all traffic and allows pedestrians to cross in any direction.

Sapp said drivers and pedestrians will have to wait longer to get through the intersection, but the city hopes “people are willing to wait longer in the interest of safety.” He said the city can change the signal cycle back to a normal intersection and crosswalk at any time if the project does not work.

The cost to modify the intersection is an estimated $132,000 if the project is completed in conjunction with sewer and stormwater projects. If the crosswalk project is completed on its own, will cost an estimated $239,000.

The Mayor’s Task Force on Pedestrian Safety briefly discussed the proposal Tuesday. City officials said the unique crosswalk system has been used across the country. Ninth and Elm streets seemed like a better place for the scramble than some of the city’s busier intersections, such as those on Broadway, officials said.

Task force member Michael Szewczyk said the project could potentially help eliminate the “battle” sometimes waged between pedestrians and turning cars. Most pedestrian scrambles across the country eliminate right turns on a red light to help the flow of traffic. Szewczyk said sometimes cars try to turn right while pedestrians are in the middle of the intersection, creating a danger at popular road crossings.

“The pedestrians would have complete right of way at that intersection with this project,” Szewczyk said. “That’s bound to eliminate some problems.”

Missouri Students Association spokesman Syed Ejaz said university students frequently use the intersection at Ninth and Elm streets because the area is home to popular destinations.
and is on the northeast edge of the University of Missouri campus. He said he has “heard only good things” about the project and is eager to see how students respond.

“Ninth and Elm streets will be a good test of the scramble here in Columbia,” said task force member Nate Brown, who experienced a scramble intersection when he lived in Washington, D.C. “Students especially are going through that intersection all the time.”

The Columbia City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposal at its Aug. 3 meeting.

The city wants to install the signals while replacing a storm drain near the intersection along with other work on the Flat Branch Watershed Relief Sewer project No. 3. The city council is scheduled to also hold Aug. 3 public hearings on the projects, along with a public hearing for the Flat Branch Watershed Relief Sewer project No. 1.

Preliminary plans for the Flat Branch Watershed Relief Sewer projects were approved last year to address sewer capacity issues downtown. The projects received significant attention after the city entered into agreements with student housing developers to help pay for the sewer projects.

Grant will fund student-led advocacy for college affordability

July 23, 2015  •  By Koran Addo

NO MU MENTION

The St. Louis Graduates nonprofit organization has recently been awarded a $240,000 grant intended to bring students together to create a statewide advocacy group to lobby on behalf of college students.

The grant from Texas-based TG Philanthropy will be paid out over three years.

Funding will be used to create a coalition of students to petition universities and legislators for increased need-based financial aid and policies that will support success among first-generation and low-income college students.

The coalition will build upon the work being done by the Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis, which advocates on behalf of vulnerable student populations.

The advocacy will be led by Karissa Anderson, who recently graduated with a master's degree from St. Louis University's School of Social Work.
As Manager of Advocacy and Policy Research with the Scholarship Foundation, Anderson said the coalition will advocate in a number of ways, including compiling research, testifying in front of the Legislature and writing op-eds.

“So often students are the last to know about policy changes,” she said. “And these are policies that can affect them for the rest of their lives.”

St. Louis Graduates is made up of a network of college access and success nonprofits. Each summer the nonprofit operates the free High School to College Center where students can go for help in applying for scholarships and navigating the college enrollment process. Visit the center between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday at 618 North Skinker Boulevard in the Delmar Loop. This year, the center will remain open until July 31.

Visit www.stlouisgraduates.org for more information.

Athletics transfers over $10M to university
Submitted by Stefanie Botelho on Wed, 07/22/2015 - 1:27am
LSUSports.net

NO MU MENTION

The LSU Athletic Department will transfer over $10 million this fiscal year to other components of the university for use in supporting LSU's academic, research, public service and other missions, Vice Chancellor and Director of Athletics Joe Alleva announced Monday.

“Our athletic department is sincerely committed to supporting the academic mission of the university, and we’re extremely proud to transfer over $10 million this year,” Alleva said. “These funds provide vital resources for our students, faculty and staff, and they help to sustain LSU as one of the top research institutions in the country.”

The athletic department has contributed a total of $43.5 million to the LSU-Baton Rouge campus over the past five fiscal years.

Facing More Regulations, Aid Offices Struggle to Serve Students

By Beckie Supiano
Like many campus offices, financial aid is doing more with less. The pattern looks like this: More students are applying for aid, and more aid is being awarded, but aid offices’ operating budgets are flat, according to a report released this year by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, or Nasfaa. "This survey," the report says, "reveals the widespread perception that the resource shortages felt by aid administrators are not short-term products of our economy, but rather permanent structural problems without foreseeable reprieve."

The biggest strain on aid offices, according to the Nasfaa survey, is a "greater compliance workload." New government regulations are coming down more often than they used to, says Karen McCarthy, a senior policy analyst at the association.

Administrative burden may not be a sexy topic, but it has important implications. Spending more time on compliance means spending less time counseling students — many of whom are borrowing to pay for college and could use help making good decisions. The report includes a list of policy recommendations that Nasfaa believes can help both aid administrators and students.

Perhaps it’s no surprise that financial aid is full of regulations — after all, the billions of dollars provided annually in federal grants, loans, and other aid come from taxpayers. Federal financial aid is also the government’s main point of contact with colleges, and the threat of losing aid eligibility is its biggest penalty. As a result, aid offices at some small colleges are also responsible for making sure that consumer disclosures unrelated to aid — those dealing with fire safety, for instance — are posted on time.

More regulation does not necessarily mean more resources to handle it. "It doesn’t matter how many regulations are implemented," says Mia Mwango, acting director of
financial aid at Santa Fe College, a community college in Gainesville, Fla. "If enrollment goes down or funding goes down, our budget goes down."

The office’s operating budget fluctuates, Ms. Mwango says, but it has been able to add two positions in the past five years. One of those is her own job, technical coordinator, which bridges the gap between the aid office and information technology. The other is a client-services coordinator, who oversees communication with families.

Santa Fe has done a number of things to reduce administrative burden, Ms. Mwango says. It automated verification, a process that confirms the accuracy of information provided on selected students’ aid applications. It also works with a vendor called Financial Aid TV. When it’s time to apply for aid, students are sent a playlist of videos describing how to do it. The videos answer many basic questions, Ms. Mwango says, freeing up staff to handle more complicated ones.

Another tool for cutting staff time spent on simple questions is the on-campus call center, which handles phone calls about student services. The center’s staff members can resolve about two-thirds of the financial-aid calls that come in without involving anyone in the aid office, Ms. Mwango says.

Those strategies may not be enough to take the stress out of working in financial aid. But they at least help aid administrators spend more time on the work that drew them to the profession in the first place: helping students.