Mumps outbreak in Columbia may be up to 15 cases

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
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The health department in Boone County has launched an investigation to determine the origin and cause of a mumps outbreak that may have affected 15 people so far in Columbia.

Seven of the first cases were University of Missouri students ages 20 to 23, a health department official said. More than 13,000 students have been on campus for summer sessions, which end Friday. Thousands more students will begin moving onto campus in less than three weeks for fall classes, which begin Aug. 24.

The first case of the communicable disease was reported to the health department last week. So far the department has reported seven confirmed cases and one probable case and said Thursday that there are seven more possible cases pending laboratory testing by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A team of epidemiologists and experts in communicable disease from the health department is investigating the outbreak but said it is a long process and could take weeks before any conclusions are reached.

Students, faculty and anyone who visited the campus for summer welcome programs have been notified about the outbreak. Doctors have been put on notice to report to the health department any cases believed to be mumps.

MU officials said they don’t recall having a case of mumps on the campus in recent memory. Health department spokeswoman Andrea Waner said there hasn’t been a case in Columbia in at least five years.
“We encourage all of our students, prospective students and visitors to assure vaccinations are up to date. MU requires that all newly enrolled or readmitted students born after Dec. 31, 1956, have a two-dose MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccination,” Scott Henderson, assistant director of the MU Student Health Center, said in a statement this week.

The MMR vaccine is 88 percent effective, Waner said.

Symptoms include fever, earache, headache, swollen glands in front of and below the ear, and swelling under the jaw. Men may experience swelling of the testicles, and women may experience swelling of the breasts and ovaries, which might cause abdominal pain. People with mumps may feel body aches, fatigue and pain while chewing.

“Most mumps cases do not lead to serious complications,” Waner said.

The health department recommends that people check to be sure their vaccinations are up to date. Two doses are needed to be protected against the virus. Most people would have had their first MMR vaccination at 12 to 15 months old and a second before starting kindergarten.

Anyone exhibiting symptoms of the disease is advised to see a doctor right away.

“If a student comes to the Student Health Center exhibiting symptoms, they would be advised to go home and stay isolated. It is an infectious virus,” said university spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken.

Confirmed mumps cases in Columbia now up to seven

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Less than two weeks after alerting the community to a possible mumps outbreak, confirmed cases have now jumped up to seven, according to the Boone County Health Department.

**All seven confirmed cases are University of Missouri students.**

The number could continue to grow, as the Health Department says it is waiting for lab test results from at least three other students.

All seven students were vaccinated.

Right now, it's unclear where the virus originated.

The Health Department is still encouraging everyone to be current on vaccinations because they say people who contract the virus have less severe symptoms if they are vaccinated.

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**Search for interim dean underway after Business school dean leaves for South Carolina**

Dean Joan Gabel rebranded the Business school and helped launch the execMBA program.

**Less than a month before fall semester, the University of South Carolina announced that MU’s Trulaske College of Business dean Joan Gabel will become the next provost.**

She’ll start the job Aug. 24, pending approval at the USC Board of Trustees meeting Aug. 7, according to a news release from USC. Gabel has served as the business school dean at MU since 2010.

“I am very proud of all we have accomplished together and I thank all involved in our success,” Gabel said in a statement. “My family and I have so enjoyed our time in Columbia and I look forward to seeing what’s next for this great institution. This is an exciting time for my family and I appreciate the outpouring of support.”

During her tenure at MU, Gabel had many achievements including securing state funding for the Applied Learning Center through the Missouri Higher Education Capital Fund.

Gabel said in an April 22 Maneater article that the Applied Learning Center will provide space for “facilitated, experiential learning and research,” including areas dedicated to the practice of
entrepreneurship, real-time trading and marketing. The $22.3 million center will be built on the southeast corner of Rollins Street and Tiger Avenue.

Gabel spearheaded the “We’ll Show You” campaign, which rebranded the business school during the school’s centennial, according to her biography on the school’s website. She also developed a strategic plan, updated the BS, BA and MBA curricula and expanded diversity and inclusion opportunities.

The execMBA program and the Entrepreneurship Alliance were also launched under Gabel’s leadership, according to the biography.

MU spokesperson Mary Jo Banken said in an email that Provost Garnett Stokes will accept nominations for the interim dean this week and hopes to have an interim next week.

When announcing the appointment, USC President Harris Pastides highlighted Gabel’s success with funding the Applied Learning Center among her other accomplishments.

“As the University of South Carolina takes on greater statewide, national and global leadership roles, it is imperative that our new provost bring the advanced skills and vision necessary to keep our remarkable momentum moving forward,” Pastides said in the release. “Joan Gabel is that person. I know the Carolina family will join me in welcoming this innovative and dynamic leader to our community.”

The move will be the highest position Gabel has held. She has previously worked at Georgia State and Florida State. At Georgia State, she served as interim Director of the Institute of International Business. Later on at Florida State, Gabel was the director of International Relations and chair of the Department of Risk Management/Insurance, Real Estate & Legal Studies.

At South Carolina, Gabel will oversee the 16 schools and colleges on USC's Columbia campus, the university libraries and the online campus, Palmetto College, according to the news release.

Gabel, an Atlanta native, has ties to the South Carolina area as well. Her family owns a Charleston-area coastal home, according to The State. Her husband graduated from Spring Valley High School in Columbia, South Carolina.

“We still have family in South Carolina, so in some ways this feels like a homecoming,” she said in the release.

Gabel was up against three other finalists for the job: Kate Miller, Texas A&M University’s geosciences dean; David Brennen, University of Kentucky’s law school dean; and Chaden Djalali, University of Iowa’s liberal arts dean all visited South Carolina in the past two months.

Gabel is the third dean to to leave their post since Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin became the chancellor in February 2013. Journalism school Dean, Dean Mills, announced his retirement in February 2014 and served until the new dean was named in April 2015.
The College of Engineering has been conducting a search for their new dean, a position that has been vacant since September 2014. The four finalists visited campus in April, but Stokes has yet to hire a new dean.

Crave condiments? Thank co-evolution!

By MIKE SZYDLOWSKI CPS Science Coordinator

Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at 2:00 pm

What is a hot dog without mustard? It’s a pretty boring hot dog! OK, maybe that is more of an opinion than science. But if you are one of the millions of people who like spicing things up with mustard, you need to thank the science of evolution — or, more specific, of co-evolution.

Evolution exists because living organisms constantly are changing to better fit their environments. An organism does not “choose” to evolve; evolution happens when a certain trait in a species is more favored than other traits. Organisms with the more favorable traits will live longer and reproduce more than those with unfavorable traits. Over time, the population will shift to include the more favorable trait.

There is a constant battle going on in nature between those trying not to be eaten and those doing the eating. A team of scientists from the University of Missouri studied the development of plants in the Brassica genus, which includes cabbage, mustard and radishes, and uncovered an example of evolution that ended up producing some of our condiments.

Plants most often are eaten by insects. Caterpillars, for example, get the energy they need by devouring lots of plants.

About 90 million years ago, a particular plant developed the ability to produce a chemical called glucosinolate. This chemical is highly toxic to many insects. The plants with this chemical would have had a greater chance of passing on this trait because the caterpillars would not have eaten it.

Over time, the caterpillars developed a tolerance to the toxic plant chemical. The plant then continues to evolve to produce a stronger version of the chemical while the caterpillars continue to develop a greater tolerance of the chemical.

This is co-evolution. Some time passed — 90 million years — and we now have mustard plants. Although some insects hate the mustard oil, it just so happens to be delicious to humans.
The mustard plant is not the only example of a plant’s defense mechanism turning out to be delicious to humans.

The spicy taste of horseradish has very similar origins. It wasn’t trying to be delicious — it was trying to be a turn-off to the organisms that ate the plant.

Another example is the red chili pepper. At some point, a plant developed the chemical capsaicin to protect its fruit, which we now know as peppers. Fruits give a plant the ability to reproduce. This plant produced capsaicin to burn the taste receptors in the mammals that ate them. However, birds do not have those same taste receptors, so the chemical did not burn them. Also, it just so happens that the digestive system of birds will not ruin the pepper seed like a mammal’s digestion will. So now the mammals stay away, the birds eat and spread the seeds, and humans enjoy hot and spicy meals thanks to this example of co-evolution.

Enjoy coffee? You can thank evolution for that, too. Way back in time, the coffee plants evolved to produce the chemicals we love. But they produced those chemicals to keep insects away, not for humans to enjoy.

The war between plants and organisms that eat them has been constant for many millions of years. Humans are just lucky enough to benefit from the wars, as they produced some of the tangy or spicy substances we love. But don’t thank the plant — thank the insects that were eating the plants for the co-evolution deliciousness.

New pass could bring more donors to Red Cross


COLUMBIA, Mo. - People trickled in and out of the blood drive at MFA Inc. early Thursday afternoon.

Many waited at least 10 minutes for their health screening.

Jennifer Robinson barely waited two.
She used the new Red Cross rapid pass to answer the health questions online before she gave blood and said it saved her time.

"I only had to answer three questions in the booth with them," she said.

Because giving blood can take a while, Red Cross donation supervisor Craig Jackson said many people don't take the time, especially in the summer.

"It's a very tough time for us to collect, especially with the heat, as we've seen for the last couple of days," he said. "You've got ball games, and different stuff. traveling, vacation. A lot of your regular donors don't make the time to donate."

This week, the Red Cross unveiled the rapid pass to help those busy donors save time and lives.

"This allows you to do that in the privacy of your home or your office before you come in to donate blood," he said.

Donation technicians hope the rapid pass brings in more donors as well as makes more room for them.

"Anyway that we can get them in and out as fast as possible, it would allow us to get some more donors in there," he said.

Jackson said while they get lots of 50+ donors, they tend to drop off as they get older and start taking more medication. He hopes the pass also attracts younger, healthier donors.

"I think it will work well with college, the younger crowd that is a little bit more on board with technology, and also your business professionals that are very short on time and want to get in and out," he said.

The University of Missouri hosts what it calls the largest blood drive in the world every fall, and the Red Cross hopes it can implement the new rapid pass at that blood drive.
Former Cass County prosecutor Teresa Hensley announced Thursday that she is entering next year's race for Missouri attorney general.

Hensley, a Democrat, had returned to her family's Raymore law office earlier this year after losing a re-election bid in November. Her announcement came the same day that Sen. Scott Sifton, a St. Louis County Democrat, said he was dropping out of the race.

Another Democrat, St. Louis County Assessor Jake Zimmerman, and two Republicans also are running for the office.

Hensley grew up in Raymore and had been the Cass County prosecutor since 2005. Last year, she ran her re-election campaign on her record of overseeing 21 murder convictions. She lost to Ben Butler, a criminal defense attorney who was seeking public office for the first time.


In her announcement Thursday, Hensley touted her experience in Cass County.

"As a former prosecutor, I saw the pain and the devastation families experience when they're the victims of violent crime. I saw parents who lost children to drunk drivers, and children who lost their innocence to abuse. But I also saw the power
of justice in action. I saw people begin to put their lives back together after justice was served in a court of law," Hensley wrote in a statement.

Hensley claimed the endorsement of Sifton, who said he would instead seek re-election to the Senate.

The Missouri attorney general’s office will be open next year because Democratic incumbent Chris Koster has said he plans to run for governor.

Zimmerman had nearly twice as much to spend on a campaign as Sifton as of June 30, with about $921,000 compared to Sifton’s roughly $488,000.

**Republican Sen. Kurt Schaefer of Columbia appears likely to face off with Republican attorney and University of Missouri School of Law associate professor Josh Hawley in a GOP primary for the seat.**

**Former MU Tiger Sheldon Richardson facing charges after driving Bentley at 143 mph**

BY DENNIS WASZAK JR.
*The Associated Press*

FLORHAM PARK, N.J.
Sheldon Richardson has already been suspended four games by the NFL for drug use. The New York Jets defensive lineman is now facing trouble with the law.

**Richardson, a former Missouri Tiger, was charged Thursday in St. Charles County, Mo., with resisting arrest and multiple traffic violations for an**
incident on July 14 – only two weeks after his NFL-issued drug suspension for marijuana use.

Richardson, entering his third NFL season, spoke to reporters after the team’s first practice of training camp – but before the news broke about the charges. The Jets were not aware of the incident until they saw media reports.

“I apologized to my teammates and my organization and I told them they don’t have to worry about my name being in the news again,” Richardson said of the drug suspension.

Shortly after that, FOX-affiliate KTVI in Missouri first reported the charges against Richardson, who resides in O’Fallon, Missouri.

According to a release issued by the St. Charles County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, Richardson was driving at “exceedingly high rates of speed” on Interstate 64 in “what appeared to be a road race.”

In the police’s probable cause report, an officer stated that Richardson and the other vehicle were traveling at speeds as high as 143 mph. When the officer attempted to make routine traffic stops on the vehicles, Richardson sped away.

The 24-year-old Richardson was identified as the driver of a 2014 Bentley Silver Spur, which also went through a traffic light before the Jets player turned off all of the car’s lights and pulled into the driveway of a home that wasn’t his. Police pulled behind the car and ordered Richardson and his two adult male passengers out of the car at gunpoint – because an officer said he saw Richardson reach for something between his feet.

According to the incident report, Richardson exited the car, along with the passengers and a 12-year-old boy. A fully loaded semi-automatic handgun was found underneath the driver’s side floor mat, and the officer said the car smelled of marijuana.

Richardson was issued traffic summonses, and has been ordered to appear in St. Charles County Circuit Court on Oct. 27 for arraignment on the charge of resisting arrest, a class A misdemeanor. He was not charged for the gun possession or marijuana. A conviction for resisting arrest is punishable by up to one year in jail, and/or a fine of up to $1,000. Richardson’s passengers were not charged.
In a statement, the Jets said they were aware of the situation and were “gathering information.” They added that it’s a “pending legal matter” and would have no further comment at this time.

While speaking to reporters for the first time since his suspension was announced, Richardson insisted he wouldn’t fail another NFL-issued drug test – even though he had previously failed an unspecified number of others.

“Yeah,” he said when asked if he could guarantee not having another failed test, “because I’m not a dope fiend.”

Richardson was suspended by the league on July 2 without pay for the first four games of this season after violating the league’s substance abuse policy. He’s allowed to practice with the team until the regular season begins.

“I failed every drug test and this drug test, so there was no reason to appeal it,” Richardson said. “I take full accountability for my actions.”

Added coach Todd Bowles: “His actions will speak louder than his words going forward.”

Richardson, who made the Pro Bowl last season, worked with the second-team defense during the Jets’ first practice of training camp while first-round draft pick Leonard Williams and veteran Leger Douzable split time with the starters.

“Seeing yourself going from Pro Bowl to second string, can’t do nothing but be disappointed in yourself,” Richardson said. “I’m just a little disappointed and embarrassed for my parents’ sake. NFL guys mess up, and the world knows about it. My family goes through a lot. People don’t know how to talk to them at work anymore. Those things like that, that gets to you. I put my family before myself, and this team.”

Richardson wouldn’t detail what led to him failing multiple drug tests and ultimately being suspended, other than to say: “Personal reasons. Like I said, you all don’t know my life, so you wouldn’t understand that.”

He reiterated that he’s “not a dope fiend, man,” and added that he could have said no, but “I just chose not to.”
“I was in a depressing time in my offseason, and that’s just that,” Richardson said. “It’s just that simple, bro. There’s money on the line. My money is worth more than some weed.”

A St. Louis native and Gateway High School graduate, Richardson transferred to Missouri after two years at a California junior college. He played for the Tigers in 2011 and 2012.

Richardson was suspended from the team for an unspecified rules violation on November 2012 and announced two weeks later he would enter the NFL Draft instead of finishing his senior year. He finished the season tied for second on the team with 75 tackles, a figure that led all defensive tackles in the SEC.

NFL star Sheldon Richardson clocked at 143 mph in Bentley by O'Fallon, Mo., police

8 hours ago • By Mark Schlinkmann

O'FALLON, MO. • New York Jets defensive lineman Sheldon Richardson was charged Thursday with resisting arrest and various traffic violations stemming from a high-speed, late-night road race on Highway 40 (Interstate 64) on July 14, authorities said.

St. Charles County Prosecutor Tim Lohmar said Richardson, 24, a St. Louis native and former University of Missouri football star, drove a 2014 Bentley Silver Spur clocked by police upwards of 143 mph.

Lohmar said an O'Fallon officer tried to stop Richardson’s westbound car shortly before midnight. Richardson exited at WingHaven Boulevard and sped through a red light.

A 12-year-old male relative and two adult men were passengers in Richardson’s car, authorities said.

According to court records, Richardson drove around stopped vehicles and turned off his lights as he fled the officer. On Phoenix Parkway, Richardson lost control of the Bentley, sliding the rear of the car into an oncoming lane of traffic.
Officers caught up with Richardson after he pulled into the driveway of a home in a nearby neighborhood in the WingHaven development. An officer ordered Richardson and the two adult passengers out at gunpoint because Richardson appeared to be reaching for something. Lohmar said Richardson complied with a police demand to get out. He was issued a summons at the scene, Lohmar said. The officer found a loaded semi-automatic handgun beneath the floor mat on the driver’s side of the Bentley. Lohmar said Richardson had the gun legally.

Lohmar said resisting arrest is a misdemeanor which carries a potential penalty of up to a year in jail and or a $1,000 fine. The others in the car were not charged. Lohmar said the driver of the other vehicle got away.

The court records said the officer smelled “a very strong odor of burned marijuana” from the vehicle and all the passengers. Lohmar said there was no evidence presented on which to base any drug charge.

Richardson already was in trouble with the NFL before this incident. The league announced July 2 that he had been suspended without pay for the first four games of the upcoming regular season for violating the NFL’s substance abuse policy. He reportedly tested positive for marijuana.

Speaking to reporters Thursday in the New York area, Richardson insisted he won’t fail another NFL-issued drug test because he’s “not a dope fiend.” Richardson said Thursday he’s disappointed in himself for what he called “a mistake” and is “embarrassed” for his parents.

The incident in O’Fallon wasn’t public at the time Richardson spoke to reporters and he did not address it.

Court records in the O’Fallon incident show Richardson also is charged with exceeding the speed limit, following too closely, failing to use lights and failing to obey a traffic signal. He will be arraigned Oct. 27 in St. Charles County Circuit Court.

Court records said the officer also sought a charge of endangering the welfare of a child, which is a felony. Lohmar said his office concluded there was insufficient evidence to prove that charge.

Court records listed Richardson’s address as in the 200 block of Fairway Green in O’Fallon.