Mumps outbreak spreading at University of Missouri amid national surge in cases of the highly-infectious virus

A mumps outbreak at the University of Missouri continues to grow with 31 confirmed cases.

There are another 27 probable cases of people who have been in close contact with someone with confirmed mumps showing symptoms for at least two days.

The university says it's working with health officials to control the outbreak.

Mumps is a viral infection that causes swelling in the salivary glands and cheeks. Anyone with symptoms is asked to stay at home.

It has been on the rise nationally this year.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says 2,345 mumps cases had been reported as of last month.

That's more than twice as many as in all of 2015.

Other universities also have reported cases this year, including Harvard.

Last week it emerged more than a dozen students have contracted mumps at the State University of New York.

The outbreak, first reported last month, started on the school's swim team.

This week, four unrelated students were diagnosed with the debilitating infection.

It is the latest in a serious of outbreaks across the country in the last few months.

Dozens were diagnosed with mumps in New York City in August, just weeks before more than 400 people were struck down with the virus across Arkansas.

The escalating outbreak at SUNY has sparked an urgent investigation to contain the spread, with swim team practice suspended until further notice.
Any students yet to get the MMR (mumps, measles, rubella) vaccination have been ordered to stay at home for 26 days.

But the school insists tours for prospective students will continue as normal.

The infection is incurable and can lead to devastating health concerns in adults.

Sufferers have lost their hearing, become infertile, and had swollen brains.

Some people do not experience any symptoms.

Typically, symptoms include swollen glands, headaches, a fever, chills, fatigue, and a lack of appetite.

Sufferers have described feeling pain in their stomach, neck, pelvis, and testicles.

Since widespread implementation of the MMR jab, it is now barely reported.

As these maps (below) show, incidents of mumps are few and vaccinations rates are high.

A mumps infection can also travel to and infect other parts of the body.

When this occurs it often causes swelling and discomfort in the affected area.

One of those developments is orchitis, a swelling infections in the testicles which affects around 25% of post-pubescent males.

Roughly half the time it also causes the affected testicle to shrink in size.

Mumps can also lead to viral meningitis, acute pancreatitis, and oophoritis (swelling of one or both ovaries).

In very rare cases (around 0.1 per cent) mumps can cause encephalitis, a life-threatening inflammation of the brain.

Symptoms of encephalitis include flu-like symptoms, headache, confusion, dizziness, change in personality, change in behavior, drowsiness, disorientation, seizures, and loss of consciousness.

Anyone suffering these symptoms after contracting mumps should call 911 immediately. This condition requires emergency treatment in a hospital’s intensive care unit (ICU).
Mumps alert for Mizzou and Columbia

COLUMBIA — MU Health Care officials released a mumps health alert for students and recent visitors to Columbia.

The Health Center has continued to see MU students with symptoms of mumps. Officials confirmed 31 cases of mumps and an additional 27 probable cases this week. Earlier this month, University officials started seeing cases of mumps on campus.

A probable case is defined as a person with at least two days of mumps-like symptoms and epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case. This means the patient has been in close contact with someone with confirmed mumps. MU Health Center employees are working with local and state public health officials to identify other possible cases and to prevent or minimize additional cases.

Prevention tips:

- Cover your cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Verification you have had the two MMR vaccines which is your best prevention.
- Symptoms include swollen glands in front of and below the ear or under the jaw, fever, fatigue and malaise, headache and earache. Among males, mumps can lead to painful swelling of the testicles. Among women, mumps can lead to swelling of the ovaries, which may cause abdominal pain or swelling of the breasts.

If you have symptoms, call the MU Student Health Center (573-882-7481) or your medical provider.

Stay at home for five days after symptoms begin. You are asked to stay home from class during the time period you are contagious.

Cover your cough or sneeze, wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
Mumps cases up to 31 on MU's campus

COLUMBIA- As of Thursday, there has been 31 confirmed cases of mumps on MU's campus.

On November 11th, 2017 MU Student Health sent an email to the student body explaining that there had been confirmed cases of mumps on campus. The email stated:

“The Student Health Center confirmed eight students have mumps and additional students are being tested. The virus is spread through saliva or mucus from the mouth, nose and throat. An infected person can spread the virus by coughing, sneezing, talking, sharing cups and utensils, or touching objects with unwashed hands that are then touched by others. To protect yourself, you should wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer. Everyone should cover their coughs and sneezes to reduce disease spread. If you suspect you might have mumps (symptoms), call your health care provider or the Health Center at 573-882-7481.”

In addition to the 31 confirmed cases, there are 27 probable cases confirmed on the MU healthcare website.

MU Healthcare defines a probable case as a person with at least two days of mumps-like symptoms and epidemiologically linked to another case.

The symptoms of mumps are much like flu symptoms. Swollen glands, fatigue, headache and earache just to name a few.

Healthcare professionals urge everyone to cover their mouths when coughing and sneezing and to make sure that they are washing their hands frequently.

Once a person has been confirmed to have mumps, they are to stay home from class and all other extracurricular activities.

MU Healthcare is working with local and state public health officials to identify other cases and help prevent them as well.
There is a mandatory MMR vaccine that students must get before coming to college, but vaccines are not always 100% effective. Trina Teacutter, from the Boone County Health Department has confirmed that every student that has been diagnosed with mumps was vaccinated.

“Mizzou has a very high number of students being vaccinated, but with the MMR vaccine there is normally 88% of students who don’t contract mumps, and the other 12% that unfortunately do” said Teacutter.

KOMU 8 talked to one student who had the third confirmed case of mumps on campus, she requested that we not use her name, but told us that she woke up on last Sunday morning not feeling well and by the next morning the side of her face under her ear was swollen. The student health center advised that her parents come and pick her up and she stay home for seven days straight.

The student also said that she was up to date on all her vaccines and she was unsure of how she contracted the mumps.

**Mumps Outbreak at MU Grows**

Watch the story: [http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=0d1c4ddb-7db2-4651-a640-f8262bc8b959](http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=0d1c4ddb-7db2-4651-a640-f8262bc8b959)

Similar stories ran on the following broadcasts:

- KNXZ- Phoenix, AZ
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- KTRS- St. Louis, MO
- KSPR- Springfield, MO
- WCAU- Philadelphia, PA
- KSDK- St. Louis, MO
- KFVS- Paducah, KY
In a study described by animal advocates as gruesome and violent, six beagles at the University of Missouri were euthanized after scientists did experiments on their eyes. The test was the subject of a lawsuit against the university filed by the group Beagle Freedom Project.

These types of experiments, which are sometimes painful for the dogs, are not unusual. But some scientists are taking a new approach to controversial animal testing.

For an old dog, Cody is having a great day.

“He likes his ear scratched,” said owner Lacy Duffett.

She said Cody’s life hasn’t always been a walk in the park. The 11-year-old dog is a cancer survivor.

“You can see on the back where that little black mark is,” Duffett said.
Earlier this year, Cody joined research at the University of Kansas Medical Center where scientists are testing a new kind of chemotherapy that’s injected right into tumors. The procedure is showing promise.

“I was a little skeptical at first, just because I know what it makes humans do, you know, chemo,” Duffett said. “I was a little nervous for him.”

Dr. Daniel Aires’ study could go to human trials in a couple of years.

“To see it move into this stage where we’re actually able to help some dogs with wild cancers in the real world, it’s just incredibly fulfilling,” he said. “It just doesn’t get better than that.”

Aires is working with people’s pets that are already sick. It’s an exception in the research world, where 61,101 dogs were tested in laboratories last year.

Beagles are the breed most commonly used in research, in part because of their size and in part because they’re generally good-natured.

There were 362 dogs in studies last year where they felt pain but got no medication. About a quarter of those tests were done in Missouri.

Animal advocates are fighting testing they see as inhumane.

“Many dogs and cats suffer in taxpayer-subsidized research laboratories,” said Kevin Chase, of the Beagle Freedom Project.

The Los Angeles-based Beagle Freedom Project has rescued nearly 1,000 animals from research laboratories nationwide.

“We need a better system,” Chase said. “We’re not anti-science or anti-research, but frankly, you could have a more predictive model for drug safety by flipping a coin than testing on a dog.”

Dr. Wayne Carter of the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute said that’s because lab tests are contrived. Real-world studies get better results, Carter said.
“We would not want to take a drug ourselves before it was adequately tested,” Carter said.

The hard reality is that the studies take more time, precious moments as researchers fight for a cure.

The Food and Drug Administration often requires scientists study on lab animals.

The University of Kansas last did lab tests on dogs three years ago as part of a study on a male contraceptive. Three of those four dogs involved were adopted as pets. One was euthanized.

The University of Missouri and Kansas State University both had a couple hundred dogs in their labs last year. KMBC 9 News is still waiting to receive records from both schools.

New interim leader of MU ag school had oversight of research center during embezzlement scheme

The new interim dean of the University of Missouri College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources had responsibility over a research center where an employee embezzled more than $740,000.

However, he did not oversee the research center’s daily operations.

Marc Linit, senior associate dean for research and extension in the college, on Tuesday was named CAFNR’s interim vice chancellor and dean. The appointment takes effect Jan. 1.

Thomas Payne, the current dean, said in May that he plans to retire at the end of December.
“Marc Linit was nominated by several of his colleagues to serve as the interim dean and vice chancellor, a role that I expect him to have for about six months,” Garnett Stokes, provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs, said in an email. “He has a great deal of experience and knowledge about the college and that makes him a good choice to ensure a smooth leadership transition.”

She said Linit is not a candidate for the permanent position. Baker & Associates, a Georgia-based search firm, will work with a 24-member college committee to find a permanent dean.

“Dr. Linit is aware of my high expectations for fiscal management, and I will work closely with him as we prepare for new leadership,” she said.

The office assistant at the Southwest Research Center in Mount Vernon, Carla Rathmann, pleaded guilty in June to mail fraud and credit card fraud in federal court in Springfield. An internal MU audit found Rathmann had submitted $573,048 in false invoices, made $159,321 in improper purchases on a university-issued credit card and withdrew $11,475 from a bank account that should have been closed.

The improper purchases resulted in payments to four companies created by Rathmann and her husband. It was one of the largest financial thefts in MU history.

An internal audit of the research center mentions Linit by his title, but not by name. It said the superintendent and interim superintendents at the Southwest Research Center reported directly to Linit, but the assistant director of agricultural research centers oversaw daily operations at the center.

The audit report said Linit did not renew the employment of Superintendent Richard Crawford in 2011 because of poor personnel management and poor fiscal management but that Linit thought the reason there was a deficit in the center’s operating budget was because there were more employees than were needed for the operation.

Other reasons suspected for the deficit were the size of the dairy herd, the purchase of fertilizer and chemicals and a drought in 2012 and 2013 that forced the center to buy hay from outside sources.

“However, there were no specific actions taken to address any areas which could have been causing an increase to the deficit,” the report reads. “Instead the focus remained on the bottom line and the assumption that the deficit was due to personnel issues.”

The report said Rathmann was college leaders’ main source of information about research center personnel.

Linit has been senior associate dean for research and extension since October 2006. He joined the college faculty in 1980. The embezzlement started in 2001, and Rathmann and her husband began creating fictitious companies to receive payments in 2005, the audit said.
Linit emailed a statement about his appointment but did not address questions related to oversight of the research center during the embezzlement.

“I am honored to be asked to lead the college during this time of transition,” Linit said. “My goal is to work with college and campus leadership to position CAFNR to be fiscally sound and programmatically strong as we approach an era of new leadership.”

Linit’s current salary is $250,983. MU spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said his salary would increase by 10 percent to $276,081 on Jan. 1.

**MU Health terminates surgeon's temporary appointment after his arrest on child porn charges**

University of Missouri Health Care on Tuesday severed ties with a surgeon who worked at Women’s and Children’s Hospital for a week in October, and who had previously taught at the MU School of Medicine, after the man’s arrest in New Mexico on suspicion of child porn charges.

Guy Rosenschein, 63, was a part-time adjunct clinical professor at the medical school from September 2009 through September 2013, during which time he also provided some services at Women’s and Children’s Hospital as a pediatric surgeon, Mary Jenkins, public relations manager for MU Health Care, said in an email. Jenkins said his appointment was terminated Tuesday after a Tribune reporter inquired about his work history there.

“Patient safety is our first priority,” Jenkins said in the email Tuesday. “Dr. Guy Rosenschein’s appointment as a part-time, temporary surgeon has been terminated, effective today. We are currently reviewing this new information to make sure patients were safe.”

A Bernalillo County, N.M., sheriff’s detective was investigating a child pornography image uploaded to the website chatstep.com on July 31 by someone using the temporary username “Carlo,” according to the criminal complaint filed in Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court. A grand jury subpoena served to the internet provider showed the account was using internet service registered to Rosenschein at his Albuquerque, N.M., home.
The detective and a deputy executed a search warrant at the home on Nov. 8, forcing entry inside after no one answered. The detective saw a man later identified as Rosenschein come out of a bedroom on the second floor and run away. Rosenschein then came back out, raised his hands and told the detective that his nephew also was in the home, the complaint said, pointing with his head to the master bedroom.

A 16-year-old boy was found in Rosenschein’s bed wearing only underwear. After he was advised of his rights, Rosenschein told the detective the boy was a former patient of his and denied having a sexual relationship with him. He said he has lived in the city for about three years and, according to the complaint, he sometimes lets the boy stay at his house. Rosenschein owns two planes and a helicopter and has flown the boy to Florida, Arkansas and Nevada previously for vacation, the complaint said.

Rosenschein also told the detective that he has used chatstep.com as “Carlo” to exchange pictures of nude people, but “he wasn’t sure if he had ever sent pictures of children having sex.” A 16-gigabyte hard drive found on his keychain had dozens of child porn images on it, the complaint said.

The investigators arrested Rosenschein, who was charged with two felonies, possession and distribution of child pornography. He was released Nov. 9 from the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center after posting a $10,000 bond. A clerk at Metropolitan Court said he did not have an attorney listed in court records. Rosenschein could not be reached for comment.

Presbyterian Health Services, a health care system in New Mexico where Rosenschein was working, issued a statement after his arrest saying he no longer practices at any of its facilities, according to local news reports.
Dr. Guy Rosenschein, 63, faces sexual exploitation of a child less than 13 years old, and exploitation with intent to distribute in Bernalillo County. Rosenschein is listed as an adjunct clinical associate professor in the Surgery department on the University of Missouri's faculty directory.

Sheriff's deputies there arrested Rosenschein on November 8 after the website chatstep.com reported two pornographic images uploaded to its site in July and August. A subpoena to the internet service provider came back to Dr. Rosenschein's home in New Mexico. Deputies arrested him there. He bonded out of jail the next day.

MU Health has not responded to ABC 17 News' request for comment. However, spokeswoman Mary Jenkins told the Columbia Daily Tribune that MU Health fired Rosenschein upon learning of his arrest.

KOAT in Albuquerque reports Rosenschein also worked at Presbyterian Hospital in New Mexico. The hospital fired him "immediately" after they learned of his arrest.

A probable cause statement from the sheriff's office said they needed to break the glass on his door when serving the arrest warrant. Deputies found Rosenschein run from one room to the other on the second floor, claiming a 16-year-old inside his bedroom was his nephew. The teen, according to the probable cause statement, was in the master bedroom wearing only underwear. Rosenschein told deputies the boy was actually a former patient of his that occasionally stayed at his house. He denied having a sexual relationship with the teen.

Investigators found a flash drive Rosenschein admitted was his, and had "dozens of images of child pornography." The doctor admitted to trading "naked pictures of people," but did not believe they were ever of underage people having sex.

University Hospital lockdown lifted after concerns of violence
COLUMBIA — The lockdown at University Hospital was lifted around 11:40 p.m. Thursday.

Hospital head of security Randy Boehm told KRCG 13 two victims were in the ER, and that there were concerns of violence.

The hospital was on lockdown for more than two hours.

University Hospital locked down, authorities refuse to give reason

University Hospital was on lockdown Thursday night, with no one being let inside the building other than police and security.

University of Missouri police outside the hospital confirmed the building was locked down but would not give a reason why no one was being let inside. When reached by phone, MUPD Maj. Brian Weimer referred questions to hospital security, which refused to give any details to a Tribune reporter outside the hospital.
University Hospital under lockdown

COLUMBIA - The emergency room at University Hospital was under lockdown Thursday night.

A woman who was outside told KOMU 8 she could not go inside the hospital and see her stepson who just had surgery on the seventh floor.

The cause of the lockdown is still unknown, but KOMU 8 will continue to update the story as soon as we find out more.

Active shooter drills planned for Monday

Full-scale active shooter exercises will be held Monday on the University of Missouri campus, and people in the area might see what seems like a real emergency response.

The first exercise, held by the Boone County Office of Emergency Management, will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Monday at Laws Hall. A second, similar exercise will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Southern Boone County R-1 Elementary School, 809 Henry Clay Blvd., in Ashland. The exercises are meant to evaluate response agencies’ abilities in an active shooter scenario. Local law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services and emergency management will participate.

“These type of exercises, where agencies operate as if the event was occurring in real time, are invaluable learning tools,” Boone County Emergency Management Director Terry Cassil said in
a release. “While we hope we are never put to the real test, we must be prepared for any type of scenario which could occur.”

Elizabeth Thompson, training and exercise specialist with county emergency management, said people might hear what sounds like gunfire and see volunteers wearing makeup that makes them look injured.

While the first emergency management exercise is anticipated to end by 4 p.m., the Columbia Police Department will continue with its own exercise from 4 to 10 p.m. Monday at Laws Hall.

Rural counties show lack of awareness for breastfeeding mothers

Generated from News Bureau press release: Rural Employers Failing to Meet Needs of Working Breastfeeding Mothers

COLUMBIA — Disa Farris's sons are 27 and 31 years old, but she still remembers sitting on a toilet with no seat cover in a bathroom at the school where she taught, balancing a manual breast pump and trying to finish pumping before her break was over.

Farris, who retired from teaching six years ago, is now a lactation counselor and breastfeeding peer counselor in Saline County. She educates companies about breastfeeding, what it requires of working mothers and what the law requires of employers.

She said her motivation came from talking to moms when she was working for the Saline County Health Department. Their refrain was "I know I won't be able to breastfeed." The obstacles were mostly logistical — where to pump in privacy and comfort.

"I thought, 'This isn’t one person’s perceptions,'" Farris said. "There must be something to this."
A study by MU researchers published in August found that most employers are aware of the Affordable Care Act regulations related to nursing, but issues like tolerance and flexibility make it hard for mothers to have positive breastfeeding experiences at work.

The act changed the Fair Labor Standards Act, creating more provisions for nursing women. Businesses with more than 50 employees are now required to provide a reasonable break time for workers who nurse or express milk in a place other than a bathroom, away from coworkers and the public.

The study also found:

- Mothers experienced direct intolerance from coworkers and managers, which made pumping during work hours difficult.
- Workplaces varied on the length and number of breaks. Some employers allowed pumping breaks for mothers, but they often weren't long enough.
- Employers weren't proactive in providing a place for employees to manage the physical demands of breastfeeding.

"Breastfeeding is beneficial to the mother, the child and the workplace ... in the sense that if the mom is happy, she's going to be a happy worker and she's going to be more productive," said one of the researchers, Wilson Majee, an MU professor of health sciences and public health.

Breastfeeding can help families save money on formula and bottle supplies. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services said breastfeeding also promotes relaxation and bonding with the child.

Breast milk protects babies from illnesses and lowers the risks of asthma, ear infections, eczema, sudden infant death syndrome and others, according to the Office on Women's Health. For mothers, breastfeeding can lead to a lower risk of ovarian cancer, certain types of breast cancer and Type 2 diabetes.
What more can be done

The number of breastfed infants in the Midwest region for 2015 was 21.4 percent, according to Women, Infants, and Children's annual Breastfeeding Data Local Agency Report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Supplemental Food Programs Division. There was an increase of 1 percent or less in all other regions, except for the Northeast region where there was a decrease of 0.7 percent.

Of the 239 infants included in the report for the Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services Department, 21.3 percent were either fully breastfed or partially breastfed. The World Health Organization defines a fully breastfed infant as one who only receives breast milk, while a partially breastfed infant receives breast milk as well as formula or other foods.

The WIC Program helps low-income women, infants and children, and promotes and supports breastfeeding.

Lactation counselors and employees from WIC work with employers and mothers to help achieve the law's requirements. Kate Tafs, a breastfeeding consultant in Columbia, helps identify businesses that support the Affordable Care Act.

"In Columbia, we're looking for places that we've heard from moms with personal experience," Tafs said. "We look at quality over quantity."

Tafs said she also reaches out to retailers in Columbia to let them know about the Breastfeeding Friendly Worksite Certification and how to get it.

There are three different levels: gold, silver and bronze. In order to get certification, the retailer must complete a checklist and submit pictures of whatever space the retailer creates for nursing moms.

Many of the businesses recognized as breastfeeding-friendly worksites are in the health or education industry. Among the list of certified locations in Columbia are University Hospital,
Women's and Children's Hospital, Columbia Public Schools and the Hy-Vee locations on Conley Road and Nifong Boulevard.

Some employees have found that even without certification or any oversight, their employers have been supportive of their decision to breastfeed.

Kady Najera said she's able to pump while at her job at Missouri Valley Community Action Agency in Marshall, Missouri.

"I have an office where I can pump comfortably and am able to use the desk in there to lay all my stuff out," Najera said. "The only issue I have encountered with pumping is finding the time to do it."

Tafs said that for the most part, employers are receptive to trying to be more accommodating. "I haven't come across an employer or business who didn't want to help," she said.

But Majee said employers could do more to promote breastfeeding by providing educational resources and support.

Some mothers who want to breastfeed experience demeaning behavior from their coworkers, such as when the latter unplug a pump, Majee said.

"They took it as a joke that someone would sit in a room and pump milk and be away from work," Majee said.

Local health departments and hospitals have resources available to employers who want to understand more about breastfeeding and pumping in the workplace.

"There has been an increase in awareness of breastfeeding, and people now feel more comfortable to talk about breastfeeding in public," Majee said. "It's a thing that they were never able to do."
New book by history professor examines fragile masculinity in postwar America


Watts has been a professor since the late ‘80s and has written other books focusing on important figures in American culture like Walt Disney and Hugh Hefner.

After writing books on mainly cultural figures, Watts wanted to write about a political figure through a cultural lens. Kennedy sprung to his mind.

“Of course there’s a huge number of books written about Kennedy, but what I was really interested in is his popularity,” Watts said. “Because [in] the polls that have been taken of American presidents … he is at the very top of the list in terms of popularity.”

Watts said that after he did some investigation, Kennedy's politics were not what made him extremely popular, and in many ways, he was a “run-of-the-mill centrist.” Instead, Watts started noticing that magazines and writers in the ’50s and ’60s argued that men were being emasculated by suburban domesticity, consumer comfort and the rise of women in the workplace.

“What I began to discover was that Kennedy, in the public realm, offered a kind of antidote to that great fear of the weakening of American men because he bursts onto the scene as this vibrant, vigorous, handsome young man, a war hero, very cool and sophisticated, very tough-minded as an anti-communist figure,” Watts said.

Watts’ research assistant, Cassandra Yacovazzi, became interested in the project when she realized that this was “not just another biography on JFK.”

“Watts wanted, as he put it, ‘to penetrate the fog of Camelot,’ to really understand the cultural appeal of JFK,” Yacovazzi said. “I think he does that really well in … identifying this crisis of masculinity that preceded Kennedy’s administration and the way in which Kennedy himself embodied this masculine idea and beyond.”

In his book, Watts also looks at how Kennedy’s policies were influenced by his personality.
“For example, I think his anti-communism and the shape that it took with regard to Cuba is very much tied to the James Bond view of the world that Kennedy had,” Watts said.

Watts also studied the ways that Kennedy’s masculine image affected his appeal to the American voters. Beyond just Kennedy’s image, Watts said the people Kennedy surrounded himself with, like Frank Sinatra, Hugh Hefner and Norman Mailer, also led to his “mystique.”

Watts said Kennedy, because of his mystique, was like a Hollywood star. Kennedy’s cult of personality indicated a shift in America’s cultural landscape toward the leader as “celebrity.”

“I think you see that with Ronald Reagan,” Watts said. “I think you see that a little bit with Barack Obama in a same sort of way. And of course with [the recent election] I think you see another version of that as well.”

Yacovazzi also said that the “celebrity” appeal of Kennedy’s administration has become “really embroiled in politics.”

“I think that perhaps rings true for many Americans in the wake of the current election,” Yacovazzi said. “There’s a lot of talk about the influence of reality TV in this election and sound bites. I think we have perhaps gotten away from analyzing individual policies, and we have become more easily caught up in image, celebrity appeal and surface personality.”

Even though the celebrity aspect of politicians remains, Watts said that politicians are no longer mostly supported by ideals of masculinity. In the epilogue of the book, Watts said that the character Don Draper in the TV series “Mad Men” is very comparable to the persona of Kennedy. However, popular perception of Draper seems to suggest that the mystique of Kennedy has faded.

Watts said despite the nostalgic presentation in the show, Draper and society still frequently mistreated women.

“What ends up striking you more is that Draper, that kind of masculine mystique even with that nostalgic pull, really makes us uncomfortable or at least he’s not someone you would want to emulate in the modern world,” Watts said.

Watts said he hopes his book will encourage people to look at politics in a broader scope and examine if their political beliefs are their own or influenced by their culture.

“Having just come from through this political season here, all of us … probably like to think that we are all very rational creatures,” Watts said. “I would like to think it will encourage people to ponder their political positions, and how and why they got there.”
How do some hair braiders break the law?

BY DIANE STAFFORD
stafford@kcstar.com

There’s a long list of occupations where you should make absolutely sure that a worker is trained, up to date and competent to do the job.

Count all kinds of health care work, physical and mental, and positions that deal with the finer points of money and finance. The government, the professions and all of us need quality assured, if only by a framed certificate on the wall. Look for them!

So it may seem strange to suggest that some licensing or certifications should be dumped. But that’s one conclusion from a study sponsored by the Women’s Foundation of Greater Kansas City. The study said that, even weighing paramount public safety concerns, some legal requirements are unnecessary overregulation and create barriers to entry into jobs.

Wendy Doyle, CEO of the foundation, said the organization started a few years ago to promote women’s advancement by nominating qualified women for corporate, foundation and professional board vacancies. That push for upward mobility among professional women soon expanded to entry-level work.

“In our research focus groups we heard again and again that women saw entrepreneurship as a solution to their child care needs and re-entry to the workplace,” Doyle said. But some were stymied from turning their skills or interests into profitable businesses.

In-depth research by the University of Missouri Truman School Institute of Public Policy found that some professions have “outdated, excessive or overly bureaucratic requirements for licensure.” A case in point was regulation of people who provide hair braiding.

The state Board of Cosmetology and Barber Examiners, as in many states, disciplines people or salons who practice hair braiding, largely for the African-American community, without
cosmetology licenses. Nationally, lawsuits are being filed to try to exempt hair braiders from the training and fees required of cosmetologists, who need chemical training and other hair-cutting, dying, curling and straightening skills.

As it is, many hair braiders are operating in an underground economy rather than take thousands of hours of training they don’t need or pay licensing fees. Their income-earning potential may not be realized underground, the report said.

To state it carefully again: Professional licensing is vital for most jobs. But the report concluded that sunset laws — or even sunrise laws to review whether a licensing body or regulation is needed and cost effective — should be considered.

That includes examining reciprocity agreements that allow licensees to work across state lines, and making sure that licensing boards have consumer representatives.

Periodic reviews, from inside occupations and externally, should be undertaken in every state to decide what, if any, regulation makes sense.

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**THE KANSAS CITY STAR.**

**Is Devil’s Claw the best at fighting chronic joint pain: UMKC researchers want to know**

By Mará Rose Williams

A collaborative group of Missouri and Kansas researchers have gotten a $412,000 federal grant to explore the effectiveness of the dietary supplement Devil’s Claw for treating early-stage joint osteoarthritis.

*Researchers from the University of Missouri-Kansas City are working with researchers from the University of Missouri in Columbia and the International Clinical Research Institute in Overland Park on the two-year grant study.* And if the results are positive, additional support will be provided for further studies.

Osteoarthritis is sometimes called degenerative joint disease or degenerative arthritis and is the most common chronic condition of the joints, affecting approximately 27 million Americans.
Botanical products containing Devil’s Claw, a plant found in southern Africa, have been sold and used as a remedy for arthritis, muscle pains and other various ailments for centuries.

Many studies have indicated that some of these botanical products do reduce pain and improve the physical function. But “data that indicates the active ingredient and verifies the effectiveness and safety in reducing inflammation are currently lacking,” researchers said in a statement released Thursday by UMKC.

Mary Gerkovich, an associate professor of biomedical and health informatics at the UMKC School of Medicine, and Bill Folk, professor of biochemistry at MU, are leading the effort.

These researchers will be gathering scientific data to support further testing and development of Devil’s Claw products as a reliable treatment for osteoarthritis.

Jury breaks in 2015 MU rape case trial

COLUMBIA, Mo. - A Boone County jury broke for recess Thursday night without a verdict in the trial of Mohamed Mostafa.

The jury is scheduled to return to the Boone County Courthouse in Columbia on Friday at 9:30 a.m. to resume deliberations.

Mostafa is accused of raping and robbing a woman on the University of Missouri campus near University Hall in May 2015.

According to court documents obtained by ABC 17 KMIZ, Mostafa was arrested in Aug. 2015 after surveillance footage and a DNA test helped investigators identify him as the suspect.

Mostafa has pleaded not guilty to the charges.
A golf cart went up in flames Thursday night on the University of Missouri's campus, damaging two other cars.

The fire happened on a part of MU's campus called "Greek Town" in the parking lot behind the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house.

Witnesses said the driver parked the cart, and within seconds it caught fire. Nobody at the scene knew the cause of the fire.

KOMU 8 News spoke with one witness who saw the situation unfold.

"My friend Maddy, she started smelling smoke, and I looked over and it was on fire," Tara Thorpe, a resident of Greek Town, told KOMU 8 News. "I was like Maddy we gotta get out of here. It's about to blow!"

Only two other cars in the lot were damaged. Nobody was hurt in the blaze.