Kim Anderson leaving Missouri after just 3 seasons

Missouri has asked Kim Anderson to step down as men's basketball coach after just three seasons.

Anderson, 61, took over in 2014 after Frank Haith left for the Tulsa opening. He went 19-44 in his first two seasons, then followed that up with a 7-23 record this past season. The school said he was asked to leave at the end of the season; he can still coach in the upcoming SEC tournament.

"This decision has been very difficult for me personally because of the tremendous respect I have for Kim," athletic director Jim Sterk said in a statement. "I know how hard he and his staff have worked to turn the program around over the last three years, however, the lack of on-court success has resulted in a significant drop in interest surrounding our program, and we could not afford for that to continue another year."

The school has been gauging the interest of potential candidates for the past few weeks, sources told ESPN. California's Cuonzo Martin is among the names on their list. Dan Parker & Associates have been retained to handle the search for a replacement, sources told ESPN.

Missouri self-imposed a postseason ban in January after admitting NCAA violations that occurred in the program under Haith's watch. The Tigers also vacated 23 wins from Haith's final season in Columbia. Haith left Missouri shortly after the school received a verbal notice of inquiry from the NCAA.

Anderson played his college ball at Missouri before being drafted by the Portland Trail Blazers in 1977. He also spent time in Italy and France during his playing days. Anderson was an assistant at Missouri on two separate occasions before becoming the head coach at Central Missouri for 12 seasons. He won a D-II national championship in 2014.

"Missouri is a special institution to my family and I, and I am grateful for having had the opportunity to serve as the head coach at my alma mater," Anderson said in the statement. "While we have faced significant challenges over the last three years and been unable to achieve the on-court results everyone would have liked, I do believe we have been able to stabilize the program while watching our players become responsible young men on and off the court."

Anderson signed a five-year contract when hired.
Mizzou makes it official: Kim Anderson won’t return as basketball coach

BY TOD PALMER
tpalmer@kcstar.com

The Kim Anderson era at Missouri will end after three disappointing seasons after first-year athletic director Jim Sterk announced Sunday that he’d asked Anderson to step down as men’s basketball coach after the Tigers’ final game this year.

“This decision has been very difficult for me personally because of the tremendous respect I have for Kim,” Sterk said in a release from the school. “I know how hard he and his staff have worked to turn the program around over the last three years, however, the lack of on-court success has resulted in a significant drop in interest surrounding our program, and we could not afford for that to continue another year.”

Multiple sources told The Star that Parker Executive Search will assist Mizzou in the search for its next coach.

“Missouri is a special institution to my family and I, and I am grateful for having had the opportunity to serve as the head coach at my alma mater,” Anderson said in the release. “While we have faced significant challenges over the last three years and been unable to achieve the on-court results everyone would have liked, I do believe we have been able to stabilize the program while watching our players become responsible young men on and off the court.”

Anderson thanked his staff and players for their efforts and praised “the growth I’ve seen in our players academically, athletically and socially since their arrival on campus,” he said.

Missouri owes Anderson a little more than $600,000 under terms of the five-year contract he signed in April 2014 when he replaced Frank Haith.
It felt like there was a certain providence April 29, 2014, as Kim Anderson’s introductory news conference was interrupted three times by standing ovations in the Great Room at Missouri’s Reynold Alumni Center.

Fans longing for a return to the Tigers’ glory days under Hall of Fame coach Norm Stewart were rapturous Anderson was hired as the school’s 18th full-time men’s basketball coach.

Anderson — a “True Son” from Sedalia who won Big Eight player of the year honors under Stewart in 1977 — returned for his dream job, fresh off coaching Central Missouri to an NCAA Division II championship.

But at Mizzou, Anderson’s teams put up a 26-67 record — including 8-46 in the Southeastern Conference, a .148 win percentage — and he will not return for 2017-18 after arguably the worst three-year stretch for the MU basketball program.

No Missouri coach has posted a worse overall mark than Anderson’s .280 winning percentage.

The Tigers finished last in the SEC all three years under Anderson after only placing last in their conference 10 times before his arrival. They were 3-15, 3-15 and 2-16 in the SEC, finishing last the previous two seasons and tying for last this season with LSU.

Missouri only had two 20-loss seasons in 108 years before Anderson’s arrival, but finished 9-23 and 10-21 in his first two years and are 7-23 this year. The 23 losses in 2014-15 set a program record and matched the SEC record for futility.

Any loss in the SEC Tournament, which begins for the 14th-seeded Tigers around 8:30 p.m. Wednesday at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn., with a rematch of Saturday’s 89-78 loss against Auburn, would break that record.

The Tigers also twice set a dubious record for the longest losing streak in program history at 13 games, first in 2014-15 and again in 2016-17.

Mizzou never won a road game under Anderson. The Tigers only won twice away from Mizzou Arena — against Division II Chaminade in the seventh-place game of the 2014 Maui Invitational and against Tulane in the seventh-place game of the 2016 Tire Pros Invitational.

Anderson hands off a 35-game road losing streak and 32-game road slide in SEC play, which started with the final five road games in 2013-14 under Haith, to the Tigers’ next coach.

But Missouri’s home record — 24-27 — wasn’t exactly stellar and attendance plummeted more than 40 percent during the last few seasons.
Anderson’s career record, including 12 seasons at Central Missouri, is 300-162. He coached his 300th victory Feb. 11 with a 72-52 win against Vanderbilt.

“Kim has represented our program with character, integrity and class while dedicating himself to developing our student-athletes on and off the basketball court, and we are appreciative of his efforts and dedication to Mizzou and the Columbia community,” Sterk said. “Kim will always be a Tiger, and all of us are grateful for his contributions to our University as a student-athlete, assistant coach and head coach.”

Sterk said a national search will begin immediately, though sources indicated preliminary discussions with Parker Executive Search already have taken place, and that he won’t make any public comment until a new coach is hired.

“Missouri has a rich men’s basketball tradition and the resources necessary to compete at the highest level,” he said. “We expect to compete for Southeastern Conference championships, consistently play in the postseason and continue to represent Mizzou the right way on and off the court.”

Anderson’s staff — including assistants Brad Loos, Rob Fulford, Steve Shields and Emanuel Dildy — will remain in place until Anderson’s replacement is hired, a source told The Star.

Loos’ daughter, Rhyan, has been battling cancer for the last two years and served as an inspirational figure for the struggling program.

The highlight of Anderson’s tenure is a pair of wins in “Rally for Rhyan” benefit games against Tennessee in 2016 and Arkansas in February.

Indiana’s Tom Crean and California’s Cuonzo Martin, an East St. Louis native, are at or near the top of Missouri’s wish list, multiple sources told The Star.

Whoever Missouri hires will be tasked with completing a turnaround Anderson couldn’t and reviving interest in a program whose fans have become apathetic.

“I was at Missouri a week-and-a-half ago and saw a great student crowd for the Kentucky game,” SEC commissioner Greg Sankey said. “It was great to see that enthusiasm. … It means there’s life around that program and a desire for that kind of success in men’s basketball.”

**Related story:** Who should Mizzou target to replace Kim Anderson?
Kim Anderson out at end of Mizzou season

By Dave Matter St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 5 hrs ago

COLUMBIA, MO. • Kim Anderson’s dream job turned into a nightmare. Now it’s about to end. Missouri athletics director Jim Sterk announced Sunday that he asked Anderson to step down as men’s basketball coach at the end of the season. Anderson’s staff learned he was fired Saturday night and players were told Sunday, sources confirmed.

The Tigers, 7-23 this season and 26-67 under Anderson the last three years, play Auburn on Wednesday in the first round of the Southeastern Conference tournament in Nashville.

“This decision has been very difficult for me personally because of the tremendous respect I have for Kim,” Sterk said in a statement. “I know how hard he and his staff have worked to turn the program around over the last three years. However, the lack of on-court success has resulted in a significant drop in interest surrounding our program, and we could not afford for that to continue another year.

“Kim has represented our program with character, integrity and class while dedicating himself to developing our student-athletes on and off the basketball court, and we are appreciative of his efforts and dedication to Mizzou and the Columbia community. Kim will always be a Tiger, and all of us are grateful for his contributions to our University as a student-athlete, assistant coach and head coach.”

As of Sunday, Missouri had not formally agreed to terms with a search firm but is expected to finalize a contract with Atlanta-based Parker Executive Search.

Anderson, 61, has two years left on his original five-year contract and will be owed at least $600,000 under the terms of his buyout clause. His guaranteed salary was $1.1 million, lowest in the SEC. Mizzou will have to push well beyond that figure to lure a proven replacement.
Sterk is expected to consider a handful of sitting head coaches at major conference schools. Multiple sources have mentioned Indiana’s Tom Crean, California’s Cuonzo Martin, SLU’s Travis Ford, Baylor’s Scott Drew and USC’s Andy Enfield as potential targets. Indiana, coming off a Big Ten championship last year, stumbled badly under Crean this season at 17-14 and 10th place in the Big Ten, leading to speculation Indiana could fire him.

Other possibilities include Butler’s Chris Holtmann, Oklahoma State’s Brad Underwood, South Carolina’s Frank Martin and Virginia Tech’s Buzz Williams. If Sterk were to consider mid-major conference coaches, Illinois State’s Dan Muller and UNC-Wilmington’s Kevin Keatts could surface as targets. At one time multiple influential Mizzou donors backed Washington’s Lorenzo Romar for the job, sources said, but it’s unclear if he’s still a serious option. Romar could deliver prized recruit and Columbia native Michael Porter Jr., who signed with Washington last fall, but his candidacy might have plunged with the Huskies’ woeful season.

**LIVE CHAT:** [Dave Matter on Anderson’s firing at 10 a.m.](#)

“Missouri has a rich men’s basketball tradition and the resources necessary to compete at the highest level,” Sterk said. “We expect to compete for Southeastern Conference championships, consistently play in the postseason and continue to represent Mizzou the right way on and off the court.

“A national search will begin immediately to identify and recruit the very best person to lead Mizzou Basketball into the future and we will utilize the services of a search consultant to assist in the identification and evaluation of candidates who are capable of returning our program to national prominence.”

Anderson, a Sedalia, Mo., native, former Big Eight player of the year at Mizzou and longtime assistant coach under Norm Stewart, coached his final regular-season game for the Tigers on Saturday, an 89-78 loss at Auburn. The Tigers finished last in the SEC for the third straight season at 2-16. Anderson’s career winning percentage (.280) is the lowest in team history.

Passed over for Mizzou’s head-coaching job in 1999 when Stewart retired, Anderson got a second chance to lead his alma mater in 2014 when Frank Haith left for Tulsa. Anderson had just won the Division II
national championship in his 12th season at Central Missouri, and after MU couldn’t land Wichita State’s Gregg Marshall, the focus shifted to Anderson.

“Missouri is a special institution to my family and I, and I am grateful for having had the opportunity to serve as the head coach at my alma mater,” Anderson said. “While we have faced significant challenges over the last three years and have been unable to achieve the on-court results everyone would have liked, I do believe we have been able to stabilize the program while watching our players become responsible young men on and off the court.

“I would especially like to thank my staff and players who have worked so hard to turn this program around. I’m proud of the growth I’ve seen in our players academically, athletically and socially since their arrival on campus, and feel very good about our efforts to serve Columbia, the University and the State of Missouri through impactful events and organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, Tigers on the Prowl, Rally for Rhyan and the University of Missouri Children’s Hospital.”

Anderson inherited a program coming off a 23-win season and NIT appearance but in worse shape internally than he first realized. When he accepted the job three years ago, MU’s administration didn’t tell Anderson the school was under NCAA investigation for potential violations during the Haith years. The school later self-imposed a 2016 postseason ban and scholarship reductions. The program comes off NCAA probation in August.

While Mizzou’s Academic Progress Rate improved during Anderson’s regime, his roster was in flux for three years as 13 scholarship players left the team. In Anderson’s first season, seven of 11 scholarship players were disciplined by some measure, resulting in 24 games lost to suspensions.

By the summer of 2016, the roster was composed exclusively of players Anderson recruited and the off-court troubles disappeared. But the on-court problems got worse. Under Anderson, the Tigers went 0-30 in road games the last three seasons and beat only two teams away from Mizzou Arena in neutral-site games.
Missouri fires Kim Anderson

By Daniel Jones

When Missouri hired Kim Anderson as its men’s basketball coach in 2014, it gave one of its most distinguished former players what he called his dream job. Before the book closed on his third season with Missouri, the dream ended.

Athletic Director Jim Sterk fired Anderson on Sunday, ending a tenure that was more nightmare than fantasy. The Tigers are 26-67 under Anderson, and their three consecutive 20-loss seasons are a first for the program and the Southeastern Conference.

“This decision has been very difficult for me personally because of the tremendous respect I have for Kim,” Sterk said in a news release. “I know how hard he and his staff have worked to turn the program around over the last three years, however, the lack of on-court success has resulted in a significant drop in interest surrounding our program, and we could not afford for that to continue another year.

“Kim has represented our program with character, integrity and class while dedicating himself to developing our student-athletes on and off the basketball court, and we are appreciative of his efforts and dedication to Mizzou and the Columbia community. Kim will always be a Tiger, and all of us are grateful for his contributions to our University as a student-athlete, assistant coach and head coach.”

Anderson will coach Missouri at the SEC Tournament this week in Nashville, Tenn. The 14th-seeded Tigers play 11th-seeded Auburn in the first round on Wednesday.

An MU spokesperson said the school had not yet hired a search firm to replace Anderson, though a decision on the search firm is expected to be made by Monday afternoon.

“Missouri is a special institution to my family and I, and I am grateful for having had the opportunity to serve as the head coach at my alma mater,” Anderson said in the release. “While we have faced significant challenges over the last three years and been unable to achieve the on-court results everyone would have liked, I do believe we have been able to stabilize the program while watching our players become responsible young men on and off the court.”

Anderson, a Sedalia native, was hired on April 28, 2014, taking over after the sudden departure of Frank Haith to Tulsa. It marked Anderson’s fourth cycle with the program, having played at
Missouri under Norm Stewart from 1973-77 and served as an assistant coach under Stewart from 1982-85 and 1991-99.

He had previously been linked to the coaching job at Missouri, partly due to his long ties to the program and his successes as a head coach in Division II. The timing of this search, though, worked in Anderson’s favor. He was at the pinnacle of his career, having won an NCAA Division II national championship with Central Missouri just one month earlier.

When Anderson was hired at Missouri, he had no head-coaching experience at the Division I level. The state of the program did not put him in a position to immediately succeed.

Even though Missouri finished 23-12 in Haith’s final year, Anderson’s first offseason forced him to retool a team that was losing its top three scorers in Jordan Clarkson, Jabari Brown and Earnest Ross. Clarkson and Brown each left school early for the NBA draft. The Tigers’ top returning scorer was Johnathan Williams III, who averaged 5.8 points in his first year.

Anderson’s time at Missouri was also clouded by an NCAA investigation into a dubious internship program involving T3 Solutions, which was operated by MU booster Mark Tuley, along with two other minor rules violations that occurred under Haith.

Though Missouri received a verbal notice of inquiry from the NCAA on April 14, 2014, Anderson was not notified of the investigation before he was hired, he said.

In January 2016, Missouri announced self-imposed penalties that included a postseason ban for the 2015-16 season, vacating all wins from the 2013-14 season, the loss of two scholarships before the 2017-18 season and recruiting restrictions through 2017.

The NCAA released the report of its investigation in August 2016, finding that Tuley provided impermissible benefits to four Missouri players in 2014 and citing MU for a failure to monitor its basketball program. It accepted the self-imposed penalties and added one year of probation through April 1.

Things were hardly better on the court. The Tigers lost Anderson’s debut to UMKC 69-61 at Mizzou Arena — their first loss to the Kangaroos in program history — and with transfers Keith Shamburger and Keanau Post as the only seniors on the roster, finished with a 9-23 record.

Anderson’s second season was similarly dismal, as Missouri finished at 10-21 and did not appear at the SEC Tournament as part of the self-imposed postseason ban.

The 2016-17 season was Anderson’s first with a roster of his own creation. The inexperienced squad weathered early home losses to North Carolina Central, Eastern Illinois and Lipscomb, endured a 13-game losing streak that tied a program record from 2014 and will enter the SEC Tournament with a record of 7-23. The Tigers have never lost more than 23 times in a season.

Instability plagued Missouri throughout Anderson’s tenure. Thirteen players were either dismissed or voluntarily left the program under Anderson, starting with Shane Rector’s decision
to transfer less than three weeks after his hire. Anderson dismissed Torren Jones for disciplinary issues in August 2014, and Cam Biedscheid left in September 2014 before playing a game. Williams and Deuce Bello each left the program after Anderson’s first season. Wes Clark was dismissed for academic reasons in February 2016.

No members of Missouri’s 2014 recruiting class — which was ranked 11th in the nation according to 247sports.com — made it to the 2016-17 season. Namon Wright, Jakeenan Gant, D’Angelo Allen and Tramaine Isabell all transferred after their sophomore seasons.

There were bright spots. Anderson notched his 300th career win in the Tigers’ 72-52 win over Vanderbilt on Feb. 11. Inspired by special assistant Brad Loos’ daughter Rhyan, who has pediatric cancer, the basketball team helped raise more than $100,000 for pediatric cancer research in its “Rally for Rhyan” games in 2016 and 2017. Both games were victories.

“I would especially like to thank my staff and players who have worked so hard to turn this program around,” Anderson said. “I’m proud of the growth I’ve seen in our players academically, athletically and socially since their arrival on campus, and feel very good about our efforts to serve Columbia, the University and the State of Missouri through impactful events and organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, Tigers on the Prowl, Rally for Rhyan and the University of Missouri Children’s Hospital.”

MU head basketball coach Kim Anderson to step down

RON DAVIS, 17 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Missouri will be in the market for a new basketball coach this spring.

In a news release Sunday, the school announced that Kim Anderson will step down as head coach at the end of the 2016-2017 season, through the request of Athletic Director Jim Sterk.

"This decision has been very difficult for me personally because of the tremendous respect I have for Kim," Sterk said in the release. "I know how hard he and his staff have worked to turn the program around over the last three years, however, the lack of on-court success has resulted in a significant drop in interest surrounding our program, and we could not afford for that to continue another year."
The Tigers had just wrapped up their regular season Saturday with an 89-78 loss to Auburn, dropping Missouri to a 7-23 record on the season. Anderson was 26-57 as head coach of his alma mater.

He was hired in April 2014, a month after leading Central Missouri to the Division II National Championship. He was tasked with stabilizing a Missouri program that was losing multiple players to the NBA and to transfer after former coach Frank Haith left for Tulsa.

The Anderson era got off to a rocky start in 2014, as the Tigers lost to instate University of Missouri-Kansas City 69-61 in Anderson's first game. Missouri never got the most out of its No. 11 rated recruiting class, according to 247sports.com, as the Tigers went 9-23.

By the end of the second year of Anderson's tenure, where Missouri went 10-21, all of the 2014 class had departed.

In year three, Missouri fell short of expectations once again. Its 23 losses included North Carolina Central, Eastern Illinois and Lipscomb, all of which happened on Norm Stewart Court.

The team fell into a tailspin after winning on Dec. 6 against Miami (OH), losing the next 13 games. The Tigers were winless for the entire month of January.

Just two weeks ago, Missouri fans packed into Mizzou Arena for its bout against then-No. 11 Kentucky on Feb. 21. Despite the effort in the 72-62 loss, Tiger fans did not return with the same intensity on senior night against Texas A&M.

In what would be Anderson's last game as Missouri's coach, the silent Tiger crowd watched their team lose 60-43.

Team spokesman Patrick Crawford said Anderson will remain as coach through the SEC Tournament, which begins Wednesday.

"Missouri is a special institution to my family and I, and I am grateful for having had the opportunity to serve as the head coach at my alma mater," Anderson said. “While we have faced significant challenges over the last three years and been unable to achieve the on-court results everyone would have liked, I do
believe we have been able to stabilize the program while watching our players become responsible young men on and off the court.

Thirteen players have left under Anderson's watch since he took over in April 2014. Sterk will make his first head coach hire as Missouri's athletic director.

"A national search will begin immediately to identify and recruit the very best person to lead Mizzou Basketball into the future and we will utilize the services of a search consultant to assist in the identification and evaluation of candidates who are capable of returning our program to national prominence," he said.

Missouri plays Wednesday in the first round of the SEC Tournament as a No. 14 seed. The Tigers will have a rematch with Auburn at 8 p.m. on the SEC Network.

Mizzou basketball coach Kim Anderson asked to step down

COLUMBIA, Mo. - University of Missouri head basketball coach Kim Anderson has been asked to step down, according to a release from the University.

MU director of athletics Jim Sterk explained the decision in a release.

"This decision has been very difficult for me personally because of the tremendous respect I have for Kim," Sterk said. "I know how hard he and his staff have worked to turn the program around over the last three years, however, the lack of on-court success has resulted in a significant drop in interest surrounding our program, and we could not afford for that to continue another year."

Anderson is the 18th men's basketball coach in Mizzou history. He has a 26-67 record at the school and 300-162 career record.
The release credits Anderson with making academic achievement a priority in his program with nine players earning grade point averages higher than 3.0 in 2016.

"Missouri is a special institution to my family and I, and I am grateful for having had the opportunity to serve as the head coach at my alma mater," Anderson said. "While we have faced significant challenges over the last three years and been unable to achieve the on-court results everyone would have liked, I do believe we have been able to stabilize the program while watching our players become responsible young men on and off the court."

Missouri is the 14th seed in the 2017 Southeastern Conference Tournament and faces off against 11th seed Auburn on Wednesday, March 18 at Bridgestone Arena.

Similar stories ran nationwide, including on the following outlets:

KMOX Radio- St. Louis, MO
KOMU- Columbia, MO
KCTV- Kansas City, MO
KCPQ- Seattle, WA

A sad but necessary end for coach

By Joe Walljasper

It needed to happen. I am sorry it happened.

For me, that sums up the dismissal of Kim Anderson as Missouri’s basketball coach.

For a few months now, the story of Missouri’s season has been headed toward this conclusion. This team — lacking size, skill, athleticism and experience — was not built for the job-saving business.

The only question was when Athletic Director Jim Sterk would fire Anderson. The time of Sterk’s choosing was Sunday, one day after the Tigers completed the regular season at Auburn with their 35th straight road loss, ensuring a third consecutive last-place finish in the Southeastern Conference.

I met Anderson 23 years ago, not long after I started working at the Tribune. He was the good cop on Norm Stewart’s staff. I had just come here from Sedalia, his hometown, so there was some common ground involving eating Guberburgers at the Wheel Inn Drive-In and whatnot.
He was and remains — throughout a three-year period that should have turned him bitter — a decent man. It’s sad to see a good man lose his job, even if his 26-67 career record made it necessary.

When Mike Alden hired Anderson three years ago, it was a divisive choice, particularly for younger fans, who had no memory of his days as an assistant coach, much less as a player in the mid-1970s. I thought he was the right man at the right time. I had it backward.

After Missouri cycled through three coaches with no connection to the state — the most recent one, Frank Haith, had just left for Tulsa — there was a hunger for someone who considered this place special. Attendance had begun to dwindle as Haith’s makeshift roster of transfers completed what we considered at the time a disappointing season — it ended in the second round of the NIT.

Anderson had every connection to Missouri. And with perfect timing, his Central Missouri Mules won the Division II national title shortly before Alden sought Haith’s replacement.

"There is no place on Earth I would rather be than Columbia, Missouri," Anderson said at his introductory press conference.

Every new coach says such things. He meant it.

But, almost immediately, his dream job was overwhelmed by real-world problems that he couldn’t solve.

Anderson was asked to keep a lead assistant he didn’t want — Tim Fuller — for the purpose of hanging on to some recruits. He unwittingly inherited an NCAA investigation and a roster with some bad actors. Only three players who participated in Haith’s final game played in Anderson’s first. The program’s Academic Progress Rate wobbled on the edge of sanctions.

His opener was a bad omen. Missouri lost at home to UMKC. It never got much better. Losing was hard on players, and they transferred in staggering numbers, making every season a brand-new experiment. The Tigers were eternally young.

Anderson got a mulligan for a 9-23 record in Year 1. There was serious debate about whether he would survive a 10-21 season in Year 2, as new AD Mack Rhoades took his time scanning the coaching landscape before announcing Anderson would return. Needing to show obvious progress this season with another new AD, Missouri has been slightly worse than the previous two, as the Tigers are just 7-23 overall and 2-16 in SEC play.

All that losing has turned games into non-events. Accurate attendance figures are not kept, but in the last few years, Mizzou Arena often has been less than one-third full. In his statement about Anderson’s dismissal, Sterk referenced a “significant drop in interest surrounding our program, and we could not afford for that to continue another year.”
Sterk wanted to find a reason to keep Anderson, but there just weren’t any obvious signs of progress or hope. Had Anderson developed an overlooked prospect into an emerging star or even signed a transformative recruit — say, Michael Porter Jr. — it might have made a difference.

As it stands, Missouri has a roster of supporting players but no star. The possibility of landing top-flight prospects grew dimmer by the year as Anderson’s job status reached maximum insecurity. In the end, it made sense to hit the reset button.

The preceding paragraphs detail all that Anderson was not. I want to close with an appreciation of what he was. It can’t be easy to be classy when a proud program — which you helped build as a player and assistant coach — struggles on your watch. Anderson was always a gentleman.

There is an old saying that applies here: “Adversity does not build character, it reveals it.” These were three revelatory years for Anderson. The worst anyone can say is he didn’t win enough basketball games.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

MARCH 3, 2017 4:11 PM

Ex-Mizzou tutor offers to trade details of alleged academic fraud for payoff of student debt

BY TOD PALMER
tpalmer@kcstar.com

Yolanda Kumar, the tutor at the epicenter of the Missouri athletic department’s joint investigation with the NCAA into alleged academic fraud, touched off a social-media firestorm Friday afternoon by offering to sell details of the case in exchange for about $3,000.

Yolanda Kumar @Muslimgirl1973

The entire payment will be submitted to the University of Missouri. I just want my transcripts. #freemytranscripts
12:44 PM - 3 Mar 2017
Kumar, who told The Star in an exclusive interview that she met on Jan. 4 with officials from Mizzou and NCAA investigators, is applying to graduate school and is trying to leave Columbia.

Her acceptance is being delayed because she needs a copy of her official transcript, which she says the school won’t release because of a $3,089.99 outstanding debt from graduate-student work at MU in 2009.

Kumar said she tried arranging a payment schedule to settle the debt but was told she’d need to pay at least $1,545 — half of her account balance — before the documents would be sent.

“That’s an unrealistic amount when you know my situation,” she said. “That’s like asking me for a billion dollars.”

MU issued a statement to The Star, but declined to comment on an ongoing investigation:

“The University of Missouri is working in concert and fully cooperating with the NCAA relative to the issues that were brought to the Athletic Department’s attention last fall. In order to protect the integrity of the investigation, we are unable to comment on any part of the process until it is completed.”

According to Kumar, she also contacted the Mizzou chancellor’s office and Mike Glazier — a managing member of the Overland Park-based law firm of Bond, Schoeneck & King, who was retained by MU to lead its investigation — for assistance in obtaining her transcript.

When those options failed, she took to Twitter.

“I knew about the provision, but I just need this one time … and that’s the only thing that’s holding (my acceptance) up,” Kumar said. “I’m desperate, so I decided to throw it out there, because that’s all I need so I can move forward in my life.”

According to the MU website, any student who owes a balance is put on a financial hold and will not be permitted to receive a transcript or diploma until payment is made.

Kumar said she’s aware of the policy but was hoping Mizzou would take her circumstances — she’s a single mother, working only a part-time job — into consideration. She insisted her interest isn’t in getting rich.

“I don’t need money to put in my pocket,” Kumar said. “I just want my transcripts, but I don’t have the money for my transcripts.”

Kumar told The Star that she met with investigators from MU and the NCAA for nine hours last month, providing details of the alleged academic fraud in which she says she participated.
“They didn’t have anything,” Kumar said. “They had the first student who was on my list and they had some emails. I gave them this entire list, documentation of emails and text messages. I told them when, where and who were the coordinators. I gave all that to them, and they were shocked.”

Mizzou announced an investigation on Nov. 22, roughly three weeks after Kumar said she contacted Mizzou executive associate athletic director for compliance Mary Ann Austin to confess her “academic dishonesty.”

During mid-December, first-year Tigers athletic director Jim Sterk said the investigation remained in “the discovery phase.”

“At the end, I said, ‘Do you have any more questions for me?’” Kumar said. “They said, ‘No, you gave us way more than what we had.’ Really, where they were, they had nothing and could not go forward.”

She said she understands that the public perception, especially among Tigers fans, is that she’s only interested in money.

“Some people are still on that — ‘It’s a money grab’ — but I’m not trying to bank on anything,” Kumar said. “It’s about my (darn) pieces of paper with my grades on it. I’ve already told the truth, so you can’t say I didn’t cooperate and was trying to make money. … I went through all the proper channels and everyone said no, so I’m just surviving. That’s all I’m doing. I’m in survival mode.

Kumar acknowledged that she doesn’t expect anyone to take her up on the offer.

“I just want the transcripts so I can move on with my life, because no one wants to hire me here (in Columbia),” she said.

Kumar also laughed off the ridicule she was already receiving online.

“People can say some mean things … but what can they call me that they haven’t already called me?” she said. “What can they say to me that they haven’t already said to me? What can they think of me that they haven’t already thought of me?”
Missouri State Auditor to reveal results of the University of Missouri system audit


By Kirstie Crawford

COLUMBIA, Mo. - **Missouri State Auditor Nicole Galloway will share the results of the University of Missouri system audit at 10 a.m. on Monday in Jefferson City.**

The university's board of curators has told ABC 17 News in the past that the school is in a financial crisis.

ABC 17 News reported that student enrollment declined since the racial issues that happened in 2015.

Missouri Governor Eric Greitens also plans to cut higher education funding by $100 million in the 2018 fiscal year.
The University of Missouri System's outlook for its overall credit rating has turned to stable from the negative outlook Standard & Poor's Global Ratings placed on the system's debt last year.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports that Standard & Poor is maintaining the system's AA-plus credit rating. A news release from the system says the AA-plus rating is the second highest long-term credit rating an institution can receive.

The ratings report says the outlook reflects the system's current and predicted strong operating performance, fundraising and financial profile compared with peers, even though the Columbia campus has seen a decline in enrollment.

The system's outlook was changed to negative last year after the resignations of University of Missouri Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and the system's president, Tim Wolfe.
MU researcher finds silver can combat deadly staph infection

By Daniel Litwin

Generated from News Bureau press release: Silver Ion-Coated Medical Devices Could Fight MRSA While Creating New Bone

COLUMBIA - Research by a University of Missouri dean has discovered a new way to fight MRSA, a strain of staph bacteria that kills 20,000 Americans every year.

MRSA can be a life-threatening obstacle for surgeons and physicians during invasive procedures. If MRSA comes into contact with an open wound, it can spread quickly, destroying tissue and even bone.

What Elizabeth Loboa, dean of MU's College of Engineering, and her team of researchers discovered was a way to slow and prevent the spread of MRSA with the use of microscopic pieces of silver, while still regenerating bone.

Before looking into MRSA, Loboa had already been researching tissue engineering and regenerative medicine for almost 20 years, focusing on bone-forming stem cells. She began lab research in 2003, perfecting biomaterial to hold regenerative stem cells for placement in the body, known as scaffolding.

Loboa was afraid that during her stem cell procedures, patients could be at a higher risk of contracting MRSA. Her search for a MRSA-fighting material that wouldn't kill host stem cells led her to silver.

"It is harder for bacteria to evolve resistance to silver because silver ions really work from a different pathway. They almost mechanically disrupt the cellular machinery of these bacteria." Loboa said.

Once inserted into the wound, the scaffolding decomposes harmlessly in the body, giving time for the stem cells to grow into human cells. By adding silver ions to the biodegradable fibers, they could regenerate tissue and combat MRSA at the same time.
MRSA infections, or Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, develop when staph bacteria has become resistant to antibiotics used to treat ordinary staph infections.

"From an evolutionary perspective, [bacteria] can evolve quickly to stressors in their environment," Loboa said.

MRSA became resistant overtime to antibiotics through prescription misuse and overuse.

"You just expose these bacteria enough to the same type of antibiotics over and over again and it just pushes them down that evolutionary pathway to become resistant," Loboa said.

Loboa didn't consider MRSA could be an issue for stem cell regeneration until her daughter contracted it in 2010.

"She came home from a camp with a sore on her leg that was really painful. It got really red and inflamed, and then it opened up, and it didn't look good," Loboa said. "I had not even thought about that from the standpoint of my research until my daughter came home with the infection."

MRSA infects almost 90,000 Americans every year. The bacteria has also seen a recent rise in cases as the infection has become more and more community acquired. The bacteria began as a complication on the operating table, but now it's just as easy to contract it through basic skin contact.

"Community acquired can happen from contact with someone who had an open sore," said Dwight Jones, a nurse practitioner for Urgent Care. "People that work out at gyms all the time, a lot of them I see coming in with MRSA."

Loboa said that eventually, her discoveries can make their way into every doctor's office and hospital to assist in the treatment of MRSA.

"I think this could be used in all sorts of bandages, and you don't ever need to remove these." Loboa said.

"Anything to help. Boy, if there's something that's effective that we could prescribe in an out-patient setting, that would be wonderful," Jones said.

Loboa's treatment fibers are currently being tested on animals, specifically pigs who share similar skin to humans.

"You need to be really careful that you've optimized your design, and everything you can possibly do in the lab before you go to an animal study." Loboa said. "Pig skin is the gold standard relative to human skin."

If studies continue to be successful, MU officials could request federal authority to begin human clinical trials within the next few years.
When sharing your end-of-life care wishes, it's best to start early

ELIZABETH LOUTFI, 1 hr ago

Generated from a News Bureau press release: Nursing Homes Falling Behind with End-Of-Life Directives

COLUMBIA — In their 67 years of marriage, Wayne and Virginia Dickson talked freely with each other about their end-of-life care wishes.

But when Virginia became ill with atherosclerosis, which affected her brain, death became the last thing she wanted to discuss with her husband. Instead, Wayne would steer the conversation in a different direction to the good things in her life: seeing her children, and living at home while receiving hospice care.

Wayne and Virginia had each drafted living wills — a type of advance directive — long before she got sick. Advance directives are legal documents allowing people to make their end-of-life decisions known in writing, even if they become unable to communicate.

The Dicksons also filled out power of attorney forms, giving their spouse authority to make decisions about medical care in a situation where the other could no longer give his or her consent.

"We knew we did not want to be kept alive artificially," Wayne said. "When there’s nothing left to do, remove life support."

Debra Parker-Oliver, a professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine in the MU School of Medicine, said advance directive forms can help us define quality of life for ourselves, as well as deciding on what kinds of medical treatments we would want in a life or death situation.
Would you want a feeding tube? How much pain are you willing to tolerate to avoid being on multiple pain medications?

The national interest in using advance directives in end-of-life care was sparked by the 1990 Nancy Cruzan Supreme Court case from Jasper County, Missouri — Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Department of Health. In 1991, Congress passed the Patient Self-Determination Act, which requires Medicare and Medicaid-funded hospitals and nursing homes to share written information about advance directives with their patients, as well as their state’s right-to-die options.

But 23 years later, an estimated 73.7 percent of Americans still didn’t have an advance directive, according to a 2013 survey from the American Journal of Preventive Medicine. Palliative medicine and hospice care are still shaking off 20th century stigmas, said Dorreen Rardin, the coordinator of the supportive care program at Boone Hospital Center. "There was no knowledge of palliative care back then," she said. "Hospice was a death sentence."

Rardin said a handful of patients already have a type of advance directive when they enter the supportive care program, but many still do not. She talks to every patient in the program about their end-of-life wishes and sees to it that they are fulfilled.

"One of the things I always tell the nurses is that it’s not your journey, it’s their journey," she said. "We're beside them to help, but it’s not about us."

Starting the conversation

Parker-Oliver said she and her late husband, David, were committed to “depriving death of its strangeness.” David Oliver died from terminal cancer in March 2015 at age 72 and made a video blog about his experience. As his primary caregiver, Parker-Oliver realized how great an undertaking it was to ensure that everyone taking care of a patient knew what the person's end-of-life wishes were.

Last September, Parker-Oliver received a grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop nine shared decision-making steps to improve palliative care in long-term facilities. Over the next year, Parker-Oliver and her team will introduce the steps to the staff and patients of care facilities, as well as the
members of a patient’s family who want to be involved in the long-term care process. The idea came from her practice, as well as being her husband’s caregiver.

"I was always frustrated that the staff had to represent the family (in decision-making)," she said. "The family couldn’t be there to represent themselves because they were caring for their loved one at home."

Talking about an advance directive with everyone who’s part of the patient's care can help cover a lot of ground regarding the patient's wishes, she said. Even if family members can only join the conversation via webcam — something Parker-Oliver successfully pilot tested in a previous study — it helps prevent misunderstanding later about what mom or dad wanted.

So far, 10 patients and their family members have joined the study. It’s too soon to say how many of the participants already have an advance directive, Parker-Oliver said.

Colleen Galambos, a professor in the MU School of Social Work, suggests people should be talking about advance directives long before they're admitted to a hospital or nursing home, a time that is often fraught with fear and anxiety.

"That’s a very difficult time to be enacting an advance directive," she said. "Because something brought you there — to the hospital or nursing facility — and you’re probably not in a good place to be really thoughtful about the type of care you’d like for yourself."

Galambos is the director of the graduate certificate in the Gerontological Social Work program. She has published widely and is a distinguished researcher and scholar in geriatrics and aging, long-term care and higher education.

Normalizing death

The Supreme Court ruling in the Cruzan case also established that there were no set national guidelines on the right to die, leaving it up to the states. California, Colorado, Oregon, Vermont and Washington are the only states with "Death with Dignity" laws — giving terminally ill residents the option to end their lives voluntarily and peacefully.
A Death with Dignity law was introduced in the Missouri House of Representatives on Jan. 9, 2017. A similar bill was introduced in 2016 but was never scheduled for committee hearings.

"We, the U.S., don’t feel comfortable talking about death," Galambos said. "We haven’t normalized it."

Galambos understood the importance of having end-of-life conversations with loved ones soon after she began her career. She lost her grandfather to colon cancer in the late 1970s. A survivor for over five years, the 86-year-old had become very ill and no longer wanted any aggressive care upon admission to the hospital, even if it meant extending his life. He was ready to die.

"But the medical community wasn’t at a place where they could accept that," Galambos said. "They wanted to keep on providing aggressive care. In his case, had he had an advance directive, his death would’ve been more peaceful."

She said the personal experience left an impression on her and crystallized her views of a person’s right to die on his or her own terms.

**Dying with dignity**

Virginia Dickson died Nov. 9, 2016, the way she wanted — in the comfort of her own home and next to the people she loved.

Four months later, Wayne is trying to get back into some sort of routine. After taking care of Virginia and their son, who had a lifelong illness and died in 2013, he's beginning to realize how different his life will be now.

He still lives in the home he shared with Virginia. There are framed pictures of her on every surface in sight of the kitchen table — one taken when she was 18, two from their wedding day and several with their children.

Wayne said bringing Virginia home to die was ultimately the best choice for her. She never complained, even though she could not leave her bed for the last year of her life.
"She always seemed happy to be home," he said.

MU School of Social Work raising awareness for fetal alcohol disorders

By John Saltzman

Generated from News Bureau media advisory


COLUMBIA — The MU School of Social Work hosted a public forum Friday to raise awareness for fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. The lead researcher, Leigh Tenkku Lepper, has been researching this topic for 14 years and said this research is very important to her.

“My motivating factor is I want women to have the healthiest baby they can have, and I just say you know, why take the risk,” Lepper said.

Lepper reported that 1 in 20 school-age children experienced fetal alcohol exposure. The overall number is lower for fetal alcohol syndrome, which according to Lepper is the more serious condition.

Friday's interactive forum showed many videos and opened lines of discussion with the group of people who attended. Lepper hopes the people who can take what they’ve learned and use it positively.

“I hope that they can look at their clients and look at the complexity of things that are going on with the family, if the parents are drinking then maybe start to ask other questions, but to look at a situation and say mhm I wonder if possibly there might be some fetal alcohol exposure and then to refer them on,” Lepper said.
The children affected by this mainly experience cognition issues, or “brain based disability,” according to Lepper and her team. This can lead to trouble in school with subjects such as math and can also be present along with ADHD.

"We appreciate those who came out and it shows support for the work we do," Margee Stout of MU School of Social Work said.

After the videos and presentations were finished, questions were answered from the audience on what the next steps are and how to move forward as an organization. The parting gift of the forum was a certificate given to all of the people in attendance from the school of social work for the 3 hours of time they gave to be trained on this disorder.

Helping to build role models

By Roger McKinney

Cynthia Martin said that when she taught at Two Mile Prairie Elementary School, she was one of just two black teachers in the building.

"Once I became a teacher, I became aware of the small number of black teachers in the schools," Martin said. "I wasn't surprised."

Martin took a nontraditional path to teaching, starting 10 years ago in Columbia Public Schools as an instructor for home-bound students and paraprofessional. She has a bachelor's degree, is working on a second master's degree and then will pursue her education doctorate. Martin, who took a position as a fourth-grade teacher last year at Battle Elementary School, said she's also one of the school's two black classroom teachers, in addition to a black music teacher and a black media specialist. Even with those low numbers, Martin said she thinks her current building is among the most diverse in the district.

Racial diversity lags among Columbia Public Schools faculty. In a district with 21 elementary schools, four high schools, five middle schools and other specialty schools, last year Martin was one of 78 black or mixed-race classroom teachers and one of 18 black or multiracial elementary teachers. In 2016 there were two black principals, and 10 assistant principals and five administrators who are black or of mixed race. The 78 classroom teachers made up 6.08 percent of all classroom teachers in a district where black and multiracial students made up 26.4 percent of the student population. The number of black or mixed-race teachers in the district had increased by one since 2014.
The district employed 14 Hispanic classroom teachers in 2016, about 1 percent of all teachers, compared to a Hispanic student population of 6.3 percent. The 10 Asian teachers were less than 1 percent of all classroom instructors, and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education did not calculate the Asian student population because it was too small.

District leaders have said they hope to encourage more minority students to become teachers to make the faculty population more reflective of the student population and have taken steps to increase those percentages.

"I think that I'm a positive role model for my students," Martin said. "By having me as a teacher, they learn more about my culture and other cultures in the world. They also know I'm a mom and a single mother."

She said Black History Month in February provided her many opportunities to relate to students examples from history, including that of black abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

"It's important for students to hear about their history and about how schools were segregated in the past," she said.

Martin said connecting with students on a personal level is key to education.

"Relationship is huge," she said.

Martin is involved in one of the district's strategies to increase the number of minority teachers. The Educational Experience Intern Program started in summer 2015 with the first group of 10 students. Another group of 10 will be paid summer school interns this year, earning $10 an hour. The district also calls it the Grow Our Own Teacher Development Program. The program will cost $27,000 this school year, said Michelle Baumstark, CPS spokeswoman.

After their summer school internships, the selected students are assigned mentors through high school and their university education. When they graduate from a university and get their teaching certificates, they're promised jobs in CPS.

Martin is a mentor. A few days ago, she said, she helped a student with her application for the internship program.

"I feel like it's going to open eyes and give students a clear path," Martin said of the program.

FAVORITE TEACHERS

There were 38 black or mixed-race teachers in CPS middle schools and high schools last year. Alyssa Galbreath, a black math teacher at Hickman High School, is one of them. Galbreath is the daughter of a former CPS educator and remembers having conversations with her father about the number of black teachers in the schools.
She said studies show that when black students see successful black teachers, it reinforces to them that they can be successful, too. Students will eventually be part of a working world of racial diversity, and a diverse group of teachers gives them an idea of what their career lives will be, Galbreath said.

Galbreath said the Grow Our Own Teacher Development Program has promise.

"I think they're making the correct steps," Galbreath said of the program. "It's going to take time."

Atah Knighten is a learning specialist who works with special education students at Hickman High School.

"It's very important for students of color to have a teacher of color," Knighten said. "If they can't see it, it's not believable. It tells them that they, too, can become educators. It gives black students hope and aspirations."

He said black teachers also give white students a different perspective on leadership. However, he said, a teacher's race alone won't allow the teacher make a connection with students.

"They're more willing to give someone who resembles them that chance," though, Knighten said.

Nicolle Adair is a mentor from outside the school district who works with a CPS student in the internship program.

"I look at it as developing a pipeline of new teachers," Adair said. "It takes time, but it's well worth it. Students of color do well when they see teachers who look like them."

Adair is a mentor for Consolee Mbabazi, a senior at Hickman High School and one of the first group of student interns. Consolee said she did her summer school internship at West Boulevard Elementary School with an amazing teacher and students.

"It was a really good experience," Consolee said. "You just jump in to see if it's right for you."

She said it reinforced her ambition to be a teacher.

"I like working with students," Consolee said about her motivation. "I've had some amazing teachers in my life who have encouraged me to become a teacher."

Consolee said Adair works with her regularly to make sure she's completing her applications for university and meeting all her deadlines.

'A HUGE PRIORITY'

Teacher training programs also are part of the equation. Nathan Hurst, spokesman for the University of Missouri, said the College of Education's diversity initiatives include the
**AVID Mentoring Program**, in which undergraduate and graduate students in the college serve as mentors to high school students enrolled in the CPS AVID Program. Advancement Via Individual Determination seeks to close the achievement gap and prepare students for higher education.

He said the Dorsey Scholars Program in the College of Education recruits and supports seven minority students each year. The renewable scholarship also includes a faculty mentor and tutoring in selected courses.

Adrian Clifton is with Worley Street Roundtable, a community group that supports Columbia Public Schools but also wants the district to be accountable to minority students. She said CPS leadership is committed to increasing the number of black teachers.

"It is a huge priority for" Superintendent "Peter Stiepleman," Clifton said. She said Worley Street Roundtable is working closely with CPS on the internship program, what some refer to as the home-grown teacher initiative.

"Seeing that program become successful gives me hope," Clifton said.

Clifton, a post-doctoral fellow in learning, teaching and curriculum at the University of Missouri, began her education career as a teacher at Rock Bridge Elementary School. She saw the impact she had on her black students and said it was a good experience for her white students to receive instruction from a black woman.

"That's kind of what had driven me to fulfill this program," Clifton said of the intern program. "That kind of increased the urgency for me."

Brian Kurz, CPS assistant superintendent for human resources, said the district is working with universities to recruit more black teachers while CPS waits for the first group of interns to earn their teaching certificates. He described the work as building pipelines and networks of relationships.

"We want a diverse workforce," Kurz said. "Students will interact with a wide variety of people from different backgrounds as adults. We want every single kid to have a connection with their teachers."

He noted that the district also has a support network to help new minority teachers hit the ground running.

"We want to try to give them strong support," he said.
Report: Missouri hospitals could lose billions with ACA repeal

Association warns of lost money, jobs without replacement bill

By Brittany Russ
Columbia Daily Tribune

A recent report from the Missouri Hospital Association shows the state’s hospitals could lose more than $9 billion over the next decade if certain provisions of the Affordable Care Act are repealed.

The report, titled “Realities of Repeal,” breaks down by U.S. House district the loss of payments to hospitals if Title III of the ACA is repealed and not replaced. In U.S. Rep. Vicky Hartzler’s district, which includes Boone County, hospitals stand to lose more than $679 million from a combination of Medicare-related payments, including those that helped hospitals cover indigent care, or care for adults without health insurance, and pay for performance measures that ensured patient protections.

When the ACA was enacted, these payments from the federal government were reduced with more people being able to afford their own care.

“From a hospital net standpoint, overall and in general terms, the math worked,” Sandra Van Trese, group president for BJC HealthCare, told the Boone Hospital Center Board of Trustees during a meeting last month. “The payments went down, but so did free care. And so we’re trying to do is not destabilize the margins, the financial stability of the hospitals across the country.”

Repeal of the ACA could also mean more than 250,000 Missourians lose their health insurance for a total value of $1.23 billion in lost coverage, according to the report. Missouri Hospital Association spokesman Dave Dillon said the combination of fewer Missourians with health insurance and cutting payments to hospitals for indigent care would be financially damaging because hospitals would provide more free care.

University of Missouri Health Care and University Physicians gave away more than $77.4 million and $2.4 million, respectively, in uncompensated care last year, according to the report. MISSOURI HEALTH speaksman Jeff Holscher said in 2015, Boone Hospital Center uncompensated care costs totaled to about $6.8 million, Boone Hospital Center spokesman Ben Cornelius said.

Missouri hospitals gave away $1.2 billion in care in 2015, according to the association. The figure for 2016 is still being calculated, Dillon said.

A joint statement from Boone Hospital and BJC HealthCare states: “It is important that the money currently in the Affordable Care Act is retained in whatever replaces the Affordable Care Act.” The statement also specifies that local economies will lose about 800 health care-related jobs for every $50 million decrease in local funding from the ACA.

“In both St. Louis and Columbia, the health care sector is a significant employer and has been an important factor in helping to recruit new companies and new jobs into the region,” the statement reads. “In the continuing effort to build a strong economy and preserve jobs, Affordable Care Act dollars matter.”

In his first presidential speech to Congress, President Donald Trump again called for repeal and replacement of the ACA, adding that mandating Americans to purchase health insurance was “never the right solution for America.” Dillon said mandating coverage keeps healthy people in the system and offsets medical financial burdens for the sick.

Without mandated health insurance coverage, “the insurance system deals exclusively with sick people and becomes out of most people’s ability to afford,” he said. “And that’s troubling.”

Sam Halabi, a University of Missouri law professor, said Trump’s speech lacked specifics and with multiple replacement plans being prepared by Congress, the country is waiting to see what happens.

“If think it’s going to be a long journey,” he said.

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Dr. Angela Speck, Professor of Astrophysics and Director of Astronomy at University of Missouri

Generated from a News Bureau expert pitch.

Dr. Angela Speck discusses the potential impact and the details of the total eclipse coming August 21.


Warm weather slowing sap flow at Missouri research center

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Unseasonably warm weather slowed the production of maple sap at a University of Missouri maple grove near Columbia this winter.

The grove of about 130 maple trees is east of Ashland at the Baskett Wildlife Research and Education Center. Only about 200 gallons of sap was collected this year, The Columbia Missourian reported (http://bit.ly/2m4tnnw). The research center usually collects 400 to 500 gallons of sap between the end of January and early to mid-March.

Strong sap production requires below freezing temperatures at night and above freezing during the day.
The syrup produced at the research center is given to students who volunteer for the production process, but Benjamin Knapp, superintendent of the center, would like to start commercial production someday.

"We've had ideas of working with local restaurants, or the university has the bed and breakfast that they manage," Knapp said. "But at this point, those are all ideas."

The university would have to approve and the center would have to identify and efficiently tap the trees that produce the most sap to allow commercial production.

When the center began producing maple syrup in 2012, commercial-grade boiling equipment was purchased for about $10,000. It includes a large pan system run by a wood-burning fire used for the "big" boil and a smaller, propane-operated pan used for "small" boils.

The collected sap has a sugar content of only 2 to 3 percent, looks like dirty water and has about the same consistency. For the sap to become maple syrup, it goes through a "big" boil once 80 or more gallons has been collected. It's boiled down until its sugar content is 30 to 40 percent. The "small" boil is the final step to make the sap into maple syrup that is thick, sticky and has a sugar content of 66 percent.

Maple syrup production in Missouri has mostly been done by hobbyists who tapped trees in their backyard and boiled the sap on their stove, said Hank Stelzer, Missouri state forestry extension specialist.

But more Missouri residents are taking advantage of the maple trees on their property to make homemade maple syrup, he said.

"There's a lot of interest," Stelzer said. "I'd say there's more now than there's ever been."
Berkeley Will Delete Online Content

Starting March 15, the university will begin removing more than 20,000 video and audio lectures from public view as a result of a Justice Department accessibility order.

NO MENTION

By Carl Straumsheim  March 6, 2017

The University of California, Berkeley, will cut off public access to tens of thousands of video lectures and podcasts in response to a U.S. Justice Department order that it make the educational content accessible to people with disabilities.

Today, the content is available to the public on YouTube, iTunes U and the university’s webcast.berkeley site. On March 15, the university will begin removing the more than 20,000 audio and video files from those platforms -- a process that will take three to five months -- and require users sign in with University of California credentials to view or listen to them.

The university will continue to offer massive open online courses on edX and said it plans to create new public content that is accessible to listeners or viewers with disabilities.

Cathy Koshland, vice chancellor for undergraduate education, made the announcement in a March 1 statement.

“This move will also partially address recent findings by the Department of Justice, which suggests that the YouTube and iTunes U content meet higher accessibility standards as a condition of remaining publicly available,” Koshland said. “Finally, moving our content behind authentication allows us to better protect instructor intellectual property from ‘pirates’ who have reused content for personal profit without consent.”

The Justice Department, following an investigation, in August determined that the university was violating the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. The department reached that conclusion after receiving complaints from two employees of Gallaudet University, saying Berkeley’s free online educational content was inaccessible to blind and deaf people because of a lack of captions, screen reader compatibility and other issues.
Stacy Nowak, one of the complainants, referred comments to the Justice Department and the National Association of the Deaf. The NAD did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The department ordered the university to make the content accessible to people with disabilities. Berkeley, however, publicly floated an alternative: removing everything from public view. “In many cases the requirements proposed by the department would require the university to implement extremely expensive measures to continue to make these resources available to the public for free,” Koshland wrote in a Sept. 20 statement. “We believe that in a time of substantial budget deficits and shrinking state financial support, our first obligation is to use our limited resources to support our enrolled students. Therefore, we must strongly consider the unenviable option of whether to remove content from public access.”

Now the university has settled on that option.

Koshland said that Berkeley has since 2015 piloted requiring university credentials to access recorded lecture content. That system has so far proved more effective at helping the university accommodate students and others at Berkeley with disabilities.

The Justice Department’s investigation did not look at how Berkeley serves students with disabilities, only the accessibility of content it offers to the public.