University responds to NAACP advisory against travel to Missouri

KELLYN ALISE NETTLES

COLUMBIA — An NAACP advisory warning people of color against traveling to Missouri has generated no shortage of reactions.

In June, the Missouri chapter of the civil rights organization issued a statement warning African Americans to avoid the state based on a law tightening discrimination safeguards and a number of recent racial incidents. The advisory said people of color should be aware of "looming danger" and should travel through the state with "extreme caution."

The advisory cited the enactment of Senate Bill 43, which makes it more difficult to prove discrimination in lawsuits. It also referred to racial incidents that took place on the MU campus and the death of Tory Sanford, who died in a southeast Missouri jail, though he was never arrested.

MU officials and groups reacted with statements about the university's progress. UM System President Mun Choi sent an email to students and staff Monday morning saying he was disappointed to hear about the advisory. He said he reached out to NAACP President Rod Chapel to gain a mutual understanding.

"We all share a commitment to create a community that values the diversity of background, experiences, perspectives and thought," Choi wrote. "At the University of Missouri System, my colleagues have made remarkable progress toward this objective."

MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright addressed a statement to "anyone who interacts with MU students" on Thursday. In the statement, Cartwright listed potential talking points identifying
actions the university has taken since the fall of 2015, when protests over race relations put MU in the spotlight. MU has created a Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity, trained students, faculty and staff on diversity issues and increased efforts to hire more diverse faculty and staff.

"We recognize this is a national issue, and we’ve been out front on this for the past year and a half," one of Cartwright's talking points states. "Mizzou continues to expand its reach."

The Legion of Black Collegians, the only black student government in the nation, issued a statement about the advisory on its Twitter page.

"We are aware of the current travel advisory issued by the NAACP for Missouri," the statement said. "However, we are and will be working tirelessly to ensure that our students feel protected and to promote safety for not only Black people, but all who are marginalized and oppressed."

Tracy Wilson-Kleekamp, president of Race Matters, Friends, said she has received numerous calls from people planning to visit Columbia to observe the upcoming eclipse, asking whether or not it would be safe to travel to the city. She said she believes Columbia has a leadership problem, and she pointed to data from the Missouri attorney general stating that African Americans are 3.9 times more likely to be stopped by Columbia police.

"One would wonder if the people who are in denial about that data, if this bothers them or not," Wilson-Kleekamp said. "To most people of color, this is not a news flash."

Megan McConachie, Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau strategic communications manager, said the bureau had not received any calls from the public about the advisory, and Columbia has always and will be promoted as a welcoming city. The Jefferson City Convention and Visitors Bureau said that it had no comment. Many city officials, including Columbia Mayor Brian Treece, did not respond to requests for comment.

Berkley Hudson, MU journalism professor and chair of the Faculty Council's Diversity Enhancement Committee, believes the issues aren’t just happening here. Missouri is just a border state, he said, both in geography and in political history.
"It’s a place that’s dealing with these issues in a real up-front, public way with the spotlight on it," Hudson said. "If (people) think they’re going to avoid these problems by going somewhere else, they’re fooling themselves."

Hudson served as chair of the university’ Race Relations Committee, formed after the protests. He said the committee created a model to help students and faculty listen to one another and understand other people’s views. He believes the NAACP advisory creates a climate of action.

“It’s the perfect place for all of these issues to come to the forefront,” Hudson said. “It’s the perfect place for MU to be a leader in the place of race relations, but that’s very difficult work. There are students, staff and alumni working on this every day.”

“Somehow, we have to all come together as Mizzou, as Missouri, as a nation,” Hudson continued. “And we have to grapple with it. I do think we can follow our mission of respect, discovery, responsibility and excellence at Mizzou and learn to listen to each other.”

University of Missouri Leaders Express Concern Over NAACP Travel Advisory

Watch the story: [http://mms.tveyses.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=8346bbf5-8dff-4335-be00-b89da1807ec5](http://mms.tveyses.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=8346bbf5-8dff-4335-be00-b89da1807ec5)
Protests, racism and backlash at Mizzou

What can be learned from UM’s handling of public response to protests?

By Jeff Rouder
For The St. Louis American

The Mizzou community recently was pricked to see itself featured in national newspapers yet again. We have been thrust unwillingly into a national conversation about race. After the November, 2015 race-relations protest, Mizzou is now down 35 percent enrollment in its incoming freshman class. And the local effects have been painful.

This is a good time for all of us on the ground in Columbia, Missouri to take stock of what has happened after the protests — what went wrong and what can be done to correct it. Through the events and locales are national.

The anger and backlash following the protest was intense. It is exemplified by local Republican politician Caleb Jones who boasted that he wouldn’t send his son to Mizzou. His son would not only send my dog, I am going to send my eldest son to Mizzou in the Fall. I do believe in Mizzou.

What happened in the aftermath is actually pretty easy to see — racism happened. One way this racism happened was through the casting white narrative that the protests were about racist violence and mob rule. It is easy to see — racism.

The university’s grand narrative and the call for law and order drowned it. Significantly, the black narrative, that Mizzou is an unsafe place for blacks, is, well, racist. To make you would know this disgust.

Yet the truth is that the press and politicians were not even moderate from some local media. I am sure their disgust.

But if you saw the protests, you would know this disgust was real.

Who made this pervasive white narrative of lawless black protest possible? Well, pretty much everyone. Nobody is more culpable than hyperbolic right-wing politicians, who now make up the majority of Missouri legislation. But the hyperbole didn’t stop there. Small town newspaper editors throughout Missouri threw in their insensitive disgust, only outdone by the outrage of Missouri editors throughout the state and nation. Nobody on campus was brave enough to call out the backlash for what it is, an expression of white supremacy.

The university’s grand narrative and the call for law and order drowned it. Significantly, the black narrative, that Mizzou is an unsafe place for blacks, is, well, racist. To make you would know this disgust was real.

The Mizzou community is this: Until we call out the narratives and the people that perpetuate them, we will embody the racism we so desperately wish to oppose.

And here is the national lesson as well. If universities and other institutions are going to effectively address the deeply polarizing issues of race, they are going to have to lead more boldly and inclusively.

What can be learned from UM’s handling of public response to protests?

Before the protests, Mizzou was an under-the-radar gold mine for a high-quality, national conversation.

We are no longer under-the-radar. We now have national coverage. We have to lead more boldly and inclusively.

The core of the problem for Mizzou was not the protests at all. That was just the catalyst.

The vast majority of racially motivated violence has been directed by whites at blacks. For Mizzou, the threats came online, and included, “I am going to shoot every n****r”

If we as the Mizzou academic community already failed, but no more than our leaders who saw from the student protests and who subtly embraced the racist narratives of alumni and politicians through new policies on protesting and policing.

If we as the Mizzou academic community already failed, but no more than our leaders who saw from the student protests and who subtly embraced the racist narratives of alumni and politicians through new policies on protesting and policing.

Mizzou did not speak up for its students or faculty or for racial equality. It did not object factually and publicly to the malicious narratives reverberating around the state and nation. Nobody on campus was brave enough to call out the backlash for what it is, an expression of white supremacy.

In this way Mizzou lost its moral compass, abdicated its responsibility as a leader of critical inquiry and thought, and floated along on the froth of an embittered state and a divided nation. And in my opinion, this lack leadership and complicity continues today.

Perhaps the lion’s share of the blame, however, goes to ordinary people. The view of false narratives from all sides is far too convenient for many of us.

Take, for example, Tyler Morris, a St. Louis white student who chose Missouri Valley College over Mizzou. He says, “The discrimination wasn’t against white people, but I don’t want to be that person who was stereotyped because I was white.” What does this mean? I hope Mr. Tyler reconsider. Mizzou. Here we would have afforded him the opportunity to critically query these views.

The core of the problem for Mizzou is this: Until we call out the narratives and the people that perpetuate them, we will embody the racism we so desperately wish to oppose.

And here is the national lesson as well. If universities and other institutions are going to effectively address the deeply polarizing issues of race, they are going to have to lead more boldly and inclusively.

Mizzou is no longer under-the-radar. We now have national coverage. We have to lead more boldly and inclusively.

Jeff Rouder is the father of an incoming Mizzou student and former Multilingual Professor at the University of California, Irvine. He is urging the Mizzou community to accept a faculty position at the University of California, Irvine.
KURPIUS
Continued from page 25

the school at both faculty and student levels, recently hiring six new faculty of color and Indiana as an aggressive unit on campus that fall did come as a surprise as orientations. Perhaps the best
KURPIUS
Continued from page 25

and to test new platforms for journalism, as well as study new revenue models. She came to Missouri School of Journalism from the School of Media and Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in December 2017 with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in mass communication and a certificate from the program in Interdisciplinary Health Communication. She earned her Master of Science in multimedia journalism from the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2014.

Ebony Reed, a new assistant professor specializing in Health Communication, researches the interaction in the African-American community about mental health and mental illness, with the goal of increasing help-seeking behavior. She will graduate from the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this year.

Monique Luisi, a new assistant professor specializing in Health Communication, researches the key stages of the HIV vaccine, HPV vaccine, Ebola, diabetes, breast cancer, coming out, and hypersexual desire disorder. She will graduate from the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in December 2017 with a Ph.D. in Health Communication. She will also hold a joint appointment with the Missouri School of Journalism in multimedia journalism. She will be the first-ever professor of the School of Journalism to research and test new platforms for journalism, as well as study new revenue models. She came to Missouri School of Journalism from the School of Media and Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in December 2017 with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in mass communication and a certificate from the program in Interdisciplinary Health Communication. She earned her Master of Science in multimedia journalism from the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2014.

Ebony Reed, a new assistant professor specializing in Health Communication, researches the interaction in the African-American community about mental health and mental illness, with the goal of increasing help-seeking behavior. She will graduate from the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this year.

Monique Luisi, a new assistant professor specializing in Health Communication, researches the key stages of the HIV vaccine, HPV vaccine, Ebola, diabetes, breast cancer, coming out, and hypersexual desire disorder. She will graduate from the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in December 2017 with a Ph.D. in Health Communication. She will also hold a joint appointment with the Missouri School of Journalism in multimedia journalism. She will be the first-ever professor of the School of Journalism to research and test new platforms for journalism, as well as study new revenue models. She came to Missouri School of Journalism from the School of Media and Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in December 2017 with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in mass communication and a certificate from the program in Interdisciplinary Health Communication. She earned her Master of Science in multimedia journalism from the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2014.

Ebony Reed, a new assistant professor specializing in Health Communication, researches the interaction in the African-American community about mental health and mental illness, with the goal of increasing help-seeking behavior. She will graduate from the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this year.

Monique Luisi, a new assistant professor specializing in Health Communication, researches the key stages of the HIV vaccine, HPV vaccine, Ebola, diabetes, breast cancer, coming out, and hypersexual desire disorder. She will graduate from the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in December 2017 with a Ph.D. in Health Communication. She will also hold a joint appointment with the Missouri School of Journalism in multimedia journalism. She will be the first-ever professor of the School of Journalism to research and test new platforms for journalism, as well as study new revenue models. She came to Missouri School of Journalism from the School of Media and Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in December 2017 with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in mass communication and a certificate from the program in Interdisciplinary Health Communication. She earned her Master of Science in multimedia journalism from the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2014.

Ebony Reed, a new assistant professor specializing in Health Communication, researches the interaction in the African-American community about mental health and mental illness, with the goal of increasing help-seeking behavior. She will graduate from the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this year.

Monique Luisi, a new assistant professor specializing in Health Communication, researches the key stages of the HIV vaccine, HPV vaccine, Ebola, diabetes, breast cancer, coming out, and hypersexual desire disorder. She will graduate from the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in December 2017 with a Ph.D. in Health Communication. She will also hold a joint appointment with the Missouri School of Journalism in multimedia journalism. She will be the first-ever professor of the School of Journalism to research and test new platforms for journalism, as well as study new revenue models. She came to Missouri School of Journalism from the School of Media and Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in December 2017 with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in mass communication and a certificate from the program in Interdisciplinary Health Communication. She earned her Master of Science in multimedia journalism from the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2014.

Ebony Reed, a new assistant professor specializing in Health Communication, researches the interaction in the African-American community about mental health and mental illness, with the goal of increasing help-seeking behavior. She will graduate from the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this year.

Monique Luisi, a new assistant professor specializing in Health Communication, researches the key stages of the HIV vaccine, HPV vaccine, Ebola, diabetes, breast cancer, coming out, and hypersexual desire disorder. She will graduate from the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in December 2017 with a Ph.D. in Health Communication. She will also hold a joint appointment with the Missouri School of Journalism in multimedia journalism. She will be the first-ever professor of the School of Journalism to research and test new platforms for journalism, as well as study new revenue models. She came to Missouri School of Journalism from the School of Media and Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in December 2017 with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in mass communication and a certificate from the program in Interdisciplinary Health Communication. She earned her Master of Science in multimedia journalism from the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2014.

Ebony Reed, a new assistant professor specializing in Health Communication, researches the interaction in the African-American community about mental health and mental illness, with the goal of increasing help-seeking behavior. She will graduate from the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this year.

Monique Luisi, a new assistant professor specializing in Health Communication, researches the key stages of the HIV vaccine, HPV vaccine, Ebola, diabetes, breast cancer, coming out, and hypersexual desire disorder. She will graduate from the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in December 2017 with a Ph.D. in Health Communication. She will also hold a joint appointment with the Missouri School of Journalism in multimedia journalism. She will be the first-ever professor of the School of Journalism to research and test new platforms for journalism, as well as study new revenue models. She came to Missouri School of Journalism from the School of Media and Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in December 2017 with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in mass communication and a certificate from the program in Interdisciplinary Health Communication. She earned her Master of Science in multimedia journalism from the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2014.

Ebony Reed, a new assistant professor specializing in Health Communication, researches the interaction in the African-American community about mental health and mental illness, with the goal of increasing help-seeking behavior. She will graduate from the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this year.

Monique Luisi, a new assistant professor specializing in Health Communication, researches the key stages of the HIV vaccine, HPV vaccine, Ebola, diabetes, breast cancer, coming out, and hypersexual desire disorder. She will graduate from the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in December 2017 with a Ph.D. in Health Communication. She will also hold a joint appointment with the Missouri School of Journalism in multimedia journalism. She will be the first-ever professor of the School of Journalism to research and test new platforms for journalism, as well as study new revenue models. She came to Missouri School of Journalism from the School of Media and Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in December 2017 with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in mass communication and a certificate from the program in Interdisciplinary Health Communication. She earned her Master of Science in multimedia journalism from the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2014.

Ebony Reed, a new assistant professor specializing in Health Communication, researches the interaction in the African-American community about mental health and mental illness, with the goal of increasing help-seeking behavior. She will graduate from the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this year.

Monique Luisi, a new assistant professor specializing in Health Communication, researches the key stages of the HIV vaccine, HPV vaccine, Ebola, diabetes, breast cancer, coming out, and hypersexual desire disorder. She will graduate from the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in December 2017 with a Ph.D. in Health Communication. She will also hold a joint appointment with the Missouri School of Journalism in multimedia journalism. She will be the first-ever professor of the School of Journalism to research and test new platforms for journalism, as well as study new revenue models. She came to Missouri School of Journalism from the School of Media and Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in December 2017 with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in mass communication and a certificate from the program in Interdisciplinary Health Communication. She earned her Master of Science in multimedia journalism from the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2014.

Ebony Reed, a new assistant professor specializing in Health Communication, researches the interaction in the African-American community about mental health and mental illness, with the goal of increasing help-seeking behavior. She will graduate from the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this year.
Missouri School of Dentistry’s June graduate, Daryl Grigsby, DMD, is all smiles as he exits A.T. Still University-Missouri’s Dental Center at 1500 Park Street in Kirksville.

During their third and fourth exercises, in Kirksville, students worked on dental simulation exercises, in Kirksville. During their third and fourth years, they transition to a clinical environment and serve patients at the St. Louis David Center at 1500 Park Avenue in partnership with Affina Healthcare.

Grigsby is a member of the newly conferred degree of Dental Medicine after graduating with his degree in June.

Missouri School of Dentistry & Oral Health’s (ATSU-MOSDOH) first commencement recognized 42 graduates who successfully completed a four-year community-oriented education that will help to bridge the gap in the nation’s shortage of dentists and improve access to oral healthcare in the community. The ATSU-MOSDOH was founded to address supply gaps in oral healthcare in Missouri and across the nation. Students spend their first and second year studying basic sciences and principles of patient care in the classroom, along with dental simulation exercises, in Kirksville. During their third and fourth years, they transition to a clinical environment and serve patients at the St. Louis David Center at 1500 Park Avenue in partnership with Affina Healthcare.

During their third and fourth exercises, in Kirksville, students worked on dental simulation exercises, in Kirksville. During their third and fourth years, they transition to a clinical environment and serve patients at the St. Louis David Center at 1500 Park Avenue in partnership with Affina Healthcare.

A.T. Still University-Missouri, is all smiles as he exits A.T. Still University-Missouri’s Dental Center at 1500 Park Street in Kirksville.

During their third and fourth exercises, in Kirksville, students worked on dental simulation exercises, in Kirksville. During their third and fourth years, they transition to a clinical environment and serve patients at the St. Louis David Center at 1500 Park Avenue in partnership with Affina Healthcare.
A good view of the eclipse is easy to find

By Rudi Keller

Posted Aug 7, 2017 at 9:12 PM

On Aug. 21, Columbia can expect a lot of visitors coming in for a few hours to observe the total solar eclipse.

The Convention and Visitors Bureau doesn’t know exactly what to expect, spokeswoman Megan McConachie said, but estimates that the city’s population of about 120,000 will double during the eclipse.

“That is the hardest thing to pin down, but I think if the weather is good it will not be out of the question,” she said.

But for the people who already live within the path of totality, there are plenty of choices for finding the best spot to view it. One thing to remember is that almost anywhere with a clear view of the southern sky will do, University of Missouri Director of Astronomy Angela Speck said.

“You can be on the north side of Broadway and see that sun,” Speck said. “Anywhere you can look to the south, basically you will get to see it. The advice I have been trying to give is if you don’t need to go anywhere, don’t.”

The eclipse will begin in Columbia when the moon starts moving in front of the sun about 11:45 a.m. and ends about 2:40 p.m. The total eclipse will begin about 1:12 p.m. and last up to 2 minutes and 40 seconds.

For people with time to spend most of the day on eclipse events, the menu of selections runs from parties in Columbia and Rocheport to invitations to University of Missouri research farms where scientists will be studying the impact on plants and animals.

The main city event will be at Cosmo Park and it will start the day before the eclipse. A beer garden with music starting at 12:30 p.m. will be a big draw on Aug. 20. The park will open at 9 a.m. Aug. 21. There are 3,000 parking spaces in the park available first-come, first-served, McConachie said, but visitors are being urged to use shuttles running between Columbia Mall and the park. Dedicated parking will be available for people with handicaps, she said.
The path of the total eclipses includes 42 state parks and many have special events planned. While a planned ride for 500 from Rocheport to Jefferson City is full, Katy Trail State Park will have great viewing, said Eugene Vale of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

“I am the guy who started yelling there is an eclipse two years ago; they started believing me about last month,” Vale joked.

Because of the large planned ride, Vale suggested trail-bound viewers use the sections west of Rocheport and east of Jefferson City to avoid congestion.

Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, which is just north of the center line of the eclipse, will be open for visitors to use its parking lots and roadways to find a place to view the eclipse. A planned hike of four miles through the Gans Creek area has 40 of its 80 slots available.

“The eclipse itself lasts for about three hours,” Vale said. “One of the advantages of having events going on is you can watch the eclipse, but you don’t have to stare at the sun for an hour and a half.”

MU’s Bradford and South Farm research centers have limited parking but will be doing some interesting science during the eclipse, said Tim Reinbott, assistant director. Bradford will have an indoor area for a live video stream of the eclipse as it crosses the country, he said.

At Bradford, scientists will be observing how plants react to the change in light. Many plants close their leaves at dusk and open them at dawn, Reinbott said. Plants also have a 24-hour clock.

“What it helps us understand is how plants work, what makes plants tick,” he said. “You never know when this could be very important to understand how plants respond to the environment.”

Animals at South Farm, the university’s equine facility, will be observed to see if they behave as though the day was ending, he said.

One of the places where eclipse viewers are not welcome is Columbia Regional Airport. The centerline of the eclipse passes over the airport but it will be in full operation with arriving and departing flights scheduled within an hour of the total eclipse.

“Just for security reasons, we won’t allow anyone inside the fence,” said Mike Parks, airport manager.

Parents hoping to watch the eclipse with their children at school should sign up as volunteers for the day, said Michelle Baumstark, district spokeswoman. Each school has enough eclipse viewing glasses for every student, teacher and staff member plus 50 for parent volunteers, she said.
“We are not public viewing places,” Baumstark said.

Each school will determine how many parent volunteers it can take, she said. Information will be sent to parents with details, she said.

rkeller@columbiatribune.com

---

**Eclipse viewing areas**

**Cosmo Park, 1615 Business Loop 70 W:** Two-day event with music sponsored by Columbia Parks and Recreation. Aug. 20 music festival starts at 12:30 p.m. Park opens at 8 a.m. Aug. 21 with music beginning at 11:30 a.m. Parking available in the park until it is full. Free shuttle service from Café Court at Columbia mall 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday.

Website: [www.comoeclipse.com](http://www.comoeclipse.com/)

**Gans Creek Recreation Area, 3350 E. Gans Rd.:** Amateur astronomers are being encouraged to bring their equipment to the park near the Highway 63 and Discovery Parkway interchange. The park opens at 6 a.m.

Website: [www.comoeclipse.com/gans-creek.html](http://www.comoeclipse.com/gans-creek.html)

**Rock Bridge State Park, 5901 S. Highway 163:** Forty out of 80 spots remain in a planned hike during the eclipse that will include a stop for a picnic lunch atop a bluff during the total portion of the event. Registration is required to participate in the hike. The park is also inviting the public to find viewing spots near parking lots and along roads in the park.

Katy Trail State Park: The centerline of the total eclipse crosses the Katy Trail at New Franklin in Howard County, McBaine in Boone County and Mokane in Callaway County. Trailhead parking at Jefferson City and Rocheport will be closed for participants in a planned ride and park officials suggest using sections east of Jefferson City or west of Rocheport to avoid crowds.

Website: [mostateparks.com/page/64196/2017-solar-eclipse-events](http://mostateparks.com/page/64196/2017-solar-eclipse-events)

**Rocheport Total Eclipse Experience Festival, Rocheport city park:** Music and a walking tour of Rocheport will highlight the event that begins at noon Aug. 21.

Website: [www.rocheport-mo.com/eclipse-in-rocheport.html](http://www.rocheport-mo.com/eclipse-in-rocheport.html)
Bradford Research Center, 4968 Rangeline Rd., and South Farm Research Center, 3600 E. New Haven Rd.: Scientists at the University of Missouri research farms are inviting the public to view the eclipse while they engage in science studying the reaction of plants and animals to the eclipse. At Bradford, there will be a live video stream of the eclipse as it works its way east. The centers will open at 11 a.m. to the viewing public.

Website: bradford.cafnr.org/2017/08/watching-the-skies/

Big Muddy Wildlife Refuge, Overton Bottoms: The center line of the eclipse passes over Interstate 70 near exit 111, Highway 98 and 179, just past the Rocheport bridge. Parking is limited and the roads are rough but visitors can experience the eclipse away from street lights or other distractions.

Website: www.fws.gov/refuge/big_muddy/

Dr. Linda Godwin - A Career to the Stars

MU vet school decides not to cut reproductive studies program

EDWARD MCKINLEY

COLUMBIA — A planned elimination of the College of Veterinary Medicine's reproduction studies program at MU was reversed after pushback from agricultural and veterinarian groups.

The College of Veterinary Medicine identified its theriogenology specialty program for closure in June, but the program wouldn’t have been shut down until 2019, said Tracey Berry, director of communications for the college. As a result, no immediate additional cuts are needed by the college to meet budget constraints as long as the current amount of funding remains.

The decision to cut the program was made by the previous dean, Neil Olson, in an effort to cut $2.4 million, Berry said. The cut came after former Interim Chancellor Garnett Stokes announced in May that every college, division and school at MU must cut 12 percent from its budget.

The college website describes the services offered by the program: “A multitude of reproductive services are offered by the MU theriogenology and equine ambulatory services, ranging from routine estrous cycle monitoring and breeding using fresh, cooled transported, and frozen semen to embryo transfer.”
The program is split into education for the reproduction of large and small animals, mainly livestock and dogs, Berry said.

UM System President Mun Choi encouraged administrators in an April 3 email not to make across-the-board cuts and said the campuses should identify "programs of excellence" that could be invested in as sources of revenue growth.

Even though it was a hard decision for him, Olson decided eliminating the theriogenology program would be a good way to follow Choi’s advice to not make across-the-board cuts, Berry said.

The new interim dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Carolyn Henry, who assumed the job last week, decided the theriogenology program had the potential to grow into a revenue-generating "program of excellence," so she reversed the cut, Berry said.

The college had faced backlash from the community for its decision to cut the program.

The Missouri Cattlemen’s Association published a news release at the end of June complaining about the elimination of the program from the school.

"There is no logical reason for anyone to even consider cutting this specialty section and simply wrapping it under the regular food animal program," association President Butch Meier said in the release.

In the release, the executive vice president of the cattlemen’s association, Mike Deerling, voiced his concerns, as well: “It is beyond ludicrous to eliminate a section that is critical to the training of future cattle veterinarians."

The Missouri Veterinary Medical Association sent a letter to the dean of veterinary medicine and to MU provost office, Executive Director Richard Antweiler said. They also encouraged members to reach out personally to communicate their desire for the college to retain the program.
The theriogenology program is essential to a well-rounded education as a veterinarian, Antweiler said. Because the program is part of the college’s teaching hospital, it offers services and directly impacts the community.

In the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association letter, association President Cliff Miller appealed to MU’s status as a land grant university: “It is important to remember that the tax-paying agriculture community needs and expects veterinarians to be prepared to aid in their herds’ reproductive success.”

The letter also said the association members "feel that theriogenology is an extremely important discipline within the veterinary curriculum, and it’s used almost daily in most veterinary clinics."

Antweiler said the leadership of the veterinary association is pleased with the dean's decision not to cut the program and are happy with the way their feedback was respected by the school.

City consultant recommends reducing Columbia's public bus system from 11 to six routes

SOO RIN KIM

COLUMBIA — Bus riders could face fewer routes next year.

A proposal to reduce the city's public bus system from 11 to six routes was taken up Monday by the Columbia City Council when a final report by the consulting firm Olsson Associates was submitted.

The proposed changes are intended to increase the efficiency of the system by spending fewer resources on unpopular routes while improving service and frequency on popular routes.
City staff had proposed cutting three of the least-used of the system's 11 routes: Dark Green, Light Green and Pink. In addition, the consultant suggested cutting the Purple line and splitting two of the highest performing routes — Black and Gold — into five separate routes for a total of six lines. A separate line would combine the remaining routes.

According to the proposed budget for fiscal year 2018, elimination of the three lines would help save more than $500,000 of the proposed $575,000 cut to the bus system budget for 2018.

Under the proposal, neighborhoods served by the discarded routes would become flex zones. This means no scheduled buses would run, but residents could call 24 hours in advance to have a bus pick them up at a specific time and get them to a fixed route.

The consultant also recommended bus service begin at 6 a.m. instead of 6:30 a.m. on weekdays and end at 7:30 p.m. instead of 8 p.m.

According to the report, the changes would save the city about $366,000 in annual operating cost.

However, Fourth Ward Councilman Ian Thomas pointed to a discrepancy: At a council work session in March, the consulting firm presented four different options for changes to the routes. The option eventually presented to the council Monday night would save the city only $38,000.

The city wants to cut the budget by $575,000, which would entail modifying the recommendations. City staff has suggested removing flex zones, not adding any more buses and making at least one route less frequent.

Sixth Ward Councilwoman Betsy Peters said she felt the report focused too much on cutting routes without addressing any public needs for expansion.

"I don't see that we're expanding these routes at all," she said. "I just need to point that out because after all those years, I see a lot of people walking."
Matthes said the city's budget for the bus system is very limited because it relies most heavily on the local transportation sales tax. The proposed public transit budget for fiscal year 2018 is $5.83 million.

Thomas said an alternative could be to turn the three lowest-performing routes to flex zones as an immediate short-term remedy and tweak the remaining routes to overhaul the entire bus system.

The least-popular Dark Green route, stretching from Old Plank Road to Green Meadows Road, had an average of 4.4 passengers per hour of service during the weekdays in 2015, according to the report.

The Light Green route, which runs from Scott to Forum boulevards, had 5.2. The Pink route — Grindstone to I-70 Drive SE — had 7.4.

In comparison, the most-popular Black route had an average of 25.3 passengers per hour of service and the Gold route had 16.8.

The Black and Gold routes carry 70 percent of the passengers who use the city transit system. The other nine routes carry 1 percent to 6 percent of the total passengers.

The whole bus system has been suffering a decline in ridership since its previous overhaul in 2014. Compared with 2014, when the city rebranded the bus system from Columbia Public Transit to CoMO Connect, 16.5 percent fewer passengers rode the buses in 2015. In 2016, the decline reached 28.2 percent, a loss of more than 23,000 riders.

Approximately 48,800 riders used the bus system in May.

Before CoMO Connect, all the city's bus routes met at the Wabash Station on Ash Street as the sole transfer point. All buses needed to arrive at the station at about the same time so passengers could transfer to other routes. If one bus were delayed, that would cause more scheduling conflicts for passengers.
The CoMO Connect system avoids such timing conflicts because each bus has its own loop to run.

Drew Brooks, the city's transit and parking manager, said passenger decline is "very typical" after significant changes to bus systems.

**The bus system also lost most of its contracts with student apartment complexes to provide direct bus lines to the MU campus to private contractors, such as Greenway Shuttle.**

The city's bus route overhaul comes alongside its [decision to change its name to Go COMO](https://www.columbiamissourian.com/news/local/city-consultant-recommends-reducing-columbia-s-public-bus-system-from/article_eca68e64-7b24-11e7-936ad7d2b2fc370a.html), though they are not related, according to a marketing specialist for the bus system.

The city decided to rebrand the transit system after a Tipton-based Internet company filed a lawsuit against the city over the name of the bus system in October.

The city will schedule a public hearing about the proposed route cuts in January and anticipates the changes to be implement by August 2018, according to a council memo.

Missouri House Speaker: “We’ve got to make sure” Mizzou is the strongest University it can be

By BRIAN HAUSWIRTH

(This story is written by Missourinet news director Brian Hauswirth and news director Bob Ehle at Missourinet Moberly affiliate KWIX Radio (AM 1230)

House Speaker Todd Richardson says Missouri lawmakers are hopeful that they’re going to see “the kind of strong, vibrant University of Missouri that people in this state deserve and expect.”

Missouri House Speaker Todd Richardson signs the abortion bill on July 26, 2017 (file photo courtesy of Tim Bommel at Missouri House Communications)

“The University of Missouri is an incredibly important asset to Missouri and we’ve got to make sure that it’s the strongest university it can be,” Richardson says.

Richardson, R-Poplar Bluff, spoke to Missourinet Moberly affiliate KWIX Radio (AM 1230) during a recent stop in the northern Missouri community.

“But it’s going to take strong leadership at the University of Missouri, it’s going to take strong leadership on the Board of Curators and it’s going to take strong oversight by the Missouri Legislature and we’re ready to do that mission,” says Richardson.

Richardson’s Moberly presentation was part of his recent northeast Missouri tour. Richardson, House Majority Leader Mike Cierpiot, R-Lee’s Summit, and State Rep. Craig Redmon, R-Canton, also traveled to Hannibal, Kirksville and Macon. They reviewed the 2017 legislative session at each stop.

Richardson, Cierpiot and Redmon are in their fourth and final House terms. They were elected to the House in 2010.
The Economist is the most trusted news source in America, while President Trump, Yahoo and BuzzFeed rank near the bottom, according to a new survey from the University of Missouri’s Reynolds Journalism Institute.

The weekly magazine published in the U.K. is more trusted than a variety of American mainstream news organizations, according to the Trusting News Project survey.

Public television, Reuters, BBC and NPR round out the top five most-trusted sources. Another British news organization, The Guardian, ranks sixth, proving that many American’s don’t trust news from their own country. In fact, Donald Trump himself is among the least-trusted sources, with only Occupy Democrats, BuzzFeed, Breitbart and social media ranking lower than the president.

Trump regularly attacks the media as “fake news” with the New York Times and Washington Post being among his frequent targets. Although both papers were deemed more trustworthy than the president, they ranked lower than The Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, Dallas Morning News and Denver Post.

The results are based on the Trusting News Project survey featuring more than 8,000 people, conducted by 28 media organizations in the U.S.

“As we expected, people who rated themselves likely or very likely to trust the news were more willing to fill out journalists’ questionnaires than people who don’t trust the news. They account for 67.3 percent of responses. The other 32.7 percent – people unlikely or very unlikely to trust the news – perhaps have even more to teach us,” Joy Mayer of the Trusting News Project wrote.

The study showed that older respondents are more likely to pay for the news. Over two-thirds of respondents indicate they provide financial support to at least one news organization.

Liberal respondents were found to be more likely to both trust and pay for the news than conservative respondents, according to the survey.
A study of close to 9,000 people found that the most trusted source of news is The Economist, while the Occupy Democrats organization was the least trusted source.

The University of Missouri recently ran a questionnaire distributed by 28 newsrooms across the country. Those newsrooms asked their audiences to answer questions about the types of content they consume and how much they’re willing to pay for that content.

About 67 percent of people who replied consider themselves likely or very likely to trust the news, which means nearly 33 percent of them are unlikely or very unlikely to trust the news.

Additionally, both white and liberal respondents were more likely to trust and pay for the news than non-white and conservative respondents. Older respondents were also more likely to pay for their news regardless of race or political leaning.

A chart detailing the broad scope of trusted and not trusted news sources and brands, which includes vague terms like “social media” and “public television” can be viewed here.

The highest scoring trusted sources were The Economist, public television and Reuters, while the least trusted sources were Occupy Democrats, BuzzFeed and Breitbart.

The study was completed with the hopes of informing newsrooms of what consumers want from their news. The university also conducted more in-depth interviews with 81 people to determine why they trusted or didn’t trust certain sources.

The report also broke down sources of news based on the respondents’ political leanings and included frequencies of sources. For example, thousands of people who identified on the liberal
side of the spectrum trust NPR, the New York Times and the Washington Post as sources, while conservatives most often agreed with Fox News.

For more analysis into the Trusting News Project from the University of Missouri, click here.