



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

August 16, 2017

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Some students get VIP help to move in

By **Rudi Keller**

When Chavis Ferguson III arrived Tuesday with his father, Chavis Ferguson II, and grandfather, Chavis Ferguson Sr., outside Hudson Hall, the valet ready to help them unload was UM System President Mun Choi.

Ferguson III and his father live in Atlanta; his grandfather lives in St. Louis. His father, an uncle and an aunt are all alumni and the decision to attend MU was a choice between many schools, he said.

“I just knew it was a great school,” Ferguson III said. “My dad, aunt and uncle are doing very well in life and they all graduated here. So I felt the opportunity here was just as great as anywhere else.”

Ferguson III is part of what is expected to be the smallest class of incoming freshmen in 20 years. Applications for admission were down almost 25 percent this year compared to the spring of 2016 and total enrollment is expected to be about 30,800, the smallest since 2008.

The decline is linked to the aftermath of campus protests in November 2015. The aftermath left the university with a public image as a school that lacked strong administrative control and a political backlash kept the university’s problems in public view.

During his campus visit in April, Ferguson III said, the tour guides “didn’t try to sugarcoat anything” but emphasized efforts to make MU a more diverse and inclusive place.

“They didn’t talk about the protests so much as the after-effects of it,” Ferguson III said. “Everybody is really trying to come together and solve this issue on campus.”

The issues of 2015 don’t diminish the qualities the family sees in MU, his father said.

“We’ve heard the story that is out there — there were some concerns that weren’t handed properly and it bubbled up,” Ferguson II said. “It is a great school, with great people, and when we came to visit he liked what he saw. So, those are the things that told us it is going to be OK in the long term.”

Today is the official move-in day but Tuesday was the arrival date for students enrolled in Freshmen Interest Groups, a program that puts students with similar academic plans into the same residence halls. Classes begin Monday.

“What is different is the dorms are much better than when I went to school,” Choi said between greeting students and parents. “A dorm like this is really a living and learning community. It is not a place to just eat and go to sleep.”

Choi was joined in helping students unload by Chancellor Alexander Cartwright, Vice Chancellor for Operations Gary Ward, Vice Chancellor for Research, Graduate Studies and Economic Development Mark McIntosh and interim campus Chief of Staff Marty Oetting. This is the beginning of the first full academic year at the university for Choi, who began work March 1, and Cartwright, who took over his post on Aug. 1.

“I just get a chance to meet students and their parents,” Choi said. “I am so happy they are here, I want to share my appreciation.”

Being on hand to greet students and help them helps create energy for the coming year, Cartwright said.

“It lets me see the students, I get to see the parents who are very excited,” Cartwright said. “This means the world to them. For us, we know they are entrusting us with their child, to make sure that student is successful and that is what we need to focus on.”

Not every student knows the history that explains why enrollment is down. Lauren Dunlap of Boss, southeast of Salem, asked “which protest?” when asked whether the events of November 2015 influenced her decision.

Told about how students demonstrating over racial issues led to the resignation of Tim Wolfe in November of 2015, Dunlap said “I don’t think I heard about that one.”

Dunlap was a high school junior during the protests. While she paid little attention to the events, her parents Regina and Branson Dunlap, who were on hand to help her move in, knew what happened.

Lauren Dunlap intends to study animal science and hopes to be a veterinarian.

Regina Dunlap said she’s been asked by friends why she is allowing her daughter to attend MU. The answer, she said, is that it is the best school for the career she wants.

“We can’t base our decisions on her future on other people’s actions,” she said.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

UM reaches deadline for new lobbyist

By **Rudi Keller**

The University of Missouri hopes to save almost \$500,000 annually by hiring a contract lobbyist to carry its message in Washington, D.C., compared to having dedicated staff stationed there, President Mun Choi said Tuesday.

The deadline for responding to a request for proposals to provide federal lobbying services passed at noon Tuesday. Because the bids are for consulting services and subject to negotiation, the number received or proposed cost was not immediately released.

But Choi expects the winning bid to cost the university about \$100,000 annually, he said. Until budget cuts slashed the University Relations office in May, the UM System employed Sara Spreitzer at \$175,000 annually and Meghan Sanguinette for \$78,000 a year. The total office cost was about \$600,000 a year, Choi said.

“Cost was a big, important factor” in favor of a consultant, Choi said.

Along with the Washington lobbying office, the university also cut the personnel who handled lobbying duties in Jefferson City and public relations duties to speak with reporters. In July, the system began advertising for a new staff lobbyist to handle state business.

The university also has a contract to pay Statehouse Strategies LLC, a firm headed by Andy Blunt, son of U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., \$10,500 a month for lobbying services. The contract, extended for 18 months in December, expires June 30, 2018.

In the request for proposals, the UM System told prospective bidders that it wanted a firm that could develop plans to obtain funding through the Department of Veterans Affairs, Congress and the Department of Defense. The required skills include the ability to develop a legislative agenda, expertise in appropriations, research funding and health care and good relations with legislative and executive agencies.

Desirable qualities included being able to “design and implement efforts to expand sponsored research funding at the federal level.”

Choi is making a strong push to increase the amount of federal research funding that flows to the UM System, both to strengthen the system’s finances and to raise the stature of the flagship campus in Missouri. That means having a presence in Washington, Choi said.

“I think it is very important for us to really try to put in front of our legislative leaders in Congress the exciting work we are doing in research and education,” he said.

Earmarked appropriations like those that have built or contributed to UM facilities are not available, but that doesn't mean the university should shut down its Washington presence, Choi said.

"For us to be there to share the important work that we are doing and say that the University of Missouri System has some outstanding researchers and educators who want to contribute to the good of the United States, I think that is an important message," Choi said.

MISSOURIAN

Greek life to be reviewed by outside consultant

BY SUMAN NAISHADHAM

COLUMBIA — Greek life practices related to alcohol, drugs, hazing, recruitment and retention will be scrutinized by an outside higher education consultant, the Office of Greek Life announced this week.

The decision to hire Dyad Strategies for \$22,000 was made by Vice Chancellor for Operations and the Office of Greek Life, said Liz McCune, associate director of the MU News Bureau. Ward is also interm vice chancellor for student affairs.

Dyad Strategies counsels fraternities and sororities at more than 25 universities nationwide, including Mississippi, Cornell University and the University of Georgia.

"It's a very typical thing that we do for campuses, several (times) a year," Gentry McCreary, CEO of Dyad Strategies, said of this fall's external review.

McCune stated in an email that Ward and the Office of the General Counsel chose the consultant to compare MU's system with others nationwide and to access policies and procedures.

McCune said Dyad Strategies has been charged with looking at:

- Social event policies and procedures, including policies related to alcohol and drugs.
- Organizational conduct policies and procedures.
- Policies and procedures related to hazing.
- Policies and procedures related to Greek housing.
- Greek recruitment and retention rates.
- Trainings and workshops provided for Greek members.



UM System email scam impacts 3500 employees

WATCH THE STORY: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/crime/um-system-email-scam-impacts-3500-employees/605165948>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - ABC 17 News has confirmed with the University of Missouri that an email scam reached 3,500 faculty and staff inboxes.

The scam looks like an email from UM System President Dr. Mun Choi, urging recipients to open an attachment.

The UM System's IT department was able to identify the scam. Employees can now just delete the email without further problems.

According to University spokesperson Christian Basi, the university provides training to faculty and staff to help identify these types of scams.

Basi also said that faculty and staff can report any other suspicious emails to abuse@missouri.edu by sending the suspicious email as an attachment to that address and to not forward the email.

Sean Spence, regional manager at the Better Business Bureau, read a copy of the scam email and said it was a "phishing scam," meaning the scammer intended to obtain personal information, not money.

Spence said email scams are becoming more common, but there are ways to decipher the difference between a junk email and a scam.

"Look for miscapitalization, improper use of a word, improper use of an email. There are a bunch of little things that we tend to overlook sometimes in email, in American grammar, in writing; you just got to pay more attention for that sort of thing in those emails," Spence said.



MU study finds successful ways to reduce hospital admissions of St. Louis nursing home residents

By [KELLY MOFFITT](#) • 12 HOURS AGO

[In 2011](#), one in four nursing home residents on Medicare was hospitalized. It's an issue that impacts many facets of health care, from quality of life for nursing home residents to spending of taxpayer dollars, and on Tuesday's *St. Louis on the Air*, host Don Marsh spoke with a University of Missouri Nursing School professor about ways to reduce avoidable hospital admissions.

Marilyn Rantz, curators professor emerita at the MU Sinclair School of Nursing, has had success in reducing hospital admissions through an initiative she led with a population of Missouri-based nursing home residents.

It was part of a seven-site study across the country looking into whether such hospital transfers are really necessary. Missouri's part in the study was called "Missouri Quality Initiative for Nursing Homes," and was based out of the MU Sinclair School of Nursing. Sixteen nursing homes in the St. Louis area have been a part of this research study.

It found that many hospital transfers can and should be avoided. Sixty to 80 percent of unnecessary transfers were found to be for six diagnoses that could be prevented by early identification of acute changes in condition.

“When people experience transfers from nursing homes into the hospital, often times what happens is that it adds an additional layer of stress on someone already quite ill,” Rantz said. “It becomes even more physically and mentally stressful for the patient. If it can be managed from the home, recovery goes much faster and quicker.”

The Missouri Quality Initiative for Nursing Homes study found that placing advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) in nursing homes had a positive impact on identifying the six diagnoses and reducing hospital admissions.

Listen as Rantz discusses the strategies she and her team have used to cut down on hospital admissions from nursing homes: <http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/mu-study-finds-successful-ways-reduce-hospital-admissions-st-louis-nursing-home-residents#stream/0>



[Suspended MU football player arrested again](#)

DE Nate Howard arrested for failing to appear

WATCH THE STORY: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/suspended-mu-football-player-arrested-again/605101935>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - **UPDATE - 9:30 a.m.:** An MU spokesman said Nate Howard's status with the team has not changed after his second arrest.

Howard remains "suspended indefinitely" from the MU football program.

ORIGINAL: Mizzou defensive end Nate Howard was again arrested by MUPD, this time for an active warrant out of Montgomery County.

Court records indicate the warrant was issued after Howard failed to appear in court for a speeding ticket.

Howard was suspended from the football team one month ago after he was **arrested and charged with drug possession**.

The 20-year-old posted bail and was released.

MISSOURIAN

GUEST COMMENTARY: Korea — how we got here and where we are headed

DAVID WEBBER 1 hr ago ([0](#))

David Webber joined the MU Political Science Department in 1986 and wrote his first column for the Missourian in 1994.

Because of teaching opportunities, I spent more than 24 months of the last eight years in South Korea. While my academic specialty is American politics, I've read many books, attended conferences and have had numerous discussions with Koreans about the future of the two nations.

First, conflict with North Korea has been the defining issue in the South Korean public arena since 1953. It would surprise most Americans that South Koreans seem able to just go about their lives. Just in the past week, I became aware of three South Koreans who will be visiting their homeland despite the headlines. Apparently, they just don't believe that Supreme Leader Kim Jong-Un would take actions that annihilate the peninsula.

The two most promising opportunities for obtaining a more stable situation on the peninsula were the end of the Clinton Administration 2000 and during the George W. Bush's 2002 visit to Korea. Bush including North Korea as part of the "Axes of evil" was not helpful. Sadly, not

much has changed in the last 15 years between the U.S. and North Korea, except that a young man succeeded his father as Supreme Leader and has chosen to be more brazen and brutal.

The standoff since 1953's ending of the Korean War without a peace treaty seems bizarre to many Americans, but it has been stable. Support for Korean unification is difficult to ascertain. It is included as a national goal in the South Korean constitution, but few Koreans seem to really want it. Economic and cultural disparities between North and South have grown tremendously since the 1970s. Economic equalization, a goal nearly achieved in East and West Germany's unification is considered to be unrealistically expensive requiring massive commitment assistance from the United Nations, United States and China.

Perhaps because of concern with Japan and China, Korean problems have not received the attention they should have in Washington, D.C., over the past 50 years. This is partly because there has not been a clear solution. In fact, both the U.S. and China prefer the status quo over an expensive unification that runs the risk of tipping the scales between U.S. and Chinese dominance.

In hindsight, what should have been done is aggressive nation-building with U.N. and U.S. aid flowing into agriculture cooperatives, community schools, health clinics, and information dissemination. Such community-building activities by churches, health agencies, and even environmental organizations are present in North Korea and are slowly increasing. Ultimately, a society collectively determines how long it will accept a non-democratic leader. There are pockets of opposition to Kim Jong-Un, but the price is high. Information technology has been a useful tool for helping North Korea learn about the outside world and to set up meetings with each other.

American leaders seem content to place the full responsibility for solving the Korea problem on China. This is a mistake. China's South Sea actions, trade practicing, and aggressive patriation in international tribunals suggest that they aspire to be a, if not the, global leader. We need to cooperate with China, letting them take the strategic lead, in resolving North Korea issues, but we need to maintain our economic assistance and political presence.

The ultimate goal should be to welcome North Korea into the family of nations so that they have no reason to use their nuclear arsenal. President Trump's escalating rhetoric is certainly unconventional. Perhaps it will prove productive when Russian President Vladimir Putin hosts Kim and Trump for a weekend visit and they all toast and have a laugh about how "three wild, and crazy, guys" shook up the status quo and scared the pants off half the world.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Shutter shock: Photographing eclipse poses hazards to your camera

By **Rudi Keller**

The smartphone era means almost everybody is carrying a video and still camera with them at all times. But without proper precautions during the total solar eclipse on Monday, a lot of those people could be shopping for a new phone on Tuesday.

Trying to photograph the sun as the disc of the moon moves into place requires precision, precautions and practice, University of Missouri assistant professor of photojournalism Brian Kratzer said.

The easiest way to obtain precision is to mount your camera or phone on a tripod, Kratzer said.

"One nice thing about the tripod for either a cell phone or a big camera is it will stay there and you won't have to keep raising the camera up and checking the focus," Kratzer said.

Precautions are necessary because the optics on a camera can be damaged by sunlight. Just like a person can be blinded by looking at the sun, so can a camera, Kratzer said. Don't take chances, he said.

"I have, at times, taken photos of the sun with a cell phone and it was fine," Kratzer said. "I was either dumb or lucky or both."

There are three types of filters that will work to photograph the eclipse on a digital camera, Kratzer said. A neutral density filter will give the photos a yellow or gold tint, welder's glass will impart a green hue and filter sheets cut to cover the lens will create a bluish photograph.

One option for a [cell phone](#) would be to protect the lens with eclipse glasses like those used to protect eyes during totality.

Joe Johnson, an associate professor in the MU Art Department, will be taking time-lapse landscape photos as the eclipse darkens the sun. It is part of Overshadowed, a project that has enlisted a photographer in each state along the path of totality to collect images that will be merged into a single image for an exhibit to be displayed in Louisville, Ky.

In an email, Johnson directed photographers to an article published by B&H Photo on its website. It includes [several precautionary notes](#) — including a warning not to look through the viewfinder or rangefinder without a filter because the optics can magnify the light and cause quick eye damage.

The article mentions another precaution — don't get so caught up in photography that there's no time to enjoy the eclipse.

“What you DO NOT want to do is spend an entire eclipse event messing around with your camera gear, or viewing it entirely through a camera's viewfinder or on an LCD screen,” the article states.

With a tripod and proper filter, it is good to practice getting the sun to the right place and the right size on the image, Kratzer said.

Because a good photo of the eclipse will require a long lens, it is best to turn off autofocus and check the quality of the image on the camera's screen, he said. For other images, such as friends watching the eclipse, remember the light is going to be fading as totality approaches.

“It is going to be like photographing on a partly cloudy day as far as taking pictures of your environment,” Kratzer said. “It will be just constantly changing exposures.”

Getting a good image with a phone will be hard, Kratzer, said. Using a digital zoom will only result in a fuzzy picture, while an add-on zoom lens will only make it appear slightly closer, he said.

“If you are really trying to get that tight mugshot of totality with a smartphone, it might be a little more difficult and possibly disappointing,” he said



Here Comes The Eclipse: How Will Midwest Livestock, Crops React?

By KRISTOFOR HUSTED

During the Aug. 21 solar eclipse, spectators will turn their eyes upward to see the moon pass in front of the sun.

But many Midwest scientists will turn their eyes and cameras to the plants and animals here on the ground. And they're not sure what will happen.

“It's never really been studied systematically,” says Angela Speck, director of astronomy at the University of Missouri Columbia. “We have ideas about: Is this an illumination thing? The amount of light they’re receiving goes down. Is that what it is? Is it a temperature effect? Is it all of that?”

Speck says a different part of the Earth experiences a total eclipse about once a year and that makes tracking changes in animal and plant behavior challenging.

“The place that gets to see that total eclipse is only about 0.1 percent of the surface of the Earth,” she says. “So even though they happen every year in a given location, they are very rare.”

On Aug. 21, a 70 mile-wide ribbon from Oregon to South Carolina called the “path of totality” will experience the total eclipse here in the U.S. Large swaths of farmland in the Great Plains and Midwest will see darkness for two and a half minutes and experience a temperature drop of about 10 degrees in the middle of the day.

Researchers at the University of Missouri are using the South Farm Research Center, which falls right in line with the path of totality, to document corn, soybeans and livestock through live stream webcams.

Tim Reinbott, director of field operations, says he’s eager to see how drought- stressed corn and soybean plants react to the change in light and temperature. Typically when these plants are coping with limited water, they twist up their leaves during the day to prevent loss of moisture. Then during the night, they unfold to breathe in carbon dioxide.

“During the middle of the day, during the middle of all of this, will it unfold itself and then fold itself right back up in response to the eclipse?” Reinbott asks. “I don’t know. Maybe it’s too quick. Whether they work or not, we’re going to learn something.”

Indeed, a lot of research is done in labs to see how plants react to different conditions, including research on drought stressed plants, but Reinbott says, the eclipse is so unique that it would be a challenge to mimic those exact conditions in a greenhouse or a pasture.

“Also we’ve got the full spectrum of the sun -- all the shades of red lights, green lights and blues. It’s hard to get that artificially,” he says.

For farmers, the rows of corn and soybeans striping through the Midwest will only briefly dip in photosynthesis -- the process by which plants convert light into energy. University of Missouri plant biologist Mannie Liscum says any light or temperature changes that hit the crops during the eclipse will come out as a wash during harvest -- no bushels lost.

“The reason for that is that plants normally are adapting to local environments because they are fixed in the soil,” he says. “They’re sessile. They can’t escape their environment so they undergo huge changes in their light environment during the course of a single day.”

Animals, however, are not fixed in the soil. At the South Farm Research Center, Reinbott will have the cameras pointed at horses, which he anticipates might act frisky or hungry because they think it’s dinner time.

He’ll also have cameras streaming the behavior of chickens in a coop.

“I think they’ll be real reactive to (the eclipse),” he says. “But then again it’s cool. So they may say, ‘you know, maybe I need to stay out here and eat some more?’ I don’t know.”

With the help of elementary school students across the community, University of Missouri biology professor Candi Galen is putting out microphones near beehives, in gardens and in a pumpkin patch to record buzzing activity.

“I don’t think it is really known the cues that bees use or don’t use when they are foraging that tell them to jump ship and go back to their hives or stay put,” Galen says. “Bees depend upon the environment to regulate their temperature, and that may suggest that if indeed it does cool off a few degrees as the eclipse progresses, then they would get less active because they would be at a lower temperature physiologically.”

Researchers are also working with nearby cattle ranchers and even fishermen to monitor fish activity, Reinbott says.

“What they observe, let us know, and you get enough folks observing the same thing, that’s a replicated trial,” he says.

Ultimately, Reinbott says, we might not learn a groundbreaking fact during these eclipse studies that can be applied immediately to science. But maybe something will be learned that researchers can use down the line to improve food production.

“What we learn here, we may not even be able to fathom what could be used years from now,” he says.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

During eclipse, ‘shadow snakes’ may slither

By **Rudi Keller**

Part of the experience during Monday’s total solar eclipse will involve looking down, not up.

If the right circumstances come together, streaks of light and shadow will writhe across the ground, a phenomenon sometimes called shadow snakes or shadow bands. Scientists aren’t sure what causes them and NASA is asking people to take video recordings and submit them for study.

In an online article, NASA reported on the first mention of shadow bands in literature, found in the written version of Icelandic oral histories from the 9th century, and in the observations of astronomer George Airy in 1842

“As the totality approached, a strange fluctuation of light was seen upon the walls and the ground, so striking that in some places children ran after it and tried to catch it with their hands,” Airy wrote.

Angela Speck, director of astronomy at the University of Missouri, said she thinks the phenomenon is caused by the jagged edge of the moon. As the disc of the moon and the sun come into conjunction, the sun peeks between the mountains of the moon, creating bright spots known as Bailey’s Beads. The same effect is visible on the surface of the earth, Speck said.

“The edge of the moon is not smooth,” she said. “As you are getting to totality, the levels of light changes. Where the sun is behind a mountain, there is less light, and as come through the gaps the light overlaps, creating an interference patter. I think that is what you are actually seeing.”

The NASA article is not as certain. Shadow bands don’t appear with every eclipse and the phenomenon, when it does occur, is variable.

“Instead, the intensity, motion and direction of these bands seems to be related to the same phenomenon that makes stars twinkle,” the article states.

Turbulent air in the upper atmosphere refracts the beams of light, the article states, which causes the light to be focused and unfocused in a random, rapidly changing pattern.

“The movement of these atmospheric cells is random between each eclipse and each viewing location, so the appearance and movement of shadow bands cannot be predicted beforehand,” NASA stated.

Speck said refraction may play a part in the display but she doesn’t think it is a complete explanation.

To help NASA study the shadow bands, the space agency is asking individuals to set up a simple recording. It requires a piece of white paper or cardboard, 1 meter square, marked with a line pointing to the direction of the sun and another set of markings showing the directions north, south, east and west. Place a meter stick on the white surface to show the size of the bands.

Set up a smart phone, video camera or still camera to take a continuous set of images and put a time stamp on the photography. The bands will appear for about a minute before and a minute after the eclipse moves to totality, if they appear at all.

Getting the video or the images to NASA is easy, said Laurie Castillo, spokeswoman for the space agency.

“Post it on social media and tweet at NASA and we would be happy to take a look at it,” she said.

NASA has a [number of other ideas](#) for individuals to help gather data about the eclipse for future study. In addition to video of shadow bands, the agency is asking people to record temperature changes during the eclipse, she said. A phone application called the [Global Observer](#) is available to record the data, Castillo said.

“In some reports during eclipses, temperatures have dropped as much as 15 degrees,” she said.

Women Charge Past Men in U.S. Job Market as Economy Lumbers On

By MICHELLE JAMRISKO

Women are returning to the U.S. labor force in greater numbers this year, helping arrest an ugly decline in the so-called participation rate. Just how much additional support they can lend the economy over the longer term depends on their continued involvement.

The share of 25- to 54-year-old women either employed or actively looking for a job rose to a seven-year high in July, while the rate among prime-age men merely ticked up for the first time since January, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data released last week. The 0.3 percentage point increase for females narrowed the gap between the two groups to 13.2 points, the lowest in records to 1948.

The divergent trends between men and women since the end of 2015 put the nation's overall participation rate at 62.9 percent last month, close to the lowest since the 1970s.

Labor force participation among women, which eased along with the male counterparts in the aftermath of the Great Recession, has been on an uptrend again over the past two years. Younger prime-age women, especially, have been filing into the workforce. That's coincided with faster-growing job growth in industries traditionally dominated by women such as health care and education.

The declining participation among prime-age male workers has become an area of focus for President Donald Trump's administration. Trump campaigned on reviving traditionally male-dominated industries such as coal mining and manufacturing that have struggled against greater globalization. Amid record-high job openings, the president has emphasized that Americans need to be open about relocating for work. Mobility has declined to an all-time low in U.S. Census data back to 1948.

As Trump tries to achieve his 3 percent to 4 percent economic growth goal, participation matters because it's one of a few basic ways to pull the expansion out of a 2 percent rut: more workers and more output per worker. Measures of productivity have been lagging along with participation.

Peter Mueser, an economics professor at the University of Missouri, in Columbia, still sees a lingering need for healing from the last recession, particularly in pockets of the Midwestern state that have weaker-than-average prime-age male participation. The

economy's overall improvement hasn't coincided with a similar easing in the use of government benefits, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, in Missouri, he said.

While more involvement from women has kept the participation rate from falling further, both cyclical and structural factors are limiting progress.

Prohibitive childcare costs make parents' decision to return to work more difficult, and prime-age Americans are feeling the increased burden of caring for an aging population. The opioid epidemic also helps explain why a portion of the workforce is deemed unemployable. And immigration limits imposed by the Trump administration could curb workforce growth in industries such as farming and construction that are dominated by the foreign-born.

[Story continues.](#)



Increased risk of heart attack, stroke soon after cancer diagnosis

By WILL BOGGS

Reuters Health - Patients with cancer have higher risks of heart attack and stroke from blood clots, especially in the first few months after diagnosis, compared with people who don't have cancer, researchers report.

"A new diagnosis of cancer is associated with more than a doubling in risk of stroke and heart attack in the first six months after cancer diagnosis," Dr. Babak B. Navi from Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City told Reuters Health by email. "Therefore, cancer patients and their doctors need to pay more attention to the potential secondary complications of cancer and its treatments, particularly the cardiovascular ones, which are associated with substantial morbidity and mortality."

Cancer increases the risk of blood clots, but most earlier studies reported on the risk of deep-vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism, not on clots in the arteries (where they cause heart attacks and strokes).

Navi's team used information from a Medicare-linked database to evaluate the risk of heart attack and stroke in patients age 66 or older with new diagnoses of eight cancer types: breast, lung, prostate, colon, bladder, pancreas, stomach and non-Hodgkin lymphoma. They compared the cardiovascular risks in the cancer patients to risks in similar people without cancer.

Six months after diagnosis, people with cancer had a higher rate of heart attack or stroke (4.7%) due to blood clots than people without cancer (2.2%), the authors reported in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, online August 14.

The rate was highest in patients with lung cancer (8.3%) and was generally higher in patients with the most-advanced cancers. But even patients in the earliest stages of cancer had an increased risk of stroke and heart attack.

After the first six months, the differences in risk got smaller, and by one year after diagnosis, the risks were about the same in people with, versus those without, cancer.

The risk of dying within 30 days after a stroke or heart attack was also greater in cancer patients (17.6%) than in patients without cancer (11.6%).

“This suggests that all cancer patients, even those with localized disease, should be monitored for signs and symptoms of cardiovascular disease,” Navi said. “I recommend that patients with newly diagnosed cancers have frank discussions with their doctors about their individual risks of myocardial infarction and stroke and that they should work with these doctors to aggressively target any known cardiovascular risk factors.”

Dr. Edward T. H. Yeh from University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, who coauthored an editorial related to this report, told Reuters Health by email, "Based on the early myocardial infarction and stroke risk in cancer patients, it is important for the oncologist to refer patients with cardiovascular risk factors, such as diabetes, high cholesterol, and hypertension, to cardiologists or internists for risk-factor modification. Patients with cancer should also be aware of the signs and symptoms of acute coronary syndrome and stroke. They should seek immediate medical attention following the onset of new symptoms."

“Successful cancer treatment should also include prevention of cancer or cancer therapy-associated adverse events,” he said. “Cancer patients should be co-managed with cardiologists or other specialists to improve clinical outcomes.”

The Washington Post

AP Associated Press

The New York Times

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

A look at a NAACP travel warning to would-be Missouri guests

BY JIM SUHR *Associated Press*

AUGUST 15, 2017 3:09 PM

St. Louis' hospitality industry says it's starting to see lost business that's perhaps tied to the NAACP's travel warning to would-be visitors to Missouri. The warning, issued last month as the civil rights organization's first-ever such advisory, largely hinges on the group's concerns about a state law that soon will roll back discrimination protections for workers.

The NAACP also cites reports that African-Americans are more likely than whites to be stopped by Missouri law enforcement officers, as well as other current and past issues of racial conflict in the state. The NAACP is staging "truth rallies" around the state this week to explain the travel warning.

Legislation, signed into law in June by Republican Gov. Eric Greitens and taking effect Aug. 28, will make it tougher to prove workplace and housing discrimination in court. People suing for discrimination will be required to demonstrate that a protected class such as race, gender, age or ability was the "motivating factor" for disciplinary action from an employer. Under current law, employees must only prove their protected class contributed to an employer's decision to fire, discipline or refuse to hire them. The new law also caps the amount of damages an employer must pay based on the company's size and bars people from suing some individuals, such as a supervisor, for discrimination.

REACTION TO THE LAW

Groups including the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry and some GOP lawmakers say the law change is necessary to reduce "frivolous lawsuits" that have made doing business in the state too difficult. Other lawmakers and the NAACP decry the move, arguing the measure removes worker protections and makes it nearly impossible to prove workplace discrimination and harassment in court.

THE TRAVEL ADVISORY

The travel advisory, which warns Missouri residents and visitors of "looming danger," was put in place on a statewide level in June and then adopted by the NAACP's national delegates last month. The organization cited the new law in issuing the warning. It also noted a Missouri attorney general's report showing that black Missouri drivers last year were 75 percent more likely than whites to be stopped by police. **Missouri also has drawn unwelcomed global attention for racial acrimony in recent years — from lingering unrest over the 2014 police shooting death of 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson to protests in 2015 on the University of Missouri's Columbia campus over what activists saw as administrators' indifference to racial issues.**

THE ADVISORY'S EFFECT ON TOURISM

The president of the tourism-minded Explore St. Louis board says the NAACP advisory has led to some meetings being scrapped at local hotels. Kitty Ratcliffe wouldn't specify which hotels were affected or the number of meetings canceled. Explore St. Louis says on its website that the local hospitality industry has about 85,000 workers and that the city welcomes nearly 26 million visitors for leisure, conventions, meetings and business travel each year, with the guests spending roughly \$5.4 billion.

A spokesman for Visit KC says Kansas City, Missouri, has not lost any business due to the ban "to our knowledge." Mayor Sly James wrote in a recent blog posting that in the coming 18 months, the city expects to host more than 200 conventions welcoming more than 430,000 visitors.

REACTION TO THE ADVISORY

Gov. Greitens, who took office in January, has not commented publicly about the travel advisory. And while Missouri NAACP President Rod Chapel has said he hopes the action boosts awareness, there was disagreement even within the state's NAACP about the warning's merits, at least for a time.

St. Louis County NAACP President Esther Haywood initially said that while her chapter doesn't support the new law, members worried the advisory could harm minorities employed in the hospitality industry and "who have played no role in this legislation." She later backtracked and threw her support behind the

warning, insisting the legislation's sponsors used deception and "have taken away our protections from unlawful and immoral discrimination. Just how far back in time are they planning to take us?"

Jerry Hunter, a St. Louis attorney who once headed the Missouri Department of Labor, says the travel advisory is a publicity ploy by the NAACP. Hunter, who is black, says it stands to harm African-Americans making a living in the state's hospitality industry.

HOW HAVE SITUATIONS INVOLVING LEGISLATION IN OTHER STATES PLAYED OUT?

After North Carolina last year adopted a "bathroom bill" requiring transgender people to use public restrooms corresponding to the gender on their birth certificates, a national uproar and costly boycotts of that state spurred lawmakers there to roll back much of that measure in March. The new measure says that only state lawmakers — not local governments or school officials — can make rules for public restrooms.