

## HUNGER WALK

The 25th annual Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty Hunger Walk goes virtual — walk the way you want to  
**Page 2A**



## RIGHT WHERE THEY LEFT OFF

Behind star QB Patrick Mahomes and electric rookie RB Clyde Edwards-Helaire, the Chiefs kick off the NFL season and defense of their title with a 34-20 win over the Texans at Arrowhead Stadium  
**Page 1B**

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2020 • COLUMBIA'S LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER • COLUMBIAMISSOURIAN.COM • 75 CENTS

# MISSOURIAN

COVID-19 UPDATE:

MISSOURI +1,129

Tests: 1,083,924 Cases: 97,576 Deaths: 1,691

BOONE COUNTY +81

Cases: 3,680 Deaths: 7

## Why won't some people wear masks?

*Threat perception and social norms both play a role in a person's decision*

BY JANA MCKENZIE  
news@columbiainmissourian.com

Almost 30% of Americans say they rarely, never or only sometimes wear a mask, according to a July poll by Gallup.

The rest of the country can often be found wondering aloud — often on social media — what is going on with these people?

Cognitive processes may hold the answer.

Both MU and Columbia's City Council have enacted ordinances to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including requiring masks inside and outdoors, as well as limiting gatherings to 20 people. Yet people don't always follow the rules; some even taking pride in their decision not to wear a mask.

Research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention affirms that wearing masks reduces the spread of COVID-19, citing a case study in a Springfield hair salon. Two hair stylists there became infected with COVID-19, yet the salon followed local ordinances and required cloth face coverings for all its employees and customers. According to the CDC, investigators found that "none of the stylists' 139 clients or secondary contacts



HANA KELLENBERGER/Missourian

A group of young adults walks down Ninth Street wearing Chiefs jerseys on Thursday in downtown Columbia. Multiple individuals in the group were unmasked until they became aware of the Missouriian photographer or were notified by others within their group.

became ill, and all 67 clients who volunteered to be tested showed no sign of infection."

As Columbia's COVID-19 cases have grown exponentially over the past few weeks — largely, public health officials have said repeatedly, because of a lack of adherence to

mask and social distancing rules — resistance to the rules seems stubbornly intractable.

### Psychological 'reactance'

When someone tells another person to do something, it can feel threatening to freedom. The

sensation that follows is called psychological reactance. A mask mandate can be a trigger of that freedom threat, and the reactance severity depends on how the regulation is worded, Benjamin Warner

Please see **MASKS**, Page 4A

## MU says there's still plenty of quarantine housing

BY PILI SWANSON  
news@columbiainmissourian.com

MU was using less than half of quarantine housing on campus and about three-fourths of contracted off-campus hotel rooms as of Tuesday, MU spokesperson Christian Basi said.

Quarantine housing is only for students who live on campus and test positive for COVID-19 or have had close contact with someone who has the virus. As of Tuesday, 93 students were in isolation — meaning they tested positive — and 16 were in quarantine, meaning they had close contact.

Sections of residence halls and hotel rooms in town are being used. Basi said the number of rooms being used changes based on need.

"It changes weekly and sometimes daily," he said.

The number of active cases among students has declined

Please see **HOUSING**, Page 4A

## MU Chancellor Choi draws complaints for blocking multiple students on Twitter

BY TRENTON ALMGREN-DAVIS  
news@columbiainmissourian.com

MU students say they feel silenced after MU Chancellor Mun Choi blocked and later unblocked them from his personal Twitter account.

The anonymous account University of Misery created a thread of those blocked by Choi, who is also president of the UM system. Thirteen students replied to the thread with screenshots indicating that "@Munchoi4545's blocked you." Some of those said they were aware of other students who said they had been blocked.

Christian Basi, university spokesperson, confirmed Choi had unblocked the students.

"He has always been open to having conversations with students about any issue and receiving feedback that would help Mizzou move forward," Basi said. "He decided to reverse his actions because the university doesn't need the distraction caused by this matter."

"His primary focus is on guiding the university and creating a safer and more supportive environment for our faculty, staff and students," Basi said.

Kenny Van Doren was blocked after he tweeted on Sept. 3, "school canceled at 0 positive cases. School still on at 483 positive cases." The tweet included a GIF of a cartoon character whipping a scooter around his body and rolling off the screen.

The GIF was in reference to tweets about Choi riding a moped around campus. Van Doren's tweet joked at the irony that the university went virtual in the spring prior to any infections being reported on campus. In-person classes are being taught on campus now, despite 624 active student cases as of noon Thursday, as reported by the Missouriian.

"I didn't tag him in the tweet, so I think he was searching his name and blocking people that were tweeting about him," Van Doren said.

Other students were also wondering how Choi found their twitter accounts without tagging him.

In a pro bono effort because of his interest in MU matters as an alumnus, Texas attorney Christopher Bennett sent a letter Wednesday to Choi, the Board of Curators and Stephen J. Owens, the UM system's general counsel, representing the individuals blocked from Choi's account.

Bennett called Choi's action to block the students unlawful, citing a federal case involving President Donald Trump's Twitter account.

A federal court ruled Trump could not exclude individuals from a social media account that he uses for official purposes because of the rights held under the First Amendment, according to the LexisNexis case brief.

"I think the first amendment is always important. Even a violation that may seem less significant is problematic to me," Bennett said in

Please see **CHOI**, Page 4A

## In a year of restrictions, the virus changes Sept. 11, too

BY JENNIFER PELTZ  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — In a year when the coronavirus pandemic has reshaped countless American rituals, even the commemoration of 9/11 could not escape unchanged.

The 19th anniversary of the terror attacks will be marked by dueling ceremonies at the Sept. 11 memorial plaza and a corner near the World Trade Center, reflecting a divide over the memorial's decision to suspend a cherished tradition of relatives reading victims' names in person. Vice President Mike Pence is expected at both those remembrances in New York, while President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden plan to go to the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania.

In New York, the double beams of light that evoke the fallen twin towers were nearly canceled in the name of virus safety, until

an uproar restored the tribute. The Fire Department has cited the virus in urging members to skip observances of the 2001 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people, among them almost 350 firefighters.

Some victims' relatives say they understand the ground zero observance had to change in a year when so much else has. Others fear the pandemic is making plain what they have feared was happening unspoken: that the commitment to "Never Forget" is fading.

"It's another smack in the face," says Jim Riches, who lost his son Jimmy, a firefighter.

The father is staying home on the anniversary for the first time this year because he doesn't want to take chances with the coronavirus after a prior illness. But he feels others should have the option of reciting the names of the dead on the memorial

Please see **SEPTEMBER**, Page

TODAY'S WEATHER  
CLOUDY  
72/64

### INDEX

Abby 5B  
Classifieds 3B  
Nation 3A  
Opinion 5A  
Sports 1B  
State 2A  
Sudoku 4B  
TV schedule 6B

Our 112th year/#364  
2 sections  
12 pages



## States ask judge to reverse changes at Postal Service

BY GENE JOHNSON  
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — A group of states suing over service cuts at the U.S. Postal Service is asking a federal judge to immediately undo some of them, saying the integrity of the upcoming election is at stake.

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy has already said he's halting some of the changes, including the removal of distinctive blue mailboxes and of sorting machines at some processing facilities. However, two remain in effect, the states argue: that the Postal Service is no longer treating election

mail as the equivalent of First Class mail and the so-called "leave behind" policy, requiring that postal trucks leave at certain times, whether or not there is additional mail to load.

In a motion filed in U.S. District Court in Yakima, Washington, late Wednesday, the 14 states — including the battlegrounds of Nevada, Michigan and Wisconsin — said that though mail delays have eased since the service cuts first created a national uproar in July, on-time deliveries remain well below their prior levels, meaning millions of pieces of mail that would otherwise arrive on-time no longer are.

That's troubling as millions more voters are expected to vote by mail this year because of the coronavirus pandemic, the states said.

The states, led by Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson, asked Judge Stanley A. Bastian to order the Postal Service to treat election mail, including ballots and registration forms, as First Class mail, ensuring it is delivered promptly; to end the "leave behind" policy; and to replace or reinstall any removed sorting machines needed to ensure timely processing.

In a declaration filed along with the motion, information

technology consultant Mynor Urizar-Hunter, who helped start a website tracking the USPS changes, noted that 78% of the machines slated for removal were in counties won by Democrat Hillary Clinton in 2016.

"Despite overwhelming evidence of the safety and security of mail-in voting, President Trump has waged a months-long crusade to undermine mail-in voting," the states wrote. "The changes at issue escalate this crusade by creating a substantial likelihood that the States will not be able to deliver, receive and tally

Please see **POST**, Page 4A