City Council moves closer to violence task force

Members express concern about a potential youth curfew ordinance

By ARTHUR COOK BRENNER news@missourian.com

Less than an hour before friends, family and law enforcement members marched around McPike Park in memory of 17-year-old Treveon Marshall, who was fatally shot the night before, Mayor Bob McDavid said he would issue a resolution to form a task force to address youth violence in the community. More than a month after the city’s first task force on youth violence was dissolved, McDavid said he hopes that if the resolution passes, the task force will be approved at the next council meeting.

The task force comes after a week of work and additional meetings of the council to determine a course of action. The meeting was held to discuss the issue from a variety of angles. The council will convene a group that represented an array of interests and organizations, they said.

McDavid said that Nauser and Trapp would develop a “call for action” for the task force that would include discussions about topics such as youth curfew or early childhood intervention and law enforcement practices.

Trapp read a resolution statement for the task force, which said:

The city plans on testing Google Fiber tonight: 3A

The Columbia City Council is set to broadcast its meetings live.

Story by Brendan GIBBON // Missourian

Collegian file photo

Herman Schlundt’s Legacy

The researcher who influenced the science world and hundreds of careers left radioactive trails at MU that can still be found today

By BRENDAN GIBBONS // Missourian

For a chronology of radiation research in Pickard Hall, see Page 4A.

Scheduling: Pickard Hall was home to a man whose ambition blinded him to the risks he posed to himself and students who trusted him.

Almost 50 years after his death, the university is still cleaning up after him. Herman Schlundt was an MU researcher who created significant contributions to science by extracting and refining radioactive elements, but his research left a toxic legacy: The radioactive waste he produced has caused sporadic, unforeseen consequences.

Schlundt was also a clever and resourceful businessman who became a source of the world’s most expensive materials, dealing with companies that wanted to profit from his process of radioactive elements. Two campus buildings and an endowed professorship in chemistry still bear his name. In his 35 years at MU, he influenced hundreds of careers.

He also left a big mess.


courtesy of uMSOR

in its early days as a chemistry building, Pickard Hall was home to a man whose ambition blinded him to the risks he posed to himself and students who trusted him.

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Pickard Hall and its hot spots

Schlundt conducted research on radiation and its isotopes from the mid-1930s to his death in 1970, with thousands of pounds of radioactive substances produced.

Along with the shield, he shipped several tons of radioactive ore mined in Utah and Colorado to campus from corporate donors eager to learn how to refine it. At least one ton of the ore arrived at Pickard Hall as sledge, dust and other radioactive gorillas eventually made their way into Pickard’s zipper, ducts and floor cracks. Leaking behind hot spots of radiation that remain today.

Since discovering those deposits in the 1970s, the university administration has undertaken a number of efforts to clean up the building with some success. But Pickard Hall continues to harbor radioactive materials in its walls, floors and attic, although MU’s Environmental Health and Safety Office says the attenuations where people work are safe. Not spring, not Summer, nor Regulatory Commission, but a new round of cleaning is taking place in the building off its basement windows.

The officials form a “decommissioning.”

The university has made an agreement with the commission to evacuate Pickard Hall by the end of December as those tests can be conducted to determine the extent of the radioactive contamination.

Meanwhile, the art history and archeology department must leave the building and move two miles north to the former Ellis Fischel Cancer Center for Business Loop 70. The move also includes dismantling the building, which is located in Swan Hall, and Pickard’s Museum of Art and Archaeology to relocate their collections to the newly constructed art center.

Once Pickard is empty, the city will help clear up any lingering concerns and determine its future as an academic building. Meanwhile, it can be found in the curious case of Schlundt left behind.

A man of letters

Schlundt kept his own research records and often wrote several letters a day. A chunk of that can still be found in the MU Archives and the Missouri State Historical Society where hundreds of folders store evidence of his work.

Throughout his career, he spoke out threads of correspondence that stretched from Columbia to points all over the U.S. and Europe where researchers and indus- trialists were dabbling in the science and refining radioactive materials. Schlundt later professed in 1930s, he had mail going back and forth to almost every major player in what he called the “radium game.” His correspondence with Marie Curie, the Nobel Prize-winning Polish-French scientist who discovered radioactivity, was thorough and timely the role of public researcher and educator with private-sector industrial chemist.

When he could not get what he wanted from the university, he moved to private industry to finance his research.

Industrial processors of radioactive ore and waste products who married many fathers of radioactive metal that, in today’s dollars, would be worth billions.

Schlundt’s life paralleled the early arc of global interest and study of radioactive elements. His research, his death and his legacy demonstrate how ambiguous timing with poorly understood material can have long-lasting, unforeseen consequences.

MARCHING FOR MARSHALL

A candlelight vigil was held Monday night in McPike Park for Tresson L. Marshall, a 17-year-old who was fatally shot Sunday night. Page 3A

COUNCIL HANGOUT

Council members held a meeting Thursday morning to discuss upcoming legislation that would open a station. Page 2A

TODAY'S WEATHER

Mostly clear. Temp: 72°

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