

MISSOURIAN

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City Council moves closer to violence task force

Members express concern about a potential youth curfew ordinance

By **ARTHUR COOK BREMER**
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Less than an hour before friends, family and neighbors marched around McKee Park in memory of 17-year-old Treveon Marshall, who was fatally shot the night before, the Columbia City Council discussed establishing a task force to address youth violence.

At Monday's council meeting, Mayor Bob McDavid said he would issue a resolution to form a task force to address youth violence in the community. McDavid hopes that if the resolution passes, the task force will be approved at the next council meeting.

The resolution comes after a month of discussions, work sessions and news conferences about violence and the safety of youth in the community. Public concern about youth violence has flared since a June shooting at the crowded corner of East Broadway and Tenth Street.

While the final shape of a task force has not been set, the form and mission of it became more clear Monday evening. McDavid said Second Ward Councilman Michael Trapp and Fifth Ward Councilwoman Laura Nauser would take a lead role as "co-moderators," working to convene a group that represented an array of stakeholder interests and investigated the issue from a variety of angles.

McDavid said that Nauser and Trapp would develop a "syllabus" for the task force that would include discussions about topics such as a youth curfew, early childhood intervention and law enforcement practices.

Trapp read a draft mission statement for the task force, which said

Please see **CURFEW**, page 3A

UM System delays health care coverage

About 500 part-time workers will not receive benefits until 2015

By **SCOTT DELHOMMER**
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About 500 part-time employees of the University of Missouri System who were supposed to be offered health-care coverage starting in 2014 will have to wait another year.

Last month, Betsy Rodriguez, system vice president for human resources, told the UM System Board of Curators that the employees would gain the coverage to comply with the Affordable Care Act.

But the Obama administration announced July 2 that it was pushing back the date for that requirement to 2015. That means the UM System will wait.

"We do not intend to offer medical benefits to part-time employees of the system at this time," system spokesman John Fougere said in an email. "Going forward, we will use the coming year to put processes into effect to ensure that the UM system is in full compliance with the Affordable Care Act."

The affected employees are those who work at least 30 hours a week, according to a PowerPoint presentation on the curators' Web site.

The expected cost of the expansion of health care benefits was about \$2.4 million for 2014, the presentation said. If the UM System didn't comply with the law, it would face a penalty of about \$39 million.

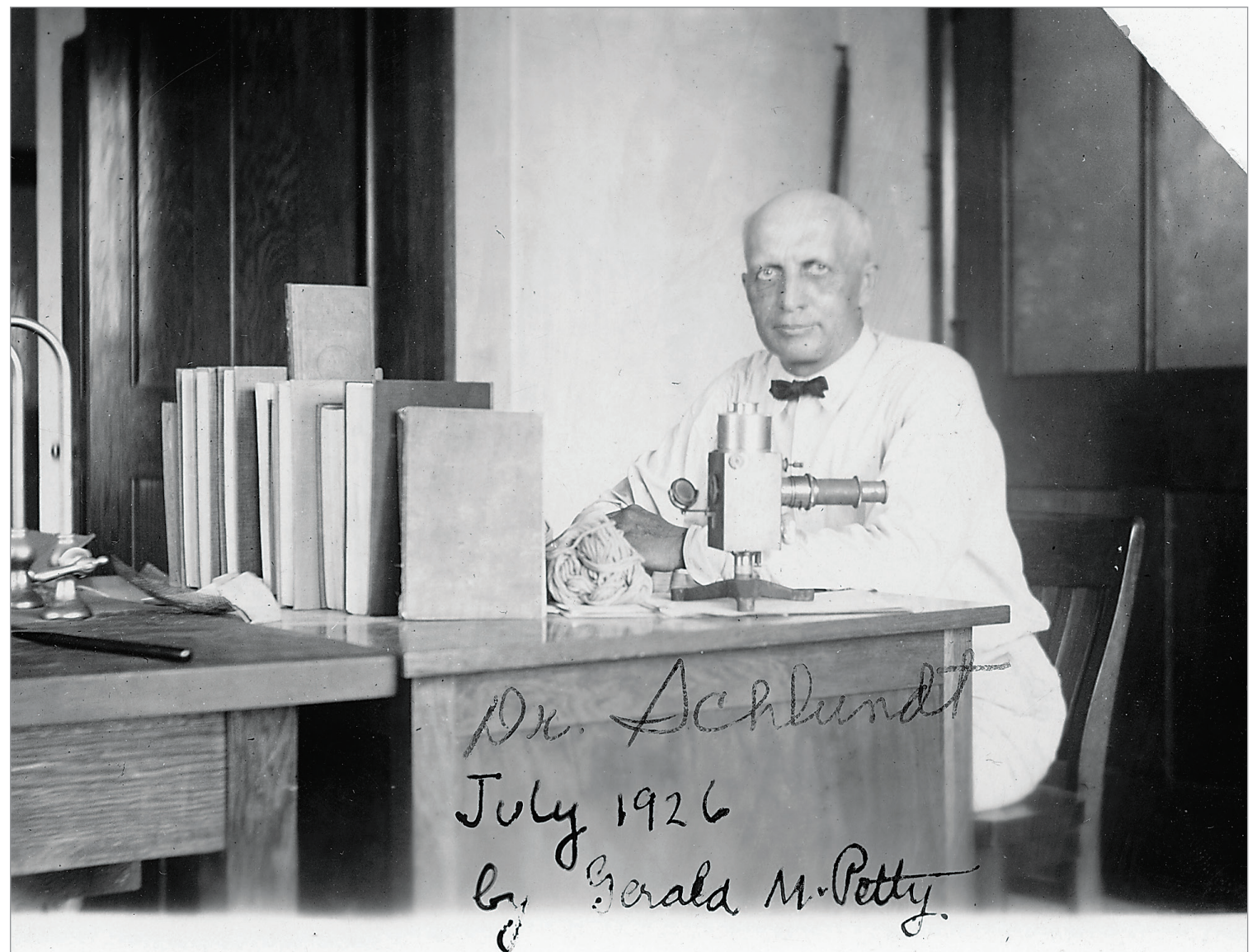
The extension allows the system to save the money it would have spent on the coverage this year, Fougere said.

He said the system doesn't expect many of the employees to accept the health care.

"Employees who are eligible would have to choose the coverage and, of course, pay the employee share of the premium," he said in an email. "Given employees' part-time wages, it is unlikely that many of the potentially eligible employees would do so."

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RADIATION RESEARCHER



Former MU chemistry department chair Herman Schlundt looks up from his work in this 1926 photo. Schlundt's work with extracting and refining radioactive metals involved bringing thousands of pounds of ore and industrial waste to Pickard Hall, the former chemistry building. Schlundt died of uremic poisoning, a result of kidney failure, in 1937.

Courtesy of UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES (C:6/17/1)

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

Story by **BRENDAN GIBBONS** // Missourian

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.

Almost 80 years after his death, the university is still cleaning up after him.

Herman Schlundt was an MU researcher who made significant contributions to science by extracting and refining radioactive metals from low-grade ore and industrial waste. The reckless way he conducted his work reflected ignorance of the dangers of radiation in the early 1900s.

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 the promise 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.

Pickard Hall and its hot spots

Schlundt conducted research on radium and its isotopes from 1913 through the mid-1930s, bringing thousands of pounds of radioactive sludge to MU from factories in New Jersey and Chicago that have since become EPA Superfund sites.

Along with the sludge, 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 dust.

The sludge, dust and other radioactive gunk eventually made their way into Pickard's pipes, ducts and floor cracks, leaving behind hot spots of radiation that remain today.

Since discovering these deposits in the 1970s, the university administration has undertaken a number of efforts to clean the building with some success. But Pickard Hall continues to harbor radioactive material in its walls, floors and attic, although MU's Environmental Health and Safety Office says the sections where

people work are safe.

Next spring, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission wants a new round of testing done so it can take the building off its list of sites to monitor. The official term is "decommissioning."

The university has made an agreement with the commission to evacuate Pickard Hall by the end of December so further tests can be conducted to determine the extent of the radiation.

Meanwhile, the art history and archeology department must leave the building and move two miles north to the former Ellis Fischel Cancer Center on Business Loop

70. The move includes dismantling the Museum of Anthropology, located in Swallow Hall, and Pickard's Museum of Art and Archaeology to relocate their collections in the old cancer center.

Once Pickard is empty, the testing will help clear up any lingering concerns and determine its future as an academic building. Meanwhile, its history can be found in the correspondence Schlundt left behind.

A man of letters

Schlundt kept his own research records and often wrote several letters a day. Much 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 spooled out threads of correspondence that stretched from Columbia to points all over the U.S.

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

and Europe where researchers and industrialists were dabbling in the science and business of radioactive elements.

From the 1910s through the 1930s, he had mail going back and forth to almost every major player in what he called the "radium game." He even corresponded with Marie Curie, the Nobel-Prize-winning Polish-French scientist who helped discover radioactivity.

The letters reveal that his laboratory in Pickard Hall did double duty as research center and industrial refinery. Schlundt thoroughly mixed the role of public researcher and educator with private-sector industrial chemist.

When he could not get as much money as he wanted from the university, he turned to private industry to finance his research.

Industrial processors of radioactive ores and waste products would donate nearly worthless raw materials to Schlundt in hopes of extracting valuable metal from them.

Schlundt would use his chemistry skills to fine-tune the refining process before sending back tiny amounts 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 ambitious tinkering with poorly understood materials can have long-lasting, unforeseen consequences.

Please see **SCHLUNDT**, page 4A

MARCHING FOR MARSHALL

A candlelight vigil was held Monday night in McKee Park for Treveon J. Marshall, a 17-year-old who was fatally shot Sunday night. **Page 3A**

COUNCIL HANGOUT

The Columbia City Council is planning on using Google Hangouts to broadcast its meetings live. The city plans on testing Google Hangouts in smaller meetings over the next few weeks. **Page 3A**

TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly sunny.
Temp: 91°
Tonight: Mostly clear.
Temp: 72°
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