

‘TEST TO STAY’

CPS awaits more info on a new student quarantine model called ‘test to stay’, where negative tests loosen quarantine requirements

Page 2A



SEPTEMBER TO REMEMBER

The St. Louis Cardinals top the Milwaukee Brewers 6-2 to win their 17th game in a row and clinch the second wild-card spot in the NL

Page 1B & 3B

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2021 • COLUMBIA'S LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER • COLUMBIAMISSOURIAN.COM • 75 CENTS

Court rules state AG lawsuit against mask mandate will only apply to CPS

BY SOPHIA DONIS
AND SOFI ZEMAN
news@columbiamissourian.com

A Boone County judge ruled Tuesday that the state cannot add every Missouri public school district

with a mask mandate to its lawsuit against Columbia Public Schools.

During a hearing Tuesday morning, 13th Circuit Court Judge Hasbrouck Jacobs denied a motion to dismiss state Attorney General Eric Schmitt's lawsuit against Columbia

Public Schools and ruled that trial proceedings will apply only to the Columbia district.

On Aug. 24, Schmitt filed a lawsuit against the district for requiring masks in school buildings and on school buses. The district's

mandate, which took effect Aug. 16, was extended for about a month at a Sept. 13 meeting of the Columbia School Board.

At the hearing, lawyers for Schmitt and the district argued for almost three hours over the

legality of the district's mask mandate. The state's motion to certify the lawsuit as class action and a motion for a classwide preliminary injunction were denied.

Please see **MASKS**, Page **3A**

SOWING THE SEEDS



LILY DOZIER • Missourian

*AmeriCorps VISTA employee Graham Bellairs, left, and Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture employee Carrie Hargrove wash radishes Tuesday at the Veterans Urban Farm in Columbia. The farm is one of the transitional work programs at the Truman Veterans' Hospital. For more, please see **Page 4A**.*

Hearing on courthouse murals' fate sparks strong responses

BY JANA ROSE SCHLEIS
news@columbiamissourian.com

"Much of the history of Boone County was not inspiring or pleasing."

That's how Boone County Commissioner Dan Atwill opened public comment on the issue of whether to remove two murals hanging in the stairwell of the county courthouse.

About three dozen people attended Tuesday night's meeting of the Boone County Commission and shared their opinions on the murals while the art was displayed on the hearing room's projector. Atwill said the commission will make a decision on the removal request at a later meeting.

The murals were created in conjunction with the expansion of the courthouse in 1994. Designed and painted by Sid Larson, they show a variety of scenes, some graphic, from Boone County history.

Gary Oxenhandler and Rusty Antel, two members of the Boone County Bar Association, initiated a discussion about the murals when they sent a letter the commissioners earlier this

Please see **MURALS**, Page **3A**

CORRECTIONS

The state Attorney General filed a lawsuit against Columbia Public Schools on Aug. 24. An article on Page 1A on Tuesday had the wrong date.

Lisa Wayland Altschul is a biomedical engineer. A story on Page 1A on Tuesday mischaracterized her affiliation with MU's Engineering Dean's Advisory Board.

Pfizer boosters for COVID-19 are to be administered at least six months after completion of the primary series. A story on Page 1A on Tuesday misstated the time frame.

COVID-19 UPDATES (09/29/21)

Boone County			
New cases	Active	Total	Deaths
38	438	24,485	153
Vaccinations	First Dose	Second dose	First dose %^
Boone County	102,085	92,298	56.6
Missouri	3,285,379	2,917,214	53.5

^Boone County percentage is based on a total population of 180,463. Missouri is based on a total population of 6,137,428. Federal distribution is not included so rates are likely higher.

TODAY'S WEATHER
MOSTLY SUNNY
89/66

INDEX

Abby	7A
Classifieds	7B
Nation	8A
Obituaries	2A
Opinion	5A
Sports	1B
Sudoku	7B
TV schedule	8B

Our 114th year/#10
2 sections
16 pages



Pfizer takes next step, but kids' vaccination timeline still unsure

Company aims to get its vaccine fully approved for usage on kids ages 5-11, but shots may not be available for use until November

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Pfizer has submitted research to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on the effectiveness of its COVID-19 vaccine in children, but the shots may not be available until November.

The company said Tuesday it provided health regulators with data from a recent study of its vaccine in children 5 to 11 years old. Officials had said previously they would file an application with the FDA to authorize use in the coming weeks.

Once the company files its application, U.S. regulators and public health officials will review the evidence and consult with their advisory committees in public meetings to determine if the shots are safe and effective enough to recommend use.

That process may mean the shots may not be available until closer to Thanksgiving, according to a person familiar with the process but not authorized to discuss it publicly.

But it is possible that, depending on how quickly the FDA acts, the shots could become available earlier in November, the person said.

The drugmaker and its partner, Germany's BioNTech, say they expect to request emergency use authorization of their vaccine in children ages 5 to 11 "in the coming weeks." The companies also plan to submit data to the European Medicines Agency and other regulators.

The two-shot Pfizer vaccine is currently available for those 12 and older. An estimat-



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A certified medical assistant prepares doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine Jan. 22 at a vaccination center at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Pfizer recently submitted research to the FDA about the effectiveness of its vaccine in children, but shots may not be available until closer to Thanksgiving.

ed 100 million people in the U.S. have been fully vaccinated with it, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Pfizer tested a lower dose of the shots in children. The drugmaker said last week that researchers found the vaccine developed coronavirus-fighting antibody levels in children that were just as strong as those found in teenagers and young adults getting regular-strength doses.

Earlier this month, FDA chief Dr. Peter Marks told the AP that once Pfizer turns over its study results, his agency would evaluate the data "hopefully in a matter of weeks" to decide if the shots are safe and effective enough for younger kids.

Pfizer's updated timetable was first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

Another U.S. vaccine maker, Moderna, also is studying its shots in elementary school-aged children. Results are expected later in the year.

Missouri spent \$15 million on tourism while COVID raged

BY KURT ERICKSON
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

JEFFERSON CITY — Missouri paid out \$15 million in federal stimulus aid to 32 local tourism groups over the past year as part of a program designed to boost safe travel during the pandemic.

Some groups spent the money on advertising at a time when travelers were staying home. Others purchased masks and hand sanitizer to be distributed during various events.

According to the organizations that accepted the money, it was a much-needed injection of dollars.

"It was definitely successful. It was a pleasant surprise," said Karen Krispin, executive director of Visit Maryland Heights, which received \$30,457 through the program.

The money, Krispin said, was used to advertise outdoor activities in the St. Louis County community, including Creve Coeur Lake.

The decision to spend the money on trying to lure tourists to Missouri while the coronavirus continued to infect people, however, generated controversy.

Some states were discouraging travel by requiring visitors from states with high numbers of positive COVID-19 cases to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.

And, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Please see **TOURISM**, Page **3A**