



From Hardy to QB, here are 7 bold predictions for Missouri football

SPORTS, 1B

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Missouri judge backs school aid

Private-school voucher payments still face legal challenge

Annelise Hanshaw
Missouri Independent

The Missouri State Treasurer’s Office can continue to subsidize private-school scholarships from a \$51 million allotment of state revenue while a lawsuit challenging the fund’s constitutionality makes its way through the system, Cole County Circuit Court Judge Brian

Stumpe ruled Monday morning. Stumpe rejected arguments by the Missouri branch of the National Education Association that the flow of funds should be stopped in order to prevent unauthorized spending of state funds that can’t be “clawed back.” But he didn’t outright deny the teachers union’s case, also turning down the state’s motion to dismiss Monday. Still, Attorney General Andrew Bailey, who is in his final days in office before stepping into a federal position as co-deputy director of the FBI, labeled the ruling a “victory.” “Parents, not unions, not bureau-

crats, know what’s best for their kids,” he said in a press release. “This case is about freedom and opportunity, and today’s ruling is a huge step toward securing both.” At the center of the case is the MOS-cholars program, which until the infusion of general revenue landed last month funded private-school scholarships through a tax credit program. The lawsuit challenges the shift from a program dependent on donations — which taxpayers are able to receive back as a tax credit equal to 100% of their

See **SCHOLARSHIPS**, Page 2A



The Cole County Courthouse will host a trial challenging the state’s restrictions on gender-affirming care, bringing in a judge from Wright County to oversee the bench trial. ANNELISE HANSHAW/MISSOURI INDEPENDENT

Parents anxious about school changes



In 2024, the U.S. Department of Agriculture finalized regulations to limit the amount of added sugar in cereals, yogurt and milk. By the fall of 2027, those restrictions will get stricter. RONALD W. ERDRICH/ABILENE REPORTER-NEWS

DEI bans, vaccine issue create tense environment

Zachary Schermele, Jennifer Borresen and Adrianna Rodríguez
USA TODAY

For many school districts, it wasn’t a very quiet summer. Uncertainty over the future of federal grants made it harder for superintendents and school boards to budget. Students and teachers were deported, or faced threats of removal from the country. And the specter of government investigations loomed large, as the Trump administration cracked down on schools with LGBTQ+-inclusive policies and diversity programs. All those changes have many parents concerned about what this year could bring, said Yvonne Johnson, president of the National Parent Teacher Association. Despite those anxieties, it’s important to remember that public K-12 schools – where most kids in America are educated – are primarily run at the local and state level. Property taxes and legislatures provide most of the money on which they rely (though funding formulas can vary by



Public K-12 schools – where most kids in America are educated – are primarily run at the local and state level. GARY C. KLEIN/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

See **SCHOOL**, Page 2A

Labor Day 2025 falls on Sept. 1

Ahmed Jawadi
USA TODAY NETWORK

For many of us, Labor Day is a three-day weekend that marks the end of the summer and the start of a new school year. Nowadays, the holiday is commonly celebrated with everything from parades, barbecues, and weekend-long trips. But how did the holiday come about? Here’s everything to know about Labor Day:

When is Labor Day 2025?

Labor Day is observed every year on the first Monday in September, which gives workers a long weekend to celebrate and relax. This year, Labor Day falls on Monday, Sept. 1, with the long three-day weekend kicking off on Friday, Aug. 29.

How did Labor Day start?

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, it’s not exactly clear who first proposed the holiday, with credit typically given to either of two union activists — Peter J. McGuire or Matthew Maguire — for coming up with the idea. McGuire, who was the general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, is recorded in some 1882 historical documents suggesting a “general holiday for the laboring classes.” But recent research now suggests it was actually Maguire, the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Patterson, New Jersey, who first came up with the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated with a parade on Sept. 5, 1882, in New York City. Nearly 25,000 union members and their families lined the streets of lower Manhattan near city hall, with both McGuire and Maguire also in attendance.

When did Labor Day become a federal holiday?

Although Labor Day’s beginnings were in New York, Oregon would become the first state to officially

See **LABOR DAY**, Page 2A

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