



Has Missouri peaked early again, or was OU loss a blip?

SPORTS, 1B

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ANALYSIS

United States foreign relationships strained



Smoke rises from an air strike explosion in Tehran, Iran March 2 as Israeli and U.S. attacks continue. MAJID ASGARIPOUR/WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY VIA REUTERS

Trump actions in Iran, Venezuela put nation in ‘uncharted territory’

Michael Collins
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – On the night he was elected to a second term, President Donald Trump tried to put to rest concerns raised by his critics that he would lead the United States into war.

“I’m not going to start a war,” he said during his victory speech before a crowd of supporters at the Palm Beach County Convention Center in Florida. “I’m going to stop wars.”

Yet during his first year back in the White House, Trump unleashed U.S. military power on seven other nations.

He ordered U.S. forces into Venezuela to capture that country’s leader, Nicolás Maduro. And, in the most sweeping military operation of his presidency, the United States and Israel launched a joint attack on Iran last weekend that targeted the Middle Eastern country’s missile capabilities and its leadership.

Six U.S. service members and more than 700 Iranians, including the country’s top official, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, have been killed in the attacks.

The capture of Maduro in Venezuela and the war in Iran are significant not

only because of the scale of those operations, but because they appear to signal a new approach to foreign policy under Trump. Both attempted not only to eliminate what Trump claims is a threat to the United States, they decapitated the governments of those countries and removed their heads of state.

“We are in uncharted territory,” said Alexander Downes, director of the Institute for Security and Conflict Studies at George Washington University.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement to USA

See RELATIONSHIPS, Page 2A

Lawmaker files bill targeting ‘date rape’ drugs

Anna Spoerre
Missouri Independent

When state Rep. Elizabeth Fuchs first arrived in Jefferson City as a lobbyist in 2015, a woman who had been around the Capitol longer pulled her aside and offered advice that sounded, at first, absurd for a statehouse job.

Don’t drink from the “special refrigerator” in someone’s office. Don’t go for one-on-one drinks after hours. Don’t accept an open beverage you didn’t see poured.

“Are you telling me how to conduct myself at the Capitol,” Fuchs remembered thinking, “or are you telling me how to conduct myself at a frat party?”

For years, Fuchs, a St. Louis Democrat, followed the rules — and then she won a seat in the Missouri House in 2024 and joined the place she had learned to navigate as if it came with its own set of hazards. During her first session last year, she said, she broke one rule: she took a drink from someone she didn’t know well.

After that, her memory collapses into gaps.

The next day she was sick and disoriented, trying to talk herself out of what her body seemed to be telling her. And near the end of the legislative session, she said, she watched something eerily familiar happen again, this time to a colleague who was perfectly coherent one moment and struggling to manage stairs the next.

On Monday night, Fuchs shared her story publicly during a hearing of the House Emerging Issues Committee as she introduced legislation meant to stiffen penalties for certain substances commonly linked to drink-spiking and sexual assault.

The bill would classify several “psychoactive substances” as Schedule I controlled substances alongside heroin and marijuana. It would increase

See BILL, Page 2A

Expect traffic change with U.S. 63 and Grindstone project

Dave DeMille
Columbia Daily Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

Drivers in Columbia will face a series of ramp and road closures at the U.S. 63 and Grindstone Parkway interchange starting March 9 as construction enters a new phase.

The shutdown includes a segment of New Haven Road from just east of the northbound U.S. 63 on- and off-ramps to the new Lenoir Street alignment, according to a community announcement. A portion of Lemone Industrial Boulevard where it connects to New Haven Road is also scheduled

to close through early June.

The project includes roadway widening, drainage improvements and electrical work, according to the announcement. Two new traffic signals are planned for New Haven Road at Lenoir Street and at Lemone Industrial Boulevard.

From March 9 through April 7, both northbound U.S. 63 ramps will remain open. Beginning April 8, the northbound off-ramp to New Haven Road is expected to close while crews build a new loop on-ramp and a new off-ramp. The Missouri Department of Transportation expects both ramps to open by late June. When

feasible, a single eastbound lane of Grindstone Parkway will remain open to maintain access to the northbound on-ramp. Southbound ramps will not be affected.

Drivers will still be able to reach Lemone Industrial Boulevard from Stadium Boulevard and Maguire Boulevard. Access to New Haven Elementary School will remain available at the easternmost entrance, according to the announcement. The school and nearby neighborhoods will also be reachable from Discovery Parkway and Lenoir Street or from the Broadway/Route WW exit via South Rolling Hills Road to East New Haven Road.

All work is weather-dependent and schedules may change.

MoDOT encourages motorists to learn more about the project or sign up for email updates on its website, modot.org. The agency also reminds drivers to stay alert in work zones, follow posted signs and reduce speed around crews.

This story was created by Dave DeMille, ddemille@gannett.com, with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Journalists were involved in every step of the information gathering, review, editing and publishing process. Learn more at cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct.

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