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More 7-OH seized as feds target growing drug market

BY DAVID HUDNALL
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Federal authorities announced Monday that they seized approximately 73,000 products containing the synthetic kratom derivative 7-hydroxymitragynine from three Kansas City warehouses last month.

The actions against two of

those warehouses, operated by Shaman Botanicals, were previously reported by The Star.

The Department of Justice's announcement Monday revealed that a third facility was also targeted during a coordinated enforcement action Nov. 12.

That facility, at 1449 N. Topping Ave. in Kansas City, is operated by Relax Relief Rejuvenate Trading, LLC, which

sells 7-OH under the brand named EDP, among others.

The Food and Drug Administration issued a warning letter to Relax Relief Rejuvenate Trading's owners, Dustin Robinson and Ajaykumar Patel, in June about concerns related to its marketing of 7-OH. The FDA said the products were illegal under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

Robinson declined to com-



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Vince Sanders, founder of CBD American Shaman, poses for a photo at July's CHAMPS Trade Show in Las Vegas.

ment on the seizure.

7-OH is a lab-created form of kratom that is sold without oversight in smoke shops and conve-

nience stores. It is said by researchers and regulators to be

SEE DRUG, 2A



FILE PHOTOS

The three finalists are, from left, Mike Marino, Craig Buckley and Michael Mire.

Meet the three finalists to be KC's next fire chief

BY JUDY L. THOMAS
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Three men with decades of experience from fire departments across the country are

finalists to head the Kansas City Fire Department, the city announced Tuesday.

The candidates, from Houston, Orlando and the Washington, D.C., area will be introduced at a public forum on

Thursday, the city said. The event will give residents a chance to hear from the candidates and learn about their goals for the Kansas City Fire Department.

No internal KCFD candidates

are among the finalists.

"Selecting our next Fire Chief is an important moment for Kansas City, and transparency is essential in that process," City Manager Mario Vasquez said in the announcement sent to the media Tuesday afternoon.

"This forum gives residents a clear look at each finalist and their vision for the future of KCFD. I appreciate everyone taking the time to listen and

SEE CHIEF, 3A

K-State coach Klieman is retiring; Klein will replace him

BY KELLIS ROBINETT
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MANHATTAN

The succession plan that many Kansas State football fans have been yearning for is here.

Chris Klieman has decided to retire, and Collin Klein is poised to take over as his replacement.

After seven years with the Wildcats, Klieman, 58, has decided to hang up his headset, according to sources with

knowledge of the move.

Who will replace him? That answer already appears to be crystal clear.

Kansas State's top target is Texas A&M offensive coordinator Collin Klein. K-State has been in contact with Klein

about the opening and is eager to return to his alma mater, according to sources.

The two sides are expected to finalize a deal in the coming days. There will be no need for a lengthy coaching search.

Klein, 36, has never been a head coach before, but that won't matter to K-State fans. They have long clamored for him to get his first opportunity with the Wildcats.

SEE COACH, 3A

REALITY CHECK

Pornhub shuts down in Missouri as new rule takes effect

BY KACEN BAYLESS
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The adult industry's most well-known website, Pornhub, shut down in Missouri on Monday, marking the first major response to the state's new age verification rule for adult websites.

Pornhub, in a statement to website visitors, called the rule ineffective and a risk to user privacy.

"Until a real solution is offered, we have made the difficult decision to completely disable access to our website in Missouri," the website said as of Tuesday morning.

The new rule requires adult websites to verify users' ages, such as uploading a government-issued ID, before allowing access. Former Attorney General Andrew Bailey, a Republican, initiated the rule last spring and his Republican successor, Catherine Hanaway, carried it out on Monday.

Hanaway championed the website's decision to shut down as proof that the rule was needed, framing it as a victory for families.

"Pornhub is welcome to leave Missouri," Hanaway said in a statement. "What is not welcome is any company that puts profit above the safety of our children."

Missouri's policy, which was enacted without state legislation, illustrated the state's most aggressive response to the adult industry in recent history. While displaying obscene material to minors is already illegal under federal law, the new rule has raised privacy concerns.

Websites, under the new rule, are required to use some form of age-verification mechanism if one-third of their content is pornographic. Variations of age verification include uploading a form of ID or using facial recognition software.

Mike Stabile, the director of public policy for the Free Speech

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