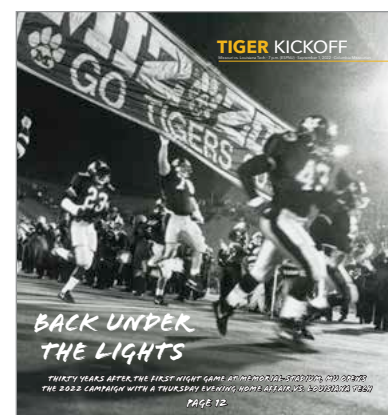


Thirty years after the first night game at Memorial Stadium, MU opens the 2022 campaign with a Thursday evening home affair vs. Louisiana Tech.

Meet MU's new center, a physically imposing, quick-with-a-one-liner product from southeast Missouri who had always seemed destined to be a Tiger.



COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

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Construction begins on new fire station

BY ERIK GALICIA news@columbiainmissourian.com

Crews began the groundwork for the long-awaited construction of Columbia's newest fire station Wednesday. Fire Station 11 will be built in southwest Columbia at 6909 Scott Blvd., near the northwest corner of the intersection with Route K. Clayton Farr Jr., assistant fire chief for Columbia Fire Department, said this location is necessary to relieve the emergency call load on some of the surrounding stations, which have seen an increase in call volume. The department has seen a more than 22% increase in calls during the past five years, he added. "This station will have a profound impact on the area as it continues to develop," Farr said.

Fire Station 11 will predominantly service areas north, east, south and southeast of its location. But with the city anticipated to grow west, Farr said the new station will also provide service in that direction.

Farr added that Fire Station 11 has been in planning for about five years. Construction was scheduled to start in November 2020, but the pandemic created delays, the Missourian previously reported.

"From an administrative standpoint, it's been quite a process," Farr said. "We had a number of sites that we looked at and some were really good. The City Council and staff have been incredibly supportive, but it was difficult securing a location."

Fire service response times are currently six to eight minutes for the area that Fire Station 11 will service. Farr said the added station will allow the department to maintain its target of a 4-minute response time.

"Every 30 seconds, a fire doubles," Farr said. "If we can have resources there sooner, we can have a better impact."

The addition of the new station will maintain the department's Insurance Services Office fire rating at a class 2 and might even improve it to a class 1. A lower rating would impact commercial insurance rates in the area and possibly residential insurance rates as well, Farr said.

The building is planned to span about 10,000 square feet and include three apparatus bays, training and exercise areas, work, sleep and living areas and a police substation.

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MARIA SCHNEIDER/Missourian

A bulldozer moves dirt Wednesday on Scott Boulevard in Columbia. The groundbreaking ceremony for Firehouse 11 is projected to take place in late September.



SHANE PALMA/Missourian

Representative David Tyson Smith speaks at the NAACP voter ID session on Tuesday at the Second Missionary Baptist Church in Columbia. Smith has been representing Missouri's 45th district since 2021. The meeting included representatives of partner organizations including the League of Women Voters and several local churches.

Voter ID changes prompt awareness campaign

BY EVY LEWIS news@columbiainmissourian.com

"That we see something, hear something, that encourages us to take part in a mighty work for this community."

So went the prayer that opened a meeting of the Columbia NAACP on Tuesday evening. The mighty work in question? Voter registration.

In May, the Missouri legislature passed House Bill 1878, which went into effect Sunday. The new

law tightens voter ID requirements across the state, and also includes a provision requiring anyone who registers more than 10 voters in an election cycle to register with the Secretary of State's office as a voter registration solicitor.

The NAACP meeting, which included representatives of partner organizations including the League of Women Voters and several local churches, focused on how these new obstacles would impact their

work with registering voters and increasing voter turnout.

The coalition of organizations is hoping to register at least 500 voters by the time voter registration closes on Oct. 12.

"The NAACP has always done voter registration," said Mary Ratliff, president of the Columbia NAACP, who led the meeting. "In 2000, we launched a campaign, and we registered more people, in the state of Missouri, than anybody in the nation, percent

age-wise."

Boone County Clerk Brianna Lennon and state Rep. David Tyson Smith also discussed the new law and how to continue with voter outreach.

"Previously, you could just show up and have a picnic or a voter registration drive, people would come out, and you'd say, 'Hey, go hand out voter registration packets,' and everyone would take 10

Please see VOTER, Page 4A

Memorial Stadium unveils concession food lockers



COURTESY OF MIZZOU ATHLETICS

A set kiosk sits in front of the food lockers at Memorial Stadium in Columbia. There are 78 lockers total between two concessions stands.

BY KAI DAVIS sports@columbiainmissourian.com

Football fans will have a new experience ordering food at Memorial Stadium this year with the introduction of 78 food lockers, a fast and easy way to collect food without missing the game.

Memorial Stadium is the first college stadium to debut food lockers, Director of Athletics Desiree Reed-Francois said in a tweet Monday. The lockers will be located on the east and west sides of the stadium, behind sections 110 and 123. All other concession stands will work as normal, said Ryan Koslen, chief communications officer for Mizzou Athletics, in an email.

An order can be placed for food and drinks through a kiosk in front of the lockers or a link in the Mizzou Tigers

app. A text message will be sent once the food is ready. Alcohol purchases can also be made at the lockers, but IDs must be presented at the designated cooler next to the locker.

"It is one of many steps Mizzou Athletics is taking to enhance the game day fan experience," Koslen said. He added that one of the reasons for the lockers was to find a new way to reduce wait times at concession stands.

The food lockers were brought to Memorial Stadium in partnership with Mastercard and Levy, the stadium concession vendor.

"We sent out surveys following every football game last season, received a lot of feedback and these changes, which are being made, are a direct result of that feedback from listening to our fans," Koslen said.

CORRECTION

Mark Burlison is principal of Blue Ridge Elementary School. A Page 1A article Wednesday misspelled his last name.

TODAY'S WEATHER MOSTLY SUNNY 90/75

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U.S. clears updated COVID variant boosters

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. on Wednesday authorized its first update to COVID-19 vaccines, booster doses that target today's most common omicron strain. Shots could begin within days.

The move by the Food and Drug Administration tweaks the recipe of shots made by Pfizer and rival Moderna that already have saved millions of lives. The hope is that the modified boosters will blunt yet another winter surge.

"You'll see me at the front of the line," FDA vaccine chief Peter Marks told The Associated Press shortly before his agency cleared the new doses.

Until now, COVID-19 vaccines have targeted the original coronavirus strain, even as wildly different mutants

emerged. The new U.S. boosters are combination, or "bivalent," shots. They contain half that original vaccine recipe and half protection against the newest omicron versions, called BA.4 and BA.5, that are considered the most contagious yet.

The combination aims to increase cross-protection against multiple variants.

"It really provides the broadest opportunity for protection," Pfizer vaccine chief Annaliesa Anderson told the AP.

The updated boosters are only for people who have already had their primary vaccinations, using the original vaccines. Doses made by Pfizer and its partner BioNTech are for anyone 12 and older while Moderna's updated shots are for adults — if it has been at

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PFIZER

Vials of the Pfizer's updated COVID-19 vaccine during production in Kalamazoo, Mich. U.S. regulators have authorized updated COVID-19 boosters, the first to directly target today's most common omicron strain. The move on Wednesday by the Food and Drug Administration tweaks the recipe of shots made by Pfizer and rival Moderna that already have saved millions of lives.