

City to test 'pedestrian scramble'

Traffic will intermittently stop at the intersection of Ninth and Elm streets, allowing walkers to cross

By SARAH FINE
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A new Shakespeare's building isn't the only change coming to the intersection of Ninth and Elm streets.

The city has unveiled a proposal to install a new type of crosswalk called a "pedestrian scramble."

Pedestrian scrambles differ from traditional crosswalks in that they

have three phases: The first phase allows north-south traffic to move; the second phase allows east-west traffic to move; and the third phase stops all traffic and allows pedestrians to move freely through the crosswalk in any direction.

For scrambles to run smoothly, right turns on red are prohibited.

Steven Sapp, a spokesman for Columbia Public Works, said pedestrian scrambles mean longer waits at lights for vehicles and pedestrians but said the benefits outweigh the inconvenience.

"It has effects that are helpful for pedestrians; with no traffic movement, that makes it safer to cross," Sapp said. "It has an upside for vehicles, too, in the fact that they ... shouldn't have to worry about pedestrian crossings while they're making turns."

Turning vehicles have been hazardous to Columbia's pedestrians in

Please see **SCRAMBLE**, page 4A

Grievances persist despite new era in US-Cuba ties

By MATTHEW LEE and MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Cuban national flag fluttered in the Washington sun Monday as the U.S. and Cuba formally ended more than a half-century of estrangement, formally re-establishing relations severed at the height of the Cold War. But the symbolism of an embassy ceremony could not conceal deep, lingering conflicts between the nations.

In the sweltering July heat and humidity of America's capital, Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez presided over the flag-raising ceremony just hours after an agreement to restore diplomatic ties broken in 1961 took effect at the stroke of midnight. He later met with Secretary of State John Kerry, becoming the first Cuban foreign minister to set foot in the State Department since 1958.

Kerry announced that he would make a reciprocal visit to Cuba to dedicate the U.S. Embassy in Havana on Aug. 14. He spoke of a need to move beyond the enmity that was spawned as President John F. Kennedy grappled with Fidel Castro's revolution and Soviet expansionism and that hardened over the 54 years that followed.

Despite pledges of goodwill and mutual respect, ghosts of past animosity hung over the events.

Please see **CUBA**, page 4A



ADAM VOGLER/Missourian

A training mannequin lies in the Columbia Fire Department Training Academy's burn house on July 14. The house is meant to be used to train firefighters in a controlled environment, but rust damage has rendered the building unsafe and unusable.

Fueling the fire

Columbia Fire Department needs sales tax funds to repair facilities, equipment

Story by Phillip Sitter

A two-story concrete building in the commercial neighborhood around Big Bear Boulevard hides a dramatic interior behind its plain walls.

Inside, the space is black with layers of soot. It smells like a fireplace does before the ashes have been removed.

Furniture in one room is burned beyond recognition — a couch, maybe, a love seat or a recliner.

In what must be a kitchen, the stove and oven look like they'd been bombed in a nuclear attack.

This is where the Columbia Fire Department trains recruits and firefighters for situations they're likely to face inside a real burning house.

Over the past 20 years, the building has been burned more than 300 times.

But there hasn't been fire inside since May. The structure has been declared unfit for such use.

Repairing the building is a priority among the fire-related projects on the 2015 capital improvement sales tax projects list, said Assistant Fire Chief Brad Fraizer.

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In a series of stories examining infrastructure improvements listed for funding through the 2015 capital improvement sales tax, this Missourian report covers the repairs needed for the Columbia Fire Department training academy. Voters will decide Aug. 4 whether to extend the sales tax for another 10 years.

Missouri lacks key to heroin use prevention

State is the only one without a prescription drug monitoring program

By JON SWEDIEN
The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Missouri — As heroin use jumps in Springfield and throughout Missouri, the Show-Me State stands alone in not having a prescription drug monitoring program — a key to curbing the drug's proliferation, according to federal experts.

Nationally, heroin use has been on the rise. It has become more prevalent among women and the middle class, and many of its users came to the narcotic after having

'(Heroin use is) widespread. It's from teenagers to middle-aged adults and from every socioeconomic background.'

LT. SHAWN WILLIAMS
Police officer in Springfield, Missouri

first become addicted to prescription drugs, according to a recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Springfield News-Leader reported.

The drug has made inroads in Springfield, too, said police Lt. Shawn Williams.

"It's widespread. It's from teenagers to middle-aged adults and from

every socioeconomic background."

Heroin's rise in Springfield can be seen in the amounts police have confiscated in recent years. Four years ago, Springfield police seized 13 grams of heroin. The next year the figure almost doubled to 22 grams. In 2013, it more than doubled again, shooting up to 52 grams. Last year, the department took possession of

more than three times that amount — 180 grams.

The trend seems likely to continue. In the first six months of this year, the department has already seized 288 grams, Williams said.

Heroin overdoses are also up, said Tom Van De Berg, chief investigator for the Greene County Medical Examiner's Office.

"In the first 10 years I worked here, there was one heroin overdose," Van De Berg said. "In the past few months, it's been weekly. There is a lot of it out there."

Looking statewide, Missouri also appears to have seen an increase in heroin use.

Please see **HEROIN**, page 4A



HAM JUDGING

At the Boone County Fair, ham judge Andrew Clarke examined 172 sugar-cured hams based on appearance, texture and smell. **Page 6A**

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Athletes are training for the games to begin this week in Los Angeles. There are about 6,500 athletes expected to compete. **Page 1B**

CORRECTION

A story on Page 3A Sunday about a book reading event at the State Historical Society of Missouri incorrectly referred to the literary format of Steve Yates' book, "The Teeth of The Souls." It is a work of fiction.

TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Mostly sunny.
Temp: 82°
Tonight: Partly cloudy.
Temp: 64°
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