



## **WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE**

**Monday, November 21st, 2022**

### **JUDGE RULES AG's OFFICE BROKE SUNSHINE LAW**

The Missouri Attorney General's office under Josh Hawley illegally withheld records deemed harmful to Hawley's 2018 U.S. Senate campaign, a Cole County judge concluded in a scathing Nov. 14 ruling.

The judge fined the office \$12,000 – the maximum penalty allowed by law – and ordered it to pay the plaintiff's attorney fees, which are scheduled to be set in later proceedings and could be substantial.

Hawley served as attorney general from 2017 through 2018, when he was elected to the Senate.

After Hawley launched his Senate bid, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee filed requests under Missouri's Sunshine Law for records related to his alleged use of paid campaign consultants to help run the Attorney General's Office. Some of the records ultimately became public when obtained and published by The Kansas City Star.

**In his ruling, Circuit Judge Jon Beetem said the evidence shows Hawley's office intentionally withheld the records to prevent "an opposing party committee from accessing documents damaging to then-Attorney General Hawley's political campaign."**

**"It is undisputed that the AGO retained records responsive to DSCC's March 2018 request, located these documents within three days of receiving the request, and failed to produce these documents until nearly a year and a half later, during discovery in this litigation," Beetem wrote.**

**"The AGO's failure to provide any coherent explanation for its substantial delay after failing to meet its second self-imposed, protracted deadline – much less the "detailed explanation" required by the Sunshine Law – indicates that it was not actively seeking to comply with the law. Rather, after identifying responsive documents, the AGO evaded the law's requirements, deliberately concealing responsive documents," he continued.**

Current Attorney General Eric Schmitt, who was just elected to Missouri's other U.S. Senate seat, defended the office's

actions in the case, which it could appeal.

The case is *Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee v. Office of the Missouri Attorney General*.

## **POLICE BILL OF RIGHTS CHALLENGE REJECTED**

Cole County Circuit Judge Jon Beetem on Nov. 14 rejected St. Louis City's constitutional challenge to a 2021 law creating a "law enforcement officers bill of rights" imposing restrictions on the length and scope of investigations of police suspected of wrongdoing.

The lawsuit alleged several legal problems with the measure, Senate Bill 26, but its central argument was it violates state constitutional provisions limiting bills to a single subject that is clearly reflected in the bill's title and that isn't changed from its original purpose.

SB 26 originally was a 10-page measure containing two provisions relating to public safety including the challenged restrictions on investigations of police. By final passage, the bill had ballooned to 21 provisions spanning 172 pages.

**The city argued several provisions – changing the statutory definition of "excursion gambling boat" and establishing new regulations on electric fences and pesticide usage among others – have a tenuous connection to public safety. However, Beetem said those provisions do in fact broadly relate to public safety.**

**Beetem likewise rejected the city's other claims, including that it violates the Hancock Amendment's prohibition against the state imposing unfunded mandates on local governments and unconstitutionally interferes with St. Louis' authority as a charter city to decide personnel matters.**

The city is expected to appeal the case - *City of St. Louis v. State of Missouri*.

## **PARTIES CHOOSE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS**

Republicans have selected House Majority Leader Dean Plocher of Clayton as the next House Speaker while Senate Majority Leader Caleb Rowden of Columbia is poised to move up to that chamber's top spot of Senate President Pro Tem when the 2023 legislative session gets underway Jan. 4.

Legislative Democrats will stick with the same caucus leaders in both chambers.

Plocher and Rowden won't take their new posts until formally elected by their respective chambers in January. Although minority Democrats will participate in those votes, the majority party's nominees nearly always win, although leadership coups occasionally happen.

**State Rep. Jonathan Patterson of Lee's Summit will be the new House Majority Leader, while State Sen. Cindy**

**O'Laughlin of Shelbina will take over as Senate Majority Leader – positions chosen solely by members of the majority caucus in each chamber.**

**Democrats made House Minority Leader Crystal Quade of Springfield the first person elected to three terms in the post since Democrats became the chamber's minority party following the 2002 elections.**

If she completes her latest two-year term as leader, Quade also will be the longest serving top House Democrat – in the minority or majority – since House Speaker Bob Griffin of Cameron filled that role for 15-years, from 1981-1996.

**In the Senate, Democrats opted to give Minority Leader John Rizzo of Kansas City a second term.**

Both Rizzo and Quade are serving their final legislative terms allowed under the Missouri Constitution and can't seek re-election to their seats in 2024. Republicans Plocher and Rowden also are in their final terms.





**It was a pleasure to join friends and colleagues at the Thanks A Million Buck Hall of Fame Gala November 12 commemorating the overdue 2022 induction of Buck O'Neil into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Festivities were conducted at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, the GEM Theater and the former Paseo YMCA (where the Negro National League was founded in 1920) that is being renovated to serve as the Buck O'Neil Education & Research Center. I had the honor of meeting Mr. O'Neil several times before his passing, and he was truly one of the most inspiring persons I have ever met.**

# CRAM-A-CRUISER

## HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

**THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 1ST**



**4:30 - 6:30 PM**

**8770 Raytown Rd  
Kansas City, MO 64138**



**Bring a new, unwrapped toy to benefit  
Hickman Mills, Center & Grandview School  
district families**



**Get your picture with Blue Santa,  
local officers & SuperHeroes**

**THANK YOU!**

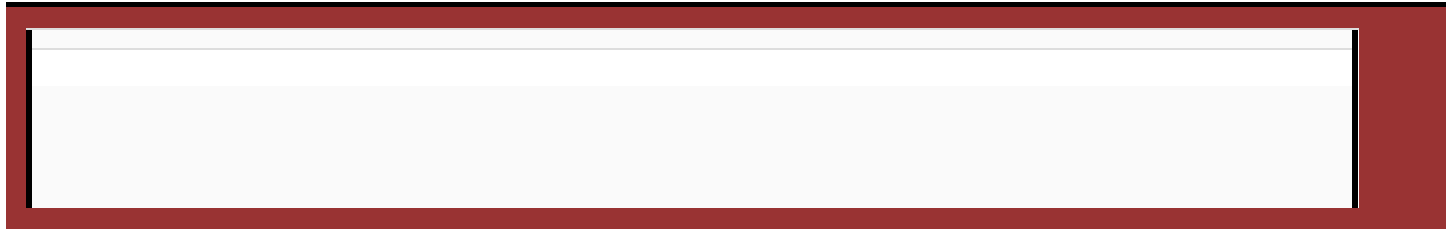
**DOLLAR GENERAL®**



**SOUTH PATROL DIVISION**









Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated®  
Xi Tau Omega Chapter



*Tips for Coping with*

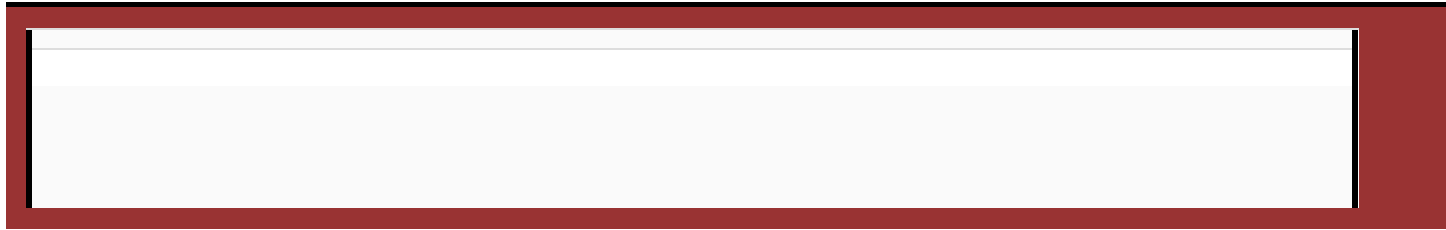
STRESS, DEPRESSION, AND  
THE HOLIDAYS!!

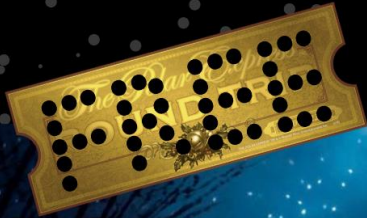
DECEMBER 5, 2022 @6:00 PM  
SOUTH PATROL  
9701 MARION PARK DRIVE  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64137

Mental Health Professionals:

Penny Rice MACRAADC

Jessica Horne, LCPC LPC, Breora Page, MS, LPC





*Your ticket awaits...*



**DECEMBER 16TH  
KCPD SOUTH PATROL DIVISION  
9701 MARION PARK DRIVE  
KCMO 64137**

**6:00 PM SANTA, CHRISTMAS CAROLS,  
FOOD, CRAFTS & FUN  
7:00 PM MOVIE TIME**

*Wear your favorite pajamas &  
bring a lawn chair or blanket*







## FIRST CALL STATEMENT

### Passage of Amendment 3 in Missouri

The passage of Amendment 3 in Missouri will bring legal, recreational cannabis to our state, heightening the importance of prevention programming with our youth. First Call's role is to educate our community about the risk factors that legalized marijuana poses to our young people -- easy availability, low perception of harm and high potency cannabis that can lead to mental health and/or substance use disorder. Simultaneously, we need to acknowledge the systemic harm that nonviolent cannabis-related charges have brought to local families, particularly with Black and Brown families, for decades. The expungement component of Amendment 3 does not remedy the historic harms, but it serves as a step in the right direction.

As this new reality settles in, let First Call be part of your conversation. We are here to educate the Kansas City community, to prevent substance use among youth and to help folks find recovery from addiction.



CRISIS CALL LINE  
816.361.5900

# Understanding and Accessing **MISSOURI MEDICAID**

More Missourians than ever now qualify for Medicaid expansion, including parents who have not qualified before, and adults without children. Learn to see if you qualify for Medicaid and how to apply.

## Am I eligible?

Medicaid eligibility depends primarily on the size of your household and your gross **monthly** household income (before taxes and deductions). If your monthly income is lower than the number of people living in your home, **you may qualify**.



**1**

**\$1,481**

**2**

**\$2,003**

**3**

**\$2,525**

**4**

**\$3,048**

**5**

**\$3,570**

**6**

**\$4,092**

## How do I apply?

### **GOOD NEWS!**

Applying is easy, and there are several convenient and accessible ways to do it!

#### **Online:**

Visit <https://mydss.mo.gov/healthcare/apply> to apply quickly via the DHSS web portal

#### **By Phone:**

Call the Missouri Family Support Division at (855)-373-4636 or (855)-373-9994

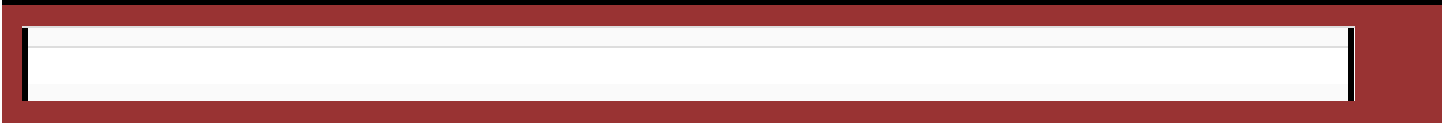
#### **By Mail or Email:**

Print and fill out an application provided at the web address listed above and mail to:

**Family Support Division**  
615 E 13th St  
Kansas City, MO 64106

Or email to:

**FSD.Documents@dss.mo.gov**



# KIDS EAT FREE



AGES  
18 AND  
UNDER



WHILE  
SUPPLIES  
LAST

## MEAL DISTRIBUTION

- CHILDREN DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT -

UNITED BELIEVERS COMMUNITY CHURCH  
5600 E. 112 TERRACE, KCMO 64134

**FRIDAY'S 3PM - 6PM**

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT 314.701.7245 OR EMAIL US  
AT [KIDSEATFREE@INFLUENCECHURCH.COM](mailto:KIDSEATFREE@INFLUENCECHURCH.COM)

*\*THIS SITE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER*





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## South KC Food Pantries

South Kansas City is fortunate to have several food pantries to help less-fortunate residents have enough healthy food to eat. These include:

**Community Assistance Council**, 10901 Blue Ridge Blvd. on the north end of the Ruskin High School campus, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Persons should call 816-763-3277, ext. 100, or email [info@cackc.org](mailto:info@cackc.org) for appointments or questions.

**Red Bridge Area Food Pantry**, 100 W. Red Bridge Rd. in the First Baptist Church of Kansas City, from 10 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday each month. Persons must call 816-908-7800 for appointments by the prior Wednesday.

Harvesters (the community food network) brings the semi-truck that serves as its mobile food pantry to seven sites in south Kansas City monthly to distribute fresh produce and other healthy food to families in need. The sites are:

**Center School District**, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. as long as food is left on the first Saturday of the month. Persons should drive through the bus parking lot to the district warehouse. The event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church in partnership with the Center School District.

**Center District Warehouse**, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the second Friday of each month. Persons should go to the entrance to the Center Administrative Office and drive through the bus parking lot to the warehouse where volunteers will load the food. Persons should take the Troost Ave exit. The event is sponsored by the Center Education Foundation in partnership with the Center School District.

**Evangel Church**, 1414 E. 103<sup>rd</sup> St., from 7 to 8:30 a.m. the second Saturday of the month. Persons may remain in their vehicles, and food will be brought to them.

**United Believers Community Church**, 5600 E. 112th Terr., with vehicles lining up at 8:30 a.m. and contactless food distribution running from 9 to 11 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month.

**Ruskin High School**, 7000 E. 111<sup>th</sup> St., from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month. Vehicles should line up on Ruskin Way on the east side of the school, and staff and students will load the food when vehicles reach the school.

**Colonial Presbyterian Church**, 9500 Wornall Rd., with registration beginning at 8 a.m. and food distribution running from about 8:30 to 10 a.m. on the third Saturday of the month. Families are asked to bring two cardboard boxes for volunteers to put the food in.

**Red Bridge United Methodist Church**, 636 E. 117<sup>th</sup> St., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in the church parking lot.



**REMAIN ANONYMOUS • RECEIVE CASH REWARDS**



**TIPS HOTLINE**

**816-474-8477**



**WEB TIPS**

**KcCrimestoppers.com**



**FREE MOBILE APP**

**P3Tips.com**



***State Representative Mark A. Sharp***

**Missouri House of Representatives**

**Room 102-BA**

**201 W Capitol Ave**

**Jefferson City, Mo 65101**

**Phone**

**573-751-9469**

**Email**

**[mark.sharp@house.mo.gov](mailto:mark.sharp@house.mo.gov)**

**Please don't hesitate to contact me  
with any feedback, questions or ideas!**