



Dear Neighbor,

I am very pleased to report that a sentencing reform measure that I added by amendment to legislation passed earlier this year and signed into law by the governor has resulted in a 42-year-old man being granted parole who had been sentenced to 241 years in prison for multiple offenses committed one night in 1995 when he was only 16.

Bobby Bostic and 18-year-old Donald Hutson who later admitted he instigated the crimes robbed a group of people that night and committed a carjacking. Hutson died while still incarcerated in 2018.

**Bostic was tried as an adult and convicted of numerous felonies. Sentences for the crimes were imposed consecutively, so without my legislation he would not have been eligible to even apply for parole unless he lived to be 112 years old. He was serving the longest sentence in Missouri given to a juvenile for a non-homicide.**

His parole hearing was in November and he was represented by the retired circuit judge who sentenced him – Evelyn Baker – who had become one of his strongest advocates. None of his victims opposed his parole, and some had written letters supporting his release.

His parole was granted on December 13, and he is scheduled to be released late next year after completing courses to ease his transition back into society after being imprisoned for over a quarter of a century.

During his incarceration, Bostic completed his GED and his associate's degree, as well as several other courses. He also assisted other prisoners in pursuing educational opportunities.

**Under my amendment which had broad bipartisan support, if a young offender is sentenced to imprisonment for 15 years or more for an offense or multiple offenses committed when they are under 18, they will be eligible to apply for parole after being imprisoned for 15 years. It does not apply to young offenders convicted of first degree or capital murder.**

There are currently about 100 other once young offenders imprisoned in Missouri that now are eligible to apply for parole, which does not guarantee approval, under these provisions.

I appreciate Bostic writing to thank me last May after my amendment passed stating he had heard from many other once young offenders imprisoned in the state who were grateful for the legislation.

**“It gives us a second chance that some of us did not have,” he said.**

I also greatly appreciate the strong bipartisan support the amendment received, especially from Republican Representative Nick Schroer and Democratic Senator Barbara Anne Washington who had previously introduced similar legislation.

Please contact me at [Mark.Sharp@house.mo.gov](mailto:Mark.Sharp@house.mo.gov) if there is legislation you would like me to consider sponsoring, co-sponsoring or supporting or legislation you would like me to oppose.

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, my legislative aide [Kaylee Bauer](#) is ready to help you.

**Please scroll down to read about other state government matters and important upcoming local events.**

Feel free to forward this newsletter to your friends and family who might want to know the latest news about what is happening in state

government and about important local events. Be safe and God bless.

Yours in Service,  
*Mark A. Sharp*



**I joined other Missouri state representatives at the recent Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Workforce Development Policy Summit to discuss ways the General Assembly can promote workforce development during the upcoming 2022 legislative session.**

# WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

## Friday, December 17th, 2021

### LOCALS RESIST LEGAL THREATS

Pushing back against what they called Attorney General Eric Schmitt's "campaign of litigation terror against local governments and schools," Jackson and St. Louis Counties on Dec. 13 filed a joint motion to intervene in a recent case they say resulted in "chaos" after a Cole County judge struck down several state regulations on infectious disease mitigation.

Intervention, if granted, would allow the counties to appeal the judge's decision after Schmitt refused to do so.

**On Nov. 22, Judge Dan Green invalidated several Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services regulations and any local health regulations based on them. The Department asked Schmitt whose office represents it to appeal, but he refused. Instead Schmitt began issuing letters to local officials threatening them with legal action unless they immediately ceased any and all COVID-19 mitigation efforts – even those not based on the disputed regulations and despite the fact that Green's order doesn't take effect until Dec. 22.**

In their motion, the two counties said Green's ruling was legally erroneous and must be appealed to uphold the longstanding authority of state and local officials to respond to public health emergencies. The counties note court precedent allows outside parties with legal interests at stake in a case to intervene and appeal if none of the original parties plan to appeal.

**"In short, if the court's judgment is not set aside, community spread of *all* communicable diseases will no doubt skyrocket in this state, while the mechanisms for combatting any such spread will have been**

**dismantled,” the counties said in their motion.**

On a separate front involving Schmitt’s legal threats, an attorney for the Lee’s Summit School District hit back hard against the “cease and desist” orders Schmitt recently sent to dozens of Missouri school districts demanding they immediately end mask mandates and other disease mitigation efforts.

**“Your invocation of ‘rights’ untethered to an obligation to exercise them responsibly invites lawlessness,” W. Joseph Hatley wrote in a Dec. 10 letter to Schmitt. “This is especially pernicious coming from your office, because of the outsized weight some may attach to your opinions. But as Missouri’s courts have repeatedly said, the opinions of the Attorney General have no binding authority. For the reasons I will now explain, your recent letters not only lack legal effect—they are simply wrong.”**

Hatley noted state law grants school districts broad authority to mitigate the spread of disease. One law specifically prohibits students from attending school if they have a contagious disease or have been exposed to one. Hatley said since Green’s ruling in no way addressed the legal powers granted local schools, those laws remain in full force, and Schmitt has no legal authority to interfere with COVID-19 mitigation efforts taken in accordance with them.

## **OFFICIALS ANTICIPATE RECORD REVENUES**

Top state budget officials are expecting net state general revenue collections to hit a record \$11.4 billion for the upcoming 2023 fiscal year, growing 2.1 percent over FY 2022 collections.

**The agreed upon figure, known as the “consensus revenue estimate,” will be used as the basis for crafting the state operating budget for FY 2023 during the upcoming legislative session.**

For three decades, budget leaders representing the governor, the Senate and the House of Representatives have tried to agree on a consensus revenue estimate each year to ensure all parties are working with the same numbers. In some years, however, the sides don’t agree, which can result in starkly



different estimates on how much money the state will have available to spend. The estimate frequently is revised during the course of the process to reflect changing economic conditions.

The budget process will begin in earnest in January when Gov. Mike Parson will present his proposed FY 2023 spending plan to the General Assembly. While the governor's budget is used as a starting point, lawmakers will make changes over the following months before passing a final budget. The 2023 fiscal year begins July 1.

**Budget officials also revised the consensus revenue estimate for FY 2022, increasing it to \$11.2 billion. That marks a sizable increase over the \$10.45 billion in general revenue the legislature originally budgeted for FY 2022, which ends June 30.**

Lawmakers are expected to pass at least one supplemental appropriations bill next month to allocate the additional anticipated revenue.

## **ASHCROFT WINS LEGAL DISPUTE**

In a case pitting two statewide officials against each other, a Cole County judge upheld ballot language Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft's office prepared for a proposed constitutional amendment seeking to give the state treasurer greater flexibility in investing taxpayer funds.

State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick challenged the language as argumentative and likely to prejudice voters against the measure.

**The Missouri Constitution currently places tight restrictions on the type of investments the treasurer can make. Among other changes, Amendment 1 would allow the treasurer to "also invest in other reasonable and prudent financial instruments and securities as otherwise provided by law."**

Lawmakers placed Amendment 1 on the November 2022 ballot with the passage of House Joint Resolution 35 last May.

**Fitzpatrick objected to a portion of the ballot language Ashcroft's office**

**subsequently prepared stating Amendment 1 would “allow the General Assembly to override the current constitutional restrictions of state investments by the state treasurer.” Fitzpatrick argued this language is “inaccurate and biased” because Amendment 1 grants the legislature no role in managing state investments, which is the constitutional responsibility of the treasurer.**

However, Cole County Circuit Judge Dan Green said the provision of Amendment 1 allowing for investments “as otherwise provided by law” would indeed grant the legislature the power to pass laws circumventing existing constitutional restrictions.

**“This court finds that the word ‘override’ is neither unfair nor insufficient because the term ‘override’ gives voters notice of the effect of Amendment 1 – to set aside the current constitutional restrictions on where the treasurer can invest,” Green wrote. “In fact, the new language is so open ended that the word ‘override’ is, in fact, somewhat generous.”**

Fitzpatrick is expected to appeal the ruling. In response to the decision, Ashcroft issued a statement taking a shot at his fellow officeholder for filing the lawsuit.

“This was ridiculous from the beginning,” Ashcroft said. “It was a complete waste of taxpayer funds in an attempt to force a specific voter outcome on the amendment.”

## **DEADLINE LOOMS FOR REDISTRICTING PANELS**

The separate commissions charged with drawing new state House of Representatives and Senate district boundaries face a Dec. 23 constitutional deadline for agreeing to tentative proposals.

**While the House commission has met in recent weeks in an effort to reach an agreement by the deadline, the Senate commission has not.**

Both commissions consist of 20 members evenly split between Democrats and Republicans, with 14 votes required for a commission to approve a



redistricting plan. The commissions are each scheduled to meet on the day of the deadline.

**If a commission agrees to a tentative proposal for its chamber by the deadline, then it would have until Jan. 23 to finalize it. If a commission doesn't agree on a tentative plan, then its work is effectively over, and a commission of six appellate judges appointed by the Missouri Supreme Court will take over the job of drawing new boundaries for that chamber.**

Under the state constitution, however, the judicial commission wouldn't get jurisdiction until Jan. 23, essentially putting the process in limbo for a month. With candidate filing for the August primary elections scheduled to begin Feb. 22, the judges would face an extremely tight timetable for finalizing new districts.

## **PARSON ELEVATES CLAY COUNTY JUDGE**

Gov. Mike Parson on Dec. 13 appointed Clay County Circuit Judge Janet Sutton to the Missouri Court of Appeals Western District.

**Sutton replaces Judge Thomas Newton who retired in July after nearly 22 years of service on the Kansas City-based appellate court.**

Sutton was one of three finalists to fill the vacancy chosen by the Missouri Appellate Judicial Commission. The others were Jackson County Circuit Judge Jalililah Otto and Shaun Mackelprang, a deputy attorney general.

Since becoming governor in June 2018, Parson has appointed 10 judges to the 32-member Missouri Court of Appeals, which is divided into three regional districts.

## **REPRESENTATIVE TO RESIGN FOR NEW JOB**

State Rep. Aaron Griesheimer, R-Washington, announced on Dec. 13 that he plans to resign Jan. 6 to accept a full-time private sector job. Griesheimer,

who served as chairman of the House Emerging Issues Committee, was midway through his second two-year term.

**Gov. Mike Parson isn't expected to call a special election to fill the vacancy since the 2022 legislative session would be nearly over by the time a replacement could be seated, and the post will be on the ballot for a full term next November.**

Griesheimer's departure will leave the 163-member House of Representatives with four vacancies, all last held by Republicans.



## Missouri Department of Revenue Is Hiring Tax Season Assistants needed

The pay rate is \$15 per hour.

Day Shift: Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm. Apply [here](#)  
Evening shift: Monday through Thursday from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. Apply [here](#).

**Varied and flexible scheduling is available.** Hours may be reduced or extended as work load deems necessary.



In addition to the Tax Season Assistants, the Missouri Department of Revenue has many permanent positions they are trying to fill. Information about each open position can also be found at

[DOR.MO.Gov/Humanresources](http://DOR.MO.Gov/Humanresources)



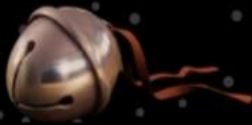
*Your ticket awaits...*



**DECEMBER 17TH  
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*









# Holiday Gift Drive

BENEFITTING  CORNERSTONES OF CARE YOUTH



This season the Martin City Community Improvement District is asking for your help with a Holiday Gift Drive benefitting the youth of Cornerstones of Care at Ozanam. This is your opportunity to bring holiday warmth and cheer to a population that is sometimes overlooked by traditional holiday drives: adolescents and teens.

#### DONATION DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:

**ALL STAR CHIROPRACTIC - JESS & JIM'S STEAKHOUSE -  
KC RUNNING COMPANY - LUKAS LIQUOR - MARGARITA'S -  
MARTIN CITY COFFEE - MARTIN CITY PIZZA & TAPROOM -  
RC'S RESTAURANT**

#### Teen gift ideas include:

- headphones/earbuds
- bluetooth speakers
- activity tracking watches/bracelets
- journals
- room decor
- hoodies/sweatshirts
- hydro flask
- hair accessories
- nail polish, makeup
- lotion
- perfume/cologne
- electric razors
- watches/jewelry

#### GIFT CARDS

- \$20 increments, please
- Target/Walmart
  - Grocery Stores
  - QuikTrip
  - Restaurants

#### BASICS

- comforters/blankets
- sheet sets (twin size)
- socks/underwear
- scarves, gloves, and hats

#### QUESTIONS:

Contact Vickie Wolgast with the MCCID at 816-308-1023  
or email: [manager@martincity.org](mailto:manager@martincity.org)



**DONATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH.**



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Kansas City Health Department

# VACCINATION CLINIC



**Tuesday,  
Dec. 21**  
2-6 p.m.

South Broadland Church  
7850 Holmes  
Kansas City, Missouri 64131

**FREE**  
Pediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines  
Ages 5 -11



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# DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE



CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR  
**HICKMAN MILLS  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

33% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5TH | 5-9PM**  
**12348 S US HIGHWAY 71, GRANDVIEW, MO, 64030**

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **BNZY8G3**  
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT



For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.

KC PET ♥  
PROJECT

Home  
for the  
Holidays  
adoption  
special

December 13<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>

\$30 adoptions

\*Adult dogs over 30lbs and adult cats

At the Kansas City Campus for Animal Care, Zona Rosa Adoption  
Center, Petco Adoption Center, and pets in foster homes



## 13TH ANNUAL GRANDVIEW C-4

*A night for  
Family Fun*



**Thursday, January 27, 2021**

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

A fundraiser to support teacher grants, student scholarships and other programs, this event is hosted through TriviaHub.

Gather your team through a zoom platform (together or apart) and join us for a competitive game of fun!

### BE A SPONSOR

#### **Mensa - \$1,000**

- 1 free team of 8
- Website, Newsletter & Social Media Recognition
- Recognition during event
- Logo recognition on-screen during event

#### **Genius - \$500**

- 1 free team of 8
- Website, Newsletter & Social Media Recognition
- Recognition during event

#### **Brainiac - \$250**

- Website, Newsletter & Social Media Recognition
- Recognition during event

### FORM A TEAM

#### **Team of 8 - \$100**

Gather 8 friends, family or coworkers for a night of fun!

### DONATE GOODS OR SERVICES

With a virtual format, we will gladly accept donations of gift cards or certificates to offer as prizes throughout the evening!

**Register online at:**

<https://forms.gle/4GwtMKdpgBW8UCbn8>

**For questions call 913.522.9943**

*Presented by:*





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# WAYS TO APPLY FOR MEDICAID IN MISSOURI

Medicaid expanded to change the income rules, which raised the amount of money you can make to qualify. This means more adults, including parents and those without children, qualify for free or low-cost health insurance through Missouri Medicaid (MO HealthNet).



## 3 WAYS TO APPLY WITH THE FAMILY SUPPORT DIVISION:

- 1 Online at [mydss.mo.gov](http://mydss.mo.gov)**
- 2 By phone at: 855-373-4636**
- 3 By mail with paper application:**  
Family Support Division  
615 E 13th St, Kansas City, MO 64106

You can apply  
for Medicaid  
any time of  
year—there is  
no deadline!

Need help? The COVER Missouri Coalition is here!



**CALL 800-466-3213**



**MISSOURI JOBS WITH JUSTICE**

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# FREE COVID TESTING

DRIVE-THRU COVID TESTING PROVIDED BY THE STATE OF MISSOURI



NEXTGEN  
DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

PCR COVID TESTING



## PCR TESTING

- Completely FREE
- Drive-thru
- No appointment
- Results within 48 hours, but usually by next day

## 4 DAYS A WEEK AT 2 KC LOCATIONS

### MONDAYS, THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS

Labor Union Local #663  
Parking Lot  
7820 Prospect  
KCMO 64132  
10am - 6pm

### SATURDAYS

Teamsters Local #955  
Parking Lot  
4501 Emanuel Cleaver II  
KCMO 64130  
10am - 6pm



## HOURS: 10A - 6P

MON: 79th & Prospect

TUE: n/a

WED: n/a

THU: 79th & Prospect

FRI: 79th & Prospect

SAT: 45th & Cleaver Blvd

SUN: n/a

<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/community-test.php>



**For 2021, Community Assistance Council has already provided more than \$1.5 million in emergency food, rent, utilities, case management and other services** to thousands of south Kansas City neighbors. But as we receive hundreds of calls weekly, the need is still much greater than our funds. **Donate to CAC by the end of the year and your gift will be matched up to \$10,000** by generous support from the Feist Charitable Foundation. **Donate [HERE](#).**

Your gift helps us keep our neighbors in homes, with heat, lights and water, and food on the table, and helps eliminate clients' barriers to stability and self-sufficiency, such as securing safe housing; attaining documents and education for employment; meeting transportation needs; connecting to health, legal and job resources; and more. Also, CAC collaborates with dozens of other organizations so if we can't provide it, we are a direct connection from one that can. **Every dollar makes a difference. Every dollar stays in south Kansas City - and has since 1976.**

Click [HERE](#) to donate online or mail to CAC Impact, 10901 Blue Ridge Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64134. Contact Rachel Casey, 816-763-3277 x 103, [rachel.casey@cackc.org](mailto:rachel.casey@cackc.org) to visit or learn more about CAC.

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**Illustration of the Need in South Kansas City**

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**Join CAC for Virtual Coffee Dec. 21**

We'd like to hear about the needs and experiences in your communities, share about CAC's services, and how we can work together. We're sending our email with zoom link to SKC neighborhood representatives, but anyone is welcome to be a part of the conversation.

Email [rachel.casey@cackc.org](mailto:rachel.casey@cackc.org) if you don't receive an invite and would like to be a part of this discussion, or follow the link [HERE](#). Look for additional dates of Virtual Coffees for visits with various groups, or call or email and we would love to share with your group.

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**Save the Date for SKC Work-Ready Overcoming Barriers Event Jan. 20**

"Get a job!" we hear all the time. But it's not that easy for our most vulnerable citizens. CAC heard, and is responding with key partners with an event to address barriers to employment.

On **Jan. 20\*, 10 am to 1 pm, at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 9420 James A. Reed Road, CAC**, along with **Full Employment Council, Women's Employment Network, Mid-Continent Public Library, Goodwill, Catholic Charities, Express Employment Professionals**, and possibly others will offer critical information and services to overcome key barriers. Workshops and one-on-one support will focus on: building a resume, where to start looking, how to keep the job, filling out online applications, working out transportation and child care, and attaining basic documents of social security card, ID or birth certificate. More information will be coming. If you would to be help sponsor the event, contact Rachel Casey, 816-763-3277 x 103. \*Unless COVID concerns require postponing.

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## South KC Mobile Food Pantries

Many families in south Kansas City are being forced to rely on community food pantries such as Community Assistance Council's to have enough to eat.

Fortunately, 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. (There will be no pantry in January.)

**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 4 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., our new date during December is Monday December 20th from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. In the new year we will continue with our 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**



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**Missouri House of Representatives**

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