



Capitol Report

April 23, 2021

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Dear Neighbor,

This was a historic week in the House, as for only the second time in the history of the state of Missouri, a member of the House of Representatives was expelled from the body.

I serve as Vice Chair of the Ethics Committee, the investigative arm of the Missouri House of Representatives when a complaint is lodged against a member. This was a difficult task as the member in question was duly elected in light of the allegations which date back to the 1990's.

As the investigation was underway and interviews of the alleged victims, witnesses and accused took place, it became clear that victims in this case were credible and the member in question was not.

As a result of this investigation which started in January, the committee unanimously voted 10-0 to recommend expulsion of the member to the entire body of the House of Representatives. The House voted on Wednesday 153-0 with one member voting "present"

to expel the member.

It is an honor and I am thankful to have the opportunity to serve your interest in Jefferson City. I am thankful for the trust you have placed in me and I remind myself of that fact each day. I pledge to continue to work to the best of my ability for you with honor and dignity in the position you elected me to serve you and your loved ones.

Yours in Service,

Rich

House Legislative Dashboard





I addressed the House of Representatives on Wednesday to explain the case for expulsion of one of our members.



Emily Manley ✓
@EmilyManleyTV



#BREAKING | The House unanimously votes to expel Rep. Rick Roeber after the Ethics Committee found the allegations of sexual and physical abuse of his children to be credible. The last time a member was expelled was 1865. Roeber was not in the House chamber for the vote. **#moleg**

11:05 AM · Apr 21, 2021 from Jefferson City, MO



33



3



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Missouri House expels Rick Roeber, a Republican accused of sexually abusing his children

Roeber is only the second lawmaker to ever
be expelled from the Missouri House

By Jason Hancock
April 21, 2021

Rick Roeber, a Lee's Summit Republican accused by his adult children of sexual and physical abuse, was expelled from the Missouri House on Wednesday on a 153-0 vote. One legislator voted "present."

Only one member of the Missouri House has ever been expelled before. The charge at that time, in 1865, was [disloyalty to the Union](#).

Wednesday's vote follows [the recommendation by the House Ethics Committee](#), which asked for Roeber to be expelled following a four-month investigation into allegations that in the early 1990s Roeber sexually abused his children, who at the time were 9 and 5.

"When this complaint was brought before the committee, I took into account that Rep. Roeber was duly elected," said Rep. Richard Brown, D-Kansas City and vice chair of the ethics committee. "I asked myself the question, how far back in someone's background do you go? People change."

“But this wasn’t, ‘did you cheat on your spouse.’ We weren’t investigating if you smoked some weed,” Brown said. “This was child molestation and physical abuse.”

Both Brown and Ethics Committee Chairman Travis Fitzwater, R-Holts Summit, said Wednesday that testimony from four of Roeber’s children and his ex wife was credible — and their story has been consistent for decades.

The committee found Roeber’s testimony “combative, defensive, defiant” and ultimately not credible.

[Continue Reading](#)

[You can view the House proceedings of the expulsion hearing here.](#)

[You can read the full Ethics Committee report on the abuse allegations here.](#)

Tax Deadline Extended



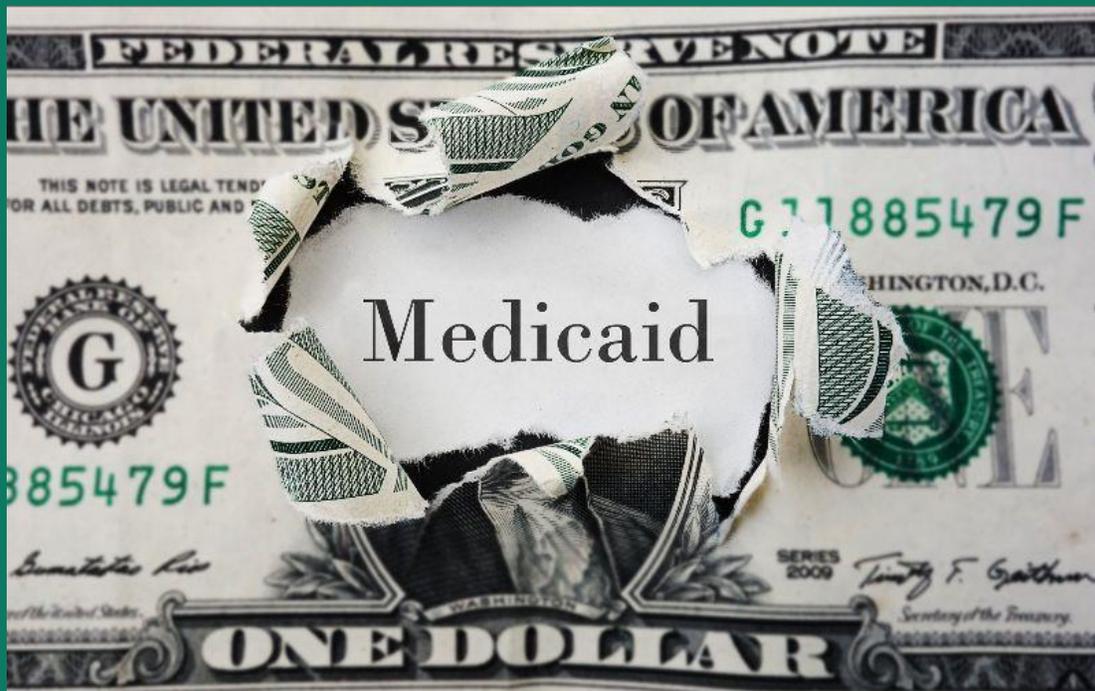
CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR RETURN!

Want to receive regular updates
on your 2018, 2019 or 2020
Individual Income Tax Return?

**Give the return tracker
application a try!**



After you have filed your
return, sign up here to
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or text notifications.



SENATE PANEL DEADLOCKS ON RESTORING MEDICAID FUNDING

The Senate Appropriations Committee on April 21 deadlocked 7-7 on restoring funding for Medicaid expansion to the 2022 fiscal year state operating budget. The funding fight now moves the full Senate, with a lawsuit guaranteed if the spending authority ultimately is omitted from the final appropriations bills.

As of July 1, every Missourian whose income is at or below 138 percent of the federal poverty level will be eligible for the state's Medicaid program under a constitutional amendment Missouri voters ratified last year. Without full funding to cover the additional recipients, however, the program could exhaust its spending authority well before the end of the fiscal year. An estimated 275,000 additional Missourians will be eligible for the program.

After House Republicans pulled the expanded Medicaid funding from the budget, many supporters, including the state's major medical and business organizations, had anticipated the Senate would prove

CHECK YOUR MAILBOX: Over the next several weeks, the Unclaimed Property Division will send out over 75,000 postcards to potential account owners about unclaimed money. A reminder that you can search <http://ShowMeMoney.com> 24/7 and claiming your money is always free.



STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR SUDDENLY RESIGNS

After four years of leading the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Dr. Randall Williams resigned as the agency's director on April 14 without explanation. Given that Williams had weathered several controversies during his tenure, his sudden departure amid no information as to its cause came as a surprise.

The news became public in a press release from Republican Gov. Mike Parson announcing he was naming Robert Knodell, his deputy chief of staff, as acting health department director. The fact that

Williams had resigned, thus creating a need for an acting director, wasn't mentioned until the end of the release. Williams has made no public statement on his departure.

Former governor Eric Greitens appointed Williams, who had previously served as health department director in North Carolina, to the Missouri post in 2017. Williams stayed on after Greitens resigned in 2018, and Parson repeatedly had expressed support for Williams.

Williams generated widespread condemnation in 2019 when it became public that he had ordered the tracking of women's menstrual cycles without their knowledge or consent as part of his failed effort to close Missouri's only abortion clinic. The year earlier, the Republican controlled legislature slashed eight staff positions from the director's office over his refusal to share requested information with lawmakers about a Bourbon virus outbreak in the state.

Williams also faced criticism over the implementation of medical marijuana in Missouri. His department's inconsistent standards in awarding the limited number of licenses to operate in the industry resulted in thousands of administrative appeals being filed seeking to overturn the agency's decisions. More recently, Williams took fire for the state's lackluster response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the slow rollout of its vaccination program.



House considers establishing permanent daylight saving time

- By Hannah Norton Missouri News Network

A general disdain for falling back has Missouri lawmakers pushing to establish permanent daylight saving time.

Missouri is one of 28 states considering such legislation. Fifteen other states have enacted legislation or passed resolutions to allow for year-round daylight saving time. If passed, House Bill 848 — which was brought to the House floor Wednesday — would add Missouri to that list.

The bill is also dependent on bordering states. When three states bordering Missouri pass similar legislation, these states will enter the Daylight Saving as New Standard Time Pact.

At that point, each state in the pact would spring forward into daylight saving time for the last time, thereby eliminating any time changes moving forward. According to the bill text, “the time formerly known

as daylight saving time shall become standard time.”

[Continue Reading](#)



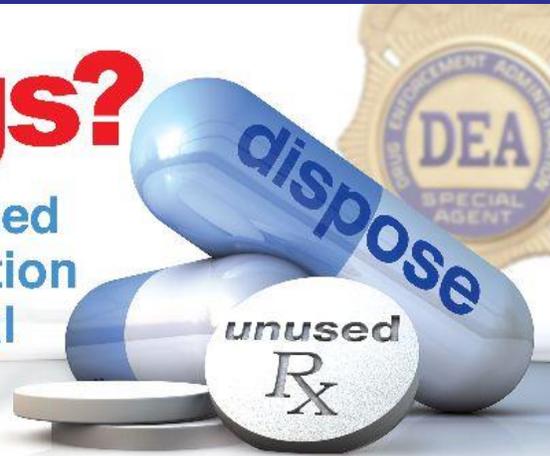
COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



National Drug Takeback Day

Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused
or expired medication
for safe disposal
here



Join the Raytown Police Department on Saturday, April 24 for National Drug Takeback day. Stop by the City Hall parking lot, 10000 E 59 St, any time between 10 am and 2 pm to drop off expired, unused, and unwanted pills. This service is FREE, anonymous and helps prevent pill abuse.

Please note not accepted are liquids, aerosols, needles or sharps.

[Click here for a drug takeback location near you!](#)

[FEMA COVID-19 funeral assistance website](#)

All Missourians 16 & over
are eligible for COVID-19 vaccines.

[mostopscovid](#)

Truman Medical Centers has available services for Jackson County residents during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

If you are experiencing a fever, a new cough or new shortness of breath, you can call **404-CARE (2273)** and speak to a health care professional to be screened for COVID-19.



TMC
TRUMAN MEDICAL CENTERS



[Click Here to get on the Wait List
for COVID 19 Vaccine at Truman Medical Center.](#)



Several legislators including myself participated in the annual Johnny Cash Day at the Capitol by wearing black in his honor.



The Pandemic aint over!



**The reward has been raised to
\$30,000 for Dominic**



**GREATER KANSAS CITY CRIME STOPPERS
816-474-TIPS HOTLINE**

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

FROM: Det. Kevin Boehm, Crime Stoppers Coordinator

SUBJECT: Reward Increase – 9 Year Old Dominic Young Homicide

KANSAS CITY, MO --- The Kansas City, Missouri Police Department and the Greater KC Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline continue to seek information in the January 20, 2018 homicide of 9 year old Dominic Young Jr. at 71 Highway and Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd.

Dominic Young Jr. was apparently hit by a stray gunshot while occupying a vehicle driven by his father and died as a result of his injuries. Dominic, his father and brother were en route to Grandview at the time. The vehicle driven by Dominic's father was hit by gunshots from other vehicles apparently engaged in a gunfight according to statements.

KCPD found a possible crime scene near the intersection where the father said the shooting happened. When the father arrived home in Grandview, Dominic was not responsive. Grandview police initially responded to the father's home and found the boy in critical condition. He was later pronounced dead at a hospital.

A number of community leaders and organizations including State Representative Richard Brown, Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McManus, former City Councilmen Scott Taylor, Scott Wagner, John Sharp; the City of KCMO and Concord Fortress of Hope Church (Pastor Ron Lindsay) have come forward to increase the existing reward in the case up to \$30,000.00. Those leaders are available for comment in regard to the case.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers Greater Kansas City TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS (8477), TIPS may also be submitted electronically at www.KCCrimestoppers.com, or by downloading our NEW mobile app, P3TIPS, on Google Play or the Apple iOS stores for FREE. Information leading to an arrest and/or filing of charges could be eligible for up to \$30,000.00 in reward money. ALL INFORMATION IS ANONYMOUS.



Remain Anonymous • Receive Cash Rewards

Tips Hotline

816-474-8477

Web Tips

www.KCcrimestoppers.com

Free Mobile App

www.P3Tips.com

* A program of the KC Metropolitan Crime Commission

My office in Jefferson City is available to assist you with questions you may have about state government or legislative issues. Please call, email or write anytime. If you are unable to reach me, my assistant, Donna Gentsch is ready to help you. If you are in Jefferson City, come by my Capitol office in room 134, and introduce yourself. The door is always open and I encourage you to visit.

[Please forward this email to your friends and family who want to know how what is happening in Jefferson City will impact them here at home.](#)



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MO House of Representatives

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Please don't hesitate to contact me with any feedback,

questions or ideas!

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