

OBITUARIES

ROBERT "BOB" MCCORMICK

Robert J. McCormick also known as Bob, Honey, Bubba, Dad, Butch, Popo and Grandpa was born January 26, 1945, in Independence Kansas and passed away in Bedford, Texas April 20, 2025, at 80 years old.

He lived an adventurous, fun filled life. He retired from the FAA in 2002. His parents Jack and Irma McCormick preceded him in death.

He leaves behind his wife, Mary Ellen; his son, Doug McCormick; his granddaughter, Malori; and great granddaughter, Sadie; his daughter, Andrea; grand-son, Sam; three siblings, Jack and Jerry, McCormick, and Peggy Helmkamp; and many nieces, nephews; friends and family.

When he was here on earth, he did what he wanted and if he had a vision, he made it come true. He traveled and lived in many places and succeeded in the jobs he had throughout his life. May he rest in peace.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Saint Jude Hospital. www.stjude.org

To order memorial trees or send flowers to the family in memory of Robert "Bob" McCormick, please visit our flower store.

A celebration of life for Bob was held in Texas and graveside service will be held in Independence, at a later date.



McCormick

HAPPENINGS

OPEN ARMS DINER

The Open Arms Diner will be serving to-go meals only Tuesday, May 6 from 5:00-5:30 p.m. The menu for the evening is unknown at this time. Effective May 20, Open Arms Diner will be closed for the summer. They will serve their last meal May 13.

WEATHER



Normal for today73 (high) and 51 (low)
Records 91 (1896) and 32 (1976)
Sunrise Sunday 6:22| sets 8:16
Sunrise Monday 6:21 | sets 8:17
Sunrise Tuesday 6:20| sets 8:18
click on Daily Report for today's info):
Elk City Lake level..... 801.40 feet | outflow 1561 CFS
Big Hill Lake level..... 859.23 feet | outflow 225 CFS

Forecast for Montgomery County: Sunny and beautiful, with a high near 68 degrees. Northerly winds around 6 to 8 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly starlit, with a low around 43 degrees. North winds around 6 mph, becoming calm in the evening.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 69 degrees. Calm winds becoming northeast around 5 mph in the afternoon.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 45.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 70 degrees.

Monday Night: A 20% chance of showers after 1:00 a.m., otherwise mostly cloudy, with a low around 52.

WALL STREET ROUNDUP



DOW	41,317.43	1.39% ▲
S&P 500	5,686.67	1.47% ▲
NASDAQ	17,977.73	1.51% ▲

Last updated on 5-2-25 at 4:22 p.m. CST

Source: CNN

LOTTERY



TOPEKA, KAN. - These Kansas lotteries were drawn earlier this week.

Super Kansas Cash..... Jackpot: \$310,000
Mega Millions Jackpot: \$80 million
Powerball Jackpot: \$44 million

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REPORTER OBITUARY POLICY

The Independence Daily Reporter publishes death notices at no charge. A death notice includes name, age, date of death and service information. Anything more than a standard notice will be priced at \$85 without a photo and \$95 with a photo (up to 500 words).

Please submit all obituaries to
obits@indydailyreporter.com

The deadline to be in the Tuesday through Saturday publications is 11am the day before publication. Any obituaries received after the above deadlines will be published the next available publication day

Independence Daily
Reporter



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CITY – COUNTY

CRIMINAL THREAT

April 29- At approximately 2:32 a.m., IPD Officers were dispatched to the 300 Block of South 10th Street for a report of criminal threat. Upon investigation, a juvenile male, 14 of Independence, was arrested on charges of criminal threat.

BATTERY

April 29- At approximately 6:29 a.m., IPD Officers were dispatched to the 400 Block of South 16th Street for a report of an animal bite and battery.

TRAFFIC

April 28- At approximately 12:52 p.m., IPD Officers were dispatched to the intersection of West Main and 17th Streets for a non-injury, two-vehicle accident.

April 30- IPD Officers performed a traffic stop for an illegal tag. Later, Garrette Baker was arrested for driving without liability insurance, illegal tag and driving while suspended.

April 30- At approximately 11:32 p.m., IPD Officers investigated a hit and run at the Riverside Park oval. After investigating, a juvenile male 15, was cited for interference with a law enforcement official.

• Kansas' vandalism

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study, 25,850 of which were categorized as destruction, damage, or vandalism.

Washington placed second with 1,022.17 incidents per 100,000 people, which is 74% above the US average.

In the state, 79,302 incidents of destruction, damage, or vandalism were recorded out of a total of 355,942 crimes against property.

Kansas took third place, recording 948.90 incidents per 100,000 residents throughout the state. This is 61% above the national average. Over a quarter of the 100,550 crimes against property recorded in the state were incidents of destruction, damage, or vandalism (25,674).

Colorado placed fourth and sits 58% above the US average, with 929.37 incidents per 100,000 residents.

Out of a total of 263,118 crimes against property in the state, 54,112 of these were categorized as incidents of destruction, damage, or vandalism.

Delaware completed the top five with 915.70 incidents per 100,000 people, which is 56% above the US average. The state dealt with 37,684 property crimes and a quarter of these incidents were destruction, damage, or vandalism (9,449).

Illinois ranked sixth with 843.31 vandalism cases per 100,000 residents, followed by Oregon with 809.10 incidents per 100,000 people. The states' rates are 44% and 38% above the national average, respectively.

In Illinois, there were 365,059 crimes against property, while in Oregon there were 169,856.

Of the property crimes in Illinois, 26% of them were incidents of destruction, damage, or vandalism (94,542), whereas 19% of the ones in Oregon were (33,786).

In eighth is Pennsylvania, which recorded a vandalism incident rate 32% above the national average, at 777.67 incidents per 100,000 residents. There were 189,122 crimes against property committed in the state, 42,793 of which were incidents of destruction, damage, or vandalism.

Arkansas saw 776.29 incidents per 100,000 residents, placing ninth and 32% above the US average.

Over a fifth of the 109,867 crimes against property in the state were incidents of destruction, damage, or vandalism, with 23,143 recorded.

Nevada finished the top ten with 760.32 incidents per 100,000 people, which is 29% above the national average. 24,188 out of the 127,065 property crimes in the state were incidents of destruction, damage, or vandalism.

Hawaii marked the safest spot for property owners with only 70.74 vandalism incidents per 100,000 residents. This is roughly 20 times lower than what New Mexico experiences and 88% below the national average. In Hawaii, only 3% of the 26,323 crimes against property in the state were incidents of destruction, damage, or vandalism (899).

Indiana had the second-lowest rate at 173.58 incidents per 100,000 people while Florida ranked third from bottom with 304.70 incidents per 100,000 residents. Indiana's vandalism incident rate is 70% below the US average. The state recorded 135,968 property crimes, and 10,162 of these incidents were destruction, damage, or vandalism.

In Florida, the vandalism incident rate is 48% below the national average, with 29,201 of the 208,111 crimes against property categorized as destruction, damage, or vandalism.

Idaho, with 309.55 incidents, and West Virginia, with 348.23 incidents per 100,000 residents, rounded out the five states with the lowest vandalism rates. The vandalism rates are 47% and 41% below the national average in the states, respectively. In Idaho, over a fifth of the 28,861 property crimes were cases of destruction, damage, or vandalism, with 6,060 incidents recorded, whereas 18% of the 29,861 property crimes in West Virginia were destruction, damage, or vandalism (5,416).

New Jersey (360.18), Maine (374.00), and Mississippi (404.30) placed sixth, seventh, and eighth, with vandalism rates 39%, 36%, and 31% below the US average, respectively. 22,660 incidents of destruction, damage, or vandalism were recorded in New Jersey, accounting for 15% of the 150,952 property crimes.

21% of the 24,943 crimes against property in Maine were destruction, damage, or vandalism incidents (5,220). This figure dropped to 18% in Mississippi, with 6,920 of the 38,607 property crimes falling under this category.

Massachusetts (405.46) and Wisconsin (421.62) completed the ten states where property faces the least risk from vandals, with rates 31% and 28% below the national average, respectively. In Massachusetts, incidents of destruction, damage, or vandalism accounted for 28,265 of the crimes against property in the state, while in Wisconsin, it was 24,215 of the 117,437.

The per-capita rates show relative risk between states, but total incident numbers tell a different story based on population size.

Texas recorded 167,593 total vandalism incidents, while California saw 134,394 and New York had 97,523 incidents.

STATE NEWS

KCC issues \$60,000 fine to AT&T for failing to promptly mark underground lines for excavators



Kansas Corporation Commission members Annie Kuether, Andrew French and Dwight Keen, clockwise from upper right, and KCC attorney Ahsan Latif, upper left, discuss the \$60,000 fine assessed against AT&T for failing to follow state law on identification of buried utility lines. (Kansas Reflector screen capture of KCC's channel)

■ Flurry of infractions earns robust public condemnation from state regulators

BY TIM CARPENTER

Kansas Reflector

The Kansas Corporation Commission unanimously issued a \$60,000 fine to AT&T for racking up dozens of violations of a state law requiring the marking of its buried infrastructure within two days of requests made by excavating companies operating in Wichita, Olathe, Overland Park, Burrton and Kansas City, Kansas.

KCC staff conducted an investigation of non-response tickets submitted by excavators from April 30, 2024, to May 30, 2024, in which AT&T failed to mark underground lines within the allotted time.

A \$1,000 fine was attached to each of 60 infractions cited by KCC staff in a report submitted to the state regulatory commission. The company didn't challenge 60 violations documented by KCC staff, but did contest noncompliance in 20 instances. AT&T asserted the company either performed the utility location work on time or the property in question was cleared because there were no buried utilities in that area.

Kansas law required excavators to provide at least two days notice of intent to dig and utility companies were mandated to mark the underground lines within two days.

The KCC's chief engineer told the three-member commission Wednesday that AT&T apparently made a decision to save money by not completing in a timely manner a portion of requests submitted to the company for flagging underground utility lines.

"I do think it could possibly be a systemic problem that we need to continue to look into," said KCC engineer Paul Owings. "This is kind of my opinion, it's a calculated risk they're making in terms of locating utilities. Potentially, screening tickets that they view as low risk and saying, 'It costs X amount to locate. We can screen out whatever percentage — 10, 20, 30% — and save this much money.'"

AT&T didn't respond to Kansas Reflector's request for comment about the KCC sanction and the company's defiance of state statute, the risk posed to public safety and possible impairment of service to customers.

KCC attorney Ahsan Latif said the commission's staff was concerned any period of time chosen to benchmark AT&T's compliance with the two-day deadline for marking its underground systems would have resulted in a series of violations. He said AT&T was previously fined for the same problem.

"We're hoping this gets their attention and spurs action on their part," Latif said.

He said AT&T indicated noncompliance issues were associated with lack of staffing to meet requests from excavators. Overall, AT&T's annual net income for 2024 was reported to be \$10.7 billion.

During a KCC meeting to consider the latest fine of AT&T, KCC member Dwight Keen said it was concerning the company racked up so many infractions in a short interval.

"I'm taking at face value what they told you (Latif)," Keen said. "I'm still have a problem with it. I'm still thinking, 'You've got to be kidding me.' AT&T? I just can't believe it. It really was a risk that they rolled the dice on here. There has to be a level of reasonableness here when some managerial class within this company realizes that they're throwing caution to the wind."

Commissioner Annie Kuether said the KCC's recent assessment of an \$8,000 fine against AT&T for failure to timely locate underground systems didn't deter the company.

"That's an outrageous number of ignoring the rules," Kuether said.

Andrew French, chairman of the KCC, urged commission staff to continue monitoring AT&T's adherence to state law and encouraged KCC staff to propose additional enforcement actions if necessary. He suggested KCC should consider launching a broader investigation of marking compliance across multiple industries.

"We've had this issue with other companies, not just AT&T," French said. "They're the culprit right now."

The KCC's penalty order was issued to Greg Clarkson, an AT&T executive with an office address in Oklahoma City. The document advised the company had 20 days to pay the penalty, but also that AT&T would need to decide within 15 days whether to request a hearing on the KCC's decision.



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