



# Local

OBITUARIES AND A TRIBUTE | B6, 7

## The bee's knees

Bees were at work Thursday at the apiary Busy Bee Acres near Odessa. Bees at commercial beekeeping operations are disappearing from some hives earlier than usual.

PETER FRANKLIN | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

**WATCHDOG:** The column will return tomorrow.

Abortion foes debate whether the Kansas law needs changes. | B2

Facts about fireworks safety. | B5



THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE REMAINS REMARKABLE.  
BILL KRISTOL | B9

**DISTRICTS IN DISPUTE** | Parties hope to resolve differences in Saturday meeting

# STORM BEFORE — CALM?

**Independence takes legal action against KC in shift of schools, but good will is also expressed.**

By MIKE SHERRY  
The Kansas City Star

There was a mix of bluster and conciliation Thursday from the Independence and Kansas City school districts heading into a weekend meeting aimed at resolving their financial dispute.

The Independence district

prompted more back-and-forth between the two districts with legal action against the Kansas City district and the nonprofit building corporation that owns the seven school buildings at the center of the dispute.

In filings in Jackson County Circuit Court, the Independence district asked Judge Jack Grate to pre-

vent the Kansas City district and the building corporation from impeding it from getting the schools ready for classes on Aug. 18.

The Independence district renewed its allegation that the building corporation is a needless hurdle the Kansas City district is throwing up to slow the transition of the schools from the Kansas City district to the Independence district.

Voters approved a boundary

change in November that shifted the schools, and the two sides have been sparring for months over transition issues. The two districts and the building corporation were again at loggerheads this week as the Independence district tried to start doing rehabilitation work at the schools.

If the Kansas City district is "permitted to continue to hide be-

SEE SHIFT | B6

## GIFT MAKES LIBERTY MEMORIAL GLOW



FRED BLOCHER | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Thanks to a successful fundraising campaign, the "eternal flame" atop Liberty Memorial will continue to shine after tonight. Celebrating at a rally on Thursday were (from left) Michael Cahill, 6; Aidan Bates, 7; Mia Bates, 8; Lauren Cahill, 3; and Owen Bates, 3. Donations from businesses, individuals and at least one foundation reached \$63,500, and more contributions are expected. | Story, B2

Go to [KansasCity.com](http://KansasCity.com) for video from the Liberty Memorial events.

## Holiday sees drop in drivers

The roads are becoming safer, officials say, in part because fewer motorists mean fewer accidents.

By NATHAN GILL  
The Kansas City Star

If you're headed out on the highways this Independence Day, you may find them safer and less crowded than they've been in years.

The number of Fourth of July holiday travelers on the road is expected to decline 1.2 percent from last year, the American Automobile Association said. That's 400,000 fewer people, the first decrease this decade.

At the same time, highways — including those in Missouri and Kansas — are seeing a pronounced decrease in highway fatalities. Highway safety and travel organizations attribute the decrease to fewer travelers and safer roads.

"Roads today are safer than they've ever been," said Doug Hecox, a spokesman for the Federal Highway Administration.

High prices will help keep people off the roads, said Mike Right, spokesman for AAA Missouri, noting that consumer confidence is at its lowest in eight years.

Go to [KansasCity.com](http://KansasCity.com) for an interactive guide to area highway delays.

SEE DRIVERS | B5

## Lottery botches numbers

First the bad news. Because of a software glitch, the Kansas Lottery reported the wrong winning numbers this week for its Pick 3 game on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

The good news? The lottery will pay holders of tickets with either the correct numbers or the numbers that were incorrectly announced.

The Random Number Generator that is used for Pick 3 drawings functioned correctly, but the winning numbers reported to the public were not the numbers drawn, the lottery said in a state-

### \$2.9 MILLION

#### KU grad students

The University of Kansas received a \$2.9 million grant to fund a program that will help math and engineering graduate students in urban Kansas classrooms. The KU program is designed to give

By MATT CAMPBELL  
The Kansas City Star

The "eternal flame" atop the Liberty Memorial will continue to light the sky after tonight thanks to a fundraising campaign that far exceeded its goal.

Hundreds of donations from businesses, individuals and at least one foundation had raised \$63,500 by Thursday morning. That is more than enough to cover the \$45,000 it costs an-

nually to generate the steam that creates the flame effect when colored lights are reflected against it.

Memorial officials this spring turned the steam system off because of budget cutbacks. The lights remained on, but it just wasn't the same.

On Memorial Day weekend, Pioneer Services, the military banking division of MidCountry Bank, announced it was giving \$5,000 to "Save the Flame" through the Fourth of July and offered to match up to \$22,500 in other donations to keep it on for a year.

Liberty Memorial CEO Brian Alexander recalled that the Kansas City community raised \$2.5 million in just 10 days after World War I to build the memorial, which President Calvin Coolidge dedicated in 1926.

"It is apparent the same wonder and admiration for the memorial continues," he told a celebration crowd of about 100 people Thursday near the base of the tower. "Whether they contributed \$5 or \$5,000, they deeply care about the memorial, the eternal flame and the World War I museum."

The Bank of Kansas City, the

William T. Kemper Foundation and Lockton Insurance Co. each contributed \$5,000 to the campaign. Memorial officials will place all donations in a flame fund to keep it going as long as the money lasts.

Tom Holcom, president of Pioneer Services, called the effort "the right thing to do for the doughboys and the right thing to do for those currently serving" in the military.

The Liberty Memorial and museum will be open today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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### THE ART OF THE CLASSIC CAR



### SOMEHOW THE TIMING SEEMS

# Liberty Memorial flame is saved

crat, announced the grant. | Mará Rose Williams, [mdwilliams@kcstar.com](mailto:mdwilliams@kcstar.com)

place, a 1936 Cord 810 Phaeton, owned by Bob and Sandra Coleman of Mission Hills. | Mará Rose Williams, [mdwilliams@kcstar.com](mailto:mdwilliams@kcstar.com)

SEE MIKE | B6