From: **Schlueter, Rachel** rschlueter@kcstar.com
Subject: Fwd: Plans for JoCo's largest park ever + New flight at KCI
Date: August 21, 2025 at 5:34 PM
To: rschlueter8263@gmail.com

RS

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **The Kansas City Star - Morning Rush** <news@newsletter.kansascity.com>
Date: Sat, Aug 16, 2025 at 6:30 AM
Subject: Plans for JoCo's largest park ever + New flight at KCI
To: <rschlueter@kcstar.com>

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Morning Rush



Good morning, Kansas City.

Today is Saturday, Aug. 16th.

⛅ It will be partly sunny and hot today with a high of 97.

Now, let's get you caught up on the news.

The Big Picture

🌳 Johnson County is taking *baby* steps toward turning thousands of acres of an ammunition plant into the largest park in county history. The Star's Taylor O'Connor explains the massive project, plus why it will take time to finish.

✈️ Starting to think about your spring break plans? KCI will begin offering

a weekly direct flight to this top Caribbean oasis next year.

🏈 There weren't a lot of highlights from last night's preseason game, played with few starters and concluding with a 33-16 Seattle win. But there are definitely some areas of concern, and at least one standout player. Sam McDowell breaks down his five takeaways.

Here's what you need to know

Ultra runner Kelly Force jogs through De Soto's Kill Creek Park almost every day, totaling 60 to 75 miles per week. And if Johnson County's new plan is successful, she may be racking up way more miles in the park in the future.

The parks are part of Force's daily life, and she's excited about the possibility of one expanding.

Kill Creek Park is home to 950 acres of trails, open space, playgrounds, a lake and other amenities.

Now, the Johnson County Parks and Recreation District has an opportunity to add about 2,000 acres from portions of the former Sunflower Ammunition Plant through a historic transfer agreement between the federal government and the county.

Once completed, it would create the county's largest park.

The 9,000-acre ammunition factory in De Soto has gone through a decades-long cleanup process, and dreams for development have been continually delayed.

While funding shortages and ongoing cleanup efforts prevent any big changes to the site, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has recently deemed about 130 acres clean and safe for park use.

My colleague Taylor has the story, including the timeline for the entire project to finish.

The Star's picks

💯 Bill Self said he's feeling "100%" following his heart procedure three weeks ago. "I could coach a game tomorrow," the 23rd-year KU coach emphatically told reporters yesterday.

🔥 Kansas' GOP chair is claiming the fire that broke out on the doorstep of the Johnson County Republicans' headquarters early Friday was a

the Johnson County Republicans' headquarters early Friday was a politically motivated arson attack.

💬 Opinion: Is the Republican party's future in Missouri? Trumpist senators Eric Schmitt and Josh Hawley have bright futures — but one has a clearer path to the White House, writes columnist Joel Mathis.

⛔ A new report says that Chiefs receiver Rashee Rice at one point faced an unprecedented NFL suspension for his role in a high-speed Dallas crash. Will it come to pass?

🥁 Fresh off the largest donation in school history, KU's athletic director said he's "dramatically" more confident about the next phase of stadium renovations. Here's why.

⚠️ An employee at a popular Missouri pizza chain restaurant stabbed a man who was asking for food and told him to "get a job," according to police.



Rachel Schlueter
Audience intern

From the newsroom

🎁 Star subscribers, I have exciting news: You can now gift up to 10 free articles a month to friends and family. Share the stories you care about, from breaking news to local features.

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That's all for now! Thank you for reading, and we'll see you tomorrow.



LOCAL

Johnson County takes steps toward new 3,000-acre park on old ammunition plant

Through a historic land agreement between the feds and the Johnson County Parks and Recreation District, parcels of the former Sunflower Ammunition Plant could create the largest park in county history.



LOCAL

This nonstop flight will take flyers from Kansas City to a new country in 2026

Here’s when you can take the direct route to the Caribbean.

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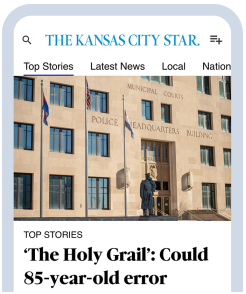

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SAM MCDOWELL

Five things that stood out about the Chiefs' preseason loss in Seattle

The Chiefs' second preseason game? Yeah, it wasn't pretty.



UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

KU coach Bill Self says he's '100%' heading into school year after heart procedure

Coach Bill Self says his heart procedure this offseason was different from what happened two years ago. Here's why.

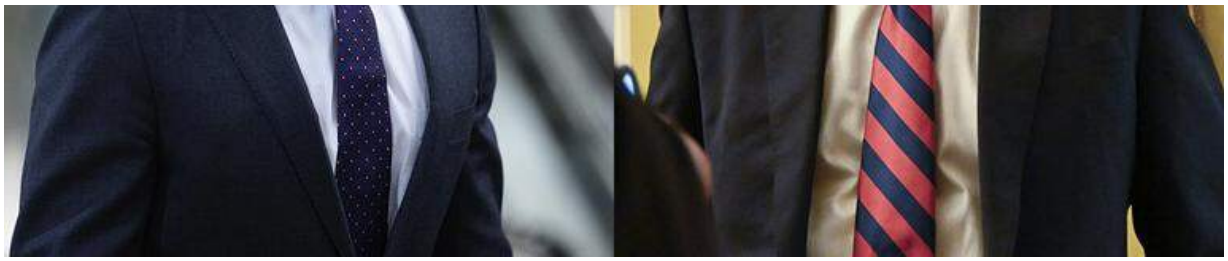


LOCAL

Johnson County Republican headquarters targeted in overnight fire, GOP chair says

A news release sent out by state GOP Chair Danedri Herbert suggested the fire was politically motivated, a claim that a fire department spokesperson said he can't speak to while the investigation is ongoing.





GUEST COMMENTARY

Eric Schmitt vs. Josh Hawley: Is the GOP's future here in Missouri? | Opinion

Schmitt's close ties with Trump positions him as a key GOP player, while Hawley's strategy for the party differs. | Opinion



CHIEFS

NFL proposed an unprecedented

punishment for Chiefs receiver Rashee Rice: Report

The NFL wants to hand down a significant penalty on Chiefs wide receiver Rashee Rice for his role in a 2024 high-speed crash on a Dallas freeway.



UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Why Kansas AD Travis Goff feels more confident about phase two of stadium renovations

Kansas athletic director Travis Goff explained how David Booth's donation gives the Jayhawks more confidence for phase two of stadium renovations.





MISSOURI

Restaurant worker stabs man asking for food, Missouri cops say. ‘Get a job’

The employee is accued of chasing down the man after an encounter at the restaurant’s dumpster, police say.

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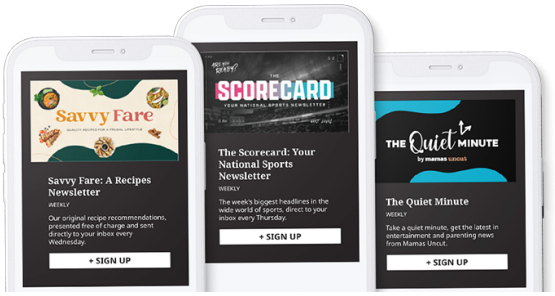

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