

***KMBZ – AM. QUARTERLY LISTING OF PROBLEMS AND NEEDS***  
January-March, 2010

Each quarter, KMBZ - AM places in its Public Inspection File a list of what it considers to have been some of the significant problems and needs of its service area and some of its most significant programming broadcast to help meet those problems and needs.

The attached Quarterly Listing of Problems and Needs is being filed in the Public Inspection File of Station KMBZ – AM in accordance with FCC requirements for the three month period January-March, 2010. While this list contains a brief description of much of KMBZ AM' s most significant typical and illustrative programs and program segments, it does not include all programs an program segments broadcast by the station during the three months which related to other issues.

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Dave Alpert  
General Manager

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Neil Larrimore  
Program Director

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Date Filed

***SHANIN & PARKS*** - LOCAL TALK SHOW THAT AIRS FROM 2 – 6 P.M. THAT FOCUSES ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS FROM NATIONAL, STATE, CITY GOVERNMENT, POLITICS, ECONOMICS.

***DARLA JAYE*** - LOCAL TALK SHOW THAT AIRS FROM 6 – 9 P.M. THAT LOOKS AT A VARIETY OF ISSUES IN THE KANSAS CITY, NATIONAL ARENA. FROM POLITICS AT CITY HALL, TO EDUCATION OF OUR YOUTH.

**MORNING NEWS**

NEWS COVERAGE OF EVENTS AFFECTING THE KANSAS CITY AREA WITH REPORTS AIRED THROUGHOUT THE DAY WITH MAJOR EMPHASIS DURING MORNING DRIVE FROM 5 TO 9 A.M.

## **KMBZ - AM QUARTERLY LISTING OF PROBLEMS AND NEEDS**

January-March, 2010

### **1. BUSINESS/JOBS**

The downturn in the economy has hit area businesses, with several companies having to layoff workers, but there appears to be signs of life. Some economists even are now suggesting that the recession has ended. Although that may be true, employment nationwide continues to hover around 10 percent.

### **2 VIOLENCE/CRIME**

Crime continues to be a major problem facing the Kansas City area. New statistics out show that violent crime is up among all ages and races and in all cities. White collar crime is also becoming a problem for businesses. The Kansas City Crime Commission working to better enable police departments with new information. Kansas City Police Department revamping and looking at more police on streets.

### **3. GOVERNMENT**

Local governments continue to struggle with declining tax revenues, prompting a number of cities, and both states, to consider drastic cutbacks in services and possible tax increases.

### **4. EDUCATION**

The battle to find education dollars for both Kansas and Missouri still a hot topic as the legislative session will begin next quarter.. Missouri is looking at a problem with student loans and how to handle the agency that is in charge. Many of the local school districts, such as Shawnee Mission, Liberty, Kansas City are facing money issues, and with the state's economies continuing to slide many of the education dollars are being withheld.

### **5.MINORITIES**

As Congress tries to come up with a plan on how to deal with illegal immigrants, Kansas city's Hispanic community rallies joining other cities nationwide to try and show how important the worker's are to the economy. Meanwhile, area churches are trying to find ways to battle racism. Missouri lawmakers looking at measure to punish businesses and landlords that hire and house illegals.

### **6. YOUTH**

The growing crime rate in Kansas City has hit the area youth hard. The nationwide school shootings causing more schools to crackdown on any truancy problems. Many of the homicide victims have been young and officials are concerned about growing gang violence. There is concern that as the economy continues to slide, more and more young people will be out of work, and could turn to crime.

### **7. DRUGS**

While both states have made headways into the problem of drugs in the metro area, methamphetamine is still the drug of choice. While both states have enacted legislation to crack down on over the counter medicines that can be used to make meth, law enforcement officials say it's too early to tell if the measures are working. New surveys out that while hard drugs are on a decline among teens, prescription drugs are now the number one problem.

## **8. WOMEN**

The issue of low pay, lack of child care continue to be a problem among working women in the metro area. As the metro area braces for the economic downturn, more women are seeing their jobs eliminated and that is adding to pressure. More employers though seem to be working better with women in the area of health care and that has been noted as a plus among women's organizations.

## **9. HEALTH**

Missouri and Kansas committees are looking at how to handle the ranks of the under and uninsured. Kansas City health department trying to work up plans on how to battle a pandemic if and when it occurs here.. The focus of health care will be a big topic in the upcoming presidential election, and as the campaigns come through Kansas City, many are asking the candidates their views.

## **10.. CHARITY**

Area food banks have been tapped, and more charities are seeing more and more working poor coming to their doors. The holiday season was a tough one for area charities, and they are still playing catch up.

# **1.BUSINESS/JOBS**

## **Shanin and Parks**

3.2.10: Senator Jim Bunning of Kentucky threatens to hold up a bill on unemployment benefits until the Congress can figure out a way to pay for it.

## **Kansas City's Morning News**

1.1.10: A deadline for Fox television's threatened blackout has been extended a few hours as the network negotiates with Time Warner Cable. Fox has threatened to pull the signal from 14 TV stations it owns, a move that would have affected more than 6 million Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks customers.

1.6.10: Local real-estate giant DST Realty has proposed a bold expansion to the 1-thousand room convention hotel idea still being drawn up by city leaders. City leaders say they want to explore it. The DST plan packages together the proposed new 1-thousand room hotel...with what would be an expanded Marriot complex. DST says by selling the Marriot-Meuilbach to a city backed developer with the promise it would add 400 rooms there, you could more easily finance a new convention hotel AND end up with over 2-thousand centrally owned rooms near Bartle Hall instead of the originally proposed 1-thousand rooms. Though it's still unclear...it's estimated the project would cost around 450 million dollars.

1.11.10: The average price of regular gas in the U.S. has risen 14 cents over a three-week period. The nationwide Lundberg Survey puts the average price of a gallon of regular at \$2.74. The cheapest average was in Cheyenne, Wyo. The priciest was in Anchorage.

1.12.10: General Motors said yesterday that sales of vehicles produced here are so good - that production on some vehicles is at capacity. SO, GM is considering opening idled plants to provide extra capacity, according to the Business Journal. Production on the Buick LaCrosse is at capacity. Plants in Tennessee and Wisconsin are on standby to provide extra production help.

1.13.10: It's not a slam dunk, but World Cup Soccer in Kansas City is a lot closer ! Yesterday, the U.S . bid committee announced Kansas City is on the list of 18 cities to host the matches in 2018 or 2022. There is a qualifier though. The U.S. has to be chosen as the host country first. That decision won't be announced until December. Gary Spani, director of special events for the Chiefs, said for the team's founder this was a dream. Arrowhead Stadium would host at least four matches. Wizard's officials say they would also push for a shot at the quarter and semifinals. The series could mean 600-million in revenue for Kansas City.

2.3.10: A new report shows an increasing number of Americans are having to choose between buying food and paying for other necessities like rent or medicine --- and it's that way in the

metro, too. The report called Hunger in America showed that the need for emergency food assistance in Kansas City has risen dramatically in the last few years. Locally, the number of people getting help from food pantries or kitchens in the Harvesters network last year was up 44-percent from 2005. Hunger in Kansas City is at its highest level in 30 years. Nationally, 37 million Americans are getting food assistance.

2.5.10: Kansas City leaders have given the OK for a new nuclear weapons plant that supporters say will keep a lot of jobs in the metro - and create new ones. The Kansas City council approved a 650-million-dollar project to replace the nuclear weapons parts plant at the Bannister Federal Complex. The new plant will go near Missouri 1-50 and Botts Road. The plan could create 15-hundred construction jobs.

3.3.10: Missouri's unemployment fell slightly in January, but the state also shed 12,800 nonfarm jobs. The state Department of Economic Development reports that the jobless rate dipped one-tenth of a percentage point to 9.5 percent last month. The agency says the nation's average unemployment rate for January was 9.7 percent. In its report Tuesday, the agency pinned some job losses last month on cold weather. Missouri's construction sector shed 7,700 jobs, while roughly 3,400 were lost in administrative and support services. Leisure and hospitality lost 3,100 jobs. The losses were offset by gains in manufacturing, retail trade, management and government.

3.4.10: Another new restaurant is opening on the Plaza. Noodles and Co. will open Sunday morning in the former location of McDonald's at 540 Nichols Road. The Plaza location will be the "flagship" for the restaurant in the metro... the chairman and CEO says the plaza opening is the beginning of several new restaurant locations they have planned in the area this year. Noodles and Company already has locations in Olathe, Overland Park, and North KC, and is leasing space in Lee's Summit.

3.9.10: It's a sign that the federal government supports a plan for a new federal building in downtown Kansas City. The U-S General Services Administration has listed the project in a 2011 spending plan sent to capitol hill, and the project is in the GSA's five-year capital budget, according to the Star. The plan calls for moving 12-hundred federal workers at the Bannister complex to a new building downtown. The GSA budget lists as 20th on its list of priorities: more than 20-million-dollars for site acquisition and design money.

3.12.10: A new study says out of medium-and-large-sized cities, Kansas City ranks near the top for telecommuting. A study of 36-hundred workers in 36 markets looked at companies that had work-from-home policies... how much workers said they could do their jobs from outside the office... and the extent of technological support - and support from bosses - for employees to work from home. Kansas City ranked fifth on the list, according to the business journal. The study found that most respondents said they were more productive working from home.

## **2. VIOLENCE/CRIME.**

### **Kansas City's Morning News**

1.1.10: An 80-year-old man has admitted to robbing a bank - and giving the money away. Augusta Cannon is charged in the December 22nd attempted robbery of the U-S Bank at 87-0-1 Blue Ridge Boulevard. Cannon left when the teller said she didn't have any money. Cannon told the FBI - about 15 minutes later, he held up a UMB Branch at I-435 and State Line... and Cannon told investigators he had given most of the money away, according to the Star. Cannon said he intended to provide the money to under-privileged children. He has NOT been charged in the hold-up of the UMB Bank.

1.3.10: Kansas City marked the second day of the new year by recording the year's second homicide. Police responded to a reported minor car accident last night at 113th Street and Sycamore Terrace. What they found was a driver slumped behind the wheel, dead from a gunshot wound. He was in his mid-20s, and his name hasn't been released. Not quite two hours later, shortly after 10 p.m., there was a shooting call from the 1700 block of Central Avenue in Kansas City, Kansas. Police found a male victim and had him taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

1.11.10: Scott Roeder goes on trial today on charges of killing Kansas abortion provider Dr. George Tiller. On numerous occasions, Scott Roeder has confessed to shooting Dr. George Tiller...in fact he has said he has no regrets. In motions filed last week Roeder admitted killing Tiller and said his trial would be a "charade" unless he can argue his actions were necessary to save unborn children. During a final pretrial hearing Friday, Sedgwick County Judge Warren Wilbert again denied use of the so-called "necessity defense." But the judge also said he'll consider the entire defense presentation before deciding whether to tell jurors they may consider a conviction on a lesser offense such as voluntary manslaughter.

1.11.10: Police have identified a man who was shot to death early Saturday morning in Kansas City. 21-year-old Randy Wilson died at a local hospital. He was shot while riding in a car with several other people near Linwood Boulevard and Gillham Plaza, when he was shot.

1.11.10: Kansas City police are investigating the kidnapping of a young girl this morning in a case that involves three separate crime scenes. Authorities are looking for a 14-year-old black female who was last seen around 10'Oclock last night wearing a multi-colored purple sweater and pants. Police say the girl is missing from either Kansas City or Grandview. No word yet on whether an amber alert has been issued.

1.18.10: Two people are reportedly battling critical injuries this morning after a shooting in Kansas City last night. Police say they found a car on the curb near the intersection of 54th and Bellfountain after being called on a report of shots fired. Inside the car, police found a man and a woman in their 20's who had suffered apparent gunshot wounds. Both sustained life-threatening injuries...at last check, the man was in grave condition. Call the TIPS hotline if you know more.

2.1.10: Two people are reportedly battling critical injuries this morning after a shooting in Kansas City last night. Police say they found a car on the curb near the intersection of 54th and Bellfountaine after being called on a report of shots fired. Inside the car, police found a man and a woman in their 20's who had suffered apparent gunshot wounds. Both sustained life-threatening injuries...at last check, the man was in grave condition. Call the TIPS hotline if you know more.

2.15.10: A couple from Mission were the victims of a robbery at gunpoint last night. Mission police say the couple had just gotten out of their car near an apartment in the 51-hundred block of Fox Ridge at about 9-15 last night, when a vehicle with four men inside pulled up. One of the men asked for help, and then another demanded the male victim's backpack, which he turned over. Then, one of the men tried, unsuccessfully, to abduct the female. The victims said all four men were armed with handguns. One of the men hit the male victim with some object, but he was not seriously hurt. The four suspects -- three black men and one white man -- were in an SUV. They took off after taking the backpack.

2.15.10: KCK police are investigating a fatal shooting from last night. KCK police responded to a report of a shooting in the 17-hundred block of Richmond Avenue at about 7-30 last night... when they got there, they found an Hispanic male, possibly in his 20s, dead from an apparent gunshot wound. Police have no suspect information.

2.20.10: A school guard at a local charter school has been cited for impersonating a police officer. A Kansas City police captain went to Hope Academy last week and noticed the security guard - who claimed to be a sworn police officer - had some features that were off, like an odd-shaped badge and leather gear that was different, according to the Star. Police later learned that the man - 40-year-old Jeff Swanson - wasn't a cop, or a licensed security guard. The man apparently used to be cop at the UMKC, but after quitting, he never gave back his badge or uniform.

### **3. GOVERNMENT**

#### **Shanin and Parks**

2.4.10: The Tea Party Movement has taken root in America. But the question now becomes: what really brought this movement about? Was it a genuine concern about this country's deficit? It's spending? Or are many in the Tea Party Movement angered that the country has its' first black president?

3.17.10: Congressman Jerry Moran join Shanin and Parks to discuss the political news out of Washington and take calls from members of the audience.

3.18.10: Congressman Todd Tiahrt joins Shanin and Parks to discuss the political news out of Washington and to take calls from members of the audience.

## **Kansas City's Morning News**

1.1.10: Mayor Mark Funkhouser acknowledges there have been some rough patches recently, but says his vision for 2010 hasn't changed. And Funkhouser says some services haven't gotten enough attention. Earlier this week, the mayor acknowledged a greater focus is needed on clearing snow from residential streets. He says his "city that works" program continues to identify areas that need improving. But, with a projected budget shortfall of at least 60-million dollars this year, he wasn't specific on how the city will improve services.

1.1.10: Did you get a new fishing pole for Christmas? Clay County has a plan for your tree and your fishing. Now thru January 31st you can drop off your non-decorated, fresh cut tree at Little Platte Park Shelter number one. Deputy Director of Parks, Mike Kaullen says the trees will be placed in twelve locations around Smithville Lake. Volunteers will put the trees in the lake the third Saturday of March.

1.4.10: Mayor Mark Funkhouser says the city would normally spend about 2-and-a-half-million-dollars a year for snow removal, but he says the recent snow has cost the city a million dollars alone. Funkhouser hit the streets with a snow plow driver yesterday... and said taking care of basic services like snow removal is one of his biggest budget priorities. Funkhouser said road crews are working as hard as they can, and he said the cold temperatures and snow have been hard on the equipment.

1.4.10: Kansas City mayor Mark Funkhouser wants to explore the possibility of eliminating a revenue source that brings in about 200-million-dollars a year to the city. Organizers have gotten the OK to get signatures on petitions for a state-wide vote eliminating the earnings tax in Kansas City and Saint Louis. Mayor Funkhouser told the star, he supports eliminating the tax if it keeps people and businesses in Kansas City. City budget leaders have told the state auditor - that eliminating the earnings tax without replacing that revenue would make Kansas City "unlivable." Other sources of revenue would have to dramatically increase - for example, court fees would have to go up a thousand percent... property taxes would have to increase 500-percent, and utility taxes would have to triple.

1.11.10: Water rates are going up in Kansas City over the next five years ! How much seems to be a moving target. By most estimates they could double . Kansas City council hoped to have some narrower figures this month, but a lot of the increase will depend on negotiations with the EPA . The city is under a federal mandate for a massive upgrade to it's sewer system. Even Mayor Mark Funkhouser questions the process. Now, water services director Bernardo Garcia says the negotiations could conclude in the next three months. Improvements to the sewer system are expected to cost two point four billion dollars over

20 years.

1.11.10: It's a rough speech to give, but Kansas Governor Mark Parkinson will be forced to give it tonight. Millions in red ink...and nothing to do but institute crippling cuts...or painful tax increases. Ahead of a legislative year that's expected to be light on rhetoric and heavy on bean counting...Governor Mark Parkinson will toe a fine line between two unpopular ways of closing a more than 300 million dollar budget gap. Either forshadowing a cut in vital services...and laying off more teachers. Or asking Kansans to accept a tax hike. The speech begins at 7'Oclock tonight from the Capitol building in Topeka...you can see it live on Kansas Public Television.

2.1.10: Democrats are again looking for one of their own to enter the Kansas race for governor. The only democrat who was left in the race - Herbert West of Paola - plans to officially drop out today. Republican Senator Sam Brownback is in the race. Democratic State Senator Tom Holland of Baldwin City apparently is going to get in the race soon.

2.17.10: Kansas City's regional census office is named as a dark spot in a new report that points out spending problems with the national census. The report says the census bureau has wasted millions of dollars paying temporary workers to attend training - workers who then did little or no work. The report also says that several areas' regional offices - including Kansas City - went over their planned budgets for mileage. Dennis Johnson, the Kansas City regional director of the census bureau, told KMBZ, he's looking into the concern.

3.1.10: Kansas lawmakers are mulling a possible tax hike on liquor. The estimated \$21.8 million it would generate would support programs for the developmentally disabled and mentally ill. Programs for both groups have experienced funding cuts since the state's financial crisis began. The Kansas City Star reported that under the legislation, the existing tax on wholesale alcohol would double, costing Kansans a few more cents for every beer or glass of wine. Opposition is coming from lobbyists for liquor distributors and bars, as well as liquor store owners. They are predicting the bill would hurt sales and prompt Kansans living near the state line to shop in Missouri. The tax increase is one of several that lawmakers are considering to close a \$400 million budget deficit.

3.1.10: We know that democrat Dennis Moore is not running for re-election for his congressional seat... but that might not mean that a "moore" is out of it altogether. It appears that Moore's wife, Stephene, is considering going for the seat. State party chairman Larry Gates confirmed she is "possibly on the list," according to our news partners at channel nine. At a luncheon on Saturday, Moore told fellow democrats to "stay tuned."

3.2.10: Jackson County executive Mike Sanders says conversations with the Kansas City city council about funding for the Truman Sports Complex have been "very fruitful." Mayor Mark Funkhouser has said he wants to yank the city's 2-million-dollar annual subsidy of the complex, at a time when the city has serious budget problems. Sanders said yesterday that he's fairly confident that the county and Kansas City can come to an agreement about continued funding for Arrowhead and Kauffman stadiums, according to the examiner. Sanders says it appears that others on the city council do not share Funkhouser's idea of pulling the funding.

3.16.10: Congressman Emanuel Cleaver is defending his decision to spend 29-hundred taxpayer dollars a month on a vehicle. Politico-dot-com noted that it appears Cleaver spend more on vehicle rental in 2009 than any other House member... Cleavers's office told the Star, he says the vehicle is a retrofitted van that serves as a mobile office, and isn't a car. Cleaver said the mobile office is wheelchair accessible and has internet access, and allows him to reach constituents better. He said he does not lease a personal car. A spokesman for Cleaver says the van was retrofitted to run on grease, which is built into the lease payments, so the 29-hundred dollar a month figure might be misleading. Leslie Paige of Citizens Against Government Waste says 29-hundred bucks a month is "ridiculous."

## **4. EDUCATION**

### **Kansas City's Morning News**

1.4.10: It's an experiment that could provide some interesting insight into how to improve the learning environment for students. Next year, Leaders in the Columbia, Missouri school district will form same-sex classes...two apiece for fourth and fifth graders at a pair of local elementary schools. Those will then be matched against mixed-gender classes throughout the school year. Leaders hope to discover how single-sex classes effect learning. The practice has been used in Columbia since 2006, but not so closely studied.

1.5.10: It's a bill that would allow for open enrollment in Missouri's public schools!! Some legislators though are skeptical it would be a good idea. Senate Minority Leader Vic Callahan -- of Independence -- says when students jump from district to district... the property tax money follows. Senator Rob Mayer -- a Dexter republican -- proposed the legislation. He says parents would be more involved and it would also improve academic performance.

1.11.10: Even though he isn't running this election cycle... one Kansas City Missouri School Board members is pushing for the public to meet the candidates!! Airick Leonard West was elected two years ago and is organizing public forums... meet and greets... and debates prior to the April election. He says when he ran... very few voters had the opportunity to meet him. This is the first time in 10 years that every open seat is being contested. Candidates wanting to unseat incumbents were waiting outside the Kansas City District Office at 5 in the morning on the first day for filing.

2.1.10: Missouri's higher education commissioner has warned that some of the state's colleges could be forced to make painful cuts once the two-year safety tap of federal stimulus money runs dry. Robert Stein said in a letter to campus chancellors and presidents that unless the state's economy quickly recovers, there will be a reckoning, The Kansas City Star reported. Stein said that to bridge the coming revenue gaps, some schools could become branches of larger ones, while others could close or be forced to go private. He also said class sizes could increase and

athletic programs could be cut. Another possibility is that schools would be required to share academic programs and services.

2.3.10: Is it cheaper for a school district to outsource support staff services like custodians or security officers? The KCK school district is considering that question. In a special budget meeting yesterday, the board decided to look more closely at a proposal to let private companies bid on jobs like bus drivers, cafeteria workers, or custodians, according to the Star. The board got preliminary information that showed outsourcing some services could save millions of dollars. The district lost more than 21-million-dollars in revenue last year, and expects to lose more money this year.

2.9.10: Kansas City, Kansas Community College has finished the purchase of a shopping center to help house some of its training facilities. The Star reports, the college bought the property at 65th and State Avenue that was vacated by Wal-Mart last fall. The school has also approved buying property at 67th and state... and the college plans to consolidate its vocational and technical training facilities into those two sites.

2.15.10: A group of Kansas City parents is organizing to express their unhappiness with Superintendent Covington's decision. The group is gathering today to announce their "discomfort" with Covington's plans to close "African-centered schools" along with other area schools. The parents and community activists plan to respond to Covington's plans later this morning.

2.15.10: When it comes to school dress-codes, it's not only students who have to adhere to certain standards -- so do the teachers. In Independence, the issue asserted itself recently with a teacher grievance based on different standards in all the various school buildings. Independence NEA president Christopher Egan says, basically, elementary teachers noticed that their dress-codes were more restrictive than those for middle- and high school teachers. The administration turned down the grievance, and the school board upheld that decision -- for now leaving the matter of what teachers wear in the hands of the school principals.

2.15.10: While a lot of schools will be OUT for the holiday today... one local school district is making up a snow day today. Raytown Schools were supposed to be out today, but instead, the district will be IN session, making up a day missed because of winter weather. Spokeswoman Cathy Allie says the change lets the district get in more academic time before state testing. She warns that school speed zones WILL be in effect today.

2.16.10: Johnson County school districts are struggling with their budgets, too, and tonight is the first of several meetings to help inform residents about the situation. Shawnee Mission Schools cut 10-million-dollars in the budget for the 2008-2009 school year... and are looking at more cuts if state funding losses continue. Tonight there's an informational meeting at 7 p-m at Shawnee Mission East. Blue Valley will have a forum on THURSDAY night. Blue Valley is looking at ways to cut its budget for the coming school year... in January, superintendent Tom Trigg said the district was more than 6-million-dollars in the red going into the fall.

2.17.10: A Kansas City school board member says the fighting between the board and the superintendent - that prevented the district from closing schools when it needed to - has ended. Last night was the first of a series of public meetings on Kansas City schools superintendent John Covington's plan to close half of the schools in the district. Airick Leonard West tells Kansas City's Morning News, the board has given the superintendent the power to manage the district. He doesn't know whether the full board supports Covington's plan. West says last night's first public meeting was filled with energy, with the public presenting new ideas based on their interpretation of the data used to decide which schools should close.

3.1.10: The finances of the Kansas City, Missouri school district are about to go under a microscope. Missouri Auditor Susan Montee said at a news conference yesterday - she started an audit of the school district on Wednesday. The audit will look at the district's numbers for two years ending this June. We knew this coming. Montee said in September that she would audit the district when she was done with the audit of the city of Saint Louis. She said that work is almost done. The audit comes as the school board prepares to vote on the closing of around half of the schools in the district.

3.9.10: Kansas City, Kansas school leaders continue to look at how to close a more than 14-million-dollar budget gap... but it will NOT be through outsourcing. The district had been considering outsourcing non-teaching positions. But at a public meeting last night, assistant superintendent Cindy Lane told a crowd, outsourcing would have no impact on next year's budget, according to the Kansas City Kansan. Outsourcing is still a possibility for the future.

## **5. MINORITIES**

### **Kansas City's Morning News**

1.5.10: A report about an increase in hate crimes in Kansas City may not tell the whole story! Initially the findings were that through October 2009, the number of bias crimes reported more than tripled those in all of 2008. Sergeant Loretta Morton says though, a new software program is now being used, as opposed to earlier when all such reports were handled manually. The initial reports indicate more white people than black were victimized in 2009. The incidents included assaults, damaged property and harassment.

1.12.10: Federal tax dollars are going to help Hispanic students in Kansas City. Yesterday Congressman Emanuel Cleaver announced the federal earmarks. 250-thousand-dollars will go to a Latino youth crime prevention program through the Mattie Rhodes center... and another 200-grand will go to the Guadalupe Center's culinary arts program.

2.2.10: Yesterday Kansas City got a "sneak peek" at a new postage stamp ! The new offering honoring black filmmaker Oscar Micheaux. The stamp was unveiled at city hall. Councilwoman

Melba Curls says she thinks such events can put black history in the spotlight. February is black history month. The Oscar Micheaux stamp will be issued next June.

2.19.10: The Hispanic community here in Kansas City is asserting its right to be heard in the school closing debate. A group called the Coalition of Hispanic Organizations hopes administrators try to serve ALL interests evenhandedly. Coho president Christina Esteban says that would mean a fair-shake for schools on the West Side. Esteban says Latinos currently represent about a quarter of the student population in the district. That part of the population has continued to grow, while the overall numbers have declined. So far, Coho is not suggesting specific action with regard to any individual schools.

## 6. YOUTH

### **Kansas City's Morning News**

2.1.10: A specific type of refund from the state to school districts saw a major spike and from one local district in particular!! The Shawnee Mission School district claimed 3-hundred-34 "catastrophic aid" payments after not claiming any the year before. That means the state reimbursed the district about 3-million dollars. Shawnee Mission Budget Director Tim Rooney says they understand that some other districts weren't too happy about it. But it wasn't against the rules according to one deputy education commissioner. The "catastrophic aid" claim is for special education needs. Rooney says even though they were refunded about 3-million from the state they are still underfunded by 6-million.

2.2.10: Kansas City police are looking into a report of a rape at the Kansas City boys and girls club. According to our news partners at Channel 9, a 15-year-old girl said she was attacked by an 18-year-old man who was also a member of the club, which is in the 38-hundred block of East 43rd street. The man has been taken into custody. Police were called to the club last Thursday.

2.2.10: An Overland Park youth minister is accused of having an inappropriate relationship with a 14-year-old girl. 45-year-old Wayne Huston was recently let go from Holy Cross Lutheran Church. He's been charged with taking indecent liberties with a child. Police said the alleged incidents happened at the girl's house and the man's house, but not at the church. The girl's mother reportedly found inappropriate text messages on her daughter's cell phone.

2.17.10: Harrisonville Police say a vandalism investigation is underway in their city ! A 14 year old boy was taken into custody in connection with an incident that occurred January 23rd. Six cars were damage when rocks were thrown from an overpass above 71 Highway. No one was hurt, and police Lieutenant Wayne Schramel says several others teenagers have been linked to that crime and others. Schramel says it's likely if the suspect in the overpass incident were an adult, he'd be charged with a felony. Juvenile authorities are handling the case.

## 7. DRUGS

### Kansas City's Morning News

1.4.10: A New York City-funded guidebook for heroin users offers information on how to prepare drugs carefully and care for veins to avoid infection. The state's top official with the Drug Enforcement Administration calls the "Take Charge Take Care" guide a "step-by-step instruction on how to inject a poison." DEA special agent-in-charge John Gilbride says the handout is disturbing. The city's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene printed about 70,000 copies. A health official says the goal is to promote health and save lives. Assistant Commissioner Daliah Heller says instructions on how to perform injections were included because there's "a less harmful way to inject." The illustrated guidebook offers information on HIV testing and the dangers of sharing needles.

1.5.10: A KCK man has admitted to stealing more than a hundred pounds of a key ingredient in meth. 42-year-old James Robert Everson pleaded guilty to multiple charges yesterday, including drug conspiracy, kidnapping, and robbery, according to the Star. Everson hid in a pharmaceutical plant where he worked for two days before the robbery.... on the day of the robbery, during the super bowl, he captured a security guard and put a drum of pseudoephedrine powder into a waiting truck. Everson faces at least 17 years in prison.

1.12.10: It's sold under names like "blonde" and "citron" and an Olathe state representative wants to get it out of Kansas ! Rob Olson, has introduced a house bill to ban the herbal smoking blend, "K 2." It's sold in Lawrence and is available on the Internet. Olson says though, he doesn't want users to go to jail. He says he's convinced "K 2" is dangerous. It has a synthetic compound that mimics marijuana. The blend has become popular with some Johnson County teens.

1.12.10: Governor Mark Parkinson wants to raise taxes on tobacco, but the house majority leader says that's not the way to go ! Ray Merrick of Stillwell, says such a move would simply mean smokers would cross state lines, and Kansas would lose revenue. Merrick also says it's a diminishing return. He says the number of smokers is declining, and taxes will fall accordingly. He says if the governor really wants to increase revenue, he should think about big cuts in state government.

1.13.10: Federal troops in Mexico have captured one of the country's most brutal drug lords. Teodoro Garcia Simental was arrested at a seaside vacation home near the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula. Officials say his gang had been bringing in plane loads of drugs to smuggle across the U.S. border.

## **8. WOMEN**

### **Shanin and Parks**

3.2.10: Congressman Dennis Moore has announced that he is retiring at the end of this term. Now comes word that his wife, Stephen Moore, may run for his seat in Kansas' 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District.

### **Kansas City's Morning News**

1.1.10: Investigators continue to sort out what happened to a woman whose body was found in her car outside Shawnee Mission Medical Center this week, but we are learning more details. Two people have been charged with using Angela Hook's credit card on December 7th, two days after her family last saw her. 41-year-old Jeffrey Bendure and 39-year-old Lisa Smith are both being held on 100-thousand-dollar bonds, according to the Star. Police are still looking for 60-year-old Aresteen "Butch" Young Junior, in connection to the case. Police say an autopsy showed no signs of trauma.

2.1.10: As the search for the "Waldo Rapist" continues, yesterday some 100 residents heard tips on safety! Calvary Lutheran School hosted the first of several neighborhood meetings scheduled for this week. One of the presenters was Allison Jones-Lockwood of the anti violence group MOCSA. She says listening to your "inner voice" is the first step toward self protection. Recently two women were raped in the Waldo district, and two others were assaulted last fall. Yesterday, Kansas City police told those attending the meeting, that lights are one of the best deterrents against criminals. Police say they will provide a security survey of your home free of charge.

2.16.10: Women seeking abortions in Missouri would have to receive information about the fetus and wait 24 hours for the procedure under a bill in the state Senate. Republican Sen. Rob Mayer of Dexter is the sponsor. Mayer told the Senate Judiciary Committee on Monday the information would help persuade women seeking abortions to choose other options. A spokesperson for Planned Parenthood called the waiting period an unfair burden and said much of the information is already available. The bill would require that women be given information on emotional and physical risks of abortion and on fetal pain at least 24 hours before the procedure. They would also have to be given the choice of seeing an ultrasound and hearing the fetal heartbeat.

2.19.10: Waldo-Brookside residents rallied last evening in support of police efforts to track down the Waldo rapist. A walking prayer vigil was held in the district, and one feature of the activity was a collection intended to enhance the reward fund. Another objective of the vigil was

to urge participants to collectively channel any feelings of rage or hostility into more positive and productive responses, such as getting people to be better acquainted with their neighbors.

## **9. HEALTH**

### **Kansas City's Morning News**

1.1.10: The University of Kansas Medical Center says steps have been taken to correct problems found with the hospital's violation of animal protection laws. The U-S Department of Agriculture came up with 160 violations of federal animal protection laws, during an inspection, according to the star. The violations occurred in labs from August of 2008 to June of 2009. USDA inspectors said animals were left to suffer in pain after getting illnesses, without proper care... also, that experimenters did not look at alternatives to using animals in experiments. Marcia Nelson, vice chancellor for public affairs, acknowledges that there were problems, but she tells the star that she does not think that "having this kind of report is acceptable."

1.1.10: Swine flu has claimed the life of a 25th person in Kansas. State health officials announced the death of the 40-year-old Wichita area man. The Department of Health and Environment says the man had an underlying health condition that made him vulnerable to complications from the virus.

2.16.10: A \$9 million federal grant will help Kansas improve the exchange of health records. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced the grant to the Kansas Health Information Exchange Project last week. The project is designed to help achieve a national goal of every American having an electronic health record by 2014. Gov. Mark Parkinson called the grant "great news for Kansas." Parkinson says the money will help create opportunities for new jobs, technological advances and an overall reduction in health care costs.

2.18.10: If you live in Platte County, you're in the healthiest area in the state. New rankings from the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation listed Platte County as the healthiest county in Missouri. The rankings are based on factors like the rate of people dying before age 75, how much people say they're in poor mental or physical health, and the percent of people who report being in poor or fair health. As far as Kansas -- Johnson County was the highest local county, ranked third.

2.18.10: Travelers are often at a higher risk for contracting and spreading the flu... and to that end... an H1N1 vaccination clinic will be set up at KCI today. Kansas City Health Department Director Rex Archer says H1N1 is still present in the community, even though the number of cases has fallen, both nationally and locally. The clinic will be set up in all three terminals at KCI, from 8 a-m to 11 a-m, on a first-come, first-serve basis. It's free and will be available to anyone age six months and older.

3.8.10: With the fate of his signature legislative initiative far from certain, President Barack Obama is taking his last-ditch push for health care reform on the road. In a speech today in Philadelphia, Obama will try to persuade the public to back his plan to remake the nation's health care system, while also urging uneasy lawmakers to cast a "final vote" for a massive reform bill in an election year. Obama's pitch in Philadelphia, along with a stop in St. Louis Wednesday, comes as the president begins an all-out effort to pass his health care proposals. Though his plan has received only modest public support, Obama has implored lawmakers to show political courage and not let a historic opportunity slip away. Despite staunch Republican opposition, Democratic leaders are cautiously optimistic they can pass a bill without GOP votes.

## **10. CHARITY**

### **Kansas City's Morning News**

1.6.10: Snow or no snow... the Salvation Army is out trying to help those who have no shelter during these deadly temperatures!! Director of Disaster Services... Dee Smith... says they will encourage the homeless to go to shelters and will even provide transportation. But if they refuse... volunteers will be able to help them in other ways. Anyone wanting to donate items to the Salvation Army is asked to take them to their Broadway offices between 8 and 4:30 Monday through Friday.

1.11.10: Big Brothers, Big Sisters is putting out an appeal for help. January is national mentoring month... and Big Brothers, Big Sisters of America is helping to lead up the mentoring effort. The Kansas City chapter is one of 400 agencies that help a total of 225-thousand children succeed, according to NBC Action News.

1.11.10: Did you catch Extreme Makeover: Home Edition last night? If you did, you saw a familiar face? American Idol champion and Blue Springs native David Cook, who was a celebrity volunteer on last night's episode. He said it was a great experience. Cook helped to build a new home for an Indiana family whose daughter is battling a blood disease... the family's old home was infested with mold.

1.13.10: The Community Blood Center is feeling the impact of the bad weather. Spokesman Stann Tate says blood supplies are at critically low levels because fewer people donated during the snow storms and frigid temperatures. He warns people shouldn't take the blood supply for granted. They're asking people to make donations as soon as possible. Tate says the whole process takes less than an hour and all the blood stays in the Kansas City area. For more information, log onto [save a life now dot org](http://savealife.org).

2.2.10: At a time when City Union Mission is SUPER busy, it's good to hear that the group has met its latest fundraising goal. City Union Mission collected more than 3-and-a-half-million-dollars to help people who are poor, hungry, and homeless. The money goes to provide food, shelter, medical services, clothing, and job-placement help to people who need it.