

PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

(Published in the Montgomery County Chronicle on Thursday, March 26, April 2 and 9, 2026)

(Published in the Montgomery County Chronicle on Thursday, March 19, 26 and April 2, 2026)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, KANSAS
CIVIL DEPARTMENT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, KAN., SITTING AT
INDEPENDENCE

PNC Bank, National Association (Plaintiff)
vs.
Ryan Modich; Unknown Spouse, if any, of Ryan Modich; John Doe (Tenant/Occupant); Mary Doe (Tenant/Occupant). (Defendants)
Case No. MGI-2025-CV-000105
Court Number:
Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60

Christopher Hastings. (Plaintiff)
vs.
Milton J. Chouinard, Beverly J. Chouinard and Marie B. Smith (Defendants)
Case No. MGI 2026-CV-000015

NOTICE OF SALE

Under and by virtue of an Order of Sale issued to me by the Clerk of the District Court of Montgomery County, Kansas, the undersigned Sheriff of Montgomery County, Kansas, will offer for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand, at the South door of the Judicial Center of the Court-house at Independence Montgomery County, Kansas, on April 16, 2026, at 2:00 PM, the following real estate:
Lot 4, Estelle Taylor addition, a subdivision of Lot 5, Block 1, Highland Park Addition, to the City of Independence, Montgomery County, Kansas, commonly known as 133 Taylor Rd, Independence, KS 67301 (the "Property")
to satisfy the judgment in the above-entitled case. The sale is to be made without appraisal and subject to the redemption period as provided by law, and further subject to the approval of the Court. For more information, visit www.Southlaw.com.

Ron Wade, Sheriff
Montgomery County, Kansas

Prepared By:
SouthLaw, P.C.
Blair T. Gisi (KS #24096)
13160 Foster, Suite 100
Overland Park, KS 66213-2660
(913) 663-7800
(913) 663-7899 (Fax)
Attorneys for Plaintiff
(255697)

NOTICE OF SUIT

TO: Milton J. Chouinard and Beverly J. Chouinard, deceased, their unknown executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, and assigns of the defendants as may be deceased; the unknown spouses of the defendants; the unknown officers, successors, trustees, creditors, and assigns of such defendants as are existing, dissolved, or dormant corporations; the unknown executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors, and assigns of such defendants as are or were partners or in partnership; and the unknown guardians and trustees of such defendants as are minors or are in anywise under legal disability; and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, and assigns of persons executed to be deceased, and all other persons concerned:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the Montgomery County District Court sitting in Independence, Kansas by plaintiff Christopher Hastings seeking quiet title to the following described real estate:
E/2 of Lots 6 and 7, and E/2 S/2 of Lot 8, all in Block 35, Original City of Independence, Montgomery County, Kansas (Commonly known as 512 W. Myrtle, Independence, Kansas)

You are required to file your answer or personally appear on or before 9:00 o'clock a.m. on May 18, 2026, in the Montgomery County District Court, sitting in Independence, Kansas. Should you fail therein, judgment will be entered in due course upon the petition.

Christopher Hastings, Plaintiff

Jeffrey A Chubb (#9915)
EMERT CHUBB, LLC
204 E. Laurel - P. O. Box 747
Independence, KS 67301
(620) 331-1800; (620) 331-1807-fax
jchubb@sehcc-law.com
331 Attorneys for Plaintiff

Former local attorney to retire as judge

LAWRENCE, Kan. — A former Montgomery County prosecuting attorney will end nearly five decades in the legal profession in April.

Sally Davis Pokorny, who has served as a district judge in Douglas County for the past 17 years, will officially step down from the bench on April 10, and a reception will be held in honor of her service at the Douglas County Courthouse.

Pokorny is a former Independence resident and served as Montgomery County Attorney before moving to Lawrence where she eventually became a district judge.

Judge Pokorny began her legal career nearly 50 years ago, serving as both a defense attorney and a prosecutor be-

fore being appointed to the District Court by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and taking the bench in 2009.

"I have been fortunate to spend my career in service to the law and to the people of Kansas," Judge Pokorny said. "Serving as a district court judge has been of the greatest honor of my professional life, and I am especially proud of the relationships built with colleagues, attorneys, and those I was privileged to mentor along the way."



Sally Pokorny

Pokorny graduated magna cum laude from Washburn University (1975) and received her Juris Doctorate with Dean's Honors at Washburn School of Law (1978).

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Pokorny practiced law for more than 30 years in both public service and private practice.

After moving to Montgomery County to Douglas County, Judge Pokorny was of counsel in the Law Offices of David J. Brown.

Judge Pokorny is the mother of two sons, Brian and Mike.

Riverside Park buildings targeted for new roofs

INDEPENDENCE — Several historic structures in Riverside Park will receive new roofs in 2026, Independence city commissioners learned at their March 26 meeting.

Scott Patton, park and zoo director, said the Stich Shelter House, which was built in 1917, is in dire need of a new roof, as the existing terracotta tiles are falling Ito disrepair due to being more than a century old.

The roof has incurred extensive damage due to recent weather and has deteriorated beyond the point of simple repair, with a number of tiles cracked and crumbling, while several ongoing leaks have been observed in the building, Patton said.

Among the other structures that are targeted for new roofs is the Park Office, which was known as the Garden House. The structure, built in the

1930s as a shower house for the segregated tennis courts, has retained its original roof, consisting of asbestos shingles. Both buildings are listed on the local Register of Historic Places by the Independence Historic Preservation and Resource Committee.

The committee recommended that replacement materials closely match the original materials to best preserve the historic character of each build-

ing. Therefore, flat slab clay tiles in a terracotta red were chosen for the shelter house and pewter gray diamond-cut shingles were chosen for the park office.

H&H Roofing, LLC provided the lowest bid for the project: \$166,758.28.

Funding for the project was approved in the 2026 budget.

Watco announces leadership in top positions

PITTSBURG — Effective with the start of the 2026 calendar year, Watco is under the leadership of several veteran executive officers

who have assumed additional roles.

Dan Smith, who currently serves as chief executive officer, has assumed the ad-

ditional responsibilities of executive chairman of Watco's board of directors while continuing in his role as CEO. Smith joined Watco in 2009

and became CEO in 2018.

Additional leadership transitions include that of Rick Baden, who previously served as executive vice president and chief financial officer and has now assumed the role of executive vice president and vice chairman of the Watco board of directors.

An Independence native, Baden has been with Watco since 2004.

Andy Nielsen, formerly executive vice president and chief accounting officer, transitions to executive vice president and chief financial officer. In his new capacity, Nielsen is responsible for overseeing Watco's finance, treasury, capital allocation, and investor relations functions. Nielsen joined Watco in 2015.

Rachael Peterson remains executive vice president and chief business officer, continuing to lead Watco operations, safety, marketing and communications, and people services.

Nick Coomes remains executive vice president and chief solutions officer, con-

tinuing to lead sales and customer solutions, project design and engineering, real estate and industrial development, and information technology.

Peterson joined Watco in 2006, and Coomes joined in 2014.

Rick Webb, former longtime Watco Chairman of the Board, said he was "excited about our continued success, with Dan and his leadership team at the helm."

"Our Watco Team continues to perform at a high level, delivering historic value creation for our customers, team members, and stakeholders," he said. "These leadership changes confirm my belief that we have the best team we have ever had and the best team in the industry."

Based in Pittsburg, Watco is a global leader in short-rail logistics and railcar repair. It is the parent company of 48 individual rail units, including the South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad.



Dan Smith



Rick Baden



Andy Nielsen



Coming This Spring...

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Chronicle

Cherryvale's Cherry Blossom Festival

On May 14, we will run a page for the Cherry Blossom Festival that features all the activities planned for the celebration. The schedule will have signature ads under it for \$15 each.

Mother's Day Promotion - May 7

Our Mother's Day promotion will print in our Labette Avenue and the Montgomery County Chronicle on May 7, 2026. The ads will be grouped together under a Mother's Day heading. Advertisers have the option of running their Mother's Day ad the week before on April 30 for half price. The deadline on this promotion is April 24.

Graduation Editions

We will again publish pictures of all the Cherryvale and Caney Valley High School Seniors in our Graduation Editions. Cherryvale's seniors will publish on May 7 this year. Caney's seniors will publish on May 14. Under each seniors name, we have a business sponsor. The pricing for that will be \$25 each. If you have a special senior you want to sponsor, CALL US NOW!

We will also do a signature pages for Coffeyville's graduating class on May 14 & Independence on May 14 for \$15 each.

Caney's Mayfest

On May 21, we will run a page for the Caney Mayfest and a schedule of the planned activities. Under the schedule, we will have signature ads for \$15 each.

For more information, contact Emalee Mikel, Taylor Newspaper Advertising Director, at 1-800-592-7606 or adv@taylornews.org

ICC holds ham radio course for beginners

INDEPENDENCE — Independence Community College, in partnership with Independence Amateur Radio Club (IARC), will host a Ham Radio Technician-level class June 9-12, offering community members the opportunity to gain hands-on knowledge in amateur radio communication and earn their entry-level license.

The four-day course will take place from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. each evening in Academic Building, Room 200 (AC 200) and is open to the public. Class size is limited to 15 participants, and all required books and materials will be provided through IARC.

Amateur, or "ham," radio offers a unique and reliable form of communication that operates independently of internet and cellular networks. Participants will learn how to connect with others around the world, explore technical aspects of radio operation, and develop valuable communication skills.

Beyond its recreational appeal, ham radio can play a critical role during emergencies and natural disasters when traditional communication systems fail. Licensed operators often assist with emergency response efforts.

"This class is a great opportunity for anyone interested in learning a new skill, connecting with others, and being prepared to communicate when it matters most," said Alfred Crawshaw, session coordinator. "Ham radio continues to be a valuable tool for both hobbyists and emergency responders alike."

Those interested in enrolling or learning more about the class can contact Independence Amateur Radio Club at www.n0id.org/contact-us

Register at https://indycc.formstack.com/forms/ama-teur_radio_technician
Spots are limited, and early registration is encouraged.

Aluminum Cast Copper Brass Lead Steel Radiators	Heymann Iron & Metal Co.
We Pay Current Market Prices	
Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30 Saturday 8:00-Noon	
We Sell New Steel Credit/Debit Accepted	
1216 Beech PO Box 1251 Coffeyville, KS 67337 620-251-2140	