

Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce join guest list for Big Slick Celebrity Weekend

BY LISA GUTIERREZ
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This is in no way shade or disrespect to the many celebrities who come to Kansas City every year to raise money for Children’s Mercy during Big Slick Celebrity Weekend.

But there are two stars in particular who tend to draw the wildest cheers from the KC crowds: Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes and his football BFF, tight end Travis Kelce.

So the good news for their fans today is that both are on the guest list for this year’s event.

The two-day event takes place May 30-31. The annual weekend raises money for pediatric cancer research at Children’s Mercy Kansas City.

Organizers on Wednesday announced two other guests from the sports world: Longtime FOX NFL Sunday host Curt Menefee and WWE star now Food Network chef Tom Pestock (previously known as Baron Corbin), a Kansas City native. Both are Big Slick veterans.

At previous Big Slicks, Mahomes and Kelce have created some of the event’s most memorable moments.

They’ve smashed home runs in the celebrity softball game at Kauffman Stadium, helped auction off big-ticket Chiefs gear and pumped up the party crowd at T-Mobile Center (formerly Sprint Center) by their very presence.



REED HOFFMANN Special to the Star

Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, left, and quarterback Patrick Mahomes were shocked last year that the winning bid of an NFL package reached \$250,000 during the Big Slick Party & Show at T-Mobile Center.

In his first appearance in 2019, Mahomes helped set a fundraising record at the 10th event, auctioning off the biggest money-maker at the party.

“Where are my Chiefs fans at?” he asked the crowd as he launched bidding on a barbecue and whiskey dinner for eight, with him and other teammates including Kelce, Dustin Colquitt and Eric Fisher.

Then Chiefs owner Clark Hunt hopped on stage to say he’d attend as well.

Then they threw in the custom jacket Big Slick co-host Paul Rudd had worn months earlier when he got to announce that Mahomes had won NFL MVP, a jacket with “Mahomes 15” on the back. Mahomes autographed it for the winning bidder.

At the show in 2023, hulking he-man Kelce proved to be a big baby

when it comes to hot wings, his face turning crimson after he tasted KC-made sauce Da’ Bomb Beyond Insanity during a trivia game, leading someone to yell: “Travis, those sunglasses don’t hide the tears.”

Laughs are always plentiful at Big Slick, thanks to guest lists heavy on fun and funny entertainers.

On Monday, organizers announced that “Saturday Night Live” veteran Kenan Thompson will make his debut this year.

Comedian Adam Ray, who impersonates Dr. Phil McGraw in the Netflix comedy special “Dr. Phil Unleashed,” is another first-timer.

Thompson’s “SNL” castmate Heidi Gardner, Rudd, Rob Riggle, Jason Sudeikis, David Koechner and Eric Stonestreet — the hosts of the event — bring celebrity friends and colleagues from TV and

Hollywood with them, many of whom are regulars now.

This year’s guest list so far also includes mostly familiar faces:

- **David Cook**, Blue Springs native, singer, returning guest
- **Fortune Feimster**, comedian, returning guest
- **Anthony Hill**, KC native, actor, “Grey’s Anatomy,” returning guest
- **Johnny Knoxville**, actor, stunt man, returning guest
- **Kevin Pollak**, actor, comedian, “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel,” returning guest
- **Sarah Tiana**, comedian, writer, returning guest

As always, this year’s event involves two core events:

The **Big Slick Celebrity Classic Softball Game** will take place on the main field at Kauffman Stadium on Friday, May 30, before the Royals play the Detroit Tigers. Everyone with a Royals ticket can watch the softball game, which begins at 5 p.m.

The **Big Slick Party & Show**, the weekend’s main event, is Saturday, May 31, at T-Mobile Center. The raucous event includes musical performances, skits and an auction for big-ticket items.

Tickets, starting at \$75, are available at bigslickkc.org or T-MobileCenter.com.

Since its first year in 2010 as a celebrity poker tournament and party, Big Slick has raised more than \$25 million for the hospital and children it serves.

The guest list will be rolled out daily this week on Big Slick’s social media channels and its website, bigslickkc.org.

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CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

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BIRTHDAYS: MAY 16

Britannica

Biographical information from May 16 is from Encyclopaedia Britannica. Explore more at britannica.com.

- Janet Jackson**, American entertainer (b. 1966).
- Pierce Brosnan**, Irish American actor (b. 1953).
- Liberace**, American pianist (b. 1919).
- Henry Fonda**, American actor (b. 1905).

Case against teen charged in killing of KC Irish chef to remain in juvenile court

BY NATHAN PILLING
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A 15-year-old charged with murder in the fatal shooting of well-known Kansas City chef Shaun Brady last year won’t face prosecution as an adult, a Jackson County judge ruled.

During a Wednesday hearing, Jackson County Family Court Administrative Judge Jennifer Phillips announced she had denied a request to send the case against the youth — identified in court by his initials, K.H. — out of family court, where juvenile cases are prosecuted, to the general court system.

She also ordered K.H. remain in secure detention and set the trial for Sept. 23 and 24.

The decision came following two days of testimony before Phillips during which she heard cases from attorneys representing the youth and the Office of the Juvenile Officer.

An attorney for K.H. highlighted through testimony the youth’s turbu-

lent childhood, which was marked by violence, family strife and a cancer diagnosis, while an attorney for the Office of the Juvenile Officer pointed to the serious nature of the shooting.

K.H. is charged with counts of second-degree murder, attempted stealing of a vehicle and armed criminal action.

Brady, 44, was fatally shot Aug. 28 during a confrontation with a group while he was taking out the trash at Brady & Fox, the Irish restaurant he co-owned in Kansas City’s Brookside neighborhood.

K.H. and another teen were arrested shortly after the shooting. In December, charges were dropped against the other youth, who has been identified as L.M., and he was released after he spent three months in juvenile custody. At the time, an attorney for that youth said officials had rushed to hold someone accountable for the shooting and had mistakenly charged L.M.

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KC might build a temporary ‘trailer jail’ to address city’s crime concerns

BY MIKE HENDRICKS
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Kansas City’s new jail hasn’t been designed yet, much less built. But while its opening date remains a couple of years away at least, crime marches on.

So city officials are making plans to possibly open a temporary facility to house people arrested on misdemeanor charges that could be in operation by this fall.

The temporary facility would mean the city would no longer need to transport people to leased jail space in other counties many miles away from KC.

The City Council is expected to approve a resolution on Thursday instructing the city manager’s office to see what it would take to build a temporary jail, possibly adjacent to the city tow lot or some other city-owned property.

Models for the project are the two temporary “trailer jails” that Greene County operated in Springfield, Missouri, while a permanent structure was being planned and built there several years ago.

A company east of there, in nearby Seymour, Missouri, called All-Detainment Solutions constructed that first temporary jail out of four, 53-foot tractor trailers, which were “fused together to make one large and secure building,” the company says.

The second one was much larger, with 12 trailers connected at a cost of \$6.3 million for two years, according to news reports at the time.

MAYOR SUGGESTS FIELD TRIP

Mayor Quinton Lucas suggested at Tuesday’s meeting of the City Council’s finance committee that Kansas City officials take a four-hour drive to Norwood, Missouri, so they can have a look at the modular units Greene County leased from the company that are now in storage.

“These gentlemen are ... for lack of a better term, kind of in the FEMA trailer business,” Lucas said, using the acronym for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“I think they’re folks that can build quick prefab facilities, adding the amount of security that we

might need in connection with it. They seem pretty ready.”

If the city decides to move forward with a temporary jail, it could be operational within two to three months after electrical, water and sewage utilities are made ready for connection, Deputy City Manager Kimiko Black Gilmore said.

That means the city would need to start work on recruiting corrections officers soon to possibly double or triple the current staff of 13, she said.

“I think it’s very quick, so we’re going to have to start doing that right now,” she said.

The city doesn’t know what the cost of a temporary jail would be. Greene County agreed in 2017 to pay \$900,000 a year for use of a 108-bed modular jail.

POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCE

But whatever the cost, the city has a source of cash to make the lease payments: \$14 million that is yet to be spent on the \$16 million project approved last fall to build holding cells on the top floor of Police Headquarters, Finance

Director Tammy Queen said.

She said only a couple of million of dollars has been spent on design work for reopening that holding area that was obsolete when it closed several years ago.

A temporary jail could be operational long before the headquarters project would be finished, which would be after next year’s World Cup.

“I think we need to have the capacity that we need for the World Cup,” Councilman Crispin Rea said. “And as voters made very, very clear in the approval of the public safety sales tax, this is an issue that is an immediate concern and a major concern.”

Some of the money to operate the temporary jail could come from the amounts the city now pays Vernon and Johnson counties to house detainees.

The resolution introduced by Councilman Wes Rogers got unanimous support from the council’s finance committee on Tuesday and has the backing of business groups who say a jail is needed to address what they claim is rampant theft and disorder that make their customers and employees

feel unsafe.

“As everyone has seen in the news, we have a serious crime problem,” Rogers said. “We don’t have a great short-term solution for a detention facility. And so what this resolution does is gives the city manager 30 days to evaluate a modular jail that we can put together pretty quickly and pretty cost effectively.”

INMATES FARMED OUT

Kansas City closed its jail in 2009 and since then has been contracting with other local governments to house people detained on municipal charges that aren’t so serious that they are charged with felonies and can be held at the jails operated by Jackson, Clay and Platte counties.

For several years city people were housed in a building known as the Regional Correctional Center, adjacent to the Jackson County Detention Center in downtown Kansas City. But after that arrangement ended, the city has been contracting with two Missouri sheriff’s departments. Women arrested on municipal charges are shipped to the jail in Warrensburg and men are transported to the jail in Nevada.

But that arrangement has been costly and inconvenient. And due to a lack of space, many people arrested on city charges are soon released to await

trial after being booked.

City officials say the situation has contributed to an increase in vandalism, theft and other crime.

To address the problem, Kansas City voters recently approved the renewal of a public safety sales tax on the promise that a large chunk of the money would go to build a \$200 million city jail next to the new Jackson County Detention Center at 7000 E. U.S. Highway 40.

A temporary jail would most likely not be feasible on that site, Gilmore said, because it might interfere with the construction work now underway. The new county jail is set to open a year from now.

But the city owns many acres within the city limits where a modular jail could fit and not be in conflict with the surrounding neighborhood. Lucas said one option is near the city tow lot at 7750 E. Front St.

“For example, the tow lot area is a place where we have lots of land and we don’t have as many neighbors,” Lucas said. It is surrounded by dozens of acres of city-owned land east of Riverfront Park.

But other sites could be considered.

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