

Over the Years

music and other aspects of culture, but also with our hair. How many of these different styles have you worn?

razor. By the end of this fad, people had faces, names and designs in their hair and eyebrows. Rapper Big Daddy Kane kept his crispy fresh with a barber on staff.

Waves: The 1980s (#5)

Waves reached their peak in the '80s. The effect was achieved from grease, water, a brush and a doo-rag or scarf to lay the hair down in a pattern. If your hair was not naturally curly, Nu Nile or S-Curl was the way to go.

Fingerwaves: The 1980s (#6)

Fingerwaves, such as the ones worn by Keyshia Cole, were actually a reprise of yet another era — the 1920s. This flat, to-your-head style, tended to be hard to the touch. Helmet city!

The Asymmetric: The 1980s (#7)

This hairstyle ruled the late '80s. Salt 'n' Pepa bust out with it in the 'Push It' video, and they pushed it to us in different colors even. Best. Hairstyle. Ever. Oooh baby baby!

The Weave: The 1990s (#8)

Many women sported the classic weave, where extra hair is braided in and not sewn or glued in on tracks. The style mirrored the era's big hair party. "Yes, it's mine — I bought it!"

The Mohawk or Frohawk: The 2000s (#9)

First made popular in the 1980s with punk rockers (and Mr. T), the mohawk (or frohawk) recently made a big comeback on both men and women. Stars like Diddy wear theirs faded to perfection and with just the right touch of S-Curl on top for texture.

The Precision Cut: The 2000s (#10)

When Rihanna decided to change her look, her career went into the stratosphere. This included her hair, which went from blah to short, sassy and razor sharp. Incidentally, an actual razor is sometimes used to achieve that choppy, edgy feel.

Black Hairdressers: Entrepreneurs, Activists, Psychologists

The Beauty industry has long been a source of income for Black men and women. But, more than just a place of business, Black beauty and barber shops have proven a place of for social gathering, activism, and psychological support for their Black patrons.

African American slaves were always there; providing the pampering and grooming services their White owners required. Only the most trusted house slaves were given the jobs as personal attendants to the master; jobs that gave them access to the most personal part of the master's lives. When other slaves were rarely permitted to even look their owner in the eyes, these slaves had what could almost be considered an intimate relationship with their White owners.

Post slavery, free African American men and women still provided these services for White patrons, but White barber and beauty shops began to boom, particularly during the depression when everyone needed a job. But the market of providing these services to Black people was fairly protected, since the White barbers and beauticians were unwilling or unable to style the hair of Blacks. They had a "protected consumer market." Sheltered from outside competitors, they could monopolize the trades of beauty culture and hairdressing within their own communities.

Whether they were seeking employment or "courting," to Black people, their appearance was important. Black people who were seeking employment knew their appearance was important. Black self-help organizations in northern cities, such as the Urban League and the National Council of Negro

Women, stressed the importance of good grooming to African Americans arriving from the South.

These warnings were particularly important for individuals who were seeking positions as other than laborers. These warnings were particularly relevant to those who were looking for secretarial or white-collar jobs. For Black women that meant having straight hair, conforming and looking White as possible.

Particularly for Black women, these styles required frequent visits to their beautician and the beauticians and barbers became some of the most successful businesses in the community.

An out growth of the beauty industry was the beauty products businesses. Women like Annie Malone and Madam C.J. Walker became wealthy catering to the hair care needs of Black people.

During the civil rights movement, the beauty and barber shops became safe havens for those wanting to join the NAACP and other organizations supportive to Black rights. As independent business owners who did not have to rely on the White community for income, they barbers and the beauty shop owners had more freedom to express their views.

In the beauty and barber shops, African Americans could freely speak their mind on current issues. With that breadth of freedom, the barber and beauty shops often became gathering places in the community. If anyone knew what was going on in town, the barber and the beautician did.

In fact, they often knew more than they needed to know. Something about the familiarity and relaxation of sitting in your stylist's chair that makes lips loose. People often share the most intimate things with their

stylists. With time on their hand, people talk to their stylists and their stylists listen.

"Women will tell you the dangeest things," says Wichita stylist Earnestine Curtis. "They tell their hairdressers things no one else knows about them."

"It's a matter of trust," says Curtis. People stay with a hairdresser for years and they develop a comfort level a sense of familiarity. In some cases people have been with their hairdressers longer than their mate and their hairdresser has been there through the best and worst of their lives.

"Women will sit in my chair and I ask them, 'what do you want today?' They say 'whatever you think I need.' Know that's trust," says Curtis. "Who else do you do that with."



The history of th Black barber shops is deeply entwined with the history of slavery. In the 19th century, he says, most Black-owned barber shops served wealthy, White clients -- businessmen and politicians. In the twentieth century, changing White attitudes about Blacks in the service industry, shifting demographics, and urban migration drastically altered the nature of the barbering business.



and shaves her head.

1968: Actress Diahann Carroll is the first black woman to star in a television network series, "Julia." She is a darker version of the all-American girl, with straightened, curled hair.

1970: Angela Davis becomes an icon of Black Power with her large Afro.

1971: Melba Tolliver is fired from the ABC affiliate in New York for wearing an Afro while covering Tricia Nixon's wedding.

1977: The Jheri curl explodes on the black hair scene. Billed as a curly perm for blacks, the ultra moist hairstyle lasts through the

1980s.

1979: Braids and beads cross the color line when Bo Derek appears with cornrows in the movie "10."

1980: Model-actress Grace Jones sports her trademark flat-top fade.

1988: Spike Lee exposes the good hair/bad hair light-skinned/dark-skinned schism in black America in his movie "School Daze."

1990: "Sisters love the weave," Essence magazine declares. A variety of natural styles and locks also become more accepted.

1997: Singer Erykah Badu poses on the cover of her debut album

"Baduizm" with her head wrapped, ushering in an eclectic brand of Afrocentrism.

1998: Carson Inc., creator of Dark & Lovely and Magic Shave for black men, acquires black-owned beauty company Johnson Products of Chicago in 1998. L'Oreal purchases Carson two years later and merges it with Soft Sheen.

1999: People magazine names lock-topped Grammy award-winning artist Lauryn Hill one of its 50 Most Beautiful People.

2001: Rapper Lil' Kim wears a platinum blonde weave, while singer Macy Gray sports a new-school Afro. Some black women perm, some press, others go with natural twists, braids and locks.

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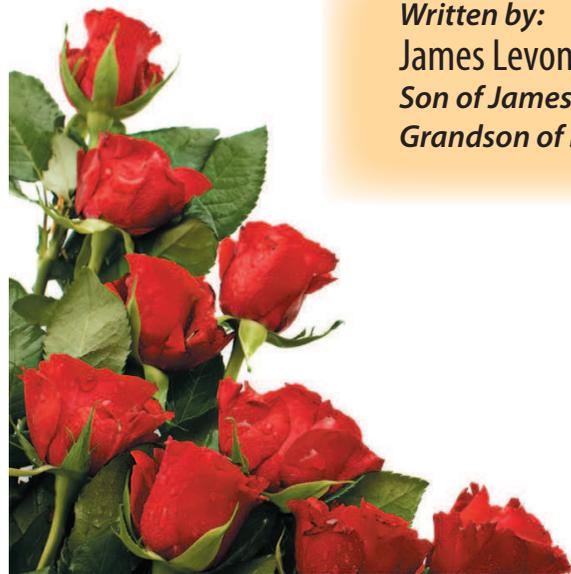
If I get elected for President I will both lower electric and house bills and also lower IRS payments.

I will make constitutional speeches.

When my reign is over I will use my knowledge and money to build and teach my students at an elementary school.



Written by:
James Levon "Trey" Vandross, 3rd Grade
Son of James and Andrea Vandross
Grandson of Regina Bassett McCarty



Always Celebrating
Black History

Thank you for letting us serve you!

JACKSON, from page 8

The state's most prominent bankers, contractors and businessmen turned out in masse to say "thanks" and to honor the home state product at receptions, luncheons and dinners held in private clubs and penthouses.

At the HUD regional office in Kansas City, MO, hundreds of workers lined up to shake the assistant secretary's hand. At the HUD area office in Kansas City, KS, Jackson told the mixed audience, **"This is my home office and I want it to be the model for the nation."** In Wichita, he was escorted on a tour of a multi-million dollar downtown urban renewal project, one of the plants the Jackson was responsible for approving.

At a luncheon in Wichita before the city's leading citizens and with Black Mayor Woodard at his side, the assistant secretary complained that the city did not have "an open housing policy," and prodded the mostly-White audience to "modernize their views as well as their building."

In Kansas City, a few blocks away from the house in which he was born, Jackson visited a multi-million dollar Turkey Creek fill-in project. He said the creek, which flows through the northern part of the city, was a "cesspool and a collection of trash and garbage" even when he

was a youth.

"I commend this Jersey Creek Project as one of the most outstanding I have worked with," he said.

During the two-day trip Jackson also toured new housing projects. Afterward he said the massive HUD aid being funneled into the city to rehabilitate the district is the kind of thing HUD likes to do most.

In a meeting with President Nixon in March 1970, he called for "open communities" and open housing as a way to ease school desegregation problems. Mr. Jackson told President Nixon that Blacks were insisting on the freedom to move into any neighborhood and that they also wanted quality education.

While serving as Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Management, Mr. Jackson was responsible for programs designed to strengthen the ability of state and local governments to plan and manage housing. He was also general manager of the New Communities Development Corporation, which sought to develop diversified communities. Under his direction, the corporation approved 15 new communities and issued guarantees for \$340 million in developments.

Department of Housing and Urban Development, Jackson – with a longtime advocate of civil rights -- emphasized that

quality housing for all races was important.

In the early 1970's, Mr. Jackson was influential in helping the poor in Wichita, Kan., when the community faced substantial unemployment because of cutbacks in its aircraft industry.

At a testimonial luncheon in Wichita, Mr. Jackson said: "We can make the river and the downtown a beautiful area, but if we neglect other areas of the city, if there is not a comparable effort to bring decent housing and other improvements to people, if the least of us is not included in the plan, then we will continue to see disillusionment and despair in our cities."

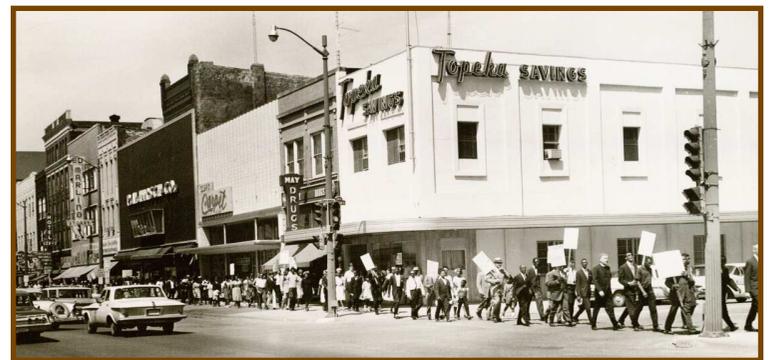
He appealed to city leaders to "disestablish the racist real estate system that operates in the city" and to tear down "all barriers, whether real or implied, to the obtaining of decent housing by blacks and other minorities."

A man of commitment to principal and dedication to country, he was often outspoken against the Nixon administration and some of its policies when he believed

he was wrong. In his work with the Samuel Jackson worked for the Department of Housing and Urban Development for four years. Until he resigned the post as the third-ranking Housing and Urban Development official in December 1972, Mr. Jackson was considered the leading black policy maker in the Nixon Administration. Advocate of Open Housing

Upon his resignation in 1973, Jackson remained in the nation's capital as an attorney for Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, a well-known New York and Washington law firm. He was one of the first Black partners in a major Wall Street firm.

In September 1982, at the age of 53, Samuel died in a Washington D.C. hospital after a long battle with cancer. ●●



Jackson helped organize a boycott of downtown Topeka businesses until they hired more people of color

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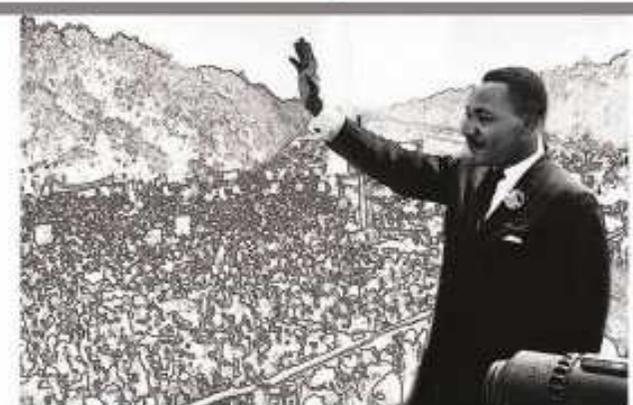
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National Museum of African American History

Set to Open on the Mall in DC This Fall

If you love Black History and Culture, you can start getting excited. The National Museum of African American History and Culture is nearing completion. The 19th Smithsonian museum is set to open on the Mall in Washington D.C. this fall, in time to make sure the nation's first African-American President can cut the ribbon.

After 10 years of work to develop the museum, exterior construction of the building is complete and interior work is underway. The museum has built a collection of 40,000 artifacts, and a staff of 160 is developing the 11 major exhibits that visitors will find when the museum opens.

"The biggest worry I had was, could we find the stuff of history, the artifacts that really engage visitors?" noted Lonnie Bunch, the museum's founding director.

Museum curators and senior staff have crossed the country, meeting with everyday people, collectors and experts to build the collection.

Among the highlights of the collection are:

A powder horn owned by an African-American soldier who fought in the American Revolution,

A slave shackle worn by a child,

Chuck Berry's red Cadillac,

A terry cloth robe worn by Muhammad Ali,

A 1944 biplane used to train Tuskegee pilots,

A fedora worn by Michael Jackson,

A dress owned by Rosa Parks,

A leotard worn by Olympic gymnast Gabby Douglas, and

A tennis racket used by Althea Gibson.

The museum will have three main exhibit areas:

Bunch said curators are also collecting items reflecting current events, including representations of the unrest in Ferguson, Mo., and T-shirts worn during Black Lives Matter marches.

"This museum has to be as much about today and tomorrow as it is about yesterday," Bunch said. "People tend to think we are always looking back, but our goal is to make sure we have captured [current history] to help people understand it, and to help curators 50 years from now."

Exhibitions in the museums will include: "Slavery and Freedom," "Defending Freedom, Defining Freedom: Era of Segregation" and "A Changing America: 1968 and Beyond." In the Community section, curators will examine sports, military service, the role of race in African American identity and stories of African Americans who contested the racial status quo. The Culture section will focus on music, visual arts and cultural expressions.

Bunch said that the federal government has delivered on its promised half of the \$540 million project and that the museum has raised \$252 million of the \$270 needed from the community and private sources. Almost half of the \$252 has come from corporate donors, with foundations contributing a third. Individual donations — including membership dues from about 82,000 people from all 50 states — have totaled about \$50 million.

The fall 2016 opening is about a year later than originally projected.



The 400,000-square-foot crown-shaped building is located on a five-acre lot in the shadow of the Washington Monument.

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\$24,134,630

The amount of money proposed to help economically renew the McAdams Neighborhood following the construction of Interstate 135 through this community. To bad for the community, on April 27, 1978, the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission refused to endorse the Urban Renewal Agencies Redevelopment Plan.

HIGHWAY, from page 16

Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program.

Wichita's URA McAdams community improvement plan consisted of several objectives which included: rehabilitate existing housing; initiate new housing construction; remove blighting influences and conditions; provide site improvements and other public amenities; promote economic development and employment opportunities; and increase the community's tax base. In sum, as cited in an April 12, 1978 memorandum from Robert A. Larkin, the Director of Planning for the Wichita Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning Department to the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission, the URA wanted to "provide substantive minority participation in: home ownership, employment opportunities, [and the] utilization of existing and proposed Community Development programs and other City programs and services."

To accomplish its objectives regarding the McAdams neighborhood, the URA grant application proposed a budget of \$24,134,630 which would come from the following funding sources: federal government (\$11,014,990); state government (\$200,000); local government (\$2,075,300); and the private sector (\$10,844,340). Finally, Robert A. Larkin, in his April 12, 1978 memorandum to the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission, urged them to approve the URA's proposed plan to revitalize the McAdams neighborhood.

Unfortunately, from the standpoint of African Americans living in the McAdams area, the Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning Commission refused to endorse the URA's proposal at its April 27, 1978 meeting. Shortly thereafter, the Wichita Urban Renewal Agency's plan concerning the McAdams community became a moot point.

Needless to say, an examination of this neighborhood today, especially in the context of this history, readily generates the thought "what if?" Moreover, as I've discovered through my

research on African-American entrepreneurship in Wichita, African Americans here, similar to their counterparts across the country, have negative views concerning how the construction of a local urban interstate highway affected their individual and communal lives.

Although decisions regarding the building of urban interstate highways took place in settings where Blacks were not present, mid-twentieth century African Americans did not passively witness the destruction of Black urban enclaves. For instance, in Nashville, local Blacks formed the Nashville I-40 Steering Committee and argued in court that the proposed routing of Interstate 40 through the Black community represented racial discrimination. In the short term, Nashville Blacks won a temporary restraining order which halted highway construction. Nevertheless, in the end, the I-40 Steering Committee lost its case in federal court. Conversely, African Americans in Washington, DC were able to permanently block highway construction that would have destroyed 200,000 housing units in the nation's capital. The battle cry of this successful 1967 effort to keep Washington DC black neighborhoods intact was "no more white highways through black bedrooms."

In retrospect, the evidence is clear that the construction of mid-twentieth century urban highways consciously sought to destroy Black communities. Although most cities portrayed this phenomenon as an exercise in "slum clearance," many of the Black neighborhoods negatively affected featured positive economic activity. For example, as one of the persons interviewed for "Eyes on the Prize" stated:

"Overtown was a viable community in which people had common causes and related to each other, there was economic development, businesses, furniture stores, clothing stores, [and a] soda water bottling company. The professionals, doctors, lawyers, other professionals were there." Sadly, the racial dynamics associated with the building of the interstate highway system represents another historic instance of where Black lives (and aspirations) did not matter. ●●

Highways Divide

Nashville Fights Back

In all instances, African Americans did not passively witness the destruction of Black urban enclaves. In Nashville, local Blacks formed the Nashville I-40 Steering Committee and took the government to court.

When planners chose a route for I-40 through Nashville, the proposed eastward route out of downtown ripped through the middle of the City's predominantly African-American community. The community was alarmed. The interstate would damage property values and their sense of a unique community.

In October of 1967 a 40 member citizen group, calling themselves the I-40 Steering Committee, began a legal battle against the proposed interstate.

The I-40 Steering Committee claimed that the state highway officials were being racially discriminatory in their plans. The proposed location of the road was near Tennessee A&I State University, Fisk University, Meharry Medical College as well as drug stores, groceries, and cafes that were all within easy walking distance of the residents in the area. The committee claimed that an access-controlled interstate would stop people from walking or directly driving over the roadway.

The roadway, the committee said, would isolate these African American-owned businesses from their clientele and financially devastate their community. The I-40 Steering Committee also charged that residents were not given proper notification of the hearing held to discuss any citizen concerns before a route was decided upon.

The group took their complaint to the Davidson County Tennessee General Sessions Court. State attorneys argued that the proposed route had been on file at the Davison County registrar's office since September 1958. They argued that there was no alternate route for the interstate, and that the committee was exaggerating the amount of damage that the road would cause to the North Nashville community.

When the judge ruled in favor of the state,



Houses and businesses along the western side of Jefferson Street are behind a 6 ft-high steel fence after the construction of I-40 in North Nashville. Residents complained they couldn't get their mail delivered because of the fence, but Federal regulations required that fences be placed along the ramps of interstates to keep people and animals off the roadway.

the committee appealed the decision to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and eventually to the United States Supreme Court.

They lost the battle, but their case became the basis for revisions when the government created the Highway Act of 1970. This act, in addition to the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, helped a citizen's group win a similar legal battle when I-40 was proposed to be built through Overton Park in Memphis. In this case, the roadway now ends on a Memphis street, miles from the originally planned destination.

Many of the predictions by the Steering Committee came to pass. Within a year of construction, the majority of the businesses in the area had suffered financially. Many closed. The value of housing dropped more than 30%. Many people feel that this community has never fully recovered from the traumatic effects of the highway.

The struggle over the route of I-40 through Nashville is considered one of the most bitter in national highway history, according to a study led by Professor Charles A. Zuzak of the University of Tennessee. ●●

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How Can We Fix PayDay Loan Policies?

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By Bonita Gooch
The Community Voice

If you've ever turned to one of these payday or car title loan companies, you know doing business with them can be like a trap, a spiraling cyclone of debt that sucks you in. Getting out can be almost impossible. No matter how hard you try to get out, the vicious cycle of renewal fees and roll over charges keep pulling you in.

The premise seems so simple: borrow the amount you need plus a fee per \$100 borrowed now, pay it back when our next paycheck arrives. Unfortunately we know what happens in 80% of cases, in two weeks the borrower can't pay the amount back in full and the options are to default on the loan and run the risk of getting sent to collections and damaging their credit, or renewing the loan – also called “rolling over” – for an additional fee that's added on top of what was already owed.

With an average person taking six months to pay off a payday loan, the fees can be staggering. Often the amount the person pays back ends up being more than the original amount they borrowed and the Annual Percentage Rate on these loans can often run as high as 400%.

It's hard to believe this process is legal and in some states it isn't. Some states have totally outlawed payday loans, while others have made serious attempt at minimizing their fees. Exploring options to these high rate loans has been the focus of many studies and for nearly two years, the national Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has been studying ways to improve the industry on a national basis. The Bureau has signaled that it will propose a national set of rules to better regulate the industry, but for some, the agency's proposals have been too long in the making.

Fix it, Don't Ban it

For certain, crafting a solution to payday loans won't be easy. The situation is complex and compounded further by a well-financed and powerful financial institution lobby. Any look at payday loan reform must begin with an analysis of the basic question: are payday loans net good versus bad for the community?

These loans obviously fill a void that exists or there wouldn't be so many of them and American's wouldn't be turning to them in such large numbers. The market for quick, small loans has long been inadequate. Because banks would rather lend \$50,000 than \$500, and tend to require strong credit histories to borrow at all, the options for families that are down and out, or a bit behind on their bills, are limited. If this option is eliminated, where will the neediest turn?

How About Some Competition

With that in mind, any proposal for change must come up with an alternative to payday loans, not just eliminate them, or offer industry changes that obviously will have negative implications on the industry's bottom line. One option is to encourage banks to make more of these small dollar loans.

Currently, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, which regulates banks, has such stringent underwriting standards that it costs more for banks to meet the paperwork-intensive requirements than they could reasonably charge for such small sums. Indeed, the regulations have in practice (though not in rule) banned banks from offering small credit to a broad range of people. However, encouraging banks to lend small sums would benefit both banks and customers.

The people who take



advantage of payday loans are not unbanked -- a checking account and an income are both required to secure a payday loan. A change in banking regulations could help these customers stay in the financial mainstream and not leave banks where they already have accounts just to go borrow a few hundred dollars.

Nationally, there is momentum to develop similarly responsible loan products, with the FDIC's issuance of small loan guidance signaling its intention to encourage financial institutions to develop and actively market responsible credit products by offering Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) credit.

Another alternative to payday loan companies are the consumer finance companies. This market plays a heavy role in Georgia where Payday loan companies were banned several years ago. These subprime alternatives used to be the bad guys before payday loans came along. Now they almost look like the good guys with their installment loans and interest rates often as high as 100%. Unlike payday loans where the entire amount of the loan is due in full in two weeks. Consumer finance companies set up installment payments typically over six months to several years.

Beware, their advertised interest rates versus the effective interest rates, which can be higher than the APR listed on the loan contract, due to the purchase of some types of credit insurance, which the lender is not legally required to include in the APR calculations. However, an interest rate

of 100% is a bargain compared to the 400% rate of payday loans.

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Proposals

The proposals under consideration provide two different approaches to eliminating debt traps – prevention and protection. Under the prevention requirements, lenders would have to determine at the outset of each loan that the consumer is not taking on unaffordable debt. Under the protection requirements, lenders would have to comply with various restrictions designed to ensure that consumers can affordably repay their debt. Lenders could choose which set of requirements to follow. In addition, the proposal would also limit the loan company's ability to access your account in a way that causes to rack up excessive bank charges

Debt trap prevention requirements: This option would eliminate debt traps by requiring lenders to determine at the outset that the consumer can repay the loan when due – including interest, principal, and fees for add-on products – without defaulting or re-borrowing. More like traditional banking institutions, for each loan, lenders would have to verify the consumer's income, major financial obligations, and borrowing history to determine whether there is enough money left to repay the loan after covering other major financial obligations and living expenses.

Lenders would generally have to adhere to a 60-day cooling off period between loans. To make a second or third loan within the two-month window, lenders would have to document that the borrower's financial circumstances have improved enough to repay a new loan without re-borrowing. After three loans in a row, all lenders would be prohibited altogether from making a new short-term loan to the borrower for 60 days.

Debt trap protection requirements: These requirements would eliminate debt traps by equiring lenders to provide affordable repayment options and by limiting the

Thank You GWML

Thank you to the Greater Wichita Ministerial League for honoring me with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Vision and Dreams Award at their King Worship Celebration held, Mon. Jan. 18 at the Wichita Metroplex. The award is presented to an individual who represents the "vision and dreams of Dr. King by his or her participation in making our community a better place to live."

It was a great honor to be recognized for doing something I enjoy so much. The Voice's mission is "to help others help themselves by providing much needed information and by shining a light on positive role models and positive cultural images." So this award helps confirm we're living up to our mission.

As I said in my acceptance speech, I enjoy getting up every morning to do the work we do for the community. It's my pleasure to serve and I appreciate all the warm accolades I receive from people all over town. Thank you GWML for your support and thank you to our readers.

During my acceptance speech, I also gave a shout out to our advertisers and to our subscribers. I can't miss that opportunity again. They really make the paper possible. Also a big shout out to the Voice team and their passion for what we do.



Bonita Gooch

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- Five Young Black Entrepreneurs to Watch in 2016



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4 Judge Denies Request to Force end to Teacher Sick-outs

NATIONAL

• Teachers have complained of mildew taking over ceilings and walls, damage to school buildings and equipment and rats running rampant through the halls.

A judge denied a second attempt by the Detroit Public Schools on Monday to obtain a temporary restraining order against teacher sick-outs that have closed dozens of buildings this month and kept thousands of students home.

State Court of Claims Judge Cynthia Stephens said the district didn't present enough evidence to prove the teachers' union or its president had encouraged members to miss work for her to issue such an order.

Teacher strikes are illegal under Michigan law. The district filed a lawsuit last week to stop the sick-outs, which on Wednesday closed more than 85 of the district's roughly 100 schools that serve about 46,000 students. Two schools were closed Monday because of teacher absences, the district said.

Teachers are protesting their pay, overcrowded classes, supply short-

ages and the poor conditions in some school buildings. About 60 demonstrated outside Monday's hearing.

Teachers have complained of mildew taking over ceilings and walls, damage to school buildings and equipment and rats running rampant through the halls.

"It is regrettable that the Detroit Public Schools seeks to punish those who speak out about the deplorable conditions in our schools," said Detroit Federal of Teachers President Ivy Bailey. "It would be so much more productive to actually do something to fix Detroit schools rather than file restraining orders against those who expose the miserable conditions."

The speaker of the House in Michigan called for absentee teachers to be dismissed.

"These teachers deserve to be fired for turning their backs on the children in their care," said Kevin Cotter,

a Republican from Mount Pleasant. "Their actions also go against any possible resolution on potential (Detroit Public Schools) reforms, because any long-term agreement on Detroit schools has to put the kids first."

Blame game

One man who has been a frequent target of critics is Darnell Earley, appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder a year ago to oversee Detroit Public Schools.

Before going to Detroit, Earley served as the emergency manager in Flint. He was in that position in April 2014 when Flint's water supply switched from Lake Huron to the Flint River, a decision reversed more than a year later after reports of corroded pipes and elevated blood lead levels.

Earley has said he was not responsible for the decision, only for implementing it after it was approved.

In his State of the State address Tuesday night, the governor called for money spent on debt service, close to \$1,200 per student, to be shifted into classroom funding to give teachers what they need to do their jobs.

"(The) time to act is now," he told



Protesters stand outside Cadillac Place, Monday, Jan. 25, 2016 in Detroit, where a judge is hearing arguments in a case that could force teachers to stop their so-called sick-outs, which have repeatedly forced the district to close schools during the past two weeks. Teachers are upset over pay, class sizes, building conditions and Gov. Rick Snyder's plan to overhaul the district.

lawmakers. "The Detroit schools are in need of a transformational change.

The Detroit district has been under state financial oversight since 2009. Gov. Rick Snyder has called for the state to commit \$715 million over a decade to address the district's \$500 million debt and relaunch the district

under a new name.

"What I fear every day is they are going to go bankrupt," said Maria Jones-Foster, who runs a second-grade reading lab and was among the teachers protesting outside the hearing. "We're in fear of losing our jobs every day." ●●

LOANS, from page 2

number of loans a borrower could take out in a row and over the course of a year. Lenders could not keep consumers in debt on short-term loans for more than 90 days in a 12-month period.

For each loan under these requirements, the debt could not exceed \$500, carry more than one finance charge, or require the consumer's vehicle as collateral.

There is a similar plan for longer term debt, like that usually used by companies to finance furniture and other larger ticket consumer items.

Restricting Harmful Payment Collection Practices:

Lenders of both short-term and longer-term loans often obtain access to a consumer's checking, savings, or prepaid account to collect payment through a variety of methods, including post-dated checks, debit authorizations,

or remotely created checks. However, this can lead to unanticipated withdrawals or debits and transaction fees.

When lenders attempt to get repayment through repeated, unsuccessful withdrawal attempts, consumers are charged insufficient funds fees by their depository institution and returned payment fees by the lender, and may even face account closure.

Require borrower notification before accessing deposit accounts: Under the proposals being considered, lenders would be required to provide consumers with three business days advance notice before submitting a transaction to the consumer's bank, credit union, or prepaid account for payment. The notice would include key information about the forthcoming payment collection attempt.

Limit unsuccessful withdrawal attempts that lead to excessive deposit account fees: Under the proposals being considered, if two consecutive attempts to collect money from the

consumer's account were unsuccessful, the lender would not be allowed to make any further attempts to collect from the account unless the consumer provided a new authorization. This would limit fees incurred by multiple transactions that exacerbate a consumer's financial woes.

The Colorado example

It took three years of trying, but in 2010, lawmakers, policy advisers and advocacy groups came up with a way to make payday loans in Colorado a better product.

So far, the approach has been unique to Colorado. But recently, the Pew Charitable Trusts released a report saying that Colorado's reforms are working and could offer a starting point for other states and even the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to make payday loans less damaging for more consumers.

The 2010 reforms reduced the fees on payday loans. Borrowers are allowed to repay loans in installments that consume an average of 4% of their biweekly income, rather than the

38% they would need to make a 15-day balloon payment in the traditional payday loan model. All payments reduce the principal, so that no debt remains on the loan's end date. The plan permits borrowers to prepay loans without penalty at any time and extends the length of the loans to a minimum of six months. So far, 74% of loans are repaid before the sixth month, with the average loan repaid after just over three months. While the average annualized interest rate is 115%—still high, it

is the lowest rate of any state where payday loan stores operate.

In 2009, the last full year Colorado allowed them, the average payday loan was \$368, carried an average annual percentage rate of 318% and was paid off in about 19 days. In 2012, the attorney general reported, the average "new" payday loan was \$394, carried an average annual percentage rate of 129% and was paid off in about 99 days. Clearly, borrowers in Colorado are avoiding the debt trap. ●●

KBLC Calls For 36% Cap on Payday Loans

The Kansas Black Leadership Council, a bi-partisan organization of African-American leaders from across the state, have called for the Kansas Legislature to adopt a state policy limiting the interest rate on payday loans, title loans and other short term loan products, to 36%. The recommendation is part of the KBLC eight-point 2016 Legislative Platform.

The 36% interest rate is equal to the rate established under the Military Lending Act. In 2015, the Department of Defense took a strong stand against predatory loan companies and expanded financial protections to the troops by capping the interest rates on loans to members of the military at 36 APR. KBLC, proposes tying the cap on interest rates in Kansas to the Department of Defense Military Annual Percentage Rate or MAPR. This rule should apply to all forms of payday loans, vehicle title loans, refund anticipation loans, deposit advance loans, installment loans, unsecured open-end lines of credit

Earthquake Insurance is Separate From Homeowners Insurance

Earthquake insurance coverage in Kansas requires a separate policy or endorsement to your regular homeowners insurance policy, according to Ken Selzer, CPA, Commissioner of Insurance.

“Earthquake coverage is not a part of a regular homeowners, renters or condominium insurance policy,” Commissioner Selzer said. “If your insurance company offers it — and many do — coverage can be added by including an endorsement to your policy or by purchasing a separate earthquake policy.”

In either case, the Commissioner said, you will pay an extra premium. Instead of a dollar amount, the deductible for that premium will probably be a percentage of the cost of rebuilding your home. There might also be a separate deductible for the home’s contents.

“The type of home construction could also determine the insurability of the structure as well,” Commissioner Selzer said. “Wood frame homes often withstand earthquakes better than brick or stone structures, and their rates may be less costly. Single-story homes may receive better rates. And the age of the home may affect the cost.”

One other factor in the cost of the coverage could be the number of claims filed. More claims may determine whether an insurance company changes its premiums. That process is similar to how premiums for others lines of insurance are structured.

“Kansas should also remember that earthquake policies usually cover only structural and foundation damage to a home,” Commissioner Selzer said. “That is why it is important, if you are considering the coverage, that you talk over the specifics with your local agent.”

Commissioner Selzer also offered these points to consider about earthquake coverage:

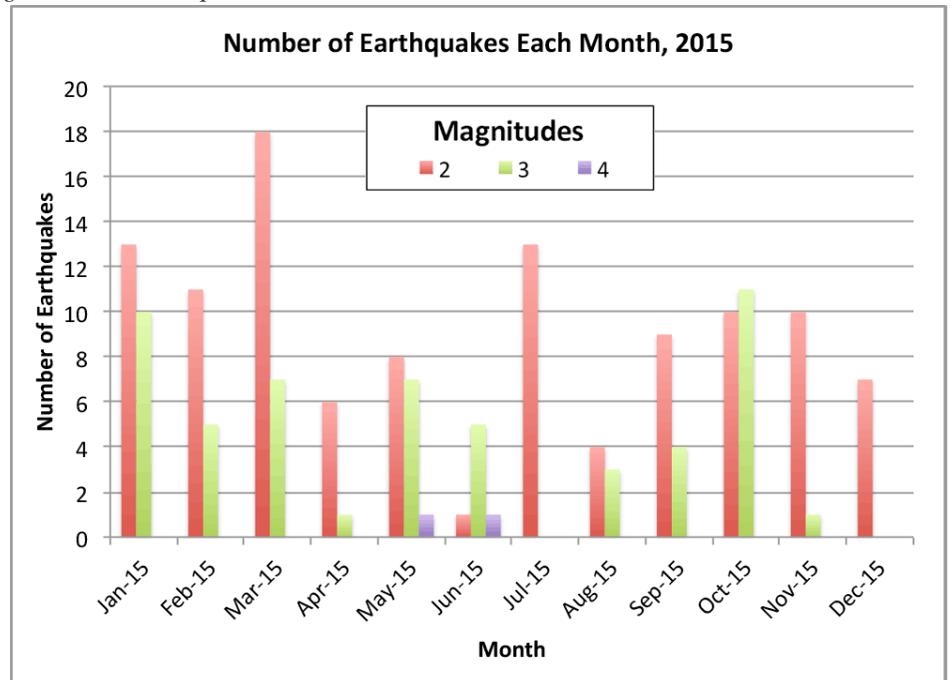
- Coverage doesn’t include damage to your vehicles. That may be covered under your current automobile policy. Check with your local insurance agent or company to verify your vehicle coverage.
- The time to buy the coverage is before an earthquake.

Most insurers won’t sell any new earthquake insurance for 30 to 60 days after a recent earthquake. Check with your insurance company to be sure.

As with any household coverage, make a household inventory. Go through each room to write down and video everything. Store the inventory in a secure place at another location, such as a safe deposit box. (For a download of a Personal Home Inventory, go to www.ksinsurance.org, and on the home page hit “Finding a Publication” under the “Help With...” banner. If you have a smartphone, you can get the application for a mobile personal home inventory, MyHomeScr.APPbook, from

your phone’s app store.

A survey by the Insurance Information Institute (III) shows that only 8% of homeowners in the Midwest have earthquake insurance. In Oklahoma, where earthquakes have been prevalent during the past few years, a total of 15 percent of homeowners have the coverage, according to the III. ●●



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6 Acclaimed Flautist Guest Artist for Salina King Activities

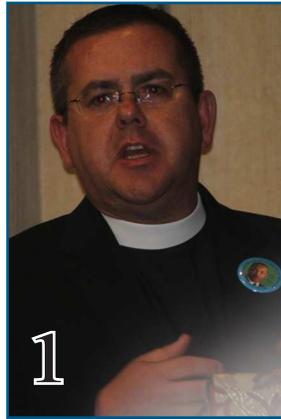
REGIONAL

The theme of Salina's Martin Luther King Jr. celebration week was "Faith, Hope and Love — And the Greatest of These is Love."

Local organizer Sandy Beverly, who has served for many years on Salina's Martin Luther King Jr. Citizens Ad Hoc Committee, said the theme was picked to reflect the conflicts and lack of communication and compassion that divide our world today.

The City of Salina Arts and Humanities Department sponsored acclaimed flautist and jazz musician Galen Abdur-Razzaq as the celebration's guest artist. Abdur-Razzaq presented in the Salina public schools on Friday and that evening performed in concert with his combo at the Smoky Hill Museum.

An open mic and poetry series was held on Friday evening at Ad Astra Books & Coffee House. The annual potluck dinner



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was Saturday at Christ Cathedral Church, which served as the host church for the week's activities. Those attending were requested to bring a dish to share.

The MLK Interfaith Service was also held at Christ Cathedral. The guest speaker was the Very Rev. Robert Nelson Smith, presi-



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dent, dean and chief executive officer of Salina's Saint Francis Community Services. King week events concluded with a youth-centered service on Jan. 18 at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church. ●●



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PHOTOS:

1. Very Rev. Robert Smith addressed the audience at Sunday's MLK Interfaith Service.

2. Acclaimed Jazz musician was the celebration's guest artist. Sponsored by the City of Salina, he performed at several events.

3. The Community Choir, led by Ramona Newsom, performed at the Interfaith service.

4. Area students wait patiently for Abdur-Razzaq autograph.

Hutchinson Host Annual Two-Day MLK Celebration

Hutchinson's two-day celebration of the King Holiday reflected the diverse and inclusive nature of the small but friendly community.

The weekend began Sunday with a march led by the Hutchinson Community College Jazz Band. Participants braved the cold during the two block march from Second Missionary Baptist Church to the Stringer Fine Arts Center.

At the center, attendees enjoyed musical guests including the Southwest District Choir led by Cherrie

Dennis-Cottner. On Monday, the celebration moved to Second Missionary Baptist Church.

Rev. Dr. Leroy Adams, pastor of the Morning Star Baptist Church in Omaha, NE, was the keynote speaker for both events. In his passionate and inspirational talks Adams challenged those in attendance to be a "difference maker." He also reminded the diverse audience that Dr. King fought for everyone, not just

African Americans.

In a well deserved sign of appreciation, Dr. Hence Parsons was recognized at the conclusion of the week for serving 30 years as organizer of the annual King celebration.

Some of the musical highlights of the weekend included: the Buhler Varsity Choir and Buhler Singers, the Trinity Catholic High School Singers and the HCC Badinage who performed along with Dr. Parsons. ●●



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1. Rev. Dr. Leroy Adams from Omaha, NE was the keynote presenter on both Sunday and Monday.
 2. Pastor Robin Davis, senior pastor of Bethel AME Church gave greetings to the guests.
 3. Dr. Hence Parsons gives his daughter a hug after being presented an award at Monday's program.
 4. Sunday's activities including a symbolic two-block march in the gruelling cold.

THE COMMUNITY VOICE | JAN 28, 2016

Topeka celebrated 8-Day of MLK Events

The theme for the Topeka King celebration, sponsored by Living the Dream, Inc. was "Faith is Taking the First Step Even When You Don't See the Whole Staircase"

The 8-day celebration began with a musical on Jan. 10 and ended on Jan. 18 with members of Living the Dream, Inc. packing boxes of food items for some the area's needy citizens.

Highlights of the 8-day celebration included:

- the Community Leadership and Recognition Luncheon,
- the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship and Awards Banquet where Ben Chavis, Jr. was the guest speaker.
- The Topeka Baptist Ministers' Union hosted

worship service with Rev. Cecil T. Washington, Jr. as the speaker.
 •A program at Brown vs Board" of Education National Historical Site where winners of the MLK art, essay and poetry competitions were recognized. ●●



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Photos by Bohannon Photos/Robin Warren

PHOTOS:
 1. Enjoying the Scholarship Awards Banquet are Guest Speaker Ben Chavis, Jr., CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and former Topeka Mayor James McClinton

J Building Maintenance, Suresh Ramamurthi owner of Yantra Services and Alonzo Harrison, owner of HDB Construction informed the crowd at the King banquet about their men's mentoring program.

2. These graduating high school seniors were presented scholarships at the King banquet.
 3. John Mays and Cindy White, both longtime organizers of Topeka's MLK events, look on as Mayor Larry Wulgast reads the proclamation at the kick-off musical held at the Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church.



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4. (L-R) Lonnie Williams, owner of L &



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8 Kansas Democrats Announce How March 5 Presidential Caucuses Will Work

REGIONAL

One year from now, there will be a new president in the White House. Be a part of the process of selecting the candidate when Democrats from across the state gather to choose their presidential preferences.

You've been hearing about the impending Iowa and New Jersey Democratic Caucuses, well get ready, the presidential caucuses are coming to Kansas on Sat., March 5. If you've never participated, note, caucuses aren't anything like going to the polls to vote. Caucuses are more of a big tent political meeting with all Democrats in the State invited to attend. There will be 40 of these meetings, or caucuses, across the state, one in each Kansas Senate District. If you want to know where your caucus will be held, start by finding out what Senate District you're in. For example, most Northeast Wichita residents live in the 29th Kansas Senate District represented by KS Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau. Democrats from the 29th District will meet at the WSU CAC Theater.

We have a link to a complete list of caucus locations by Senate District on our website at www.communityvoiceks.com.

To participate in your caucus, you need to show up at the designated location and register between 1 and 3 p.m. The caucuses should get underway around 3:30 p.m.

Who can participate in the caucuses?

Any person who is eligible to vote in state of Kansas and who will be 18 years old on Election Day, November 8, 2016, may participate in the Kansas caucuses. These individuals must reside in the Senate District in which they wish to participate, and they must be registered as a Democrat. Voter registration and party registration will be available at all caucus locations.

How do the Democratic Caucuses work?

Eligible caucus goers divide to form Presidential preference groups. If a preference group does not have at least 15% of the total caucus goers, people from that group will have an opportunity to join another preference group or acquire people into their group to reach the "viable" of 15% level.

Delegates are then awarded to the preference groups based on their size.

Here's an example. If 300 people show up and 100 people prefer Hillary Clinton, 100 people prefer Bernie Sanders and 100 people prefer Martin O'Malley, then the delegates allotted

to that District (we'll use 9 for this example) will be assigned: 3 for Clinton, 3 for Sanders and 3 for O'Malley.

Convention Delegate Selection

After the preferences at your Senate District caucus are determined, you can leave. However, if you're interested in being a delegate to the Congressional District meeting, or a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, you need to stick around. The next order of business is to select the representatives to the four U.S. Congressional District Meetings scheduled for April 2.

Twenty-two of Kansas' 37 delegates to the Democratic National Convention will be selected at the April 2 Congressional Meetings. If you want to be a delegate to the Democratic National Convention this summer in Philadelphia or if you want to help someone get elected as a delegate to the National convention, then you should try to be a delegate to the Congressional District meeting.

Caucus by the Numbers

Here's how the numbers work. The assigned number of delegates to the Congressional District meetings and the number of delegates to the National Convention from each Congressional District were determined based on voter turnout in the 2012 Presidential elections. So districts with high voter turnout in 2012 have more delegates.

Here's how the numbers and



The following four candidates are registered for the Kansas primaries: (L-R) Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Martin O'Malley and Rocky De La Fuente.

delegates breakout per Congressional District.

1st Congressional District – Salina, Hutchinson, Junction City, Manhattan

Has 4 delegates to the national convention – 2 females and 2 males.

From the district's Senate caucuses, 70 delegates will be chosen to attend the Congressional District Meeting.

2nd Congressional District Lawrence, Leavenworth, Topeka, Independence

Has 7 delegates to the National convention – 4 females and 3 males.

From the district's senate caucuses, 124 delegates will be chosen to attend the Congressional District Meeting.

3rd Congressional District -- Wyandotte County & Johnson County

Has 6 delegates to the National Convention – 3 females and 3 males

From the district's senate caucuses,

143 delegates will be chosen to attend the Congressional District Meeting.

4th Congressional District-- Sedgwick County, Butler County, Kingman, Newton, Pratt and Winfield

Has 5 delegates to the National Convention – 3 females and 2 males

From the district's senate caucuses, 97 delegates will be chosen to attend the Congressional District Meeting.

Fear not. If you have your heart set on being a delegate to the National Convention and you're not selected as a delegate from your Congressional District, there are seven at-large seats available and 4 seats allotted for elected officials, that includes members of the Kansas House and Senate and local elected officials. We have a link to the delegate selection process on our website at www.communityvoiceks.com. ●●

Judge Rules Against Kobach's Two-Tiered Registration/Voting System

A ruling was handed down Fri., Jan. 15, in the lawsuit brought against Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach and his two-tiered voter

Photo Motherjones.com



Kris Kobach

registration system in Kansas. The ruling, issued by Shawnee County Judge Frank Thesis, found the Secretary of State's two-tiered system illegal.

The lawsuit was brought by the American Civil Liberties Union after Kobach set up a system that did not allow individuals who registered to vote using the Federal Voter Registration form to vote in any race other than those for national office – i.e. Senate, Congress and Presidential races. This required those individuals to vote using a provisional ballot, where they appeared to be voting for all offices, but election office staff members only counted their vote for national offices.

Kobach set up this two-tiered system

after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to amend the Federal form to include Kansas' requirement that proof of citizenship be submitted in order to be registered. The Kansas Legislature passed a law that requires the provision of proof of citizenship to register to vote. The 2014 elections was the first election where the Proof of citizenship rule was in effect.

Forced to use the federal form, Kobach established his two-tiered system that treated individuals who voted using the Federal form differently. It was this difference in treatment that was in question in the case of Belenky, Jones Vs Kobach. In his ruling, Judge Thesis wrote, "There is no such thing as

"partial registration" to be found in the Kansas statute books. ... In Kansas, a person is either registered to vote or he or she is not. By current Kansas Law, registration, hence, the right to vote, is not tied to the method of registration."

As an administrator, not a lawmaker, Judge Thesis wrote Kobach cannot on his own implement a two-tiered voting system in Kansas. However, his ruling does seem to open the door to allow the Kansas Legislature to pass a law establishing a two-tiered system. So, don't be surprised, based on this ruling, if someone doesn't introduce such a bill during the 2016 legislative session.

In the meantime, expect Kobach to

appeal the ruling to a higher court. The appeal process could go on beyond the November elections and since the judge's ruling doesn't cancel the process effectively immediately, that may still mean thousands of Kansans who registered using the federal form may be limited in their ability to vote.

That's still a better position to be in that the tens of thousands of Kansas who registered using the state form but never turned in their proof of citizenship. Kobach announced a policy that purged those registrations. They had been held in "suspense," pending the submission of their proof of citizenship. Most of those registrations were purged at the end of the 2015. ●●

KANSAS BLACK LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2016 Platform

1. Expand Medicaid

The KBLC supports the expansion of Medicaid to cover the citizens of Kansas whose income currently leaves them in the gap where their income is too high to qualify for Medicaid in Kansas and too low to participate in the Federal Affordable Care Act.

2. Cap Payday Loan rates in Kansas

The KBLC supports the passage of a payday and title loan bill for all Kansans, similar to the federal and state bill approved for military members which caps the interest APR at 36%.

3. Repeal voting registration laws that require proof of citizenship and implement Same-Day Registration.

The KBLC seeks full repeal of the SAFE Act including both the ID requirement to vote and proof of citizenship to register to vote. Voting is a constitutionally protected right and instead of implementing laws that disenfranchises people, the KBLC supports measures to increase access of all citizens to the ballot box and encourage the passage of a measure to allow Same-Day (Election-Day) registration in Kansas. (HB2544)

4. Repeal of the death penalty

KBLC opposes the death penalty for numerous reasons and supports HB 2515, which seeks to abolish the death penalty in Kansas and create the crime of aggravated murder.

5. Body cameras for all Police Departments

The KBLC seeks to increase transparency and accountability in policing in Kansas and therefore supports SB18, the Body Worn Camera Bill which requires all officers in the State of Kansas to wear a body camera.

6. Increase the state's minimum wage

The KBLC seeks to increase the state's minimum wage to \$10.25/hr by 2017 in order to combat unemployment and underemployment.

7. Adopt an economic development program designed to revitalize impoverished Kansas communities

KBLC agrees with Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback, that growing businesses in Kansas will help grow the state's economy. That's why we support passage of the Kansas Reinvestment Act, a bill that encourages investment in impoverished Kansas neighborhoods as a way to revitalize those communities, create jobs, and stabilize neighborhoods.

8. Adopt the Kansas Smart Justice Agenda

The KBLC will support the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas Criminal Justice Reform Agenda which seeks to amend Kansas Law or encourage the legislature to enact the following policies:

1. Expand the use of diversion for those with minimal criminal records through the amendment of existing Kansas law by articulating that diversion is appropriate and recommended in circumstances where the sentence is probation.
2. Reduce sentences for non-violent drug crimes by de-felonizing drug-possession, a step already taken by fifteen other states
3. Expand the use of pre-adjudication drug courts which have the power to drop charges if the offender completes a drug treatment program
4. Improve reentry and recidivism prevention services by allocating funding to proven, evidence-based programs to help individuals transition back into community life and follow the lead of Topeka, Wichita and Wyandotte County in 'Banning the Box'- removing the criminal history question from state job applications.
5. Enhance data collection and analysis on racial profiling by amending the current Kansas racial profiling law to gather better data on racial profiling in Kansas.
6. End the routine use of solitary confinement in correctional facilities to reduce psychological damage to individuals subjected to it.
7. Reform civil asset forfeiture laws to prevent innocent citizens from having their property unfairly stripped from them.

KBLC Same Day Voter Registration Bill Introduced in Kansas House

A Same Day Voter Registration Bill proposed by The Kansas Black Leadership Council, a non-partisan coalition of Black leaders from across the state, was introduced earlier this week in the Kansas House Standing Committee on Elections. Members of the KBLC will introduce the bill to the Kansas Senate Ethics and Elections Committee on today, Jan. 28.

The Bill allows eligible voters to register to vote up until and including Election Day and is being introduced by the KBLC as a way to increase voter participation in Kansas elections within the confines of the Kansas S.A.F.E. Act.

Same Day Voter Registration (SDR), effectively used in the United States since the 1970s, is a proven method to increase voter participation, with voter turnout in states with SDR running 12% higher than non-SDR states. Currently 15 states plus the District of Columbia allows same-day voter registration.

The S.A.F.E. Act, in an effort to catch a few fraudulent voters, has proven to be a major detriment to the registration and participation of Kansas citizens in one of their most important rights. In just a year, more than 30,000 citizens have been kept off the

the voter rolls by the S.A.F.E. Act's proof of citizenship requirement

"We see this as an opportunity to counteract some of the concerns generated by the proof of citizenship requirements of the SAFE Act, while still addressing the Secretary of State's concern about 'voter fraud,'" said Bonita Gooch, KBLC president. "On Election Day, motivated to vote, same day registration allows individuals to head to the polls with their ID and proof of citizenship in hand, to register and to vote, in one step instead of two."

Working at community events, churches, or even on street corners, community volunteers have proven to be a major source for registering and drawing potential new voters into the election process. Rarely, do these future voters have their proof of citizenship with them, which sets up a second step in the registration process. As can be seen by the number of voter registrations in suspense by late 2015, this second step has proven to be just enough of a barrier to keep people off the voter rolls.

While some of these individuals may not be able to produce a form of citizenship, KBLC believes a great number of these citizens can produce the proof of citizenship, but are kept



out of the voting process by this "second step." Same Day Voter Registration eliminates this second step for the individuals who show up on Election Day, or during Advance Voting, with their voter registration card, ID and proof of citizenship in hand.

"While SDR has proven to increase voter participation by 12% in some states, in Kansas, with the S.A.F.E. Act keeping people out of the voting process, we believe we can expect to see an even greater increase in Voter participation with the passage of the SDR Bill," suggested Gooch.

In an interview with the Wichita Eagle, Secretary of State Kris Kobach called SDR, "a recipe for fraud," saying people could go from one poll to the next to vote. Although we doubt that would happen, as drafted, the bill establishes a very clear process to address the potential for multiple voting."

The KBLC SDR bill was introduced in the Kansas Elections committee by Rep. John Alcalá, (Dem – 57th District) and seconded by Rep. Diana Dierks, (R-71st District). ●●

KBLC Legislative Update

KBLC SUPPORTS BILL TO END DEATH PENALTY

The Kansas Black Leadership Council is pleased to support the House Bill 2515, which would repeal the death penalty and replace it with a maximum punishment of Life without Parole. Repeal of the Death Penalty was item 4 on the KBLC 2016 Legislative Platform.

The proposed bill returns the expected millions in savings generated by the change to back to the Department of Corrections for some much needed improvements.

The Bill was introduced earlier this session by a bi-partisan group of 11 Republican and six Democratic legislators. So far, 18 states have eliminated the death penalty.

KBLC SUPPORTED KANSAS REINVESTMENT ACT INTRODUCED

In an effort to support Economic Redevelopment in Kansas' poorer communities KBLC's Platform support the Kansas Reinvestment Act, a bill introduced this session by Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeua (D- Wichita).

SB 317 boast economic development in small businesses that are located in or move to zip codes where the median household income is 75% of the current State median income. By current calculation, the bill would apply to communities where the annual income is less than \$38,000.

Applicants can apply for up to \$100,000 in the form of a 50% forgivable micro-loan, to assist with business renovation, acquisition of business equipment, new structures, marketing, and relocating to an

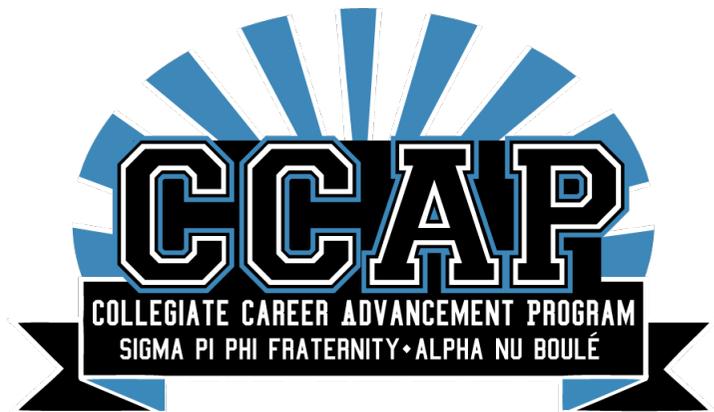
impoverished area.

KRA will also assist businesses by having the Kansas Small Business Development Center work with the applicants on a successful business plan and it requires annual analysis of the business plan to ensure that applicants will be successful in their endeavors.

"Focusing on these specific areas will not only help out the business, but the surrounding community," wrote Brandon Johnson," a KBLC member.

The businesses must have been in business at least 12 months and their are a list of unfavorable business will not be able to participate in the program. A complete copy of the bill is online at www.kansasblc.com. ●●

Rising College Juniors & Seniors



June 3-4
2016

Kansas Leadership Center
325 E. Douglas • Wichita

Participation is limited to 50 applicants

Apply online at
www.ccapkansas.org

The program?

Participants will be exposed to a rigorous, but enjoyable program with relevant content in five main areas:

- Resume/interview critique by local human resources professionals
- Professional relationship management
- Navigating the graduate school landscape
- Achieving leadership excellence
- Professional development

Additional benefits

- Social interaction with other CCAP participants
- Opportunity to network with professionals across Wichita
- Outstanding group of speakers and presenters

Collegiate Career Advancement Program

SIGMA PI PHI FRATERNITY • ALPHA NU BOULÉ

This program is designed to help get you ready for:

- Internships
- Your First Career Position
- Graduate School

Who's eligible?

- Students should have a minimum 3.0 GPA (*a 2.8 GPA candidate may be accepted if they're involved in extracurricular activities*)
- Program targets minority students who are rising college juniors and seniors, but all applicants will be considered

How do you apply?

- Complete an online application at ccapkansas.org
- Submit a professional resume (*MS word or pdfs*)
- Application Deadline: April 1, 2016

Sponsors & Partners

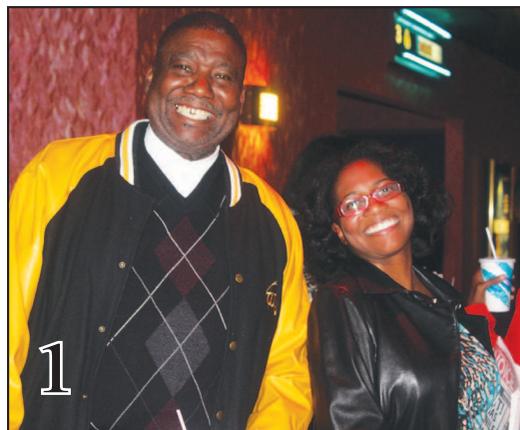


10 VOICE and NAACP Co-host King Family Movie Night

Elder Zebedee Bell, Sr. (above) was one of dozens of movie-goers who attended a free showing of the movie “*Selma*,” co-sponsored by The Community Voice, the Wichita Branch NAACP and Foulston Siefkin LLP. The showing, held Thurs., Jan. 14, kicked off the local King Holiday Celebration.

The groups partnered on the showing as a way to involve more children and families in the King holiday celebration. The event was held at the Palace Theater and everyone who attended received a free popcorn and soda.

“*Selma*” chronicles the epic march from Selma to Montgomery which culminated in



the signing of the landmark Voting Rights Act in August 6, 1965, one of the most significant victories for the civil rights movement. ●●

SOK Serves Pancakes to the Community

Members of Speak Out Kansas served the community pancakes for breakfast on the Saturday morning of the holiday. The event held at the SpeakOut Offices, 2201 E. 13th St. N., ran from 7-11 a.m. with people stopping in on and off during the morning for good food, good conversation and a place to get warm. The breakfast cost \$5 with proceeds helping to fund Speak Out’s work in the community. ●●



Alpha’s Host 2nd King Program

The men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Eta Beta Lambda Chapter hosted their 2nd Annual King Holiday event on Fri. Jan. 15 at Calvary Baptist Church.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Robert Weems, a professor of business history at Wichita State University, and immediate past president of Eta Beta Lambda.

Weems gave a presentation on King titled, “A Man of Principle.”

The celebration also included a video

presentation documenting the path to the construction of King’s monument on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., which was initiated by the fraternity and was dedicated in 2011.

The women of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, celebrating their Founder’s Day, joined the brothers at the event. After the program the Alphas, AKAs and guests gathered in the church basement for both black and gold and pink and green cake. ●●



Photos by Pictureman and Bonita Gooch



PHOTOS:

1. Dr. James Owens, III, president of Alpha Phi Alpha introduced the speaker.
2. Dr. Robert Weems, Professor of Business History spoke on the last year of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s life. Dr Weems suggest that Dr. King’s April 4, 1967 speech “Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence” showed his increasing radicalization.
3. (R-L) Wichita State University President,

4. Young men of Alpha including Joseph Sheperd (far right), Wichita State University’s Student Government Association President enjoy the program.

Wiley College Choir Performs During MLK Weekend

A highlight of the weekend was the performance of the Wiley College Choir from Marshall, TX. at Chapel Hill United Methodist. The performance was part of The Kansas African American Museum’s annual King celebration, held Saturday evening, Jan. 16.

The Museum presented

community service awards to Denny Bender (left) the Executive Director of the Union Rescue Mission and Van Williams, Public Information Office for the City of Wichita. Alicia Thompson, (center) Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education in USD 259, received the Education Award. ●●



Bender



Thompson



WICHITA COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE MALONE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Are you a student looking for an exceptional academic environment? Do you have a record of academic excellence and love to learn? If you are in Grades 6-8, consider applying for the Malone Scholars Program at Wichita Collegiate School.

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Kiana Knolland, WCS Class of 2013
Junior, Howard University
2013 Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year



Current WCS Malone Scholars
Alex Payne, WCS senior and
Riley Sanders, WCS junior.

SUCCESSFUL MALONE SCHOLARS PROGRAM APPLICANTS WILL:

- Demonstrate a record of academic excellence.
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- Be citizens of the United States.
- Meet the admission requirements of Wichita Collegiate School.
- Demonstrate financial need to qualify for funding of at least 30% of tuition through Collegiate's need-based tuition assistance qualifying process.
- Show enthusiasm and motivation for maximizing his or her educational opportunities.
- Be ready to enter Grades 7 through 9.

ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE DUE APRIL 15, 2016.



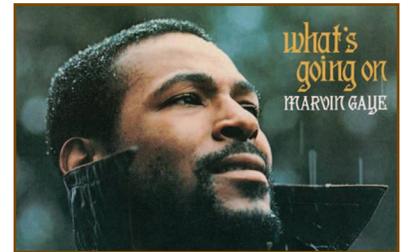
FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT SUSIE STEED
(316)771.2203 | wchitacollegiate.com
9115 E. 13th Street, Wichita, KS 67206

Popular Music and the Movement Standouts

We already mentioned James Brown, Curtis Mayfield and Aretha Franklin, but here are just a few standout performers who helped move racial pride and consciousness forward through their music.

Marvin Gaye “What’s Going On”

“What’s Going On” is a gripping protest song and a party starter. When the track dropped in 1971, Gaye was struggling through the sudden loss of his frequent collaborator and close friend Tammi Terrell, a brother that had been shipped off to war, and a country that was still mired in the dregs of violence and racism. Although inspired by an act of police brutality, “What’s Going On” was one of the movement’s defining anthems.



Stevie Wonder “Happy Birthday”

If you’ve ever been to a black birthday party, you’ve heard “Happy Birthday to Ya” sang in place of the more traditional song. The song originated during a campaign to declare Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday a U.S. holiday. Stevie Wonder wrote the original in 1981 to raise awareness for the cause, and the full track finds him expressing his disbelief that anyone would oppose celebrating a day in MLK’s honor. He held a massive concert/rally on the Washington Mall that January that featured Gil Scott Heron, Diana Ross, Jesse Jackson and several other key Black figures, and toured throughout the South performing the song and spreading awareness of the cause. Eventually his message got through, and in 1983 Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law.

Michael’s “Thriller” Breaks Down MTV’s Racial Barrier

It may be hard to believe, considering their current diversity, but there was a time, when MTV’s programmers took a hard-stance toward its “rock” format, and R&B/funk/hip-hop artists were all left out to dry. It wasn’t until MJ’s “Billie Jean” and its iconic video dropped that MTV was forced to adjust with the times or, according to Mike’s label, have all other CBS programming pulled from the station. MTV folded, and unwittingly set up the King of Pop to change music videos forever with the 14-minute epic “Thriller.” Soon, mainstream America couldn’t get enough of seeing Black artists on their tvs, and programs like “Yo! MTV Raps” became the station’s bread and butter.

MUSIC, from page 15

“I have heard it sung in great mass meetings with a thousand voices singing as one; I’ve heard a half-dozen sing it softly behind the bars of the Hinds County prison in Mississippi; I’ve heard old women singing it on the way to work in Albany, Georgia; I’ve heard the students singing it as they were being dragged away to jail. It generates power that is indescribable.”

Until the late 50s and early 60s, the

song was actually in a manner close to the Southern White folk tradition. That all changed during the civil rights campaign in Albany, Georgia in 1961 and 1962. In Albany, young Black activists, led by Bernice Johnson Reagon and associated with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), took the basic structure of the song, syncopated the rhythm and slowed the tempo down. This opened up the song to spontaneous improvisational possibilities with a call-and-response vocal patterns so popular in Gospel Music. ●●

Greater Wichita Ministerial League celebrates MLK Legacy

The Greater Wichita Ministerial League hosted “Beyond Tolerance,” a worship celebration on Mon., Jan 18, at the Wichita Metroplex. Again this year, the popular King event attracted a large and appreciative audience.

Back by popular demand as keynote speaker was Dr. Lance Watson, senior pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church, Richmond, VA. Last year, and again this year, Watson moved the audience to their feet with a spirited and thought-provoking message.

The GWML used the event as an opportunity to recognize several community organizations.

Bonita Gooch, editor-in-chief of The Community Voice, received the Vision and Dreams Award, for “making our community a better place to live.” The Council of Elders received the Spirit of Unity Award for, presented to a group or organization based upon their collaborative efforts in implementing and promoting the advancement of community progress, and fostering unity through the Greater Wichita Area.

Bishop Wade Moore, outgoing president of the GWML, presented the annual President’s Award to

Health Core Clinic. This award is presented to an individual, group, company or league member whose life and contributions exemplify service to others.

The event concluded with the passing of the gavel from Moore to new GWML President Roosevelt “Buck” DeShazer. ●●

greeted the attendees.

4. Guest Speaker Lance Martin inspired the audience with a motivating speech.

5. Elder Fran Jackson accepts the Spirit of Unity Award presented to the Council of Elders by Bishop Wade Moore and Pastor Cynthia Wolford.

PHOTOS:

1. Pastor Wade Moore passed the gavel of the league to newly elected president, Pastor Roosevelt DeShazer.
2. The choir in their red and black sang songs of praise that moved the audience.
3. Mayor Jeff Longwell



Photos by Pictureman



Hundreds Participate in the Annual MLK Holiday Parade

The King Holiday Parade returned this year with a collaboration between The Kansas African American Museum and Christian Faith Center. Parade participants gathered at the church on South Broadway Saturday morning Jan. 16. The day began with a free pancake breakfast.

They were joined by additional parade participants which included T-mobile employees, Wichita Branch NAACP, Quik-Trip

employess and various Greek organizations. Due to permit issues the groups marched on the sidewalk. but were aided by the Wichita Police Department as they crossed major intersections. The march headed north on Broadway past

the Ambassador Hotel which in 1958 was the site of the historic Dockum Drug Store Sit-in. The parade turned west onto Douglas and proceeded the half block to the Chester I. Lewis Reflection

Park which houses the bronze memorial to the Dockum Sit-in. ●●

PHOTOS

1. A group of young marches stop at Douglas and Broadway to imitate the sculpture “Boy and His Mother: What do They See”
2. The cold and threat of snow did not stop dozens of T-mobile employees from marching.
3. The Pink Diamonds, a group of about 20 girls age 8 to 17 wearing pink tops, stopped to dance in several parking lots along Broadway and Douglas.



Courtesy photos



Long Battle Leads to the Founding of first Black Denomination

Founded in a time when slavery was the norm in the young United States, the AME Church became the first African-American denomination in response to increased discrimination by White leaders in the Methodist Episcopal Church. The church was founded in 1816 by Richard Allen, but not until after more than a decade of trying to find a way to worship peacefully, but separately, under the Methodist Episcopal banner.

Born enslaved in 1760 in Philadelphia, Allen worked in his free time cutting firewood and doing odd jobs. He finally saved \$2,000 to buy his freedom in 1780. He was 20 years old at the time. Three years earlier, his mother and three siblings had been sold to another slaveholder. Allen never saw them again.

Allen cherished his independence but found that work was scarce for free Blacks. He got a job in a brickyard, and during the American Revolution he worked as a teamster.

He joined the Methodist church and for several years traveled and preached from New York to South Carolina. Returning to Philadelphia, he joined St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church to serve as preacher to its black members. Allen was drawn to the simple, straightforward message of Methodism, and to the anti-slavery stance of its founder John Wesley.

In 1793, responding to increased discrimination by White church leaders, Allen left St. George's with other Black members.

"A number of us usually attended St. George's Church in Fourth street; and when the coloured people began to get numerous in attending the church, they moved us from the seats we usually sat on and placed us around the wall, and on Sabbath morning we went to church and the sexton stood at the door, and told us to go in the gallery. He told us to go, and we would see where to sit. We expected to take the seats over the ones we formerly occupied below, not knowing any better. We took those seats. Meeting had begun and they were nearly done singing, and just as we got to the seats, the elder said, "let us pray." We had not been long upon our knees before I heard considerable scuffling and low talking. I raised my head up and saw one of the trustees, H—M—, having hold of the Rev. Absalom Jones, pulling him up off of his knees and saying, "You must get up — you must not kneel here." Mr. Jones replied, "wait until prayer is over." Mr. H—M— said "no, you must get up now, or I will call for aid and I force you away." Mr. Jones said, "wait until prayer is over, and I will get up and trouble you no more." With that he beckoned to one of the other trustees, Mr.

L—S— to come to his assistance. He came, and went to William White to pull him up. By this time prayer was over, and we all went out of the church in a body, and they were no more plagued with us in the church."

To sidestep this bigotry, he and Absalom Jones began the Free African Society (FAS), a secular group that addressed the moral, financial, and educational needs of Blacks. They decided to form their own church but the White elders of the Methodist church didn't approve of this idea. Some of the departing church members wanted to associate with the Church of England, but Allen believed Methodist beliefs were more suited to the needs of free Blacks and slaves.

Allen started a church in a former blacksmith shop. He had the building moved by a team of horses to a new location in Philadelphia. In 1794 Allen opened Bethel, meaning "house of God."

The White elders of the Methodist Church didn't agree with the Negroes forming their own church, but Allen asked the White elders for permission to start an independent Black church, but was twice refused.

AME Church Emerges from Struggle

Whites at St. George's continued to interfere with Bethel Church.

"John Emory, then elder of the Academy, published a circular letter in which we were disowned by the Methodists. A house was also hired and fitted up for worship not far from Bethel, and an invitation given to all who desired to



Bethel Methodist, opened in Philadelphia in 1794 by Richard Allen, was originally associated with the predominantly White Methodist Episcopal Religion. At one point, the Methodist tricked Allen out of his property, and he was forced to buy it back.

AME Founder 39th Black Heritage Stamp

The 39th stamp in the Black Heritage series commemorates preacher, activist, and civic leader Richard Allen (1760-1831), and coincides with the 200th anniversary of Allen's founding of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, and his election and consecration as its first bishop. ●●



be Methodists to resort thither. But being disappointed in this plan, Robert R. Roberts, the resident elder, came to Bethel, insisted on preaching to us, and taking the spiritual charge of the congregation, for we were Methodists.

He was told he should come on some terms with the Trustees: his answer was that, "He did not come to consult with Richard Allen or other trustees, but to inform the congregation that on next Sunday afternoon, he would come and take the spiritual charge." We told him he could not preach for us under existing circumstances. However, at the appointed time he came, but having taken previous advice we had our preacher in the pulpit when he came,

and the house was so fixed that he could not get but more than half way to the pulpit.

Finding himself disappointed he appealed to those who came with him as witnesses that "That man (meaning the preacher) had taken his appointment." Several respectable White citizens who knew the

colored people had been ill used were present, and told us not to fear for they would see us righted, and not suffer Roberts to preach in a forcible manner, after which Roberts went away. . . .

Earlier, one of the trustee's of the White Methodist church deceived Allen into signing over Bethel's land in the incorporation process. In 1815, elders from St. George's schemed to put Bethel up for auction. Allen had to buy his own church back for \$10,125. By 1816, Bethel had won a court ruling that it could exist as an independent church, but Allen had had enough.

Many Blacks in other Methodist Churches in the middle Atlantic communities were in similar situations, so Allen called them to meet in April 1816 in Philadelphia. Taking into consideration their grievances, and in order to "promote union and harmony" among themselves, they resolved to form the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Bethel became Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

AME Church Spreads Nationwide

Prior to the Civil War, the AME denomination spread to major cities such as Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Washington, DC, Cincinnati, Chicago, and Detroit. A half dozen southern states had AME congregations before the war, and California hosted AME churches in the 1850s.

After the war, the Union Army encouraged the spread of the AME Church in the South, to serve the needs of newly freed slaves. Because of its rapid spread below the Mason-Dixon, by 1880 AME membership had reached 400,000. By the 1890s, the AME Church had expanded to Liberia, Sierra Leone, and South Africa.

Richard Allen continued to minister to Blacks and oppose slavery up to his death in 1831. ●●

12 African Americans 20% More Likely to Have Glaucoma

Glaucoma occurs about five times more often in African Americans and blindness from glaucoma is about six times more common. In addition to this higher frequency, glaucoma often occurs about 10 years earlier in African Americans than in other ethnic populations.

What is Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases causing optic nerve damage. The optic nerve carries images from the retina to the brain so we can see. In glaucoma, eye pressure plays a role in damaging the delicate nerve fibers of the optic nerve. When a significant number of nerve fibers are damaged, blind spots develop in the field of vision.

Once nerve damage and visual loss occur, it is permanent. Most people don't notice these blind areas until much of the optic nerve damage has already occurred. If the entire nerve is destroyed, blindness results.

Glaucoma is a leading cause of blindness in the world, especially in older people. Early detection and treatment by your ophthalmolo-

gist are the keys to preventing optic nerve damage and vision loss from glaucoma.

Research shows that African Americans are genetically more at risk for glaucoma, making early detection and treatment all the more important. Because of this, African Americans should get a thorough check for glaucoma every one to two years after age 35.

Although treatment varies, the overall goal is to prevent further damage and sight loss. One way that eye doctors seek to meet this goal is to aim for a target eye pressure. Each patient, regardless of race, should continue to be evaluated on the individual state of his or her disease, with a target pressure and treatment plan unique to each patient.

In general, glaucoma cannot be cured, but it can be controlled. Eye drops, pills, laser procedures,

and surgical operations are used to prevent or slow further damage from occurring. Because glaucoma can worsen without your being aware of it, your treatment will likely need to be changed over time to achieve a lower "target eye pressure."

Glaucoma is often treated with eye drops taken regularly several times a day, sometimes in combination with pills. These medications will alter the circulation of eye fluid and lower eye pressure, either by decreasing the production of fluid within the eye, or

by increasing the flow leaving the drainage angle. You should notify your ophthalmologist immediately if you think you may be experiencing side-effects.

••

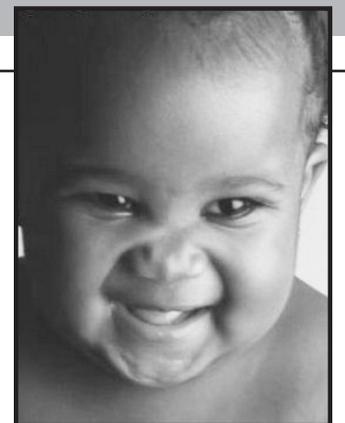
WHAT ARE THE WARNING SIGNS OF GLAUCOMA

- Unusual trouble adjusting to dark rooms
- Difficulty focusing on objects
- Unusual sensitivity to light or glare
- Change in color of iris
- Red-rimmed, encrusted or swollen lids
- Recurrent pain in or around eyes
- Double vision
- Dark spot at the center of viewing
- Lines appear distorted or wavy
- Excess tearing or "watery eyes"
- Dry eyes with itching or burning
- Seeing spots, ghost-like images



AFRICAN AMERICANS IN ANY OF THESE RISK GROUPS HAVE AN EVEN GREATER RISK OF DEVELOPING GLAUCOMA:

- Over age 40
- Extreme nearsightedness
- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Prolonged steroid use



February is Children's Dental Health Month

Begin Care of Baby's Teeth Before Age One

Although America's dental health has improved significantly in recent decades, tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of early childhood.

The American Dental Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics say that every child should visit a dentist by age one — or as soon as the first tooth appears. This "well baby visit" teaches parents and caregivers how to care for their children's teeth and help them remain cavity-free.

Dentists also encourage mothers to stop on-demand nighttime breast-feeding, after the child's first teeth come through.

Caring for Infant Teeth

Health habits that start from birth last a lifetime:

- Before the teeth erupt, clean the baby's mouth and gums with a soft cloth or infant toothbrush after every

feeding and at bath time to remove plaque and excess milk or formula. This helps ready the baby for the teeth cleaning to come.

- When the teeth erupt, clean the child's teeth at least twice a day with a toothbrush designed for small children. Getting a child used to oral stimulation often helps make introducing a toothbrush easier later on.

- Take the baby to see a pediatric dentist by the baby's first birthday. The earlier the visit, the better. It is important to establish a dental home to ensure that the child's oral health care is delivered in a comprehensive, ongoing, accessible, coordinated and family-centered way by the dentist.

- Dentists also encourage mothers to stop on-demand nighttime breast-feeding, after the child's first teeth come through.

- If the baby is placed to sleep with a bottle, use nothing but water.

When a child is given a bottle containing sugary liquids such as milk, formula or fruit juice, the teeth are under attack by bacterial acid for extended periods. This can cause cavities in babies called "early childhood caries," formerly known as baby bottle tooth decay.

- Breast-feeding has been shown to be beneficial for a baby's health and development. However, if the child prefers to be breast-fed often or for long periods once a tooth appears and other foods/beverages have been introduced into her diet, she is at risk for severe tooth decay. Clean the baby's mouth with a wet washcloth after breast-feeding, and encourage a bottle with plain water during the nighttime.

- Never dip a pacifier in anything sweet; it can lead to serious tooth decay.

- Wean the infant from the bottle

by one year of age.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that more than 40 percent of children have decay by the time they reach kindergarten.

Permanent Teeth

Permanent teeth need regular cleaning and flossing, and dentists recommend following this routine after every meal. When you start to take care of your child's permanent teeth, you will need to brush and floss his teeth for him until he gets a little older.

Use toothpaste and a toothbrush designed for children. A child's toothbrush has softer bristles that will not hurt your child's teeth and gums. Try using children's flossers with handles so that you can teach your child how to floss his own teeth.

When a child is about 6 years old their teeth will begin to come loose.

Let your child wiggle the tooth until it falls out on its own. This will minimize the pain and bleeding associated with a lost tooth.

Another thing to be on the lookout for is cavities. What and how frequently your kids snack can have a big impact on their oral health. Here are a few tips for snacking and mealtime:

- Give your child healthy snack foods, such as fresh fruits, vegetables and cheeses.
- Buy foods that are sugar-free or unsweetened.
- After your child snacks, make sure his or her teeth are brushed. ••

The Reflector

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On The



Kansas' Samuel Jackson was a success in Topeka before heading of to our nation's capital where he was in great demand as an administrator and in communities across the world.

One of the early African Americans in high ranking positions in our nation's government, Jackson mixed with our nation's leaders, movers and shakers, and along the way help change the look and face of many communities as an administrator in the Housing Department. Learn more about him in the story that begins on Page 7

Thank You Dr. Weems

Dr. Robert E. Weems, Jr., as the Willard W. Garvey Distinguished Professor of Business History at Wichita State University contributed two articles to this year's Reflector. An eye-opening article about the final life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and a second article on the 1960s Interstate Highway Expansion and how "Black communities didn't matter." From 1999-2011, Weems was Professor of History at the University of Missouri, Columbia. A native of Chicago, Professor Weems received his Ph.D. in History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His areas of specialization include African American

History, African American Business History, and U.S. History. The recipient of numerous fellowships and grants, including from the Andrew Mellon Foundation, Weems is the author of three books, co-editor of another, and has published almost three dozen journal articles and encyclopedia entries.

His most recent book is *Business in Black and White: American Presidents and Black Entrepreneurs in the Twentieth Century* (New York University Press, 2009).



Editor's Thoughts

Our Black History issue is among my favorites because our readers tell us over-and-over, how much they enjoy the unique stories we share on the history of African Americans in often far flung areas of the world and also right here at home.

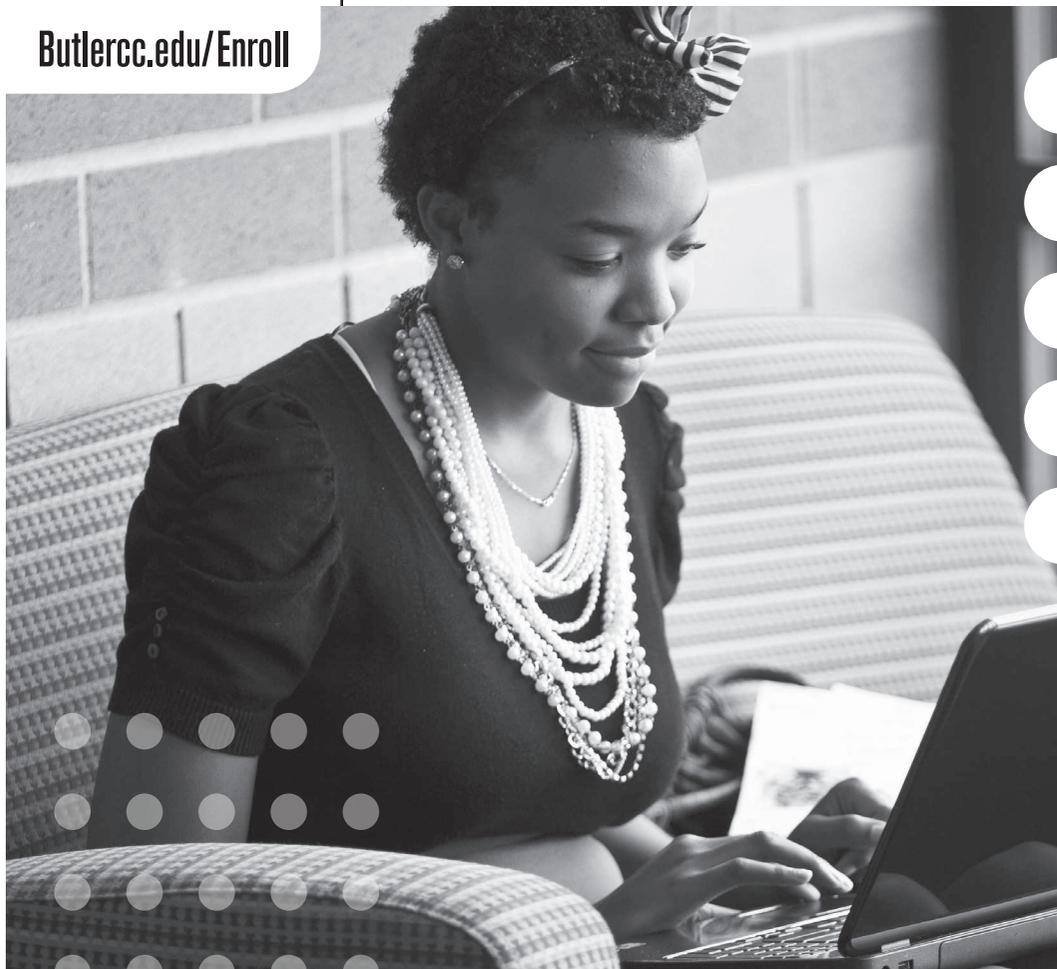
As always, some of our readers may have lived the history covered in this issue. The story *Music Powered the Movement* will touch individuals who lived through the era of growing pride and cultural enrichment experienced during the 60s, 70s and even into the 80s. Things changed a lot, and music had a role.

The Radical King story written by Dr. Weems will introduce you to a side of Dr. King that you probably didn't know. Add in a few more great stories and of course the section is once again a winner.

We're able to bring this issue to our readers thanks to our advertisers. We thank them for their support and encourage our readers to do the same.

Bonita Gooch

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Let's Take **TOMORROW**

Understanding the Court's Wichita Marijuana Ruling

By Bonita Gooch
The Community Voice

The Kansas Supreme Court released their ruling last week in the case of Schmidt versus the City of Wichita. That's the case brought by Kansas Atty. General Dereck Schmidt to challenge the ability of the City of Wichita to adopt a marijuana law that does not comply with the state's law.

While the citizens, the City and the State were hoping for an answer that gave them clear direction, that's not what they got.

Instead, the justices ruled the ballot initiative invalid on a technicality.

According to the Justice, MRI-ICT, the group behind the ballot initiative, and the City of Wichita, failed to follow completely to the letter of the law, the

steps required by the state's recall petition law.

What did the groups do wrong? They failed to turn in a copy of the proposed ordinance that would go into effect if the ballot initiative was approved. According to state law, both the ordinance and the petitions are to be turned in to the City Clerk. The City worked with MRI-ICT to reach an amicable agreement on the terms of the reform and in the drafting of the ordinance. The City's Attorney, the Mayor, the City Manager and all of the City Council members were familiar with the proposed bill. A copy just wasn't turned in to the City Clerk.

This part of the process is important, and required, said the justices, because it gives citizens and the city council a way to review all of the changes proposed by the ballot initiative. Especially

since only a summary statement of the ordinance changes was included on the circulated petitions.

After the justices ruled the process outlined in the statute was not followed fully, they refused to consider the major constitutional issue. In their opinion, ruling on the constitutional issue, "after the petition was found lacking would mean issuing an advisory opinion, something the court does not do."

On April 7, the citizens of Wichita approved a ballot initiative, 54% to 45%, that reduced the penalty for first-time offense conviction for possession of a small amount of marijuana.

After the referendum passed, Attorney General Schmidt immediately moved to prohibit the City from implementing or enforcing the ordinance. In his case filing, Schmidt pointed out

several issues of concern.

Initially the City and representatives of MRI-ICT were concerned with what they thought was the heart of the challenge; whether the Home Rule Amendment to the Kansas Constitution preempts the City of Wichita from passing an ordinance in conflict with state law. The procedural issue was seen as a secondary and minor challenge. However in the end, the procedural challenge became the only issue the justices considered.

Two justices, Dan Biles and Lee Johnson wrote dissenting opinions. While both agreed the petition drive was flawed technically, Biles was particularly upset by the justice's inaction on the constitutional issue.

"Both the Attorney General and the City of Wichita have compelling interests in knowing much more than this court is telling them about how this proposed ordinance squares with our constitution and statutes. Likewise, Wichita voters should know whether the results of any future efforts on this topic may be carried out by their city officials through a local ordinance or if they must



redeploy to the legislature to pursue a change in state law. With today's result they are instead left with a judicial version of Blind Man's Bluff," wrote Biles.

Janice Bradley, a member of MRI-ICT the group that spearheaded the petition drive, agrees. The group is left wondering how to move forward. Bradley said the group will meet to consider their next steps. However, with the citizen's support for a reduction in the penalties, she hopes MRI-ICT and the citizens of Wichita can count on the Wichita City Council to actively pursue ways to implement the will of the citizens. ●●

Get Your Adult Record Expunged For Free at Clean-Slate Day

Learn more about Clean-Slate Day at a Informational Session on Thurs. Feb. 4, from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. at the Atwater Neighborhood Center. Be ready for Clean-Slate Day.

Free help is here to help you expunge your adult criminal record. Clean Slate Day, a pro bono service project of the Wichita Bar Association will be held Fri., March 4, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Sedgwick County Courthouse, 525 N. Main, 5th Floor, Wichita. The event is designed to offer people who are economically disadvantaged the chance to have certain eligible criminal convictions expunged through a simplified process at no cost.

If you are interested in participating in Clean Slate Day, go to the Sedgwick County Courthouse any time between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on March 4. After filling out the Expungement Personal Information Form, a background check will be performed to see if you are eligible for a no-cost Clean Slate expungement.

If it is determined that you have eligible convictions that can be expunged (see limitations below), Clean Slate volunteers, including volunteer lawyers, will assist in preparing and filing the expungement paperwork.

You will then appear before a judge who will decide if the expungement should be granted.

Not every person or conviction will be eligible for a Clean Slate expungement:

- Clean Slate is limited to adult convictions handed down in City of Wichita Municipal Court or Sedgwick County District Court (18th Judicial District). If you would like more information about expunging a juvenile conviction, contact Positive Pathways Program or complete the WBA Lawyer Referral Service Request Form.

- Clean Slate is limited to expungements that are "uncontested," meaning that neither the City Prosecutor nor the Sedgwick County District Attorney oppose the expungement.

- To help as many individuals as possible, Clean Slate is currently limited to five eligible expungements per person.

- NOT ALL CONVICTIONS CAN BE EXPUNGED. Kansas law limits what crimes can be expunged and under what circumstances. Before decid-

ing to attend Clean Slate Day, you are encouraged to review the list of crimes and waiting periods. You can find a link to the eligible crimes, waiting lists, and the forms you need to complete for an expungement on our website, www.communityvoiceks.com.

- A conviction can only be expunged after the sentence has been completely fulfilled (including full payment of fines, court costs, and/or restitution) and after years-long waiting periods.

- In some instances, victims must be notified before a request for an expungement can be considered by a judge. This could delay the expungement process.

- Participation in Clean Slate Day does not guarantee an expungement of your conviction. ●●

Get More Info. @
EXPUNGEMENT INFORMATIONAL
Thurs. Feb. 4, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Atwater Center, 2755 E. 19th
Get your questions answered.

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The Radical King We Didn't Know

By Dr. Robert E. Weems, Jr.

The last year of Dr. King's life remains the most underappreciated and compelling aspect of his public career. For Americans who have been presented a sanitized version of his public career, where he has literally been frozen in time on Aug. 28, 1963 giving his "I Have A Dream" speech, Dr. King's activities during the final year of his life appear startling, if not unreal.

The last year of his life revealed that he was truly a man of principle who possessed the courage to do what he felt he had to do, even though he was widely criticized for his beliefs during this period.

One of the readily apparent aspects of Dr. King's public life was that he was an outstanding orator. His immortal, "I Have A Dream" speech, delivered at the Aug. 28, 1963 March on Washington, epitomizes this aspect of his skill-set. Yet, his April 4, 1967 presentation delivered at the Riverside Church in New York City entitled "Beyond Vietnam—A Time to Break Silence," may have actually been more historically significant. This latter speech clearly demonstrated that Dr. King, while still a "dreamer," was simultaneously a fully awake outspoken critic of how the poor were treated in the richest country in the world.

"Beyond Vietnam—A Time to Break Silence" also gave ammunition to his critics, such as the FBI, who believed that Dr. King was a dangerous Communist sympathizer.

As David J. Garrow asserted in his classic book, *The FBI and Martin Luther King, Jr.*, the FBI suspected King of being a Communist, particularly after his "I Have a Dream" speech. Most persons today view that presentation as an eloquent and uplifting call for racial cooperation and harmony. Yet, William C. Sullivan, the FBI's Assistant Director, had a far more negative assessment. After the speech, Sullivan, according to David J. Garrow's research, declared "We must mark [King] now, if we have not done so before, as the most dangerous Negro of the future in this Nation from the standpoint of communism, the Negro and national security."

This was part of the historical backdrop associated with Dr. King's April 4, 1967 speech given at Riverside Church. After describing this facility as a "magnificent house of worship," he went on to say that his motivation for speaking was "because my

conscience leaves me no other choice." Moreover, as "a preacher by calling," Dr. King outlined a variety of reasons why Vietnam entered into "the field of my moral vision."

First and foremost, he lamented how the country's commitment to fighting a "War on Poverty" soon disappeared in favor of escalating U.S. military involvement in Vietnam. As Rev. Dr. King specifically noted:

It seemed as if there was a real promise of hope for the poor—both Black and White—through the poverty program. There were experiments, hopes, new beginnings. Then came the buildup in Vietnam, and I watched this program broken and eviscerated, as if it were some idle political plaything of a society gone mad on war.

Besides viewing the escalating Vietnam War as detrimental to the country's anti-poverty agenda, Dr. King further lamented how America's poor were disproportionately represented among the troops being sent to Southeast Asia. Moreover, he offered the following elaborations in this regard:

We were taking the Black young men who had been crippled by our society and sending them eight thousand miles away to guarantee liberties in Southeast Asia which they have not found in southwest Georgia and East Harlem. And...we have been repeatedly faced with the cruel irony of watching Negro and White boys on TV screens as they kill and die

“King has diminished his usefulness to his cause, to his country, and to his people. And that is a great tragedy.”

– The Washington Post

together for a nation that has been unable to seat them together at the same schools.

Based upon these realities, King told the audience at the Riverside Church that "I could not be silent in the face of such cruel manipulation of the poor."

Along with King's concern that the military buildup in Vietnam hurt America's poor in a variety of ways, he also broke his silence regarding this issue based upon a deeper, philosophical, consideration. After citing the increase in urban violence and unrest during the preceding three summers, Dr. King continued:

As I have walked among the desperate, rejected and angry young men, I have told them that Molotov cocktails and rifles would not solve their problems. I have tried to offer them my deepest compassion while maintaining my conviction that social change comes most meaningfully through nonviolent action. But they ask—and rightfully so—what about Vietnam? They ask if our own nation wasn't using massive doses of violence to solve its problems, to bring about the changes it wanted. Their questions hit home, and I knew I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today—my own government.

Dr. King's April 4, 1967 comments concerning his opposition to the Vietnam War also included a reference to his winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. After acknowledging how receiving the Nobel Peace Prize contributed to his antiwar mindset, King also clarified how his "commitment to the ministry of Jesus Christ" brought him to



In a speech on April 4, 1967, exactly one year before he was killed by an assassin's bullet, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stepped out on principle and denounced the Vietnam War. It was the beginning of a tumultuous last year of the Civil Rights leader's life.

Riverside's pulpit:

To me the relationship of this ministry to the making of peace is so obvious that I sometimes marvel at those who ask me why I'm speaking out against the war. Can it be that they do not know that the good news was meant for all men—for Communist and capitalist, their children and ours, for Black and for White, for revolutionary and conservative?

Although Rev. King believed that his remarks provided a morals-based rationale for his opposition to the Vietnam War, a number of publications, organizations, and individuals subsequently attacked him for his pronouncements.

For instance, an April 6, 1967 editorial in *The Washington Post* declared that:

[King] has done a grave injury to those who are his natural allies...and even graver injury to himself. Many who have listened to him with respect will never again accord him the same confidence. He has diminished his usefulness to his cause, to his country, and to his people. And that is a great tragedy.

Four days later, on April 10, the NAACP

See KING, page 6

14 Free Help Preparing Taxes Available Throughout Kansas

Free E-File income tax preparation help is now available at sites across Kansas. The assistance sites are starting today. Community IRS trained and certified volunteers will help low- to moderate-income people prepare their tax returns. The volunteers will help complete electronically filed Federal and State individual income tax returns and limited Kansas Homestead

Claims & Property Tax Relief Claims. To qualify for the assistance, in general the household income must be less than \$53,000 per year. The service is also available for individuals with disabilities, the elderly and those with limited English-speaking abilities.

AARP Kansas also offers Tax-Aide through the IRS-sponsored Tax Counseling for the Elderly program

at additional sites throughout Kansas. Those sites provide free tax help to seniors.

Due to changes in the law, renters should be aware that they are no longer eligible for a Homestead Claim. The Food Sales Tax credit is also now non-refundable so it does not generate a refund beyond the amount of taxes owed.

Both spouses must be present to sign the required forms if they are filing jointly and bank routing numbers and account numbers must be provided to have the refund deposited directly into a checking or savings account.

To locate the nearest VITA site, find out what you need to bring and to make an appointment to have your taxes done, call 1-800-906-9887. A list of AARP Kansas Tax-Aide sites is available by calling 1-888-227-7669. ●●

A Few Free Tax Prep Locations

Wichita
Atwater Neighborhood Center
Call 303-8016 to schedule an appointment.

Colvin City Hall
2821 S. Roosevelt St.

Downtown Senior Ctr
200 S. Walnut St.

Topeka
Jayhawk AAA
2910 S.W. Topeka Bld Docking

State Office Building
915 SW Harrison St., Room 163.
Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday

Salina
United Way Sponsored Site
110 S. Santa Fe,
Open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Mondays; 1 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and
Thursdays, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on
Saturdays. Services are offered on
a first-come-first-served basis.

Hutchinson
First Christian Church
15 E. 5th Ave.

Junction City
Junction City Senior Center
1025 S. Spring Valley

Lawrence
Lawrence Senior Ctr.
74 Vermont St.

For a complete list of locations across the state, their hours and what you need to bring: Call 1-800-906-9887 for VITA locations and 1-888-227-7669 for AARP Locations. AARP locations serve seniors.

ROCK THE BLOCK TIRED OF RENTING? Find out how you can own a home!



Learn more at a meeting at 130 E. Murdock St.:

- 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 4, Feb. 17, March 3, March 9
- 10 a.m. on Feb. 27 and March 19 (English & Spanish)

RSVP to Katharine at 316/269-0755 or

katharine@wichitahabitat.org

www.wichitahabitat.org



Hunter Education Class



Pass It On!
February 5-6
Outdoor Mentors

Space is Limited

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Feb. 5 • 6 pm until 9 pm &
Feb. 6 • 8 am until 5 pm

- Participants must attend both sessions.
- Must be at least 11 years old. • The class is FREE
- Students who complete the class are eligible to participate in upcoming Outdoor Mentor Pheasant Hunt.

Class is being offered by Pass It On, Outdoor Mentors, Inc.
Call 316-253-7221 to reserve your seat.

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REGIONAL CALENDAR

FEB 9 Mardi Gras Fund-raiser & Gumbo Contest Come celebrate Fat Tuesday at this Mardi Gras Fundraiser and gumbo contest. Purchase a tasting kit and sample gumbo from some of Topeka area's best gumbo cooks or just purchase a bowl, King cake and a drink. Both options are just \$5. This fundraising event for HVF Youth Photography is from 5-8 p.m. at Central Park Community Center, 1534 SW 10th St. Entry for the Gumbo Contest is \$30. For entry form and rules contact Yolanda at (785) 608-3291.

11 Why an Equity Council in Topeka Public Schools? The community is invited to join this dialogue about racial equity with the Topeka Public Schools with the Topeka Public Schools Equity Council. Event is from 5:30 - 7 p.m. in the New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 2801 SE Indiana Ave. This event is free and open to the community and dinner will be provided. Event supporters include: Midwest Elks Lodge #1441 and New Mt Zion.

16 Finding Your Marketing Plan and Knowing Your Brand. Join this Lunch and Learn Workshop from 11:30 - 1 p.m. at Go Topeka, 120 SE 6th Ave., Suite 110. RSVP online at GoTopeka.com/events. This workshop is part of the Blue Ribbon Academy Series. Next workshop in the series, March 29.

20 An African American Heritage and Culture Celebration African-American culture and heritage in all its richness will be told through music, performances and display of genealogy and heritage. From 1-5 p.m. at the Topeka Library Marvin Auditorium. Groups are being invited to set up displays of their African American heritage, genealogy and/or family artifacts. For more information contact Sherri Camp, (785) 580-4689 or scamp@tsepl.org. This event is sponsored by the Bake Genealogy Center at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library.

27 Setting the Stage, the moving story of African-American

Dance Enjoy an interactive walk through African-American dance history presented by the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey. Learn about historically important dancers and choreographers during this multimedia program that combines live performance with narrate slide presentations. This free Black History Month event is open to all ages and begins at 6 p.m. at Highland Park High School Auditorium, 2424 SE California, Topeka. Reserved seating \$10. For more information or to reserve seats visit www.kcfaa.org. Sponsored by the Links, Capitol Federal, Leading Learners, African-American Male Leadership Council and the Highland Park Rhythmic Belles Dance Team. Donations will be accepted with proceeds benefiting the Ailey Camp Topeka.

28 The Spoken Word presented by the Women's Network 4-6 p.m. Brown V Board of Education National Historic Site, 1515 SE Monroe Street, Topeka, KS For additional information, contact Barbara at 785 273-6242. ●●

KING, from page 4

Board of Directors adopted a resolution labeling any attempt to merge the civil rights and peace movements as “a serious tactical mistake.” Although this text did not mention Dr. King by name, its’ context was clear. In fact, the New York Times, in its related story, featured a headline reading “NAACP Decries Stand of Dr. King on Vietnam.” Moreover, a couple days later, U.N. Undersecretary-General Ralph Bunche held a press conference where he stated that, as a member of the NAACP Board, he had pushed for this resolution. In addition, Bunche declared that King could not be both a civil rights leader and an antiwar spokesman; he needed give up one role or the other.

In a retrospective assessment of Dr. King’s April 4, 1967 speech, chief aide Rev. Andrew Young offered the following analysis while being interviewed for the award-winning documentary *Eyes on the Prize*:

Martin gave a brilliant rationale for his position on the War in Vietnam. And as a Nobel Peace Prize winner, we expected people to take it seriously and not to agree with it but to disagree with certain specifics. We didn’t get that. We got instead, an emotional outburst attacking his right to have an opinion. It was almost, you know, “Nigger, you ought to stay in your place.”

As David J. Garrow asserted in his Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Bearing The Cross: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Council*, “Rev. King pledged not to be daunted by the unpopularity of his stand. Moreover, Dr. King felt even more confident about the path he had taken when Ralph Bunche later privately contacted King to not only apologize for his public attack, but to state his complete agreement with King’s views on the Vietnam War, if not his way of expressing them. King, according to Garrow, subsequently lamented that Bunche did not have the courage to state his honest opinion in public.

Although Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during the last year of his life, paid a huge political price for being courageous, the evidence suggests that his faith helped him to transcend concern about this. For instance, during an April 9, 1967 sermon in Chicago, he broke away from his prepared text and declared:

I don’t want a long funeral. In fact, I don’t need a eulogy of more than one or two minutes.... I hope that I will live so well with the rest of my days. I don’t know how long I’ll live, but I’m not concerned about that. But

I hope I can live so well that the preacher can get up and say he was faithful. That’s all, that’s enough. That’s the sermon I’d like to hear. “Well done thy good and faithful servant. You’ve been faithful; you’ve been concerned about others”....That’s where I want to go from this point on, the rest of my days. “He who is the greatest among you shall be your servant.” I want to be a servant. I want to be a witness for my Lord, do something for others.

Dr. King’s quest to do something for others, coupled with his growing concern about America’s poor, subsequently coalesced in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference’s “Poor People’s Campaign” announced in December 1967. This initiative carried even greater significance, based upon occurrences that summer. In what has been called “the long hot summer” of 1967, 176 urban racial disturbances took place in the U.S., including in Wichita.

During the first day of a late November SCLC staff retreat, where the “Poor People’s Campaign” initiative was conceived, Dr. King told his colleagues:

The decade of 1955 to 1965, with its constructive elements misled us. Everyone underestimated the amount of rage Negroes were suppressing, and the amount of bigotry the White majority was disguising. ...We must fashion new tactics which do not count on government good will, but instead serve to compel unwilling authorities to yield to the mandates of justice. Among the goals must be a guaranteed annual income and the elimination of slums. Nonviolence must be adapted to urban conditions and urban moods. Nonviolent protest must now mature to a new level...mass civil disobedience. There must be more than a statement to the larger society, there must be a force that interrupts its functioning at some key point.

As David J. Garrow discussed in *Bearing The Cross*, during the second day of the SCLC retreat, Andrew Young, following up on the previous day’s discussion, suggested using such tactics as lying on highways, blocking doors at government offices, and mass school



King’s anti-war position endeared him to anti-war protestors, both White and Black. Here he speaks to a predominately White audience at the University of Minnesota .

boycotts. For his part, Dr. King agreed and further noted that SCLC’s protests ought to be “as dramatic, as dislocative, as disruptive, as attention getting as the riots without destroying life and property.” Moreover, the ultimate envisioned instance of mass, disruptive, civil disobedience would be a second March on Washington in early April 1968.

As King told SCLC staffers, the purpose of the second March would not be to have a beautiful day, but to literally occupy the city until the Johnson Administration altered both its domestic and foreign policies.

On Dec. 4, 1967, Dr. King hosted a press conference in Atlanta where he officially announced SCLC’s plans to “lead waves of the nation’s poor and disinherited to Washington DC next spring to demand redress of their grievances by the United States government and to secure at least jobs or income for all.” His opening statement also included the following:

We will go there, we will demand to be heard, and we will stay until America responds. If this means forcible repression of our movement we will confront it, for we have done this before. If this means scorn or ridicule we embrace it, for that is what America’s poor now receive. If it means jail we accept it willingly for the millions of poor already are imprisoned by exploitation and discrimination...This will be no mere one-day march in Washington but a trek to the nation’s capital by suffering and outraged citizens who will go to stay until some definite and positive action is taken to provide jobs and income for the poor.

The transcript from this press conference includes the following question posed to Dr. King by a reporter:

King the Radical

Dr. King, it seems from what you’ve said here that this movement seems to have a more militant tone about it. Would you say that this is going to be a more militant movement than ever before?

King replied by asserting:

I would say that this will be a move that will be consciously designed to develop massive dislocation. I think this is absolutely necessary at this point. It will be massive dislocation without destroying life or property and we’ve found through our experience that timid supplications for justice will not solve the problem. We’ve got to massively confront the power structure. So this is a move to dramatize the situation, channelize the very legitimate and understandable rage of the ghetto and we know we can’t do it with something weak. It has to be something strong, dramatic, and attention-getting.

As we know, on April 4, 1968, an assassin’s bullet kept Dr. King from leading America’s poor to the nation’s capital -- in a dramatic campaign -- to demand economic justice.

Rev. Dr. King’s last sermon, delivered at the National Cathedral on Sun., March 31, 1968 clearly conveyed the religious underpinnings of his perceived radicalism. Considering he is often portrayed as a “dreamer,” it is ironic that this presentation was entitled “Remaining Awake Through A Great Revolution.”

Dr. King’s remarks included the following depiction of what would transpire when America had to face the “God of History”:

One day we will have to stand before the God of history and we will have to talk in terms of things we’ve done. Yes, we will be able to say we built gargantuan bridges to span the seas, we built gigantic buildings to kiss the skies. Yes, we made our submarines to penetrate ocean depths. We brought into being many things with our scientific and technological power. It seems clear that I can hear the God of history saying, “That was not enough! But I was hungry, and ye fed me not. I was naked, and ye clothed me not. I was devoid of a decent sanitary house to live in, and ye provided no shelter for me. And consequently, you cannot enter the kingdom of greatness. If ye do it to the least of these, my brethren, ye do it unto me.”

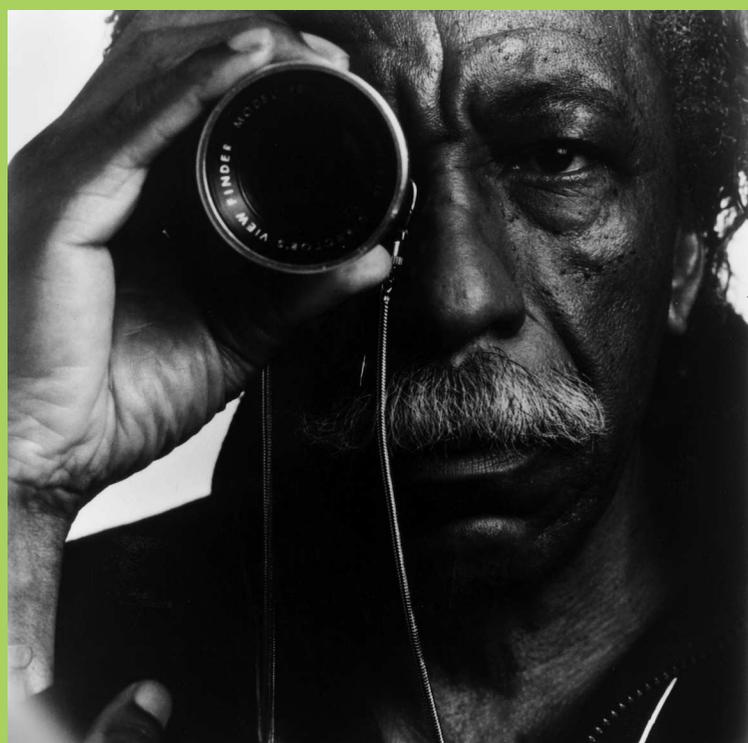
In assessing the final year of Dr. King’s life, it appears clear that, among other things, he sought a positive outcome when he, himself, had to stand before the “God of History.” ●●

FREEDOM TO EXPAND

GORDON PARKS

COMMUNITY SYMPOSIUM: February 12 and 13, 2016

Ulrich Museum of Art at Wichita State University and Wichita Art Museum



Toni Parks, *Gordon Parks*, date unknown. Gelatin silver print. Courtesy of and copyright The Gordon Parks Foundation, Pleasantville, New York

Exploring the life and work of
Gordon Parks, a Kansas native and
one of the most celebrated African
American artists of his time

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WICHITA ART MUSEUM

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Friday, February 12

Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University

Jamal Cyrus

Houston-based artist

When Images are Deployed

Julia Brown

Artist and Assistant Professor of Painting
at George Washington University

Unfitting Images

Dr. John Edwin Mason

Associate Professor of History and Associate Chair of
the Department of History at the University of Virginia
Visual Justice: Gordon Parks' American Photographs

Saturday, February 13

Wichita Art Museum

Dr. Galyn Vesey

Retired professor of public affairs

Black Wichita, 1945–1958

Karen Haas

Lane Curator of Photographs
at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Gordon Parks in Kansas

Dr. Martin A. Berger

Professor of History of Art and Visual Culture
at University of California, Santa Cruz
Images of the Civil Rights Struggle

wichitaartmuseum.org/gordonparks

Friends of the
Wichita Art Museum



Mr. Jackson Goes to Washington

In his youth, the incessant clamor of the teletype, the telephone's endless chimes and the bustle of the newsroom was Samuel C. Jackson's lullaby.

He yearned to tread in the footsteps of the giants of the black press, John Russwurm, Fredrick Douglass, Ida B. Wells and others, who despite the all too familiar odds doggedly published the truth about social injustices and atrocities against Blacks which White America complacently permitted to go unchecked and unpublished.

A 1951 honors journalism graduate of Topeka, Kansas Washburn University, Jackson was armed to take his first steps into the Black fourth estate only to find that he was a victim of the same injustices Black crusaders wrote about years before.

Black daily papers were scares and previous offenders from White dailies that claimed they'd hire any good reporters, soured. Jackson's request for work were simply rebuffed: "The time isn't right yet."

As providence would have it, his first bout with the establishment was the turning point in Jackson's career. He decided to attack the White establishment and strike with its foundation, the United States Constitution. Frustration and disappointment vested into a positive impulse which propelled him through grueling years at the Washburn University School of Law. It was a decision that helped spark a historic career.

The son of a Church of God in Christ minister, Jackson was born in Kansas City's Mudville section, and was one of eight siblings, four boys and 4 girls. The family moved to Topeka in Jackson's youth and he graduated from Topeka High School in 1947.

It was at Topeka High that he became interested in Journalism. He compiled an impressive record on the football, basketball,

baseball and track teams. However, most of the extra-curricular activities in high school, including student government were segregated. Jackson protested against these conditions and went so far as to establish a "Colored Youth Progressive Club," which sought to integrate the social functions of White and Negro classmates. The system of enforced segregation finally gave way in the city's high schools in 1951, four years after Jackson's graduation, and the same year he received a B.A in political science from Washburn University in Topeka.

Jackson remained at Washburn for his law degree, which he obtained in 1954, the year of the historic Brown case that struck down the "separate but equal" doctrine of the education system case. He passed the bar in 1954 and practiced for a few months before going on active duty in the Air Force with the Judge Advocate Corps. The next year, while stationed in Bangor Maine, he learned of the Montgomery bus boycott and was instrumental in raising funds locally to support it. He also strengthened his resolve to return to Topeka to fight racial discrimination in the City's public accommodations.

Practicing in Topeka after his discharge in 1957, he handled cases involving school desegregation and, as a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, participated in the successful sit-ins which began there in the fall of that year.

In 1958, Jackson was named chairman of the Housing and Urban Renewal Committee, a member of the State Legal Redress Committee, and chairman of the NAACP Political Action Committee. In these posts, his fundamental objective was to overcome the discriminatory aspects of urban renewal and employment programs in Kansas. As employment chairman of the NAACP, Jackson helped the Black

community organize an effective boycott of the city's commercial district, which resulted in Negroes finally being hired in chain stores, the telephone company, banks and other business establishments.

Helped Gain State Legislation

Jackson gained prominence at the 1963 NAACP conference when he served on the

Resolutions Committee and helped develop a political action program.

In the area of state government, he served as institutional and child welfare attorney, using these positions, as well as his NAACP office, to press for much-needed reform legislation in housing and welfare. He achieved notable success in 1961 with the passage of a state Fair Employment Practice Committee Law.

For the next four years, he focused on implementing the school mandate of *Brown v Board of Education* as a regional attorney for the NAACP, which in the interim, made him a member of its national board of directors.

EEOC Appointment

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson, appointed him as one of the original members of the United States equal Employment Opportunities Commission. Obviously the work of this new organization was appreciated and needed. In address to an Elks Convention in Virginia, Jackson gave this report as he approached the end of his first year on the EEOC.

"In just two months, the EEOC will have completed its first year of operation. Prior to beginning work last July, the experts predicted that our agency might receive some 1,800 charges in the first year. What actually happened is confounding the experts, for by the end of May, the Commission had received over 7,800 charges. – most of those from Negro citizens and a large proportion through the efforts of NAACP branches in the south east, especially those conducting special employment programs,"

Employment is the key to success for the Negroes future, he told the members of the audience.

"If, once and for all, we are able to eliminate discriminatory practices in employment, we will have, in large measure, conquered some of the problems in other areas: housing, education, and all the rest.

Nixon Appointment

In 1969, President Richard M. Nixon appointed him Assistant Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. That appointment made Jackson one of the



On the heels of the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Topeka's Samuel C. Jackson, headed off to Washington to help enforce the new law. It was the beginning of a great career.

top Black Federal officials appointed by the President.

With the country in the midst of Urban Renewal, much of it funded by the U.S. Government, Jackson's position proved powerful. A *Jet* magazine article noted such:

"He is the number three man in the department, the highest ranked Black Republican in Washington, D.C. He is also the only Black who actually handles and controls money – hundreds of millions of dollars for housing and urban renewal in the U.S."

Jackson told the *Jet* interviewer, when he was selected for the post, White House aides told him: "This is not a role for headlines, but if you want to do a job for your people, this is the best opening."

In his position, Jackson was known for spearheading the drive for more Black employees, funds for Black contractors, engineers and architects and new housing projects for Black people. Jackson funneled millions of dollars into the U.S. Black communities.

Jackson's reputation grew and he became a sought after speaker for numerous events across the country. He was definitely the pride of Topeka, KS, if not all of Kansas. So it wasn't surprising that on more than one occasion, Kansans brought him back home for presentations and recognition.

At one point, three Kansas cities -- Wichita, Topeka and Kansas City – held a joint recognition and state tour for Jackson. The mayors of the cities, including Wichita's African-American Mayor A. Price Woodard, declared "Sam Jackson Day" in their municipalities. It was a homecoming unprecedented in the state.

See **JACKSON**, page 9



Samuel being sworn into office as he family looks on. His wife Judith, was a Topeka native. They had two daughters Brenda and Marcia. All Jackson photos courtesy of Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas.

SENIORS REGISTER NOW FOR EMPLOYMENT 2016 JOB FAIR

The 2016 Senior Job Fair will be held Tues., March 15, 9 – 11 a.m. at the Downtown Senior Center, 200 S. Walnut. To participate in the job fair, you must first register as a client of the Senior Employment Program then attend an orientation no later than March 10.

The Senior Employment Program offers job seekers 55 and above: quality job leads, volunteer opportunities, annual job fair, networking, resume enhancement, interview strategies and computer training. You can register for the program at the Downtown Senior Center from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Through March 31, the Kansas Department for Children and Families is now accepting applications for its Low Income Energy Assistance Program.

To qualify, applicants must be responsible for direct payment of their heating bills. Income eligibility requirements are set at 130% of the federal poverty level. The level of benefit varies according to household income, number of people living in the home, type of residence, type of heating fuel, and utility rates.

Applicants must demonstrate that they have made payments on their heating bill two out of the last three months. Those payments must be equal to or exceed \$80 or the total balance due on their energy bills, whichever is less.

LIEAP applications are also available at local DCF offices and through partnering agencies. They can be requested by calling 1-800-432-0043. To apply online, visit www.lieap.dcf.ks.gov. Applications will be accepted from Jan. 19 to March 31. ●●

Presented by:






February 27, 2016 7 P.M.

Presented by: **THE KANSAS AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM**
601 N. Water, Wichita • 316.262.7651 • www.tkaamuseum.org

Join TKAAM for a night of fun as comedian and documentary filmmaker Darryl Littleton shares a lively lecture and comedy show about the history of Black Comedy!

An exclusive director's cut screening of Robert Townsend's, "Why We Laugh"
A Revealing Lecture, A Candid Q&A

•Ticket Prices: Individual -\$40, Couples -\$60
•Enjoy Heavy Hors d'oeuvres

WICHITA CALENDAR

JAN 31 Taste and See, An Interactive Dining Experience with Chef Jason Febres This event will feature five culinary delights created especially for the evening paired with two designer cocktails. Enjoy an open bar, DJ and entertainment at this upscale casual event sponsored by the Wichita Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. From 4 - 7 p.m. at Taste & See, 255 N. Washington. Tickets for this fundraiser are \$50 each. For tickets, call Denise at 871-8002 or Sherida at 684-6601.

FEB. 4 Expungement Informational Session. Ahead of the Clean Slate Expungement Day scheduled for March 4, come learn what you need to bring and if you're eligible for an expungement. This event is from 6:30 -7:30 p.m. at the Atwater Community Center. Get your questions answered

4 & 17 Homeownership Meeting. Find out how you can own an affordable home through Wichita Habitat for Humanity. 5:30 p.m. at Habitat offices, 130 E. Murdock St. RSVP to Katharine at 316/269-0755 or Katharine@wichitahabitat.org.

5 Oklahoma Shakedown is a documentary film focusing on the dramatic rise of man-made earthquakes across the state of Oklahoma and the reaction from concerned citizens and experts on the issue. The film follows grass roots activists from the organization Stop Fracking Payne County as they push for safer zoning regulations within the City of Stillwater The documentary will show at 7 p.m. at the Murdock Theater, 536 N. Broadway. \$5 donation suggested, however noone will be turned away.

6 Celebrate Black History Month Join us, 11:45 a.m., the Ambassador Hotel, 104 S. Broadway, Wichita -- Historic site of the former Dockum Drug Store Sit-in. Dr. Gretchen Eick will present on "Young Wichitans Who Changed History: The First Successful Student-Led Sit-in." A special lunch meeting at a special location, our lunch will cost \$20 and requires RSVP by Feb. 3 to martha_pint@hotmail.com or 316-259-6182. Sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

6 Academy Awards Spotlight on Local Movie Makers Local filmmakers Leif Jonker, Rod Pocowatchit, and Paul Klusman will share and discuss some of their work in this panel discussion about movie making in Southcentral Kansas. This will take place from 2 - 4 p.m. at the Central Library Auditorium.

12 & 13 Freedom to Expand: Gordon Parks A community symposium will be held at the Ulrich Museum of Art on the Wichita State University and Wichita

Art Museum for more info see ad page 17.

13 Make & Take Craft: African Necklaces Simple paper plates become necklaces based on the creations of the Samburu tribe. This will be a drop-in activity for children ages 4 to 10. Join in 1 - 6 p.m. at the Angelou Northeast, 3051 E. 21st Street, Meeting Room

18 Civic Engagement Workshop Come learn more about the political parties in Kansas and how to get involved. A non-partisan event with representatives from both parties. At the Kansas Leadership Council, 325 E. Douglas, 6:30 – 8:45 p.m. This is a free event sponsored by Wichita Urban Professionals and Young Professionals of Wichita.

20 Brown v. Board of Education Wichita Genealogical Society presents: In the fall of 1950, Oliver Brown's 7-year-old daughter was refused entrance to their neighborhood school. Learn about the local events leading up to Brown's involvement in the class action lawsuit. Join a discussion about events that led to the desegregation of public schools. Event will take place 1 -3 p.m. at the Alford Branch Library, 3447 S. Meridian, Meeting Room

26-27 2016 Washington Days Gather with hundreds of Democrats at the Downtown Ramada Hotel in Topeka, 420 SE Ave. To purchase tickets: www.ksdp.org. Luncheon tickets, \$60; Banquet: \$100 or \$150 for both tickets.

27 Why We Laugh: Black Comedians on Black Comedy Join the board and staff of The Kansas African American Museum for a night of fun as comedian and documentary filmmaker Darryl Littleton shares a lecture and a comedy show about the history of Black Comedy. Begins at 7 p.m., at the museum, 601 N. Water. Tickets are \$40 per person and \$60 per couple and can be purchased at the museum. Admission includes heavy hors d'oeuvres.

27 Historically Black College Tribute Banquet Sponsored by the Eta Beta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. This event will begin at 6 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency, Wichita, tickets are \$50.

MARCH 4 Clean Slate Expungement Project Get your adult criminal record expunged for free at this event from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Sedgwick County Courthouse. Lawyers will be on hand to provide their services and judges will rule that day on the expungements. Learn more in the story on page 8 of this issue. Also plan on attending the informational session on Feb. 4. See above.

Post your event online FREE at www.communityvoiceks.com

Annie Malone: A Pioneer in Black Hair Care

You may have heard of Madam C.J. Walker, but Annie Malone, is the lady Walker learned the hair product business from.

Annie Malone was born in 1869, in Metropolis, Illinois as one of a dozen children. Her parents died when she was very young, so she was raised by an older sister in Peoria, Illinois.

Malone's dream was to create a product that would enhance the beauty of Black women's hair. She focused her high school studies on chemistry and experimented with different preparations for hair grooming. Malone created her first product, Wonderful Hair Grower, in the late 1800s. The fame of her products and teaching methods spread.

In 1902, Malone moved to St. Louis. She promoted her products by going door-to-door to convince women that she could successfully treat their hair and scalp problems. She also recruited and trained women to be beauticians and sales agents. Some 75,000 agents graduated from Poro College, the school she founded in 1917. One of her early sales agents was Sarah Breedlove, who became the famed Madam C. J. Walker.

Malone built a million-dollar, three-story building that occupied a city block in St. Louis. By 1920 more than 200 employees worked in her factory and mail-order department. In 1930 she moved the college to Chicago. Malone, along with Madam C. J. Walker are regarded as two of the earliest Black women millionaires in the United States.

Annie Malone's business closed in the early 1950's, and she died on May 10, 1957. In May of every year, a parade is held in her honor in St. Louis, Missouri. ●●



The History of The Hot Comb

Also called a pressing comb or straightening comb, the hot comb has been a foundation of Black hair care since the early 1900s.

Madam C.J. Walker is often credited with inventing the hot comb, but the actual inventor is unknown. The hot comb was originally used by French women in Europe during the mid-19th century. Women in Paris had been using hot combs to replicate the straight styles worn by ancient Egyptians. In 1872, Marcel Grateau was one of the first hairdressers to use the hot comb as a way to create a new wave style for his clientele in Paris. In American, hot combs were sold in Sears and Bloomingdale catalogs as early as the 1880s.

In 1900, Walker received a patent for the hot comb, which she rede-

signed with wide-spaced teeth that would accommodate thick hair of various textures. She revolutionized the Black hair industry when she introduced the "shampoo-press-and-curl" Walker system. The kit, which was given to trained agents who sold Walker's products, included a hot comb. As a result, Walker is often credited with introducing the hot comb to Black women.

Hot combs were a significant improvement from older methods used by African-Americans during and after slavery to straighten hair, which ranged from heated butter knives and cloths, to axle grease and homemade lye. ●●



Our Hairstyles

Don't buy into "we can't do a thing with our nappy hair." Black people have a reputation as trendsetters not only in

The Bouffant: The 1960s

Talk about big hair! The bouffant was a style popularized in the 1960s and one that required more than a little bit of hairspray. Barbara McNair rocked a mean one.

Wigs: The 1960s

The Supremes must have had a ball dressing in the latest fashions AND hottest hairstyles every time they stepped outside the door. They all wore top-of-the-line wigs, which gave them a different look every night.

The Afro: The 1970s (#1)

Angela Davis was the poster child for the Afro during the late '60s and '70s with perfectly coiffed orb o' hair. Davis said she had to put Tide detergent in hers to make it stand up just so. Afro pick!

Cornrows with Beads: The 1970s

Alicia Keys has reprised this classic '70s style with a modern twist. Her cornrows, or hair braided to the scalp in intricate designs, were quite common during the '70s. The squiggly parts gave it that '90s swag.

The Jheri Curl: The 1980s (#2)

Who could even think about the '80s without thoughts — or shudders — of the ubiquitous jheri curl? Everybody had a curl back then and the jokes about activator on pillowcases lasted much longer than the hairstyle ever did. Soooooooul Glow!

The High Top Fade or Box:

The 1980s (#3)

With the rise of hip-hop in the mid-to-late '80s, a hairstyle rose right along with it — the high top fade. Hair was shaped into a box shape (of varying heights) and the sides are gradually "faded" down. Will Smith was a man of the day.

Razor Cuts: The 1980s (#4)

Later in the '80s, the high top fade morphed into the skyscraper with accents cut in with a



Black Hair Care Timeline

1444: Europeans trade on the West Coast of Africa with people wearing elaborate hairstyles, including locks, plaits and twists.

1619: First slaves brought to Jamestown; African language, culture and grooming tradition begin to disappear.

1700s: Calling black hair "wool," many whites dehumanize slaves. The more elaborate African hairstyles cannot be retained.

1800s: Without the combs and herbal treatments used in Africa, slaves rely on bacon grease, butter and kerosene as hair conditioners and cleaners. Lighter-skinned, straight-haired slaves command higher prices at auction than darker, more kinky-haired ones. Internalizing color consciousness, blacks promote the idea that blacks with dark skin and kinky hair are less attractive and worth less.

1865: Slavery ends, but whites look upon black women who style their hair like white women as well-adjusted. "Good" hair becomes a prerequisite for entering certain schools, churches, social groups and business networks.

1880: Metal hot combs, invented in 1845 by the French, are readily available in the United States. The comb is heated and used to press and temporarily straighten kinky hair.

1900s: Madame C.J. Walker develops a range of hair-care products for black hair. She popularizes the press-and-curl style. Some criticize her for encouraging black women to look white.

1910: Walker is featured in the Guinness Book of Records as the first American female self-made millionaire.

1920s: Marcus Garvey, a black nationalist, urges followers to

embrace their natural hair and reclaim an African aesthetic.

1954: George E. Johnson launches the Johnson Products Company with Ultra Wave Hair Culture, a "permanent" hair straightener for men that can be applied at home. A women's chemical straightener follows.

1963: Actress Cicely Tyson wears cornrows on the television drama "East Side/West Side."

1966: Model Pat Evans defies both black and white standards of beauty

Event Briefs

ACADEMY AWARDS SHORT SUBJECT FILM SERIES RETURNS FOR 30TH YEAR

This year marks the 30th year the Wichita Public Library will screen Academy Award short subject films, free and open to the public. Since 1986 the Library has annually previewed the short films nominated in the animated, live action and documentary categories. Wichita is one of the first in the nation to provide a way for the community to see these films.

The Library will provide opportunities at various times, dates and locations for people to see the films in advance of the live televised broadcast of the Academy Awards on Sun. Feb. 28.

To qualify as a short subject for Academy Award consideration, films must be less than 40 minutes in running time (including all credits). Shorts are typically not rated and

may not be suitable for all audiences. Some nominated films may not be available for screening due to rights limitations.

The full schedule of Academy Award screenings can be found on the Library's event calendar at www.wichitalibrary.org.

FILMS SERIES SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS

All Categories:

- Feb. 20, Sat., 10 a.m., Orpheum Theatre, 200 N. Broadway Ave.
- Feb. 27, 10 a.m., Warren Theatre, 9150 W. 21st St.

Documentary Category:

- Feb. 24, Wed., 10 a.m., Central Library, 223 S. Main
- Feb. 25, Thurs., 1 p.m., Rockwell Library, 5939 E. 9th

Live-Action and

Animated Categories:

- Feb. 21, Sun., 1:15 p.m., Alford Branch Library, 3447 S. Meridian
- Feb. 23, Tue., 4:00 p.m., Westlink Branch Library, 8515 Bekemeyer
- Feb. 24, Wed., 4:00 p.m., Central Library, 223 S. Main
- Feb. 25, Thurs., 4:00 p.m., Evergreen Branch Library, 2601 N. Arkansas.

TWO MUSEUM EXHIBITS FEATURE THE GUITAR: AMERICA'S FAVORITE INSTRUMENT

GUITAR: The Instrument That Rocked The World, opening Sat., Jan. 30, Exploration Place will offer visitors an inside look at what makes a guitar tick and the science behind this, the most popular musical instrument. The exhibit includes more than 100 historical artifacts, including nearly 60 guitars.

Visitors will explore how an arrangement of materials and strings evolved into the instrument as we now know it today in musical genres from classical to heavy metal. Guests will also play the Guinness Record-breaking 44-foot-long guitar in this dynamic, hands-on exhibit.

This exhibit is also part of a community-wide effort to celebrate this iconic instrument. Explora-

tion Place has partnered with The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, which is bringing the exhibit, The Electric Guitar – Wichita's Instrument to its facility. This exhibit includes rare electric guitars and information about the guitar's first use in Wichita.

Visitors will receive \$2 off exhibit admission at Exploration Place with a ticket stub or receipt from The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum. Also, when guests bring an Exploration Place receipt to The Historical Museum, they will receive \$2 off exhibit admission.

Opening Weekend, Sat., Jan. 30 and Sun. Jan. 31. Guests will participate in a Guitar Hero® competition. Luthiers Randy Bradbury and Chuck

Lohr will also be at the museum working on instruments.

TRAVELING EXHIBIT BLUE MAN GROUP MAKING WAVES

Families will bring the signature Blue Man style to real life with Exploration Place's new national traveling exhibit Blue Man Group: Making Waves, opening Sat. Jan. 23.

Guests will see, feel and create sound at the Slide-u-lum, Build-u-lum, Sand Drum and Theremin. They will play the unique Blue Man Group instruments at the PVC station, while learning how sound works.

The whole experience culminates in the JBL®-equipped Surround Sound Theater where engineering genius combines with a short musical piece by Blue Man Group to illustrate the elements of sound. Families will use the human body as a percussion instrument and more!

The exhibit is open at Exploration Place through Sun., May 1 and is included in general museum admission, free for members. ●●

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B.Y.O.B.

FREEDOM TO EXPAND

Gordon Parks

COMMUNITY SYMPOSIUM:

Friday, February 12 – Saturday, February, 13



IMAGE: Gordon Parks, *Untitled*, New York, 1963. Gelatin silver print, 8 x 10 in. Ulrich Museum of Art at Wichita State University. Museum purchase/gift of The Gordon Parks Foundation, Courtesy of and © The Gordon Parks Foundation

The Ulrich Museum of Art and Wichita Art Museum partner for a two-day forum of presentations from art historians, scholars, and visual artists who will help to expand on the legacy of the historical and contemporary relevance of the work of Gordon Parks. Offered in conjunction with *Visual Justice: The Gordon Parks Photography Collection at WSU*, on view through April 10 at the Ulrich.

Learn more:

ulrich.wichita.edu/visualjustice

Museum Hours

Tuesday–Friday: 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Wednesdays: 11 a.m.–8 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday: 1–5 p.m.

The Martin H. Bush Outdoor Sculpture Collection is always open, always free.

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ulrich.wichita.edu | Free Admission | 316.978.3664 | 1845 Fairmount

Music Powered The Movement

Music and singing played a critical role in inspiring, mobilizing, and giving voice to the changing racial climate of the 60's and 70's.

Freedom songs provided a stirring musical accompaniment to the campaign for racial justice and equality during the late 1950s and early 1960s. African Americans wanted freedom and they sang songs about it. They longed for a better life with more privileges and their music revealed it and when they sang these songs, it gave them a sense of togetherness and power.

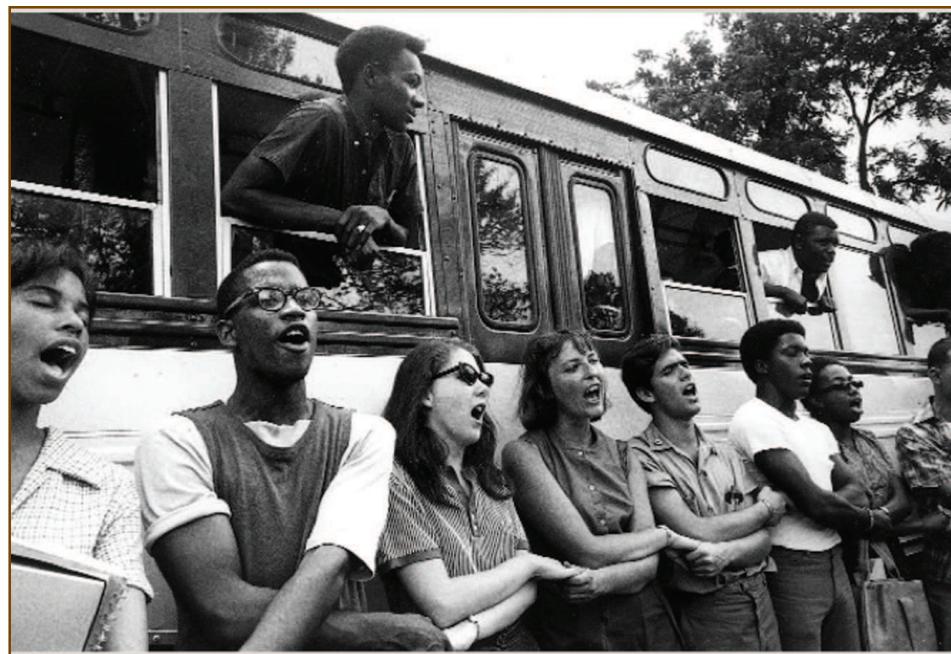
The music and singing played a critical role in inspiring, mobilizing, and giving voice to the civil rights movement. The music encouraged people to join and come together for a great purpose.

"The freedom songs are playing a strong and vital role in our struggle," said Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Albany Movement. "They give the people new courage and a sense of unity. I think they keep alive a faith, a radiant hope, in the future, particularly in our most trying hours."

Whether sung at mass meetings, on marches

and sit-ins, or in route to Southern jails, or whether performed on stage or recorded by one of the musical ensembles formed by civil rights activists, these songs conveyed the moral urgency of the freedom struggle, while expressing and helping to sustain the courage of the extraordinary ordinary people who were at the heart of it.

James Farmer, national director of the Congress of Racial Equality and a Freedom Ride participant, recalled how the Freedom Songs played a critical role in sustain morale for those serving time in a Mississippi Jail. "One night a voice called from the cell block below to the freedom riders: "Sing your freedom song.... We sang old folk songs and gospel songs to which new words had been written, telling of the Freedom Ride and its purpose. The female freedom riders in another wing of the jail joined in, and for the first time in history, the Hinds



Summer Project volunteers joined hand as they sing "We Shall Overcome," one of the most popular Freedom Songs

County jail rocked with unrestrained singing of songs about Freedom and Brotherhood"

Perhaps the most celebrated of all the freedom songs is "We Shall Overcome." The complex process by which this song was adopted as a kind of unofficial anthem for the movement appears to begin with a nineteenth-century hymn, "I'll Overcome Someday." In the 1920s and 30s, this hymn was recast as "We Shall Overcome" by Southern African American tobacco workers, who performed it for Zilphia Horton of the Highlander Folk School—an important biracial training ground for activists

"Singing had special importance at mass meetings. After the song, the differences among us would not be as great."

— Bernice Reagon of the Freedom Singers

interested in labor organizing and progressive democratic reform in the South.

Horton, in turn, introduced the song to White folk singer and political activist Pete Seeger, who added various lines ("Black and White together") to create the version that Highlander's musical director, Guy Carawan, promoted as a universal call for social justice and human rights in the late 1950s.

Around this time, other individuals also put their stamp on the song. For example, when Tennessee state police tried to forcibly close down Highlander in the summer of 1959, Black high school student Mary Ethel Dozier added the verse, "We are not afraid." Her contribution was a classic example of how freedom songs were often created, or recreated, to fit the struggle.

Wyatt T. Walker, for executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference said, "one cannot describe the vitality and emotion this one song evokes across the Southland.

The Freedom Singers Tour As Movement Ambassadors

In terms of its stated goal of ending massive discrimination of all kinds, the two-year Albany campaign was something of a failure. Yet, in giving birth to the SNCC Freedom Singers, it could boast an important success. These singers, helped to spread the word of the movement far beyond the South through concert tours and recordings that included traditional Black spirituals and folk songs as well as newly created freedom songs.

After witnessing the galvanizing effect of the town's singers during a visit to Albany in 1962, folk singer Pete Seeger suggested to SNCC executive secretary James Forman that a touring group might help raise funds for the civil rights organization's future campaigns. The Freedom Singers formed in December 1962 under the leadership of SNCC field secretary Cordell Reagon, a veteran of the sit-in movement in Nashville, TN, With the help of Albany natives Rutha Mae Harris and Bernice Johnson, whom he later married, Reagon recruited

Charles Neblett, a veteran of civil rights demonstrations in Cairo, IL, and the four performers left Albany to tour the country in support of civil rights and the goals of SNCC.

Over the next nine months, the group traveled 50,000 miles through forty states in a Buick station wagon, playing at colleges, elementary and high schools, concert halls, living rooms, jails, political rallies, and the March on Washington in August 1963. During their initial tour, the group performed alongside numerous folk music luminaries, including Pete Seeger, Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, and Peter, Paul, and Mary.

According to Julian Bond, the singers reached out across racial and regional divides to show "an audience of our peers on White college campuses around the country who we are," and therefore galvanize student support for the movement. ●●



The Freedom Singers toured the country raising money for the SNCC through concerts that included traditional Black Spirituals. They helped spread the word of the movement beyond the South.

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Church News

ST. MATTHEW CHURCH CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

St. Matthew CME Church will complete a month long celebration of the church's 100th Anniversary with a Banquet on Sun., Jan. 31, 5 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Select, Kellogg and Rock Road. Tickets to the banquet are \$50 per person. The keynote speaker will be Bishop Sylvester Williams, presiding prelate of the Third Episcopal District of the CME Church. For ticket information call Mike at 648-900.



MILTON OFFERING FREE CONERT

Jermene Milton will perform in concert on Sat., Feb. 12 at Word of Life Church, 1156 N. Oliver. The concert, "A Heart of a Worshipper," begins at 8 p.m. The doors open at 7 p.m. ●●

Introducing & Welcoming



←
Pastor LaSean Tarkington
Grant Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church



→
Pastor Godfrey R. Patterson
Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church

Saturday, February 6, 2016 – 5:00 p.m.
A Concert & Expression of Welcome
Refreshments Following
Saint Paul A. M. E. Church, Host Church 1756 North Piatt, Wichita, KS

Library Offers New Faxing Service

The Wichita Public Library is now offering fax services at its library locations across Wichita.

This new service allows residents to be able to send faxes from seven Library locations at \$1 a page. Faxes can be sent to local or long-distance destinations. This is for outgoing faxes only and does not include international faxes.

This faxing service is among several technological upgrades made by the Library over recent months, including providing mobile printing service.

Faxing service is available at 7 of the 8 Wichita Public Library locations:

- Central - 223 S. Main
- Alford Branch - 3447 S. Meridian
- Angelou Northeast Branch - 3051 E. 21st St.
- Evergreen Branch - 2601 N. Arkansas
- Linwood Park Branch - 1901 S. Kansas
- Rockwell Branch - 5939 E. 9th St.
- Westlink Branch - 8515 Bekemeyer ●●

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Sundays @ 10 am Breakfast & 11 am Worship Experience - 856 S. Green St. Wichita, KS - Southeast Campus
www.saintmarkumc.com | (316) 681-2214 | Like us on

Music Instills Pride and Raises Racial Consciousness

Changing sounds of Black music during this period helped advance a sense of Black pride and raised racial consciousness that was an essential base needed to move the movement along. Soul music, from Ray Charles and Sam Cooke, and later to Motown and Stax performers, placed Black music on the map. The sound was unmistakable and proudly African America's own.

James Brown's funky rhythms and sound in "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag," was not political in nature, but it sang volumes about Black pride, culture and heritage, long before his more explicit anthem, "Say It Loud, I'm Black and I'm

Proud," revolutionized how Negroes, turned Black, felt about and addressed themselves.

Similarly, jazz musicians and the whole avant-garde or free jazz movement exemplified by artists such as John Coltrane, Miles Davis and others, was based in part on a conscious rejection of Western, or White, notions of musical correctness. Determined to escape White cultural expectations and standards, and again like their R&B counterparts, developed something that was uniquely African American.

Another way in which Black music evoked civil rights themes was through lyrics that, in comparison to lyrics in freedom songs and to

some folk music, were less explicit about the struggle itself. In fact, lyrics about the civil rights struggle were relatively rare in commercially successful R&B and soul music until the second half of the 1960s. Before that, references to the movement were somewhat veiled.

One example of this kind of veiled commentary was Chuck Berry's "The Promised Land." In this song, Berry only hints at the 1961 freedom rides. The song is full of quasi-biblical imagery relating to the Exodus story, a tale of escape to a better place. However, Berry's hero follows much the same route through the South as the freedom riders. The song invokes worst violence experienced by the actual freedom riders, which occurred in Anniston, Birmingham, and Montgomery, describing a journey that "had most trouble, / it turned into a struggle, / half-way across Alabama."

While Berry chooses to nod in the direction of the movement, many of Curtis Mayfield's hit songs, both solo and with his group the Impressions, praise the Black community's determination to "Keep On Pushing" for their rights. In "People Get Ready," Mayfield urged his listeners to "get on board" the righteous struggle for racial justice.

Nina Simone, a singer whose style was difficult to categorize, recorded a series of songs that criticized the Jim-Crow South and celebrated the strength of the Black community as it struggled against discrimination. The most famous of those songs was "Mississippi Goddamn," a response to the murder of Medgar Evers, as well as a more generalized critique of racism in the South. The upbeat tenor of the music contrasted dramatically with the song's dark lyrics.

"I think every day's gonna be my last," sings Simone fatalistically, before making a direct indictment: "Oh but this whole country is full of lies



James Brown's "Say it Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud," revolutionized how Negroes, turned Black, addressed themselves.

/ and you're all going to die and die like flies." The song would ultimately be banned in several Southern states; Simone would later claim to Jet magazine that "Mississippi Goddam" did damage to her career, and that the industry had "put a boycott" on her records.

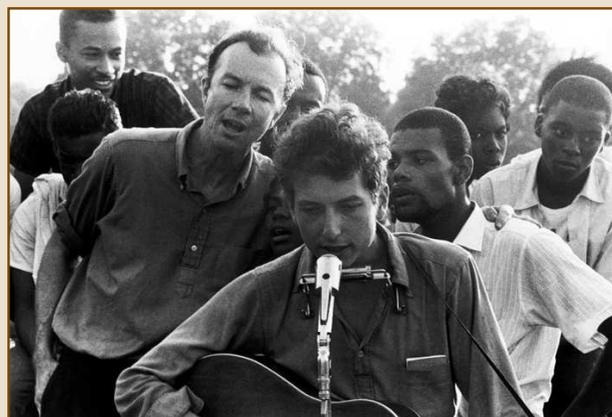
The rejuvenation of the community's sense of pride continued with songs like "Respect," by Aretha Franklin, who took Otis Redding's song and transformed it more than a song about personal domestic respect into a universal demand for respect for Black rights, achievements, and aspirations. Respect continued as a theme with songs like the Staples Singers' "Respect Yourself" and Johnny Taylor's "I Am Somebody." These songs captured the spirit of a new era in the struggle racial justice.

While the documented history may show marches, sit-ins and boycotts as the weapons of the Civil Rights Movement, music played an equally important role. It's what got people through the tough times, it's what united the protesters. It was a call to action. It was a call to racial consciousness and pride. Unlike the marches, you didn't have to be in the midst of the fray to be impacted by the music. It moved a generation, in fact a nation, in more ways than one. ●●

Folk Songs and Folk Singers Have a Role in the Movement

While many classic freedom songs like "Keep Your Eyes on The Prize," "Oh Freedom," and "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Us Around" were drenched in Black sacred musical traditions, many songs it is worth noting that many songs drew influence from White hymnals and folk music. Any comprehensive soundtrack to the era's racial protests might also include songs by White folk artists like Pete Seeger, Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Janis Ian, and Phil Ochs, all of whom sang of the indignities of segregation and the shame of racism. These singers produced inspirational songs that helped to create a groundswell of public support for civil rights protest and reform, especially among young White college students.

Dylan's "Oxford Town," for example, was an indictment of the state-sanctioned indifference that produced the murderous rioting at the University of Mississippi when James Meredith desegregated the institution under armed guard. IN 1962,



In a cotton field just south of Greenwood MS., folk singers Pete Seeger and Bob Dylan took part in a folk music festival rally organized by SNCC.

Dylan recorded "Blowin' in the Wind," which seeks solutions to race relations, war and peace. Dylan says the answers are floating out there, just blowing in the wind without an anchor. This was a sentiment Sam Cooke found particularly profound. As an African-American man performer of great fame, he had considerable difficulty with segregation and discrimination. He heard Dylan's song and was moved to write "Change Gonna Come" in 1964 as an answer to Dylan's song. Dylan countered with encouragement and hope in his song "The Times They Are A Changin'," released later that same year. ●●

“With Respect, Aretha Franklin transformed Otis Redding’s song about personal domestic respect into a universal demand for respect of Black rights, achievements and aspirations.”

Jackson Mortuary Wichita

Bell Sr., Franklin E. (Gene) 90, died 01/17/2016. He was a retired entrepreneur. Service was held 01/21 at St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church. He is survived by son; Franklin, Jr., and daughters; Kimberly Bell, Pia Bell-Tucker and Tracey Bell.

Coleman, Webbie Lee, 82, died 1/13. Service was held 01/22 at New Jerusalem Baptist Church. She is survived by, former spouse; Johnny Coleman, daughter; Sara Jones, sons; Lynn Coleman, Marvin Coleman, and sister; Lillie Green.

Fields, Leonard 58, died 01/19. He was former owner of Huron Industries. Service was held 01/20. He is survived by: spouse; Denise, sons; Versaile Hendrix, Leonard Fields, II, Darren Fountaine, daughter; Darice Martin, and brother; Robert Jenkins

Gordon Sr., Darwin Trent, 50, died 1/12. He was a Spirit Aircraft Inspector. Service was held 1/23 at Tabernacle Bible Church. He is survived by: sons; Darwin T. Gordon Jr., Jarvis A. Gordon, brothers; Gene Gordon, Bryan Gordon and sister; Annette R. Gordon.

Graham, Bennie Ralph, 69, died 01/18. He was a former aviation mechanic at Lockheed Martin. Service was held 01/29 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel. He is survived by: brothers; Dorris, Norris, Michael, Timothy, and Dewayne Graham and Gregory Billingsley

Hamilton, Barbara Elaine, 64, died 01/15. She was a former Mid-State Lab employee. Service was held 01/22 at Word of Life Church. She is survived by: spouse; Quincy, daughters; Tonya Hytche-Sanders, Arnetta Rockmore, Annita Rockmore, Mother; Edna Lee, and sisters; Karen Harton and Qwendolyn Lee.

Harris, Lester B. 75, died 01/17. He was a retired shipyard employee. Service was held 01/24 in Kennesaw, GA. He is survived by: spouse; Peggy, son; Anthony, daughters; Stephanie Shavers, Angie Harris, sisters; Lillie Littleton, Carolyn Hare and Mary Crowder.

McClellan, Margaret Caldonia, 89, died 01/16. She was a homemaker and Tabernacle Bible Church Evangelist. Service was held 01/25 at Tabernacle Bible Church. She is survived by: daughter; Carolyn Morris, sons; Gary Anderson, Michael McClellan, DeWayne McClellan, Chris McClellan and David McClellan.

RJ Bethea Funeral Wichita

Bell, Antonio Terrell 24, died 01/19. No service announced.

De Oca-Perez, Alvara Montes 49, passed 01/18. Services held 01/22 at Bethea Funeral Home "Chapel of Angels."

Hack, Lawrence, 82, passed 1/24/16. No service announced.

Forbes, Grace Lynn, newborn, passed 01/17. Graveside service was held 01/22 at Resurrection Cemetery.

Holloway, Shena Renea 53, passed 01/06. Service was held 01/18 at Bethea Funeral Home "Chapel of Angels." She is survived by: son; Jason Stewart, mother; Jannie Holloway, brothers; Rondell and Carson Holloway, and sister; Senora Holloway.

Smith, Joyce 58, passed 01/17. Service was held 01/22 at New Philadelphia COGIC. She is survived by sons: Vincent Williams, Sean Williams, daughters; Naomi Fortune, Jayme Gardner, stepdaughter; Trena Thompson, special sons; Patrick Wombold, sister; Virginia Major, brothers; Claude Williams, Clark Williams and Sister-in-Law; Dee Ratcliffe.

Williams, Willie III, 65 passed on 01/23. Service will be held 02/05, 10 a.m., at North Ash Church of the Nazarene.

Biglow Funeral Wichita

Killebrew, Eric Eugene, 55 died 01/12. Service was held 01/20 at Biglow Funeral Home. He is survived by his parents Howard and Bernice Killebrew, sisters; Denise Killebrew,

Carmen Killebrew, brothers; Rodney Killebrew, Leroy Mitchell, and Larry Mitchell.

Washington, Christopher Thomas, 32, died 01/11. No service announced.

Williams, John T. 65, died 01/16. No service announced.

Peaceful Rest Topeka

Cushinberry, Althea June 79, died 12/26/2015. Service was 01/9/16 at Victorious Life Church in Kansas City, MO.

Nelson, Roy Sam, 78, died 12/29/2015. Service was 01/11 at Peaceful Rest Funeral Chapel.

Bowser Johnson Topeka

Thomas, William Peter, 68, passed 01/13. He was a truck driver. He is survived by: wife; Debbie, sons; William P. Thomas, II, Robert Mac-Lee Thomas, Tim Pennington, daughter; Victoria Pennington, mother; Mary Campbell Thomas, brothers; Michael Thomas, Jerry Thomas and sister; Nancy Thomas

Penwell Gabel Junction City

Devine, Larry, 64, died on 01/24. Service will be held 01/29, 10 a.m. at St. Xavier Catholic Church.

Duffin, Jamie "Alice", 83, died 01/19. She worked as housekeeper at several hotels. Service will be 01/28 at Penwell-Gabel Johnson Funeral Chapel. She is survived by, daughter; Cassie Robinson and two granddaughters.

Howard, Sr., Bernard Lee, 82, Service will be 01/ 28 at Second Missionary Baptist Church full military honors will take place at Kansas



Veteran Cemetery. He is survived by sons; Bernard Howard Jr., Terence W. Adams, daughters; Loraine O. Howard, Martina Y. Schomaker and Latoya N. Mothershed.

Sims, Myrtle 88, died 01/17 at Valley View Senior Life Center. Service will be 01/30, 11 a.m. at Second Missionary Baptist Church. She is survived by son: Larry Hicks (Kay), granddaughter Chastity Hicks and grandson Raphael Phillips.

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1960s Interstate Highway Expansion:

By Dr. Robert E. Weems, Jr.

Blacks Lives, Families and Communities Didn't Matter

One of the most significant developments in post-World War II America was the construction of a national interstate highway system. Commencing with the passage of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 and continuing until the 1970s, 42,500 miles of high-speed highways were built in the United States. Although this was a federally mandated program, its execution, especially in the construction of urban roadways, was left in the hands of local officials. This reality would have devastating consequences for African Americans across the country.

As Ira Katznelson asserted in *When Affirmative Action Was White: An Untold History of Racial Inequality in Twentieth Century America*, local coordination of New Deal funding, as well as local coordination of the distribution of veterans' benefits after World War II, resulted in African Americans being short-changed (especially in the South). A similar dynamic existed in the construction of post-World War II interstate highways through American cities. Under the guise of urban renewal, with little or no input from Black residents, roads were constructed that destroyed Black neighborhoods. This, among other things, allowed an increasingly suburbanized White population direct access to downtown central business districts across the country.

One of the most discussed instances of this phenomenon, including a segment of the award-winning documentary *Eyes on the Prize*, was the destruction of the Overtown community in Miami, Florida. Before the early 1960s, Overtown, located at the northwest corner of Miami's central business district, was referred to as the "Harlem of the South." Yet, within a short period of time, the construction of Interstate 95 both wiped out Overtown's thriving business district and dislocated thousands of its residents.

For good measure, after I-95 destroyed the heart of this strong community, the outer fringes of Overtown were seized through eminent domain. This land later became the site of parking garages and new city and county buildings.

To make matters worse, as Raymond A. Mohl asserted in an essay about Overtown's destruction; "despite official promises, few replacement housing units were built, and those people who were uprooted got little in the way of relocation assistance."

A similar scenario occurred in

Nashville, TN (related to the construction of Interstate 40); in New Orleans, LA (related to the construction of Interstate 10); in Birmingham, AL (related to the construction of Interstate 59); in Columbia, SC (related to the construction of Interstate 20); and Montgomery, AL (related to the construction of Interstate 85).

As Raymond A. Mohl revealed in a research report for the Poverty and Race Research Action Council (PRRAC), the racial dynamics associated with the construction of I-85 in Montgomery were especially blatant.

Samuel Englehardt, Alabama's state highway director during the early 1960s, was a staunch racist whose affiliations included the Ku Klux Klan and the White Citizens Council. Although an alternative route for Interstate 85 in Montgomery would have cost \$30,000 less, Englehardt sought to punish Montgomery Blacks for their earlier successful bus boycott and other efforts to resist Jim Crow segregation. Thus, Rev. Ralph Abernathy's church and the homes of other local African American activists ultimately succumbed to the wrecking ball.

Just as historic White racism was not solely a southern phenomenon, racially motivated urban highway building during the 1960s was not confined to areas associated with the old Confederate States of America. The building of Interstate 95 in Camden, New Jersey exemplified this reality.

Between 1963 and 1967, nearly 3,000 low-income housing units were destroyed in the

“Very few Blacks lived in Minnesota, but the road builders found them.”

— Poverty and Race Research Action Council



Interstate Highways that allow an increasingly suburbanized White population direct access to downtown central business districts across the country were disproportionately built on land ripped out of the heart of those cities' African-American community. The resulting impact on the Black communities was often devastating.

building of Camden's North-South Freeway (I-95), yet only 100 replacement low-income housing units were built during the same period. In 1968, the Civil Rights Division of the New Jersey Attorney General's Office issued a report criticizing racially-motivated expressway construction in Camden.

As cited in Raymond Mohl's report for the PRRAC, the New Jersey Attorney General's Office declared there were two methods employed in Camden to eliminate African American and Puerto Rican neighborhoods. "The first is building highways that benefit White suburbanites, facilitating their movement from the suburbs to work and back; the second is by means of urban renewal projects which produce middle and upper income housing and civic centers without providing adequate, decent, safe, and sanitary housing, as the law provides, at prices which the relocated can afford."

Interstate highway construction in Minnesota during the 1960s offered perhaps an even clearer indication of the racial undertones of this phenomenon. In St. Paul, Interstate 94 went right through the city's African-American community. According to Mohl's PRRAC study of 1960s urban highway building, one critic declared that "very few Blacks lived in

Minnesota, but the road builders found them."

In Wichita, the construction of the Canal Route on Interstate 135 began in 1971. According to the Kansas Department of Transportation website, this initiative, completed in 1979, was "one of the most significant Kansas Interstate projects of the 20th century." KDOT asserts that "the Canal Route is vital to motorists in Wichita and south central Kansas as it links with three other highway and freeway routes as well as I-35 and the I-235 bypass."

The records of Wichita's Urban Renewal Agency, located in Special Collections at Wichita State University Libraries and Archives, provide an important window to assess the local ramifications of I-135's construction. Similar to other cities, Interstate 135's proposed route had a disruptive impact on Wichita's primary African-American enclave. Yet, the URA, headed by Kenneth Kitchen, sought to minimize it.

By 1978, Wichita's URA had developed a comprehensive improvement plan for the McAdams neighborhood area. This proposal, in fact, represented the cornerstone of an Urban Development Action Grant application that would be submitted to the Department of

See **HIGHWAYS**, page 17



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We support Black History Month and we respect the countless individuals as well as those organizations whose relentless efforts continue to guarantee equality of rights for all people.

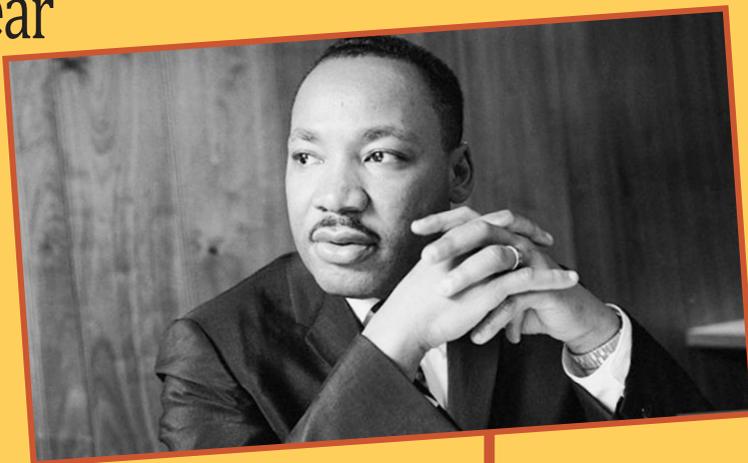


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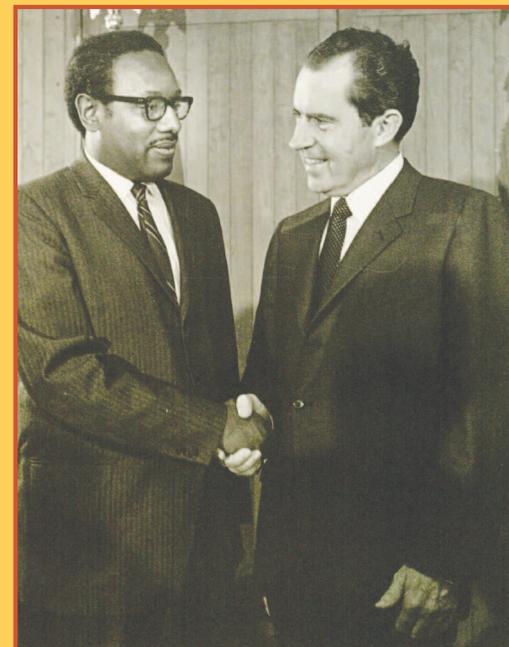
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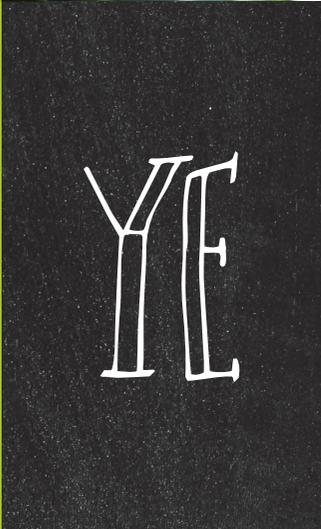
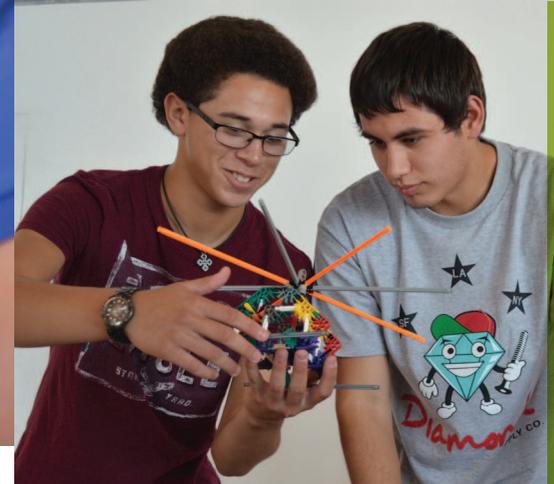
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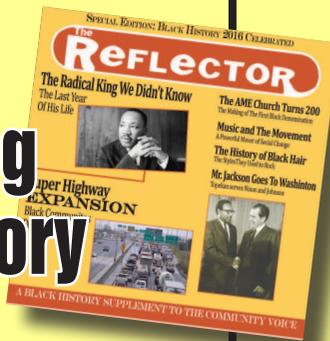
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