

# THE Community VOICE

A trusted voice from the community's perspective

Entertainment •  
Page 3

Obituaries •  
Page 15

Kansas City •  
Page 17



**Free**

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 1 www.communityvoiceks.com

JAN 4, 2018

Get to Know Wichita's  
Newest Council Member **13**

King Holiday Schedule  
Across Kansas

**6 & 7**



## OMAROSA'S WHITE HOUSE

**CONTROVERSY,  
ACCUSATIONS &  
BLOCKING**

**Business**

**Work is  
For Lovers**

At Least Before  
#metoo

**11**

**Health**

**New  
Guidelines**



Now 50% Have  
High Blood Pressure

**9**

**Kansas City**

**Debonair  
Affair**



Cambridge Wins  
Mr. Debonair

**17**

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P.O. Box 20804  
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# THE Community VOICE

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Jan. 4, 2018

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## Our Top 5 Online Stories

If you haven't been following us on Facebook, checking in regularly on our website ([www.communityvoiceks.com](http://www.communityvoiceks.com)) or signed up to receive our weekly e-blast, you're missing a lot between each bi-weekly issue of "The Community Voice." Here's just some of what you missed during the last two weeks.

### 1 30-Year Veteran of St. Louis Department Named Police Chief

Can this new police chief restore hope in residents who have a strong distrust of police?



### 4 Trump Draws Protests While Honoring Civil Rights Heroes

While Trump toured the new Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and the adjacent Museum of Mississippi, demonstrators protested his presence.



### 2 Judge Blocks Arizona Ethnic Studies Ban He Found Was Racist

A U.S. judge has permanently blocked an ethnic studies ban in Arizona public schools that dismantled a popular Mexican-American studies program.

### 3 Ex-'Apprentice' Star Omarosa to Tell All About White House

She has "quite a story to tell" about her time in Trump's administration and "the world will want to hear it."

### 5 Biney is 1st Black Woman to Make Olympic Speedskating Team

Maame Biney became the first black woman to qualify for a U.S. Olympic speedskating team with a pair of victories in the 500 meters. ●●



See this and an archive of CLAYTOONZ on our website at [communityvoiceks.com](http://communityvoiceks.com)

## Wanted: Couples in Love

We're looking for couples with a love that works, to feature as part of our "Love Couples" issue, on Thurs., Feb. 1.

This annual edition is always a great read, and works because it features all kinds of couples: young, old and in between. This isn't a who's the cutest couple, the richest couple, or the most powerful couple issue. It's all about couples who have a great relationship, no matter how unique.

You can submit your own name, or nominate someone you know. The deadline for submissions is Fri., January 19. Just go online to our website and click on submissions. That's where you'll find the love couple nomination



form.

Individuals selected will receive a brief questionnaire to complete and are required to submit a quality photo of themselves. A person from our staff will follow up for additional information. The time commitment is nominal.

**PSST!!!!** It's something nice for couples to share.

**Up Next:** **Feb. 1, Love Couples** -- an overdose of lighthearted and sometime syrupy love stories.

**Feb. 15, The Reflector** -- Our annual Black History Special Edition. It's a don't miss, full of great national, local and unique Black history stories.

**March 1, Historic Women in our Midst** -- This one's new. We're looking for women to recognize; one for each day of the month. Nominate someone you know. Submit names on our website, just click on submissions to find the form. Deadline for nominations i Feb. 16.

**MONDAY JANUARY 15 12 NOON**

## The Quest for Peace + Justice

2018 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY CELEBRATION

WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY  
EUGENE M. HUGHES METROPOLITAN COMPLEX  
29TH & OLIVER | WICHITA, KS

GUEST SPEAKER:  
Grammy Award Winning Gospel Artist  
**PASTOR SMOKIE NORFUL**  
VICTORY CATHEDRAL WORSHIP CENTER | BOLINGBROOK, IL

ALSO FEATURING:  
MLK COMMUNITY CHOIR  
CHILDREN'S CHOIR  
PRAISE DANCERS

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WWW.GWMLC.ORG

### SAY IT AIN'T SO: KEYSHIA COLE TO PAY \$100,00 IN ASSAULT CASE

Keyshia Cole allegedly assaulted a woman in rapper Bryan "Birdman" Williams's Los Angeles condo three years ago and now the R&B songstress has to pay up. The "Love" singer has been ordered to pay the reported victim a \$100,635 settlement.

According to reports, Cole went to visit Birdman who she was rumored to be dating. Upon her arrival, she allegedly saw another woman and things took a turn for the worst. Sabrina Mercadel was then attacked by Cole, who pulled her hair and scratched her face. Cole was arrested for battery. Following the assault, Mercadel claimed she lost the use of a finger and asked for a reported \$4 million from Cole.



Cole

### ROBIN AMASSING A FORTUNE WITH HER SKIN CARE LINE

She may only be 56 but it turns out that Robin Roberts is running one of the highest-earning companies in the country. The talk show host secretly launched a skin care company last year and has kept quiet about her successful stint as CEO.

Robin admits she purposely avoided publicly announcing her business because she wanted to make sure the company could stand on its own two feet.

"I was worried people would just associate it with my famous talk show and I felt as though that would be a huge disservice to the company. The products we produce really are life-changing and they deserve to be recognized on their own merit," Robin explained.

The product she's talking about is the JeuneFleur Renewal which has taken the world by storm.

The scintillating success hasn't come easy and Robin admits she spent years of hard work behind the scenes perfecting the products.

"I wanted to be able to offer the

public a healthy and safe alternative to plastic surgery. Not only is plastic surgery a very risky option, but it's also not financially achievable for many Americans."

Robin says she was determined to create topical treatments that people could apply in the comfort of their own homes that would boost their self-esteem and help them feel good about themselves.

"I use the JeuneFleur Renewal myself and a few of my friends started asking me what was responsible for the huge change in my skin. Word started spreading that way and before I knew it, we had amassed a huge celebrity clientele."



Roberts

### SEAN P DIDDY COMBS STEREOTYPING A HUGE MISTAKE

The rapper/business mogul/producer/actor/mogul is a man of many talents but apparently, members of a San Francisco news team apparently aren't impressed with his accomplishments.

KRON-TV anchor Henry Wofford, who is Black, has been under fire for the past few days for the statements he made on air about the Diddy's desire to buy the Carolina Panthers.

Needless to say the incident did not go unnoticed with many calling out the anchor for the inappropriate comments.

While he has since issued an apology, the NAACP has gotten involved an issued a statement blasting Wofford for his stereotypical comments about the entertainer.

Diddy's statement was discussed during a sports segment on KRON-TV called, "The World According to

Darya."

Wofford ignited a round of insults, stating that he didn't consider Combs' announcement and offer to buy the NFL team to be a serious offer. He even "joked" that Combs seemed high.

"The guy looks high right there in this video," said Wofford. "He looks like he smoked a blunt and drank a 40. Come on, I'm not taking him seriously."

Currently none of the NFL's 32 franchises has a majority African-American owner.



Wofford

Combs

While Diddy is reportedly worth \$820 million, but he may still have to call on some friends to buy the Panther's franchise which could potentially sell for \$2 billion. ●●

# Kansas Black Legislative Day

•Learn more about legislative issues and the impact they can have on African-Americans across the state.

•MORNING WORKSHOPS ON THE ISSUES

•Learn how to lobby effectively for change

•VISIT YOUR LEGISLATORS

•Rally in the Capital Rotunda

•MEET OTHER COMMUNITY LEADERS AND ACTIVISTS FROM ACROSS THE STATE

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CONGREGATIONS  
EDUCATORS  
STUDENTS  
RETIRES  
**EVERYONE IS  
WELCOME**

# 4 Kobach Gets Dealt Double “Voting” Blow This Week

NATIONAL

A federal judge handed down an unfavorable ruling in a complicated case challenging the voting “proof of citizenship” requirement Kris Kobach has championed and Pres. Donald Trump signed an executive order disbanding the election integrity commission Kobach was co-chairing. Overall, it wasn’t a favorable week for those who support the theory that voter fraud is a muck in the United States, but it was a good week for those who would like to suppress votes, but it was a great day for those who felt these efforts were designed to champion voter suppression.

On Wednesday, Federal Judge Julie Robinson tossed aside some testimony Kobach had hoped to present in his long-running contention that voter fraud is commonplace and set a trial date of March 4 in the case filed against Kobach that alleges he violated the constitution in his quest to demand proof of citizenship from voters.

The American Civil Liberties Union,

which is representing the League of Women Voters and other plaintiffs in the lawsuit against Kobach, had attacked the “expert” status of Hans von Spakovsky. According to Kobach’s filing von Spakovsky, who served with him on Trump’s voter fraud commission, and was set to testify in support of a survey that showed Kobach’s citizenship law isn’t a burden on voters.

The court said von Spakovsky lacks direct knowledge or academic training related to some of his claims.

“It is clear that von Spakovsky is not qualified to testify as an expert about this survey,” said Judge Robinson.

Yet over the ACLU’s objections, von Spakovsky will testify on other matters related to voter fraud. And Kobach will get to keep expert testimony from Jesse Richman, a political science professor at Old Dominion University in Virginia.

Kobach says Richman’s research indicates voting by non-citizens is a substantial problem. But many other studies suggest that voting by non-

citizens is remarkably rare.

The ruling came the same day President Donald Trump scrapped the Kobach led election integrity commission saying he didn’t want to waste taxpayer money fighting with state governments over their voter data.

But Kobach said the investigation into alleged voter fraud would continue – and could pick up speed without the formalities of a commission.

“It was a decision that was made to be able to move the investigation forward more quickly. It was a change in tactics,” he told USA TODAY. “The president’s commission was being stymied and stonewalled by Democrats on and off the commission to try to halt the commission’s work.”

When he created the commission in May, Trump cited a repeatedly debunked claim that at least 3 million people voted illegally in the 2016 presidential election — a number that, if true, would have explained Hillary Clinton’s lead in the popular vote.

Along the way, the commission sparked at least 15 lawsuits in federal and state courts, according to the Brennan Center for Justice. Most complaints were about voter data and the commission’s lack of transparency. One lawsuit was filed by a Democratic

member of the commission, Maine Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap, who said he was left out of the loop on the commission’s deliberations. A federal judge mostly agreed last month, saying the commission’s actions were “indefensible.” ●●



Despite winning the election, President-Elect Donald Trump met early on with Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach in support of Kobach’s claims of massive voter fraud. That meeting helped lead to the election integrity commission which Trump disbanded this week.

## OMAROSA from page 20

that Omarosa could have made such powerful decisions without oversight in the White House - most likely the President himself. Other high Republican sources said James was offered positions, but Omarosa fought against any Black staff appointment that would be above her own.

Yet another rationale for why some Black Republicans seeking employment were rejected may have been because they left the Republican National Committee Headquarters in protest against treatment by then RNC Chairman Reince Priebus nearing the end of the presidential campaign. Priebus then became President Trump’s first chief of staff and was likely averse to hiring the same staffers who had left the RNC, one source said.

### BLACK REPUBLICANS VERSUS BLACK REPRESENTATION

Dr. Ron Daniels, president of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century (IBW) and a long-time associate of Omarosa’s Youngstown, Oh family, has had a unique view of Omarosa in

the White House. He worked directly with her when she was a Democrat. He even named her a celebrity ambassador for IBW’s Haiti Support Project after she traveled with a group of journalists to document the level of disaster following the 2010 earthquake.

His view in the midst of her departure from the White House is two-fold.

First, as it pertains to those Black Republicans who felt that they earned a position due to their loyalty to the party, “diversity does not equal representation of the Black community,” he said. Citing pioneering Black Republicans such as Nixon’s Art Fletcher, known as “the father of affirmative action,” Daniels says modern day Black Republicans can hardly hold a candle to some of the Black Republicans who - instead of following the party line - stood for justice when it was needed most. “The brand of Republicanism that we have now is extremely out of step with the vast majority of Black people and the mainstream of Black aspirations.”

Second, Daniels now sees what he believes to have been Omarosa’s true agenda based on her most recent situation.

“I think Omarosa, for whatever

reason, is somebody who had been on the liberal side. I think Omarosa saw an opportunity to advance her own interests and that is why she was blocking everybody else. She wanted to be the Queen bee,” Daniels said. “She wanted to be able to . . . block people. But the idea that if she had opened the flood gates of somehow having more Ben Carsons or more Clarence Thomases or people like that, [that would not have been a good thing either]. But I don’t think Omarosa was there advocating. It was really stunning to see her make that transformation.”

### MORE THAN BLACK REPUBLICANS REJECTED

American Urban Radio Network reporter April Ryan, a White House correspondent who

has covered four presidents, confirmed that now former Trump press secretary, Sean Spicer, told her that Omarosa had asked him to “stop calling on me” during press briefings. Had he adhered to that request, it could have blocked important information and coverage on behalf of millions of African-American listeners to AURN radio stations across the

nation. Ryan says Omarosa also tried to get her fired by calling her boss at AURN.

Many of Omarosa’s previous friends and associates, who rejected Trumpism, say they were also rejected. Daniels says he was one of them.

“Omarosa is my home girl, (Youngstown, OH) so we forged a friendship,” he said. “All of that was positive. Then, all of a sudden Trump came along and I saw her in and around Trump and I became very nervous. So at one point, I just sort of, as an elder, a friend, I just sort of called her to say, ‘Be careful. You seem to be getting very close to Donald Trump and I don’t think...’

“And she just sort of went off on me, kind of like, ‘You don’t need to be telling me, nobody needs to be telling me what’s going on. I know what I’m doing. And somebody needs to be able to talk to him. And that was it. I just said bye because I did not want to see her become what she has now become in the Black community - a pariah in the Black community.’”

### NNPA’S CHAVIS MORE OPTIMISTIC

Ben Chavis, president/CEO of the

National Newspaper Publishers Association, said he interviewed Omarosa last fall in her White House office, located in the Old Executive Office Building. At that time, shortly after the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Weekend, there was no indication that she would be leaving, Chavis said.

However, he speculated that, based on the content of the interview - which he said has not been published - she may have been pressing for diversity too much.

“She indicated broadly her determination to press diversity and inclusivity issues. She’s always maintained that posture,” Chavis said. “I think that’s probably one of the things that probably got her in trouble in the White House is that she probably was pressing for more diversity,” Chavis said.

In an off-the-record meeting with several hundred Black leaders, including Chavis, during the Trump transition last January, Omarosa said NNPA would get the first interview with President Trump, a promise she later denied despite multiple sources that confirmed the conversation. ●●

## Group to Reignite King's Poor People's Campaign



Rev. Williams Barber II, is co-chair of the new Poor People's Campaign, with goals of building on King's 1968 effort. Barber says the Campaign is as important now as ever.

Fifty years ago, Martin Luther King, Marian Wright Edelman, Bayard Rustin and many other freedom fighters organized the Poor People's Campaign to focus on what King described at the "triple evils," of racism, poverty and militarism. A new group, led in part by Rev. William Barber II, is planning to reignite the vision of the 1968 Campaign with not only action in Washington, D.C. but in 26 states across the country.

When tens of thousands of people converge on statehouses across the nation and the U.S. Capitol in May 2018, it will be to further the work of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Poor People's Campaign that Marian Wright Edelman, Bayard Rustin, Martin Luther King Jr. and so many other freedom fighters organized 50 years ago.

The new campaign is being framed as "A National Call for Moral Revival."

"We must transform the moral

narrative in this country," Barber said during a December press conference. "We went through the most expensive presidential campaign in U.S. history in 2016 without a single serious discussion of poverty and systemic racism. Now we are witnessing an emboldened attack on the poor and an exacerbation of systemic racism that demands a response. This is not about saving any one party or policy agenda, but about saving the soul of America."

As President of the North Carolina NAACP, Barber gained a reputation for a series of sit-ins called Moral Mondays. The protests began in response to several actions by a conservative North Carolina governor and legislature elected in 2013. Once in office, the group began passing many laws the protestors felt were unfair, discriminatory with adverse effects on many citizens of the state,

Their regular Monday protest

were characterized by civil disobedience. They would enter the state legislature building, protest and each week some of the protestors would be peacefully arrested. The protests launched a grass-roots social justice movement.

Last year, Barber resigned his position with the NAACP to join the leadership of the Poor People's Campaign Call for a National Moral Revival, and he serves as the campaign's co-chair. Barber brought many of his policies and approaches from his Moral Monday's movements to the Poor People's Campaign.

The Campaign will focus heavily on "statute's not statues," says Barber. With a great deal of emphasis placed last year on removing confederate statues in the South, Barber became famous for his call to focus on tearing down "statutes" or laws, rather than statues.

See **BARBER** page 8

## The Poor People's Campaign Went on Without King in 1968

Martin Luther King announced the Poor People's Campaign at a staff retreat for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in November 1967. Seeking a "middle ground between riots on the one hand and timid supplications for justice on the other," King planned for an initial group of 2,000 poor people to descend on Washington, D.C., southern states and northern cities to meet with government officials about what he called the "triple evils" racism, poverty and militarism.

Suggested to King by Marion Wright, director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Legal Defense and Education Fund in Jackson, Mississippi, the Poor People's Campaign was seen by King as the next chapter in the struggle for genuine equality. Desegregation and the right to vote were essential, but King believed that African Americans and other minorities would never enter full citizenship until they had economic security.

Through nonviolent direct action, King and SCLC hoped to focus the nation's attention on economic inequality and poverty. "This is a highly significant event," King told delegates at an early planning meeting, describing the campaign as "the beginning of a new co-operation, understanding, and a determination by poor people of all colors and backgrounds to assert and win their right to a decent life and respect for their culture and dignity." Many

leaders of American Indian, Puerto Rican, Mexican American, and poor White communities pledged themselves to the Poor People's Campaign.

Some in SCLC thought King's campaign too ambitious, although King praised the simplicity of the campaign's goals, saying, "it's as pure as a man needing an income to support his family," he knew that the campaign was inherently different from others SCLC had attempted.

"We have an ultimate goal of freedom, independence, self-determination, whatever we want to call it, but we aren't going to get all of that now, and we aren't going to get all of that next year," he commented at a staff meeting on Jan. 17, 1968. "Let's find something that is so possible, so achievable, so pure, so simple that even the backlash can't do much to deny it. And yet something so non-token and so basic to life that even the Black nationalists can't disagree with it that much."

King never saw his vision come true. He was assassinated in April 1968, a month before the campaign was set to begin. SCLC decided to go on with the campaign under the leadership of Ralph Abernathy, SCLC's new president and Jesse Jackson.

On Mother's Day, May 12, 1968, thousands of women, led by Coretta Scott King, formed the first wave of demonstrators.

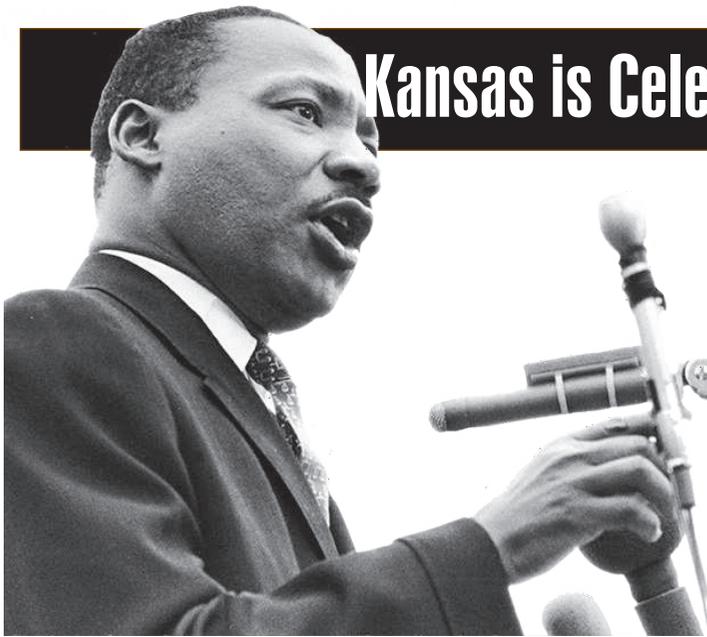
"We come with an appeal to

See **1968** page 8



Resurrection City, a makeshift shantytown, was constructed on the National Mall, as part of the 1968 Poor's People's Campaign.

# Kansas is Celebrating the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



## HUTCHINSON

**14 MLK Celebration** will be at Stringer Fine Arts Center, 600 E 11th Ave, 3 p.m. Guest speaker Pastor Kevass Harding.



Harding

**15 MLK Celebration** will be held at Second Missionary Baptist Church, 1008 N. Ford, 2 p.m. Guest speaker Pastor Kevass Harding.

**15 MLK Celebration Community Reception** and "A Place for All People" exhibit will be held at the Cosmosphere, 1100 N Plum St, 4 p.m.

## JOHNSON COUNTY

**15 MLK 50th Anniversary Commemorating the Life and Legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** at Johnson County Community College Carlsen Center, Yardley Hall, 3-5 p.m. The keynote speaker is Ryan M. Jones, Historian with the National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN. Special guests and performances include: Storling Dance Theatre, William Baker Festival Singers, Mr. Galen Gaut and Dr. Cynthia "Mama J" Johnson.

**15 14th Annual MLK Legacy and Scholarship Awards Dinner** will be at the Overland Park Marriott Hotel, 10800 Metcalf. The Social/Dinner/Program, 5:30 p.m. Honoring Chair-

man Ed Eilert of the Johnson County Commissioners and the Student Scholarship Award winners. Tickets are \$75. RSVP at mlkingcomm@gmail.com or 913-912-7195. Sponsored by The Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy and Scholarship Awards Committee, along with the NAACPs Representing Olathe, Overland Park and Leawood, Kansas.

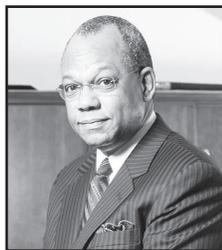
## JUNCTION CITY

**14 Gospel Celebration** will be at the Second Missionary Baptist Church, 701 W 10th St, 3:30 p.m.

**15 32nd Annual Observance** will be at C.L. Hoover Opera House, 135 W 7th St, 10 a.m.

## KANSAS CITY, KS

**15 33rd Anniversary MLK National Holiday** will be celebrated at the Reardon Center, 520 Minnesota Ave. The formal program will start at 11 a.m. The keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, NY. Scholarships will be awarded to 35 high school seniors.



Butts, III

## MANHATTAN

**13 MLK Community Celebration** at Manhattan Fire Station Auditorium, 2000 Denison Ave., 2-4 p.m. Hear

and see the creative work of the finalist from the MLK Jr. art and writing contest. The

keynote speaker will be Dr. Marche' Fleming-Randle, Vice-President for Diversity & Community Engagement at Wichita State University.



Fleming-Randle

**15 Prayer Breakfast** at the Four Points by Sheraton, 530 Richards Dr., 8-10 a.m. Prayer, reflection and breakfast to celebrate the King Holiday. The keynote speaker is Barry Wilkerson, Riley County attorney.

**15 MLK Jr Day of Service** will be held at various locations around town from 9 a.m. – Noon. Individual groups can register to volunteer at bit.ly/HOKS\_signup. For more information or to volunteer contact: handson@ksu.edu or 785-532-6085.

**25 MLK Week Lecture & Laying of the Wreath** The lecture will be at K-State Alumni Center, 100 Alumni Ctr., 1720 Anderson Avenue, 1 p.m. The Laying of the Wreath will be at 2 p.m. in front of Ahern Fieldhouse at the MLK bust. For more information contact mirta@ksu.edu.

## SALINA

**14 City Wide MLK Celebration** will be held at St. John's Baptist Church, 215 S. Chicago, 3:30 p.m. Keynote speaker is Rev. Clifford Bunville, Associate Minister, St. John's Baptist Church. Musical guest will be Leroy Love and The Collins Brothers from Wichita

**15 MLK Youth Rally** at St. John's Baptist Church, 215 S. Chicago, NOON. Opening address will be presented by Tyler Smith. The event will feature: New Dawn Singers, South High School and Free Spirit from Central High School. Keynote speaker is Christian McQueen. Lunch to follow program. Everyone welcomed.

## TOPEKA

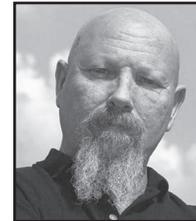
**7 Unity in the Community Musical** First Congregational Church, 1701 SW Collins, 4 p.m.

**8 - 12 Respect for Elders' Week and Pre-School Storytelling Week**

**9 12th Annual Poetry Competition** Antioch Family Life Center, 1921 SE Indiana, 6:30 p.m.. Reception will follow the program.

**10 Stop the Violence Day Program** - with Dale "Mad Dog" Messmer, owner of Straight Talk Outreach Program, 9:30

a.m. White Concert Hall, 1700 SW College Ave. Messmer will speak with area students about making right choices, peer pressure, non-violence, social media and bullying.



Messmer

**11 Governor's Annual March and**



**Program** The March and Celebration program will start at the south steps of the State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th Street, 11:45 a.m. and the march will be at NOON. The program will be held in the First Floor Rotunda of the Capitol. Mr. Reginald Robinson, Interim Vice Chancellor of Public Affairs at the University of Kansas is the guest speaker. Mr. Robinson will be addressing the theme: "A Call to Conscience and a Testament of Hope."

**11 Drumming For the Drum Major.** Highland Park High School Gym, 2424 SE California, 7 p.m. Admission

is \$2 or two canned or non-perishable food items.

**12 Leadership Recognition Luncheon.** Ramada Inn Downtown, 420 SE 6th St., 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$20. To RSVP call 785-806-6982.

**13 Awards and Scholarship Banquet.** Ramada Inn Downtown, 420 SE 6th St., 6 p.m. Tickets are \$30. Guest Speaker, Dr. Bernard Lafayette, Jr. co-founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee



Lafayette, Jr.

**14 Fellowship Day** Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, 1100 SE Washington, 6 p.m. Guest speaker is Dr. Emmanuel Cleaver, III., pastor of St. James United Methodist Church and son of Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, II.

**15 Dr. King Holiday Day of Community Service Program** Brown National Historical Site, 1515 SE Monroe St., 10 a.m.

**15 Whose Dream Is It? Community-Wide Soup Dinner** 6 p.m.; Program 7 p.m. First Christian Church, 1880 SW Gage Blvd. Guest speaker, Rabbi Moti Rieber.

## WICHITA

**12 4th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Program** presented by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Eta Beta Lambda Chapter at Calvary Baptist Church, 2653 N. Hillside, 7 p.m.. The Keynote speaker will be former Wichita mayor and current candidate for Governor, Carl Brewer.

**13 Christian Faith Centre Pancake Breakfast** 1130 S. Broadway from 8-9 a.m. The breakfast is free for youth K-12. Adults \$3. There will be classes for elementary, middle and high school students to learn more about Dr. King. From 9-9:45 a.m.

# Kansas is Celebrating the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

## WICHITA CONT'D

there will be panel discussions on violence, the Poor People's March and a short film about the Dockum Store Sit-In.

**13 Annual Martin Luther King Parade.** Lineup begins at 9:45. Parade starts at 10 a.m. Encouraging all civic organizations, Greeks, families, and everyone who is concerned about the gun violence and other issue occurring in the Wichita community. All are welcome to participate and celebrate the legacy of Dr. King. This year's goal is to get as many citizens and organizations in the parade as possible so that this can be the largest parade in the state of Kansas. The parade route will start at 1130 S. Broadway and go north on Broadway and end at the Chester I. Lewis Reflection Park on Douglas. Asking all parade participants to bring non-perishable food items benefiting Church on the Street. For a parade form call the 316-682-3544.

**13 39th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Community Service Activity** Will be held at The Kansas African American Museum, 601 N. Water, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.. Bring non-perishable food items benefiting Church on the Street.

**13 Wiley College Scholarship Auditions.** Auditions will be held 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Appointments only. To register to audition contact christyn.breathett@tkaamuseum.org. \$3 button required to audition.

**13 Wiley College Choir** will perform at the City-wide Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Program at St. Mark United Methodist Church, 1525 N. Lorraine at 6 p.m. The Kansas African American Museum will also honor Police Chief Gordon Ramsey, Deltha Colvin and David and Lynn Gilkey. \$3 button is required to attend.

**15 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Heroes and Shereroes Breakfast** presented by A.R.I.S.E. The breakfast will take place at St. James Episcopal

Church, 3750 E. Douglas at 7:30 a.m. KWCH-TV 12's Angela McLaurian will be the Mistress of Ceremonies. This year's honorees are: The Greater Wichita Ministerial League, St. James Episcopal Church, Wil-Ken Enterprises, the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Central Kansas and Carl Brewer. They will also be announcing the Dr. Evies Cranford – ARISE Rising Star Scholarship. Tickets are \$30, Tables start at \$400. Contact 685-0452

## 15 "The Quest for Peace + Justice"

2018 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration presented by the Greater Wichita Ministerial League. Wichita State University, Metroplex, 29th & Oliver, Noon. Guest speaker will be Grammy award winning Gospel Artist, Pastor Smokie Norful of Victory Cathedral Worship Center, Bolingbrook, IL. This event is free and open to the entire public.

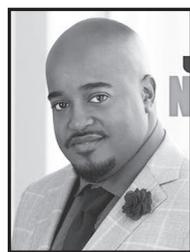


Norful

## KCMO

### 6 2018 Gospel Artist Tribute

will be held Victorious Life Church, 3400 The Paseo, KCMO at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased at www.eventbrite.com/e/sclc-gkc-mlk-2018-gospel-artist-tribute-tickets-40885717281. Tribute to Bishop Jason Nelson pastor of the Greater Bethlehem Temple Church. Other featured Artists include: Isaac Cates & Ordained, VP3, Eric Ashby - Emcee- Reggie Brown, Host of "the Joy of Gospel", KPRS FM Hot 103 Jamz



Nelson

**7 Interfaith Service** will be held at Community Christian Church, 4601 Main St, KCMO at 3:30 p.m. The

guest speaker is Rev. Dr. Otis Moss Jr. a pastor, theologian, speaker, author, and activist.

**9 Rev. Dr. Nelson "Fuzzy" Thompson Community Luncheon** at Sheraton at Crown Center, 2345 McGee St., KCMO 12 p.m. Tickets are \$60 and can be purchased at www.eventbrite.com/e/rev-dr-nelson-fuzzy-thompson-community-luncheon-tick-



Moss, Jr.

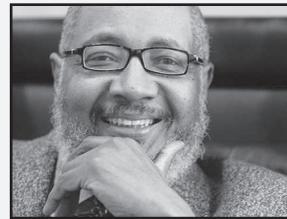
The Rev. Nelson "Fuzzy" Thompson, a United Methodist minister dedicated his life to dismantling the barriers of racism, inequality and discrimination.

For decades, Thompson was president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater Kansas City and was the leading force behind the annual citywide celebration commemorating the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

Thompson was involved in numerous civil rights battles on the local, national and international level.

"There have been some challenges and difficulties over the years, but I have enjoyed them all and I would not change anything about my journey," Thompson said in a 2012 interview. "I did things that weren't always popular, but I felt compelled to do them."

Thompson founded the Martin Luther King Jr. Interfaith Service. He died Jan 11, 2015. He was 70.



ets-40892966965. Keynote speaker is Leonard Pitts, Jr.

**11 The Right To Dream** will be held at American Jazz Museum Atrium 1616 E 18th St, KCMO at 7 p.m. The event is free. The Right to Dream recreates a student's coming of age as an African American in Mississippi during the 1950s and 1960s. This program illuminates the issues of civil rights, leading audiences to understand how the fight against prejudice has shaped our history. (Appropriate for audiences 6th grade and older.)

**15 Community Forum** is at Palestine Missionary Baptist Church, 3619 E 35th St., KCMO at 3:30 p.m.

Facilitator will be Carl Boyd featured panelists will be Ajamu Webster; Presidents/CEO of National Black United Front, KC Chapter and Structural Engineer at DuBois Consultants, Bishop Mark Tolbert; KCMO Police Board Commissioner, Senior Pastor at Victorious Life Church and president of Sparrow Community Development Corp., Dr. Karen Curls, PhD; Penn Valley Community College, Social Science, Kevin Muhammad; local Nation of Islam Member and 10K Fearless, and Damon Daniel; ED AdHoc Group Against Crime. For more information

contact Rev. Dr. Howard, Jr. 816-547-0719 or drhowardjr@yahoo.com.

**15 Mass Celebration** will be held at Palestine Missionary Baptist Church, 3619 E. 35th St., KCMO at 6 p.m. The keynote speaker is Alcee Hastings US Congressman from Florida. Rev. Nelson "Fuzzy" Thompson Legacy Award

will be presented to Freedom, Inc., Accepting on behalf of Freedom, Inc. will be Sen. Kiki Curls, Keith Thomas, Rodney Bland, Kenneth Bacchus and Dr. Gayle Holliday.

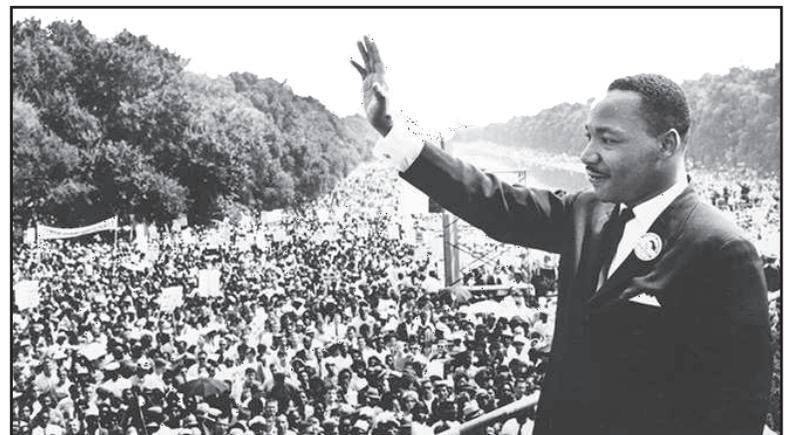
**15 Martin Luther King Jr. Nature Walk** will be at MLK Jr. Square Park, Swope Parkway & Woodland Ave, starting at 1 p.m. The walk will go to the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center, 3700 Blue Pkwy, where an art exhibit by Essex Garner. All ages invited to walk.

## 17 Black Achievers Award Dinner



Garner

is at Federal Reserve Bank, 1 Memorial Drive, KCMO at 6 p.m. Thirteen Black Achievers will be inducted into the Black Achievers Society. They include: Offie L. Adams III, Honeywell FM&T; Dr. Ayana L. Bridges, Metropolitan Community College-Maple Woods; LaToya Garcia, Sprint; Tyrone A. Garner, Kansas City Kansas Police Department; Tamara Gibson, Honeywell FM&T; Dr. Jacqueline Gill, Metropolitan Community College-Business & Technology; Kristen Harris, Hallmark Cards, Inc.; Dr. Alicia Hooks, Kansas City Kansas Community College; Jaileah X. Huddleston, Kansas City Power & Light Co.; Dr. Tamorah Lewis, Children's Mercy Hospital; Heather Rollins, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City, Jasmine Simmons, Hallmark Cards, Inc; and Christal Waters, Metropolitan Community College-Blue River. ●●



# What Will the Poor People's Campaign Look Like Local

Organizers expect the reigned Poor People's Campaign to be a multiyear effort that will begin on Mother's Day 2018 with six weeks of direct action and civil disobedience across at least 25 states and the District of Columbia, leading up to a mass mobilization at the U.S. Capitol on June 21.

According to organizers, each week will focus on a different injustice, beginning with child poverty, and will include specific policy goals and a voter-education program to advance a moral agenda at the state and federal levels.

However, each state will find a way to address the campaigns four main areas -- of racism, poverty, militarism and ecological devastation -- in a way that works best for them. While many states are planning major acts of civil disobedience in their state capitals, the Kansas legislature will be on break during the summer when the main days of the campaign are scheduled. For that reason, protests in Kansas may be more locally focused, instead of statewide says two of Wichita's Poor People's Steering Committee members: Durrell Gilmore, with

Sunflower Community Action, and Rev. Thom Scott, a pastor with the Christian Churches of the Disciple of Christ.

Scott and Gilmore say the most of the groups across the state are still in the process of building their campaign and they encourage others to join the planning and share their ideas.

"The more people we have involved in this the better," said Scott.

The loosely knit Wichita planning group doesn't have a leader, and everyone who has an interests can have a say. Scott, a 60ish White man, and Gilmore, a 20ish Black man, are an example of how the Poor People's Campaign is building bridges. As King envisioned, the campaign is bringing people together across races and interests to work together for "what's right."

Important to both is that their effort is more than just a march or a few days of protests.

"It's a movement," says Gilmore. A movement he's determined will focus on bringing about concrete change.

At the core of their efforts will be work to bring about significant changes

that will positively impact the lives of poor people.

"What we want to change are policies that perpetuate institutionalized racism and institutionalized poverty," says Gilmore. "There are real concrete changes we can push for."

Gilmore was quick to offer what he feels are some reasonable requests for change that can be passed locally to bring about positive change.

"Why are (Wichita) City Council meetings held on Tuesday at 9 a.m. in the morning when most people are working," Gilmore queried. "They should have city council meetings at 6 p.m. at night so people can come and participate."

Some other changes Gilmore would like to see approved are: a \$17.50 minimum wage, universal health care, a basic income for people who are too young, too sick or too old to earn a



PHOTOS: Rev. Thom Scott (above) and Durrell Gilmore (right) are examples of how the Poor People's Campaign is building bridges across races, ages, economic lines.



living and real programs to address homelessness.

Wichita organizers are also planning a series of Truth Commissions. The commissions will be events where people can come to hear "the truth about these issues and to connect with people who are directly impacted by them," says Scott. "I don't know you unless I know your story," and once you know

someone's story it humanizes them and makes it so much easier to connect.

If you're interested in getting involved with the Poor People's Campaign in your area, here are a few email addresses for local planning committees: Wichita [dhagilmore@gmail.com](mailto:dhagilmore@gmail.com)

Kansas City -- [reverendroseschwab@gmail.com](mailto:reverendroseschwab@gmail.com)

Topeka -- [sarah.oglesby@uuf.org](mailto:sarah.oglesby@uuf.org).

There are also local committees in Topeka, Lawrence and Manhattan. ●●

## BARBER from page 5

That's why a major focus of the campaign will be on changing laws nationally, and at state and local levels, that negatively impact poor people. In addition to racism, poverty and militarism addressed in the initial campaign, the new Poor People's Campaign will also focus on "ecological devastation," another crisis that disproportionately affect people living in poverty.

The Campaign co-chairs recently announced a forthcoming reports conducted by the Institute for Policy Studies auditing the "past 50 years of systemic racism, poverty, militarism and ecological devastation in America."

Preliminary findings include:

Compared with 1968, 60% more Americans are living below the official poverty line today—a total of 41 million people. And while the percentage of families in poverty has merely inched up and down, the top 1 percent's share of national income has nearly doubled.

More than 50 years after the Voting Rights Act, people of color still face a broad range of barriers to democracy. According to the Brennan Center, 23 states have adopted voter-suppression laws since 2010.

The criminalization of poverty and racially biased sentencing and policing practices have driven up the number of prison inmates eightfold since 1968, with the share who are people of color increasing from less than half to 66%. Federal spending on prisons has increased tenfold in real terms since 1976.

The gap between our government's discretionary spending on the military versus anti-poverty programs has grown from 2-to-1 at the height of the Vietnam War to 4-to-1 today. In the meantime, millions of lives have been lost in wars that have made us no safer, while "real security" in the form of good jobs, health care and quality education remains beyond the reach of millions of Americans.

Since 1968, the environment has become less polluted, but the poor and people of color

are bearing the brunt of climate change and suffering the most from environmental hazards. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for example, at least 4 million families with children are being exposed to high levels of lead, with low-income and people of color at greatest risk. And low-income families and people of color tend to be more likely to have living conditions and jobs that increase the health risks of extreme heat.

"These are the entrenched battles we face while white moderates and conservatives continue to tell systemically victimized Black Americans to pull themselves up by their bootstraps," said Barber. ●●



## 1968 from page 5

open the doors of America to the almost 50 million Americans who have not been given a fair share of America's wealth and opportunity, and we will stay until we get it," Abernathy said as he led the way for demonstrators.

A week later, protesters erected a settlement of tents and shacks on the National Mall where they camped out for six weeks. Demonstrators made daily pilgrimages to various federal agencies to protest and demand economic justice.

Jackson became mayor of the encampment, which was called Resurrection City. Conditions were miserable.

"You know, what I remember I suppose the most about it was that we set the tents up at the foot of Lincoln's memorial," Jackson recalled. "It seemed to rain without ceasing and became muddy and people were hurt, and we were still traumatized by Dr. King's assassination. Then while in the Resurrection City, Robert Kennedy was killed."

Out of respect for the campaign, his funeral procession passed

through Resurrection City. The Department of the Interior forced Resurrection City to close on 24 June 1968, after the permit to use park land expired.

The demonstrators were discouraged and disheartened, says Jackson, so he tried to give them hope through words.

"I am. Somebody," he told protesters. "I am. God's child. I may not have a job, but I am somebody."

Jackson says that refrain "has resonated across the world in this last 40 years, but it grew out of the context of trying to give people a sense of somebody-ness who had nothing, but still had their person and their souls."

Although as many as 50,000 people ended up marching, the Poor People's Campaign was considered a failure by people who had grown weary of protesting and did not see immediate changes. But not by the Rev. Joseph Lowery.

"The nation became conscious of the fact that it has an expanding poor population," says Lowery, who co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with King. "It's one thing to have the right to check into the Hiltons and the Marriotts, it's another thing to have the means to check out." ●●

## New Blood Pressure Guidelines a 'Wake-up call' For Some

•Well over half of all African-American adults are classified as having high blood pressure under new diagnostic guidelines released in November, illuminating the heavy burden of cardiovascular disease in the population.

The guidelines change the definition of high blood pressure – also called hypertension – to begin when measurements show a top number of 130 or a bottom number of 80. That changes from 140/90, where it had been since 1993.

With this change, it is estimated that 59% of all African-American men will be classified as having high blood pressure, up from 42%. Fifty-six percent of African-American women – who had the highest rate previously at 46% – now have high blood pressure. Forty-seven percent of White men and 41% of White women have high blood pressure.

As startling as the change might seem, however, local doctors say it's really a recognition of what medical professionals have known for some time: that the risk of heart attack and other cardiovascular impacts begins even before a person reaches the high blood pressure mark.

Dr. Joseph Thibodeau, a cardiologist with CHI Health Clinic, said the new guidelines mean nearly half the adult population will be categorized as

hypertensive, which fits with the fact that two-thirds of adult Americans are overweight or obese.

“So it's as much the recommendations catching up with the shape of America,” he said.

“Earlier intervention is important for African-Americans,” said Kenneth A. Jamerson, M.D., a guideline author, cardiologist and professor of cardiovascular medicine with the University of Michigan Health System. “Hypertension occurs at a younger age for African-Americans than for Whites. By the time the 140 over 90 is achieved, their prolonged exposure to elevated blood pressure has a potential for worse outcome.”

Heart disease also develops earlier in African-Americans and high blood pressure plays a role in more than 50 percent of all deaths from it. African-Americans have a higher rate of heart attacks, sudden cardiac arrest, heart failure and strokes than White people. In addition, their risk is 4.2 times greater for end-stage renal disease, which often progresses to the need for dialysis multiple times a week and

ultimately to kidney transplantation or death.

“Hypertension has been a blight on the African-American community for many, many years. It's time for us to get over it,” said Kim Allan Williams, Sr., chief of cardiology at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

“People need to get screened and get care.”

Those newly added to the ranks of people with high blood pressure, or hypertension, won't necessarily start medication right away, however.

Instead, a doctor's first focus will be on lifestyle, encouraging patients to cut salt, eat a more heart-healthy diet, and get adequate exercise. In addition patients should quit smoking and drink no alcohol or moderate amounts. In fact, the number of new patients who will require high blood pressure medication is expected to

increase only 2%.

“We're not just going to throw medicines around as much as we want to get heart-smart behavior and diet,” said Dr. Thomas Brandt, a cardiologist with Methodist Physicians Clinic.

The decision regarding if and when a patient should move on to medication, however, is an individual one and one that's a little more nuanced than a first glance at the guidelines might suggest.

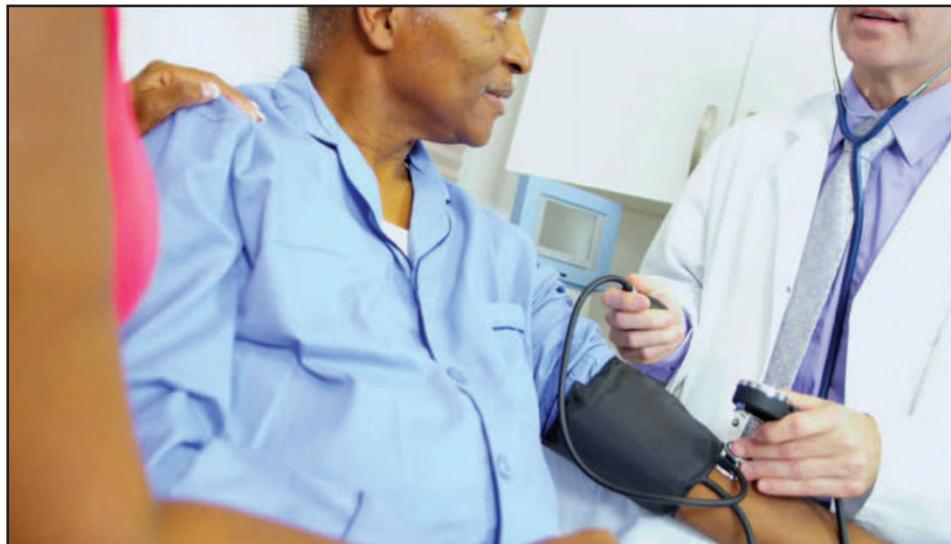
Heart attack risk technically starts to increase at 115/75, Thibodeau said. Above that, doctors have to start

looking at where to draw the line and start treatment.

Among other things, they consider a patient's risk of heart disease or stroke using a calculator that includes factors such as blood pressure readings, existing blood pressure medication, cholesterol levels, smoking, diabetes status and age.

Guidelines for patients considered at high risk of a cardiac event changed back in April, he said, so doctors already have been pushing those patients to 130/80 for the past six

See **PRESSURE** page 10



## New Book Takes Extensive Look at Ethnic Health Disparities of Kansans

•Kansas's population is changing and these changes could affect health care needs and require the health care system to evolve in order to address the social determinants of health that are often distributed differently across population groups.

To describe these changes, the Kansas Health Institute has released a new publication,

*Chartbook: Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in a Changing Kansas.* This more than 750 page book is the most extensive look at disparities across ethnic and racial lines in Kansas since the 2005 book “*Racial and Ethnic Minority Health Disparities in Kansas.*”

The book, describes the population of Kansas in order to identify disparities that may exist and provides data that will spark conversations about the needs of communities across the state.

Over the past decades, the racial and ethnic composition of the population in Kansas has changed

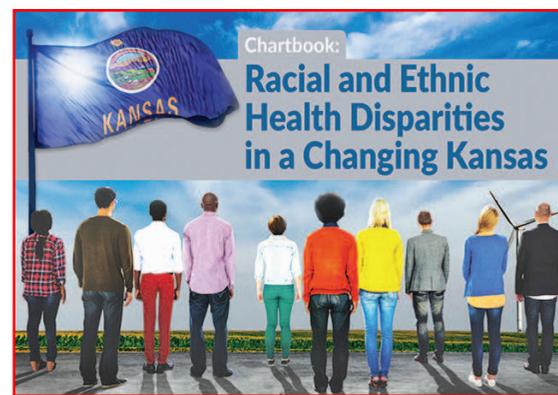
significantly. The number of White residents in the state have decreased by 5,000, while the number of minority residents of the state has increased by 52%.

In 2003, at a population of 161,766, African Americans were already the second largest minority group behind Hispanics. In 2015, the African-American population in Kansas had grown by 19% to 192,710, while the state's Hispanic population had grown by nearly 80% from 188,252 to 338,481. In 2003, minorities comprised just 15.9% of the state's population. In 2015 minorities were

approach 25% of the state's population.

Overall health outcomes may be impacted by these changes in the population, with different population groups exposed to different social determinants of health,

See **DISPARITIES** page 10



See statistics reflecting racial disparities that can have a major impact on the overall health of Kansans. Page 10.

## Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in Kansas\*

	All Kansans	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites
Population 2005	2,688,418	161,766	150,229	2,260,288
Population 2015	2,907,289	192,710	338,481	2,254,581
% Increase	+8.1%	+19.1%	+79.8%	-.3%
Adults w/o high school diploma	9.8%	12.8%	38.7%	6.4%
Adults with college degree	31%	19.1%	11.9%	33.4%
Income per capita	\$27,706	\$18,785	\$14,157	\$30,941
Renting	29.4%	58.0%	43.6%	25.0%
Homes w/o a vehicle	5.2%	16.2%	5.3%	4.5%
Single head of household	31.3%	61.4%	34.2%	28.1%
Unemployment rate	5.9%	12.8%	8.1%	5.0%
% Uninsured	11.5%	16.5%	26.9%	8.7%
% in Poverty	13.6%	25.4%	25.3%	10.6%
Chlamydia rates/100,000	388.1	979.3	340.0	160.0
Overweight	65.8%	71.8%	71.7%	65.2%
Obese	30.9%	41.0%	34.6%	30.2%
Smoke	19.5%	26.4%	16.0%	19.0%
No physical activity in past month	25.3%	29.9%	32.5%	24.2%
Pregnancy Rate 10-19 per 1000	21.3	30.5	36.1	16.7
Homicide mortality rate per 100,000	4	19	5	3
Infant mortality rates/1000 live births	6.4	13.9	7.2	5.2

\*Statistics from Kansas Health Institutes 2017 book, "Chartbooks: Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in a Changing Kansas." Rates are 2015 or 2016 unless otherwise specified.

## PRESSURE from page 9

including education, income, crime, nutrition, access to care and more.

The mission of KHI is to improve the health of all Kansans by supporting effective policymaking, engaging at the state and community levels, and providing nonpartisan, actionable and evidence-based information. To support this mission, KHI developed this update to their original report for two primary purposes: 1) providing consolidated updated health information for the populations of Kansas in one location; and 2) identifying health disparities that impact Kansans across the state.

Individuals, as well as elected officials on the state and local level will benefit from looking at this information. The disparities are noticeable, and if the minority population in Kansas continues to expand, the state can be expected to see an increase in many negative indicators of health unless policies, programs or educational campaigns are put in place to reverse these trends.

For example, the overall unemployment rate in Kansas was 5.9% in 2015, but when those numbers are disaggregated by race, you find the unemployment rate for African Americans is 12.8% -- the highest in the state -- and 8.1% for Hispanics. While it's easy to say Kansas has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country, the numbers don't look so good for the state's African-American community.

Possibly one reason unemployment rates are so high among African Americans is because of the disproportionately high number of African-American households without a car, often a necessity to get to a job. While the percentage of households without a car in Kansas is 5.2%, the disaggregated numbers show that 16.2% of African-

American households don't have a working automobile, compared to 4.5% of White household and 5.3% of Hispanic households.

In some areas, all Kansans are doing poorly. Adults who indicate they haven't engaged in any physical activity in the past month averaged 25.3%, with very little racial disparity.

An average of 65.8% of adults in Kansas are overweight and 41.0% are obese. While there was very little disparity in race on these numbers, African Americans were at the high end of both of these numbers with 71.8% of African Americans in the state overweight and 41.0% obese.

Want to see more of these interesting charts on Kansans, the report is available free online at [www.khi.org](http://www.khi.org). ●●

## The New Face of AIDS

We caught a lot of flack for our Nov. 30 cover story "Black, Male and Gay, the New face of AIDS." "Our numbers just couldn't be correct," we were told. We were Black male bashing. Well here are the Kansas numbers.

AIDS Incidence Rate per 100,000

Black males	31.1
Black females	13.5
White males	04.6
White females	00.8
Hispanic males	15.1
Hispanic females	01.7
All Kansans	05.0

**STAY WOKE**

We can no longer continue to stick our head in the sand on important issues like this is our community. Only by bringing awareness to issues like this and talking about them can we begin to address our problems.

## PRESSURE from page 9

months with medication.

For those at low risk — less than a 10% chance of a cardiac event over the next 10 years — doctors will continue to recommend lifestyle changes until they reach 140/90. The key for patients, Brandt said, is to know their numbers, a step the American Heart Association has been recommending for years.

"If you don't know your numbers, you don't know you're at risk," he said.

"You may not have to take a pill," said Jamerson. "These discussions are more work for a provider, but it's great for the patient. They're brought into the process."

If medicine is needed, the new directions are to treat earlier and more aggressively to get blood pressure into the normal range right off the bat.

"Our data shows controlling early works," Jamerson said.

Jamerson said there is no downside to more aggressively treating high blood pressure from the start.

"If one takes the long view, then everyone should appreciate this approach," he said. "The cost of medications to treat more people is small, when compared to the cost of a stroke, cardiovascular disease or heart failure. It's a no-brainer."

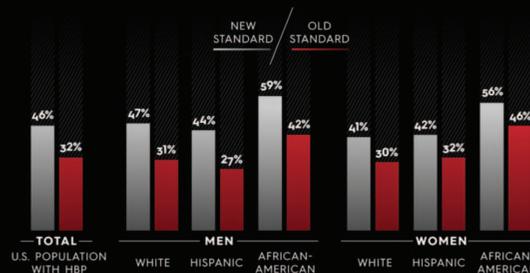
The guidelines are also offering race-specific treatment recommendations by addressing drug efficacy in African-Americans. The

guidelines point out that thiazide-type diuretics and/or calcium channel blockers are more effective in lowering blood pressure in African-Americans when given alone or at the beginning of multidrug regimens. ●●

## RACIAL DIFFERENCES IN HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

By AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION NEWS

Changes in how doctors diagnose high blood pressure means more people identified with this dangerous condition. Racial and ethnic differences in the number of people with high blood pressure, which have been recognized for decades, will become more apparent.



Source: American Heart Association's journal, Hypertension

Published: November 16, 2017

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## Work Is for Lovers, Or is it?

Is the #metoo movement a death knell for office romances?

• It all began with an office romance that broke all the rules. Michelle was Barack's supervisor, a big human resources no, no, and according to Michelle, Barack asked her to go out several times before she finally agreed. Could this have been sexual harassment?



According to a 2017 survey, office romances like the Obama's are not rare. In fact, more than 50% of those surveyed say they've participated in some kind of office romance with 10% of

those surveyed saying they met their

spouse/partner at work.

### CONSENTING ADULTS

Coworkers spend long hours with one other. They depend on each other, collaborate together and probably even vent to one another. They get to know each other well, which can often lead to romantic interests — particularly if they're left with little time outside of work to meet someone.

Office trysts begin the same way any romance does — with shared interests and attraction. It's a fact, consensual office romance happen, but given recent news events, is there still a place for them?

Studies show that office romances can increase job satisfaction, motivation and morale overall, says University of Alabama law professor Daiquiri Steele.

"Office romances have also been found to lead to increased creativity — to add more dynamic energy to the workplace," Steele says.

But when they go wrong, she says, former office romances can lead to decreased productivity, morale — and charges of sexual harassment.

Chai Feldblum, a commissioner at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, who recently co-wrote a report on workplace harassment,

says the #metoo movement, doesn't need to mean the end of office romances.

### #METOO'S IMPACT

"It needs to be a catalyst for employers to think about what they don't want happening in their workplaces that will cause people to feel uncomfortable and not wanting to show up at work," Feldblum says.

Some employers ignore office romances. Some completely ban them. Banning intra-office romances can wind up backfiring by creating a culture of secrecy.

"This is an extreme and draconian approach, which may not actually promote the type of behavior that the company is looking for by driving the behavior underground," warns Mirande Valbrune, an employee relations and compliance professional with an employment law background.

Other companies discourage or ban romances between supervisors and the workers who report to them. Yet another approach suggests disclosing relationships to HR to ensure they're truly consensual.

"I have taken a slightly different approach when setting policy at my companies, by discouraging the

## On the Move

Andre Davis has been tabbed as Business Development Executive at Built Interior Construction, LLC. Some of his duties include new business acquisition and cultivating business relationships.



Davis

Kiana Knolland has accepted the position of Smart Justice Field Organizer, at the ACLU of Kansas. She is an honors graduate of Howard University where she studied Strategic, Legal and Management Communications with an emphasis in Public Relations and a minor in Political Science. She has worked in several internships including the Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and the Department of Justice.



Knolland

Charles McDonald is the President at the Heart of America Chapter of the Clinical Laboratory Managers Association. His duties include, but are not limited to, being responsible for the design and maintenance of the organization including bylaws, duties of officers and style of the organization.



McDonald

### Send us Your On the Move Announcements

We welcome news about promotions, retirements, appointments, awards and recognitions. Submit them @ [www.communityvoiceks.com](http://www.communityvoiceks.com).

See **LOVERS**, page 12

### Office Romances Are Surprisingly Common

A February 2017 survey found a majority (57%) of those surveyed have participated in some kind of office romance. 21% of these office romances were random hookups, 16% led to long-term relationships, and 14% led to ongoing but casual relationships.

- 10% of those surveyed said they met their spouse/partner at work.
- Men are more likely than women to have had an office romance (59% of men vs. 54% of women). Male romances are also more likely to have been random hookups (25% for men vs. 16% for women).
- 41% of respondents (men and women) say they have deliberately avoided a potential workplace romance.
- Two-thirds (66%) of those who've had office romances said they'd be willing to engage in another one.
- 20% of respondents admitted to having had an affair, while 47% of those surveyed say they know co-workers who've had affairs. Of those who had been personally involved in an office affair, 24% say it put an end to their existing relationship. And more men reported having affairs than women (25% of men vs. 19% of women).
- The most common way for office romances to begin is working in the same department (36%) or in nearby offices/cubicles (28%). Next are happy hours/office parties (26%) and working on the same project (21%). So, it appears that what begins as attraction in the office due to proximity gets acted on at social events.
- 34% of respondents think social media platforms have made it easier to have an office romance. However, just 22% of respondents report using social media to send flirtatious or romantic messages to a co-worker.
- The preferred method of communication among those who've had workplace romances is in person (47%), followed by texting (28%), online chatting (9%), phone calls (7%), email (4%), and social media (1%). ●●

# 12 Tax Code Changes Will Affect Your Paycheck, Eventually

The tax reform bill approved by Congress will affect your paycheck this year, but at this point, nobody knows when — or by how much.

Employers and payroll administrators are waiting for guidance from the Internal Revenue Service and hoping the rollout won't be a protracted accounting nightmare. The IRS has offered little in the way of a timetable.

"We're just looking for every opportunity to ... get the withholding right with the least workload and the least panic or chaos," said Pete Isberg, vice president of government relations for ADP, the nation's largest payroll firm.

The Republican-backed legislation will bring sweeping changes to the tax code, such as eliminating personal exemptions, nearly doubling standard deductions and lowering tax rates for individuals and corporations. For most employees, that should translate into less federal withholding and bigger paychecks, experts say.

The IRS needs to issue new tax withholding tables for employers and payroll administrators to use in calculating paycheck deductions. A Dec. 21 statement provided little clarity, but indicated new tax documents and information for payroll handlers will be out in January.

"The IRS has started initial work on implementing this major tax legislation," the agency said. "We are working to provide more specific information and guidance to taxpayers, businesses and the tax community as quickly as possible in the weeks and months ahead."

If new withholding tables do come out in January, it will probably take until February to make payroll adjustments. That means January paychecks shouldn't change. Since most employees will owe less tax under the new bill, it also means the federal withholding will likely be too high temporarily and could generate a refund in 2019.

Because the tax bill eliminates exemptions — personal allowances for employees and their spouses and children — payroll administrators expect the government to issue a new W-4 form, with new instructions, after

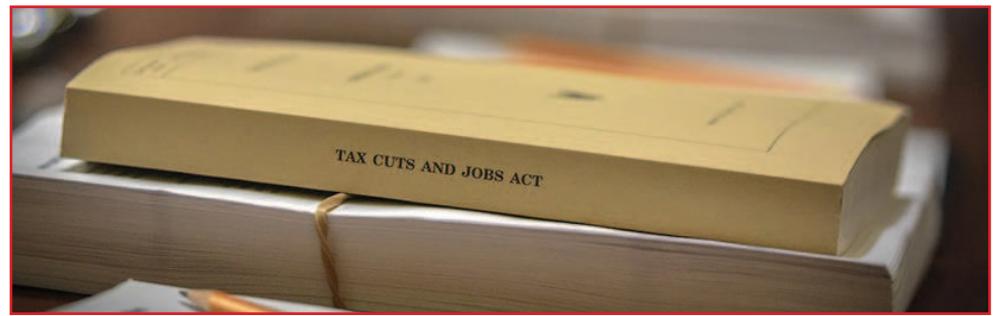
the updated withholding tables are released.

"Every worker in the workforce is probably going to have to sign a new W-4 sometime in 2018," Isberg said.

The potential lag between implementing the new withholding tables and a new W-4 could create another problem: an inaccurate withholding amount in the meantime, Isberg said.

ADP has already reached out to the IRS with a proposal to reduce the number of exemptions per employee by an "increment" prior to their filling out a new W-4, something Isberg said the agency is considering.

Every year, federal withholding should approximate the tax liability so a taxpayer doesn't owe the government any money or get a refund. The



The IRS is still working to figure out how to implement in tax cut bill passed late year by Congress.

delayed rollout of the new withholding guidelines could make it harder to get right this year, Isberg said.

Michael O'Toole, senior director of government relations for the American Payroll Association, which represents payroll administrators at 17,000 employers, said getting employees to fill out a new W-4 correctly may be the biggest challenge. "The issue will be whether employees take the time to deal with the new W-4, take a look at their tax liability and make sure that they're having enough withheld," O'Toole said.

The changes in federal withholding will not impact payroll taxes such as

Social Security and Medicare, which will remain the same, O'Toole said.

Despite the broad implications of the federal tax bill, Dan Rahill — a tax partner with Chicago-based accounting firm BDO — and other accountants say payroll processing is not at the top of most clients' list of questions.

In December, Geoff Harlow, a partner with Deerfield, FL-based accounting firm Kessler Orlean Silver & Co., said he was getting a lot of calls from people asking if they should prepay their real estate taxes, "but I haven't gotten a single call asking about withholding yet." ●●

## LOVERS from page 11

behavior (without prohibition) amongst co-workers, and requiring disclosure to the company by any employees in a hierarchical reporting relationship."

Law professor Steele says that might sound like a buzzkill. But consider the consequences of an ugly work breakup. Perhaps one party continues to pursue the relationship — that might start to feel like harass-

ment. Or say a supervisor ends things with an employee:

"And almost as a revenge measure — for lack of a better term — for being dumped, then the one who did not want out now claims that the entire office romance was sexual harassment and now claims that it was indeed unwelcome," Steele says.

### BUILDING AN ATMOSPHERE OF RESPECT AND FAIRNESS

Alyssa Kovach, an employment law-

yer and an associate at Duane Morris, based in Philadelphia, said that in the last several months, she's heard from more clients than ever before who are seeking advice reevaluating their sexual harassment policies.

"I think everyone just wants to make sure they have a policy in place that meets the legal standard in this new era, where there's really sort of a limelight on sexual harassment."

For harassment to violate federal standards, it must be "severe or pervasive." What employers should do is

establish a sexual harassment policy that goes beyond the legal definition.

Company policies should also cover consensual romantic relationships, expressly prohibiting relationships in a chain of command where one person has direct authority over the other," said Michael G. Trachtman, president of the Powell Trachtman law firm in King of Prussia.

That, he said, is "horribly dangerous" and should be distinguished "from a workplace relationship among people in different departments or not in any sort of supervisory relationship." If a consensual relationship between two people in a chain of command develops, Trachtman said, many companies will work with those individuals to transfer one person elsewhere, if possible.

Employers must not just write a policy, they must role it out companywide with clear expectations of acceptable behavior. For example, take a guy who asks out his co-worker four times and gets told no repeatedly.

Feldblum says that might not rise to the legal level of harassment. But

she says maybe now is a good time for employers to consider changing not what people think is appropriate but how they behave at work.

"So a man can continue to believe that a good dating strategy is to ask someone four times because maybe she's just playing hard to get," Feldblum says. "That person can continue to believe that's a good dating strategy — but not in a workplace."

Feldblum says employers might consider making clear that such behavior at work is unacceptable — preventively. That applies between men and women or anyone else.

Generally, says Feldblum, women understand the difference between flirtation and harassment.

"The main thing this cultural and social moment of talking about sexual harassment should give us is that men should begin to understand this as well," she says.

Listening to each other, making sure we're on the same page, might not be shutting workplace flirtations down — but making them work a whole lot better. ●●

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## A Deeper Look A Brandon Johnson, District 1

**“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”**

*Benjamin Franklin*

**By Bonita Gooch**  
The Community Voice

It was a not so well kept secret dating back almost a decade, Brandon Johnson wanted to serve on the Wichita City Council and he was positioning himself intently to get there. He was out there, working in the community, being seen and getting things done. Johnson was strategic in his preparation, and his focused approach paid off on Tues., Nov. 7, when he won big in his race to represent Wichita’s 1st District on the City Council.

If you could turn back the clock a decade to 2008, to meet a young 20 something Johnson, you would have met a an individual who was: already serving on Kansas State Advisory Board on Juvenile Delinquency, working as a supervisor over three youth life skills training programs, and a young father. Surprisingly, Johnson wouldn’t have been new at many of these tasks. He was a teenage father at age 18, served 10 years on the state’s Juvenile Justice Advisory Board and had been volunteering to help young boys since he was just a pubescent youngster.

Johnson, learned early the benefits of mentoring by having positive role models in his life. At 9-years-old, he had “anger issues,” and his grandmother Lula McCray took him to Tommy Benford at Family Services Institute. Benford was running a program Men-to-Men, with a goal of helping boys become responsible men.

It’s hard to figure out who attached to who, but Johnson identifies Benford as his mentor, a person who helped turn his life around, but obviously Benford took a fancy to Johnson as well.

“He (Benford) really cared, really got involved in your life and invested time in you,” said Johnson.

With the help of Benford and Wichita Police Officers Riley Williams

and Glendell Henderson, who also worked with the program, Johnson found the right road. Impressed by his achievements, Benford encouraged Johnson to stay around as a role model to other youth in the program.

Johnson began volunteering with the program because: it was something to do after school, he sincerely wanted to help others the way he’d been helped, and because Benford promised him a summer job if he hung around. True to his word, Benford came through and placed Johnson in the Summer Youth Program at the Lynette Wordard Recreation Center. There he worked with Director Cliff Fanning who proved to be another great role model in his life.

After High School Johnson attended Friends University on a football scholarship. He’d been a pretty impressive high school player, finishing his career at West High School as the teams quarterback. At Friends, he was back to another position where he excelled – running back. He played at Friends for three seasons before losing his scholarship on what he describes as an academic technicality. However, he stayed on in a paid position as a running back coach from 2008-2012.

Johnson transferred to Wichita State University, but never graduated. Somehow life just got in the way, he says. He got married, had another child, and just never finished. It’s something he’s committed to doing. He’s just 16 hours short of earning a degree in Political Science and he’s made a commitment to his wife to get it done. He says he’ll take at least one online course this summer, and now that’s on the record.

### CONNECTIONS GET JOBS

Not having a degree may have worked against him a little, says Johnson.

“There were jobs I wanted that

I knew I couldn’t get, but I’ve been able to make it through connections,” says Johnson.

His first professional job took advantage of connections. His mentor Benford helped him get a job running three programs at Family Services Institute where Johnson had volunteered for years. He worked their four-years running three youth programs: Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Life Skills Training and the Summer Job Program.

He’s moved around quite a bit since his four years (2005-09) at Family Service. He left there when the non-profit organization closed its doors and went to work for Salvation Army Youth Services. He worked there for four years helping troubled boys, something he was obviously qualified to do. In 2013, he worked for NuVision a group home. Again he found himself working with youth.

In 2014, in a strategic move, he turned to politics. He took a job working with the Kansas Democratic Party as a Regional Field Organizer. In this position, he helped execute the party’s field plan with a goal of increasing voter turnout.

“That’s where I learned to run an effective campaign,” says Johnson.

By the end of 2014, he was at Workforce Alliance as a career coach, teaching some of the same skills he’d taught youth during the summer job program. The idea was to give program participants the skills they need to move from minimum wages jobs, to jobs paying \$15 to \$18 per hour.



Brandon Johnson will take his seat as the new Wichita District 1 City Councilmember, but exactly how did this young man get there?

In 2015 he worked for Sunflower Community Action, a non-profit focused on activism and making positive change in the community. There, he worked as the coordinator of a Water Access Program, a program funded through a Kansas Health Foundation grant. As with many grants, he found himself looking for another job after the grant funds ran out.

### COMMUNITY MINDED ALWAYS

Even as he moved around in his professional career, Johnson stayed focused on the community. Towards that end, he and his mentor Benford founded Community Operations Recovery Empowerment, Inc. in 2011. The non-profit was organized to improve and empower members in the community around:

- Career Development
- Prevention/ Intervention in the legal system
- Mentoring, Tutoring, and Counseling
- Community Service and Neighborhood Revitalization.

Among the organizations more visible efforts were the small community gardens they installed on vacant lots

in Northeast Wichita. Johnson and CORE received a lot of positive press for educational programs offered to help keep adults and youth out of the legal system. Working with Atty. Robert Moody, CORE has sponsored several EMPOWER U programs that provide much needed information on diversion, how to expunge your arrest record, how to get a temporary license that allows you to drive to work and other challenging legal issues.

In addition, the organization has focused on Economic Development with Johnson partnering with KS Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau to introduce an economic development bill in the Kansas Senate. The bill is designed to help lower income zip codes across the state attract businesses.

### ALL LEADING TO THIS POINT

“If you don’t know where you want to go, any road will get you there.”

Johnson knew where he wanted to go and he’s gotten there. He made it clear more than a decade ago that he wanted to serve on the City Council and he spent that decade positioning

See **JOHNSON** page 18

# 14 City Approves Mortgage Loan to Urban League

WICHITA

Fruits of the \$20 million, City of Wichita sale of the Hyatt Regency continue to be distributed throughout city districts with District 1 and The Urban League of Kansas among the most recent beneficiaries.

During its Dec. 19, 2017 meeting, the Wichita City council approved a proposal to use \$300,000 of the Hyatt funds to purchase the Urban League's existing mortgage from Intrust Bank and to carry the League's Mortgage under much more agreeable terms.

As the holder of a \$300,000 mortgage on the Urban League of Kansas' building at 2418 E. 9th Street, the city offered the League a 30-year loan at the Applicable Federal Rate, which is currently 2.58%. Instead of the monthly payments based on a much higher interest rate that they were paying, the new mortgagee



program will certainly help the League, which has struggled financially during the past few years. One of the loan's requirements is that the Urban League provide space in its building, as available, to other community organizations.

In addition, Urban League officials are working with Wichita State University to redefine its mission and service delivery model. This month, the League's

terms allows the Urban League to make an annual payment on the loan. Each year, the annual payment will be equal to 75% of the Urban League's available surplus cash.

"We're excited," commented Melody McCray-Miller, Interim CEO and President of the Urban League of Kansas.

"We're pleased that the City Council is supportive of this action" while also lauding the work of District 1, City Councilwoman Lavonta Williams. The much more favorable loan

Board of Directors will consider a Research Collaboration Agreement with the University. Under this agreement, the University will move staff and classes to the Urban League's building. They will also conduct student outreach from the facility and develop a recruitment program for job training and other regional workforce initiatives.

"The Urban League is moving forward on a progressive agenda," said McCray-Miller. ●●

## Community Briefs

### URBAN LEAGUE OFFERS FREE HOMEBUYER'S SEMINAR

Topics relevant to purchasing a home will be discussed at a free homebuyer's education workshop hosted by The Urban League of Kansas on Jan. 13 at 2418 E. 9th St., Wichita. The one day, eight-hour workshop runs from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and will cover the following topics:

- Pre-purchase – getting ready for your home;
- Managing Your Money – getting started with a spending plan;
- Understanding Credit – getting pre-qualified for a mortgage;
- Shopping for Your Home – selecting your home-buying team;
- Closing on Your home Purchase – down payment & closing cost, post-purchase considerations.

Participants must pre-register by Jan. 1. Call 316-262-2463.

### BRANSON BUS TRIP PLANNED FOR "SAMSON" PLAY

A chartered bus trip is scheduled to travel to Branson, MO for the stage production of "Samson" at the Sight and Sound Theater. The trip will depart Wichita on Fri., Apr. 6 at 6:30 p.m. and return on Sun., Apr. 8 at 8:30 p.m. The group will attend "Samson" on Apr. 7.

Hotel accommodations will be at Westgate Resorts. The price for the entire weekend, which includes tickets to Sampson, breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, and lodging is \$205 per person, with a non-refundable \$50 deposit due immediately. Children must be at least 10 years old and their cost is the same as an adults.

In addition to the play, other trips activities include sightseeing and outlet shopping. Contact Margaret (Maggie) Thompson, 316-655-6967, matmag-shop@cox.net for more information. ●●

THE COMMUNITY VOICE | JAN. 4, 2018



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## Jackson Mortuary Wichita

**Alexander, Diana Lynn**, 54, died 12/21/17. She was a Golf Warehouse Customer Service Representative. Service was held 12/30/17 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel.

**Bailey, Lue Burte**, 72, died 12/26/17. Service will be held 1/5/18, 1 p.m. at New Zion Baptist Church. She is survived by: spouse; Leonard Bailey, Sr., sons; Leonard Bailey, Jr. Olree Smith, Montrel Bailey, Kendel Bailey, daughters; Vanalena Fanning, Lucreshiea Bailey, sisters; Lorene Browning, Helen Hinkle and brother; Clyde Layton

**Chapman, Brenda Kay**, 60, died 12/22/17. She is survived by: spouse; Danny Lee Mumford Sr., sons; Don Alfred Chapman, Matthew Jeremiah Chapman, Ronald Keith Williams Jr. and Danny Lee Mumford Jr., daughters; Ariel Charlene Chapman, mother; Charlene Chapman, brothers; Michael Bernard, Mark Allen "Buck", David Arnette and Leslie Tyrone Chapman, sisters; Rochelle Renea Chapman, Paula Jeanette Chapman-Richmond and Teresa Gail Chapman-Williams.

**Conley, James M.**, 75, died 12/13/17. He was a retired Custodian. Service was held 12/22/17 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel. He is survived by: Host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

**Goodall, Richard D.**, 75, died 12/17/17. He was a Cessna Aircraft employee. He is survived by: brother; Leonard Goodall and a Host of Nieces, Nephews & Cousins.

**Jameson, Jaxon Vaughn**, newborn died 12/28/17. Survived by: parents; Marque & D'Anne Jameson, grandparents; Robin Traore, Elvyn Jameson, brothers;

Ryan & Aiden Jameson. Service was held 1/2/18 at Calvary Baptist Church.

**Jones, Jr., Joseph McKinley**, 87, died 12/27/17. Service is pending.

**Johnson, Leola**, 90, died 12/23/17. She is survived by: spouse; Paul Johnson, Sr., sons; Juan D. Johnson, Stephen Johnson, Kenneth Johnson, daughters; Sandra Banks, Beverly Trotter, Patricia Burdon and Deborah Rankin. Service will be held 1/6/18, 11:00am at Grant Chapel AME.

**Kennedy, Royaldo N.**, 64, died 12/15/17. He was an Aircraft Employee. He is survived by: brothers; Kermit Kennedy, Jon Kennedy, sisters; Many Tackett, April Howard and Venus Kennedy. Service is pending.

**Link, Randall Lee**, 65, died 12/27/17. Service is pending.

**Myles, Doris Evelyn**, 73, died 12/22/17. She was a Retired Nurse - 21 Years of service @ Veterans Administration hospital. She is survived by: sons; Tracey, Kenneth and Vincent Keith Myles, daughter; Millicent Romano, uncle; "Uncle Jack" James Franklin, sisters; Lillian Chiles, Naomi Barnett, Juanita Smith, Genelle Cooper, Erma Cowans Kendra Franklin, brothers; Curtis and Alonzo Franklin. Service was held 12/29/17 at Church of the Living God.

**Palacioz, Sr., Johnny Raymond**, 68, died 12/17/17. Service was held 12/30/17 at Holy Savior Catholic Church. He is survived by: spouse; Becky S. Palacioz, daughter; Susanna Kane, sons; Christopher Palacioz, Johnny R. Palacioz, Jr. and step-daughters; Michelle & Christina Beam

**Patterson, Vernon L.**, 56, died 12/24/17. He was a retired Nichols Lawn Service Technician. He is survived by: sisters; Kathy Carr, Nomettia Thomas and Sherrie Patterson,

brothers; Howard Phillips and Bobby Patterson, companion; Delcina Smallwood. Service is pending.

**Roberts, Priscilla**, 85, died 12/22/17. She was a Boeing Environmental Engineer & Via Christi St Joseph Housekeeper. She is survived by: spouse; Samuel James, daughters; Gloria Roberts, Rose Jackson, An'trease Roberts, sons; Samuel Roberts III, Chuckie Roberts and sister; Kattie Gatewood. Service was held 12/30/17 at Mt. Olive Tabernacle of Praise.

**Russell, Glendora**, 67, died 12/31/17. Service is pending.

**Shelton, Jody D.**, 52, died 12/12/17. She was a carpenter. She is survived by: son; Emidio Blea, and daughter; Paige Shelton, siblings; Charles Shelton, Joyce Pearson, Clayton Shelton, Kevin Shelton, Robin Rumsey, Quinton Pearson and Gayler Pearson. Service is pending.

**Sweat, Terri**, 52, died 12/20/17. She was a retired Transcriptionist. She is survived by: companion; Nathan Grant, daughters; Kimberly Cook, Christina Cook, Sara Feagans, sisters; Tina Cook, Tammy Ball and Teresa Herelson. Service is pending.

**Williams, Charles**, 92, died 12/29/17. Service is pending.

**Wright, Annette**, 81, died 12/29/17. Service is pending.

**Wright, Jr., Charlie**, 64, died 12/27/17. He is survived by: sisters; Shirley Reynolds, Elizabeth Wright, Patricia Bruner, Debbie Wright, Tolesia, brothers; Sylvester Wright, Eddie Wright, Benny Wright, Mark Wright and Ricky Wright. Service is pending.

## Biglow Funeral Wichita

**Brown, Janet Marie**, 39, died 12/18/17. Service is pending.

**Bunch-Mackley, Pamela**

**Lynn**, 58, died 12/15/17. Service is pending.

**Johnson, Gregory Jerome**, 64, died 12/16/17. Service is pending.

**Morain, Loren Gail**, 56, died 12/10/17. Service is pending.

**Neal, Mary**, 94, died 12/29/17. Service is pending.

**Pope, Adell**, 80, died 1/1/18. Service is pending.

## R. J. Bethea Wichita

**Barnett, Sr., Derwin Christopher**, 49, died 12/24/17. Service will be held 1/6/18 at Church of Christ-Chisholm Trail.

**Gulley, DeAndrea Lamont**, 39, died 12/19/17. Service was held 12/29/17 at Progressive Missionary Baptist Church.

**Henderson, Michael A.**, 60, died 12/12/17. Service was held 12/19/17 at Greater Victorious Cross Church of God.

**Lopez-Carmen**, 40, died 12/10/17. Service is pending.

**McDaniel, Vickie**, 63, died 12/21/17. Service was held 12/30/17 at Saint Mark UMC.

**Minter, Clarence**, 66, died 12/27/17. Service is pending.

**Thomson, Aaron**, 47, died 12/28/17. Service is pending.

**Walker, Deborah K.**, 60, died 12/27/17. Service is pending.

## Mrs. J. W. Jones Kansas City

**Armstrong-Gassoway, Mac-bell P.**, 77, died 12/17/17.

**Elliott, Charles E.**, 78, died 12/7/17. Service was held 12/16/17 at Mrs.J.W.Jones Memorial Chapel.

**King, Linda G.**, 70, died 12/25/17. Service was held 12/29/17 at Cross Points Church.

**Mitchell, Farrell Keith**, 60, died 12/10/17. A graveside service was held 12/29/17 at Leavenworth National Cemetery.

## Thatcher Funeral Kansas City

**Abram, Alla B.**, 83, died 12/22/17. Service was held 12/30/17 at Eighth Street Baptist Church.

**Adams, Carrie Aledia**, 62, died 12/21/17. Service was held 12/29/17 at Bethel Seventh Day Adventist Church.

**Banks, Sandy Helen**, 70, died 12/22/17. Service was held 1/3/18 at Thatcher's Funeral Chapel.

**Bates, Edwina Catrece**, 48, died 12/4/17. Service was held 12/15/17 at Oak Ridge Baptist Church.

**Bowles, Myrtle**, 80, died 12/11/17. Service was held 12/22/17 at Fellowship Christian Church.

**Clark, Mitchell Alvin**, 72, died 12/8/17. Service was held 12/16/17 at Thatcher's Funeral Chapel.

**Dillard, Lullaby**, 88, died 12/17/17. Service was held 12/27/17 at Salem Baptist Church.

**Foster, Carey Jule**, 96, died 12/28/17. Service is pending.

**Gee, Hugh**, 66, died 12/23/17. Service is pending.

**Hollinshed, Celester**, 88, died 12/23/17. Service was held 12/30/17 at Third Missionary Baptist Church.

**Holmes, Jr., Isaac**, 86, died 12/9/17. Service was held 12/16/17 at Allen Chapel

A.M.E. Church.

**Hughes, Alton**, 51, died 11/28/17. Service is pending.

**Manor, Sr., Freddie Lee**, 74, died 12/13/17. Service was held 12/23/17 at Johnson County Church of Christ.

## Peaceful Rest Topeka

**Beaver, Joe Lewis**, 81, died 12/26/17. Service will be held 1/4/18, 12:00pm at Peaceful Rest Funeral Chapel.

**Knighen, Anna Katherine**, 67, died 12/16/17. Service was held 12/22/17 at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church

**Shields, Gwendolyn Yvette**, 58, died 12/25/17. Service will be held 1/10/18, 11:00am at Peaceful Rest Funeral Chapel.

## Bowser Johnson Topeka

**Clotfelter III, John Marvin**, 60, died 12/2/17. John was cremated no services are planned.

**Davis, Patrick Lee**, 61, died 12/1/17. Service is pending.

**Mays, Larry**, 60, died 12/18/17. Service will be held 1/6/18, 1:00pm at Bowser Johnson Funeral Chapel.

## Penwell-Gabel Junction City

**Lee, Earnest**, 70, died 12/22/17. Service was held 12/29/17 at Penwell-Gabel Junction City Chapel.

**Wright, Virgilio Zenon**, 62, died 12/5/17. Service was held 12/14/17 at Penwell-Gabel Funeral Home.

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## Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Hosts Mr. Debonair Affair

Highlighted as a “development program for young men ages 7 to 12”, the Beta Lambda Educational Institute, an affiliate of the Kansas City Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., recently hosted the 4th Annual “A Debonair Affair” at the Embassy Suites-KCI Conference Center Hotel in Kansas City.

“The whole objective is to actually mentor these boys and give them an experience they would not have had,” said Charles E. Lambert, chairman, A Debonair Affair.

The 13-week program includes mentoring, educational workshops, public speaking activities, dance, arts and community service. This year, the program got underway on Aug. 13, and included an essay and oratorical contest as well as a talent showcase. The program culminated with the “A Debonair Affair Grand Finale” on

Nov. 18.

“What these children gain is an opportunity to learn some life skills; “training in nine different areas, exposure to a world they may not otherwise experience,” commented Janice Lambert, coordinator.

Jabari Cambridge, Jr. won the Mr. Debonair 2017 and Mr. CFO awards at the grand finale. Jabari is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jabari Cambridge Sr. and the grandson of Mr. James D. McConnell, Sr. and Dr. Mary E. McConnell.

Nine boys participated in this year’s event. In the four years the fraternity has presented the Mr. Debonair Affair more than sixty boys have participated in the program.

This year, the program’s community service component consisted of two projects: “After the Harvest,” a vegetable and fruit food gleaning

project for local food pantries and several activities involving Niles Home for Children, including a clothing drive.

“This is an opportunity to celebrate our little boys and bring them along; to do something with our young boys while we still can,” said Janice Lambert.

The various program components are designed to provide a foundation of encouragement, inspiration and practical skills for participants.

“You too can own your own company,” Janice Lambert noted. “You can

be whatever you want to be, you just have to put the work in.”

The program also includes a series of mentoring programs utilizing community partners, The Kansas City

Friends of Alvin Ailey and the men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. These mentoring programs are intended to expose young men to successful, college educated African-American

men and to provide the program participants with role models and a view of positive images to which they can aspire.

The Beta Lambda Educational Institute (BLEI) was created in 1980 to promote the social, educational and cultural welfare of people, particularly those who are or have been traditionally deprived or underprivileged, in the Kansas City area. ●●



Mr. Debonair, Jabari Cambridge (center) is pictured with members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. - Beta Lambda Chapter.

## Mu Omega AKAs Present Successful Entrepreneurship Program S.H.O.P.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Mu Omega Chapter, hosted its 11th Sisters Helping Others Prosper (SHOP) women entre-

preneurial program, Sat. Dec. 16.

Among this year’s panel discussions was “Getting Started/Biz 101” with Adrienne Haynes, Esq. of SEED Law,

Marquita Miller, owner of Five Star Tax & Business Solutions and motivational speaker, Kimberly Randolph of INC U, and Christal Watson, president of Heartland Chamber of Commerce. Another panel, “When Work is not Work: Passion into Profit” included Tanisha Webb, owner of Urban Chic Travelistas, LLC,

Kimberly Randolph of INC U and Author Dr. Grace Lajoy. Another panel “How Much \$\$\$ Do I Need,” featured Watson and Marquita Miller, a CPA. The final workshop, “Social Media: To Post or Not to Post,” included panelists Webb and Rep. Barbara Anne Washington, Esq.

The program also featured women-owned small businesses offering products and services. The S.H.O.P. program also seeks to encourage African-American women to further educate themselves on the benefits of

becoming business owners as well as the benefits of supporting other African-American women-owned businesses.

Each year Mu Omega identifies a charitable organization to assist. This year attendees donated more than \$4,000 worth of clothing to Connections for Success, an organization that works to break the cycle of poverty through hope, resources and a plan.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., founded in 1908, is the first Black Greek lettered Sorority. Mu Omega was chartered on May 10, 1924 in KCK. ●●



Pictured are S.H.O.P. panelist and vendors. (Front Row L-R) Marlene Vann, Tanisha Webb, Florine Dean, Veola Manning, Rep. Barbara Anne Washington, Esq., president of Mu Omega Chapter, Sharon Hayes, vice president and program chairman of Mu Omega, Dr. Gwendolyn Squires, Rae Lastiee, Gina Lastiee. (Back Row L-R) Danielle Sidney, Dr. Mary McConnell, Christal Watson, Winnie Ashby, Ambria Paul, Angelae Alexander, Renita Shelton, a shopper, Eve Lane, Dr. Grace LaJoy, Georgann Andrews, Debbie McClain, & Norma McKelvy.

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# 18 Lucy Lands Prestigious NAACP Award

Labor union organizer William Lucy has spent his life fighting battles for justice, fairness and equal opportunity and his years of service will be recognized this year when he's awarded the NAACP's Top Annual Award, their "Chairman's Award." The award recognizes exemplary public service and the recipient's use of personal or professional platforms to create agents of change.

Leon W. Russell, Chairman of the NAACP National Board of Directors, will present Lucy with the award at the 49th NAACP Image Awards on Mon., Jan. 15, 2018. Image Award winners will be announced during a two-hour event hosted by actor Anthony Anderson on the federal holiday honoring

the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I am personally inspired by William Lucy's activism on a number of civil and human rights issues, and particularly, that he has not forgotten what it is like to be a person of color in America," commented Leon W. Russell, Chairman of the NAACP National Board of Directors. "In honoring him, we will remind the American public not only of his role in the labor movement and his endeavors on economic issues, but also of his distinguished community service and charitable efforts."

Lucy worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the 1968 Memphis sanitation strike and played an instrumen-

tal role in the anti-apartheid movement which helped free Nelson Mandela and led to the first democratic elections in South Africa.

For over four decades, Lucy has been at the forefront of the labor movement in America and around the world. As International Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) for nearly 40 years, Lucy helped the union grow from 200,000 to over 1.4 million members in 3,500 local unions nationwide. He also helped define the role of African Americans in labor unions when he



Lucy

co-founded the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) in 1972. Lucy also co-founded the Free South Africa Movement, a grassroots campaign that sparked widespread opposition to apartheid across the United States.

After the release of Mandela, the South African leader who had been imprisoned by the apartheid government for 27 years, Lucy led a fundraising effort to bring Mandela on a United States tour. Four years later, when South Africa held its first post-apartheid elections, Lucy traveled there as part of an AFL-CIO monitoring delegation. After twenty years of fighting apartheid, he was

present when Nelson Mandela was elected the first Black president of South Africa.

Ebony Magazine frequently cites him as one of "The 100 Most Influential Black Americans."

Past honorees of the Chairman's Award include Tyler Perry, Ruby Dee, The Neville Brothers, Bono, Danny Glover, Former Vice President Al Gore, Dr. Wangari Muta Maathai, then-Senator Barack Obama, Former Surgeon General Regina Benjamin, TV One Founder and Chairman Cathy Hughes, U.S. Navy Vice Admiral Michele Howard, Brittany "Bree" Newsome, Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, Rev. Dr. Jamal Harrison Bryant, and Dr. Charles J. Ogletree, Jr. ●●

## JOHNSON from page 13

himself for the job. He worked in the community, made contacts, learned the political ropes necessary to reach his goal and waited patiently for his time to run. With two, four-term limits on the Wichita City Council, he knew exactly when his time would come. This year, the District One City Council member Lavonta Williams termed out and his time had come. He was prepared and he won. Now, on Monday, Jan. 8, he'll be sworn in to office.

## WHAT CAN WE DISTRICT ONE residents expect from their new City Council member?

Johnson list some of his short term goals as:

•**Focus on Neighborhoods** He wants to help strengthen existing and create more neighborhood associations. He sees neighborhoods organizing and working together as an effective way to address community concerns including blight and crime.

•**Developing an Entrepreneurial Spirit** He wants to encourage new businesses to locate in 67214 and a lot of those businesses can come from developing entrepreneurs, says Johnson. He doesn't have all the answers yet, but encourages the use of existing programs to help grow entrepreneurs like the Small Business

Development Center.

•**Enhance Parks in the District** The parks in the district have been neglected says Johnson and they're in Johnson would like to find funding to improve them. On the short term, he plans to meet with members of the community to make some decisions about McAdams Park. Should the pool remain open and what about continuing youth football in the park.

This will be the topic of his first Council member breakfast on Sat., Feb. 3, from 9-11 a.m. This time, the breakfast will be held at McAdams Park, instead of usual Atwater location.

He admits there's a lot of work to be done and he hopes to get a good start on this list this year.

•**Community Economic Development** His major long term goal is economic development in the community. He realizes this isn't something that will change overnight, but

he's committed to the long term objective of improving District 1 economically by creating jobs and providing more community services. ●●

## Brandon Johnson

Born: Feb 23, 1986

Wife: Danelle Johnson

Children: Kharia, born 2004  
Aria, born 2013

Parents: Theodore Johnson  
Vernetta Johnson

*They divorced when Brandon was 3*

## Influential figures in his life:

**Grandparents**

**Lula and John McCray,**  
*who helped raise him*

**Tommy Benford,**  
*who became his mentor at age 9*



Brandon Johnson and his family: Wife Danelle, daughter Aria and son Kharia.

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## Dunbar Theater Host “Winter Party” Fundraiser

The Dunbar Theater Committee held a “Winter Party” to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the His-

toric Theater and to commemorate a historic 1947

In 1947, The Dunbar Theatre was the site of one of the most prominent Christmas parties of the century. The party’s featured guests were members of the Ancient Egyptian Order Nobles Mystic Shrine (A.E.O.N.M.S.) and it was one of those parties people talked about for decades. I

In fact, current Dunbar supporters are still talking about the event as part of their fund-raising efforts.

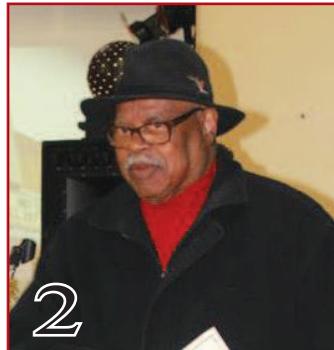
As part of the event’s commemoration, members of the Shriners were invited back as special guest at the Winter Party. The evening also included special guest performance by Re-Defining Blackness and Roy Moyer III. Music was provided by Pioneer DJDon In The

Mix.

The Winter Party was held on Dec 23 at McAdams Park. ●●



1



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**PHOTOS:**

1. Tye McEwen, Roy Moyer, III, and Candace Reed attended and performed at the “Winter Party.”  
 2. James Arbertha is spearheading the renovation of the Dunbar Theater. 3. (L-R) Lisa Alford, Lauryn Williams, LaToya Arnold were among those who celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Dunbar. 4. Nobles of the Emith of Emith Temple #30 and their spouses were among those who were recognized. They included: (L-R) Noble Jesse L. Hill Jr., Imperial Deputy of the Oasis; Cherrie L. Hill; Kim Locks; Noble Donald M. Locks, Past Potentate; Noble Leon B. Davis III, Past Potentate; Noble Larry W. Russell, Illustrious Potentate; and Dt. Zetta M. Sims., Imperial Deputy for the Oasis, Emith Court #18.

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# Omarosa's White House Days: Full of Controversy, Accusations and Blocking

•Omarosa Manigault Newman, who has resigned under duress from her public liaison job at the White House, is leaving true to form - amidst a cloud of controversy and with sparks flying.

By Hazel Trice Edney  
TriceEdneyWire.com

While Omarosa has promised a “tell all” about her time as the only African-American woman in this White House, as a senior staff and assistant to the president, others are sharing their own stories about her days which include controversy, accusations and blocking.

## BLACK REPUBLICANS ACUSE OMAROSA OF BLOCKING

Large among her accusers are Black Republicans who claim Omarosa blocked them from jobs in order to maintain her own status as the top African-American in the White House.

“I was blocked personally. Essentially, my file was pulled and I wasn't deemed pro-Trump enough,” says Eugene Craig. “The official excuse was that I wasn't pro-Trump enough although I was the sitting chair of the Maryland Republican Party.”

Sources said because of President Trump's need for loyalty, that attribute - loyalty - was among the top considerations for key White House positions. Craig admits that he was a “never Trumper all the way”, but that was during the campaign. Craig says he noticed that when the time came for consideration for jobs and the broad banner of Republicanism, White never-Trumpers were given consideration where African-Americans were not.

“The flood gates were opened, but Omarosa held all of us to a different standard. She had say over a lot of the Black resumes. I know for a fact from promises that she made us directly.”

Craig says a January conference call with the Republican National Committee and Trump transition team

was held “specifically for African-American activists and party loyalists.” He said, “During the middle of the call, she came in and she made us these promises that this would be the most diverse administration in history. And she'll help us with whatever we need and wherever we wanted to go into government and to shoot our resumes over to her and she gave us her official transition email. She said this administration has a goal of having 25% minority hiring. So she positioned herself as the end all be all for Black things; for Black people in the administration,” Craig said.

Ayshia Connors, a former deputy director of African-American engagement at the Republican National Committee, now a senior advisor to Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.), agrees. She describes an initiative by The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies and Insight America, an organization headed by former Republican Congressman J. C. Watts:

“There were hundreds, probably thousands of resumes of qualified individuals in the Black community that were ready and prepared to go into any administration no matter who won the election. And when President Trump got elected, all of those names were submitted and Omarosa literally trashed those names. Nobody got a call back. Nobody got an interview. Nobody was ever heard about again.

“People tried to go in. People were eager and willing to serve the President, willing to serve our country. But Omarosa, she didn't want other Black Republicans there. She wanted to be the big shot. She wanted to be the only one. And so, everybody kind of just decided it wasn't worth our times to keep dealing with it. And so, by February, people had just moved on

from Omarosa and dealing with the White House and decided to start working with Congress and dealing some other policy matters.”

Connors added that Kay Coles James, former Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources under Virginia Republican Gov. George Allen and director for the United States Office of Personnel Management under President George W. Bush, received the same treatment.

In a recent interview, James, who was appointed Dec. 19 as the first African-American and first woman president of the conservative Heritage Foundation, was clear about why she did not go to work in the Trump White House.

“When Donald Trump said that he wanted to improve the urban areas and that he wanted to make the lives of minorities in this country better, I said, wow, if he wants to do that, I genuinely want to be a part of that and I was excited and hopeful the opportunity to come in,” she said. “But that opportunity never really afforded itself. I am told that I was blocked...I don't have specifics about how that happened, but I was extremely disappointed that I didn't have the opportunity to serve there.”

## DOESN'T PLAY WELL WITH OTHERS

Connors said the clearest evidence



Although she's no longer allowed in the White House, Omarosa remains on the White House payroll through January 20. After her last day, Omarosa says be prepared for her to “share” White House Secrets.

that Omarosa was not going to work with other Black Republicans came in February when Omarosa was in charge of pulling together the Black History Month program for President Trump. And another event for Vice President Pence that was planned by Black Republicans to be held at West Point.

“During Black History Month, these credible Republicans such as Kay Coles James and J. C. Watts and Elroy Sailor, they tried to engage Omarosa,” Connors said. The West Point event “was actually the turning point for Black Republicans. We decided she was just too distracting too disruptive and we decided to focus our efforts elsewhere.”

Christopher Metzler, an active member of the Black GOP Coalition, who has long worked Republican policy and strategy, had one answer when asked why there were no long time Black Republicans hired as White House staff. “It's very simple.

Omarosa,” he said.

“Somebody like Kay [Coles James] who could serve as a whisperer in the President's ear like a Condoleezza Rice; like a Valerie Jarrett, was never given that opportunity. There was a lot of back and forth pertaining to that. And Kay said, ‘Well, it is not going to serve the President well for me to try to cut through this thicket.’ And as a result of that, she did not push it any further.”

Metzler concluded, “All of these things were blocked by Omarosa. At the end of the day, Omarosa is first and foremost a Democrat. She is not a conservative. She is not a Republican. She never has been. She is simply an opportunist. And that's where we ended up.”

On the record sources willing to speak in defense of Omarosa were difficult to find. But, high placed Republican sources say it is not pos

See **OMAROSA** page 4