

THE Community
VOICE

A trusted voice from the community's perspective

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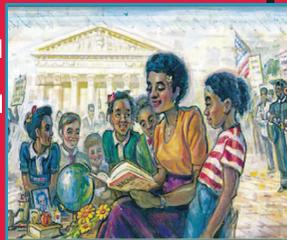
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DR. DRE LOSES LEGAL BATTLE AGAINST OB/GYN 'DOCTOR DRAI'

Dr. Dre has lost a court battle to keep a real doctor in Pennsylvania from using the name "Doctor Drai."

According to TMZ, Draion M. Burch, a highly respected, board-certified Obstetrician and Gynecologist says he's been going by Doctor Drai for years, using the moniker to author books, post YouTube videos and during public appearances. In 2015, he filed to trademark his name and "Doctor Drai OBGYN & Media Personality."



Dr. Drai



Dr. Dre

Dr. Dre's legal team got wind of the application and moved to stop it, claiming the similarity in their

names would cause confusion in the marketplace.

But the trademark office sided with the gynecologist, saying that although the rapper/producer was well known, there wasn't enough evidence that people would be confused.

The case has been dismissed.

MIKE EPPS IS ENGAGED MONTHS AFTER SPLITTING WITH WIFE OF 12 YEARS

Eight months after divorcing Mechelle Epps, his wife of 12 years, comedian Mike Epps has gotten engaged to



Epps & Robinson

his girlfriend Kyra Robinson.

After throwing a party with friends and family to celebrate their engagement, the two announced their engagement on Instagram. The couple went public with their relationship in summer 2017.

According to Kyra's social media bio, she's currently works at the OWN Network and is a producer on "Iyanla: Fix My Life."

Mike filed to divorce Mechelle in 2016 and it turned into a messy and public battle. Their divorce was final in September 2017.

MEGHAN MARKLE'S PARENTS TO VISIT QUEEN, HAVE WEDDING ROLES

Meghan Markle's divorced parents will meet with Queen Elizabeth II and other royals before her May 19 wedding to Prince Harry and they will have special roles in their daughter's wedding, says a palace spokesman.

Markle's parents, Thomas

Markle and Doria Ragland, will arrive during the week before the May 19 wedding to meet Harry's family.

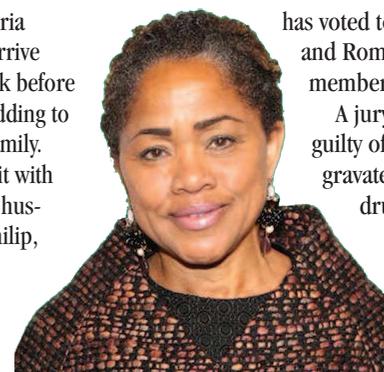
They will visit with the queen, her husband Prince Philip, Harry's father Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, and with Harry's brother Prince William and his sister-in-law Kate.

On May 19, Ragland will travel with her daughter by car to Windsor Castle and Markle will walk his daughter down the aisle of St. George's Chapel for the ceremony.

Markle is "delighted" that her parents will be by her side. It is not known whether Markle's half brother and half sister will attend the wedding.

THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES EXPELS BILL COSBY

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Board of Governors



Ragland

has voted to expel Bill Cosby and Roman Polanski from its membership.

A jury found Bill Cosby guilty of three counts of aggravated indecent assault for drugging and sexually assaulting Andrea Constand at his home in a Philadelphia suburb in 2004. The 80-year-old comedian faces up to 10 years in

prison on each count, but Cosby is likely to serve them concurrently. A sentencing hearing with Judge Steven O'Neill has not yet been scheduled, and Cosby remains out on bail.

The film academy said its board of governors met earlier this month and voted on their status in accordance with their Standards of Conduct.

The organization that puts on the Oscars also expelled Harvey Weinstein from its ranks in October.

Polanski remains a fugitive after fleeing the United States in 1978 after pleading guilty to unlawful sex with a minor. ●●

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National Urban League Annual State of Black America Shows Few Gains

On Friday, the National Urban League published its annual State of Black America report, and along with it the annual Black-White Equality Index. If you're not familiar with this index, it's a numerical report of how Blacks in American are doing in comparison to Whites.

The index makes the comparison in five key areas: economics, health, education, social justice and civic engagement nationally collected data from federal agencies including the Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Education Statistics, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Census Bureau.

If you were to look at the index as a pie, the index would measure the share of the pie which African Americans get. That means that rather than having a whole pie (100%), which would mean full equality with Whites in 2018, African Americans -- at an index of 72.5% -- are missing about 28% of the pie. I don't know about you, but in my kitchen, that's a pretty big piece of the missing.

The index for 2018 was unchanged

from last year, however If you look at each of the five key areas that make up the index, there's some good news, mixed with some consistently bad news. For example, one of the indexes driving the biggest gap in the indexes is in economics. African Americans score 58.2%, or almost half a pie less, in economics compared to Whites.

But the good news is that number was up almost half a percentage point, thanks in part to an improvement in the median household income gap between Blacks and Whites—up to 61% this year from 60% last year. It's difficult to celebrate that small gain when Black average household income is \$38,555 compared to average White household income of \$63,115.

Black people are still highly civically involved, coming in at 99.7 index. You would think that was great, except in 2005 report, Black people were more civically involved than Whites,

with an index of 108% involved. The health Black-White index was 79.3 and the education index was 78.5. Not surprisingly, the social justice index comes in low at 55.9.

three areas: Digital skills and occupations (35% of total), digital access (35% of total), and digital policy (30% of total).

Based on these markers, the total

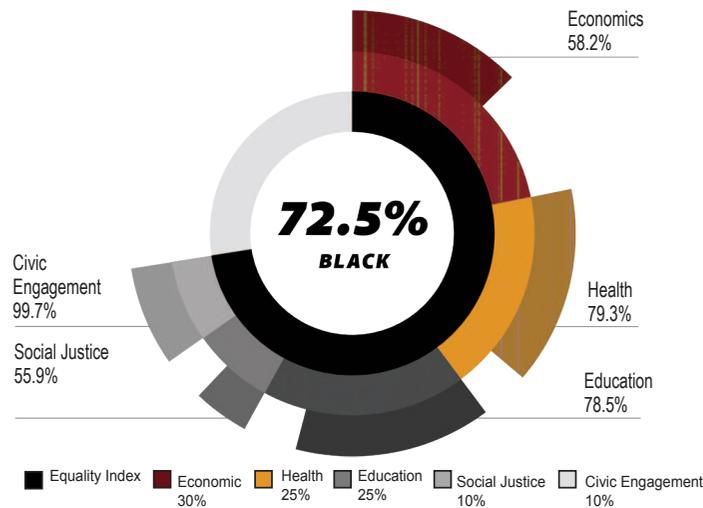
2018 Digital Inclusion Index is 74.1 percent, but the range of indicators used to calculate the index includes both areas where African Americans exceed whites (an index value over 100) as well as those characterized a stark inequality (an index value between 0 and 50).

For the most part, the report finds that people of color have largely bridged the technology gap in mobile,

computer, and social media usage, which is great news. Yet, the companies whose products they use and platforms they contribute to don't see them as potential employees.

Racial diversity in social media and technology companies is an area where the equality gap is starkly wider. As reported in the Digital Inclusion Index, in the vast majority of companies, fewer than 5% of the workforce is African American. By contrast, at least half of the workforce in these companies is White.

"The digital and technological revolution is the axis on which the economy is spinning now," Marc H. Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League (NUL), told The Root. "It is a transformation of epic proportions. Fortunately, the digital revolution is still in its youth—and ripe with potential for Black Americans. While it has positioned itself such that the barriers of entry are few and low, the findings of the National Urban League's 2018 Digital Inclusion Index are unambiguous: we must separate the signal from the noise."



Powerful New Lynching Memorial and Museum Opens in Alabama

Tears and expressions of grief met the opening of the nation's first memorial to the victims of lynching, Thursday in Alabama. Hundreds lined up in the rain to get a first look at the memorial and museum in Montgomery.

The National Memorial for Peace and Justice commemorates 4,400 black people who were slain in lynchings and other racial killings between 1877 and 1950. Their names, where known, and dates, are engraved on 800 dark, rectangular steel columns, one for each U.S. county where lynchings occurred.

The memorial is the project of Bryan Stevenson and his Equal Justice Initiative, a nonprofit legal and civil rights group that represents poor defendants, including juvenile offenders and death-row inmates. Stevenson, a 1995 winner of a MacArthur "genius"

grant, set up the EJI more than two decades ago to focus on death-penalty cases. In recent years, he has expanded its role to include research into the criminal justice system and the history of lynching. In 2015, the group issued a comprehensive report on lynching that added some 700 new cases to the tally of how many African Americans

lost their lives to extralegal and mob violence between 1877 and 1950.

That work led to Stevenson's desire to memorialize the victims, and to do it in the American South, where the vast majority of these killings took place.

At first, the museum, built on a hilltop overlooking the city, looks

like a pergola. When you get closer, you find most of the steel structures are actually suspended forms. Once inside the memorial, visitors descend through four long corridors, arranged at right angles, and the monuments begin to form what looks like an ominous carillon of silent bells suspended overhead.

The descent into this space is especially ominous and meant to be such. The outside world disappears, and the visitors find themselves in a disorienting landscape of funeral, box like forms — the steel columns engraved with names and dates of lynchings.

See **LYNCHING** page 27



The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, opened in Montgomery, AL. The memorial pays tribute to the victims of lynching in an interesting way.

Some Effort Finalized to Make Kansas Government More Transparent

The Kansas Legislature wrapped its 2018 session last weekend, and this session resulted in big changes in school funding, an adoption bill allowing organizations to discriminate against gays, transparency bill, a hemp law and even some additional funding for a few state organizations.

Here's a look at a few of the issues the legislature passed this year.

COMPENSATION APPROVED FOR WRONGFULLY CONVICTED

The Kansas Legislature passed a bill providing compensation for those wrongfully convicted of crimes. Under the bill, those wrongfully convicted of a felony would have to show in district court, or the state Supreme Court, that they met certain conditions to establish that they did not commit the felony crime. Once those conditions were met, individuals would receive \$65,000 for each year spent in prison, and \$25,000 for each year spent on parole.

The first payment would be either \$100,000 or 25%, whichever is larger, with the rest coming in \$80,000 annual payments until the total is reached. A person bringing a claim can also designate beneficiaries to receive the payments.

LEGISLATORS PASS SCHOOL FUNDING INCREASE, WAIT TO HEAR FROM COURTS

The deal to increase public education funding squeaked through with the bare minimum of votes amid desperate Statehouse gamesmanship during the last minutes of the regular session, followed by a vote to fix an \$80 million error during the wrap up session.

The funding will boost state aid to schools over the next five years, eventually adding more than half a billion dollars in annual funding.

In October, the Kansas Supreme Court found the state wasn't meeting its obligation to suitably fund education. It pointed, in part, to the quarter



Lamonte McIntyre spent 23 years in prison for murders he didn't commit. Under a bill passed during the legislative session, he could expect to receive almost \$1.5 million in compensation.

of public school students lagging behind grade level in math and reading. The Court gave the State until April 30 to adopt a plan to "adequately" fund schools.

This year's legislation comes after the Legislature signed off on a two-year \$300 million increase a year earlier. The Kansas Supreme Court allowed that plan to take effect but found it unconstitutional and ordered the state to fix it this spring.

LAWMAKERS APPROVE INCREASED SPENDING IN OTHER AREAS

Kansas lawmakers voted to inject money into state services, pensions and higher education during the last few hours of the session. After several years of austere budgets, driven by a tax cut plan that the legislature reversed during the 2017 session, the legislature was finally able to add money to the budget.

The spending plan includes \$15 million from the state general fund to boost pay for state workers. Employees passed over for a raise last year will get larger increases under the budget plan. Additional raises will also target judicial branch employees and corrections workers. The raises won't apply to university employees,

state legislators and Kansas Highway Patrol officers.

Lawmakers had previously underfunded the state pension plan, KPERs, to help balance the budget. The Senate's lead budget writer, Republican Carolyn McGinn, said the spending plan will make a missed \$194 million payment over two budget years.

The budget will also reverse some of the cuts universities and colleges absorbed in 2016 at the order of then-Gov. Sam Brownback. The new spending plan restores about \$15 million of the \$30 million that was cut.

DISCRIMINATION IS APPROVED IN ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE

The Kansas Legislature narrowly approved a controversial measure allowing faith-based adoption and foster care agencies in Kansas to be reimbursed by the state for placement services, even if they turn away prospective parents who don't fit their religious beliefs. Opponents argued the religious protections would open the door to state-sponsored discrimination, particularly against same-sex couples, but also single people and minorities.

"Christian slaveholders used the Bible and their strongly or sincerely held religious beliefs to justify slavery," said Rep. Barbara Ballard, a Democrat from Lawrence.

Proponents contend the measure will keep more adoption agencies in Kansas at a time when more than 7,000 children are awaiting permanent homes. Department for Children and Families Secretary Gina Meier-Hummel endorsed the measure.

"This bill simply ensures that all providers can stay in the field and continue to serve children, unafraid of government censorship," said Rep. Susan Humphries, the Wichita Republican who sponsored the measure.

Humphries described the religious protections as "preemptive," enabling faith-based placement agencies to weather lawsuits and withstand changes in state leadership.

SOME EFFORT FINALIZED TO MAKE KANSAS GOVERNMENT MORE TRANSPARENT

In the wake of a Kansas City Star series highlighting the lack of transparency in Kansas government, the 2018 Legislative session saw the introduction of numerous bills designed to bring about change.

Republican and Democratic leaders called for lobbyists to disclose when they approach the governor or agencies about state contracts and legislation was proposed requiring legislatures to put their name on bills they introduce. In the end only a few measures passed.

The legislature approved a bill shortening significantly the time it takes for police to release body camera footage relevant to shootings. The bill says people in the videos or their families must be given access to the recordings within 20 days. In the past, it could take months for families to see a video and find out what happened in a fatal police shooting.

In response to several high-profile cases where a child had been brought

See **TRANSPARENT** page 6

Kansas School Districts and State Battle On

Dozens of school boards who have helped foot legal bills for the seven-year lawsuit to increase funding for Kansas public schools are not satisfied with the \$500 million increase in funding approved during the 2018 Kansas Legislative Session. With the ink barely dry on the bill to increase school spending, Kansas is already headed for a fresh round of legal arguments in the case.

School districts suing the state say the plan falls short in part because it will happen gradually over five years. They want the Kansas Supreme Court to make the state pay out \$506 million this fiscal year.

Both sides in the seven-year lawsuit, *Gannon v. Kansas*, filed their briefs Monday. On May 22 they will make their pleas to the court in person.

The plaintiffs want the court to declare the new school funding law

unconstitutional -- and to make the Legislature and Gov. Jeff Colyer hammer out another solution by the end of June.

This winter the Legislature commissioned a third-party study to calculate what it would take to help students succeed in school, and that study pointed to figures well above \$1.5 billion.

The plaintiffs point to that in their briefs, but the state's lawyers argue the consultants based their math on achieving academic goals that no state has achieved and that are more aggressive than the Kansas State Board of Education's own policies.

Plaintiffs also argue Kansas' new plan is unfair to poorer school districts, because of how it ties in property taxes that are harder to raise in those areas. Two of the state's largest, highest-poverty districts are among its formal plaintiffs — Wichita and Kansas City, Kansas. ●●



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Kansas Governor Issues Order to “Ban the Box”

Governor Jeff Colyer has issued Executive Order 18-12 regarding state employment practices. The order instructs all Executive Branch departments, agencies, boards, and commissions under the jurisdiction of the Office of the Governor to ensure that job applicants are not asked about their criminal record during the initial stage of a state employment application.

“Studies have shown that gainful employment is a major factor in reducing recidivism rate among former offenders,” said Gov. Colyer. “This is simply about treating people as individuals and allowing them to explain their circumstances at a later point in the process”.

The executive order notes that individuals with criminal records often experience obstacles when trying to rejoin society, such as the practice of automatically disqualifying those with criminal records from consideration. The ‘Ban the Box’ initiative, which has been adopted in numerous other states, allows applicants to explain their unique

facts and circumstances to potential employers while still allowing employers to enquire about criminal background in later stages of the process.

The order does not prevent employers from conducting criminal background checks or from excluding such applicants if a law or regulation prohibits those with criminal records from holding that specific position.

Studies show that recidivism rates fall substantially when ex-offenders achieve gainful employment. Many other states have adopted policies revising their state employment practices to lower the barriers to individuals with criminal histories seeking to enter the state workforce, in-



Gov. Colyer surrounded by Kansas Legislators on Wed., May 2 after the signing of an executive order banning the box in Kansas executive branch hiring.

cluding more than 30 that have adopted some form of “Ban the Box” policy. The national “Ban the Box” initiative has brought renewed attention to the value of discussing applicants’ criminal history later in the hiring process and providing applicants with an opportunity to explain their unique facts and circumstances to potential employers.

The City of Wichita and Wyandotte County Unified Government have both passed ban-the-box policies. ●●

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TRANSPARENT from page 5

to the attention of the Department for Children and Families and later died, a bill requiring the agency to release information about kids who die as a result of abuse or neglect was passed. Lawmakers amended it to apply those same requirements to any child who dies in the state’s custody.

Under terms of the bill, an open records request would require the appropriate state agency to release the child’s age, gender, when they died and a summary of any reports they’d gotten about abuse or neglect in the child’s case. It would also have to report what the department had done in response to those reports.

Using a process known as civil

asset forfeiture, law enforcement agencies in Kansas can seize an individual’s property if they suspect the property is connected to criminal activity, whether or not the owner is charged with a crime. Kansas’ Civil forfeiture law, required little tracking of the property seized, leaving the process open for abuse.

Under the law passed this session, law enforcement agencies are required to report the date, location, and value of asset seizures, as well as whether or not criminal charges were filed in conjunction with the seizure. It will also make police departments to open their books and show their forfeiture fund balances, deposits, and expenditures.●●

Story summarizes coverage from the Kansas News Service: reporters Stephen Koranda, Madeline Fox, Jim McLean and Celia Llopis-Jepsen.

May is Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month

U.S. Teen Birth Rate Has Fallen Dramatically

The teen birth rate in the U.S. is at a record low, dropping below 25 births per 1,000 teen females for the first time since the government began collecting consistent data on births to teens ages 15-19, according to a report from the National Center for Health Statistics.

NonWhite teens have led the way in declining birth rates in recent years. Since the most recent peak in 2007, the birth rate among all teens has dropped by 42%. The declines among Hispanic (50%), and Black (44%) teens have outpaced this national average, while the decline among White teens (36%) has been somewhat more modest.

Although the teen birth rates among Blacks and Hispanics have fallen faster than among Whites, the racial disparity in teen childbearing remains wide. Hispanic and Black teens ages 15-19 had birth rates at least twice as high as the rate among White teens in 2014. Asians and Pacific Islanders had the lowest teen birth rate – less than half the rate among Whites.

The peak for teen births was 96.3 per 1,000 in 1957, in the midst of the Baby Boom, after having risen dramatically following the end of World War II. But the composition of teen mothers has changed drastically since then. Back in 1960, most teen mothers were married – an estimated

15% of births to mothers ages 15-19 were to unmarried teens. Today, it has flipped: 89% of births are to unmarried mothers in that age group.

The teen birth rate has been on a steep decline since the early 1990s, and that trend accelerated during the recession of 2007-09 and the years following, reversing a brief uptick that began in 2006.

It's worth noting that birth rate figures only include live births, and do not account for miscarriages, stillbirths or abortions. In 2009, the estimated pregnancy rate for teens was 65.3 pregnancies per 1,000 females ages 15-19. But that's a big decline from a peak reached in 1990.

The abortion rate among females ages 15-19 has also fallen over roughly the same time period – from 43.5 per 1,000 female teens in 1988 to 16.3 in 2009. Of the roughly 700,000 pregnancies among teens in 2009, about 58% are estimated to have ended in live births, 25% in abortions and 17% in miscarriages or stillbirths.

EXPLAINING THE DECLINE

What is behind the downward trend in teen pregnancy rates? On one level, the answer is simple: Pregnancy rates have fallen either because teens are having less sex in the first place or because more teens who are sexually active are using contraceptives and



using them more effectively. Researchers have analyzed the role of both over the last several decades, and they have concluded that the declines can primarily—although not exclusively—be attributed to improvements in teens' contraceptive use.

BEHIND THE BEHAVIOR

The recent trends in sexual experience and contraceptive use are clear

enough, but understanding what is driving these behaviors is more of a challenge. Advocates often credit education programs for the positive trends. The quality and quantity of evaluation research have improved dramatically over the last decade, and there is now clear evidence that comprehensive sex education programs can change the behaviors that put

young people at risk of pregnancy.

While these educational programs have been shown to delay sexual debut, reduce frequency of sex and number of partners, increase condom or contraceptive use, or reduce sexual risk-taking, programs that exclusively promote abstinence outside of marriage have been proven ineffective at stopping or even delaying sex.

The AIDS Crisis: Experts point to the AIDS crisis in America and the impact of AIDS education programs over the past several decades in changing perceptions about condoms and increasing condom use. In the early 1990s, a handful of highly visible people living with HIV helped raise public awareness of HIV, and the need for public education to address the epidemic.

Childbearing Norms: While the median age at first sex has changed little over time, American women are getting married later and putting off having children. Many experts believe that adolescents may be mirroring what they see in their own families and their friends' families, and waiting until later to have children.

The Media: The Internet has become an important source for health information, including information about sex and birth control, and many Web sites also allow young people to

See **TEENS** page 8

A Pill That Staves Off Aging? It's on the Horizon

Scientists have long known that restricting calories can fend off physiological signs of aging, with studies in fruit flies, roundworms, rodents and even people showing that chronically slashing intake by about a third can reap myriad health benefits and, in some cases, extend lifespan.

From a public health perspective, that advice would be impractical for many and dangerous for some.

But a new Colorado University Boulder study indicates that when people consume a natural dietary supplement called nicotinamide riboside

(NR) daily, it mimics caloric restriction, aka "CR," kick-starting the same key chemical pathways responsible for its health benefits.

Supplementation also tends to improve blood pressure and arterial health, particularly in those with mild hypertension, the study found.

"This was the first ever study to give this novel compound to humans over a period of time," said senior author Doug Seals, a professor and researcher in the Department of Integrative Physiology. "We found that it is well tolerated and appears to activate

some of the same key biological pathways that calorie restriction does."

The researchers found that 1,000 mg daily of NR boosted levels of another compound called nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD+) by 60 percent. NAD+ is required for activation of enzymes called sirtuins, which are largely credited with the beneficial effects of calorie restriction. It's involved in a host of metabolic actions throughout the body, but it tends to decline with age.

Research suggests that as an evolutionary survival mechanism,

the body conserves NAD+ when subjected to calorie restriction. But only recently have scientists begun to explore the idea of supplementing with so-called "NAD+-precursors" like NR to promote healthy aging.

"The idea is that by supplementing older adults with NR, we are not only restoring something that is lost with aging (NAD+), but we could potentially be ramping up the activity of enzymes responsible for helping protect our bodies from stress," said lead author Chris Mertens.

Ultimately, the authors say, such

CR-mimicking compounds could provide an additional option—alongside the dietary changes and exercise currently recommended—for people whose blood pressure is not yet high enough to warrant medication but who are still at risk for a heart attack.

"We are not able to make any definitive claims that this compound is safe or going to be effective for specific segments of the population," said Martens, now an assistant professor at the University of Delaware. "What this paper provides us with is a really good stepping stone for future work." ●●

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Be Aware of Kansas Sex Policies for Youth

Before they have sex, Kansas teens -- and those who have sex with them -- need to understand the law. Teens have lots of rights, but there are lots of potential traps to be aware of.

AGE OF CONSENT

Legally, people can't consent (or agree) to sex until they reach a specific age. This is called the "age of consent." Consent laws are meant to protect minors from being manipulated or forced into sex with older people.

In Kansas, you can consent to sex when you become 16 years old.

SEX UNDER AGE OF CONSENT

Having sex with someone under age 16, even if they give their consent, is considered statutory rape in Kansas. However, Kansas has a so-called "Romeo and Juliet" law that makes the penalty for statutory rape less severe when the case involves two teenagers. The "Romeo and Juliet" law reads: "(a) Unlawful voluntary sexual relations is engaging in voluntary: (1) sexual intercourse; (2) sodomy; or (3) lewd fondling or touching with a child who is 14 years of age but less than 16 years of age and the offender is less than 19 years of age and less than four years of age older than the child and child and the offender are the only parties involved and

are members of the opposite sex."

SEXTING

In Kansas, teen couples or sexual partners can be arrested for sharing sexts. This is true even if you are sharing images of yourself.

Be aware that having someone's permission to take or share images of them is important, but even if you have permission, taking or sharing nude or sexual images of someone under 18, even yourself, could be considered illegal.

HIV / AIDS/STD TESTING

In Kansas, teens don't need permission from their parent or guardian to get tested for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) or HIV. Health care providers may—but are not required to—let parent or guardian know about STD services minors receive.

It's important for youth to ask questions about confidentiality when they call to make an appointment. Specifically ask, "If I make an appointment and receive any kind of services at your clinic, will you tell my parents or anyone else?"

BIRTH CONTROL

Clinics called "Title X clinics"—pronounced "title ten"—provide confidential sexual and reproductive health care to both teens and adults. Title X clinics offer many services, including prescriptions for the Pill, pregnancy option counseling, and testing for pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases and infections, including HIV.

These clinics charge on what's called a sliding-scale fee basis, which means they help you pay what you can afford, and you can pay in cash. If youth pay for their visit by using

their family's health insurance, then parents are likely to see the bill when it arrives in the mail.

ABORTION RIGHTS

There are a lot of laws related to abortion and teens in Kansas and it can be confusing!

Kansas requires that both parents, legal guardians or the parent who has primary custody provide written consent for those 17 and under to get an abortion. The consent must be notarized—meaning you need a specially licensed person called a notary public to witness the document that provides consent.

If you can't get your parents' consent or if that is not right for you, you can ask for a judge's permission if you need an abortion due to an emergency. This is called a "judicial bypass." If you need a judicial bypass, ask about it when you call the abortion provider.

In Kansas, there is a 24-hour waiting period before someone can get an abortion.

Kansas provides Medicaid (health care) coverage for abortions only in cases of rape, incest and when the pregnant person's life is in danger.

EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

People of any age can buy the brand Plan B One Step and its generic versions at a local pharmacy over the counter, which means you can buy EC without a prescription.

EC sells for between \$35 and \$60. Prices vary depending on the brand and the pharmacy.

Information provided in part from www.Sexetc.org. ●●

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TEENS from page 7

ask questions that they might otherwise feel uncomfortable broaching in class or with friends and family members.

More traditional media sources, such as television and magazines, are also important sources of information. For example, there is evidence that the reality television programs "16 and Pregnant" and "Teen Mom" may have influenced teen birthrates in recent years.

Medical Recommendations: Medical practice have made it easier for adolescents to start and continue using hormonal birth control methods. In the early 2000s, various medical

organizations updated their clinical recommendations to enable teens and young women to access hormonal contraceptives more quickly and easily without a pelvic exam or Pap test.

Policy Implications: Across the nation, sex education policy is far from a settled issue, but the country has moved beyond the abstinence-only programs promoted exclusively during the Bush administration. During that period, federal and state governments spent well over \$1.5 billion on promoting abstinence to teens. While there is still a lot of support for abstinence-only education, in 2014, at the request of the Obama administration, Congress provided roughly \$185 million for medically accurate and age-appropriate sex education programs.

Additionally, adolescents who are sexually active need easy access to contraceptive services. Expansions in public and private health insurance under the Children Health Insurance Program implemented in 1997, as well as the Affordable Care Act, mean that more teens are gaining coverage for contraceptive services.

Credit Youth: At the end of the day, the credit for the declines in teen pregnancy goes to adolescents themselves, who are making an effort to prevent unintended pregnancy. ●●

Information source *Guttmacher Institute, a research and policy organization committed to advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights in the United States and globally.*

What Can Starbucks Expect From Racial Bias Training

Better plan to hit up your local Starbucks store early on Tuesday, May 29, all 8,000 Starbucks Coffee company-owned stores across America will be closed in the afternoon for Racial-Bias Education. What can the company, its employees and any other corporations in America expect to gain from racial-bias training, other than public relations gain? It depends, says the experts.

If you didn't see the video, or hear about it, you were probably out of the country, or in a coma. We're talking about the viral video of two Black men being arrested in one of Starbucks' Philadelphia stores after a manager called police and said the men, who were sitting waiting on another business partner, were trespassing. The two were asked to leave, but others – White and Black – came to their defense, saying the two were not being disruptive and that their treatment was different from the treatment afforded non-Black clients.

Starbucks CEO Kevin Johnson responded quickly. He was personally on the scene in Philadelphia the next day, spoke to and didn't avoid the press, accepted blame for what happened and took action. His action, announced within a week of the event was a plan to close all of the Starbucks company-owned stores the afternoon of Tuesday, May 29, for racial-bias training.

WHAT EXACTLY IS RACIAL-BIAS TRAINING?

There's no easy answer there, because racial-bias training isn't a one size, fits all option. But it begins with the general concept of recognizing the bias that exist in all of us.

The concept has gained traction in mainstream understandings of race relations, thanks in part to the popularity of the Implicit Association Test (IAT), a tool developed at Harvard that measures these biases by having subjects make associations under time pressure. For example, one version of the test has participants quickly match images of Asian



people, European people, and monuments to descriptors like "Foreign" and "American."

Getting someone to recognize they have bias doesn't mean they'll readily change them. Instead, Racial-bias training general involves employees recognizing the unconscious stereotypes they may harbor, and then discussing how those biases

influence their behavior at work and ways to counteract them.

DOES RACIAL-BIAS TRAINING WORK?

Among the experts, the reviews about the results from racial bias training aren't great.

Brian Nosek, a professor of psychology at the University of Virginia, See **STARBUCKS** page 10

On the Move

Van Williams, City of Wichita Public Information Officer, has been selected

to receive the 2018 Excellence in Public Service Award for the City of Wichita. One employee is selected from thousands of eligible workers from Sedgwick County, Wichita Public Schools and the City of Wichita.

Williams is a founder of two youth mentoring non-profits: he co-founded Real Men, Real Heroes and founded River City Hoops.



Dr. Anthony Lewis has been selected as superintendent of Lawrence, KS Public Schools. Lewis, who is originally from Alabama,

came to the Kansas City, Mo., school district in 2011 as director of elementary education. In Lawrence, Lewis will replace interim Superintendent Anna Stubblefield, who has served in that role. Lewis begins his position on July 2018.



Tracee Adams has been appointed to serve on the Wichita Police and Fire Retirement Board of Trustees. Adams, a financial services professional, was first appointed to the board in December 2017. She was re-appointed on March 9, 2018 through the Women's Foundation's Appointments Project. Adams is president and founder of her newly formed Investment & Wealth Management firm – Hawthorn Capital LLC.



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Black Men Arrested at Starbucks Settle With the Company

Two Black men arrested for sitting at a Philadelphia Starbucks without ordering anything settled with the world's biggest coffee-shop chain last week for an undisclosed sum and an offer of a free college education.

Separately, they reached a deal with the city for a symbolic \$1 each and a promise from officials to set up a \$200,000 program for young entrepreneurs.

The men portrayed the twin settlements as an effort to make sure something positive came out of the April 12 incident, which touched off a furor around the U.S. over racial profiling.

"We thought long and hard about it, and we feel like this is the best way to see that change that we want to see," said Donte Robinson, one of those arrested. "It's not a right-now thing that's good for right now, but I feel like we will see the true change over time."

Business partners Robinson and



Rashon Nelson (L) and Donte Robinson have turned a bad situation into something good for them and their community.

Rashon Nelson, both 23, were led away in handcuffs and accused of trespassing last month after the manager of a Starbucks in the city's well-to-do Rittenhouse Square neighborhood called police, saying the men refused to buy anything or leave. After spending hours in jail, they were released and no charges were filed.

The men said they were there waiting for a meeting with a third man about a potential real estate opportunity.

The incident proved a major embarrassment for Starbucks, which has long projected an image as a socially conscious company.

In addition to the undisclosed sum, the company said the duo will also be given the opportunity to complete their bachelor's degrees, their tuition fully covered, through a Starbucks partnership with Arizona State University. The online college education program was created in 2014 for Starbucks employees.

Also, the men will be given the chance to discuss their experience and share their recommendations for changes at Starbucks with former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder.

During the uproar, Starbucks CEO Kevin Johnson came to Philadelphia

10 STARBUCKS from page 9

who helped to found the nonprofit organization Project Implicit that promotes the IAT, says there isn't a lot of evidence that the most programs make a lasting impact on behaviors.

"I have been studying this since 1996, and I still have implicit bias," says Nosek. "We can be sure that training by itself is not going to get rid of implicit bias."

Nosek referred to work by Harvard sociology professor Frank Dobbin, who reviewed data on diversity efforts from more than 800 U.S. companies and interviewed hundreds of employees. They ultimately found that the positive effects of diversity training often don't last beyond two days, and may actually entrench biases due to backlash.

"When companies get in hot water over bias, their initial reaction is often to do some kind of training because it's something you can outsource and it's relatively easy to do and has good optics," says Dobbin. "The studies that look out six months to a year tend to be equally likely to show increased

bias after the training as they are to show decreased bias."

NEXT STEPS

Remember we said, in the world of racial-bias training, there isn't a one size fits all solutions. Starbucks CEO Johnson recognizes that as well as the shortcomings of just a half-day of anti-racist training. He's identified the half-day training as just one step of many the company must take to address the issue.

Starbucks have put together a crack team of "national and local experts [in] confronting racial bias" who will be involved in monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of the measures Starbucks takes. The team includes: Bryan Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative; Sherrilyn Ifill, president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund; Heather McGhee, president of Demos; former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder; and Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League.

"While this [issue] is not limited to Starbucks, we're committed to being a part of the solution," Johnson said in a video. "Closing our stores

for racial bias training is just one step in a journey that requires dedication from every level of our company and partnerships in our local communities."

"This can't be a one-off," says Sherrilyn Ifill, of the NAACP and Starbucks' experts panel, about the training planned by Starbucks. "We know that one day of training will not change this issue. But we do think it's a window into a possibility of ongoing work."

She says she joined the team of experts because of "Starbucks' stated commitment to recognizing the real issue of racial discrimination and being serious about trying to tackle it and also trying to play a leadership role that others can follow." When these disturbing incidents happen, she says, "some people want to believe that there's some magic bullet, and there is not. Racism is deeply entrenched in our society and any real effort to confront it means you have to be in it for the long haul."

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR REAL CHANGE

Instead of immediately moving towards training, the experts suggested

Starbucks would have done better by taking an internal look at their situation and implementing internal policy changes.

Jack Glaser, a professor of public policy at the University of California, Berkeley, suggested Starbucks should develop strong standards on how to handle someone believed "to be loitering, with clear rules what to do in those circumstances when there's no danger.

"We know that what works best is for workers to be put side by side with people from other groups as have the work together collaboratively as equals," says Dobbin. "That seems to be the best way to change stereotypes in people's heads because it causes people not to lump all members of a group together, but to start to individuate."

Racial minorities account for 40% of Starbucks' overall workforce.

Google Bringing its Grow With Google Tour to Wichita

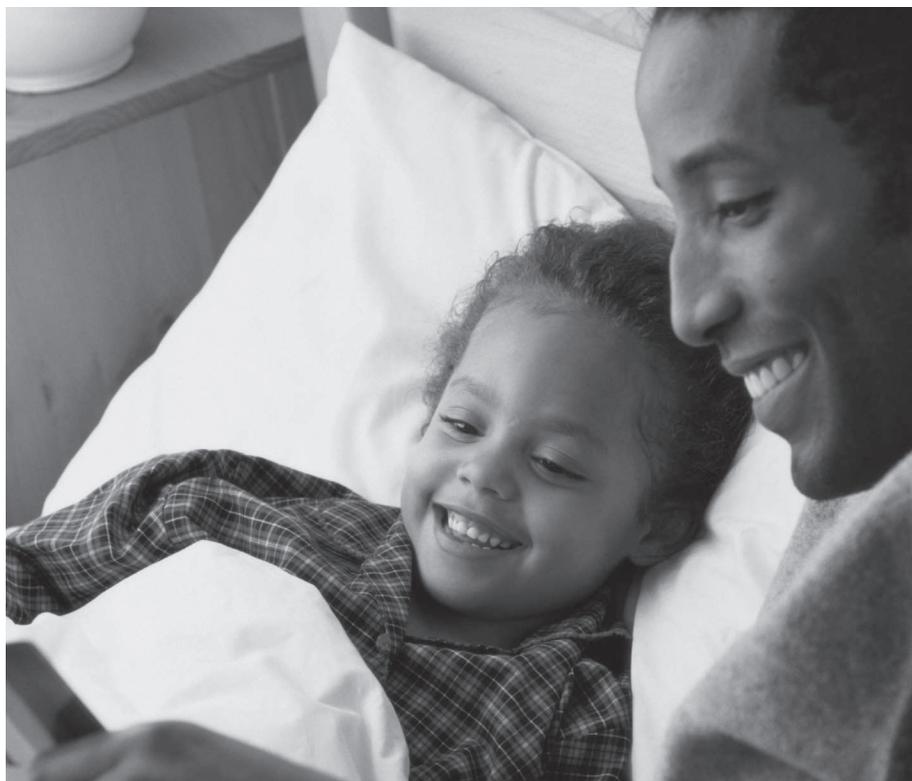
Free Event Will Help Kansans Gain the Skills Needed to Thrive in the Digital Economy.

Google announced today that its Grow with Google tour is coming to Wichita as part of its larger Grow with Google initiative to help create economic opportunities for Americans throughout the country. Google will host the one-day event on May 30 to help job seekers, small business owners, students, educators, and entrepreneurs

improve their digital skills.

The free event will take place inside the Hughes Metroplex at Wichita State University from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Area residents will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on workshops with Google staff on topics such as online tools for small businesses, job search

See **GOOGLE** page 12



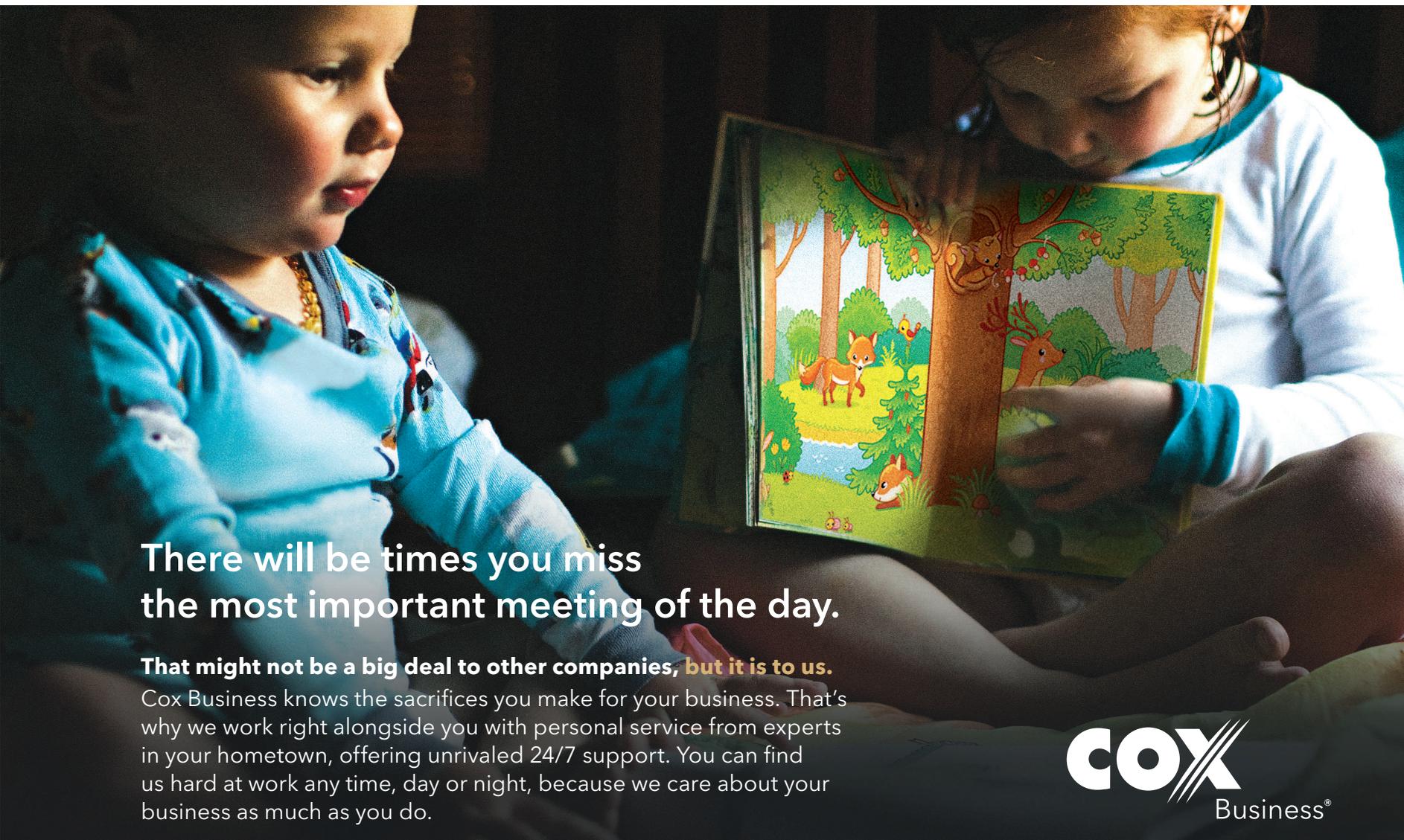
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Survey Finds Most Annoying Phrases Used in the Workplace

If you've ever told your co-workers or team to give 110%, then you're likely making them cringe, since that phrase is number one on the list of words and phrases that make your co-workers cringe.

That phrase, according to a survey by OnePoll of 2,000 American workers on behalf of communications technology provider Jive Communications, topped a list of 40 of the most cringe-worthy phrases said in the workplace. So if you're thinking of using that phrase to motivate, think twice.

While 27% of American workers can't help but shut down and stop listening when anyone feels the need to use such cringe-inspiring phrases at the office, nearly 72%

of American workers, use these annoying words and phrase out of habit.

It appears these phrases have become such standard lexicons in our office vocabulary, that we're just growing tired of them.

"These phrases definitely aren't going anywhere anytime soon," said John Pope, the senior vice president of Jive Communications. "There's a reason they're so well-known and exercised within office spaces. However, overuse has diluted the meaning of many phrases. If you're constantly told to give a project '110 percent,' over time it will lose its power and effect. Our goal should be to use such jargon sparingly, and when the moment calls for it." ●●

The Top 40 Most Cringeworthy Used Phrases at the Office:

1. Give 110 percent
2. Think outside the box
3. Hammer it out
4. Heavy lifting
5. Throw them under the bus
6. Don't count your chickens before they've hatched
7. Pushing the envelope
8. Let the cat out of the bag
9. Let's circle back
10. Win-win situation
11. Blue-sky thinking
12. Boil the ocean
13. Synergy
14. Low-hanging fruit
15. Take it to the next level
16. Barking up the wrong tree
17. Going forward
18. Let's ballpark this
19. Run this up the flagpole
20. Back to square one
21. There's no "I" in team
22. Back to the drawing board
23. Paradigm shift
24. Elephant in the room
25. Rise the bar
26. Drill down
27. Best thing since sliced bread
28. Deep dive
29. Skin in the game
30. Reach out
31. Touch base
32. Play hardball
33. Don't reinvent the wheel
34. Kept in the loop
35. The bottom line
36. Down the road
37. I'll loop you in
38. Hit the nail on the head
39. ASAP
40. Team player

Black Tech Entrepreneurs Changing the Movie Theater Industry With MoviePass

We originally wrote about Movie Pass in December 2017, but then we didn't know the company was the brain child of and owned-by African Americans. We're revisiting Movie Pass again also, because if you're not hip to it yet, you should be.

MoviePass has been making a buzz lately. Since the company lowered its subscription fee last August, they've gained over a million subscribers.

So, you're not hip to MovePass yet, well it's a subscription service for movie theaters. Think Netflix for TV, and Spotify or Pandora for streaming music. But at their new price point, \$9.95 a month, the service is blowing up.

For \$9.95 per month, a subscriber is allowed to one movie ticket a day at over 90% of movie theaters in the United States. The only restrictions that have been announced so far are that 3D and Imax films are off limits. In addition, the tickets are only for same day viewing, not advance purchases.

African American entrepreneurs, Stacy Spikes and Hamet Watt are the brands behind the company that began in 2011. It had a pretty slow start, with lot of initial resistance from movie theaters, but after a successful pilot with AMC, they made a few adjustments, but still didn't jump off a quick as the duo would have hoped.

In June 2016, they brought on board Mitch Lowe as Chief Executive Officer, a position previously held by Spikes. Spikes and Watt now both serve as co-chairmans of the board.

Lowe, who also joined the company board of directors, had been an advisor to the owners for the past 2

years, and recently made an investment in the company. Lowe was charged with accelerating the growth of the company at a time when movie attendance among millennials is down.

He's succeeded. In fact, in a span of over 2 months since they drop prices from \$50 to \$9.95 in August, the service saw the number of their subscribers leap from 20,000 to 600,000. They hit 1 million subscribers in December, that's faster than Spotify, Hulu, or Netflix. Currently, they have over 2 million subscribers and expect to double it by the end of this year.

Now, it appears that the service has already made an increase in moviehouse attendance even in non-blockbuster films and also brought in the coveted millennial demographic as well those who do not usually go to movies.

"Based on the dramatic increase in the number of MoviePass subscrib-

ers over such a short period of time, we believe MoviePass will continue to grow its subscriber base significantly," Lowe said.

Lowe isn't the only one who be-



Stacy Spikes and Hamet Watt founded MoviePass in 2011. The company has surpassed 1 million subscribers for its program that allows theater goers to see up to 1 movie per day at their local theater for just \$9.95 per month.

believes in the MoviePass Model. Helios and Matheson Analytics – a publicly traded company, recently purchased a majority stake in MovePass.

"This is about getting funded in order to launch our new price point," Lowe told Variety. "After years of studying and analysis we found that people want to go to the movies more often, but the pricing keeps going up, and that prevents them from going more. We're making it more affordable for people." ●●

GOOGLE from page 10

strategies, email basics, and search engine optimization.

The Grow with Google event will feature one-on-one coaching sessions, six different workshops, and interactive demonstrations. Attendees are welcome to drop in for a few sessions or stay all day. Following the Grow with Google event, Google will explore ongoing

opportunities with area organizations in order to continue its local commitment to job training and developing digital skills.

"We are thrilled to bring Grow with Google to Wichita," said Stephen Brokaw, Community Engagement Manager for Google. "Wichita is home to so many collaborative local organizations whose mission is to help residents take advantage of the digital economy. Google is glad to aid that effort."

To learn more about the event and

register, visit g.co/GrowWichita

Google is partnering with several community organizations including the Center for Entrepreneurship at Wichita State University; Create Campaign Inc.; Goodwill Industries of Kansas, Inc.; Kansas Leadership Center; Kansas Small Business Development Center; Wichita Independent Business Association; Wichita Public Library; Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce; Wichita Urban Professionals and WSU College of Education. ●●

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TO THE COMMUNITY VOICE

The 10 Worst Resume Mistakes to Avoid

Your resume is often the first contact you make with a potential employer, and that first impression can make or break your chances of getting a job.

That's why writing your resume—and ensuring that it's spotless—is such an important part of your job search journey.

You see, the worst resume mistakes are the ones that are deceptively easy to make and exceptionally difficult to repair once an employer sees them. Whether you're writing your first resume or updating your resume for a mid-career job search, no one is immune from making a mistake or two.

Write the perfect resume by avoiding these common pitfalls.

1. TYPOS & GRAMMATICAL ERRORS

Probably the most obvious of all resume tips: It needs to be grammatically perfect. If it isn't, employers will read between the lines and draw not-so-flattering conclusions about you, like, "This person can't write," or, "This person obviously doesn't care."

2. LACK OF SPECIFICS

Employers need to understand what you've done and accomplished. For example:

A. Worked with employees in a restaurant setting

B. Recruited, hired, trained and supervised more than 20 employees in a restaurant with \$2 million in annual sales

Both of these phrases could describe the same person, but the details and specifics in example B will more likely grab an employer's attention.

3. ATTEMPTING THE "ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL" APPROACH

Whenever you try to develop a one-size-fits-all resume to send to all employers, you almost always end up with something employers will toss in the recycle bin. Employers want you to

write a resume specifically for them. They expect you to clearly show how and why you fit the position in a specific organization.

4. HIGHLIGHTING DUTIES INSTEAD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

It's easy to slip into a mode where you simply start listing job duties on your resume. For example:

- Attended group meetings and recorded minutes
- Worked with children in a day-care setting
- Updated departmental files

Employers, however, don't care so much about what you've done as what you've accomplished in your various activities. They're looking for statements more like these:

- Recorded weekly meeting minutes and compiled them in a Microsoft Word-based file for future organizational reference
- Developed three daily activities for preschool-age children and prepared them for a 10-minute holiday program performance
- Reorganized 10 years worth of unwieldy files, making them easily accessible to department members

5. GOING ON TOO LONG OR CUTTING THINGS TOO SHORT

Despite what you may read or hear, there are no real rules governing resume length. Why? Because human beings, who have different preferences and expectations where resumes are concerned, will be reading it.

That doesn't mean you should start sending out five-page resumes, of course. Generally speaking, you usually need to limit yourself to a maximum of two pages. But don't feel you have to use two pages if one will do. Conversely, don't cut the meat out of your resume simply to make it conform to an arbitrary one-page standard.

6. BAD SUMMARY

Employers do read your career summary, but too often they plow through

vague pufferies like, "Accomplished professional seeking career growth." Give employers something specific and, more importantly, something that focuses on their needs as well as your own. Example: "An accomplished marketing manager that developed award-winning campaigns for Fortune 500 clients that contributed to 50% increase in stock value."

7. NO ACTION VERBS

Avoid using phrases like "responsible for." Instead, use action verbs: "Resolved user questions as part of an IT help desk serving 4,000 students and staff."

8. LEAVING OFF IMPORTANT INFORMATION

You may be tempted, for example, to eliminate mention of the jobs you've taken to earn extra money for school. Typically, however, the soft skills you've gained from these experiences (e.g., work ethic, time management) are more important to employers than you might think.

9. VISUALLY TOO BUSY

If your resume is wall-to-wall text featuring five different fonts, it will most likely give the employer a headache. So show your resume to several other people before sending it out. Do they find it visually attractive? If what you have is hard on the eyes, revise.

10. INCORRECT CONTACT INFORMATION

I once worked with a student whose resume seemed incredibly strong, but he wasn't getting any bites from employers. So one day, I jokingly asked him if the phone number he'd listed on his resume was correct. It wasn't. Once he changed it, he started getting the calls he'd been expecting. Moral of the story: Double-check even the most minute, taken-for-granted details sooner rather than later.



Best Words to Include on Your Resume

Your resume is your first opportunity to make a good first impression, and you don't have much time to make that impression. According to U.S. News & World Report, it takes less than 20 seconds for a hiring manager to make a decision about you based on your resume. Hiring managers need to scan your resume and find the information they need in record time so they can move on to the next resume. What that means for you is that nearly every word you include on your resume can either help get you noticed or knock you out of contention.

Know which words to include in your resume, and which to avoid, to impress the hiring manager quickly.

Top 15 Words to Include on Your Resume

Here are the fifteen best words to include on your resume according to employers who responded to a CareerBuilder survey:

ACHIEVED

Include action verbs throughout your resume, particularly in the work experience section of your resume. Employers want to know

what you can offer the company, and action verbs show exactly what you have accomplished at previous companies. "Achieved" is a terrific action verb that shows that you have succeeded at a previous task. This makes employers feel confident that you can achieve similar things at their companies.

IMPROVED

Improved is another useful action verb to put in your resume. This word shows that you made some sort of positive difference at a previous company. If possible, explain how you made the improvement. For example, you might say "Improved efficiency of administrative office by streamlining physical and digital file systems." This will show not only that you achieved something, but it will also show the skills you used to achieve it.

TRAINED/MENTORED

Words like "trained" and "mentored" are action verbs that show you have experience managing others. These words are particularly useful if you are applying for a job that involves managing, leading, teaching, or advising others. If possible, state the number of people you trained or mentored.

See **WORDS** page 15

14 Top 15 Words to Avoid on Your Resume

While there are words you should include in your resume, there are also words to avoid. Here are the fifteen worst words to include on your resume, according to CareerBuilder:

BEST OF BREED

“Best of breed” sounds more like an American Kennel Club dog show winner than a candidate for employment. Avoid cliché—and awkward—phrases like this in your resume. Once a phrase becomes too common, it does not mean anything to a hiring manager.

GO-GETTER

This is another empty, cliché term. If you are using this word to say you take initiative, delete this word and replace it with a specific example of a time you stepped up and took charge of a project. Examples are much more powerful than empty words.

THINK OUTSIDE OF THE BOX

This is a phrase that hiring managers have heard time and time again.

Replace this phrase with a specific example of a time you demonstrated creative thinking. You can also replace “think outside of the box” with an action verb like “created,” “conceptualized,” or “developed.”

SYNERGY

Synergy might sound like a trendy term, but hiring managers often find it vague. Use more specific action verbs to specify what you are trying to say you accomplished. Did you “interact” or “cooperate” or “collaborate” with a variety of departments? Use one of these action verbs to clarify what you mean.

GO-TO PERSON

This is another overused and vague phrase. Rather than using this word to describe yourself, think about what you really mean. Were you the person who delegated everyone’s responsibilities at your previous job? Were you the person people went to when they needed help mediating a conflict? Provide specific examples of how you demonstrated leadership, rather than using this term.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

This phrase is very broad and unclear. If you are trying to say that you helped come up with a number of ideas for an organization, use an action verb like “influenced,” “created,” or “developed” instead.

VALUE ADD

Again, it is a terrific idea to show how you added value in your previous jobs. However, rather than use the phrase “value add,” show specifically how you added value. Include numbers whenever possible to quantify your success. Use words like “increased/decreased,” “revenue/profits,” or “under budget” to specify how you added value.

RESULTS-DRIVEN

Employers assume everyone wants to achieve good results at work. Replace this empty phrase with evidence of how you successfully achieved results at work. For example, if you work for an online marketing company, you might mention how you measure click-through rates to measure the success of each market-

ing project.

TEAM PLAYER

Almost everyone says they are a team player, but it is hard to prove this. Instead of using this commonplace description, give examples of times that you collaborated with others, using action verbs like “cooperated,” “collaborated,” “mentored,” and more.

BOTTOM LINE

Again, employers want you to quantify the ways you achieved success in your previous jobs. Rather than using an unclear phrase like “bottom line,” use numbers to show how you specifically helped the company. Whether

your company’s bottom line is number of sales, budget, or some other figure, be specific.



HARD WORKER

Rather than say you are a hard worker, prove it. Use specific action words and examples to demonstrate how you have worked hard in the past. Only by using examples will employers be able to believe your statements.

See **AVOID** page 17

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JAMES DELAHOUSAYE
Global Innovation Director
SRG Global, a Koch company

ATS Systems: How they Work and How to Optimize your Resume 15

Dear Sam: The thought of applying to a large corporation overwhelms me. If my resume is just tossed into an applicant tracking system and not read by a human, how will I be able to break through

tions and provides an automated way for companies to manage the recruiting and hiring process. An ATS does this by sorting through thousands of resumes to search for keywords, thereby determining which resumes

employers, the integrated nature of the system streamlines the recruiting and application process, therefore saving them time and money.

There is actually not much difference between an ATS and a human recruiter scanning your resume. In both cases, the reviewer is looking for certain criteria (i.e. keywords from the job description) to see if you meet the qualifications for the position. In some cases, human recruiters can actually be stricter, because they are also checking for spelling and grammar errors, formatting choices, gaps in employment, and more. It's also not just Fortune 500 companies who use tracking systems in the recruitment process—the software programs are becoming increasingly popular

amongst small businesses as well.

The trick to ranking highly within an ATS is to closely match your resume to a specific job posting. Both the presence and prevalence of keywords matter. In other words, the system develops a ranking based

on how closely a candidate's resume matches each keyword and phrase and how many of the keywords and phrases it finds on the resume. Most of the keywords recruiters look for can be found in the "Desired Skills" or "Qualifications" sections of job postings.

If you know you must submit your resume through an ATS, it is important to submit it in the proper format. Unfortunately, the time you spent making your resume aesthetically pleasing with tables and graphics will not show up in the software program, and could actually have a negative effect on your ranking if the system cannot interpret your information.

Applicant tracking systems contain database fields for information such as a candidate's name, contact information, work experience, education, employer details and periods of employment. The systems try to identify this information on a candidate's resume, but if a resume's formatting is too complex, it won't pull this information into the right fields and can sometimes miss the information entirely. In order to avoid having your resume be seen as too complex to interpret, avoid submitting it as a .pdf, don't include tables or graphics, use standard terms (like "work experience" and "education") and avoid

starting your experience with dates. (Start it, instead, with your employer's name, followed by your title, followed by the dates you held that title).

To be safe, you could also choose to submit your resume in a plain text version (a bare-bones document with no formatting). To do so, open the document in Word, click on "Save as," select "Save as type" as "Plain text", click "Save," and when the dialogue box appears, check "allow character substitution" and then click "OK."

No matter if an employer chooses to use an ATS or a human recruiter as an initial screener, it is important to research the organization and customize your content for the position. Your resume should make it clear (within seconds) why you are a good candidate for that specific job.

Best of luck with your search, Carla!

Samantha Nolan is a Certified Professional Resume Writer and owner of Nolan Branding, a full-service resume writing firm. Do you have a resume or job search question for Dear Sam? Reach Samantha at dearsam@nolanbranding.com. For more about Sam's resume writing services, visit www.nolanbranding.com or call 614-570-3442 or 1-888-952-3928. Meet us on Facebook, live on Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. EDT, for an extended discussion of this week's Dear Sam topic! ●●



the wall? Do you have any advice about writing a resume specifically for an ATS? -- Carla

Dear Carla: I'll start by explaining applicant tracking systems (ATS) in a bit more detail. An ATS is a type of software that processes job applica-

best fit the positions for which they were submitted.

An ATS can be used for screening candidates, applicant testing, scheduling interviews, managing the hiring process, checking references and completing new-hire paperwork. For

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people you trained or mentored.

For example, you might say, "Trained staff of 15 baristas to operate new cappuccino machine." This will demonstrate your ability to lead and mentor a group of people.

MANAGED

Like "trained" and "mentored," "managed" is an action word that shows your ability to lead others. This is a particularly important word to include in a resume for a management position. Again, try to include the number of people you managed, particularly if it is a large number.

CREATED

This action word shows that you can do more than just follow instructions—you can actually construct something and contribute to a company. Whether you developed a new filing system or

invented a software app, use the word "created" to show your independence, initiative, and originality.

RESOLVED

Employers want to hire candidates who can recognize and help solve problems. Use this action verb if you are applying for a managerial job, or any job that requires supervising others. This word will show that you are able to spot a problem and step in to solve it.

VOLUNTEERED

This action word demonstrates your willingness to step up and help with a project or task, even if you are not asked to do so. Use this word to show your initiative and your teamwork.

INFLUENCED

Employers want job candidates who are capable of encouraging and persuading others for the good of the company. An action word like "influenced" demonstrates what you have

achieved while also highlighting your leadership skills.

INCREASED/DECREASED

An employer wants specific evidence of how you will add value to his or her company. One way to do this is to quantify your successes. Include numbers to demonstrate how you have helped previous companies save money, generate donations, or achieve success in other quantifiable ways. Using action words like "increased" or "decreased" will more clearly show exactly how you helped achieved success. For example, you might say, "Developed new budget that decreased office expenses by 10%" or "Increased number of donors by 15% through new fundraising initiative."

IDEAS

Employers typically want to know that job candidates are creative, innovative people who will bring new solutions to the table. In your resume, include examples of times you develop a particular

idea, either on your own or as part of a team, and explain how that idea helped the company achieve success. If you are applying for a job as a manager, you might mention how you listened to your employees' ideas, and helped them develop those ideas into something that benefits the company. This will show your delegation skills as well.

LAUNCHED

This action verb demonstrates that you are able to successfully complete a project. Whether you launched an app that you developed, a website you helped design, or an advertising campaign that you worked on with a team, the word "launch" will show that you are able to produce something successfully.

REVENUE/PROFITS

Again, employers will want to know how you have added value to previous companies you worked for. One way to do this is to demonstrate how you

made money for a company. Include any examples of times that you helped increase profits or revenue. Using numerical values as well as the words "revenue" or "profits" will show the hiring manager, at a glance, that you have a record of achieving financial success.

UNDER BUDGET

While companies want to know you will help them make money, they also want to know you will help them save money. Mention any time that you helped a company spend less. For example, you might say, "Organized annual fundraiser, and remained under budget by \$500."

WON

Like "achieved," the action verb "won" shows a hiring manager that you have been successful in previous jobs. If you ever won an award at work, or received some other recognition for your efforts, consider using this verb. ●●

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Job Interview Preparation: An Essential Checklist

Good preparation is essential to a successful job interview. Here's our guide

to the basics you'll need to cover to plan and practice your performance

By MICHAEL HIGGINS
Kansas News Service

When you've been invited for an interview, your thoughts naturally turn to giving a winning performance on the day. A bit like exams, interviews can creep up on you, but good preparation is the key to success.

So, here's a checklist to signpost you to areas you may want to address. Some of it may seem a bit obvious but, because many people don't interview frequently, it's worth reminding yourself of the process.

PLAN AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE

Work on answers to the most common interview questions. The "tell me about yourself" or "talk me through your CV" questions are normally asked to ease you in, so make sure you're ready for them.

Have a short, two or three minute response that you can give comfortably. Start with a strong statement, such as: "I am a project manager with 15 years' experience of technology projects in the media sector." Then follow this with a summarized chronological story showing how you got to your current career position. No career history is perfect, but if you have gaps in your CV – or lots of short jobs – have a way of telling the story around them without becoming defensive.

Read carefully through the job and person specification, identifying your experiences that demonstrate the skills or knowledge gained. Again, practice articulating each one. Writing down an answer is a good way to do this — reading it aloud, recording yourself or having a mock interview is even better.

Now think about how you're going to address the more tricky questions, such as, "where would you like to be in five years' time?" or "what are your weaknesses?"

If it's not explicit in the invite, find out the format of the interview and the number of people involved beforehand. It's not that you have to prepare particularly differently, but if you're expecting a relaxed chat with a HR person and you get five senior people grilling you, it's likely to throw you.

Research the company, paying attention to news stories, their website and strategic plans. See if you can also speak to someone in your network who works or has worked there.

BEFORE THE INTERVIEW

Prepare your interview outfit: shine the shoes and plan grooming things like getting a haircut. Dressing well can increase your confidence as well as boosting your professional image.

Work out where you're going, travelling times and transport options. If you can factor in more time and locate a coffee shop nearby, it may help to reduce travelling anxiety. Have a copy of the job description and the person

DURING THE INTERVIEW

It's very easy to be so intently focused on giving a good interview that you forget that it's a two-way process. Notice how the reception feels, how people behave towards each other, how the interview is run, and what sense you get from the interviewer. You may even want to ask: "How do you find working here?"

Don't be afraid to pause and think. You don't need to fire back an answer in the first millisecond — and sometimes it's good to acknowledge that you'll need a few moments for consideration. In general, people speak too quickly in interviews because they're nervous, so slow down if you notice yourself racing.

Make sure you're clear about the next steps following the interview. Many organizations take a lot longer than they say to get back to you, so it may be worth saying: "So you'll let me know by next Monday? If I don't hear by Wednesday is it ok to drop you a line?"

AFTER THE INTERVIEW

As soon after the interview as you can, find a quiet place and write down as many of the questions that you were asked as you can remember. Rank how you answered them on a scale of one to ten. Work on the answers in order from lowest to highest so that you can improve for future interviews.

The next day, you could drop a line to the interviewers thanking them for the opportunity, and asking any questions that may be outstanding. But don't pester or stalk: some companies prefer a defined process where you don't contact people directly. If you don't hear by the allotted time, follow up.

Whether or not you are successful in securing the role, look at it as a good opportunity to engage people, grow your network and get better for next time round. If you're not successful then ask for feedback, although many organizations are coy in case feedback is used against them.

And if you're successful, well done. Now it's time to start thinking about the second round of interviews. ●●

Michael Higgins is a career coach and author of Pit Stop: A Career Review for Busy People

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specification on you and a couple of copies of your CV, all in a neat folder or portfolio case. Read through them again before you head in.

Innovative Online Tool Guides Kansas Job Seekers

An innovative online tool created and launched by Kansas labor and commerce officials aims to get Kansans to work in the highest paying and most in demand jobs.

From accountants, to nurses, to aerospace engineers—the Kansas Career Navigator (www.kscareernav.gov) gives Kansans real-time access to the latest high-demand and high-wage occupation opportunities locally and across the state. The intuitive dashboard is an excellent resource for individuals looking for employment in Kansas. In addition to the job postings, the Navigator also identifies the training programs available in the region giving students, teachers, parents and others a clear path to success in the workplace.

“Our state is quite diverse, as are the interests of our growing workforce,” said Diane DeBacker, director of business and education innovation at the Kansas Department of Commerce and former state education commissioner. “The Kansas Career Navigator provides data specific to each Kansas region. It’s dynamic and

it’s updated consistently, making it an invaluable resource for Kansans.”

When you log on to www.kscareernav.gov, you’ll have instant access to the top ten high demand, high wage occupations in your area, as well as information on wages, job openings, education and work experience expectations, forecasted vacancies and more.

Statewide, the top three high demand-high wage jobs include wholesale and manufacturing sales representatives, registered nurses, and tractor-trailer truck drivers. In south central Kansas, highest demand jobs include accountants and auditors, registered nurses, and aerospace engineers.

“This tool is so important because it helps us continue to keep unemployment low while keeping and growing our talent in Kansas,” Governor Jeff Colyer said. “The Kansas Career Navigator will help upgrade the skills of our workforce and boost training programs across the state.” ●●

Use the Kansas Career Navigator at www.KSCareerNav.gov

AVOID from page 14

STRATEGIC THINKER

This is a very vague description that does not give the employer an idea of what you would bring to the company. Describing yourself as a “thinker” portrays you as passive—instead, explain how your great thinking helped solve a problem at work. For example, you might say, “Developed and implemented inter-office memo strategy to improve communication.”

DYNAMIC

This adjective describes your personality rather than your work ethic or skills. There is no way to prove your outgoing personality on a resume — anyone can put the word “dynamic” on their resume. Stick to information that you can prove using examples from past work experiences. In your interview, the employer will be able to see your energetic personality.

SELF-MOTIVATED

Like the word “dynamic,” anyone

can say they are “self-motivated” in their resume. However, using the word doesn’t prove anything. Instead of saying you are self-motivated, you can prove it throughout your resume. In your work summary, mention a project or achievement that you developed yourself, or that you volunteered to do. If you joined any professional association, list them on your resume. These are the things that will prove your motivation.

DETAIL-ORIENTED

One of the worst (and most common) mistakes you can make on a resume is to say you are detail-oriented, and then have a spelling error in your resume. Get rid of the overly used term “detail-oriented,” and instead produce a polished and well organized resume. This will show your attention to detail. If your past work has required you to be detail-oriented, explain that in your description of your work experiences. For example, you might say “Awarded Store Clerk of the Month three times for cash-handling accuracy.” ●●

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Still think hiring managers aren't checking your Facebook or LinkedIn and searching your name in Google? Now might be a good time to reconsider that stance: 70% of employers in 2017 used social media to screen candidates, according to a CareerBuilder survey.

This percentage isn't likely to decrease, but don't let it intimidate you — you won't need to delete all your Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts. Let's take a look at what you can do to prep your social media profiles for a job search, which might entail a background check or a critical look at your online reputation.

GOOGLE YOURSELF

Millennials are the age group most likely to do a Google self-search, but it's a good idea for anyone to do one before a job interview to see what comes up in search results. Check each page and do some advanced searching — you'd be surprised what Google can pick up.

When doing a self-search, does your personal website show up on the first page of results? Is the content displayed about you positive, accurate, and relevant? These are two important questions you should be asking.

Below are some other things to consider when you do a self-search on the Internet.

Check for personal information: A simple Google search can reveal a lot about you, including your phone number, address, email, location, and any photos of yourself.

Always do an Incognito Search: Using a private browsing window when you search yourself is particularly important because this allows you to see unbiased results that aren't affected by your previous searches, logged in services, or other personalization factors that Google implements. Personalized searching is useful when it comes to searching for relevant products or services, but when preparing for a job interview, you want to see through the eyes of a hiring manager and have unbiased search results.

Set a Google alert for your name: If you set one, every time your name comes up in a Google search result, you will be notified right away by email. This is particularly helpful for those who blog or are in journal-

ism and want to keep track of their published posts. You can also find out which sites have been linking to your work.

If you'd like a thorough analysis of your online reputation, background checking sites like BrandYourself.com provide feedback about search results for your name and will help you fix any issues you have.

SEPARATE PERSONAL FROM PROFESSIONAL

Many of us have two sides to our social media accounts: personal and professional. Yet sometimes, the line between the two is blurred. Content that belongs on a private Facebook account might end up on a professional Twitter page and vice versa. So how can you draw the line when it comes to your personal and professional sides?

Avoid posting controversial topics, religious and political views, or personal information on professional accounts. Instead, use these platforms for engaging in conversations with your connections and sharing your career wins. Keep reading below for examples of what is safe and unsafe to post on your social media accounts.

APPROPRIATE THINGS TO POST ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- Business updates
- Sharing news about your industry
- Photos and videos of interesting place or things to do in your city
- Current events articles
- Upcoming conferences, webinars, or other events

INAPPROPRIATE THINGS TO POST ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- Complaints about your boss or work
 - Photos of you partying
 - Political and religious rants
 - Vulgar and violent language
 - Relationship or personal issues
- Remember, you want to show off best qualities to a hiring manager in a

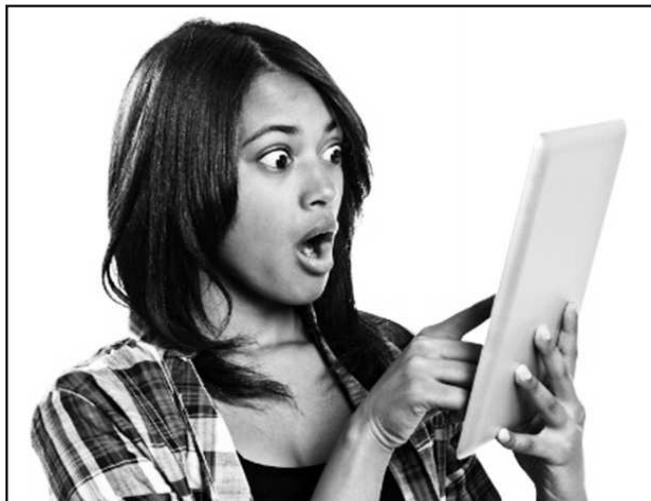
job interview, so keep the same practice in your social media accounts. The great thing about having an active professional account is that you can pick and choose what you want to display.

MAKE PERSONAL ACCOUNTS MORE SECURE

Before posting onto your personal social media accounts, be mindful of what you're sharing and who is going to see it. Internet content lasts forever, and while privacy settings may protect your accounts from some threats, nothing will ever be truly private.

Keeping this in mind, there are some steps you can take to strengthen the security of your personal Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Facebook



• Who can see my stuff: This is the primary privacy setting you'll find in Facebook's Privacy Settings. You can switch the default public setting on your post under "Who can see my stuff?" and make your content only visible to friends. You can also choose who will see your post using the audience selector when you make a new Facebook status. The audience selector control remembers what you select, so unless you change your audience, all future posts will be shared with the same people.

• Limit past posts: If you have always made your Facebook posts public and now want to improve your security, limiting old posts will prevent anyone outside of your friends from seeing it.

• Timeline and tagging: You can

adjust these settings for who can see tagged photos of you on your timeline, and also review any photos, statuses and comments that others have tagged you in.

• Photo settings: Even if you've made your Facebook statuses only visible to friends, profile pictures and cover photos are open to the public by default. Check to see if your albums and mobile uploads are set to public as well.

TWITTER

• Protect my Tweets: By default, your Tweets are all public. Selecting the "Protect my Tweets" option will make all your Tweets private and only visible to followers you've accepted.

• Turn off location: Twitter gives you the option to add your current

location to your Tweet, but it isn't a default setting.

• Discoverability: Disabling this option will prevent anyone that has your email address or phone number from searching and finding your Twitter account.

• No tagging in photos: Like Facebook, turning off this setting stops other users from tagging you in a photo they post.

Compared to Facebook, Twitter's privacy settings are quite simple. Make sure you understand all the privacy settings of your personal social media accounts, and take the time to review your posts when in the job search process.

KEEP PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTS PUBLIC

Having no online presence isn't a good sign to hiring managers, as this indicates to them that you aren't well-rounded. Showing that you are fluent in social media platforms is also promising to employers — after all, being savvy in social media is a desirable skill to have on a resume.

For professional social media accounts, it's great if you can keep your name public so that it is easily searchable. Keep your Twitter, LinkedIn, or

Facebook content focused on what you can offer in your field and what accomplishments you want to highlight. Be careful of sharing too many details about your career, but also avoid not sharing enough about your job qualifications, as this may keep you from getting more opportunities to network.

Finally, remember to update your professional social media accounts frequently. Employers are looking to see that you're engaging in your industry, whether it's current events topics or professional development. They also want to see how you are influencing others or what you offer to your field.

POLISH AND CLEAN UP YOUR ACCOUNTS

The last step you need to take to ensure your accounts are job-search appropriate is to do some social media housekeeping. This doesn't just mean removing unsavory photos or inappropriate statuses on Facebook. Check over your LinkedIn and professional profiles so that everything is up-to-date and all the information is accurate.

One of the first things a hiring manager will see on your social media profiles is your photo. Having a good profile photo will not only increase your response and referral rates, but also a way to build your personal brand. Research shows that an effective profile photo is crucial for making yourself look competent, likeable, and influential.

If you find that going through all your old Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram posts is time-consuming, Scrubber is a handy tool that show you any posts that may be a red flag to employers.

Conclusion

Employers can learn a lot about you from your resume and interview, but sometimes it takes a little bit more to sell yourself (although there's a delicate balance between selling yourself and being transparent in the hiring process). Take advantage of the benefits of social media — it's an often-needed extra step to show what you bring to the table, a way to add flair to your application, and make a lasting impression on your potential employers. ●●

Gary Owen: Black America's Favorite White Comic

If you're a fan of comedy, you may not know Gary Owen. But, if you're a fan of Black comedy and you don't know him, where have you been?

For more than two decades Gary Owen has been growing a following with his comedy-based heavily on Black culture. It's a "schtick" that's gained him recognition by Ebony Magazine as "Black America's Favorite White Comic."

How does a White guy rise to that level of recognition with Black America? Well he's married to a Black woman, something you're sure to hear him mention at least once in his standup act, so that must count for something. It appears it does, helping Owen, 43, deliver on Black culture in an authentic and familiar way. His standup routine is a mix of good cheer and a touch of self-deprecation. He tells tales about his wife, his children, and of course the comedic favorite -- sex.

How did Owen, a blue-eyed White guy who grew up poor in a trailer park in Ohio, come to be a Black-audience favorite. Voted the class clown of his senior class, Owen joined the Navy to escape his trailer park life and his abusive stepfather. In the service he began watching the HBO show Def Comedy Jam.

"On Friday nights, we'd all sit around and watch it, and we'd never go out until it ended," recalled Owen, during an interview for BuzzFeed. "When I saw the way the crowd reacted, I thought, Oh, that's the s*&% I want."

In 1995, the military assigned him to a base in California and he began traveling the coast appearing at comedy clubs. He credits DD Rainbow, at the time the MC of an urban comedy night called No Color Lines, for helping him find his place in the comedic world.

After DD saw him bomb at a White club, she gave him her card, and suggested his act would play better to her audience, and it did. At No Color



Lines, Owen's routine didn't change, but the audience did: It was mostly black.

"I was shocked when I walked onstage and told the exact same f*&(!%+ joke and it worked," Owen said. "And that was when I knew."

Besides a few bumps, it's been mostly uphill for Owen since. In California, he grew his following with Black audiences, and in particular Black women.

"He started getting into the swing of things when there were certain key phrases he'd say that tickled ladies in the audience," said Michael Williams who ran the Comedy Act Theater out of a nightclub in Los Angeles. "Mainly it was about wanting to have a relationship with a Black woman. That's how he ended up getting so popular."

His big break came when he got a chance to compete on BET's Comic View, a long-running comedy competition show. Surprisingly, or may not surprisingly, Owen won that season's competi-

Gary Owen Pop Up Tour

When: Fri., May 25, doors open @ 7 p.m., show begins @ 8 p.m.

Where: Orpheum Theater, 200 N. Broadway, Wichita

Tickets: \$45 to \$61, @wichitaorpheum.com

tion. So in January 1998, he left the Navy, moved to Los Angeles, and started hosting Comic View. The only White comedian to ever host the show, he was a big hit, and his Black following grew exponentially.

In the two decades since, he has headlined Shaquille O'Neal's All Star Comedy Jam, routinely sells out 2,000-seat venues, has had a series of comedy specials on Showtime and appeared in numerous movies and television shows. He was in the highly successful "Daddy Day Care" (2003) with Eddie Murphy, had a small role in Kevin Hart's "Think Like a Man," (2012) but was such a success his role was bumped up in "Think Like a Man Too" (2014). On television, he had a recurring role on Tyler Perry's "House of Payne," but in 2016, he returned to his television roots, BET, with a short lived "Gary Owen Show." ●●

Topeka Artist Finds His Passion for Painting Again

Robert Adams has been an artists all of his life, but he only started painting again three years ago. The 59-year-old painted as a teenager, and even in California, where he moved following the lady who would become his future wife. He did a few gallery shows in California, but his divorce left him drained and without a desire to paint.

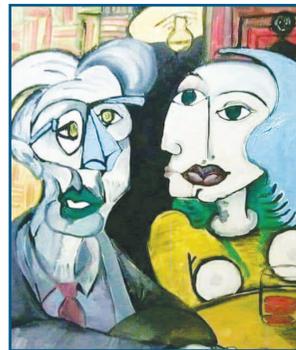
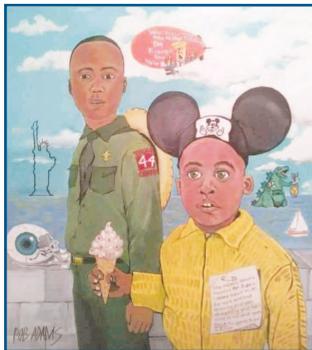
He returned to Topeka 20 years ago and didn't paint for 17 years.

"I painted every day in my mind. For an artists, you see art everywhere," but he never put paint brush or pencil to paper until he reconnected with an old friend on Facebook three years ago.

"I fell in love and all of a sudden I started painting again," said Adams.

The relationships didn't last very long, but this time Adams didn't lose his passion for painting, and he's been at it ever since.

Unlike when he first arrived back in



Adam's considers his art to be is interestingly unique with an abstract feel .

Bob Adams Art Display/Sale

When: May thru June

Where: Classic Bean, 722 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka

More: You can also find his work and reach him on Facebook.

Topeka, Adams says the local galleries are now very accepting of his work.

"Back then, the galleries were real conservative and all of the artists were like woodpeckers, pecking out the same things -- barns, cattle, and golden wheat fields," says Adams. "I couldn't find a gallery to even touch my stuff."

Now, Adams says Topeka's growing art scene is much more diverse

and open to different kinds of art.

"The first gallery I went to gave me a show; told me to be ready in three weeks," says Adams. "I did that show and it's been one show after another."

Adams describes his art as "unique with an abstract feel." He paints using all kinds of mediums, acrylics, oil, mixed medium and even sketching.

"My pencil work is so much different than my painting."

A novice artists might see hints of Picasso in some of Adams, modern face work.

Of course he's not willing to take any comparison to the great Picasso, only the fact that some of his paintings are also abstract, a style Picasso is most famous for.

Adams isn't afraid to take on political issues in his work. Theirs his painting of Batman and Robin embraced in a kiss. "That pissed a few people off." He says. "Then there's his painting of Mr. Rogers with a hooker."

See ADAMS page 20

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Will Meghan Markel Be The First Mixed-Race Royal?

There appears to be significant research to support the fact the Meghan Markel will not become the first mixed-race royal when she marries Princess Harry. That honor may belong to Queen Sophia Charlotte, wife of King George III, whose "negroid" facial features and tanned skin tone have led people to question her heritage for centuries.

Queen Charlotte, served as Queen of England and Ireland for 57 years, from 1761 until her death in 1817. Charlotte, the youngest child of a German Duke was born on May 19, 1744. After the death of his grandfather, George III succeeded to the throne at age 22. He was unmarried and his mother and advisors were anxious to get him a wife. The 17-year-old Charlotte appealed to him as a prospective wife partly because she had been brought up in an insignificant north



Queen Sophia Charlotte definitely has the look.

Royal Wedding Watching
When: Sat., May 19, 6 a.m. CST
But tune in early to catch the pre-wedding fanfare.

German town and therefore would probably have had no experience or interest in power politics or party intrigues.

According to Mario de Valdes y Cocom, a historian of the African Diaspora, Charlotte may have had African ancestry, via descent from Margarita de Castro E Souza, a 15th-century Portuguese

noblewoman, who traced her ancestry to King Afonso III of Portugal (1210–1279) and one of his mistresses, Madragana (c. 1230–?).

In a 2009 episode of the PBS TV series, "Frontline," Valdes speculated that Scottish painter Allan Ramsay emphasized the Queen's alleged "mulatto" appearance in his portrait of her to support the anti-slave trade movement and noted that Baron Stockmar had described the Queen as having a "mulatto face" in his autobiography and that other contemporary

sources made similar observations.

Critics of Valdes's theory point out that with Margarita's and Madragana's distance – nine to 15 generations removed -- any African ancestry that they bequeathed to Charlotte would be negligible and they even doubt whether Madragana was Black.

The House of Windsor has never denied Queen Charlotte's claimed African ancestry. David Buck, a Buckingham Palace spokesperson, was quoted by the *Boston Globe* as saying "This has been rumored for years and years. It is a matter of history, and frankly, we've got far more important things to talk about."

Why not just settle on the fact that all of us are at least a little Black, since life on earth originated on the African continent.

In an interesting coincidence, Prince Harry and Meghan Markel's wedding date on May 19 is Queen Charlotte's birthday. ●●

ADAMS from page 19

The original starving artist, Adams mixed medium work is often made from things he has laying around.

"I didn't have any canvasses so I knocked out the bottom of a dresser drawer and painted on it," said Adams. "I took some rocks out of the drive way, some tin cans, some stuff out of my stock pile, and some old sheet music," said Adams about one of his mixed medium pieces.

Only the truly gifted can convert what most of us see as junk into art. He posted that piece on Facebook and it sold in a matter of a few weeks.

If you want to see his work, check him out on Facebook at Robert Adams, Topeka. His work is currently on display

– and for sale -- through June at the Classic Bean, a coffee shop in downtown Topeka, 722 S. Kansas Ave.

His reasonably affordable original works can be purchased for as little as a few hundred dollars and up. ●●



Adams

Family Fun Day

Saturday, May 19
1-3 p.m. | Ulrich Museum
Free Admission | Public Welcome

Bring the whole family to explore the culture, traditions, and art of the Caribbean Carnival with hands-on mask making, music, costumes, and dancing.

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MATTERS

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2018 Mother & Daughter Look-a-Like Winners

As always, the competition was stiff for our annual Mother and Daughter Look-a-Like Contest. With 62 entries from across the State of Kansas, and even a few entries from Oklahoma, Texas, Georgia, Maryland and Michigan, just getting the field to 12 finalists was a big challenge.

We featured the finalists in our April 26 issue and on our website. If you missed the finalists, you can still see them online at www.communityvoiceks.com.

Online voting for the People's Choice Award was hot and competitive with Anetra Miller and her daughter Aaliyah Blanchard winning out in a hard fought competition. Thanks to all who took the time to go to our website to cast their vote.

Our panel of judges took on the even more difficult task of selecting our first, second and third place finishers and it was another decisions decided by just a few points. Here are the top 3 finishers and the People's Choice winners in our 9th Annual Mother & Daughter Look-a-Like contest. ●●

Anetra Miller (R) & Her Daughter Aaliyah Blanchard (L)

Anetra Miller has worked in the Marketing and Communications department at Wichita State University Foundation for 2 years. She is also a full time student at Friends University and will be graduating on May 12 with a degree in Business Administration. For eleven years she has done PR and photography for various singers, musicians and athletes throughout the Midwest.

Aaliyah is a student at Wilbur Middle School and will be attending Northwest High School in the Fall. She is an Honor Roll student and very

active at school. She plays basketball, runs track, plays with the Rock Band, Jazz Band, Marching Band and has helped Wilbur Middle School win multiple contests in music and sports.

What behavior habits do you find you do most alike? *Anetra* Our love of reading and cooking. *Aaliyah* Reading and working out and just sometimes cooking

What is your favorite thing to do together? *Anetra* Laugh and watch movies. *Aaliyah* Pretty much everything

Does the daughter see where

she is becoming more like her mother and how?

I am very positive and I am good at inspiring my friends and listening to their problems. I give them good advice that would make Jesus happy. I get that from my mother.

What is your favorite TV show to watch? "Blackish."

What is your favorite song and artist? *Anetra* I love Canton Jones, J. Moss, Brad Beaver, Nulyric and A lot of classical music. *Aaliyah* A lot of drum music and music with solid percussions. Like old big band and jazz.

What is the most important thing you learned from your mother?

To be true to who God wants me to be and to not be afraid to be myself. She taught me how to be self-motivated and pay attention to my surroundings. She has taught me things like not letting negative people be in my space.

Name some of the qualities you see in your daughter that were passed down from your Mother?

I would have to say that she is not a quitter and she is very self-disciplined. I never have to tell her to study or work hard at anything...she just does it. She is a perfectionist at heart. That definitely is a family trait. ●●



Naomi Robinson (L) & Her Daughter Jazell Ginn (R)

Naomi Robinson works at Texas Health Hospital as a patient access representative. Her daughter Jazell is a 7th grade student.

This mother/daughter duo both love to wear braids and their favorite color is orange. They love bike riding together and playing board games. Naomi says it gives them time to bond, and talk about everything Jazell is starting to experience as a teen.

Do people confuse the two of you? *Naomi* All the time. We actually do walk alike and our voices are oddly identical lol. People can't tell the difference of who they are speaking to on the phone.

What behavior habits do you find you do most alike? *Naomi* We both sleep wild, we both love baking. We especially love baking cakes (our favorite is red velvet) and rice Krispy treats. *Jazell* We both are early birds

and late night owls.

Does the daughter see where she is becoming more like her mother and how? *Naomi* Yes, I don't think she even realizes how much she is beginning to act like me, she loves to exercise more and drink lots of water. She loves to read a lot like me as well.

People tell my daughter all the time her facial expressions (mad or happy) are just like mine. And she's very sensitive like me.

What is your favorite TV show to watch together? We like "First 48" because it's a lot of investigative work and we like trying to solve the crime before they do on the show. We also love the show "Fuller House."

What is your favorite song and artist? *Naomi* Marvin Sapp, "Never Would Have Made it," *Jazell* Beyonce "Love on Top."

What is the most important thing you learned from your mother? To always do the right thing, even when no one is watching. Being beautiful means nothing if you're ugly on the inside.

It's the most important thing because how you treat people and your integrity as a person is one of the most valuable things in the world, and so many girls aren't taught this and get caught up in their looks and think that being cute means everything.

Name some of the qualities you see in your daughter that were passed down from your Mother? Being responsible, being a very kind person, being humble.

I want my daughter to never get caught up in her looks and to be able to see her beauty without a mirror or any compliments. Because I want her to know that true beauty comes from within. ●●



1st Place

like Mother
like Daughter

What Did They Win?

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

- 2 - Grub & Groove VIP tickets
- 1 - \$75 Food Voucher
- 2 - Bang Bang Shrimp Bonefish Grill (10250 E. 13th)
- 2 - \$20 Lacquer Nail Spa (10096 E. 13th)
- 2 - \$30 Gift Certificates Roselines (5025 E 21st)
- 2- 30 Minute Signature Massages - Bohemia Healing Spa (611 W. Douglas)

1ST PLACE

- 2 - Purses - Alveno McPhaul
- 2 - Scarves

- 2 - Facials Massage Envy (10096 E. 13th)
- Avon Basket by JusJackie (316-681-1770)
- 2 - Grub & Groove VIP Seating
- 2 - Riverfest VIP Passes with back stage reception for Gospelfest/ John P. Key Concert (June 4)
- 1 - Night Stay - Hotel
- 1 - \$100 Off Aesthetic Services Medical Innovative Solution (8440 E 29th Ste. 800)
- 2 - Express Manicures – Fringe Salon (10096 E 13th St N #110)

2ND PLACE

- 2 - Bang Bang Shrimp Bonefish Grill (10250 E. 13th)
- 2 - Grub & Groove General Admission tickets
- 2 - Scarves

- 2 - \$10 Taste Of Philadelphia (2251 E 21st)
- 1 - \$100 Off Aesthetic Service Medical Innovative Solution (8440 E 29th Ste. 800)
- 2 - Black Hair Expo Tickets-June 16 (5015 E. 29th)
- 2 - Facials Massage Envy (10096 E. 13th)

3RD PLACE

- 2 - Grub & Groove General Admission
- 2 - Bang Bang Shrimp Bonefish Grill (10250 E. 13th)
- 2 - Facials Massage Envy (10096 E. 13th)
- 1 - Purse - Alveno McPhaul
- 2 - Bottles Wine
- 2 - \$10 Taste Of Philadelphia (2251 E 21st)
- 1 - \$100 Off Aesthetic Service Medical Innovative Solution (8440 E 29th Ste. 800)

All prize locations are Wichita



2nd Place

LaBrenda Johnson-Roberts (R) & Her Daughter Rachael Johnson (L)

LaBrenda Yes, we have similar taste in athletic shoes, boots, and sandals. We are minimalist when it comes to styling our hair and makeup and prefer more natural looks.

Rachael My mom and I both have similar taste in clothing when it comes to nicer

weather outside. We both enjoy wearing comfortable clothing or dresses with sandals. We both aren't that interested in makeup or the way we style our hair.

What do you enjoy doing

together?

LaBrenda Drinking hot tea, laying on the couch-opposite ends watching "Big Brother" and other popular TV shows/movies, shopping, & playing brain games or puzzles.

Rachael We enjoy doing everything together. Going out to eat, going to the mall, watching action or crime shows on TV, going swimming and playing board games.

Do people confuse the two of you?

LaBrenda People often think Rachael is my sister.

What behavior habits do you find you do most alike?

LaBrenda The behavior habit Rachael and I do most alike is probably worry. **Rachael** My Mother and I

procrastinate sometime.

Does the daughter see where she is becoming more like her mother and how?

Rachael I do notice that I am starting to think more like my mom. She is a planner and I find myself doing that a lot more often.

What is your favorite TV show to watch?

LaBrenda HGTV, "Amazing Race," "Big Brother," "Survivor," All crime ("The Blacklist," "SWAT"), military ("Seal Team," "The Brave") **Rachael** I like to watch crime related shows or hospital shows like; "Grey's Anatomy."

What is your favorite song and artist?

LaBrenda Mary J. Blige, Anita Baker, Jaheim, R. Kelly and Anthony

Hamilton Rachael My favorite artist would have to be female singers like Beyonce, Keyshia Cole, Monica, etc. There is this new upcoming singer that I enjoy Queen Naija. My favorite song right now would be "Medicine" from Queen Naija.

What is the most important thing you learned from your Mother?

To have integrity, be loyal, independent and work hard.

Name some of the qualities you see in your daughter that were passed down from your mother?

I see my mother's compassionate nature in Rachael, determination, and she is a awesome friend to her friends. Rachael really is a hard worker like her grandmother was. ●●

LaBrenda Johnson is the payroll supervisor at Foot Locker Service Center and her daughter Rachael is a nursing student at Washburn University.

Do you have similar taste in clothing, hair, makeup, etc?

Doris Flemons (R) & Her Daughter Vontrice Flemons (L)

Doris Flemons worked as the head cook of Hillcrest Care and Rehab for almost 40 years and

retired in 2014. Vontrice Flemons has worked at McConnell AFB for the past 16 years in the Commander's Support Section. Vontrice is a busy person who is also finishing up her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology.

Do you have similar taste in clothing, hair, makeup etc?

Doris We do have the same taste when it comes to church clothes. We both wear our hair in a ponytail most of the time.

What do you enjoy doing together?

Doris We enjoy going to

the Church of God in Christ Women's Convention together each year. That is where we do our mother daughter trip to.

Do people confuse the two of you?

Vontrice People often confuse the two of us. The only difference between my mom and I, is that I am taller.

What behavior habits do you find you do most alike?

Doris We make the same facial expressions, we walk alike, and we talk alike.

What is your favorite thing to do together?

We like to go to church and work on crosswords together.

Does the daughter see where she is becoming more like her mother and how?

Vontrice I do see my mom in me more and more each day. I will sometimes be talking to someone, and I will hear my mother coming out. I exhibit her true wisdom, her strength to keep pushing no matter the storms I am faced with, and her love and passion for helping others.

What is your favorite TV show to watch?

Doris My favorite TV show is Gunsmoke.

Vontrice My favorite TV show is anything that deals with law ("Law & Order," "Snapped," "First 48," "CSI," etc.)

What is your favorite song and artist

Doris "Change" by Tamela Mann
Vontrice "Let Go, Let God" by Dwayne Woods

What is the most important thing you learned from your mother?

The most important thing that I learned from my mother is no matter what the circumstances may look like, God still has the last say. She taught me to always pray even at the toughest times.

Name some of the qualities you see in your daughter that were passed down from your Mother?

I have noticed her strength. No matter what she is going through, she still keeps smiling and pushing forward. She is very intelligent and no matter what people tell her that she can't do, she finds a way to get it done. ●●



3rd Place

Keith B. Key: A Developer With a Social Conscious

Ohio-based KBK Enterprises, led by founder, President, and CEO Keith B. Key, has the heavy task of serving as developers of the project to renovate all 578 of Wichita's Public Housing Units. It's a job Key and his team have proven they are uniquely qualified for.

By Bonita Gooch
The Community Voice

In the 14 years since KBK Enterprises was founded, they've renovated thousands of public housing units across the county, and along the way, they've managed to also change communities, as well as lives, for the good.

Keith B. Key knows more than a little about life in public housing. The owner of KBK Enterprises wasn't always a successful business man who's done well enough to make a \$1 million contribution to his alma mater Ohio State University. Key started life in Garfield Commons, a tough public housing complex in Pittsburgh, PA.

He was one of the lucky youth that found a way out – a scholarship to play football. Key took full advantage of the scholarship, earning a Bachelor's of Science degree in Economics and catapulting his degree into a career in banking, then real estate development.

But Key isn't one of those guys who did well and forgot where he came from. He remembers the impact a little help can have, the difference and opportunity can make, and how great it feels to simply be listened to and heard. Certainly that's why KBK Enterprise developments are different – from beginning through completion, and on. It's because Key is a developer with a social conscious.

Wichita's renovation project is a big one in terms of housing projects, but KBK has handled equally large projects in Columbus OH, Pittsburgh, PA, and New Orleans, LA. He's taken them all on with an approach we can already see his team applying in the early stages of the Wichita project. First, he communicates and makes connections. Yes, he connects with potential contractors, folks with money, and the government officials who write the checks, but in Wichita, he's also reaching out to local non-profits, minority contractors and business-owners and, most importantly, to the housing authority residents.

Key and his team have already held meetings with residents, even though the first panel of dry wall won't be torn down on any of the units until well into 2019. The meetings include two-way conversation. The tenants obviously have questions about what to expect, and Key and his team want to hear about improvements and

changes residents want to see made.

The KBK team plans to meet monthly with the residents, keeping them up to date on what's going on. Key even suggested a regular newsletter to keep them up to date on all of the projects, not just their location.

The KBK team also met with local non-profits to see how they might work together to provide wrap around services to the housing residents. He's also met with minority contractors. The company has a reputation of exceeding goals for use of minorities on projects.

In all of their Pittsburg projects, KBK used 40 to 50% Minority/Women Business Enterprise participation in a town that only has a 12% minority population. In New Orleans, his projects had 50% and up to 60% MWBE participation.

KBK also actively participates in the Federal Section 3 Business Program. This is a program under the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development that requires recipients of certain HUD financial assistance, to the greatest extent possible, to provide job training, employment and contract opportunities to low or very low income residents in connection with projects and activities in their neighborhoods.

This is another area where KBK flourishes. In Pittsburg, they consistently set Section 3 employee hiring records, with 54 and 67 residents from the neighborhood hired on two projects. In New Orleans, KBK hired an astounding 164 employees from the neighborhoods, 90% of whom were former felons.

Working closely with residents and community organizations, Key says he often finds others issues that need to be addressed that often fall outside of the company's role as a developer. That's where his KBK Foundation steps in.

"Solving some of these problems doesn't make sense under the development deal, so we do it under the foundation," said Key

Here are just a few example of KBK Foundation giving in conjunction with their development projects. The foundation:

- Contributed \$50K towards the purchase of washers and dryers for residents of one project so that everyone would have one in their unit.
- Funded a program to teach community youth about aviation.
- Sponsors summer festival at all KBK devel-

opments.

- Purchased a computer for every unit in one project.

- Provides academic scholarships to residents of KBK owned and managed properties.

When Key heard about a 50% truancy problem at high schools serving one of the developments he was renovating, he offered to pay \$250 to every student from the development who showed up at school every day for a year. Key said he received a lot of flak for offering to pay students for just going to school.

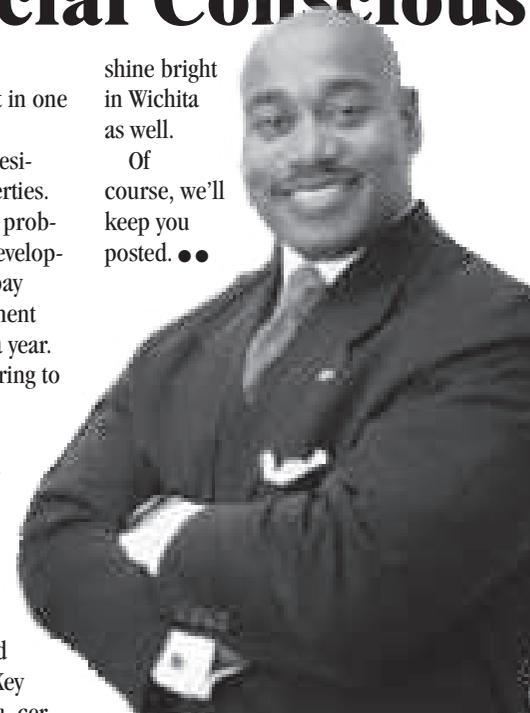
"I figured if you show up, you have a chance to learn," said Key. "If you don't show up, you definitely won't learn."

His experiment worked. At the end of the year, truancy was down from 50% to 10%.

Although KBK Enterprises will establish a Wichita office, they'll remain based in Ohio throughout this project. While Key himself will only be in and out of Wichita, certainly the social conscious of this developer will

shine bright in Wichita as well.

Of course, we'll keep you posted. ●●



Keith B. Key



Greenway Manor is one of two City of Wichita High Rise Public Housing Units, that will be renovated under the new private investments plan that will renovate all 578 of the City's Public Housing units.

City Moves Ahead With Plan to Renovate It's Public Housing Units

In September 2017 the Wichita City Council approved a plan to solicit private investment to renovate all 578 units of the City's public housing and now they have a developer to help lead the project. Earlier this year, the City approved a contract making KBK Enterprises, an Ohio-based Corporation, the developers of the project.

The renovations will occur under a new pilot program of the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development called Rental Assistance Demonstration Pilot Program. The City's housing stock will move from "public housing," to privately-owned affordable housing. Under the program, major investors – often major financial institutions -- invest in the housing renovation in exchange for Federal tax credits. The City, as a partner in the development, remains the operating partner in the management of the housing and beyond their money, the investor's involvement in the project is typically nominal to nonexis-

tent. It works out well for the City because they get much needed dollars needed to renovate the housing stock.

Investment in the project is estimated to exceed \$60 million. That's good news for the public housing residents and for the greater Wichita community that will benefit from the construction revenue and jobs generated from the projects.

As developer, KBK Enterprises puts together the deal, coordinating architectures, finding investors, bidding and selecting contractors for the construction work, and financing the upfront portion of the project until the financing is secured. For their work, KBK will receive a percentage fee with a potential yield of \$6 million.

The City of Wichita's 578 housing units includes: 176 units in two high rises, 50 units of senior housing and 352 single family homes spread across the city, some in clusters of 15-20 homes. ●●

24 Gamma Chi Sigma Honor Community Leaders at Image Awards

WICHITA SOCIAL

The members of the Gamma Chi Sigma Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. hosted their 33rd Annual Image Awards Scholarship Banquet on Sat., May 5, at the Wichita Marriott, 9100 Corporate Hills Drive. The theme this year was “Where Purpose and Passion Meet.” The event honored citizens of the local community who set themselves apart, by their efforts to make life better for others.

This year’s 2018 Rhomania honorees were: Twyla J. McFall Award to young achievers: Ashley Cavazos, Troy Andrews

and Joseph Shepard.

Golden Eagle Awards: Terry Atwater, Overseer Charles Maxey, Jr., Alicia Sanchez, Juston White and Dr. Michelle Vann.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr. Robert Weems.

Entrepreneurs Award: Jeremie McGlory – Artistry Lounge.

A portion of the banquet proceeds go to support the scholarships awarded annually by the sorority to outstanding local students. ●●



PHOTOS: 1.(L) Soror Sharon Carr poses with president, Tiffanie Henderson. 2. 2018 Image Award honorees are Front (L-R) Alicia Sanchez, Dr. Michelle Vann, Ashley Cavazos Back (L-R) Jeremie McGlory, Joseph Shepard, Overseer Charles Maxey, Dr. Robert Weems, Juston White, Troy Andrews, Terry Atwater 3. The ladies of Sigma pose for a photo. 4. Lorenza and Carla Breckenridge were among those in attendance. 5. Teketa Paschal provided music during the event.



Photos by My Pictureman

Njie Foundations Host 4th Annual African Cultural Event

The PS Njie Foundation held their 4th Annual African Cultural Fundraising Event on April 28 at the Red Roof Plus Inn., Wichita. The honorable Vice-Ambassador Mustapa Sosseh from the Republic of Gambia was the special guest at the event.

The annual events raises funds for the Njie Foundation, founded by Ida Njie. The foundation is working to build a health clinic in Gambia.

The evening consisted of lots of African cuisine on an open buffet, a raffle, and a colorful African attire fashion show and lots of dancing. Awards were presented in recognition of “Outstanding Healthcare Service” and lots of dancing.

In 2009 Ida Njie founded the PS Njie Foundation a non-profit organization, to help Gambian disaster victims. In the years since the project began Ida accepts donations, goods and supplies and personally oversees the transport, arrival and distribution of the much-needed supplies.

At least once a year Njie returns to Gambia to continue her quest and is currently overseeing the building of a new medical facility which will house several exam rooms, with electricity and running water. ●●



PHOTOS: 1. Kera , Moses and Amy with their mother and foundation founder Ida Njie and KS Senator David Haley. 2. Adasure Ohaebosim and Roseline Onijala were beautiful in their fashions. 3. Mustapa Sosseh the Vice Ambassador from Gambia speaks with Janet Wilson 4. Dr. Linus Ohaebosim was there to give his support. 5. Dr. Daisy Kabagarama posed with her husband Dr. Dan Muhwezi. 6. (L-R) Beau Dusasi and Vera Sim (pose with a plaque for Outstanding Service in Healthcare) 7. Crclia Davis and her sister Theresia Wambu enjoyed the evening of good food and fun.

THE COMMUNITY VOICE | MAY 10, 2018

Voice and NAACP Hold Annual Financial Freedom Workshops

The Community Voice and the Wichita branch NAACP held their 5th annual Financial Literacy Expo and Workshops at Urban Prep Academy on Sat., May 5.

The free, half-day event featured a dozen workshops designed to help increase individual financial literacy. Some of the popular topics were: Moving Beyond Savings to Grow Your Money, Tips on Being a Success in the Rental Housing Business,

and Spring Clean Your Credit. Educational programs were also available for children and teenagers were able to participate in a workshop designed to help prepare them secure a summer job.

The keynote speaker was Kansas Treasurer Jake LaTurner. During the expo, LaTurner held drawings and gave away 10, \$500 Learning Quest 529 Education Savings Accounts.

Other prize giveaways included

a spin of the money wheel and/or a chance to grab all the money you can in the money machine.

The event is held annually in support of National Money Smart Week. ●●



Photos by Pictureman



PHOTOS: 1 Leonard Wilkins, "Mr. Real Estate," taught a couple of workshops. 2. Six of the 10, 529 College Savings Account winners were (L-R) Antonio Rankin, Amera Wright, Lavonta Williams, Lawanda DeShazer, Linda Tillman and Mike Kinard pictured with Tom Treacy of the Treasurer's Office.

3. Stephanie Stovall owner of Women Aspire had help at her booth from students Tamaira and Samantha.

4. Moriah Nelson took her chance in the money machine. 5. Ying Mah has been attending

the workshop for 5 years. 6. Members of the Kansas State NAACP were able to join the workshops



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26 Urban League to Bring Diversity and Inclusion to the Forefront with May 25 Summit

Event will include the League's Annual Equal Opportunity Awards Luncheon (Not a dinner this year).

The National Urban League has a mission of empowering African American and underserved communities to thrive by securing educational and economic opportunities. But they recognize, in order for those opportunities to happen, African Americans and the underserved must be included.

Sounds like the ultimate definition of diversity and inclusion, and promoted by the 108-year-old national Urban League long before the terms "diversity and inclusion" became a mainstream

catch phrase.

Literally, "it's our mission," said Melody McCray Miller, interim CEO and President of the Urban League of Kansas, who pointed out the state Urban League's newly adopted mission statement is "lifting and building an inclusive community."

So, it's only appropriate that the League would be the force behind the 2018 Diversity and Inclusion Summit to be held Fri., May 25, Wichita State University, Rhatigan Student Center, from

8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"What the Urban League is wanting to do is to bring multiple voices together to discuss fresh ideas around diversity and lifting and building our community," McCray Miller said.

Discussion at the summit will revolve around three main tracts: education, community, and business. The morning includes an opening speaker and two breakout sessions with concurrent workshops designed around each of the three tracts.

If we look around us, our community has changed, become more diverse, over the past 10 to 20 years, said McCray Miller. Addressing those changes

must happen in the community, in the educational system and ultimately in the workforce where these individuals are, and will become, the workers of the future.

The afternoon session is a panel discussion featuring corporate representatives, employment representatives and experts on diversity and inclusion. Lunch, will serve as the Urban League's Annual Equal Opportunity Day Awards Program. This is a fresh approach to the League's EOD Awards, which have typically been a dinner event.

This year's awards will be presented to: Delta Colvin, Whitney M Young Leadership Award; Jackson Mortuary, Legacy

Small Business Award, and Brian Sikes, President of Cargill Protein, the Corporate Diversity and Inclusion Leader Award.

Tickets to the summit are \$75 for half day and \$125 for a full-day registration. Both options include the awards luncheon. Tickets can be purchased through the Urban League, call 262-2463. ●●



Colvin

Wichita Briefs

EIGHT-WEEK GROUP WALKING PROGRAM SET FOR THIS SUMMER

If your excuse for not getting out and walking was you didn't have anyone to do it with, that excuse has been taken away. A new summer health and fitness program, Win the Day, is organizing two walking groups on Tuesdays and Thursdays. An early morning group from 8 – 9 a.m. will meet at Fairmount Park and an evening group, from 8 – 9 p.m. will meet at GoCreate, the new Wichita State University Building on 17th St. The eight-week walking program is from June 5 through July 26 and culminates with a 5K Walk/Run on Sat., July 28 from 8 -11 a.m. at Fairmount Park.

If you want to learn more plan on attending the kickoff celebration on Sat., June 2 from 3-5 p.m. at Fairmount Park. Join your neighbors for a fun time in the park with food and activities. The program, including the kick-off are free and open to all. More information and updates can be found at www.wichita.edu/winthewday.

The walking program is sponsored by the Shocker Neighborhood Coalition, Wichita State University and Wichita Park and Recreation.

WICHITA GRIOTS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR STORYTELLING INSTITUTE SUMMER CAMP

The Wichita Griots, are accepting applications for their 15th Annual Storytelling institute Summer Camp which this year will be held from July 16-21, with sessions from 9 a.m. – 5p.m. each day, at Urban Prep Academy, 2821 E. 24th St., Wichita. The camp ends with a public performance on July 21. The camp is open to talented youth ages 6 to 16. Students will all levels of abilities have the chance to interact with professional artists and teachers to engage in creative expression and exploration through the arts of storytelling, African dance, drumming, vocal music, theatrical production, arts and crafts and tours to area museums.

The registration cost is \$30 per participant and each child receives a camp T-shirt, supplies, lunch, afternoon snacks and field trip transportation. Some scholarships are available. For information call Ms. Jean Pouncil-Burton, camp director at (316) 682-1909 or (316) 642-4488.

URBAN LEAGUE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL CNA CLASS

Earn your Certified Nurse Aide certificate in just 8 weeks at the Urban League of Kansas. Classes consist of lecture, skills lab and clinicals and attendance is Mandatory. The fall sessions runs from Aug. 20 – Oct. 12, from 9 a.m. – noon, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The deadline to apply is July 7. For more infor-

mation call the Urban League @ (316) 262-2463.

MENTORING A GIRL IN CONSTRUCTION SUMMER CAMP IS TAKING APPLICATIONS

Mentoring a Girl in Construction Summer Camp (MAGIC) is accepting applications for a free 5-day camp for young high school women who must be 14 years of age by June 1. The camp will be held June 25-29, from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The camp offers girls the opportunity to learn about the countless employment opportunities available to women in the construction and transportation industry. Participants will gain greater self-confidence, self-esteem and a "can-do" attitude. Space in the camp is limited and registration deadline is May 18. For more information or to register contact Kameelah Alexander, City of Wichita (316)303-8018 or kalexander@wichita.gov. The camp is sponsored by the City of Wichita and the Kansas Department of Transportation.

EXPLORATION OFFERING RIVERFLIX – OUTSIDE FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIES

Exploration Place, 300 N McLean Blvd, Wichita, will be showing classic movies on Fridays during May, on the outside wall near their main museum entrance. The movies are free and begin at sundown.

Movies to be shown are: May 11, "Finding Nemo"; May 18, "The Little Mermaid" and May 25, "Jaws."

Attendees can arrive as early as 6:30 p.m. to enjoy fun outdoor activities such as ladder ball, giant Jenga, glow in the dark sidewalk chalking and more. Guests can explore the museum with discounted \$5 admission from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Visitors can also grab a bite to eat from local food trucks.

LEADERSHIP WICHITA TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR 2018 CLASS

Leadership Wichita, an immersive leadership program, is now accepting applications for 30 participants in its 2018 Leadership Class. During the program, participants craft a vision for the community; gain valuable insight into local government, economic development, education, and media; and interact with the key community and business leaders working to make progress in each area.

Since 1983, nearly 1,000 local business, government and military persons have completed the Leadership Wichita program and have committed to become stronger leaders. Consider nominating someone or submit your own name. Nominations are due by May 25. Applications are available online at wichitachamber.org. ●●

Wichita Tech Offering Free Sheetmetal Classes

WSU Tech announced it will offer free tuition scholarships for its aviation sheetmetal assembly program, as well as other programs under its continuing Wichita Promise initiative.

The new sheetmetal assembly scholarships, created in conjunction with Spirit AeroSystems Inc.'s major growth initiative announced late last year, cover the cost of tuition and fees for the training and guarantee a job interview with the employer.

Classes begin every four weeks and the scholarship will be available for both the summer 2018 and fall 2018 semester. WSU Tech, formerly Wichita Area Technical College, is offering free sheet metal classes this summer. The start dates for day session – 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, are June 6, July 9 and Aug. 5. The evenings classes are a 10-week program with session from 4 – 10:30 p.m., Monday – Friday. The next starting dates are June 11, and July 23.

Information sessions are held on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and Thursday at 3 p.m.

KCK Host Region IV NAACP Conference

The NAACP Region IV held a Civil Rights Advocacy Training Institute (CRATI) in Kansas City, KS on Apr. 28. The training, for officers and representatives of local units, is designed to teach them how to do the work of the NAACP.

Participants were able to gain information on conducting advocacy campaigns in economic empowerment, education, justice, health and voter empowerment; learned new methods and techniques for designing impactful civil rights campaigns; connect with other activists, members, and State Conference officers; and hear from members of the National Board of Directors, and national staff.



Hillary Shelton, director to the NAACP's Washington Bureau and Senior Vice President for Advocacy and Policy updated attendees on issues the NAACP is currently working on in DC.

Rev. Gil Ford the National Director of

Unit Administration gave a workshop on unit compliance and bylaws. Kevin Myles, the NAACP Southeast Regional Director, and former Wichita and Kansas State NAACP

President, returned to his NAACP roots to conduct a training session on VoterBuilder, a powerful national database technology to track voters and to help run campaigns. Region

IV of the NAACP covers ten states: Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana. ●●

Photos by NAACP



PHOTOS: 1. NAACP Southwest Regional Director Kevin Myles. was among the NAACP national staff members who coled sessions at the conference. 2. Members of the Missouri NAACP delegation. 2. Members of the Kansas delegation.

Kansas Poor People's Campaign to Kick Off Monday May 14 in Topeka

Six-week campaign pulls on a cross-section of the country to demand sweeping reforms on: voting rights laws, policies to address poverty, ecological devastations and a war economy.

The Kansas Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival will kick off a six-week season of nonviolent direct action Monday in Topeka, demanding a massive overhaul of the nation's voting rights laws, new programs to lift up the 140 million Americans living in poverty, immediate attention to ecological devastation and measures to curb militarism and the war economy.

The rally in Kansas is one of over 30 actions across the country Monday by poor and disenfranchised people, clergy and advocates, who will engage in 40 days of nonviolent direct action and voter mobilization, among other activities, as a movement aimed at transforming the nation's political, economic and moral structures. The campaign builds on the original Poor People's Campaign envisioned by

Martin Luther King, Jr., begun 50 years ago, by his supporters, just weeks after his assassination.

Durell Gilmore, who lives in Wichita and serves on the steering committee of the Kansas Poor People's

Campaign, said, "I'm involved with the Poor People's Campaign because as a Black man, I'm directly impacted by poverty, racism, militarism and environmental destruction. I work and live in an area that has been systematically divested from having adequate housing, access to healthy food, and occupied by a law enforcement that

does not view its involvement as a peace-keeping presence."

Protests and other activities during this first week will focus on child poverty, women in poverty and people with disabilities. Subsequent weeks will focus on systemic racism, veterans and the war economy, ecological devastation, inequality, and our nation's distorted moral narrative.

At the conclusion of the 40 days, on June 23, poor people, clergy and advocates from Kansas and the other participating states will join together for a mass mobilization at the US

Capitol in Washington, DC.

They'll then return to their states to continue building the campaign, which is expected to be a multi-year effort.

If you're interested in being involved, the kick off will be held on Mon., May 14, beginning at 2 p.m. at the state capitol before moving to a nearby location for non-violent direct action.

The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is co-organized nationally by Repairers of the Breach, a social justice organization founded by the Rev. Barber. ●●

LYNCHING from page 4

The monument was designed by Stevenson and his colleagues at EJI in collaboration with the Boston-based MASS Design. Amazingly, the monument, was built on a budget of only \$15 million, in an age when major national memorial tend to cost \$100 million and up.

Many visitors shed tears and stared intently at the commemorative columns.

Toni Battle drove from San Francisco to attend. "I'm a descendant of three lynching victims," Battle said, her face wet with tears. "I wanted to come and honor them and also those in my family that couldn't be here."

Ava DuVernay, the Oscar-nominated film director, told several thousand

people at a conference marking the memorial launch to "to be evangelists and say what you saw and what you experienced here. ... Every American who believes in justice and dignity must come here ... Don't just leave feeling like, 'That was amazing. I cried.' ... Go out and tell what you saw."

As for her own reaction, DuVernay said: "This place has scratched a scab. It's really open for me right now."

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, a longtime civil rights activist, told reporters after visiting the memorial that it would help to dispel America's silence on lynching.

"Whites wouldn't talk about it because of shame. Blacks wouldn't talk about it because of fear," he said.

The memorial is located a few blocks from the EJI's new museum, which explains lynching as a direct

legacy of slavery, a way of enforcing White supremacy and a de facto extension of the slave system after its legal abolition. Exhibits explore a consistent history of violence and control over African Americans: If lynching was a way of sustaining the exploitation of slavery, mass incarceration continues to extend the trauma of lynching with devastating damage to Black families and communities. ●●

28 Greater KC Links Black & White Affair a Huge Draw

KANSAS CITY SOCIAL

The Greater Kansas City Chapter of the Links, Inc, definitely know how to throw a party and the word is getting around. Of course, that must be why their annual Black and White Affair, held Sat., April 28, at the Allen Village High School Event Center, was packed with lively party guests.

There was food, drinks, interesting conversation, and a silent

auction. A big hit this year was the beautiful, bright and original Black artwork painted by the talented students of Allen Village.

Proceeds from the art sale, silent auction and

tickets sales benefit the Links local scholarships and community programing initiatives. ●●

PHOTOS: 1. Making the trip from Topeka for the event were: Dakie Washington, Nicole Graves, Marsha Griggs (from KC) and Candi Moss. 2. The Ladies of Links looked fabulous. 3. Original artwork by Allen Village students sold quickly. Guest included: 4. Danny Wilson and Tosha Houston-Wilson, 5. Vaughn and Trina Taylor, 6. Gwendolyn and Donald Pearl, and 7. Randy Hall, with Joyce and Louis Neal.



Photos by Dignified Digital



Friends of Yates Remember Victims of Homicides

The Wyandotte County community, families of fallen victims, and community officials came together on April 30, to remember those who lost their lives to homicide in 2017.

The Crime Awareness Coordinating Effort (C.A.C.E.) held its 19th Annual Memorial Candle Lighting Service and Forum in recognition of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This year's memorial service was in remembrance of the 48 victims of homicide.

C.A.C.E. was formed in 1998 to bring together local businesses, law enforcement personnel, community leaders

and concerned citizens to begin the dialogue about how crime was debilitating the Kansas City, Kansas, community. The program serves as a support system for victims families and educates the Wyandotte County community on the progress made to diminish the threat of violence.

C.A.C.E. is a program service of Friends of Yates, Inc. and co-sponsored by the Wyandotte County District Attorney's Victim Assistance Program along with the Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department's Victim Services Unit. ●●



PHOTOS: 1. Shanta Barnett lights a candle for her son Brandon Browne who died in 2017. 2. Major Kelli Baliff of the Sheriff's Dept. served as emcee. 3. (L-) Laroy West and Monique Robinson there were there in memory of their loved one Shelton Estell, are accompanied by Yates Representative Shanice Gipson. 4. (L-R) Damon Daniel, Dept. Chief Tyrone Garner, Sheriff Don Ash, and District Attorney Mark Dupree were among the members of the panel. 5. Executive Director of Friends of Yates, LaDora Lattimore spoke to those in attendance.

Photos by Dignified Digital



MAY 10, 2018

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Young Katherine Carper's Testimony Helped Seal the Brown Case

•A quiet hero, only recently has Katherine Carper Sawyer began to proudly acknowledge the role she played in American history.

By Bonita Gooch
The Community Voice

There are many heroes of Brown versus Topeka BOE: Thurgood Marshall, Atty. Charles Scott, Oliver Brown and his daughter Linda. While the Browns were the named plaintiffs, there were four other Topeka plaintiffs, all women: Zelma Henderson, Sadie Emanuel, Lucinda Todd and Lena Carper. Between the four ladies, there were five children: Vicki and Donald Henderson, James Emanuel, Nancy Todd, and Katherine Carper.

Katherine Carper played a special role in this historic case -- she was the only one of the children called to testify in the case. It might have been because Carper was likely the oldest of the six children. When the Supreme Court decision was handed down on May 17, 1954, Carper was finishing the sixth grade and next year who would attend a Topeka junior high school, and upper level Topeka schools were already integrated. Only Topeka elementary schools were segregated pre Topeka v BOE.

She gave her testimony in 2nd floor court room of the Federal Building in downtown Topeka. The first floor of the building housed the post office. She didn't go into the court room unprepared, they told her what to expect. There would be a judge, a lawyer would ask her questions and she was to tell the truth.

She did as she was told; answered

the lawyer's questions, but she didn't understand why she was doing it, let alone begin to understand the significance of her testimony. In fact, only recently has 77-year-old, Katherine Caper Sawyer, begun to proudly acknowledge the role she played in American history.

As a young girl, Sawyer's grandmother lived on the same street as Lucinda Todd, secretary of the Topeka NAACP. The Todd house was often the meeting place for the NAACP and all things civil rights in Topeka. Lucinda's daughter Nancy was close to her age, so the girls played together, inside and outside the house. Sawyer says she remembers the Todd house being full of activity -- meetings and discussions about things.

"People don't understand, I was a kid. I didn't know, understand, what they were talking about," Sawyer explained.

Sawyer remembers her mother loading her up, along with Nancy and Lucinda Todd, and driving them to a "White" school, to see if they would let her enroll. Of course it was a test, a way to document the racism, and as expected, they were turned away.

Her next involvement with the case came when she was called to testify. The lawyers asked her to tell them about her bus ride to school.

Here's Sawyer's truth.

Even though there were two schools near my house -- Randolph and Gage -- I had to walk from my house to Gage Blvd that was four city blocks. There were mud streets with

no payment and houses were few and far between. When it rained, you just stood out in it.

Mine was the longest ride. Maybe that's why they asked me to testify. They were city buses, not school buses. There was one adult, the bus driver, and he couldn't care less. He was White.

I was about the first person to get on the bus and we would wind all around, stopping and picking up kids. By the time we got to school the bus would be loaded, three or four of us in a seat. Kids who didn't have a seat, just didn't have a seat.

There were fights. Folks caused a lot of turmoil, but the bus driver didn't care. He didn't stop it.

"We didn't question it. You just did what was normal and that was normal," she added.

As the case advanced through the court system, Sawyer says she started to catch snippets of what was going on. "I hear the Black teachers were going to lose their jobs. That's what I knew, not the whole significance," said Sawyer. "I remember being afraid my teachers were going to be mad at me"

For 60 years, she talked very little about the case or her role in it. Periodically, a reporter would show up and interview her mother, but Sawyer said she was never asked to talk about her role. She got married, raised four kids, and never told any of them anything about it.

Somehow her son Brian learned enough to become curious and started digging. By the time Michelle Obama came to Topeka in 2011, he had spread the word about his mom's



PHOTOS: (above) 1953 photo of parents Brown V. Board of Education case: (front row L-R) Vicki Henderson, Donald Henderson, Linda Brown, James Emanuel, Nancy Todd, and Katherine Carper; (back row L-R) Zelma Henderson, Oliver Brown, Sadie Emanuel, Lucinda Todd, & Lena Carper. (right) Linda Carper Sawyer was the only student from the Topeka case to give live testimony. (right) Carper Sawyer, now a great-grandmother, resides in Western Topeka.



involvement far enough to get some attention.

"I don't know who he spoke to our how he did it,' but I wound up on that stage with her," she said proudly.

Up until then, the case did play a significant role in her life of life, but now

that the case is "history," more attention is being paid to the Brown case and other civil rights break through.

So far, she's given only a few interviews, but she's beginning to grow more comfortable with her significant role in history. ●●

Brown Anniversary Recognition to Include Historic Sites Tours

The Scott's Law Office, Lucinda Todd's home where planning meetings were held, the U.S. Post Office/Courtroom where testimony was given and the statue commemorating McKinley Burnett former president of the Topeka NAACP Branch, are just a few of the important locations around Topeka that played a role in the landmark

Brown Vs Board case that changed the course of America's education system.

Beyond just the Brown Museum, this year planners of the 64th Anniversary commemoration of the case have organized the Monroe to Sumner Story Tour, to include 10 historic Topeka sites that played a major role in the case.

The one hour bus tours will be held from 1- 5 p.m. on Sat., May 19. Buses will load on the half hour at Sumner and on the hour at Monroe. At Sumner there will be narratives by alumni and Storycorps recordings of individuals involved with the case will be played at Monroe. There will also be special interactive features at both locations. ●●

The Story of Two Brown Murals

By the end of the summer, Topeka will have two murals honoring the historic Brown V. BOE case.

The first mural is complete and will be unveiled on the third floor of Kansas Capitol on Thurs., May 17, from noon to 1 p.m. The Brown V. BOE mural illustrates the important role Kansas played in the integration of our nation's schools.

With education at the core of the court case, Artist Michael Young of Kansas City focuses the mural on a teacher and her students learning about the case along with their Kansas history studies. In the backdrop is the struggle that leads the nation toward change.

Artist Michael Toombs, will direct the painting of the 130' x 30' across the street from the Brown v. Board National Historic Site. The project gets underway this Sat., May 12. Joining him will be a team of artists and hundreds of members of the community who are invited to help paint the mural on Thus / Fri/Sat of all weekends except Memorial Day weekend from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The mural is expected to be finished by the end of June. To paint, just show up, but larger groups should reach out in advance to artsconnecttopeka.org.

This mural will be a collection of 45 pictures submitted from entries to the annual Living the Dream Picture contest. ●●

30 Join Kansas Southwest COGIC for their annual **Auxiliaries In Ministry (AIM) Convention June 11 - 15**, at Mt. Olive Tabernacle of Praise COGIC, 909 N. St. Paul St., Wichita. Daily activities for Children and Youth at 10 a.m. and dynamic evening speakers at 7 p.m. with Special Guest: Supt David Whittley and Pastor John Hannah from Chicago, Ill. **See ad this page!** ●●
Bishop Mark Gilkey, Prelate - Pastor Roderick Houston, AIM Chairman

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TUESDAY
 SUPT. DAVID WHITTLEY, President
 National Scholastic Motivation Ministries

WEDNESDAY
 PASTOR JOHN HANNAH
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Jackson Mortuary Wichita

Ballard, Hattie Lee, 83 died 05/05/18. Service will be 05/12/18 at 11 a.m. at Greater New Testament Baptist Church. She is survived by: son; Billy Ballard, brother; Willie Taylor and sister; Mary Lee

Dodd, Sherry Stormy, 26, died 4/29/18. Service was held 5/7/18 at Source Church. She is survived by: father; Robert E. Dodd II, mother; Ruby A. Lozano, sisters; Cristal Sebastian, Stephanie Hamilton, brothers; Robert K. Dodd, Adrian Garcia and Cristian Dodd.

Johnson, Willie Mae, 92, died 5/4/18. She is survived by: son' Ivan Johnson and family members; Vienter Case, Willie McIntosh Service is pending.

Mitchell, Bill, 92, died 5/4/18. Service is pending.

Woodard, Artensia 83, died 05/09/18. Services are pending

R. J. Bethea Wichita

Bell, Mary Lee, 79, died 4/29/18. A graveside service will be held 5/12/18, 11 a.m. at Wichita Park Cemetery &

Mausoleum.

Bonds, Shantae, 36, died 4/30/18. Service was held 5/5/18 at St. Luke Church of God and Christ.

Hutsell (Lohrding), Esther Ruth infant. Died 05/04/18 Service pending

Mathenia, Walter, Lee, 53 died 05/07/18. Service pending

Mayfield, Danna Denise, 59, died 4/29/18. Service will be held 5/12/18, 10 a.m. at Greater Pentecostal Church of God and Christ.

Riggins, Jeremy Bernard, 37, died 4/29/18. Service was held 5/4/18 at Robert J. Bethea Jr. Funeral & Crema-

tions .
West (Cook) Betty Lois, 73, died 05/06/18. Service pending

Biglow Funeral Wichita

Fountain, Jr., John "Ricky" Richard, 20, died 4/29/18. Service was held 5/4/18 at Biglow Funeral Chapel.

Williams, Sheila, L. 53, died 05/07/18. Service is pending

Thatcher Funeral Kansas City

Riley, Margaret Ann, 70, died 4/24/18. Service was held 5/4/18 at Trinity A.M.E. Church.

Russell, Clifton Edward, 67, died 4/29/18. Service was held 5/9/18 at Thatcher's Funeral Chapel.

Sample, II, John Thomas, 73, died 4/18/18. Service was held 4/28/18 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

NATIVE from page 32

paid off in a big way. He was offered a permanent position as the Atlanta Program Coordinator for New Look. He also holds a position as a member of the nonprofit's board of directors. Currently, he facilitates bi-weekly sessions with Atlanta Youth and estimates he has seen the national New Look program reach out to about 20,000- 35,000 students. But still, the youth mentor thinks of himself as just that typical cat from the inner city of Kansas City, Kansas who was blessed with an invaluable opportunity.

30th and Brown was the neighborhood Harris was raised in by both his grandmother and his single mother Francine Harris who worked three jobs to make ends meet for Harris and his younger brother, John.

"She used to come home and take my hands and rub them on top of hers and let me feel the calluses," Harris said. "She would say, 'these are the hands of a working woman. Don't be like your father.'"

Harris' father, nicknamed Charlie Hustle, was in jail during most of his son's childhood. On Sunday, Harris would attend church services at Rosedale Church with his grandmother, but during the week there weren't many other cool, positive male role models present.

"My dad was one of the biggest drug kingpins in Kansas City, Kansas," Harris said. "Despite the well wishes of my mother, like all young men, I found myself in between the streets and my education."

His 8th Grade year was a pivotal one for Harris. That year he decided to go from being a smart mouth in class to being a seriously smart student. When he began applying himself, he started earning straight

A's and praise reports from his teachers. Harris was also a gifted music artist, who went by the stage name Dewey the Don and sold his in-demand CD's around the neighborhood, sometimes making a profit of \$300 a day.

While working a part-time job at a fast food restaurant, Harris met his future music partner, Casanova Butler, aka Novacaine. Despite different presentation styles, they both clicked and worked well together in part because of their common love for Texas hip-hop music. Together, they made CD's and sold music under the group moniker Urban Republic.

As an ambassador with New Look, Harris was required to learn the ins and outs of how the camp operated. The program has an 8th grade level, which helps participants identify their passion, and attach that passion to a community issue that will help create change. The second level is a leadership academy. There, students' complete courses designed around four different pillars: talent, education, career, and service. The third level is a mogul-in training program that prepares young college students to come back to New Look and lead the academies. Harris said that completing the program helped him to sustain himself as an entrepreneur. He continues to work on selling music and promoting shows.

He opened his own studio, and continues to produce, record and promote shows as Dewey the Don with his partner Novacaine. When Harris accepted a job on the New Look's Board of Directors they sent him back to school and in 2011, Harris earned his degree in audio engineering from Atlanta Institute of Music.

"[I relate] to Harris' unwavering

loyalty and belief in whatever it is that he is doing," Butler said. "[We've kept at it] because of our passion to deliver a product that tells our story and the stories of others like us."

"James is a natural born leader," said Yvette Cook, president and CEO of Camp New Look. "He is charismatic, and truly authentic. He is an amazing motivator and inspirational speaker. He motivates young people from across the globe by sharing his story and by encouraging them to follow their passion."

Cook said that she looks forward to what the future will bring for Harris and New Look.

Whether it is on an international stage performing or speaking, James will continue to motivate others in a big way," she said. "He is a name to remember and a rising star to watch."

He has talked to youth directly from his own unique experiences as the son of a drug kingpin and about coming of age in the new millennium

Today, Harris is still flexing his entrepreneurial skills and is building a house in Lawrenceville, Georgia. He looks forward to making music as Dewey the Don and making Urban Republic a bigger name on the National music scene. However, he never imagined coming up in inner city KCK that he would one day work with a legend like Usher Raymond.

"Ultimately we can't pick and choose who our parents are. I couldn't help that my dad was a hustler or that my mom had to do what she had to do to sacrifice time of being there with us because she had to work. All I could do was make the best out of it. Life is 10% of what happens to you and 90% how you respond." ●●

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OPERATION:

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Fraud Watch Network

Kansas City Native Inspiring Youth Around the World

Usher's New Look Camp Changed James Harris' life and as a full time employee for the non-profit, he's doing the same for others.

By Glenn Frizell
 The Community Voice

In fall 2007, James Harris aka rapper Dewey Da Don was a 17 year old senior enrolled in a JC Harmon High School Entrepreneurship when his teachers – two of his favorites – caught him in possession of marijuana. They turned him in, but it was an incident that became a turning point in his life.

Instead of sending him to jail, the teachers suggested he attend a new entrepreneurship and leadership camp at New Look, a non profit organization started by R&B superstar Usher Raymond. New Look's mission is dedicated to improving the lives of children in underserved communities.

His attendance wasn't a given, but after competing against 500 local students Harris was selected for the camp held in Atlanta Georgia. Ms. Rollins, one of the teachers who recommended him, was so afraid he might chicken out she convinced him to spend the night before at her home and personally took him to the airport to catch his scheduled flight.

"The extra effort and faith invested

in me by teachers told me I had no choice but to succeed," he said. "I looked at it as I had nothing to lose, but potentially everything to gain.

"So, when I got to the camp, I was working ahead of people. The same business student who couldn't complete one business plan in a full

said. "I had to remove myself from them, those type of situations, because the streets be calling and they pull you in."

Never did Harris imagine that he would one day work with Usher Raymond, who he still considers a legend. As New Look Global Ambassador for Youth, Harris has traveled to countries all across the globe including the Philip-



PHOTOS: 1. Kansas City, KS native James Harris and Usher at a fundraiser for Usher's New Look Foundation. The organization works to improve the lives of children in under-served communities. 2. Usher looks on as Harris testifies in Washington D.C. in support of the Save America Act. 3. Harris, speaks a lot to youth groups, and he usually shares his story about how he almost got lost to the Kansas City streets.



year within two weeks had completed a total of four." Harris said. "At the end of the camp I had created a song and a dance that was buzzing over the Camp like crazy. It caught the attention of several artists there and I won the Star Camper Award."

Impressed by his authenticity and charisma, New Look executives invited him back to participate as an ambassador for the program the next year. Still, during the program break he ran into old KCK friends who looked at him like he was speaking a different language.

"They were focused on why are you dressing and talking different," Harris

pinies, London, Africa and Hong Kong. He received two grants and used them to increase voter registration and to raise funds for The Nothing But Nets campaign, that raises awareness about malaria.

In February 2009, Harris testified with Usher in front of Congress in support of the Serve America Act, and later watched as Usher and Sean Combs ate fried chicken with forks at a private White House dinner reception with President Obama.

In 2011, Harris' work with new life

See **NATIVE** page 32



JUNETEENTH

JUNETEENTH CALENDAR IN OUR MAY 24 ISSUE

MAKE SURE YOUR EVENT IS LISTED.

Email Guillory@tcvpub.com no later than Friday, May 24.