

Black Men Are Biggest Beneficiaries of the First Step Act

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

The First Step Act, the sentencing reform act passed by Congress last December is benefiting thousands of incarcerated Black men, according to a new report.

According to the United States Sentencing Commission, more than 1,000 individuals incarcerated in federal prisons have been granted sentence reductions in the four months since the First Step Act was signed into law.

Over 91% of the individuals whose sentences have been shortened were African American and 98% were male,

the USSC said.

Their sentences were reduced by an average of 73 months or 29.4% percent as a result of the resentencing provisions allowed under the Act, which shortened mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent drug offenses and required resentencing to be applied retroactively to individuals convicted of crack cocaine offenses before 2010 – when the federal government reduced disparities between crack and powder cocaine offenses.

“The 2010 re-set of the crack-powder cocaine disparity, under



“To be clear, the First Step Act is a win for criminal justice reform. But the Republicans who wrote the law never meant for it to reduce the sentences of hundreds of prisoners. They never intended for it to address the racist war on drugs,” said Michael Harriot in a piece for The Root.

the Fair Sentencing Act passed that year, disparity was aimed at tackling the disproportionate racial impact on nonviolent drug offenders,” according to the Criminal Justice Network’s Crime Report.

The law also replaced a federal “three strikes” rule that imposed a life sentence for three or more convictions – with a 25-year sentence.

The average age of those granted resentencing motions was 45 – and the average age at the time of the original sentence was 32. Over a quarter of those resentencing motions were granted by federal courts in Florida, South Carolina and Virginia. ●●

How Congress — With Republicans — Passed Criminal Justice Reform

After nearly a decade of trying to pass a criminal justice reform bill, how did Democrats get Republican support for passage of the First Step Act?

Signed into law by President Donald Trump in December, the First Step Act reportedly was the first major overhaul of the nation’s sentencing regime in decades. Well, certainly it was the first sig-

(R-Iowa) and Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) failed to pass mainly due to opposition from conservative Senators including then-Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala).

So when Pres. Donald Trump appointed Sessions his attorney general, few people thought there was much hope for passing sentencing reform during Trump’s presidency. However in early 2018, the White House brokered

hundreds of Black inmates was not included in the first draft of the First Step Act.”

It did not address the crack vs. cocaine disparity. It didn’t address drug sentencing. It didn’t address sentencing reform at all,” Harriot said.

Because of the bill’s initial lack of any real sentencing reform hundreds of civil rights organizations initially opposed the bill. Nonetheless, the First Step Act passed the House of Representatives by a wide margin of 360 to 59.

The bill finally signed into law was a significantly amended version of what Trump brought forward.

However, a breakthrough occurred in November, when lawmakers and advocates reached a compromise and amended the First Step Act Bill to incorporate four provisions from the SRCA.

“These amendments were only included when dozens of organizations like the Color of Change and the Prison Policy Initiative urged Democratic lawmakers to vote against the bill unless Republicans agreed to include prison and sentencing reform initiatives,” he said.

It still took some political maneuvering to get the amended bill through the Senate, but thanks to Sen. Mitch McConnell – yes, thanks to Mitch McConnell – the bill actually got to the floor for a

First Step, Next Steps

The biggest limitation of the First Step Act is that it only applies to the federal prison system. With just 183,000 inmates, the federal prison system is tiny in comparison to America’s total incarcerated population of 1.5 million. State prison systems make up the vast majority of that population, and that is where more reform efforts must take place.

See our story on Page 8 for suggestions for criminal justice reform measures that can help reduce Kansas’ overcrowded prison system.

nificant reform bill passed since 2010 when a Democratic Congress, with a Democratic president led the passage of the Fair Sentencing Act that reduced the sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine offenses — a disparity that disproportionately hurt racial minorities.

More ambitious overhaul plans had been stalled in Congress, despite bipartisan support. The Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act (SRCA) introduced in 2015 by senators Chuck Grassley

the Prison Reform and Redemption Act, a bipartisan bill aimed at improving conditions in federal prisons. This bill, which was renamed the First Step Act after some modest improvements were added, lacked any meaningful sentencing reform component.

In writing about the benefits of the First Step Act for The Root, Michael Harriot said people should hold off in praising the GOP for reducing sentencing disparities until they understand that the provision that “released these

See **CRIMINAL** page 20

NATIONAL BRIEFS

ERIC GARNER’S KILLER IS FIRED, BUT POLICE UNION SHOUTS ‘FOUL’

After five years of investigations and protests, the New York City Police Department has fired an officer involved in the 2014 chokehold death of Eric Garner, the unarmed man whose dying gasps of “I can’t breathe” gave voice to a national debate over race and police use of force.

Police Commissioner James O’Neill said on Aug. 19 that he fired Daniel Pantaleo, who is White, based on a recent recommendation of a department disciplinary judge.

O’Neill said he thought Pantaleo’s use of the banned chokehold as he wrestled with Garner was a mistake that could have been made by any officer in the heat of an arrest.

But it was clear Pantaleo had broken department rules and “can no longer effectively serve as a New York City police officer.”



FEDERAL EMPLOYEE UNIONS SUE FOR THE RIGHT TO CRITICIZE TRUMP

The nation’s largest union of federal workers filed a lawsuit against the United States to protect employees’ First Amendment rights to criticize President Donald Trump and other political candidates.

The lawsuit is in response to guidance issued by the Office of Special Counsel last year that restricts federal employees from advocating for the impeachment of the president or a political candidate or using terms on social media such as “#theResistance” or “#resist.”

In the November 2018 three-page guidance, it says participating in “strong criticism or praise” of a presidential administration’s policies or actions, or of the candidates themselves, could be in violation of the Hatch Act, which prevents federal employees from engaging in partisan political activity.

“OSC’s vague, over-broad guidance creates an opening for managers and political appointees to go after career civil servants for politically motivated reasons,” he said in a statement. “In fact, the guidance is so broad, an employee could even be guilty of violations if they voice support for the president’s policies.” ●●

THE Community VOICE

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Free

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African Americans Benefit Most From First Step Act

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KCK Turns Out for P.R.I.D.E. Parade

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The first document Africans in Virginia arrived here in Aug. 1619 on the White Lion, an English privateer based in the Netherlands. Colonial officials trade food for these “20 and odd” Africans, who had been captured from a Portuguese slave ship. Among present-day Hampton’s earliest African residents were Anthony and Isabella. Their son William was the first child of African ancestry known to have been born in Virginia (ca. 1624). Many of the earliest Africans were held as slaves, but some individuals became free. A legal framework for hereditary, lifelong slavery in Virginia evolved during the 1600s. The United States abolished slavery in 1865.

1619 - 2019
It All Began 400 Years Ago
America Commemorates Slavery's Beginning **5**

Health

What Is CBD & Does it Work?

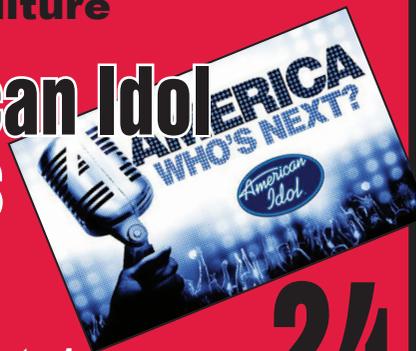
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American Idol Tryouts

Coming to Wichita Sept. 4



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Kansas City

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Our Top 5 Online Stories

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

1 1919: What Was the Red Summer? Ghosts of Race Riots Linger 100 Yrs Later

Black men had come home from fighting in World War I and demanded better treatment from White America. The result was White-on-Black riots across the US.

2 Chef Anthony Card Has Offer to Return to Wichita

Local tastebuds are excited about the possibility of a new downtown spot from the man behind the much-missed Restaurant 155 and Spoonz. The proposed restaurant/lounge could open by January.



3 Wichita: How to Use Those New Scooters - Have a Smartphone

Our most popular story for the last month has been our brief how-to guide on renting the new electric scooters in Old Town. People are hopping on and scooting around, so it must be easy, right?

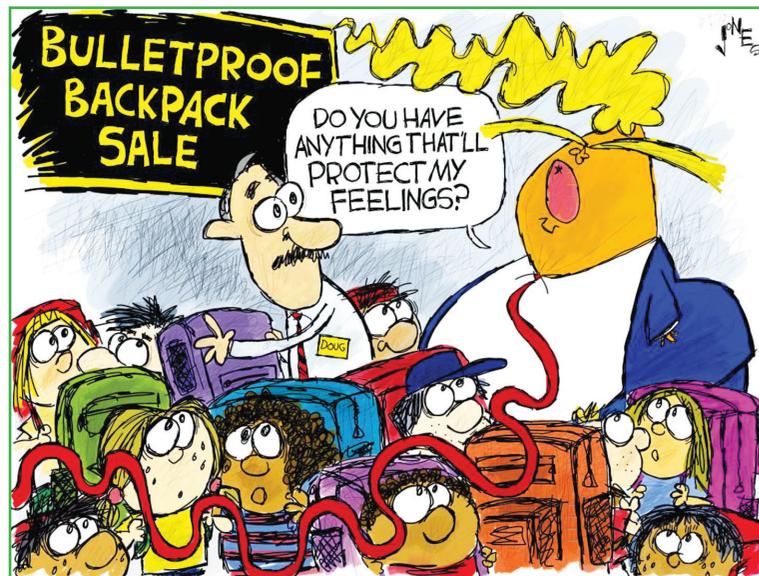
4 Soul Reset: A Pastor Shares How to Recharge

The Rev. Junius Dotson was too busy to realize how worn out he was - until he collapsed while preaching a funeral and woke up in an ambulance. His new book shares his journey back to wellness.



5 'Lift Her Up' Movement Focus: Shared Success

This group of Kansas City-area women network and support each other in professional and personal accomplishments. They've grown in numbers since starting in 2017. Find them on Facebook by searching for "Lift Her Up Movement."



CLAYTOONZ by Clay Jones

Top Photo Front: The Diamond Dolls Step Troupe of KC took part in the P.R.I.D.E. Parade. Photos on Page 9.

Home SWEET HOME

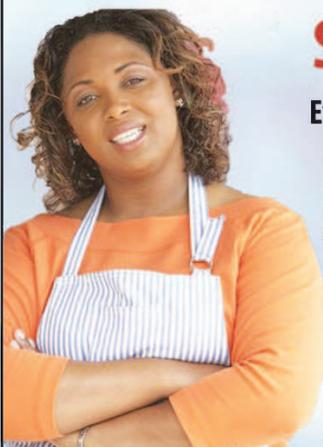


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THE OBAMAS' NETFLIX TAKEOVER IS GETTING CRAZY GOOD REVIEWS

In May 2018 former President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama inked a multiyear agreement with Netflix to produce original series and films for the streaming giant, and now the first of those is available to watch. Called "American Factory," the documentary follows the events of a



Filmmakers Steven Bogner and Julia Reichert with the Obamas

Chinese billionaire opening a new factory in an abandoned General Motors plant in Ohio and hiring 2,000 blue-collar American workers to work alongside Chinese immigrants.

So far the reviews for "American Factory" have been off the charts. Currently, it's got a 97% Tomatometer rating on review site Rotten

Tomatoes. That's good news for both Higher Grounds Productions, the Obamas' Netflix production company, which acquired "American Factory" after it played at Sundance earlier this year, and for Netflix.

The Obamas already have at least another four pieces of original content in the pipeline for Netflix.

"American Factory" is streaming on Netflix as of Aug. 20.

LIZZO, LIL NAS X TAPPED TO PERFORM AT VMA'S

Lil Nas X, Lizzo and Shawn Mendes are set to perform at the 2019 MTV Video Music Awards.

MTV announced Aug. 20 that Bad Bunny, Camila Cabello, J Balvin and Rosalia will also hit the stage at the Aug. 26 event, taking place at the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J.

Ariana Grande and Taylor Swift, who was previously announced as a



Lizzo



Elliott

performer, scored the most nominations. They are competing for 10 prizes.

Missy Elliott will receive the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award and will also perform. Comedian-actor Sebastian Maniscalco will host the VMAs.

CICELY TYSON JOINS CAST OF DUVERNAY SERIES ON OWN

Cicely Tyson will join the cast as a series regular in Ava DuVernay's new romance anthology series on OWN, "Cherish the Day."

The network said that the 94-year-old legend will play Miss Luma Lee Langston, a star of stage and screen in decades past. She joins previously announced leads Xosha Roquemore and Alano Miller.

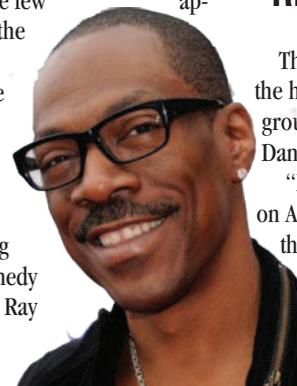


Roquemore & Miller

The series, which premieres in 2020, will chronicle the lives of one couple per season, with each episode spanning a single day.

'DOLEMITE IS MY NAME': EDDIE MURPHY CHANNELS RUDY RAY MOORE FOR BIOPIC

The legendary comedian and actor has made few appearances on the big screen in the last decade or so but with "Dolemite Is My Name," he's returning and channeling one of the comedy greats in Rudy Ray Moore, one



Murphy

karate-chop and dirty joke at a time.

The Netflix-produced film features Murphy starring as the "Godfather of Rap" as he transitions from being a floundering comic to a word-of-mouth sensation thanks to the '70s blaxploitation character Dolem-

ite. The film will debut on Netflix and have a limited theatrical release in the fall.

Tituss Burgess, Craig Robinson, Mike Epps, Da'Vine Joy Randolph, Keegan-Michael Key, Snoop Dogg, and Wesley Snipes star alongside Murphy in the Craig Brewer-directed film.

DIDDY ANNOUNCES REBOOT OF 'MAKING THE BAND'

The music mogul announced that the hit series, where he discovered groups including platinum-sellers Danity Kane, would return to MTV.

"Making the Band" made its debut on ABC in 2000, Diddy re-vamped the show for MTV in 2002 and discovered the rap group Da Band. Diddy also launched the careers of Day 26, and Donnie Klang — who released No. 1 albums under his Bad Boy Records — on the show.

Diddy went viral recently when he asked his social media followers if he should bring back the series.

A global casting call for the show was announced across social media platforms, and the show will return in 2020. ●●



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In 2017, the United States Congress passed the 400 years of African-American History Commission Act establishing a commission and giving them a charge of developing activities throughout the country to commemorate the arrival of Africans in the English colonies in 1619, an event widely regarded as the commencement of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade in North America.

The weekend of Aug. 22-25 has been identified as a national weekend of remembrance. Activities are planned across the country, the biggest of them in and around Fort Monroe and Hampton, VA. Point Comfort, near Hampton, is believed to have been the location of the first arrival, an arrival that would shape not only the future of that area, but also the subsequent development of the United States.

'Some 20 and Odd Negroes': The Beginning of Revolutionary Change

"Some 20 and odd Negroes," was said to have been how it was duly noted by the colony's secretary, John Rolfe (famous as the widower of Pocahontas), that the first African slaves had arrived in America.

The first 20 arrived in late August 1619 on the English pirate ship the White Lion. A few days later, more arrives on another pirate ship, The Treasurer.

The Africans had begun their trip in Angola on board the Portuguese ship the San Juan Bautista. By the time the ship arrived in Mexico, nearly half of the 350 who began the trip had died. On their way, the pirate ships intercepted and boarded the ship and captured between 50 and 60 of the enslaved Africans. The pirates sailed on to Port Comfort, where they exchanged their human cargo for food.

"Few ships, before or since, have unloaded a more momentous cargo," historian and journalist Lerone Bennett wrote in his 1962 book, "Before the Mayflower: A History of the Negro in America." The book shocked America with the revelation that slaves arrived in America before the pilgrims, who arrived one year later, in 1620.

Reportedly, the first slaves were sold to Jamestown's Gov. George Yeardley and head merchant Abraham Piersey. Of the initial 20 to 30, most were sent to work on tobacco plantations run by Yeardley and Piersey. Some worked for Jamestown's more prosperous colonists.

It is also reported that Capt. William Tucker also took two into his household, Isabella and Antony,



Historical marker shows Africans first appeared in Virginia in 1619, brought by English privateers from a Spanish slave ship they had intercepted.

and allowed them to marry. When their child William became the first recorded Black birth in the future USA, he was baptized into the Anglican faith in 1624.

There remains a question of whether the first African arrivals were slaves or indentured servants. American colonists were accustomed to indentured servants. That was how many Whites came to the New World, providing labor for a set number of years. At the end of their contracts, they received "freedom dues" of food, clothing and maybe even a parcel of land.

Some of the early Africans like Anthony and Mary Johnson, who arrived in 1621 and 1622, amassed hundreds of acres of land and owned slaves themselves. Some won their freedom in court; others, like John Punch was sentenced to permanent servitude for daring to run away.

Certainly, the early colonists had no rules for handling the early Africans,

but as their numbers increased, due to birth and the rapid growth of the slave trade, the colonists found a need to formalize their relationship with the Africans. By the end of the 17th century, records show that 6,000 African Americans lived in the colony of Virginia.

In 1705 Virginia's General Assembly enacted a series of slave codes. This series of so-called racial integrity laws institutionalized White supremacy.

Between 1500 and 1900, slaving ships transported 10 million to 12 million captive Africans across the Atlantic Ocean on a route that became known as the Middle Passage. Approximately 400,000 enslaved Africans reached what would become America. In 1861, 4 million African Americans were enslaved in America.

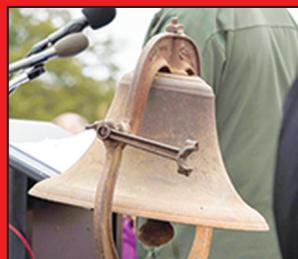
They worked hard and toiled for no pay, while on the backs of their free labor, America grew and White Americans prospered. ●●

Celebration Includes Day of Healing - Nationwide Bell Ringing Ceremony

As part of the 400th anniversary of the first landing of enslaved Africans in English-occupied North America, Aug. 25 will be a day of healing. The national event will be held at Point Comfort in Hampton, VA, now part of Fort Monroe National Monument, a unit of the National Park System.

As part of the ceremony, the park and its partners are inviting all 419 national parks, community partners and the public to come together in solidarity to ring bells simultaneously across the nation for four minutes - one for each century - to honor the first Africans who landed in 1619 at Point Comfort and 400 years of African-American history.

Bells are symbols of freedom. They are rung for joy, sorrow, alarm, and celebration. This symbolic gesture will enable Americans from



all walks of life to participate in this historic moment from wherever they are.

Find a Bell. Your bell could be big, small, old, or new. It could be lots of little bells, one church bell, or a carillon. Be creative as you create a moment that has personal meaning, power, and resonance for you and your group.

The nationwide bell ringing will take place at 3 p.m. EDT on Aug. 25. ●●

Four Kansans Being Recognized With Distinguished Service Awards

Activists is the best way to describe all four Kansas recipients of the Distinguished Service Award being presented by the 400 Years of African-American History Commission. The commissioners established the Distinguished 400 Awards to be presented during this

historic recognition.

The honorees are being recognized for their outstanding service to the community through non-profit service, philanthropy, public service and volunteerism while implementing a positive influence benefitting those in an underserved

population.

Being recognized are:

Marvin Robinson for decades worked to preserve the old Quindaro Ruins site and the history of the area. This year, after nearly a decade of effort by Robinson and others, the Quindaro

site was designated a National Commemorative Site.

U.L. "Rip" Gooch is a former pilot, aviation entrepreneur, Kansas elected official, and author. Gooch's community service includes a stint on the Kansas Commission on Civil Rights, the Wichita

City Council, and in the Kansas Senate. Gooch was one of



Robinson

See AWARDS page 20

Cheating Prosecutors in U.S. Attorney's Office Found in Contempt of Court

In a ruling handed down last week, prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Kansas City, KS, were found to have improperly listened to recorded communications between inmates and their defense attorneys and to have willfully violated court orders to preserve evidence and turn over documents to a court-appointed special master investigating the use of the video and phone recordings.

U.S. District Judge Julie Robinson in a 188-page decision handed down late Tues., Aug. 13, also held the U.S. Attorney's Office in Kansas in contempt of court, saying she would impose monetary sanctions against the government for failure to comply with the court orders to turn over evidence.

Her ruling also cited the "dysfunction and strife" in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Kansas City, KS, detailing a culture in which prosecutors recorded their conversations with others from the office and kept files and notes at home. Several managers had repeatedly sought to address abusive prosecutorial practices in that office.

"The record illustrates how deeply the Kansas City prosecutors distrusted current and past management, to the point of insubordination," the judge wrote, noting prosecutors either failed to tell managers that they had the recordings or failed to follow management's advice, such as not listening to the calls.

Special Master David Cohen said that in his years of practice, he had never been involved in a case with such broad accusations of prosecutorial misconduct.

RELIEF FOR THE CONVICTED

Because of the actions of the U.S. Attorney's staff, including cleaning a hard drive with potential evidence on it, key evidence was irretrievably lost.

The evidence that was lost, Robinson said, would have been key for

those inmates to prove whether or not the government listened to their calls.

Those losses impact more than 100 incarcerated people who have filed to have evidence returned to

rejected a deal reached between the FPD and the U.S. Attorney's Office to create a formula to reduce sentences of those affected.

The special master's investigation found that every time federal prosecu-

inmates and guards.

David Cohen, an Ohio attorney, was then appointed as special master by Robinson to look into whether prosecutors had violated attorney-client privilege in obtaining the recordings.

The court said it will award fees and costs borne by the federal public defender's office as its sanction for the contempt, and directed Brannon to submit an application for them by Sept. 24. ●●

Players in This Recent Contempt Ruling

Although not cited in the Judge's ruling, former U.S. Attorney Barry Grissom is definitely implicated in the misconduct that occurred between 2010-17. Grissom was U.S. Attorney for Kansas from 2010-16.

Grissom, a Democrat, who has announced a run to replace U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts in 2020, is definitely tainted by the ruling. Voters will have to have some serious questions about Grissom's service as U.S. Attorney.

While he's pleaded he knew nothing about his staff's access to the tapes and their use, if he knew nothing, at minimum voters will question his leadership skills.

Judge Julie Robinson once again showed her

willingness to take the toughest cases head-on, even when they involve political heavyweights. In this case, she refused to concede even in the face of the U.S. Attorney and an office full of prosecutors, and when they ignored or tried to side-step her orders, she hit them with a contempt-of-court ruling and a hefty fine.

Last year, Robinson drew national attention when she found Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach in contempt of court for also failing to follow her orders in a case that invalidated Kansas' "proof of citizenship" requirement to register to vote. The judge bashed Kobach for failing to send out – as she directed him to – postcards notifying the 18,000 people whose registration had previously been

denied, that they were not registered to vote.

She also took issue with Kobach's refusal to update the state's online manual to reflect the removal of the citizenship requirement even after her ruling against it.

In her contempt

charge, she ordered Kobach to cover the attorney's fees of the ACLU who challenged the Proof of Citizenship requirement.

Special Master David Cohen told the Kansas City Star, "I give (the judge) a lot of credit for facing difficult issues and grappling with them and coming to prudent conclusions."

In Robinson's view, the U.S. Attorney's Office attempted to make the case about two rogue attorneys gone bad - **Erin Tomasic and Tanya Treadway**, who were both assistant U.S. attorneys.

Tomasic provided testimony that gave an insight into how U.S. attorneys came to believe that listening to the phone calls was appropriate. Since the calls were recorded, and prisoners were notified their calls might be recorded, they justified that the prisoner and their attorney were waiving attorney-client privilege.

Tomasic, whose eavesdropping was implicated in two cases, was terminated, according to Robinson's ruling.

Treadway started the entire investigation into prosecutors' listening in on attorney-client phone calls when she disclosed she had possession of surveillance video from within the prison, including video from inside rooms where attorneys can meet with their clients.

Treadway retired from the U.S. Attorney's office. ●●



Tomasic



Robinson



Grissom

them or their sentences reduced as a result of the government's conduct.

The judge set up what she termed a "roadmap" to review petitions from defendants seeking reliefs based on violations of their Sixth Amendment rights to counsel and prosecutorial misconduct. At least 110 such petitions have been filed to date, and the federal public defender has told the court that more are coming. So far, at least three criminal defendants in Kansas have had their sentences vacated or their indictments dismissed as a result of the scandal.

Federal public defenders began filing these petitions after the Department of Justice, via former Assistant Attorney General Rod Rosenstein,

tors requested recorded detainee phone calls, there was a greater than one-in-four chance of also scooping up attorney-client conversations. An analysis cited in the ruling estimated that between 2010 and 2017, the U.S. Attorney's Office accessed 1,429 attorney-client phone calls.

The government also generally did not disclose to defense that it had obtained such recordings and in some cases extensively used them in their prosecution.

The routine practice of recording such calls and meetings was discovered more than three years ago by the federal public defender's office during an investigation into possible contraband smuggling at the center involving

ACLU of Kansas Holding Listening Tour

As the American Civil Liberties Union continues to work for the citizens of Kansas, they're asking to hear what's important to them. In August and September they're holding listening sessions across the state, where citizens will be able to share their perspective on the state of civil rights in your community.

Consider joining a listening session near you.

Shawnee County & Surrounding Counties:

August 20, 6 - to 8 p.m. YWCA, 225 SW. 12th St., Topeka.

Western Kansas:

August 26, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Boot Hill Distillery, 501 W. Spruce St., Dodge City.

Sedgwick County and Central Kansas:

August 27, 6 to 8 p.m. Reverie Coffee, 2206 E. Douglas, Wichita.

Riley County & Surrounding Counties:

September 10, 6 to 8 p.m. Manhattan Public Library Auditorium, 629 Poyntz Ave, Manhattan.

To request accommodations for an event, email info@aclukansas.org. ●●

Patterson Receives National Park Service Award

Marty Patterson is an untiring volunteer with a number of organizations around Topeka, but it's her volunteering with the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site that's gained her national recognition.

This week, Patterson took a trip to Washington, D.C., to receive the George and Helen Hartzog Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service Award as the individual top volunteer in the National Park Service in 2018.

The National Park Service has an extensive network of Volunteers-in-Parks (VIPs) with more than 315,000 volunteers donating more than 7.2 million hours of service each year.

Patterson, who began volunteering at the museum in 2016, worked tirelessly to bring recognition to the Brown case, particularly the student participants and the children who

attended the four segregated Black elementary schools in Topeka.

She reached out and found some of them who were still alive, a number of whom were still living in the Topeka area. Now in their 60s and 70s, she encouraged the recording of their oral histories and organized forums for students who attended Black schools to share and reminisce.

Her efforts helped lead to the creation of the documentary "I Just Want to Testify," which aired nationally on PBS.

Marty is also a board member for the Brown v. Board Sumner Legacy Trust that recently celebrated the 65th anniversary of Brown v Board with 24 events over 10 days.

Patterson was born in Topeka



Patterson

but raised in Seattle and Los Angeles. She retired in 2004 from Los Angeles County and returned to Topeka. She has been married to her husband Larry for 45 years. The couple has one daughter and four

sons. Patterson is a long-standing member of the 141-year-old Second Baptist Missionary Church, the League of Women Voters, Topeka, NAACP, Topeka Friends and Family Juneteenth Committee, and Kansas African-American Genealogy Society.

George Hartzog was the director of the National Park Service from 1964 to 1972 and created the VIP program during his tenure. After his retirement, Hartzog and his wife, Helen, created an endowment to honor the efforts of exceptional volunteers. ●●

Topeka's First National Conference to be 2020 African American Travel Conference

Visit Topeka Inc., Topeka's official destination management organization, has signed the contract for Topeka's first national conference. The

with their Midwest hospitality, convincing us that Topeka will step up to this opportunity to showcase all that it has to offer our members."



Cappuzzello said Topeka's iconic African-American heritage sites were the determining factor in the decision.

Those sites

include Monroe Elementary School, a National Historic Site under the National Park Service and centerpiece of the Brown v. Board of Education 1954 court decision on school segregation, and the Ritchie House, an Underground Railroad historic site.

The conference will be comprised of 250 travel planners from around the United States. These travel planners are decision makers in the African-American travel industry who book group travel from tour buses to reunions. ●●

Group Travel Family, dubbed "America's #1 choice in group travel solutions," has announced that Visit Topeka will host the 2020 African American Travel Conference (AATC) at the Capital Plaza Hotel, April 14-16.

"The entire African American Travel Conference family and our members are looking forward to experiencing Topeka firsthand." Joe Cappuzzello, president & CEO of the AATC, says. "The Visit Topeka sales team and the Capital Plaza Hotel impressed us during the site visit, along

Frye Family Gathering Proves Educational

The Bean/Frye Family Reunion held in Wichita earlier this month focused on education. Family patriarch Lee Frye, 86, wanted the family descendants to know their family history before all the elders passed on. So, he brought in family member and his first cousin Arlene Ruffin, who was a participant in the historic Dockum Lunch Counter Sit-In, to speak to the group during a family banquet held at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Wichita.

More than 70 family members, representing five generations, attended the reunion from Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas.

The Fryes and the Beans grew up in Oklahoma Indian Territory. Lee Frye says his grandfather walked to Oklahoma, possibly as part of the Trail of

Tears. The Fryes registered as "Freedmen" of the Cherokee Nation and as a result were able to take advantage of the terms of the Dawes Commission that gave each member of the tribe an equal plot of land.

Leander Frye married Mary Kimbrough (Lee and Arlene's grandparents) and raised 10 children (7 boys and 3 girls). Lee Frye is the son of Walter Frye, and Arlene Ruffin is the daughter of Faye "Opal" Frye.

Walter's children in attendance at the reunion included: Lee P. Frye Jr., MD; Kevin Frye a computer programmer; Daniel Frye, an OBGYN; Marilyn Taylor, a physician assistant; and the youngest, Terri LeBlance. Arlene's daughter Christine Anderson also attended the reunion. ●●



Members of the Frye family gathered for an educational family reunion banquet at the Hyatt Regency Wichita. (L-R) Arlene Ruffin, Lee Frye Sr., Lee Frye Jr., Marilyn Frye, Kevin Frye and Trent Taylor.

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8 Groups Call for Sentencing Reform As A Way to Address Kansas Overcrowding

REGIONAL NEWS

With Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly announcing plans to send 600 Kansas prisoners to a private Arizona prison, groups calling for prison reform offer suggestions for better alternatives.

No doubt, Kansas prisons are overcrowded. With a prison capacity of just under 10,000, the state's prisons are already 100 inmates overcapacity and growing. A \$360 million overhaul of the Lansing Correctional Facility approved in 2018 is turning that prison into a state-of-the-art facility, but it's only projected to increase the prison's bed capacity by 27.

Add in a shortage of prison guards so extreme that it led to the implementation of an emergency declaration at the Eldorado Correctional Facility, and it's easy to recognize that there is the potential for safety and security issues within the Kansas Department of Corrections.

Moving prisoners to Arizona may offer a short-term fix, but what Kansas needs is a long-term solution. That's where sentencing reform comes in, says groups like the Kansas Coalition for

Sentencing and Prison Reform. Their concept – reduce the number of people in Kansas prisons.

The overwhelming majority (70%) of people sent to prison in Kansas in 2015 were imprisoned for an offense that did not include violence. Addressing the population of Kansas or other prison systems can only happen in two ways: reducing admissions and reducing time served.

In 2018, the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas suggested a plan to reduce Kansas prison numbers by 50% by 2025.

REDUCE ADMISSIONS

To reduce admissions, they suggest increasing alternatives to incarceration by increasing diversion programs that give adults charged with crimes the opportunity to complete an alternative to incarceration, like treatment or community service. Kansas prosecutors use diversion at a rate of 5%, half the national average.

Many reasons have been cited for the low usage of diversion – including lack of resources, little knowledge of

diversion programs, enormous fines and fees, and prosecutors deciding not to use it.

FUNDAMENTAL DRUG POLICY CHANGE

Any meaningful effort to reduce incarceration will need to include a fundamental shift in the state's drug policy and laws. In 2015, the most common offense was drug possession (17%), followed by burglary (12%), drug trafficking (11%), and assault (10%).

To significantly impact Kansas prison overcrowding, the Kansas Sentencing Commission and ultimately the Kansas Legislature must look at a long-term solution that reforms the Kansas sentencing rule that requires mandatory minimum sentences for some drug offenses.

The ACLU plan to reduce the Kansas Prison Population by 50% suggests instituting alternatives that end all admissions for drug possession, and reducing the average time served for drug distribution by 60%

REDUCE TIME SERVED

Reducing time served, even by just



Due to overcrowding in Kansas prisons, the state is sending up to 600 inmates to a private prison in Arizona at a cost of about \$16.3 million per year.

a few months, can lead to thousands fewer people in Kansas' prisons. As of 2015, the average length of imprisonment in Kansas was 4.7 years. In 2017, nearly 1 in 3 people (30%) had been in prison for more than five years.

Those numbers can be decreased by designating low-level offenses as misdemeanors instead of felonies. Removing the mandatory minimums or expanding the suggested ranges can increase judicial discretion and prevent people from receiving excessive prison time.

INCREASE GOOD TIME CREDITS

Kansas currently has two systems for earning good time, with one offer-

ing much more time than the other. Increasing the availability of good time credits can help reduce time served and further decrease prison overcrowding.

REDUCE RACIAL DISPARITY

Yes, this does have something to do with sentencing reform. Just a few examples:

Ending sentencing enhancements based on location (drug-free school zones)

Fighting discriminatory gang sentencing enhancements that disproportionately target people of color

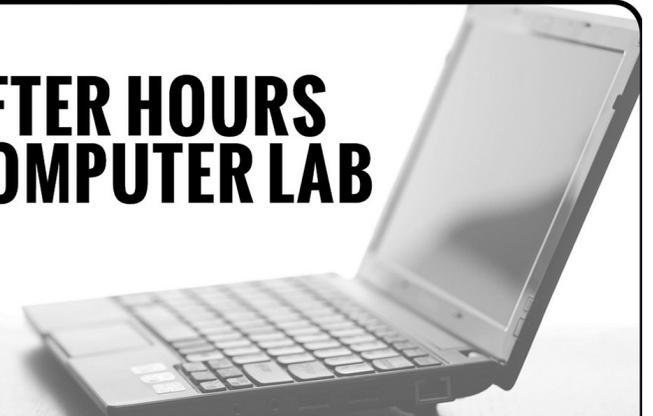
Investing in diversion/alternatives to detention in communities of color. ●●

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To learn more about other Wichita Public Library programs & services, visit wichitalibrary.org. The Wichita Public Library is a service of the City of Wichita.

Community Turns Out for a Day With P.R.I.D.E.

As a community outreach program, P.R.I.D.E., the Kansas City Kansas Chapter of the International Association of Black Professional Firefighters, held their 22nd annual "A Day With P.R.I.D.E." on Sat., Aug. 10. Following the parade along Quindaro Blvd., the event continued with hot dogs, chips and soft drinks and entertainment in Parkwood Park. Wyandotte Commissioner Gayle Townsend was the parade Grand Marshal. ●●



PHOTOS: The F.L. Schlagle Marching Stallions high stepped along the parade route 2. Wyandotte Unified Gov't Commissioner Gayle Townsend served as the parade grand marshal. 3. Youth from the Kansas City Gator Football program participated in the parade as did the KC Hornets. 4. Dancing girls included this young lady from the Diamond Dolls. Also participating in the parade were the Dynamic Divas, the Dancing Divas and Rosie's Dance Academy. 5. A wonderful message "You'll never be the best until you give the best" from these young princesses. 6. The Wyandotte High School Bulldog Marching band also entertained onlookers following the parade.

Photos by Dignified Digital

It Took Some Creative Financing to Finally Make Downtown KCK Grocery Happen

"It took a long time and a lot of hard work to make this new grocery store a reality," said Unified Government County Administrator Doug Bach at the groundbreaking for the new grocery being built on the east end of downtown Kansas City, Kansas.

Community members in large number had certainly given up on the idea that a grocery would be built in what had for a long time been classified as a food desert. For their convenience, community members were forced to shop at dollar stores that lacked fresh produce and vegetables and many other healthy options.

Finally, last month, the Wyandotte Unified Government and its many partners on the project broke ground on what will be a 14,000 sq. ft. in the 500 block of Minnesota.

"Downtown KCK and the surrounding neighborhoods have been without

a grocery store for far too long, but after years of effort by countless people, the UG is excited to see this project come to fruition," said Katherine Carttar, director of economic development for the Unified Government.

A lot of parts came together in a unique structure to make the grocery a reality. The grocery store structure will be owned by the Unified Government. The UG has entered into an agreement with The Merc Coop, out of Lawrence, KS, to be the store operator. The three-year management agreement requires the co-op to pay property taxes, utilities, and includes hours of operation, services, community benefits and financial structure.

The Merc Coop is a community-owned cooperative business with 45 years of experience operating a grocery store. They are committed to building relationships through

outreach, employing local residents with livable wages and benefits, and seeking feedback from the KCK community.

The Merc will operate a full-service

store, with fresh produce, a meat counter, prepared food, a café, and other grocery staples.

"Our unique business model puts the needs of community members first. The vision is to create a welcoming, multi-cultural urban market, offering a variety of products that include conventional, local and organic choices," said Rita York Hennecke, general manager of The Merc Coop. "Everyone is welcome to shop at the co-op and anyone can become an owner."

Finding a store operator may have been tough, but financing the project required a lot of creativity.

Total development costs are estimated to reach \$7.2 million with just short of half, \$3.2 million, of the funding coming from the Unified Government Hotel Revenue Fund.



Who is paying for the new downtown grocery store? The Unified Government took a rather complex path to fund the new \$7.1 million project, but should generate its own operating revenues.

See GROCERY page 10

10 Tax Levy Values Are as Important as Tax Assessments

Jackson County residents are still reeling over shocking increases in the assessed value of their property but they also need to look ahead at pending tax levies.

For the past couple of months, folks have been pretty irate with Jackson County Tax Assessor Gail McCann Beatty. Probably even her dog is mad at her these days.

She's the target of angst from Jackson County property owners who were at first shocked, then downright angry, about the increase in their assessed property value.

As Jackson County's appointed county assessor, her role in the county's taxation process is to determine the value of your home. However, her role is just one part of the taxation process. The other part of the process is done by the governing body of the taxing authorities – i.e., the school district, county legislature, city council, etc. Your tax rate is typically stated as a dollar rate per \$1,000 of your assessed property. For example, a taxing authority could set their tax levy at \$1.00 per \$1,000 of value, the

assessor determines your property's worth.

Those who remember their math see there's two parts to the equation – assessed value X tax levy = tax due.

If the overall assessed property value in a taxing jurisdiction goes up significantly, as it may this year in Jackson County, the taxing authorities/districts can simply lower the tax levy or tax rate. In fact, by Missouri state law, most taxing authorities are not allowed to pocket a windfall from a major increase in assessed values.

By law taxing authorities can only increase tax collections for their operating budgets by a rate less than inflation, and then never by more than

5%. This year, taxing authorities are allowed to increase their tax collections by just 1.9%. NOTE TO TAXPAYERS, taxing authorizers can actually hold tax levies even (zero increase) or

property value for their counties within 10% of the true market value – what homes are actually selling for. Assessors who don't get their assessed values up to 90% or greater of their real value are noted as out of compliance.

Jackson County was one of 24 Missouri Counties – out of 114 – out of compliance. In general, the counties out of compliance were those in the state's larger urban areas and the counties around them, as well as counties in vacation areas like Branson and the Lake of the

her predecessor. Some areas were under-assessed while others were over-assessed.

If you're one of those who was under-assessed, you weren't carrying your weight. However, you don't want to be one of those who is over-assessed. If you believe that's the case, make sure you appeal your appraisal.

The time frame to file an appeal to your appraisal has been extended to Sept. 3. If you're not sure how, or believe you need help, the Kansas City Public Library has set up meetings where individuals wanting to file a property tax appeal can receive help from Legal Aid of Western Missouri.

The remaining dates and locations are: Tues., Aug. 27, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. at the Aldo Branch Library, 201 E. 75th St. and Thurs., Aug. 29, 2-4 p.m. at the Westport Branch, 118 Westport Rd.

So far 30,000 Jackson County property owners have filed appeals.

But remember, the really big challenge is to make sure local taxing authorizers hold the line on tax rates. ●●



Gail McCann Beatty

decrease them!!

Beatty and other assessors across the state are under a lot of pressure from the Missouri State Tax Commission to keep the overall assessed

Ozarks.

In addition to trying to get assessed values up to market value, Beatty said she tried to address some inequities in appraisals that she inherited from

Kansas City Area Briefs

KC T-BONES EVICTED

Due to unpaid debts, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County / Kansas City, Kansas, ended its management agreement with the KC T-Bones baseball team and has given the team until Sept. 13 to remove all property from the publicly-owned stadium.

The government said in a news release the T-Bones owe nearly \$763,000 for utility bills and use of the stadium.

The team's statement on social media said it was surprised by the action, as it had been in "close communication" with the UG. Team owners are working to sell the team, which is heading into playoffs.

The T-Bones are part of the American Association of Independent Professional Baseball and not affiliated with Major League Baseball.

ANOTHER 'WRONG MAN' RELEASED

A Missouri man imprisoned for more than 20 years for a double murder was released Aug. 15, a day after his conviction was overturned by a judge who found there was "clear and convincing" evidence that he was innocent.

Ricky Kidd, 44, was greeted by a crowd including his daughter, who hadn't been born when he was locked up. He said he was elated but angry.

"We all should be angry, taxpayers who foot the bill for 23

years paying for the wrong person to be in prison, while the real individuals are out there," he told The Kansas City Star.

DeKalb County Judge Daren Adkins' court order releasing Kidd pointed to three other men as the likely killers of George Bryant and Oscar Bridges in KC in 1996. The order gives prosecutors 30 days to decide whether to retry Kidd.

KNOW LEAD KC

There's an initiative underway in Northeast KC to raise awareness for risk of childhood lead poisoning. Financial assistance is available to identify and remove lead paint from your home.

To see if you qualify, call 913-573-5100. ●●

GROCERY from page 9

This is income that's generated from a tax added to all bills for stays at hotels located within the Unified Government borders.

Another \$1.6 million will come from sales tax and property tax from the Downtown Grocery Tax Increment Financing District, which was approved by the Commission in August 2018. Tax Increment Financing Dis-

tricts (TIFs) are defined geographic areas, typically around a redevelopment or development project. The concept of a TIF is that because of the development/redevelopment project the value of the property included in the project and the surrounding area will increase.

Under a TIF, the "increased/additional" property and sales tax revenue in the TIF area is directed to pay back the city's investment in the project.

LISC purchased \$1.42 million in General Obligation Bonds issued by

the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City to provide funds to construct the grocery store. LISC is a community development financial institution was able to take advantage of Healthy Food Financing Initiative funding, a program established by the U.S. Health and Human Services Department to bring grocery stores and other healthy food retailers to underserved urban and rural communities.

The UG was able to take the funds generated by the sale of the General

Obligation Bonds to leverage another financing tools -- New Market Tax Credits -- available for the project because of its location in a food desert. With the assistance of Sunflower Development Group, the UG received the tax credits allocated by the Central Bank of Kansas City that net nearly \$1 million in proceeds. The federal tax credit program provides an incentive to invest in distressed Census tracts, giving investors a tax credit to offset their federal income tax.

We told you it was complex, however,

what you really need to know as a citizen is that as long as the grocery store survives and generates the projected revenue, the taxpayers of the Unified Government really shouldn't be directly on the hook to pay for the grocery.

What citizens should also hope for is that the public/private partnership will invigorate the east end of downtown and serve as a catalyst to bring additional investment into the area. Already, the University of Kansas Hospital has invested \$60 million right across from the project. ●●

Wichita

Tailgating, Shopping, Marching Bands, and of Course Football All Part of the Heartland Football Classic on Sept. 7



Tailgating, football and at HBCU games, marching bands are all part of the game-day experience, and the Heartland Football Classic, on Sat., Sept. 7, at Wichita State University's Cessna Stadium will have it all. What's more, the game features the return of college football to Wichita State University following a 33-year absence.

Certainly the event brought to you by the Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce - Wichita, will be a great time for HBUC alumni and supporters, college football fans, and those who enjoy having a good time with family and friends.

TAILGATING

Make the Classic a full-day event by adding tailgating with family and friends. The WSU parking lot opens for tailgating on the day of the game at noon. There's a designated area for tailgating near

21st and Hillside. Access to the tailgating area is \$10 per vehicle. Yes, there will be room for tents and tables. Grills are allowed, but they can't use charcoal or wood.

All tailgating must be discontinued 30 minutes before the game begins. The game begins at 4 p.m.

VENDORS

You know we love to shop and as



VS



the stadium on the mezzanine level. Bring lots of money to take advantage of great deals. Cash and likely credit cards will be accepted.

HALFTIME

Of course the highlight of the half-time show will be the Langston Lions Marching Band, but a few special recognitions will be a part of the half-time show. There will be a special

and was the first African-American head coach at a Division I-A football program. He's been inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. Coach Cribbs and Allen are both known as the fathers of youth football in Wichita.

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

The Southeast High School Golden Buffalo Marching Band will also play a role in the program, although it hasn't been clearly identified as of yet. Some community leaders will participate in a candle lighting ceremony. Among those who will participate are: Former Senator U.L. "Rip" Gooch, Senator Oletha Faust Goudeau, and USD 259 School Supt. Alicia Thompson.

SPONSORS

The Classic is the project of the Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce - Wichita, but they have a great deal of support from their partners

and event host Wichita State University Division of Diversity and Community Engagement.

TICKET PRICES:

Tickets are available for sale online at www.myvoicetix.com. Seats are not reserved, but the stadium is divided into a general admission and VIP area. The width of the VIP area depends on the number of VIP tickets sold. All other areas are general admission.

TICKETS ARE:

- \$40 for VIP (\$50 at the gate)
- \$30 for General Admission
- \$15 student tickets
- \$0 free for children 5 and under. Free children tickets are limited to one per adult ticket purchased.

NOT ALLOWED

Not allowed in the stadium are: umbrellas, backpacks, weapons and outside food or beverages. Security will be at the gate checking bags.

Food will be for sale by the WSU authorized food vendor at concession stands in the stadium.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For updates and additional information go to [Facebook.com/HBCC316](https://www.facebook.com/HBCC316). ●●

a chamber, the sponsors enjoy supporting businesses. So, they've invited nearly 50 vendors to share their products inside the stadium. The vendors will be located on the west side of

recognition given to Coach Willie Jeffries, Coach Theo Cribbs Jr. and Coach Pop Allen.

Jeffries was the head football coach at WSU from 1979 and 1983

Local Maafa Celebration Has Special Significance This Year

Maafa is a Kiswahii term for "terrible occurrence" or "great disaster." It is often used to refer to the Black Holocaust, when millions of Africans died during the Middle Passage from the shores of Africa to America.

For the past three years, the "Saving We" organization has gathered at the Keeper of the Plains for a moving remembrance ceremony for our ancestors who died in the Maafa, as well as those who suffered and died during 245 years of slavery in America.

This year's remembrance ceremony is particularly significant since the country is recognizing the 400th an-

niversary of the first arrival of African slaves in North America.

The 4th annual Maafa Commemoration and Remembrance Ceremony will be held on Sun., Sept. 8, beginning at 3 p.m. The group will gather at the foot of the Keeper of the Plains monument. This free event is open to the public, and children and youth are particularly encouraged to participate as a way to learn more about their heritage.

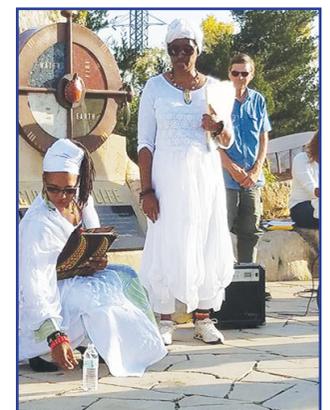
The keynote presenter will be Dr. Linda Rhone. The event will also include a memorial walk across the bridge to Exploration Place. Participants are asked to wear white and

bring drums and plenty of flowers.

The flowers will be put in the river in symbolic memory of the ancestors who lost their lives in the passage.

This event is designed as a way to educate those who don't know, awaken the memories of those who've forgotten our past, heal the mental and physical trauma long-

held with our bodies, as well as honor those who suffered and died during the African Holocaust and Enslavement. ●●



4th annual Maafa Commemoration by the "Saving We" organization takes place at the Keeper of Plains on Sept. 8.

12 Annual Grub & Groove Features Night of Gospel, Night of R & B

WICHITA

Despite the heat and threat of rain, thousands came out for this year's Grub & Groove, which took place over two nights at Capitol Federal Amphitheater in Andover.

Gospel enthusiasts got a real treat

on Fri. night, Aug. 16, which included national Gospel artists Chrystal Rucker, J. Moss, James Fortune, Zacardi Cortez and local gospel artist, Roy Moye III.

The featured Gospel artist was John P. Kee. Special recognition was given to local pastors for their work within the

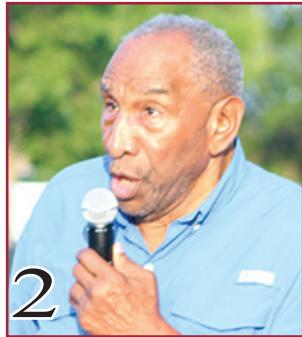
community, especially Pastor Lincoln Montgomery.

The R&B performance on Sat., Aug. 17, bought out an even larger crowd to see national-recording artists Glenn Jones, Michele', Jon B, and legendary bands Lakeside, Midnight Star

and Zapp. The emcee for the weekend was MC Lightfoot.

Special acknowledgements were given to former state Sen. Rip Gooch and former Kansas City Chief Curtis McClinton Jr.

This is the fifth year that Grub & Groove has been held in the Wichita area by promoter Chuck Byrd of Platform Productions. ●●



Photos by The Community Voice



PHOTOS: 1. Former state Sen. Rip Gooch is recognized by MC Lightfoot 2. Given the mic, former KC Chief Curtis McClinton Jr. chose to sing a song 3. Enjoying the concert were: Rhondrea and Roy Baldtrip, Wichita 4. and Will Smith, Kansas City 5. MC Lightfoot and event promoter Chuck Byrd took the stage to thank the ministers for all they do on Gospel night 6. Abemole

Sodeinde and Kendra Edwin helped keep the VIP section secure. 7. Terry Troutman with ZAPP closed out the night 8. Peggy and Cotrice Guyton made the trip from Junction City 9. Gospel night performers included: artist Chrystal Rucker 10. Gospel artist Wess Morgan 11. and the legendary Gospel artist John P. Kee. 12. Winners of the Community Voice's Mother and

Daughter Look-a-Like Contest (L) mother LaDonna Battles and her daughter Nia traveled from Kansas City, MO, as guests of the Voice to attend the Friday night Gospel concert. 13. Members of Wichita's clergy were recognized during the Gospel concert. 14. Enjoying the concert were Steve and Kathy Williams from Wichita.

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WICHITA BRIEFS

URBAN LEAGUE SPONSORING GET-READY-TO-GET-HIRED WORKSHOP

The Urban League and the Workforce Center are joining resources to provide a series of workshops to help job seekers land better-paying jobs. The upcoming workshop will prepare attendees for this year's "Get Hired Job Fair" on Sept. 5.

The Get-Ready-to-Get-Hired Workshop will be held on Tues., Aug. 27, 10. a.m. – 2. p.m., at the Urban League, 2418 E. 9th St. N., Wichita. The workshop will cover necessary tools like: resume

mapping, creating a resume using templates, interview preparation and general prep for job fairs.

Registration is online at getreadytogethired.eventbrite.com, by phone at 316-262-2463, or email kurbanleague@gmail.com. Refreshments will be served.

WALKERS NOW WELCOME IN WICHITA REC CENTERS

Too hot or too cold to walk outside? Don't sit it out. Instead you can head to any Wichita recreation center. Starting in September, walkers will be able

to access the gyms for walking.

Remember to check hours, since all recreation centers have different hours.

The opening of the centers to walkers was made available through a collaborative effort of the Wichita Parks and Recreation Dept. and the Wichita Business Coalition on Health Care.

HYATT PLACE HOTEL TO BREAK GROUND NEXT WEEK AT WSU

The first hotel on the Wichita State campus is beginning construction. A 106-room Hyatt Place hotel

will break ground next week on WSU's Innovation Campus, near 19th and Oliver. The hotel is expected to be ready for occupancy in summer 2020 and will offer guest rooms and suites with a fitness facility, indoor pool, meeting spaces and a restaurant and bar to serve guests as well as the local community.

The hotel development is led by an experienced hotel management group, Lodging One Hospitality, with hotel properties in Kansas, Missouri and Texas. The hotel project will be privately financed as part of the Braeburn Square retail development. ●●

Is CBD the 'Snake Oil' of Our Time?

Up until the 20th century and the formation of the Federal Food and Drug Administration, it wasn't uncommon for "snake oil salesmen" to tout the long list of miracle benefits of their newest drugs. While the marketing of so-called "Miracle" drugs never totally disappeared (see story Page 14) the ever-growing hype around recently legalized CBD is making it easy to draw a comparison between it and the snake oils of the 19th century.

What isn't CBD supposed to cure? The growing list of CBD benefits includes treatment for:

- Chronic pain,
- Epilepsy,
- Parkinson's disease,
- Huntington's disease,
- Sleep disorders, and
- Glaucoma,

just to name a few.

WHAT IS CBD?

Marijuana contains both THC and CBD, and these compounds have different effects.

THC creates a mind-altering "high" when a person smokes it or uses it in cooking. This is because THC breaks down when we apply heat and introduce it into the body.

CBD is different. Unlike THC, it is not psychoactive. This means that CBD does not change a person's state of mind when they use it.

However, CBD does appear to produce significant changes in the body, and some research suggests that it has medical benefits.

WHERE DOES CBD COME FROM?

CBD comes from the cannabis plant. People refer to cannabis plants as either hemp or marijuana, depending on their level of THC. Hemp plants that are legal under the 2018 Farm Bill must contain less than 0.3% THC.

Over the years, marijuana farmers have selectively bred their plants to contain high levels of THC and other compounds that interested them, often because the compounds produced a smell or had another effect on the plant's flowers.

However, hemp farmers have rarely modified the plant. These hemp plants are used to create CBD oil.

HOW CBD WORKS

All cannabinoids, including CBD, produce effects in the body by attaching to certain receptors.

The human body produces certain cannabinoids on its own. It also has two receptors for cannabinoids, called the CB1 receptors and CB2 receptors.

CB1 receptors are present throughout the body, but many are in the brain.

The CB1 receptors in the brain deal with coordination and movement, pain, emotions, and mood, thinking, appetite, and memories, and

other functions. THC attaches to these receptors.

CB2 receptors are more common in the immune system. They affect inflammation and pain.

Researchers once believed that CBD attached to these CB2 receptors, but it now appears that CBD does not attach directly to either receptor.

Instead, it seems to direct the body to use more of its own cannabinoids.

BENEFITS

Evidence on CBD's health effects is almost nonexistent. Although there have been a number of research projects concluding the benefits of CBD, the FDA has only approved the use of CBD (Epidiolex) as a therapy for two rare conditions characterized by epileptic seizures in 2018.

However, that hasn't stopped CBD supporters from proclaiming a long list of benefits for CBD. According to research, the most common uses for CBD are: pain relief, anxiety, insomnia, and arthritis

Here is a limited review of some of the current research on how CBD might prove beneficial.

Natural pain relief and anti-inflammatory properties

People tend to use prescription or over-the-counter drugs to relieve stiffness and pain, including chronic pain. Some people believe that CBD offers a more natural alternative.



Johnson County-based American Shaman is one of the leaders nationally in CBD products. The company offers products for relief, wellness, beauty and even your pets. Beyond the oils, which you can get in flavors, the line includes food products – tea, candy, cookies, brownies, and even popcorn – creams, body lotions and massage oils, and an under-eye serum to help puffiness. Don't forget man's best friend: there are CBD products to help with his joint health and relieve his stress. Finally, if you're a child of the 60s, the line includes joints for old-fashioned smoking.

Authors of a study published in the Journal of Experimental Medicine found that CBD significantly reduced chronic inflammation and pain in some mice and rats.

The researchers suggested that the non-psychoactive compounds in marijuana, such as CBD, could provide a new treatment for chronic pain.

Quitting smoking and drug withdrawals

A pilot study published in Addictive Behaviors found that smokers who

used inhalers containing CBD smoked fewer cigarettes than usual and had no further cravings for nicotine.

A similar review, published in Neuro-therapeutics found that CBD may be a promising treatment for people with opioid addiction disorders.

More research is necessary, but these findings suggest that CBD may help to prevent or reduce withdrawal symptoms.

See **CBD** page 14

'Exercise as Medicine' for Depression – A Role In Prevention And Treatment

Exercise training and increased physical activity are effective for both prevention and treatment of depression, concludes a research review in the August issue of Current Sports Medicine Reports, official journal of the American College of Sports Medicine.

Across countries and cultures, studies consistently link higher levels of physical activity to lower depressive symptoms. But those cross-sectional studies don't answer a key question: Can starting an exercise program or increasing physical activity reduce the risk of developing depression

or reduce depressive symptoms?

Depression is a major health problem worldwide, with an enormous impact on mental and physical health for individuals and high costs for society. Current treatments focus on antidepressant medications and psychotherapy, each of which can help people but have important limitations. For example, only about half of people



Dealing with depression? Exercise may be the best medicine.

taking antidepressants will have a clinically significant response, and not all people will respond to psychotherapy.

Researchers analyzed pooled data on 49 prospective studies including nearly 267,000 participants. This meta-analysis found physical activity reduces the odds of developing depression by 17%, after adjustment for other factors.

Physical activity is also an effective treatment for depression – some studies have shown that a single exercise session

can reduce symptoms in patients with major depressive disorder.

Research is ongoing to identify how the antidepressant response to exercise works. Even though the evidence strongly supports the benefits of exercise, it still isn't routinely included in clinical recommendations for prevention and treatment of depression

To be effective, researchers found physical activity should be as enjoyable as possible, leading people to exercise for its own sake, and point to "autonomous motivation," as a key to successful exercise therapy for depression. ●●

14 Pollutant Linked to Climate Change Can Accelerate Lung Disease as Much as a Pack a Day of Cigarettes

A new multicenter study has found that long-term exposure to outdoor air pollutants, especially the pollutant ozone, accelerates the development of emphysema and age-related decline in lung function, even among people who have never smoked, according to a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The findings may help explain why emphysema is relatively common in nonsmokers.

Chronic lower respiratory disease—a catchall term for emphysema, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), chronic bronchitis, and asthma—is the fourth-leading cause of death in the U.S. and third-leading cause of death worldwide.

The study, the largest and longest of its kind, looked at whether exposures to four major pollutants—ground-level ozone, fine particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxide, and black carbon—were associated with the development of emphysema. Short-term exposure to air pollutants is a major risk factor for poor lung health. But the long-term effects of air pollutants on the lungs are not well understood.

The study included more than 7,000 adults (ages 45 to 84) living in Chicago, Los Angeles, Baltimore, St. Paul, New York City, and Winston-Salem, who were followed for a median of 10 years. Air pollutant levels were estimated at each participant's home address.

The researchers found that exposure to each of the pollutants at the beginning of the study was independently linked to the development of emphysema during the study period. The strongest association was seen with ozone. Only ozone, at baseline and during follow-up, was associated with a decline in lung function.

“Ground-level ozone is produced when UV light reacts with pollutants from fossil fuels,” adds Barr. “This process is accelerated by heatwaves, so ground-level ozone will likely continue to increase unless additional steps are taken to reduce fossil fuel emissions and curb climate change. But it's not clear what level of ozone, if



An aerial picture taken on a hot summer day in Paris shows a smoggy view of the Eiffel tower. (Photo: BORIS HORVAT/AFP/Getty Images)

Ground-level Ozone Basics

Ozone is a gas composed of three atoms of oxygen (O₃). Ozone can be both good or bad, depending on where it's found.

Stratospheric ozone, good ozone occurs naturally in the upper atmosphere, where it forms a protective layer that shields us from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. This beneficial ozone has been partially destroyed by man-made chemicals, causing what is sometimes called a “hole in the ozone.” The good news is, this hole is diminishing.

Ozone at ground level is a harmful air pollutant, because of its effects on people and the environment, and it is the main ingredient in “smog.” Learn more about air emission sources. Ground-level ozone is “bad” because it can trigger a variety of health problems, particularly for children, the elderly, and people of all ages who have lung diseases such as asthma.

How does ground-level ozone form?

Tropospheric, or ground level ozone, is not emitted directly into

the air, but is created by chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOC). This happens when pollutants emitted by cars, power plants, industrial boilers, refineries, chemical plants, and other sources chemically react in the presence of sunlight.

Ozone is most likely to reach unhealthy levels on hot sunny days in urban environments, but can still reach high levels during colder months. Ozone can also be transported long distances by wind, so even rural areas can experience high ozone levels.

What are the ozone levels in my community?

Air quality forecasts are often given with weather forecasts on handheld devices, online or in the paper or television. You can check ozone levels and other daily air quality information by visiting www.airnow.gov and in many areas you can receive air quality notifications through www.enviroflash.info. ●●

any, is safe for human health.”

“The increase in emphysema we observed was relatively large, similar to the lung damage caused by 29 pack-years of smoking and 3 years of aging,” said R. Graham Barr, MD, DrPH, the

Hamilton Southworth Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at Columbia University Irving Medical Center and a senior author of the paper. (One pack-year is equal to smoking a pack a day for a year.) ●●

Real Snake Oil Warning

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is warning consumers not to purchase or drink a product sold online as a medical treatment due to a recent rise in reported health issues.

Miracle Mineral Solution has not been approved by the FDA for any use, but these products continue to be promoted on social media as a remedy for treating autism, cancer, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and flu, among other conditions.

“Miracle Mineral Solution and similar products are not FDA-approved, and ingesting these products is the same as drinking bleach,” said FDA Acting Commissioner Ned Sharpless, M.D. For more information, see story

@ www.communityvoiceks.com.



CBD from page 13

Epilepsy

CBD has been approved for the treatment of two rare conditions characterized by epileptic seizures but there is hope that it can help treat many complications linked to epilepsy, such as neuro-degeneration, neuronal injury, and psychiatric diseases.

Fighting cancer

Authors of a review published in the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* found evidence that CBD significantly helped to prevent the spread of cancer. The researchers also noted that the compound tends to suppress the growth of cancer cells

and promote their destruction.

They pointed out that CBD has low levels of toxicity. They called for further research into its potential as an accompaniment to standard cancer treatments.

Anxiety disorders

Doctors often advise people with chronic anxiety to avoid cannabis, as THC can trigger or amplify feelings of anxiousness and paranoia.

However, authors of a review from *Neuro-therapeutics* found that CBD may help to reduce anxiety in people with certain related disorders.

According to the review, CBD may reduce anxiety-related behaviors in people with conditions such as:

- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- General anxiety disorder

- Panic disorder
- Social anxiety disorder
- Obsessive-compulsive disorder

The authors noted that current treatments for these disorders can lead to additional symptoms and side effects, which can cause some people to stop taking them.

Type 1 diabetes

Type 1 diabetes results from inflammation that occurs when the immune system attacks cells in the pancreas.

Research published in 2016 by *Clinical Hemorheology and Microcirculation* found that CBD may ease this inflammation in the pancreas. This may be the first step in finding a CBD-based treatment for type 1 diabetes.

Acne

Acne treatment is another promis-

ing use for CBD. The condition is caused, in part, by inflammation and overworked sebaceous glands in the body.

A 2014 study published by the *Journal of Clinical Investigation* found that CBD helps to lower the production of sebum that leads to acne, partly because of its anti-inflammatory effect on the body. Sebum is an oily substance, and overproduction can cause acne.

Alzheimer's disease

Initial research published in the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease* found that CBD was able to prevent the development of social recognition deficit in participants.

This means that CBD could help people in the early stages of Alzheim-

er's to keep the ability to recognize the faces of people that they know.

GROUND SWELL OF DEMAND

A new Gallup poll finds one in seven Americans use CBD and that 11% of users are 50 to 64 years of age, and 8% are at least 65 years. Nearly four in 10 Americans think CBD oils should be legally available for adults to buy over the counter.

Most CBD sales will soon take place in general retail stores, rather than cannabis dispensaries, according to a recent cannabis market report. The authors predict sales of cannabis- and hemp-derived CBD products in the United States will surge from \$1.9 billion in 2018 to \$20 billion by 2024. ●●

Sources: *Medical News Today* and *Medscape Medical News*

No Breakfast Before Class? Need to Pay for Meals? USD 259 has Fixes

Students and parents in Wichita schools will find food and menus more interactive this year as the Wichita Public Schools Nutrition Services department launches new or expanded programs and menu items.

The new menu items were based on feedback gathered last spring from

student focus groups. More information can be found at www.usd259.org/nutrition.

Programs include feeding kids who didn't get to eat breakfast, while still allowing them to get to class on time. "A student who eats a school breakfast is more likely to do better in school,

behave better in school and have fewer attendance issues," said David Paul, director of Nutrition Services.

Some of the schools in the district have had the alternative breakfast program in place for a couple years. USD 259 says its stats show the middle schools' daily participation in the breakfast program has increased between 7% and 59%, and high schools' daily participation has increased between 11% and 88%.

Among the new offerings this year:

- The Titan Parent Portal enables parents to apply for meal benefits, make online meal payments, and to monitor and regulate students' spending. Learn more at www.usd259.org/titan.

- YumYummi digital school lunch menus will allow parents and students to log on via desktop or cell phone app to see daily, weekly or monthly menus - with photos of the food, nutritional information and allergens.

Learn more at <https://wps.yumyummi.com>.

- Photo menu boards in elementary school cafeterias will help elementary students know what's being served.

- The Second-Chance Breakfast program, which lets kids grab breakfast between classes in middle and high school, is being expanded to Northwest and Heights high schools and Curtis Middle School.

Learn more about this award-winning program at bit.ly/2RAuEmq.

- The Breakfast After the Bell program will allow elementary school students who arrive late to get a chance to eat breakfast without miss-

ing class.

- New menu items at middle and high schools: Egg bake and sausage rolls and a Korean BBQ beef entrée.

There will also be eight grab-and-go entrée items including a yogurt parfait and almond protein pack.

- New menu items at elementary schools: Oven-baked, breaded chicken legs, fish sticks and an almond and sunflower protein pack to the menu.

- Lasagna will be added to the menu for all schools this year and will be served once at each school. Depending on its success, it may be added to the menu more often. ●●



Low or No Cost: After-School Camps, Bus Rides & Tech from City of Wichita

Whether you are a parent of school-aged children or a student looking for educational resources, the City of Wichita is offering a variety of no- or low-cost services to help you this school year.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Wichita Public Schools is partnering with Wichita Transit by assigning over 800 students to bus routes instead of traditional school buses. These students will ride Wichita Transit routes to and from school every morning and afternoon.

- Students can purchase discounted bus passes all year long. Passes are good for unlimited rides, even after school and on Saturdays.

- Free After School Programs: The City offers children ages 6 – 13 free after-school programs and camps for in-service days at the Orchard Recreation Center, 4808 W. 9th St. The program started Aug. 14. It will be offered from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Mondays – Thursdays, and 3:30 – 5 p.m. Fridays.

- Kids Connection Camp: This camp will be held on the seven in-service days scheduled this year from 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. for children ages 6-12. The cost is \$22 per child, per day and a DCF Vision Card is accepted.

- Computer Checkout: Students who may find themselves without a computer this school year can

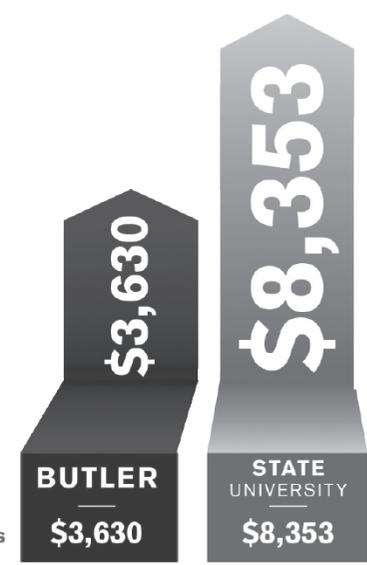
check out a Chromebook from a portable device dispenser at Wichita's Advanced Learning Library, 711 W. 2nd St. N. Customers with a library card in good standing can check out the Chromebook once per day for up to three hours at a time. The computer can only be used inside the library.

- Wi-Fi: Internet access is available for free through public use computers and at all Wichita Public Library locations. Hours, locations and more information can be found at www.wichitalibrary.org/Services/Pages/computers-internet.aspx. Print, copy and fax services are also available for a small fee.

- Learning Express Library: Wichita's libraries have several online resources to help students strengthen their knowledge in various subjects or to help in test preparation. The Learning Express Library, which is an online database of e-books, tests, learning tools and articles, can help students prepare for the following: College admissions tests such as the ACT and SAT; AP tests; Skills improvement in general education subjects like math, science and social studies

- Test Proctor: Students who are in need of test proctor may also turn to the library for assistance. To arrange for a proctored exam, e-mail proctoring@wichitalibrary.org or call 316-261-8500. ●●

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WPS STANDARDS-REFERENCED GRADING PARENT Q&A SESSIONS

Wichita Public Schools (WPS) is updating its grading practices to better reflect what students know and can do.

What this means for families: goals for learning will be clearly stated on progress reports for both academics and work habits.

The implementation of standards-referenced grading will begin in WPS elementary schools in the 2019-2020 school year for all subjects.

Attend a Parent Q&A Session from 6:30-7:30 p.m. to learn more about Standards-Referenced Grading (SRG). Childcare will be provided.

AUGUST 28 at Alvin E. Morris Administrative Center
903 S. Edgemoor • Wichita, KS 67218

SEPTEMBER 5 at Isely Traditional Magnet Elementary
5256 N. Woodlawn • Bel Aire, KS 67220

Visit USD259.ORG/GRADING for more Q&A session dates and information about standards-referenced grading.

YOUR FUTURE IS IN OUR DISTRICT!

Learn more about current WPS job openings at www.usd259.org/careers

903 S. Edgemoor St.
Wichita, KS 67218



(316) 973-4000
usd259.org

USD 500 Audit Shows Lack of Control Over Superintendent

By Bonita Gooch
The Community Voice

It's easy to be in compliance with policy and directives for recruiting, hiring and compensating personnel when you have policies that lack any teeth.

Those are the findings of a recently completed audit of Kansas City, KS, Public Schools. The scope given the auditors, Corporate Integrity Systems, was to "audit the KCKPS administration's compliance and implementation of Board adopted policies related to the recruitment, hiring, and assignment of compensation for administrative positions that are director level and above."

Board members were concerned about how high-level administrators in the district were being recruited, hired, promoted and compensated. It turns out they had plenty of reason to be concerned. It appears former superintendent Cynthia Lane was wheeling and dealing with very little control or policies guiding her actions. The lack of policies to guide her acts is what allowed her actions, however horrific they were, to be in compliance.

If the district's policies give you the right to do whatever you like, then you're in compliance with the district's policies.

Here are just a few of the examples of actions taken by the superintendent that were within the district's very weak policies:

The superintendent routinely transferred employees into new positions without posting the positions. As an example of the superintendent's unfettered authority related to recruitment and the lack of a policy that requires positions to be posted, in April 2017, Dr. Lane submitted an agenda item to the board on the consent agenda for approval of \$10,000 to be paid to an employee as a "supplement for additional job responsibilities as Resource Development Officer." When the consultant requested from human resource the personnel file of the Resource Development Officer, the human resources team was unaware that such a position existed.

Instead of Dr. Lane requesting that a new position be posted for all qualified applicants to apply, she sought board approval not for a new position, but for supplemental pay for a position that did not exist.

She was able to get away with this because the board's policy says the board approves the hiring of employees, not the transfer of an employee into a newly created or vacant position. The superintendent merely had to inform the board of any assignment, transfer, and/or demotion and Supt. Lane took full advantage of that loophole. But it was a practice that led to complaints of unfairness and unlawful discrimination in the hiring process.

A former human resources employee said the superintendent regularly used the practice of assigning additional duties and pay and/or salary corrections to give pay increases to certain employees, most notably when the board put a freeze on salary increases. In late 2015, many employees at the director level and above received five-figure "salary corrections." The Asst. Dir. Of Finance received a salary correction of \$13,841.36 and the Asst. Director of Purchasing received a salary correction of \$22,803.20, just to name a few.

The consultants' review of the files for the 63 administrative and above positions being looked at under the audit found:

- Only 44% of the employees' files included evidence of an application for the employees' current positions.
- Only 54% of the personnel files reviewed contained evidence of a criminal background check.
- 15 had no evidence of an I-9 being completed and 22 had evidence of incomplete I-9s. By law, I-9s must be complete and kept for three years after an employee's separation.
- None of the personnel files contained evidence of a performance evaluation.

The auditors concluded the KCKPS Board gave too much authority to the superintendent related to hiring, recruitment, compensation, transfers and assignment of additional job duties to the point that it conflicted with the board's ability to govern the district.

"The board should ensure through board policies that KCKPS is following all laws related to recruitment, hiring, and compensation, as well as guidelines provided by the Board," wrote the auditor. The Board's authority to govern KCKPS must be taken from the superintendent and given back to the Board."

The auditor went on to propose a customized plan of action. Hopefully, it's something the board and the new superintendent will follow. ●●



Former USD 500 Supt.
Cynthia Lane

More Retail Store Closings Coming Soon

One research firm is projecting 12,000 store closings this year. As buyers move to online shopping, the retail apocalypse isn't showing any signs of slowing down.

Eight months into 2019, there have already been 29% more store closings announced than in all of 2018, according to a new report from global marketing research firm Coresight Research.

Based on Coresight Research's figures, retailers' earnings reports, bankruptcy filings and other records, more than 7,600 stores are slated to shutter this year and thousands of locations already gone.

Bankrupt footwear company Payless ShoeSource, which closed its remaining U.S. stores in late June, accounts for about 37% of the closings.

The "going-out-of-business" sales and liquidation of other brands is expected to continue. Coresight estimates closures could reach 12,000 by the end of the year, the report said.

Coresight tracked 5,864 closings in 2018, which included all Toys R Us stores and hundreds of Kmart and Sears locations.

The record year for closings was 2017, with 8,139 shuttered stores, Coresight found. This included an earlier round of Payless closings, the entire HHGregg electronics and appliance chain, and hundreds of Sears and Kmart stores.

The pain is expected to continue into future years, according to an April report from UBS Securities. UBS analysts said 75,000 more stores would need to be shuttered by 2026 if e-commerce penetration rises to 25% from its current level of 16%.

A separate analysis by UBS said tariffs on Chinese imports could put \$40 billion of sales and 12,000 stores at risk.

"The market is not realizing how much brick & mortar retail is incrementally struggling and how new 25% tariffs could force widespread store closures," UBS analyst Jay Sole wrote in

A Few Tips to Help Small Retailers Survive and Thrive



How can a small retailer compete in increasingly choppy waters? McKinsey & Company recently identified some key trends reshaping retailing.

The growth of E-commerce and the introduction of mobile commerce (M-commerce) have raised the stakes. Consumers expect purchasing and returning items to be quick, easy and seamless – no matter where they're doing it.

THREE MARKETS WORTH TARGETING

Baby Boomers - Thanks to their larger disposable incomes, over the next 10 years, they'll drive 73% of housewares growth and 56% of apparel growth.

Hispanic Consumers - In the next decade, they will be responsible for nearly 1/5th of U.S. retail spending.

Millennial Consumers - Those ages 13 to 30 make up just 15% of U.S. consumers, but by 2020 McKinsey says they will account for nearly one-third of total retail spending.

In the next 10 years, McKinsey says, the 47 million U.S. households headed by people over age 55 will account for the lion's share of retail spending growth. For instance, they'll drive 73 percent

of housewares growth and 56 percent of apparel growth, thanks to their larger disposable incomes.

THINK SMALL

McKinsey says the average retail store's footprint will shrink in the coming decade as large retailers focus more on E-commerce. Small retailers can benefit from this, too.

A smaller, but more carefully edited and curated store is more likely to succeed than a mid-sized location with a hodge-podge of items. Make every square foot of space as profitable as you can. Consider retail kiosks or small "pop-up" (temporary) locations as ways to try out new product lines or concepts.

CREATE AN EXPERIENCE, NOT JUST A STORE

McKinsey notes that the retail environment is becoming increasingly "experiential." For all three of the demographic groups noted above, brick-and-mortar shopping is a social activity.

If you want your retail business to stand out from the big-box pack, offer unique products, deep knowledge of your products and an experience that is enjoyable and memorable. Whether by

adding a refreshment bar to your store, offering in-store tailoring of clothes or holding classes to teach customers how to use the cameras you sell, going above and beyond just making the sale will be key to retail success in the coming years.

PERSONALIZE YOUR MARKETING

McKinsey's research found that for the average consumer, peer recommendations carry 10 times more weight than a salesperson's recommendation. Marketing your retail business on social media is a good start, but make sure you're also encouraging customers to review your store on review and ratings sites, and to share their purchases on Facebook or other social media channels.

Reach out to customers with personalized e-mails based on past purchasing behaviors, or target offers to social media followers who have liked or shared a product on social media.

Don't ignore the power of well-informed and helpful salespeople. Older shoppers, in particular, like to get in-person help from real people. Salespeople who remember them, recall what they like and alert them when new merchandise comes in that they might be interested in. ●●

the May report. "We think potential 25% tariffs on Chinese imports could accelerate pressure on these companies' profit margins to the point

where major store closures become a real possibility."

CLOSING ALL LOCATIONS

All Charlotte Russe stores closed in

April, but the company's new owner has started to open new stores.

See **CLOSINGS** page 18

On the Move

Terria "TaTy" Gary was the recipient of one of five awards presented at the 68th annual Inter-Faith Ministries Humanitarian Awards program in Wichita. Gary, a student at Newman University, received the Light of Faith Award for her work improving the community. A member of the Newman Student Government Association, Gary continues to encourage and uplift other students interested in attending college through her extensive social media channels generated in part from a New York Times series that detailed her search for a college.



Gary

Dr. Tyler Smith, Lenexa, Ks. has been appointed by Gov. Laura Kelly to the Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund. The Children's Cabinet



Smith

works with the governor to assist children and families by developing and implementing a service delivery system, identifying barriers to service, and facilitating inter-agency cooperation.

Smith serves as the general academic pediatrics fellowship director for Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. She is also an assistant professor of pediatrics for the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine.

DeJuan McPhaul is one of eight students selected to receive the Dana Winkler Scholarships from Wichita Federal Credit Union. Each recipient was awarded \$1,000 to apply toward tuition costs for post-secondary education this fall semester. McPhaul will attend Langston University. McPhaul was also a recipient of a scholarship from the Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce, Wichita.



McPhaul

Send us Your On the Move Announcements

We welcome news about promotions, retirements, appointments, awards and recognitions. Submit them @ www.communityvoiceks.com.

18 Dunn Opens Rare Black-Owned Real Estate Agency in Wichita

BUSINESS

With more than a dozen years' experience as a real estate agent, Kerry Dunn was sitting on the fence, considering his next steps. Eventually, Kerry found himself at a real estate convention in Las Vegas where he met many members of the NextHome family.

"I think I've always considered owning my own brokerage but never found the right fit before," said Dunn. "I truly felt that everyone loved the company and the tools they offered."

Today, Kerry is the proud broker of record for NextHome Excel, and the ninth NextHome agent in the state of Kansas. NextHome Excel will serve the Wichita area.

Dunn says he's excited about the opportunity to grow his own firm and to help other agents grow their business. He believes many of the things that attracted him to NextHome will help him attract motivated, quality agents, including the company's lead-generation tools, which includes an agent website, reports, and marketing

materials that are often not provided or only made available for an extra fee at other agencies.

While he's already talking to agents about the benefits NextHome provides, he expects it will be several months before he's ready to bring agents on board.

Dunn has extensive experience with all types of residential transactions, from new-home buyers, residential relocation, to investment properties. However, he is also able to help with investment properties, home flipping, and Air Force Base relocations.

Dunn began his career in 1993, building a successful moving business with his brother Roger Dunn. Advantage Movers helps facilitate smooth transitions for people across the Wichita area. The company is still around and serving movers today. Helping people through those transitions in their lives sparked Dunn to think about a career in real estate.

"I took care of the contents of the house that made it a home," Dunn

said. "I started wanting to take care of the home itself."

About 25 years ago the brothers began buying homes, rehabbing them, and building a rental-property business. In 2007, Dunn got his real estate license and began a career as a real estate agent.

Dunn has worked with various national brokers and small boutique firms including Coldwell Banker.

In 2007, at the beginning of Kerry's real estate career, the nation was hit hard by the Great Recession. Dunn kept his head down, and through hard work and ingenuity built a reputation he could be proud of. Today, Dunn closes about 40 deals per year.

"A lot of my success was good-old-fashioned prospecting," Kerry said, adding that much of his business as an agent was referral-based.

Kerry and his wife Kimberly are the



Kerry Dunn recently opened a franchise of California-based NextHome. As a broker, he looks forward to helping real estate agents grow their business.

proud parents of two children and the grandparents of two grandsons. Outside of work, Kerry enjoys helping his wife and daughter with their cosmetology business and watching his grandson's internet cooking show — "Cooking with Khemari." As a hobby,

Kerry also creates and sells his own bottled spice blends.

You can check out NextHome Excel online at nexthomeexcel.com. Kerry can be reached by telephone @ 316-990-7293 or by e-mail at hbwichita@aol.com. ●●

CLOSINGS from page 17

Payless ShoeSource: 2,589 (includes 248 Canada locations and 114 smaller-format stores in Shopko Hometown locations). Payless is a Topeka, KS, based company. That doesn't bode well for their economy.

Dressbarn: 649.

Charlotte Russe: 494; but the company's new owner is opening new



stores.

Shopko: 371

Charming Charlie: 261

Avenue: 222

A'Gaci: 54

Henri Bendel: 23

E.L.F. Beauty: 22

Topshop: All 11 U.S. stores

Barneys New York bankruptcy: Luxury retailer files for bankruptcy and announces 15 closing stores.

Perkins & Marie Callender's bankruptcy: Restaurant chain filed for bankruptcy after closing 29 locations

MORE CLOSINGS

Some of the announced closures

may carry over into 2020, which was the case with several closings announced in late 2018 such as **Lowe's, Sears and Kmart.** **Gap Inc.** announced Feb. 28 it would close roughly 230 stores over two years. Some retailers also are opening new stores while closing locations including **Bath & Body Works** and **Abercrombie & Fitch.** **Gymboree/Crazy 8:** 749

GNC: Up to 900 over the next three years. **Family Dollar:** As many as 390 stores **Fred's:** 442; the company said July 12 it would close another 129 stores.

Chico's: 74, but 250 over the next three years.

Gap: Roughly 230 in next two years

Walgreens: 200

Foot Locker: 165, total includes closings outside of the U.S.

Signet Jewelers: The parent company of **Kay, Zales** and **Jared** said it would close another 150 stores. **Pier 1 Imports:** 57, but up to 145 could close.

Ascena Retail: 120

Destination Maternity: 117

Sears: 21 more stores will close in October; 72 stores closed earlier this year. ●●

THE COMMUNITY VOICE | AUG. 22, 2019

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Saturday Morning Prayer Breakfast

Come Fellowship
Aug. 31 @ 9am

St. Matthew CME
841 N. Cleveland, Wichita
\$10 adults, \$5 children 5-12

Speaker: Rev. Theresa Parker
from Johnson Tabernacle CME

AWARDS from page 5

the first inductees to the Black Aviation Hall of Fame.

Katherine Carper Sawyer is one of the youngest heroes of the Civil Rights Movement. At age 10, she testified in

the case of Brown v. Topeka Board of Education. She was the only student to testify. Her mother Lena Carper also was a plaintiff in the case.

Dr. Galyn Vesey, an author, professor and researcher was an early activist. As a teenager, and youth member of the NAACP Wichita Branch, he participated in the Dockum Lunch Counter Sit-In which is now documented as the first

successful lunch counter sit-in in America.

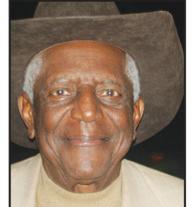
As part of their recognition, a brief bio of each honoree will be recorded in the Congressional Record.



Vesey



Sawyer



Gooch

CRIMINAL from page 4

vote, passed the senate and was forwarded to the president for his signature

just before Congress' Christmas holiday break.

"To be clear, the First Step Act is a win for criminal justice reform. But the Republicans who wrote the law never meant for it to reduce the sentences of hundreds of

prisoners. They never intended for it to address the racist war on drugs," Harriot said.

"Even though some people insist that we must 'give the president his due,' the reason hundreds of Black people have been

removed from America's system of mass incarceration is that a Democratic senator wrote a bill, a Democratic president signed it and Democrats forced Donald Trump and a Republican-controlled Congress to make it retroactive," Harriot said. ●●

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11 a.m. Worship Service

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2019 SONGFEST - 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7
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Gospel Revival Meeting, Sept. 8-11
with Evangelist Robert L. Clemons Sr.

Sun., Sept. 8: Bible Class at 9 a.m. / Worship at 10 a.m.
Mon., Sept. 9 - Wed., Sept. 11:
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Jackson Mortuary Wichita

Culton, Helen, L., 90, died 08/15/19. She is survived by: daughters Philomene Peete, Tonette Crowley and Margaret Culton; sons Thomas Culton II, Michael Culton, George Culton and Rickey Culton; sisters Betty Bolden & Gladys Polite.

Holt, Beverly J., 71, died 08/16/19. No further details.

Jackson, III, Val J., 41, died 07/13/19. Service will be held in Beaumont, TX. He was employed by Cardinal Health as a Corporate Account Executive Director. He is survived by: partner Fernando Carbonell; mother and father Dan and Denise Oliphant; mother and father Val and Dian Jackson; grandmothers Norma J. Middleton and Esther Oliphant; brother Chris Oliphant, and sisters Jennifer Jackson and Tiondra Abernathy.

Kirkendoll, Ozell, 90, died 08/09/19. Service was held on 8/17/19 at 10 a.m. at St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church. She is survived by: children Christine Crockett, Sharon McClish, Phyllis Marie Smith, Rev. C. Richard Kirkendoll, Ila Kirkendoll, Shirley Mayberry and Nan Putnam; sister Jean Rogers and brother Charles M. "Butch" Mayberry.

Mitchell, Joelonda, R., 42, died 08/12/19. Service will be held 08/24/19 at 1 p.m. at Jackson Mortuary Chapel, 1125 E. 13th. She is survived by: father Joel Mitchell; children Andrea Mitchell, Christian & Angel Loudermilk; companion Hashawn Loudermilk; sisters and

brothers Yowana J. & Ester Mitchell, Joel B. Mitchell, William Shirley III, Issae Mitchell & Isaiah Mitchell.

Myers, Derrick S., 54, died 08/06/19. He was a Welder Co. employee. Service was held 08/16/19 at St. Mark Cathedral COGIC. He is survived by: sons Vincent, Anthony, Devontae & Derrick Jr.; daughters Kasey, Cierra & Makyla; brothers Sam Roberts, Jerry Myers; and sisters Minnie Washington, Rubie Caddell, Pearlie Garrett, Diana & Arleen Myers, Minnie Card and Jesse Young.

Phillips, Selena, D., 63, died 08/05/19. She was retired Rainbows United supervisor. Service will be 08/24/19 at 3 p.m. at Word of Life, 2020 E Blake. She is survived by: Sisters; Corliss Garner, Linda Garner, Ruby Stephenson, Thomasine Sanders, Shelia Jackson & Versie Phillips and Brothers; Gary, Michael, Anthony Garner & Michael Hobby.

Stewart, LaSalle "Bobby", 82, died 08/16/19. He was a retired United States Army Veteran, Offshore Supply Ship Chef. No further details,

Biglow Funeral Wichita

Harper, Larry D., 70, died 08/13/19. Service was held 08/21/19 at Biglow Funeral Chapel, 2310 E Lincoln.

LaClair-French, Dorothy Jean 68, died 08/09/19. No further details.

Reid, Daniel Lewis, 72, died 08/11/19. Service was held 08/19/19 at Kansas Veterans Cemetery.

Old Mission Wichita

Dolloff, Howard C., 73, died 08/10/19. No further details.

Haynes, Marion L., 79, died 08/17/19. No further details.

Hyson, Rowena, 70, died 08/14/19. Service was held 08/17/19 at Old Mission Mortuary Chapel, 3424 E 21st.

Taylor, Leon W., 97, died 08/08/19. No further details.

Washington, Jimmy, 73, died 08/16/19. No further details.

Walls, Thurman, 70, died 08/06/19. Service was held 08/09/19 at Old Mission Mortuary Chapel.

Wilson Sr., Bruce, A., 79, died 08/13/19. Service was held 08/22/19 at Strangers Rest Baptist Church, 2521 N. Grove.

Central Avenue Wichita

Holmes, Vera "Louise," 62, died 08/08/19. Service was 08/10/19 at St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 2555 N. Hyacinth Ln.

Bowser Johnson Topeka

Bruce, Leroy, 85, died 08/05/19. Service was held 08/13/19 at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Topeka.

Carter, Elizabeth, 85, died 08/06/19. Service was held 08/12/19 at True Vine Missionary Baptist Church, Topeka

Dillard, Donna J., 76, died 08/02/19. Service was held 08/10/19 at St. Mark's AME Church, Topeka.

Hasenkamp, Elaine M., 66, died 08/01/19. No further details.

James, Debra A., 59, died 07/24/19. No service details.

Peaceful Rest Topeka

Collins (Shannon), Alice E., 86, died 08/09/19. Service was held 08/16/19 at Peaceful Rest Funeral

Home, Topeka.

Counts Sr., Adrain H., 89, Died 08/01/19. Service was held 08/10/19 at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Topeka

Nelson (Starr), Allean J., 93, died 08/15/19. No further details.

Noel Jr., John A., "L.J.," 26, died 08/03/19. Service was held 08/14/19 at Kansas City Community Church, KCK.

Thatcher Funeral Kansas City

Andrews, Queenia L., 21, died 08/08/19. Service was held 08/17/19 at First Baptist Church, KCK

Jenkins, Louise E. (Johnson), 96, Died 08/01/19. Service was held 08/13/19 at Kansas City Community Church, KCK

Murphy-Evans Willie Mae, 90, died 08/12/19. Service was held 08/19/19 at Thatcher's Funeral Chapel, KCK.

Pennington, Phyllis K. (Davis), 70, died 08/06/19. Service was held 08/14/19 at Christ the King Church, KCK

Smith, Carl E. "Gene", 85, died 08/05/19. Service was held 08/15/19 at Oak Ridge Baptist Church, KCK

Lawrence A Jones & Sons Kansas City, MO

Bell Sr., Theodore, 87, died 08/05/19. Service was held 08/14 at Salem Baptist Church, KCK

Bryant Sr., John E., 59, died 08/08/10. Service was held 08/17/19 at Mount Calvary COGIC, KCMO.

Clark, Eddy E. (Roane) 91, died 08/09/19. Service was held 08/23/19 at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, KCMO

McConnell, Diane P., 77, died 08/02/19. Service was held 08/14/19 at Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Funeral Chapel, KCMO.

MaGee, Dorothy M. (Washington), 97, died 08/06/19. Service was held 08/17/19 at Macedonia Baptist Church KCMO.

Nunally, Gene Autry, 72, died 08/01/19. Service was held 08/10/19 at Macedonia Baptist Church, KCMO

Petty, Billie J., 85, died 08/01/19. Service was held 08/10/19 at Metropolitan Spiritual Church of Christ, KCMO.

Wilkerson, Mamie, L., 81, died 08/09/19. Service was held 08/17/19 at Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church, KCMO.

Wynn, Rev. Lemuel E., 81, died 08/06/19. Service was held 08/12/19 at First Baptist Church of Quindaro, KCMO

Eley & Sons Kansas City, MO

Craver, Rosie M., 68, died 08/11/19. Service was held 08/17/19 at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, Liberty, MO.

King, Jr., Eddie, 89, died 08/03/19. Service was held 08/09/19 at Friendship Baptist Church, KCMO

Moore, Martha S., 57, died 07/31/19. Service was held 08/10/19 at Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, KCMO.

Wagner, Roland Gilbert, 48, died 07/17/19. No further details.

Duane Harvey Funeral Kansas City, MO

Jackson, Christine, 68, died 08/16/19. Service will be held on 08/24/19 at 11 a.m. at Duane E. Harvey Funeral Directors, 9100 Blue Ridge Blvd, KCMO

McDonald, Barbara A. 71, died 08/14/19. Service will be held on 08/23/19 at 11 a.m. at Duane E. Harvey Funeral Directors, 9100 Blue Ridge Blvd, KCMO

Norton, Kenneth L., 80, died 08/16/19. Service will be held on 08/26/19 at 11 a.m. at Duane E. Harvey Funeral Directors, 9100 Blue Ridge Blvd, KCMO

Sherrill, Mary, 75, died 08/16/19. Service is pending.

Troy, Connie K., 72, died 08/14/19. Service will be held on 08/24/19 at 11 a.m. at Centennial United Methodist Church, 1834 Woodland Ave, KCMO.

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Age 25 & Over / no refunds or exchanges
Doors Open 8 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Kansas City Area Events

JOHNSON COUNTY NAACP FREEDOM FUND BANQUET

The Johnson County NAACP will host its 56th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet on Sun., Sept. 8 at 5 p.m. at the Embassy Suites by Hilton, 10401 S. Ridgeview Rd., Olathe, KS.

This year's keynote speaker will be April Boyd-Naronha, Chief Engagement Strategist, The STEM Broker, LLC and Professor of Health Information Management & Computer Information Systems at the University of St. Mary.

Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased by calling (913) 362-2272. Or online at Eventbrite.com

MEET AND GREET AT THE AMERICAN JAZZ MUSEUM

Meet with the Board of Directors of the American Jazz Museum on Tuesday, Sept. 3 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. There will also be a reception honoring the newly elected Mayor Quinton Lucas and all elected KCMO officials. There will be live music, refreshments and remarks from the Mayor. RSVP at americanjazzmuseum.org/BoardReception or call (816) 895-840 by August 29.

COTERIE THEATER BEGINS SEASON WITH RISE UP

Rise Up: The Struggle of the Freedom Riders, a play by Lisa Evans will be staged at the Coterie Theater Sept. 17 – Oct. 20.

Told from a modern-day perspective of four students in 2019 who make a class project about 1961's Freedom



Riders - citizens riding buses across Alabama and Mississippi in 1961, to stand up against segregation. The play runs 70 minutes. For tickets and show times go to thecoterie.org.

The Coterie is a theater for children, but this play is recommended for youth ages 11 and up.

SEPTEMBER IS SICKLE CELL AWARENESS MONTH -

The 9th Annual Fun Walk – Strolling for Sickle Cell will be held at Kansas City Kansas Community College Conference Center, 7250 State Ave., KCK on Sat., Sept 7. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. and the walk/stroll is from 9 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$15 for Adults, \$5 Children, 3-12, Free for children under 3. For more information call (913) 735-2622 or visit 222.sickdecellmidwest.org.

Sickle cell is the most common genetic blood disease in the U.S., affecting as many as 100,000 people. It is an inherited disease that causes red blood cells to form an abnormal crescent shape.



Theme: **PASSING THE TORCH**
8th Annual Celebration
Of African Traditions & Cultures, Feeds, Fun, and Entertainment
Saturday, August 31 2019
Hyatt Regency Wichita
400 West Waterman Street, Wichita, KS 67202

Tickets: \$40.00
Doors Open at 5:00 P.M.
Social Hour: 5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

GET TICKETS AT:
Roseline's International Enterprise
5025 E. 21st St., Wichita, KS 67208;
Ph.: 316-682-7009; No tickets will be sold at the door

Email WAU directly: auwichtal@gmail.com;
OR CALL: 316-214-2292

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VS 

Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce Presents
Langston Lions vs McPherson Bulldogs
at Cessna Stadium
SEPT. 7.
Langston's band will be there too!

Black Women Empowered In Wichita Inc. presents
2019 Scholarship Gala
on Sat., NOV. 2 and
HBCU Midwest Classic Women's Basketball Exhibition Game
on Sun., NOV. 3
with Langston University & Lincoln University.




Public Art a Show Place of Pride at 9th St. Celebration on Aug. 31

After months of inconvenience, the improvements along Wichita's 9th Street between I-135 and Hillside are complete and for those who traverse the area, it is definitely time to celebrate. However,

everyone is invited to come out on Sat., Aug. 31, for a community-wide celebration to see not only the road improvement, but the commissioned art that's been made a part of the area.

The dedication ceremony, sponsored by the City of Wichita will begin at 10 a.m. at the

intersection of 9th and Minnesota. Ninth Street will be closed to traffic east of I-135 and parking access will be available off Piatt.

After the dedication, the Urban League of Kansas will keep the party going with a community celebration from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the corner of 9th and Grove. DJ Slim will be playing

music, and there will be food, prizes and games, so bring the family.

Improvements made along 9th Street include paving, drainage and pedestrian upgrades. Over 100 community members and leaders enhanced the vision by either picking up a paintbrush or placing tiles to

contribute to the grand scheme.

To help improve the beauty of the area, the city collaborated with local artist Ellamonique Baccus, who brought lively aesthetics to the scenery. With her help, enhancements have been made that include an interstate gateway, the Kwanzaa Plaza, and Adinkra sidewalk panels representing community values.

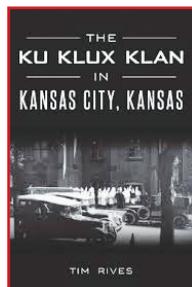
This renovation also brought us the Knowledge Bus Stop and the "Cultivating the Seeds of Our Future" mural. ●●

Improvements along Wichita's 9th Street from I-35 to Hillside include these colorful artworks by Ellamonique Baccus.



The Ku Klux Klan of Kansas City, Author Discusses All

The Ku Klux Klan kicked off a nationwide revival in 1921 and took Kansas City, Kansas, by storm. It's a story author Tim Rives knows well; he'll discuss the topic and his book, "The Ku Klux Klan in Kansas City" on Tues., Sept. 10, 6 p.m. at the National Archives, 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO.



The majority White population - alarmed by the influx of immigrants, Catholics and Jews-- joined the Klan in thousands. The Klan held picnics drawing crowds of 25,000 and parades up Minnesota Avenue with thousands of Klansmen, electric lights and robed horses.

Its members fed a political machine, electing more than 100 Klans-

men to local offices, from the district attorney to the mayor. Rives shares this troubled and little-known story, where the men of the Klan's inner circle ruled the city for nearly 30 years.

Tim Rives is the deputy director and supervisory archivist of the Eisenhower Presidential Library, an army veteran, and Kansas. He is a graduate of Wichita State University and Emporia State University.

Copies of Rives book will be available for purchase and signing. ●●

Free the Innocent Gala to Mark Exonorees' Journey to Freedom

Darryl Burton was wrongly convicted of a St. Louis murder in 1984. Proven innocent and exonerated in 2008, he emerged with little hope to pick up the pieces. Since then, he's grown to become a pastor at the largest United Methodist Church in the US - and he started Miracle of Innocence, an organization working to free victims of wrongful imprisonment.

The organization will celebrate with a Free the Innocent Gala on Sat., Sept. 14, at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, 13720 Roe Avenue, Bldg B, Leawood, KS. Tickets are \$150 and can be



Burton



Sewing purchased at

MiracleOfInnocence.org.

Achievements in the past year include: identifying two inmates with strong claims; providing care for 12 exonorees; training a 5-person case developer team; retaining two attorneys and one investigator; and ongoing vetting of 50+ inmates who've reached out to them.

Gala chairwoman is Virginia Sewing, who has helped lodge exonorees and grow the organization. ●●

IDOL from page 24

guest will receive a wrist band and seat ticket.

You'll need to secure childcare in advance for children 5 and under, as they won't be allowed at the audition site.

If you are under 18, you must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at all times while on location for auditions. If your parent or legal guardian is not available that day, one can be appointed. A notarized guardianship and medical authorization for minors form can be printed out. A link to the documents are located at the pre-registration site. An appointed legal guardian must be 21 or older.

Each person attending the open-call

auditions MUST sign a "personal release," this includes registrants and accompanied guests. This document can be accessed on-site, but there will be a limited quantity.

The general audition requirements state that no one auditioning should wear any article of clothing or bring any items that have designer names, sports team logos, copyrighted images, celebrity names or faces (living or dead), cartoon character images, or inappropriate messages or words.

You should prepare two to three song choices. You may be asked to sing while waiting in line, so be ready. Use of musical instruments is allowed.

GENERAL ADVICE FOR GOOD MEASURE

It is important that you keep your energy level up throughout the process, so make

sure to eat before you arrive and bring bottled water for hydration. Concessions may be available on-site but it's best to be prepared.

Be courteous to other people waiting in line. Cutting in front of others will not be tolerated. If it's discovered that a registrant cut in front of someone, they will be removed from the audition process.

With all these rules and stipulations, don't forget to have fun! Make this audition count, and be prepared to accept an invite to Hollywood.

The Community Voice will keep you updated on new information released about location, time and any other details that surface for this Sept. 4 open-call audition. And we can't wait to see our local and regional folks during the airing of the Wichita audition show. ●●

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Wichita, KS 67208

24 'American Idol' is Coming to Wichita, So Here's Your Chance

• Here's what you need to know to be ready for the Wichita auditions on Wed., Sept. 4

By **Natania Watie**
The Community Voice

On Wed., Sept. 4, "American Idol," the popular singing competition will be in Wichita for open call auditions. Here's your chance to become a star, and you don't have to travel very far.

So far, the exact location and time for the auditions hasn't been announced, but there's a lot of details about the process available. If we were to bet, we'd gamble on the auditions being at Intrust Bank Arena, but Century II and WSU Koch Arena are other good possibilities.

It is currently anticipated that auditions will start promptly at 9 a.m. and end no later than 5 p.m. Auditions will be on a first-come, first-serve basis, so arrive "way" early for a sure shot.

Registration will be available on site, but why wait. Go online and register

in advance at www.americanidol.com/auditions. Plus, there's lots of additional information to help you understand the process. However, we'll give some of the highlights here. Also, while you're there, download the American Idol mobile app to stay updated with event times and locations.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO AUDITION?

Get familiar with the eligibility requirements. First, you must be between the ages of 15 and 29. To be exact, you must be born between June 2, 1990, and June 1, 2004. Not in that window? Don't bother to show up.

You must be a legal U.S. resident with right-to-work documents. Note that's not a request for proof of citizenship but those who are not citizens must prove they have an unrestricted right to work and be able to show they have the proper employment authorization and papers.

To accept an invite to the competition portion of season 18 of American Idol, which is scheduled to start in

December 2019, you must disclose any and all contractual agreements you've entered into that may prohibit your full participation. The producers of the show may ask you to enter into an exclusive recording contract, a merchandising contract, a live and/or global touring agreement, a music publishing or songwriting agreement and an exclusive management contract.

If in fact, you are currently under contract and are chosen to compete – you must provide proof that it began before your audition in front of the program judges. Also, you must agree not to extend the term of said contract.

Bad news for them, but probably good for the rest of us: Anyone who competed in any previous season of American Idol, and advanced to the Top 10 cannot compete again.

Finally, if someone in your immediate family or household is employed by the show – you're out.

THIS IS WHAT YOU SHOULD BRING TO THE AUDITION

You must bring a valid form of ID

that shows proof of your age and a photograph of yourself to the audition. No one else can be in the photo with you. With your photo, attach a copy of a filled-out "story form." In addition,

Every participant is allowed to bring one friend or family member with them to the audition, but in order for that person to wait with you, that person must arrive with you and be present



Wichita will be one of several cities in the country to host open auditions for the 2020 season of "American Idol" on Sept. 4.

you'll need a signed "personal release" form that will allow you to be televised. Both documents can be found on the pre-registration website.

with you when you initially visit the registration line. Both you and your

See IDOL page 23



Induction into the
Wichita Black Business Hall of Fame
Former WSU Coach Willie Jeffries

Halftime Show
Langston University
Marching Band

Tickets online @
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First Annual **Heartland Football Classic**
Sat., Sept 7, 2019 WSU Cessna Stadium



Langston
University

VS

McPherson
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