

# THE Community VOICE

A trusted voice from the community's perspective

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VOLUME 27 NUMBER 5 www.communityvoiceks.com MARCH 5, 2020

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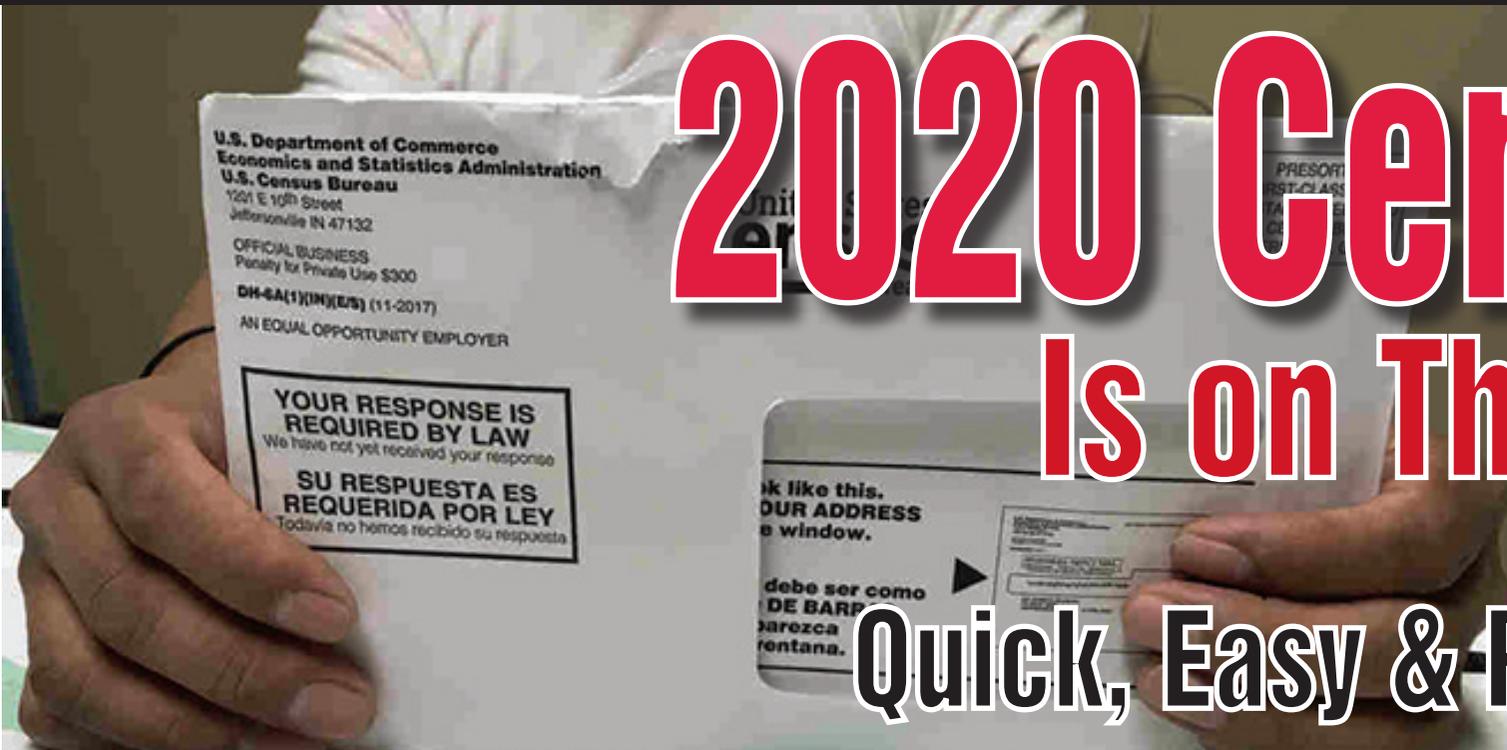
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# THE Community VOICE

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### WICHITA

- Mar 7 Adinkrahene: Journey to Greatness**  
9 a.m. - 10 p.m. • TKAAM • 601 N. Water
- Mar. 7 19th Amendment Panel Discussion**  
2 - 3 p.m. • TKAAM • 601 N. Water
- Mar. 20 Senior Wednesday**  
1:30 - 2:30 p.m. • TKAAM • 601 N Water
- Mar. 21 Lawrence Admirals vs. Wichita Wizards (Pre-Season)**  
6 p.m. • Friends University • 2100 W. University • Tickets @ [myvoicetix.com](http://myvoicetix.com): \$6.87-\$33.52
- Mar. 25 Supplier Diversity Focus**  
5:30 - 8 p.m. • Wichita State Center for Entrepreneurship • 1845 N. Fairmont
- Apr. 4 2nd Annual Black & White Extravaganza**  
7 - 11:55 p.m. • Holiday Inn Select • 549 S. Rock Road • \$50

### OTHER LOCATIONS

- Mar. 14 Neighborhood Block Party & Grand Opening! Brown Sugar Chicken & Donuts**  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m. • 3708 State Ave. KCKS
- Mar. 28 KCK Jabberwock Scholarship Pageant**  
7 p.m. • Holiday Inn • 8787 Reeder St • Overland Park • \$50.
- Thru Mar. 29 Queen Nefertari: Eternal Egypt Daily.** • Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art • 4525 Oak St. KCMO
- Apr. 11 35th Annual Cotillion**  
6 -9 p.m. • Marriott • 200 W. 10th KCMO • Admission \$75

### FEATURED EVENT WICHITA WIZARDS

- Mar. 21 Wizards vs. Lawrence Admirals**  
6 p.m. • Friends University • 2100 W. University Wichita, KS • \$6.87 - 33.52 per person [myvoicetix.com](http://myvoicetix.com)
- Mar. 28 Wizards vs. N. Texas Saints**  
6 p.m. • Friends University • 2100 W. University Wichita, KS • \$6.87 - 33.52 per person [myvoicetix.com](http://myvoicetix.com)

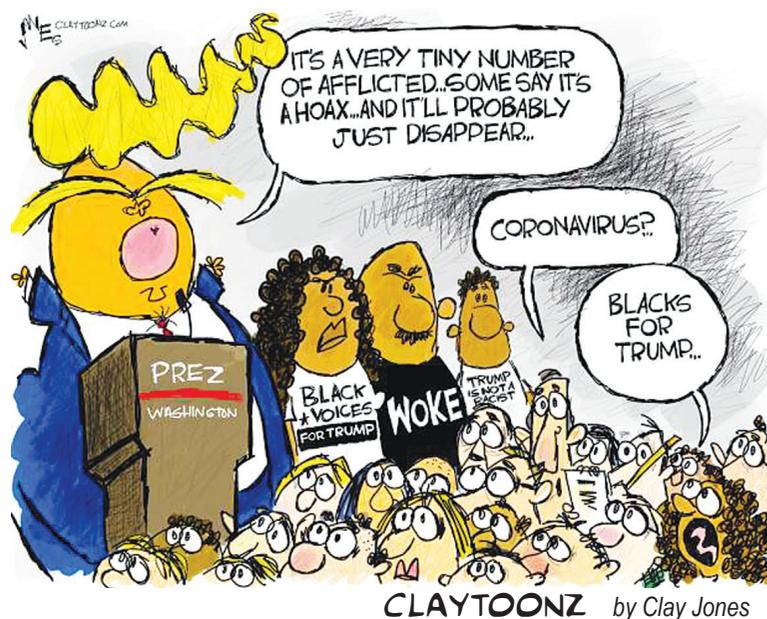
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## Our Top Stories on Social Media Stories

- 'Good Times' Ja'Net Dubois Has Passed.
- Wyandotte Unified Government Employee Killed While on Duty.
- Shout out to Dr. DeAngela Burns-Wallace as she's sworn in as head of the Kansas Dept. of Administration!
- This Wichita State Alumnus was the first African-American officer to be awarded the Medal of Honor.
- It doesn't happen often, but a federal judge in Kansas City has resigned.
- Kansas' 200,00 Drivers With Suspended Licenses May Get Help.

## Top Stories @ [www.communityvoiceks.com](http://www.communityvoiceks.com)

- Triple Threats: The Three Duprees
- John Henry Van Leu: One of the Wealthiest Men in Wichita
- Black Quarterback Super Bowl Winners: Mahomes Makes 3, With More Ready to Go
- Sprint/T-Mobile Merger: It's Personal for Kansas City
- Kansas' 200,000 Drivers With Suspended License May Get Help
- What T-Mobile Takeover of Sprint Means For You
- Living in Kansas City: The 30s, 40s and 50s
- Bloomberg Offers a Plan to Revitalize the Black Community
- It's a Battle of the Bills in Kansas Legislature



Front Cover: Sheila Mercy receives \$60,000 - 4 year scholarship from Newman University. See story pg. 17

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## STEVEN SPIELBERG'S ADOPTED DAUGHTER ARRESTED IN DOMESTIC INCIDENT

An adopted daughter of film director Steven Spielberg was arrested in Tennessee in a domestic incident involving her boyfriend, police said.

Mikaela Spielberg, 23, was charged with domestic assault causing bodily



Spielberg and daughter, Mikaela

injury. Spielberg was released from a jail in Nashville later Feb. 29, jail records showed.

According to a Metropolitan Nashville Police affidavit, officers said Spielberg and her boyfriend were involved in an argument after returning from a bar. After the victim made a "rude comment" toward Spielberg, she started throwing objects at him, injuring his hand and wrist, Nashville television station WZTV-TV reported.

A March 9 court hearing on the charge was scheduled.

## TYRA BANKS' MODELAND THEME PARK FINALLY SET TO OPEN IN MAY

Tyra Banks' beauty theme park ModelLand is set to open in May in Santa Monica, Calif., and tickets are already available, ranging from \$59 to \$1,495.

More than a decade in the making, Tyra Banks' beauty theme park ModelLand is set to open in May in Santa Monica, Calif. It's Banks' entry into the boom of funhouse venues where people pay to visit immersive rooms and leave with Instagram-worthy snapshots. Visitors runway walk into the universe of ModelLand where they get to live a modeling fantasy, designed just for you and your budget.

General access tickets begin at \$59, but highest dollar participants can enjoy the ultimate entrenched "Fantascene Dream," that includes a prior to your arrival personal consultation with ModelLand's fashion and beauty expert, to customize your fantasy photoshoot look from head to toe; premium high-fashion

designer styling, paired with 1-of-a-kind fashion pieces; model goodies gift bag, curated by Tyra; and a luxury robe with ModelLand insignia.

The General Access treatment isn't so bad. All visitors leave with their very own personalized digital look book - customized with their own "fierce" photos and the knowledge of professional posing tips and tricks that can help them take their photo game to the next level.

## B. SMITH, MODEL TURNED LIFESTYLE GURU, DEAD AT 70

Barbara "B." Smith, one of the nation's top Black models who went on to open restaurants, launch a successful home products line and write cookbooks, died late last month at her Long Island home. She was 70 and had battled early onset Alzheimer's



Super Model B Smith

disease.

"Heaven is shining even brighter now that it is graced with B.'s dazzling and unforgettable smile," Smith's husband Dan Gasby said on Facebook.

Smith's eponymous Manhattan restaurant opened in 1986 and attracted a following among affluent Black New Yorkers, The New York Times recalled. Essence magazine described it as the place "where the who's who of Black Manhattan meet, greet and eat regularly."

Smith wrote three cookbooks, founded two other successful restaurants and launched a nationally syndicated television show and a magazine.

Her successful home products line was the first from a Black woman to be sold at a nationwide retailer when it debuted in 2001 at Bed Bath & Beyond.

In 1976, she became the second Black model to be on the cover of Mademoiselle magazine, following after Jolie Jones in 1969.

## RAPPER 50 CENT HINTS AT BECOMING THE NEW CEO OF DEF JAM RECORDINGS

Rapper, actor, producer, and entrepreneur 50 Cent, whose real name is Curtis Jackson, hinted that he may be taking the vacant chairman/CEO position of Def Jam Recordings.

The business mogul took to his Twitter account and tweeted "I have decided to take the job at Def Jam, somebody gotta do it, who better than me."

Paul Rosenberg, who previously held the position, recently decided to step down after 25 months.

There has been no word yet if 50 Cent was officially offered the position or if he was just trolling the record company on social media but one thing's for certain — he's pretty much successful at everything he touches.●●



50 Cents

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## Nigerians Likely to be Hurt Most by Trump's New 'African' Ban

After winning a court victory with his initial travel ban that targeted some predominantly Muslim countries, U.S. President Donald Trump has followed up with another sweeping measure, this time blocking immigration from Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Tanzania, Myanmar, Sudan, and Nigeria. However, none of the countries has as much to lose from the decision than Nigeria.

The restrictions announced on Jan. 31, but became effective on Feb. 22, bar Nigerians from receiving immigrant visas to live permanently in the United States. They can still travel to the US on temporary visas, such as those for foreign workers, tourists, and students.

But for the large Nigerian diaspora in the US, the policy could erode their deep family and cultural ties to their home country, Africa's most populous nation and one of its economic powerhouses.

Nigerians make up by far the largest population of African immigrants living in the US, numbering about 327,000. Cities with thriving Nigerian communities will be particularly hard hit, including Dallas, Chicago, Balti-

more, Atlanta, Phoenix, and Houston, the latter of which has the largest Nigerian population outside Brazil and Africa.

You might call Nigerians the ideal immigrant. Nigerians are some of the best-educated immigrants in the United States, often even ahead of other immigrant groups like Asians and Hispanics. According to U.S. Census Bureau data, about 17% of Nigerian immigrants have master's degrees while about 4% have doctorates.

This is definitely not about "getting the best people," as Trump likes to say of the types of immigrants he supposedly wants.

Trump's proclamation instituting the expanded ban says that Nigeria fails to meet the US's security standards in two ways: it doesn't "adequately share public-safety and terrorism-related information" and presents a "high risk, relative to other countries in the world, of terrorist travel" to the US.

It's true that Nigeria has long been fighting homegrown terrorism. Boko Haram, one of Africa's largest Islamic militant groups, has killed almost 38,000 people since 2011

and displaced another 2.5 million. The violence has subsided since its peak from 2014 to 2015 after the Nigerian military, backed by neighboring African countries, pushed Boko Haram into the north of the country. But the group continues to terrorize some communities in other provinces, kidnapping women and children and engaging in suicide bombings.

The situation has left many Nigerians wondering why they specifically have been targeted, when many other countries might pose similar security threats. Amaha Kassa, the executive director of African Communities Together, which advocates for African immigrants and their families, told reporters Feb. 28 that, at the group's latest meeting in New York City, dozens of Nigerians were asking one question: "Why single us out?"

Immigrant advocates say it's based on discriminatory motivations and that the Trump administration was already targeting Nigerian immigrants

The Trump administration has been looking to decrease immigration from Nigeria for a long time, dating back to a now-infamous meeting in the Oval Office in June 2017. Trump told his

advisers at the time that Nigerians who set foot in the US would never "go back to their huts" in Africa, the New York Times reported.

His administration has been restricting Nigerian immigration in the years since, clamping down on visitor visas.

Most Nigerians come to the US with employment-based visas or B visas, which are offered to short-term visitors, including tourists, business travelers, and people seeking urgent medical care. But the Trump administration has been denying Nigerians' applications for B visas at high rates over the last two years.

In 2018, the most recent year for which data is available, about 57% of B visa applications from Nigeria were denied, putting it among the countries with the highest denial rates. That might be because Nigerians had the highest numbers of visa overstays of any African country in 2018, as well as one of the highest rates of visa over-



Members of Wichita's very active Nigerian community appear mixed on whether Trump's new immigration ban is a racist attack or applied in response to a need for Nigeria to comply.

stays of any country. The administration also increased fees for Nigerians associated with certain temporary visa applications last year, imposing a potential financial barrier.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who met recently with Nigeria's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Geoffrey Onyeama, said he's optimistic that Nigeria will take the steps needed to remove itself from U.S. visa restrictions. However, the Secretary did not offer a timeline for their removal. ●●

## Trump's New Rule for Wealth Testing Immigrants Now in Effect

"Give me your tired and your poor who can stand on their own two feet."

It's a new Trump twist on the quote that's welcomed millions of immigrants to America.

Trump's version of the so-called "public charge" requires immigration officers to determine whether an immigrant applying to enter the US, extend their visa, or convert their temporary immigration status into a green card is likely to end up relying on public benefits in the future. The rules, published in August by the Department of Homeland Security, went into effect on Feb. 24.

For about four months, federal judges prevented the rule from being implemented while lawsuits challenging it made their way through

the courts. Opponents of the rule, including the state of New York and immigrant advocacy groups, had argued that the rule flouts the narrow definition of what it means to be a "public charge" under federal immigration law.

But rather than waiting for those courts to issue final rulings, President Donald Trump asked the Supreme Court in January to intervene — a once-rare occurrence that has become standard practice under this administration — and to allow the rule to go into effect. The US Supreme Court's conservative majority gave it the green light later that month without explaining their reasoning.

Trump has justified the rule as a means of ensuring that immigrants are "financially self-sufficient" and

has argued it will "protect benefits for American citizens."

"I am tired of seeing our taxpayers paying for people to come into the country and immediately go onto welfare and various other things," Trump said when announcing the rule. "So I think we're doing it right."

### THE 'PUBLIC CHARGE' RULE, EXPLAINED

The US has been able to reject prospective immigrants who are likely to become a "public charge" — dependent on the government for support — since 1882, but since World War II, few immigrants were turned away using that criteria. In 1999, the Clinton administration issued guidance that said only cash benefits, which very few immigrants

use, would be considered in making the determination.

The Trump administration is defining "public charge" much more broadly, giving Immigration officials more leeway to turn away those who are "likely to be a public charge" based on an evaluation of 20 factors, ranging from the use of certain public benefits programs — including food stamps, Section 8 housing vouchers, and Medicaid — to English language proficiency.

The rule gives individual, low-level officials much more vetting power than they have had previously, and injects a lot of uncertainty into the green card process.

### PUBLIC BENEFITS

Many immigrants aren't eligible

for public benefits unless they have green cards or certain humanitarian protections — and not all public benefits are available to noncitizens. In the majority of cases, the best advice for immigrants is to keep using the programs to which they're entitled because they won't be penalized for doing so under the rule, Doug Rand, a former White House official who worked on immigration policy in the Obama administration, said.

The rule, which has been anticipated for more than a year, has had a chilling effect already: Noncitizens have been needlessly dropping their public benefits out of fear that they will face immigration consequences. By the time the rule went into effect on March 1, it had, in that sense, already succeeded. ●●

## Gov. Kelly and Sen. Denning Call on Pastors for Medicaid Expansion Help

By Bonita Gooch  
The Community Voice

This week, governor Laura Kelly and Senate Majority Leader Jim Denning went stomping for support of their bipartisan compromise to pass expand Medicaid in Kansas. This time in addition to meeting with healthcare leaders, they met with a group they felt had both the influence and a job-related reason to support the agreement – Kansas ministers.

“I’m glad to see such a big group of faith leaders,” said Rabbi Moti Rieber, the CEO of Kansas Interfaith Action, a multi-faith issue advocacy organization.

Rieber, who lobbies in the Capitol in support of Medicaid expansion, noted how ministers have too often been missing when it comes to advocating in support of this issue.

“What we’ve been saying is that Medicare expansion is a moral imperative,” Rieber told the group. “This is a core element of our identity of people of faith.”

Kelly and Denning used the meeting that lasted a little more than an hour, to educate the pastors about the content of their bi-partisan compromise. Their goal was to gain the minister’s individual support for the compromise and then arm them with “the tools they need to go and force this (Medicaid expansion) in the legislature,” said Gov. Kelly.

### POLITICAL DEADLOCK

Medicaid Expansion, which would make healthcare available to an estimated 130,000 Kansans, looked like it would finally pass the Kansas Legislature this year. Ahead of the 2020 Kansas legislative session, Gov. Kelly, a Democrat, and Sen. Denning, a Republican, announced a bipartisan

agreement to finally move expansion ahead.

Despite adequate support to pass in both the Kansas House and Senate, the bill is being held up by Kansas Senate President Susan Wagle (R-Wichita)

and pass the Medicaid expansion.

“They really shouldn’t be tied together,” said Denning. “I don’t want to go home before we pass this abortion bill, but holding up Medicaid Expansion is holding up all health care bills.”

The position of Wagle, who is running to replace US Sen. Pat Roberts, has the support of Kansans for Life. However, three former Republican Presidents of the Kansas Senate, recently blasted her actions in an editorial that ran in the Topeka Capital Journal.

“A process in which one or a few people determine which laws move forward is anything but democratic,” wrote

former Senate Presidents David Bond, Dave Kerr, and Steve Morris. “The

requires 24 votes to pass. So far they only have 23 votes.

At the meeting, Kelly called on the religious leaders to use their “bully pulpit” to move the forces in Topeka.

### AGREE TO DISAGREE

While the ministers at the meeting may not all have agreed on the abortion amendment, they all did seem to support Medicaid expansion.

Rev. Charles McKenzie, pastor of Grandview United Methodist Church in Winfield shared a personal story as the “face of” Medicaid expansion.

“Let’s face it, we’re talking about the poor. This is about the least of

these,” said McKenzie. “My faith calls on me to resist any forum that says structure is more important than caring for the least of these.”

A prime example: Senate President Susan Wagle, incensed after the Republican-led House of Representatives recently rejected a controversial abortion amendment to the Kansas Constitution, set out to pressure lawmakers by throwing a bipartisan Medicaid expansion bill and other important policy proposals back into unfriendly committees. In defending her plan to block Medicaid expansion from moving forward, she said: “This is exactly how democracy is supposed to work.” ●●



Senator Jim Denning (R) and Governor Laura Kelly (D) team up to call for the faith community and their congregations to help break a political deadlock.

who, with the support of the chair of the Senate Health and Welfare Commit-

## Missouri Medicaid Expansion Ballot Initiative Making Headway

Healthcare for Missouri officials say they’re confident they’ll have enough signatures to get a Medicaid expansion question on ballots in November.

To make the May 3 deadline, the petition drive needs to have approximately 170,000 signatures to get the issue on the November 2020 ballot. Organizers say they’re more than 75% of the way there.

• Expansion of Medicaid – to cover Missouri resident who live in households with incomes up to 138% of the poverty level – would make health insurance available to an estimated 230,000 additional state resident.

Thirty-six states have expanded Medicaid so far. Neither Kansas nor Missouri are among those states, but both are working – in their own unique ways – to expand Medicaid this year. ●●

tee, has not allowed the bill to reach the senate floor for a vote.

With Medicaid expansion, “the lives of people of Kansas are really on the line here,” said Gov. Kelly, who noted the “irony” of tying the approval of an abortion bill to a lifesaving bill like Medicaid expansion.

Denning, who supports the abortion constitutional amendment, says it’s time to bring the impasse to an end

Senate president’s reckless decision to pull numerous promising bills after the constitutional amendment failed only showed she was focused more on drawing attention to her U.S. Senate race than doing what’s best for Kansas.”

Still, Wagle seems determined not to yield. To get the bill out of committee and to the floor, Kelly and Denning are considering a procedural vote that

## STATE BRIEFS

### PROMISE ACT OFFERS FREE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH DEMAND CAREERS

In an effort to build Kansas’ workforce strength, the state’s House of Representatives has approved the Kansas Promise Act, House Bill 2515, with bipartisan support.

It provides scholarships to any Kansas high school graduate who completes a two-year program at a Kansas trade or technical school or community college in one of the state’s 10 high-need labor areas. The program has accountability measures including a work or community service requirement while in school and a requirement that students work in Kansas for at least two years after graduation.

The Kansas Promise Act is the first of the Legislature’s five-part “Make Kansas Work” plan.

Future parts include the Targeted Employment Act to encourage businesses to hire workers with disabilities; First-Time Homebuyer Accounts as incentive for young families to stay in the state; Social Security Exemption to allow senior citizens to keep working after retirement without being penalized by higher taxes; and the Rural Healthcare Innovation Fund to optimize the survival of hospitals in rural areas.

### LEGISLATURE DEBATES TRANSFERS FOR OUT-OF-STATE PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

People moving into the state who hold a professional or occupational license (such as cosmetology) and are seeking a similar license in Kansas would be able to get a probationary license that would allow them to practice. After the successful completion of the probationary period, the license would be made permanent. The timeframe for the probation would vary by occupation and the law would not apply to attorneys.

The idea is to encourage professionals to move to Kansas. A similar bill for military personnel and spouses was passed in Kansas in 2015. The amended bill seems to have a lot of support but still hasn’t passed both houses. ●●

# Kansas Struggles With Details of Legalizing Sports Betting

• *Kansans may have an array of new betting opportunities if legislators can agree on how to make it work.*

By John Hanna  
Associated Press

**K**ansas lawmakers who want to legalize betting on sports events and allow online sales of lottery tickets are struggling to agree on the details and facing criticism that they're being too generous toward companies already managing casinos for the state.

The state Senate voted 23-15 on Feb. 26 to approve a sports betting bill less than a month after the Kansas City Chiefs' victory in professional football's Super Bowl highlighted how many Kansas fans likely placed wagers on the team out of state or illegally. Approval came after a four-hour debate and sent the bill to the House, but a committee there is working on its own legislation that is likely to differ significantly.

## THE CASINO PLAN

The Senate's bill would allow people to place bets on sports events through four state-owned casinos managed by private companies through contracts with the Kansas Lottery, and the casino companies could take wagers through computer or cellphone apps. The measure also would allow limited state lottery ticket sales online.

The bill's supporters don't expect sports betting to raise more than a few million dollars a year for the state, even if the annual amount wagered reaches \$1 billion, because

95% would go back to players in the form of winnings. But 20 states have legalized sports betting, including Colorado, Illinois and Iowa.

"It certainly put us in a position where we can establish sports gaming in Kansas and pull, hopefully, pull, wagers from a black market, off-shore, unregulated, untaxed market and bring it into Kansas under a regulated, safe market," said Senate Vice President Jeff Longbine, a Republican from eastern Kansas who led supporters during a four-hour debate.

## THE GREYHOUND PLAN

The House committee plans to have hearings next month on its rival proposal. Chairman John Barker, a Republican from a central Kansas,

where racing greyhounds have long been raised, said the House measure would give the state a larger share of the sports betting revenue and would allow hundreds of retail stores that sell lottery tickets to accept simple bets on sports.

"We thought we would spread it out," Barker said. "You could be able to go down and buy a lottery ticket and bet on the K-State-KU



Who will the players be in legalized sports betting in Kansas? That's the big question and Kansas legislators seem divided in their support of competing bills to make online lottery, casinos and greyhound race tracks the venue for betting.

game, hopefully buy a loaf of bread and 10 gallons of gas or whatever and go home."

There's also the question of whether Kansas should try to revive long-closed dog and horse racing tracks. State law allows slot machines at the tracks, but critics say the state's take is too high for them to be profitable. The Senate voted 18-17 against lowering the tax rate for a dog and horse racing park in Kansas City, KS.

The park is owned by billionaire casino mogul Phil Ruffin, a friend of President Donald Trump. The Wichita Eagle reported that in 2018, Senate President Susan Wagle, a Wichita Republican, listed Ruffin as a reference as she sought

an ambassadorship, sending an e-mail to a political operative 10 days after for a similar proposal. She voted for the latest proposal as well.

## ONLINE LOTTERY SALES

Democrats in the Senate complained that their chamber's bill gave too much control over the sports betting to the companies managing the state's casinos by not requiring separate sports-betting contracts with the lottery and letting the casino managers decide who provides computer or cellphone apps.

Some critics also found the casinos' favored position galling because of restrictions the bill would place on online lottery ticket sales. About a dozen other states have some form of online lottery sales.

The Kansas Lottery couldn't use any sound or visual effects simulating a slot machine, allow someone to play more than one game at a time or determine a winner in less than four minutes. The lottery estimates it could boost sales \$3 million a year under the bill but by as much as \$26 million if the provisions were less restrictive.

Sen. Tom Holland, a Democrat from northeast Kansas, said the bill is a "sucker bet" for the state when it's likely to see more gambling addicts and other problems from expanded gambling.

"If Kansas is going to extend its gaming products, then that extension needs to be profitable for the state," Holland said in explaining his no vote. ●●

## MO Considering Sports Betting

**S**ports betting may not be legal at Arrowhead Stadium this year, but the Missouri Legislature is currently working several bills that would allow betting on professional sports and NCAA collegiate games.

Sports betting is catching on quickly since a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in 2018 allowed for it to be legalized in every state. In legislatures across the country, 2020 is proving to be a test of whether that rapid expansion continues.

Fans from both Kansas and Missouri flock to states like Iowa where sports betting is legal, which has many lawmakers saying, "why not keep that money at home."

A bill introduced by Tony Luetkemeyer

(R-Kansas City) would allow people to go to a casino to place a legal sports bet and allow people to download mobile betting apps by going to a casino, if they're of legal age. His bill would allow betting on all professional sports and NCAA college games. Another bill would allow teams to accept sponsorship's from sportsbook operators.

"I think it's really important that we regulate it, so that consumers are protected and they're not dealing with shady third parties who are not using data approved by the leagues and doesn't have integrity to it. And then also making sure we're getting money for our schools," Luetkemeyer told a KC media outlet. ●●

## New Regulatory Requirements for Everyy Should Stop Future Pole Disasters

**A** bill passed by the Kansas House may not help Wichita residents who had 105-foot tall Everyy poles placed in their front yard, but it may help keep it from happening to other Kansas residents in the future.

The Kansas House passed a bill that requires giving the Kansas Corporate Commission regulatory oversight of placement of transmission lines in urban areas. The bill requires the KCC to take into account population density, location and aesthetics in placement decisions.

The bill, sponsored by KS Rep Gail Finney

(D-Wichita) was added to a bill that involved the KCC and retail sales of electricity through vehicle charging stations. The amended bill now heads to the Senate for their consideration.

The bill does nothing to help Wichitans who were damaged by the installation of poles on their lots, but hopefully, it will keep it from happening in other urban areas, said Finney.

Everyy, formally Westar has admitted it made a mistake by not getting community input in advance of installing the approximately 75 poles in Wichita's Northeast area. They have since do-

nated \$1.2 million to a community fund and have presented three new plans that may help minimize the impact of the poles on the community. ●●



# Census 2020

The Census is one of the most important surveys a person living in America can fill out. Every 10 years, it's the count that's taken of everyone in the United States, regardless of age and citizenship status. Completing the Census is particularly important because for the next 10 years it will

determine how BILLIONS in federal funding is divided among communities for education, housing, roads, hospitals, nutrition assistance programs, etc. They also help determine the boundaries for voting districts, and help businesses decide what areas to build and invest in.

## Start Looking: 2020 Census 'Invites' Will be Arriving Soon

After nearly a year of pre-event hype, The U.S. Census says "invitation" to respond to the 2020 Census questionnaire will be arriving in households between March 12 and March 20.

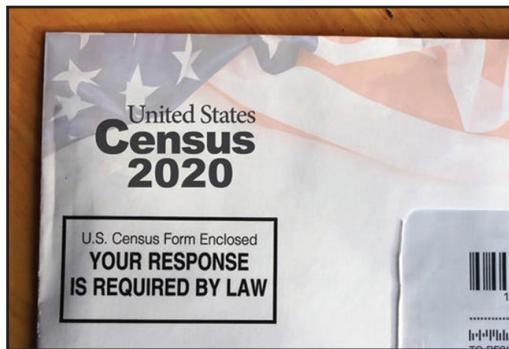
This invitation will include instructions on how to respond to the 2020 Census online or by phone. By April 1, most households will have received an invitation delivered either by mail or by a census taker. In areas of the country that are less likely to respond online, a paper questionnaire will be included in the initial mailing to households.

Reminder mailings will be sent to households that do not respond, and in the fourth mailing every household that has not yet responded will receive a paper questionnaire.

Once households receive invitations, they are asked to respond to the 2020 Census by using the provided Census ID. If a household is unable to enter the Census ID, people can still respond, by providing an address. Whether people respond online, by

phone or by mail, it is important to respond right away.

"The 2020 Census is on mission, on schedule, and on budget to promote an accurate count," said Census



Bureau Director Dr. Steven Dillingham said. "Response is important because statistics from the Census are used in distributing where hundreds of billions in funding for school lunches, hospitals, roads and much more. The invitations will remind respondents to include everyone living in the household, whether they are related or not.

This includes young children. Your response will impact communities for the next decade."

Below is a timeline of how and when the Census Bureau will invite households to complete the 2020 Census questionnaire:

March 12-20: Initial invitations to respond online and by phone will be delivered by the U.S. Postal Service. Areas that are less likely to respond online will receive a paper questionnaire along with the invitation to respond online or over the phone.

March 16-24: Reminder letters will be delivered.

March 26-April 3: Reminder postcards will be delivered to households that have not responded.

April 8-16: Reminder letters and paper questionnaires will be delivered to remaining households that have not responded.

April 20-27: Final reminder postcards will be delivered to households that have not yet responded before census takers follow up in person.

If a household does not respond to any of the invitations, a census taker will follow up in person sometime between May 13 and July 31. A sample of the 2020 Census paper questionnaire and preview of the online questionnaire is available, along with

more information about when most people will receive their invitations in the mail.

The U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years. Census statistics help determine the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives and how billions of dollars in federal funds are allocated to state and local communities for the next 10 years. ●●

## Census Protects Your Privacy

Even though a citizenship question won't be included, hype around the issue has caused many unauthorized immigrants to be concerned about the safety of participating in the census.

By law, the bureau cannot share the personal data collected with other agencies, such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement or the Homeland Security Department, and, before it's published, the data is stripped of all personal identifiable information.

Census records are kept private for 72 years, after which the National Archives will release them to the public to be used for genealogy.

All census workers must take a lifetime oath to protect personal information. Violations are punishable by up to five years in jail and a \$250,000 fine.

The bureau has gone to extensive lengths over the past decade to ensure its new online system is safe, putting in safeguards against cyberthreats. ●●

## Census and Churches Team Up for Worship Weekend, March 27-29

In an effort to boost awareness and decrease fears of the Census, the Census Bureau is teaming with church leaders across the country for the Faith Communities Census Weekend of Action, March 27-29.

The date was set to coincide with the arrival of census questionnaires in the mail beginning in mid-March and the actual census day, Wed., April 1, 2020.

It coincides with most citizens receiving Census info in the mail.

Faith leaders are being asked to incorporate information about the Census in their sermons and/or to include information about the Census in their

church bulletins.

This outreach by the faith community is particularly important in communities of color who are most often undercounted.

"If I've learned one thing, it is that you are your community's most trusted voice," said Census Bureau Director Steve Dillingham, in a recent address to pastors.

That's why the Census decided to partner with churches to help drive census participation. He hopes a message from a trusted leader may help squelch any fear individuals have about the completing the short 12-question survey.

"We've been undercounted decade

after decade after decade," said Al Fontenot, associate director, Decennial Census Programs at U.S. Census Bureau. "And if we allow fear to cause us to be undercounted one more time, we are putting power in the hands of people we do not want to put power in their hands."

Fontenot is African American.

The Census has developed a Faith-based worship weekend toolkit that can be uploaded online. [https://2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/partners/2020-02/Faith\\_Communities\\_Action\\_Guide.pdf](https://2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/partners/2020-02/Faith_Communities_Action_Guide.pdf)

In addition, Gordon Criswell, asst.

county manager for the Wyandotte Unified Government developed this short

notice (below) that churches might consider adding to their bulletin. ●●

**SAMPLE**

### Faith Weekend Bulletin Message MARCH 27- 29, 2020

April 1, 2020, "Census Day" is just around the corner. Every 10 years, every resident of our community must be counted. Counting all our residents means this community does not miss out on any funding for critical services needed in our county, OUR community. All residents should have received the post card in the mail asking them to complete the 2020 census. You can complete the census by mail, phone or online. It is important that everyone in your household be counted, from the youngest to the oldest! Completing the Census is easy and if you need help, call the telephone assistance line at 1-800- 354-7271. ●●

# 8 The Black Undercount: It's Compounded by the White Overcount

CENSUS

In 1940, the U.S. Census knew it had an accuracy problem when it discovered 453,000 more men registered for the draft that year than were counted in the census. The 1940 census missed 3% of men age 21 to 35, but 13% of Black men in that age group.

That disparity was the first objective evidence of what is now called the differential undercount – a disproportionate undercounting of some population subgroups, most notably people of color, young children, and renters (a proxy for lower income households), compared to Whites, older Americans and

homeowners.

It wouldn't matter so much if the census missed relatively equal percentages of people in all communities and demographic groups – urban, suburban, and rural; poor and wealthy; predominantly White and predominantly Black or Latinx; young children and senior citizens – the result might not be 100% accurate, but at least it would be fair for key purposes for which census figures are used: allocation of political representation and government funding for vital services and programs.

However, scientific measurements of census accuracy since

1940 have shown a persistent, disproportionate undercount of certain population subgroups, which skews the results in favor of some communities over others.

The Differential Undercount -- The Gap

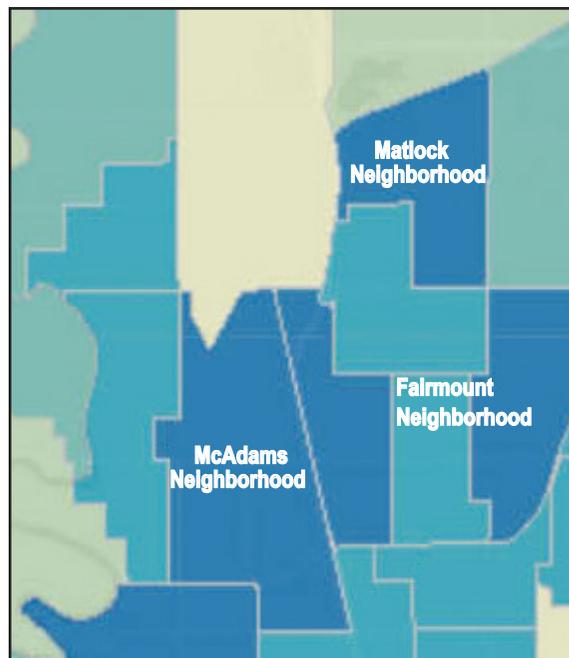
More than just the undercount of Blacks and Latinos matter. You must also consider the consistent overcount of Whites to come up with a number to measure the complete impact. It is this disparity that deprives underserved communities of political power, government resources and, often, private sector investment.

For example the estimated undercount of African American in the 2010 Census was 2.06%. The over-count of the White population was .83%. Combined,

the "differential undercount" for African Americans was closer to 3%. This gross error compounds the problem of inequality in the census, because wealthier, pre-

dominantly White communities receive more than their fair share of influence and resources, while poorer, non-White areas receive less than they should. ●●

## Wichita Major Undercount Census Tracts



Based on 2010 Census Response these heavily African-American Census Tracts are the ones where households are lease likely to respond.

### Predicted Mail Non-Response Rate %

- 30.0 to 48.4
- 25.0 to 29.9
- 20.0 to 24.9
- 16.0 to 19.9
- 0.0 to 15.9
- Not Calculated

See Kansas City, Ks and Kansas City, MO, undercount maps on page KS & KCMO maps on page 22

MAR. 5, 2020

## Watch out for Census Scammers

The Census Bureau will attempt to contact you six times before they try to locate you in person.

To protect yourself from scammers, keep in mind:

- The Census Bureau will never contact you with an unsolicited e-mail
- The bureau will never ask for your social security number
- The bureau will never ask you for your bank account or credit card account information
- The bureau will never ask you to pay for

anything

If someone shows up at your door, you should ask to see identification. A valid ID will have their picture, a special watermark, and expiration date. You will also be able to call 1-800-923-8282 to check if the person standing at your door is really who they say they are and works for the Census Bureau.

If you know you have already filled out the form online, by phone, or through the mail, you should call the police immediately if someone claiming to be from the Census shows up at your door. ●●

## What Does the Census Ask?

Although you may receive the census ahead of Census Day, April 1, 2020, you are to answer the question as it pertains to everyone living in your household on April 1, 2020.

First of all, what the Census does NOT ask:

- Your social security number
- The social security number of anyone in your household
- If you're a citizen of the United States

There are basically 12 easy questions, but you have to answer the questions about each of the people who live in your household.

**1. How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment, or mobile home on April 1, 2020?**

Here, you'll count everyone living and sleeping in your home most of the time, including young children, roommates, and friends and family members who are living with you, even temporarily.

**2. Were there any additional people staying here on April 1, 2020, that you did not include in Question 1?**

Mark all that apply: Children, related or unrelated, such as newborn babies, grandchildren, or foster children; relatives, such as adult children, cousins, or in-laws; nonrelatives, such as roommates or live-in babysitters, and people staying here temporarily.

**3. Is this house, apartment, or mobile home ...Owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan? Include home equity loans. Is it owned by you or someone in this household free and clear (without a mortgage or loan)?** Rented? Occupied without payment of rent?

**4. What is your telephone number?** The Census Bureau asks for your phone number in case there are any questions about your census form. We will only contact you for official census business, if needed.

**5. What is Person 1's name?**

If there is someone living here who pays the rent or owns the residence, start by listing him or her as Person 1. If the owner or the person who pays the rent does not live here, start by listing any adult living there as Person 1. There will be opportunities to list the names of additional members of your household.

**6. What is Person 1's sex?**

This allows the Census to create statistics about males and females, which can be used in planning and funding government programs. This data can also be used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination.

**7. What is Person 1's age and what is Person 1's date of birth?**

Note Person 1's age as of April 1, 2020. For babies less than 1 year old, do not write the age in months. Write 0 as the age.

**8. Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?**

You are to answer both question 8 about Hispanic origin and question 9 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races. Hispanic origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before arriving in the United States. People who identify as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be any race.

**9. What is Person 1's race?**

You can mark one or more boxes. Options include: White; Black or African American; American Indian or Alaska Native; Chinese; Filipino; Asian Indian; Vietnamese; Korean; Japanese; other Asian; Native Hawaiian; Samoan; Chamorro; other Pacific Islander; some other race.

**10. Print name of Person 2.**

Here, you will list the next person in your household.

**11. Does this person usually live or stay somewhere else?**

Mark all that apply: no; yes, for college; yes, for a military assignment; yes, for a job or business; yes, in a nursing home; yes, with a parent or other relative; yes, at a seasonal or second residence; yes, in a jail or prison; yes, for another reason.

This question helps ensure that the Census Bureau is counting everyone once, only once, and in the right place. If you have questions about whether or not to include someone, visit Who To Count.

**12. How is this person related to Person 1?**

Mark ONE box; opposite-sex husband/wife/spouse; opposite-sex unmarried partner; same-sex husband/wife/spouse; same-sex unmarried partner; biological son or daughter; adopted son or daughter; stepson or stepdaughter; brother or sister; father or mother; grandchild; parent-in-law; son-in-law or daughter-in-law; other relative; roommate or housemate; foster child; other nonrelative.

Why we ask this question: This allows the Census Bureau to develop data about families, households, and other groups. Relationship data is used in planning and funding government programs that support families, including people raising children alone. ●●

# Friends of Yates Hosts 40th Black Men & Women of Distinction Awards

Friends of Yates hosted their 40th Annual Black Men & Women of Distinction Program in observance of Black History Month on Sun., Feb. 23, at Forest Grove Baptist Church, KCK.

The 2020 Black Men and Women of Distinction Awards were presented to individuals who have worked relentlessly for their individual success, as well as their community. The recipients were: Edwin Birch, Dana Bostic, Darrell Calhoun, Ashley Campbell, Rev. Charles E. Cofield, Jr., Joy Cofield, Ludelia Block Cowan, Dr. Khiara Drew, Susie Gordon, Kenya Hicks, Jeffrey Hollinshed, Dionne King, Dianna Howard Kolen, Bridget Locke, Dr. James McIntosh, Dr. Mal-lory McIntosh, Rebecca Hill McKeel, Adrienne Perry, Barton T. Richardson, Linda Robins, Geoffrey Sanders, Patricia Sevier, Gia L. Smith, Khade-jah McIntosh-Taylor, Kendra Tyler, LaMonica Upton, Reginald Watkins and Rev. Dexter W. White.

The Donald D. Sewing Distinguished Service Award was presented to Dr. Marvin McIntosh and Mrs.

Angela Hobson Hamilton. As Clinical Case Manager for Truman Medical Center, Mrs. Hobson-Hamilton became aware of the limited community resources devoted to serving children and youth effected by violence and homelessness. So, in 2016, she started Compassionate Partners KC, a non-profit that partners with community agencies to offer self-esteem building services to children and youth experiencing family trauma and homelessness.

Dr. McIntosh, MD, MPH is the Medical Director of the Community House of Wellness, Inc., instructor at the University of Linguistics and Future Learning and Instructor at the University of Phoenix. The Community House of Wellness Inc., combines western medicine with herbal medicine creating an integrative form of medical options for community members to consider.

2020 Portrait of a Black Man and Portrait of a Black Woman Awards were presented to Carl Roland Jr. and Mrs. Lagraccella Roland. Carl, a Kansas City native, moved to Los

Angeles at age 20, where he became a successful real estate investor, music producer, composer and multi-instrumentalist with releases ranging from R& B, Pop, Dance and Smooth Jazz. His musical success earned him multiple Gold and Platinum Recording Industry Association of America certifications, one most recently for the hit "You" performed by Jesse Powell.

Lagraccella is a native of Las Vegas, with training in Classical piano, clarinet, opera, jazz, and ballet. She ultimately became a professional Los Vegas show girl lead dancer, international model and actress. Her most notable honor was being the first African American to be crowned Miss Nevada USA, which earned her a spot traveling the world with the Bob Hope USO Tour. Under her stage name KLEO, she is lead singer, writer and arranger for a band, Dusty Lane, that she formed with her husband. ●●



Photos by The Friends of Yates

PHOTOS: 1. (R) Dr. Marvin McIntosh, the "Donald D. Sewing Distinguished Service" awardee, and his brother Frederick McIntosh. 2. (Center) "Portrait of a Black Woman" awardee Lagraccella Roland with sister-in-laws (L) Carlen Davis and Erica Roland. 3. "Donald D. Sewing Distinguished Service" awardee Angela Hobson-Hamilton (R) and son Mark McIntosh. 4. 2020 "Portrait of a Black Man" awardee Carl Roland Jr.

## KCK Delta Alumni Chapter Hosting 'Golden Edition' Jabberwock

On March 28, 2020, the Kansas City (KS) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will present the 2020 Miss Jabberwock Scholarship pageant, "Golden Edition," at the Holiday Inn & Suites, 8787 Reeder St. Overland Park, KS, 7 p.m. This event is open to the public and tickets are \$50 per person. Individuals interested in purchasing tickets should e-mail jabberwock@

dstkcks.org.

The 2020 Jabberwock Scholarship Court is made up of four High School Senior young ladies: Miss Synaj Rayanna Bingley, Miss Jayla Mich'on Brown, Miss Mariah Mechelle Lee and Miss Monet Yvonne Spencer.

Miss Synaj Rayanna Bingley is the daughter of Ms. Michaela Gusset. She attends Olathe East High School, and plans to attend a four-year University

where she will study nursing in fall 2020 and ultimately become a traveling nurse.

Miss Jayla Brown is the daughter of Mr. Johnny Brown Jr. & Mrs. Michelle Brown. She attends Shawnee Mission Northwest High School, and plans to attend Prairie View A&M University in fall 2020 to pursue a career in nursing.

Miss Mariah Lee is the daughter of Ms. Fawn Lee. She currently attends Park

Hill South High School and plans to attend Tennessee State University in fall 2020, where she will major in human biology/pre-med and minor in psychology.

Miss Monet Spencer is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Tony and Demetria Spencer. She currently attends Sumner Academy and plans to attend Jackson State University in the fall, where she will study business administration. ●●



Mariah M. Lee



Syndaj R. Bingley



Monet Yvonne Spencer



Jayla M. Brown

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## Mayor Alvey Sets 'KCK At a Crossroads' Community Meetings

Wyandotte County Unified Government Mayor/CEO David Alvey is inviting the public to join him for a presentation of his vision for Kansas City, KS, his thoughts on the city's current financial situation, where the city must go from here, and how the city can get where it needs to be.

The mayor's presentation will emphasize the community's financial forecast and growth through economic development. Following the presentation, meeting participants with questions regarding the Unified Government and its services will be able to visit one-on-one with representatives from eleven departments: the Mayor's Office, Animal Services, Appraiser's Office, Code Enforcement, Economic Development, Livable Neighborhoods, Parks & Recreation, Planning & Zoning, Police, Public Works, and the Sheriff's

Office.

Representatives from the Board of Public Utilities and some area school districts will also be available.

The mayor will host five "KCK at a Crossroads" Community Meetings. The meetings will be held on the following dates from 5:30 – 7:30 PM:

- March 5 – Joe E. Amayo Argentine Community Center, 2810 Metropolitan Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66106
- March 10 – Bethany Community Center, 1120 Central Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66102
- March 24 – Northwest Middle School, 2400 North 18th Street, Kansas City, KS 66104
- April 7 – Patricia "Diane" Kane Community Center, 3130 North 122nd Street, Kansas City, KS 66109
- April 21 – USD 500 Headquarters, 2010 North 59th Street, Kansas City, KS 66102. ●●

## Troubles Keep Compounding For Bad Landlord T.E.H. Properties

Tenants of Ruskin Place Apartments, a 169-unit complex owned by troubled landlord T.E.H. Realty, have won the right to file a class-action lawsuit against the company.

In October, three tenants sued T.E.H., filed a lawsuit against the company, and asked for it to include other tenants in the complex. The judge, in agreeing to establish the case as "class action," found the tenants had similar problems, that applied to numerous "plaintiffs" or tenants.

Complaints of Ruskin Place tenants are similar to those of other T.E.H. Properties including inadequate heat and air, bugs

and mice, leaking roofs and windows, sagging floors, and unsecured doors, uncollected trash and mold, just to name a few.

T.E.H. has been the subject of numerous complaints by tenants at other apartment complexes it owns in the Kansas City and St. Louis Metropolitan areas. Several tenants have been injured from falls from cracked pavement, and collapsing ceilings.

At least one Housing Authority has refused to pay the tenants' share of the rent until T.E.H. renovates their buildings, forcing some tenants to move, and then Freddie Mac foreclosed on two of their properties for failure to maintain them. ●●

## How to Honor King in Kansas City, Public Meeting Set

Since Kansas City residents rejected the renaming of The Paseo to Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., the city has sought input on how it can honor the Civil Rights hero.

During a 90-day input window, Mayor Quinton Lucas received hundreds of suggestions. Now, Mayor Lucas has directed the KC Parks Board of Commissioners to reach further into the community to drive additional conversation and discussion on the topic.

"We learned a fundamental lesson over the past several months from Kansas City voters: public participation in the process matters," said Mayor Lucas. "I know without a doubt Kansas City will do its part in honoring Dr. King."

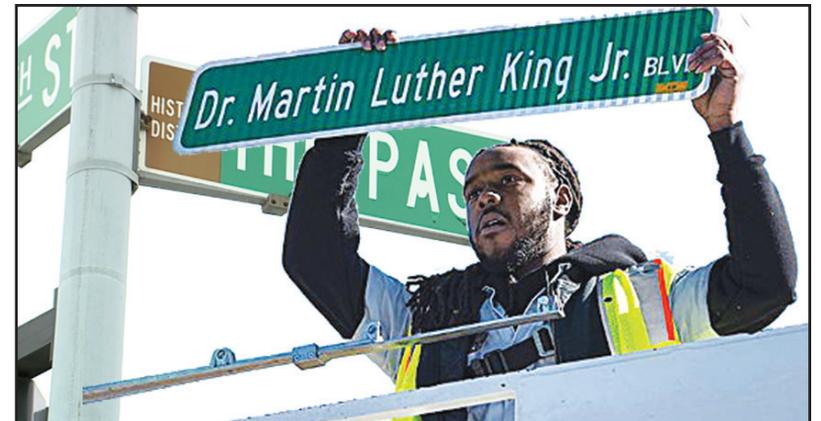
To gather additional input, a number of community input sessions have been planned. The initial meeting will be Sat., March 28, 10:30 a.m. at the Brush Creek Community Center,

3801 Brush Creek Boulevard, KCMO. Childcare and lunch will be provided.

Additional sessions will be scheduled throughout the city at varying times of the day to help accommodate varying schedules. Food will be served at all sessions and childcare will be provided for the evening and Saturday sessions.

Individuals who plan on attending are asked to pre-register to help organizers accommodate everyone.

To register for the March 28 meeting, go to [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) and search Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute Public Meeting. You can also register by e-mailing [Kelly.Jander@KCMO.org](mailto:Kelly.Jander@KCMO.org), or calling 816-513-7512. ●●



The community rejected renaming The Paseo to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

## McIntyre's Mistaken-Conviction Lawsuit Concluded

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt announced the resolution of the mistaken-conviction lawsuit filed by Lamonte McIntyre in March 2019.

The attorney general reached an agreed resolution with McIntyre, who served 23 years in prison for the 1994 murders of Donald Ewing and Doniel Quinn before being ordered released in 2017 by a Wyandotte County court reviewing the case. The agreed resolution was approved last week in Shawnee County District Court by Judge Teresa L. Watson.

In the agreed order, the court determined that McIntyre did not commit the crime or crimes for which he was convicted, nor was he an accessory or accomplice to that crime or crimes, nor did he suborn perjury, fabricate evidence or cause or bring about the conviction. Between April 1994 and October 2017 McIntyre served 8,583 days in prison or jail.

Accordingly, the court ordered

the following relief for McIntyre, as provided by the mistaken-conviction statute:

He was granted a Certificate of Innocence.

Records of his conviction, arrest, and DNA profile record information were ordered expunged.

He was granted total compensation of \$1,553,379.45.

He was granted counseling.

He was granted permission to participate in the state health care benefits program for plan years 2020 and 2021.

He was granted a waiver of tuition and required fees for attendance at a postsecondary educational institution for up to 130 credit hours.

By law, payment on the state judgment entered today is subject to review by the State Finance Council. This is the third lawsuit resolved by Schmidt under the state's mistaken-conviction statute enacted by the legislature in 2018. In addition to McIntyre, five

other people have filed claims for compensation pursuant to the new wrongful conviction statute. The State previously agreed to court-ordered payments to Richard Jones in a case arising from Johnson County and to Floyd Bledsoe in a case arising from Jefferson County. Three other cases, two arising from Sedgwick County and one from Clay County, remain pending in various stages of litigation. ●●



## Excitement Builds as 'Hamilton' is Announced

• Fans also wonder if city officials previously lied about Century II being too outdated to host the production.

The hip-hop Broadway musical "Hamilton" has been announced for the 2020-21 stage series Broadway in Wichita, which brings in touring shows.

No date is set, but organizers say the production will be staged in Century II's Concert Hall.

The announcement was made March 3 by Broadway in Wichita organizer American Theatre Guild, which is based in Kansas City.

The guild says musical-goers can join the 2020-21 season to receive first access to tickets for "Hamilton" and its local premiere. For info, visit [americantheatreguild.com/wichita](http://americantheatreguild.com/wichita).

The 2020-21 season will also bring in productions of "Disney's The Lion King" (Oct. 1-18), "The Simon & Garfunkel Story" (Nov. 27), "Fiddler on

the Roof" (Feb. 5-6), "An Officer and a Gentleman" (March 15-17, 2021), and "Summer: The Donna Summer Musical" (April 19-21, 2021).

"Hamilton" is the story of America's Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, an immigrant from the West Indies who became George Washington's right-hand man during the Revolutionary War and was the new nation's first Treasury Secretary. He was famously killed in a pistol duel by Vice President Aaron Burr.

"Featuring a score that blends hip-hop, jazz, blues, rap, R&B, and Broadway, 'Hamilton' is the story of America then, as told by America now," its press releases say.

The musical has broken Broadway box-office records and scored many awards, including multiple Tony

Awards, a Grammy Award, and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

Locals welcomed the announcement, KWCH News reported

"I think it's a great experience for anyone not just kids in dance it's really a fantastic show," Midwest Dance Mechanix owner Jana Owen told KWCH.

Dancer Asaira Usher agreed. "I'm gonna buy one for me one for my boyfriend my friends were going to make it a group thing," she said.

The news spread quickly over Facebook by excited fans.

It also spread for another reason: Wichitans had previously been told by city officials that the musical wouldn't come to the city due to outdated facilities at Century II, a signature Wichita building now at the center of controversial redevelopment proposals.

The reaction was pointed.

Resident Erin Riley posted a screen



Former President Barack Obama greets cast of Hamilton in 2015.

grab of a Feb 21, 2019 tweet from the City of Wichita and linked a 2019 Wichita Eagle article covering the city officials' statement.

"Just wanted to share this now that Hamilton in Wichita was announced this week," she wrote on Facebook. "City leaders are straight up lying to

the public in their bid to tear down Century II."

If such comments are an indication, then when Hamilton finally faces Burr on the local stage, it might be a flashpoint for a real-life downtown face-off. ●●

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**Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Havis, Pastor**

## New Payment Reminder Calls For Water Bills

In an effort to spur Wichita residents into paying their water bills on time, the City of Wichita has implemented an outbound calling system to help customers.

It is the latest incentive to prevent customers from getting behind on bills, and having their services disconnected. The City of Wichita Water Utilities wants

to ensure that all customers have access to water.

Customers will be notified by phone two business days prior to their water service being shut off. The previous method for handling late billing has been to notify a customer by sending a monthly bill and two postcards each month explaining that an account is past due and service disconnection is a possibility.

Wichita has taken note to what other cities have done to further progress. Outbound dialing estimates a 17% reduction in water service shut off for nonpayment.

These automated calls are available in both English and Spanish,

and will advise the customer to make a payment or call 316-265-1300. If the call is answered by a customer, they are given the option to transfer to make a payment to avoid service being disconnected. If the call goes unanswered, a voicemail message is left.

Payments are accepted at [wichita.gov](http://wichita.gov), through the postal service, by drop box, or by calling 316-265-1300.

Residents who need assistance paying their water bill should contact the Center of Hope at 316-267-0222. The center accepts calls from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. and from 1 - 4 p.m. on Mon.

If a customer prefers not to receive calls from the outbound system, they can notify the city at 316-265-1300, by e-mailing [watercustomerservice@wichita.gov](mailto:watercustomerservice@wichita.gov) or online at [wichita.gov](http://wichita.gov). ●●

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## Alpha Phi Alpha Hosts Dr. Evies Cranford Scholarship Banquet

The Eta Beta Lambda Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. held its 23rd Annual Dr. Evies O. Cranford Scholarship Banquet on Feb. 29 at the Wichita Marriott.

During the evening five scholarships were

given to local high school seniors. The big recipient was Sheila Mercy, who brought the entire audience to tears and to their feet as she received a \$60,000 scholarship from Newman University.

An \$800 scholarship was also given to Cam-

eron Davis, Northeast Magnet. Each of the following received \$500 scholarships: Larin Clement, East High; Dylan Overton, Northeast Magnet; and Kaylann Casey, Wichita North.

The dual role of keynote speaker was

shared by James Holland, a graduate of Jackson State, and Kianga Crowley, a graduate of Grambling State.

New this year, Lynn and David Gilkey of Rise Up For Youth received the Charles H. Chapman Humanitarian

Award, and Danielle Johnson received the Annie C. Singleton Award.

The mistress of ceremonies for the banquet was Jasmine Haynes, news reporter KSN TV.

Recipient Kaylann Casey was not in attendance. ●●



Photos by Regina McCartney & Facebook



PHOTOS: 1. Lynn Gilkey, Sheila Mercy, Newman University \$60,000 scholarship winner, and Vanessa Rials. 2. Other scholarship winners (L-R) Dylan Overton, Larin Clement and Cameron Davis. 3. Emcee Jasmine Haynes of KSN. 4. James III, Amanda and Danielle Vandross. 5. Corey Cranford and his mother Dr. Sharon Cranford directed the 'shout-out' to HBCUs. 6. Allicia and James Holland.

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## The Breakdown: Who Voted for Who on Super Tuesday

Late deciders aided Biden. The young were loyal to Sanders. Joe Biden's surprise victories on Super Tuesday were powered by Democratic voters who broke his way just days before casting their ballots — a wave of late momentum that scrambled the race in a matter of hours.

The late deciders helped Biden win Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Texas and Virginia, among several other states. In some states, they made up roughly half of all voters, according to AP VoteCast surveys of voters in eight state primaries. And the surveys show they lined up behind the former vice president. In Virginia, where nearly half of the voters waited to make up their minds, Biden won two-thirds of the late deciders.

Biden's big win in South Carolina on Saturday proved powerful. It revived his struggling campaign, within 72 hours pushed three of his rivals toward the exit, and swung the opinions of voters in distant states.

Yet Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders found a way to blunt the impact. By organizing aggressively and banking early votes from his liberal, young and Latino coalition, Sanders won Colorado and California. About 80% of Sanders voters in California said they picked their candidate before the final stretch.

Here's a snapshot from the Associated Press' VoteCast survey of the Democratic voters in Alabama, California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Texas and Virginia — who they are and how they

voted.

### BIDEN'S COMEBACK COALITION

The former vice president's coalition came into clear focus Tuesday. He did well with moderates and conservatives, voters older than 45 and African Americans. In many states, he enjoyed an advantage among women and college graduates. He ran strong with voters who attend church at least once a month.

And he successfully channeled sentimental attachments to former President Barack Obama. About half of North Carolina voters, for example, wanted a president who would restore politics to a pre-Trump era — and Biden won the majority of this group.

There's little doubt Biden's ties to Black voters were critical to his rebound. Biden cleaned up in Alabama on Tuesday night by winning close to 70% of African Americans, a majority of Democratic voters in that state.

Perceptions about electability may also be key to Biden's support. In Minnesota, for example, where Biden benefited from home-state Sen. Amy Klobuchar's exit from the race, about 60% of voters said it would be harder for a nominee with strong liberal views to win in the general election.

Even in his California loss, there were signs of newfound energy for Biden. Of voters there who picked their candidate in the last three days, Biden had a slight advantage.

Biden also flashed some cross-over appeal in places that matter. In Virginia, a state likely to be a top battleground in November, Biden won more than half of voters who say they

voted in the 2016 Republican primary. Former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg won close to 20%.

### STICKING TO SANDERS

The Vermont senator is holding on to his coalition of liberal voters, Latinos and voters under 30. In states with sizable populations of each, he fared well. In Virginia and North Carolina, where majorities were older and more likely to identify as moderate, Sanders came up short.

Sanders' strength with Latinos was clearest in California, where they made up about 30% of the vote. Sanders won close to half of that group in California — roughly double Biden's share.

Sanders has benefited from a youth movement. In California and Colorado, he won about 60% of voters under 30. His voters there are also somewhat more likely than Biden's to feel as though they're falling behind financially. He won at least 40% of Texas and Minnesota voters who said that recent economic gains had bypassed them.

Aside from their youth, Sanders supporters stand out for their skepticism of most other candidates in the race. At least half of his voters in North Carolina said they would be unhappy with Biden or Bloomberg as the nominee. Majorities of them in California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Texas and Virginia felt the same.

### BLOOMBERG'S BUST

More than \$500 million in spending on ads could not buy much love for Bloomberg, who announced Wednesday that he was dropping out of the race and endorsing Biden.

Bloomberg fared better among voters older than 65 compared with those younger, and similarly among those who think of themselves as moderate or conservative more so than liberals. But even among these groups, he was edged out by Biden.

The former New York mayor was the Democrat voters were least enthusiastic about nominating.

More than half of voters in Minnesota, Colorado and Massachusetts — his birthplace — said they would be dissatisfied if Bloomberg was the Democratic candidate. Roughly half in California, North Carolina and Virginia would also be displeased. By comparison, majorities in each of those states said they would be satisfied if Sanders was the nominee.

Only in Alabama and Texas would a majority be satisfied by Bloomberg.

### LOOKING TOWARD NOVEMBER

The Democratic contests do appear to be drawing some potential swing voters. Close to 20% of voters or more said they are waiting to see who wins the nomination before deciding how they'll vote in November. That was true in seven of the eight states AP surveyed. The share was somewhat smaller — 15% — in Minnesota, a



**Biden Bounces Back!** With a pile of endorsements from candidates who left the race, Biden pulled together an interesting coalition that led to him virtually sweeping the Super Tuesday primaries.

state Trump is trying to flip.

Most of this group identified as moderates or conservatives, a sign that they might be open to Trump or consider not voting for any candidate in November.

Another closely watched group is suburbanites — a constituency that could make up more than half the general election electorate. Sanders and Biden battled it out for those voters on Tuesday, neither jumping ahead with a clear advantage. ●●

AP VoteCast is a survey of the American electorate conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago for The Associated Press and Fox News. The surveys were conducted for seven days, concluding as polls closed.

Josh Boak and Hannah Fingerhut, Associated Press WASHINGTON (AP)

## Missouri Presidential Primary Details

### • On Tues., March 10, it's Missouri's time to vote

While the field has narrowed, Democrats are a long way from finalizing their candidate, and Missouri Poles are holding primaries for Republicans, Libertarian, Constitution and Green Parties.

While there is only one candidate on the Libertarian ballot, there are

three Green Party candidates, two Constitution party candidates, and four Republican candidates.

While the number of Democratic candidates still in the race may have narrowed considerably, the names of 20 candidates remain on the ballot.

Since Missouri's primaries are

open, you do not have to declare your party affiliation ahead of time. Just show up to your polling place and ask for the party ballot you want. That means if you want to voice your opinion in the Republican Party primary, and you're a Democrat, you can.

Missouri Delegates

Missouri Democrats have 68 pledged and 10 super delegates. Re-

publicans have 54 delegates. To win the Democratic presidential nomination, a candidate needs 1991 pledged delegates. At press time, California is still counting, but the race is pretty close and likely to get closer when California is finalized. Right now Biden has 466 delegates and Sanders has 501.

With the field narrowed, and Biden

and Sanders basically left to battle neck-to-neck, every pledged delegate matters. That's why, post-Super Tuesday, it's more important — not less important — to vote your interest.

Voting Time and Locations

The polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. If you can, you might want to

See **MISSOURI** page 14

## Missouri's "Show-Me-Showdown" Presidential Debate Canceled

As the Democratic field of presidential contenders narrowed, so did the Missouri Democratic Party's interest in its planned "Show-Me-Showdown" debate planned for Sunday in Kansas City. In a statement released The Missouri Democratic Party canceled Sunday's presidential forum in Kansas City. In a statement today from the party, it says the Democratic presidential candidate field has narrowed significantly, with a possibility that it will continue to narrow even further in the coming days. The party says there are now

too few candidates to make the "Show-Me Showdown" event viable.

"Instead, we will welcome the remaining candidates to Missouri in the days ahead in preparation for the March 10 Primary," the press release says.

A press release from Biden's campaign says the former vice president will be in Kansas City and St. Louis on Saturday. Sanders's campaign says the Vermont U.S. Senator opened four offices in Missouri over the weekend – in Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield, and Columbia. ●●

## Kansas Democratic Party Primary Sat., May 2

We'll have more on the Kansas Democratic Primary in future issues, but for now, here are some dates you need to know.

March 9 -- A mailing explaining how to vote by advance ballot or in-person will be sent to every registered Kansas Democrat. Exact locations for in-person voting and details on receiving mail-in ballots will be detailed in the mailing.

If you register to vote in Kansas as a Democrat after March 9, you can request a mail-in ballot through the Kansas Democrats website or by contacting their Topeka headquarters.

March 30 -- The Kansas Democratic Party will start sending mail-in ballots to registered Democrats in Kansas.

April 17 -- The last day to request a mail-in ballot.

April 24 -- The postmark deadline to return completed mail-in ballots.

May 2 -- In-person voting is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in each of the state's 40 state Senate districts. Results will be released as soon as they are available following in-person voting. ●●



### MISSOURI from page 13

With the field narrowed, and Biden and Sanders basically left to battle neck-to-neck, every pledged delegate matters. That's why, post-Super Tuesday, it's more important – not less important – to vote your interest.

#### Voting Time and Locations

The polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. If you can, you might want to avoid peak voting hours: before and after work and during lunch.

#### Voting Locations

If you're not sure where to vote, The Missouri Secretary of State's website might be helpful. Go to <https://voteroutreach.sos.mo.gov/PRD/>

VoterOutreach/VOsearch.aspx. Enter your zip code and address, and they'll give you your voting location.

#### Voter Identification

Valid identification for voting in Missouri are:

Identification issued by the state of Missouri, an agency of the state or a local election authority of the state.

Identification issued by the United

States government or agency thereof.

Identification issued by an institution of higher education, including a university, college, vocational and technical school, located within the state of Missouri.

A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or other government document that contains the name and address of

the voter.

If you do not possess any of these forms of identification, but are a registered voter, you may cast a provisional ballot. If you cast a provisional ballot, you will receive a stub from your provisional ballot envelope with instructions on how to verify that your provisional ballot is counted. ●●

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## Compensation for College Athletes: The Doors Are About to Open

• *A long-held tradition of amateur status for college athletes is about to change, but first, somebody has to set the rules.*

Since the beginning of organized college athletics, everyone has gotten paid but the athletes. It remained the norm as everyone got rich, except the athletes, on whose back the money was won.

After years of pressure, and NCAA stubborn resistance, it appears the rules are about to change.

The NCAA last fall said it would allow players to “benefit” from the use of their name, image and likeness and is working on new rules it plans to reveal in April.

Yes, just a month before this landmark announcement, the NCAA Board of Governors had released a statement saying that allowing these same kind of payments to college athletes would actually gravely undermine the idea of

a fair playing field.

### WHAT CHANGED?

The decision follows California's adoption of a law that bans schools in the state from preventing student-athletes from accepting compensation from advertisers and allows them to obtain endorsements and agents. CA Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the legislation in September, calling it the “beginning of a national movement.”

Indeed, it did spark a trend. Politicians in Illinois, New York, Florida and other states have introduced

bills allowing endorsement deals for college athletes. This week, even the Kansas Senate jumped in the mix, holding a hearing to receive input on how the state can develop a plan that allows student athletes to receive at least some compensation.

At least half of the states in the country are now similarly considering athletic compensation plans.

These plans do not propose putting

athletes on college payrolls, but the NCAA is going to permit college athletes to make money off the use of the name or likeness and generally profit from their fame on the playing field.

California's law goes into effect in 2023.

However, other states could

grant those rights to athletes as soon as this year.

### CONGRESS STEPPING IN

In order to maintain uniform standards in college sports, Congress has

See **ATHLETES** page 16



A new NCAA ruling would allow college athletes to be compensated from the use of their name, image and likeness.



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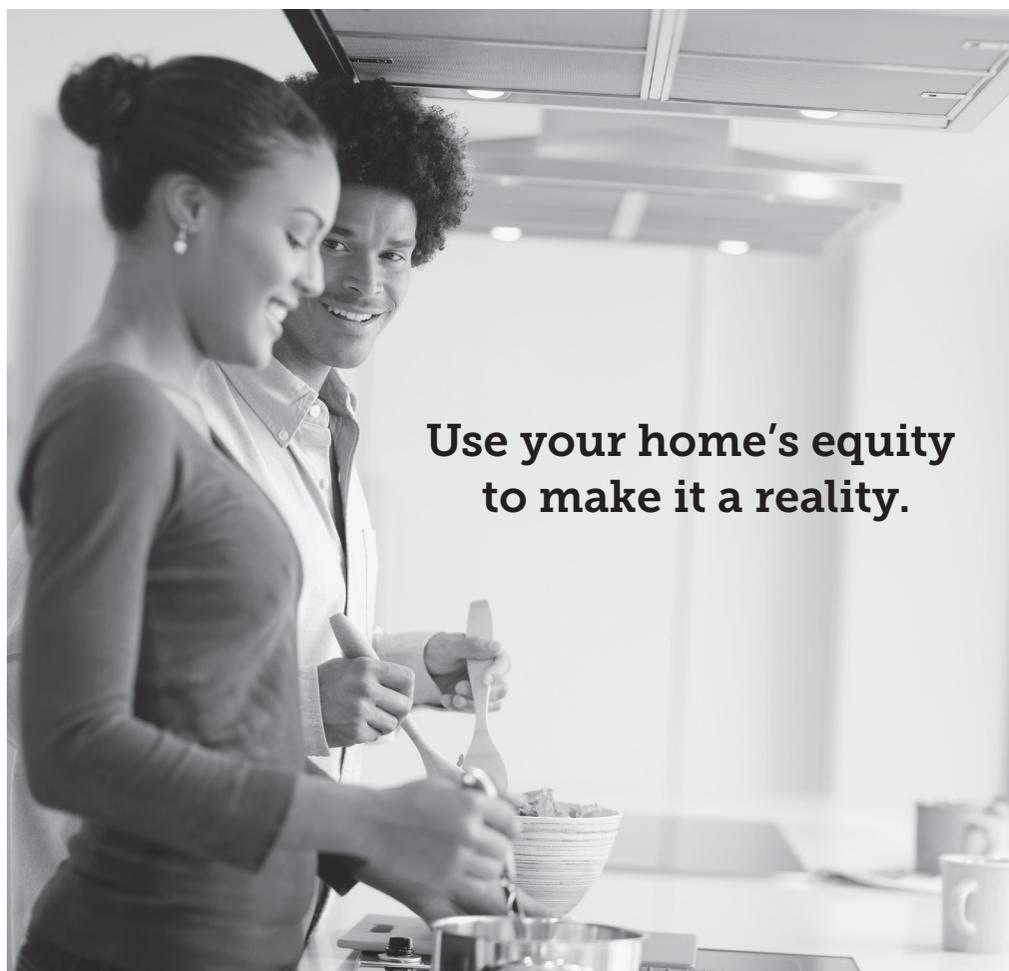
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# 16 ICT Cleaners Takes Hold of Opportunity to Expand

By Glen Sharp  
The Community Voice

ICT Cleaners is making a big play on the local fabric-cleaning scene, taking over the four Martinizing Dry Cleaning franchise locations in Wichita and planning to go after corporate and government contracts in the area.

Former banker Garney Hill and the Rev. Dr. Kevass Harding, of Dellrose United Methodist Church, opened ICT Cleaners in Feb. 2018 with a focus on providing the community affordable, non-toxic dry cleaning and laundry service while also giving back. Among their give-backs are cleaning the bedding for the Ronald McDonald House and giving 10% of a customer's bill to the church or non-profit of their choice.

The two have been friends 25 years and often spoke of opening some type of business. They grew 37% from their opening to Feb. 2019, and then another 20% during the rest of 2019, Hill said, and were looking to expand their brand.

Opportunity arrived when the owners of the local Martinizing franchise, Nancy and Mark Staal of Andover, approached Hill and Harding about buying them out in late 2019. The deal was effective March 1, and makes ICT Cleaners one of the first minority-owned dry-cleaning franchises in Kansas, Hill said.

"We always had a vision of growing," Harding said. "Here we are two years later, and we're scaling up to five locations. There's golf courses and housing divisions all around them. That really excited me and Garney. We're definitely going to the

next level."

## THE GAME PLAN

There will be a few changes with the merger that should optimize their business strategy, Hill said.

Along with keeping their 20 employees, they will be keeping the Martinizing Dry Cleaners name in place, and also put it on the current ICT Cleaners location at 525 N. Edgemoor, Wichita. Technically, the business' legal name will be "ICT Cleaners DBA Martinizing Dry Cleaners."

In addition to 525 N. Edgemoor, the other Wichita locations are Sienna Plaza (7724 E. 37th St. N.); Bradley Fair (2132 N. Rock Rd.); Crestview Plaza (12627 E Central Ave.); and Andover Marketplace (626 S Andover Rd #400, Andover).

Keeping the Martinizing name will enable ICT Cleaners to capitalize on the national company's recognition and branding, as well as its franchise support system.

They will shift actual cleaning to the Martinizing facility, but will maintain the Edgemoor store for pickups and drop-offs. The Staals' Martinizing business has also been using non-toxic cleaners and has won awards for environmental stewardship.

Another change is that Harding and Hill have brought their wives on board to help run the five-store operation. While Hill is director of finance and Harding is director of strategic planning, Sherrie Hill is now director of operations and Teketa Harding is director of business development.



Garney Hill and the Rev. Dr. Kevass Harding

Additionally, Sherrie Hill has been designated as 51% owner – which, along with the company being 100% minority owned, boosts ICT Cleaners' standing when applying for corporate and government contracts, Hill said.

"Being woman-owned really grows our opportunity," he said. "A lot of major corporations set aside contracts for minority vendors. We'd like to get on McConnell Air Force Base and some local government contracts."

Harding says they will also be targeting millennial customers with an app that will alert the business when clothing has been dropped off at convenience lockers around the area. "They'll love our laundry and folding service, too," he said.

## STARTUP ADVICE

ICT Cleaners' success has benefited from Harding's experience as a "serial entrepreneur" and Hill's banking background and contacts, they said.

"I used all the business savvy I've gained," Harding said. "This is my third business, in addition to my

ministry. We were able to overcome the mom-and-pop obstacles."

"We have a great following and a loyal client base," Hill said.

Hill also credits help from Wayne Bell of the local Small Business Administration; Christina Long of Create Campaign; the South Central Kansas Economic Development District; Capitol Federal; and Bank of the West.

"You've got to have patience, it's not going to come overnight," Hill said. "There's going to be ups and downs, so be prepared to weather the storm, and you can do it with great mentors and great bankers. Be passionate about whatever you're doing, have a valid product that fills a need, and value the people working for you and your client base."

ICT Cleaners / Martinizing Dry Cleaning is open Mon. - Sat. and has free pick-up and delivery. There is usually a two-day turnaround. They also offer laundering services, which includes wash and fold. For info, visit [ICTCleaners.com](http://ICTCleaners.com) and [WichitasDry-Cleaner.com](http://WichitasDry-Cleaner.com) or call 316-252-8588.

## On the Move

Roosevelt Lyons, Deputy Director of Operations for Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation, has been chosen President-Elect for the Missouri Park & Recreation

Association (MPRA). He will officially take office in June 2020 and serve a three-year term. Lyons



Lyons

joined KC Parks in 2014 as a manager of recreation and has served in his current position since January 2019. He is the youngest and first African American to serve as Deputy Director for Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation. Lyons' also served stints if the Office of the Mayor Sly James, where he worked on several initiatives including an ordinance mandating a Citywide youth advisory panel.

Eric Rush has been promoted to the position of Vice President at

Hoefler Wysocki Architects, LLC, in Leawood, KS. Rush designs & oversees projects, bringing over 30 years of professional experience, and a distinct

attention to detail to projects including Construction Administration, Quality Control, Technical Specification Writing, Design/Build Construction, Food Service Design & Project Management. Rush attended Kansas State University.



Rush

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## ATHLETES from page 15

stepped in and is looking to pass an overarching federal law.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Senate held its first ever hearing on the issue.

To address the issue, the NCAA has created a working group that represents students, coaches and athletic directors, among others, to create rules by April with the expectation that legislation will go into effect in January.

Lawmakers warned the organiza-

tion to not drag its feet.

"We've got a situation where states are moving forward and we need to address the issue," said Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MI), the chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee.

The NCAA's concern, echoed by Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby, who also testified Tuesday, is that endorsement deals for athletes would have a negative effect on recruiting, with schools and boosters in states with athlete-friendly laws using money to entice players to sign with certain schools.

"If implemented, these laws would give some schools an unfair recruiting advantage and open the door to sponsorship arrangements being used as a recruiting inducement. This would create a huge imbalance among schools and could lead to corruption in the recruiting process," said NCAA President Mark Emmert. "We may need Congress' support in helping maintain uniform standards in college sports."

Sen. Jerry Moran, (R-KS) the chairman of the Subcommittee on Manufacturing, Trade, and Consumer

Protection, said he was not inclined to act until after the NCAA reveals its new rules.

"The next step is to see what the NCAA is capable of presenting to us in April," Moran said.

NCAA critics believe there is plenty of evidence that recruiting is already corrupt — pointing in part to the federal criminal case involving shoe companies paying basketball players to attend schools they sponsor — and that letting players earn endorsement money won't create the major problems the NCAA predicts.

Ramogi Huma, executive director of the National College Players' Association, which advocates for athletes' rights, said under current NCAA rules, 99.3% of top-100 football recruits choose teams from the Power Five conferences.

"The power conferences have advantages and they consistently pull the best recruits," Huma said. "They will continue to get the recruits. The reality is, you're not going to change the recruiting by limiting the players' opportunities." ●●

## Survival Rates for Black Moms Worse in America than in Syria

•First data in 10 years from the Centers for Disease Control shows the death rate for Black mothers is worse than the rate for mothers who die in war ravaged Syria.

The death rate for new Black mothers in Washington, D.C., is twice the maternal death rate in Syria, a nation ravaged by war for nine years, new statistics show.

The news comes as the issue of Black maternal deaths finally seems to have caught the attention of some presidential candidates and lawmakers.

The rate of maternal mortality for African-American women in our nation's capital is 59.7 deaths per 100,000 live births vs. 31 deaths per 100,000 live births in Syria, said Sherburne Hawkins, associate professor at Boston College's School of Social Work, in a report for NBC News.

The death rate in D.C. is also worse than Panama (52) and Ecuador (59).

Nationally, the death rate for Black mothers is 40.8 per 100,000 live births, 3.2 times the rate for White mothers, and still worse than Syria. The data was taken from the Centers for Disease Control's recent report on maternal mortality, its first on the subject in 10 years.

### THE PROBLEM

"There is no war on American soil and we spend more on health care per capita than any other country in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development," Hawkins said. "However, the maternal mortality rate in the U.S. continues to be higher than most other high-income countries."

In general for the U.S., Black women's chances of dying during childbirth are three to five times higher than any other group of people. Black infants are two to three times more likely to die during childbirth or in the first year of life than any other group of people.

And groups acknowledge that the cause is blatant racism.

"Black infant and maternal mortality is a public health crisis created by implicitly and explicitly biased medical professionals and institutions failing to listen to, understand, and acknowledge the concerns of their Black female patients in the same way that they treat non-Black patients," the American Public Health Association told InsightNews.com.



### FEDERAL HELP NEEDED

While there are many politicians, interest groups, and community advocates working to raise awareness and resources, it's ultimately going to take federal and state policy changes to overhaul a financially lucrative yet socially inept medical system, InsightNews.com reported.

Former presidential candidate Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) had pledged to address the maternal health crisis within the first 100 days of her possible presidency by tackling the shortage of health care professionals and by developing the "best models of care to address racial disparities in maternal and infant mortality."

Currently, Klobuchar is a co-

sponsor of the Maternal CARE Act Bill introduced by Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC) and Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA) in 2019. This bill addresses racial bias in the medical system, introduces bias training to those coming into the medical field, and allocates over \$125 million across 10 states to implement programs that reduce maternal health disparities. Unfortunately, this bill seems stuck in Congress' Subcommittee on Health.

Presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-VT) is a co-sponsor of the Maternal CARE Act bill and the MOMMA Act created by Sens. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Rep. Robin Kelly (D-IL). The MOMMA Act (Mothers and Offspring

Mortality and Morbidity Awareness) has a five-prong approach that establishes national obstetric procedures, standardizes reporting procedures for maternal death, improves culturally competent care, expands Medicare coverage to cover postpartum care up to a year, and shares best practices for mortality review boards.

Presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) proposed a plan in an op-ed for Essence Magazine to diversify the medical field by pushing workforce diversity in hospitals to be reflective of the communities they serve, demanding more from low-performing hospitals, investing more in high-performing hospitals, and providing space for families who have been directly impacted by infant and maternal mortality to have a seat at the table where they can "call the shots" on what's happening to Black mothers and children in their communities.

Cory Booker (D-NJ) has proposed expanding Medicaid support to cover a mother's postpartum recovery for the first 365 days after giving birth.

If no action is taken, the CDC statistics indicate that the next four years will see the death of more than 2,800 birth mothers and 88,000 babies, the majority of them Black. ●●

## Biggest Coronavirus Effect on Black Community: Loss of Income

•Containing the coronavirus may require systemic change like paid sick leave.

Wall-to-wall news coverage of the coronavirus, or COVID-19 virus, has frightened people around the world in the last couple months, despite having an infection and death rate similar to the flu.

As the fear builds, some observers say the biggest threat the virus poses to the African-American community is a dangerous loss of income.

At a recent Black Women's Roundtable event in South Carolina, reported on by Essence Magazine, the problem was broken down by Carol Joyner,

director for the nonprofit Labor Project for Working Families and Family Values.

"How many people today saw something on the news about the coronavirus? Raise your hand," Joyner instructed the attendees. "This is happening in a moment when 40% of the people in the United States do not have a single paid sick day. So the CDC says, 'Stay home so that you don't spread the disease.' But if you stay home, you're likely not to get paid."

Joyner went on to explain that

among low wage earners and among people of color, almost 80% lack a single paid sick day.

"We're talking bus drivers, we're talking people who care for our children, childcare workers, we're talking about restaurant workers, servers serving our food," the D.C.-based Joyner said. "All of these folks are struggling to have a single paid sick day. So there's that paid sick day that allows you to take one or two days off to go get tested for coronavirus. There's also that longer-term, where you're supposed to self-quarantine. So two, maybe three weeks."

From the cost of healthcare to the

lack of guaranteed paid sick days in the US, experts say containing the coronavirus requires systemic change.

"For many Americans who have insurance and have a good job with an understanding employer... those recommendations are plausible," David Blumenthal, president of the global health think tank the Commonwealth Fund, told TheGuardian.com.

"They are not necessarily workable for people who have no health insurance or poor health insurance — so that's about a fifth of the American population," he said.

In the only wealthy country which doesn't require paid sick days, staying

home is difficult to do.

During the 2009 H1N1 swine flu outbreak, at least three in 10 workers didn't take time off work when sick, according to a paper by the Institute for Women's Policy Research. The paper said this led up to 7 million additional infections and may have extended the outbreak.

Also not addressed is paid family and medical leave to recover from the coronavirus.

"That's the leave that you need for a longer period of time to recover from something like that, [or] to welcome a baby for a couple of months, or to care for a sick family member," she said. ●●

### WEED USE RISING FOR SENIORS

The number of American seniors over age 65 who smoke marijuana or use edibles doubled between 2015 and 2018, says research published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

California septuagenarian Carol Collin is one who eats a marijuana "gummy" each night to help sleep, and for pain relief, uses a topical cream that contains both THC (the plant compound that makes you high) and CBD (the plant compound in medicinal marijuana).

"I'm doing this to sleep and provide pain relief and I find it works," she said. "I wouldn't have done it if it was illegal."

"What I'm seeing in my clinic are a lot of older adults who are very curious about cannabis to treat this or that chronic disease and symptoms," said paper co-author Dr. Benjamin Han, an assistant professor at NYU Grossman School of Medicine.

"As a geriatrician, I worry about any kind of prescribed medicine or substance use – anything that has any kind of psychoactive effects," Han said. "I worry about things like dizziness, falls. I worry how it may interact with certain medical

conditions."

Han warns that small studies have shown cannabis may be harmful for people who recently had heart attacks and may interact badly with other medications. With the blood thinner Warfarin, for example, marijuana may increase the risk of bleeding. Marijuana use could also affect a senior's ability to open and manage their medications.

### BIG BREAKFAST EATERS LOSE MORE WEIGHT

Eat up! A new study says enjoying a big breakfast in the morning can actually help you burn more calories throughout the day.

New research published in the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism* studied a group of healthy young men with a normal body mass index and found the number of calories burned was much higher when they ate a bigger breakfast and a small dinner.

Test results showed they burned more than twice as many calories than those who ate a small breakfast and a large dinner. Scientists concluded "diet-induced thermogenesis," the amount of energy it takes to process a meal was higher in the morning than at night.

Although the study showed more calories

burned, researchers say this only accounts for about 15% of the total daily calories burned. Those who are looking to lose weight must also watch what they eat, not just when they eat.

### BRAIN 'HOT SPOT' SHOWS BLACKS FEEL MORE PAIN

Doctors have historically undertreated pain in their Black patients, and, for example, often dismiss the pain of sickle cell disease patients as exaggerated or even faked.

"That's a striking contrast to what our studies show, that African Americans are more sensitive to pain, and that it correlates with experiences of discrimination," said Tor Wager, professor at Dartmouth College and co-author of a new study published in *Nature Human Behavior*.

In the experiment, 28 African Americans, 30 Latinxs, and 30 non-Hispanic White people, all from around Denver, responded to having four spots on their left forearm touched with a device called a thermode, heated to about 118 degrees F and applied by an age-30-something White male.

Using fMRI to scan the volunteers' brains, the researchers saw that a circuit called the neurologic pain signature responded the same way in everyone.

Despite that, African Americans rated their pain roughly 5 points more intense, and 9 points more "unpleasant," on a scale of 1 to 100. The more discrimination the African Americans reported having experienced in their lives, the more intensely they felt pain from the same amount of heat.

In the African Americans in the new study, but not in other participants, this prefrontal-striatum circuit became increasingly active as the thermode's temperature rose. Activity was also higher the more discrimination participants reported experiencing in their lives, and the less they said they trusted the White male experimenter.

In a soon-to-be published companion study, Wager's co-author Elizabeth Losin, professor at the University of Miami, ran the same experiment with an African-American man applying the thermode, and African American participants rated their pain as no greater than White people and Latinxs did.

Losin spent eight years trying to garner funding, university support, and publishing acceptance for the study. She and Wager said they believe their results, if replicated by others, have implications for clinical care. ●●

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# Sports

## The Wizards Are Bringing All-Star Weekend to Wichita

Last year, the Wizards, who play their games at Friends University, finished their premiere season 14 - 1. Their only loss came in the first round of the league playoffs. This year, most of the players are back; 11 of 17 players are from Wichita, and the roster adds six new faces.

Several returning players like Terrance Moore, Robert Goff, Ja'In Williams and Brison White have deep ties to Wichita basketball – all local heroes of the game. Goff went on to played Division I basketball at Marshall University, and White had a stint in the European league.

“If you’ve never been to a Wizards game, you’re missing it,” said Mark Creed, owner of the team. “It’s a high octane event, with a DJ setting the tone, announcer Tyler O’Quinn keeping the crowd energized, plus the Lady Wizards at half time and time outs, and best of all, there’s the Wizards doing their thing on the court.”

A pre-season game against the Omaha Cuttaz, an away game on March 14, will be their first game. Their regular season begins on March 21 in Wichita against the Lawrence Admirals. This season the Wizards are looking to add “champion” to their name. They hope to make it to the league’s Final Four, hosted in July in Nashville, TN.

The Wizards will be featured during the 2020 Wichita Riverfest; bringing the Minor League Basketball All-Star Weekend to Wichita.

The top 24 players from the league will be selected, based on their individual stats during the season, to play in the all-star game on Sun. May 31. The top 2 from this pool of players, one from South-central and one from the Southeast conference, will be selected as MVP captains the week before.

Like the NBA, on Sat. May 30, additional players from the league will compete in the all-star events that will include a three-point shoot-

out, a slam dunk contest, two ball, and skills challenge. Blu Nightclub, located in West Wichita, will host the MVP’s draft on Saturday. The MVPs will have the opportunity to choose 12 of the 24 players to join their team. The public is invited to all events, including the draft where there will be no cover charge to attend.

This season, Wizard regular game and season tickets are selling through myvoicetix.com, an online ticketing company powered by The Community Voice. General admission tickets are \$15 purchased online in advance and \$20 at the door. Children’s tickets are \$5 each, online and at the door. The highly coveted floor seats are \$30 online in advance. Advanced ticket purchases are encouraged to help minimize lines at the door.

Season tickets for general seating are \$99, and \$299 for one of the 32 floor seats. “Those seats sold out every game,” said Creed. “The best way to make sure you have a floor seat is to secure your seat with a season ticket NOW, before they’re gone.”

Individuals can either print out their advance purchase ticket or have their ticket e-mailed to their telephone. Both will be scanned at the door.

The Wichita Wizards are members of the 24 team Minor League Basketball Association. The league, in its third year, has teams from the east to the west coast, divided into four regional conferences. The Wizards are in the South Central Conference.

Businesses who would like to sponsor the Wizards are encouraged to call Creed at 918-404-3183 or Lamont Anderson at 316-880-5546. ●●



Goff



Williams



White



Moore



### 2020 Schedule

March	14	@ vs Omaha Cuttaz
	21	vs Lawrence Admirals
	28	vs N Texas Saints
April	4	vs D/FW United
	5	@ OKC Servants
	18	vs Texas Toros
	25	@ D/FW United
May	2	@ Boosier City Knights
	9	vs Omaha Cuttaz
	16	@ Texas Toros
	17	@ Houston Heatwave
	30 - 31	Allstar Weekend in Wichita
June	6	vs Houston Heatwave
	13	@ Baton Rouge Rebels
	14	@ Lake Charles Imperials
	20	vs OKC Servants
	27	vs Kentucky Rebels

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## WPS, WSU Partner to Bring BAASE Program to High Schools

The Wichita Public Schools and Wichita State University have partnered to expand the Better Academics and Social Excellence (BAASE) program to students at the district's eight comprehensive high schools, creating a stronger system of support for males of color who want to pursue post-secondary education.

A kick-off event for the program was held at WSU on March 3.

The BAASE program, started in 2018, aims to help close the achievement gap and increase the graduation rate by focusing on seventh and eighth grade male middle school students who have achieved a 3.2 or high GPA, showed social excellence with their behavior and had good school

attendance.

The new partnership with WSU will allow students who participated in the program in middle school to continue in the program while in high school. This year, approximately 150 BAASE of the original BAASE students are now sophomores. There are approximately 470 middle school BAASE participants.

"Our goal is to bring these students together to create a positive peer group where it's cool to be smart," said William Polite, director of equity, diversity and accountability for Wichita Public Schools. "We want to keep them inspired and motivated and to prepare them for college."

In addition to regular programming

offered by Wichita Public Schools, high school BAASE participants will become affiliate members of the WSU community.

At the kick off, each of the students received their WSU affiliate ID. With this ID, they have access to WSU campus resources and amenities including university libraries, Heskett Center, the Shocker Store and Shocker Sports Grill



**PHOTOS: (Above) Young men from the WSU/WPS BAASE program partnership. South High BAASE members were in suits provided by J.C. Penny. (Left) Kaye Monk-Morgan, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs at Wichita State and William Polite address BAASE members.**



several academic and career-building experiences. ●●

and Lanes.

Additionally, BAASE members will receive mentorship from college students

who are in a similar program for college men at WSU, hosted by WSU's Office of Diversity and Inclusion. They will also have opportunities to participate in university-sponsored youth camps for free or discounted rates and engage in



LEGAL PUBLICATION PUBLIC NOTICE



Published in the Community Voice  
Thursday, March 5, 2020

The Wichita Housing Authority (WHA) will begin accepting applications for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher tenant based rent assistance program on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, at 10:00AM CDT and will continue accepting preliminary applications until further notice. The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program provides rent assistance to income eligible families in order to make housing affordable. The WHA Housing Choice Voucher program service area includes all of Sedgwick and Butler counties and Harvey County outside of the city of Newton.

To make a preliminary application, individuals and families may use any device with an internet connection. Free public computers are available at the following public libraries: Bradford Memorial Library, 611 S. Washington, El Dorado, KS; Halstead Public Library, 264 Main St., Halstead, KS; the Wichita Advanced Learning Library and all Wichita Public Library Branches, and at all three Wichita Neighborhood Resource Centers.

The process for making a preliminary application is as follows:

1. Preliminary applications will be available on line at <https://wichita.apply4housing.com>
2. The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program processes applications based on date and time of application with a preference for those who live, work, or have been hired to work in WHA's service area.
3. When vouchers become available, applicants at the top of the waiting list will be contacted to complete formal applications, and will be required to provide the following information:
  - A copy of Social Security Cards for all family members
  - Evidence of U.S. Citizenship or legal immigration status
  - Documentation of all household Income

Failure to provide this information at the time of formal application will result in delayed processing and/or disqualification.

#### EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

The Wichita Housing Authority does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs or activities.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** If you require a reasonable accommodation to fully utilize this program or complete this preliminary application please contact us at 316-462-3700.

## KCKPS Kicks Off March Madness Reading Tournament, Complete With Brackets

As part of the Kansas City, Kansas Public School's efforts to improve literacy, the district is hosting its first ever March Madness reading competition. This event places third graders in all of the district's 29 elementary schools in play for the 2020 March Madness reading champion.

The reading competition coincides with the Big 12 Basketball Tournament and NCAA March Madness Tournament and kicked off on Fri., Feb., 28.

The total minutes read by a single school will determine their placement in the tournament. Highest scoring schools will advance each week

to the Sweet 16, the Elite Eight and then the Final Four. A special event will be held for the Final Four schools at Memorial Hall in downtown Kansas City, Kansas on Fri., Apr. 3, 2020 where the championship school will be announced. In addition, the top three readers in the district will also be awarded.

"March Madness provides a fun and unique opportunity to

encourage parents to help their child build confidence in reading skills," said KCKPS Superintendent Dr. Charles Foust.

Parents are involved by either reading to the student, sharing reading a book with the child, or listening to their child read.

"Children's motivation and level of academic achievement improves when parents are involved in their education," said Foust.

Third graders were selected for the tournament because the district has a goal of having 90% of their students reading on level by 3rd grade.

Schools that advance each week will also be announced on the district's Facebook page and live on KPRS Hot 103 Jamz! The winning 3rd grade class will be rewarded with a pizza party and ice cream bar sponsored by the Kansas Speedway.

The top three students with the highest minutes read will receive an "awesome" prize provided by the Kansas City, Kansas Foundation for Excellence. ●●



Foust

**Jackson  
Mortuary  
Wichita**

**Bailey, Irene C., 86**, died 02/23/20. Service was held 03/02/20. She is survived by: Children; Sharene Thompson, Sherman Bailey, Montella Wimbley, Chevette Mooney, Jan Chandler. Brother; William Chambers, Sisters; Minnie Chambers and Jean Walker.

**Baker, Marjorie L., 76**, died 02/24/20. Service was held 02/29/20. She is survived by: Daughters; Annette Moore and Joanne Newman, Sister; Mary Jo Williams, Companion; Larry Washington.

**Carter, JuSaundra L., 48**, died 02/18/20. No service details. She is survived by: Mother; Terri Gildan, Children; Ra'Jon Jenkins, Kailyn Carter and Te'arra Hayes.

**Gray, Dorian Lee, 58**, died 02/01/20. No service details. He is survived by: Uncle; Edward Thomas, Sr.

**Green Jr., Andrew, 46**, died 02/14/20. Service was held 02/29/20. He is survived by: Parents; Andrew Green Sr. and Ragina Green-Howard, Children; Sjerra Green, Keyonia Green, TraShawna Jones, Sister; LaShawn Linder, Stepbrothers & Sisters; Matthew Hearn, Michael Hearn, Susan Hays, Donna Salas, Bonnie Lester, Samatha Jackson, Antonio Howard; Chambarla Pegues.

**Hardy, Leonia, 81**, died 02/25/20. Service will be held at 11 a.m. on 03/07/20 at Holy Temple COGIC, 1706 E 11th. she is survived by: Children;

Veverly Hill-Baskin, Johnnie Hill, Step-Daughter; Dorothy Bowman, Sons; Jeffery Hill, DeMarco Hill, Jesse Hill, Anthony Hill and Marvell Hill.

**Hogan, Marcus E., 46**, died 02/17/20. Service was held 3/03/20. He is survived by: Mother; Sharon A. Carney, Sister; Ashley D. Carney

**Holt, Amare' D., 23**, died 02/12/20. Service was held 02/22/20. He is survived by: Father; Hameed Holt, Mother; Tomekia Jones. Brothers & Sisters; Taj, Akilah, Qyree, K'mari and King

**Huff, Sidney, 73**, died 02/18/20. Service was held 02/28/20. He is survived by: Mother; Katie Huff, Son; Jason F. Holloway.

**Jackson, Charles "Shorty" E., 69**, died 02/28/20. No service details. He is survived by: Wife; Ella Diane Jackson, Children; Cynthia Jackson, Charles Jackson, Cornelius Terrell & Cheryl Downey. Brother; Frank Jackson.

**Keel, Rural, 83**, died 03/02/20. No further details.

**Whitmore, Donald L., 83**, died 02/20/20. Service was held 03/03/20. He is survived by: Sisters; Mary Jo Smith, Alberta Whitmore and Brother; Judge Earl Whitmore.

**Biglow Funeral  
Wichita**

**Barnett, Charlesetta D., 54**, died 02/15/20. Service was held 02/29/20.

**Bryant, Jannelle A., 54**, died 02/15/20. No further details.

**Hainlen, Lesa M., 52**, died 02/26/20. No further details.

**Johnson, Mattie L., 82**, died 02/21/20. Service will be held at 10 a.m. on 03/07/20 at Greater Mount Zion Baptist Church, 1201 S. Market

**Latney, Oliver W., 90**, died 02/25/20. Service was held 03/05/20.

**Winston III, James A., 35**, died 02/16/20. Service was held 02/29/20.

**RJ Bethea  
Wichita**

**Favila, Manuel C., 69**, died 02/15/20. No further details.

**Flores, Yolanda, 43**, died 02/17/20. No further details.

**Walker, Parthenia, 69**, died 02/18/20. No further details.

**Central Avenue  
Wichita**

**Hamby, Goudeau G., 73**, died 02/18/20. Service was held 02/28/20.

**Northern Star  
Kansas City & Wichita**

**Holmes, LaMetric L., 47**, died 02/15/20. No further details.

**Old Mission  
Wichita**

**Chapman, Melva, 63**, died 02/19/20. Service was held 02/27/20.

**DeWitt, Claud J., 99**, died 02/17/20. Service was held 02/24/20.

**McCarrier, Alex, 44**, died 02/11/20. Service was held 02/21/20.

**Ratliff, Glenda, 77**, died 02/16/20. Service was held 02/22/20.

**Thatcher Funeral  
Kansas City**

**Forte, Karen L., 60**, died 02/11/20. Service was held 03/06/20.

**Henderson Sr., William, 71**, died 02/24/20. Service was held 03/02/20.

**Stillwell Sr., Rev. Samuel, 86**, died 02/16/20. Service was held 02/29/20.

**Lawrence A. Jones &  
Sons  
Kansas City**

**Jones, Baby Jammie Manuel Osorio, Infant**, died 02/16/20. Service was held 02/26/20.

**Porter, Betty J., 79**, died 02/21/20. Service was held 02/29/20.

**Washington, Darrell I., 63**, died 02/14/20. Service was held 02/29/20.

**Welch, Gary L., 55**, died 02/18/20. Service was held 02/22/20.

**Williams, Lucille, 94**, died 02/15/20. Service was held 02/27/20.

**Bowser-Johnson  
Topeka**

**Douglas Jr., Joe J., 91**, died 02/04/20. Service was held 02/09/20.

**Duane E Harvey  
KCMO**

**Finch, Darrelle W., 59**, died 02/21/20. Service was held 03/02/20.

**Harper, Baby De'Myrah, newborn**, died 02/18/20. No service details.

**McKinzy, Jr., L.C., 63**, died 02/21/20. Service was held 03/06/20.

**Hill, Shawn R. 48**, died 03/01/20. Service is pending.

**Ponds, Etta, 89**, died 02/26/20. Service is pending.

**Swopes - Hicks, Donna L., 57**, died 02/22/20. Service was held 03/02/20.

**Taylor, Bobby A., 68**, died 02/22/20. Service was held 03/07/20.

**Thomas, Augustus, 79**, died 02/28/20. Service is pending.

**Vineyard, Michaela, 30**, died 02/22/20. Service was held 03/07/20.

**Whitley, Ida M., 61**, died 02/25/20. Service was held 03/06/20.

**Winfield, Chantel, 26**, died 02/25/20. Service is pending.

**E S Eley & Sons  
KCMO**

**Dockery, Zelma, 95**, died 02/17/20. Service was held 02/28/20.

**Francis, Judy, L., 79**, died 02/28/20. Service will be at 11 a.m. on 03/13/20 at ES Eley Chapel, 4707 E. Truman Rd.

**Harris, Donald M., 61**, died 02/22/20. Service was held 02/29/20.

**Jones, Charles, 91**, died 02/16/20. Service was held 02/24/20.

**Kimbrew, Richard (Harry), 83**, died 02/19/20. Service was held 02/29/20. ●●

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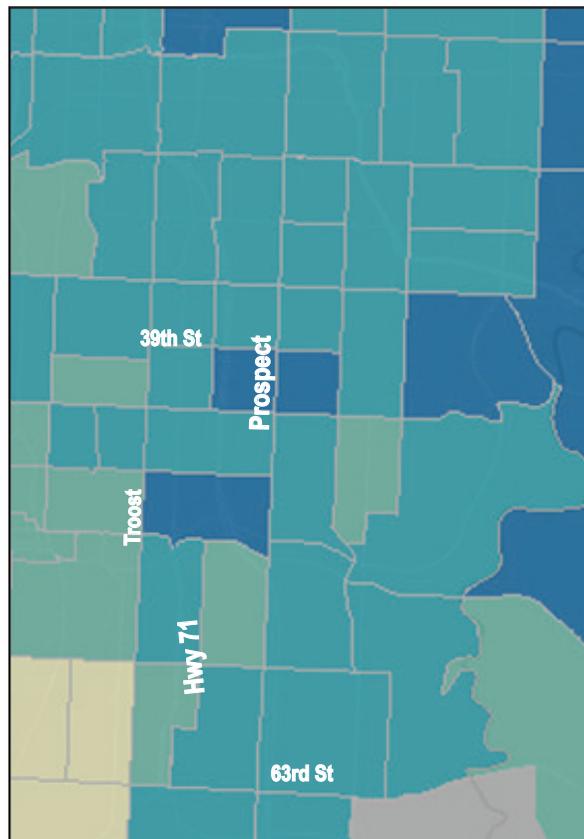
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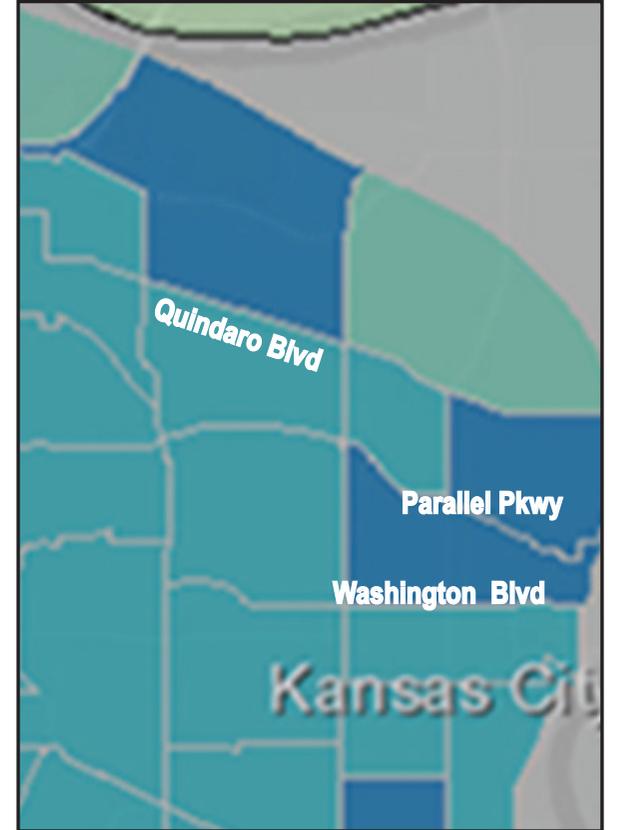
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### Major Undercount Census Tracts

Based on 2010 Census Response these heavily African-American Census Tracts are the one's where households are least likely to respond. See ledger below. The darker the color, the least likely the households are to respond.

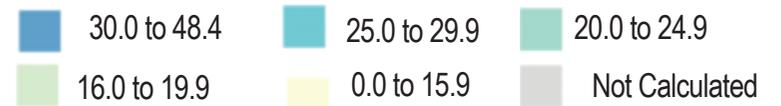


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## The Census is Still Hiring

The Census Bureau is still filling positions not require walking or driving, which may be good for seniors.

to help with the count. The pay rate is \$15 to \$17 per hour, depending on location. Training is paid, and employees are paid weekly. Visit [2020Census.gov/en/jobs.html](http://2020Census.gov/en/jobs.html).

Schedules are flexible and can accommodate people who already work full or part-time jobs.

Jobs include fieldwork counting in person, and office jobs that do



Job seekers should fill out an application now and as jobs become available, the bureau will reach out.

To Be a Census Taker you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
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- Have a Social Security number that's valid.
- Pass a background check.
- Have a working email address.
- Complete four days of training. ●●

## K.C. Local Filmmaker Gets Recognition from Will Smith

By **Natania Watie**  
The Community Voice

Like many blooming film enthusiasts, Morgan Cooper, 28, got his feet for cinematography wet by shooting music videos for rap artists. It's a shared sentiment – for a while, those kinds of projects pay the bills. A few hundreds here and there seem to provide a living, but there comes a time in every artists' life where one must decide to represent something in their work.

One day, driving around Kansas City, Cooper got the idea to revamp “The Fresh Prince of Bel Air.” While driving around the city, Cooper's vision for “Bel Air” was a dramatic, much edgier version of the comedic 90s show. He filmed the trailer totally in Kansas City, uploaded it, and it took off. “Bel-Air” racked up millions of views, and many celebrities took notice, even The Fresh Prince himself – Will Smith that is.

Smith was so impressed, he invited the young filmmaker to Miami for an interview, “Morgan did

a ridiculous trailer for ‘Bel-Air.’ It was a brilliant idea; the dramatic version of ‘The Fresh Prince’ for the next generation,” Smith said.

The “Bel-Air” trailer can be viewed on YouTube or Vimeo.

Since then, Cooper has been busy. He's made a bold move to L.A., and last year he also released a full-length film, “U Shoot Videos?” an homage to his real life's work. The film starred Denzel Whitaker – who had roles in both “The Great Debaters” and “Black Panther.”

It's a story about the unglamorous lifestyle of a young filmmaker in Kansas City who shoots low-budget music videos for a living. He's talented, and wants move on, but difficult challenges – some even dangerous, await his rise to the next level.

Like “Bel-Air,” the film can be viewed on Cooper's Vimeo account.

“It's really important to me that I'm saying

something through the work,” Cooper says. “I don't want to just take up airtime. I don't want to just create meaningless content. Sure, I want everything to be entertaining. But,



Morgan “quick-bite” a new format, designed around short episodic chapters that are about 10 minutes long.

“Our main protagonist (in ‘Black Coffee’) is a former basketball player who gets hurt in college and ends up staying in the Pacific Northwest. He falls in love with coffee

and becomes a barista champion, then decides to move back home to his old neighborhood in Kansas City to open up a coffee shop,” Cooper says.

Cooper, in the midst of a feature debut, hopes his move to L.A. will open more doors for his artistry. L.A. means more access to films biggest names and check-books, and Cooper has got the talent to utilize both. ●●



Filming of scene from Cooper's revamp of The Fresh Prince of BelAir.

ultimately, it's important to use the platform to open up people's minds to experiences and perspectives that they may not be familiar with.”

This year, Cooper is teaming up with Gabriel Union and Sony Pictures TV to create a series on Quibi streaming service called “Black Coffee.” It's set to film in K.C. by the start of next year.

The show will run in a

level of emotion and empathy than that sparked by distant words in a textbook.

“I do think you will see a flowering of museum virtual reality projects in the future,” says Sara Snyder, chief of external affairs and digital strategies at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and Renwick Gallery. “In the beginning, it's still very expensive to produce the 3-D world in a way that is realistic. But in the future, those costs will also go down and you'll see an increase and a flourishing in creativity in that space.”

To Tramz, “The March” paves the way for a broader understanding of

how to give meaning to historical movements—and their moments—that become difficult to grasp as time passes.

“Our hope is, as creators of this project, that you walk out of this experience, not only understanding the march and the Civil Rights Movement in a different way,” she says, “but really understanding the shoulders that we stand on today, the work that was done that led to where we're at currently.”

“The March” is on view at the DuSable Museum of African American History in Chicago from Feb. 28 to Nov. 14, 2020. ●●

GORDON PARKS  
MUHAMMAD ALI X  
1966 | 1970  
THE IMAGE OF A CHAMPION

nelson-atkins.org/voiceALI

This exhibition is organized by The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in collaboration with The Gordon Parks Foundation.

Gordon Parks, American (1912–2006). *Untitled*, Miami, Florida, 1970. Gelatin silver print, 16 x 20 inches. The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, anonymous gift, 2019.14.7. Copyright The Gordon Parks Foundation.

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from one of the master tapes recorded directly at the podium, is much clearer than the scratchy footage heard by the majority of the crowd. When participants are “standing in the crowd,” says Tramz, they'll hear the real voices of the men and women who attended the march, as captured in reporter Walter Nixon's previously unreleased tapes.

Through virtual reality, the education industry faces a promising disruption: Younger audiences now have the opportunity to feel a deeper



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## New Virtual Reality Exhibit Brings March on Washington to Life

By Lily Katzman  
Smithsonianmag.com

... and our right to assemble as Americans to make change in our country."

Tucked away in the National Museum of African American Culture and History's collections is a white metal pinback button from the Aug. 28, 1963, March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. At its center, an illustration of the United States Capitol hovers over blue text declaring, "I was there."

Protestors attending the march sported this and other 25-cent buttons to raise awareness of racial inequality experienced by African Americans, as well as Congress' longstanding failure to pass civil rights legislation.

Thanks to "The March," a new virtual reality exhibit centered on the 1963 protest, these buttons are set to take on a whole new meaning. The exhibit, which debuted Feb. 28 at the DuSable Museum of African American History, a Smithsonian affiliate in Chicago, gives museumgoers the opportunity to join the narrative and say, "I was there, too."

Created in collaboration with Time Studios, the ten-minute VR exhibit recreates Martin Luther King Jr.'s iconic "I Have a Dream" speech. "The March," which marks the first-ever virtual reality depiction of King, also allows visitors to walk alongside a crowd of more than 250,000 peaceful protestors gathered in the nation's capital to hear the civil rights activist speak.

"The goal with this project is to take an event in our history that is so famous and so often misunderstood, and put you in the middle of it," says Mia Tramz, co-creator of "The March" and Time's editorial director of immersive experiences, "to have you understand not just what it was, but the power of nonviolent protest



Peaceful protestors march down Constitution Avenue and the National Mall on Aug. 28, 1963. (Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of James H. Wallace Jr., © Jim Wallace)

"The March" features around 25 to 30 minutes of education, immersive realism and reflection. First, visitors enter a "sound bath" spatial audio experience where they hear from the likes of Rosa Park's attorney Fred Gray, Freedom Rider Henry "Hank" James Thomas; and Reverend Gwendolyn Cook Webb, a participant in the Birmingham Children's Crusade. Then, they are transported to the heart of the 1963 march, becoming a member of the crowd fighting for racial equality and a witness to one of the greatest speeches in United States history. Viola Davis, actress and executive producer of "The March," serves as participants' narrator, guiding them through the VR exhibit.

After exiting the virtual world, visitors can reflect on their experience by "speaking" with Joyce Ladner, an organizer and activist who attended the March on Washington, via an artificial intelligence interview portal. In total, says Tramz, Ladner recorded around eight hours' worth of dialogue.

Using a custom-built wireless headset that renders King in real time, visitors will be able to walk around the famous activist and observe him up close as he gives his speech. Animators spent nearly three months

perfecting King's likeness and mannerisms, reports Patrick Lucas Austin for Time.

Because the bulk of the virtual reality exhibit is centered on the crowds marching down Constitution Avenue and the National Mall, the team scanned unique performances of 80 actors in hopes of achieving a sense of realism and historical accuracy.

One of these actors, 8-year-old LaVell Thompson, brought a personal connection to the project. His great-grandfather, 90-year-old Rev. Jeffrey Joseph, attended the 1963 march and stood about 50 feet from King during his speech. To pay tribute to this multigenerational experience, specialists captured footage of Thompson and Joseph walking down Constitution Avenue together.

What makes "The March" truly groundbreaking is its array of authentic details. Time Studios pulled data from original photographs and drew on vintage clothing from the time period to create actors' costumes.

Another crucial element of the exhibit is its audio components. "The March" will showcase a rare recording of King's speech from the Motown Records' archives; the audio, taken

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