

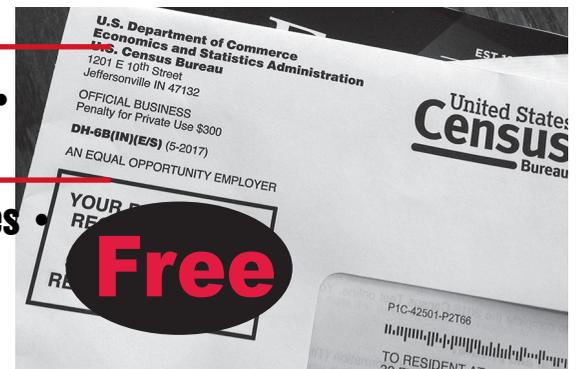
THE **Community**
VOICE

A trusted voice from the community's perspective

Kansas City •
Page 17

Wichita •
Page 19

Obituaries •
Page 21



VOLUME 27 NUMBER 6 www.communityvoiceks.com **MARCH 19, 2020**

**Coronavirus: No More
 Business as Usual**

5-6

**Census Forms
 Have Been Mailed**

4



Arts & Culture

**Two 'Queen of
 Soul' Biopics**

**Hudson and Erivo
 Portray Franklin**

24



Kansas City

**Voting Woes
 for Quinton**

**KC Mayor Turned
 Away At the Polls**

13



Business & Technology

**5G: Safe or
 Dangerous**

**Pros & Cons
 You Decide**

14



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E-MAIL
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STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF — Bonita Gooch

SOCIAL MEDIA — Glen Sharp

LAYOUT & DESIGN — Elaine Guillory

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Natania Watie, Glen Sharp

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Mike Kinard/Pictureman Productions
Kamiasha Tyner/Dignified Digital

GRAPHIC DESIGN — Elaine Guillory

AD DESIGN - Glen Sharp

ADVERTISING SALES — Cornell Hill

DISTRIBUTION MGR — Janice Hardeman

MYVOICETIX.COM — Natania Watie

DISTRIBUTION

Wichita — Patricia Patterson,
Alex Newhouse & PKK Distribution
Salina — Georgaleen Thomas
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Fun Things to Do Without Leaving Home from MyVoiceTix.com



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Make your own play dough – There probably hasn't been a run on Cream of Tartar, so you should still be able to find this in the spice aisle at the grocery store. All the other ingredients are pretty ordinary, and you probably already have them at home. This is a fun activity!

Read free ebooks from the library – If you have a Kansas Library Card, you can download and read ebooks for free from the Wichita Public Library and other KS libraries. And they've even got free audiobooks now!

Go fly a kite – As soon as you catch a few rays of sunlight peeking out, grab your kites and go to a city park. If you already have the kite, this is free. Check your local stores for kite kits or DIY supplies.

Catch a workout online – Wichita YMCAs have opened up a YouTube channel with FREE online classes.

Cook together – If stores are out of bread, try making your own bread (if you can find yeast, which hopefully you can). Or let the kids help with some other cooking or baking project. Since it isn't hot yet in Wichita, this is the perfect time to have the oven on. If you prefer stovetop, try a recipe for Chicken Jalapeno Pita Pockets that's super easy and very tasty.

Make paper airplanes – You don't even really have to buy paper for this one. It's even more fun trying aeronautical designs with different size paper from old catalogs or junk mail. Make up your own designs or cheat and use the internet. Let kids be involved in the research, then try them and maybe even log your results in a notebook.

- WichitaOnTheCheap.com

WE WILL RESUME THE EVENTS SECTION ONCE THE PANDEMIC
PASSES. CHECK @ MYVOICETIX.COM FOR EVENTS

Our Top Stories on Social Media Stories

- Black Wichitans are honored more in other states for their accomplishments than in their home city
- Wichita's minor league basketball team is back for a second season
- How can Kansas City honor MLK?
- Released after 23 years of wrongful incarceration, exonerated and given compensation by Kansas, Lamonte McIntyre is now going to court again.
- Wichita Riverfest Concert Lineup
- Sheila Mercy brought the audience to tears and to their feet as she received a \$60,000 scholarship from Newman University

Top Stories @
www.communityvoicesks.com

- Wyandotte County Unified Government Has Announced Significant List of Closures and Delays
- Wichita Riverfest Concert Lineup Announced
- Regional Corona Virus Update: More Kansas Cases and More University Changes
- African-American History Deserves Place of Honor in Wichita
- Surgeon General Adams Was Early Spokesperson on Coronavirus
- Wichita Schools' BAASE Program Works to Close the Achievement Gap
- John Henry Van Leu: One of the Wealthiest Men in Wichita
- What T-Mobile Takeover of Sprint Means For You



CLAYTOONZ by Clay Jones

Front Cover: Census Reminder

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BOBBI KRISTINA BROWN'S EX-FIANCÉ NICK GORDON'S CAUSE OF DEATH REVEALED

Citing an autopsy report, E! News has revealed the cause of Nick Gordon's death as heroin toxicity, with the manner of death officially deemed accidental.



Bobbi & Gordon

Gordon was found unresponsive and in cardiac arrest. He was administered Narcan and hospitalized for seven hours before he died on Jan. 1.

Reportedly, the 30-year-old suffered a series of heart attacks following the now-confirmed overdose and later died at Altamonte Springs, Florida,

Hospital.

In January 2015, Gordon was present when Bobbi Kristina Brown, Whitney Houston's daughter, was found unconscious in the bathtub of her Georgia home following a suspected drug overdose. The 22-year-old was placed in a medically induced coma and died six months later.

TAVIS SMILEY ORDERED TO PAY PBS \$1.5 MILLION FOR VIOLATING MORALS CLAUSE

A jury found former PBS host Tavis Smiley violated the morals clause portion of his contract with the network when he engaged in sexual contact with his subordinates, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Smiley was suspended in December 2017 after allegations of misconduct were leveled against him. The network ultimately removed him after some of the allegations were found credible.

He initially sued PBS in D.C. Superior Court, claiming that racial bias contributed to his dismissal and he was

wrongly terminated without proof. He was seeking a \$1 million payout.

The network then countersued, arguing that Smiley owed the network for a season that didn't air. PBS further claimed that based on multiple, credible accusations of sexual misconduct and sexual harassment, they had to take action.

At the trial PBS presented more than half a dozen women who detailed how they were pressured into relationships with Smiley or were victims of unwanted advances. Smiley denied the claims, insisting that the relationships he had were all consensual.

The jury had to base the merits of the case on the morals clause of Smiley's contract. While on the witness stand, Smiley said the women's stories were filled with "lies."

A jury ruled against Smiley, stating the host had violated the terms of his contract and awarded PBS \$1.5 million.



Smiley

RUDY GOBERT, FIRST

NBA PLAYER FOUND TO HAVE CORONAVIRUS, PLEDGES \$500,000 FOR RELIEF EFFORTS

Rudy Gobert, the first NBA player found to have the novel coronavirus, apologized for "careless" behavior last week, and over the weekend pledged \$500,000 to support the employee relief fund for Vivint Smart Home Arena and coronavirus-related social services in Utah and Oklahoma City.

"I hope my story serves as a warning and causes everyone to take this seriously," the Utah Jazz's all-star center said in a message posted to Instagram.

His apology stemmed from a March 9 incident in which he joked with members of the media by making sure to touch all the microphones and recording devices reporters had placed on the table in front of him as he left a news conference.

After it became known a Jazz player - soon identified as Gobert - tested positive for coronavirus, the game between the Oklahoma City Thunder and Utah was abruptly canceled. This helped lead the league to make the

decision to suspend the season immediately.

Gobert issued an initial apology on via his Instagram, saying he was sorry for being so "careless." "I wish I would have taken this thing more seriously and I hope everyone else will do so because we can do it together," Gobert said.



Gobert

OTHER CELEBS WITH CORONAVIRUS

Obviously, the Coronavirus doesn't care if you're rich or just good looking. It's still caught a few of our favorite celebs, like: actor Idris Elba, and NBA athletes Chritian Wood, Donovan Mitchell and Kevin Durant. ●●

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Debate CBS News and the Congressional Black Caucus Institute will co-host the 10th Democratic presidential primary debate...



Joe Biden's Black Voter Support Is Shrinking: Why? Joe Biden's status as the front runner in the Democratic race for the president has been constantly strengthened by his loyal Black voter support. This week the poll shows Joe's chokehold on the Black vote is falling apart.



Malcolm X's Murder Case Reopened Following After Netflix Series Reveals New Evidence Thanks to the findings of a powerful Netflix documentary, the Manhattan District Attorney's office is reexamining the circumstances surrounding the 1969 murder of civil rights icon Malcolm X. According to the Innocence Project, three members of the Nation of Islam were quickly arrested, and the three of them were convicted in 1969 and sentenced to life in prison. However,

Census Bureau Site Live and Counting is Underway

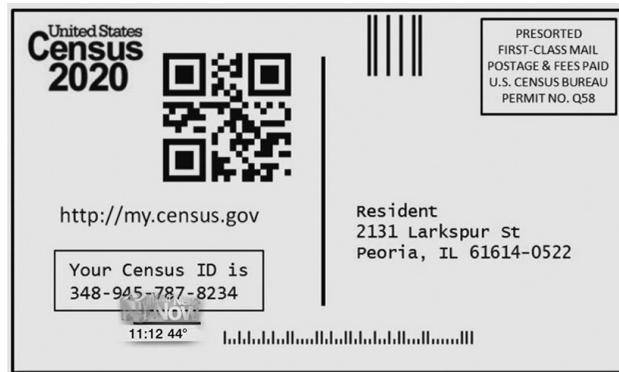
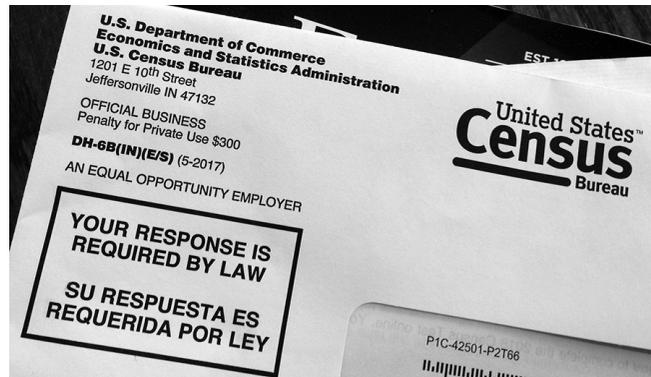
By Mike Schneider
Associated Press

The 2020 census is off and running for much of America now.

Almost everyone should have received their census “invite.”

About 80% of households received mailings about how to answer the questions online, and about 20% of households received a paper ballot if there are large numbers of seniors in their neighborhood or levels of internet connectivity are low.

The notices include a census ID that matches addresses. People filling out the form via the internet are encouraged to use the ID, but those who answer the questions online before getting their IDs still will be



Depending on your neighborhood, you may have received either a Census envelope with a form you can complete and mail in (top) or a postcard asking you to respond by telephone or online.

counted.

“The best user experience is provided with a Census ID,” the bureau said in a statement.

As of March 15, the Census reports already receiving 5 million online responses.

NEXT STEPS

The 2020 census is the first in which most people are being encouraged to answer the questions online, though people can still answer the questionnaire by telephone or by mailing back a paper form if they prefer.

Census workers won't begin going door-to-door in earnest until May, when they'll approach homes that haven't responded and

ask the questions in person. Bureau officials are monitoring the spread of the coronavirus, which could disrupt the door-to-door phase. If there is a major disaster, such as an epidemic, census workers instead can drop off the questionnaires at homes, with the hope that people will respond on their own, according to the bureau's operational plan.

The Mobile Questionnaire Assistance Program around college campuses will begin earlier. By starting early, the Census hopes to count households in areas with off-campus housing before the end of the spring semester when students may leave for another residence. They were

See **CENSUS** page 10

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 their safety participating.

The bureau has assured residents that personal data collected cannot be shared with other agencies, such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement or the Homeland Security Department, and, before it is published, it 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. ●●

College Campuses' Response to Coronavirus is Causing the Census to Adjust

- “We are adjusting operations to make sure college students are counted.”

According to the Census' plan, college students living in on-campus housing are supposed to be counted in the Census through their university, but now with students scattering in response to the coronavirus, the Census bureau is hustling to respond. With many campuses closing due to the coronavirus, the Census is trying to make sure universities and, especially, students and their parents know where they are to be counted.

Per the Census Bureau's residence criteria, students living away from home at school should be counted at school in most cases, even if they are temporarily elsewhere due to the COVID-19 pandemic. College students living in dormitories, like nursing homes, group homes, halfway houses and prisons, fall under the Census'

Group Quarters operation.

So, even if they are home on Census Day, April 1, they should be counted according to the residence criteria that states they should be counted where they live and sleep most of the time.

In advance of the Census, college and university administrators were contacted to get their input on the enumeration methods that will allow students to participate in the 2020 Census. The majority, about 47% percent, chose the eResponse methodology and about 7% chose paper listings, both of which provide the Census Bureau directory information (electronically or via



The coronavirus may send your college student home for the balance of the school year, but the Census is still calling for them to be counted on campus.

paper records) about each student.

About 35%, however, chose drop-off/pick-up, which allows students to self-respond using an Individual Census Questionnaire (or ICQ). The Census is contacting those schools to ask whether they would like to change

that preference in light of the emerging situation.

“We are asking schools to contact their students and remind them to respond,” said a recent U.S. Census press release.

The Census previously announced

a delay in the start of their Mobile Questionnaire Assistance program. They had originally planned to start their field outreach on March 30, but have pushed that back to April 13.

In this operation, Census takers begin following up with households that haven't responded yet around some colleges and universities. By starting early, the Census hope to count households in areas with off-campus housing before the end of the spring semester when students may leave for another residence. They're delaying the start of this effort from April 9 to April 23.

The Census Bureau's key message right now for anyone with questions about how COVID-19 will affect the 2020 Census: It has never been easier to respond on your own, whether online, over the phone or by mail — all without having to meet a Census taker. ●●

Coronavirus

What's in Congress' Coronavirus Bill?

Congress has passed a multi-billion dollar aid package early on March 14 that aims to limit the economic damage from the coronavirus pandemic. The Republican-controlled Senate is expected to take it up this week.

Here is a look at major elements of the legislation.

FREE CORONAVIRUS TESTING

The bill would provide free coronavirus testing for those who need it. President Donald Trump's administration has struggled to provide such tests.

The legislation would require private insurers to pay for all testing costs for people to whom they provide medical coverage. It also would cover testing costs for people who receive healthcare through government programs such as Medicare and Medicaid.

PAID SICK LEAVE AND EMERGENCY LEAVE FOR SOME WORKERS

House Democrats scaled back their original plan passed last week in an

effort to get the Republicans in the Senate to approve it.

The bill would still extend two weeks of sick pay to people who are affected by coronavirus, which includes those in quarantine and those caring for children whose schools closed their doors.

But any extension beyond that — 10 weeks — would only be granted to parents taking care of children with shuttered schools and day-care centers. Health care workers, emergency responders, workers in quarantine or looking after family members with coronavirus would no longer qualify for the extra time off.

Businesses had warned of the financial burdens of offering sick leave to their workers, given they may not have enough money on hand to pay workers as they confront significant disruptions. The legislation would have compensated them through tax credits.

The original bill had a provision providing paid medical and sick leave for up to three months at two-thirds

of a worker's wages.

Roughly a third of U.S. employees, predominantly lower-paid workers, currently do not get paid when they stay home due to illness. Health officials have said the virus could spread more quickly if infected workers feel like they cannot afford to stay home without pay.

The bill would not establish the permanent paid sick-leave benefit that Democrats have long sought. It would only apply to coronavirus-related illnesses, and would last only through the end of the calendar year.

ENHANCED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The bill would cover all costs for states that extend unemployment payments for six months beyond the usual time limit, which is six months in most states. States would also get \$1 billion to cover the additional administrative costs.

The benefit would apply only to

states that see their unemployment rates rise by at least 10%. They also

PANDEMIC

would get interest-free loans, if needed, to cover benefit costs under the bill.

It also would encourage employers to avoid layoffs by reducing employees' hours instead. Affected employees would get unemployment benefits to offset lost wages.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

The bill would strengthen several programs that help feed low-income Americans. It would provide \$250 million to give 25 million home-delivery meals to seniors, \$400 million for food banks, \$500 million to help feed mothers and young children and \$100 million to territories such as Puerto Rico and Guam.

It would allow schools that

produce free breakfast and lunch to low-income students to distribute those meals to go, rather than requiring the students to eat in a cafeteria.

The bill would suspend work requirements for the "food stamp" program that helps low-income people buy groceries. That would override a new Trump Administration restriction, due to kick in on April 1, that would have cut off benefits for 700,000 childless, able-bodied adults who are not working.

INCREASE FUNDING FOR LOW-INCOME HEALTH INSURANCE

The package would increase federal funding for Medicaid, the healthcare program for the poor, which typically experiences increased enrollment during economic downturns. The Trump Administration has sought to scale back Medicaid, so far without success. ●●

Money Tips to Cushion Virus Effects

With quarantines, crowd limits and stock drops cutting into people's income, we need to have a strategy to cushion the hit. Here's a few tips from WalletHub.com.

ASK YOUR BANK FOR HELP

"Many banks and credit unions have stated they are willing to offer assistance to people who face temporary financial hardship due to the coronavirus," said Jill Gonzalez, WalletHub analyst. "These might include measures like being able to skip a payment, having temporarily lower rates, getting fees waived or having a credit line increase. If you find yourself struggling financially, call customer service to make your case. Make sure to clearly and politely articulate the reasons for your hardship."

STRETCH SAVINGS

"Most people's jobs aren't immune to the coronavirus. So, it's a good idea

to set aside as much money as you can from each paycheck in case coronavirus impacts your ability to work or causes you to have additional medical expenses," Gonzalez said.

"Even beyond the current situation, it's always good to have an emergency fund. Avoid panicking about stocks, too, and just remember that it's only a matter of time until the virus runs its course."

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TRAVEL INSURANCE - BUT KNOW THE LIMITS

"If your travel provider cancels a trip because of the coronavirus, a 'trip cancellation or interruption' policy might help you get your money back," Gonzalez said. "Some credit cards offer this benefit for free, though issuers have been cutting back in recent years. Keep in mind that if you cancel your own trip out of fear of the virus, your insurance policy probably won't cover you unless you have coverage

for canceling 'for any reason' or doctor's orders to quarantine yourself."

USE CREDIT CARDS, NOT CASH

"Though there's not much evidence to show that touching cash spreads coronavirus, it's theoretically possible, and the Federal Reserve has been quarantining bank notes from Asia. China also burned some of its currency that had been circulated through the Wuhan area," Gonzalez said.

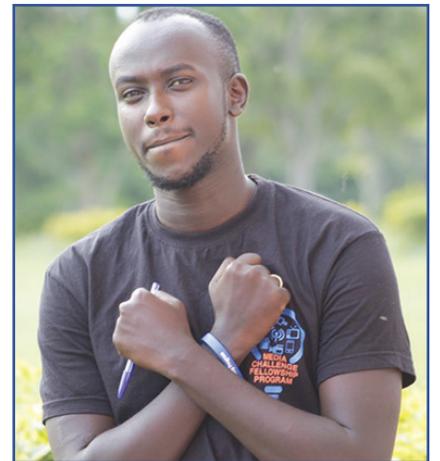
"Using a credit card's contactless capability may help give consumers more peace of mind. Plus, credit cards can be used for online purchases, allowing consumers to avoid shopping at crowded stores. In addition, consumers that decide to stock up on essential items and spend more than usual in the coming months can recoup some of that expense, and get some extra time to pay, by using a rewards credit card." ●●

The Alternative to Elbow Bumps: Wakanda Salute

No Touching! L.A.-based civil rights activist Najee Ali is encouraging people - and the African-American community, in particular - to give as a greeting the Wakanda salute popularized in the Marvel movie "Black Panther" until a vaccine is released for the Coronavirus virus, which has now been labeled a pandemic by the CDC.

Elbow, fist and foot bumps have become alternatives to handshakes or hugs. But, Ali says, they aren't really effective, particularly the elbow bump.

"People actually sneeze in their elbows, where the virus can live and be passed on. And the fist



bump can still pass along the virus due to skin-to-skin contact," says Ali. "The Wakanda salute involves no touching and is culturally unique and appropriate for our people." ●●

How to Protect Older People Through the Coronavirus Pandemic

People over 60, and especially over 80, are particularly vulnerable to severe or fatal infection.

Of the confirmed cases in China to date, nearly 15% of patients over 80 have died. For those under 50, the death rate was well below 1%.

Medical experts say that if people over 60 are infected, they are more likely to have severe, life-threatening disease, even if their general health is good. Older people with underlying medical conditions are at particularly high risk. Experts attribute some of the risk to a weakening of the immune system with age.

People are wrong to assume that if an underlying condition is well managed with treatment, they're out of danger. Even those with conditions that are stable should take extra precautions.

Here are some tips to reduce risk for older people.

FOLLOW GUIDELINES

Geriatricians recommend patients adhere to current recommendations from the CDC and WHO:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and warm water for 20 seconds

(the time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice) or clean them with alcohol-based hand gel.

- Avoid handshakes.
- Stay away from large gatherings.
- Clean and disinfect objects that are touched frequently.
- Avoid public transportation and crowds.
- Stock up on supplies.
- No cruises or nonessential travel.
- Visits with grandchildren are ill-advised.

NONESSENTIAL DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENTS?

Some experts are recommending that older adults at risk cancel nonessential doctor's appointments, including wellness visits. Tele-medicine sessions, if available, are often a reasonable substitute.

Another helpful step: talking to your doctor about stockpiling two or three months of any critical prescription medicines.

BEWARE OF SOCIAL ISOLATION

Experts warn that social distancing, the cornerstone of epidemic control, could lead to social isolation, already a problem in the older population that

can result in health hazards.

Doctors suggest doing virtual meetings with friends and relatives, with the benefits of social engagement in mind. Don't cancel these things, but change to Zoom or Skype or FaceTime.

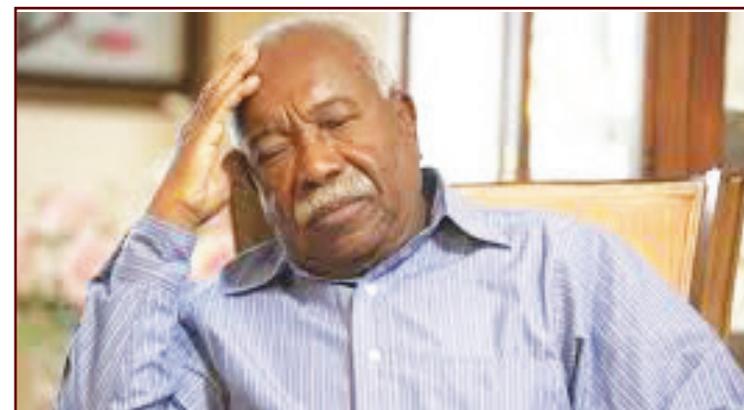
HOME HEALTH AIDES

The National Association for Home Care & Hospice estimates that 12 million "vulnerable persons of all ages" in the U.S. receive care in their homes, delivered by a home care work force of about 2.2 million people. For many older adults, that means a steady parade of home health aides trooping through the door, some more mindful of hygiene than others.

People should have conversations with their caregivers about hygiene, doctors say. Double-check that aides are washing their hands or using hand gel. Any equipment they bring in should be wiped down with disinfectant. And make sure they are feeling healthy.

NURSING HOME CONUNDRUM

Some 1.7 million people, mostly older, are in nursing homes in the U.S., a fraction of the 50 million



Elderly should stay active even in this pandemic. Activity is beneficial in fighting the effects of the coronavirus.

Americans over age 65.

Given the rash of deaths at a nursing home in Kirkland, Wash., hit hard by the virus, nursing homes are on high alert. Many have gone into full lockdown mode.

The federal government is telling nursing homes to bar all visitors, making exceptions only "for compassionate care, such as end-of-life situations."

STAY ACTIVE, EVEN IN A PANDEMIC

Geriatricians fear that social

distancing may affect routines in ways that can compromise the vitality of older adults. They emphasize the importance of maintaining good habits, including sufficient sleep, healthful eating and exercise.

Exercise may be beneficial in fighting the effects of coronavirus. It can help boost the body's immune functions, decrease inflammation and have mental and emotional benefits. A patient who relies on daily exercise at the gym but is trying to avoid risky situations might simply go for a walk. ●●

Stop Sneeze-Shaming, It's Not a Virus Symptom

Everyone in the path of the coronavirus, should know the best advice to avoid it:

Wash your hands frequently, for 20 seconds at a time, and stop touching your face. You should also know what pointless panicky behavior looks like: Wearing a mask when you're not actually sick and buying up all the toilet paper.

There's one behavior that seems like it might be sensible, but is panicky. It has nothing to do with actual coronavirus symptoms, and only serves to increase the growing levels of fear and distrust - sneeze-shaming.

According to the WHO and the CDC, the main symptoms of coronavirus are a fever, a dry cough, and difficulty breathing. Very few - some 5%, according to statistics from China - find themselves sneezing. "Runny nose is rarely a component of the

illness," Dr. Marta Feldmesser, chief of medicine of infectious diseases at



Sneezing is not a symptom of coronavirus

Lenox Hill Hospital, told the New York Post. "If people start sneezing, that's not something that should trigger concerns."

There is, of course, a perfectly innocent reason to find yourself sneez-

ing around this time of year. Spring has sprung across much of the U.S., and it's a particularly bad one for the more than 50 million Americans who suffer from seasonal allergies.

The perfect storm of allergy season and coronavirus panic seems almost designed to increase paranoia among a fearful population. "As an allergy sufferer, I can't deal with the glares," one sneeze-shamed Californian said. "It's frustrating as hell."

Allergy sufferers should still follow good sneeze etiquette. Sneezing into the crook of your elbow is the best way to contain it; sneezing into a disposable tissue is also acceptable.

If the sneeze sneaks up on you and you use your hands by accident — use hand sanitizer or wash your hands.

Never forget, however, that coro-

navirus causes fever, coughing, and labored breathing. If you're worried about someone who's out and about when you think they shouldn't be, look

for beads of sweat on their forehead.

But sneezing in general is not, and should not be, something to be ashamed of. ●● - Mashable.com

Price-Gouging Law in Effect, Scams Too

Kansas' price-gouging law went into effect with the governor's declaration of a state of emergency on March 12.

The law generally prohibits unjustifiably raising prices for goods and services for which consumer demand is likely to increase because of the virus outbreak. A price increase is presumed unjustified if it exceeds by 25% or more the price at which the goods or services were available on March 11 or the same goods or services are available from other sellers in the trade area.

Examples of consumer goods and services governed by the anti-profitteering law include, but are not

limited to, food items, sanitary and cleaning supplies, emergency supplies, medical supplies and services, lodging, and any other property or service for which consumer demand may increase in response to the virus outbreak. The law carries a penalty of up to \$10,000 per violation.

These scams could include bogus products advertised as coronavirus prevention measures or treatments as well as bogus charities purporting to raise money for coronavirus research or patients. The State Attorney General has received reports of these sorts of scams circulating in Kansas.

Complaints about price gouging or scams can be made 1-800-432-2310. ●●

Making Payday Loans Work More Economically

•It's expensive to be poor - especially in Kansas, where securing emergency cash comes at a price of nearly 400% interest. It's something a grassroots group, Kansans for Payday Loan Reform, is working to change.

By Bonita Gooch
The Community Voice

It's an issue that impacts one in 10 Kansas adults. Cindy Hutchinson is one of them. She's a full-time caregiver for her disabled husband Chris, and they struggle to make ends meet on just his disability income.

Prior to Chris suffering from a series of strokes, Cindy says they led a pretty good life. Chris was a 1st Sgt. in the Army Reserve who had completed a tour in Kuwait. His full-time job was as the civilian administrator for his Army Reserve Unit.

"He always said he would never retire," said Cindy. However, after the third stroke, it was clear he'd never work again.

Cindy tried holding down an over-night job at a convenience store. She figured she could work while Chris slept, but taking care of Chris during the day left her little time to rest, so she finally gave up and became his full-time caregiver.

Now they exist on Chris' disability income and the social security dependent income their daughter received.

After their daughter graduated high school, her benefits ended and their budget took another big hit.

They precariously managed to stay afloat until, as things eventually do, something unexpected came up. Vandals in their neighborhood – they believe they were teenagers – shot out their car window. This was the family's only means of transportation and they needed it to get Chris to his constant list of doctor and therapy appointments.

To cover the cost of the window and few other repairs that they'd held off on, they took out a \$500 payday loan. Chris will tell you, getting the money was a snap, but paying the money back was a long and expensive ordeal.

She eventually paid off her first loan, which ended up eventually costing her \$1,500. Since then, she's taken out two other loans and she's two years in on paying her current \$500 loan.

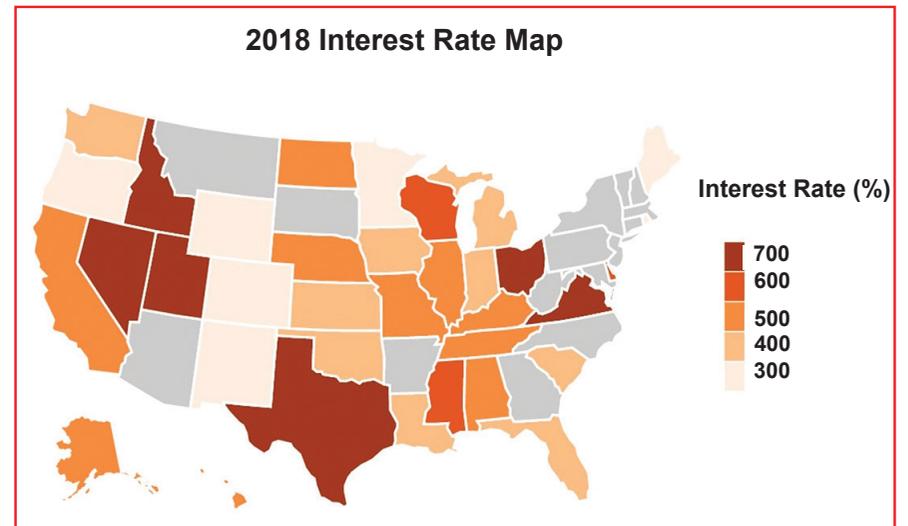
KANSAS PAYDAY LOANS

The maximum payday loan in Kansas is \$500 with a repayment term of between 7 and 30 days. Lenders

can charge no more than 15% of the amount of the loan. Depending upon the term and amount of the loan, 15% of the amount financed can calculate to a much higher Annual Percentage Rate (APR). For example, the APR for a \$100 payday loan, with a finance charge of 15%, and a term of 14 days, is 391.07%.

Kansas APR rate puts them right in the middle of the pack when compared to other states. Texas has the highest rate at 662% APR, followed closely by Utah, 658%, and Nevada, 652%. Sixteen states and the District of Columbia have an interest rate of 36% or lower.

Despite the high APR, payday loans in Kansas are big business. In 2018, according to the State's Bank Commissioner, there were 685,000 payday loans in Kansas totaling \$267 million. With the potential to reap big revenue, more than 60 companies provided payday and title loans at more than 300 locations.



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WHO TAKES OUT PAYDAY LOANS?

In short, "they're the working poor, or people living paycheck to paycheck," said Nick Bourke, the consumer finance project director for the Pew Charitable Trusts. "It's also somebody who's making typically about \$15 an hour on a full-time basis, so that's \$30,000 a year or so, on average. So they're kind of mainstream people."

However research has found that borrowers are disproportionately disabled, elderly, veterans and African Americans.

Why do most people get a loan? "Seven out of 10 times in our research, is they need help paying some kind of regular bill, like mortgage or rent or car payments," said Bourke.

See **SOLUTIONS** page 9

Dupree and Wilson Appointed to Kansas Sentencing Commission

Wyandotte County District Attorney Mark Dupree and former Leavenworth Mayor Jermaine Wilson are new appointees to the 17-member Kansas Sentencing Commission. They are two of four new appointees and two reappointments announced last week by Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly.

The Sentencing Commission is one of the most powerful commissions in Kansas government. The commission reviews and makes recommendations for changes to the sentencing grid, the formal structure that sets the

sentencing parameters for all Kansas crimes.



Wilson



Dupree

Last year, the commission recommended reducing the sentence for first-time nonviolent possession or marijuana and nonviolent possession of drug paraphernalia.

In addition, working with the Secretary of Corrections, the

board reviews the impact all crime bills introduced in the legislature will have on bed space in the prison and provide a report on the bill's impact to the legislature ahead of their consideration of the bill.

Dupree is the first African American to serve as a district attorney in the state of Kansas. Wilson, who is formerly incarcerated, brings a unique perspective to the position. In 2007, he began serving a three-year sentence on drug charges in Kansas' Lansing Prison. Out of prison, he began a non-profit, Unity in the Community, had his

record expunged, and was elected to the Leavenworth City Council in 2017. In 2019, his fellow commissioners, elected him to serve a one-year term as the city's mayor.

State Sen. David Haley (D-KCK), who is the longest-serving member on the commission, called Wilson's appointment "a red-letter day." As far as Haley knows, a former prisoner has never served on the commission.

"I believe he brings a real-life and different perspective to the commission that's it's never had before," said Haley. ●●

Judge Tosses Convictions in Case Championed by WNBA's Maya Moore

Maya Moore has always been known for hitting the big shot on the grandest stage. She just got the biggest assist of her career.

A judge on March 9 overturned the 1997 burglary and assault convictions of a Missouri man, Jonathon Irons, whose case has been championed by the WNBA star to the point she stepped away from her career to help the family friend.

Cole County Judge Dan Green found the defense for Irons provided enough evidence to prove he was wrongfully convicted, a decision first reported by the Jefferson City News-Tribune. He has been serving a 50-year prison sentence stemming the non-fatal shooting of a

homeowner in the St. Louis area when Irons was 16.

Moore called Irons after the court hearing on March 9. When he

ers and even broke into song at one point.

Some 23 years after the incident, Irons could be freed within 30 days

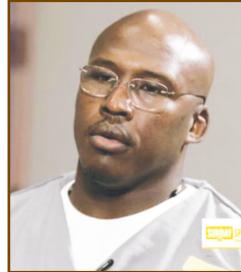


Supporters of Jonathon Irons (R) are excited as WNBA star Maya Moore speaks by phone to Irons after a judge ruled to overturn his conviction on a 1997 burglary and assault.

answered the phone, Moore and a group of supporters cheered to let him know the judge had ruled in his favor. Irons thanked his support-

could decide to appeal.

"It's a surreal feeling, it hasn't sunk in yet," Moore said in a telephone interview with the AP. "It will when he



of the judge's order, unless the St. Charles County prosecutor's office decides to retry him. The judge also stayed his order pending a review by the Missouri Attorney General's office, which

walks out those doors. It's like we got to the Final Four, but still have some work left to do. I have mixed emotions as I'm elated it happened but the decision could have been made so much faster."

The Minnesota Lynx star put her career on hold last season to help Irons. The four-time WNBA champion said last month she planned to sit out a second season and miss the Tokyo Olympics this summer. She told the AP those plans haven't changed despite the court ruling.

"My decision to take another year was bigger than this case," she said. "But obviously this case was in the forefront of my mind. I'm looking forward when this is done to finally getting some rest and time with my family."

Moore was surrounded by friends

and family when Irons called and she told him: "You're coming home."

"He was over the moon praising hallelujahs and thanking the Lord," she said.

Moore, who was born in Jefferson City, MO, and a collegiate star at Connecticut, said all her success on the basketball court prepared her for the court case.

"My basketball experience helped me navigate this battle," she said. "To have a long-term goal is like going through a season: you need to have poise and trust different teammates to do their job. A lot of the skills I've been able to display on the basketball court helped me have what I needed to navigate this taxing and emotional process." ●●

- Associated Press - Doug Feinberg & Roxana Hegeman

Kansas Legislature Votes to Extend Unemployment Insurance

A bill originally proposed to help laid off employees at Wichita's Spirit Aerosystems is proving timely as more and more businesses shutter in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

On March 17, before heading home on a coronavirus extended break, members of the Kansas Legislature voted to extend weekly unemployment insurance (UI) benefits to 26 weeks, from the current 16 weeks.

The extension was originally proposed as a talent retention mechanism in response to the ongoing 737 Max supply chain layoffs at Spirit. However, the ongoing coronavirus crisis added some urgency to the effort. The total impact of COVID-19 remains to be seen in its entirety, but it is clear that many businesses and employees will experience significant financial harm.

The House Commerce Committee amended the bill to eliminate the "waiting week," which allows individuals to receive UI benefits sooner. They also made the bill retroactive to apply to new claims for UI benefits starting Jan. 1, 2020, which will help those impacted by aviation layoffs.

The bill will sunset back to current law on April 1, 2021. If the statewide unemployment rate is 6.0% or higher at that point, the UI weekly benefits will remain at 26 weeks.

The House passed the bill by a vote of 119-0. The Senate then voted to concur with the House amendments by a vote of 29-4. The UI benefits extension bill now heads to Gov. Kelly's desk. She is expected to sign it.

The ongoing COVID-19 situation has added some urgency to this effort for a couple of reasons.

First, the Kansas Legislature is seeking to wrap up several key issues (e.g., the budget) this week so they can start their break early and practice "social distancing" per CDC recommendations.

Second, the economic impact of COVID-19 remains to be seen in its entirety, but it is clear that many businesses and employees will experience significant financial harm. The extended UI benefits will help provide some stopgap support for many families that experience layoffs.

The committee inserted this language into an empty senate bill, SB 27. ●●

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Missouri Payday Loans Among Highest in the Country

Missouri was oh so close to revising its egregious payday loan policies in 2014, but has failed to get much traction on a reform effort since. That year, both the Missouri House and Senate passed a reform bill, but then Gov. Jay Nixon vetoed the bill, saying it didn't go far enough.

So for another six years, Missourians have suffered under a system that has an average Annual Percentage Rate (APR) of 462%, one of the highest rates in the country.

CURRENT MISSOURI LAW

Current law in Missouri allows individuals to borrow up to

\$500 for a period between 14 to 31 days. The fee on the loan is \$75 per

\$100 borrowed. So on a \$100 loan borrowed for 14 days, the interest rate



Missouri's payday loan Annual Percentage Rate is one of the highest in the country at 462%. For solutions that are working in other states, see the story below.

is 1650%. Borrowers can renew a loan for up to six times, but with each renewal, they're required to reduce their principal amount by at least 5%.

The policy prohibits a loan from being repaid by a loan from the same lender or their affiliate and limits to \$500, the total dollar value of loans a borrower can have from a lender and affiliate. However, the law does nothing to cap how many loans a borrower can have with other lenders or to cap the total amount of payday loans a borrower can have at one time.

THE 2014 REFORM MISS

The bill that almost passed in 2014 wasn't without fault, but it would have reflected a significant decrease in interest rate. The bill would have eliminated loan rollovers and capped interest and fees at 35% of the initial

loan amount. That rate reflected a significant decrease from the \$75 per \$100 borrowed that existed then and still exists.

Lenders would also have been required to "conspicuously post" in their lobby the amount of fees and interest charged per \$100 loaned. In addition, once a year, borrowers would be allowed to enroll in a no-penalty extended payment plan with an individual lender.

Former Gov. Jay Nixon, a Democrat, vetoed the bill because it did not go far enough and claimed that the bill appeared to him to "be a part of a coordinated effort by the payday loan industry to avoid more meaningful reform."

Some of the revisions that Nixon found missing were: nothing that

See MISSOURI page 10

SOLUTIONS from page 7

CALL FOR PAYDAY LOAN REFORM

While Kansas' APR may not be as high as it is in some states, there is a growing movement to further reduce the rate. They're calling for a real shift in what Kansans think is fair lending and for Kansans to stop saying that it's OK to allow a 391% APR for payday loans.

The group Kansans for Payday Loan Reform (KPLR) was organized in fall 2019 to help build support and momentum around the reform of payday loan laws in Kansas. Approximately 24 organizations are a part of the grassroots collaborative.

While the group hasn't proposed any legislation for adoption, they're asking for two major reforms:

- That people have enough time to repay the loan in affordable installments over months and not weeks. Currently payday loans in Kansas can be for a maximum of 30 days.

- To limit the loan payment amount to no more than 5% from each paycheck.

"Similar policies are working in other states where many of the same companies operate and make reasonable profits, because these states successfully reformed state regulations and we can too," said the Rev. Dr. T. Lamont Holder, president of the Missionary Baptist State Convention of Kansas, a partner organization of KPLR.

OHIO REFORM

Ohio is one of the most recent states to successfully reform their payday lending laws. Before this bi-partisan effort, Ohio had the highest payday loan APR in the country. In 2018 their legislature approved a complete overhaul of their payday loan policies that have been in effect since April 2019.

As with all payday reform "battles" across the country, high-cost lenders lobbied against the change and insisted reform would eliminate access to credit. In the wake of Ohio's change, some lenders did leave, but credit is still widely available.

Ohio's new structure sets new rates and policies for loans under 90 days and introduces short-term installment payment loans with lengths between 90 days and one year. Now, for loans greater than 90 days, borrowers will pay no more than \$300 for a \$500 loan.

The law limits the amount borrowed to \$2,500 from one or multiple lenders and borrowers have to sign a declaration they do not have more than \$2,500 in short-term loans and lenders have to make a concerted effort to check.

The law caps loans at a 28% annual percentage rate and sets new limits on fees. However, with fees, the APR goes up. Monthly fees are capped to 10% of the original loan amount or \$30, whichever is less.

For loans less than 90 days, the monthly payment (including fees) cannot exceed 6% of the borrower's gross

monthly income or 7% of net monthly income. For loans greater than 90 days but less than one year, fees and interest cannot exceed 60% of the initial loan amount.

COLORADO REFORM

In 2010, Colorado adopted what was considered a model for payday loan reform. The reforms pushed their average interest rate for payday loans down to 129% however their goal was to achieve an even lower rate.

The bill adopted by the state in 2010 increased the length of the loans from a maximum of 40 days to a minimum of six months and set an APR of 45%. However, additional monthly fees were allowed of \$15 per \$100 loaned to a maximum of \$30 per month. With the additional fees, the rate paid rose to triple digits.

In 2012, a year after the plan was put in place, the amount the average payday loan borrower paid in fees was \$341 per year, down from \$518 in 2010, before the law changed. According to the Colorado Attorney General, the average loan contract in 2012 carried a 188% APR, compared to 339% APR in 2010.

Despite the change, Colorado was still seeing a relatively high default rate on their loans, in part due to the fact that despite being allowed to make payments on their loans, many of the individuals who took out loans just could not afford to take on any additional debt. This was demonstrated by consumers appearing

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to be re-borrowing in order to get cash to cover their payments.

Unsatisfied with their results in 2018 Colorado citizens vote to limit loans to 36% maximum APR including interest and fees.

THE 36% CLUB

With their change, Colorado became the 15th state plus the District of Columbia to set usury rates on loans at 36% or lower. Before them, in 2016, South Dakota adopted a 36% interest rate cap. This January, the Center for Responsible Lending released a report analyzing the impact of the 36% interest rate cap on the state.

The report, "The Sky Doesn't Fall: Life After Payday Lending in South Dakota," found that, two years after passage, South Dakotans still voiced strong support for the interest rate cap; opposed attempts to undermine the measure; and found that options are available in South Dakota that don't have the devastating financial effects of payday loans.

In 2017, the Kansas House of Representatives' Special Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance considered HB 2267 that would have capped Kansas interest rates at 36%, but was similar to the 2010 Colorado legisla-

tion. The bill would have allowed lenders to charge a monthly maintenance fee of 5% of the original principal or \$20. The bill also limited payday borrowers to one outstanding loan of less than \$500.

The committee did not take any action, but instead suggested the Kansas Office of the State Bank Commissioners, the organization that oversees payday loans in Kansas, report to the legislature early the next year, 2018, on possible federal regulations.

We found no indication the follow-up report was given.

Alex Horowitz, a research officer with the Pew Charitable Trusts, told the committee that small loans can be a useful service for people — within limits.

"They can help people get through difficult stretches, but only if structured appropriately at affordable prices," Horowitz said.

The Rev. Holder agreed, saying, "People want access to affordable loans, not debt traps."

If you're interested in seeing change in Kansas payday loan laws, connect with Kansans for Payday Reform online at <https://kspaydayreform.wixsite.com/> website or on Facebook @ Kansans for Payday Loan Reform. ●●

Did you know an undercount in Kansas means that your community could miss out on approximately **\$52,466.40 in federal funding (over 10 years) for each household that is missed in the 2020 Census?**

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**KANSAS
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CENSUS2020**

Treasury proposal: Deliver \$500B to Americans starting April

After the House and Senate passed a \$100 billion-plus bill to boost the testing for coronavirus and guarantee paid sick leave for millions of workers hit by it, President Donald Trump quickly signed it. But lawmakers and the White House had already turned their focus to the administration's far bigger \$1 trillion plan to stabilize the economy as the pandemic threatens financial ruin for individuals and businesses.

Details on Trump's economic rescue plan remain sparse — and it's sure to grow with lawmaker add-ons — but its centerpiece is to dedicate \$500 billion to start issuing direct payments to Americans by early next month. It would also funnel cash to businesses to help keep workers on payroll as widespread sectors of the \$21 trillion U.S. economy all but shut down.

In a memorandum, the Treasury

Department proposed two \$250 billion cash infusions to individuals: a first set of checks issued starting April 6, with a second wave in mid-May. The amounts would depend on income and family size.

The Treasury plan, which requires approval by Congress, also recommends \$50 billion to stabilize the airlines, \$150 billion to issue loan guarantees to other struggling sectors, and \$300 billion for small businesses. The plan appears to anticipate that many of the loans would not be repaid.

Taken together, the administration plan promises half of the \$1 trillion to families and individuals, with the other half used to prop up businesses and keep employees on payroll.

Direct payments would go to U.S. citizens only, and would be "tiered based on income level and family

size." The two payments would be identical, with the second wave starting by May 18.

The Treasury outline provides a basis for lawmakers to work from in an unprecedented government response and is likely to be broadened to include additional emergency funding for federal agencies.

The price tag for the upcoming economic package alone promises to exceed Treasury's \$1 trillion request, a rescue plan not seen since the Great Recession. Trump is urging Congress to pass the eye-popping stimulus package in a matter of days.

The Senate plans to remain in session until the third coronavirus bill passes, with weekend sessions possible. The process ahead is uncertain, but pressure is enormous on lawmakers to act fast and not allow gamesmanship to get in the way of results. ●●

CENSUS from page 4

scheduled to begin this field outreach on March 30, but have pushed that back to April 13.

KEY DATES

March 12-20: The U.S. Postal Service will deliver initial invitations during this period. If you haven't received yours by March 20, you might want to recheck your mail to see if you overlooked it. No problem, just go ahead and respond, either via telephone at 1-844-330-2020 or online at my2020census.gov. Even if you don't have your census ID, your information will be counted.

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.

If a household does not respond to the Census, a Census taker will follow up in person. In most cases, this will begin in mid-May and conclude in late July. Households can still respond on their own during this period, and if they do, they will be removed from the nonresponse follow-up workload. People are encouraged to answer all questions on the 2020 Census to avoid having a Census taker knock at their door.

CORONAVIRUS IMPACT

The U.S. Census Bureau is monitoring the coronavirus situation and will follow the guidance of federal, state and local health authorities. They have already made a few adjustments in their schedule and will continue to adjust some of their operations keeping two key principles in mind: protecting the health and safety of their staff and the public, and fulfilling their statutory requirement to deliver the 2020 Census counts to the President on schedule.

Currently, the planned completion date for data collection for the 2020 Census is July 31, 2020, but that date could be adjusted if necessary as the situation dictates in order to achieve a complete and accurate count. ●●

MISSOURI from page 9

controlled the number of loans an individual could have at one time, or to cap the total dollar value of payday loans a borrower could have at one time, and then nothing to test a borrower's ability to repay the loan.

A LITTLE NOISE IN 2018

In 2018, the Missouri House

Subcommittee on Short Term Finance held a hearing on payday loan reform and a bill was introduced that closely mirrored the 2014 bill. After the hearing was held, the committee members decided not to take action, but to wait and see what was to become of the payday lending policies being proposed on the federal level by the Consumer Financial Protection Board (CFPB).

Under the Obama administration,

the CFPB began work on some borrower-friendly payday loan policies. Obama left office before the proposals were implemented. However, work continued on the measures. Just days ahead of the date that had been set for the revised policies to go into effect, the Trump Administration put the plans on hold for review and reintroduced the revisions a few months later minus many of the consumer protection supporters had hoped for. ●●

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Education

KC BAND OF ANGELS TOUCH HEART STRINGS

Music students in Kansas City were touched by the local Band of Angels charity at the group's 9th Heart Strings Gala on Feb. 1.

Michael Portley III of Arrowhead Middle School will be attending a four-week band camp this summer at Berklee College of Music in Boston, thanks to BOA.



Heard

The first college scholarship offered by the organization was given to Chris Heard, a freshman at Langston University and recipient of a professional trumpet from BOA three years ago, was presented with a check to cover the remain-

ing balance of his college tuition after he earned many scholarships en route to being a music educator.

The William Arthur Smith Marching Cobras drum line and drill team was awarded an entire new drumline from



Marching Cobras Drumline

BOA for its 50th anniversary. The \$20,000 donation was the largest gift ever received by the iconic group. "I have more joy in my heart today than you can imagine," said Cobras founder Willie Smith after receiving the drumline.

DEVONTAE HARRIS VISITS ALMA MATER

Devontae Harris, cornerback for the Denver Broncos and Wichita South High School graduate, shared his story of growing up in Wichita with freshmen and sophomores at South High in February. The students are involved in a study of the book, "8 to Great," and Harris' visit reinforced what they are learning.



Harris

K-STATE LANDS \$100,000 FOR MULTICULTURAL SUMMER PROGRAM

The Hearst Foundations have granted Kansas State University \$100,000 in support of the Multicultural Academic Program Success Summer Bridge experience, a six-week, residential summer opportunity for incoming multicultural and first-generation students planning to major in agriculture, business or engineering. The Hearst funds will help 12 additional students to participate.

For info on the MAPS Program or its connected programs, visit www.k-state.edu/diversity/programs/project-impact. ●●

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HAVE YOU HEARD?

Wichita Public Schools has two new video series for children (and parents with children) ages 4 - 8.

Both series' videos are released on the WPS Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages at 5 p.m. every Thursday.

The videos can also be viewed on WPS-TV, online (usd259.org/wpstvonline) or on Cox Cable Channel 20, on Thursdays at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 9 and 9:30 a.m.

usd259.org/readalong

usd259.org/growingupwps

READ ALONG WITH
SUPERintendent
THOMPSON

GROWING UP
WPS



Read Along with SUPERintendent Alicia Thompson is a fun way to help young children, ages 4 - 8, become SUPER Readers!

Watch and read along as Dr. Thompson reads aloud fun children's books and asks questions about the books to help students better understand the story.

Dr. Thompson recorded the videos with written consent from the books' authors and publishers.

Read Along with SUPERintendent Alicia Thompson supports increasing 3rd grade reading proficiency – one of the long-term goals with the Every Student Future Ready Strategic Plan.

- The Wichita Public Schools knows parents play a key role in supporting their child's academic success, especially with developing skills before they start school.

- The **Growing Up WPS** video series, for parents with children ages 4 - 8, provides short, simple lessons parents can do with their children to develop reading and math skills.

- The series will show how parents can use every-day items or places to teach their children about letters, counting, shapes and other items. The series is hosted by Deputy Superintendent Dr. Tiffnie Irving.

- **Growing up WPS** supports increasing 3rd grade reading proficiency – one of the long-term goals with the Every Student Future Ready Strategic Plan.

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Where Does Joe Biden Stand on the Issues?

Former Vice President Joe Biden is the front-runner for the 2020 Democratic nomination for president, with substantial support from the African-American community. Beyond being Obama's vice-president, what do you know about where he stands on the major issues.

HEALTH CARE

One of the biggest distinctions between the candidates is that Biden does not support a universal government-run health insurance program like "Medicare for all." Instead, he supports maintaining the private insurance system but adding a Medicare-like public option that anyone could sign up for — a proposal that still goes well beyond the Affordable Care Act. He estimates his plan would cost \$750 billion over a decade.

Biden would also increase tax credits for people to buy insurance through the Affordable Care Act marketplace. His plan doesn't specifically address medical debt.

CORONAVIRUS

The virus has quickly become the most urgent problem facing the country, and Biden released a plan on calling for free testing, "the elimination of all cost barriers to preventive care and treatment for COVID-19," and emergency paid leave for affected

workers.

He also wants to restore a White House office that oversaw responses to global health crises — an office that the Obama administration created and the Trump administration eliminated — and direct the Justice Department to combat price gouging for medical supplies.

MASS INCARCERATION

Criminal justice is a fraught issue for Biden, who helped pass laws, like the 1994 crime bill, that produced mass incarceration. He has made a stark reversal on the issue during this campaign, calling for incentives for states to shift from incarceration to crime prevention, an end to mandatory minimum sentences and the death penalty, and decriminalizing marijuana (but not legalizing it, as Sanders advocates).

HOMELESSNESS

Mr. Biden is proposing \$640 billion over 10 years for affordable housing, as well as a "bill of rights" that would provide protections against eviction, foreclosure and predatory mortgages. He also wants to cre-

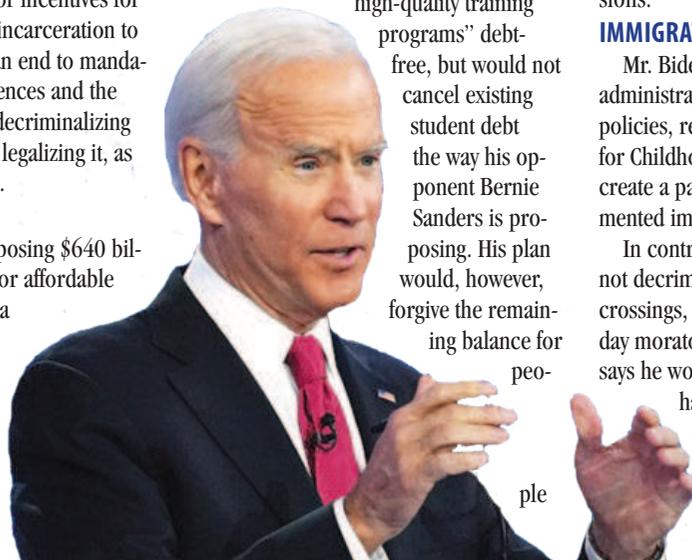
ate tax credits for renters and first-time homeowners and expand the Section 8 housing voucher program.

WEALTH INEQUALITY

Mr. Biden wants to strengthen collective bargaining, hold corporate executives personally liable for anti-union efforts and enforce labor laws more strongly. He is also calling, like many Democrats, for a \$15 minimum wage, and for higher taxes on corporations and wealthy investors.

STUDENT DEBT

Mr. Biden wants to make two-year community colleges and "other high-quality training programs" debt-free, but would not cancel existing student debt the way his opponent Bernie Sanders is proposing. His plan would, however, forgive the remaining balance for people



who paid 5% of their discretionary income (with the first \$25,000 exempt) toward their loans for 20 years.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Biden's \$1.7 trillion climate plan calls for 100% carbon-free energy and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. It would end fossil fuel subsidies and subsidize clean energy, but envisions a continued role for fossil fuels for some time: It would not ban fracking, for instance. Biden also supports federal funding for carbon capture and sequestration programs that could, in theory, eventually offset some emissions.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. Biden wants to undo the Trump administration's hard-line immigration policies, reinstate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, and create a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

In contrast to Sanders, he would not decriminalize unauthorized border crossings, but he is calling for a 100-day moratorium on deportations and says he would deport only people who have committed a serious crime.

GUN CONTROL

Biden supports an assault weapons ban, a

voluntary buyback program and a ban on online gun sales, as well as a slew of proposals that are nearly universal among Democratic candidates now, like background checks and red-flag laws. He is also calling for incentives for states to enact gun licensing programs.

ABORTION

Mr. Biden has a long and complicated record on abortion. In the 1980s, he supported an attempt to let states overturn Roe v. Wade, and he supported the Hyde Amendment — which prevents Medicaid from covering abortion in most circumstances — until just last year.

Now, however, he supports the same basic set of policies every major Democrat in the race did, including legislation to codify Roe v. Wade, repeals of the Hyde Amendment and a pledge to nominate only Supreme Court justices who support abortion rights.

MONEY IN POLITICS

Biden is calling for a constitutional amendment to make elections completely publicly funded, eliminating all private contributions — a significant step beyond what Sanders has proposed. In the shorter term, he wants to put new restrictions on super PACs and publicly finance major parties' national conventions. ●●

What Influenced Missouri's Primary Votes?

Joe Biden defeated Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in the Democratic primary in Missouri on March 10, adding to momentum that began on Super Tuesday.

The candidate's ability to beat Trump was seen as vital by Missouri's Democratic primary voters, according to a poll of 1,821 voters in Missouri conducted by AP VoteCast for The Associated Press. About 9 in 10 voters said it was very important to pick a nominee who could beat the president.

Black Missouri voters were especially supportive of Biden — about 75% picked him over Sanders. Among them was Keith Williams,

72, of Ferguson. He voted for Biden, even though he fears it won't matter in the fall election.

"I'll vote for Biden in November, but I don't think Trump will lose," Williams, shaking his head, said.

But another Black voter, 70-year-old Charles Jones of Jefferson City, felt better about Biden, saying he believes he can unify a fractured nation.

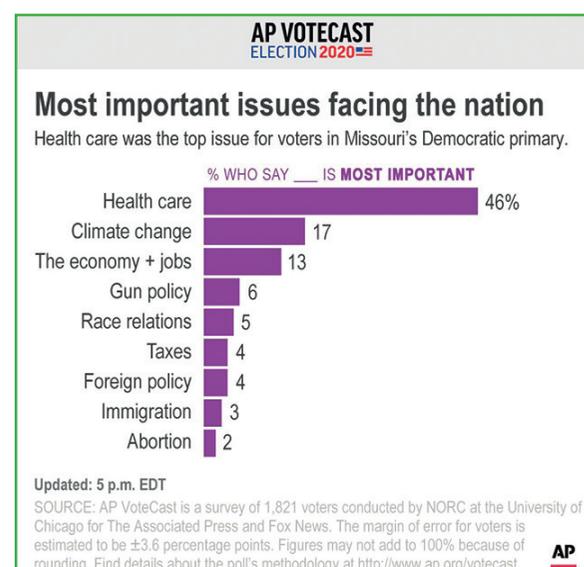
"He's just a down-home man," Jones said. "I trust him."

The issue of health care was key for influencing Missouri's Democratic voters, an Associated Press poll showed: 46% of respondents said it was the most important issue vs.

17% for climate change, 13% for the economy/jobs, and 6% or less for guns, race relations, taxes, foreign policy, immigration and abortion.

The poll showed 51% of the Democratic respondents identify as moderate, 10% as conservative, and 40% as somewhat or very liberal. More than half (52%) said they want fundamental changes in Washington vs. just restoring the political system to the pre-Trump era (45%).

Whoever wins the Democratic nomination could face



an uphill battle to carry Missouri in November against Trump. The last Democrat to carry Missouri was President Bill Clinton, in 1996. Barack Obama narrowly lost in Missouri in 2008, but the state has turned decidedly Republican since then. Mitt Romney carried Missouri by 9% in 2012, and Trump won the state by 19% on the way to victory in 2016. ●●

Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas Was Turned Away from Voting

The mayor of Kansas City struggled to vote in the Missouri presidential primary on March 10 after a poll worker mistakenly transposed his first and last names while searching for him in the voter rolls.

Mayor Quinton Lucas, a Democrat, made a video about the importance of voting before he headed into his normal polling location, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. But he said a worker couldn't find his name in the system. He later learned that the worker had entered his name into the system as "Lucas Quinton."

The mayor returned that afternoon and successfully voted, but only after publicly airing his frustration in a manner that in turn frustrated the state's top election official, Republican Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft.

"If he had wanted to vote, he could have voted" on his first attempt, Ashcroft said. "They tried to make it possible for him to vote."

When a longtime poll worker had trouble finding Lucas' name, she suggested Lucas could talk with a supervisor at a nearby table, but the mayor declined to do so, Ashcroft said. The poll worker then offered Lucas a chance to cast a provisional ballot, but Lucas declined.

Lucas called Ashcroft's response "the dumbest advice I've probably ever heard."

"A lot of other people who can't get off work would have come, would have done their experience for 20 minutes like I did and said, 'To hell with it,'" Lucas said. "And I think frankly the secretary of state should be more concerned about that than scoring somewhat bizarre political points that don't make sense."

Kansas City Elections Director Shawn Kieffer, a Republican, said the supervisor on site could have resolved the situation relatively quickly, but Lucas left the polling site within a matter of minutes.

Lucas said his voting troubles highlighted concerns about the election system.

"I think frankly this is a sign that we need to do much better," Lucas said in a phone interview with The Associated Press between when he initially showed up to vote and when he later returned to do so.

"I think the biggest threat to America's elections is not letting people vote, and I think we saw a little of that challenge today," Lucas said.

Lucas said he initially thought the problem was that he was using his utility bill for identification instead of his driver's license, which has expired. He said most people wouldn't



Kansas City Mayor Lucas recording a video before heading in to vote.

have had the pull to figure out what happened.

"A regular person would just say, 'I guess I'm not on the voter rolls,'" he said.

Ashcroft said the mayor received no special treatment and that poll

workers followed proper procedures in trying to resolve the situation.

"I'm irritated that he is throwing a poll worker under the bus," Ashcroft said. "I'm irritated that he is acting like they don't care about all voters, and I'm irritated that there may be — especially in the minority community — voters that look at this and say, 'Well gee, if the mayor wasn't allowed to vote, they're not going to let me vote, and then they won't participate.'"

Kieffer described the situation with Lucas as an "anomaly," noting he hadn't heard of any other issues. ●●

- Associated Press

How Long Will Primaries Be Frozen?

The 2020 Democratic race could be frozen in place after Tuesday's primaries

It's likely — if not certain — that the March 17 Democratic presidential primaries in Arizona, Florida and Illinois will be the last ones for the next two months.

Ohio's March 17 primary was postponed after a brief court battle. The state's governor wanted to postpone it due to coronavirus fears, but a court ordered the election to continue. The governor countered by ordering his health director to use state-granted powers to close the polls as a way to

prevent the spread of disease.

The pandemic and policies regarding gathering in large groups, and the potential health risk to poll workers call into questions whether any of the upcoming primaries will be held.

Already, Georgia (originally set for March 24), Louisiana (April 4) and Kentucky (May 19) have postponed their primaries to later dates, and other upcoming states are almost sure to follow.

And that raises questions about the state of Sen. Bernie Sanders' campaign (given Joe Biden's growing lead), about the Democratic convention in July (will the health landscape improve by then?), and about whether all states and the federal government can institute a vote-by-mail system by November.

Here is the state of the Democratic race: as of March 18: Biden has won 1,173 pledged delegates. Sanders has won 881.

To reach the magic number of 1,991 pledged delegates, Biden will need to win 46.6% of the remaining unallocated pledged delegates. Sanders will need to win 63.2%. ●●



Primary elections were scheduled to take place until June 6.

Sedgwick Co. Has Safeguards to Prevent Problem Like Lucas Faced

Sedgwick County Election Commissioner Tabitha Lehman shared her reaction to Kansas City, Mo., Mayor Quinton Lucas' voting problem with *The Community Voice*.

"This could only happen if the election worker disregarded multiple procedures," she said.

Lehman laid out the procedure:

- Scan the voter's ID - that would have brought him up. This wouldn't work in Missouri because their ID laws are different and he brought in a utility bill which can't be scanned.
- If a voter is not found by name, the election worker is to use the advance search options in the pollbook and look up the voter by address, which would have found him.
- If that also failed to find the voter, the voter should have been offered a



Sedgwick County Election Commissioner Tabitha Lehman explains how voting problems like Mayor Lucas' can be worked through to make sure every vote counts.

provisional ballot. (Lucas was offered one, but declined.)

"In the many years that I have worked elections in Kansas, the Kansas Secretary of State's office has been consistent in training county election officials to ALWAYS offer a provisional ballot. They do that for this very reason," she said. "If an election worker makes a mistake, the provisional ballot gives us the chance to fix that and not disenfranchise the voter."

After an election, officials gather

for canvassing, the process which produces official election results. This includes the final count from voting machines, counting handwritten provisional ballots, tabulating votes by election district, and certifying election results.

During Sedgwick County's canvassing, Lehman presents a category of provisional ballots that are clerical errors.

"If Kansas was not so proactive on offering provisional ballots, each of those voters would have been turned away, just like Mayor Quinton," Lehman said. "We frequently get criticism for the number of provisional ballots in Kansas, this is one of the reasons our numbers tend to be higher, because we offer them and don't turn people away. Very few states are that proactive." ●●

With 5G Comes the Small Cell Tower Invasion

By Bonita Gooch
The Community Voice

Are you in the “can hardly wait” mode for 5G? With it, we’ve been told to expect lightning downloads, little if any buffering, along with many technology improvements we can’t even imagine.

However, if you really want to imagine something, imagine all the hundreds - and yes thousands - of new 5G “small cell” towers that will inundate your city’s skyline. Yes, that’s something that comes along with 5G technology.

Current cell towers are large and cover a several-mile radius. 5G cells are small and only cover a small radius. We’ve heard reports that their coverage distance could be as short as 100 to 300 ft. or possibly as far as 1,000 ft.



How intrusive will 5G towers be in your city? Your city and county government have some say. Sacramento, CA, may have been one of the first cities to get 5G, but they may have rushed and not thought



their design through. Maybe this is an example of why the State of Kansas is discouraging co-location of cells. This well thought out design policy makes this small cell almost unrecognizable.



allow small cell towers in the right of way – that’s the area typically between the sidewalk and the street. Right-of-way is also an easement space that’s currently used for transmission lines, sometimes in alleys, behind houses or in larger areas often reserved for major utility transmission lines. So instead of hidden in out-of-the-way private locations, these cells will be right out there in front of you.

In Kansas, the state legislature took away the cities’ rights to encourage the sharing of towers. For nearly two decades, the City of Wichita’s policy had been to as much as possible encourage,

For certain, most experts project there will need to be at least one 5G cell per wireless company, per city block.

The good news is the cells are small and they can be designed to fit on existing street light poles, that is if the city, who owns the right-of-way the poles

are located in and operates the street light poles in conjunction with the local electric company, can agree on terms and conditions for their use.

If they can’t reach an agreement, no problem. Both the state and the federal government have put legislation in place

that limits local governments’ ability to stand in the way of 5G progress. The feds recently granted wireless companies unprecedented rights to put towers in right-of-ways, and left cities with little power to do much about it.

The federal law requires cities to

See **TOWER** page 16

Is 5G Safe or Dangerous? You Decide

• We’re not drawing any conclusions here, we’re just presenting two divergent sides. Sadly, none of our more dependable sources have weighed in on the issue. However, we thought this is an important issue worth bringing to your attention. Both sides are presented. You decide.

Europe Gets it: 5G is Dangerous

Maryland has recently been at the center of the 5G technology debate. Although the state’s legislature is unlikely to fast track

5G, officials from Baltimore to Montgomery County are debating where to place hundreds of new “small cells” which are basically shorter cell towers creating the backbone for the new 5G network. Many 5G antenna sites will be just feet away from residents’ homes.

European media and published research have reported mounting evidence of environmental and public health hazards of wireless radiation from 5G and the Internet of things. Yet, the U.S.

NO

is moving full steam ahead to allow the deployment of over 800,000 antenna installations. Amidst federal inaction on this ever-growing exposure, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, Reps. Daniel Lipinsky, Andy Kim and Peter A. DeFazio have all requested safety documentation.

In the U.S., the legislatures of New Hampshire, Oregon, Louisiana, and Alaska appear to be among the few to take seriously the need to vet fully this new technology before unleashing it on the entire nation.

When it comes to environmental impacts of wireless, researchers report that exposures gravely affect the behavior and physiology of bees, reducing honey production. Because bees absorb the higher frequencies of 5G much more

See **NOT SAFE** page 16

5G is No More Dangerous Than Visible Light

5G, the next generation of cellular technology for the next generation of smartphones, is imminent. And with it, there’s concern about the health risk of this new, more powerful network. How worried should you be about the coming 5G healthpocalypse?

By now, you may have seen articles on Facebook or alternative health websites. The gist: 5G is a dangerous escalation of traditional cellular technology, one packed with higher energy radiation that delivers potential damaging effects on human beings. It sounds worrisome, but let’s take a look at the actual science.

At the root of all concerns about cell phone networks is radiofrequency radiation (RFR). RFR is anything emitted in the electromagnetic spectrum, from microwaves to x-rays to radio waves to light from your monitor or light from the sun. Clearly, RFR isn’t inherently dangerous,

YES

so the problem becomes discovering under what circumstances it might be.

Scientists say that the most important criterion about whether any particular RFR is dangerous is whether it falls into the category of ionizing or non-ionizing radiation. Simply put, any radiation that’s non-ionizing is too weak to break chemical bonds. That includes ultraviolet, visible light, infrared, and everything with a lower frequency, like radio waves. Everyday technologies like power lines, FM radio, and Wi-Fi also fall into this range. (Microwaves are the lone exception: non-ionizing but able to damage tissue, they’re precisely and intentionally tuned to resonate with water molecules.) Frequencies above UV, like x-rays and gamma rays, are ionizing.

Dr. Steve Novella, an assistant professor of neurology at Yale and the editor of Science-Based Medicine, understands that people generally get concerned about radiation. “Using the term radiation is misleading because people think of

See **SAFE** page 16

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16 How Will Small Businesses Survive a Long Shutdown?

In an unprecedented attempt to contain the coronavirus outbreak, thousands of stores and other businesses nationwide are closing their doors to customers.

Small businesses are particularly vulnerable — many don't have enough cash on hand to survive an extended shutdown. And if a lot of small businesses get hurt, that can be very damaging for the overall economy.

"Half the people who work in this country work for or own a small business," says Karen



Cash flow makes small businesses vulnerable to extended shutdown during the pandemic.

Mills, who headed the Small Business Administration after the 2008 financial crisis. "In 2009, when I took office in the first quarter, we lost 1.8 million small business jobs."

Many smaller companies can't survive an extended shutdown without help, she says.

"Their average cash buffer is about 27 days, and for restaurants and some Main Street businesses, it's even less," she says. So she says if you shut the door, you, "turn off the spigot of all the cash coming in and you're still paying employees and other expenses like rent and your loan payment, then

pretty soon you run out of money and it's not a very long time frame."

Mills says Congress has already approved some emergency SBA loans for small businesses and that's good. But she says more help is needed and policymakers must have a robust response. "We'll have a really devastating effect on small businesses that could have a lasting effect on the economy," Mills says.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce on March 16 called upon lawmakers for more action.

"We need big, bold policy moves now to ensure businesses continue

to function, meet payroll, and keep American workers employed," said Tom Donohue, the Chamber's CEO. "We must not let this public health emergency leave a lasting, permanent impact on our economy, small businesses, and American workers."

The U.S. Chamber is proposing to suspend some rules and regulations to make it easier and faster for small businesses to be able to get the emergency loans some will need to survive.

And it's asking the government to cancel payroll tax payments for March-April so businesses can keep that money. ●● - *National Public Radio*

TOWER from page 14

and almost require, co-locating/ space sharing on towers. A new bill passed by the legislature flips that approach and now makes it so cities cannot ask or encourage tower sharing.

Wichita City Councilmember Brandon Johnson, whose district was shocked in 2018 by the installation

of 105-ft. electrical transmission lines that no one quite expected to be quite so large, said this sounds "Dejavu[BG1]."

"We have 105-ft. transmission poles, these poles (5G) would be about 20 feet shorter than that, which is still taller than the 65-ft. poles that we have here. What does that neighborhood look like?" queried Johnson. "I think what the public doesn't see is this is every 100

or 300 feet, that's almost every pole on the block that would have this type of technology on it."

The one oversight that wasn't taken away from cities is the ability to control the design and appearance of the towers and poles. With their design policy, the City of Wichita hopes to make the small cell towers blend in as much as possible. Some of their design ideas are:

- Match the cells as much as possible to the color of the poles,
- Mount the cells as close to the poles as possible,
- Keep the wires as adjacent to the poles as possible and inside conduit that matches the color of the pole,
- Keep the overall height no more than 10% above the existing structure, and
- Where possible, place the pole near the sidelines of property, and not directly in front of the windows so

that people are not looking out their window at this type of technology.

"This at least allows us to put in design guidelines," said former Wichita Mayor Jeff Longwell during a March 2019 meeting. "At least we get to put lipstick on this pig."

"I hope that companies are sensitive to neighborhoods because that's all we can do is hope, because our power to stop that is taken away from us," said Johnson. ●●

SAFE from page 14

nuclear weapons — they think of ionizing radiation that absolutely can cause damage. It can kill cells. It can cause DNA mutations." But since non-ionizing radiation doesn't cause DNA

damage or tissue damage, Novella says that most concern about cell phone RFR is misplaced.

SIZING UP 5G'S RISKS

A common complaint about 5G is that, due to the lower power of 5G transmitters, there will be more of them. The Environmental Health Trust contends that "5G will require the

buildout of literally hundreds

of thousands of new wireless antennas in neighborhoods, cities, and towns. A cellular small cell or another transmitter will be placed every two to 10 homes according to estimates."

Says Novella, "What they're really saying is the dose is going to be higher. Theoretically, this is a reasonable question to ask." But skeptics caution you shouldn't conflate asking the question with merely asserting that there's a risk. As Novella points out, "We're still

talking about power and frequency less than light. You go out in the sun, and you're bathed in electromagnetic radiation that's far greater than these 5G cell towers."

It's easy to find claims online that the greater frequency of 5G alone constitutes a risk. RadiationHealthRisks.com observes that "1G, 2G, 3G and 4G use between 1 to 5 gigahertz frequency. 5G uses between 24 to 90 gigahertz frequency," and then asserts that "within

the RF Radiation portion of the electromagnetic spectrum, the higher the frequency, the more dangerous it is to living organisms." But asserting that the higher frequency is more dangerous is just that—an assertion, and there's little real science to stand behind it. 5G remains non-ionizing in nature. ●●

- *Dave Johnson is the author of many books about technology & spent 8 years as a content lead at Microsoft.*

NOT SAFE from page 14

intensely, the future of agriculture could be imperiled.

Slovenia has halted 5G awaiting health and safety investigations. Switzerland municipalities are insisting on proof of safety before permits can be granted for 5G. The environ-

ment minister of Brussels, Belgium, declared their citizens will "not be guinea pigs whose health can be sold at profit." Over 140 Italian cities are issuing resolutions to halt 5G.

5G and 4G densification will increase our environmental levels of wireless. We are left to wonder why do China, Russia, Poland, Italy, and several other

European countries allow up to hundreds of times less wireless radiation into the environment than does the US? Moreover, while other countries monitor wireless levels, the US does not. The last EPA report on the topic was released in 1986, back when a gallon of gasoline cost less than one dollar. The EPA was defunded from setting

federal safety limits in 1996 when the US then adopted industry-friendly regulations. Since then, environmental levels of wireless radiation have multiplied exponentially.

It's time for a reset of our lackadaisical policies on wireless. Let's hope the private sector that influences the FCC, which has been deemed a captured agency by a

Harvard Ethics Report, grasps the gravity of this issue before it is too late for honeybees and the rest of us. ●●

- *Dr. Devra Davis is president of ebrust.org, served in the Clinton Administration from 1993-1997, and was a member of the team of IPCC scientists awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007.*



LEGAL PUBLICATION

PUBLIC NOTICE Published in the Community Voice Thursday, March 19, 2020

In response to public health warnings concerning coronavirus (COVID-19), the Wichita Housing Authority (WHA), serving Sedgwick, Butler and Harvey counties outside the City of Newton, is postponing the April 1, 2020, opening of its waitlist. The health and safety of the public and persons wanting to apply, our employees, housing partners, and stakeholders is our top priority.

Kansas City

HNMA Now Groundwork NRG: More Than a Name Change

By Bonita Gooch
The Community Voice

The Historic Northeast Midtown Association (HNMA) in Kansas City, KS, is now Groundwork USA, and it reflects more than just a name change.

Northeast Kansas City, KS, residents may know HNMA for any number of its community projects. It's an active organization in the community, working closely with neighborhood associations, youth and the Wyandotte Unified Government on numerous projects to produce sustainable growth in Northeast Kansas City, KS.

Now, they are Groundwork NRG – short for Northeast Revitalization Group – and they're driving their mission of growing their community as part of a national organization, Groundwork USA Trust. Instead of being a standalone small community organization, they are part of a much larger group of 20 organizations helped and supported by the National Parks Service and the Environmental Protection Agency.

\$200,000 FUNDING

Groundwork USA organizations are all located in "low-resource" areas and work to transform their community's natural or built environment. According to the Groundwork USA website, the organization is committed to "breaking the trend of widening disparity between communities that are enjoying a renaissance and communities that are experiencing disinvestment, neglect, and deepening poverty."

It's a mission that aligned closely with HNMA's mission and that's why, through a competitive application, HNMA was selected as the one new organization Groundwork ads each year.

As a new Groundwork Trust, the organization will receive almost \$200,000 in funding over three years from the National Park Service.

"The money is intended to help us build our capacity, to help us hire more staff if necessary, to build our programming a little bit more; to help us get the ball rolling," said Synthia

Isah, economic development and sustainability coordinator with Groundwork NRG. Isah led the HNMA/Groundwork Feasibility Study, the process intended to determine what a transition from HNMA to a trust of the Groundwork USA national network might mean for the organization and its work going forward.

"After the initial three years, they expect us to be mostly solvent and to be able to support our own work internally," said Isah.

HNMA PROJECTS

As a trust member, Groundwork NRG will continue the programs it's been working on and add on one new project specific to the trust.

In association with the Wyandotte County Unified Government, Groundwork NRG is one of eight designated Neighborhood Business and Revitalization Organizations (NBR) under a contract with the Unified Government, the non-profit NBRs provide services to residents, businesses and neighborhood groups in their designated service areas. Working in Northeast KCK as HNMA, had focused their efforts on growing the community in the areas of health, environment, businesses, education, and workforce development.

Some of their projects included the popular Learn to Earn program for youth ages 12-16 that engages them in workshops and activities that prepare them for real-world situations and offers paid job experience.

They are the lead organization in the CleanAirNow (CAN) Coalition, which is dedicated to improving air quality in the Kansas City region. Recently, the organization responded to high diesel exhaust levels found at a Kansas City Housing Authority apartment complex just off I-670 and I-70. Diesel exhaust



PHOTOS: 1. Youth from Learn to Earn program. 2. Painting the mural for the Community Boxing and Fitness Club at 17th and Parallel. 3. HNMA's Alexis Gatson and Rachel Jefferson with Communities Creating Opportunity (CCO) staff: Mellissa Sims, Micah James Chrisman and Seft Hunter at Jersey Creek Park. 4. Members of the BPU Employees Charity Golf Corp Board present a portion of the golf tourney proceeds to the Historic Northeast-Midtown Association (HNMA) leadership.

is a known carcinogen and can cause numerous other health problems. CAN helped identify and implements both short-term and long-term solutions. The short term solution was upgrading furnace filters. The long-term solution was planting 25 trees to provide a natural barrier that will absorb some of the air pollution.

HNMA partnered with the National Organization of Minority Architects for Project Pipeline, an architecture camp to introduce youth to the world of architecture and work on projects located in Northeast KCK.

In 2019, HNMA received funding from Greater Kansas City LISC to hire a Community Connector in the HNMA service area to support neighborhood capacity building through neighborhood events/trainings, social media supports, and informational resource exchanges in three contiguous Northeast KCK neighborhoods along Washington Boulevard.

NEIGHBORHOOD GROCERY

One of the organization's largest undertakings is a multi-year project to bring a grocery store to Northeast

KCK. The project idea came out of the UG's Northeast Area Master Planning Process. Community members were asked to choose one project out of 10 options that they wanted to see pursued as an "Early Action Project." Connected to the overall theme of "A Food Hub," the development of a neighborhood grocery, specifically a cooperative community-owned grocery model, was selected.

HNMA has been the lead on the planning team for this multi-year project. Team members include the Unified Government Commissioners and staff, YouthBuild KCK staff, Dotte Agency staff, the Black Firefighters Association (PRIDE), and other invested residents and business owners. Together they're creating a strategy for moving the project forward.

So far the team has identified a vacant building at 1726 Quindaro Blvd as the future site of a neighborhood grocery store and with grant funding cleaned out the building and updated the electrical and plumbing.

In March 2019, a community event was held to provide outreach and education around the consumer-owned

cooperative grocery store model. In September 2019 a second community event was held to unveil a set of six holding space panels, supported by the American Institute of Architects. The panels, which are now windows of the future grocery location, are decorated to reflect the Quindaro area's, past, present, and future.

MORE ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS

With all of those projects, and many others, Groundwork NRG will add one more service area: the environment. As part of their partnership with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, all local Groundwork USA trusts implement youth development program designed to help grow their area's "next generation of environmental leaders."

As part of this program the KCK Trust will develop and offer quality environmental education, stewardship, employment and leadership opportunities for young people, most of whom are low-income and/or youth of color. Groundwork USA sees the program as an opportunity to invest in individuals and in their communities.

While programs can be offered for youth beginning as young as age 4, one of the standout programs is the Green Team model for youth ages 14-18. Youth in the program take on environmental projects, develop leadership skills and gain job training in conservation. There's also a more intensely focused environment job training program for young adults ages 18 to 25.

Isah says the KCK group is still in the process of defining how they'll build the environmental component into their programming.

"The prevailing idea is to develop a heritage trail or some kind of history catching project," said Isah. ●●

18 2020 Lift Her Up Breakfast Proves Inspirational

KANSAS CITY

By Gwendolyn E. Squires, PhD
Guest Contributor

Nearly 400 phenomenal women gathered this year for the fourth annual Lift Her Up Breakfast held Sat., March 7, at the Adams Pointe Conference Center in Blue Springs, MO. Once again, the women gathered for an uplifting event that encourages women to lift each other up.

LaShawn Walker is founder and president of the Lift Her Up Movement. She began the organization in 2017 to inspire and encourage women and girls to lift one another up and to support one another every opportunity they get.

Keeping with the organization's mission, the theme for this year's breakfast was "Igniting the Greatness that Lies Within You to Lift Her Up."

Twenty-five outstanding women who are making an impact in their communities were recognized as the

2020 honorees. Cynthia Newsome, mid-day anchor for 41 Action News, presented two recipients the award "Lifting While Battling." Cynthia was then surprised with the same "Lifting While Battling," award. She had no idea.

Cynthia graciously accepted the award and provided the audience with an update of her battle with metastatic breast cancer and encouraged the two "Lifting While Battling," award recipients to keep fighting.

Shani Tate Ross, vice president of sales & marketing for the Sprint Center, was the keynote speaker. She shared her wisdom with a sense of humor and inspired the



Front Row: LaShawn Walker, founder of the Lift Her Up Movement. Seated (L-R): Dr. Siabhan May-Washington, Deletta Dean, Victoria Bradford, AshleyMarie Marie, Simone Hollins, Vicki Kelley, Tosha Houston, Ebonie Davis, Tiffani Gardner Kintchen. Standing: (L-R) Missouri State Rep. Barbara Anne Washington, JaNia Motley, Erica Hill, Dr. Marion Pierson, Vanessa Sims, Anita Moore, Robin Williams-Gray, Marshaun Butler, Shani Tate Ross, Lisa B. Cooper, Shakia Webb, Tiffany Johnson Lewis, Carolyn Whitney, Cynthia Newsome. Not pictured; Dia Wall and Shalon "Kiki" Curls.

Photo by Dignified Digital

ladies in attendance to change the narrative and support one another.

She revealed incredible stories and testimonies of nurturing, cheering and lifting-up one another. She emphasized that in order to improve the quality of their lives, they must surround themselves with women who lift them up.

In addition to supporting one another and lifting each other up, women had an opportunity to network and shop among 50 phenomenal vendors/business owners, covering the hallways of the center. With continued positive feedback, she's begun to add additional "movement" gathering opportunities.

For contact information, visit the Lift Her Up Movement on Facebook. ●●

Kansas City Briefs

LATEST POLICE SHOOTING HAS GROUPS CALLING FOR CHANGE

The death of Donnie Sanders, 47, on Fri., March 13, after he was shot by Kansas City, MO, police has several groups calling for change.

Kansas City police officers do not use video cams, which can help clarify what happened in an incident. Something that's particularly needed when the victim is dead, and cannot give his/her side of the story.

Another concern, expressed by the activist group MORE2, is that officers who kill civilians are back on patrol in

nine days or less, before any case clearing by an authority outside of KCPD. The decision to keep an officer suspended/benched is at the discretion of the chief of police, and members of MORE2 don't believe nine days is adequate.

"Nine days is not long enough for the prosecutor or even the police to complete a thorough investigation," wrote MORE2 leaders in a recent press release.

They've started an online petition to send to the chief asking for a change

of policy and as a way to express their concern.

In the past 12 months, Kansas City police have shot and killed three African-American men. In addition to Sanders, Cameron Lamb, 26, was killed by Kansas City police in December 2019 while he was sitting in his truck in the driveway behind his home. In May 26, 2019 Terrance Bridges Jr. was shot during an attempted arrest.

No charges have been filed against any of the officers.

MCINTYRE'S CIVIL CASE AGAINST DETECTIVES AND WYCO WILL PROCEED

A federal judge has declined to dismiss most of the counts in a civil lawsuit brought by Lamonte McIntyre and his mother over his conviction for a double murder he did not commit and his subsequent 23-year imprisonment.

The blistering 70-page ruling March 3 by U.S. District Judge Kathryn H. Vratil came in response to motions to throw out the lawsuit by the defendants — the Unified Government

of Wyandotte County; Roger Golubski, a now-retired Kansas City, KS, detective who was instrumental in framing McIntyre; and other policemen involved in the trumped-up investigation.

Although Vratil agreed to dismiss some of the lawsuit's counts on technical legal grounds, she left standing most of the counts in the lawsuit, allowing the case to proceed to a possible trial.

Cheryl Pilate, one of the McIntyres' attorneys, said she was gratified by the ruling.

In laying out the factual background of the case, Vratil was unsparing in her description of how Golubski acted to coerce

witnesses into giving fabricated testimony and to railroad McIntyre.

"Since the early 1980s, Roger Golubski used his power as a police officer to exploit sex from vulnerable Black women in the north end of Kansas City, KS," Vratil wrote at the outset of her ruling. "To do so, he threatened arrest and prosecution, fixed tickets, made warrants disappear and paid money and drugs. He would often fixate on particular women, harassing them continually for months or even years. These predilections and abuses were well known among other officers and supervisors within the Kansas City, KS, Police Department. (KCKPD)." ●●



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COUNT ALL KIDS!

Wichita Beautillion XLV Cancelled Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Eight young men, Beau Scholars, have been performing community service, attending cultural events, and awards banquets for months; all while, fundraising and preparing themselves to participate in Beautillion XLV, which was to be held on Sat., March 21. However, for the first time in its 45-year history, the Wichita (KS) Chapter of The Links, Inc., had to cancel Ceautillion XLV, due to the Sedgwick County Local State of Emergency.

Terri Rice, chapter president, said, "We're being told to use extreme caution, practice social distancing, stay inside, limit your contacts and isolate. This is serious." The young men will still receive their scholarship money at a date still to be determined.

The Beautillion is a five-month enrichment program for Leadership Development, Community Service, Scholarship Opportunities, and Cultural Enrichment.

The Wichita (KS) Chapter of The Links, Inc., is an organization chartered in 1968 and has over 50 years of service in the Wichita community. ●●



Kerry W. Broadus, Jr.
Parents: Rev. Kerry Sr. & Debra Broadus
Eisenhower High School



Christopher D. Dotson, Jr.
Ilea Hutton and Christopher Dotson Sr.
Heights High School



Jamar T. Martin
Omar B. and Jamina Martin
Northwest High School



Christopher L. McPhaul, Jr.
Christopher Sr. & Kassandra McPhaul
Northeast Magnet High School



Alexander R. Norris
Alfred III and Crystal Norris
Heights High School



Dylan R. Overton
Cassandra Overton & David Overton
Northeast Magnet High School



Chase M. Rojas Reed
Michelle Reed
Holy Savior Catholic Church



Terrell D. Williams, III
Terrell Williams Jr., Aisha Bullocks, Ratana Williams and Jaye Bullocks
Southeast Magnet High School

Wichita African American History Deserves Place of Honor

By Rep. Gail Finney
To The Community Voice

Visit the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., and you'll see glimpses of Wichita. You'll see photographs of the 1958 Dockum Sit-in and NAACP youth leader Ron Walters that The Kansas African American Museum (TKAAM) donated.

Travel to Selma, Ala., and you'll find a monument to native Wichitan the Rev. James Reeb, martyred there during a 1965 voting rights march. Stop in Atlanta, and you'll find an expressway named for civil rights lawyer and native Wichitan Donald Hollowell, who's known in Dr. King's hometown as "Mr. Civil Rights."

It seems Wichita's African American contributions enjoy more appreciation elsewhere, but that need not be the case.

While the city ponders a billion-dollar, 55-acre riverfront development, it

should earmark a chunk of those funds to make TKAAM a regional tourism attraction and to place that attraction on the riverfront. A lot of cities would kill for our history and certainly, some people (Reeb) have died for it.

The Sedgwick County Jail encircles TKAAM and regularly operates at or beyond capacity, making an expansion and the eventual swallowing up of what used to be the Calvary Baptist Church a virtual certainty.

TKAAM and its \$1 million collection deserve a home commensurate with the city and state's rich cultural and civil rights heritage. There's plenty of history to fill the building and regional crowds would pile in to experience it.

Developer George Laham offered a similar suggestion years ago (Waterwalk).

Wichita is home to more Gordon Parks photography than anywhere else outside New York City, thanks to Wichita

State's and TKAAM's collections. Wichita was the home of WWII's national Double V campaign and of Hattie McDaniel, the first African-American to win an Oscar.

This enhanced institution would launch The Kansas African American History Trail to stops in Nicodemus, The Brown v. Board museum in Topeka, to the Langston Hughes walking tour in Lawrence, the John Brown festival and museum in Osawatomie, and more.

This civic gem built on our collective history would deliver more educational value than a baseball stadium. It also could help everyone learn to navigate a decidedly more diverse America.

African-American Wichita has earned this. It suffered the tragedy of a 1965 neighborhood air tanker crash made more deadly because

See **HISTORY** page 20



KS Rep Gail Finney

Clockwise: Hattie McDaniel, the Rev. James Reeb, Dr. Ron Walters and Donald Hollowell.

WICHITA BRIEFS

WICHITA

17TH STREET UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Construction along 17th Street N. will replace the undersized drainage system and widen the road to accommodate three lanes - one lane in each direction and a center two-way left turn lane, as well as on-street bike lanes.

The improvements to 17th Street will initially prohibit access to thru-traffic between I-135 and Mosley. The three-block closure area will move west as construction progresses. The closure is part of an overall project to reconstruct 17th Street from Broadway to I-135. During the closure, thru-traffic will be detoured to 21st Street at Hydraulic and Broadway. Local traffic will be allowed

for access to local businesses.

LOCAL EFFECTS ON COURT, COUNCIL & UTILITIES

- Sedgwick County has postponed most traffic court cases until April 6. No morning or afternoon walk-in dockets. You will have 30 days from the date traffic court resumes to appear on your case. Exception: any traffic case currently set for trial, probation violation, or DUI sentencing.
- Wichita Mayor Brandon Whipple announced that city council meetings will not exceed 50 attendees. All others will be seated in an overflow room.
- Residents are safe from having their

utilities disconnected due to nonpayment until April 15, by emergency order from the Kansas Corporation Commission, and includes electrical, natural gas, water, and telecommunications utilities. The commission may extend the order if conditions warrant it.

- As a way to slow the spread of the coronavirus, instead of calling 911, the Wichita police are asking individuals to come to or call a substation for all non-emergency calls, for service. Other calls should be directed to patrol stations. Patrol North, 350-3400, 3015 E. 21st N.; South, 350-3440, 211 E. Pawnee; West, 350-3420, 661 N. Elder; and East, 350-3460, 350 S. Edgemoor. The lines will be staffed 24/7. ●●

HISTORY from page 19

segregation packed people into that small area where the plane shattered and incinerated numerous homes. Years ago, the government rammed I-135 through the neighborhood's heart and named it MLK Jr. Memorial Highway. That community's taxes for decades funded schools in other neighborhoods while their schools and property values crumbled.

Today, Every has impaled that neighborhood on 105-foot electrical

towers, decimating decades of home ownership wealth. Every has the resources and the know-how to make this cultural center a reality. This won't compensate those homeowners, but it's a good start.

In an era where Wichita has learned to celebrate itself with a new city symbol decorating flags, T-shirts and bumper stickers, this recognition of its striking and, frankly, bankable Black history is overdue.

Other cities consider our history investment worthy. Why shouldn't Wichita? ●●



In pursuit of building perfection®

JE Dunn is currently seeking bids for the Wesley Medical Center Women Services Renovation Project from qualified Subcontractors and Suppliers interested in bid opportunities associated with the upcoming project.

The project consists of complete demolition of part of the building in the Wesley Women's Center. The project consists of the renovation of the 1st floor Main Entrance Area and the 2nd floor Labor Delivery Unit. The renovation is mainly cosmetic.

Bid Packages associated with the project include the following:

- Final Cleaning • Temporary Fencing • Demolition • Structural / Misc. Steel • Waterproofing, Joint Sealants • Fire Stopping & Acoustical Sealants • Doors, Frames, and Hardware Supply • Doors & Hardware Installation • Glass & Glazing • Drywall & Acoustical • Hard Tile • Resilient Flooring • Moisture Mitigation • Specialties (Furnish and Install) • Interior Signage • Healthcare Casework • Pneumatic Tube Systems • Fire Protection • Plumbing and Medical Gas • HVAC & Controls • Test & Balance • Electrical, Fire Alarm, and Access Control • Structured Cabling & Telecommunications

IMPORTANT: Bid Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 @ 5:00 PM CST

For more information regarding bid plans or other documents regarding the project, please contact Greg Atkinson, Project Manager, at 615-245-9327 or via email at Greg.Atkinson@jedunn.com

JE Dunn and HCA/Wesley Medical Center are strongly committed to the development and implementation of initiatives which promote the inclusion of all local construction related businesses with an emphasis on minority and women-owned enterprise firms.



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MAR. 19, 2020

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

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Jackson Mortuary Wichita

Alford, Sandra D., 60, died 03/07/20. Service was held 03/18/20. She is survived by: Mother; Willie Malone, Children; Leon Derrick, Sharod Ceasar, Sheria Ceaser Hunter, Ariel Ceaser & Chazni Ceaser, Brothers & Sisters; Andrea, Tracy and Darron Alford.

Bugett, Linda, (Rone), 70, died 03/11/20. Service was held 03/16/20. She is survived by: Children; Jeff Taylor, Randy Rone, Reginald Stewart, & Tameka Bugett.

Clayton, Lois B., 91, died 03/07/20. Service was held 03/17/20. She is survived by: Son; Charles McNear.

Houston, Willie R., 90, died 03/12/20. Service will be held at 10 a.m. on 03/21/20 at Mt. Olive Tabernacle of Praise, 909 N St. Paul St. He is survived by: Children; Pastor Roderick Houston, Trevon Houston & Chaketha Houston, Sister; Carolyn Allen-Owens.

May, Clinton, 89, died 03/13/20. Service is pending. He is survived by: Daughter; Rosetta May Hubbard.

Poindexter, Betty, 60, died 03/12/20. Service will be held at 1 p.m. on 03/20/20 at St. Andrews Baptist Church, 3901 E 25th. She is survived by: Children; Nichelle Holloman & Valyn Burrell, Mother; Betty Pondexter, Brothers & Sisters; Joe Curtis Washington, Shirley Benton - Kelley and Wanda Cole.

Rolfe, Sr., Leroy, 98, died 03/08/20. Service was held 03/14/20. He is survived by: Daughters; Carolyn Williams, Dorothy Rolfe, Sons; Leroy, Jr., Theodis, John, Brother, Octavio.

Thomas, Henry L., 76, died 03/09/20. Service was held 03/16/20. He is survived by: Wife; Sherlie Mae Thomas, Children; Bridgett, Henry, Carlotta, Pamela, Krystal and Craig.

Tucker, James "JB," 84, died 03/08/20. Service was held 03/17/20. He is survived by: Children; Charles Tucker, David Tucker, Valera Adams, Calvin Tucker, Glenn Tucker, Shelia Givens, Tammy Tucker, Keith Tucker, Mark Tucker, Sheldon Tucker, Myron

Tucker & Kosha Tucker, Brothers & Sisters; Wade Tucker, Betty Lewis, Matilda Madden and Joyce Love.

Williams, Eleanie, 91, died 03/12/20. Service will be held at 12 p.m. on 03/21/20 at St. Mark Church of God in Christ Cathedral, 1018 N. Dellrose. She is survived by: Children; Clevester Hines, R.G. Hines, Sr., Evelyn Henderson, Barbara Gilkey, Janice Orajato, Cindy Armstrong, Edward Williams, Ollie Hines, Tracy Smith, Reinke Trott, Ylanda Mason, Vennie Scott, Paul Williams, Peggy Perkins, Elvira Maxwell, Marva Jean Wells, Oddie Kennedy & Wynona Wright, Brothers & Sisters; Evelyn Hayes, Artis James, Jr. Charles James, Esther Strong, Charlene Howard, Ernest James & Isaiah James.

Williams, Tony E., 75, died 03/09/20. Service will be held at 11 a.m. on 03/20/20 at New Beginning 7th Day Adventist, 209 W 21. He is survived by: Wife; Velma Williams, Children; Van Williams, Virginia James, John Bush, Brothers & Sisters; Beverly A. Williams - Watson, Hester Clark, Kenneth E. Williams & Juanita Williams.

Biglow Funeral Wichita

Galloway, Walt C., 62, died 03/03/20. Service was held 03/14/20.

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

Jamison Sr., Oliver, 87, died 03/05/20. Service was held 03/13/20.

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

Moss, Steven R., 54, died 03/01/20. No further details.

Patterson, Tracy L., 49, died 03/10/10. Service will be held at 10 a.m. on 03/21/20 at College Crest Church of Christ, 2615 N. Wellesley.

Roberts, Lawrence, 92, died 03/02/20. No further details.

Smith, Crystal, 35, died 03/06/20. No further details.

Vernon, Octavia P., 32, died 03/07/20. Service was held 03/14/20.

Vorasup, "Baby Girl," newborn, died 03/09/20. No further details.

Welton, Markelle D., infant, died 02/24/20. No further details.

RJ Bethea Wichita

Rodriguez-Espinoza, Luis A., 35, died 03/02/20. Service was held 03/05/20.

Silmon, Tonia A., 29, died 03/05/20. No further details.

Stevenson, Louis "Chunk," 65, died 03/06/20. No further details.

Central Avenue Wichita

Beach, Valerie R. (NA) died 03/25/20. Service was held 03/07/20.

Williams, Lonell, 52, died 02/24/20. Service was held 03/06/20.

Northern Star Kansas City & Wichita

King, Ruby J., 74, died 03/09/20. No further details (Wichita)

Lawson, Emelda E. (Mills), 75, died 03/03/20. Service was held 03/14/20. (Leavenworth)

Taylor, Toureno, 46, died 03/12/20. No further details. (Wichita)

Old Mission Wichita

Callier, Donna L., 83, died 03/05/20. Service was held 03/17/20.

Hickok, James R., 73, died 03/01/20. Service was held 03/14/20.

Lingenfelter, Floyd E., 78, died 03/11/20. Service will be held at 1 p.m. on 03/20/20 at Old Mission Mortuary Chapel, 3424 East 21st.

Moss, John R., 92, died 03/04/20. Service was held 03/09/20.

Sowards, Ardis, 96, died 03/08/20. Service will be held at 1:30 p.m. on 03/28/20 at Old Mission Mortuary Chapel, 3424 East 21st.

Sweet Sr., Rudolph I., 89, died 03/09/20. Service will be held at 11 a.m. at Mizpah Baptist Church, 2211 S. Bluff.

Troutman, William, 67, died 03/03/20. Service was held 03/13/20.

Thatcher Funeral Kansas City

Abernathy, David M., 72, died 03/09/20. Service was held 03/17/20.

Carter, Ruth L., (Stewart), 86, died 03/04/20. No further details.

Clark, Clarence L., 79, died 02/29/20. Service was held 03/07/20.

Hickman, DeWayne A., 54, died 03/02/20. Service was held 03/06/20.

McCallop, Ruth, 101, died 03/12/20. Service will be held at 11 a.m. on 03/21/20 at Swope Parkway United Christian Church, 6140 Swope Parkway.

Ross, Delores R. (Allen), 79, died 03/01/20. Service was held 03/07/20.

Vann, Kwasi O., 43, died 02/27/20. Service was held 03/04/20.

Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Kansas City

Allen, Mary E., 99, died 02/29/20. Service was held 03/07/20.

Burnes, Martha P., 101, died 02/27/20. Service was held 03/12/20.

Cubit, Deborah A., 67, died 03/03/20. Service was held 03/14/20.

Ervin, James M., 70, died 02/27/20. Service was held 03/07/20.

Isaac, Ruth, 90, died 03/02/20. Service was held 03/09/20.

Johnson, Claudia, 84, died 03/06/20. No further details.

Servier, Barbara E. (Belton), 70, died 02/29/20. Service was held 03/14/20.

Taylor, Allen, 94, died 03/12/20. Service will be held at 11 a.m. on 03/21/20 at Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church,

3634 Brooklyn Ave.

Templeton, Ruby M., 72, died 03/02/20. Service was held 03/11/20.

Turner, Stella B., 84, died 02/18/20. Service was held 02/29/20.

Wells, Harold, 82, died 02/28/20. Service was held 03/07/20.

Bowser-Johnson Topeka

Duckworth, Herbert E., NA, died 03/13/20. Service was held 03/13/20.

Moore, Rico L., 55, died 02/08/20. Service was held 03/11/10.

Duane E Harvey KCMO

Fridkin, Lucille A., 91, died 03/15/20. No further details.

Marks, Lottie B., 97, died 03/07/20. Service was held 03/14/20.

McClair, Paul L., 73, died 03/05/20. Service was held 03/16/20.

Pryor, Helen L., 75, died 03/12/10. No further details.

Reed, Denorvard "Dee," 60, died 03/13/20. No further details.

Reed, Thersia D., 89, died 03/06/20. Service was held 03/14/20.

White, Timothy A., 63, died 03/04/20. Service was held 03/14/20.

Wiggins, Robert A., 79, died 03/11/20. Service will be held at 11 a.m. on 03/21/20 at St. Stephen Baptist Church, 1414 E. Truman.

E S Eley & Sons KCMO

Boyd Jr., Craig W., 70, died 03/06/20. Service was held 03/13/20.

Davis, Rev. Charles L., 88, died 02/28/20. Service was held 03/05/20.

Ross, Arena (Strong), 97, died 03/01/20. Service was held 03/07/20.

22 Churches Find Ways to Adapt During Virus Frenzy

CHURCH

By Natania Watie
The Community Voice

When Sedgwick County announced a ban of public gatherings of more than 250 people on March 13, most churches were prepared to set a new course for Sunday worship.

Wichita's Saint Mark UMC planned to fill the sanctuary to host about 240 people, and the overflow would use the Family Life Center to view service live.

Just days later, on March 16, the state of Kansas lowered the ban to 50 people, and heads started swirling. The general plan most churches have landed on seems to be live-feed coverage of Sunday services, viewed through social media platforms.

Starting March 15, Wichita's Tabernacle Bible Church closed its doors for face-to-face service. They chose to live-stream both their Sunday school and worship services. First Lady Annie Montgomery confirmed that through March, in-person service is cancelled.

Moving into April, the church will wait to resume in-person services after hearing updated information from state officials and the health department. Unfortunately, Tabernacle's Easter Sunday plans have already been cancelled; in preparation for a long-term pandemic situation, they are keeping their offices open solely to handle questions and concerns that members may have.

Across Wichita, pastors are encouraging their members to be smart and safe, and to stay in contact with one another, especially with older members of their congregations. These members are most vulnerable to the effects of coronavirus.

Pastor Roosevelt DeShazer confirmed that through the end of March, in-person service is cancelled at Progressive Missionary Baptist as well. On March 29 they will begin live-streaming their services through social media channels. If members don't have access to the

live-feed, they are encouraged to pick up a DVD copy from the office. Tithes and offering are still encouraged — members can drop them off or mail them in.

By April, Progressive plans to open

at Saint Mark UMC is hopeful that the community will come together. "The Greater Wichita Ministerial League is working together to bring solutions, because it's going to take real community effort to get through this hard time," he said.

The league usually meets once a month, on the first Thursday, but as the polices changed swiftly, they had to reconvene. They plan to meet on March 20 with Mayor Brandon Whipple and other city officials

to come up with a financial plan to help churches and members who might be affected financially during this period. They're even working with the Wichita Food Bank to provide meals for seniors who can't get out.

Through sermon, social posts, and mass emails, Pastor Johnson has committed to keeping his congregation connected. Though they are also following the Sunday service live-feed wave, Saint Mark will host small Bible study groups during the week; in groups of five to seven people.

Like Progressive, if things improve, in-person service at Saint Mark will resume in April, including several Easter services. However, if they continue the way they are, Easter will be celebrated online.

During this time, Pastor Johnson also encourages the public to "walk by faith, and to stay intentional about family and helping the community." ●●



Even in the church large gatherings have been limited.

its doors again, but only if there are no known cases of coronavirus in Sedgwick County at that time.

Pastor Robert John-



Montgomery



DeShazer



Johnson

Wichita
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katharine@wichitahabitat.org



Pastor Kirbyjon Caldwell Pleads Guilty to Fraud

Caldwell, adviser to Obama and Bush, suddenly changed his plea. After denying any wrongdoing on his part for nearly two years, prominent Houston pastor Kirbyjon Caldwell, who served as a spiritual adviser to former Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush, has admitted to conspiracy to commit wire fraud in connection to his role in a multimillion investment scheme that preyed on the elderly.

Last summer, Caldwell, who was indicted in 2018 for defrauding investors — including elderly members of his Windsor Village United Methodist Church — of more than \$1 million, maintained his innocence as his co-defendant, Gregory Alan Smith, pleaded guilty to wire fraud.

"These defendants used their positions as religious leaders and investment advisors to defraud Louisiana residents — many of whom are elderly and retired," U.S. Attorney David C. Joseph said in a release this month. "In doing so, the

defendants abused the trust and respect of their victims for the sole purpose of stealing their money. This type of deceit can be devastating for victims, especially when life savings are lost. My office will continue to vigorously prosecute those who use confidence schemes to prey upon the elderly and people of faith."



Caldwell

Caldwell and Smith, who is an investment adviser based in Shreveport, Louisiana, were both charged with 13 counts, including conspiracy to commit money laundering, when they raised around \$3.5 million in Historical Chinese bonds from 29 investors between 2013 to 2014.

Caldwell and Smith reportedly tricked investors into believing that they were buying the Historical Chinese bonds through a Shreveport-based company called Smith Financial Group LLC. The Department of

Justice noted that the bonds were issued by the former Republic of China prior to losing power to the communist government in 1949.

"They are not recognized by China's current government and have no investment value. Smith and Caldwell promised high rates of return, sometimes three to 15 times the value of the investments. Instead of investing the funds, the defendants used them to pay personal loans, credit card balances, mortgages, vehicle purchases and other personal expenses," the DOJ said.

Caldwell received \$760,000, which he used for personal expenses, including mortgage payments. His limited liability company also received \$1 million, of which \$175,000 was transferred to the pastor. Smith received \$1 million of the funds invested which he splurged on luxury vehicles, the DOJ said.

In court on March 11, Caldwell entered his guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Maurice Hicks who allowed him to remain free on bond until sentencing on July 22. ●●

Arts & Culture

RIVERFEST from page 24

don't know their songs, you'll know the samples such as Bob Marley's "I Shot the Sheriff," Steve Miller's "Fly Like an Eagle," and Kool & the Gang's "Jungle Boogie," just to name a few.

You can get your fill of the Blues on Sat., May 31, with Wichita's George Sanders Band kicking it off on the South Stage. They open for

the Sebastian Lane Band. You might almost call Lane, a Blues guitarist, a Kansas native. He lived for many years in Salina. You might also want to call Sebastian doctor. He released his debut album "Walkin' By Myself" in July 2018, shortly after graduating from the University of Nebraska Medical School.

For the annual Thursday Cajun Night celebration, the main stage performer will be Chubby Carrier.

The Zydeco accordion player and singer has quite a following. Carrier's 2010 release "Zydeco Junkie" won the Grammy in the category Best Zydeco or Cajun Music Album.

Friday night, you might miss the main stage and check out local celebrity Injoy Fountain on the South Stage. In case you don't recognize the name, Injoy is the Wichita resident who made a run in Season 17 of "The Voice." ●●



Carrier



Shaggy



EPMD

Casting Call for Amateur Competitive Bakers!

So you're a baker, it doesn't matter your specialty, here's your chance to possibly become the next television star or baking celebrity. "An award-winning television production company," (that's how they billed themselves) is working with a major cable network to find America's most enthusiastic and dedicated bakers.

Whether you're a pie pro or a

cookie connoisseur, they're looking for current and aspiring blue ribbon fanatics for a fun new project about the world of competitive baking.

This project will follow a handful of bakers as they travel and compete in real baking competitions.

To be considered, you must be at least age 19. However, you don't have to be a "competitive" baker. You'll be considered, even if you've never entered a baking competition

before. However, you will have to submit photos of yourself and five of your baking creations.

Filming is not expected to take place until next year or possibly later this year. To apply, complete the online application at <https://forms.gle/vMVjisqvzxhfDnjA9>

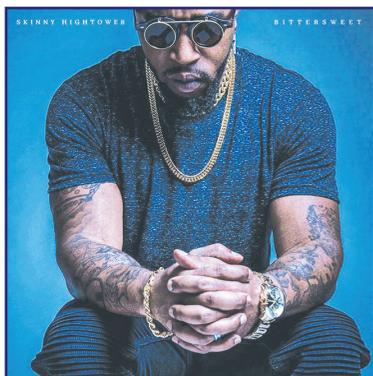
Always remember to take safety precautions when pursuing opportunities, no matter how glamorous they might sound. ●●

Local Jazzman Skinny Hightower Releases New Album on March 27

We met Skinny Hightower in Aug. 2019 when he released his album "Retrospect." Back then, he was riding high off his chart-topping smooth jazz sound; he was figuring his next move.

This year, he's back again with his latest project, "Blue Moon." You can pre-order now on various platforms, but the album officially goes on sale March 27.

Hightower recorded over 100 songs to get the songlist for "Blue Moon" just right. To spur anticipation



for the coming album, he released the single "Bittersweet," which has risen

comfortably to No. 6 on Billboards Smooth Jazz Charts.

On his personal blog at skinnyhightower.com, Hightower explained his personal struggles through making the new music: "I want Blue Moon to do for others what [my wife's inspirational] record collection did for me. It brought me joy, gave me hope, gave me a sense of purpose, realigned me with my destiny, cured me of my depression, brought my family closer together, and inspired positive changes in my life. I hope the music moves you." ●●

JUNETEENTH ICT 2020

Vendor REGISTRATION

MARCH 2ND-JUNE 1ST

VENDOR fees

\$90 per day selling items
(vendor will bring own table & chairs)

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24 Both Jennifer Hudson and Cynthia Erivo to Star as Aretha This Year

• Two diva singers and actresses are set to play the Queen of Soul this year in two different productions. America can't lose.

If you're been missing the Queen of Soul since her death in August 2018, she's back. Well, not actually, but she's being played on screen by two talented actresses and singers in two separate releases this year.

You may have heard about the upcoming release of "Respect" starring Jennifer Hudson as Aretha. It's due on the big screen in August. Not getting as much attention, but it should be, is "Genius: Aretha," an eight-part limited series, starring Cynthia Erivo as Aretha. "Genius: Aretha" will air on the small screen beginning in May.

True, Hudson was hand-picked by Aretha to play her in an autobiography, but "Genius" is the first authorized scripted series about Franklin. Both trace Franklin's life from Gospel prodigy through Civil Rights champion and on to her uncontested status as one of the greatest singers of the 20th Century.

Hudson's star might shine a little brighter, but you still should put on your sunglasses to bask in Erivo's wonder.

To refresh your memory, Hudson, 38, came in seventh on the third season of American Idol, won an

Oscar for her earth-shattering role in Dreamgirls, and brought the crowd at Franklin's funeral to their feet with a rendition of "Amazing Grace" that would have made the soul queen proud. Here's hoping that the 38-year-old singer/actress will do the same



Jennifer Hudson, left, and Cynthia Erivo, right, as Aretha Franklin. Both ladies are set to play the Queen of Soul in upcoming productions.

with "Respect."

Erivo became a household name last year with her starring role as Harriet Tubman, in the movie "Harriet." She was nominated for an Emmy as Best Actress, and while she didn't

win, like J-Hud, Erivo has one cabinet full of awards. For her performance as Celie in the Broadway revival of "The Color Purple," Erivo won the 2016 Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical, the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Actress in a Musical, the Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album, and the Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Musical Performance in a Daytime Program.



The latter two she shared with the rest of the cast.

Erivo, 33, began her career on the stage in her native England. However, since moving across the pond, she's expanded beyond the stage, starring in

several movies and on several musical recordings. In fact, when she sang the theme song from "Harriet," "Stand Up," at the Oscars, she shocked the audience - many in American didn't know the girl has chops.

In addition to Erivo and Hudson, both movies have a star-studded list of actors in supporting roles. In "Genius," Erivo is joined by Emmy-winner Courtney B. Vance, who plays her father, the Rev. C.L. Franklin. Malcolm Barrett plays Ted White, Aretha's first husband and business manager, who develops relationships with songwriters and producers and picks some of her biggest hits. But as Aretha gains fame, White's heavy drinking and volatile behavior ends their marriage.

Patrice Covington and Rebecca Naomi Jones portray Erma and Carolyn Franklin, respectively, Aretha's sisters, who are both talented performers in their own right and sing backup for Aretha. Kimberly Hébert Gregory plays Ruth Bowen, a pioneer in her field, the head of a successful Black-owned agency, who represents Aretha, booking her into world-class venues and getting her onto the covers of Time and Ebony magazines.

Hudson is joined in "Respect" by stars Forest Whitaker, who plays the Rev. C.L. Franklin; Marlon Wayans, who plays Ted White; Audra McMc-

Donald, who plays Aretha's mother, Barbara Franklin; and Mary J. Blige, who plays singer Dinah Washington.

Both releases have award-show aspirations. National Geographic will premiere "Genius: Aretha" just before the Emmy qualifying deadline. The series is set for a Memorial Day 2020 release date, debuting four episodes on consecutive nights starting Monday, May 25.

Those four episodes are key. Emmy rules require at least half of the season's episodes to air on or before May 31, and "Genius: Aretha" runs eight episodes.

The "Genius" franchise has proven to be an awards magnet. The first season, focused on Albert Einstein and starring Geoffrey Rush, earned 10 Emmy nominations; while the follow-up, starring Antonio Banderas as Pablo Picasso, won two Emmys, in addition to its five other nominations. Both Rush and Banderas were nominated for Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild awards, as well.

"Respect," with an expected release on Oct. 0, 2020, is obviously being eyed for award consideration. Fall is a prime time to launch Oscar contenders, ahead of the Dec. 31 deadline.

FYI, Hudson and Erivo's paths have crossed on the stage. Hudson did a guest stint as Shug Avery in the Broadway production of "The Color Purple," while Erivo was starring as Celie. ●●

Riverfest Concert Lineup Features De La Soul, Shaggy and More

The Wichita Riverfest has announced its concert lineup for this year's festival which will be held in downtown Wichita on May 29 - June 6, pending no cancellation due to the coronavirus.

Here are some of the names we know our readers will be excited about.

Shaggy, the biggest crossover success in the dancehall reggae scene of the 1990s, thanks to wildly songs "Boombastic" and "It Wasn't Me," is on the main stage on Sat. May 30. He's been nominated for seven Grammy Awards, winning twice for Best Reggae Album with "Boombastic" in 1996

and "44/876" with Sting in 2019.

Fred Hammond returns to close out Gospelfest on Mon. June 1. Hammond's 30-plus year career has produced hit after hit. This multiple Grammy, Dove, and Stellar Award winner and nominee will certainly bring the spirit to Gospelfest.

De La Soul, a popular early 1990s trio, hit it big with an interesting take on rap that led to hits "Breakadawn" and "Me, Myself and I." De La Soul's uniquely positive style, was an oddity in the boom of hardcore gangsta rap. Sampling artists as diverse as Johnny Cash, Hall & Oates, Steely Dan and The Turtles, their debut release "3

Feet High and Rising" is often viewed as the stylistic beginning of 1990s alternative hip hop.

Opening for De La Soul is EPMD, one of the most prominent acts in East Coast hip hop. The duo have been active since they arrived on the scene nearly 35 years ago. The group's form of hip hop is known for its funk-fueled sample-heavy style. So, if you

See RIVERFEST page 23



Hammond



De La Soul