

THE Community VOICE

A trusted voice from the community's perspective

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Automation Threatens the Future of Black Workers in America

By Marc H. Morial CEO
National Urban League

“Black America’s collective response to emerging technology will determine whether it is an opportunity — or an existential threat.”

— George H. Lambert Jr.
President and CEO, Greater
Washington Urban League

A new report about the future of work in the United States casts a somber outlook about the effects of artificial intelligence on African-American employment, particularly for African-American men.

According to a recent headline: Artificial intelligence is slated to disrupt 4.5 million jobs for African Americans, who have a 10% greater likelihood of automation-based job loss than other workers.

The report, titled “The Future of Work in Black America,” was produced by the management consulting company McKinsey & Company.

African-American men are overrepresented in the jobs most likely to be lost, such as food services, retail, office support and factory work.

Many fast-food restaurants, for example, have implemented self-serve kiosks, reducing the need for workers at the counter. McDonald’s has even acquired an artificial intelligence company focused on speech recognition that could displace workers on the drive-

through lines.

African-American men also are underrepresented in the jobs least likely to be lost to artificial intelligence. These include educators, health professionals, legal professionals and agricultural workers.

According to the report, “Only half of the top 10 occupations that African Americans typically hold pay above the federal poverty guidelines for a family of four (\$25,750), and all 10 of those occupations fall below the median salary for a U.S. worker (\$52,000). Many of these occupations are among the top 15 occupations most at risk of automation-based displacement and are also projected to affect young African-American workers without a college degree.”

Geography plays a role, too.

African Americans are underrepresented in the areas of the country where job growth is predicted to be the highest: places like Seattle, Washington; Sarasota, Florida; or South Bend, Indiana.

“Distressed Americans showed negative net job growth from 2007 to 2017 and is projected to show negative job growth through 2030,” according to the report. “African Americans in these distressed areas may disproportionately feel the negative effects of impending economic and technological changes, see fewer new opportunities, and face additional challenges in transitioning to the economy of the future.”

The National Urban League addressed these concerns in our State of Black America report,

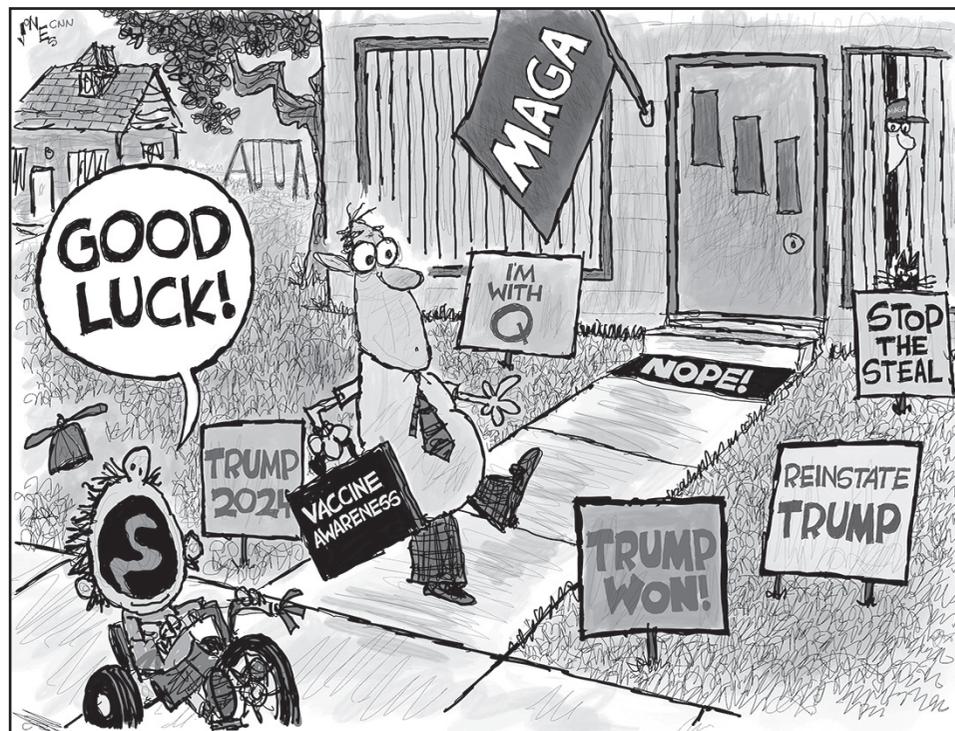
“Powering the Digital Revolution,” shining a spotlight on African Americans’ underrepresentation in the kind of jobs that are least likely to be displaced by artificial intelligence. We calculated a Digital Inclusion Index — a variation on our traditional Equality Index that measures the relative economic and social status of Black Americans as compared with whites. We found a Digital Inclusion Index of 74.1%, with 100 representing true equality between Black and white Americans.

African Americans are far less likely than Whites to be employed in social media and technology companies — less than 5% of the workforce vs. more than 50% for Whites. Less than 6% of total Black employment in 2017 was in the tech industry vs. 8.5% for whites.

The McKinsey report made recommendations to avert a crisis, including:

- More economic investments into high-skilled jobs in cities and markets where Blacks are currently overrepresented can directly pave a path of job stability.
- Mobility of Black workers into new geographical markets with higher projected job growth.
- Focused initiatives by university/collegiate education to recruit and retain Black students.
- Financial investment into historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

These recommendations reflect the longstanding positions of the Urban League movement. ●●



Cover: 3rd grader Brooklyn Franklin is crowned Miss Elementary - see story page 18

Our Top Stories on communityvoiceks.com

- Family of Cameron Lamb Files Wrongful Death Lawsuit Against Board of Police Commissioners
- New KC Bookstore Showcases Black and Brown Books
- KC Scholarship Nonprofit Awards Students Based on Merits, Not Metrics
- Deadline for Kansas 2021 Elections Passes With Late Surge of Candidates
- KC’s Black-Owned Beauty Supply Stores Ask for Community Support
- First Black National Spelling Bee Winner Receives Several Full-Ride Scholarship Offers
- McAdams Golf Club Announces Return of Annual Tournament for 91st Year
- Report: Residents in Missouri & Kansas Get Drinking Water From Lead Pipes at High Rates
- Kansas Mission of Mercy to Offer Free Dental Clinic in Wichita

Top Stories @ Social Media

- Great team win last night for the AfterShocks.
- Happy 53rd Birthday Barry Sanders!
- Wichita City Council Approves Non-Discrimination Ordinance 4-3.
- Check out our latest issue of The Community Voice before it hits the streets!
- So sad to share the news of the passing of WPD Captain Clay Germany R.I.P.
- Anybody in KC know this guy? Christian Emmanuel Sanon?
- Starting today, families will be getting monthly payments of up to \$300 per child.

WOULD YOU TRY THE MAC & CHEESE ICE CREAM THAT SOLD OUT IN 1 HOUR?

Summer is all about staying cool, and there's usually no better way of beating the heat than with a frosty treat. However, does macaroni and cheese-flavored ice cream sound like something you'd want to snack on when you're feeling sweaty?

That's what Kraft and Van Leeuwen Ice Cream are wondering after the two companies partnered together for the limited-edition concoction, but they may have already gotten their answer after it sold out in just an hour.

According to TMZ, the collaborative ice cream flavor was

launched to coincide with National Mac & Cheese Day



on July 14, and all 9,000 scoops sold out in stores.

While you probably won't be able to try it for yourselves anytime soon, they are launching an online sweepstakes for the true foodies out there to win two free pints. The idea of something that usually tastes best when warmed up being eaten frozen sounds a bit off-putting, but then again — well, how about you try blending up a frozen box of mac and cheese and let us know what it tastes like! Let us know if you'd be brave enough to try this cheesy treat for yourself.

RAP ICON BIZ MARKIE PRONOUNCED DEAD

Biz Markie, born Marcel Hall, who infused his music with so much fun and humor that he became known as "The Clown Prince of Hip Hop," has



Markie

died.

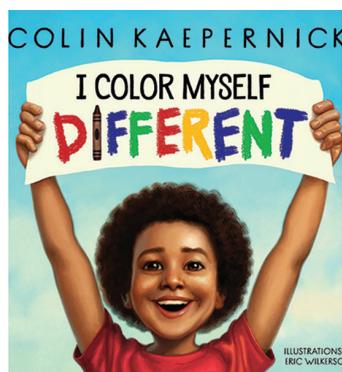
TMZ broke the story. Biz was hospitalized last summer for an ailment his rep told us was related to his Type II Diabetes.

Biz began rapping in local clubs when he met hip-hop producer Marley Marl in 1985. That meeting led to Biz Markie working as a human beatbox with artists MC Shan and Roxanne Shanté.

He was 57, his wife, Tara Hall, was there to hold his hand for his final breath.

COLIN KAEPERNICK RELEASING CHILDREN'S BOOK

Activist and former NFL player



Colin Kaepernick is releasing a children's book focused on his upbringing as a Black child in a White family, according to a release from his company, Kaepernick Publishing.

"I Color Myself Different" is centered around a childhood memory of Kaepernick's. When he was participating in a drawing exercise in kindergarten, he put down the yellow crayon he was using to draw his family and picked up a brown one to represent himself.

Kaepernick Publishing launched in 2019 with hopes to "elevate a new generation of writers with diverse views and voices." "I Color Myself Different" and another title from the publishing company, "Abolition For The People: The Movement For A Future Without Policing & Prisons," are both available for pre-order now.

ORIGINAL CAST OF 'THE FIVE HEARTBEATS' REUNITE FOR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Fans of the 1991 dramedy musical "The Five Heartbeats" got a taste of nostalgia after seeing pictures posted on social media reuniting the actors during this year's Tribeca

Film Festival.

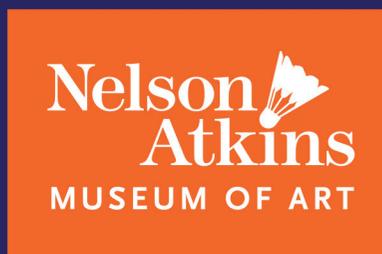
Actors Robert Townsend, Harry Lennix, Michael Wright, John Terrell, Tico Wells, and Leon appeared on the red carpet together in celebration of the film's 30th anniversary and



Original cast of 5 Heartbeats

Juneteenth.

The iconic film, screened in celebration of 30 years following its release, was inspired by famous tales of stardom from Black male-led groups like The Temptations and Four Tops during the 1960's. Townsend shared with Tom Joyner earlier in the year that he was in the process of filming a Five Heartbeats documentary. Could a remake also be in the works for this classic movie? ●●



TESTIMONY
AFRICAN AMERICAN
ARTISTS COLLECTIVE

Celebrating Kansas City-based artists,
invited to express their personal truths

NOW OPEN

Joseph A. Newton, American (b. 1972). *The Hues of Her Father's Dreams*, detail, 2021. Acrylic on wood panel, 36 x 48 inches. Courtesy of the artist.

How to Fix the Jazz District?

Building Owner Sues City To Fix up Property They Own

By Jazzlyn Johnson
The Community Voice

A few years ago, a vacant building on 18th and Vine caught on fire after a homeless person set it ablaze trying to stay warm. Just this year, the historic House of Hits building near the corner of 18th Street and Paseo partially collapsed. The building had been missing its roof due to another partial collapse a few years ago.

What do both buildings have in common, besides being safety and eyesore issues in what is billed as one of the city's prime destination locations?

Both buildings are owned by the city. In fact, nearly all the buildings on that block are city-owned and nearby business owners and property owners have expressed their frustration with the city as the neighbor who's driving the value of their property and/or business down.

In 2016, Kansas City committed more than \$27 million in a plan to transform the district, but councilwoman Melissa Robinson said only about \$7 million of the committed funds have been spent.

Last year, Robinson introduced a resolution to invest \$4 million to immediately restore the blighted buildings in the Jazz District, including improvements to the House of Hits, Roberts Automotive Building, the Savings and Loan Building and Gem Theater. But the resolution was placed on hold eight times last year and city council hasn't taken any actions on it since last October.

More than half of the money Robinson was requesting was for basic structural maintenance of many of the district's buildings. Many of the district's buildings are 100 years old or older, and like the House of Hits, are falling apart. The funding would have allotted \$2.7 million as follows:

\$1,600,000 to stabilize and dry shell the Roberts Automotive Building,

\$268,000 to dry shell the House of Hits,

\$366,000 to dry shell the building facades on Vine, and

\$448,000 to dry shell the Savings and Loan Building

Signs of structural decay of the buildings is evident, besides being boarded and shuttered, you can see bricks that have fallen off some building

lying in the sidewalk.

Forcing a Bad Neighbor's Hand
This month, Atty. Henry Service, owner of the district's Historic Lincoln Building, decided to take action. Fed up with the City as a bad neighbor, he filed a lawsuit against the city and the director of the city's Neighborhoods and Housing Services Department.

Service wants the city to repair the blighted property it owns in the Jazz District, specifically on Vine Street. It's something the city has tried to go after other property owners in the district for.

Service represented Lisa Walker-Yeager who owns the property that used to house the Mardi Gras Club at 1600 E. 19th St. The building caught on fire in May 2015 and has been inhabitable ever since. In March 2018 the city filed a lawsuit against Yeager with the ultimate goal of taking her property and selling it. In the lawsuit they identify Yeager's property as a dangerous building and a public nuisance. Per the lawsuit, some of the conditions that made Yeager's property a nuisance included:

- Peeling paint
- Rotting boards on exterior walls
- Roof is not structurally sound
- Brick veneers loose
- Bricks missing structure is boarded
- Unsafe for human habitation and
- The property is a vacant blight and has a detrimental affect on the general welfare and well-being of the community.
- The property's status as vacant blight adversely impacts the property values of surrounding properties.

When Service saw the notice, he thought "how hypocritical." Everything they'd written about Yeager's property applied to city-owned property in the district. The City should be held to the same standards they're asking others to meet. So Person filed a lawsuit against the city for failure to



PHOTOS: Henry Person, owner of the historic Lincoln Building in the Kansas City Jazz District, says having the city as a neighboring property owner is bad for his business and bad for the district. After waiting years for the City to fix up their property, which is in violation of "their" building code, Person took action.

(Right) This property is a safety hazard and violates nearly a dozen standards of the city's building code.



maintain they're property.

"The City should not be allowed to break the law, prosecute, and take the property of private property owners based on pro forma allegations of lawbreaking, collect money based on maintaining blight on Vine Street while keeping 100% of the unsafe and blighted buildings in a community," Service's lawsuit says.

Service is asking for the city to bring all of its blighted buildings in the Jazz District up to code and make them safe and fit for occupancy. The lawsuit also directs the city to use the money from historic tax credits to develop, make safer, repair

and maintain the buildings in the Jazz District.

The lawsuit goes on to claim, "The city is receiving money, based on the said tax credits, and maintains the facades of the buildings, to collect on the said tax credits."

Service has consistently voiced to others and the media, his distaste with the way the city treats the 18th and Vine district as compared to other entertainment districts environmental racism

"They have not done this in Westport, Power & Light, the River Market, Crossroads, the Plaza," Service said. "Why only the Black entertainment district?" ●●

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Proposes Plan to Legalize Weed Nationally

• **The measure looks to address the disproportionate harms of the drug war and to bolster equity in the overwhelmingly white weed industry.**

As the number of states legalizing marijuana continues to grow, this morning senate democrats unveiled a plan that would remove nationwide a prohibition on marijuana and create federal rules similar to controls established for tobacco.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and fellow Sens. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) released the outline of the proposed Cannabis Administration & Opportunity Act to solicit input from the public. Not yet a formal bill, after they receive input from members of Congress and the public, they'll craft a final bill that will likely be introduced this fall.

Senator Booker, a Democrat from New Jersey, calls on his colleagues in Congress to catch up with the Ameri-

can people, 70% of whom already support legalization.

"For decades, our federal government has waged a War on Drugs that has unfairly impacted low-income communities and communities of color," Booker said in a statement. "While red and blue states across the country continue to legalize marijuana, the federal government continues to lag woefully behind. It is time for Congress to end the federal marijuana prohibition and reinvest in communities most impacted by the failed War on Drugs."

Kansas is one of the few states that still does not allow any kind of legal marijuana consumption. Eighteen states and Washington, D.C. allow adult-use while 37 states have legalized medical marijuana.

The legislation allows states to

determine their own laws, as they have the authority to do so around alcohol, but cannabis would not be illegal under federal law. This would allow U.S. cannabis companies to use the banking system, apply for loans and list on major stock exchanges.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration would be the primary federal regulatory authority concerning the manufacture, labeling and marketing of cannabis products. The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau would be charged with the collection and enforcement of federal cannabis excise taxes as well as tracking and tracing of cannabis products.

Federal excise taxes on cannabis products would start at 10% and increase to 25% within five years after the bill becomes law.

The bill also incorporates social



justice measures, like the immediate expungement of federal non-violent marijuana crimes. People who are currently serving sentences in federal prison for non-violent cannabis offenses would be able to petition a court for resentencing. Some of the

revenue generated by federal cannabis taxes would be reinvested in the communities most impacted by the War on Drugs and also go towards cannabis entrepreneurs of socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. ●●

Haiti, Urged by Foreign Powers, Announces New Government

• **Claude Joseph was the country's leader in the aftermath of President Jovenel Moïse's assassination.**

He will hand power to Ariel Henry and join a new unity government intended to keep Haiti stable.

With foreign powers weighing in, Haitian officials announced a new prime minister on Monday, in an attempt to resolve a caustic leadership struggle in the wake of President Jovenel Moïse's assassination.

Claude Joseph, the prime minister who took control of Haiti's government immediately after the killing, said he was stepping down in favor of Ariel Henry, a neurosurgeon who had been appointed to the position by the president shortly before he was killed.

"I'm a courageous man, I took charge, and I spoke to the population and said, 'Keep calm. We need to behave intelligently,'" Mr. Joseph said in an interview, speaking of the role he played after the president's death. "Otherwise, no one knows what would have happened."

Ever since the assassination on July 7, Haitian politicians have been at loggerheads, grappling for control of the government. And the scramble for power is being heavily influenced — even directed, some Haitians say — by foreign countries, including the United States, which has held enormous sway in Haiti since invading the country more than 100 years ago.

"Haiti has become a baseball being thrown between foreign diplomats," Joseph Lambert, the president of Haiti's Senate, said in an inter-

view, adding that pressure from American diplomats was a major factor in the reshuffling of Haiti's leadership.

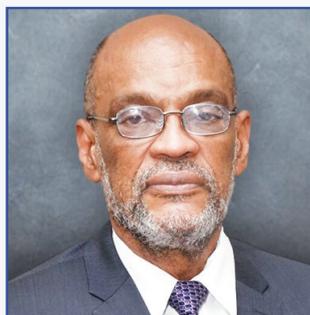
As Senate president, Mr. Lambert said, he had sought to lead the nation after the president's death. But, he said, the United States urged him to stand down.

American officials said they were pushing for a unity government among the various figures claiming leadership of Haiti, with the aim of paving the way for free and fair elections down the road.

Mr. Joseph said he would now become the foreign minister in Mr. Henry's cabinet.

"We are encouraged to see Haitian political and civil actors working to form a unity government that can stabilize the country, and build the foundation for free and fair elections," said Ned Price, a spokesman with the State Department.

The switch in government announced on Monday follows a period of intense uncertainty



Joseph

in the wake of the president's assassination. But the political maneuvering by Haitian officials and international power brokers was met with anger by Haitian activists and democracy advocates, who said it did not consider what the people wanted.

"It's as if they have replaced the Haitian people. It's revolting," Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, the leader of Seeing Eye To Eye, a civil society group that represents more than one million Haitians in the countryside, said of the foreign powers. "We need the accompaniment of a lot of countries but we can't accept they make decisions in our place."

Mr. Joseph, the nation's interim prime minister, had been scheduled to be replaced the week of the assassination, but the newly appointed prime minister, Mr. Henry, had yet to be sworn in. Both declared themselves to be the legitimate prime ministers, creating a power vacuum that threatened to further destabilize a country that had already been gripped by months of street protests over Mr. Moïse's rule. ●●

First Black National Spelling Bee Winner Receives Several Full-Ride Scholarship Offers

It was quite a week for 14-year-old Zaila Avant-garde. She became the first African American to win the Scripps National Spelling Bee. That weekend, she made an appearance at the ESPY Awards, where she stole the show, and on Wednesday, she made an appearance on Jimmy Kimmel Live where she demonstrated not only her spelling skills, but also her basketball skills.

The spunky teenager followed up that great week with no less than three full-ride scholarship offers to college. As a Louisiana native, Zaila's home is Harvey, LA, so far it's just Louisiana Universities vying for the teen, but others could be expected to follow suit.

Zaila is also a basketball prodigy who owns three Guinness world records for dribbling multiple balls simultaneously and hopes to one day play in the WNBA or even coach in the NBA. She described spelling as a side hobby. ●●



St. Louis Family Sues Police After 63-year-old Disabled Father is Killed in 'No-knock' Raid

• A ban on 'no-knock' warrants never garnered traction during the 2021 legislative session.

By Rebecca Rivas
The Missouri Independent

Don Clark, a 63-year-old veteran from St. Louis, walked with a cane because his diabetes caused him to have swollen limbs, poor hearing and fading eyesight.

On Feb. 21, 2017, he was exhausted from traveling by bus to his doctor's appointment, Clark told his son on the phone that day.

After he fell asleep that night, a SWAT team of more than 17 police officers raided two of his neighbors' homes in search of drugs and guns in South St. Louis.

The Metropolitan St. Louis Police Department (SLMPD) had actually scheduled three "no knock" warrants — or warrants that allow officers to enter a property without requiring that they announce their presence — on Clark's street.

The third one was Clark's home.

All 17 fully-armed officers formed one long "stack," rammed Clark's door in without announcing themselves, and shot and killed him near his bed, according to a lawsuit filed against the police department and city by Clark's family on June 30.

The lawsuit claims that an officer falsified information to gain the search warrant for Clark's home, and the behavior is a pattern within the police department. It also alleges that the officer who killed Clark used excessive force.

ENDING NO-KNOCK WARRANTS

Last fall, Missouri legislators heard stories from people around the state where no-knock warrants were deadly or traumatizing during a committee hearing. However, representatives from the Missouri Sheriff's Association and the Missouri State Troopers Association testified that no-knock raids are so "rare" they don't need to be regulated.

Missouri Democrats attempted to ban "no knock" search warrants statewide this past legislative session, but the proposed bills didn't gain any traction.

A national call for bans on "no

knock" warrants began after Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman and emergency room technician, was shot to death on March 13, 2020, after plainclothes officers raided her apartment in Louisville, KY.

Sherrie Clark-Torrence, Clark's daughter, said the family hopes the lawsuit will lead to policy changes in the city and state, including a ban on "no knock" warrants.

THE LAWSUIT

Clark's son would visit him almost daily and stay for at least an hour to provide care for his father, including doing chores like taking out the trash, the lawsuit states.

His only other visitor outside of his children and grandchildren was a home healthcare provider. They never saw narcotics in his home, which the police claim they found, nor did they see people come into his home for short periods of time, the suit states.

The lawsuit alleges that without warning, Officer Nicholas Manasco rushed into the home and shot a barrage of bullets from an assault rifle. At least nine bullets entered Clark's body.

Manasco and Officer James Zwilling stood over Clark with guns pointed but never sought medical help for Clark, the lawsuit states.

The lawsuit alleges that Det. Thomas Strode used identical affidavits to apply for the all three warrants that night, despite the fact that Clark had never been convicted of a crime. The affidavits all sourced "confidential informants," who claimed to have observed the three homes in possession of firearms and or narcotics within the prior 24 hours.

The family, represented by the non-profit law firm ArchCity Defenders and attorney Jerry Christmas, allege that Strode's conduct is not unusual.

The lawsuit cites a 2020 report from the Ethical Society of Police, an association of primarily Black officers in St. Louis, that documented several incidents where city officers falsified information to seek search warrants.

"This tragic case highlights the serious institutional failures of the City of St. Louis in addressing SLMPD's

excessive and indiscriminate use of SWAT and 'no knock' warrants," said Emanuel Powell, staff attorney with ArchCity Defenders in a statement.

HIGH RATE OF POLICE KILLINGS

SLMPD has the highest rate of police killings by population of any police department of the 100 largest U.S. cities, according to data published by research collaborative Mapping Police Violence and cited in ArchCity's January 2021 report, "Death by the State: Police Killings and Jail Deaths in St. Louis."

Between 2009 and 2019, city officers reportedly killed at least 69 people, amassing 53% of total police killings in the region. In 2017, the city's SWAT team killed two people on "no-knock" search warrant raids: Clark and Isaiah Hammett, 21.

Manasco participated in both incidents.

The lawsuit also states that Manasco was involved in the killing of Carlos Boles in March 2011, where he took pictures of Boles's bullet-ridden body and then shared it with

another officer.

"Despite talks of an 'investigation,'" the lawsuit states, "Defendant Manasco remained in SWAT." ●●



Don Clark, a 63-year-old veteran, was shot and killed in his St. Louis home on Feb. 21, 2017, by members of the city's SWAT team. His family filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against the police department and city on June 30. (Photo submitted)

Report: Residents in Missouri & Kansas Get Drinking Water From Lead Pipes at High Rates

By Allison Kite
The Missouri Independent

People in Missouri and Kansas risk lead exposure from drinking water at greater rates than almost any other state, a new report found.

The Natural Resources Defense Council released findings this month that as many as 12 million Americans may be receiving drinking water through lead pipes without realizing their water is contaminated.

"There is no safe level of lead, which causes irreversible harm to people's health, particularly for children," a release announcing the report says.

Missouri has the 6th most lead service lines, the pipes that carry water from water mains into residents' homes, of any state in the U.S., putting it above the far more populous Texas. Only Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, New York and New Jersey have more lead pipes than Missouri.

Adjusted for its population, it has the 4th highest number of lead pipes per 100,000 residents. Kansas is third on that list.

Lead pipes have been on the forefront of environmental concerns since Flint, Michigan, switched its water supply and failed to adequately treat the water, which led to residents

drinking water contaminated with lead.

The NRDC released the report as Congress considers President Joe Biden's infrastructure proposal, which includes spending to replace every lead pipe in the country. The organization backed that proposal in its release. ●●



A new report from the Natural Resources Defense Council shows Missouri and Kansas have some of the highest concentrations of lead water pipes in the country. (Getty Images).

4 Ways Republicans Could Redistrict the Only Kansas Democrat In Congress Out Of A Job

• Now that Congress has killed a major bill changing election rules, redrawing legislative and congressional lines will fall to the Republican-controlled Kansas Legislature. That could endanger the only Democrat representing Kansas on Capitol Hill.

By Abigail Censky
Kansas News Service

When Republicans in Congress blocked debate on the Democratic-led elections overhaul bill last week, it dashed U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids' hopes that her district could be redrawn by an independent commission.

Instead, the Republican-controlled Kansas Legislature looks poised to draw maps used for the 2022 election and likely to determine political careers for the next decade.

With a non-partisan panel charting the new districts based on the 2020 Census, Davids could expect to run for re-election in a district fairly similar to the one that elected her to the U.S. House twice.

With redistricting left to state lawmakers, the Republicans who dominate the Legislature have more freedom to gerrymander — the practice of manipulating a voting district to ensure a favorable outcome for one party. Davids told MSNBC in early June she's worried that state Republicans are "saying, 'If you can't beat 'em, cheat 'em.'"

Former state Senate President Susan Wagle said nearly as much to

a group of conservatives in Wichita last fall.

Gov. Laura Kelly can veto the redistricting plan. But Republicans would have the votes to override her.

"We can do that, I guarantee you," Wagle said. "We can draw four Republican congressional maps."

That video went viral. Democrats and The Kansas City Star editorial board alleged Republicans were saying the quiet part out loud.

Kansas is one of 29 states where the state legislature wields total control over redrawing the lines of both state legislative and congressional districts.

Here are four strategies that the Republican-controlled body may use to oust Davids from her seat:

THE DRAWING BOARD

Kansas' 1st Congressional District, which stretches from Emporia to the Colorado border, has lost population over the last decade while Kansas City commuter counties like Johnson and Wyandotte have grown. That change will need to be reconciled in new maps. The Kansas Legislative Research Department says each of Kansas' four congressional districts will need to have roughly 734,470 people.

Republicans could dilute the

strength of Johnson County, the state's bluest and most populous county, by adding part of Johnson County to the state's 2nd Congressional District. But that could put Republican U.S. Rep. Jake LaTurner, who represents Topeka and Lawrence, in jeopardy by making his district more Democratic.

Michael Smith, a political science professor at Emporia State University, said you'd have to do more than strip out Wyandotte County to make the 3rd District losable for Davids given her vote totals and President Joe Biden's eight-point victory there.

"You have to split Johnson County in order to achieve that," Smith said.

Yet that risks infuriating constituents and groups that want to remain together in the county that's home to more than 20% of the state's population and produces a quarter of its GDP, said Smith.

TOY WITH WYANDOTTE COUNTY

The 3rd Congressional District currently covers all of Johnson and Wyandotte counties and parts of Miami County. Republicans could further weaken Democrats by shifting the borders so parts of reliably Democratic Wyandotte County get included in the sprawling, heavily Republican and mostly rural 1st

Congressional District.

"I absolutely think that there are some individuals in the Legislature that will want to give it a try," Smith said.

State Sen. Ethan Corson, a Democrat from Johnson County and former executive director of the state party, said shifting Wyandotte out of the district could backfire on Republicans.

"I don't think that's going to pass legal scrutiny," Corson said.

VETO OVERRIDE

Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly can veto any maps that don't keep counties whole, dilute minority voting strength or don't keep districts "clear and contiguous" as prioritized in the redistricting guidelines used by the state in 2002 and 2012.

But after winning seats in the 2020 elections, Kansas Republicans have an even stronger supermajority in the Legislature. If Kelly vetoed a map that endangers Rep. Davids, they could override her. However, the Kansas Supreme Court will still need to approve the final maps.

RUNNING OUT THE CLOCK

A dramatically less plausible fourth strategy for Republicans would be to stall and cross their fingers that Kelly isn't re-elected to a second term. Then a Republican governor could sign off on their maps.

Ten years ago, Kansas was the



Davids

last state to draw its congressional districts because of a dispute between Republicans about where to move Manhattan. Federal courts intervened and drew the current maps.

But congressional and state legislative candidates are required to file to run for office by June 1, 2022, so maps need to be drawn before the end of next year's session in May.

"The courts will run out of patience, the federal courts in particular," Smith said. So, running out the clock really isn't a practical option because the courts will just "draw the district if they drag this out too long." ●●

Criminal Charges, Including Involuntary Manslaughter, Filed Nearly 3 years after Duck Boat Tragedy

A local prosecutor has filed a total of 63 felony criminal charges against three employees over a July 2018 tourist boat accident on a Missouri lake that killed 17 people.

The charges were filed in Stone County against the captain, the general manager and the manager on duty the day of the accident for the Ride the Ducks attraction on Table Rock Lake near the tourist mecca of Branson.

The charges came seven months after a federal judge dismissed charges filed by federal prosecutors, concluding that they did not have jurisdiction.

According to the probable cause statement, on the afternoon of July 19, 2018, Stretch Boat No. 7 entered Table Rock Lake during a severe thunderstorm warning, encountered

severe weather and rough winds, took on water and eventually sunk, resulting

in the deaths of 17 people.

The probable cause statement



Nine of 11 members of the Coleman family from Indianapolis were killed in a tourist boat sinking. This picture was taken just before the accident.

alleges that Scott McKee, the captain of Stretch Boat No. 7, failed to exercise his duties as a licensed captain by entering the lake during a severe thunderstorm warning and failed to follow policies and training by not having passengers affix flotation devices as the boat took on water.

The statement also alleges that Charles Baltzell, as Operations Supervisor, and Curtis Lanham, as General Manager, failed to communicate weather conditions and cease operations during a severe thunderstorm warning.

The child-endangerment charges filed over deaths are the most serious, punishable by between 10 years and 30 years in prison. The endangerment charges involving children who

survived the accident carry a sentence of up to seven years.

Each manslaughter charge alleges that the men "recklessly caused" the death of a passenger. Missouri law calls for a prison sentence of between three years and 10 years for a conviction on that charge.

Thirty-one people were aboard when the duck boat entered the lake. A storm came up suddenly and the waves swamped the boat before it could make it back to shore.

Video and audio from the boat, recovered by divers, showed that the lake was calm when the boat entered the water. But the weather suddenly turned violent. Within minutes, the boat sank. Still, a severe storm warning was in effect when the boat set sail. ●●

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On the Move

Mako Miller has been named director of the Professional Mobility Escalator program and the University of Missouri Kansas City. The program is the university's signature new initiative providing a unique system of personalized support and services to propel students from their educational aspirations to good-paying careers. Miller comes to UMKC from Kauffman Scholars, where she served as career Services Manager.



Miller

Sheilahn Davis-Wyatt is the new Chief Operations Office at Swope Health, Kansas City's leading provider of healthcare services for the medically underserved. Davis-Wyatt previously served at COO at KC Care Health Center and as COO at Unity Health Care, the largest network of community health centers in the Washington, D.C., area.



Davis-Wyatt

Beginning this upcoming academic year, **Dr. Judith Campbell** is the new Associate Superintendent of Leading and Learning at Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools. Dr. Campbell is currently the P-12 Director of Teaching and Learning for Decatur (Georgia) Public Schools. Dr. Campbell holds a Doctorate of Education Degree in Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis from the University of Missouri, Columbia. ●●



Campbell

Send us Your On the Move Announcements to press@tcvpub.com

Use of Facial Recognition Cameras Is Growing in Retail

• The campaign **Ban Facial Recognition Project**, launched last month, is gaining support from civil rights organizations.

By **Bonita Gooch**
The Community Voice

In June, we wrote about the growing expansion in the use of cameras, particularly by police, but apparently growing unchecked is the use of cameras – particularly facial recognition cameras – in retail.

Last month, the privacy non-profit Fight for the Future launched the campaign Ban Facial Recognition, and has been joined by more than 35 organizations to demand that American retailers stop using facial recognition to identify shoppers and workers in their stores. The campaign is designed to put pressure on companies that are currently using facial recognition and those who say they might use it in the future.

According to the campaign, retailers Albertsons, Macy's and Apple are currently using it. They have a long list of retailers who say they're considering using it and even fewer who've committed not to use the technology. You can find the complete list on their

website www.BanFacialRecognition.com/stores.

Campaign supporters say while retailers implement facial recognition as a way to deter theft and identify shoplifters, the technology is just a growing expansion of video surveillance citizens are already subjected to by police, but is far less regulated and undisclosed.

"A lot of people would probably be surprised to know how many retailers that they shop in on a regular basis are using this technology in a variety of ways to protect their profits and maximize their profits as well," Caitlin Seeley George, a campaign director at Fight for the Future, told Recode.

As quiet as it might have been kept, stores using facial recognition systems isn't new. Last year, Reuters wrote about the drugstore chain Rite Aid's extensive use of the cameras in their stores, predominantly in largely lower-income, non-White neighborhoods.

According to the Reuters article, "the cameras matched facial images of customers entering a store to those of people Rite Aid previously observed engaging in potential criminal activity, causing an alert to be sent to security agents' smartphones. Agents then reviewed the match for accuracy and could tell the customer to leave."

In their defense, Rite Aid said customers were apprised of the use of the technology by signage at the shops



They're Watching You & NOT JUST THE COPS

and a policy posted on the store's website. Reuters said they found no notice of the surveillance in more than a third of the stores they visited with the facial recognition cameras.

Since Reuters' report, the company has committed to discontinuing use of the technology.

RACIAL BIAS IN FACIAL RECOGNITION

If you wonder how Facebook knew to tag you in a photo, don't be. It's estimated that as of 2016, more than 117 million people have photos within a facial recognition network - the technology used to tag you. Just like Facebook tagged you, your participation occurred without your consent.

Unfortunately, for African Americans facial recognition technologies have shown to involve a significant racial bias against them. While the technology has a high rate of accuracy, not so much when it comes to Black people, particularly dark-skinned Black people.

In the 2018 "Gender Shades" project, facial recognition programs, including programs by IBM and Microsoft, grouped subjects into four categories: darker-skinned females, darker-skinned males, lighter-skinned

females, and lighter-skinned males. All three algorithms performed the worst on darker-skinned females, with error rates up to 34% higher than for lighter-skinned males. The results of the study were confirmed through an independent assessment by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

REGULATIONS NEEDED

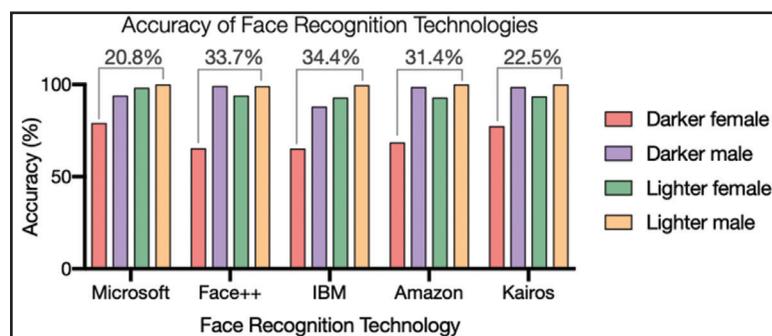
Among the biggest concerns of the Ban Facial Recognition campaign is that use of the technology remains largely unregulated, with most of the effort to rein in the technology focused on law enforcement and government.

Members of Congress have proposed several ideas for giving customers more protection against private companies' use of facial recognition, there's yet to be significant regulation at the federal level.

"In the vast majority of cities and towns, there are no rules on when private companies can use surveillance tech, and when they can share the information with police, ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement], or even private ads," warns Albert Fox Cahn, the executive director of the Surveillance Technology Oversight Project. ●●

They're Watching You

CYMI, check out our story, "They're Watching You," online at www.communityvoiceks.com. The story, which originally ran as the cover story of our June 10, 2021, issue, takes a deep look at the surprisingly expansive use of surveillance cameras by law enforcement agencies.



10 Organizer Racially Profiled at Golden Beauty, Plans Boycott

By Jazzlyn Johnson
The Community Voice

Last week, Khadijah Hardaway needed new nail files, so she went to Golden Beauty Supply. She grabbed the files she needed and went up to pay for them.

As she walked out of the door, the metal detector went off. Usually, she said, staff will just let you go ahead and leave – sometimes they forget to deactivate products.

This time was different. The staff person said, “Hand me your bag and empty your pockets.”

He went through her bag and found an old cocoa butter tube that still had the alarm code on it.

“I go there all the time. Whatever is in my purse, I purchased from here months ago and I can guarantee you that it’s used to the degree that I purchased it a long time ago,” Hardaway said to the staff member.

Hardaway said he and another staff member called her and all Black people thieves, called her a racial slur and other expletives.

Hardaway said she was beyond angry, but as an organizer with Justice for Wyandotte, a nonprofit dedicated to holding local government and the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department accountable, she decided to turn her anger into something else.

“With God as my witness, I’m going to shut this store down,” Hardaway said walking out of the door. “When I walked out the door, I felt like if God was your only witness, what would you do?”

She posted the story on Facebook,

where her post attracted hundreds of interactions, with many sharing similar experiences and calling for a boycott.

Hardaway’s story caught the eye of the Kansas City Revolutionary Black Panther Party, who rallied outside of Golden Beauty Supply July 17 and July 18, asking people going in not to support the business, and instead redirected them to Black-owned beauty supply stores.

“We have to stand in solidarity,” said General Indigenous Xi of the KC-RBPP in a livestream in front of Golden Beauty Supply. “When one of us is under attack, we all stand up and fight back.”

Knowing she is not the only one who has been racially profiled inside non-Black-owned beauty supply stores, she began thinking about the actions she could take to prevent it from happening to anyone else.

“There’s this perception that we’re thieves,” said Nikki Richardson, an organizer with Justice for Wyandotte. “I’m definitely not a thief, but I’m still followed when I want to go check the wigs in the back, or look to see what eyelashes they have.”

“It’s just something that we always kind of dealt with and we felt like that’s just what we have to deal with to get our hair done for Friday night,” Richardson said.

Justice for Wyandotte, local barbers and cosmetologists are organizing to boycott Golden Beauty Supply and possibly other beauty supply stores that are known to racially profile customers.

“You remember the bus boycott? It’s the same thing,” Hardaway said.

“We would not be able to ride the bus the way we ride it now if it wasn’t for them.”

sumers, while about three-quarters of the country’s beauty supply stores are owned by Korean-Americans.



Because of a customer’s complaints of being called racial slurs and thief, members of the Kansas City Revolutionary Black Panther Party rallied outside Golden Beauty Supply July 17-18.

SUPPORTING BLACK-OWNED BEAUTY SUPPLY STORES

Part of their plan is to support Black-owned beauty supply stores in any way they can.

“This is just the beginning of what we can do collectively and that includes the survival of Black supply houses,” Hardaway said.

There are only five Black-owned beauty supply stores in the Kansas City metro area and many of them face discriminatory barriers in the industry.

In the US, Korean-Americans dominate the multi-billion-dollar beauty supply industry.

According to a 2018 Nielsen demographic spending report, more than 80% of spending on ethnic hair and beauty was attributed to Black con-

Local Black-owned beauty supply stores say manufacturers refuse to sell them certain popular synthetic hair brands like Free Tress and Model Model, which further limits their success.

“It’s like the Mafia,” said Regina

Clark, owner of Clark’s Beauty Supply in Raytown. “They won’t let you in and they will not allow you to make it.”

James Davis, owner of Your Beauty Supply in Lee’s Summit, said other challenges for Black-owned beauty supply stores includes having to pay for their merchandise up front combined with dealing with longer shipping times, most often because they lack the connections in Korea their competitors have to help expedite their shipping.

Justice for Wyandotte and the group of organized cosmetologists and barbers plan to help support Kansas City’s Black-owned beauty supply stores to make sure their businesses are sustainable during the boycott.

“I need the support of the African-American community,” said Clark. “When you say I can’t breathe - I can’t breathe right now.”

Stay tuned on the Justice for Wyandotte Facebook page for updates. ●●

Jazzlyn Johnson is a Report for America corps member based at The Community Voice covering Kansas City’s African-American community.

List of KC Metro Black-Owned Beauty Supply Stores

- Your Beauty Supply - 651 SW 2nd St, Lee’s Summit, MO
- Clark’s Beauty Supply - 5226 Blue Ridge Blvd, Raytown, MO
- Ahzi’s Beauty Depot - 6714 Prospect Ave, Kansas City, MO 64132
- Imani Beauty Supply - 1702 MO-7 HWY, Blue Springs, MO 64014
- Genesis Beauty Supply - 9909 US-40, Independence, MO 64055
- The Curl Code (Online KS/MO-based) - www.thecurlcodebeautysupply.com

Handshaking Starting to Return Post Pandemic? Some Hope Not

Handshaking was one of the first mutually agreed upon and socially acceptable fatalities of the pandemic. But now that the pandemic is starting to subside – well, maybe not so much – the age-old tradition is beginning to make a comeback.

Not everyone is happy that the handshake is making its way back. Though it’s a deeply ingrained way of expressing friendship and respect, some medical experts wish it were gone for good.

“I don’t think we should ever shake hands again, to be honest with you,” said White House health adviser Anthony Fauci back in April 2020. “Not only would it be good to prevent coronavirus disease, it probably would decrease instances of influenza dramatically in this country.”

Handshaking carries the risk of transmitting a host of undesirable conditions, including norovirus, food poisoning and “hand-borne transmission of fecal bacteria.

DON’T WANT TO SHAKE?

With some people ready to return to the shake and others still a little squeazy about “pressing the flesh,” thinks can be a little awkward, especially in a business setting. We have to acknowledge things are not necessarily back to business as usual.

So, if you’re not ready to accept an offered handshake, St. Paul-based etiquette expert Juliet Mitchell said be ready to respond with a polite deferral.

In other words, you have to be on your toes socially to avoid making someone uncomfortable by offering a handshake or

offending someone by refusing to accept one.

Instead of recoiling, keep your hands to your side, maintain eye contact, smile, nod or slightly bow while saying something gracious like, “I’m currently not shaking hands, but it’s so very nice to meet you.”

Then just move on, and don’t over-apologize, Mitchell said.

If you want, you can offer an alternative gesture of greeting, which could range from a fist bump, an elbow bump, a Wakanda forever salute or even a Vulcan “live long and prosper” greeting.

Who knows? The handshake may completely die other cultural customs have gone by the wayside or fallen out of favor, such as inside smoking, and certainly these hand-free greetings are more healthy. ●●

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New KC Bookstore Showcases Black and Brown Books

By Jazzlyn Johnson
The Community Voice

Walking into the BLK + BRWN bookstore on 39th Street, nestled between a braiding salon and barbershop, feels just like walking into an art gallery.

The bookstore, which features books exclusively by Black and Brown authors, does not have a typical bookstore organization system. Unlike most bookstores, the books are not alphabetized or organized by genre, which forces guests to walk through and look at each of the different covers.

"I wanted Black and Brown people to feel like our stories are also valuable," said Cori Smith,



BLK + BRWN bookstore, located at 104 1/2 W 39th Street features books exclusively by Black and Brown authors.

founder and owner of BLK + BRWN. "Our stories are like art to me. The covers tell our stories. They're valuable, they're pristine."

Smith's intent was for books in the store to feel rare and pristine, like art in a museum.

An avid reader since she was a child, Smith wanted to open a book

store that amplified the Black and Brown authors she read growing up that had an impact on her life. She opened BLK + BRWN online in May, then on Juneteenth, she opened her storefront.

The store has every book genre, including sci-fi, nonfiction, romance and children's books. The books on display change regularly, like installments at an art gallery.

Each book also has a QR code that when scanned with your phone, tells you more about the book and the author.

MONTHLY BOOK CLUBS

The store will also host monthly book club meetings, which Smith started organizing at the onset of the pandemic to keep in touch with friends.

This month's book club meeting

See BOOKSTORE page 12

12 BOOKSTORE from page 11

is the first in-person meeting about the novel "Sula" by Toni Morrison. Smith said you don't have to finish the books to attend.

"I do ask questions that are somewhat specific to the reading, but it's bigger than that for me. There are more questions about the theme of 'Sula,' which is friendship," Smith said. She said it's open to anyone who is interested in the conversation.

The list of upcoming meetings and

books are on the BLK + BRWN website: www.BlkBrwn.com/bookclub.

CODY'S HOMIES

The BLK + BRWN bookstore will also host a new youth mentoring program that Smith is starting in memory of her older brother, who died in a 2019 motorcycle accident.

The program, called Cody's Homies, is similar to Big Brothers Big Sisters and will connect local adult creatives with youth. Smith plans to kick the program off this fall.

"It's meant to just connect Black and Brown kids, AKA 'little homies' to 'big homies,'" Smith said.

She said she wanted youth in the area to be exposed to local creatives and artists and know they could also grow up to have similar careers.

"You don't always have to be the doctor, lawyer or teacher. You could be a chef or an influencer if that's really what you want to do, but we need to expose them to it," Smith said.

The Cody's Homies program will also have workshops to prepare students for ACTs and student loans.

"There are a lot of us who do amazing things around the city and we don't think it's that amazing because

it's our everyday life," Smith said. "We need people to just champion us and I'm hoping that's what these little homies do for the big homies."

"Yes, we're pouring into the kids,

but the kids are also pouring into us and that's what we need," she said.

Learn more about Cody's Homies on the BLK + BRWN website: www.BlkBrwn.com/codyshomies. ●●

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Are Masks Coming Back to KC?

• **KC Medical Professionals Growing Concerned About Rising COVID Cases**

By **Jazzlyn Johnson**
The Community Voice

CCOVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in Missouri and Kansas City are on the rise once again due to the delta variant and health professionals warn Kansas Citians not to throw their masks out just yet.

As of July 21, the University of Kansas Health System reported they have 31 patients being treated for COVID-19, 11 are in the intensive care unit and six are on ventilators.

Of those hospitalized, the majority are unvaccinated and local medical professionals say they are starting to get concerned.

Medical Director of Infection and Prevention and Control at the University of Kansas Health System Dana Hawkinson said for those unvaccinated people who are hospitalized, it's com-

pletely preventable.

"We do continue to have concern and frustration because we know that these vaccines right now continue to be a miracle of modern science and medicine," Hawkinson said. "They are life-saving and preventative measures that people still don't want to take for one reason or another."

The patients who are hospitalized and vaccinated have significant comorbidities like obesity, cancer, lung disease or heart disease.

Dr. Steve Stites, chief medical officer at the University of Kansas Health System said, "We are back in trouble again." He said Kansas City is in a third wave of the pandemic and there's a crisis in the region.

"This has become a pandemic of the unvaccinated," Stites said.

HEALTH DEPARTMENTS ADVISE VACCINATIONS AND MASKS

Metro-area health departments released a public health advisory July 16 in response to "rapidly increasing COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations across the Kansas City metro related to the emergence of the delta variant."

The health departments strongly recommend that Kansas City residents get fully vaccinated and that unvaccinated individuals continue to wear masks. They said those who are unvaccinated and resuming normal activities are the most at risk. They recommend vaccinated people still remain cautious and practice social distancing in public.

After area public health officials announced the advisory, the Kansas City, Kansas School's Board of Education approved a back-to-school plan that requires all students to wear face masks during the upcoming school year, except those with health exemptions.

Kansas City Public Schools will only require students and staff to wear



Titilayo Adelusola of SERVPRO continues to wear her mask.

masks if they are unvaccinated.

Local infectious disease physicians believe going back to mask mandates is inevitable because of the low vaccination rates and the rapid spread of the delta variant. They agree the only way to stop things from getting worse is for more people to get vaccinated and an increase in mask wearing.

Statewide, the seven-day average

of reported cases was 1,607 on July 14, up from 886 per day on June 30, according to data by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

Statewide, hospitalizations due to COVID-19 are at their highest since February. There were 1,284 inpatients being treated on July 11, increasing at an average of 35 each day. ●●

Vaccinate to Win in Missouri Incentive Campaign

By **Jazzlyn Johnson**
The Community Voice

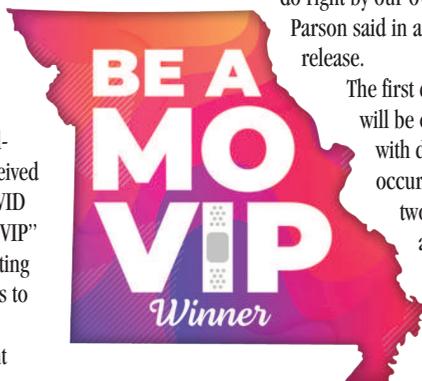
With just 40% of people in Missouri fully vaccinated and a rapidly growing number of COVID-19 cases, Missouri Gov. Mike Parson has launched an incentive campaign, with potential financial rewards to 900 Missourians. With financial rewards only available to those who have received at least one dose of the COVID vaccine, the program "MO VIP" is the governor's way of getting reluctant Missouri residents to take the shot.

Once a Missouri resident receives at least one vaccine shot, adults are eligible to register to win \$10,000 in cash. Youth ages 12-17, who receive at least one vaccine shot, can register to win a \$10,000 education savings account.

Over the next three months, 900 Missourians, 180 each drawing, will share in

the total incentive package of \$9 million. Funding for the incentives is from federal COVID-19 relief funds.

"We understand that some Missourians are hesitant towards getting the vaccine, but we must take personal responsibility and do right by our own health," Parson said in a press release.



The first drawing will be on Aug. 13, with drawings occurring every two weeks for a total of five drawings. The last drawing will occur

on Oct. 8. Individuals qualify to register in either the Red, White or Blue category.

• Red: Missourians age 18 and up who received at least one dose of vaccine after July 21, 2021

• White: Missourians age 18 and up who received at least one dose of vaccine before

July 21, 2021

• Blue: Missourians ages 12 to 17 receiving at least one dose of vaccine at any time
Winners must also meet the following requirements:

- Must be a living citizen of the United States and a permanent resident of the State of Missouri
- Must be 12 years old and older
- Must have received at least the first COVID-19 vaccination prior to the drawing date

Eighty winners will be randomly selected during each drawing from the Red and 80 from the White categories, with 10 of those names selected from individuals in each of the state's eight congressional districts. Each of those individuals will receive \$10,000. In addition, during each of the five drawings, 20 adolescents from the blue category will be selected to receive \$10,000 education savings.

Once you enter, you're registered for each drawing, so there is no need to enter again. For more information about the program or to register visit [MOStopsCovid.com/win](https://mostopsCovid.com/win). ●●

A Great Community Day at Swope Health West

On Saturday, July 10, Swope Health West in Kansas City, KS welcomed members of the community to a free, drive-through and walk-up vaccination event, which also featured fresh foods and protein boxes. Conducted with support from El Centro, Harvesters, KanCare and Aetna Better Health of Kansas, the event served 89 households, made up of 173 adults, 149 children and 15 seniors. A total of 7,380 pounds of food was distributed. The foods available were frozen protein, milk, fresh potatoes and grapes.

Swope Health provided the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination to 18 individuals age 12 and up. The second dose of the vaccination was scheduled for July 31, also at Swope Health West, 4835 State Ave., Kansas City, Kansas. ●●



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Buying Sunglasses? Read This First

- Nation's ophthalmologists on what consumers need to know about UV protection for the eyes.



Not all sunglasses are created equal. While the choices are endless, there's only one thing that tops all sunglass considerations and it has nothing to do with price or brand names. It's all about the UV protection. The American Academy of Ophthalmology wants you to know that selecting sunglasses that block 99 to 100% of UV-A and UV-B radiation is the best way to protect your eyes from the sun's damaging rays.

"Wearing sunglasses without 100% UV protection is actually a serious health risk," said Dianna Seldomridge, MD, clinical spokesperson for the American Academy of Ophthalmology. "Regardless of the season, sun exposure can increase the risk of developing growths on the eye, cataracts and some eye cancers. The good news is, protecting yourself from the sun is easy and doesn't require breaking the bank, just look for the 100 percent UV protection label."

The Academy offers the following tips for picking the best sunglasses for you:

LOOK FOR THE LABEL

Only buy sunglasses labeled as 100% UV-A and UV-B or UV400 protection. If you're unsure if your sunglasses provide proper protection, you can test lenses for UV

safety with a photometer at an optical shop.

SIZE DOES MATTER

Sunglasses with larger lenses may provide more protection. Wraparound glasses offer the best coverage. These glasses can protect the eye from UV light entering from the side. Wraparounds also protect the eyes from wind, evaporation that may cause dry eye, and foreign bodies, like grit, sand or dust that can irritate the eye.

PRICE DOES NOT MATTER

A heavier price tag does not guarantee UV protection. As long as the 100% UV label is there, cheap sunglasses can be just as effective at protecting your eyes as brand name sunglasses.

LENS TYPE HELPS WITH COMFORT, NOT UV PROTECTION

Darker lenses or polarized lenses do not block more radiation. Lenses can come in different shades, such as amber, gray, or green, but it's up to personal preference which is best for you. Polarized lenses can help with glare coming off reflective surfaces, making activities like driving or water sports easier and more enjoyable.

For more info on eye health, visit the Academy's EyeSmart website at www.aao.org/eye-health. ●● - *Newswise*

Americans' Medical Debts Are Bigger Than Was Known

A new study finds that health care has become the country's largest source of debt in collections. Those debts are largest where Medicaid wasn't expanded.

Americans owe nearly twice as much medical debt as was previously known, and the amount owed has become increasingly concentrated in states that do not participate in the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion program.

New research published last week in JAMA finds that collection agencies held \$140 billion in unpaid medical bills last year. An earlier study, examining debts in 2016, estimated that Americans held \$81 billion in medical debt.

The researchers found that, between 2009 and 2020, unpaid medical bills became the largest source of debt that

Americans owe collections agencies. Overall debt, both from medical bills and other sources, declined during that period as the economy recovered from the Great Recession.

"If you think about Americans getting phone calls, letters and knocks on the door from debt collectors, more often than not it's because of the U.S. health care system," said Neale Mahoney, a health economist at Stanford University and the paper's lead author.

The new paper does not include data during the coronavirus pandemic, which is not yet available.

Amy Finkelstein, a professor of economics at M.I.T., was

See **DEBT** page 15

US Life Expectancy in 2020 Saw Biggest Drop Since WWII 15

By Mike Stobbe
Associated Press

U.S. life expectancy fell by a year and a half in 2020, the largest one-year decline since World War II, public health officials said Wednesday. The decrease for both Black Americans and Hispanic Americans was even worse: three years.

The drop spelled out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is due mainly to the COVID-19 pandemic, which health officials said is responsible for close to 74% of the overall life expectancy decline. More than 3.3 million Americans died last year, far more than any other year in U.S. history, with COVID-19 accounting for about 11% of those deaths.

Black life expectancy has not fallen so much in one year since the mid-1930s, during the Great Depression. Health officials have not tracked Hispanic life expectancy for nearly as long, but the 2020 decline was the largest recorded one-year drop.

The abrupt fall is “basically catastrophic,” said Mark Hayward, a University of Texas sociology professor who studies changes in U.S. mortality.

Killers other than COVID-19 played

a role. Drug overdoses pushed life expectancy down, particularly for Whites. And rising homicides were a small but significant reason for the decline for Black Americans, said Elizabeth Arias, the report’s lead author.

Other problems affected Black and Hispanic people, including lack of access to quality health care, more crowded living conditions, and a greater share of the population in lower-paying jobs that required them to keep working when the pandemic

was at its worst, experts said.

Life expectancy is an estimate of the average number of years a baby born in a given year might expect to live. It’s an important statistical snapshot of a country’s health that can be influenced both by sustained trends such as obesity as well as more temporary threats like pandemics or war that might not endanger those newborns in their lifetimes.

For decades, U.S. life expectancy was on the upswing. But that trend



Other findings in the Life Expectancy report:

- **Hispanic Americans** have longer life expectancy than White or Black Americans, but had the largest decline in 2020. The three-year drop was the largest since the CDC started tracking Hispanic life expectancy 15 years ago.

- **Black** life expectancy dropped nearly three years, to 71 years, 10 months. It has not been that low since 2000.

- **White** life expectancy fell by roughly 14 months to about 77 years, 7 months. That was the lowest the lowest life expectancy for that population since 2002.

- **COVID-19’s** role varied by race and ethnicity. The coronavirus was responsible for 90% of the decline in life expectancy among Hispanics, 68% among White people and 59% among Black Americans.

stalled in 2015, for several years, before hitting 78 years, 10 months in 2019. Last year, the CDC said, it dropped to about 77 years, 4 months.

—Life expectancy fell nearly two years for men, but about one year for women, widening a longstanding gap. The CDC estimated life expectancy of 74 years, 6 months for boys vs. 80 years, 2 months for girls.

More than 80% of last year’s COVID deaths were people 65 and older, CDC data shows. That actually diminished the pandemic’s toll on life expectancy at birth, which is swayed more by

deaths of younger adults and children than those among seniors.

That’s why last year’s decline was just half as much as the three-year drop between 1942 and 1943, when young soldiers were dying in World War II. And it was just a fraction of the drop between 1917 and 1918, when World War I and the Spanish flu pandemic devastated younger generations.

Life expectancy bounced back after those drops, and experts believe it will this time, too. But some said it could take years. ●●

DEBT from page 14

a co-author of an influential study that showed how Medicaid coverage could improve Americans’ financial health. She studied what happened when Oregon used a lottery to randomly offer Medicaid coverage to a share of low-income adults seeking coverage.

The study found substantial improvements in measures of financial health for people who received coverage. It also found improvements in those people’s mental health — increases too large to be explained by new medical treatments alone.

Professor Finkelstein said the new paper was a reminder that health insurance often acts as a strong buffer against financial adversity.

“It’s a misnomer — it’s not just to insure your health,” she said. “It’s actually to protect you economically in the event of poor health.”

Medical debt is unlike other kinds of debts because people often cannot choose whether to incur it. A poorer person may choose to buy a less expensive car than her richer neighbor, but if she has a heart attack and needs surgery, she will get a bill just as big as her neighbor.

The new paper finds that medical debts are higher in poorer neighborhoods. In the lowest-income ZIP codes that researchers studied, people owed an average of \$677. Those in the highest-income ZIP codes owed an average of \$126. Those figures represent the general population, not just debt holders. ●●

Mind Fest 2021 to Help Fight Stigma of Mental Health

Mental health deserves some more attention. That is why journalists in Wichita are coming together for Mind Fest 2021 on Sat., July 31, from 2- 5 p.m. at the WAVE.in Old Town. Mind Fest is designed to help fight the stigma of mental health, provide a safe space for learning more while relaxing and having fun.

Mind Fest is a project of the Wichita Journalism Collaborative and brings together mental health support organizations, the media, and the community to provide FREE:

- Live music
- Great nachos
- Massages
- Yoga
- Trusted mental health support

Plus, the first 250 to attend receive a gift bag and can

collect gifts like stress balls, journals, sleep masks, and ice packs.

Mental health concerns include insomnia, ADHD, depression, eating disorders, mood swings, and an abundance of other

challenges that should be addressed before they become a crisis.

The Wichita Journalism Collaborative is made up of The Wichita Eagle, KSN-TV, KMWU-FM, The Community Voice, The Active Age, The Sunflower, Kansas Leadership Center’s Jour-

Mind Fest 2021 is a safe space for learning more about mental health while relaxing and having fun.

Who: All are welcome!

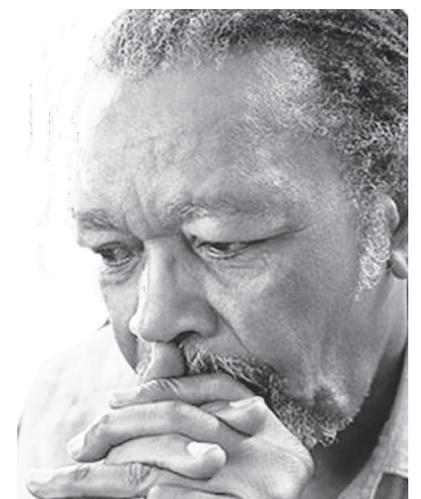
What: Mind Fest 2021

Where: WAVE in Old Town

When: Sat., July 31, 2-5 pm

Why: Fight the Stigma

How: music, massage, yoga, food...



nal, AB&C Bilingual Resources, Wichita Public Library, and WSU Elliott School of Communication. The collaborative is focusing its shared coverage project this year on the issues surrounding mental health in our area. ●●

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or scan the *QR code.*



Meet the Winners of the First Annual All Missouri Music Awards

By Jazzlyn Johnson
The Community Voice

The first All Missouri Music Awards (AMMA) awards ceremony, held July 17 at the Kansas City Scottish Rite Temple brought artists from around the state to be recognized for their music.

Hosted by From the Bottom Entertainment and One Voice Radio, the ceremony featured performances by some of the nominees and ended the night with an afterparty featuring R&B singer Eric Bellinger.

In the months leading up to the ceremony, the AMMAs allowed fans to nominate artists in 14 categories such as Best Male Vocals, Best Female Rapper and Best Gospel. The categories of nominees spread across all genres of music including hip hop, rock, country and R&B.

Elyshya Miller, owner of One Voice Radio, said she is more than happy with the outcome of the very first AMMA ceremony.

“Just to see all the people who said they never thought they would have been nominated, just to have that reaction from folks was self-gratifying,” Miller said. “That just warmed my soul to see people saying ‘you guys took the time to think about us.’ And in reality, it wasn’t even us. They just put out really good music and their fans voted for them.”

She said there were some nominees who have only been making music for a couple months, but they made it to the top five in their category.

“They put out good quality music, and they had a base of people that believed in what they were doing,” Miller said. “We just want to make sure that we have something every year to recognize the people in this state who are putting out good music.”

Miller and From the Bottom Entertainment are already planning the next AMMA, which will take place in St. Louis. Each year, they plan to rotate the ceremony between the state’s two major cities.

MEET THE WINNERS

• Willis Blount – Best Gospel

Willis Blount, from Kansas City, KS, considers himself an urban contemporary gospel artist, but has branched out and collaborated with R&B artists and rappers.

At the AMMAs, he performed an original piece for the first time that he wrote when he was 16 years old called, “He Did It.”

“I’m just happy to be amongst some great artists here,” Blount said. “A lot of times, artists have their noses stuck up in the air and I didn’t see that tonight.”

• Jay Welch – Best Male Rapper

Originally from Kansas City, Jay Welch is a rapper, singer and producer and has been writing music since he was a child.

“Music was healing for me,” Welch said. “Even being a foster child, not having nobody to vent to, I would just write it out and just get it off my chest.”

“I listen to music that helps me. If I can provide that



Blount



Welch



Dehe Miah

All Missouri Music Awards Winners:

- Best Gospel - Willis Blount
- Best Battle Rap - Morwasha
- Best Female Hip-Hop - Miss Kush
- Best Rock - Forever Faded
- Best Female R&B - Santina Vega
- Best Male R&B - Dehe Miah
- Best Videographer - Mogul
- Best Producer - Tim Sheperd
- Best Country - Jack Clemens & Whiskey for the Lady
- Best Male Rap - Jay Welch
- Best DJ - DJ Fuji
- Best Jazz - Da Truth Band and Pure Sweetness
- Best Song Writer - Bailey Parker

Best Single of the Year
Gurl Gang for their single
“Single Gurl Gang”

for somebody, that’s good enough for me. At the end of the day healing and bringing change, that’s the main focus,” he said.

• Dehe Miah – Best R&B Singer

Dehe Miah Price became interested in music when he watched Michael Jackson perform on television. From there, it became a passion for him.

Price has been recording as a singer since he was 13 years old, but has just begun pursuing his R&B singing career this past last year.

At the AMMAs, he performed a sneak peek of two songs that will be released in the next couple weeks, called “Goddess” and “Seductive Goddess.” ●●

Youth Retreat Allows KC Kids to 'Nurture with Nature'

By Jazzlyn Johnson
The Community Voice

Dr. Joahn Hall and her late husband, Howard Hall, always had a passion for mentorship and creating a sense of unity in Kansas City, and they knew exposure to nature could play a huge role in it.

The couple owned land, the Buffalo Six Ranch located in Richmond, MO, and dreamt of bringing youth from urban areas together on the ranch to expose them to horses and the

and wildlife is often discovered only through the lens' of movies, pictures or television," said Dr. Hall.

After her husband's sudden death in 2016, Hall created the Howard A. Hall Foundation in his memory, and has been hosting annual youth retreats at the ranch ever since.

The Howard Hall Foundation's mission is to "Nurture with Nature," which Hall said is critically important for developing young people's creativity and problem-solving skills.

Studies have proven that time

kids from the Kansas City metro area, many who may have never been outside the city, on her 280-acre ranch.

This year's overnight camping retreat will begin at 5 p.m. on Fri., July 23, and will have activities like hiking, fishing, stargazing and stories around the campfire.

Participants will also attend a horsemanship class, which Hall, who is a physician and equestrian, said can be extremely beneficial to children.

Time with horses, Hall said, can help children learn about overcoming their fears, problem solving skills, leadership skills, and helps reduce stress. Hall, a family medicine specialist, also uses horses with her clients for physical therapy and counseling sessions.

At the retreat, kids will learn how to groom, feed and mount a horse. They will also hear a presentation about leadership.

The retreat is \$25 per child and \$10 for each additional child in the same family. It's recommended that campers wear boots or tennis shoes, jeans, long sleeve shirts and bring bug spray, a change of clothes, a towel and wash rag.

KS State Sen. David Haley is sponsoring scholarships for Kansas City, KS, children to attend the retreat. For more information, call Hall at (816) 776-8004. ●●

spent in nature improves academic performance, reduces attention deficit disorder symptoms, improves nutrition, eyesight, social relations and self-discipline.

So, every year Hall hosts about 20



Dr. Hall sponsors her annual "Nurture and Nature" camp for youth at her ranch in Richmond, MO.

outdoors.

"The Buffalo Six Ranch provides a place of comfort, serenity and productive living to positively shape and influence the lives of youth from urban areas, whose exposure to nature

Lee's Summit Student Crowned Miss Elementary America 3rd Grade

Last month, 8-year-old Brooklyn Franklin of Lee's Summit won the title, "Miss Elementary America Third Grade" against 31 other contestants.

The pageant took place in Little Rock, Arkansas, where young girls in grades pre-K through sixth grade from all over the United States met to compete.

The purpose of the Miss Elementary pageant is to introduce girls to the Miss High School America Organization and the Miss High School America National Pageants.

Before the pageant, Franklin built her confidence and gained friendships from around the United States. Her activities and events during the national pageant week on the large stage included an interview, evening gown, fashion runway and presenting her community service projects.

Franklin began competing in the world of



Franklin

pageantry at five years old and holds both an international and national title. Her hobbies include horseback riding, art and runway modeling.

What Franklin loves most about pageantry is the opportunity to make many new friends.

Franklin's prize package includes a Caribbean cruise, photoshoots, \$5,000 cash prize and an MMG Modeling contract.

Now that she's been crowned, Franklin will spend her year traveling, attending various state pageants and promoting her platform, "BRAVE," which stands for "Building Respect and Values for Everyone." ●●

East Patrol Hosting Back-to-School Drive and Family Fun Night

By Jazzlyn Johnson
The Community Voice

Kansas City Police Department's East Patrol Division is hosting a Back-to-School Drive to provide school supplies to local students in need as well as a Family Fun Night.

The drive will help families in the community, but they will also give officers and opportunity to interact with families and for students to see officers differently than they're typically exposed to.

"My focus has been on the elementary and middle schools because we really want them to see police officers in a different light," said KCPD Community Interactions Officer Patrick Byrd. "I want them to see more of what we do outside of arrests or what they see on television. So, I thought that would be a good way to engage our users to interact with them to show them that they we actually do care about our community."

For the school supply program, East Patrol is accepting school supplies like pencils, paper, backpacks, calculators and rulers at the East Patrol Campus, 2640 Prospect Ave. until Aug. 7.

The supplies will go to students at Whittier Elementary School, Gordon

Parks Elementary School, the Ryogoku Soccer Academy and if supplies allow, Hope Leadership Academy.

"A lot of families are still affected by COVID. Some of the single-family homes are having a difficult time getting on their feet," Byrd said "I know a lot of families are needing help with school supplies so we just felt a need to step up and assist them.

East Patrol is also hosting a Family Fun Night, to engage the community on July 30, beginning at 6 p.m. at Concourse Park. There will be bouncy houses, hotdogs, popcorn, cotton candy and an opportunity to talk to local officers.

Byrd said the event is a perfect opportunity for residents in the community to ask questions they might be wanting to get off their chests.

"And hopefully we can provide some type of understanding," he said. "Especially at a time right now where there are systems in place that seem to want to divide us. We're still trying to unite with the community and engage with the community." ●●

Jazzlyn Johnson is a Report for America corps member based at The Community Voice covering Kansas City's African-American community.

Phone Scams Target Utility Customers; Don't Give Out Your Info, Says BPU

The Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (BPU) wants customers to be aware of recent utility scams telling residents their utilities will be shut off immediately.

Scammers tell customers that if utility payments are not made to them, services will be shut off within 30 minutes. The caller may use caller ID spoofing to convince victims the call is real.

The caller tries to get the customer to provide credit card info or personal info, telling the customer a check has bounced or they have a past-due bill. Never give out this information. Ask for company ID or call BPU.

Scammers may ask for a pre-paid card for payment. BPU will never ask a customer to purchase a pre-paid debit

card, gift card or any form of cryptocurrency to pay for service.

BPU never asks for payment over the phone or threatens to disconnect utilities due to non-payment.

Customers who suspect they are being targeted by a scam need to hang up right away and call the BPU Customer Service Department at 913-573-9190.

If you have been a victim of a scam, call local police to report the crime.

Although BPU sometimes uses pre-recorded messages to notify customers about future dates for possible disconnection, they do not cold-call customers to demand immediate payment.

Also, never provide info via email or click suspicious attachments. Visit www.bpu.com/Resources/AvoidFraud.aspx ●●

KC Nonprofit Helps Vets Reentering Civilian Life

By Jazzlyn Johnson
The Community Voice

When Toya Harris left the Air Force after about seven years of service, she didn't feel like she had the guidance to properly transition back into civilian life.

"Once I got out, I wasn't given a lot of direction," Harris said. "They tried to cram it into one meeting called transition assistance. They give you a lot of information at one time and that's it."

It wasn't until about eight years after she left the military that she figured out how to file a claim to receive disability. Then, she realized she wasn't alone.

According to the Pew Research Center, finding resources after the military and transitioning back to society is difficult for more than a quarter of veterans. That number goes up to nearly 50% for veterans with combat

a job, without knowing where they are going to live or without understanding how much a housing deposit might cost.

"Four years, eight years, 20 years, however long you're in the military, everything is structured. Then all of a sudden, you detach from that life and you're like, 'now what?' They program you. You're programmed and then you're on your own," Harris said. "That's why a lot of our vets end up homeless or end up abusing substances because they don't have that direction once they've gotten out."

PROVIDING 4 OUR VETS

After Harris started working with a local nonprofit to support homeless veterans, she became more aware of resources for veterans and began helping friends and family leaving the military transition smoothly.

ance and even giving general advice on transitioning.

P4OV offers services to veterans of all branches of the military, including those who may have been dishonorably discharged.

"A lot of organizations won't help those with a dishonorable discharge, but I don't care what your discharge is because I know people who were discharged under less than honorable or dishonorable and they're really good

people. They just made some mistakes and I don't want to limit them because there are options," she said.

Harris hopes she can find a way to contact veterans as they are leaving the military and reach out to them a few months down the road to see if they need services to prevent any issues before they occur.

"I've seen too many signs on the corner that say, 'I'm a veteran and need help,'" Harris said. "The tiny homes

are great, but what else can we do?" queried Harris. "I say, bridging that gap as soon as they're getting out (of the military) and figuring out how I can help you through that transition, because I don't want to see anybody on the corner with a sign."

To learn more about P4OV and see a list of services, visit their website: www.p4ov.org.

To donate, visit P4OV's Pay Pal link: www.paypal.com/paypalme/p4ovets. ●●



Jamal Harris & Toya Harris, owners of Providing 4 Vets.

experience, PTSD or other traumatic military experiences.

Many veterans have difficulty transitioning into civilian life because in the military, services like insurance, doctors, housing and dentists are all provided. In the military, you have little choice about when you eat, where you eat and how you dress.

So, the vast number of choices in the civilian world can also be overwhelming for many veterans exiting the military and starting their lives again. In addition, many leave the military without

"It was coming to the surface that a lot of veterans were not aware, just like me, of the things that were available to us," she said.

Since 2015, she has helped about 25 veterans to receive full disability, housing, employment and transportation, which are some of the biggest challenges transitioning veterans face.

Harris named her organization Providing 4 Our Vets (P4OV) back in 2015, but officially registered it as a nonprofit this year. She also helps veterans acquire college benefits, with resume writing, filing for health insur-

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Kansas City and School Board Primaries are Aug 3

In Kansas, there are elections held every year. On even years, elections are held for federal positions, statewide offices, state legislators and county officials. In odd years, elections are held for local positions, such as city council and school board.

The local races may not be as high profile as the more highly financed even-year races, but they are equally or even more important to the everyday lives of individuals in their community.

"If you're yelling 'defund the police,' remember, your city council members are the ones that fund the police, and if you're concerned about your child, or grandchild having lost ground during the pandemic, the school board is the organization that will implement and fund a plan to help students catch up," said former State Sen. Rip Gooch, who also served on the Wichita City Council.

If you don't like your water rates, your city council sets those,

or, in Wyandotte County, the rates are set by the Board of Public Utilities.

WHY PRIMARIES

Primaries are designed to cut the field of contenders for a position down in number. Depending on the city and the position, primaries are required when there are three - or sometimes four or more - candidates for a position. ●●

Meet Wichita District 3 City Council Candidate Ian Demory

• Six candidates, including incumbent Cynthia Claycomb, will face off in the Aug. 3 primary for the southeast Wichita City Council District 3 seat.

By Malcolm Carter
The Community Voice

Ian Demory, one of six candidates vying for the open District 3 seat on the Wichita City Council, prides himself on being a family-oriented man who believes education will play a large role in creating change for the district.

"I believe it's the role of the city council to act as a public servant and aide; to work for the people, not the other way around," said Demory. "As a councilman, I promise to work with you, steering clear of special interest

groups and party influence."

The nonpartisan primary elections will be held on Tues., Aug. 3. The two candidates who receive the most votes will advance to the general election on Tues., Nov. 2.

Demory was born into a military family dedicated to serving the community and hopes to continue his family's history of service as a city council member. A fine arts professor at Wichita State, he believes his preparation and ability to work with diverse groups as a teacher will aid him as a council member

Demory has emphasized the

importance of developing South Broadway and says he will reveal his plans to turn Broadway into a "Historic 81 Auto District" after the Aug. 3 primary.

Demory's campaign platform focuses on five main areas he says he'll get to work on "day one" if elected.

Business & Corporate Development - Find ways to increase business traffic in District 3 by supporting local and neighborhood businesses, restaurants, etc. He also hopes to help grow downtown Wichita, including opening a market and finding ways to attract and maintain young professionals in Wichita.

Education - Increase after-school and adult satellite services centers for tutoring and continuing education,

including adding shuttle services.

Infrastructure - Ensure that funds are properly distributed to aid in updating the city's infrastructure.

Safety - Improve communication between police and the neighborhoods, and provide more funding for social workers to help with de-escalating situations.

Health - Increase in availability of satellite stations / facilities for low-income individuals. Update citywide drug counseling / rehabilitation centers

Human Rights/Equality - Create centers for LGBTQ plus and minority outreach/mentorship, and improve cultural education as a way to decrease/eliminate discriminatory practices.



Demory

For more information or to donate to Demory's campaign, go to DemoryForWichita.com. ●●

Malcolm Carter is a Report for America corps member based at The Community Voice covering Wichita's African-American community.

Races With Primaries to Watch For Wyandotte County

In Wyandotte County, with three or more candidates filing in most of the races, most residents have a reason to show up and vote.

The most exciting race has to be for mayor of the Unified Government, with five candidates competing. **Tyrone Garner**, a retired Kansas City Police Department Deputy Chief is running against current Mayor David Alvey. Both of them gained a serious competitor with Chris Steinger's entry into the race. Steinger, a former state senator, comes from a powerful Wyandotte County political family. His father was a leader in the Kansas Senate and his uncle is a former Mayor of Kansas City. Steinger, formerly a Democrat, is now chair of the Wyandotte County Republicans.

District 1 incumbent Commissioner Gayle Townsend did file for reelection. In addition to previously mentioned competitor **Melvin Williams**, owner of real estate company Presidential Flips, she picked up another opponent, **Lisa**

Walker Yeager. Among several properties, Yeager is the owner of the building at 19th and Vine that once housed the Historic Mardi Gras Jazz Club, which was operated by her family.

Incumbent District 5 Commissioner Mike Kane has drawn some serious competition in **LaTora "Torrie" Chinn**, government compliance officer at the Kansas Entertainment and Speedway/Hollywood Casino. If that doesn't keep her busy enough, Chinn assists with services at Thatcher Funeral Home and for 12 years has served on the Contract Fairness Board for the Wyandotte County Unified Government.

District 8 Commissioner Jane W. Philbrook, who is seeking a third term, has four competitors including **Andrew Davis** and Tscherr Manck. Davis is a 25-year-old graduate student at the University of Kansas studying public administration and hopes as commissioner to bring more opportunities for youth, support

for small businesses and remove criminal penalties for marijuana use. Manck, a certified clinical hemodialysis technician, ran unsuccessfully for Wyandotte County Register of Deeds in 2019.

See **PRIMARIES** page 25

Kansas 2021 Election Calendar

Primary election: Tues., Aug. 3

General election: Tues., Nov. 2

Last day to register to vote in the general election: Oct. 12



Davis



Garner



Reynolds



Townsend

Ruby's Cultural Campus to Educate Community on Black Creativeness

By Bonita Gooch
The Community Voice

Janice Thacker is a talented artist who paints beautiful pictures. When you hear her talk with excitement about Ruby's Cultural Campus, she excitedly paints pictures with her words. She paints the picture of a wonderful place where Black culture is taught, showcased and appreciated, right in the heart of central northeast Wichita. For now, Ruby's Cultural Campus is just six empty storage containers, but if you listen to her, it's not hard to get excited about her vision too.

You may have noticed the beginnings of her vision. For several years, there have been six storage containers lovingly placed on a lot on the south side of 13th Street and Green. Even with the opening of ReVolutsia, a retail and restaurant center built from storage containers just two miles away - along that part of 13th, it's far easier to see the containers as junk, rather than the beginnings of something grand.

Thacker and board members of her non-profit Art That Touches Your Heart have plans to use the site and the containers to make a positive impact on Wichita's community.

Thacker's original vision was for the site to be an artistic center, but she

decided her vision was too narrow. "If you don't like art, you would figure there was nothing there for you," said Thacker.

So now, more than art, the vision is for the campus to serve as a cultural hub for the community.

"It's about selling Black culture: music, dance, all of the things that are about us," said Thacker.

She hopes the campus will attract people from across the city, but she's adamant about the campus teaching African-American youth about their rich cultural heritage.

"It's important for them to know how valuable we are," Thacker said. "I don't think they know that."

At the campus, visitors and "participants" can learn about Black culture through the many vendors, programs and products offered at the center. One of the early containers she hopes to see open is a Black bookstore, "Books and More," where children can come and hear storytellers and people of all ages can gather for discussions.

In just a few examples, she speaks about crafters who teach jewelry making and artists who use their container as a studio, but also display and sell their art and teach art classes. She sees the campus as a place for special weekend markets and with one of the containers

equipped with a fold-down stage, she sees the campus as a place for live theatrical, dance, musical or spoken word performances. There would be green spaces for people to gather with friends and just enjoy it all.

This past semester, Thacker worked with advanced engineering students at Wichita State University to help complete a feasibility and business plan for the campus. They proposed using solar panels for electricity and installing central air and heat units - similar to those in hotel rooms - into each of the units.

Another thing she learned from the students is that for her vision of 16 containers, she may not have adequate room for parking. She also learned she needs to secure a lot of funding. While the containers are far more affordable than constructing buildings, additional costs add up - like site preparation, utilities, and site improvements such as paving, landscaping and signage.

As a nonprofit, Thacker hopes to apply for and secure grant funding, and city, state or federal arts or humanities funding would be a dream come true. However, she really hopes to get individuals who understand her vision to contribute, a dollar or even \$1,000, so stay tuned for her GoFundMe campaign.



The storage containers located on the corner of 13th and Green, will become part of the infrastructure for Ruby's Cultural Campus, a location where the rich depth of African-American culture will be taught and shared.

ABOUT ART THAT TOUCHES YOUR HEART

For the past nine Februarys, the annual Art That Touches Your Heart exhibit has celebrated neglected Black art students while informing and educating the attendees on the history and traditions of art and culture.

The exhibit, usually presented at Wichita State University, features local and global artists from Kansas City, Dallas, San Francisco, and New York.

Thacker, a former educator, recognizes the positive and special

contributions Black teachers make to students and the community. So, through the Art That Touches Your Heart Foundation, she started the Wichita Black Teachers Hall of Fame. Each year, the community votes for nominees and a new class of teachers is added.

The honorees are recognized during the Art That Touches Your Heart exhibit weekend.

To learn more about the important work of Art That Touches Your Heart visit <http://attyh.org/index.html>. ●●

ARISE Ensemble Fundraising for Memorial Day Festival in Washington, D.C.

By Malcolm Carter
The Community Voice

Wichita's very own ARISE Ensemble (African-Americans Renewing Interest in Spirituals Ensemble) is asking for community support in raising funds for their performance at the National Memorial Day Choral Festival in Washington, DC., next May 27-30. Conceived in 2008 as a joint venture by the American Veterans Center and Music Celebrations International to attract greater attention to the true meaning of the Memorial Day holiday, Washington, D.C.'s annual Memorial Day Choral Festival honors those veterans past and present who have sacrificed so much for the liberties we currently enjoy in our country - as well as around the world.

During the four-day festival, ensemble members will participate in

a group chorus performance and two combined performances with other choirs: one in the concert hall of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the second for the opening ceremonies of the National Memorial Day Parade.

ARISE's first fundraiser will be their September ARISE Extravaganza Auction on Sept. 10, at 6 p.m., in Wichita State University's Beggs Ballroom. Tickets, which must be purchased from an ARISE member, go on sale July 24 for \$10 each.

On Nov. 21, ARISE will host a fall concert full of music, storytelling, and praise dancers followed by a reception celebrating 30-plus years of the healing powers of spirituals by ARISE. Although this event is free, tickets must still be obtained from an ARISE member and a free-will offering is encouraged.

Finally, ARISE will honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Wichita's com-

munity leaders, who on a daily basis emulate his dream, at their 5th annual MLK Awards Breakfast. ARISE will recognize individuals and/or organizations for their life-changing involvement in the community. Scholarships will be awarded to students who excel academically and serve their community.

Tickets for the breakfast start at \$30 and tables for 10 start at \$400 and also must be obtained from an ARISE member.

ARISE, which stands for African-Americans Renewing Interest in Spirituals Ensemble, is a 30-plus-year-old community ensemble based out of

Wichita that typically performs African-American music and stories. The group consists of about 30 members who range from ages 20 to 80. ●●

Malcolm Carter is a Report for America corps member based at The Community Voice covering Wichita's African-American community.



ARISE Ensemble is beginning to raise funds for their 2022 trip to Washington, D.C. to participate in the National Memorial Day Chorale Festival.

22 Wichita Police to Co-Host School Supply Drive Tournaments

WICHITA

By Malcolm Carter
The Community Voice

Get your paddles and teams ready because The Wichita Police Departments and Chicken N Pickle are jointly hosting a Pickleball & Cornhole Tournament to raise money for school supplies for USD 259.

The fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, July 24, at 10 a.m. Chicken N Pickle is located at 1240 N Greenwich Road in Wichita.

Registration for pickleball is \$130 per team, which includes entry in the 32-team pool, a t-shirt, a \$15 drink/food coupon to Chicken N Pickle and 1 raffle ticket per player. Registration for cornhole is \$80, which includes entry in the 48 team pool, a t-shirt, a \$15 drink/food coupon to Chicken N Pickle, and 1 raffle ticket.

All proceeds benefit the Patrol East School Supply drive and additional raffle tickets will be sold.

The winners in each tournament will also receive a prize. There will be several items that will be available for raffle, including memorabilia items, restaurant packages and other great prizes.

For those not entering the tournament, Wichita Police ask that you still bring donations to help them fill their trucks with supplies.

Items needed for donation include:

- Backpacks
- Crayons
- Markers
- Glue
- Pencils
- Paper
- Earbuds
- Folders
- Erasers
- Scissors
- Anything else you think kids in school may need



(L) Pickleball and (R) Cornhole

Visit www.ReserveCNP.com/wichita/events to register your team for pickleball and cornhole. Follow the Wichita Police Department

on Facebook for more upcoming events and information.

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Willie's Wings Food Truck Owner Survives the Ups and Downs 23

By Malcolm Carter
The Community Voice

Willie Finley, owner of Willie's Wings, prides himself on creating unique wing sauces and then perfecting them before adding it to his food truck menu. The current menu, which can be found on Willie's Facebook page, features distinct wing flavors such as apple cider, firestarter, and chilli cheese to name a few.

Although Willie has developed a great base of loyal customers in Wichita, he's had more than his share of ups and downs.

He opened his first truck in spring 2019, and with a great menu mix and location at Lincoln and Oliver, things were going well until his food truck

was stolen in October 2020.

Even though that caused a major setback in his business plan, Willie didn't panic. While he worked to get a new truck, he cooked out of various locations and his customers continued to support him.

Unfortunately, after selling out on his reopening day in just hours, Willie received a call telling him that his new truck had burst into flames.

"I didn't want to believe it at first, and for a split second I wanted to quit. Then I thought to myself, 'did I really come this far to give up? No!' So, I put my head down and began to grind towards getting the truck back serviceable," said Willie.

After selling out of his home for a while, Willie was able to get the truck

back into operation. Now, his new goal is sustainability. While the pandemic was tough on a lot of businesses, the food truck business thrived. Food trucks — essentially mobile kitchens — became a go-to choice for consumers who couldn't dine indoors and wanted something different than standard carryout selections.

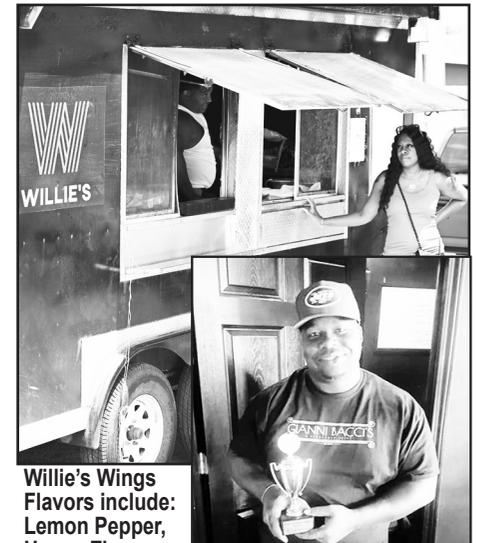
Now fully operational, Willie's Wings has found a new and successful location on East Douglas in front of East High School. Willie has plans to eventually expand into a brick-and-mortar business, but would first like to franchise his food trucks in the Metro area.

"Since I'm back and settled, I'm focused on getting my second food truck and expanding my customer

base to serve more people in Wichita, and the surrounding cities," said Willie.

Has your mouth watered yet? If you're looking to try Willie's Wings they will be parked at the Cowboy Stamped event this weekend at Life Preparatory Academy Athletic Field, 1600 W. 40th St. N., Wichita.

Call for a menu (316) 730-5659. Normal hours are Mon-Sat. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., outside East High School on Douglas Ave. You can also find him at www.facebook.com/Willies-food-truck-1137108919825978. ●●



Willie's Wings Flavors include: Lemon Pepper, Honey Zing, BBQ, FIRE Starters, Fiesta Backyard BBQ, Original and Caliente.

WICHITA

City Council Denies Planned Senior Apartment Development in KenMar Neighborhood

By Malcolm Carter
The Community Voice

The Wichita City Council unanimously rejected a proposal for a planned development in the KenMar neighborhood that included construction of two two-story senior apartment buildings and the conversion of the former Holy Savior Catholic School building into a community center for the seniors with additional space for office, retail and service businesses.

The city's planning and zoning board unanimously approved initial

development plans for the project and the request to rezone the property from single-family zoning to one that would allow construction of the multi-unit apartment buildings. The District One Advisory Board, responding to the more than 30 KenMar neighborhood residents at their meeting, unanimously voted against the project and the rezoning request.

Many of the same individuals who spoke at the DAB board meeting shared their concerns about the project and its developers with the city council.

Vice-Mayor Brandon Johnson referred to discussion at the DAB meeting as "lively," with many who spoke expressing concerns with the plan.

"Residents stated the proposed development will likely cause an increase in traffic noise and light pollution affecting the values of the immediate houses surrounding the property," said Johnson during Tuesday's meeting.

Many residents, including former District 1 council member Lavonta Williams, expressed their dissatisfaction with the developer's handling of other properties, including recurrent accusations of overcrowding, drug use, and violence.

According to Williams, the developer Khanh Kim Nguyen of KN Rental Properties owns more than 100 units in central northeast Wichita, many of which are not well maintained.

Maxine Bostic, former president of the Ken Mar Neighborhood Association and Wichita Independent Neighborhoods, who also spoke at Tuesday's meeting, said that Nguyen's rentals attract a rowdy and unpleasant crowd to the neighborhood and that she and others had been shot at in the past by Nguyen's renters.

The DAB board meeting summary

said speakers also expressed a lack of confidence in the applicant to abide by their proposal to rent exclusively to seniors.

In addition to concerns about the developer, individuals expressed concern with the size of the project, additional congestion on already crowded residential streets and the potential devaluation of their property if the plan is approved.

Nguyen did not attend Tuesday's City Council meeting. At the planning board meeting, she told board members she did not own the properties the residents were complaining about.

Although members of the community opposed the plan, they were willing to work with the developer to

formulate something both sides could agree on. Among the suggestions was for the developer to build senior housing units that looked more like single-family homes.

"Those units look like a cheap motel," one neighborhood resident said at the DAB meeting.

"The property is zoned SF five, single-family residential. Without changing the zoning, the property can be replatted into single-family lots and developed into a cohesive manner, with the surrounding neighborhood, which is also in alignment with what the neighborhood supports and tried to work toward in good faith with the developer," said Johnson during his closing remarks. ●●



Residents of the surrounding neighborhood petitioned Wichita City Council to deny a planned development of two, two-story senior apartment buildings in the field next to the former Carter Elementary School building near 15th and Oliver.

JULY 22, 2021

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How and When to Watch What You Like at the Olympics

After being delayed year by the pandemic — and still in the midst of the pandemic — the 2020 ----- yes they're calling them the 2020 not the 2021 Olympics -- get underway officially on Friday in Tokyo Japan.

In America, NBC has the broadcast rites and they plan to provide more than 7,000 hours of coverage on NBC stations, various NBCUniversal-owned cable channels, NBCOlympics.com and the NBC Sports app. In the past, NBC has saved some morning events and broadcast them in the evening for prime time viewing. However, you should be able to catch almost every event live, via streaming or one of NBC's mediums.

Tokyo is 14 hours ahead of Central time. So, when it is evening in Japan, it is morning in the United States and vice versa. Many key events will be held in the evening in Tokyo, and therefore will be in the early morning hours for U.S. viewers. An exception is swimming, where the finals will be in the morning, and so will be in prime time in the United States.

After the opening ceremony on Friday morning Central time, the Games take place over 16 days. Some events, particularly team events, stretch over almost the entire Games. Others cover briefer periods: Swimming and gymnastics, for example, are mostly held in the first week,

track and field in the second.

GYMNASTICS IS UP FIRST. Men's gymnastics competition begins the evening of July 23 U.S. time and the women begin the next day.

The men's team final is at 6 a.m. Eastern time on July 26 and the women's final at 6:45 a.m. Eastern on July 27.

The men's individual all-around final starts at 6:15 a.m. Eastern on July 28. Simone Biles is expected to compete for a second straight all-around gold medal in the women's final at 6:50 a.m. Eastern on July 29. (See? Quite an early wake-up call for West Coast fans.)

Individual apparatus finals are held over the following three days.

SWIMMING ANYONE? The first final is at 9:30 p.m. on July 24, Eastern time. Finals continue every day through the evening of July 31.

What about track and field? Qualifying begins in the evening of July 29, U.S. time. The women's 100 meters will be held on the morning of July 31, U.S. time, and the men's 100, without the retired Usain Bolt, on Aug. 1.

WHEN ARE TENNIS AND GOLF? Tennis runs from July 23 (U.S. time) to Aug. 1, with finals in singles and doubles from July 30 to Aug. 1. Men's golf comes first, beginning late on July 28 U.S. time and finishing in the early hours of Aug.

1. Women's golf runs Aug. 3 to 7, U.S. time.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE NEW SPORTS?

Karate, surfing, sport climbing and skateboarding are making their debuts at the Games, and baseball and softball are returning after a 13-year absence. There are a few new events in some of the traditional sports, too.

WHEN ARE THE NEW SPORTS BEING HELD?

After three days of preliminaries, the surfing finals are scheduled to be held on July 27 starting at 7 p.m. Eastern. But because competition may be delayed by wave conditions, there are additional days built in, and the event might finish as late as Aug. 1.

Sport climbing will be held Aug. 3 to 6. Skateboarding events will be held July 24 and 25 (U.S. time) and Aug. 3 and 4. The karate finals will be Aug. 5, 6 and 7.

WHEN DO THE OLYMPICS END?

The final events will be held on Sunday, Aug. 8, and the closing ceremony is to take place that evening at 8 o'clock in Tokyo, which is 7 a.m. Eastern time and 4 a.m. Pacific time.

WHEN ARE THE PARALYMPICS?

The Paralympics will open on Tuesday, Aug. 24, and end on Sunday, Sept. 5.



If you prefer watching track and field, they're not until the second week, so check out another new sport to get behind.

PRIMARIES from page 20

8 covers part of central Wyandotte County, including Kansas City, Kansas Community College, Coronado Middle School and Brenner Heights Creek.

Citing what he says are excessively high rates, KS Sen. David Haley seems determined to win a seat on the Board of Public Utilities. After losing by just 37 votes in his bid to join the board two years ago, Haley is back. This time he's one of five candidates vying for the At-large Position 2 seat occupied by Ryan Eidson, who is seeking his second term. Also among the candidates for this seat is Kimberly Weaver. She works as a community health & equity consultant at WyCo Mutual Aid.

Also running for a seat on the BPU is Gwendolyn Bass. She's vying for the BPU At-large Position 1 currently held by Mary Gonzales, who is running for a sixth term.

OTHER RACES WICHITA

There are three seats open on the Wichita City Council. District 1 Councilmember **Brandon Johnson** is running for his second and final term on the council. He drew one competitor, Myron Ackerman, a Republican who ran unsuccessfully against Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau last year. Since there are only two candidates, they will not have a primary.

The other two seats — District 3 and District 6 — drew a total of 13 candidates. The District 3 seat covering southeast Wichita is held by Jared Cerullo who was appointed to fill the term of James Clendenin, who resigned in December 2020 in the midst of a scandal and coverup surrounding a scathing video produced against then-candidate for Mayor Brandon Whipple. Cerullo has six competitors, many of them were among the original 15 candidates who filed to replace Clendenin.

Among his competitors is Ian Demory, whom we featured in a story on page 20 of this issue.

Incumbent District 6 City Councilmember Cindy Claycomb, who is seeking her second and final term, has five competitors. Included among them is **Dereck Reynolds**, founder of the non-profit Hug-a-Dad.

The Wichita Board of Education USD 259 has four seats up for election: Districts 1,2,5, and 6. All four incumbents are seeking reelection. With very few candidates filing, none of the races will have a primary. Ben Blankley, the incumbent in District 1, a district that had been held by an African-American for several decades, is seeking reelection. Although we couldn't find much out about his opponent, she does not appear to be Black. They will not have a primary.

Mia Turner, who was selected to fill a vacant seat on the board earlier this year, is seeking reelection and has one competitor, Kathy Bond. While school board races are non-partisan, we did determine that Bond is a Republican Precinct woman. They will not have a primary.

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McAdams Golf Club Announces Return of 91st Annual Tournament

By Malcolm Carter
The Community Voice

One of the oldest African-American golf clubs in the country, McAdams Golf Club, will hold its 91st annual golf tournament Aug. 13-15 at Auburn Hills Golf Course, Wichita.

The fee to enter is \$180 per golfer, which includes 18 holes of golf, carts, and food, along with an awards presentation. The money made from the tournament benefits McAdams Golf Club Junior Golf Program and the McAdams College Scholarship Fund.

The deadline to register is Aug. 10 and the application is online only at <https://McAdamsGolfClub.org/registration>.

"We are very excited to bring the McAdams Classic back. We hope that people of all ages and race come to enjoy a fun and competitive weekend," said Eddie Wells, director of the McAdams Golf Classic.

Fri., Aug. 13

Practice Round on White Tees. Tee Times Reserved Rounds 12 - 2 p.m.

Registration at Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton: 5 - 9 p.m. Hospitality food & drinks.

Sat., Aug. 14

Shotgun Start 8:30 a.m. Food provided at the end of play.

Prizes will be awarded Saturday for: Hole #13 Hole in One, Hole #4 Closest to Pin, Hole #16 Closest to Pin, Hole #9 Longest Putt, Hole #18 Longest Putt, and Hole #2 Longest Drive.

Sun., Aug. 15

Shotgun Start 8 a.m.

1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Awards given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for each flight. Food provided at end of play.

MGC has a history rich in cultural and community heritage. The club began around 1920 with a small group of local caddies. Due to the era of segregation and Jim Crow, Black players could only play on the designated Black golf course in McKinley Park, renamed McAdams Park in 1966 in honor of the park's long-time director, Emerson McAdams. The caddies had lobbied the City of Wichita to build the course - originally three holes - in McKinley Park. It wasn't until 1941 that the course was expanded to nine holes.

The club has played a vital role in the community, and is responsible for breaking down cultural barriers in golf and creating scholarships



Top: Members of the 2014 McAdams Golf Club. Bottom: Members from the 1920s Golf Club.

and programs to mentor generations of Wichita youth.

Tournament sponsors include Intrust Bank, the American Legion, and The Community Voice.

The Hampton Inn is the tournament host hotel. You can still register by phone or in person and get the special tournament rate. Visit <https://bit.ly/30yyv5D>.

Contact Eddie Wells (316) 304-7363 for questions and sponsorship inquiries. ●●

McAdams Tennis Club Welcomes Players for 2021 Wichita Open

By Bonita Gooch
The Community Voice

The annual Wichita McAdams Tennis Club Open gets underway July 31 at the Ralph Wulz Riverside Tennis Center. The open is composed of 30-plus events that will feature men, women and mixed singles and doubles adult and junior events.

The tournament is one of seven tournaments on the Weekend Warrior Tennis Circuit, a series of tournaments across the Midwest and South sponsored by predominantly African-American tennis clubs. Because of its standing as a stop on the WWTC, the tournament will not only attract a diverse selection of local players, but also WWTC regular players, fans and family members from across the country.

"This tournament is a way to build comradery amongst tennis players from different backgrounds, as well as a great sporting event with networking opportunities," said Alex Lee, president of the McAdams Tennis Foundation and tournament director.

The tournament gets underway with a free stroke drill Friday evening, July 30, at the McAdams Tennis Courts, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. This allows players an opportunity to warm up their game ahead of Saturday's competition and it allows visitors from out of town a way to reconnect with other WWTC players in attendance.

The competition gets underway Saturday morning, July 31, at 8 a.m. at the Riverside Tennis Center. The main draw competition is a best-of-three sets with a 10-point tiebreaker for the third set. There is also a con-

solation trophy, with losers getting one additional chance to advance toward a trophy if they lose in the main round.

Trophies will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place in all divisions.

If you're a fan of tennis, stop by Riverside on Saturday, there'll be exciting games on every court and admission is free.

The tournament wraps up on Sunday, Aug. 1, with many of the division finals on court.

The tournament includes refreshments for players on Saturday, including drinks throughout the day, lunch and a Saturday evening social/dinner. Participants also receive a tournament t-shirt. Registration per event is \$30 with registration available online through the United States Tennis

Association through Fri., July 23.

In addition to Wichita, WWTC tournaments are held annually in Houston, Jackson, Memphis, North

Little Rock, Tulsa and Oklahoma City. The next WWTC tournament is "The Ghetto Classic" in Oklahoma City, Sept. 10-12. ●●



McAdams Tennis Club's Wichita Open, part of the regional Weekend Warrior Tennis Circuit for amateurs and enthusiasts, is July 31-Aug. 1.

Broadway is Coming Back: Plan Your Trip

Yet another victim of the pandemic, New York's Broadway Theater District has been shuttered for more than a year, but it's about to be back, with shows opening in September.

If you're a Broadway regular — you've probably been jonesing for a real theatrical performance, and if you've never been to a New York play, then after a year without travel, you deserve a trip to the big city to check out a play.

While many of the shows that shuttered in March 2020 will pick up where they left off, here we'll highlight plays to check out by African-American playwrights and a few that highlight African-American culture or pop stars.

TONY NOMINATED

Tina: The Tina Turner Musical

Tina follows Tina Turner from her humble beginnings in Nutbush, TN, to her transformation into the global queen of rock 'n' roll. This play is up for a dozen Tony Awards. Performances resume Oct. 8 at the Lunt-Fontanne Theater.

PLAYS BY BLACK AUTHORS

Pass Over

This show draws inspiration from "Waiting for Godot" and the Exodus story in the Bible. For her Broadway debut, Antoinette Chinonye Nwandu is writing a new ending for her play. The story is placed on a city street corner. Moses and

Kitch are the stars as they stand around talking sh*!, passing the time and hoping that maybe today will be different. As they dream of their promised land, a stranger wanders into their space and disrupts their plans. Previews start Aug. 4 at the August Wilson Theater; opens Sept. 12. Limited run ends Oct. 10.

Lackawanna Blues

Ruben Santiago-Hudson's solo play celebrates the strong, big-hearted woman who raised him: Miss Rachel. In a 1950s boarding house outside Buffalo, Nanny, as she was affectionately called, opened her doors to anyone and everyone in need of kindness, hope, compassion and care. Previews start Sept. 14 at the Samuel J. Friedman Theater; opens Sept. 28. Limited run ends Oct. 31.

Chicken & Biscuits

Chicken & Biscuits is a raucous family comedy about the Jenkins family who come together to celebrate the life of their father — hopefully without killing each other! But any hopes for a peaceful reunion unravel when a family secret shows up at the funeral. Written by Douglas Lyons. Previews start Sept. 23 at Circle in the Square; opens Oct. 10. Limited run ends Jan. 2.

Thoughts of a Colored Man

Over the course of a single day in the pulsing heart of Brooklyn, the hopes,

sorrows, fears, and joys of seven men reverberate far beyond the barber-shops and basketball courts of their community. Vulnerable and vibrant, raw and alive, "Thoughts of a Colored Man" weaves spoken word, slam poetry and rhythm into a mosaic of the inner lives of Black men. This production is the Broadway debut of the playwright Keenan Scott II. Previews start Oct. 1 at the John Golden Theater; opens Oct. 31. Limited run ends March 20.

Trouble in Mind

Alice Childress' acclaimed 1955 play makes its Broadway debut. The satire has "witty and penetrating things to say about the dearth of roles for Negro actors in the contemporary theatre," "Trouble in Mind" follows an experienced Black stage actress through rehearsals of a major Broadway production. It's a wry and moving look at racism, identity and ego in the world of New York theater. Previews start Oct. 29 at the American Airlines Theater; opens Nov. 18.

Clyde's

Uzo Aduba, Ron Cephas Jones and Kara Young star in this stirring new play from Pulitzer Prize-winner Lynn Nottage. Set in a truck stop restaurant where the formerly incarcerated employees dream of creating the perfect sandwich. Di-



TINA: Tina Turner Musical returns to Broadway on October 8.

rected by Kate Whoriskey. Previews start Nov. 3 at the Helen Hayes Theater; opens Nov. 22. Limited run ends Jan. 16.

Skeleton Crew

Phylicia Rashad returns in the Broadway premiere of Dominique Morisseau's "Skeleton Crew." In 2008 Detroit, a small automotive factory is on the brink of foreclosure, and a tight-knit family of workers hangs in the balance. With uncertainty everywhere, the line between blue collar and white collar becomes blurred, and this working family must reckon with their personal loyalties, their instincts for survival and their ultimate

hopes for humanity. Previews start Dec. 21 at the Samuel J. Friedman Theater; opens Jan. 12.

PROPELLED BY POP CULTURE

Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations

"Ain't Too Proud" is the electrifying new musical that follows The Temptations' extraordinary journey from the streets of Detroit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. With their signature dance moves and unmistakable harmonies, they rose to the top of the charts creating an amazing 42

See **BROADWAY** page 28

JULY 22, 2021

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

How to Score Tickets for the Play of Your Choice

HOW TO GET TICKETS

If you're looking for a deal on a hot-ticket show, you will search in vain. The shows offering discounts may still be in previews or have been around a while and are running low on fuel. Still, some excellent productions might be in the mix.

BOX OFFICE OR SHOW SITE

To guard against the heartbreak of counterfeit tickets, the safest bet is to buy through the show's website or at the box office. The box office in particular has its advantages — including that you don't have to pay the hefty service fees that are tacked onto online orders. And if you have a discount code, like the ones sometimes offered on theatermania.com

or broadwaybox.com, it should work in person, too. But do check to make sure that the box office is open; prepandemic operating hours may not apply.

TODAYTIX APP

The TodayTix app is a trustworthy source for often-discounted Broadway tickets, which users buy online. For some shows, you can choose your exact seats and get barcoded mobile tickets emailed to you. For others, you pick the general section where you want to sit, then collect your tickets from a uniformed TodayTix employee at showtime outside the theater. The app can also be used for entering some shows' digital lotteries, which offer the chance to buy

cheap tickets if you win.

TKTS

TKTS, that discount-ticket mainstay of Times Square, has been closed since the Broadway shutdown but promises to reopen for same-day sales no sooner than Sept. 14, when there's more than a show or two on the boards. The reopening date for its satellite outlets, at Lincoln Center and South Street Seaport, is uncertain.

RUSH TICKETS

Many shows, though not the monster hits, offer same-day rush tickets at the box office for much less than full price. Some sell standing-room tickets if a show is sold out. Don't count on lucking into these, because availability varies —

but it's worth swinging by the theater to check. Conveniently, Playbill keeps a running online tab of individual shows' policies on digital lotteries, rush tickets (sometimes just for students, often for everyone), standing room and other discounts.

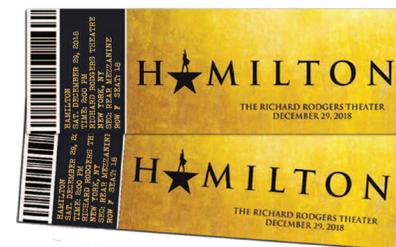
REFUNDS AND EXCHANGES

Ticket refunds and exchanges are a new concession from an industry seeking to reassure customers that their purchases won't go to waste in case of illness or travel restrictions. But beware: Not every show is flexible. And if you didn't buy your tickets directly from the theater's box office or through the show's website,

you may be out of luck in switching dates or getting your money back.

(A Note on Bad Weather)

Is rain or snow cascading from the heavens? That may be your chance to snap up some suddenly available seats at the box office, though be prepared to pay face value. Your odds of winning a ticket lottery are better on days like that, too. ●●



28 “Ailey” Movie Premiering at Ward Parkway Aug. 5

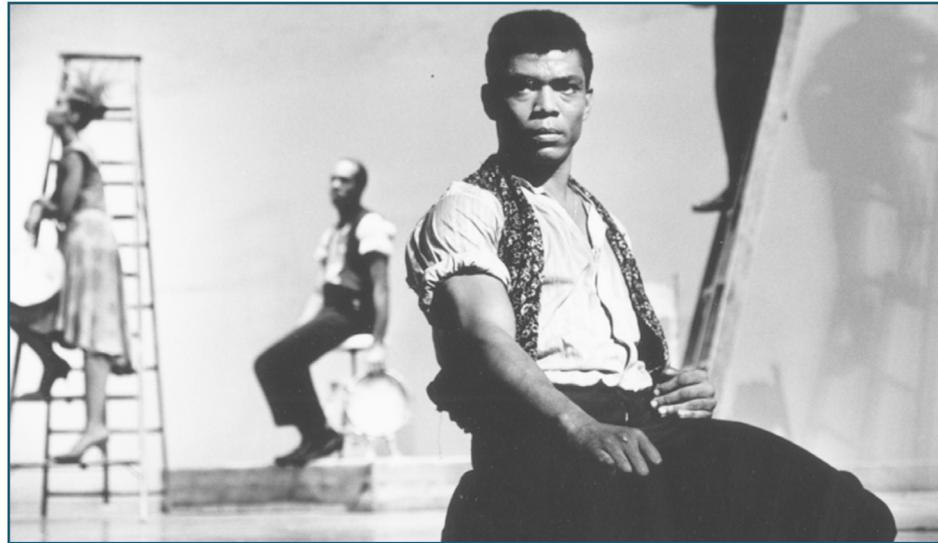
The renowned choreographer and dancer Alvin Ailey, who centered his work on showcasing the African-American experience, is the focus of a new movie. Featuring archival footage and interviews with people who knew Ailey intimately, the movie, “Ailey,” delves deep into Ailey’s life.

“Ailey,” directed by Jamila Wignot will premiere at Kansas City’s Ward Parkway AMC theater Thur., Aug. 5 at 7 p.m. Before the movie, Wignot will lead a talk at the theater and after the movie, the audience will have a chance to join in on a discussion.

There will also be a reception at the Black Archives of Mid-America before the movie, at 3:30 p.m. to meet the director.

Once they become available, tickets for the movie will be sold on the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey website: <https://kcfaa.org/aileythemovie>.

If you ever wanted to know more about the man behind the iconic dances and dance company, this is your chance, especially since Ailey was extremely private. You’ll learn about his early years. He was born in 1931 in Texas, to a single mother and never knew his father. They led a nomadic lifestyle and Ailey even picked cotton to help the family stay afloat. When he was 12, they moved to Los Angeles, where he discovered his love for dance.



“Ailey” is a documentary about dancer, choreographer, director and activist Alvin Ailey.

By age 23, he was in New York and launched the African-American dance company four years later, in 1958. He created 79 ballets in his lifetime, many of which drew upon his memories of Texas, with blues and gospel inspirations. Among those ballets is the iconic “Revelations,” which is recognized as one of

the most popular and most performed ballets in the world.

You go on to learn from the movie that Ailey was an extremely private person, which could have been because he was gay and protecting his lifestyle, and while he was charismatic, he was extremely hard to

get to know.

“Ailey” creates a feeling about Alvin Ailey: how grace and eloquence, fire and obsession merged within him. We see clips of him in rehearsal, a lion of a man but with a teddy-bear side. He demanded perfection (of course) without turning into that cliché of the dance maestro as sadistic taskmaster,” writes Variety Magazine movie reviewer Owen Gleiberman.

Interestingly, the movie is narrated by Ailey himself, who died in 1989 from complications of AIDS. The audio was taken from an extended interview with Ailey. You also hear from Judith Jamison, who for decades was the star dancer of the Ailey company, and Mary Barnett, the company’s former associated artistic director. Their comments provide even more insight into the man behind the genius.

“Ailey” premiered at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival to rave reviews and has accumulated a 90% rating on Rotten Tomatoes. For those interested in learning more about the man or in seeing great archival footage of some of their favorite Ailey dances, this movie appears to be worth the time to view.

Estimated running time 1 hour 35 minutes. ●●

Review the Grant Guidelines: SHARP Recovery Grants

• **Qualified Non-profits: Apply for a Kansas Humanities Recovery Grant**

Humanities Kansas is accepting applications for SHARP Recovery Grant funds to assist Kansas cultural non-profit organizations in need of general operating support during recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

The Humanities Kansas SHARP Recovery Grants will support salaries, rent, utilities, and operational upgrades for non-profit organizations whose core programs are centered in the humanities.

The maximum grant award depends on an organization’s annual budget and range from 5% of the organization’s annual budget up to \$20,000.

Applications must be submitted through the Humanities Kansas online grants process no later than August 16, 2021.

Guidelines and the application can be found at humanitieskansas.org.

“Humanities Kansas is honored to be able to support Kansas cultural organizations as we recover from the impact of Covid,” said Julie Mulvihill, Humanities Kansas Executive Director. “This past year has demonstrated that Kansans lean into the humanities during challenging times. Kansas cultural

organizations that do work in the humanities provide important social connections and contribute to the economic well-being and strength of our communities.”

Existing Humanities for All grants and Culture Preservation grants in support of humanities programming remain available from Humanities Kansas.

Updates, guidelines, and the

applications can also be found at humanitieskansas.org.

For more information about SHARP Recovery Grants, contact

Leslie VonHolten, Director of Grants & Outreach, LVH@humanitieskansas.org ●●



Free Family Fun: Cowtown on Sundays

Thanks to a generous donation from a local businessman, admission to Wichita’s Cowtown is free on Sundays.

At Cowtown, you’re transported back in time at this unique, 23 acre open-air history museum that recreates Wichita and Sedgwick County, KS, from 1865 to 1880. Museum staff dress in period costume and demonstrate

everyday activities including, gardening, tending livestock and cooking.

New this year are **Community Fair Days**, held the third Sunday of each month through Oct. 2021. Community Fair Days will host more than 50 local merchants in an outdoor market from noon to 5 p.m. The vendors will be selling a variety of arts, crafts, and other merchandise.

WICHITA ART MUSEUM

Free Saturdays
Just in case you didn’t know, Saturdays are free at the Wichita Art Museum, thanks to another generous donation from Wichita commercial real estate entrepreneur Colby Sandlian. He’s the same person who makes free Sundays possible at Cowtown. ●●

BROADWAY from page 27

Top Ten Hits with 14 reaching number one. Performances resume Oct. 16 at the Imperial Theater.

MJ the Musical

“MJ” is the electrifying new Broadway musical that takes audiences inside the creative process of one of the greatest entertainers in history. Featuring over 25 of Michael Jackson’s biggest hits, “MJ” allows us to rediscover the man in the mirror – with an explosion of music and theatricality as unforgettable as the artist himself. Previews start Dec. 6 at the Neil Simon Theater, opens Feb. 1.

LONG-RUNNING FAVORITES

Hamilton

Like before the pandemic, this show is selling out quickly, but not quite as quickly as before, so this might be your chance. “Hamilton” is the story of the unlikely founding father determined to make his mark on the new nation as hungry and ambitious as he is. The show’s digital lottery for \$10 orchestra seats is currently suspended. Performances resume Sept. 14 at the Richard Rodgers Theater.

The Lion King

Lush with masks and puppetry, Julie Taymor’s visually extravagant retelling of the Disney animated classic is that rare beast: a high-art spectacle that’s also an enduring commercial blockbuster. Performances resume Sept. 14 at the Minskoff Theater. ●●

Education

Khan and Gumbs to Bring Change to WSU's SGA

By Malcolm Carter
The Community Voice

Wichita State University is one of the most diverse universities in Kansas, and in recent years, WSU's Student Government Association (SGA) has reflected the institution's status.

The current slate of officers, however, marks a new era for student leadership, with the SGA being led by two females of color.

Rija Khan, who is in her second term as student body president, is a senior from Karachi, Pakistan, studying criminal justice with a minor in philosophy and political science. She launched her re-election campaign, to

bring a "Legacy of Change" to WSU's campus, with Vice President Kamliyah Gumbs, who is an international senior from St. Maarten studying political science with minors in communication and sociology

"We are excited to have students back and events return to campus. Whether it be sporting events, a social hosted by Student Involvement, or SGA hosting events where we connect with the student body to hear their concerns, we want to make students feel like they're actually in college again," said Khan.

Khan and Gumbs were friends before becoming running mates, which made the pair's transition into the office smoother. After being elected last spring, they hit the ground running. They already have plans in place for an all-day State of the Student Body President event after students return to campus in August.

"It will be a full day of events. Students will have the opportunity to interact with their student leaders and food. You know college kids love free food," said Gumbs. "They will also get an understanding of the role SGA plays at a grassroots level during Rija's state of the student body

speech later that day."

When barriers are broken, there is often some opposition, and that has already been the case for these two. When they were sworn in, some of their peers felt their inauguration was an opportunity to express their personal views, by attending the ceremony wearing "White Lives Matter" masks.

While these students were exercis-



(R) WSU Student Body President Rija Kahn with Vice President Karachi Gumbs (L) lead the most diverse college student body in Kansas.

ing their constitutional right to free speech, the Anti-Defamation League categorizes "White Lives Matter" as a "hate slogan" and defines it as a White supremacist phrase originated in response to the Black Lives Matter movement.

"Personally, I was puzzled by it at first, and slightly prepared for it. But as leaders in SGA, we have to handle things differently, and because we represent all students, we have to navigate those types of spaces properly and stay neutral," said Gumbs.

"Yes, we're the most diverse university in the state of Kansas, but at the end of the day, this is a predominantly White institution, and the people we represent are not just one, like-minded folks, they range from left to right, and we have to make sure that every decision we make is made from the lens of what is best for all students," said Khan.

According to Khan, she and Gumbs will focus on bringing the White and minority communities together, increasing student engagement, addressing food insecurities around campus, and educating students on their rights. Khan adds that SGA is working diligently on creating a diversity center on campus. ●●

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Acclaim, Fundraising Spread Unevenly Among Black Colleges

Two recent high-profile faculty appointments could be a fundraising and enrollment bonanza for Howard University, one of the nation's most prestigious Black colleges. Many other Black schools are not so fortunate; in fact, many are struggling.

Some, especially smaller private colleges, have been fighting for their survival for years, with weak endowments, aging buildings and steady

dian endowment of less than \$16,000 per student. The largest endowment for a public Black college was less than \$25,000 per student, though the public schools also receive state aid.

Overall enrollment in historically Black colleges has declined 11% in the most recent 10-year period for which data is available, from 325,609 in 2010 to 289,507 in 2019. Enrollment at some campuses dropped by half during that



Two recent high-profile appointments could be a fundraising and enrollment bonanza for Howard University.

enrollment declines, all made worse by the coronavirus pandemic.

"While larger HBCUs often have the funding resources necessary to attract accomplished talent like Nikole Hannah-Jones and Ta-Nehisi Coates, many smaller institutions need donors to step forward, contributing much-needed financial resources for us to compete," said Dr. Paulette Dillard, president of Shaw University, a private Black university in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Hannah-Jones, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "The 1619 Project," accepted a faculty position at Howard. Coates, a Howard graduate, is a journalist and best-selling author who also recently joined Howard's faculty.

Billions of dollars in federal virus relief will help higher education, but it may not be enough to change the long-term fortunes of some historically Black schools. An Associated Press analysis of enrollment and endowment data shows wide disparities among 102 historically Black colleges and universities, and a further divide between private and public institutions.

As one example, the five wealthiest private Black colleges had endowments ranging from \$73,000 per student to more than \$200,000, far above the me-

span, and several administrators said enrollments dropped further during the coronavirus pandemic last year.

As a rule, Black colleges also haven't had the fundraising ability of other universities. The cumulative endowment for all historical Black colleges through 2019 was a little more than \$3.9 billion. That's about equal to the endowment for the University of Minnesota alone.

Of that amount, just eight private Black colleges held 54% of the total: Spelman College, Hampton University, Meharry Medical College, Xavier University of Louisiana, Morehouse College, Tuskegee University, the Morehouse School of Medicine and Howard, which counts Vice President Kamala Harris among its graduates.

Last summer's protests over racial injustice brought renewed attention to historically Black colleges and universities and led to a surge in private donations, at least for some.

Mackenzie Scott, the ex-wife of former Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, gave \$560 million to 22 Black colleges, including some with very limited endowments, as well as to the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and the United Negro College Fund, both of which

See **COLLEGES** page 31



\$2,000 Scholarship in STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

Friends University is offering a \$2,000* scholarship to the first ten students who enroll in the bachelor's in strategic leadership degree program for the fall 2021 semester.

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*Scholarship will be spread over the fall 2021 and spring 2022 semesters. Students will be required to take six credit hours during each semester. This scholarship cannot be combined with any other institutional scholarships or discounts.

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Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association, 230 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604; www.ncahlc.org; 1-800-621-7440.

Jackson Mortuary Wichita

Byrd, Andrew B., 94, died 07/04/21. Service was held 07/14/21. He is survived by: Stepdaughter; Modie Holmes.

Canady, Etheleen, 86, died 07/11/21. Service was held 07/23/21. She is survived by: Daughters; Wanda Colbra, Donna Stewart & Veronica Spence, Sons; Vernon & John Canady, Sister; Barbra Morris, Brothers; Charles E. & Sherman G. Hughes.

Chaney, Christopher, 60, died 07/16/21. No service details.

Dixon, Shamon "Shorty," 40, died 07/04/21. Service was held 07/16/21. He is survived by: Wife; Cassie Dixon, Children; Avonte', Amarie' & Amiyah Dixon, Brothers; Bernard Dixon, Jermaine Dixon, Brandon Smith, and Sisters; Abria Dixon & Avante McGhee.

Fletcher, Shamarion, 13, died 07/09/21. Service was held 07/19/21. He is survived by: Parents; LaKeshia & Frederick Fletcher. Brother; Sa'Jaaven Fletcher & Sister Shania Fletcher.

Germany, Clay M., 58, died 07/09/21. Service was held 07/17/21. He is survived by: Wife; Wilma Germany, Children; Tenisha Ballard, Calisha Germany, Clay "CJ" Germany, Ashley Toney, Tiffany Whitehurst, Kelsey Pendleton-Moreno, and Kayley Navedo, Parents; Willie Sr. & Patricia

Germany, Sisters; Vernita Smith, Carolyn Pullen, Brothers; Anthony Germany Sr., Willie Germany Jr.

Moore, Lavester M., 67, died 07/11/21. Service will be held at 2 p.m. on 07/24/21 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel, 1125 E. 13th. He is survived by: Wife; Angela McCraw-Moore, Daughter; Angela Smith, Brothers; Az-row Moore, Jr., John Moore, Vincent Moore, Darryl Moore, Sisters JáNice Moore-Miller, Gwendolyn Moore.

Randall, Gwen, 71, died 07/12/21. Service will be held at 11 a.m. on 07/24/21 at Jackson Mortuary, 1125 E. 13th. She is Survived by: Daughter: Mia Coleman, Sons; Marcus Randall, Irvin Richardson, Sister; Elsie Himes.

Simpson, Rev. Cindy V., 60, died 07/07/21. Service was held 07/22/21. She is survived by: Husband; Raymond Simpson, Daughters; Haeesha Allen & Christina Simpson, Sons; Quadree Allen, Ternell Marshal, QuaShawn Simpson.

Vernon Sr., Howard N., 87, died 07/16/21. Service was held 07/23/21. He is survived by: Sons; Donnie Jefferson & Howard Vernon Jr., Daughters; Denise Williamson, Debbie Frazier, Vicki Childers, Sheri Horton, Lisa Polite.

Biglow Funeral Wichita

Journey Sr., Troy D., 60, died 07/11/21. No service details.

Reed, Kowen R., Newborn, died 07/11/21. No service details.

Central Avenue Wichita

Blanchard, Robert E., 95, died 07/08/21. Service was held 07/17/21.

Tillman, Robert L., 75, died 07/03/21. Service was held 07/09/21.

Heavenly Gates Wichita

Reed, Marilyn, 55, died 06/29/21. Service was held 07/12/21.

Bowser- Johnson Topeka

Foster Jr., Modest T., 63, died 06/29/21. No service details.

Scheurman, Burnalee F., 87, died 07/14/21. Service was held 07/24/21.

Thatcher Funeral KCMO

Bell, Geraldine (Fish), 64, died 07/02/21. Service was held 07/10/21.

Conner Jr., George, 61, died 06/26/21. Service was held 07/16/21.

Jones, Ashley L., 37, died 07/08/21. Service was held 07/19/21.

Lewis, Misha R., 38, died

07/02/21. No service details.

Mayfield, James W., 84, died 07/04/21. Service was held 07/15/21.

Pierro Sr., Rodney W., 52, died 06/25/21. Service was held 07/23/21.

Safir, Muhammad Ibrahim 66, died 07/04/21. Service was held 07/13/21.

Lawrence A. Jones & Sons KCMO

Duncan, Bryan L., 47, died 07/12/21. Service was held 07/23/21.

Farr, Fernando, 79, died 07/11/21. Service was held 07/23/21. Russell, Frank, 64, died 07/06/21. Service was held 07/24/21.

Sanders Jr., Deacon John W., 68, died 07/03/21. Service was held 07/17/21.

Shoats, Frances H., 95, died 07/09/21. Service was held 07/24/21.

Thrower, Dayne S., 52, died 07/04/21. Service was held 07/17/21.

E. S. Eley & Sons KCMO

Foster Sr., Jerome, 76, died 07/21/21. Service was held Thursday, July 1, 2021

Houston Jr., Deacon Howell, 73, died 06/27/21. Service was held 07/10/21.

Lander III, James J., 40, died 07/03/21. Service was held 07/11/21.

Rich, Michael A., 20, died 07/01/21. Service was held 07/17/21.

Warren, Michael, 74, died 07/15/21. No service details.

Zai-Mah, Ghais-Abbas, 69, died 07/01/21. Service was held 07/11/21.

Duane E. Harvey KCMO

Arbelo IV, Antonio A., 54, died 06/27/21. Service was held 07/17/21.

Boyd Sr., William C., 88, died 06/25/21. Service was held 07/10/21.

Ferrell-Franklin, Evern, 65, died 07/07/21. Service was held 07/14/21.

Murray, Terrelle L., 38, died 07/08/21. Service was held 07/24/21.

Payne Jr. Robert B. (Jabie), 65, died 07/05/21. Service was held 07/13/21.

Singleton, Harrie, 65, died 07/10/21. No service details.

COLLEGES from page 30

raise money for Black colleges and universities. Netflix founder Reed Hastings and his wife, Patty Quillin, split \$120 million among the United Negro College Fund, Spelman and Morehouse. Former New York mayor and entrepreneur Michael Bloomberg pledged \$100 million for student aid at the four historically Black medical schools.

"It's allowing the schools to see the opportunity to be bigger than they previously thought was possible," said Harry Williams, president and chief executive of the Thurgood Marshall fund.

Yet many lesser-known schools

continue to struggle and scrape for money. Shaw, one of the oldest historically Black colleges in the South, has an endowment worth just \$8,436 per student and did not benefit significantly from the wave of private giving last year, said David Byrd, the college's vice president of finance.

The college is able to "pay the bills" and get by, he said, but still has \$26 million in deferred maintenance. Shaw and other smaller Black colleges that mostly depend on tuition are counting on help from the federal coronavirus relief championed by President Joe Biden and passed by Congress this spring. That aid package will send roughly \$2.6 billion to historically Black colleges, although the U.S. Department of Education has not yet announced how it will

allocate the money.

Shaw plans to use the money to fix older buildings and dormitories and expand a variety of student services. The federal aid can be used to make up for lost tuition income during the pandemic, hire more faculty, offer pay raises and upgrade heating and air-conditioning systems.

Wilberforce University in Ohio, another small historically Black private college, plans to use its pandemic relief money in similar ways, after the government forgave much of the university's \$25 million in federal debt.

"The bottom line: It's very beneficial to the faculty, staff and students at this university, because now we have some additional opportunities for support," said William Woodson, Wilberforce's

financial vice president.

Student debt is a significant drag on graduates of historically Black colleges, and administrators say it hurts enrollment. Limited endowments mean their campuses can't subsidize tuition as much as wealthier colleges.

A large percentage of students enrolled at historically Black colleges come from the poorest families, those making \$20,000 a year or less, which forces them to borrow. Federal figures show the typical Black college graduate who borrowed money owes \$52,000 in student loan debt, roughly double what the typical White student owes.

In addition to giving more financial aid to students, many Black colleges are considering using their federal pandemic money to create campus work-study

jobs through which students can earn income, provide subsidized child care, buy personal computers and help students pay for high-speed internet connections.

At Shaw, officials hope renewed national interest in historically Black colleges and the role they play could spark enthusiasm for schools with much smaller endowments that have had to choose between updating buildings, closing programs or keeping tuition affordable for their students.

"People think we want a handout for nothing. We have a proven track record for producing a certain type of kid for 150 years," Byrd said. "So, it's not really a handout; it's an investment." ●●

- Associated Press

Raise your hand if you'd like your children to go back to school safely.

It's coming. The back-to-school season like no one has ever seen. After a global pandemic that still isn't really "after," our kids are headed back to a class and a school full of other kids.

Are they ready for that? Is your whole family?

Vaccinations have never been more important. And we're not just talking about COVID-19 here. Every year, we're all required to get our kids the full set of vaccinations appropriate for their age. Or they don't get to go to school.

But speaking of the coronavirus, there are new strains of everyone's favorite global infection cropping up all the time now.

And that just makes it even more critical that we all get our kids up to date on all their immunizations before the school bell rings.

You can get all your kids' childhood vaccinations at any **GraceMed clinic**. While you're at it, you can also get their eyes checked to make sure they can see well enough to learn. And you can even get any dental care they may need, so they're not in pain while they're in class.

Any questions? You don't have to raise your hand. **Just call us at (316) 866-2000.** It's going to be great to have our kids back in school this fall. Let's just make sure we give them their best shot to do it safely – and get the most out of every school day.



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