

# THE VOICE

News and Information Empowering Positive Change



## SOMETHING NEW IS BREWING

BLACK-OWNED BREWERY PREPARES TO POUR ON VINE, PAGE 8

# LYNN ROGERS

FOR STATE TREASURER



## VOTE NOV. 8

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## Biden pardons thousands for 'simple possession' of marijuana

## ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Joe Biden is pardoning thousands of Americans convicted of “simple possession” of marijuana under federal law, as his administration takes a dramatic step toward decriminalizing the drug and addressing charging practices that disproportionately impact people of color.

Biden's move also covers thousands convicted of the crime in the District of Columbia. He is also calling on governors to issue similar pardons for those convicted of state marijuana offenses, which reflect the vast majority of marijuana possession cases.

Biden, in a statement, said the move reflects his position that “no one should be in jail just for using or possessing marijuana.”

“Too many lives have been upended because of our failed approach to marijuana,” he added. “It's time that we right these wrongs.”

The move may sound better than it actually is. According to the White House, no one is currently in federal prison solely for “simple possession” of the drug, but the pardon could help thousands overcome obstacles to renting a home or finding a job.

“There are thousands of people who have prior Federal convictions for marijuana possession, who may be denied employment, housing, or educational opportunities as a result,” he said. “My action will help relieve the collateral consequences arising from these convictions.”

The pardon does not cover convictions for possession of other drugs, or for charges relating to producing or possessing marijuana with an intent to distribute. Biden is also not pardoning non-citizens who were in the U.S. without legal status at the time of their arrest.

The announcement marks Biden's reckoning with the impact of 1994 crime legislation, which he supported, that increased arrest and incarceration rates for drug crimes, particularly for Black and Latino people.

The Department of Justice is working to devise a process for those covered by Biden's pardon to receive a certificate of pardon, which they can show



This is a positive move forward, but it won't help anyone who is presently in jail for federal charges for marijuana possession, because they're aren't any the White House say.

to potential employers and others as needed.

“The Justice Department will expeditiously administer the President's proclamation, which pardons individuals who engaged in simple possession of marijuana, restoring political, civil, and other rights to those convicted of that offense,” the department said in a statement. “In coming days, the Office of the Pardon Attorney will begin implementing a process to provide impacted individuals with certificates of pardon.”

Biden is also directing the secretary of Health and Human Services and the U.S. attorney general to review how marijuana is scheduled under federal law. Rescheduling the drug would reduce or potentially eliminate criminal penalties for possession. Marijuana is

currently classified as a Schedule I drug, alongside heroin and LSD, but ahead of fentanyl and methamphetamine. The White House did not set a timeline for the review.

But Biden said he believes that as the federal government and many states ease marijuana laws, they should maintain limitations on trafficking, marketing and underage sales.

The move by Biden puts the federal government on course with other big cities like New York that have been moving toward decriminalizing low-level marijuana arrests for years. But there's a big divide in the nation as some police departments still believe the drug leads to more serious crime and ignoring low-level offenses emboldens criminals.

## CLAYTOONZ



## STORIES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

If you're not following us online or stopping by our website on a regular basis, YOUR MISSING A LOT.

Here are some of the stories that appeared on our website that didn't make it to the pages of our print edition.

- The Community Voice Kansas e-edition
- Wedevelopment Federal Credit Union
- Ford Carr Runs Unopposed for Legislature
- Black representation on Country Club Plaza
- Kansas City's UnPlaza Art Show
- One Year Later has CJ Lofton's Death Changed Anything

## Facebook Stories Wichita

- Thank you for your faithful service to the community Pastor Montgomery. You will be missed.
- Read all about this local Wichita Girl!
- Winner gets \$5,000 cash prize plus \$15,000 allowance of a year's rental of high-end speciality camera equipment
- A school-wide assembly on Sept. 22 will be the first event in Holy Savior Academy's new gymnasium.. Chequian
- Congratulations Carla!
- Coolio dead at 59

## Facebook Stories Kansas City

- “Vote No” is the theme. Decarcerate KC held a rally to voice their concern against Amendment 4 that will appear on the...



NOAH

### Who Will Replace Trevor Noah on 'The Daily Show'?

Trevor Noah has announced he is exiting "The Daily Show" after seven years, and now fans are speculating about who will take his place.

Craig Kilborn served as the original host of the long-running late-night series when it premiered in 1996. Jon Stewart took over from 1999 to 2015, and then Noah became the host. A few names of potential replacements include Samantha Bee, Larry Wilmore, Desus Nice, Desi Lydic and Roy Wood Jr., as reported by TheStreet.com.

Meanwhile, sources close to the production tell The Hollywood Reporter that "The Daily Show" will continue at Comedy Central after Noah's exit, despite industry speculation that the show would move to streamer Paramount+ after Noah signs off.

"In time, we will turn to the next chapter of 'The Daily Show' and all of our incredible correspondents will be at the top of that list. Until then, we are focused on celebrating Trevor and thanking him for his many contributions," a Comedy Central spokesperson said in a statement to THR.

### Regé-Jean Page to Star in Amazon's 'Butch and Sundance'

UK actor Regé-Jean Page has landed a new starring role on a streaming series. He will join actor Glen Powell in a new "Butch and Sundance" adaptation for Amazon.



PAGE

The series is adapted from the classic 1969 Oscar-winning western film, "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," according to The Hollywood Reporter. Page will play the role of Butch Cassidy, while Powell will portray the Sundance Kid. The late Paul Newman played Butch Cassidy in the original film and Robert Redford played Sundance.

Details about the series are scant, but sources say the setting will be an alternate America, similar to Amazon's "Man in the High Castle."

The "Butch and Sundance" series marks Page's return to a scripted show after his starring role in season 1 of Netflix's "Bridgerton."

After winning the hearts of adoring fans on the first season of "Bridgerton," Page shocked his fans when he announced he wouldn't be returning for a second. Fans who were long-ing for more of him, will be pleased with this announcement.

### Will Smith Returns to the Big Screen

After some delay, Will Smith's latest film, "Emancipation," is set to premiere in theaters on Dec. 2 and will stream on Apple TV+ starting Dec. 9. The movie had originally been set for a 2022 release date, but Apple elected to delay the film to 2023 after Smith became embroiled in controversy for slapping Chris Rock onstage at the Academy Awards.



SMITH

The film stars Smith as a runaway slave who becomes known as "Whipper Peter" after photographs of keloid scarring on his back are distributed to show the brutality of slavery. The film follows Smith's character as he navigates the swamps of Louisiana to escape the plantation owners who nearly killed him.

Prior to Smith's altercation at the Oscars, buzz around "Emancipation" was very positive, suggesting that the film, and its star, would be formidable awards contenders in the next season. While the Academy Awards Board of Governors issued a 10-year ban barring Smith from attending the Oscar ceremony, the injunction does not prevent Smith from being nominated during this period.



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# ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

## 18 Years After Discovery, Cancerous Chemical Spill is Made Known to Community by KDHE

A toxic groundwater and soil contamination plume from a cancer-causing chemical spill at Union Pacific rail yard now extends south from 29th St. N. to Murdock between Grove and I-135.

By P.J. GRIEKSPoor

State and city officeholders are calling for quick action on an environmental issue that has caused an unknown number of deaths and illnesses in the community over a span of 30 years or longer.

### The Spill

Groundwater and soil in the area that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has designated the “29th and Grove Site” is heavily contaminated with cancer-causing chemicals spilled at the Union Pacific Railroad site near 29th Street North and Grove. The spilled chemical was a degreaser used to clean metal.

“KDHE is still researching, but the original chemical spill could have been back in the 1970s. We know it was discovered in 1994. And we know that the levels of contamination are 200 times higher than the safe levels,” said State Rep. K.C. Ohaebosim at a news conference held on Wed., Oct. 5.

### The Impact

The initial spill of trichloroethene (TCE) was discovered in 1994 when the city began development of the 21st Street Corridor from Interstate 135 to Grove Street. KDHE first began an investigation in 1999 and confirmed the chemical and the origin of the spill at the Union Pacific rail yard.

The TCE has now broken down into other compounds called 1,2-dichloroethene; 1,1-dichloroethene; and vinyl chloride. All three are toxic and are present in a groundwater plume that has spread south from the initial spill area to Murdock Street. The spill widened as it went south, stretching east and west from Grove to Minnesota and as far west as Hydraulic near the south end of the spill.

Put bluntly, if you live in the designated area, your groundwater is toxic and so is your soil. Drinking the water from a well could make you sick or kill you. Eating vegetables grown in contaminated soil or watered from a well could also make you sick.

### Next Steps

While most people living in the site don't know about the spill, they will soon. As early as this weekend (Oct. 8, 9) flyers will be going on the doors of the approximately 2,500 homes in the contaminated area. The flyers will notify residents that they have until Oct. 16 to either leave a comment on the KDHE website or email KDHE geologist Mary Daily, who is working on developing a cleanup plan.

Aujanee Bennett, president of the Northeast Milair Neighborhood Association, near the north end of the spill, said she first learned about the problem at a meeting conducted by KDHE in early September. Since that meeting, the comment pe-



Groundwater and soil contamination from a cancer-causing chemical spill at the Union Pacific rail yard now extends south 2.5 miles from 29th St. North.



Officials speaking at a news conference on the 29th and Grove contamination were (L-R) Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau, former councilwoman Lavonta Williams, Councilman Brandon Williams, Commissioner Lacey Cruse and State Rep. KC Ohaebosim.

riod has been extended from Sept. 16 to Oct. 16. In addition, a second community meeting has been scheduled for Nov. 5, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club, 2400 N. Opportunity Way.

Bennett said only a handful of people and no elected officials came to the first community meeting and it was clear to her that most of her neighbors were not aware there had been a serious problem in their community for well over 20 years.

On Wednesday, city, county

and state elected officials participated in a news conference to call attention to the issue and urge residents to make their voices heard by KDHE.

“This has taken way, way too long,” said former councilwoman Lavonta Williams. “This needs to be fixed now.”

Current District 1 Councilman Brandon Johnson, who called the news conference, agreed. He said KDHE is attempting to collect data on how many people living in the area

have had the type of cancer caused by the chemicals, but the extended time period makes it a difficult job.

“Some residents may have moved away and later got sick or died,” he said. “We may never be able to find them all.”

“We need people to sign up to attend that meeting and to leave their comments for KDHE,” said Ohaebosim.

Sedgwick County Commissioner Lacey Cruse said the issue has to be “fast-tracked” and a solution found quickly, while state Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau said the emphasis needs to be on cleanup.

Johnson said he wasn’t sure if any initial remediation, which often involves excavating areas of heavy contamination might cause the air to be contaminated and was uncertain what residents of the area should do.

**The Fix**

Attending the Nov. 5 com-

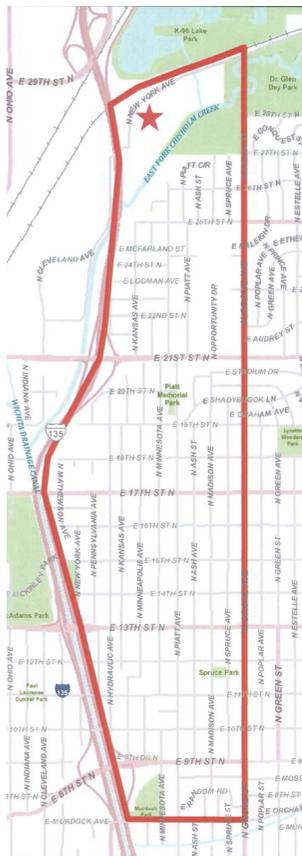
munity meeting will be the best way to get questions answered, Johnson said.

But residents may be frustrated when they learn how long it may take to fully remediate the site or even if it can be fully remediated.

Knowing that there is contamination is one thing. Knowing how to clean it up is another, and that’s why years of delays, repeated assessments and studies of potential remediation plans have gone by.

KDHE and the UP Railroad have done several investigations in which soil and air in the area was sampled.

Documents explaining the contamination are available on the KDHE website and at the Wichita Northeast Angelou Library for residents to read. For more info visit [www.kdhe.ks.gov/1938/29th-and-Grove-Site](http://www.kdhe.ks.gov/1938/29th-and-Grove-Site).



**OPINION**

*Is This What They Call ‘Environmental Racism’?*

Is a toxic chemical spill in a predominantly Black community that was kept a secret from the area’s residents for nearly 20 years a form of environmental racism?



**BONITA GOOCH**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
THE VOICE

**P**oisoned tap water in Flint, Michigan, and a cancerous chemical spill in Northeast Wichita - what do they have in common?

If you ask the few residents of Wichita’s Northeast community who have recently become aware of a cancerous chemical spill that’s contaminated the groundwater and soul in their community – they’d say, “a lot.”

Those in the know are calling it Environmental Racism.

What is Environmental Racism?

The term was coined by civil rights leader Benjamin Chavis in 1982. While environmental racism may surface in many ways, at its core, it is a form of systemic racism where communities of color are disproportionately burdened with health hazards through policies and practices that force them to live in proximity to toxic environments.

In Northeast Wichita, a predominantly Black community, a cancerous chemical at toxic levels was discovered in the soil and groundwater in 1994 and members of the community weren’t notified until this year.

“No way, absolutely no way

would residents have been blindly left in the dark about the existence of a toxic spill for nearly 20 years if this had been a White community,” said Elaine Guillory, whose family has lived in the contaminated area since 1974.

Despite discovering the spill in 1994, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment didn’t begin investigating the spill until 1999, five years later. And, even though after 13 years the groundwater concentration of the cancerous chemical at the site was 86,000 times the standards set by KDHE and concentration in the soil reached over 8,000 times the standard, the community still wasn’t notified.

There appeared to be no sense of urgency about cleaning up the land or about protecting the health and life of the affected residents.

Just as Chavis defined environmental racism in 1982, KDHE “officially sanctioned life-threatening presence of poisons and pollutants in our communities,” for nearly two decades and told the community nothing about it.

By Chavis’ definition, it’s definitely environmental racism, and deserving of environmental justice.

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## UMKC's Top Entrepreneur Award Goes to Tech Pioneer Steward

By JACOB MARTIN

The University of Missouri-Kansas City has awarded David Steward the 2022 Henry W. Bloch International Entrepreneur of the Year. Steward is the founder and chairman of World Wide Technology, one of the largest Black-owned companies in the United States.

Steward, a graduate of Central Missouri State University, has been recognized by Forbes magazine as one of the 13 Black billionaires globally and ranks 239 on the Forbes list of 400 American billionaires in 2021.

After working as a sales executive for FedEx, Steward pursued his longtime goal to own his own business. He founded World Wide Technology (WWT) in 1990 with a small staff and a dream to grow the company into a powerhouse



David Steward is the founder and owner of World Wide Technology, a billion-dollar business and one of the largest Black-owned businesses in the nation.

within the information tech sector. WWT currently operates in 20 facilities across the globe, employing more than 9,000 people, and generates more than \$14.5 billion in annual revenue.

Although Steward has been lauded for his busi-

ness accomplishments, he comes from a working-class family in Clinton, MO, and faced racism and poverty as a youth. Steward is a philanthropist and founded the Steward Family Foundation to create opportunities for Black and under-represent-

ed individuals and serves on the Harris-Stowe State College African-American Business Leadership Council.

The 36th annual Entrepreneur of the Year Awards will be presented by UMKC Bloch School of Management. Along with the International Entrepreneur of the Year award, three other awards will be presented to celebrate the achievements of Missouri entrepreneurs. A student entrepreneur of the year will be awarded along with the Kansas City Entrepreneur of the Year and the Marion and John Kreamer Award for Social Entrepreneurship.

The 2022 event will be the first in-person event since 2019 and begins at 5 p.m. Wed., Oct. 12. For tickets or info, visit [www.UMKCAumni.com/events](http://www.UMKCAumni.com/events).



## Black Entrepreneurs Day Curated by Daymond John Streaming Live From The Apollo Theater, Thurs., Oct. 27

By VOICE STAFF

Daymond John, the founder and CEO of FUBU and co-star of ABC's four-time Emmy Award-winning show Shark Tank has announced the third annual Black Entrepreneurs Day, a celebration of Black business, aiming to empower and celebrate entrepreneurs everywhere. Focused at the intersection of Business & Entertainment, this event has quickly become one of the largest and most awarded Diversity & Inclusion events in America. Last year's event attracted over 6.5 million viewers and won its third and fourth Webby Awards as the Best Remote Business & Finance event on the internet. This year's free global live-stream will air on Thurs., Oct. 27, beginning at 7 p.m. ET across the Black Entrepreneurs Day website, Facebook, and more.

Black Entrepreneurs Day will feature Game Changer Conversations, a thoughtfully curated segment that includes

one-on-one discussions with Black business leaders and cultural icons including Shaquille O'Neal, Tracee Ellis Ross, Spike Lee, Venus Williams, and Killer Mike, moderated by Daymond John. Musical superstar Big Sean will cap off the evening with a live performance. All new for 2022, The Build Black with Shopify's Pitch Competition will be a highlight of the program as budding entrepreneurs pitch their businesses live.

Since its inception, Black Entrepreneurs Day has provided guidance and inspiration to the next generation of rising entrepreneurs as well as over \$500,000 in business grants via the "NAACP Powershift Entrepreneur Grant," created by Daymond John. Black entrepreneurs and small business owners across the country can apply now for a \$25,000 NAACP Powershift Entrepreneur Grant on the event website through Oct. 12, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. ET.

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(L-R) Kemet Coleman, Woodie Bonds Jr., and Elliott Ivory are co-founders of Vine Street Brewing Co., the first Black-owned business in Kansas City.

## KC's first Black-Owned Brewery Prepares to Pour Pints in Historic Jazz District

Vine Street Brewing Co. hopes to provide a platform for musicians, beer lovers & community members.

By JACOB MARTIN

A new brewery is coming to the historic 18th and Vine District - Vine Street Brewing Co. will be the first Black-owned brewery in Kansas City and the region.

According to co-founder Kemet Coleman, the brewery will focus on creating quality craft beer, offering an inclusive space for musicians and creatives, and “overall leveraging our platform to bring people together.”

“We want to have good beer, we want to bring people together, and we want people to have musical experiences that create new memories,” Coleman said.

The brewery is a collaboration among friends and beer enthusiasts Kemet Coleman, Elliott Ivory, and Woodie Bonds Jr. The trio came together after Coleman found the location at 2000 Vine, and saw an opportunity to open the brewery he'd always dreamed of.

The location, 2000 Vine, is the recently renovated, nearly 9,000-sq.-ft. industrial building that had been abandoned for decades. The unique, picturesque building was the site of the city's first public works facility.

Just blocks away from the historic GEM Theatre, the location in the Jazz District just made sense to Coleman, who is also an active musician in Kansas City.

“For us, 18th and Vine really symbolized what we wanted to embody, as Black business owners in Kansas City,” Coleman said. “It is an area that is primed and ready for new ideas to take space. But new ideas in a way that is intentional about respecting the culture and the rich heritage that is a

part of 18th and Vine. So from our perspective, it was kind of a no-brainer.”

Homebrewers extraordinaire Ivory and Bonds have been working on concocting the brewery's beer menu.

They will offer a variety of house-brewed and rotating selection of beers. The brewery is also planning collaborations with other local and regional breweries and Black-owned businesses.

Black Drip Coffee, a local Black-owned cafe, is already housed at 2000 Vine, and The Spot, a new food concept from Chef Shanita McAfee-Bryant, will also occupy space in the building. Collaborations with both businesses are planned once the brewery opens.

True to the history of the district, music will also undoubtedly be a part of the vision of the brewery.

“Music will be embedded into the DNA of the brand. We really want to be a platform for musicians,” Coleman said. “We'll be featuring live music at least two nights a week, but we're also exploring more creative ways that allow music to be featured. Music is definitely top of mind for the space, as well as the brand.”

After some unforeseen structural setbacks getting the 150-year-old building up to code, Vine Street Brewing hopes to be open before the end of the year. Coleman noted that pieces are beginning to fall into place.

Just last week, a finalized floor plan allowed concrete to be poured for the floor of the brewery. To Coleman, the new floor is a symbolic indication the hard work is finally coming together.

“We're bursting at the seams with excitement. It's been a long time coming,” Coleman said. “We're super excited about the momentum we have and we're excited about the future.”

For more info, visit [VineStBrewing.com](https://www.VineStBrewing.com)

# Community

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## BUSINESS BRIEFS



Jamishia Gipson, owner of Misha EatZ, will have a grand opening for her new Crossroads District restaurant on Oct. 6.

### New Soul Restaurant will Open in KC Crossroads District

#### By THE VOICE STAFF

A new restaurant, Misha EatZ, opens on Thur., Oct. 6, at 1600 Campbell St. in Kansas City's Crossroads District. Hours are 11 a.m. to 2:30 a.m. Tues. through Sat. Orders can also be placed on GrubHub, Uber Eats and DoorDash.

The menu of soul and comfort food includes ribs, blackened shrimp, steak-fried rice, a side of egg rolls, cornbread or macaroni and cheese.

Jamishia Gipson, owner of Misha EatZ, also offers a catering special called "Picnic In the Park," a setup that includes an entree for two, a bottle of wine, wine opener, two citronella candles, a bluetooth speaker, silverware, several games and a tiki torch.

In addition, Gipson offers her Misha EatZ recipes in a cookbook that is available for purchase online. To order the eBook, visit <https://bit.ly/3rp58Rx>.

To place an order, email [JamishiaGipson@gmail.com](mailto:JamishiaGipson@gmail.com).

### Request for Bids NE 48<sup>th</sup> Street Drive

Hunt Midwest Real Estate Development requests construction bids for street improvements to NE 48<sup>th</sup> Street between I-435 and Arlington Road in Kansas City, MO. All bid documents can be obtained by contacting Aaron Young at [AYoung@huntmidwest.com](mailto:AYoung@huntmidwest.com). Affirmative Action goals for the project are 15% MBE and 15% WBE. This project is subject to prevailing wage. Please submit qualified bids to [BBauer@huntmidwest.com](mailto:BBauer@huntmidwest.com) via email by 3:00 pm on 10-1-22.

## Ribbon Cutting Oct. 22 for Long-Awaited Community Credit Union

WeDevelopment Credit Union is chartered to serve Kansas City's low- and moderate-income people and communities.

#### By Bonita Gooch

The ribbon cutting for WeDevelopment Credit Union in Kansas City on Oct. 22 will be a small but long-awaited celebration of a 13-year-old vision finally realized.

While work on the branch at 3123-24 Prospect Ave, KCMO, has been underway for 60 days, the work to charter the credit union dates back to a task force commissioned by former KCMO Mayor Mark Funkhouser in 2009 to find economic development tools that would work at improving "economically distressed areas" of Kansas City.

After the task force completed its work, task force chair Ajamu Webster and a few other members started to work on the report's recommendation to open a credit union (CDCU).

WeDevelopment Federal Credit Union, the culmination of their work, received its charter from the National Credit Union Association on July 19. As a CDCU, the credit union is chartered to serve populations that typically have limited access to safe financial services.

WeDevelopment's charter established its service area as "a contiguous economically distressed area," with boundaries along the river on the north, to 85th St. on the South, Troost on the west to 435.

To be a member, individuals will have to live, work or worship in that area. That's an estimated membership pool of 130,000 people.

#### Credit Union Services

WeDevelopment Federal Credit Union's initial products and services include personal and business savings and checking accounts, an online and mobile banking app, along with auto, signature and a specialized home loan product.

A large focus of the credit union will be on helping its members build wealth. While the plan is to employ a wealth coach to work with members, their members' wealth and financial



Ajamu Webster, chair of the board, and Gwen Washington, CEO of WeDevelopment, will welcome guests to the ribbon cutting for the new community development credit union on Oct. 22 in KCMO

well-being is the responsibility of everyone on staff. "We're not bank tellers. We're financial advisors who want to share with you how we can help. We want to communicate the options we have, and how these options help us help you," says Gwen Washington, WeDevelopment's CEO. "We operate to promote the well-being of our member-owners... we truly have your interest at heart."

In addition, the credit union has applied for funding to implement a payday rescue program. The program will help get its members out of their payday loans and build cash reserves for future financial needs.

"We can all benefit from our people coming up, not being worse," says Webster, who serves as chair of the WeDevelopment board of directors. "So what that means is WeDevelopment, our strength, our policies, have to be built around how do we pull our people up."

#### Grand Opening

The ribbon cutting on Sat., Oct. 22, at 9 a.m. is a ceremonial opening, and will be held on the site of the credit union in Linwood Plaza, 3123 Prospect, KCMO. Due to construction delays, the credit union will not officially open for business that day. However, individuals can open accounts, but not make deposits.

Construction is expected to be complete within the next 30 days. In the meantime, to learn more about WeDevelopment and its services, visit [WeDevelopmentFCU.com](http://WeDevelopmentFCU.com).

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## BRIEFS CONT.



Charon Thompson and Dan Smith founded Black Drip Coffee in 2021.

### Black Drip Coffee is Brewing More Representation in Kansas City

#### By JACOB MARTIN

Two Kansas City coffee connoisseurs are breaking onto the scene with their Black Drip Coffee brand.

Founders Charon Thompson and Dan Smith started the business in 2021 after roasting and brewing their own beans for fun. Thompson and Smith are no strangers to entrepreneurship; the duo are co-founders of Porter House KC, a nonprofit that helps guide and grow entrepreneurs and small businesses ([www.ThePorterHouseKC.com](http://www.ThePorterHouseKC.com)).

The duo are taking a page out of their own book by jumping into the coffee trade. But they've had help. Fairwave Coffee Collective, one of the biggest distributors in the region, partnered with Black Drip, stepping in to help get the brand off the ground, which let Thompson and Smith focus on growing the brand.

Right down to the name, Black Drip focuses on highlighting Black representation. The duo is working to source their coffee beans from Black-owned farms and Black coffee producers. Black Drip is also working with other local Black-owned businesses in Kansas City to forge a path in a market that has not had a lot of representation.

You can find Black Drip in KC SunFresh on Blue Parkway, Kinship Cafe, The Black Pantry, The Prospect Urban Eatery, Classic Blends Cigar & Coffee Blends, and soon at 2000 Vine Street. A collaboration between Black Drip and Vine Street Brewing is in the works and a pop-up cafe inside 2000 Vine is also being discussed.

For more info, visit [BlackDripCoffee.com](http://BlackDripCoffee.com).



# Need voting information?

## We've got your back.

Voting is your most important right. It gives you a say in what our future looks like. But you have to be in the know to vote. New laws are making it harder for some of us to cast our ballots. That's why AARP Kansas has collected all the most up-to-date election information to make sure that the voices of voters 50-plus are heard on November 8. Make sure you know how to register to vote, where to vote in person, what the rules are for absentee or early voting, and all the key voting deadlines. Get Kansas voting information you can trust at [aarp.org/KSvotes](https://aarp.org/KSvotes).



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# Races We May Have Missed

With just 30 days to the 2022 midterm elections, in this issue we're bringing attention to a few African-American candidates we've just discovered, plus a couple of candidates we've barely covered.

Both Kansas and Missouri have one African-American candidate running for statewide office. Still, in both states, these candidates are rare. We'll tell you more about both of these well-spoken and competent candidates with a history of leadership, who deserve strong consideration by the voters in their state.

Finally, in an effort to avoid surprises, we'll visit some of the down-ballot races and two constitutional amendments that will

be on the ballot in Kansas.

In case you missed any of our previous election coverage, you can find it online at [www.CommunityVoiceKS.com](http://www.CommunityVoiceKS.com). Even if you read our earlier election coverage, go back and refresh your understanding of the initiatives that will be on ballots.

In early September, we took on local ballot issues for Kansas City and Wichita. In our late September issues, we took on state-level ballot issues, particularly focusing on the debate between supporters of legalized recreational marijuana in Missouri.

Don't stop here. Keep reading!! Our election coverage continues in our Oct. 20 and Nov. 3 issues and, in-between, online.



## Green Stresses Independence from Influence He'd Bring as MO State Auditor

By BONITA GOOCH

Alan K. Green isn't trying to make history, he just wants to serve Missourians to the best of his ability as the state's auditor. However, if he's elected, he'll be the first African American in the state's history to hold a statewide office.

The Missouri State Auditor is the state's chief fiscal officer, who conducts financial and performance audits for approximately 200 state agencies, boards, and commissions and the state's judicial branch. In addition, the Auditor also conducts audits for county and city governments under certain circumstances. The Auditor warrants that public dollars are spent properly and where the law and the people legally require those funds to be spent.

The auditor is the only constitutional officer on this year's ballot. The election is not held in the same year other officers are



Alan K. Green would make history if he's elected Missouri's State Auditor.

selected to reduce the influence of partisanship on the result.

It is the only statewide office currently held by Democrats. Nicole Galloway, the current auditor and a Democrat, decided not to seek a new term in June 2021

after losing the 2020 election for governor to Republican Gov. Mike Parson.

Over the past 50 years, five of the eight auditors won their first election running on the major-party ticket opposite of the party

that held the governorship.

Green, a Democrat, represented Florissant – a St. Louis suburb – for seven years in the Missouri House. He has also been a state agency director, running the Office of Equal Opportunity under Gov. Jay Nixon, and worked in the Dept. of Social Services.

He says his experience understanding state budget issues makes him qualified to run the office.

He has two opponents, Republican Scott Fitzpatrick and Libertarian John Hartwig Jr.; Fitzpatrick is the current state treasurer.

A lot of their campaign has centered around how independent and free from the pressure of political parties the office should be. In a recent debate, Green said in Republican-controlled Missouri, electing Fitzpatrick would make him wonder "who is guarding the hen house? That is an office that See **GREEN** Page 18 →

### MORE CANDIDATES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

**Patricia Smetana** is a Democrat running for election to the Kansas House of Representatives to represent District 64 in Clay Center, KS. Clay Center is north of Junction City. She's a disabled vet who served six years in the Army. She supports expanding Medicaid and finding solutions to address the need for more licensed educators.



**Brad Boyd** is a Democrat running for election to the Kansas House of Representatives to represent District 49, which includes part of Olathe and Overland Park. His district covers 127th St. south to 145th St., between I35 east to Pflumm Boyd has served on the Olathe school board for 10 years. He supports reproductive freedom, expanding Medicaid, investing in public schools, tax relief, economic development and protecting our communities.



**Vanessa Vaughn West** is a Democrat running for election to the Kansas House of Representatives to represent District 39, which covers Shawnee and a small part of south Bonner Springs. Her district is west of I435N, with the southern boundary being 79th St. and the river the western boundary. West is an involved Johnson County citizen serving on numerous boards, including the Lenexa Police Department Advisory Board and as a member of the board of Starlight Theater. She works at Lathrop GM. She prioritizes reproductive freedom, transportation and transit improvements, fully funding K-12 schools.



**Jalon Britton** is a Democrat running for election to the Kansas House of Representatives to represent District 85. The district covers northeastern Sedgwick County and western Butler County, encompassing Bel Aire and Benton and some of far northeast Wichita. Britton is a married father of four and a paraeducator and coach in the Wichita Public Schools.



## 6 Kansas Supreme Court Justices Up for Retention; 2 Constitutional Amendments Proposed

By RACHEL MIPRO,  
KANSAS REFLECTOR

In November, six of Kansas' seven Supreme Court judges are up for retention votes, and two constitutional amendments will be decided.

Advocacy groups say these choices on the November ballot offer voters an opportunity to shift Kansas' political landscape.

One state constitutional amendment focuses on reducing the governor's executive power and the other on protecting the elected position of sheriffs across the state. The amendments have been criticized by the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas for pushing partisan agendas, but some legislators and law officials say more oversight of executive agencies is needed.

### The Proposed Legislative Veto

The Kansas Legislature currently has the ability to overturn executive rules and regulations by a two-thirds majority vote and a signature from the governor. This amendment would change that, authorizing the Legislature to revoke or suspend policies from the state executive by a simple majority vote, with no governor's signature required. The amendment would shift power away from the governor and toward the Legislature.

Critics say the amendment is a reaction to Gov. Laura Kelly's policies. Attorney General Derek Schmidt, who is running against Kelly in the race for governor, first proposed it in February 2021, following Kelly's decision to temporarily close schools at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

If Kelly is reelected and the amendment passes, the Republican-dominated Senate and House would have veto power over any executive-branch action, including power over the state agencies under Kelly's ju-



In November, five of Kansas' six Supreme Court judges are up for retention votes, and two constitutional amendments will be decided. (Tim Carpenter/Kansas Reflector)

isdiction.

Amii Castle, a constitutional law professor at the University of Kansas, said the proposed amendment had worrying implications.

"There's no veto power. So it's basically taking power from the executive branch, those administrative agencies that the governor oversees - taking power from the executive branch and giving it to 51% of our state legislators," Castle said.

Micah Kubic, executive director of the ACLU of Kansas, said the amendment threatened constitutional rights, and would create a dangerous power imbalance.

"What this really does is set up a permanent state of conflict and chaos between the governor, whoever they are, and their ability to implement laws, and the Legislature in perpetuity," Kubic said. "I think that is really a sign of instability and creates uncertainty in the state government in a way that I think is really, really dangerous for democracy."

The Kansas Supreme Court ruled against a similar measure in 1984 that would have allowed the Legislature to suspend or revoke administrative rules, calling it unconstitutional and a violation of the separation of powers.

### Sheriff Election and Recall Proposal

The amendment on the Kansas county sheriff election and recall could help keep controversial Johnson County Sheriff Calvin Hayden in his position. The amendment says counties that elected sheriffs in January 2022 can continue to elect sheriffs — meaning the sheriff's position would be fixed as an elected position, instead of an appointed position for all but one of Kansas counties.

The amendment comes after discussion about making the sheriff's position appointed in Johnson County, following some of Hayden's actions. Hayden is leading a criminal investigation into alleged election fraud in the 2020 elections, and has also said he would form an "army" of his employees to defend Kansans against the Internal Revenue Service if needed.

The amendment also stipulates that county sheriffs can only be removed from office by a recall election or if the attorney general challenges their right to hold office.

Under the current Kansas system, district attorneys, along with the attorney general, can initiate legal proceedings if they believe there's been misconduct in the sheriff's office, with a judge ultimately deciding

whether or not there has been misconduct. The amendment would take away this power from all 104 district attorneys in the state, leaving only the attorney general with the ability to investigate misconduct.

Castle said the amendment can lead to abuse of power, since the attorney general could play favorites and not investigate sheriffs they liked.

### Retention of Judges

Kansas currently operates a merit-based Supreme Court judicial selection process, in which a nine-person panel nominates candidates and sends them to the governor, who makes the final selection. After the judge serves for a year, the public votes in a general election whether or not to keep them in the position. If the judge is approved, they serve for six years on the Supreme Court.

In the November election, six of the seven Supreme Court justices are up for retention, and seven of the 14 Kansas Court of Appeals judges are up for retention.

The state Supreme Court voted to uphold abortion rights in 2019, when a majority hearing the case ruled the Kansas Bill of Rights protected the right to an abortion. Pro-life activists are now campaigning to unseat these judges and create an anti-abortion court.

"The big money that you will see mobilizing trying to get people to fire the Kansas Supreme Court is 100% about abortion and about the right to choose," Kubic said. "Various real people in real life may be upset about different things. But the folks that were organizing and mobilizing and raising millions of dollars to try and defeat them, their only interest here is on the abortion issue."

## Repass Running to Protect Kansans' Voter Rights

With the ongoing challenges to voting rights and election credibility, Jeanna Repass says she'd bring an independent and fair voice to Kansas elections.

By BONITA GOOCH

Democrat Jeanna Repass said she decided to run for Kansas Secretary of State when she saw the growing number of challenges to Democracy, especially the core premise of "one person, one vote."

The daughter of a civil rights activist, Overland Park resident Repass said she recalled her mother's words, "If not now, then when, and if not you, then who?" With that memory, she stepped full charge into her goal of becoming the state's chief election officer.

In seeking public office, she left a career that saw her work in broadcast-media management for radio stations and in various nonprofit capacities, such as director of urban outreach for the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS, and leader of programs to feed school kids in summer and prevent youth violence in Kansas City, according to her website. She's also a mom of three.

In Kansas, the Secretary of State is responsible for the administration of all national and state elections including overseeing voter registration and voting accessibility. The secretary of state is also responsible for handling registration of all businesses operating in the state.

Like many other states, there is a movement in Kansas to minimize voter accessibility in the name of fair elec-

tions. In fact, former Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach was an early leader in the movement to limit citizen access to voting.

Secretary of State Scott Schwab, while not as extreme, has implemented a number of policies that have built on Kobach's work.

Recently, the Kansas Court of Appeals ruled Schwab violated the Kansas Open Records Act by withholding information on how many of the 45,000 provisional ballots cast across the state actually were counted. Despite the ruling against him, Schwab still refuses to make the information available and seems determined to spend taxpayer money to appeal the ruling all the way to the state's Supreme Court.

"It's time to take the office of Secretary of State back to the people," Repass said. "It no longer needs to be a politicized office. It belongs to the people of Kansas to protect our right to vote."

Repass has said she would protect ballot drop boxes and seek the enforcement of state law that would allow registered voters to cast a ballot at any precinct in their county of residence.

If elected, Repass would be the first woman of color to hold statewide office in Kansas.

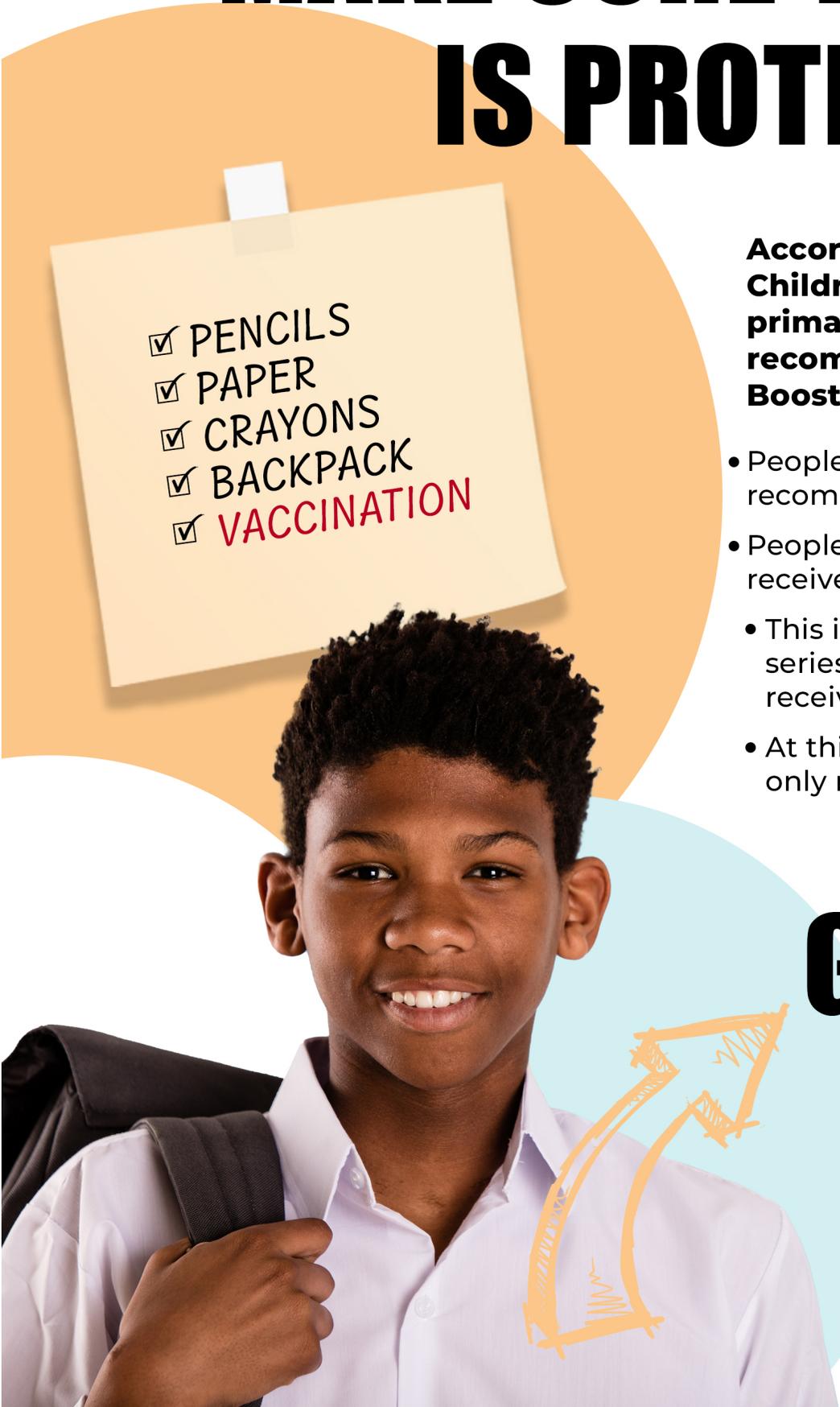
She has said she would



Jeanna Repass is the only African-American candidate running for a statewide office in Kansas.

See **REPASS** Page 18 →

# MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS PROTECTED!!

- 
- A young boy with dark skin and curly hair, wearing a white collared shirt and a grey backpack, is smiling. He is positioned in the lower half of the frame. Above him is a large orange circle containing a yellow sticky note with a checklist. The checklist items are: ✓ PENCILS, ✓ PAPER, ✓ CRAYONS, ✓ BACKPACK, and ✓ VACCINATION. The word 'VACCINATION' is written in red. To the right of the boy is a large light blue circle containing the text 'GET THE VAX' and a small orange graphic of a shield with a checkmark.
- ✓ PENCILS
  - ✓ PAPER
  - ✓ CRAYONS
  - ✓ BACKPACK
  - ✓ VACCINATION

**According to the Center for Disease Control Children age 5 years and older should get all primary series doses, and the booster dose recommended for them by CDC, if eligible. Booster recommendations:**

- People ages 5 years to 11 years are currently recommended to get the original booster.
- People ages 12 years and older are recommended to receive one updated Pfizer or Moderna booster.
- This includes people who have received all primary series doses and people who have previously received one or more original boosters.
- At this time, people aged 12 years to 17 years can only receive the updated Pfizer bivalent booster.

## GET THE VAX

This Increase the Reach grant program is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$79,278,482 with 100 percent funded by the CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by the CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/>. v10-01-2021

**THE VOICE**





Senior citizens will get a pleasant surprise in 2023. Both their Medicare Part B premium and deductible decreased.

## Medicare Premiums & Deductibles Going Down; 2023 Enrollment begins Oct. 15

In 2023, senior citizens will pay less for Medicare coverage & see out-of-pocket costs reduced, too.

### BY VOICE STAFF

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have released the 2023 premiums, deductibles and coinsurance amounts for the Medicare Part A and Part B programs, and the 2023 Medicare Part D income-related monthly adjustment amounts.

The good news is the premiums and deductibles for Medicare are going down for 2023.

### Medicare Part B Premium

Medicare Part B premium will be \$164.90 for 2023, a decrease of \$5.20 from \$170.10 in 2022. There is a higher premium rate for individuals with individual income of \$97,000 or more. Those rates vary depending on the insured's income. As an example, the rate for someone earning between \$97,000 and \$123,000 will be \$230 per month for Part B.

Medicare Part B covers physician services, outpatient hospital services, certain home health services, durable medical equipment, and certain other medical and health services not covered by Medicare Part A.

Premiums in 2022 included an increase to cover projected Part B spending for a new drug, Aduhelm. But senior citizens spent less on both Aduhelm and other items and services than expected, resulting in much more money left over in the Part B account of the Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund. Money from that fund can be used to help hold down increases in

### MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT RUNS OCT. 15 - DEC. 7, 2022

Medicare Open Enrollment for 2023 will begin on Oct. 15, 2022, and end on Dec. 7, 2022. During this time, people eligible for Medicare can compare 2023 coverage options between Original Medicare, and Medicare Advantage, and Part D prescription drug plans. Premiums and cost sharing information for 2023 Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D plans will be released soon. Medicare health and drug plan costs and covered benefits can change from year to year, so people with Medicare should look at their coverage choices annually and decide on the options that best meet their health needs.

### Part B premiums.

Most Medicare enrollees pay the Part B premium whether they have original Medicare or a private Medicare Advantage Plan.

### Medicare Part B Deductible

The annual deductible for all Medicare Part B beneficiaries is \$226 in 2023, a decrease of \$7 from the annual deductible of \$233 in 2022.

There's more good news for people

with Medicare.

Those who take insulin through a pump won't have a deductible and their out-of-pocket costs for insulin will be capped at \$35 a month, starting July 1. The benefit will be available to people with pumps supplied through the durable medical equipment benefit under Part B.

### Part A Cost

Most Medicare enrollees do not pay a monthly premium for Part A, which covers inpatient hospital, skilled nursing facility, hospice and some home health care services, but there is a deductible charged for each hospital stay.

For 2023, the Part A deductible will be \$1,600 per stay, an increase of \$44 over this year.

### Medicare Savings Programs

To help with their Medicare costs, low-income seniors and adults with disabilities may qualify to receive financial assistance from the Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs). The MSPs help millions of Americans access high-quality health care at a reduced cost, yet only about half of eligible people are enrolled. The MSPs help pay Medicare premiums and may also pay Medicare deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments for those who meet the conditions of eligibility. Enrolling in an MSP offers relief from these Medicare costs, allowing people to spend that money on other vital needs, including food, housing, or transportation. People with Medicare interested in learning more can visit <https://bit.ly/2yY8xM4>

## Health Forward Foundation Receives \$15 Million Donation From Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott

Foundation will use the donation to advance safe & affordable housing, and increase the representation of people of color in the region's health sciences workforce.

### BY BONITA GOOCH

Health Forward Foundation has received a one-time gift in the amount of \$15 million from philanthropist and author MacKenzie Scott.

The foundation is an endowed nonprofit that has distributed health-related grants in the greater Kansas City area since the early 2000s. It will use Scott's donation to advance its new strategic efforts to "support and build inclusive, powerful, and healthy communities characterized by racial equity and economically just systems."

"We are delighted to work in partnership with our communities so that this gift has a real and lasting impact," said Qiana Thomason, Health Forward president/CEO.

The Health Forward board has decided to use the contribution to deepen the organization's strategic investments, specifically related to health and wealth building and has picked two targeted areas for use of the funds:

1. Advancing safe and affordable housing and home ownership and
2. Increasing representation of people of color in the region's health sciences workforce.

While they have decided on the areas where they want to focus the funds, they haven't decided exactly how to best use the funds to have the greatest impact.

Instead of moving quickly to disburse the funds, Jennifer Sykes, director of communications and narrative change, said the organization will spend the next six to 12 months "on both a housing assessment and workforce assessment that will help inform how we will specifically invest these dollars in those areas."

"We built our purpose plan by listening, and we will continue to do so as we put this plan into action," continued Thomason.

With a net worth of \$65.3 billion, MacKenzie Scott is best known as the former wife of Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon. As of September 2022, she has a reported net worth of \$65.3 billion and growing, despite giving away more than \$9 billion since announcing her first gifts in July 2020.

She has a history of giving to equity-oriented nonprofits working in areas that have been neglected and communities that have been historically underfunded and overlooked.

As is her custom, Scott reached out to Health Forward, not the other way around.

"We didn't know who it was at the time, just a national philanthropist," said Sykes about their contact with the benefactor. "They asked us some questions around our history of funding and our new strategic purpose plan."

"We appreciate the trust Ms. Scott has placed in us to deepen our impact across the Kansas City region," said Thomason.

Health Forward will conduct health sciences workforce and housing assessments to inform how to strategically deploy resources in those specific areas.

"Kansas City's future will be strengthened by meaningfully engaging those who have been historically excluded in designing solutions that redistribute wealth and build health," said Stephenie Smith, Health Forward board chair.

This was an especially large gift for Health Forward, an endowed organization that doesn't normally get contributions but instead grants funding.

Health Forward's endowment came from the sale of Health Midwest to HCA, a large for-profit operator of healthcare facilities. The organization started with a large investment and then also received a large settlement as part of a lawsuit with HCA.

The foundation serves the city of Kansas City, Missouri; Allen, Johnson, and Wyandotte counties in Kansas; and Cass, Jackson, and Lafayette counties in Missouri. Its service area is a mix of urban, rural, and suburban populations.

"Our corpus is around \$900 million. Our annual giving is \$22 million a year," said Sykes.

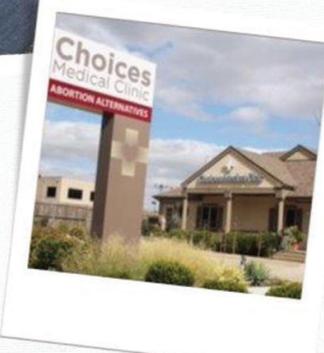
"This gift is not given to us but through us," said Thomason. "It is a recognition of the outstanding work taking place in Kansas City to address health equity and the promise of new partnerships and political will to secure a fair and just region."



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**Choices Medical Clinic, Inc.®**

### WyCo Customers Have More Ways to Interact with Utility's Commission

Live and recorded access to BPU meetings are available starting this month.

#### THE VOICE STAFF

Ever curious about why your electric or water bill is going up? Or answers on outages?

Customers of the Kansas City, Kansas, Board of Public Utilities, the electric and water utility company serving Wyandotte County, will now have an easier time keeping up with the commission's activities starting this month with the addition of video streaming meetings.

BPU customers are always encouraged to join the board meetings in person. The commission meetings are usually held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month beginning at 6 p.m.

And now, the public can join

the meeting virtually via Zoom on their telephone or smart connected devices. Access for the Zoom calls is:

Toll Free: 1-888-475-4499

Zoom Meeting ID: 845 2313 9724

The public is allowed five minutes to comment during the meeting. To request a public comment, go to <https://bit.ly/3RpGomO>. Individuals joining online can virtually raise their hand and ask questions in the public comment section.

For those who can't join the meeting live, the meetings will be recorded and posted on the BPU website ([www.BPU.com](http://www.BPU.com)) and BPU Youtube page ([www.youtube.com/user/kckbpu](http://www.youtube.com/user/kckbpu)).

### Voters Invited to Meet Candidates Ahead of Wyandotte elections

By SIMONE GARZA

The nonprofit Unity With Purpose KC and NAACP Kansas City, KS Branch encourage voters to attend the general election candidate forum on Sat., Oct. 15, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Beatrice Lee Community Center, 1310 N 10th St., KCK.

More than 50 candidates have been invited to participate in the meet and greet, ranging from U.S. senators, U.S. congressmen, members of the state board of education and more.

The forum is happening just three weeks ahead of the general election on Tues., Nov. 8.

The goal of the meet and greet is to introduce the candidates to the community and to let the community know what each candidate believes and how they can help.

"It's an opportunity for people to get familiar with the candidates they could be voting for this year. It's like a get-to-know-you session at the same time," said Carolyn Wyatt, active resident in Wyandotte county.

Chairs will be lined up along a wall with names behind each candidate, a moderator will announce each candidate, and each candidate will be allowed to give a two-minute introductory statement. Once all candidates are introduced, individuals can approach the candidates and ask them questions.

## Don't delay getting a colon cancer screening

As you approach age 45, you should be talking with your doctor about regular colorectal screenings. If you are having symptoms or have any questions or family history, talk with your doctor sooner.

Colon and rectal cancers are among the most common types of cancer for both men and women. And the colon screening isn't just for finding cancer but, more importantly, for finding signs and symptoms before it starts. Call or schedule online today.

**Don't delay. Start a conversation with a doctor today at [ascension.org](http://ascension.org).**



**Ascension  
Via Christi**

## End Homelessness in 5 Years: Kansas City Unveils New Housing & Service Plan

BY JACOB MARTIN

Mayor Quinton Lucas and the Kansas City Homeless Task Force introduced a five-year plan during Kansas City Council's business session last week that calls on a multi-step strategy to eliminate homelessness in the city by 2027.

The plan, called Zero KC, provides an outline of policies and priorities the city will focus on to create long-term solutions for homelessness. The plan was created by the city's Homeless Task Force, the greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness and the Housing and Community Development Department. See the plan at <https://bit.ly/3Cxxh0g>.

The program is multi-pronged and uses temporary and long-term housing strategies previously explored by city councils such as low barrier emergency shelters and the creation of affordable housing, along with new city services that utilize outreach and employment to help fight homelessness. All policies included in the plan will first have to be approved by the city council before being carried out.

Zero KC also brings the mul-

iple organizations that are working in different capacities to address the needs of the houseless together to work in collaboration with each other in a unified approach.

Rayana Parks-Shaw, 5th District councilwoman and chair of the Homeless Task Force, said the strategic plan will provide better support and organization for nonprofit organizations working individually.

"Many organizations are doing great work by themselves, but because they have limited resources and they continue to work in those silos, they don't necessarily get the overall support that they need," Parks-Shaw said. "What Zero KC, the strategic plan, will do for us is allow those organizations to stop working in silos. Together we will see the success that we haven't seen before because they've all been working individually."

One of the top priorities of the plan is to create temporary low-barrier emergency shelters for anyone in need. Low-barrier shelters are less restrictive shelters that are open to entry for almost anyone with limited preconditions. Many shelters



Mayor Quinton Lucas and 5th District councilwoman Ryana Parks-Shaw speak during a press conference at City Hall

require residents to follow sober living standards or to participate in rehabilitation programs. Instead of treating the person's issues first, the city's plan focuses on a housing first approach — get the individual housed first then begin to work on the problems they have led to their homelessness.

According to Henges, the low-barrier shelters will be available to anyone and will provide a direct point of contact to address those experiencing chronic homelessness.

"When we have a low-barrier emergency shelter, we don't have to scramble and that's what we need - we're desperate for it," Henges said. "For folks who are sleeping outside, there's a reason they're there - because the current system wasn't working so they created their own, which is why we need a low barrier. There's no excuse to not have it."

Another priority in the plan is to increase affordable housing for extremely low-income individuals. According to the mayor, the city's Housing Trust Fund

could be utilized to create hundreds of affordable houses but that would rely on the passage of a bond initiative that would authorize the city to issue \$50 million in bonds toward the city's Housing Trust Fund. That initiative is on the Nov. 8 ballot for a vote by the public.

Along with the Zero KC Plan, the city is investing \$300,000 in a new pilot program, Clean Up KC, designed to employ people experiencing homelessness through the city's Public Works Department. (See <https://bit.ly/3EfhEKN>.) The department will fund workers, employed by nonprofits organizations, \$15 an hour for neighborhood cleanup and winter weather snow removal efforts. The program currently employs 15 people, but if it's successful the city hopes to expand the program. As part of the program, individuals also receive wrap-around health services and job skill guidance to help them find long-term employment.

These priority projects are all part of Zero KC:

Increase street outreach and develop repeatable extreme weather plans that can be easily implemented when conditions

require them.

Continue to provide resources to tenants facing eviction through the city's Tenants' Right to Counsel law, a law that provides free legal counsel to anyone at risk of homelessness due to eviction. See <https://bit.ly/3SWF1ge>.

Engage neighborhood and businesses and communities around strategies in their area.

Enact strategies to create a safer environment for individuals living in homeless encampments. This strategy is complicated by a Missouri law that will go into effect in January that makes sleeping on state-owned land a misdemeanor. According to Mayor Lucas, the state law is "cruel and does not address long term solutions." Lucas said the law will not impact the city's current effort to address homelessness in the metro. "The city of Kansas City will continue to address our homelessness outreach in the exact same ways. That is through care, through a hand up, rather than just being forceful as the state law would suggest," Lucas added.

Better coordinate federal funding with local and state homeless-prevention initiatives.

## New Program Creating Jobs for Homeless is Step in Right Direction

New Clean Up KC program creates jobs for people experiencing homelessness and helps

clean up streets.

BY JACOB MARTIN

Kansas City has announced a new project that creates jobs for houseless individuals, providing valuable job experience while also cleaning up area neighborhoods. Clean Up KC, a one-year pilot program, employs those dealing with housing instability and pays a livable wage to clean up blighted areas in the city. The program partners local nonprofits Hope Faith Ministries and Creative Innovative with KC Public Works to provide resources for individuals trying to get back on

their feet.

Currently, 15 individuals are employed 25 hours a week and are paid a minimum of \$15 an hour. A \$300,000 investment from the city covers employee salaries and resources provided by the nonprofits.

Along with providing employment and fair wages, the program offers wrap-around services for individuals dealing with substance abuse or medical issues. The program also helps individuals obtain necessary documents for employment, such as identification, birth certificates,



Clean Up KC partners city organizations and nonprofits to employ individuals experiencing homelessness to clean up streets and neighborhoods in Kansas City

and social security cards.

Doug Lagner, director of Hope Faith Ministries, said the program can be a valuable resource.

"It's not the silver bullet," Lagner said. "But it's a step and it's

been able to work with people that have already been working for that second chance." Employees are responsible for cleaning up trash and debris in neighborhoods and snow

removal in the winter months. They are supervised by Public Works Department employees. Anton Washington, executive director for Creative Innovative, said the program is designed to be a stepping stone to reaching full-time employment.

"Along with getting them back on the right track, it also basically gives them an opportunity to become more of a stable citizen and go onto a career or trade," Washington said.

But in order to be able to reach full-time employment, a lot relies on an individual's housing stability. Neither Hope Faith nor Creative Innovative provide housing, so a portion of Clean Up KC

employees are still experiencing housing instability while they are employed in the program. A primary component of Kansas City's Zero KC plan, a new blueprint to eliminate area homelessness in the next five years, is creating more affordable housing. But those solutions remain far off. While Clean Up KC might not be a solution to ending all homelessness, the program has created positive change since its inception.

Lagner said one employee was recently able to secure an apartment due to her ability to show she's employed, which is an enormous barrier for someone transitioning off the street. She will begin moving into stable housing soon. "She's that much closer to getting there," Lagner said.

**REPASS**, from Page 12 ↓

protect ballot drop boxes and seek the enforcement of state law that would allow registered voters to cast a ballot at any precinct.

In addition to ballot access, here are few of Repass's other platform positions:

1. Election Security - At the heart of our democracy are free and fair elections.
2. Corporate Records - The Kansas Secretary of State office is the official repository for corporate filings. These records are difficult to access and the Secretary of State's office hasn't shown

the transparency Kansas taxpayers deserve.

3. Campaign Finance and Lobbyist Disclosures - The Secretary of State maintains copies of all submitted campaign finance reports and lobbyist disclosure reports. Repass will prioritize transparency and modernization of the computer systems where these records are kept.

"I really would like us to heal from the vitriol and mean-spiritedness that has divided our country," said Repass. "I truly believe it is time for all Kansans to come together."

For more info visit [www.JeannaRepass.com](http://www.JeannaRepass.com).

**GREEN**, from Page 12 ↓

should be independent, and whoever is in that position is watching our dollars and making sure each and every dollar is spent in an appropriate way."

Some of Green's other platform items include:

1. Advocating for enhanced whistleblower protection.

Green said he will advocate for stronger legislation to protect and stand up for whistleblowers and ensure they are protected from retaliation.

2. Fight to expose government agencies who violate Missouri's Sunshine Laws.
3. Increase transparency in how state funds are allocated.

You can learn more about Green at [AlanKGreen.com](http://AlanKGreen.com).

## Improvements Coming to Carl Brewer Rec Center at McAdams Park

Construction to double the size of the center will begin in January.

By P.J. GRIEKSPoor

Improvements are getting underway at the Carl Brewer Recreation Center at McAdams Park.

Construction is expected to begin in January on a project that will double the footprint of the current facility, adding another gymnasium as well as meeting rooms, offices, classrooms and a commercial kitchen where culinary arts classes can be conducted, said Reggie Davidson, superintendent of recreation for the Wichita Parks Dept.

"We had a study group about a year ago and determined that the building was not meeting the needs of the community," Davidson said. "It has only two meeting rooms and the gym. If we



A second gym, meeting rooms, offices, classrooms and a commercial kitchen will be added to Brewer Rec Center at McAdams Park.

had more than two classes at a time, we had to use the gym for classes and then it wasn't available for other activities and fitness classes."

The rec center was built in 1958 and needs updates for technology as well.

The city council voted to rename the recreation center in honor of Brewer, who was Wichita's 100th mayor, after his death in 2020. It was officially dedicated in November 2021.

The contract for the architect, SFS Architecture, is expected to be approved by the city council on Oct. 18, with a goal of completing drawings and choosing a contractor early in 2023.

The general contractor bids will come before the council for approval in early November, according to city Communications Director Megan Lovely.

### Wichita Branch NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet

**SAVE THE DATE—October 29, 2022**

6:00 PM • Marriott Hotel • 9100 Corporate Hills

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Clergy of the Year - Pastor C Richard Kirkendoll  
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 Theo Cribbs Political Actions- TBA  
 Chester I Lewis - Curtis Whitten  
 H N Sims Excellence in Education - Dr. Kevin Harrison  
 Ron Walters Leadership- Prisca Barnes  
 Community/Neighborhood - Black Coalition Alliance  
 Person of the Year - Dr. Richard Muma, President WSU  
 Business of the Year—TBA

Billy D Williams Servant Leadership Award—  
 Lashonda Garnes

#### 2022 "Legacy Award" Honorees:

Harold Miller • Judge Jennifer Jones  
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*This document is funded wholly or in part through federal funding awarded to Sedgwick County, Kansas, under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Neither the U.S. Department of the Treasury or their components operate, control, are responsible for, or necessarily endorse this document (including, without limitation, its content, policies, or any services or tools provided).*

## HOPE House No. 1 is Under Construction

The new Community Development Corporation is building affordable houses in northeast Wichita with the goal of promoting neighborhood revitalization.

By P.J. GRIEKSPoor

With a goal to “Help Other People Excel” through community partnership and development and a mission to provide home ownership and other services to break the cycle of poverty, HOPE Community Development Corp. has its first home under construction at 1456 North Ash St.

The CDC is led by Dr. Kevass Harding, a Wichita native who is the lead pastor at Dellrose United Methodist Church.

Harding said that having grown up in Wichita’s historically Black neighborhood, he has a personal connection that motivates him to help the community grow and flourish.

He holds a degree in criminal justice and worked as a police officer in Wichita in the 1990s, where he developed a strong interest in community development.

“I made that the focus of my doctorate program,” Harding said. “I specialized in Church Administration and Congregational Growth and Revitalization.”

He has served at Dellrose United Methodist Church since 1998.

“Home ownership is such an important part of breaking the cycle of poverty,” he said.

The initial homes of the HOPE organization will be built on 11 lots that were donated by Every to



(L-R) Teketa Harding with Capitol Federal, Councilman Brandon Johnson, and Kevass Harding of HOPE CDC attend the groundbreaking for the organization’s first home at 1456 N. Ash.

the community. Fidelity Bank is providing the construction loans and Capital Federal Ken-Mar branch is providing financing for buyers.

### HOPE CDC

Harding said the CDC was formed back in 2017, but required some time to get organized. Then, just as they were ready to move ahead, the COVID pandemic hit and everything had to shut down.

“After COVID eased up, it was a struggle to get materials because the supply chains were all impacted. So, we’re just now getting to do what he had hoped to do much sooner,” he said.

Harding said the CDC is holding classes and working to educate community members on how to improve their credit scores and about money management and improving their overall financial condition.

“My goal is to promote neighborhood revitalization from within the neighborhood,” he said. “So often, programs have been aimed at gentrification: moving people out, then renovating or razing houses. But too much of the time, the people who once lived there can’t afford to come back and the character of the neighborhood is forever changed. I want to help improve the neighborhood from within so that the people who live there now benefit.”

Harding said it is his mission to see low and moderate income residents break the cycle of poverty by providing affordable housing and other services including

economic empowerment, education, environment development, health and wellness, and resident engagement.

### HOPE Homes

HOPE is partnering with the city of Wichita through its Home 80 program, which provides financial assistance to individuals or organizations to develop housing projects and offers potential first-time buyers help with their down payment.

The maximum price of a home in the program is \$105,000. A potential buyer must fill out an application under the Home 80 guidelines. After approval, they meet with HOPE and learn which lots are available and what size and style house will fit that lot.

Once that paperwork is complete and a price is established that meets their income eligibility, their construction gets underway.

The city program pays the down payment and contributes \$2,000 for closing costs.

Each home is approved for the city program before the house is built. The initial home on North Ash already has a buyer. It will have 978 square feet upstairs, with two bedrooms and one bathroom. The unfinished basement has room to add a third bedroom, an additional bathroom, and a large recreation or game room.

Future homes in the HOPE project will be built at 1452 N. Hydraulic, 1201 N. Madison, 1202 N. Madison, 1201 N. Spruce, 1201 N. Poplar, 1200 N. Poplar, 2602 E. Mossman, 922 N. Green, and a duplex rental at 2803-05 E. Mossman.

Individuals interested in the program should check the website [www.HopeBuildsCommunity.org](http://www.HopeBuildsCommunity.org), email Harding at [kevass@hopebuildscommunity.org](mailto:kevass@hopebuildscommunity.org), or phone the HOPE office at 316-684-5182 or Harding’s cell phone at 316-648-9131.

A home at 1111 N. Green is available now. HOPE CDC purchased that house on the market when it became available and plans to either sell it or rehab it as a Section 8 rental property.

Harding said HOPE CDC will purchase other vacant lots as the program unfolds and also offer help to existing homeowners who need to make repairs or renovation of their homes.



**REGISTER IN OCTOBER FOR THE 2023 SEASON**

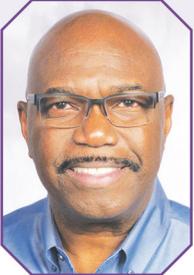
Every Saturday in October inside the gymnasium at Reddi Industries  
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## KC Author's Kids' Books Teach Life Lessons Using 'The Word'

By SIMON GARZA

Joycelyn Strickland-Egans, author of the children's book series "A Sunday Kind of Joy," uses Biblical scripture for her book titles because she doesn't want children to be afraid of the Bible or its lessons.

For example, there's "A Sunday Kind of Joy: Philippians 4:13" and "A Sunday Kind of Joy: 2 Corinthians 5:7"

In each installment of the 12-book series, the Kansas City, KS-based author addresses a moral value - like forgiveness, gratitude, accepting others, and more. Each book has different activities based on the topic of the book. For example, if the book is about forgiveness, an activity may ask



Joycelyn Strickland-Egans' children's book series "A Sunday Kind of Joy" follows a child named Joy and the lessons she learns.

you to forgive someone.

The main character, Joy, goes through life experiences and is guided by adults like her Grandma Ruth, her parents, and others while reciting

scripture.

"The Word is supposed to strengthen us and give us a path in our lives," Strickland-Egans said. "You don't have to preach to children or scare

them with the wrath of God for them to understand what the Word says."

In writing and marketing her books, Strickland-Egans draws on her background of teaching elementary school for 25 years and her own religious upbringing.

Her "Sunday Kind of Joy" series' target audience is children ages 5 to 14, but she also receives feedback from adults who say they learn more about the scripture and enjoy reading her books.

For more about her and her books, visit [www.JoycelynStricklandEgans.com](http://www.JoycelynStricklandEgans.com). Her bright-yellow children's books can be found on Amazon and Walmart.com or at local vendor events.

To check out her books on Amazon, visit <https://amzn.to/3dREuNR>

## KC Author Takes Swipe at Improving Kids' Mental Health with Book Series

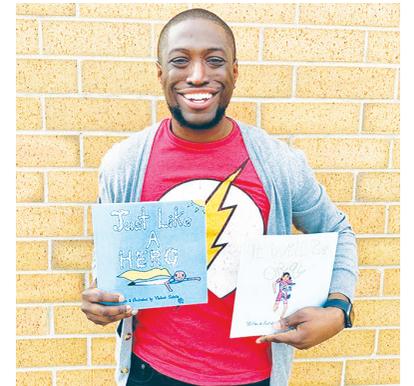
Vladimir Sainte's 'Just Like a Hero' series will reach its 4th installment next year.

by Jacob Martin

Kansas City-based author Vladimir Sainte has put pen to paper in hopes of empowering young people in Kansas City with his book series "Just Like a Hero."

The books help teach personal values, challenge negative thoughts, and provide activities to promote stronger self-esteem and effective coping mechanisms.

Sainte recently announced he will be releasing the fourth book in the series, which will focus on helping children navigate grief and loss. He said he hopes to publish the new book early next year. "My mission is to create inclusive literature to increase resiliency and a sense of worth in children," Sainte said. "So teaching it from a young age, this is kind of like planting the seed." Along with writing and illustrating each story, Sainte is also a social worker. According to Sainte, the themes and images in the stories help to destigmatize therapy. Each story centers around a young



person of color, which he says helps children of color identify with characters like themselves.

"I wanted to create a book that had a young Black kid that talked about and was dealing with mental health," Sainte said. "It's about empowering these kids to see their intrinsic value, and their inner worth, but also to educate teachers or parents about what these symptoms look like for their kids." Books in the series are: "Just Like a Hero," "It Will Be Okay," and "Making Mistakes." Check them out at the KC Public Library or by visiting [www.VladimirSainte.com](http://www.VladimirSainte.com).

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**WICHITA**

**Sat., Oct. 8, 10 a.m. - Noon: "We Belong" at Mark Arts, Mark Arts** is partnering with Destination Innovation for a creative morning to inspire and empower Wichita residents. In this city that belongs to all of us, each person has a unique voice and role to play. Stop in for Storytime in the Gallery with Storytime Village, participate in a community art piece and enjoy uplifting performances. FREE

**Thu., Oct 13, 5:30 - 7 p.m.: How to Establish Your Credit. Wichita Public Library- Evergreen, 2601 N. Arkansas.** How to get started or improve your credit score. FREE

**Thu., Oct. 20, - 6 - 8 p.m.: The \$40 Million Investment, The Center, 1914 E 11th.** Discussion on what we want our community to look like and what we need to do collectively to make it a reality. Some topics. - Why is it important to close the last youth prison in Kansas? How to implement a plan to protect the reinvestment dollars of Senate Bill 367? As election season approaches, gaining support and engagement. FREE

**Sat. Oct. 22, 3 - 6 p.m. Annual Transcending Women's Fair. Greater St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church, 1648 E 17th.** An afternoon of health and wellness. Vendors present with information and education for all ages to assist your health journey. Cost: \$5+

**Sat. Oct. 22, - 3 - 630 p.m.: Miss Wichita Scholarship Competition. WSU - CAC Theater. 1845 Fairmount.** Join us to empower women, their heart for service and opportunity to earn scholarship dollars to complete their education. Cost \$12. Visit <https://bit.ly/3Rxn0nW>.

**Sat., Oct. 22, - 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.: The Importance of Civics. Wichita Public Library-Advanced Learning Library, 711 W 2nd.** In this class you will become more equipped with the tools needed to preserve your rights in a republican form of government. FREE

**Sat., Oct. 22, - 5 p.m.: "This is Love" - Historic Dunbar Theater, 1007 N Cleveland.** Renovations of the theater are complete and the first event will commemorate the one-year anniversary of Rudy Love's passing with the showing of his film. FREE

**Sat., Oct. 29, 6 p.m.: 101st Annual Freedom Fund Banquet, Marriott Corporate Hills (9100 Corporate Hills).** Guest Speaker: Leon Russell, chairman of National NAACP Board of Directors. Honorees; Pastor C. Richard Kirkendoll, Maggie Thompson, Curtis Whitten, Dr. Kevin Harrison, Prisca Barnes, Black Coalition Alliance, Dr. Richard Muma, Lashonda Garnes, Harold Miller, Judge Jennifer Jones, Sheila Kinnard, Dr. Anthony Turner.

**KCMO**

**Sat., Oct. 8, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Midwest Soul Vegfest 2022. Swope Park Pavillion, 3999 E Meyer Blvd.** Vegan food, vendors, live music, national speakers, kid corner, environmental panel discussion, plant-based cooking demo, fitness camp. FREE

**Sun., Oct 9, 12 - 4 p.m.: The Prospect KC Gumbo Festival, 2000 Vine.** Drinks, Gumbo Competition, Street Vendors & Live Music. Cost \$25+. Visit <https://bit.ly/3SKnyl2>.

**Sat., Oct. 8, noon to 6 p.m.: Troostapalooza on Troost between 30th and 31st St.** Enjoy local performance and activities, shop at vendors and enjoy showcases,

**Sat., Oct 15, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.: Black Women Get Fit Anniversary Edition. KC MLB Urban Youth Library, 1622 E 17th Terrace.** Morning Inspiration, Workshops for mind, body and soul, Lunch, Keynote speaker Vanessa Garrison, Co-founder of GirlTrek. Register: <https://bit.ly/3SWE4ob> FREE.

**Sat., Oct. 15, - 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.: 2022 Black Agenda Group KC Community Building Workshop #2. Gregg/Klice Community Center, 1600 E 17th.** Workshop #2 will allow the community to identify the needs, wants and opportunities to move the community toward

becoming more resilient.

**Mon., Oct. 17, 6 - 8 p.m.: Midwest Poetics Writing Workshop. Kemper Library@ Charlotte Street Foundation, 3333 Wyoming.** FREE <https://bit.ly/3Ef29m5>

**Wed., Oct 19, - 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.: 4th Annual Wyandotte County Housing Summit. Hy-Vee Arena, 1800 Genessee St. KCMO.** A convening of housing advocates focused on increasing safe and affordable housing in Wyandotte County. Featuring presentations, workshops and lunch. Cost \$10. Visit <https://bit.ly/3RxxqEhC>.

**Sat. Oct. 22, 6 - 11:59 p.m.: A Black Tie Affair Masquerade Gala, Sheraton, Overland Park, 6100 College Blvd, Overland Park, KS.** Sigma Gamma Rho, Delta Eta Sigma Chapter Kansas present Rubies & Pearls. Tickets \$65+ Visit <https://bit.ly/3RBnYIV>.

**Sat., Oct. 22, 7 - 10 p.m.: Gospel Stage Play: "He's Yours Not Mine. Gem Theater, 1615 E 18th.** Play will bring laughter, tears and you won't leave the same. Cost \$30. Visit <https://bit.ly/3SSdWeq>.

**Tue., Oct 25, 6 p.m.: The Politics of Gen Z, Pierson Auditorium, 5000 Holmes.** Explore the political engagement of Generation Z. FREE

**HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED**

Tell the readers of The Community Voice about your upcoming event. Post your event on our online event calendar at [CommunityVoiceKS.com](http://CommunityVoiceKS.com). We'll select our weekly print featured event from posts on our page.

Looking for something to do? Check out our online calendar!

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## Meet the Man Who Mixes Harsh Reality into TikTok Comedy Skits

KCK football coach & teacher has found the formula for TikTok success.

By SIMONE GARZA

He is a father, a husband, a high school football coach, and a teacher, but thanks to TikTok, he is known around the world as BigCamIAm.

With more than 700,000 TikTok followers, 220 million views, and a growing following on YouTube, Kansas City, KS, comedian Camron Smith is a TikTok star.

His road to TikTok fame began in 2016, when Smith began posting his "Churchify the World" videos on Facebook. With nearly 30,000 online views, Smith expanded beyond the web, forming a comedy group called "Churchify the World."

With seven shows under their belt, the group was gaining recognition around Kansas City, when the pandemic hit, shutting the skits down.

"I was sad because the world [was] literally shut down the day before my biggest show," Smith said.

That was also days before his birthday, and since he couldn't celebrate with friends, he decided to create a TikTok video using a filter of a crowd in Beijing having a birthday party.

That video did well, but when his next TikTok video got 40,000 views, he realized he was on to something.

Today, most of his TikTok videos use comedy to shed light on racial microaggressions that Black and Brown individuals too often face. He incorporates this



**Local comedian Camron Smith** makes TikTok videos putting a comic twist on racial microaggressions, and has 700,000+ followers and a total of 220 million views.

disheartening truth into his regular comedy posts "Another Satisfying Racial Moment."

"We've [Black and Brown people] always laughed at our fights. No matter how hard it's been, we've always found a way to laugh," he said.

Although his content is humorous, he's received backlash, death threats and he's been called a racist. Despite the negativity from some, his work is popular around the world.

"There's been people that have told me that my videos give them their daily serotonin to make it through the day," Smith said.

A few of Smith's greatest accomplishments include collaborating with comedians like Phil Wade, King Bach and KevOnstage.

For up-and-coming content creators working to build a following, Smith advises that consistency is productivity. With Smith working 14 hours a day, he still pushes himself to make new content on an almost daily basis.

Often, he is asked how he manages his busy schedule. He's raising a family and works full time as a digital media teacher and head football coach for Washington High School in KCK, from which he'd also graduated once upon a time.

"I would rather sleepwalk than [to] live a life not knowing what I could have accomplished," Smith responds.

Check out his content at [www.youtube.com/c/BigCamIAm](http://www.youtube.com/c/BigCamIAm) or [www.tiktok.com/@bigcamiam](http://www.tiktok.com/@bigcamiam).

### How Much Do Social Influencers Earn?

By VOICE STAFF

TikTok is hot, with more than 1 billion monthly active users - but is this hot trend paying off for individuals who've gained a following on the site?

By far, the social media standouts who are making the big dollars are using their following to make money as influencers.

They endorse products, with the highest paid influencers getting thousands or even hundreds of thousands for just a product mentioned on a post.

That kind of payoff is for the biggest social media stars.

Some creatives sell their products, books and swag as a way to monetize their social following. Whether they make enough money to pursue social media full time depends on their sales volumes and the ticket price of their products. The overwhelming majority of creators are just trying to get enough views and followers to tap into TikTok's Creator Fund.

Once you gain a large enough audience on TikTok, you can qualify for a "Pro" account and TikTok begins paying you, but not much.

According to Business Insider, To earn money directly from TikTok, users must be 18 years or older, have at least 10,000 followers, and have accrued at least 100,000 video views in the last 30 days. Once they reach that threshold, they can use the app to apply for TikTok's Creator Fund.

How much you earn depends on the reach that your content gets based on views, likes, comments, shares, and other interactions. It's not clear what TikTok pays. Those in the mix estimate it's less than \$.05 per 1,000 views and it could be as low as \$.02 per 1,000 views.

So, what kind of income does that equate to for a creator with 2 million views? That equates to \$100 at \$.05 per 1,000 views, but just \$40 at \$.02 per 1,000.

That's not much if you're a one-hit creative wonder. However, if that one hit keeps circulating around the internet and, racking up views, it can earn you a reasonable residual income.

If you have to keep creating videos to maintain that income, it may not seem as great of a deal if you're spending hours thinking up, preparing for and shooting each video.



## Senior Wednesday Cash Hollistah

Thursday, October 19

Reception at 10 a.m. | Program at 10:30 a.m.

From Charlie Parker to Janelle Monáe and more, this presentation highlights artists and musicians from Kansas and takes a deeper look into how the power of place informs and inspires us musically. Cash Hollistah is a rapper, an arts educator, and on the board of directors of the Kansas Music Hall of Fame. This program is made possible by Humanities Kansas. Sunflower Music is part of Humanities Kansas's Speakers Bureau, featuring humanities-based presentations designed to share stories that inspire, spark conversations that inform, and generate insights that strengthen civic engagement.



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MISS SCARLET  
& THE DUKE

## MASTERPIECE

### Women of Mystery

Begins Sunday, October 16

7PM

Victorian London's detective duo are back.

8PM

Susan Ryeland, an editor who is given an unfinished manuscript, has no idea it will change her life.



MAGPIE  
MURDERS

9PM

Annika juggles baffling cases and a rebellious teenage daughter.



ANNIKA



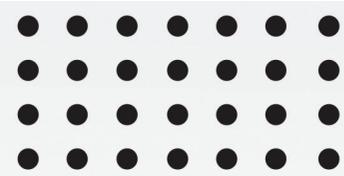
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# Democracy Depends On It

*Vote*  
**Tues., Nov. 8**

There's been a lot of talk recently about "**Threats to Democracy!**" Well, one of the biggest threats to Democracy is your failure to vote!

### What is Democracy?

It's a system of government by the **WHOLE POPULATION** or all the eligible members of a state, typically through **ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES.**

At the heart of democracy is participation of the citizens. The fewer people who participate, the weaker our Democracy becomes.

When *We* don't vote,  
It's no longer  
Government by the people,  
but  
Government by the *few.*

"I believe in Our Voice and Our Vote. I'm thankful for the work of individuals and organizations who fought for my right to vote. The work of Ella Baker and SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) a US civil-rights student organization active in the 1960s stand out to me the most. We should not only be educated and show up to vote, but we must also run for political offices."  
~Danielle Johnson, Wichita Habitat for Humanity, Executive Director



**THE VOICE**



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