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THE VOICE

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LOOKING AHEAD

You're Missing a Lot if You're Not Following Us Online. We're posting stories daily on our website, many of which never make it onto the pages of The Community Voice print edition. Plus, you can read many of the stories from our print edition before they appear in our print edition. So consider stopping by CommunityVoiceKS.com on a regular basis to see what's news.

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We Have a Lot to Celebrate

By Bonita Gooch
The Voice Editor-in-Chief & Owner

While many of you may be new readers to The Community Voice, we're not a new publication.

In 2024, we will celebrate our 30th anniversary with lots of retrospectives, looks forward, and more of what we do best: bringing you the news and information of and about our community.

The paper was founded in 1994 by Bily Q. McCray. I purchased the publication in 1996, growing it from a fledgling monthly to a newspaper that serves not just our home-base Wichita, but readers across the state of Kansas and, for the last five years, the Kansas City Metro.

Again and again, we hear kind words from our readers about how much they appreciate our reporting on topics that too often would otherwise go uncovered.

New readers offer how amazed they are by the quality of our articles, the broad range of our coverage, our well-laid-out design, and our professional online presence.

They're also amazed that we do all this at no charge to our readers.

Our longtime readers know, "This is just what we do." And while we may make it look easy, it's not. Our family and friends know how hard our



Our hardworking Voice Team: (L-R) Elaine Guillory, P.J. Griekspoor, me, Tom White and Cornell Hill. They joined me at the ceremony inducting me into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame, held in Topeka last month. Not pictured but equally hardworking: Kurt Oswald, Adrienne Oswald, and Glen Sharp and our delivery team: Pat Patterson, Alex Newhouse, and the Publisher's Delivery Solutions Team.

small team works to bring you this product.

We do a lot with a little, but guess what – we want to do more. However, to do more, we need help.

That's why this year, we're closing out our third decade with an end-of-the-decade fundraising campaign.

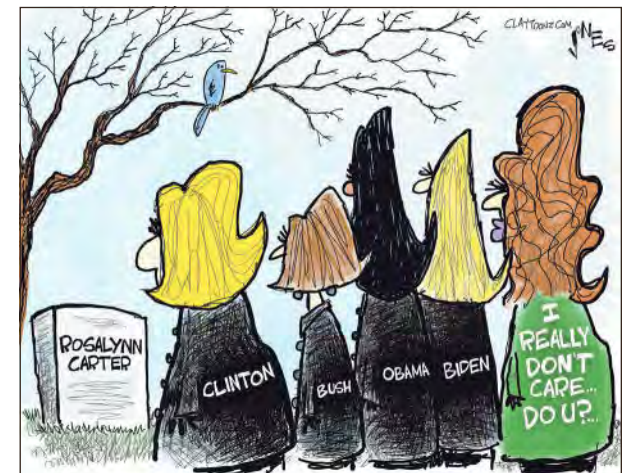
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ON THE COVER

Melissa Robinson, 3rd District Kansas City, Missouri City Councilmember Melissa Robinson. She's rolled out a plan to revitalize her district, in the Heart of Kansas City. Read more about the plan page 12-14.

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

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Beyoncé performed earlier this year at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London.

Everything You Need to Know About Beyoncé's 'Renaissance' Movie

Renaissance expected to lag far behind Taylor Swift's concert movie.

By The Voice News Service

It wasn't enough for Beyoncé to command stadiums around the world this summer. Queen Bey is now coming to movie theaters.

"Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé," a documentary about the artist's record-breaking world tour, will be released today, gracing fans with an early Christmas gift.

Beyond several trailers promoting the film, little has been said about what to expect. The trailers show Beyoncé on and off stage, juxtaposing her full-glam performance scenes with more everyday clips. In one, she stretches with her 11-year-old daughter Blue Ivy before a show; in another, she is make-up free and talking right to the camera.

Here's everything you need to know about what to expect from the movie.

What's the Movie About?

Per the official summary of the film, "It is about Beyoncé's intention, hard work, involvement in every aspect of the production, her creative mind and purpose to create her legacy and master her craft."

Based on what we see in the trailers — shots of Beyoncé performing, rehearsing, etc. — that seems true. In one trailer, she also says: "In this world that is very male-dominated, I've had to be really tough to balance motherhood and being on this stage. It just

reminds me of who I really am."

Striking that balance may also be a focal point of the film, as fans see how Beyoncé handles life on the road with her family.

When & Where Can I See it?

Officially, the film comes out today, Friday, Dec. 1, but some theaters had Thursday previews.

Though prices will vary by theater, tickets will go fast; back in October, first-day pre-sales were estimated to be up to \$7 million.

Didn't Taylor Swift Also Have a Concert Film This Year?

Yes, "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" came out in October, raking in \$96 million in its opening weekend — making it the highest-grossing concert film domestically for an opening weekend, according to AMC.

Beyoncé's movie is AMC's second concert movie distributed wide by an exhibitor and arrives just as AMC's first title, Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour — which was a very bright spot at the fall box office with \$250M WW — winds down on screens and winds up in homes on December 13 for digital purchase.

Renaissance is timed to help live up what typically is a dull frame at the box office — the post-Thanksgiving/early December downer corridor — with what's looking like a

See **RENAISSANCE** Page 23 →

Do You Know What Climate Justice Is?

By Willy Blackmore
Word In Black

After a record-breaking storm, a river floods a waterfront neighborhood. Some parts of the town, even along the water's edge, are spared because they sit on higher ground or are protected by flood walls and other infrastructure. Other parts of the town experience relatively minor damage.

The low-lying neighborhood not only floods routinely, but it's also poor and predominantly Black.

The flooding itself is a climate change issue, but the flooding in the Black neighborhood — and there are many such neighborhoods across the country — is one of climate justice.

A study conducted this year provides a glimpse of how the country views climate justice, and for the most part, we don't. The annual survey, titled "Climate Change in the American Mind: Climate Justice" (https://t.ly/1_wZ6), which

hasn't previously asked questions about climate justice, found that 65% of Americans had never heard the term, while just over a third have heard of it or read a little bit about it.

Researchers at Yale and George Mason Universities published the annual climate survey in September, but a more detailed analysis (<https://t.ly/1fL33>) published recently suggests that unfamiliarity with the topic is an issue of language, not understanding.

"One major reason people are unfamiliar with climate justice is that they simply haven't heard the term. 'Climate change' is already an abstract concept to most people, and 'climate justice' even more so," coauthor Jennifer Carman, deputy research manager at the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, wrote in an email.

"If you use the term 'climate justice' by itself, most people don't really know what to think," Carman said.

Just 12% of Black adults were familiar with the concept of climate justice.

But that changed after survey respondents were given a definition, which reads in part: "Climate justice refers to the idea that global warming affects everyone, but certain communities are harmed more than others, especially low-income communities and communities of color. The goals of climate justice are to reduce these unequal harms, include these communities in decision-making, and ensure they receive a fair share of the benefits of climate action (such as good jobs, cleaner air and water, better health, etc.)."

Given that context, support skyrocketed, and that was particularly true for groups who have the most at stake in matters of climate justice, including Black and brown Americans who are already disproportionately affected by climate change. The survey found that just 12% of Black adults were familiar with the concept of climate



justice, but after reading a description of the concept, 70% said they supported it — the highest of any group.

As Carman said, "many people don't realize there's a connection between their own experiences and climate injustice, but once they do, then they can and do start to understand and support climate justice."

It's one thing to know what climate justice is, but it's another altogether to fight for and achieve that justice. Drawing connections between personal experiences of climate change and climate justice as a concept has proven effective at starting that process.

"The organizers I talked to do this a lot, where they start with a specific local event and explain why it is part of this larger issue of climate injustice," Carman says, "and the idea starts to take hold."

According to the survey, 43% of adults said they would vote for a climate justice candidate over one who does not support such a concept or policies that reflect it.

Black Americans were the demographic group most likely to think about climate justice at the ballot box, with 62% saying they would vote for a candidate with a climate justice platform. Conversely, 21% said they would be "less likely" to vote for such a

candidate.

The trick then seems to be introducing people to climate justice and illustrating how it plays out in their own lives, too.

"Even when people live with the reality of climate injustice every day, they don't make the connection between their experience and the broader concept automatically," Carman says. "And let's be honest — there are a lot of companies with vested interests in making sure that people never make that connection. That's why climate organizers and communicators, especially within those communities, are so critically important."

ACLU Launches Effort to Inform Kansans With Felony Records of Their Voting Rights

By Rachel Mipro
Kansas Reflector

A leading Kansas civil rights organization says an estimated 30,000 people living in the state should be informed they have the right to vote.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas launched a campaign to reach out to Kansans with

felony records and encourage them to register to vote and to participate in local, state and national elections.

"Many Kansans don't know their voting rights have been restored after they complete probation or parole, but the law is clear that they have the right to vote," said Micah Kubic, executive director of the ACLU of Kansas.

"We invite everyone in our

state, including and especially election and corrections officials, to join us in this work to inform our fellow Kansans when they are eligible and how to register to vote," Kubic said.

Kansas has more stringent voting restrictions than about half of the country, the ACLU said. In more than 20 states, including Indiana and Ohio, voting rights are only

restricted while the person is incarcerated. In Maine, Vermont and Washington, D.C., people never lose the right to vote, even while in prison or jail.

In Kansas, individuals who complete their sentences and fulfill their incarceration and supervised release requirements — which can sometimes be a long and arduous process — have voting

rights restored under statute.

Felony disenfranchisement laws are rooted in racism, says Eliza Barr, executive director of Reaching Out from Within, an organization focused on rehabilitation and healing for people involved in the corrections system. In a statement announcing the voting rights campaign in Kansas, Barr said the justice system

disproportionately targets Black people, people of color and poorer citizens.

"Anything short of proactively including system-impacted Kansans in the voting process contradicts what it means for us to be the Free State," Barr said.

The ACLU's current goal is to register a minimum of 2,400 eligible voters in Kansas.

New Location, Same Mission for Bishop Moore

Key Points

- Bishop Wade Moore Jr.'s Christian Faith Center has moved to a new location.
- The church has opened a second campus for Urban Prep Academy at the new site.
- The school faces accreditation threat due to not administering state standardized tests.



Bishop Wade Moore Jr. visits with students at Urban Prep Academy. The school serves students grades K-8.



Urban Prep Academy is different in several ways. All students gather at the start of the day for Morning Motivation.

Christian Faith Center moves, opens second Urban Prep Academy campus.

By P.J. Griekspoor
Wichita Reporter

Bishop Wade Moore Jr.'s Christian Faith Center has sold the former church building at 1130 S. Broadway and moved into a new space, the former Grace Lutheran Church at 3310 E. Pawnee.

At the new site, Moore has also opened a second campus for his Urban Preparatory Academy.

"We used to be just down the street on East Pawnee," Moore said. "Then we moved to Broadway and now we've moved back again."

His goal was to find a location with enough space to expand the enrollment of Urban Prep Academy in a new part of the city.

The K-8 school has about 140 students enrolled at both campuses. The original school – North Campus – is located in the former

Mueller Elementary School building at 2821 E. 24th St. N.

Christian Faith Center leases some space at the North Campus to Stephanie Stovall for Aspire Academy, a pre-school and day care center and McAdams Academy, a private school that works with students who have been expelled or face long-term suspension from regular classrooms.

Moore said it was always his vision to open a second campus but he didn't know how to make that happen.

Winning Yass Prize

Last year, Urban Prep was "blessed" with a \$500,000 Yass STOP Award. The award for Sustainable, Transformational, Outstanding and Permissionless education was established in 2021 to reward, celebrate and expand schools who deliver a best-in-class experiences to underserved families,

"Of more than 2,700 applicants in 49 states, Christian Faith Center finished in the top eight to qualify for the grant," said Moore. "Through that

prize, we were able to open a second campus."

Christian Faith's Roots

Christian Faith Center is a non-denominational Pentecostal Church that Wade started more than 23 years ago.

"I'm originally from Arkansas, and I came here by way of the U.S. military," he said.

He was stationed at Fort Riley and drove down to visit some friends in Wichita and was impressed by the opportunities it offered.

The city has more than fulfilled his expectations, Wade says.

Growing Programs

Urban Prep Academy is committed to maintaining a 1-to-15 teacher ratio, with a teacher and sometimes a para or aide in the classroom.

In addition to traditional classroom courses, all students take a course in financial literacy and learn about entrepreneurship. Each school day begins with an entire school morning motivation, where students listen to devotional studies

and inspirational speakers.

Even though it's a small school, all students participate in sports. Outside of in-school sports, the school offers tackle football and cheerleading opportunities in the Mid-States League that includes 49 participating schools.

Students at Urban Prep Academy start the day with Morning Motivation where they listen to devotional studies and inspirational speakers.

McAdams Academy, housed in the North Campus building, offers unique services for students who have gotten into trouble in the standard school system and face long-term suspension or expulsion.

"What you get for that is a student who has lost interest in school and in getting an education," he said. "That student is in grave danger of winding up in the juvenile justice system and then in



The former Grace Lutheran Church building at 3310 E. Pawnee is the new home of the Christian Faith Center and a second campus for Urban Prep Academy.

the prison system."

In public schools, Moore See **BISHOP MOORE,** Page 23 →

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Two Killings, Two Very Different Cash Bonds — and a Debate About Fairness in Wichita

Two arrests in Wichita highlight how bail can vary from one case to the next in Kansas. Some people are pushing for change.

By Trace Salzbrener
Wichita Journalism Collaborative

Sedgwick County prosecutors charged 19-year-old Daryon Boone with first-degree murder in the September shooting death of a 69-year-old woman in Wichita.

They charged 16-year-old Makyh Townes with second-degree murder in what his family contends was the accidental shooting of a friend several months earlier.

Boone, who's White, was released after posting a \$500,000 bond. Townes, who's Black, remains in adult detention after his bond was set at \$2 million.

The contrast of the cases has renewed a racially charged debate about the fairness of bail practices in Kansas criminal cases, whether it protects the public by keeping people accused of violent crimes off the street or whether it's more likely to irreparably harm Black defendants than White ones.

Differences exist between the two cases. For instance, Townes also faces other charges, and that increased the bail set by a judge.

But they're similar enough — two Wichita shooting deaths — to draw public scrutiny over why the Black juvenile defendant faces bail four times higher than that of a young White man.

And that's raised issues around trying to balance public safety and the desire to keep violent people off the street against the often-devastating consequences of locking someone up for months before a court has found them guilty of anything.

"You gotta weigh the public's interest as well," Sedgwick County Sheriff Jeff Easter said. "The public doesn't want folks suspected of murder just running around on the streets to do it again."

Townes' mother, Shamika Jones, said she cannot afford to bail out her teenager even with the help of a bonding company.

"I think about it every day," Jones said. "I just wish that things were different."

What is Bail & What is a Bond

Bail is guaranteed by the Kansas Constitution. It's intended to give the court system leverage to make sure a defendant shows up for trial. Judges are supposed to weigh the severity of the charges against the likelihood somebody accused of a crime will flee.

The more serious the crime and the greater chance a defendant would skip a court date, in theory, the higher the bail. Show up for court, and you get the money back



A Wichita bonding company advertises "guaranteed lowest price," but Sheriff Jeff Easter worries bonds are getting too cheap.

when the case is over.

But bail is commonly out of reach for criminal defendants, so bail bond companies step in. For a fee, they post bond for defendants. Then if the defendant doesn't show up for court, they might lose the money they put down. It is then up to the bonding company to track down the defendant.

Sedgwick County District Attorney Marc Bennett said bail amounts vary from county to county and from judge to judge.

"The lack of, say, consistency," Bennett said, "probably opens the system up to some questions, or certainly criticism."

Is Bail Working?

A 2020 report commissioned by the Kansas Supreme Court found that pretrial detention can be a fast track to poverty. It can cost someone their job and their housing and send their finances into a downward spiral.

Jones said she worries about her son missing school and mental health care after his friend's death. Even if Townes is acquitted, she said, the 16-year-old's time in an adult jail could have lifelong aftereffects.

"My son's friend was really close to us," Jones said. "I feel for his family that they have to go through this. They lost a child. And I feel like I'm slowly losing mine to the system."

And because Black people get arrested at higher rates than White people, they more often suffer the consequences of facing bail they can't afford.

The 2020 report cites data from the U.S. Dept. of Justice that says 34% of people arrested nationally are held in jail because they cannot afford bail.

Rising Bail Bonds and Jail Populations in Wichita

"In the late '90s, when I came to work here," Bennett said, "\$50,000 (bail) was not an uncommon amount for a homicide charge."

See BAIL BONDS Page 7 →



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BAIL BONDS, from Page 6 ↓

But a shift started to happen in the early 2000s in the county after Oscar Torres fled to Mexico when he was released from pretrial detention. His bond was set at \$50,000 on charges of murdering an 8-year-old boy.

Police found Torres in 2005 after he was featured on the television program "America's Most Wanted."

Aaron Breitenbach, a deputy district attorney, said that case had an effect on judges.

Bennett and Breitenbach said that \$100,000 became the starting point for bail for serious crimes shortly after the Torres case. They commonly run higher.

As bonds rose, jails became more crowded with people waiting to go on trial. A 2022 report from the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights said that nationally "between 1970 and 2015, there was a 433% increase in the number of individuals who have

been detained pre-trial."

The 2020 Kansas Supreme Court report also showed that jail populations in Kansas are ballooning, in part, because of defendants awaiting trial.

In Sedgwick County, the jail population has doubled since 1995. The population steadily rose until hitting its highest peak in 2009. It has since stayed around the maximum capacity for the jail at 1,406. Some inmates are held outside of the county but are still counted in population records.

Balancing Public Safety With Human Rights

Easter said too many people get locked up, and he's advocated for alternatives to jail.

"There are people in (the Sedgwick County Jail) who can't pay a \$500 or \$1,000 bond," the sheriff said.

But Easter also said it's too easy to post bail through a

bonding company for serious crimes.

After Boone's release, Easter and Wichita Police Chief Joe Sullivan told KWCH they were discussing support for legislation that would increase down payments defendants pay to bond companies.

"We have a couple of bonding companies that have decided we'll start doing 1% bonds," Easter said. "(That) means on a \$500,000 bond folks only have to post \$5,000. ... There has to be a happy medium."

Breitenbach said that some Kansas counties like Montgomery County have imposed local rules to help regulate bonds, but he said Sedgwick County does not have the manpower to do something like that.

Angel Martinez, a co-owner of Wichita Bonding Co., said that his company protects people who'd otherwise get jailed before any conviction.

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KC Moves to End Source of Income Discrimination in Housing

Mayor and KC Tenants want to pass a city ordinance banning housing discrimination.

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

In 2005, Ashley Johnson was 21 years old, eight months pregnant, and applied for housing assistance. After getting a Section 8 housing voucher, she couldn't find a place to live despite contacting more than 50 rental properties in the Kansas City area, so she and her young daughter were forced into homelessness.

Johnson's situation is unfortunately not unique, as source of income (SOI) discrimination

disproportionately impacts Black renters, particularly Black women with children, who constitute the largest share of housing voucher holders in Missouri.

On Nov. 30, Mayor Quinton Lucas, in collaboration with tenant union KC Tenants, introduced a new city ordinance to end SOI discrimination.

"For me, this makes very basic, simple, perfect, common sense," says Lucas. "It [the ordinance] says that if you lawfully obtain income, it doesn't matter how you pay your rent."

Source of income discrimination involves landlords rejecting tenants or treating them differently based on how they pay their rent.

The discriminatory practice affects 8,100+ voucher holders in KC, including renters receiving social

security, disability, veterans, or other governmental benefits, as well as those paying with cash or earning tipped wages.

At the time of its introduction, the ordinance enjoys the support of Mayor Quinton Lucas, Mayor Pro Tem Ryana Parks-Shaw, and councilmembers Eric Bunch, Darrell Curls, Andrea Bough, and Johnathan Duncan, ensuring that it is likely to pass.

"This legislation will help remove historical racial barriers of redlining in our city," says Duncan.

Key components of the ordinance include broad coverage, prohibiting discrimination based on source of income, credit score, prior evictions or alleged damages, and/or prior convictions or arrests.

If found in violation of the

new ordinance, landlords face a \$1,000 fine per offense. Landlords that repeatedly violate the new ordinance will be put on probation and have their permit to lease properties put in jeopardy.

The enforcement of this ordinance will be overseen by the city's Civil Rights & Equal Opportunity Dept. Tenants can report discrimination through various channels, including 311 (call, app, or online) as well as by emailing or contacting the Civil Rights & Equal Opportunity Dept. in person. Complaint forms will also be translated into an array of languages.

The city has also committed to proactive audits of rental advertisements and extensive educational outreach to tenants and landlords to inform them of their rights and obligations under



At age 21, Ashley Johnson found herself a homeless single mother when 50 landlords refused to accept her Section 8 Housing Voucher.

the law.

As of 2021, more than 120 jurisdictions, including states like New Jersey, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and Virginia, have passed SOI discrimination bans. Cities including Denver, Des Moines, Rochester, Pittsburgh,

Memphis, and St. Louis have also implemented similar bans.

If passed, the Kansas City ordinance — crafted by tenants directly impacted by discrimination — will be the strongest of its kind in the country, featuring robust enforcement provisions.



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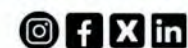
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Kyle Hollins Wins Pinnacle Prize for Violence Prevention Work

Lyrik's Institution uses arts & cognitive behavioral modification to break the cycle of poverty, criminality & violence.

By **Thomas White**
Kansas City Reporter



Kyle Hollins

Kyle Hollins didn't believe it.

Just over three years after being released from a federal penitentiary, he had been awarded the Pinnacle Prize, a recognition that comes with a \$100,000 cash award he can use at Lyrik's Institution, the nonprofit he formed to help keep others out of prison.

"I didn't even know what the Pinnacle Prize was, I didn't think it was real," says Hollins. "I had to call Brandon [Calloway] at G.I.F.T. and ask him. What is this? What is going on?"

Calloway was a 2022 Pinnacle Prize winner.

The Pinnacle Prize was established in 2021 by local philanthropists Ann and Kenneth Baum. The prize recognizes young leaders under 40 who are working to make life better for those who need it most in the Kansas City area.

This isn't a prize you can apply for. Winners are selected by a board of local leaders "with their fingers on the pulse of who and what is happening throughout the Kansas City community."

"It was a big deal for me that someone was looking at the work behind the scenes," says Hollins. "Building a

not-for-profit from nothing, especially with my background, is very taxing. Just to be recognized for that, that hit my heart."

Hollins founded Lyrik's Institution in 2019. It's based on the cognitive behavior therapy (CBT) programs he received while serving 90 months behind bars.

CBT treatment typically involves efforts to change thinking patterns. These strategies might include:

- Learning to recognize one's distortions in thinking that are creating problems, and then to reevaluate them in light of reality.
- Gaining a better understanding of the behavior and motivation of others.
- Using problem-solving skills to cope with difficult situations.

"What I learned was that poverty, criminality, and violence stem from three different thought patterns," says Hollins. "We've been able to hone in and target those thought processes that lead to further criminality and violence as well as help people walk out of poverty."

Lyrik's Institution — named after Hollins' daughter — gets referrals from schools, parents, organizations, and the Kansas City Police Dept. to intervene in the lives of at-risk youth ages



Kyle Hollins (left), who founded Lyrik's Institution in 2019, is pictured with Raytown students. He recently received a surprise recognition for his work that included a large bonus dollar award.

13 to 25. To help provide young adults with a pathway out of poverty and violence, Lyrik's programming emphasizes a holistic approach, incorporating job opportunities, cognitive behavior modification, and a strong emphasis on creative arts.

"You can't solve poverty with poverty," says Hollins. "Once we change your thought process, we have to change your pockets."

Lyrik's partners with local businesses, schools, and organizations to offer programs like the Summer in the City initiative, which combines behavioral modification classes with arts programming at the Kansas City Art Institute.

"Our culture has a really

high emphasis on creative arts," says Hollins. "One of our biggest things is giving them something to hunger for."

Lyrik's allows students to choose a creative path from music, fashion, videography, theater, and everything in between. Hollins says they incorporate the creative arts and it into their cognitive behavior modification program. The result is that young adults have a way of expressing themselves. Lyrik's works to pair program participants with an internship that can help them turn that passion into a career.

Last year, Lyrik's Institution touched the lives of 1,300 young adults and families and they plan to increase their reach by 20%

annually through a variety of programs.

The organization operates within schools, offers after-school and summer programming, conducts targeted interventions, and offers programming at their East 39th Street location five days a week.

Hollins says that the reason Lyrik's Institution has shown success is that they harness the power of the arts and cognitive behavioral therapy through the lens of Black culture.

"The principles of cognitive behavior modification work, and we aren't the only group that does that or restorative justice or internships, but the methodology of how we deliver it through

a cultural approach is what makes us a step above," says Hollins.

As an example, Lyrik's Institution partnered with organizations to give out shoes to students in Kansas City area schools. Hollins wanted to encourage and empower students who may otherwise not get recognized.

They talked with school counselors to identify kids who could use a nudge, showed up to have a conversation with them, and gifted them a pair of shoes. As Hollins puts it, "You can't lose with a pair of Jordans."

Lyrik's Institution is set to launch a new cohort model in February. Called "I Build," the cohort will allow 20 young adults to receive a stipend to go through the five programs Lyrik's offers and to identify a career. Once they've identified a career, they get paid to go through a 58-day internship program where they earn a certification.

The model offers wrap-around support for the student's family; helps with immediate needs like food, housing, or transportation, and with services like getting a GED, conviction expungement and parenting classes.

Hollins envisions the "I Build" cohort model evolving into an "I Build" center within the next 4-5 years. The goal is to create a sustainable and impactful resource for young adults seeking to transform their lives through education, career development, and community support.

For more info, visit www.LyriksInstitute.com.



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Shawn

Shawn Lancelot
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What would you like the power to do?®

Black and Brown People Center of KC Trans Day of Remembrance

The day recognizes the pervasive and persistent problem of violence committed against transgender people.

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

In a landmark moment for Kansas City, on Nov. 20, the city officially recognized and sponsored a Trans Day of Remembrance, an annual event celebrated nationally since 1998 to honor the memory of transgender people whose lives were lost to acts of anti-transgender violence and suicide.

The ceremony was hosted by Merriquee Jenson, the executive director of Transformations — an organization focused on helping



Kansas City officially sponsored and recognized Trans Day of Remembrance for the first time. Presenters included (L-R) Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas, Trans presenters Kym Walton, Tre-Shawn Roberts and Kelly Nou, Merriquee Jenson, executive director of Transformations and KCMO Councilmember Johnathan Duncan.

trans women of color. Three trans women of color, Kym Walton, Tre'Shawn Roberts, and Kelly Nou, were featured presenters, with each sharing their experiences being trans in the Kansas City community.

The gathered crowd of almost 100 included a diverse range of transgender figures and advocates from across the metro area.

"This day is really special to me because I almost wasn't

here to see it," said Kym Walton as she held back tears, recounting how she was shot and left for dead in the street in 2011.

A list of more than 70 names of transgender people

lost over the past year in the U.S. was read while attendees held candles to honor them. According to the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, since 2013 more than 300 transgender and nonbinary people have been victims of fatal violence. Two-thirds (63%) of those victims have been Black transgender women.

"No one should be murdered for expressing their identity," said Tre'Shawn Roberts. "We are all human and deserve to live our lives free of violence and discrimination; we deserve respect just like the next human with a heartbeat."

City leaders, including Mayor Quinton Lucas and 6th District Councilman Johnathan Duncan, provided opening remarks, emphasizing the importance of recognizing Trans Day of Remembrance.

"We look forward perhaps to a day where we don't need to have a vigil of remembrance, but instead can celebrate the lives of all of those who make our city so special each day," said Lucas.

"I think this is an important step forward for the city to formally recognize the day," said Duncan. "For the mayor, city council members, and city staff to be here to work and to take the lead from trans leaders on what this day should be."

Originally planned at Gillham Park, the vigil included unveiling plans for a transgender community garden, a collaborative effort between city officials and trans leaders. With the inclement weather, the vigil needed to move, and All Souls Unitarian Church leaders opened their doors to ensure the day proceeded smoothly.

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Robinson's \$522 M

Robinson's Equitable Development Plan Aims to Transform the 3rd District

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

District 3 Councilwoman Melissa Robison has unveiled a \$522 million Equitable Development Plan to revitalize Kansas City's historically disinvested Heart of the City.

The plan comes after years of speaking with residents in District 3 about how to address blight and undesirable living conditions. The project is ambitious but hopes to be completed over the next four years.

"The goal of our equitable development plan is to transform the 3rd District into a place where all residents have access to economic opportunities, affordable living, and cultural expression," says Robison.

To fund the Equitable Development Plan, Robison is seeking collaboration between Kansas City, Jackson County, state and federal entities, the private sector, and philanthropic sources. While the plan outlines \$522 million in investment over the next four years, only a portion has been secured.

"The city won't be writing a check for \$522 million, but the city will make some upfront investments and facilitate other resources to make things happen," says Robison.

Seed investments from the city, coupled with efforts to attract other levels of government and multi-sector investment, form the core strategy for funding. Already, some resources have been allocated, such as a \$50 million green infrastructure investment and \$1 million for a youth entertainment district.

"If we (Kansas City) can build a \$270 million park over Interstate 670, we can certainly find a way to ensure that the area around 18th & Vine is brought up to a middle-class standard and that the people there are not displaced," says Robison.

Here's What's in the Plan

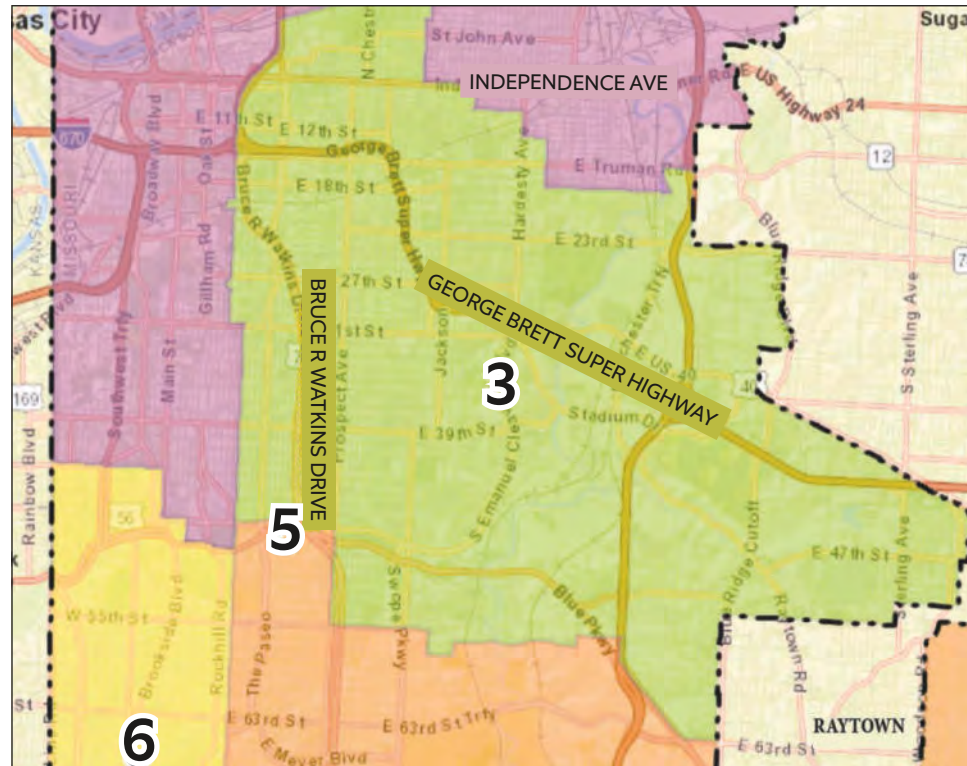
The Equitable Development Plan is broken down into 15 investment opportunity categories with targets for money to be spent in the next four years.

1 \$100M in Neighborhood Stabilization:

Bring neighborhoods to a middle-class standard without fear of displacement and provide forgivable loans for longstanding homeowners for housing rehab.

2 \$150M in Pre-development:

Funds will go towards establishing community land trusts, encouraging resident-owned multifamily housing, environmental remediation, market analysis, and infrastructure for light



District 3

industrial businesses and housing.

3 \$30M in Down Payment Assistance:

Supporting first-time home buyers with an emphasis on newly constructed or rehabbed single-family homes. This is aimed at addressing the need for affordable housing stock and the low personal wealth of residents as well as helping with population density challenges, all with the goal of creating mixed-income neighborhoods.

4 \$12M for Startup & Small Business Support:

Generates opportunities for employment and access to goods and services and helps with infill of areas affected by density loss.

5 \$28M for Youth Entertainment District:

A place designed and operated by teens and young adults. See related story this

issue.

6 \$40M in Green Infrastructure:

Addresses run-off issues, utilizes city's Smart Sewer Plan.

7 \$10M Energy Assistance:

Weatherization, retrofitting, and looking into alternative sources of energy.

8 \$5M Sustainable Broadband Support:

Ensuring everyone in the district has access to high-speed, reliable, and affordable internet.

9 \$25M Historical Cultural Trail Along Brush Creek:

A private foundation has donated seed money for the project and wants the city to find a way to fund it fully.

10 \$15M to Expand Green Space and Maintain Park Property:

The third district has less

green space than other districts and currently has over \$37M in deferred maintenance in existing park properties.

11 \$15M Workforce Development and Employment Readiness:

Aimed at addressing income disparity among third district residents compared to the rest of the city.

12 \$25M Transportation and Connectivity:

Street and sidewalk repair, addressing transportation deserts, rideshare programs, and rapid mass transit. Aimed at helping connectivity to employment, education, and health care resources.

13 \$20M Social Services and Resident Organizing:

Funding for social supports and resident-serving organizations like neighborhood associations to empower



Melissa Robison

them to help direct municipal investment.

14 \$20M Supporting Cultural Institutions:

Using the city's bonding capacity to upgrade municipally owned cultural institutions to preserve, protect, and promote them.

15 \$27M in Community Improvement Districts (CID):

CIDs are local special taxing districts that collect revenue within their designated boundaries to pay for special public facilities, improvements, or services. Funds are needed to enhance the visitor experience as well as transportation and small business support within the 18th & Vine CID. Funds would address parking issues in the 18th & Vine District but also provide mobility solutions to attract visitors and residents to business hubs throughout the heart of the city.

illion Plan



DC-Based Urban Institute to Provide Expertise to 3rd District Redevelopment

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

The Urban Institute, a national nonprofit research organization dedicated to collecting data to help decision-makers cultivate inclusive economic growth in inner cities, has selected Kansas City's 3rd District to be a part of their "mobility action learning network."

As a result, over the next 12 months, the Urban Institute will provide pro bono technical assistance to help advance the Equitable Development Plan proposed by Third District

Councilwoman Melissa Robinson.

Thirty teams of local leaders across the U.S. were selected to receive assistance with advancing their locally driven programs, policies, and actions that boost upward mobility from poverty and racial equity. The focus for the one-year project will be Councilwoman Melissa Robinson's \$522 million broad-ranging Equitable Development Plan.

Local organizations working on the one-year

See **REDEVELOPMENT**
Page 14 →

What's Next?

Councilwoman Robinson held a District 3 convention to prioritize the use of an initial seed investment of \$25 million for the Heart of the City. The residents placed the most importance on down payment assistance, followed by small business and startup support, with a youth entertainment district and social services & residential organizing tied for third.

A follow-up district meeting is scheduled for March 9 to further finalize the area resident's priorities before the city council votes on next year's budget.

Robinson has begun meeting with local foundations with similar goals and has received a warm response, with many expressing an interest in partnering in the future. The plan will also be presented to various government organizations and the private sector as a way to reach the funding goals. "We're looking at pulling together resources to build residents' power," says Robinson.

Third District Plan Includes Multi-Million-Dollar Youth Entertainment District

The city hopes to give youth a place of their own.

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

Planning is underway for a multi-million-dollar youth entertainment district along Brush Creek and Cleaver Blvd. from Elmwood to Cleveland.

Area teens have been known to flock to the Country Club Plaza or local malls looking for things to do. The proposed youth entertainment district hopes to give youth and young adults in the city their own space.

It's an idea that experts say can have a positive impact. Research shows that having places for people – particularly youth – to have cheap or free fun allows them to



The proposed trail spans roughly one mile along KC's Brush Creek.

New Heritage Trail to Honor Civil Rights Movement in Kansas City

The trail will tell the story of the local Black experience through placards & art.

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

A new cultural heritage trail in early development in Kansas City will honor the American Civil Rights Movement and the Black experience.

The Brush Creek Cultural Heritage Trail will be a circular trail spanning one

mile along KC's Brush Creek Greenway. The trail will be bordered by Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd. on the north, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. on the south, roughly The Paseo on the west, and just past Cleveland Ave. on the east.

The trail is designed to draw a local, national, and international audience that can

reflect, meditate, and grieve.

Along the proposed trail, there will be 14 "nodes" where park benches, placards, and public art will explore different aspects of the American civil rights movement and the Black experience in KC.

The first phase will include

See **TRAIL** Page 14 →



The proposed youth entertainment district hopes to give youth and young adults a space to gather for cheap/free fun and activities.

"bridge social capital across difference" and positively impacts the participants' social mobility.

The Oak Park Neighborhood Association has been pushing for a youth entertainment district for years, and association

president Pat Clarke says it's important to give youth something to do, lest they turn to crime.

"All these kids that are stealing these cars, they live around here, but just imagine if these kids had something else to do," Clarke told Fox 4.

Clarke already has a basketball court bearing his name in the area where he runs a summer Hoops at Night program. The weekend program provides area youth something cheap to do on the weekend, but it also keeps them out of trouble. The basketball sessions have strict rules like no bags courtside, and the youth entertainment district will likely have similar rules to ensure safety.

The Kansas City Parks and Recreation Dept. has approved pre-development of the youth district on presently undeveloped park land, and the city

See **YOUTH** Page 14 →

TRAIL, from Page 13 ↓

four of the 14 nodes with placards on legislative events, the right to vote, riots on Troost, and Brush Creek floods. The initial phase will also include a “Spirit of Freedom” fountain, public art installations on the Black Lives Matter movement, and the impact of faith-based

organizations within the Black community. The first phase of the trail is anticipated to be completed in 2024, and the project is seeking artist proposals for this phase through the end of the year. For more info, visit the project website at BrushCreekCulturalTrail.com.

So far the project has

funding from a \$1 million grant from the Kauffman Foundation, plus \$400,000 from the City of Kansas City’s One Percent for Art program. Councilwoman Melissa Robinson says the project is still seeking the remaining \$25M in funding needed to complete the project.

REDEVELOPMENT, from Page 13 ↓

Urban Institute assistance project will be representatives from Health Forward Foundation, the Full Employment Council, Metropolitan Community College, and the nonprofit CHES Inc.

“We are going to be working as a team with the Urban Institute to help realize some

of [Equitable Development Plan] these goals,” says Robinson.

The groups will collaborate to find actionable solutions and identify funding opportunities to reach the goals outlined in the proposed development plan.

The Health Forward Foundation is a nonprofit that works towards health equity. The Full Employment Council is a

nonprofit corporation that works to provide jobs, training, and support services to achieve full employment in the KC area. Metropolitan Community College is made up of four KC-area campuses offering affordable education from trades to associate degrees. Meanwhile, CHES Inc. is a HUD-certified nonprofit that helps with housing counseling and financial empowerment.

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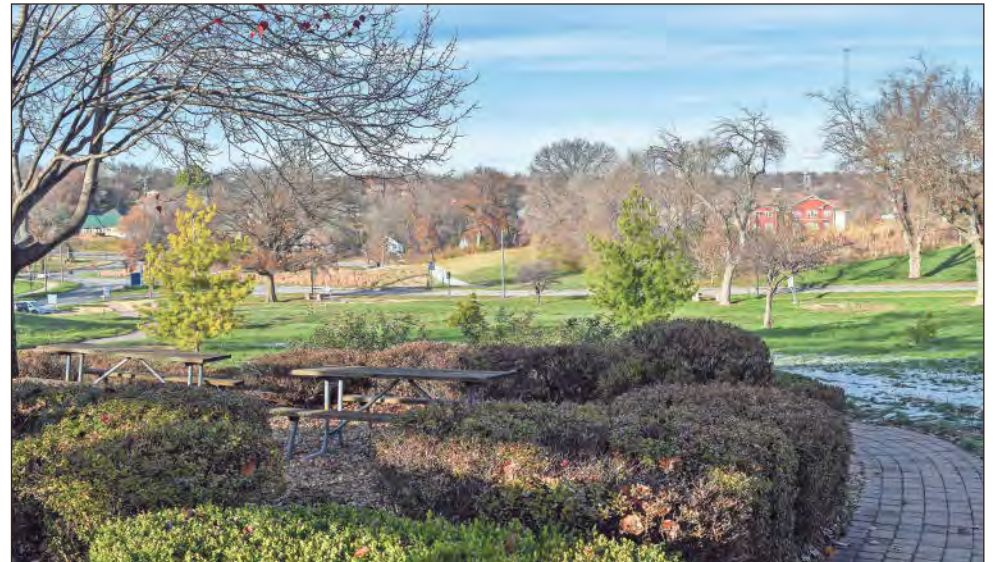
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The \$40M greenspace will be similar to a larger scale greenspace seen here at the VA Hospital.

KC’s 3rd District Hopes to Go Green

\$40M Green Infrastructure Project to Address Water Runoff in KC

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

Councilwoman Melissa Robinson’s \$522M equitable development plan for KC’s Third District includes a total of \$65M that falls under the umbrella of green development.

Of that total, \$40 million will go towards utilizing the city’s smart sewer plan that was implemented after a federal judge ruled that the city needed to reduce the amount of water going into local creeks, streams, and rivers. By

strategically placing green infrastructure like natural tall grasses, trees, and green space, the city addresses its water runoff and drainage issues.

The bulk of the \$40M would go towards a greenspace project that basically creates a park that spans from 35th to 39th streets and Jackson to Mersington Ave. Robinson says that the area will have walking trails with benches and greenery for visitors to enjoy.

“It’s going to be a beautiful asset,” says Robinson.

The plan also includes

\$10M for energy assistance in the form of retrofitting older buildings for better efficiency, weatherization of buildings and houses and for looking into alternative energy sources to lower residents’ bills.

An additional \$15M will be used to expand green space and maintain park property. The third district has less green space than any other district in the city. The lack of green space can exacerbate air pollution and make certain areas warmer, contributing to higher utility bills for residents.

YOUTH, from Page 13 ↓

council has set aside \$1 million in seed funding.

Olsson, an engineering and design firm, has been contracted to complete the initial renderings and concept for the district, but the city hopes to have the input of young people in what the district ultimately becomes.

“We envision that it will be designed, developed, and 100% operated by young people in Kansas City,” says 3rd District Councilwoman

Melissa Robinson.

The proposed youth entertainment district hopes to give both recreation and job opportunities to young people in the inner city.

The initial concept plan includes a bowling alley, pool, zip line, skate park, arcade, and amphitheater. The project will be completed in phases, and Robinson says the first part will be an outdoor component like a ropes course.

While planning is underway, there are some

obstacles for the youth entertainment district to clear. The land set aside for the district is in a flood plain. In addition, funding needed for the youth district was estimated at \$28 million in the \$522M Third District Equitable Economic Development plan. So far, the project has \$1M in seed funding and a need to secure the deficit.

Robinson remains optimistic the project will at least break ground in the next few years.

LaunchKC Grants \$50k to Three Black-led Startups

Black-led tech startups win half of the competition's grants

By **Thomas White**
Kansas City Reporter

Three Black innovators emerged as winners of the prestigious LaunchKC grants competition, each receiving a \$50,000 non-dilutive grant.

The six winners were announced on Nov. 14 as part of Global Entrepreneurship Week. The winning companies received \$50,000 in grant funding and gained access to office space in downtown KC for a year, personalized educational programs, mentorship, and other crucial resources throughout 2024.

Each year, LaunchKC, a joint venture between the Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City (EDCKC) and the Downtown Council, takes applications for tech startup business grants in the Kansas City area. Six Grants were awarded from a pool of nearly 100 grant applicants.

Here's a look at the three Black-led tech startups that earned LaunchKC grants.

CodeAlgo Academy by Triumphia Houmbie Fulks

Triumphia Houmbie Fulks, co-founder of CodeAlgo Academy, is the first Black female to lead a 3D Computer Science gaming platform in Missouri. Her startup, CodeAlgo Academy, provides K-8 students with a gamified approach to learning coding skills. Fulks



Triumphia Fulks

expressed gratitude for the LaunchKC grant, saying that the funding will allow CodeAlgo Academy to serve its current waitlist of over 400 students and extend the platform's reach to thousands across Missouri.

Foresight by Janna Gammage

Foresight, created by Janna Gammage, is a tech platform featuring an AI-powered lending assistant. The platform is designed to



Janna Gammage

streamline administrative tasks across the lending cycle and aims to bridge capital access gaps for small businesses. Gammage highlighted the knowledge gap in current lending applications and announced plans to roll out Foresight to approximately 200 local banks. Gammage tells Startland News that the \$50k grant will help inject around \$100 million into small businesses nationwide and \$10 million in Kansas City.



Learie Hercules

Heft IQ by Learie Hercules

Learie Hercules, founder of Heft IQ, introduced an AI-driven supply chain advanced analytics platform. Positioned as a powerhouse for entrepreneurs seeking to optimize e-commerce operations, Heft IQ hopes to revolutionize inventory management. Hercules expressed the platform's potential to level the playing field for e-commerce brands competing with industry giants like Amazon. Hercules

told Startland News that he's looking to find brands, logistics companies, and investors aligned with Heft IQ's vision to build the supply chain's operating system in Kansas.

These three groundbreaking startups join the ranks of six winners celebrated at the Libations + Liff event on Nov. 14 at J. Reiger Distillery.

The other LaunchKC grant winners are:

Neelima Parasker & Holly Andra Small of Lotus TMS, a cloud-based transportation management software.

Blake Herren & Ryan Cowdrey of Raven Space Systems, the first entirely 3D printed reentry capsules for affordable and accessible cargo return from space.

Steven Coen of SaRA Health, a "stress-free" platform for enhancing physical therapy practices nationwide.

Happy Holidays

Have a wonderful, safe holiday season!





BIRTHING HEALTH

With High Black Maternal Health Rates, Here's Good News

Report shows Black people spend longer in the hospital after giving birth. Here's why.

By **Natalie P. McNeal**
Stacker Studio

Healthy labor and delivery outcomes focus not only on the baby but on the outcomes for mothers. By now, the stats are well known.

According to a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black women are three times more likely than pregnant White women to die from a pregnancy-related complication.

Those stats can be greatly addressed at the hospital during and immediately after childbirth, that's why it's good to see Black women are staying in the hospital longer than their White peers.

The average hospital stay for a person who has just given birth is 3.1 days, but for

Black people, it's 3.7 days, or about 14 hours longer. The data represents all delivery outcomes — including vaginal and cesarean births as well as abortions and stillbirths. Missouri has the longest average additional stay, 20 hours.

Most, more than 80%, of pregnancy-related deaths are preventable, “highlighting the need for quality improvement initiatives in states, hospitals, and communities that ensure all people who are pregnant or postpartum get the right care at the right time,” said Wanda Barfield, M.D., M.P.H., director of CDC's Division of Reproductive Health at the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, in the report.

“Obviously, death is the worst possible outcome, but there are a lot of things that happen along that continuum that can really impact women's lives and have severe consequences in their health for the long term,” said Dr. S. Michelle Ogunwole, assistant

professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, who researches racial disparities in health outcomes among Black Americans who are pregnant or have given birth.

For instance, Black people are more likely to give birth by cesarean section, which is major abdominal surgery. Between 2019 and 2021, 36.2% of pregnant Black women gave birth by C-section, compared to 30% of pregnant White women and 29% of pregnant women of American Indian and Alaska Native descent, according to National Center for Health Statistics data compiled by the March of Dimes.

After an uncomplicated C-section, patients routinely stay in the hospital three to four days, compared to patients who deliver vaginally and routinely stay one to two days in the hospital, said Dr. Dawnette Lewis, director of Northwell's Center for Maternal Health.

In addition, Lewis said that the patient

may have a pre-existing medical condition requiring a more extended stay at the hospital. She also suggested longer stays may occur because some new parents may want to learn how to care for their babies or work with a lactation consultant.

Dr. Amanda P. Williams, clinical innovation advisor for the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative, said doctors may keep people in the hospital longer after giving birth if they aren't able to return to a medical facility for follow-up care due to childcare, transportation, or a lack of available appointments.

“When you have a patient with preeclampsia or a similar complication, you want them to be seen again within the first week of delivery,” Williams explained.

Black women are more likely to experience postpartum hemorrhage and preeclampsia, two of the leading causes of pregnancy-related death during and in the week after giving birth, according to the March of Dimes.

Get Ready for the Thanksgiving Baby Boom

By **Bonita Gooch**
Editor-in-Chief

Always wonder why there are so many August birthdays in your friend or family pool?

Well, it seems that beyond the Thanksgiving tables, U.S. couples seem to be inspired to create their own gifts post-feast during the most

family-oriented time of the year.

Betway Insider, a sports-betting blog, decided to analyze the year-round birth rates of every state in the U.S. in order and determined that, yes, there is a post-Thanksgiving baby boom - higher in some states than others.

Kansas came in 17th on the list of Thanksgiving baby makers.

However, with our snowy Thanksgiving holiday that kept us in, don't be surprised by an August 2024 baby boom in both Missouri and Kansas.

Other baby-making holidays or occasions, according to Betway research: Super Bowl, Halloween, Christmas, Independence Day, and spring break.



What were you doing Thanksgiving weekend? We might know in nine months.



Our Health Matters: Get Vaccinated Against COVID-19 to Protect Your Loved Ones

With an arsenal of vaccines and treatments now available, the cookouts, celebrations and gatherings are in full swing, but it is important to remember that the coronavirus is still a potential threat, especially for unvaccinated and other vulnerable people.

Vaccination is the most important tool to ensure a safe and healthy summer.

GET VACCINATED AND OR BOOSTED TO CELEBRATE SAFELY

THE VOICE www.kansasblc.org

This increase the Reach grant program is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the US 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>

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Postpartum Preeclampsia: A Leading Cause of Postpartum Death

By The Voice News Service

Postpartum preeclampsia is a rare but serious condition related to high blood pressure after you give birth.

It's most common within 48 hours of delivery, but can occur up to six weeks after your baby is born. Postpartum preeclampsia can lead to strokes, seizures and other complications if not promptly treated.

Postpartum preeclampsia is different from preeclampsia, a condition that occurs while you're pregnant.

Postpartum preeclampsia only happens after your baby is born. Even people who have never had high blood pressure or preeclampsia can get postpartum preeclampsia.

If you have symptoms of postpartum preeclampsia, you need immediate medical attention. Once diagnosed and treated, the prognosis for a full recovery is very good.



Postpartum preeclampsia is a leading cause of maternal death post delivery. Do you know the symptoms?

Risk Factors

Certain factors increase your risk of getting postpartum preeclampsia. If you have any of the following conditions, you may be at higher risk:

- Obesity.
- High blood pressure during

pregnancy.

- Family or personal history of preeclampsia or postpartum preeclampsia.
- Being younger than 20.
- Being older than 40.
- Expecting twins or more.
- Autoimmune conditions.

- Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes.

consequences if not treated.

Symptoms

There are several symptoms that people who have just given birth might experience if they have postpartum preeclampsia. These include:

- High blood pressure (140/90 mmHg or higher).
- High levels of protein in your urine (proteinuria).
- Headache (often severe).
- Changes in vision like blurred vision or light sensitivity.
- Swelling of your face, hands, feet or limbs.
- Nausea and vomiting.
- Abdominal pain, usually near your ribs.
- Decreased urination.
- Rapid weight gain.
- Shortness of breath.

If you've recently given birth and are experiencing any of these symptoms, you should seek immediate medical care. Postpartum preeclampsia can have serious

Will it go away on its own?

No. It requires immediate medical attention. If you have any symptoms of preeclampsia after childbirth, contact your provider immediately or go to the nearest emergency room.

Can you avoid getting it?

No, there's no way to avoid or prevent postpartum preeclampsia. The best thing you can do is be aware of the symptoms and discuss your complete medical history with your healthcare provider.

When should you get treatment?

Contact your healthcare provider right away if you have symptoms like headache, swelling in your hands and face or changes in vision. You may need immediate medical attention at the nearest emergency room if you have a seizure or become short of breath.

Source: Cleveland Clinic



Evelyn, HOPE Participant

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Participants must be at least 55 years old and live in Sedgwick County. All PACE participants agree to receive all services other than emergency services from HOPE staff and its network of providers, and may be fully and personally liable for the costs of unauthorized or out-of-network services.

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Baked Good Sweet Treats You Can Order for the Holidays

By Bonita Gooch
Editor-in-Chief

'Tis the season for eating, especially great treats - and you know the holiday isn't complete without great baked goods.

From homemade rolls to sweet potato pie and everything in between, we found it ready for pickup and delivery from Black-owned businesses.

So, if you're not so good at baking but want those great desserts that momma and grandmomma used to bake, these bakers can help make your holiday spread complete.



Peach Cobbler Cheesecake

Wichita Cheesecake Company
WichitaCheesecakeCompany.com
(316) 358-9494
Wichita, KS

Cheesecake Factory, get back. With their "down home" selection, owners Mark and Grace Daniels have taken cheesecakes to a new level. Well past the traditional NY-style cheesecake, they offer banana pudding, peach cobbler, and sweet potato swirl cheesecake. See what we mean by down home?

Their regular menu includes 13 varieties of cheesecake, with gluten-free options. You can order mini-cheesecakes by the dozen.

They're equipped for online ordering, with pickup or delivery.



Boujee Bakes

Boujee Baker
BoujeeBakerKC.com
(816) 977-4450
Kansas City, MO

Many of you know Joyce Watts for her great desserts and baked goods as a co-owner of Big Momma's Bakery. Well, she's taken her baking home along with the recipes for her fan favorites and she's grown her selection. You can turn to her for sweet potato pies, peach cobbler, german chocolate cakes, pound cakes and even pineapple upside-down cakes. Everything is made from scratch with love and you can taste it. She also does party tray assortments that are perfect for holiday gatherings.

Check out her gallery online and reach out for an order for delivery or pickup.



Brown Suga Bakes Double Chocolate Cookies

Brown Suga Bakes
BrownSugaBakes.com
(913) 800-9700
1066 W. Santa Fe, Olathe, KS

A business born out of COVID pandemic has a permanent location in Olathe, baking a variety of delicious homemade cookies. Mother Reva Pau and daughters Ebony Paul-Harris and Asia Lockett have a traditional lineup of cookies, in 13 varieties. However, for the holidays, don't miss their "12 Weeks to Christmas" special ... with a special holiday-themed cookie each week.

You can order online for pickup, delivery or shipping to loved ones anywhere. Their hours are 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday - Saturday.



Angel's Tasty Treats

Angel's Tasty Treats
[Facebook.com/AngelsTastyTreats](https://www.facebook.com/AngelsTastyTreats)
(816) 535-6976
Kansas City, MO

Angel Freeman has built a following via her mobile food truck "Angel's Tasty Treats" at popups and events. This holiday, she's preparing full-sized options of some of her fan favorites, including her pudding cheesecakes and cinnamon sweet potato muffins, available by the dozen. She also has the pudding cheesecakes available in cup size, by the dozen.

Ask her about her selection of pies and cakes. She'll have the truck out for pickups on Dec. 23 and will also make deliveries. To order, call or text.



Big Mommas Cinnamon Roll.

Big Mommas Bakery-Cafe
www.BigMommaskc.com
(816) 765-0800
4707 E. Bannister Road, KCMO

Big Mommas is a community favorite for their baked goods, as well as their soups and lunches. They grew their reputation on the back of their delicious cinnamon rolls and made-from-scratch dinner rolls, available by the dozen. But their selection doesn't stop there. They have a full selection of pies, cakes, cookies and party tray options.

They're open for dine-in or take-out Mon. - Fri., 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sat & Sun., 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Pre-order your holiday items early.

Are You in the Baking Business?

Do you operate a licensed bakery ready to supply holiday baked goods? Let us know and we'll add you to our online listing at www.communityvoiceks.com. Email guillory@tcvpub.com.

8 Rules for Dating During 'Cuffing Season'

Define your relationship, set expectations & don't plan too far in advance.

By The Voice News Service

'Tis the season to curl up next to a fire with a good book or — if you're into cuffing season — curl up with your crush. But should you really start a relationship right before the holidays? Or should you wait it out until winter blows over? What's really at stake during cuffing season anyway? And if you find yourself in a relationship that doesn't suit your needs, how do you break it off gently?

Psychologist Susan Albers, PsyD, explains just what to expect from cuffing season while offering helpful tips for



Believe it or not, there is some actual science behind cuffing season.

those seeking a relationship.

When is Cuffing Season?

Cuffing season is that magical time of year during the colder, winter months when people are more compelled to start relationships. It usually runs from late fall, through winter and up until the warmer days of spring and early summer.

What is Cuffing Season?

Cuffing season is a social phenomenon that carries some negative connotations because it suggests people "handcuff" themselves to a partner out of necessity or desperation. But there's no shame in wanting a relationship when the days are dark and cold. In fact, there are some very real biological reasons for wanting to hold someone close during this time.

The Science Behind Cuffing Season

"When the temperature drops and it gets cold earlier, there is often a change of mood connected with the two chemicals melatonin and serotonin in your body," says Dr. Albers. "Dark, cold nights can trigger an intense feeling of loneliness and a drop in

serotonin.

"Many of us desire relationships and human connection, particularly when we're feeling down," says Dr. Albers. "Being with someone makes us feel cozy and creates a natural boost in serotonin, that feel-good chemical in your brain, and having someone to bring with you to a holiday event or family gathering can alleviate a lot of dread and anxiety."

"The downside is that needing to be in a relationship right now often makes people lower their standards or expectations in a relationship," says Dr. Albers. "They are willing to be with people who are convenient and available versus those who truly match them."

Cuffing season can work for you. You just have to be willing to follow some rules, implement healthy boundaries and embrace healthy coping mechanisms along the way.

What are the Rules of Cuffing Season?

Honesty, self-awareness, setting expectations and following through are all at the center of each of the following strategies for dating during cuffing season:

1. Be mindful of your desire for a relationship

Start by being honest with yourself: did your desire for having a relationship come up out of the blue, or is a relationship something you've wanted for a while? Are you looking to bring a platonic companion to a holiday event, or are you looking to be swept off your feet? Check in with yourself and ask, "What am I looking for?" This will help you confront your feelings before you get into the thick of things with someone else. It'll also help you see clearly without looking through a rose-tinted lens.

2. Be clear about what you're seeking in the long and short term

If you're meeting people out in the world, have a conversation early on about what you're looking for. If you're using a dating app, make your expectations clear on your profile.

3. Define your relationship

You can't DIY everything, and when it comes to cuffing season, it's important that you work with your partner to DYR: define your relationship. You want to define your relationship with your partner by sitting down, facing each other and defining your relationship together. And much like setting expectations from the beginning, you'll want to check in with your partner as your feelings change.

4. Don't make plans too far in advance

If you're in a short-term relationship, you don't want to

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WICHITA

Wed, Dec 6, 11:30: AM: WPC (Wichita Professional Communicators) Holiday Luncheon 2023 Larkspur Bistro & Bar, 904 E Douglas. so bring your best naughty or nice gift (\$10-ish value or less and wrapped, please) – and be prepared to steal the one you want. COST: \$0 - 25. <https://bit.ly/3RdxMm7>

Wed, Dec 6, 1 pm: Digital Skills eLearning Lab, Wichita Workforce Center, 2021 N Amidon Ave, Suite 1100. Brush up on your computer skills by using tutorials. Practice your typing skills using free typing websites, Complete online courses with GOOGLE, IBM, and LINKEDIN LEARNING for certifications, Study and take Microsoft Product certification exams. FREE

Fri. Dec. 9, 6:30 pm: Ponder This, Wichita Art Museum, 1400 Museum Blvd., another evening of entertaining and thought-provoking spoken word performance inspired by works of art in the fall featured exhibitions, "Fighters for Freedom: William H. Johnson Picturing Justice" and "Barbara Earl Thomas: The Illuminated Body." COST \$15.

Sat., Dec. 9, 1-3 pm: Mrs. Connie's Retirement Party, Boys and Girls Club, 2400 N Opportunity Dr Join us in making this retirement celebration an unforgettable tribute to Miss Connie's incredible dedication. FREE

Sat., Dec. 9 • 8:30 - 10:30 am: Kansas Children's Service League Red Stocking Breakfast, WSU Metroplex, 5015 E 29th. Breakfast at the WSU Metroplex to

benefit the Kansas Children's Service League's Child Abuse Prevention programs in Sedgwick, Sumner & Butler Counties. COST \$12 <https://bit.ly/40VzsnR>

Sat., Dec. 9, 5-7 pm: Winter Wonderland, Naftzger Park. Experience the magic of the holiday season with a festive celebration like no other. Designed to bring holiday cheer to the entire community. FREE

Sun, Dec 10 & 17, 2 - 5 pm: All Aboard the Bradley Fair Express, Bradley Fair Plaza, 1900 N. Rock Road. Take a ride on this fully electric train that will take your entire family on a holiday journey. \$3/ person ages 5+. Children under 5 ride free. <https://bit.ly/46tJs90>

Tue, Dec 12, 4:30 - 6 pm: Community Soundboard: Your Vision for a More Connected Wichita, Wichita Public Library - Advanced Learning Library. Join The Wichita Beacon and Lead for America for an insightful evening of community engagement. This roundtable-style event offers a unique opportunity for millennials & gen z to engage directly with organizations working to support them. FREE

Tues. Dec 12, 7:30 pm: Spirit of the Season: Free Family Holiday Concert. Celebrate the season at this one-hour concert filled with your favorite Christmas carols and holiday hits performed by your Wichita Symphony. Canned food donations for the Kansas Food Bank will be accepted, as well as cash donations for the Wichita Symphony's

education programs. Please note, while this concert is free, a ticket is still required for admission due to seating capacity. FREE

Tue., Dec 12, 7-9 pm: 4theKulture Masquerade Party. Doma, 7703 E Douglas. Join us for live music, dancing, contest and more! Contest to enter best mask, best shoe, and a buy in raffle! COST: \$5

Dec. 15 - 17, 7pm Sat. & Sun. Matinees at 2 p.m.: Ballet Wichita The Nutcracker Ballet, Century II 200 W Douglas. Get swept away by the evocative strains of Tchaikovsky's lyrical and dramatic score, conducted with passionate precision by the Guest Maestro Steven Byess. COST \$27 + <https://bit.ly/3sMbA9w>

Fri, Dec 29, 6:30 pm: Christmas Color 'N Sip, Simply Sangria, 243 N. Cleveland. A festive evening of creativity and relaxation. Get into the holiday spirit and unleash your artistic side as we provide you with coloring materials and a variety of Christmas-themed designs. COST: \$10.00 <https://bit.ly/3R23r8O>

Sun., Dec. 31, 8 pm: New Year's Eve Scholarship Benefit Party, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Gamma Upsilon, The Winslet, 1550 N. Lindberg Circle. Enjoy live music by DJ Rickey and vocalist Kimberly Paige. Your ticket includes dinner, a balloon drop and party favors. Ticket: \$125 - contact sellers Curtis Whitten (316) 518-8074; Harry Willis (316) 992-1420; Dana McElrath (316) 305-2692; Joe Patrick (316) 210-6388.

KANSAS CITY

Sun, Dec 3, 4-7 pm: Dr. Umar Johnson - "The Future of Black Children" Gem Theater, 1615 E 18th. an enlightening event with renowned speaker and advocate, Dr. Umar Johnson, as he delves into the pressing topic of "The Future of Black Children." This in-person gathering promises to be an eye-opening experience, filled with thought-provoking discussions and actionable insights. Reserve a spot <https://bit.ly/3QVoQRh> FREE

Tue, Dec 5 • 11:30 am: Wyandotte County State of the Government- Hosted by the KCK Rotary Club. Memorial Hall, 600 North 7th Street Trafficway KCKS. KCK Mayor Tyrone Garner will be giving this year's State of the Government Presentation. Rotary has been hosting this annual address since the 1960's. The mayor will be reviewing the past year and reflecting on what comes next. COST: \$35+ <https://bit.ly/487ONUL>

Thu, Dec 7, 11 am: BLOC (Brothers Liberating Our Community) Potential Partnership Brunch, Grand Street Cafe, 4740 Grand Ave. Annual event that features what the BLOC offers to a partner. This opportunity will offer partners to engage with current BLOC members and hear about our current partnerships. Reserve a spot <https://bit.ly/40UQN00> FREE

Fri, Dec 8 • 7pm: BLOC (Brothers Liberating Our Community) Winter Gala, Glory At Midtown, 3124 Troost Ave. Come hang with the BLOC at our annual winter gala celebrating Black Educators in the Kansas City Region. BLOC has had an impactful 2023 and as we look towards our future, we understand the gravity of our responsibilities. Come join local heroes, past and present, as we Liberate our Communities together. <https://bit.ly/3ux-gR5e> From \$100.00

Fri, Dec 8 • 6pm: Heartland Black Chamber Annual Holiday Awards Dinner and Dance. The Gallery, 61 E 14th St. Reception/Cocktail, dinner, Awards/Program and dancing immediately after. Black Tie Attire. COST: \$150+ <https://bit.ly/3usByiB>

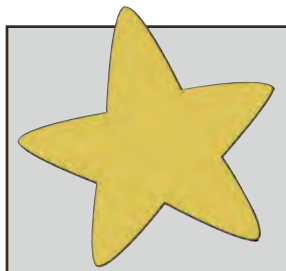
Fri, Dec 8, 5:30 pm: Groundwork NRG Annual Meeting (Northeast Revitalization Group). 1314 Quindaro Blvd, KCKS. Join us for snacks, drinks, live music, a Futuristic Fashion Finest Competition, and our 2023 organizational review. We work to sustain and revitalize our beloved Northeast Kansas City, KS community, guided by principles of equity, community cohesion, institutional transparency, and environmental justice. Reserve a spot <https://bit.ly/40VMDoP> FREE

Fri, Dec 8 • 5 pm: Soul of Santa Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, The Shops on Blue Parkway, 4209 E 50th Terrace. Be part of a cherished tradition, enjoy live jazz melodies, and feel the warm embrace of community spirit. FREE

Sat., Dec. 9, 3 pm: Holiday at the Apollo Gala, Friends of Yates. Dr Thomas Burke Technical Center, 6565 State Ave. KCKS. Celebrating 110 years of service. Semi-formal holiday attire COST \$110+ RSVP by Nov. 27th, 913-321-1566 <https://bit.ly/3R0rUfS>

Sat, Dec 9, 7 pm: A SOULful Christmas, Delta Athenaeum and DEED Foundation, 900 E Linwood Blvd. Come and enjoy a night of Soulful renditions of your favorite Christmas songs by KC's finest singers, including: Lee Langston, Jaà Reneè, Cherayla Haynes, Marlin Hatcher Jr., Ashley Phillips, hosted by Sean Tyler. (includes Buffet, Reserved Seating and Admission. COST \$30.00+ <https://bit.ly/49P1x46>

See CALENDAR Page 16 →



We'll Make Your Event the Star!!! Enter to Expand the Reach for Your Event.

In December, we're giving away one featured event post in our online calendar per week. Featured Events have priority placement at the top of our calendar and are also featured on other sites online calendars in the event area

How to enter: Just post your event in our online calendar. Go to www.communityvoiceks.com Click on calendar of events Click red add and event button.

Winner will be selected randomly on Sunday with event featured from Monday - Sunday

Our basic online calendar of event listings, which includes a photo/ flyer are always free. Listing your item on our online calendar is the best way to get your event featured in our print calendar.

Help Us Grow Our Online Event Calendar Post your event: Basic listings including a photo are Free



Are You Sponsoring a King Holiday Event?
Submit Your King Holiday Events.
 Community, church, education or cultural events.

Submit early, we're building our calendar coverage now online. We'll also have a complete listing of all King events in our first January issue. Deadline, for submissions, Dec. 31. Submit your events to our online calendar and/or email them to Guillory@tcvpub.com

George Floyd's Killer (Derek Chauvin) Stabbed in Prison

*Raise your hand if you're at all surprised to learn that Derek Chauvin, the ex-Minneapolis police officer convicted of murdering George Floyd, has been stabbed.

In any event, Chauvin was knifed last Friday (11-24-23) at a federal prison in Tucson, Arizona, reports The Associated Press via a source.

Chauvin's injury is identified as serious, but he is expected to survive.

Without naming the inmate, the Bureau of Prisons issued a statement to the AP saying that prison employees responded to an incident, contained the area, and performed "life-saving measures" on the inmate (assumed to be Chauvin), who was then transported to a hospital.

It was earlier this week that Chauvin's appeal on his murder conviction was rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court.



It Wasn't Me! Says Jamie Foxx About Sexual Assault Allegations

Jamie Foxx is maintaining he never sexually assaulted the model who recently sued him for a second time over an incident she claims happened in 2015. Foxx's spokesperson told TMZ that the incident in question never happened.

In 2020, this individual filed a nearly identical lawsuit in Brooklyn. That case was dismissed shortly thereafter.

In the lawsuit, filed in New York, the woman alleges that Foxx groped her without her consent at a swanky NYC rooftop restaurant in August 2015. According to her, she asked Foxx for a photo and he told her, "Wow, you have that supermodel body" and "You smell so good."

He allegedly grabbed her arm and pulled her to a back area, and started touching her all over her body, including all her private parts.

To make this one the last lawsuit, they



plan to go at her and her attorneys with legal action.

Macy's to Remove Diddy's Clothing Brand 'Sean John' from its Stores

Retail giant Macy's will no longer carry Sean "Diddy" Combs clothing brand "Sean John." An insider familiar with the details disclosed that "products are being removed" and "won't be available on the site," ending a two-decade partnership.

Macy's rep said the brand has not been selling like it used to and that retailers are "always evaluating" and deciding "what's relevant" to consumers. But the insider was quick to point out that the decision has nothing to do with the lawsuit filed against the mogul last week by his ex-girlfriend Cassie.

In the lawsuit, Cassie, 37, alleges Combs



raped her, physically abused her, piling her with drugs, and forcing her to perform illicit acts on sex workers throughout the 10-year period they were in a relationship.

Cassie withdrew the case a day later after settling the matter with Diddy.

A New Comic Book Celebrates Music Icon Tina Turner

TidalWave has released a 22-page comic book detailing the triumphant story of the life of the Queen of Rock and Roll Tina Turner.

"The Tribute comic book series is dedicated to preserving the legacies of beloved entertainers who have left us," explained Darren Davis, TidalWave's publisher. "It serves as a heartfelt tribute to those individuals who have left an indelible mark on our world."

TidalWave Comics released an addition to their "Tribute" series on Nov. 24 in honor of Turner in hopes of continuing to amplify and preserve Turner's legacy following her death in May.

'S WONDERFUL:

A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE GERSHWIN

STEINWAY & SONS

SAT, DECEMBER 9, 2023 // 7:30 PM // CENTURY II CONCERT HALL
LISA VROMAN, VOCALIST & CLAYTON STEPHENSON, PIANO

TICKETS SELLING FAST! BUY AT WSO.ORG



WICHITA
SYMPHONY



RENAISSANCE, from Page 3 ↓

\$30M global opening, maybe \$40M compared to the \$96 million Swift's raked in during its opening weekend.

Sources have said for quite some time that despite the mammoth success of the Renaissance concert tour — with ticket sales close to \$600M, per Live Nation back in August, making it the eighth-highest-grossing concert tour of all time and the second highest-grossing by a woman — the singer's appeal is vastly different from Taylor Swift's.

The disparity was obvious in the first-day

presales of both concert movies: Renaissance rang up an estimated first day of \$6M to Eras Tour's \$37M.

Unlike Beyoncé's film, the "Eras" movie was filmed over three nights during Swift's six-night residency at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles back in August, whereas the "Renaissance" film seems to chronicle a larger swath of Beyoncé's 56-show tour across Europe and North America.

Still, the release of the two concert movies mirror each other. Both Swift and Beyoncé chose to distribute their films directly through AMC Theatres, rather than a traditional

Hollywood distributor — effectively cutting out the middleman and securing higher pay-days for the artists and their teams.

In what may be a coincidence, the films' runtimes are almost equal, with Swift's coming in at 2 hours and 49 minutes and Beyoncé's listed at 2 hours and 48 minutes.

No matter what fans may think, the two do not seem to be in competition. Beyoncé made an appearance at Swift's movie premiere in Los Angeles shortly after wrapping her own tour. And in an Instagram caption, Swift said of Beyoncé: "She's been a guiding light throughout my career and the fact that

she showed up tonight was like an actual fairy tale."

What do I Wear?

Although there's been no official word from the Queen herself on how moviegoers should dress, Beyoncé did ask concertgoers to wear all silver when attending her "Renaissance" shows, dubbing it her "House of Chrome."

If attending the film on opening weekend, expect most everyone to be dressed like they're seeing Beyoncé live all over again. So, yes, don your best "Alien Superstar" fit, and remember to pee before the show.

BISHOP MOORE, from Page 5 ↓

says many times, students are suspended for failure to show up for classes.

"Suspending them is like a reward. I don't do that. If I have to suspend a student from a class for acting up or whatever, I make it an in-school suspension where he still has to be in school and do all his work."

He said his approach is working and he's seeing students improve their performance.

Accreditation Status

Urban Prep Academy has not administered state standardized tests, something that has threatened its accreditation by the State of Kansas, which requires schools to administer tests to be eligible to get tax-credit

grants.

Moore said that didn't come to his attention until last spring when there was only a month left in the school year.

"We didn't have time to get the computer setup established nor even really to administer tests," he said. "We are getting positioned to do that. Although, we are also working to get accreditation through the

Association of Christian Schools International."

He called the threat of denial "politically motivated" and said that too often testing results in teachers teaching to the test rather than to the actual progress and success of the students. He said he believes that the number of educators fleeing public schools are a testament to the failure of the current system.

The state postponed a final decision last month after Moore suffered health problems.

"We get zero dollars in state money," he said. "We are here because of the generosity of citizens and private donors."

Urban Prep has space available for students at both campuses with the exception of sixth grade at the North Campus, which is full.

8 RULES, from Page 20 ↓

plan too far ahead. Doing so implies you're expecting them to stick around for the long haul — and if your partner is trying to get concert tickets for a date out in May or June, chances are, they're thinking about your relationship for the long-term.

5. Prepare for the holidays

When you're bringing someone to a holiday party, you'll want to set expectations for other people, too, by telling them ahead of time who you're bringing so they know what to expect and how to respond in real time. Being

mindful of how you introduce your partner. What label you give them will give an impression of whether you think your relationship is long-term or short-term.

"You may feel unsure as to what kind of gift to give someone if they may or may not be in your life in the future," says Dr. Albers. "To make this easier, you could agree on what kind of gift to get if you're going to exchange gifts, how much money you're each investing or maybe even forego gifts altogether."

6. Set healthy emotional and physical boundaries

Healthy boundaries are different from

person-to-person. If you're not sure where to start, make a list of what you're comfortable with and what crosses a line. Do you want to see your partner multiple times a week, or do you want to only see them on the weekends? Are you comfortable spending the night at your partner's house, or do you want to strictly keep your relationship reserved for public places and holiday get-togethers?

7. Don't ghost the relationship

Nothing feels worse than a relationship that's ghosted. Instead of fading away or disappearing without a trace, try and have an honest conversation about why your relationship isn't

working and end things amicably. If you're worried about how to break up with someone you care about, we've got that covered, too.

8. Recognize that it's OK if you're single

Relationships ebb and flow. And with relationships comes a lot of social pressures to perform and make every relationship count. If there's one thing you should recognize though, it's that it's OK to be single. Don't push yourself to be in a relationship to suit others' expectations for your lifestyle. And don't feel the need to force a relationship that doesn't match your own personal values. If you spot red flags, let that person go.

CALENDAR, from Page 21 ↓

Sat, Dec 9, 4 pm: SantaCon KC 2023. Westport, 500 Westport Rd. 19th annual SantaCon KC Pub Crawl for charity! Booze it up with a mob of Santas as we load the sleighs (party buses) in Westport, and travel from bar district to bar district, visiting numerous Santa friendly bars. COST: \$40+ <https://bit.ly/3uzaoXC>

Mon, Dec 11, 6 pm: Historic West Bottoms Association Holiday Open House, The Quincy Building, 1311 West 13th. Event will take place in the historic Quincy

Building which has been re-developed by WeBo Property Group. Food and beverages provided by Historic West Bottoms Association featuring neighborhood restaurants, eateries, wineries and bars. The event will also feature paintings done by artists during the Wilbur Niewald Plein. FREE Reserve spot <https://bit.ly/47uiMGq>

Fri, Dec 15 • 7 pm: BlaqOut's 2023 Holiday Party, The BlaqBox, 3601 Main St. A merry mixer celebrating the holiday season! Enjoy live music, food, and

plenty of drinks in the company of BlaqOut's friends, family, allies, and partners. FREE

Sat. Dec. 16, 1 p.m. Carter G. Woodson Birthday Celebration, Anita Gorman Conservation Discovery Center, 4750 Troost Ave.-K. C. MO. The Greater Kansas City Black History Group will celebrate the birthday of the founder of Black History Month. Guest speaker will be GKCBHSG President Larry Lester who is the author of several books on sports history and a respected authority on Negro League Baseball.

Sat, Dec 16, 6 pm: The Gift of Christmas, Gem Theater, 1615 E. 18th. The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (NLBM) is thrilled to team with internationally acclaimed Smooth Jazz Bassist, Producer and Songwriter, Julian Vaughn with special guest, Adam Hawley. COST \$35 <https://bit.ly/47v5Rns>

Sat, Dec 16, 10 pm: A Goodies Christmas Party & Toy Drive. Brick House KC, 400 East 31st. A Goodies Christmas Party and Toy Drive. Sounds by Nick Davis & Vinyl Richy. Free entry with the

donation of a new, unwrapped toy, benefitting Operation Breakthrough. COST: \$10 <https://bit.ly/3SXM0ZH>

Sun, Dec 17, 2 pm: Holiday Follies at the Music Hall, The Music Hall, 301 W 13th. The annual Holiday Follies concert is a feast for the senses, showcasing the prodigious talents of students from the prestigious Music/Arts Institute. This year's performance will also feature renowned organist Tim Schramm of Rochester, New York, who will dazzle you with his mastery of the iconic Robert-Morton Theatre Pipe

Organ. FREE Reserve spot <https://bit.ly/3MUaG1h>

Fri, Dec 22, 9 am: Unity Brunch - Cafe Reflections, 7016 Troost. Our annual Unity Brunch features photos with Santa, free brunch, and toys for the whole family. Register at <https://bit.ly/40T4HQm> FREE

Tue, Dec 26 • 6 pm: The Color Purple Red Carpet Movie- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, KCKS Alumnae Chapter. Cinemark Merriam and XD, 5500 Antioch Dr. COST \$20+ <https://bit.ly/3MWIOuA>

“... if we work
together, there
is no problem in
the world that
can stop us.”



– Ewing Marion Kauffman

As 2023 comes to a close,
we look forward to a new year
of fresh opportunities.

Let this be a time to dream,
grow, learn, and engage –
together.

