

# THE VOICE

A Trusted Voice From The Community's Perspective



**WOMEN'S HISTORY**

## A RECORD NOT HONORED

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Baseball Museum

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# THE VOICE

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 5  
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## LOOKING AHEAD

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**SHARE YOUR STORY IDEAS, ISSUES AND OPINIONS.**

# Subtle But Powerful Racism at the Topeka capital

By **KS Rep. Ford Carr**,  
84th House District

Racism in the Kansas Legislature (KSLEG) is subtle but powerful. They don't even have to see us or acknowledge us. Our issues and positions are largely overlooked.

About a year ago, the "Kansas City Star" published a story about whether Black legislators in Kansas and Missouri face racism. I'll end the suspense. We do!

A racist ideology seems to be ingrained in the foundation of most members of our Republican party.

In my short tenure, White Republican legislators tried to stop one of my speeches from the floor. After the attempted unsuccessful control of my speech, they followed up with a threatening letter. This year, they refused me the services of an intern.

Beyond my personal

experiences with racism, race and the impacts of racist legislation cause ongoing problems in Black and Brown communities.

Since taking office, I have worked diligently to scan every bill for racial components. Here are a few of my observations on racist legislation or discussion in the KSLEG.

First, A Republican lead Legislature has had four years to pass the CROWN Act and protect the rights of B&B people to wear our natural hair and has chosen again this year to ignore us.

Second, a bill has been introduced increasing the penalty for individuals protecting themselves from being bitten by a police dog released on them as a suspected criminal.

There is no consideration in this bill, no penalties outlined, for police when they unjustly harm B&B people

people said that's why the Black people liked me because they had been hurt so badly and discriminated against. And they actually viewed me as I'm being discriminated against."

Then went on to say, "The Black people are on my side now because they see what's happening to me happens to them."

I can't think of any Black people who are being charged for trying to steal the election and classified documents.

with these dogs. America's history of using police dogs to disfigure, punish, and maim peaceful protesters has created historic scars this bill should take this into consideration.

Third, while other states are working to find ways to help people get out of jail by reducing requirements for bail, the Kansas Legislature is working on a bill to make it harder for individuals to make bail. The Bail Agents Association has introduced a bill eliminating a bondsman's ability to take payments on bonds or less than 10% on bonds, something that smaller – often B&B -- bondsmen would offer as a way of "working" with the incarcerated who are too often cash and asset poor.

This is as much a plan to get tight on B&B bondsmen and drive them out of the market, as it is a plan to keep the poor in jail. Freedom should never be directly tied to wealth.

Finally, legislation is being discussed to legalize medical cannabis that will include a

state system for licensing individuals for growing and distributing marijuana. While most states have taken major strides to ensure African-Americans -- who have born the brunt of the nation's war on drugs -- are given special consideration for participation in the legalized marijuana industry, discussion by the KS legislature is mute on the subject.

Instead, the discussions around medical-use cannabis include opportunities of a different kind; opportunities to administer more severe penalties, fines, and jail time for individuals caught participating in the industry of marijuana without a license, the very licenses that will likely be designed in a manner that make them unattainable by B&B business. Once again, B&B people get left out.

Not providing space for the B&B community to prosper from an industry that has incarcerated more B&B people than any other is a crime in itself.

We can do better Kansas.

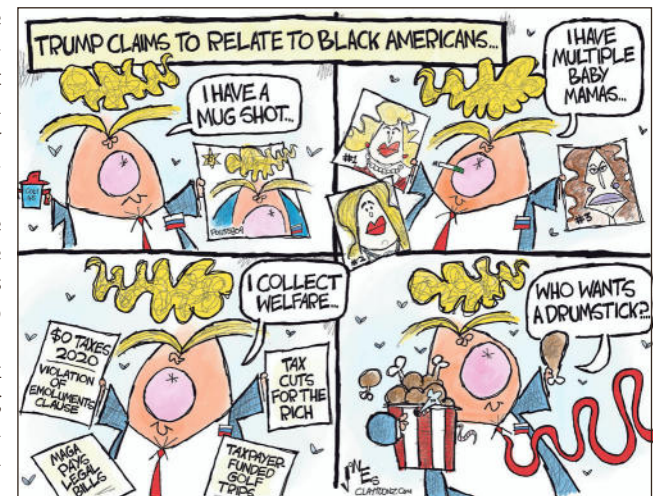
## Behind the Cartoon

By **Clay Jones**  
Cartoonist

In case you missed it, Donald Trump spoke to a Black conservative group Feb. 23 and they gave him an award they had just invented.

At the conference, Trump compared his arrests for 91 criminal indictments to historic discrimination against Black Americans.

Trump said, "A lot of



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**CONTACTS:**  
**Editor-in-Chief/Press Releases**  
Bonita Gooch  
[press@tcvpub.com](mailto:press@tcvpub.com)  
Wichita | [press@tcvpub.com](mailto:press@tcvpub.com)  
KC | [cvoicekc@tcvpub.com](mailto:cvoicekc@tcvpub.com)

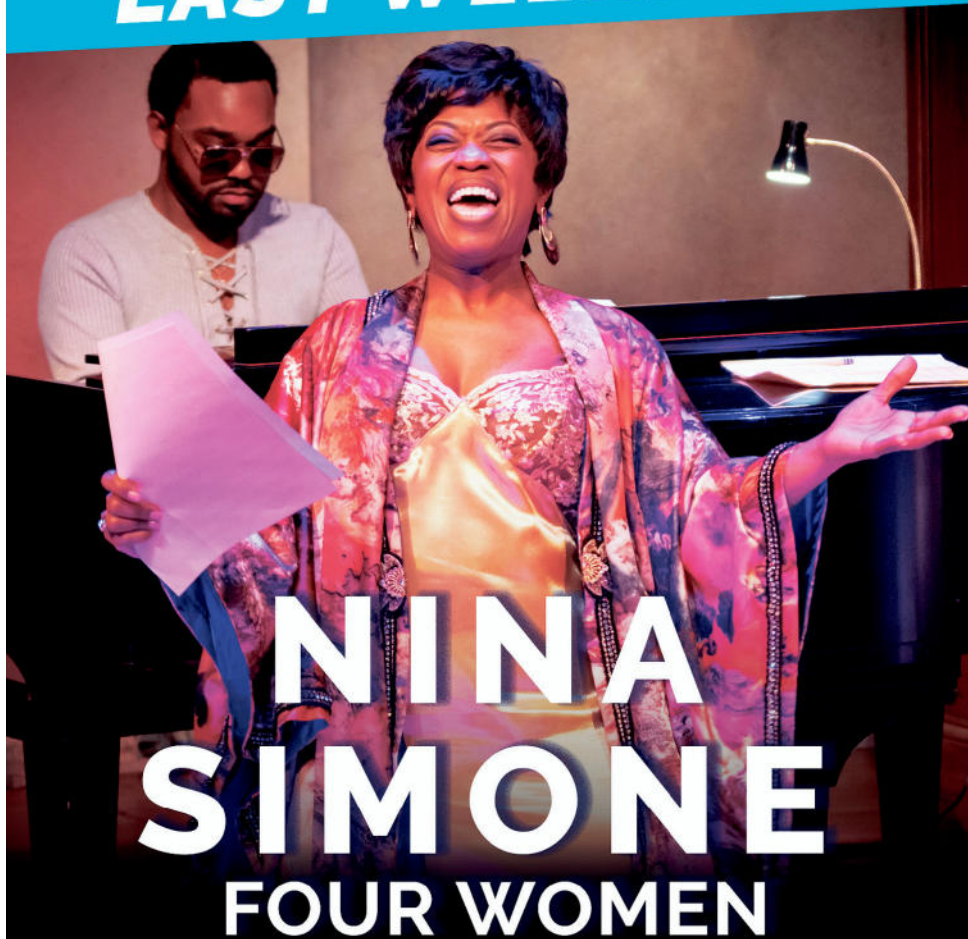
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Kurt Oswald | [oswald@tcvpub.com](mailto:oswald@tcvpub.com)  
**Press Releases:** [press@tcvpub.com](mailto:press@tcvpub.com)  
**Advertising:** [adcopy@tcvpub.com](mailto:adcopy@tcvpub.com)

**Contributing Writers:**  
Thomas White | [kansas-city@tcvpub.com](mailto:kansas-city@tcvpub.com)  
Bonita Gooch | [tcvpub.com](mailto:tcvpub.com)  
P.J. Griekspoor | [wichita@tcvpub.com](mailto:wichita@tcvpub.com)  
[griekspoor@tcvpub.com](mailto:griekspoor@tcvpub.com)

**Advertising Sales:**  
Cornell Hill | [hill@tcvpub.com](mailto:hill@tcvpub.com)

**Office Administration:**  
Elaine Guillory | [guillory@tcvpub.com](mailto:guillory@tcvpub.com)

# LAST WEEKEND!



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Image (l-r): Matthew Harris and Alexis J. Roston in KCRep's 2024 production of *NINA SIMONE: FOUR WOMEN*. Photo: Don Ipock.

KCRep is the professional theatre in residence at UMKC



## ALPHA PHI ALPHA TAKES A STAND

MOVES 2025 CONVENTION DUE TO FLORIDA'S POLICIES AGAINST THE BLACK COMMUNITY

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity announced they are pulling their 2025 national convention from Florida in response to the state's policies that were negative to minority communities.

## Report Reveals High Economic Risk of Anti-DEI Laws in Kansas and Missouri

Report finds current policies under consideration could cost thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions in tax revenue

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



### Key Points

- Proposed anti-diversity, equity, and inclusion laws could cause economic loss in Kansas and Missouri.
- Discriminatory policies can lead to reduced travel, tourism, and economic development.
- Bills under consideration in Missouri and Kansas could result in losses of hundreds of millions of dollars.

A new report from The Perryman Group analyzed currently proposed legislation in both Kansas and Missouri and found the potential for economic loss in both states due to proposed anti-diversity, equity, and inclusion laws.

According to their findings,

policies perceived to be discriminatory, irrespective of their stated purpose or actual intent, can lead to economic harm.

The Perryman Group estimates that bills and initiatives currently under consideration in Missouri that could be seen as discriminatory put the state at risk of losing nearly \$2.6 billion in annual gross product and 23,842 jobs as of 2030.

In Kansas, policies under consideration that could be viewed as discriminatory put the state at risk of losing \$898.4 million in annual gross product and 8,462 jobs as of 2030.

"The study shows there are significant unintended consequences when states signal they might not be friendly to diversity and inclusion," said Eusebio Díaz, Health Forward Vice President of

Strategy, Learning, and Communication.

Health Forward Foundation commissioned this study from The Perryman Group to get an impartial, independent analysis on the economic impact of policies that restrict diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in each of the two states.

The study says controversial laws can both reduce travel and tourism and diminish the potential for economic development.

Scheduling an event in a location with policies that are considered to be non-inclusive or discriminatory is often interpreted as supporting these initiatives; thus, some organizations and sponsors choose to avoid areas with controversial laws in order to remove the appearance of approval.

In addition, studies indicated controversial public policy

See **REPORT**, Page 11 →

# Kansas Presidential Preference Primary March 19

Here's how to vote, who's on the ballot, & deadlines.

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

## Key Points

- Kansas will hold a presidential preference primary on March 19, replacing the informal caucus format.
- Both Democrats and Republicans have 39 delegates to their respective national conventions.
- Voters must be registered with either the Democratic or Republican party to participate in the primary.

Kansas Democrats and Republicans wanting to weigh in on who they'd like to be their party's candidate for president will be able to cast a vote for their favorite candidate during the Kansas presidential preference primary on March 19.

Kansas has typically allowed voters to show their preference for a



Who will lead their parties to win the White House in 2024? Kansans will have their say March 19. (PHOTO: ANA LANZA - UNSPLASH)

presidential candidate through the informal caucus format. But the Kansas Legislature voted in 2023 to hold a primary instead. This is a change that applies only to this election, and the state could return to a caucus format for the 2028 election.

This primary is pretty much like a regular election, but the tallies are used by each political party to assign their delegates to their respective presidential conventions. Both Kansas Republicans and Democrats have 39 delegates to their national

convention.

The Democratic National convention is Aug. 19-24 in Chicago. The Republican National Convention is July 15-18 in Milwaukee.

## Who Can Vote?

The deadline to be registered to vote, which would allow you to participate in this election, has already passed. That deadline was Feb. 20. It was also the deadline for individuals to change their party affiliation ahead of the election.

To vote, individuals must be affiliated with either the Democratic or Republican party. Individuals who have not declared an affiliation with a party may do so at any point, up to and including on Election Day.

To check your party affiliation, go to [myvoteinfo.voteks.org/voterview](http://myvoteinfo.voteks.org/voterview).

## Who's on the Ballot?

Both Democrats and Republicans may be surprised by who's on the ballot. In addition to Joe Biden, there are three other candidates on the Democrats' ballot: Marianne Williamson, Jason Michael Palmer and Dean Phillips.

On the Republican ballot, in addition to Donald Trump and Nikki Haley, the only two remaining candidates, the names of Ron DeSantis and Ryan L. Binkley will also appear.

Write-in votes are not allowed, but there is an option for "None of the names shown" on both the Democrat and Republican ballot, according to the Kansas Secretary of State's office.

Candidates had to either pay a \$10,000 filing fee or submit a

petition with signatures of 5,000 registered Kansas voters from their political party.

## How to Vote

### • Advance Ballot

As we stated earlier, it's too late to request an advance ballot, but that is an option for voting.

Advance ballots can be mailed or dropped off in secure ballot boxes, if your county has them, or at the County Election office. Ballots can also be dropped off at any polling place on Election Day.

All advance ballots must be received by the elections office no later than 7 p.m. Tue., March 19.

### • Vote Early in Person

Each election officer has the authority to set voting hours, locations and dates for advance voting in their county. So there isn't a standard we can share across the state, however, advance voting appears to begin as early as March 4 and typically ends at noon on the Monday before the election.

Check the election office for your

See **CANDIDATES** Page 5 →

# Legislature Considers Stricter Voting Access Rules

ACLU criticizes Kansas election bills as 'anti-democratic.'

By **Tim Carpenter**  
Kansas Reflector

## Key Points

- Proposed bills in Kansas aim to make it more difficult to register and cast ballots.
- Kansas House Bill 2516 proposes changes that will make it more difficult for independents to qualify as a candidate.
- House Bill 2512 would end in-person advance voting on Monday before a Tuesday election.
- ACLU of Kansas criticizes the bill as part of an "anti-democratic theme" to make it more difficult to vote.

Representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas noted the array



The Kansas Legislature is working several bills that will affect Kansans' right to vote.

of election bills moving through the Kansas House and Senate saying they were bound to an "anti-democratic theme" based on the premise lawmakers should make it more difficult to register, cast a ballot, and have votes counted.

Here are a few of those bills.

## HB 2516

Under House Bill 2516, given tentative approval by the House, the state would repeal a law allowing independent candidates on the statewide ballots after securing 5,000 petition signatures of registered voters. Instead, the threshold for participation would be 2% of total votes cast for governor in the preceding election. That would mean an independent candidate for Kansas governor in 2026 would need 20,180 valid petition signatures to be on the ballot.

None of the winners in Kansas governor races in 2014, 2018, and 2022 received a clear mandate from voters, with independent candidates pulling votes and the perception that those votes were mostly pulled from Republicans.

If the bill moves through the House and Senate and earns the governor's signature, the change would apply only to independent candidates for statewide office. The four established political parties in Kansas — Republican, Democratic, Libertarian, and

No Labels — would rely on the existing party nomination process.

## Advance Voting to End Earlier

House Bill 2512 would discontinue in-person advance voting on the Monday before a Tuesday election. Instead, counties would be required to offer at least four hours of advance in-person voting on the Saturday before a Tuesday election. As of Jan. 1, 2025, the bill said, all in-person voting before an election must end at 7 p.m. Sunday.

During House consideration of the bill, most of the conversation was about two amendments by House Minority Leader Vic Miller (D-Topeka). The first, approved by the GOP-led House, would enable county clerks on a case-by-case basis to allow in-person delivery of advance ballots in case of emergency until noon Monday.

Miller's second amendment, which was rejected, would expand to all voters the

See **LEGISLATURE** Page 5 →

# Missouri Dems' Presidential Primary: How to Vote and Who's on the Ballot

Missouri Democrats offer mail-in & in-person voting for 2024 presidential preference primary.

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

In 2022, the Missouri Legislature passed a bill eliminating the state-run presidential preference primary election and designated a party-run system for choosing presidential nominees.

Republicans chose to host caucuses across the state on Sat., March 2. Democrats decided on a



Missouri Democratic voters will have their say on March 23 as to who leads their party's run for the White House. (PHOTO: ANA LANZA - UNSPLASH)

presidential primary and designed a process they hoped would encourage as much voter participation as possible by offering both mail-in

and in-person voting options.

## Who Can Vote?

The deadline to register to vote in this election was Feb. 21, so if you're not registered already, you can't participate in the presidential primary.

All Missouri registered voters can vote in the Democratic primary, except for Republicans.

You can check your voter registration status in Missouri at <https://voteroutreach.sos.mo.gov/portal>.

## How to Vote

### • Vote in Person

Missourians who are registered Democrats or unaffiliated voters

can cast their ballots in person on March 23 from 8 a.m. to noon. At least one in-person voting location will be designated in each county. More voting locations are expected in Missouri, however info on those locations still has not been released.

As will all voting in Missouri, voters need to bring a government-issued photo ID to vote in person.

### • Vote by Mail

Registered Democrats and unaffiliated voters in Missouri can ask for a ballot online at <https://request.mrgvote.com/Missouri> or by calling 855-433-8683. The deadline to request a ballot is March 12.

Ballots must be returned to

Democratic party officials by 10 a.m. March 23.

## Who Will be on the Ballot?

In addition to Joe Biden, Joseph R. Biden Jr., there will be five other Democrats on the ballot: Dean Phillips, Stephen P. Lyons, Armando Perez-Serrato, Marianne Williamson and Jason Michael Palmer. Write-in candidates are not allowed, per party rules.

## Future Elections

April 2 some municipalities will hold elections.

Aug. 6 is a primary election date. Nov. 5 is the general election.

# MO House & Senate Vote to Tighten State's Petition Initiative Process

After favorable success of issues brought to the state's citizens through ballot initiative, the Missouri Legislature seems determined to clamp down on the citizen action process.

**By Rudy Keller**  
Missouri Independent

Legislation to add a new barrier to amending the Missouri Constitution by initiative petition passed the state Senate on a party-line vote Feb. 22.

With 22 Republicans in favor and nine Democrats opposed, the Senate sent the House a proposal that would require a statewide majority and a majority vote in five of the state's eight congressional districts to pass a constitutional amendment resulting from an initiative petition or a state



Missouri's petition initiative process helped pass medical and recreational marijuana, expansion of Medicaid and an increase in the minimum wage. Now the Missouri Legislature is trying to make it harder for citizens to use this process to get around the legislature.

convention.

Called a concurrent majority, analysis by The Missouri Independent found that as few as 23% of voters – a majority in the four districts with the lowest number of voters in 2020 and 2022 – could defeat a statewide ballot measure. Under the legislation,

the concurrent majority requirement would not apply to proposals originating in the General Assembly.

The measure would amend the state constitution if approved in the House and by a simple majority of voters later this year.

The vote came just a few hours after the House voted on changes to the way initiative petition campaigns are conducted. Some of the major changes would require signature gatherers to be U.S. citizens and residents of Missouri for at least 30 days before circulating petitions. Another change would bar campaigns from paying circulators on a per-signature basis.

The House bill would also increase the power of the secretary of state and the attorney general to reject petitions and invalidate any signatures gathered if the ballot language is changed by a court action.

The bill passed on a 104-41 party-line vote. State Rep. Cheri Toalson

Reisch (R-Hallsville) said it would help prevent fraud. She claimed voter rolls are not being maintained.

"Everybody who **knows** me knows I see dead people," Reisch said, "and I see dead people on voter rolls. It is rife with fraud."

Feb. 26 marked the 100th

anniversary of the passage of a constitutional amendment – proposed by a state constitutional convention – that eliminated non-citizen voting in Missouri. The right had been in place since 1865 for males who had declared their intent to become citizens.

## Next Steps

### Both Chambers will work the other's bills

Both Bills – the House Bill and the Senate Bill – will need to be worked and approved by the other chamber. If there are any differences between the versions of the bills coming out of the other chamber, a committee of representatives from each chamber will work to iron out any differences before the bills are voted on by each of the full chambers.

### Citizens will have the final say

If either bill is approved and signed by the governor, as a constitutional amendment, it must be presented to the citizens of Missouri for a vote before it becomes law. A simple majority of votes cast can either approve or overturn the measure. If approved during this legislative session, revising the petition initiative process could come to a vote by the citizens as early as the Nov. 2024 general election.

## CANDIDATES, from Page 4 ↓

county for exact advance voting days, times and locations.

### • Vote on Election Day

Voting times also vary by county. Sedgwick County voting hours are 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. while Wyandotte

County voting hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. So, again, check your election office.

Also check for your voting

location. Many of the locations will change for this special election, with much fewer sites planned due to an expected lower turnout, particularly

in the Democratic primary.

To find out where you are to vote for this election, visit [myvoteinfo.voteks.org/voterview](http://myvoteinfo.voteks.org/voterview).

## LEGISLATURE, from Page 4 ↓

option of being placed on a permanent list of people to receive advance ballots in the mail before elections. Current Kansas statute

limits that permanent advance-ballot directory to people with disability or an acute illness. All other Kansans wishing for an advance ballot must apply anew before every election.

## 'Official' Election Worker

Rep. Leah Howell (R-Derby) carried on the House floor legislation that she said addressed flaws in a 2021 law that made it a crime for people to impersonate an election

official. The statute triggered a lawsuit now under review by the Kansas Supreme Court, which heard oral arguments this month in the case.

# Wichita Plans to Close 6 Schools. Does the District's Math Add up?

The school district has promised no layoffs and isn't planning to sell the buildings immediately, so how will it save \$16 million?

By Maria Carter  
Wichita Beacon

The Wichita school district faces a difficult math problem — how to close a \$42 million budget shortfall without laying off any teachers or staff, the district's largest expense.

USD 259 is being put to the test by a state requirement to balance its budget, combined with less state funding driven by an 8.4% drop in enrollment since 2016, the end of federal COVID-relief dollars and a \$1.2 billion maintenance backlog.

The administration split the problem into three parts: \$9 million from administrative cuts, \$16.2 million from closing schools, and \$17 million from dipping into cash reserves, attrition and other cuts still under consideration.

School closings have drawn the most attention. The district plans to close six schools: Hadley Middle School, Jardine STEM and Career Explorations Academy, Clark Elementary, Park Elementary, Payne Elementary, and Cleaveland Traditional College and Career Readiness Magnet Elementary.

If the school board approves the proposal at its meeting on March 4 at North High School, some 2,200 students will head to different buildings next school year.

Yet the district has no immediate plans to sell the buildings. Instead, administrators want to finish a master plan process before making any decisions.

Also, the district has guaranteed jobs to all teachers and staff currently at those schools.

## Is Saving \$16 Million a Reasonable Estimate?

Phuong Nguyen-Hoang, a professor of planning and public affairs at Iowa State University who has studied school closures, said large school districts with excess capacity are perfect candidates for closing buildings.

"Consolidating school buildings may be very helpful fiscally," Nguyen-Hoang said.

Part of why consolidations save money, Nguyen-Hoang said, is because schools benefit from economies of scale. Larger schools with more students tend to be more efficient.

For example, an elementary school needs a school nurse, whether it has 300 students or 600 students, but the nurse costs twice as much per student for the smaller schools. Repeat this across multiple positions, and the costs pile up.



Park Elementary School on Main just South of 13th Street is one of six schools proposed for closing by USD 259. How does closing six schools help close a \$42 million funding gap?

## Filling the Teacher Gap

Despite not laying off teachers, the district estimates 98% of the savings come from staff salaries.

On average, 80% of K-12 spending is shelled out for staff salaries and benefits.

As part of the school closing proposal, the district has assigned the affected students to 15 neighborhood schools. Plus, magnet schools have room for more students.

"The teachers at those buildings that are receiving students, they

only have 17 or so kids in their classroom, and we don't have to add a teacher," said Susan Willis, the district's chief financial officer. "We save money."

Those dollars will come from positions cut from the closed schools minus any positions the district adds at schools where students transfer.

But USD 259 has promised not to lay off anyone because it is desperate to hire teachers, cafeteria workers and other positions.

Like many school systems

nationwide, Wichita faces a teacher shortage. In January, Willis told the school board that substitutes were filling about 250 staff vacancies. Additionally, 400 people, on average, retire each year.

The 132 teachers and 190 staff members from the closed schools would help plug staffing holes across the district.

## What are the Costs to Students & Communities?

Research is fairly reassuring about how students fare when a school closes.

A new school is a big transition. Parents may see a few short-term blips on test scores or report cards, interestingly often before the school closes. But after a year, even that tends to work out.

In the long term, the research ranges from no difference to slightly better academic outcomes, especially when transferring to a higher-performing school.

The other cost may be for the community. Many people like having a neighborhood school.

"Schools can serve as an anchor for community events or activities," Nguyen-Hoang said, "so people treasure schools."

When that disappears, even those without children can feel the loss, especially if the building sits vacant for several years before being sold and redeveloped.



Members of the 2024 Kansas Black Educators Hall-of-Fame at their induction ceremony, Feb. 24 at the Wichita State, Rhatigan Student Center. Front row(L-R) Dr. George Rogers, June Faucette-Huff, and Samuel Allen. Standing Shawna Wooden, daughter of Frank Wooden; Deborah James; Shallruan Thomas; Dr. J Michelle Vann, for her sister Linda Watson Morris; Dr. Bobby Berry; and Carlota Ponds, for her aunt Jeanne Ponds.

# 2024 Black Educators Hall-of-Fame Class Inducted

By Bonita Gooch,  
Voice Editor-in-Chief

On the last weekend of Black History Month, nine standouts in Black history were inducted into the Kansas Black Educators Hall of Fame. The hall, founded by the non-profit Art That Touches Your Heart and started in 2017 now has 70 members.

Janice Thacker, Art That Touches Your Heart founder and executive director, came up with the idea for the hall of fame and the art

show that accompanies the induction ceremony. Her goal was to both honor generations of Black teachers and to encourage today's Black students to become tomorrow's Black teachers and Black artists.

Inductees are chosen by community-based voting. This year's new members are:

Samuel Allen - Retired Principal, Wichita Public Schools;

Dr. Bobby Berry - Assistant Dean for Diversity

and Outreach, College of Applied Studies, Wichita State University;

June Faucette - Retired Music Teacher, Wichita Public Schools;

Deborah James - Retired English Teacher, Wichita Public Schools;

Jeanne Ponds - First African-American High School English Teacher, Wichita Public Schools (Deceased);

Dr. George Rogers - First Director of Minority Studies, Wichita State

University (Retired);

Shallruan Samone Thomas - Middle School Teacher, Gordon Parks Academy, Wichita Public Schools;

Linda Watson-Morris - Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Bartlesville Public Schools (Retired); and Frank Wooden - Elementary & Middle School Teacher, Wichita Public Schools (Deceased).

To learn more about members of the Hall-of-Fame visit ATTYH.org.

# Cleats Left Behind from Stolen Jackie Robinson Statue Donated to Negro Leagues Museum

By Associated Press

The bronze Jackie Robinson cleats that were left behind when a statue of the first player to break Major League Baseball's color barrier was stolen from a Kansas park are being donated to the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum.

Thieves cut the statue off at its ankles last month, leaving only the feet behind at McAdams Park in Wichita. About 600 children play there in a youth baseball league called League 42. It is named after Robinson's uniform number with the Brooklyn Dodgers, with

whom he broke the major leagues' color barrier in 1947.

Bob Lutz, executive director of the Little League non-profit that commissioned the sculpture, said the museum in Kansas City, MO, was "enthusiastic" about incorporating the cleats into its display on Robinson.

The display also includes a damaged plaque honoring Robinson. The sign was erected in 2001 outside the birthplace of Robinson near Cairo, GA. Community members there discovered last year that someone had shot the plaque multiple times.

"It's kind of sad in its own way, that we're building this little shrine of Jackie Robinson stuff that has been defaced or damaged," said Bob Kendrick, the president of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. "But it gives us an opportunity to speak to who he was, the characteristics and value of what he represented, even in the face of adversity. And that message really never goes out of style."

Robinson played for the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro Leagues before joining the Brooklyn Dodgers, paving the way for generations of Black American ballplayers. He's considered not only a sports legend but also a civil rights icon. Robinson died in 1972.

Fire crews found burned remnants of his statue five days after the theft while responding to a trash can fire at another park several miles away. One man was charged this month in the theft. Police said there was no evidence it was a hate-motivated crime, but rather the intent was to sell the metal for scrap.

Donations poured in after the theft, totaling around \$300,000, Lutz

said. The amount includes a \$100,000 gift from Major League Baseball.

Lutz, whose friend, the artist John Parsons, made the statue before his death, said the mold is still viable and anticipated that a replacement can be erected within a matter of months. He estimated it would cost around \$45,000 to replace the statue itself. While there also will be security and lighting expenses, that leaves lots of extra money that can be used to enhance some of the league's programming and facilities, Lutz said.

"It's just amazing how many people are interested in this story," Lutz said.



The bronze Jackie Robinson cleats left behind after his statue was stolen are being donated to the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum for display.

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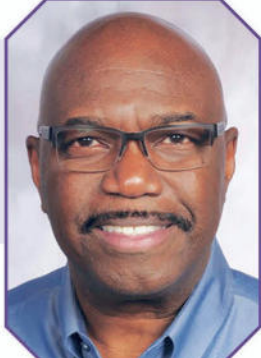


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# The NCAA Erased an Entire Generation of Women's Sports

By Sally Jenkins  
The Washington Post

The purpose of records is not to satisfy the incurable enthusiasm of men with sweating beer bottles in hoarse bar arguments over arcane decimals. It's to provide some memory measure of great deeds.

University of Iowa basketball star Caitlin Clark is approaching a great deed - as her sport's greatest scorer - but the NCAA record book cheapens it by historically gutterizing women's basketball. The greatest scorer in major-division women's collegiate history is not Clark but Lynette Woodard of the University of Kansas.

You would never know this, however, because the old NCAA had no respect for Woodard's era, so it canceled it and asterisked it.

The most remarkable thing about Woodard's scoring mark of 3,649 - set at KU from 1978 to 1981 and 33 more points than Clark currently has - is that many of those points came after she had been folded into a van because nobody would pay for female athletes to fly.

The most airtime Woodard got was when she would go skylarking to the rim. She could flutter a shot in the net like a pianist touching keys despite being cramped up for hours - the tallest

women suffered the most in those vans.

Yet Woodard's accomplishment isn't formally in the record book because NCAA male administrators flatly refused to recognize or fund women's sports until, get this, 1982. In response to a query, an NCAA spokesperson responded that women's records before that date "were not completed while the schools/teams in question were NCAA members."

To sum up, the NCAA doesn't regard women's basketball records as records, because before 1982 the NCAA didn't want women in their organization.

"Those records should have been merged a long time ago," Woodard says. "... We're so quick to erase anything we don't like or think we don't like. It's just not fair. There's a lot of history there, and it just should not be dismissed."

What is a record, really? It's an emblem of "continuous quest," as Norwegian professor of philosophy Sigmund Loland teased out the question in an essay in "The Philosophy of Sport."

As Loland observes, a record is not an exact mathematical comparison of points or seconds within a standard spatiotemporal framework. Records are actually non-precise simply by virtue of time and progress. Johnny

Weissmuller's pool was not Michael Phelps'. Yet they occupy the same human book. Records are symbolic messages that contain potential, history and memory, all in one.

The true history and memory of women's basketball is this: In the 1970s, the NCAA was a male fiefdom of crew-cut athletic directors who thought a dime devoted to a women's sport came at the direct expense of a man. When a coach named Marynell Meadors proposed to start a women's basketball team at Tennessee Tech and asked for funding, her athletic director sneered, "I'll give you a hundred dollars."

She had to drive her team in a small bus that was so dilapidated, the sliding door wouldn't fully close, and she worried she would lose a player out the door on a highway. That kind of thing.

There was only one way to change things for women: by winning. You changed things by winning. So ostracized university women self-formed an organization called the AIAW, and for a decade funded and ran their own championship events - and grew them.

They set records in cheap polyester uniforms that didn't breathe, jerseys that got heavier with their sweat. They held bake sales and washed cars to raise money,

forced their long bodies in 12-seat vans with their knees up, packed bologna sandwiches and drove cross-country to tournaments.

"Ten hours wasn't uncommon," Stanford Coach Tara VanDerveer recalls.

At the inaugural women's basketball championship in 1972 in Normal, IL, teams slept in motels four to a room. That didn't quiet the nuns of Immaculata University, who came all the way from Pennsylvania and expressed their fanatical fandom for Cathy Rush's team by gonging so loud on pots and pans that their noisemakers had to be banned.

Over the next 10 years, the arc of performance grew breathtakingly - even as players such as Woodard went hungry because women had to wait hours for the last, worst and most obscure male athlete to leave KU's Allen Fieldhouse before they were allowed on the floor.

"Every day was a fight even just to get practice time," Woodard recalls. "And to get fed because if we

had an evening practice, the cafeterias would close."

But they wouldn't have traded the experience, because it gave them a pride of possession, a sense that they were the architects of themselves and their game. Their success was entirely self-earned. They hadn't been

handed anything. They did it without recompense and for pure love of the thing and because there was a lot to be said for building yourself from the ground up.

"I navigated with my soul," Woodard says.

*Reprinted by permission of the author*



Records are made to be broken but records are also made to be honored."

LYNETTE  
WOODARD



## Updates From Lynette

By Bonita Gooch,  
The Voice Editor-in-Chief

After 43 years as the leading scorer in women's college basketball, Wichita native Lynette Woodard's record of 3,649 points is finally getting some attention, just as the record was broken this week by University of Iowa player Caitlin Clark.

"Records are made to be broken, but records are also made to be honored," Woodard told The Community Voice this week.

While she's not disappointed her record has been broken, she did have a lot to say about the snub of her record by the NCAA and sports writers.

As Clark closed in on Woodard's record, sportscasters never mentioned her record. It took an article from The Washington Post just a week ago to bring attention to Woodard and what had happened to her and other female athletes of the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW).

Now, sportscasters are acknowledging her accomplishment. People are speaking up, including Clark's coach, Lisa Bluder, who took a shot at the NCAA.

"For some reason the NCAA does not want to recognize the basketball that was played prior to 1982, and that's

wrong. We played basketball back then. They just don't want to recognize it, and that hurts the rest of us who were playing at that time," said Bluder. "There's no reason why that should not be the true record."

Of course, Woodard agrees. She and others now seem more determined than ever to get the records of the AIAW merged with the NCAA.

However, Woodard did take the opportunity to compare her accomplishment to Clark's.

"I did it with just the two-point shot, while she had the three-point shot and a smaller ball," Woodard said. The NCAA has continued to defend its position throughout this growing controversy.

# Aus to Oz: Indigenous Australians Coming to Midwest for Collaboration

Former Kansan Donald Betts, now an Australian resident, is bringing a huge delegation to build trade links.

**By Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

Once a state senator in Kansas, Donald Betts found a new home and career in Australia, but he's never forgotten his friends and business acquaintances in the Midwest.

And now, he's bringing nearly 60 of his Australian friends and business acquaintances here with the goal of building partnerships and collaborations that benefit both groups.

After serving in the Kansas Legislature 2003-09, Betts and his wife Tania moved to her native Australia, where the bright and outgoing young African American was immediately embraced. He became the first African American to receive a Juris Doctorate from Monash University in Australia.

He was also received enthusiastically by the Indigenous Australian business community, who felt a connection to America's Black community, which, like them, suffered from centuries of injustice and discrimination.

## Kinaway Chamber to America

Betts is CEO of the Kinaway Chamber of Commerce that focuses on providing business support, strengthening relationships and creating opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, First Nations or Indigenous (used interchangeably and based on preference) businesses across Victoria, a state in Southeast Australia.

Under the auspices of the Kinaway Chamber, Betts is spearheading the largest First Nations trade mission to America in the history of



Former Kansas State Sen. Donald Betts in his new home of Melbourne Australia. In March, Betts is bringing a delegation of Australian Aboriginals to Kansas and the Kansas City Metro area to build business collaborations.

Australia.

The delegation coming to Kansas will include 58 Australian Indigenous-led businesses of all sizes, hoping to forge partnerships and open avenues for economic collaboration between Australian First Nations entrepreneurs and their counterparts in Kansas.

"You come to Kansas because you come to the heartland to pump the heart and let the whole nation know we're here," says Betts.

The Australian Indigenous delegation will be in Kansas and the Kansas City area March 17-24. The businesses span sectors from technology and defense contractors to textiles, nonprofits, retail, and everything in between, with the trade mission hoping to build long-lasting relationships that are mutually beneficial.

Betts says that the group of

First Nations business owners present unique business opportunities for American entrepreneurs of all stripes. Individuals and American businesses can expand their consumer base internationally and potentially leverage Australia's \$5 billion Indigenous Procurement Policy, which gives first preference to majority Indigenous-owned businesses when looking to fulfill Australian government contracts, among other incentives.

"This could mean big things for American businesses," says Betts. "Once America starts to understand the importance of doing business with Australian First Nations people, they'll realize how lucrative of a deal this is and why it's important to get in the room with these Indigenous businesses."

## Lineup of Events

The delegation will arrive in Wichita on March 17. Once on U.S. soil, the trade group will meet with Native Americans along an ancient native trade route, where they will seek permissions and blessings for trade in the customs of Native Americans.

"We're going to do the cultural respects; asking for permission to trade on the land and do it the right way to respect the Native American elders," says Betts.

President Joe Biden and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese have pledged to do more Indigenous-to-Indigenous trade, and that is an aspect of the trade mission, but Betts says the mission is much larger.

The delegation will be in Kansas City for two days. On March 18, the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly formed American Indian Chamber of Commerce of the Great Plains. The two groups will sign a "memorandum of understanding" allowing free trade between the Indigenous cultures.

March 19, the delegation heads to the World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial. The group of Indigenous business owners will be joined by former Australian Prime Minister and current Ambassador to the U.S. Kevin Rudd and First Nations Ambassador Justin Mohamed.

High-ranking officials from both Kansas and Missouri are also expected to be on hand to hear a presentation on the significant role the First Nations

See **AUS TO OZ**, Page 11 →



## Black Here and Blak There

Understanding Australia's Blak Indigenous Culture

First Nations Australians had a similar experience with colonialism as Native Americans. The Australian government stole young Aboriginal people from their families and tried to force them into mainstream Australian society.

Indigenous people dominated Australia's population until things began to change with the invasion of the continent in 1788 by the British. By 1900, Aboriginal people made up just 1% of the continent's population.

While the comparisons to Native American culture may seem fitting, Indigenous Australians often identify as "Blak," while the terms First Nations, Aboriginal, or Indigenous are often used based on preference.

While many First Nations people have darker skin, like Black Americans, they come in a wide range of skin colors, with the concept of "Blackness" for the Indigenous people of Australia being about more than colorism.

"Indigenous Australians utilize Blackness as a political assertion to their right to exist and claim a distinctly Indigenous — often expressed as a "Black" or "Blackfulla" — way of cultural being," writes Australian Indigenous scholar Kaiya Aboagye. "In this way, Indigenous Australians maintain a sovereign and Indigenous worldview beyond Eurocentric paradigms."

In the 1960s, Indigenous Australians also had a Black Power movement, started a chapter of the Black Panther

See **INDIGENOUS**, Page 11 →

# Black Mastermind Group Receives \$1.4M Grant

Funds will be used to purchase and renovate a KCK shopping strip for expanded entrepreneurship training and a business service, retail and restaurant incubator

By Thomas White  
Kansas City Reporter

The Black MasterMind Group (TBMMG) — a nonprofit that supports, educates, and empowers Black entrepreneurs in Kansas City, KS — recently secured a BASE Grant of \$1.4 million from the Kansas Dept. of Commerce.

BASE stands for “building a stronger economy” and are grants issued by the state of Kansas for infrastructure development that spurs economic development. The grant empowers TBMMG to procure and renovate the Gateway Plaza strip center at 1121 N. 5th St. in KCK.

The strip center is a sprawling 25,000-sq-ft. Facility. Design plans call for nearly half of the space to be earmarked for a small business incubator and marketplace populated by small Black-owned businesses. A June 21 debut for the incubator space is anticipated.

“It’ll be somewhat like a micro mall,” says Donetta Watson, founder and president of TBMMG.

TBMMG’s current training and incubator space at the north end of the strip will be enlarged to take up the other half of the strip center and undergo

a redesign of its classrooms, conference rooms, training facilities, and office space for service businesses.

TBMMG will put half of their grant dollars towards purchasing the Gateway Plaza Center and the other half towards renovations and expansion.

Currently, the Gateway Plaza Building has four commercial spaces that will be combined into one space under The Black Mastermind Group’s umbrella. The building has one other tenant, a church, that will remain through their contract. Renovations will include an exterior facelift and a complete interior reimagining.

The incubator will boast an eclectic mix of Black-owned offerings. Inside, customers will find six food businesses and ten retail businesses, including a beauty salon, nail salon, Black haircare product store, art studio, marketplace, recording studio, clothing stores, event rental equipment company, bar & lounge, cajun restaurant, bakery, coffee shop, and a café.

Watson says the new incubator space will give more Black entrepreneurs a chance to manage and mature their start-up businesses without the demands of expensive overhead costs. Further, Watson says her



Dr. Donnetta Watson (center) presents owners of Royal Properties and Soulful Hands Natural Hair with micro-business loan checks.



The rendering offers a glimpse at what the renovated Black MasterMind Group’s business incubator space will look.

training program and business incubator help Black businesses build an audience and get through the tough initial years of business ownership.

## About the Black MasterMind Group

The Black MasterMind Group offers intensive accelerated business training in eight-week boot camps. The business

boot camps train Black entrepreneurs on how to start, stabilize, sustain, and scale their businesses. The boot camps take place four times a year, with TBMMG taking a set number of participants or cohorts.

Individuals in the Kansas City area who are interested in starting a business can qualify for scholarships to cover the cost of the boot camp. The scholarships are based on need and income, but if a potential cohort doesn’t qualify for a scholarship, the out-of-pocket cost of TBMMG’s program is \$1,750, and payment plans are available.

“We’ve created millionaires,” says Watson. “We’ve also taught people who were already millionaires in business but never taken the time to learn the financial side of business; that’s why we’ve been attractive to entrepreneurs at all

different levels.”

The Black MasterMind Group also offers technology and financial literacy courses for both youth and adults; for more info on any of these courses and programs, visit [TheBlackMasterMindGroup.com](http://TheBlackMasterMindGroup.com).

## How TBMMG Helps Businesses Get Started

“We teach entrepreneurs how to run businesses by the numbers and how to create a fundable sustainable business

model,” says Watson.

Watson says that the average business needs six to nine months to build an audience and that banks don’t tend to lend to businesses when they are in need but rather when they are ready to expand.

“Traditionally, Black entrepreneurs will make it 18 months because that’s how long our cash lasts, but you’re not fundable [by a bank] before three years,” says Watson. “So you’re out there, and you’re hustling, but eventually the hustle is over, and you gotta close.”

Once a cohort member has graduated from TBMMG’s business boot camp, they can apply for a \$15,000 micro-loan to get their business started. Program graduates can run their businesses within TBMMG’s business incubator for up to three years. At that point, the business should be able to stand on its own and qualify for bank loans.

Watson says helping guide a business to the three-year mark is important because 87% of Black entrepreneurs never qualify for a business loan. She says that is because Black entrepreneurs often operate on cash or are unprepared with proper documentation even if they previously went to business school.

“We want to close that gap between how many Black entrepreneurs are able to access capital,” says Watson. “It is just a lack of knowledge. We can close that knowledge gap, and we’ll see more businesses qualify for capital; we’ll see more sustainable, viable businesses in our community.”



Funds from the grant will help the Black Mastermind Group purchase and renovate the underused Gateway Plaza strip center at 1121 N. 5th St. in KCK

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#### REPORT, from Page 3 ↓

of this nature can discourage the location of “knowledge” workers and young workers to an area, thus reducing the capacity for attracting and retaining high-growth industries conducive to long-term economic development.

“Travel and tourism losses in Missouri and Kansas could total hundreds of millions per year, with an associated loss in revenue to the states and local governments,” said Dr. M. Ray Perryman, founder and CEO of The Perryman Group. “At a time when the US economy is facing major challenges and uncertainty, the competition for quality corporate locations and expansions as well as skilled workers is particularly intense and anti-DEI measures can be particularly damaging to future prosperity.”

The report calls out several anti-DEI bills being considered by the Missouri legislature among them is SB980. If passed this bill, which would cover all companies doing business in Missouri, would make it illegal to consider the DEI status of business ownership, team or employees, when determining whether or not to do business with them.

“The act makes it unlawful for any “private

business, in entering into, maintaining, or seeking to establish contractual relations with any other private business to: fail or refuse to enter into a contract, maintain a contract, or entertain bids or offers to contract, based, in whole or in part, on the fact that the other private business: (a) does not provide information or data, or does not provide sufficient information or data, about the extent to which its workforce or ownership exhibit particular DEI classifications; or (b) fails to satisfy any rule, standard, policy, goal, aspiration, or preference, whether express or implied, regarding the extent to which its workforce, managers, executives, or ownership exhibit or claim to exhibit particular DEI classifications...

“Travel and tourism losses in Missouri and Kansas could total hundreds of millions per year, with an associated loss in revenue to the states and local governments,” said Dr. M. Ray Perryman, founder and CEO of The Perryman Group. “At a time when the US economy is facing major challenges and uncertainty, the competition for quality corporate locations and expansions as well as skilled workers is particularly intense and anti-DEI measures can be particularly damaging to future prosperity.”

#### AUS TO OZ, from Page 9 ↓

people played in WWI, which ultimately led to a long-standing alliance between the U.S. and Australia.

On March 20, the group travels to Topeka for a joint Native American and Australian First Nations trade show in the rotunda of the Kansas State Capitol.

The delegation heads to Wichita for three days before departing for Australia on March 24. In Wichita, there will be trade shows, leadership training, tours of local businesses,

and business engagement and strategy that prepares the group to do business on a larger scale when they return to Australia.

The Wichita Chamber of Commerce will also host an event while the group is state-side, but it has not been formally announced. Betts encourages everyone to buy a ticket to the event when they can because it is expected to sell out quickly.

“This is a rare opportunity,” says Betts. “You’re gonna get introduced to the friends of a native son to feel confident enough to do business with my home.”

#### INDIGENOUS, from Page 9 ↓

Party, and saw a Black Arts movement. According to Aboagye, Australian First Nations people were also “involved

in international Black liberationist agendas, the civil rights struggle in America, and decolonial movements throughout the global African diaspora.”

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## WYCO Health Dept. Expands Wellness Services

Walk-in patients are now welcome on Fridays - no appointment needed.

By **Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

In a bid to enhance accessibility and cater to the needs of the community, the Wyandotte County Public Health Dept. is set to launch walk-in services every Friday, starting March 8.

The department offers many services for free and doesn't require health insurance for treatment, making it a lifeline for some. Some programs and services have specific guidelines to be eligible and may have a cost, but in most cases, the WYCO Health Dept. will work with an individual based on their income.

In the past, you'd have to set an appointment at [wycokck.org/departments/health](http://wycokck.org/departments/health) to take part in the county's health and wellness services. But starting March 8, walk-in services are accepted every Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Wyandotte County Health Dept. walk-in services include:

- Birth control
- Well-woman exams
- Screening, testing, and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- Immunizations for individuals of all ages
- Diagnosis and treatment for various skin conditions
- Evaluation and treatment for ear, nose, and throat symptoms
- Pre-employment physical examinations

Moreover, the health department continues its commitment to community wellness by providing complimentary resources such as free condoms and Narcan (naloxone) on a daily basis within its premises.

For more info, visit [wycokck.org/departments/health](http://wycokck.org/departments/health) or the Wyandotte County Public Health Dept. — no appointment needed on Friday — in person at 619 Ann Ave, Kansas City, KS.

## Free Naloxone Available at Vending Machine and online in Kansas

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

Naloxone, a medication designed to rapidly reverse an opioid overdose, is available for free to Kansas residents via new vending machines and by mail.

DCCCA and Healthy Blue have installed several naloxone vending machines in cities across the state. In addition to visiting a nearby vending machine, individuals can order free Naloxone and fentanyl test strips online at <https://www.dccca.org/naloxone-kit-request-form/>

This project is funded by the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) through the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant initiative from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and Healthy Blue of Kansas.

In Wichita, DCCA worked with Safe Streets Wichita on the project.



Second Chance/Big Fish Bail Bonds at 705 N. Broadway, Wichita, is a site of one of several new naloxone vending machines installed in Kansas. Residents of Kansas can also order free naloxone and fentanyl testing strips online. (PHOTO: BONITA GOOCH, THE COMMUNITY VOICE)

### Naloxone Vending Machine Locations

Reno County: Crossover Recovery Center – 400 W. Second Ave., Hutchinson

Sedgwick County: Second Chance/Big Fish Bail Bonds – 705 N. Broadway, Wichita

Salina: CKF Addiction Treatment – 617 E. Elm  
Lawrence: Lawrence Transit Central Station, Bob Billings & Crestline Drive

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**WICHITA**

**Wed. Mar 6, 7pm: Meet the Sigmas**, Tzcali Tapas and Tequila, 2801 E Central. Come meet some of the men of Gammu Nu and Kappa Nu Sigma Chapters of Phi Beta Sigma, here in Wichita KS, and learn about the brotherhood like no other. True Men of Service. Brotherhood. Scholarship. Service.

**Thu, March 7, 6:30 pm: Northeast Milliar Association meeting**, Boys & Girls Club, 2400 N Opportunity Dr. This meeting is to voice your neighborhood concerns and stay informed about neighborhood issues. **FREE**

**Fri, Mar 8, 11: am: 2024 Shine Awards**. Wichita Art Museum, 1400 Museum Blvd. 2024 Honorees, Natalie Rolfé, Dr Marche' Fleming Randle and Tabitha Brotherton. The Shine Awards is a celebration of inspirational Kansas women and will help raise funds to support Storytime Village's mission of inspiring a lifelong love of literacy for underserved children. COST \$75 <https://bit.ly/4a7eSEr>

**Fri., Mar 8, 9 a - 1 pm: Strong Women Boldly Building Dreams**, Newman University, Dugan Library. Join us to celebrate International Women's Month and learn about empowering women with alumnae Dr. Michelle Vann (founder and CEO of Vanntastic Solutions), Teresa Lovelady (president and CEO at HealthCore Clinic, Inc.), and Wendy Glick (former executive director for Catholic Charities of Wichita)! COST \$20 Register <https://bit.ly/430Iibi>

**Sat, Mar 9, 12 - 3 pm: COVID shots**, Saint Mary's Baptist Church, 1648 E 17th. Bring your ID **FREE**

**Tue. March 12, 6 pm: Wichita Branch NAACP General Meeting**, 2821 E 24th. Get involved **FREE**

**Sat. Mar 16 2 - 4 pm: Big Read Kickoff**, Wichita Public Library, 711 W 2nd. Join us for the kickoff of Wichita's 2024 Big Read. Celebrate this year's selected book "There, There"

by Tommy Orange. Event includes music, dance, and art. Free copies of the book will be available (while supplies last). Get a preview of what's in store for this year's NEA Big Read.

**Sat, Mar 23, 12 - 3 pm: COVID shots**, Chisholm Trail Church, 5833 E 37th St. Bring your ID. **FREE**

**Sat, Apr 6, 12 - 3 pm: COVID shots**, Oaklawn Activity Center, 4904 S Clifton. Bring your ID. **FREE**

**Sat, Apr, 20, 12 - 3 pm: COVID shots**, The Center, 1914 E 11th. Bring your ID. **FREE**

**KANSAS CITY**

**Fri. Mar 8, 6 - 7 pm: Grants for BIPOC Businesses**. Keyston CoLab, 800 E 18th. Don't miss out on this opportunity to help your business grow. Join us in-person event packed with valuable grant information and networking opportunities. Learn about IRA grants available. **FREE**

**Sat. Mar 9, 6 - 8:30 pm: Dreamgirls the Musical**, Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts, 4747 Flora Ave. Paseo Academy invites you to join them for an unforgettable experience as they present Dreamgirls the Musical. COST \$5+ <https://bit.ly/42SPkZc>

**Sun, Mar 10, 5 pm: We are the Music Makers: Amplifying Black Composers**, Resurrection Brookside, 5144 Oak St. The Spire Chamber Ensemble joins forces with Kansas City's own Isaac Cates & Ordained to amplify the music of Black composers. This high energy 75-minute concert will

showcase gospel songs that are rhythmic, balladic, dramatic, and exciting, always delivered with thoughtful arrangements, polished harmonies, and expressive lead vocals. COST \$25. <https://bit.ly/42SPkZc>

**Mar 11-15, 8 -10 am: Spring Break Culinary Class**, Beatrice Lee Community Center, 1210 N 10th st, KCKS. Prepare to shine as a breakfast hero with these quick and simple breakfast recipes. Perfect for kids aged 7 to 13. register at [www.wycokck.org/wycoparks](http://www.wycokck.org/wycoparks) **FREE**

**Sat. Mar 16, 10 am - 12 pm: "Sis...You Got This" Women's Brunch**, Hilton Garden Inn. 520 Minnesota Avenue KCKS. Join us in the room where women come together to celebrate sisterhood, support, and empowerment during Women's Month. Be a part of our collective effort to build a strong and resilient community where women inspire and uplift each other. COST \$30+ <https://bit.ly/3T22gYi>

**Tue Mar 18, 6:30pm: Johnson County NAACP Executive Committee Meeting**. Shawnee Church of the Nazarene, 6639 Quivira, Shawnee, KS

**Thu., Mar 21, 11 am - 12 pm: Special presentation on Military Veterans**, Black Archives Of Mid-America 1722 E 17th. This special presentation will honor and celebrate the brave men and women who have served in the military. Hear inspiring stories, gain insights into their experiences, and learn about the sacrifices they have made for our country. **FREE**

**Sun, Mar 24, 7-8 pm: Making History: Kansas City's Black Suffragists**, Kansas City Public Library, 14 W 10th. Carmalotta Williams, CEO of the Black Archives of Mid-America, discusses the research of Greater Kansas City Black Suffragists on the long history of Black women's activism, and the intersection with the struggles for abolition, suffrage, economic freedom, and civil rights. She further details the contributions of Black Kansas Citians. **FREE**

**Sun, Mar 24, 7pm: AZ-ONE**, Minibar, 3810 Broadway Blvd. AZ-ONE is an African American reggae band based out of Kansas City, MO. Elisha is the lead vocalist, bass guitarist, producer, arranger, songwriter, dedicated to bringing heart throbbing, uplifting and inspirational music to the people. COST \$13.15 <https://bit.ly/4Z28wVg>

**Mon. Mar 25, 11am - 12 pm: Medal of Honor Day Ceremonial Wreath Laying**. Black Archives Of Mid-America, 1722 E 17th. A special event commemorating the brave recipients of the Medal of Honor and Kansas City's Black Medal of Honor winner, PFC William F. James, Jr. **FREE**. Reserve a spot <https://bit.ly/3wv5dsC>

**Thu. Mar 28, 11:45 am - 1:30 pm: Greater Kansas City Difference Maker 66th Awards Luncheon**, Starlight Theatre, 4600 Starlight Rd. The theme for the luncheon is "From Redlining to Chalk Lines: The Costs of Economic

Injustice." Fireside Chat on the root causes of and remedies for urban violence with Dr. Elliott Currie, author of "A Peculiar Indifference: The Neglected Toll of Violence on Black America," and Dion Sankar, Chief Deputy Prosecutor for Jackson County. Honoree Qiana Thomason, CEO Health Forward Foundation. COST \$100

**Sat., Apr. 6, 12 pm: Johnson County NAACP General Membership Meeting**. Shawnee Church of the Nazarene, 6639 Quivira, Shawnee, KS. **FREE**

**Sat., Apr. 13, 1-3 pm: Sigma Gamma Rho, Psi Sigma Alumnae Chapter, Unitea Lunch**, Disabled American Veterans, 14605 E US Hwy. This unique gathering is not just a tea party; it's a celebration of education, empowerment, and community.. COST \$35. <https://bit.ly/49v1dHc>

**TOPEKA**

In Recognition of the 70th Anniversary of the Topeka Vs BOE Supreme Court Ruling, the Brown V Board Commemorate Together and

the Black American Blueprint Collective have planned an extensive list of activities for March and through July.

Here are the earlier March activities:

**March 1 - May 19, Sorting Out Race Exhibit, Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library**, 1515 SW 10th Topeka.

**Wed. March 6, 6-9 pm: Rosa Was a Rebel: Dinner Theater**, 6th Avenue Ballroom. Featuring Dr. Beryl New and friends

**Thurs., March 7, 6-8pm: Community and Belonging with Nikki Giovanni**, Washburn University, 1700 SW College Ave.

**Sat., March 16, 10 am - 5pm: Black Family Wellness Expo**, Hillcrest Community Center, 1800 S.E. 21st Street. Sponsored by Topeka Chapter of the Links, Inc.

**Thurs., March 21, 6:30 - 8:30 pm: The Health of the BIPOC Community: A discussion on gun violence with Dr. Brian Williams**. Sponsored by the Brown Coalition, Stormont Vail, 1500 SW 10th St.

Join us each Sunday in person @ 10 am & 5 pm for our Worship Services or online @ 10am @ [www.chisholmtrailcofc.org/live](http://www.chisholmtrailcofc.org/live) Bible Classes for all ages on Wednesdays @ 7 pm

**Chisholm Trail Church of Christ**  
5833 E. 37th St. Wichita, KS 67220  
316-683-1313

Barry L. Gainey, Minister

**St. Paul**  
African Methodist Episcopal Church  
"The Church In The City With The City At Heart"  
1756 N Piatt Ave • Wichita, KS 67214  
316 265-5881  
[stpaulwichita@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulwichita@gmail.com) • [stpaulamewichita.com](http://stpaulamewichita.com)

**In- Person and Virtual Worship Experience Sundays at 11AM**

Pastor Pamela M. Hughes Mason

**LIVE**

**ReStore**  
Wichita Habitat for Humanity

**Spring Cleaning?**

Donate gently used furniture, appliances, and other home furnishings to help build affordable homes!

601 N. West St. Wichita, KS 67203  
[wichitahabitat.org/restore](http://wichitahabitat.org/restore)



(L) Regina King portrays  
(R) Shirley Chisholm

### Regina King Portrays First Black Congresswoman in Netflix's New Biopic

Out March 22, the Netflix film tells the story of Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to the United States Congress, and chronicles her trailblazing 1972 presidential campaign. The movie is written and directed by John Ridley, who won an Oscar for penning "12 Years a Slave."

Regina King leads the cast, which is rounded out by Lance Reddick, Lucas Hedges, Terrence Howard, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Christina Jackson, Michael Cherrie, Dorian Crossmond Missick, Amirah Vann, W. Earl Brown, Brad James, and André Holland.

Grammy winner Samara Joy recently told

Variety she has a new original song coming out in "Shirley." But she held back on revealing all the details, saying, "I can't tell you the artist I collaborated with. That's a secret."

### Brittney Griner's No. 42 Jersey Retired by Baylor

Brittney Griner's No. 42 jersey was retired by Baylor University last month, when the two-time AP national player of the year and career blocks leader attended a Bears home game for the first time since her senior season 11 years ago. The standout center even did an impromptu slam dunk.

Griner was part of Baylor's 40-0 national championship team as a junior during the 2011-12 season, the first of her consecutive



Brittney Griner

AP player of the year awards.

The ceremony before a game against Texas Tech included video highlights from her career. Griner was visibly touched by the reaction from the Baylor fans, waving at them and patting her heart though she didn't address the crowd.

### 5 Things We Learned From the 'Where Is Wendy Williams?' Docuseries

The first two parts of the highly anticipated documentary "Where Is Wendy Williams?" originally aired on Feb 25 on Lifetime, and it revealed much about Wendy Williams' struggles.

The backdrop of the docuseries was to chronicle Williams' launch of a new podcast. However, details, long speculated about her life were revealed. To bring you up to speed on the docuseries:

#### Wendy Williams Claims She Is Out of Money

During the first installment of the docuseries, Williams claims that she broke due to being placed under a financial guardianship.

#### Wendy Williams Diagnosed With Frontotemporal Dementia And Aphasia

#### Her Son Claims That People Around Her Caused Her to Fall Deeper Into Her Addiction



Wendy Williams

Kevin Hunter Jr. believes that some people in his mother's inner circle have played a major part in her current state. He claims that if anyone tries to stop her, she brings in people who will give her what she wants.

#### She Revealed Her Struggles With Alcohol

Williams' behavior over the last few months of the show before she dropped out of the public eye led many to speculate that she was abusing alcohol to cope with her divorce.

#### She Was In Talks For a New Show

Although the "Wendy Williams Show" ended unceremoniously, Williams and her team were trying to land a new show by the documentary's end.

Rerun of the docuseries can be seen on-demand.



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## See 'Nina Simone: Four Women' for Free Mar. 7-17

KCRep for All offers free community stagings for third year in a row.

**By Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

In an effort to make theater more accessible to the community, the Kansas City Repertory Theatre has announced the 2024 tour schedule of KCRep for All, a free community tour taking the magic of theater around the area.

Following its run at Copaken Stage in the Power & Light District, the musical drama "Nina Simone: Four Women" will embark on the third annual KCRep for All tour across the Kansas City metro, with performance dates March 7-17.

Performing the same script as seen on KCRep's main stage, the show is re-staged and re-imagined to be performed for people in more intimate neighborhood venues like libraries.

Morgana Wilborn, KCRep's director of arts engagement, expressed her excitement for

the tour, which features stops in libraries and community centers.

"I am so excited to bring the KCRep for All tour to life," said Wilborn. "Bringing the journey of this extraordinary woman who travels down a path of discovery and healing to new audiences promises to be a powerful theatrical intersection of art, social justice, and history. These are not just stops on a map; they are the threads that weave the fabric of our community together." "Nina Simone: Four Women" delves into singer/pianist Simone's extraordinary artistry but also explores the journey of the women around her as they navigate a path of discovery and healing with the production featuring some of Simone's most powerful Civil Rights anthems, including "Mississippi Goddam," "Go Limp," and "Young, Gifted, and Black."

For more info about KCRep for All, visit [kcrep.org/kcrep-for-all](http://kcrep.org/kcrep-for-all).

**"Nina Simone: Four Women" Free Performance Schedule:**

**Thu., March 7, 1 p.m.**

Southeast Community Center  
4201 E. 63rd St., KCMO

**Fri., March 8, 6 p.m.**

Beatrice Lee Community Center

1310 N. 10th St., KCK

**Sat., March 9, 6 p.m.**

Central Library

14 W 10th St., KCMO

**Sun., March 10, 7 p.m.**

American Jazz Museum

1616 E. 18th St., KCMO

**Wed., March 13, 6 p.m.**

Lucile H. Bluford Branch Library

3050 Prospect Ave., KCMO

**Thu., March 14, 6 p.m.**

West Wyandotte Library

1737 N. 82nd St., KCK

**Fri., March 15, 6 p.m.**

North-East Branch Library

6000 Wilson Ave, KCK

**Sat., March 16, 6 p.m.**

Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center and Museum

3700 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, KCMO

**Sat., March 16, meal at noon, performance 1 p.m.**

Healing House

4505 St. John St., KCMO

**Sun., March 17, 2 p.m.**

Mattie Rhodes Cultural Center

1701 Jarboe, KCMO

## Mural Dedication Honors Legacy of Douglass State Bank at Black Archives

**By Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

The Black Archives of Mid-America will host a dedication ceremony March 16 for a piece of local Black history that has found a new home.

The event will celebrate a mural painted by Hank Smith depicting the founding and legacy of Henry Warren Sewing and the founding of Douglass State Bank, the first Black-owned bank west of the Mississippi River.

Established in 1947 by Sewing, Douglass State Bank was a beacon of financial empowerment for the Black community in Kansas City, Kansas. Sewing's vision marked a pivotal moment, making the bank one of only 14 Black-owned banks in the United States at the time of its inception.



The mural, commissioned in 1974 by the bank's executives, was painted by local artist Hank Smith and captures pivotal moments in the bank's history, including the bank's inauguration parade, encounters with state dignitaries, and scenes of community engagement.

The mural remained at the bank's 5th Street location in KCK, even when the bank was purchased by Liberty Bank & Trust, but when they moved locations, something had to be done with the mural.

Liberty Bank & Trust, recognizing the mural's historical significance, facilitated its

transfer to the Sewing family, who donated it to the Black Archives of Mid-America.

The dedication ceremony, hosted by the Sewing Family and Liberty Bank & Trust, promises to honor the pioneering spirit of Douglass State Bank and its enduring impact on the Midwest's Black community.

The event is free to attend, but registration is encouraged at [www.bit.ly/SewingMural](http://www.bit.ly/SewingMural).

**Mural Dedication Ceremony**  
Black Archives of Mid-America

1722 E 17th Terrace, KCMO  
Sat., March 16 at 5 p.m.

MBE / WBE  
INVITATION TO BID



100 YEARS

J.E. Dunn Construction Company is bidding SMSD Indian Hills Middle School Addition & Renovation and request your bid proposal for applicable material and/or labor. In particular, we are soliciting M/WBE Subcontractor/Supplier Bid Proposals for the following scope(s) of work including, but not limited to:

02B Selective Demolition	09H Flooring & Carpet
03A Building & Site Concrete	09I Resinous Flooring
04A - Masonry	09B - Painting
05A Structural Steel & Miscellaneous Metal	10G Signage
06D - Rough Carpentry, Finish Carpentry, DFI, & Specialties	12C - Roller Window Shades
07G - Roofing, Wall Panels & Sheet Metal	21A - Fire Suppression
07H - Sealants & Firestopping	22A - Plumbing
08G - Glass & Glazing	23A - Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning
09A Drywall & Acoustical Ceilings	26A - Electrical
	31G - Earthwork & Site Utilities
	32G Landscaping

Sealed Bids will be received at SMSD Center for Academic Achievement 8200 W 71<sup>st</sup> St. Overland Park, KS 66204 or via Upload to Building Connected by March 7, 2024 at 1:00 PM.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE - A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at Indian Hills Middle School, 6400 Mission Rd Prairie Village, KS 66208 at 2:00 PM on February 22, 2024, for the purpose of answering any questions regarding the above scopes of work on the project.

J.E. Dunn invites M/WBE subcontractors to call if any assistance is required or questions arise concerning work segmentation, work and contract requirements, or the form of proposal requested. Questions should be directed to Ethan Wegner, Project Manager, by phone at (816) 809-9486, or by email at [ethan.wegner@jedunn.com](mailto:ethan.wegner@jedunn.com).

EOE, Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran/Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity

## 'Weapons of Choice' Exhibit at WSU Campus Through March

Exhibit is a collaboration of works by Gordon Parks, drawings by famed Wichita architect Charles McAfee and the works of local student artists.

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

"Weapons of Choice," a new collaborative art exhibit will be on display through March 29 at the Cadman Art Gallery in the Rhatigan Student Center on the Wichita State University main campus.

The exhibit features eight photographs from the 125-photo collection of Gordon Parks' work held by WSU's Ulrich Museum. The exhibit will also feature architectural drawings by renowned Wichita architect



Parks, Gordon, 1978  
(COURTESY ULRICH MUSEUM)

Charles McAfee; and works from Wichita middle and high school students.

The eight Parks photographs focus on the powerful images of children and families that Parks created throughout his career. The student works depict societal injustices as seen through the eyes of the youth, inspired by Parks.

This collaborative display is presented by Gordon Parks Academy, Ulrich Museum of Art, Shift Space, WSU Cadman Gallery, and the Wichita Chapter of Links, Inc.

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**together**, there  
is no problem in  
the world that  
can stop us.”



– Ewing Marion Kauffman

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