

THE VOICE

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KS SEN HALEY SAYS KCK RIVERFRONT CAN HOST PRO TEAMS. PAGE 8



Xavier Bell

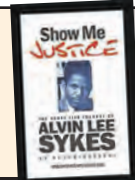
Wichita native and WSU standout graduates but returning for final year of eligibility.

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Alvin Sykes

Launch event set for autobiography of late Kansas City civil rights pioneer.

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THE VOICE

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 10
FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2024

OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE

We have a lot of great issues planned for you this summer. We'll keep up with the election, Juneteenth and other festivals across the state, as well as continue our focused local coverage on individuals, businesses, communities and issues that so often go uncovered by major media.

However, we've also built sometime into our schedule for us to enjoy some time off with our family and friends. Instead of our usual every other week schedule, we'll have an extra week between papers around Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day. Here's our print schedule for the summer and deadlines for submissions to make those dates.

If you have an idea for a story you want us to cover, don't forget you can schedule a Monday a.m. appointment with us to "Voice Your Story."

Summer Print And Deadline Schedule

May 17 <i>Extra week off between these issues</i>	July 26 Submission deadline June 19
June 7 Submission deadline May 31	Aug. 9 Submission deadline Aug. 2
June 21 Submission deadline June 14 <i>Extra week off between these issues</i>	Aug. 23 Submission deadline Aug. 16 <i>Extra week off between these issues</i>
July 12 Submission deadline July 5	Sept. 13 Submission deadline Sept. 6

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GIVE US YOUR NEWS TIP

As Kansas Candidates Hit the Campaign Trail, They Should Advocate for a Referendum Process

By **Thomas Arnhold**
Guest Commentator

There's a lesson to be found in the race for Kansas House District 100, in Northwest Wichita, where Democrat Mike McCorkle is running against Republican House Speaker Dan Hawkins.

The three issues raised by McCorkle in his race against Hawkins are, according to a recent news article: "protecting women's reproductive rights, expanding Medicaid and — especially — how McCorkle thinks Hawkins has failed to listen to his constituents."

While these are important issues, I would submit there are other policies that McCorkle, and all other Democrats running for state office in Kansas, should raise that would enhance their chances of winning.

The No. 1 proposal Democrats should

champion is the passage of an amendment to the Kansas Constitution allowing initiative and referendum petitions like Missouri and 25 other states that have some type of a referendum process.

Moderate Republicans looking for a way to distinguish themselves from others in their party might be interested in the issue, too.

In Missouri, an initiative can be placed on the ballot if a petition is signed by 5% of legal voters in any six of the state's eight U.S. congressional districts. Using this referendum process, the electorate of Missouri has been able to pass several key pieces of legislation that were adamantly opposed by the Missouri Legislature's right-wing Republican supermajority.

Those policies include legalizing marijuana, passing Medicaid for all Missourians, and keeping

anti-union laws from being enacted.

The referendum amendment is how Missouri passed Medicaid Expansion as well as medical and recreational marijuana. Based on a handful of polls, both of these measures could pass in Kansas if referendum petitions were allowed.

Kansas should have the same kind of process, and it's a winning issue for Democrats and whomever else wants to join the cause. How can you argue against a process that is democracy in its purest form?

I don't want to understate the difficulty of making this change: Amending our constitution takes a two-thirds vote of both chambers and a majority vote from the public. That's a tall order.

But the initiative and referendum process would allow a majority of Kansans to pass legislation blocked by legislators who favor a

minority position.

Hawkins and others could argue that if you do not like what they are doing in the Legislature, you can vote them out of office. However, legislators tend to ignore the average Joe and Jane, and instead follow the dictates of their wealthy donors.

That brings me to the next issue Democrats should trumpet: term limits.

If Democrats and their allies want to win in November and avoid another supermajority, super-conservative Republican Legislature, they need winning issues.

Championing an initiative procedure and terms limits could be a path to victory.

Tom Arnhold is a retired attorney, judge and 24-year veteran of the Kansas Army National Guard. This opinion piece is reprinted from The Kansas Reflector.

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Here's some of our recent, exclusive online stories

Wichita

Interfaith Groups Get Local Leaders to Pledge Support for Mental Health & Homeless Programs

Yolanda White Oliver to Become First African American Senior Pastor at University UMC

Kansas City

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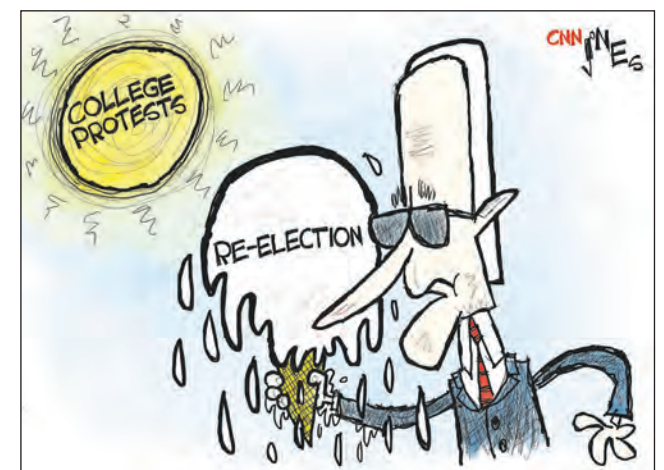
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CONTACTS:

Editor-in-Chief/Press Releases

Bonita Gooch
Wichita | press@tcvpub.com
KC | cvoicekc@tcvpub.com

Publisher:

Kurt Oswald | oswald@tcvpub.com

Press Releases: press@tcvpub.com

Advertising: adcopy@tcvpub.com

Contributing Writers:

Thomas White | kansas-city@tcvpub.com
twwhite@tcvpub.com
P.J. Griekspoor | wichita@tcvpub.com
griekspoor@tcvpub.com

Advertising Sales:

Cornell Hill | hill@tcvpub.com

Office Administration:

Elaine Guillory | guillory@tcvpub.com

Meet the Candidate: **Pastor Eric D. Morrison** Runs for MO Governor

KC-area pastor says he's called to run for governor a third time.

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

Eric D. Morrison, a Kansas City pastor and community leader, has launched his third campaign for the Missouri governor's office and will be on the Aug. 8 Democratic primary ballot.

Morrison, 60, is seeking the Democratic nomination after being the runner-up in 2016 and 2020.

"The street that I grew up on was one of the most competitive streets in the world," says Morrison. "That whole 'it doesn't matter whether you win or lose' didn't exist on my block. When you catch a loss, you keep on playing until you get a win."

Morrison grew up near 42nd and Brooklyn in Kansas City and has served as pastor of



Pastor Eric D. Morrison

Kingdom Word Ministries, formerly Sunrise Missionary Baptist Church, for nearly 23 years. He says his early life's path can be summed up as going from "ministry to minister," and this experience informs the type of leader he'd be as Missouri's governor.

"My heart is the heart of a servant, and I'm not interested too much in comparing myself to

anybody," Morrison says of his opponents. "I'm really not competing, I'm pursuing a calling that I can not concede."

Morrison is seeking to build grassroots support with a platform he frames as the "five E's": economy, education, ethics, equality, and environment.

His top priorities include sustainable economic development, reforming education with vocational training and early childhood programs, protecting voting rights, and addressing environmental issues, including food deserts.

Morrison says he's been called a moderate progressive but finds it difficult to label himself politically. He says his pastoral background shapes the vision for an

See **MORRISON**, Page 7 →

Meet the Candidate: **Richard Brown**

A state representative & retired school KC teacher, Brown wants to be Missouri's next lieutenant governor.

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

Richard Brown hopes to make history by becoming the first Black lieutenant governor elected in Missouri. The Kansas City-based Democratic candidate says he's the right person for the job based on his decades of experience as an educator, civil servant, and advocate for working families.

"I'm not a politician; I'm a public servant," Brown said in a conversation with The Voice. "I have a common sense approach of how I see things."

The lieutenant governor's main constitutional duty is to preside over the state Senate and be first in the line of succession if the governor is



Richard Brown

unable to serve.

Brown says he's the right man for the job because the lieutenant governor also serves on various boards and commissions - something he's

experienced in - advocating for issues like education, tourism, and services for seniors and minorities.

Brown touts his background as uniquely qualifying him for those responsibilities. He taught for 23 years in the Kansas City public schools across several subjects.

"I've always been a public servant. I wasn't a teacher for the income," says Brown. "I was a teacher for the outcome."

Since 2017, he has served as a state representative for

See **BROWN**, Page 7 →

NEXT ISSUE: Meet the Candidates

Meet the candidates for Jackson County MO Prosecutor Melesa Johnson and Stephanie Burton

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Federal Court Rules Missourians Were Illegally Denied Food Aid by the State

The Dept. of Social Services' call center problems deprived eligible Missourians access to benefits, a judge found.

By Clara Bates
Missouri Independent

A federal judge has ruled Missouri's social services agency violated the law in the way it has administered its food assistance program.

U.S. District Court Judge M. Douglas Harpool ruled May 9 that the state's practices — including long call center wait times and a lack of accommodations for those with disabilities — violate the laws governing the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Missouri Dept. of Social Services' call center issues ultimately denied eligible Missourians meaningful access to benefits.

"While call wait times fluctuate and have shown some improvement, the record demonstrates too little progress," Harpool wrote. "Consequently, Missourians who suffer food insecurity have been forced to either go hungry or seek alternative sources of food when their applications are denied."

In February 2022, a federal lawsuit was filed against the social services department arguing the state's "dysfunctional" call center deprives eligible

Missourians of SNAP benefits, more commonly known as food stamps.

Plaintiffs described subsisting on little food while using up prepaid phone minutes waiting on hold for an interview, and, due to disability, struggling to understand the application forms but being unable to get through the call center for help.

An interview is required to sign up for or recertify SNAP benefits.

Without interviews, SNAP applications and renewals are automatically denied after 30 days — even if applicants have tried and been unable to get through. Around half of all SNAP

denials in the state are due to failure to complete an interview. The average call center wait time for the SNAP interview line, as of late last year, was more than an hour.

"These denials are not based on the applicant's eligibility but on the inadequacies of [the Dept. of Social Services'] process," Harpool wrote.

The lawsuit was filed by New York-based National Center for Law and Economic Justice, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, and Stinson LLP on behalf of individual low-income Missourians and the advocacy group Empower Missouri.

The decision orders the social services agency to come into compliance with federal SNAP law and the Americans with Disabilities Act, and outlines several steps the agency must take, under the court's supervision.

Harpool has been candid in previous hearings about his concerns over the state's progress since the lawsuit was first filed.

"I continue to be amazed that it's been since this case started," he said in a January motion hearing, "that the state's whole focus is how can we avoid liability rather than how can we get these benefits to our citizens."

Republican Lawmakers Push Litany of Changes to MO Voting Laws

By Dmitry Martirosov
Columbia Missourian

There's been a steady push by Republicans this legislative session to regulate voting laws in Missouri.

It isn't new, but it's been gaining steam.

The bills seek to regulate — or restrict — provisions around who can vote and how, the way votes are counted and other matters related to election security.

Almost all aim to address concerns that either don't exist or to prevent changes from ever happening.

Republicans want to ensure that only U.S. citizens can vote, but the Missouri Constitution and voting requirements from



Missouri Republicans are pushing a list of changes to voting laws, critics argue are driven by anti-immigrant bigotry and a desire for power consolidation.

the secretary of state's office already outline that requirement.

Republicans want to ban foreign governments from funding

constitutional amendments, but the Missouri Constitution addresses foreign influence in elections as well.

Republicans want to ramp up election security by creating a new division that would investigate claims of election fraud, but such a division already exists and has been active for more than 10 years.

Republicans want to ban ranked-choice voting, but the voting practice is not established in state law. St. Louis practices a version of it for local elections.

The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank that is often cited by Republicans, has ranked Missouri a high No. 6 nationally in its Election Integrity Scorecard.

Justifying Causes

Sen. Denny Hoskins (R - Warrensburg) has been vocal

all session about amending the Missouri Constitution to clarify that only U.S. citizens can vote in Missouri.

Article 8 Section 2 of the Missouri Constitution states that "All citizens of the United States ... over the age of eighteen who are residents of this state ... are entitled to vote." Hoskins wants "All" changed to "Only" to tame the possibility of noncitizens voting in elections.

The proposal, sponsored by Sen. Mary Elizabeth Coleman (R-Arnold) would ask voters whether the constitution should be changed to reflect that only U.S. citizens can vote on constitutional amendments and to ban constitutional amendments sponsored by foreign governments.

Hoskins, a candidate for secretary of state, said he believes foreign interference in elections is occurring in Missouri. But when asked if he could provide an example, Hoskins said he couldn't because of the complexity of the process.

"It's probably funneled through a million different ways, four or five different LLCs or companies or PACs or non-for-profits before it actually got to the place where they bought the ads or radio, TV, social media, newspaper, whatever it is," Hoskins

said. "And that's where it's very tough to follow the money trail."

Article 8 Section 23, paragraph (16) of the Missouri Constitution provides protections against contributions made by foreign governments, whether they go toward a candidate committee, campaign committee or a ballot measure:

"(16) No campaign committee, candidate committee, continuing committee, exploratory committee, political party committee, and political party shall knowingly accept contributions from:

(a) Any natural person who is not a citizen of the United States;
(b) A foreign government; or
(c) Any foreign corporation that does not have the authority to transact business in this state pursuant to chapter 347, RSMo, as amended from time to time."

What is Driving Republicans?

Opponents say these efforts are driven by "anti-immigrant bigotry" and a desire for "consolidation of power."

"That just taps into this whole anti-immigrant bigotry fueled by [former President Donald] Trump and is kind of the norm in our American society today," said Rep. David Tyson Smith

See **VOTING**, Page 7 →

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Registration Open for Camp Destination Innovation

Camp is open to teens 13 through 17; this year's theme is Socialpreneurship.

Key Points:

- Camp Destination Innovation in Wichita is accepting registrations for high school teens interested in entrepreneurship.
- This year's theme is Socialpreneurship, a business model that supports a cause or gives back to the community.
- Education comes from speakers and field trips, with a showcase contest paying prize money at the end.

By P.J. Griekspoor
Wichita Reporter

The 10th annual Camp Destination Innovation, set to run June 11 to 28, is now accepting registrations.

Camp Destination Innovation is a summer camp for teens in the Wichita area who are interested in entrepreneurship and learning about how they can start a

business.

This year's theme is Socialpreneurship, a business model in which an entrepreneur applies the principles and guidance used by startup founders and entrepreneurs to a business that directly generates social change or impacts a social cause.

A social entrepreneur is primarily motivated by a desire to alleviate some kind of



Prize winners hold up their checks after the showcase at last year's Camp Destination Innovation.

systemic social or cultural problem or give back to the community.

Examples include Tom's Shoes, a company that

donates one-third of its profits to help those in need get access to mental health care, or One4UsBrands, a Wichita company that uses money

from selling clothes to uplift individuals, celebrate diversity, and promote equality and empowerment.

Some Camp DI students

have already started businesses, while others just want to learn how to take the first steps to getting started.

Education during the three-week camp comes from guest speakers who share their knowledge with students and from field trips that give them an inside look at how existing businesses operate.

At the end of camp, participants showcase their businesses and have an opportunity to win prizes.

The top prize last year was \$600.

Former students often return to Camp Destination Innovation year after year to learn more or improve on a past business idea.

And sometimes, prior students who have aged out of eligibility (Camp DI is for students 13 to 17) come back to help run it, said Camp DI creator Marquetta Atkins-Woods.

This year, former camper Lovette MBA is coming back as manager of programming for Camp DI. She attended camp when she was 15 years old, and went on to become a White House HBCU scholar and she just graduated from Langston University.

"We are so excited and proud of her," Atkins-Woods said.

Other Camp DI success stories include Maci Morgan, who started Beach Bound Creations (<https://linktr.ee/beachboundcreations>), a jewelry company, and Elijah McCall, who created Legacy of Negasi's First Five, a dynamic dice game.


Camp Destination Innovation will be held June 11 to 28 - Tue., Wed., Thu. and Fri. from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuition for the three-week camp is \$40 per person. Classes will be held in the Partnership 2 Building (right behind GoCreate) on the Wichita State University campus.

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BROWN, from Page 3 ↓

District 27, representing part of Kansas City. Brown was reelected for four consecutive terms and largely ran unopposed. He most recently served as the No. 2 Democrat in the Missouri House but has reached his term limit and can't seek re-election in that position.

Brown's top issue is affordable housing, to help people who are unhoused or housing insecure get into stable living situations and build equity.

As lieutenant governor, he also wants to invest in supporting new and beginning farmers as an economic development priority for the state's top industry.

"There are all kinds of ideas that are out there, but it's a matter of sitting down with folks who want to do something about the problem," says Brown. "There's no situation we can't overcome if we're willing to work."

Improving access to healthcare is another key focus stemming from Brown's personal experiences. His daughter Aja passed away at age 15 after living with cerebral palsy, and Brown's late wife Regina also battled a rare form of cancer.

Brown says state lawmakers need to expand Medicaid and Medicare and he's critical of state Republicans' decision to cut more than \$200 million from the 2025 budget for services to the developmentally disabled.

"If you look at this most recent

state budget, there's money for minor league baseball fields and a fence around an airport, but they took money away from folks with disabilities," says Brown. "What are we doing? We aren't investing in our people."

Brown has racked up accolades during his time in the Missouri House. He was named 2023 Legislator of the Year by both the Missouri Nurses Association for his work expanding nursing practice laws and the Missouri Retired Teachers Association for his efforts to aid retired teachers in returning to the classroom.

He's also received some key endorsements heading into the election, like the anti-gun violence group Moms Demand Action and the pro-abortion group Abortion Action

Missouri.

"I feel very confident in this race," says Brown. "I've got a strong record and always stood up for working people. There are ballot measures that will bring our folks out to the polls, so I think I have a very good opportunity to win this election."

The November ballot features questions on mandatory sick leave, raising the minimum wage, and abortion access.

Despite Missouri's conservative lean in recent statewide elections, Brown believes he can appeal to voters of all stripes who are disenchanted with partisan politics and seeking pragmatic leadership.

"I ask voters all the time, 'Do you like the way things have been going

in Missouri for the last 20 years?' because Republicans have run the state for the past two decades," says Brown. "Democrats have tried to be the adults in the room, but they have had the supermajority."

Brown is running against Anastasia Syes in the Aug. 6 primary for lieutenant governor, and he's viewed as the favorite for the nomination. He faces a tougher road in the general election against the Republican nominee in a state that hasn't elected a Democratic lieutenant governor since 2005 or voted Democratic for president since 1996.

But Brown hopes his compelling life story and focus on "kitchen table" issues over ideology can sway enough voters his way.

MORRISON, from Page 3 ↓

administration focused on servant leadership and human welfare over party interests.

A woman's right to choose will also be on the ballot this year, and Morrison's view on the subject varies from many born-again Christians

and aligns with modern Democrats. Morrison says that while he disagrees with abortion personally on religious grounds, he believes Missouri law should "let people decide."

"As governor, I want to make sure that our entire state is a state that has not gotten divided by a consequence of

all these different ideologies," he states. "It's our responsibility as hired servants to make all residents' lives better and more whole. My objective as governor is to make sure that rural Missouri is blessed, urban Missouri is blessed, and suburban Missouri is blessed."

Morrison sees broad

biartisan support for farmers, infrastructure, and broadband access that better Missourians' lives across the political spectrum. He says criminal justice and health care are top issues.

Morrison engaged in community work with his church — particularly with Harvesters — and stayed out of politics until 2016.

Morrison describes a series of divine signs that caused

him to enter the Democratic primary for governor. In his first run, Morrison galvanized 30,000+ votes despite just two-and-a-half months of campaigning. He finished runner-up behind Chris Koster, fueling his return in 2020 when he received 32,000+ votes despite pandemic challenges.

Morrison hopes to build on his previous runs and win the nomination, which features

tough competition with MO House Minority Leader Crystal Quade and others already in the race. To achieve that goal, Morrison plans an active grassroots campaign of events, media appearances, door-knocking and engagement across Missouri's 114 counties.

He urges interested volunteers and supporters to get involved through his website at EricDMorrison.com.



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VOTING, from Page 4 ↓

(D - Columbia).

Peverill Squire, a political science professor at the University of Missouri, said there are two underlying reasons he believes are behind Republicans' motivation to push measures intended to make it harder to vote.

"First, it is a way to appeal to GOP primary voters," Squire said. "Republican incumbents want to make sure that they are not vulnerable to a challenge from their right. Second, there is a calculation that making voting harder will hurt Democratic voters more than Republican voters, though that may not prove to be the case."

"Ultimately, this push, it's more of the national narrative bleeding down into the state," said Connor Luebbert, a lead advocate for the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition.

This story originally appeared in the Columbia Missourian and is reprinted under a creative commons license.

Home for the Chiefs & Royals?

Could a Port Authority Boost KCK Riverfront Development Enough to Attract the Royals or Chiefs Across the Border?

Key Points:

- KS State Sen. David Haley introduced a bill to establish a port authority for economic development along the Kansas City, KS, riverfront.
- The bill was recently included in a package of incentives to attract the Chiefs and Royals across the state line.
- Haley sees the location of the port authority and potential stadium as a win-win for KCK development and easily accessible to KC destinations.

By Bonita Gooch Voice Editor-in-Chief

Kansas state Sen. David Haley stood on the banks at the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers and took in the beauty of his surroundings.

Across the river, the downtown Kansas City skyline stretched across the horizon. At eye-level was God's work: the calm rippling motion of the river and on the banks, a vast display of lush greenery ... but little if any way for people to enjoy it.

Proudly, Haley pointed out he's standing in

Kansas' Senate District 4, which he's represented since 2001. The district, on the northeast corner of Wyandotte County, is most notably known for being one of the poorest areas in the county, but few people realize it includes what could be one of the county's biggest economic drivers.

With that in mind, in 2021, Haley introduced a bill to establish a port authority running from the historic Quindaro Ruins on the north, down past the Kaw Point where he was standing, and south to the Rock Island Bridge, which is currently being developed as America's first bridge entertainment

destination.

In 2021, the bill passed the Kansas Senate but stalled in the Kansas House. In subsequent legislative sessions, he's reintroduced the bill with little fanfare or results.

In the past few weeks, though, the bill has drawn lots of attention - thanks to the Kansas Legislature's efforts to lure the Kansas City Chiefs and the Royals across the state line.

The port authority bill was made part of a package of incentives the Legislature is compiling to attract the teams.

See **HALEY**, Page 9 →



Senator David Haley stands in his Kansas 4th District at the confluence of the Kaw and Missouri Rivers. He says the downtown Kansas City Kansas river front makes the perfect place for a new professional sports stadium.

Kansas Getting Serious About Luring Chiefs, Royals

Legislation calls for issuing bonds for sports facilities costing at least \$1 billion

By **Tim Carpenter**
Kansas Reflector

Kansas House and Senate members worked Monday to consider whether to approve an economic development package designed to attract the Kansas City Chiefs, Kansas City Royals or professional hockey or basketball franchises to Kansas.

The legislation would specifically limit the state's incentives to sports facility projects costing more than \$1 billion and the state Department of Commerce would be authorized to negotiate and make offers to no more than two sports teams.

The bonds issued for the projects could be used for all costs associated with stadiums and other infrastructure and would be repayable over a 30-year period. The incentive packages would be available until June 2025, but the legislation would allow that deadline to be extended for one year.

"Sorry for the short notice," said Rep. Sean Tarwater, a Stilwell Republican and chairman of the House commerce committee, told five other legislators on a negotiating committee. "I think it's important to have this done before we adjourn the session. It's just important to send a very positive



House and Senate lawmakers worked on a proposed bill that would allow issuance of bonds to attract the Kansas City Chiefs, Kansas City Royals or other professional sports franchise to Kansas.

message to the sports community that we're here and we're very serious about this."

Majorities in the House and Senate would have to vote for the bill before it was sent to Gov. Laura Kelly.

In early April, voters in Jackson County, Missouri, rejected a sales tax measure that would have helped fund a downtown Kansas City stadium for the Royals and allow major

renovations at Arrowhead Stadium used by the Chiefs. More than 58% of voters opposed the plan for replacing the three-eighths of a cent sales tax used to maintain Truman Sports Complex to accommodate investments in the two stadiums.

"We want to make sure that, since Jackson County dropped the ball here, that we're in a position to do a scoop-and-score," Tarwater

said.

Tarwater said conversations among legislators and others had been ongoing, but without direct negotiations with the Chiefs or Royals.

"We've been working on some sort of a solution for them for some time now," he said. "We just want to make sure that we have the right plan for when the time is right for us to start those negotiations."

He said the project would involve issuance of state-approved STAR bonds, which would finance construction and be repaid with sales and liquor tax revenue. In addition, the legislation would call for bonds issued through a community improvement district and through tax increment financing.

No Kansan would be asked to approve a sales tax increase for the professional sports facilities, Tarwater said.

"We are using tomorrow's money. It's tomorrow's money we otherwise wouldn't receive because these structures will bring in the business and they will cause development around them and the sales tax from those developments is what funds these bonds," he said.

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HALEY, from Page 8 ↓

While the creation of the port authority is gaining recognition because of the Legislature's recent efforts, Haley said when he introduced the legislation three years ago, it had nothing to do with attracting sports teams to his district.

"But now, obviously, it makes sense if the teams would relocate near the river," said Haley, who is pleased the bill has been given "new life."

Haley said he introduced the bill as a means for economic development along the KCK riverfront.

He sees how establishing a port authority would encourage development there and ensure it's done - with the best interest of Wyandotte County citizens - in a controlled and comprehensive manner.

The Vision

"Every city I know, just about, has something going on its riverfront," said Haley.

His vision is for an active and vibrant riverfront with people taking advantage of both the land and water.

Haley recalled a popular riverboat that used to depart from Kaw Point that gave scenic tours along the river. Since then, he said, there's been no KCK-based activities from the riverfront and little if any activity along the river banks.

While his vision wasn't originally about attracting a sports team, it's a vision he's strongly embraced.

"What a beautiful backdrop for a stadium," he said as he stood on the riverbank. "It [the stadium] would be a national, if not an international, attraction; way better than the same old stuff out there by the Legends, with no natural beauty.

His reference to the Legends was a more than slight dig against the most talked about Wyandotte County locations for either or both teams. Even before the stadium expansion tax was voted down, ideals for a Kansas location included Johnson County and Western KCK near the Legends and International Speedway.

Never was there a mention of a stadium in Eastern KCK.

Riverfront KCK Stadium a Win-Win

Haley sees a KCK Riverfront Stadium as a

win-win. It would offer the benefits of a downtown stadium the Royals were looking for without all the disruption to existing businesses or the parking issues.

According to Haley, KCK's Fairfax District, in the city's river bottoms, has several 30-plus-acre lots that would be perfect for a stadium and come at a much lower price than land in downtown KCMO or the Legends.

An eastern Wyandotte County location would be a great incentive for downtown KCK development while remaining easily accessible to KMCO destinations like the Power & Light District, West Bottoms, the Crossroads, and the 18th & Vine Jazz District.

Finally, he says, the location is close to the Kansas City International Airport and has easy access to Interstates 70, 635 and 29.

Why a Port Authority

Port authorities are usually associated with the movement of cargo and vessels within a port, but their areas of responsibility can be further reaching and include coordination of the development of land and other economic activities within the port's boundaries.

KCK used to have a port authority, but it was

disbanded in the 1970s. In addition to the river, the authority included an old KCK airport that served as a major transport hub during World War II.

Dismantling the port authority had a lot to do with plans to use the old airport as the site for the General Motors plant, which is still a major employer in KC's Fairfax area.

Up until 1981, when the Kansas Legislature inserted the state into the process, it wasn't necessary to get state approval to establish a port authority. Wyandotte County could simply have established a port.

Now, the first step to creating a port authority is approval by the state through a bill like the one introduced by Haley.

His bill doesn't establish many of the details of the power of the port authority and how it will be governed. The bill leaves most of that part up to Wyandotte County. It also doesn't speak to the district's taxing mechanisms.

Haley said he knows Wyandotte County residents, like Jackson County residents who voted down the additional tax to fund the Chiefs and Royals stadiums, are tax-weary.

See **HALEY, Page 15** →

Applications Now Open for KC's Home Repair Assistance Programs

You could get a new roof, furnace, electrical or plumbing work if you apply by June 3.

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

Construction costs are up, and if you need to make some home repairs, those costs could put your budget in a bind. But if you put off the project, mounting maintenance issues could decrease your home's value or even create potential safety hazards.

However, if you live in Kansas City, MO, the city has three home repair assistance programs available to provide financial relief to eligible homeowners.

The window to apply for these initiatives is now open until June 3. This could be your opportunity to finally address those major plumbing leaks, replace that aging roof, or upgrade an outdated electrical system without breaking the bank.

Kansas City is currently accepting applications for the following home repair programs:

City Home Repair Program

- Available to single-family homeowners citywide who have not received city home repair services in the last five years.
- Covers major repairs like plumbing, electrical systems, roofs, and HVAC replacement.

Targeted Minor Home Repair Program

- Available to homeowners in the following targeted neighborhoods: Key Coalition, Santa Fe, Boston Heights, Oak Park, South Roundtop, Ruskin, Marlborough, Blue Hills, and Wendell Phillips.
- Eligible residents may receive two types of repairs and choose from plumbing, electrical, roofs, or HVAC servicing or replacement.

Paint Program

- Provides paint and materials for exterior painting to homeowners



Roof replacement and repair are among the items allowed under KCMO's home repair assistance programs.

citywide up to \$500 in value.

- No income requirement.
- To qualify, you must apply, only own one property, and live & reside at the property to be painted within KC city limits.

To qualify for the City Home Repair or Targeted Home Repair programs, homeowners must meet certain income limits based on HUD guidelines as well as other eligibility criteria. All applications require documentation like:

- Proof of homeownership
- Proof of household income
- Recent water bill
- Bank statements

It's vitally important to fully fill out the application because incomplete applications without full documentation will not be processed.

Applications must be submitted digitally through the city's online application system by the June 3 deadline.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to get affordable assistance for critical home repairs. KC homeowners can get full details on program requirements and apply at kcmo.gov/housing.

These home repair initiatives are funded through the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program, which aims to maintain affordable housing and support homeownership in Kansas City.

KC Seeks Public Input on New MLK Pedestrian Bridge

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

City officials are asking Kansas City residents to weigh in on the design for a new pedestrian bridge that will honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and improve access to a popular park named after the civil rights icon.

The planned bridge will cross Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd. at Woodland Ave, spanning Brush Creek to connect pedestrians and bicyclists to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Square Park. A public survey opened May 3, and people can vote on their favorite of four proposed design concepts — each with an alternate, for a total of eight designs.

"Whenever we can engage the community and get their input on projects like this, it helps create a stronger sense of ownership," says Schylon Kubic, a spokesperson for the community engagement team. "People really feel invested when they've had a direct say."

The bridge project stems from efforts by U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II, who secured \$2.8 million in federal funding for its construction.

Brush Creek has been seen as a barrier separating nearby neighborhoods to the north from the 18-acre park. The pedestrian bridge hopes to allow those residents access to the park without the current half-mile hike around Brush Creek.

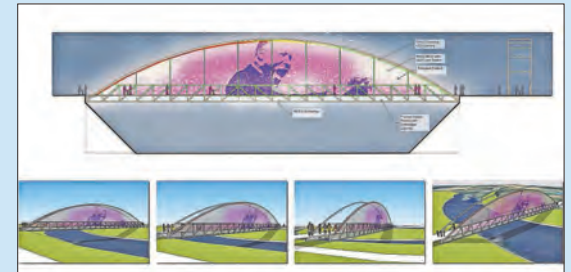
Each of the four design concepts incorporates different materials, lighting elements, and sculptural designs intended to capture King's legacy. Renderings show sleek, modern bridges made of steel, concrete and glass, with some including overhead arches, LED lighting displays and inscribed concrete panels.

A brief summary of the designs:

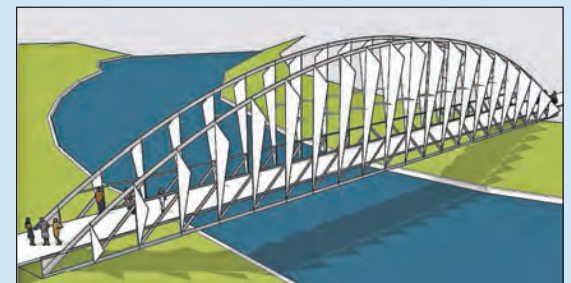
- Concept 1 features a simple, curved-arch steel bridge with color-changing LED lighting embedded in the railings. Along the bridge is a metal mesh with LED nodes that can create striking images of King. The alternate shrinks the metal mesh to the top portion of the bridge.
- Concept 2 is similar but drops the dramatic metal mesh image concept and incorporates sails for visual effects. The alternate has fewer open-air panels and adds an MLK sign and retaining wall.
- Concept 3 is what planners call a fins keystone bridge with large panel images of King. At the entrance, the design looks much like an open tunnel, and the alternate also incorporates a retaining wall and an MLK sign.
- Concept 4 is what planners call a precast open-air bridge, which has a lower profile than the other designs. The wrapped panel railings feature images from the civil rights movement and King. The alternate once again adds MLK signage and a retaining wall.

Kansas City Parks & Rec Board Commissioner Stephenie Smith said the public input process reflects the community's deep historical ties to King's legacy of justice and freedom.

"When you see powerful images and names like Dr.



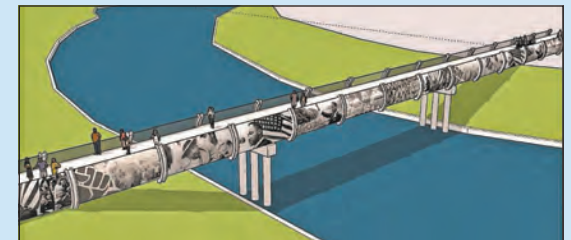
Concept 1



Concept 2



Concept 3



Concept 4

For more views of the designs and the alternate designs on each of the concepts go to our webpage:
www.communityvoiceks.com

King's, you can't help but be compelled to ask what you're doing to improve your community," said Smith. "This is an opportunity for people's voices to be heard."

The parks board intends to present a final design late this summer after reviewing the survey results. If approved, construction could potentially begin in 2025. Residents can vote online at surveymonkey.com/r/mlkpedbridge1 through May 19.

Wichita Black Nurses with GraceMed Testing People Impacted by Chemical Spill

Nurses will conduct free screenings to test if individuals were impacted by TCE, the main chemical in the 29th & Grove spill.

By Peggy Jones-Foxx, LPN, BA, MAJ
PRESIDENT & CEO OF WBNA

GraceMed Health Clinic and the Wichita Black Nurses Association are collaborating on educating and testing families and individuals impacted by the years-old chemical spill at the Union Pacific railyard in Wichita near 29th and Grove streets that has polluted neighboring areas.

Trichloroethylene, the primary contaminant, is a colorless, nonflammable and volatile liquid, evaporates quickly in the air, and has a sweet odor. It is used primarily as a solvent to remove grease from metal parts.

However, TCE is also carcinogenic, meaning it may cause



Peggy Jones-Foxx and GraceMed COO Jason Ybarra

cancer in the kidneys, kidney pelvis, testicles, and liver. Studies have indicated TCE may cause miscarriages, congenital heart defects and low birth weight in babies.

The Kansas Dept. of Health



Wichita Black Nurses member Sharon Gunter and Min. Jerome Watson of New Jerusalem Baptist Church volunteer at the First TCE Clinic.

and Environment completed a health study at the request of the community and found the rate of liver cancer for African-American residents of the toxic

spill area is two times the state average rate.

With a grant from KDHE and other grantors, GraceMed and WBNA will facilitate providing educational information and no-cost lab screening tests for individuals impacted by the spill. Working with GraceMed COO Jason Ybarra and Chief Medical Officer and Interim CEO Dr. Julie Elder, they've developed a plan to take testing to community churches, activity centers, and senior living facilities.

A schedule for the free testing has been set through Aug. 24. All individuals who have lived in the spill area - from 29th and Grove south to Murdock, east to Grove and west to I-135 - are encouraged to take advantage of the

testing at no cost. No insurance is necessary. Only your drivers' licenses or a state-issued ID is required.

The tests include a simple blood draw and urine sample. The blood is for a chemistry profile and a complete blood count, and the urine analysis is testing for blood in the urine. The blood will be tested for alpha-fetoprotein (AFP). High levels of AFP can be a sign of cancer of the liver, ovaries or testicles.

Tested individuals will be notified by GraceMed within seven to 14 days of their results, and the results will be released to their primary care clinic.

The first Mobile TCE lab was held May 4 at New Jerusalem Baptist Church, 1625 N. Madison. GraceMed medical staff volunteers, Ybarra and the Wichita Black Nurses screened 20 individuals. They also provided health education on TCE, offered blood pressure and blood sugar finger sticks, and insurance agent Sylvester Thompson provided info on Medicare, LegalShield, and Legacy Assurance.

WBNA plans to invite other relevant vendors to future TCE screenings as a way to provide info to positively impact the health and wellbeing of individuals in attendance.

Since 2020, the Wichita Black

Nurses Association has administered thousands of COVID-19 vaccines, predominantly in Northeast Wichita. During the last year and a half, they have partnered with GraceMed in administering the updated COVID-19 Spikevax booster in Wichita.

For more in-depth info, visit GraceMed.org or www.KDHE.ks.gov.

Schedule of TCE Testing Clinics

Scheduled testing dates and times are the following Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

May 18 - St. James Missionary Baptist Church, 1350 N. Ash

June 8 - Union Rescue Mission, 2800 N. Hillside

June 22 - Greater St. Mary's Baptist Church, 1648 E. 17th St.

July 6 - The Center (Community Center) Iasis Church, 1914 E. 11th St. N.

July 20 - St. Mark Church of God in Christ, 1018 Dellrose

Aug. 10 - Evergreen Rec. Center, 2700 N. Woodland

Aug. 24 - Chisholm Trail Church of Christ, 5833 E. 37th St. N.

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Hometown Shocker Star Has One More Year

Wichita's own Xavier Bell just got a diploma, but will play his final year of eligibility as a graduate student.

Key Points:

- Wichita basketball star Xavier Bell to play last year of college eligibility for WSU.
- NCAA decision allows players to make up for 2020-21 season due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Bell plans to pursue a master's degree in sports management and hopes to play pro basketball.

By P.J. Griekspoor
Wichita Reporter

Hometown basketball star Xavier Bell will be playing his last year of college eligibility for the Wichita State University Shockers even though he graduated with a degree in business administration this month.

"I have one more year of eligibility and I've already been accepted in graduate school," said Bell, the son of Small Business Administration District Director Wayne Bell.

Xavier, a 6'3" guard, was a Shocker star his senior year, starting all 34 games, shooting 43.6% from the field and 73.3% from the line. Notably, he had 20 games in double figures and led the team in assists nine times.

His "extra" year of eligibility comes from an NCAA decision

to allow players to make up for the 2020 season, which was all but wiped out by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said he will use it to start a master's program in sports management, following in the footsteps of his oldest sister, Ashley, who currently has an ownership share and manages a chain of fitness clubs in Oklahoma City.

A master's in sports management opens up opportunities to manage a pro sports team, serve as an athletic director or manage a sports facility, just to name a few options.

"It's pretty much about the business side of all sports," he said.

What happens after his final year as a Shocker depends on next season and the potential for an offer from the NBA.

Bell said he would obviously like to play pro basketball, but he is laying out a career path in case that doesn't happen, and he expects to be well on the way to his master's degree, which requires 30 hours of academic classes plus a six-hour

internship.

Wichita Native

Xavier is a Wichita native who attended Bostic Elementary and Allison Middle School before going on to star in basketball and football at Andover Central High School.

For college, he wanted to experience life away from home and choose to accept an offer from Drexel University, a smaller Division 1 college in

Philadelphia. He started his freshman year in 2020, just in time to experience the pandemic hundreds of miles from home.

The COVID Year

"It was really hard," Bell said of the pandemic experience.

"There were no team workouts. We had to get tested every single day and anyone positive had to quarantine for seven days," he said. "Games would be canceled if anyone on either team tested positive."

His dad, Wayne, said it was hard for the family because of travel restrictions and rules against having spectators at games. "We were only able to see him play one game early in the season," he said.

The tapering off of restrictions allowed him to get a more traditional college experience, Bell said. But he was ready to come home as a junior and join the Shockers.

"I'm glad I had the experience of getting away from home and learning all

the lessons of being on your own, but I wanted to come home. I wanted to be back with my family and have them be able to watch me play without having to travel so far," he said.

Big, Sports-Loving Family

Bell's Wichita family is extensive. He is the baby of a blended family with four sisters, two brothers and a brother-in-law he counts as a sibling.

His family - especially his dad, who was a college athlete and played football for Wichita State until the program ended in 1986 - are all sports fans. In fact, he was named Xavier after basketball star Xavier Daniels, a WSU classmate and friend of his dad.

His dad was one of his first coaches.

"I got him into sports young," Wayne Bell said.

"We tried every sport and he was really good at football." The younger Bell said he was interested in football but his heart was in basketball and it was there that he put in his all. "I've often wondered what would have happened if I put in the total effort I did in basketball into football."

In high school, he participated in summer AAU leagues and played tournaments in the invitation-only circuits, which he said serve as "exposure tournaments" for college recruiters and coaches to watch promising high-schoolers play. The Bell family spent their summers during those years following and supporting Xavier in his basketball travels.

This summer, Bell says he plans on working out regularly, making a trip to Philadelphia to visit friends, and spending time with family.



Xavier Bell, a Wichita native and Shocker starter, will return to WSU for a fifth year of eligibility (thanks to the pandemic) and to start work on his master's degree.



Xavier Bell with his mom and dad at his graduation from WSU earlier this month.

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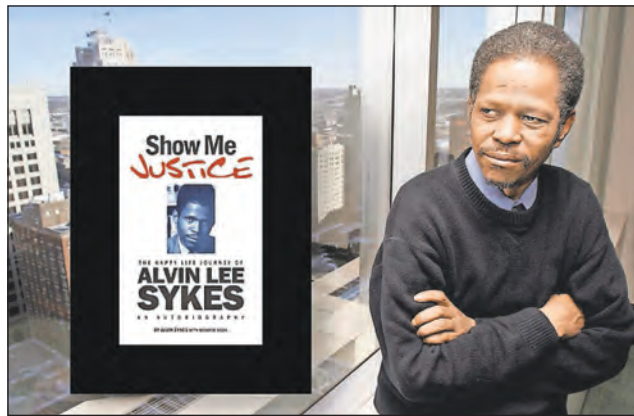
Alvin Sykes Book Launch to be Hosted by Black Archives

'Show Me Justice' details the life of the local civil rights icon; book release event is May 25.

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

The extraordinary life story of late civil rights pioneer Alvin Sykes, who reopened the Emmett Till murder case and fought for justice in other unsolved crimes, is being shared through a new autobiography, "Show Me Justice: The Happy Life Journey of Alvin Lee Sykes."

A special launch event for the 200-page book, co-authored by former Kansas City Star editor Monroe Dodd, is planned for Sat., May 25, at 1 p.m. at the Black Archives of Mid-America, 1722 E. 17th Terr., KCMO.



Alvin Sykes' autobiography "Show Me Justice" is available now and kicks off with an event honoring the civil rights legend.

The book allows readers to learn about the tenacious KC native who used his self-taught legal skills to reinvestigate and advocate for victims largely forgotten by the justice system.

The book details how Sykes (1956-2021) triumphed over a troubled

childhood marked by poverty, illness, abuse, and being essentially orphaned at a young age.

Despite only an eighth-grade education, Sykes became a formidable legal mind by studying at public libraries, which he referred to as "the great equalizer." He

never took a bar exam and was not a licensed attorney, yet his legal advocacy ultimately resulted in Congress passing the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act in 2008.

"Alvin is a civil rights icon. He's the foremost civil rights advocate of his generation," said Ajamu Webster, trustee of the Alvin Sykes estate.

The May 25 event will feature readings from the book by Dodd, remarks from Sykes' colleagues involved in his notable cases, and an opportunity for community members to share their own personal reflections on the celebrated activist's life and work.

"Most people don't know Alvin's full life story - the details behind his accomplishments and what drove his unrelenting pursuit of justice," Webster said. "This

book provides insight into Sykes' thought process and the context of his experiences that most people never saw."

The Black Archives of Mid-America will also run an accompanying exhibit highlighting Sykes' personal artifacts and papers May 15-31.

"The country is still struggling with many civil rights issues relating to free speech, freedom of expression, and denial of constitutionally guaranteed rights," Webster said. "Alvin's life story speaks to how people can advocate for justice within the law. His biography is very relevant and inspiring in this context."

About Alvin Sykes' Work

In 2004, after decades of investigation, Sykes' efforts led to the U.S. Dept. of

Justice reopening the 1955 Emmett Till murder case. The 14-year-old Black teen was abducted and lynched in Mississippi after being accused of whistling at a White woman. The case helped spark the civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s.

While new charges were not brought against Carolyn Bryant, the woman whose allegations led to Till's killing, the renewed attention prompted an unprecedented apology to the Till family

See **SYKES**, Page 15 →

"Show Me Justice"

Alvin Sykes Book Launch
The Black Archives of
Mid-America
1722 E. 17th Terr., KCMO
Sat., May 25
1 - 3 p.m.
Free

Zhou B Art Center in 18th & Vine to Host Grand Opening

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

A new arts hub is blooming in Kansas City's historic 18th & Vine Jazz District. The Zhou B Art Center will celebrate its grand opening on June 1 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, exhibition premiere, and community celebration.

The center has repurposed the long-vacant Crispus Attucks School building, 1801 E. 18th St., once a pillar of education for Black students in Kansas City. Its inaugural exhibition, "A Benediction from the Rubble," pays homage to the school's legacy with works by acclaimed Black artists.

Curated by actress and collector CCH Pounder, the exhibition showcases Michael Brantley and Harold Smith of Kansas City, joined by international artists Tony Ramos and Robert Hale. Their pieces capture the complexities of the human experience through diverse mediums.

"It'll be an extraordinary evening," says Allan Gray, co-developer of the art center.



Art displayed in one of the gallery spaces at Zhou B Art Center.

"People will experience a blending of cultures at the grand opening, as is the nature of the Zhou B Art Center."

A ribbon cutting with local officials and the Zhou Brothers will take place at 4:30 p.m., followed by an initial walk-through. The gala starts at 6 p.m. and will feature live music, food from local eateries, and the

See **ART**, Page 15 →



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Tue., May 21, 6 pm: Wichita Documentors, Wichita Advanced Learning Library, 711 W 2nd. Learn about an exciting new initiative that encourages civic participation, leadership, accountability and positive change. We're part of a national program that aims to make public meetings more transparent by engaging residents in accessing the info they need to actualize the change they wish to see. Light appetizers will be served. FREE

Thu., May 23, 8 pm: Progeny's Call to Action, Atwater Neighborhood Center, 2755 E. 19th. For all emerging leaders, change makers & shakers, and partner organizations in the community: Every quarter we invite local youths to collectively address problems facing our community. We need all young people who are inspired by change to join us. Food/drinks served. Bring friends. Register ASAP at <https://tinyurl.com/8n8w5kct>.

Fri., May 24, 9 am - 3 pm: HealthCore Mobile Mammogram, 2707 E. 21st. Hope, the Mobile Mammography Van, is coming to HealthCore Clinic. Don't put off your mammogram, give yourself peace of mind. You must schedule an appointment. Contact HealthCore or samantha.reno@ascension.org to schedule. FREE

Sat., May 25, 7 pm: Kimberly Paige Quartet, Walker's Jazz Lounge, 252 N. Mosley. Experience jazz in its natural habitat. COST \$8-\$12 <https://bit.ly/3V07HZY>.

Sun., May 26, 6 pm: All-White R&B Affair with Violinist Dominique Hammons, Wichita Art Museum, 1400 Museum Blvd. Direct from Houston, Hammons is an internationally known artist who's mixing violin with hip-hop beats. The intimate setting with almost exclusive table seating and jam session will be a night to remember, featuring DJ Gabby G and DJ Fluid. ICT Bartending serves cocktails starting at 6 pm. COST \$50 each or whole-table reservations \$450 for 10 people. Contact Kevin Harrison, Elbert Costello, or Matthew Powell only on Facebook.

Tue., May 28, 10 am: Storytime in the Park, Naftzger Park, 601 E. Douglas. Read along with stories on the big screen and enjoy music, snacks, free books and an activity for the kids. Storytime in the Park is a partnership between Storytime Village and Wichita Park & Recreation. FREE

Wed., May 29, 11 am - 1 pm: National Foster Care Lunch, Kansas Health Foundation, 309 E. Douglas. "Lunch & Learn: Supporting Foster Care - Engaging the Community" is dedicated to understanding and supporting foster care in our community - raising awareness about the challenges faced by foster children and how the community can play a vital role in providing support and stability. FREE - Reserve seat at <https://bit.ly/3UIOSSG>.

Wed., May 29, 6 - 7 pm: KMWU Literary Fest, KMWU, 121 N. Mead, Suite 200. We will be reading the Pulitzer Prize winner in fiction - "Night Watch" by Jayne Anne Phillips - and we'll meet for a group discussion over dinner. Dinner provided by Public; guests are invited to bring a beverage to share with the group. COST \$15 <https://bit.ly/4bixwtG>.

Thu., May 30, 6 pm: Learn Computer Skills at Evergreen Community Center, 2601 N. Arkansas. Dive into the fundamentals of computer skills in this interactive workshop presented by NexStep Alliance. Computers will be provided for practical exercises. We're ensuring you gain essential knowledge and walk out with confidence in navigating digital tools. FREE

Fri., May 31, 7 pm: FR3EDM Music, Naftzger Park, 601 E. Douglas. Join us every Final Friday through September for an epic, free-flowing music jam session. Come for the tunes, stay for the vibes. You might just stumble upon some incredible live performances by the hottest up-and-coming artists. FREE

Thu., June 6, 5 pm: Cajun Food Fest 2024, Century II, 225 W. Douglas. Celebrating 36 years of Cajun Food Fest at Wichita Riverfest. PLUS it is #ThrowbackThursday - bring any past Riverfest button and you will get free admission into the festival. Enjoy traditional Louisiana favorites right here in the ICT.

Fri., June 7, 4:30 - 6:30 pm: First Fridays with Common Ground & Shocker Neighborhood, Paradise Missionary Baptist Church, 4401 E 17th. Fresh produce and local vendors - our produce is from local farms and is affordable for ALL.

KANSAS CITY

Sat., May 18, 10 am - 12 pm: WeCode KC Roblox Studio Classes (age 12+ ONLY), 4825 Troost Ave. Learn how to create your own games, design unique worlds, and bring your imagination to life using Roblox Studio. FREE - register at www.wecodekc.org/programs.

Sun., May 19, 3 pm - 12 am: The Black Business Ball & Honors, KC Convention Center, Grand Ballroom, 301 W. 13th St. Celebrating 12 Years of advocating for Black-owned businesses. A night of inspiration, entertainment and reflection. COST \$150+ <https://bit.ly/3U30EOo>.

Mon., May 20, 6:30 pm: Johnson County NAACP Executive Committee Meeting - Shawnee Church of the Nazarene, 5539 Quivira. FREE

Tue., May 21, 9 am - 3:30 pm: Project Homeless Connect, Gregg Klice Community Center, 1600 E. 17th Terr. Medical and immunizations, vision screening and prescription glasses, on-site dental services, Missouri birth certificates, housing, employment and education assistance, legal services, veteran services, family and child services, food assistance

programs and more. Free lunch for participants. Free transportation shuttle available.

Fri., May 24 - 26, 10 am - 5 pm: Memorial Day Weekend 2024, National WWI Museum and Memorial, 100 W. 26th St. Honor and recognize the men and women who sacrificed their lives - World War I Research Stations, Flags of Forgotten Soldiers Display, blood drive, Vietnam Era Bell UH-1 Iroquois "Huey" Helicopter Display, Vintage Military Vehicle Display, Memorial Day Bell Tolling Ceremony, and much more. FREE

Sat., May 25, 1 - 3 pm: "Show Me Justice" - Alvin Lee Sykes Autobiography Book Launch, Black Archives of Mid-America, 1722 E. 17th. "Show Me Justice" tracks the life and career of the late civil rights advocate Alvin Lee Sykes, who used his self-taught legal knowledge to reopen the dormant murder case of Emmett Till in the early 2000s. FREE

Sat., May 25, 12 pm: Community Literacy Event, WEB DuBois Learning Center, 4510 Linwood Blvd. Join DREAMS KC & DuBois Learning Center at our Free Family Literacy Bash. Enjoy interactive games, free books, and concessions. All ages. FREE

Sat., May 25 (8 pm) & May 26 (1:30 pm): Memorial Day Mix Up, American Jazz Museum, 1616 E. 18th St. Cash bar food trucks sounds by DJ Dint. COST: \$15 - tickets at The Landing Mall Skybox T-shirt Shop; for reserved seating only contact 816-612-6218.

Wed., May 29, 5:30 - 7 pm: Free Beginner Genealogy Classes, Black Archives of Mid-America, 1722 E. 17th. Classes will be taught by staff from the Midwest Genealogical Center. FREE

Sat., June 1, 12 - 2 pm: JuneteenthKC 7th Annual Cultural Parade, 18th & Vine Jazz District. Procession starts @ NOON. Official theme: The Resistance - Celebrating African Americans in the Arts & Their Impact within the Civil Rights Movement. Includes the Zulu Connection Stilt Dancers, drill & dance teams, Best Float, Best Motor/Car Club, Best Business/Organization.

Tue., June 4, 8 pm: George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic, Uptown Theater, 3700 Broadway Rd. With special guest Blu Eye Extinction. COST \$35+ <https://bit.ly/3JZ31wY>.

Fri., June 7, 10 - 11 am: Jazz Storytelling, American Jazz Museum, 1616 E. 18th St. "Jazz Storytelling," behind the museum, introduces young kids to the magic of jazz. Aimed at toddlers to early elementary schoolers, "Jazz Storytelling" is led by vocalist Lisa Henry, storyteller Brother John, drummer Mike Warren, and bassist Tyrone Clark. FREE

Sat., June 11, 5:30 - 7 pm: "Black Women's Legislative Agenda: Looking at the Issues," UMKC Student Union, 5100 Cherry St. Engage Black women in the conversation about issues that matter the most to them and their families, hear from elected officials and advocacy

leaders on local and national Black issues, answer questions and help set an agenda for attendees to take back to their communities. Experience this call to action and next steps in maintaining active engagement this election year. FREE

SEND US YOUR JUNETEENTH EVENTS

Our June 7 issue will be full of Juneteenth events to enjoy across the region. Make sure your event is included. Submit your Juneteenth event information and flyers using the QR code below. You can also enter you event on our online calendar, free of charge.

Deadline for events to be included in the June 7 issue is Sat., June 1.



SCAN ME



SYKES, from Page 13 ↓

from the state of Mississippi.

In the 1980s, Sykes also helped secure a federal civil rights conviction against a Missouri man previously acquitted by an all-White jury in the beating death in a public park of a Black jazz musician Steve Harvey.

Praised by the likes of musician Herbie Hancock as someone who “changes the course of history,” Sykes persisted through challenges with an unwavering determination summed up by the Rev. Wheeler Parker, Till’s cousin: “Most people have a problem with being egotistical, but Alvin does not ... He’s genuine. I appreciate that.”

Sykes passed away in 2021, but his legacy and methods for securing justice against long odds endure through “Show Me Justice,” available now wherever books are sold.

ART, from Page 13 ↓

premiere of the exhibition “A Benediction from the Rubble.”

Tickets to the grand opening benefit cost \$100 (available at bit.ly/ZhouBKCGrandOpening). Proceeds will support the newly formed Zhou B Art Foundation of Kansas City, which subsidizes artist studios, exhibitions, and community programming.

Gray says the center strives to foster “a vibrant community that extends beyond the arts” through partnerships and inclusivity. Its 45 studios, event spaces, and sculpture garden aim to uplift both established and emerging creatives.

HALEY, from Page 9 ↓

However, he believes a port authority would be a big economic win for Wyandotte County that he envisions could help lower the tax burden on residents and would be largely paid for by taxes on the commercial entities operating within the district.

In addition, the STAR bonds proposed by the Kansas Legislature to attract the teams would provide financing for the new stadiums without imposing any new taxes.

What if the Chiefs & Royals Don't Come to WYCO?

While Haley thinks a riverside stadium in KCK is the best place for a future stadium, both he and the Kansas Legislature will still work to bring a professional team to Kansas if the Chiefs and/or the Royals decide to stay in Missouri.

The STAR bond package being developed by the

Legislature, gives the Chiefs and Royals until June 2025 to decide on accepting the state’s proposal. If the teams decline, the deal remains open for an NBA or NHL team to accept.

Haley said his vision for the site works equally well for an NBA team. However, his vision for the development of the KCK waterway isn’t contingent on the attraction of a professional sports team.

KCK and Wyandotte Mayor Tyrone Garner agrees. Like Haley, he cited his vision for development of the KCK waterway well before there was talk of bringing professional sports teams to Kansas.

“Our vision is to extend these developments landward using the river as a catalyst,” said LaVert A. Murray, chief economic development advisor to Garner. “A port authority can assist in these efforts but we are prepared to move things along utilizing a great number of economic tools and incentives, including STAR bonds.”

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF CLARK
IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR PARENTING PLAN,
RESIDENTIAL SCHEDULE AND/OR CHILD SUPPORT OF
CHILDREN: ANTONY BRIAN BRACAMONTES OLVERA

Karen Lilian Olvera Manjaraz (Petitioner)

and

Alfonso Bracamontes Alvarez (Respondent)

Case No. 2230152506

PURSUANT TO PETITION FOR PARENTING PLAN, RESIDENTIAL
SCHEDULE AND/OR CHILD SUPPORT YOU ARE HEREBY

NOTIFIED that a petition has been filed in the Superior Court of Washington, County of Clark by Petitioner asking for a parenting plan, residential schedule and/or child support, and you are hereby required to plead to such petition on or before the 19th day of June, 2024, in said court at Superior Court of Washington, Clark County, 1200 Franklin St., Vancouver Washington.

Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

Karen Lilian Olvera Manjaraz
Petitioner

Alsr. Alfonso Bracamontes Alvarez Para informarle por este Medio Que Karon Lilian Olvera Manjaraz que ella estapiendiendo la custodia de su hijo Anthony Brian Bracamontes Olvera i tiene Un caso en la corte y el vive wichita Kansas Sialgien Loconose un familiar o amigo Selo agan sabor que tiene un caso en la corte por su hijo que vive en Vancouver, WA

Alsr. Alfonso Bracamontes Alvarez To inform you by this means that Karon Lilian Olvera Manjaraz that she is asking for custody of her son Anthony Brian Bracamontes Olvera i has a case in court and he lives in Wichita Kansas if he knows a family member or friend who knows that he has a case in court for his son who lives in Vancouver WA

Garner, like Haley, is pleased with Wyandotte County’s western development and expansion, but he ran on a platform of improving growth in Eastern KCK.

“I just want to enhance

some of the other regions of the county,” said Haley. “We continue to focus on a 4.5-mile radius of our county for development and there are many other miles that are prime for economic enhancements.

“It’s a shame that the state and the county have invested millions in the development of Western Wyandotte County and not a dollar for the Quindaro ruins and eastern Wyandotte County.”



NEIGHBORS
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.

BID SOLICITATION NOTICE TO ALL CERTIFIED KCATA MBE/WBE MEMBERS FOR THE ASCENT APARTMENTS


Neighbors Construction Company, Inc. is seeking subcontractor proposals from all subcontractors, including qualified MBE/WBE subcontractors who are in current good standing with the KCATA, The City of Kansas City, MO, The State of Missouri Office of Equal Opportunity, and/or the Kansas Department of Commerce, for the construction of the new Arrive KC Apartments. The participation goals for this project are 6.2% (MBE) and 6.9% (WBE).

This project will consist of the new construction of (341) apartment units, including an integral clubhouse, as well as detached garages.

All bid documents, including the bid invitation and the bid form, can be found at the following link: <https://www.bidplanroom.com/clientapp/project.php?id=MTMwM-jA=&k=a3b6g6bqfu>

Please call or email any questions to the NCCI Office at the following email address: nccibids@neighborsconstruction.com.

Phone: (913) 422-5555
Fax: (913) 422-7384



CITY OF WICHITA

SEALED PROPOSALS

Notice is hereby given that bids will be received at the office of the Purchasing Manager, up to 10:00 a.m., **Friday, June 7, 2024** for the following project:
Wichita Multimodal Facility (The Hub) (Sycamore & Texas Street)
472-2024-086038
LUMP SUM BID ITEMS - BASE BID - GROUP I
Wichita Multimodal Facility I LS
ADD ALTERNATE #1: SCREENING PANELS –
EAST SIDE GROUP 2
Screening panel (east) 4,136 sf

ADD ALTERNATE #2: SCREENING PANELS –
NORTH SIDE GROUP 3
Screening panel (north) 2,054 sf
All bids received will thereafter be publicly opened, read aloud and considered by the Board of Bids and Contracts. All work to be done under the direction and supervision of the City Manager and according to plans and specifications on file in the office of the City Engineer. Bidders will be required to enclose a bid bond in the amount of five percent (5%) with each as a guarantee of good faith.
The Wichita City Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Dated at Wichita, Kansas, April 25, 2024.
Jamie Buster, City Clerk

This information and any addenda is also available on the City’s Web Page at: <https://www.wichita.gov/435/Vendor-Services>

When entrepreneurs succeed, our communities do too

As America's #1 business lender, we're invested in local economies with over \$40 billion in business loans. Our commitment includes providing funding to under-resourced business owners and supporting entrepreneurs with the tools and resources to help them make every move matter.



My teammates work closely with entrepreneurs here in Wichita. We are here to help them start and grow their business, so they can continue to create jobs and keep our community strong.

Shawn

Shawn Lancelot
President, Bank of America Wichita

See how we support businesses at bankofamerica.com/wichita

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