

# THE VOICE

A Trusted Voice in the Community's Perspective



## SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

THIS KC MAN'S DATA HELPED RIGHT BASEBALL HISTORY PAGE 15



**Our Juneteenth Road Trip**  
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Around the Way  
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# THE VOICE

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 12  
FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2024

## LOOKING AHEAD

### If You're Not Reading Us Online – YOU'RE MISSING A LOT

Here's some of our recent, exclusive online stories

#### Arts & Culture

Kevin Willmott's New Film Shines Light on KC civil rights icon Alvin Brooks

#### Missouri State News

Feds to Scrutinize Missouri's Worst-in-the-Nation Medicaid Application Delays

#### National News

From Racist Central Park Encounter With a 'Karen' to Emmy-Winning Birdwatcher

#### Black History

Juneteenth Just One of 20 Emancipation Days in America



I thought I knew a lot about Juneteenth but I didn't know this," commented one of our readers.

**We're Taking a Holiday Break:** We couldn't take time off for Juneteenth since we were out covering the community. We're going to take a break for the July 4th Holiday. Instead of two weeks, we'll be back in three weeks. Our next pager will be July 12.

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Editor-in-Chief  
The Community Voice

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# Burton is **Not** a Republican

Voice Sets the Record Straight on Burton

By Bonita Gooch

The Voice Editor-in-Chief

Attorney Stephanie Burton, who is running in a high-profile race for Jackson County prosecutor, was mistakenly identified as a former Republican. That's not true. She is a Democrat and has never run as a Republican for office as the article incorrectly states.

In a sentence, near the bottom of a very informative article about Burton's qualifications for the job of Jackson County prosecutor and her vision for how she would transform the department to better serve the people of Jackson County, The Community

Voice included an incorrect statement that Burton had previously run for office as a Republican.

As a publication with a mission of "filling information gaps on issues of importance to the African-American communities we serve," we often supplement the coverage provided by our small staff with available and informative news from public news services.

These news sources are typically quite reliable however,



Stephanie  
Burton

a 2022 story from one of those services incorrectly identified Burton as a Republican who had filed to run for a seat on the Jackson County Commission.

We ran that story on our website in 2022 and our reporter picked up this incorrect fact while conducting research for our recent story. We take full responsibility for this incorrect reporting.

We found it necessary to go beyond our stated correction policy in response to this error because we hear some individuals are using this information to convince people Burton is

not a "Real" Democrat.

We strongly suggest you read the story on Burton and find out more about her and her vision for the Jackson County prosecutor's office. That was the purpose of the article and still is: To provide our readers with quality, fair and impartial information about the candidates for this important office so that they can make informed decisions.

We also wrote a story on her primary competitor. After you've read both articles, make your decision on the facts. And by all means vote on Aug. 6.

The Community Voice team apologizes for this mistake but hopes this issue and our retraction bring additional attention to the facts of this race and its importance.

## Behind the Cartoon: Commandments for Hypocrites

By Clay Jones

Cartoonist

Down in Louisiana, where I'm mostly from (it's complicated), the Republican-controlled state legislature has passed a bill, which was signed into law by the Republican governor, that forces every public school in the state to post the Ten Commandments in every classroom.

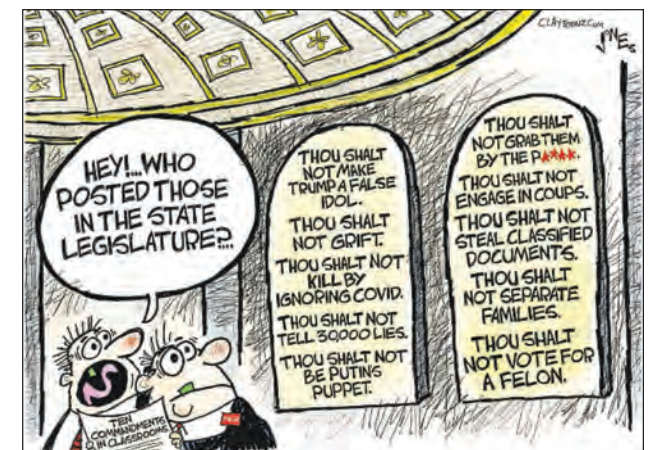
Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry said, "This bill mandates the display of the Ten Commandments in every classroom — public elementary, secondary and post-education schools — in the state of Louisiana,

The Louisiana chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union,

the Freedom From Religion Foundation and other groups said in a joint statement, "The First Amendment promises that we all get to decide for ourselves what religious beliefs, if any, to hold and practice, without pressure from the government. Politicians have no business imposing their preferred religious doctrine on students and families in public schools."

More hypocrisy comes in the fact that these Christians would never allow a document from another religion to be forced upon children in public schools.

But how can Republicans preach to children that they shouldn't lie, steal, commit adultery, covet, etc, when they follow a person who aside from



the grifting, the lies, the insurrection, is a man who didn't just cheat on all three of his wives but has bragged about cheating on his wife and has been accused by 26 women of

sexual assault, and has been determined by a court of law to be a rapist.

Here's the deal, people: You can't be a Jesus freak while being a Trump freak.

**ON THE COVER --** Larry Lester researcher and Negro League baseball historian. Photo by Royal Photography, LLC.

## THE COMMUNITY VOICE

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Renderings for a potential domed stadium for the Kansas City Chiefs in Kansas.  
COURTESY OF MANICA ARCHITECTURE

Luring Chiefs & Royals Across State Line Looks Promising

KCK Mayor Tyrone Gardner speaks on his vision for KCK and Wyandotte County as a home to two professional sports teams.

By Bonita Gooch & Thomas White  
The Voice

It's official. Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly has signed the Star Bonds legislation designed to help Kansas lure the Chiefs and Royals across the border. The battle is officially on, but Kansas is fighting with a much bigger stick than Missouri.

But the deal isn't done yet, said Kerry Gooch, a lobbyist with "Scoop and Score," the team the Chiefs put together to help pass the STAR bonds legislation through the Kansas Legislature.

There's a lot to be worked through, even on the Kansas side, and Missouri isn't giving up yet.

"All the legislature did was expand the tools that the lieutenant governor can use to make some negotiations," said Gooch. "There's nothing they actually did other than expanding STAR bonds so they can be a little more flexible."

The legislature extended the percentage of projects STAR bonds can cover to 70%, expanded the payback time frame for the bonds to 30 years, and also set a minimum amount for projects like these to \$1 billion.

"At a really high level, that's all that happened," said Gooch.

passed the bipartisan measure June 18 in a special one-day session, with the House approving it 84-38 and the Senate 27-8.

The legislation puts most of the responsibility for negotiating with both teams in the hands of Kansas Lt. Governor David Toland.

A mix of Republicans and Democrats voted against the bill. Originally, the teams thought the measure would be a slam dunk until Charles Koch-backed Americans for Prosperity came out against the bill, saying it was a tax increase for Kansans and the state shouldn't use general funds for the project. Despite Koch's stronghold on the legislature, his position only swayed a few Republicans.

The Democrats who opposed it were all over the board. Kansas Rep. Ford Carr (D-Wichita) voted against the bill, citing his concerns with potential gentrification in Wyandotte County. His position was totally opposite that of Kansas Sen. David Haley (D-KCK) who welcomed the teams into his district due to the potential for economic growth.

The governor praised the initiative, calling it an opportunity for Kansas to become "a professional sports powerhouse."

The KCK Possibility

Early on, Tyrone Garner, mayor of Kansas City, KS, and the Wyandotte County Unified

Government, welcomed the teams to his city and county.

"Kansas City, KS, is already home to several major sports venues, and we have a proven track record of success utilizing STAR bond legislation that has led to significant economic benefits to the great state of Kansas, Wyandotte County, and the entire KC region," said Garner.

One intriguing possibility is the KCK riverfront. Haley, who represents the area, has long advocated for economic development along the riverbank. He sees the location as ideal for a stadium, offering a "beautiful backdrop" with easy access to downtown KC amenities and major highways.

With the Chiefs, there's potential for three facilities in the package: the stadium, a practice facility, and the corporate headquarters, and all three don't have to be in the same city.

"They have the potential of having the stadium in Wyandotte County, the practice facility in Leavenworth County, and the headquarters in Johnson County," said Gooch. "Also, with the Chiefs, we talked about how the stadium (with a roof) could be used for a lot more things than just football games. You're talking about a facility for concerts, you can



# Police Town Hall Gives Technology Update

Real Time Information Center in city hall will give officers tools to respond quickly & dispatch needed resources effectively.

By P.J. Griekspoor  
Wichita Reporter

## Key Points:

- The Wichita Police Dept. held a public session to address concerns about new surveillance technologies.
- Real Time Information Center will centralize information collection and improve response time.
- Gunshot detection sensors and license plate readers are among the new technologies being implemented.

from the department's available high-tech tools to the center, where workers, in real-time, can access, analyze, share and use the information to improve police responses and effectiveness.

The purpose of the sessions is to update the community on implementation of new, sophisticated policing technologies and respond to questions and concerns about the potential for use of those technologies to violate rights to privacy.

WPD Capt. Aaron Moses told residents attending the session that the RTIC will be built in city hall and will use some familiar technology such as closed circuit television, 911 calls, and body camera footage, and will add newer equipment, including additional Flock license plate readers, additional surveillance cameras like the ones now used in Old Town locations, Raven gunshot detection sensors, and short-range, line-of-sight drones.

The center will also be able to use security camera footage



The city plans to expand its use of license plate readers that they say have been extremely effective in solving crimes.

from nearby businesses and even from home doorbell cameras if they have the owner's permission.

## License Plate Readers

Wichita has been using license plate readers since November 2020, when the city started a 90-day pilot project with 35 readers in high-crime areas. At the end of the pilot, the readers had proved so effective that more were added.

The department now has 160 license plate readers in several different parts of town and they have been a valuable tool in recovering stolen cars, catching fleeing felons, and recovering stolen property. In some instances, stopping a stolen car also resulted in seizure of drugs, apprehension of felons wanted on warrants, and recovery of stolen firearms.

In one instance, a child abducted from an address in Wichita was safely rescued after a camera captured the plate of the vehicle headed south on the Kansas Turnpike. Wichita officers were able to alert the Highway Patrol in Kansas and Oklahoma, who stopped the

suspect and rescued the child.

Moses told attendees at the town hall that concern had already been raised about cameras in "high crime" areas adding a layer of policing to neighborhoods that are already over-policed.

But, he said, the cameras have the potential of reducing the number of traffic stops made in a given neighborhood by giving police more information about who and what they are looking for.

WPD Chief Joe Sullivan said data from the surveillance cameras and license plate readers automatically purges at 30 days.

## Gunshot Detection Is New

Gunshot detection is a new technology currently being beta tested in Wichita. It involves using sensors – mounted to traffic lights, power poles or other structures. Each sensor records five seconds of sound and sends that to the center. The system then "triangulates" reports from several area sensors to pinpoint the exact location of the gunfire.

The officers said the sensors offer enhanced accuracy in reporting gunshots, especially

in areas where shots heard by residents are not always reported to police, and cuts down the time between when the shots are fired and when police can respond.

Because the sensors utilize AI technology, they are improving their ability to discern gunshots from other noises such as vehicle backfires or fireworks. The sensors do not pick up gunshots fired inside a structure, so they will not report shots fired in schools, hospitals, shopping malls, theaters, gun ranges or private homes.

The technology is being beta tested in Wichita and will not be fully rolled out until town halls have been held in every council district to make sure residents are fully informed. The beta testing is using 77 gunshot sensors, more than 160 license plate readers, and about 100 cameras in Old Town.

Use of Real Time Crime Centers is a growing trend in urban policing across the United States. The centers bring together a broad range of current and evolving technologies in a location with staff who can then use the technology in real

time to make policing more efficient.

## Privacy Safeguards In Place

License plate readers are mounted on traffic lights at intersections and snap photos as cars pass through. Sullivan said they have not and will not be used to issue traffic citations or target "red-light runners."

Nor will arrests be made solely based on license plate reader info.

Sullivan stressed that facial recognition technology will not be used and drones will not be weaponized. He added that drones will not be used for immigration enforcement, nor will they be used at abortion clinics.

"Wichita police do not do immigration enforcement," he said. "And we will not."

He said the department drones are battery powered and have only about 40 minutes of flight time. They arrived about a month ago, Sullivan said, and have only been flown over Riverfest.

The FAA has strict rules that apply to drones, and drone pilots must be licensed. The department plans to have a pool of 24 officers licensed to fly drones. They will be trained in phases in partnership with Wichita State University.

"They will primarily be used to locate lost children or look for a dementia patient who has wandered away from home," Sullivan said.

Funding to implement the Real Time Information Center was provided by two grants. One grant for \$500,000 was from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The second grant was a Community Oriented Policing Technology and Equipment Program invitation solicitation award of \$1.65 million.

Additional public outreach meetings will be held in all six Wichita council districts.

The Wichita Police Dept. held the first of a series of citywide listening sessions in District 1 on June 8, ahead of the rollout of the Real Time Information Center.

The center will feed data



Wichita Police Chief Joe Sullivan and Councilmember Brandon Johnson at the recent District 1 Police Town Hall where WPD's planned Real Time Information Center and expanded use of technology was explained to individuals in attendance.



# How the New Kansas Turnpike Cashless Tolling Will Work

By Bonita Gooch  
Voice Editor-in-Chief

If you've driven on the turnpike in the last year, you've noticed the signage. A new cashless tolling system is being rolled out and it's scheduled to be effective July 1.

Cashless tolling is an increasingly prevalent option for toll revenue collection in the United States. Cashless tolling means there are no manned or unmanned toll booths and that there is no stopping or slowing down to pay for tolls or to pick up toll tickets

Even though the system is called cashless, it doesn't just not take cash, it doesn't take any form of payment on the turnpike. In a cashless system, vehicles using toll roads are billed via a transponder or via a toll-by-plate invoice in the mail.

### How it Works

If you have a KTag or have one of six compatible transponders accepted by the Kansas Turnpike your toll will be billed to that account. If you don't have a transponder, the new system uses electronic tag readers to identify the owner of the vehicle. An invoice is then mailed to the individual at the address identified on the vehicle registration.

The new system has 21 transponder sensors along the 236-mile turnpike. Each time you pass a transponder, the system generates a charge. So instead of one charge for the total length of your trip, you receive a charge for each time you pass a transponder. It's similar to tolls where you pay along the way, often tossing your loose change into the hopper. This is a bill-as-you-go

system though versus a pay-as-you-go.

This system is also reflected in your bill, which will have multiple charges on your bill, depending on how many transponders you pass.

### Fee Structure

The new fee structure is based on a flat dollar amount per mile. Like the old system, the rates go up based on the number of axles your vehicle has. Cars, SUVs and pickup trucks have two axles or two sets of wheels.

The per-mile rate for two-axle vehicles is \$.096 per mile. However, if you have a K-tag or a compatible transponder, you save 50%, for a rate of \$.048 per mile. The current KTag discount averages around 35%.

According to Turnpike



Here's how the the new Kansas cashless toll system will work, the rates, and what you should do to prepare.

authorities, 70% of customers currently use a transponder. It's a number they expect will increase with the implementation of the new cashless system.

### How Do the Rates Compare?

For individuals without a KTAG or a compatible transponder, the new flat rates are consistently higher than

current rates. For individuals with KTAGs or transponders, the rates are pretty consistent with current KTag rates.

See TURNPIKE Page 11 →



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# UP Reaches Out with 'Action for 29th and Grove'

## Key Points:

- Union Pacific Railroad launches "Action for 29th & Grove" to keep residents updated on ongoing cleanup.
- Contaminated area shows double the rate of liver cancer, prompting health testing funding.
- UP officials want to make sure the public stays aware the groundwater is not safe for bathing, playing in sprinklers or filling wading or swimming pools.



Publicity effort offers social media, telephone, website communication on progress of cleanup

By PJ. Griekspoor  
Wichita Reporter

Union Pacific Railroad is expanding its commitment to the 29th Street and Grove community with a new publicity effort called "Action for 29th and Grove."

The idea is to keep residents up-to-date on the ongoing cleanup and the remediation work that has been underway since 2002 to

counter toxic underground contamination that spread from the local rail yard.

As part of this effort, UP has contracted with local media company CML Collection, run by Wichita native Christina Long.

Most importantly, the goal is to make sure both long-time and incoming residents are aware contamination, especially in groundwater, is still there and cleanup activities are ongoing.

## Spill History

The Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment first became aware of the contamination in 1994 during construction of 21st

Street improvements, including the building of the TOPS Child Care Center and the Boys and Girls Club at 21st and Opportunity Drive.

A remediation plan was put in place in 2002 and many area residents heard nothing more about the contamination until late in 2023, when KDHE began to roll out a plan for final cleanup.

Community members, who had not been aware that the 2002 start of remediation

didn't resolve the issue, were taken by surprise.

Newcomers who were never told their home sat on contaminated soil and groundwater were blind-sided.

## Health Consequences Revealed

A health survey revealing the contaminated area had

double the rate of liver cancer as the rest of the city and county added another layer of outrage.

State funds are now available to test residents for health issues. The Kansas Legislature approved \$2.5 million and a \$1 million match from other local entities brings the total to \$3.5 million in available funds.

Testing centers will be able to access those funds starting July 1.

Since fall 2023, testing has been done by GraceMed and HealthCore Clinics using grant funds obtained by the clinics.

Union Pacific officials have said it could be another decade before all the remediation is complete and groundwater is safe. In the meantime, UP officials want to make sure the public stays aware of what is being done and that the groundwater is not safe for bathing, playing in sprinklers, or filling wading or swimming pools.

## Keeping Cleanup in Public Discussion

Several resources are available to tell residents the latest updates on cleanup

See CLEANUP Page 16 →

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# Let the Building Begin!

Ceremonial groundbreaking for the new Carl Brewer Community Center at McAdams Park kicks off \$10 million expansion.

## Key Points:

- \$10 million expansion of McAdams Park's recreation center begins.
- Upgraded center to include new gymnasium, multipurpose room and a commercial kitchen for culinary arts classes and community use.
- Center will triple in size and in program offerings.

By P.J. Griekspoor  
Wichita Reporter

Historic McAdams Park was awash with excitement on June 14 - the south end of the park was set up for the three-day Juneteenth celebration and the north end for the ceremonial groundbreaking of the expanded Carl Brewer Recreation Center.

The Carl Brewer Recreation Center is named in honor of Wichita's first elected African-American mayor, and has been in the works since 2022.

"Just to put it simply, Carl Brewer was a great man in our community," District 1 Councilman Brandon Johnson said at the ceremony. "We hope to continue his honor and legacy by making this community center an even greater place of gathering, learning and fun in our city."

The original facility, built in 1958, was past due for renovation, said Johnson, but even though plans to improve that facility were approved in 2022, the beginning of construction suffered delays.

Johnson said he had hoped to be celebrating a ribbon cutting this summer instead of a groundbreaking. However, construction was delayed while officials dealt with a snag created by the discovery that the site was located in a flood plain. Planned improvements at the 15th Street bridge brought the park out of a flood zone, but the plans had to be approved by the Federal Emergency Management Administration.

Representatives from the Wichita Park and Rec Department, SFS Architecture and Eby Construction offered brief remarks and the celebrants heard from members of the Brewer family about their joy in seeing the plan become a reality.

## Renovations

The planned upgrade of the recreation center will triple its size.

It will have outdoor patio space, a multi-purpose fitness classroom, and in a nod to Brewer, who loved to cook, the renovated facility will have a commercial kitchen that will provide an opportunity to offer culinary arts classes and as a facility that can be used to serve others.

A major feature of the new building will be the gymnasium, a walking path around it, a full basketball court, two smaller courts and six pickleball courts. There will be telescoping bleachers on both sides of the main court as well as lockers and shower rooms.

A lounge space at the end of the gym will allow observers space to view the on-court activities.

Park and Rec leaders say they hope to host both basketball and volleyball



Improvements to the Carl Brewer Recreation Center include renovation of the existing building plus and addition to the south with a connect entry lobby in between.

tournaments at the new facility. Overall, the completed center is expected to offer three times the existing programming.

McAdams Park, home to the League 42 nonprofit baseball league, is named after former park director Emerson McAdams. In addition to the Brewer Center, the park also has the Goose Doughty Tennis Courts, the McAfee Swimming Center, the Andre Carr basketball courts and the Barry Sanders football field. All are named in honor of local African-American standouts.

At the ceremony, Ellamonique Baccus, who has been contracted to select the artists to create artwork for the center, revealed to The Voice that artwork there will be led by renowned Baltimore artist Larry Poncho



Officials and guests donned hard hats to turn the shovels at the ceremonial groundbreaking for the new Carl Brewer Recreation Center.

Brown and include local artists Paris Cunningham and Priscella Brown. They will be joined by two Ghanaian

artists as a link to the relationship between Wichita and Ghana that Brewer nurtured during his time as mayor.

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# Eden Village Providing Homes for the Chronically Homeless in KCK

The purpose-built community of tiny homes welcomes its first residents.

**By Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

After years of witnessing the struggles of those chronically experiencing homelessness, a group of volunteers decided to take action. Their vision is becoming reality this week as the first residents move into Eden Village of Kansas City, a tiny home community designed to provide affordable permanent housing and a path to self-sufficiency for those experiencing homelessness.

Located at 1001 Metropolitan Ave, in Kansas City, KS, the just-opened Eden Village is a gated community of spiffy 390-sq.-ft. tiny homes. Each fully furnished home includes a bedroom, bathroom, open living/kitchen space, and a large sitting front porch.

"We were just so heartbroken seeing people we cared about having to sleep outside in the cold and rain," says Jennifer Schmidt, a volunteer board member on the project.

The neighborhood setting — with 21 homes currently built and plans for 23 total — offers a residential atmosphere far removed from life on the streets. Eden Village sits only yards away from a bus stop, allowing for mobility, and features a community center offering wrap-around and supportive services.

"For those who have hit rock bottom and want to turn their lives around, this gives them that chance," says Phil Jorgenson, a founding member of Three Dog Night, the nonprofit organization behind Eden Village KC. "It's not just a temporary fix, but a supportive community to help break the cycle of homelessness."

The community will have several

resources to help the residents of Eden Village get back on their feet. Groups like Care Beyond the Boulevard will provide healthcare clinics, and Wyandotte Behavioral Health will provide mental health and social services. The community will also have a mentor program called "Home Team," where volunteers will spend time with residents to help acclimate them back into a traditional living situation.

The requirements to live at Eden Village are specific: Prospective residents must be chronically homeless (living outside for at least a year), have a disability of some sort, and have enough income to pay \$375 per month to cover rent, maintenance, and utilities. For many, disability benefits alone make residency possible.

"A group of us were all serving together, and we had an idea for a spa day for the homeless ladies," says Schmidt. "One woman had several hairdressers working on getting out knots [in her hair] over several hours. When we went to drop her back off at the camp she was staying at, she jumped out of the van and yelled into the woods, 'Everybody come see me, I look beautiful!' It just broke all of our hearts, so we got together shortly thereafter and said, 'Let's do something.'"

In 2019, after doing research, some of the volunteers drove to Springfield, MO, to visit Eden Village community. The Springfield location was one of the first tiny home communities for the chronically homeless, and the model has been replicated in multiple cities, including Phoenix, Louisville, and Tulsa.

Inspired by their visit to Springfield, the KC group founded the nonprofit Three Dog Night Charities, named after the old saying, "the colder the night, the more dogs you need close by to fight the cold." They went to work making their local version a reality.



The 21 homes all feature front sitting porches.



The 390-sq foot homes come fully furnished.



Each home comes with a kitchen that is fully stocked with appliances, silverware, pots, pans, and utensils.

The group of volunteers (currently, the group has no paid staff) found a trailer park in KCK that had fallen into disrepair. They then raised funds from philanthropic sources and interested individuals to purchase the trailer park with plans to renovate it into Eden Village KC.

The project received an outpouring of support. Locals showed up to zoning meetings advocating for

the project, major donors helped cover land costs and fund buildings like the village's community center, and individuals and businesses donated time and materials to help complete Eden Village.

The property features homes on either side of a community center and a community garden. Beyond the physical locations, Eden Village strives to create a real community with resources to support

its residents in transforming their lives. Case managers will help connect people to jobs, health services, and other needed assistance.

Jorgenson says that no matter how people end up living on the streets, having them living in a home is good for that person, but also saves municipalities money. He says that it's estimated that Kansas City spends between

See EDEN VILLAGE Page 11 →



# KC Honors 4 Community Champions with Surprise Celebration

Alvin Brooks, Carl Boyd, Ester Holzendorf & Jim Nunnelly were all honored.

By Thomas White  
Kansas City Reporter

On June 16, Oasis International Church was the site of a heartwarming surprise for four longtime pillars of the Kansas City community. Alvin Brooks, Carl Boyd, Ester Holzendorf, and Jim “Grand Dad” Nunnelly were all lured to the church thinking they were honoring someone else, only to receive honors and words of praise themselves.

“All you knew about this, and nobody told me anything,” said a surprised Holzendorf. “I feel your spirit, I feel your energy, and I am

so grateful.”

The nonprofit Concerned Clergy Coalition of Kansas City orchestrated the event to “give flowers” to these senior leaders while they were still able to receive them. The four were honored for their decades of service and contributions to Kansas City with moving tributes from the community.

“I’m grateful that we don’t have to wait until funerals to give people their roses,” said the Rev. Michael Brooks, pastor of Oasis International and president of the Concerned Clergy Coalition. “I want to make it a point that if we have something great to say, say it before they leave.”

The celebration, which attendees had been sworn to secrecy about beforehand, recognized the immense impact these four have had through their work

with youth, civil rights, community development, and more.

## About the Honorees

**Alvin Brooks** — A revered civic leader born in 1932, Brooks has served as mayor pro tem, Board of Police Commissioners president, and city councilman while mentoring countless young people. Brooks also founded the AdHoc Group Against Crime and has received countless awards, including being named one of America’s 1000 Points of Light in 1989.

**Carl Boyd** — The former educator created the pioneering “Generation Rap” radio show in 1987 to give urban teens a voice and platform. He continues mentoring youth through the Synergy Services’ Youth Resiliency Center and other initiatives.

**Ester**

**Holzendorf**



Surprise honorees (L-R): Carl Boyd, Alvin Brooks, Ester Holzendorf and Jim Nunnelly.

— The fearless activist and evangelist founded organizations like Sankofa for Kansas City and Consolidated Social Workers. Known as “a force to be reckoned with,” she tirelessly works to feed the homeless, fight injustice, and strengthen underserved

neighborhoods.

**Jim “Grand Dad” Nunnelly** — Nunnelly has also worn several hats. He is a retired health-care executive and the founder and administrator of Jackson County COMBAT, a progressive anti-drug program that

emphasizes treatment over prison terms for drug use. For years, he was known as the host of “Generation Rap,” a Saturday morning youth radio program that he took over from Carl Boyd.

See SURPRISE Page 11 →

# National Black United Front Convention Comes to KC in July

By Thomas White  
Kansas City Reporter

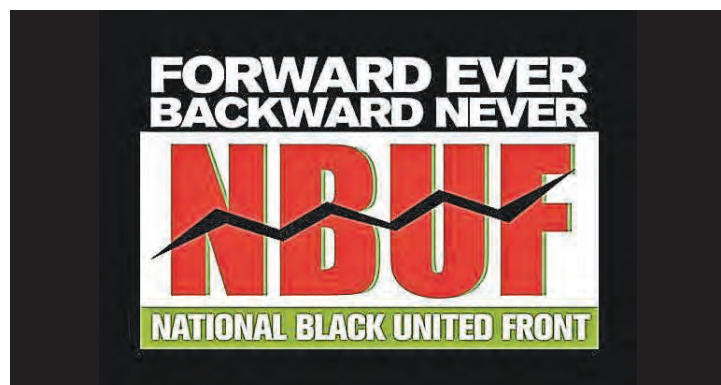
The National Black United Front will hold its national convention in Kansas City July 12-14, with the KC chapter playing host. Mickey Dean, co-founder of NBUF-KC, says the theme of the convention is “Preparations for Reparations,” with a focus on building Black self-sufficiency.

“Even if we were to receive reparations, are we really prepared to take advantage of that opportunity?” says Dean. “The main purpose is to focus on the need to set up independent Black institutions in our communities so we can take care of ourselves.”

The convention will have speakers and workshops focused on four key areas: education, health, economics, and food sovereignty. With the programming laying the groundwork for a future of true self-determination and autonomy for the Black community.

## Highlights & Schedule

The convention kicks off Fri., July 12, with a free opening rally from



7 to 9 p.m. at the Mohart Center, 3200 Wayne Ave, KCMO. The keynote speaker will be Malik Yakini of the Detroit Black Food Sovereignty Network, which recently opened a \$22 million community hub that includes a grocery store, commercial kitchens and meeting spaces.

Dean says the opening rally broadly focuses on Black health. In addition to the keynote speaker, there will be fitness groups, urban farmers, and groups that focus on nutrition.

“We want to deal with all aspects of Black health because we’re not a very healthy community,” says Dean. “If you look at all these so-called ‘Black

diseases’ — diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol — it’s all preventable.”

The next day, Sat., July 13, the convention convenes from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Bruce R. Watkins Center, 3700 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. The \$50 registration fee for adults, \$15 for those 19 or younger, includes lunch and access to four workshops:

- **Food Sovereignty:** Speakers from two local urban farms, Sankara Farm and Global One Urban Farming, will guide guests through growing their own food and herbal remedies.

- **Economic Justice:** Representatives from WeDevelopment Credit Union, a community credit union, will discuss

the importance of independent financial institutions.

- **Healthcare:** Workers from Uzazi Village, KC’s center for Black and Brown maternal health care, will give a presentation on the importance of culturally competent health care within the Black community.

- **Education:** There will be a presentation from the Whole Living Academy, an African-centered virtual school where students can enroll from anywhere.

At the convention location, there will be a pop-up African Market organized by the Buy Black Empowerment Initiative. The free access market will be open to everyone in the community.

An African Heritage Ball fundraiser for NBUF-KC will be held Saturday night at the Industrial Event Space, 1670 East 63rd St, KCMO, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. The event will feature African attire, live entertainment, cultural cuisine, dancing, and a mature atmosphere. Tickets are \$75.

The convention concludes Sun., July 14, with a spiritual circle event from 9 to 11 a.m. at Laya Center, 1814 Oak St, KCMO.

## About NBUF-KC

The National Black United Front (NBUF) is an organization that arose after the decline of the Black Power movement in the late 1960s and early 1970s. It was founded in 1980 in Brooklyn, New York by groups of people who believed in the spirit and philosophies of Malcolm X, Marcus Garvey and the push for Black independence and self-determination.

For more than four decades, NBUF has focused on social justice activism/organizing, humanitarian aid/relief, African-centered education, community-based programs, organizing for self-determination, collective economic power and institution building.

The KC chapter of NBUF (NBUF-KC) was started in 1981, after a couple Kansas Citians attended the founding NBUF convention and brought the concept back home. NBUF-KC has been active since then, promoting Black empowerment through economic, educational, health, and food sovereignty initiatives.

For more info or to join, reach out to [nbufkc@gmail.com](mailto:nbufkc@gmail.com).





Bonita Gooch, Voice Editor-in-Chief hit the road for Juneteenth.

# Our Juneteenth Road Tour

In just its fourth year as a national holiday, Juneteenth celebrations have grown to outpace King Holiday, which had been the standard bearer for holidays in our community in the sheer number and size. That's probably because the weather is a whole lot better in June than it is in January. The good news for The Voice staff is with the holiday falling on June 19, organizations across the state are selecting different days

to celebrate which allowed The Voice's Juneteenth Road Trip to stop by a lot of events across Kansas and the Kansas City area, but it wasn't an easy task for our Editor-in-Chief who did most of the road work. While she likes hitting the road and meeting new people, even she drew a little weary as the weeks --- not just days -- went on. Celebrations began in early June in Kansas City, MO with their Miss Juneteenth Pageant

and parade. Next up was the Wyandotte (KCK) celebration. Then the big weekend of June 14-16 and celebrations continued through this week and will continue with a close-out celebration in Salina, KS this weekend

Apologies to a few cities we missed:

Junction City -- there was too much going on that day -- and

Topeka -- we thought we would catch them on June 19, even though they had a week of activities, but that day was rained out.

We'll catch you both next year.

The photos in this issue

are just a few selected to give a representation of each event. However, there are a lot more photos and videos from our road trip on our web and social pages. The videos reflect some of the great talent on stage at these events and interviews with some interesting and informative people we met along the way.



## Johnson County

Johnson County held its celebration on Juneteenth in Lenexa at the Civic Center Square. The rain had dissipated and the weather had cooled off. Their keynote

speaker was Kansas City Poet Glen North, who also dropped some Juneteenth historical facts that took the crowd by surprise (watch his video). The five-member

Jam Skating Team Sk8Skool was entertaining. The children of acclaimed playwright Nathan Louis Jackson read one of their father's poems. Jackson, a Johnson County resident, passed away unexpectedly last year.



## Manhattan

Manhattan's Juneteenth is always a great celebration. We stopped by for the first day of their two-day celebration. It included a barbecue cookoff with \$5 tasting kits. They always have great talent for their Friday night concert. This year it was Grammy-Award Winner Regina Bell who was joined by musically acclaimed Chris Walker. They delivered and the crowd partied.





## CHIEFS & ROYALS, from Page 3 ↓

host a final four basketball tournament, you could do things there year-round.”

With a new stadium featuring a dome (the Chiefs have committed to add a dome if they build in Kansas) the ultimate goal would be for the Chiefs to play host to a Super Bowl, says Gooch.

### KCK Mayor's Position

“If I had my choice, the Royals would go downtown, probably somewhere in the northeast, to help build out and infuse some economic development, there or in the bottoms, and then the Chiefs would go out by Village West,” said Garner. “Some people were saying let’s get one

team, but I was saying let’s get both. They’ve got the Kansas City designation. Well, Kansas City, Kansas ... let’s make it real Kansas City.”

However, Garner says it has to be designed in a way that Wyandotte County benefits.

“I want to make sure there’s value. When I say value I’m talking about economic development opportunities that could add to the growth in Wyandotte County,” said Garner.

More importantly, the mayor doesn’t want the projects to put an unnecessary tax burden on Wyandotte County citizens. He’d like to see the revenue generated from having the teams in the county go towards tax relief.

“I’m going to be a strong advocate for our commission to



Stadium rendering for a proposal for a new Kansas City Royals stadium straddling state lines near KC's West Bottoms. (Courtesy of Manica Architecture)

apply any monies that we get from the Chiefs and the Royals to specifically go towards property tax and BPU PILOT reduction,” Garner said. “Those are the two biggest complaints that everybody has across the board. That crosses all sectors of persuasion and race: They want tax relief.”

Gooch agrees, there is plenty of room for Wyandotte County

to have a say in how moving the teams impacts their community.

“The Unified Government will have to sign off on a lot of this stuff, so there are many more steps,” Gooch reinforced.

### Kansas' Bigger Stick

What the STAR bonds do is put Kansas in a good negotiating position.

“They’re offering a great deal for both teams,” said Gooch

STAR bonds offer upfront money, while Kansas City, MO, is offering to reimburse both teams for their initial investment in small yearly repayments from sales tax revenue generated from a special tax.

Under the STAR bond program, “that’s 70% of the new stadium they don’t have to pay,” said Gooch. “The way the STAR bonds work is investors are basically putting the money upfront. The people that buy the bonds are the ones that are coming out of their pocket to build the stadium, and the bonds – not the sports teams – get paid back with the sales tax.”

In Missouri, there’s no upfront money for either team.

Jackson County is putting forward a new ballot measure that asks citizens to fund a sales tax for just the Chiefs. That proposal does not offer the Chiefs any upfront money to bill the stadium.

“It’s billions in out-of-pocket savings that Kansas is offering,” said Gooch.

Missouri lawmakers, meanwhile, are considering their response. House Majority Leader Jonathan Patterson called the Kansas legislation a “wake-up call” and said he expects Missouri to craft a plan to keep the teams.

In the coming months, intense negotiations will likely occur as both Kansas and Missouri work to secure the long-term future of these beloved franchises in the KC area.

## TURNPIKE, from Page 5 ↓

For example, the current rate for driving the full length of the turnpike is \$17.00 and \$11.35 for KTag customers. The new rates are \$22.72 for image-based tolls and \$11.36 for transponder tolls.

For Wichita, with entry on Kellogg north of Greenwich, to Emporia, the current rate is \$5.75 and \$3.90 with a KTAG. The new rate for image-based tolls will be \$7.10 and \$3.55 with a transponder.

### What You Need to Do

According to turnpike authorities, 70% of customers currently use a transponder. If you currently have a KTag, you don’t have to do anything. Your KTag will automatically roll over to the new DriveKS.com. Your new bills will come from DriveKS and your bill date will likely change.

If you have other vehicles registered in your name that don’t have a KTag, you can go online and add them to your account ahead of a trip. If you don’t add them and they use the turnpike, they will be connected to

and billed to your account. However, without a KTag, they will be billed the higher non-KTag rate.

If you don’t have a KTag or a compatible transponder and use the turnpike, the owner of the vehicle will receive the bill for the toll. You can be proactive and create an account so your vehicle and payment information are in the system before you travel. If you don’t make an account before you travel, one will be made for you once you travel the turnpike.

Once you receive your bill, you have several options for paying in, including paying it online and via the mail.

Another convenient option allows individuals to add visiting friends, family members or rental cars to your account on a short-time basis.

### Transition

As part of the rollout of the new cashless system, the turnpike customer service centers will be closed and self-service websites will be unavailable June 29-July 7.

To learn more about the conversion go to [kturnpike.com/cashless-conversion](https://kturnpike.com/cashless-conversion) or [driveks.com](https://driveks.com).

## CLEANUP, from Page 6 ↓

activities and what the next steps are.

- The Action for 29th and Grove website, [www.ActionFor29thAndGrove.com](http://www.ActionFor29thAndGrove.com), features information, announcements and clean-up actions. Additional resources will be added as activities occur to make sure the community can stay aware of what is happening.

- Social media channels have been set up on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and YouTube. On Facebook, look for Action29thGrove; on X look for @Action29thGrove; on YouTube, look for @Action29thGrove.

- UP’s Community Connection is a direct line of communication.

Residents can call 1-866-896-7511 during office hours to ask questions, voice concerns and get updates on remediation efforts. Action support specialists are dedicated to responding to community questions within 48 hours of a call that goes to voice-mail or to an email sent to [29grove@up.com](mailto:29grove@up.com).

“These connection points will help communication flow more steadily to keep residents informed on the 29th and Grove cleanup progress and action,” Long said. “With improved communication, we’ll work together to build productive, collaborative and purposeful partnerships for the well-being of our shared community.”

## EDEN VILLAGE, from Page 8 ↓

\$15,000 to \$30,000 a year per homeless person.

“This kind of project, to give people back their dignity, is absolute for me,” says Jorgenson. “But for those that don’t see the issue like I do, well, we’re looking

at saving the community roughly half a million dollars per year.”

After overcoming zoning and fundraising obstacles, the first residents have just started moving into Eden Village, with more prepared to follow soon. The community hopes to soon be at full

## SURPRISE, from Page 9 ↓

“It is profound that I am being honored and allowed to share this platform with people who have done so much in so many different ways,” said Boyd.

Each of the members who were honored are now octogenarians — meaning they are in their 80s — with the exception of Brooks, who is 92. Brooks has also been fighting

cancer recently.

“I don’t ask God for too much, I’m too busy thanking Him,” said Brooks at the event.

The afternoon was filled with powerful remarks, cheers, and standing ovations as these four pillars of KC’s Black community received a truly fitting “thank you” for their lifetimes of selfless service.

## MORE TO KNOW

Find these informative and related stories online

### Wichita Black Nurses With GraceMed Testing Individuals Impacted by Chemical Spill

See what testing entails and the nurses upcoming testing dates and locations. <https://bit.ly/3XuYWbY>

### Vapor Intrusion Testing Ongoing in 29th & Grove Contamination Zone

KDHE had identified two areas within the contamination zone where air inside homes should be tested to rule out possible contamination from TCE vapor intrusion. Learn more. <https://bit.ly/3RxnoFz>

capacity, providing a permanent home and supportive services to people who were previously chronically homeless.

If you want to get involved or know someone who may qualify to live at Eden Village, applications are still being accepted at [EdenVillageKC.org](https://EdenVillageKC.org).

“There is talk of passing the baton from these beloved ones,” said Janay Reliford, chair of the KC Reparations Coalition. “I know I can’t carry the collective work of these individuals alone, none of us can.”

Paper batons were passed to members of the audience, and the crowd was encouraged to raise their batons in the air and say in unison, “We’ve got this.”



# CELEBRATING

## Kansas City, MO

Juneteenth KC, in its current form, is more than 10 years old, and it's the granddaddy for the celebrations we covered. The one-day Juneteenth Heritage Festival in the 18th & Vine Jazz District is their big event, but it is supplemented

by lots of other supportive events. The Heritage Festival, held Sat., June 15, kicked off at noon with organizations, politicians, nonprofits, for-profits, retail and food vendors. First talent on the stage was gospel, with music continuing

onstage throughout the day. The close-out concert featured R&B star Kelly Price. New this year was the Onyx Art Walk showcasing more than 30 local Black artists. The Miss Juneteenth Pageant was held May 18.

This year's queen is Nevaeh Harding. Taelyn Sanders was crowned Miss Jr JuneteenthKC. Other associated events included the Juneteenth Film Festival and the Nelson-Atkins Museum's 8th Annual Juneteenth Celebration.





# JUNETEENTH

## Wichita

The Wichita Juneteenth Celebration kicked off Thu., June 13, with the Miss Juneteenth Pageant. Tiana Hardwell, the daughter of Tijuana Hardwell and Maurice Howard, was crowned Miss Juneteenth. She and her court reigned over the three-day festival held at historic McAdams Park. This is just the third year for Juneteenth

ICT and it's already a big success. A great team is in charge and they really delivered with the support of the community. There was local music on stage Fri. and Sat., June 14-15, and Gospel on Sun., June 16. The parade on Saturday was huge and the vendor area was well supported by nonprofits, for-profits, politicians, retailers and food options.







# At The Capitol

KS Gov. Laura Kelly and the Kansas African American Affairs Commission held their first-ever Juneteenth Celebration. It was held in the 1st floor of the Capitol.

The brief ceremony concluded with the governor signing a proclamation supporting Juneteenth in Kansas. In 2021 Gov. Kelly declared Juneteenth a state holiday in Kansas.



# Leavenworth

Leavenworth's Juneteenth celebration was sponsored by the Leavenworth Branch of the NAACP. It featured a twilight parade followed by a festival in Haymarket Square in downtown Leavenworth. There were informational, retail, government, church booths and vendors. The parade marshal, who also performed lit up the stage later that evening was Leavenworth resident Daysia. In 2022, as a 16-year-old, she earned a spot on "The Voice."



# Wyandotte County

Juneteenth in Wyandotte County included a parade along with street vendors and games along 5th Avenue on Sat., June 8.



# UNESCO

While this may not have been billed as a Juneteenth event, it was a fabulous concert held on June 19 in White Hall at UMKC. It featured some of Kansas City's premiere performers and those who weren't on stage were there watching. Best of all it was free. The event was part of a national conference hosted by Creative City KC. The performers included Eboni Fondren, Lee Langston, Paula Sanders Lewis, Bukeka Blakemore, all backed up by some of KC's finest musicians, plus Craig Landry and the Project.





# How Larry Lester Helped Bring the Negro Leagues into MLB Record Books

By Thomas White  
Kansas City Reporter

## Key Points:

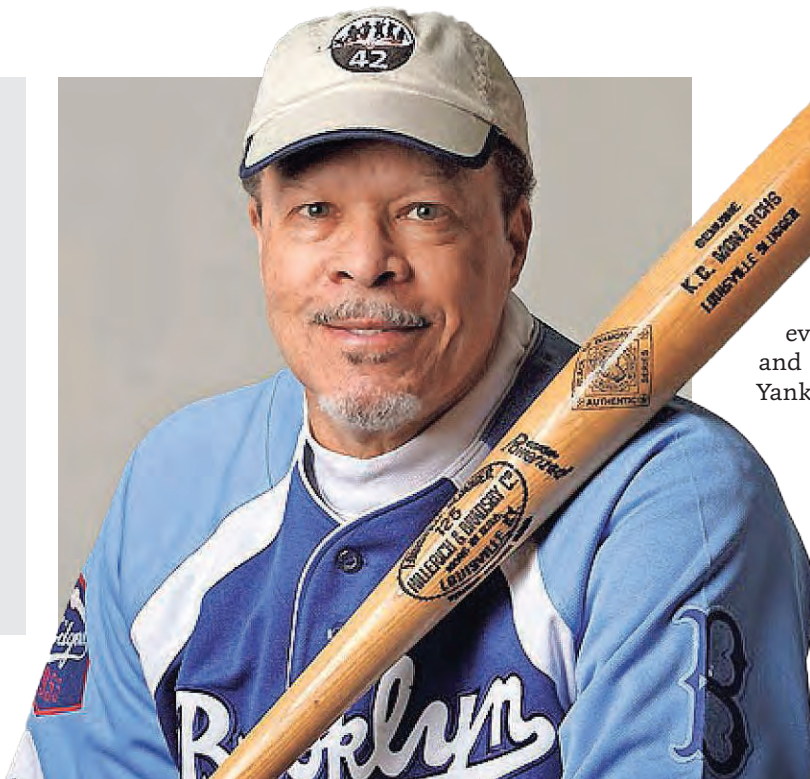
- Negro League statistics are now included in the official MLB record books.
- Black players now make up half of the top 10 all-time leaders in batting average.
- Larry Lester's decades of research and compilation of statistics helped validate the greatness of Negro Leagues players.

For decades, the achievements of Negro Leagues baseball players like Josh Gibson, Cool Papa Bell, and Satchel Paige existed in a fuzzy realm of legend and lore, their names celebrated but their numbers uncounted in official record books.

That has finally changed, thanks in part to the dogged determination and work of Kansas City-based historian and researcher Larry Lester.

The big news late last month was Major League Baseball incorporated statistics from the Negro Leagues into the official MLB record books. The move recognized the Negro Leagues collectively as a "major league" and validated the greatness of the players.

Thanks to that recognition, half of the top 10 all-time leaders in batting average are now Black



Author, historian, and co-founder of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum Larry Lester helped compile stats on Negro Leagues players that are now part of official MLB records. ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHY, LLC

players. This includes the new all-time batting average leader, Josh Gibson, who surpassed Ty Cobb, whose record stood for almost 100 years.

"Over the past several years, a dream team of Negro Leagues researchers have gone to work pulling together this qualitative data," says Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (NLBM) President Bob Kendrick.

Among that dream team is Larry Lester, a Kansas City native and co-founder of the NLBM. Lester and his team of researchers compiled a substantial chunk of the statistics that have now been recorded in the MLB record books.

"Larry Lester might know more about the Negro Leagues and their players than anyone else," said author and historian John B. Holway. "He's certainly among the top five scholars."

## Larry Lester's Labor of Love

Larry Lester grew up loving baseball. Starting when he was 10, he sold newspapers and collected empty bottles to scrape together enough coins to go to Kansas City Athletics games held at the stadium around the corner from where he grew up.

Tickets then cost \$1.50, and for another 15 cents,

he could get a scorecard and pencil to take down the box score as he watched the game. Lester went to just about every game he could and never missed the Yankees double-header. He says keeping the box score taught him math and basic statistics.

Lester went to school with baseball legend Satchel Paige's kids and heard the tales of KC's great Black team and other great Black baseball players. The Monarchs. His interest was piqued, and he started going to the library to look at box scores of old Negro Leagues games.

"It started as a curiosity. I heard about all these great Black ball players but when I checked the baseball encyclopedia, they were missing," says Lester. "I wanted to know if all the stories were true about these legendary players, so I started compiling statistics and box scores from more than 400 Black newspapers."

Lester started taking the bus to the downtown library and making copies of box scores from microfilm archives. Soon, he had every box score from the Kansas City Call from 1900 to 1955. Then, he

began ordering microfilm from Black newspapers around the country.

"This is before the internet, so I'd get a call saying the microfilm came in, and I had six days to go through it before it'd be returned," says Lester. "I'd be in the library until close every day making as many copies of boxscores as I could."

Over decades, he compiled 16,000 hard copies of box scores. His collection filled about 25 file cabinets in his house. His research led him to become a tireless advocate for recognizing the Negro Leagues' significance, and helping found the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in 1990.

Then, in the early 2000s, he partnered with the National Baseball Hall of Fame, which examined Black baseball history from the Civil War through the 1950s.

"I didn't do this for recognition," says Lester. "There were no Benjamins involved. I did it because curiosity is my philosophy: I just wanted to know."

## The Challenge With Stats

As part of teaming up with MLB to bring the Negro Leagues players "out of the shadows," Lester had a team of 30 researchers going through his collection of hard copy box scores. The group also went through more Black newspapers that kept player biographies, box scores, and commentary from games. All the data was reviewed by hand, to make certain the statistics were right.

"Every line had to be

put in manually into a database: every hit, every strikeout, every run," says Lester. "There's no app or software that can scan boxscores and accurately populate a spreadsheet or database."

Box scores don't have first names, which complicated the task of ensuring statistical accuracy. Plus, many Negro Leagues players went by nicknames — no one calls Satchel Paige "LeRoy," for example — which further complicated the work.

Lester says that is where the anecdotal evidence, commentary, and oral history helped verify some player stats. But he says the surest way to check the accuracy of box scores was to be certain that the hitting statistics matched the pitching statistics for any given name or season.

Compiling these statistics required the painstaking review of nearly 3,400 Negro Leagues players from 1920 to 1948, the main active years of the seven Black baseball leagues recognized by MLB as being professional.

## Adding His Stats to MLB

Lester says he never formally advocated for his statistics to be put in the official MLB record book, but he was happy to see it. He hopes that the inclusion of the statistics will spark the curiosity of more baseball fans to learn the stories of the Negro Leagues players.

"It brings a lot of joy in my heart," he said. "I wanted to know the answer, and now we know that the legends were true."



# Bethany Community Center to be Renamed After Earl Watson Sr.

By Thomas White  
Kansas City Reporter

The Bethany Community Center, a longtime fixture in Kansas City, will soon bear the name of a dedicated community servant. In honor of its former director, the center will be officially renamed the Earl Watson Sr. Community Center.

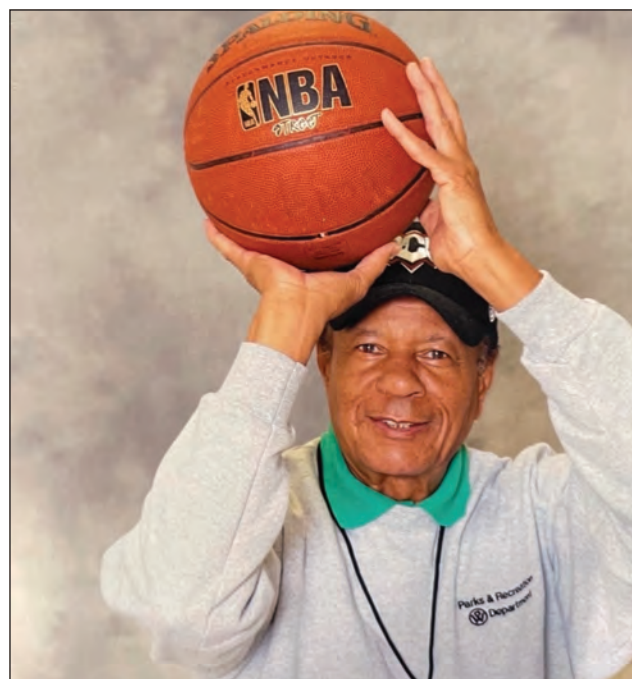
A renaming ceremony honoring Watson is slated for June 22 at 10 a.m. The ceremony, held at the center, 1120 Central Ave., will feature guest speakers and Watson himself before revealing new signage and presenting Watson with a plaque.

Watson served as the community center's director for more than two decades and worked within the parks department for 32 years until retiring just last year — in his 90s. His tireless efforts and

commitment to serving the youth and underserved populations of Kansas City, KS, have earned him widespread respect and admiration. "Mr. Watson was someone who dedicated 32 years to the community and was always present," says Shaya Lockett, director of Wyandotte County Recreation. "He would come early or stay late for the betterment of the kids."

Community members petitioned the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS, for the name change. They cited Watson's exceptional dedication and numerous contributions to the area as justification for the honor.

Watson's service extends far beyond his role at the community center. A graduate of Sumner Academy's class of 1949, he went on to become a U.S. Army drill



The Bethany Community Center will be named after its former director of 20 plus years Earl Watson Sr.

sergeant. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to own local businesses, including 10th Street Thrifty Foods and 10th



He was always willing to go the extra mile and he really wanted to see all kids be able to participate in activities."

Street Car Wash.

Throughout his career, Watson wore many hats in service to his community. He operated Parkwood Pool — the only public pool in KCK — where he held lifeguard certification and directed the Parkwood back-to-school backpack giveaway. His commitment to youth development shone through his work promoting the Junior Cadet Program, helping administer local youth activities,

and serving as a coach in the Sumner Academy Summer Night Hoops program.

"He is very well respected in the community," says Lockett. "He was always willing to go the extra mile and he really wanted to see all kids be able to participate in activities."

The community center's current name derives from its proximity to the former Bethany Methodist Hospital. The name Bethany was subsequently applied to a nearby street, the park, and the community center.

Given the historical context and Watson's significant impact, community leaders viewed renaming the center after him as a fitting tribute. The name change will honor a man who dedicated his life to serving the area's residents, particularly its underserved youth.

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[www.kansasblc.org/kblcbrunch](http://www.kansasblc.org/kblcbrunch)





# Nonprofit Leader Envisions Path to Marry Kansas Workforce Needs with Education Opportunities

By Sherman Smith  
Kansas Reflector  
Edited for Publication  
by Thomas White  
Kansas City Reporter

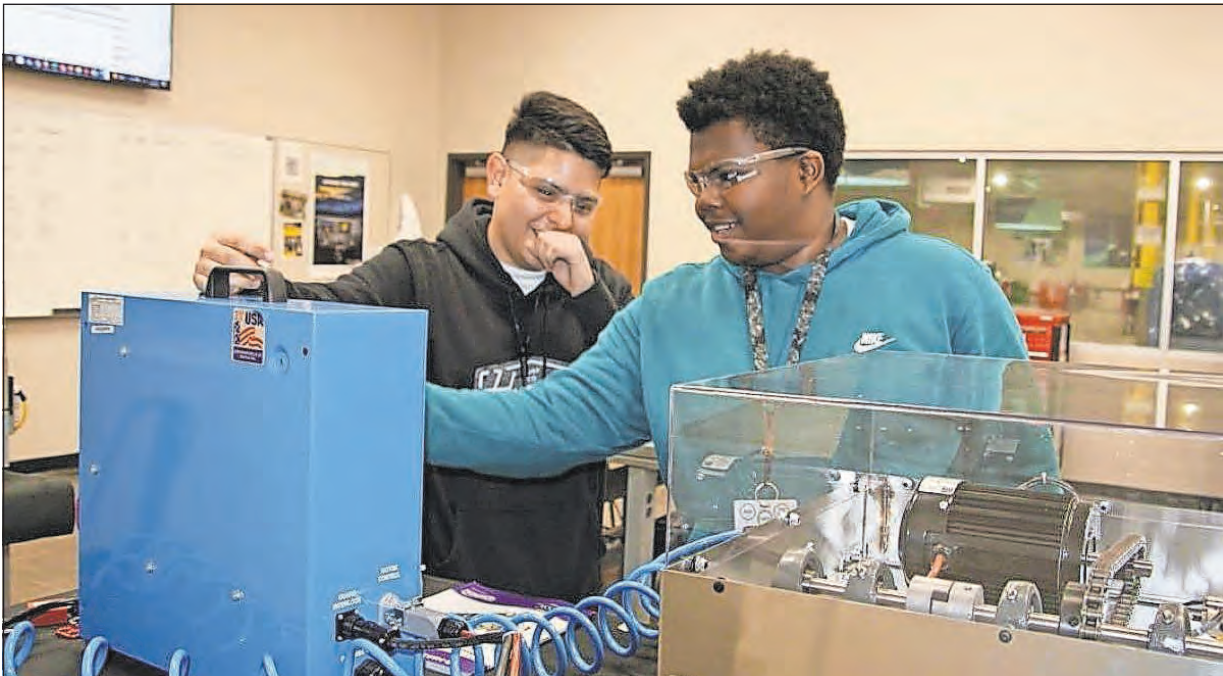
Torree Pederson, the president and CEO of a nonprofit called Aligned, has a vision for Kansas. She wants to help students in K-12 schools and colleges get the right skills for jobs that are available in the state. Aligned is based in Kansas City and works in both Kansas and Missouri. It's led by business leaders who want to invest in the future workforce. Right now, many Kansas college graduates leave the state for work. Pederson says Kansas businesses have more jobs than workers, and state universities are exporting 57% of graduates.

and we have to figure out how to manage that," Pederson said. "We have wonderful jobs, high-skill, high-wage jobs here in Kansas. And the disconnect is often that kids don't know about them."

To solve this problem, Pederson proposes creating a "workforce pathway system." This data-collection system would collect information about students' education and job opportunities and help match what students are learning with what jobs are available in Kansas.

"A data pathway system is something that we can use to kind of marry the workforce opportunities with the students' engagement and education opportunities," Pederson said.

See NONPROFIT Page 18 →



A workforce pathway system could serve both students and businesses, says Torree Pederson, president and CEO of the Kansas City-based nonprofit Aligned. PHOTO CREDIT: PJ GRIEKSPoor/ THE COMMUNITY VOICE



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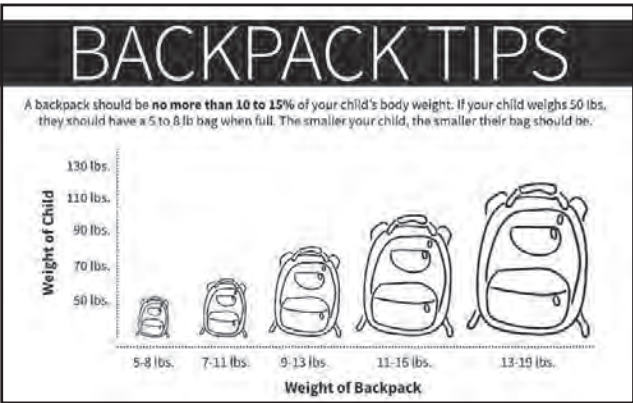
# Is Your Child's Backpack Too Heavy?

It's not too early to start thinking back to school. Along with fresh pencils, and new, cool lunch boxes, a new backpack, or at least a more lightweight backpack might be in order too! Check out some of the problems related to heavy backpacks and how much your child's backpack should weigh.

### Did You Know Your Child's Weight Impacts How Big Their Backpack Should Be?

Kids backpacks should be no more than 10% to 15% of their body weight. If your child weighs 50 lbs, they should have a 5 to 8 lb bag when full. The smaller your child, the smaller their bag should be.

The spine is made up of 33 bones, which can be compressed unnaturally if your child's backpack is too heavy



or worn incorrectly. An unsafe or heavy backpack can create issues with posture that continue even after the backpack is no longer worn.

Backpacks for kids need to be worn with both straps in order to evenly distribute weight. Otherwise it can cause neck and back pain for the wearer who has to compensate for the weight of the

bag and adjust their hips and shoulders unevenly.

### When Choosing A Backpack Remember...

**Less is More** – The smaller the backpack, the less your child will fit into it. Encourage your child to clean their backpack out every night after school and repack it for the next day.



This will not only develop discipline but will also make sure that they aren't carrying around a heavy backpack with unneeded items.

### Two Straps Are Better

**Than One** – Messenger bags, satchels, and purses that force weight on one shoulder can be more detrimental than two-strapped bags.

### Comfort is King

Padded straps are a must when choosing a backpack for school. Narrow or unpadded straps can dig into shoulders and cut off circulation.

Source: pathways.org

### NONPROFIT, from Page 17 ↓

For the past year and a half, Pederson's organization has been working with government officials and lawmakers to make this idea a reality. They even introduced a bill in the state legislature (House Bill 2774) as an example of how it could work.

The proposed system would involve collecting education and workforce data about individuals. This data would be used to support what Pederson calls an "education-to-employment pipeline." A new office in the Kansas Dept. of Commerce would oversee the project.

The bill didn't get a hearing this year, but Pederson hopes it will gain more support next year.

"The idea was to get it out there and let people understand that creating the workforce pathway system is more than creating or buying software," Pederson said. "It's truly creating a governance structure, and a staff, an organization, to be able to ensure that these data systems are secure, sustainable, and that they produce information, reports and answers that will serve lawmakers, department heads, public, and you know, parents and students."

This information could be used in many ways. For example, it could show if taking college classes in high school (dual credit courses) helps students succeed in two-year

or four-year colleges later. It could also show what kinds of jobs students with individual education plans tend to get. It could also show which high school programs are producing more graduates than others.

The system could look at college-level courses too. But Pederson emphasized that this isn't about getting rid of liberal arts or courses that people take for personal growth.

"We're not talking about an employee factory here," she said. "What we're talking about is making sure that kids, students, across the gamut, where all students are lifelong learners, can have access to programs that fit with their personal values, along with their skill sets."

This data-collection system could also help with job training programs outside of four-year colleges. These might include certification programs or other types of job training.

Pederson says this is important because of changes in the workforce. Fewer babies are being born, and the baby boomer generation, which is twice as large as other generations, is retiring.

"We really have more jobs than people – significantly more jobs than people," she said. "And so we're reaching a point where we need to make sure that everyone has access to the workforce in any way, shape or form they can contribute."

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# Art from Behind Bars: Inmate-Created Art Sold to Benefit Advocacy Group

By Thomas White  
Kansas City Reporter

Works of art created by incarcerated people in Missouri during pandemic lockdowns will be displayed and sold June 30 to benefit a local advocacy group that supports families impacted by incarceration.

Mothers of Incarcerated Sons and Daughters (MISD), a nonprofit prison ministry, is hosting the art show at its Family & Friends Day celebration on June 30 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Community Fellowship Church of Jesus Christ, 3838 Cleaver II Blvd., KCMO.

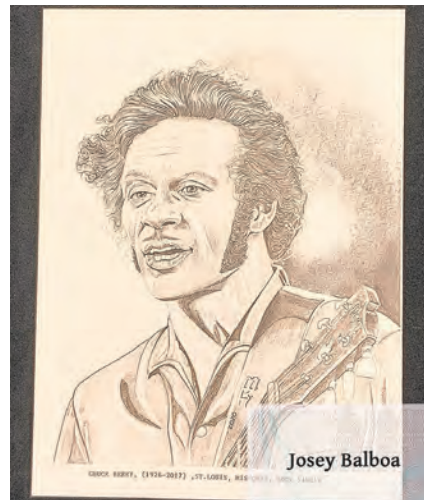
Inmates from correctional facilities across Missouri gifted MISD with artwork. The group received 180 works of art, of which around 75 will be sold at the event.

"It was therapeutic for the inmates to have something that made their creativity and their artwork feel appreciated," says Beverly Livingston, MISD's founder and chief advocate. "Plus, they knew that their original works would benefit us by being a charitable donation."

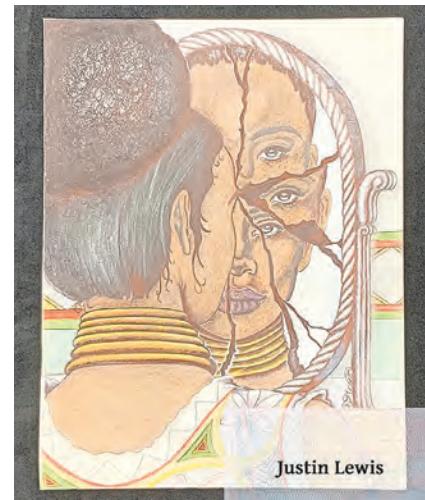
With limited art supplies permitted behind bars, inmates got creative using materials available to them, like legal file folders, paper, popsicle sticks, and briefs to make their pieces. The resulting works span a variety of media and themes — from portraits, cartoons, and classic cars to



Donnie Fuller



Josey Balboa



Justin Lewis

Art created by those behind bars will be sold at an art show to benefit MISD.

abstract designs.

"It is beautiful art," says Livingston. "The artwork deserves a home and people that can appreciate it."

Livingston had an appraiser from the Kansas City Art Institute value the works of art, and the pieces are set to sell for as low as \$5 all the way up to \$700.

Proceeds from the art show will benefit MISD's efforts to support incarcerated individuals and their families. This includes individual and family empowerment, legislative advocacy to reduce harsh sentencing, providing resources for self-advocacy, and addressing issues like the school-to-prison pipeline.

"If you talk with people who have loved ones incarcerated, to a certain extent, it's like they're incarcerated with

them," says Janay Reliford, co-founder of MISD. "It is a very draining experience for the entire family, and MISD supports those families."

Black Americans are disproportionately impacted by mass incarceration, comprising 13% of the U.S. population but 37% of the total prison population, according to the Prison Policy Initiative. MISD aims to empower and guide families navigating the criminal justice system.

"Being a mother who had a son who was dealing with the court system, I thought, we need an advocacy support group for these mothers because they're dealing with a very traumatic matter," says Livingston.

Livingston says MISD started informally as a brown bag lunch information session

through the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime in the mid-2000s. She says dozens showed up just to learn how to deal with the incarceration system. "I was like, oh my goodness, this must be something that's really needed and wanted. So it grew from

there," says Livingston. Now nearing two decades, MISD has evolved into providing legislative advocacy, self-help resources, juvenile justice reform efforts, and creative outlets like the inmate art show. The group partnered with national organizations like the

Debt Free Justice Campaign to combat issues such as court fines and fees that disproportionately criminalize poverty.

In addition to the art show from 2 to 5 p.m., the MISD Family & Friends Day program will feature as guest speaker the Rev. Thomas "TJ" James at 3 p.m. James is the associate minister at Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church and a community organizer for MORE2, a local nonprofit aiming for racial and economic justice.

"We're trying to enlighten the community on how we can take control of our families and our community, stop the violence, and work to be a lot safer," says Livingston. "The program is designed for both the church and the unchurched."

For more info or to view the art up for sale, visit MISDKC.org.



## WICHITA

**Tue. June 25, 4 - 7 pm: 2024 Candidate Policy Briefing**, Metroplex, Rm 123 5015 E 29th, Candidates of all parties and the general public are invited to attend a Candidate Policy Briefing addressing some of the biggest policy questions facing Kansas. This event is intended to provide the public with educational information about broad economic and educational issues that are important to Kansas citizens.

**June 25 (9 am) - June 26 (6pm): Your Leadership Edge**, Kansas Leadership Center, 325 E Douglas. Two-day, foundational course that introduces core concepts in KLC's powerful leadership framework. Discover new ways to communicate, solve problems and lead more effectively. Register at: <https://bit.ly/3z4CuMp>

**June 25-27, 8 am - 3 pm: 2024 L.A.W. Camp**, OJ Watson Park. Led by volunteers from Sedgwick County Fire District 1, Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, Wichita Police Department and McConnell Air Force Base, it is a great summer experience for kids aged 10 - 14. A fun and engaging opportunity to help your child build trust, confidence and self-esteem that can change their outlook on life! FREE

**Wed., June 26, 1:30 - 2:30 pm: Senior Wednesday Talk: Indian Givers**, Mid-America All-Indian Museum, 650 N Seneca. COST \$2

**Wed., June 26, 7-10 pm: Kimberly Paige + William Flynn**, Brickyard, 129 N Rock Island. Local jazz guitarist William Flynn performs live with vocalist Kimberly Paige on the Brickyard stage Wednesday June 26th. Music kicks off at 7 pm, kitchen open until 10 pm. All ages welcome. FREE

**Wed., June 26, 6 - 7:30 pm: KMWU's Literary Feast**, Knife by Salman Rushdie. We'll meet at KMWU for a group discussion over dinner. Dinner is provided by Public, guests are invited to bring a beverage to share with the group. FREE

**Thu., June 27, 9 am - 1 pm: KTAG Pop-Up Event**. Equity Bank, Kellogg & Rock Rd. KTA staff will be distributing FREE KTAGs and answering questions about cashless tolling. They'll be stocked with cashless tolling materials.

**Fri. June 28, 8 pm: Late Night: Nostalgia**, Brickyard, 129 N Rock Island. Enjoy pop, dance, and r&b covers you know and love. Dinner and drink specials on the patio. FREE acoustic show from "Just Tori". COST \$10

**Fri. June 28, 7 - 10 pm: Final Friday Larry Sanders Trio**, Walker's Jazz Lounge, 252 N Mosley. An evening of blues/jazz fusion. Larry Sanders-Drums, Terry Brown-Bass, Sterling Gray-Guitar. COST \$8-\$12. <https://bit.ly/3zfVBtM>

**Fri. June 28, 7-9 pm: FR3DEM Music**, Naftzger Park, 601 E Douglas. Free-flowing music jam session, courtesy of FR3EDM MUSIC! Come for the tunes, stay for the vibes - it's a guaranteed blast! FREE

**Sat., June 29, 11:30 am: Wichita Pride Parade 2024**, Downtown (start Sedgwick County Courthouse, 525 N Main). Get ready to march together through the heart of Wichita, spreading joy

and acceptance. Stick around after the parade and join us for the Pride Festival. FREE

**Sat., June 29, 6 pm: Star-Spangled Splash & Car Show**, McConnell Air Force Base. A festive Fourth of July kick off! Stay tuned for more details on this star-spangled event. Have a vehicle you'd like to show off? Call 316-759-4435 FREE

**Sat., June 29, 12:30 - 4 pm: Pride Festival**, Century II Exhibition Hall. COST \$10 buttonWed., July 3, 12 - pm: Lunch & Learn with Eden Jackson, 100 N Broadway, Ste 110. Features a dynamic speaker who excels in their field. They bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the table, covering a wide range of topics, from entrepreneurship and leadership to marketing, wellness, and personal growth. Prepare to be inspired, informed, and equipped. COST \$25 <https://bit.ly/3KR0xkS>

**Thu., July 4, 10 pm: Fireworks** Presented by Crosswinds Casino, 1941 E 61st. One of the best fireworks shows in Kansas. FREE

**Fri., July 5, 7 pm: Kimberly Paige Quartet**, Walker's Jazz Lounge, 252 N Mosley. Experience the enchanting melodies of the Kimberly Paige Quartet at Walker's Jazz Lounge. An evening filled with captivating harmonies and refined musicality awaits, promising an unforgettable immersion in the world of jazz. COST \$8-\$12 <https://bit.ly/3VCewjw>

**Sat., July 6, 12 - 1:30 pm: Diapers & Wipes Giveaway**. 1701 S Sedgwick. Giving away diapers & wipes. No registration needed. FREE

**Wed., July 10, 5 - 7 pm: July ARTS MIXR**, Historic Dunbar Theater, 1007 N Cleveland. Wichita area artists, artisans, and art supporters are invited to join The City of Wichita Division of Arts and Cultural Services, in collaboration with the Arts Council, for their July ARTS MIXR FREE

**Fri., July 12, 1 - 4 pm: Gates Institutes Community Workshops**, 111 S Ellis. Perfect for families looking to equip their teens with essential life skills! Partnership with Evergy, WSU Tech, and mentoring programs to offer FREE life skills workshops for teens and young adults! FREE

**Sat. July 20, 4 pm: Sunset Summerfest**, McAdams Park 13th & Cleveland, Back for the 6th Year. Health & Wealth Free Community Event! Get your blood pressure checked, open a bank account and more all under the umbrella of music!!! Food, Resources & Music. FREE

**Sat. July 20, 11 am: KS Black Leadership Brunch Series**, Hyatt Regency, 400 W Waterman. This event is not just a brunch; it's a celebration of our community's resilience, strength, and commitment to leadership. Keynote Speaker: Dr. Kaye Monk-Morgan FREE must register at: <https://bit.ly/3VNqisin>

**Thu., July 25, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm: "A Taste of Africa" - Distillery 244 Old Town**, 244 N. Mosley St. Join us for an unforgettable cultural event that will transport you to Africa. An immersive experience, where you can engage in the rhythms of African music, traditions, history, and culture! It's an opportunity for guests to embark on a journey of discovery while sampling delicious African cuisine. Don't miss out on this unforgettable journey

of discovery! Reserve your spot today, as tickets are limited. \$125 <https://bit.ly/3VQ2TXl>

**Sat. July 27, 6 pm: Words From the Candidates**, McAdams Park, Gospel music. Bring friends, family, grills and lawn chairs. FREE

**Sat. July 27, 6:30 pm: "I'm So Glad" Kansas City and The Roots Of Black Gospel Music**: The Untold Story documentary film Historic Dunbar Theater, 1007 N Cleveland, COST: \$16 adults /\$6.12 and under

**Fri., July 28, 7 pm: Soulful Sounds of Wichita**, The Venue, 3201 E 31st. You've probably seen "NYC's Jazzy R&B Duo" on HBO or Amazon, but this is your chance to experience their fun personalities at one of their shows! This playful couple might remind you of Lucy & Ricky, and if you like everything from Erykah Badu to Billie Holiday, you'll love grooving to their Soulful Sounds. COST \$10-\$30 <https://bit.ly/3zge9TT>

## KANSAS CITY

**Mon. June 24, 6 pm: West African Drumming Class**. St. Mark Hope and Peace Lutheran, 3800 Troost Ave. Learn the rhythms from the regions of Mali, Senegal, Gambia and Guinea West Africa. Study FREE

**Tue June 25, 7 pm: New Kids on the Block**, Starlight Donnie, Joey, Jordan, Jonathan & Danny will bring back the magic for fans old and new. Special guests Paula Abdul and DJ Jazzy Jeff. COST: \$27+ tickets.kcstarlight.com

**Wed., June 26, 5 - 8 pm: KCWIT at KCDC | Diversity Celebration**, Shark Bar, 1340 Grand Blvd. Meet and network with tech professionals and enthusiasts during KCDC 2024! Join us Wednesday, June 26, for our KCDC Diversity Celebration! FREE

**Thu., June 27, 7 - 9 pm: A Night of Laughs: Comedy Show**. Gem Theater, 1615 E 18th. Get ready for a hilarious night filled with laughter at A Night of Laughs starring Zainab Johnson! COST: \$60 <https://bit.ly/3KO33bq>

**Fri., June 28, 6-8 pm: Portraits of Childhood: Black Dolls** from the Collection of Deborah Neff - opening, The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures, 5235 Oak St, This exhibition features 135 handmade Black dolls dating from 1850 - 1940, as well as almost 60 period photographs and paintings depicting the dolls posed alongside both children and adults. FREE

**Fri., June 28, 7 pm - 12 am: Urban Trivia Live: Kansas City**, Gem Theater, 1615 E 18th. You will be thoroughly entertained by your Host @BrandonRoShow with sounds by @DjAlmostFamous. Question from the culture for the culture. Ranging from Music to Movies...Tv Shows to Sports... COST \$30 <https://bit.ly/3VtO6jQ>

**Fri. June 28, 7 pm: Juneteenth Celebration**, Red Velvet, 4142 Main St. The Promenade is a wrap-up fundraiser featuring vendors, art, auctions, and speakers celebrating Black Joy and promoting artists. Proceeds go to support ArtsTech. speakers Brian Busby, Jay Todd, and Rebekah Cook.

**Fri. June 28, 7 - 10 pm: Give the Drummer**

**Some**. Charlotte St, 3333 Wyoming. featuring 25 of Kansas City's most talented and diverse drummers. . Drummers featured: Arnold Young, Doug Auwarter, Lisa McKenzie, John Kizilarmut, Tyree Johnson, Ryan Lee, Evan Verplough, Alaudin Ottinger, Doug Hitchcock, Duck McClane, and more... With a special tribute to Mr. Leon Brady!

**Sat., June 29, 11 am: Hands on History**, National WW Museum & Memorial, 2 Memorial Dr. History is brought to life in this family-friendly program in which guests of all ages are invited to handle Great War artifacts.

**Sat., June 29, 10 am - 2 pm: Black Dollar Days Expo**. Metropolitan Community College, 3200 Broadway Blvd. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated™ - Mu Omega chapter will host the first black dollar expo to promote black businesses in the Kansas City, Metro area. FREE

**Sat, June 29, 1 - 2:30 pm: Jackson County Prosecutor Candidate Forum**. Samuel Rogers propeller building, James Nunnally Event Space, 2100 E 9. Hear from Stephanie Burton and Melesa Johnson moderator Kevin Holmes KSHB TV 41 News Anchor,

**Sat, June 29, 9:30 - 10:30 am: registration. Flavor of Central Tour**, starts at Bethany Park, 1120 Central Ave, KCKS. Enjoy the flavor, culture and diversity that exists on Central Ave. in KCK with this individualized tasting tour featuring 21 restaurants along Central Ave., Minnesota, 5th and 18th streets. Taste great Mexican and authentic dishes with an assortment of main dishes, drinks and desserts. Cost \$45. [www.theflavorofcentraltour.com](http://www.theflavorofcentraltour.com)

**Sun., June 30, 7- 9 pm: BLK + BRWN Movie Night**, Stray Cat Film Center, 1662 Broadway Blvd. Stray Cat is once again hosting the crew from the Blk+Brwn bookstore for a screening of a black cinema classic!

**Wed., July 3, 6 pm: Bingo Night at Vine St**, Vine Street Brewing Co., 2010 Vine St. A fun night out, come out for bingo night! Get a book of five bingo cards and a chance to win some awesome prizes. We have beer, merch prizes, and other fun giveaways lined up for you. COST: \$5

**Fri, July 5, 8 pm Robert Cray-50th Anniversary**, 2715 Rochester St. The five-time Grammy winner has been inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame and earned the Americana Music Awards Lifetime Achievement for Performance. The Robert Cray Band has released over twenty acclaimed albums and has sold millions worldwide. \$40 <https://bit.ly/4c3fUm0>

**Fri, July 5, 6:30 pm: Dope Black Dads KCK**, 2100 N 13th St. Black Fathers, do matter. Their involvement in the lives of their children, as well as advocating for them and their involvement in decision-making for services for children is critical, valuable and direly needed. FREE

**Sat, July 6, 11 am - 1 pm: African History-Empowering the Next Generation!**, DuBois Learning Center, located at 4510 E. Linwood Blvd. Dive into the rich histories of Ghana, Nigeria, and Cameroon. Learn about their cultures and See CALENDAR Page 23 →



# Have You Seen This New Downtown Wichita Mural?

The Kansas African American Museum unveils mural as part of transition to new home and year-long 'Sankofa - Tell the Story' campaign.

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

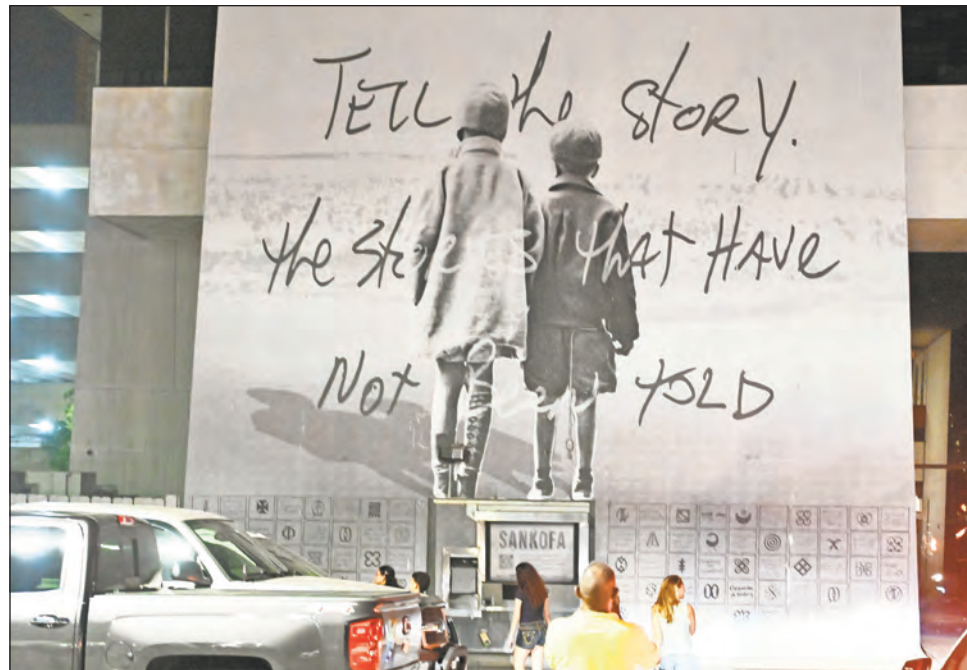
Have you seen it? Unlike typical murals full of bright, bold colors designed to draw your attention, Wichita's latest mural is in black and white. However, you can't miss it.

The huge mural is on the west side of The Kansas African American Museum's future home at 201 N. Main, and was creatively designed to serve as a bridge between the museum's past and its future.

In August 2022, after years of work to secure a new location, TKAAM announced it had secured the old Sunflower Bank as its new home, but the facility would need major renovations and it would take \$6 million to complete.

With fundraising well underway, the mural begins the museum's public transition from the past, to the present, and into the new location.

"We had conversations about trying to just figure out ways to celebrate that transition instead of just plowing through it," said Aaron Asis, the mural artist. "One of the things that really became apparent was the new building could be a stage or a canvas



The mural is a joint project of The Kansas African American Museum and Harvester Arts and symbolizes moving from the past to the present and future.

for some work that was collectively created and developed with stakeholders of TKAAM."

The mural was developed as a project between TKAAM and Harvester Arts, a Wichita-based nonprofit focused on building the creative capacity of the community through arts experimentation, public art projects, artist residencies, and professional development

for artists.

"Our partnership with Harvester Arts really demonstrates the opportunity to collaborate and to expand both missions or missions of more than one organization for a common good, especially when it benefits the community," said Denise Sherman, TKAAM executive director.

In a nod to the museum's

Black history focus, they searched historic archives for inspiration for the mural and landed on a 1943 Gordon Parks' photo: "A Harlem Scene, New York, New York." The picture is of two African-American children in the streets of Harlem. The view shows their backs, not their faces, and the team saw this as portraying the two walking

into the future.

"The characters became sort of a gesture of moving into the new space," said Asis.

The words superimposed on top of the picture, "Tell the story, the stories that have not been told," are a nod to the museum's year long project "Sankofa - Tell the Story." The mural is titled "Sankofa," a term from Ghana meaning one should remember the past to make positive progress in the future.

The mural and its message are complemented by the museum's latest exhibit, of the same name, which encourages reflection "on important narratives through thought-provoking images, photographs, and documents following the African-American experience in Kansas."

Sherman said the museum will spend the next year focusing on the theme "Tell the Story" in numerous ways.

"Storytelling is the foundation of African and African-American culture," said Sherman. "We tell stories so that we can keep our heritage and our legacies alive."

"The hope is that we really celebrate the idea of



Our partnership with Harvester Arts really demonstrates the opportunity to collaborate and to expand both missions or missions of more than one organization for a common good, especially when it benefits the community."

**DENISE SHERMAN**  
TKAAM executive director.

storytelling," said Asis. "I think just understanding the power of storytelling and really empowering people to share their story and have that be an important part of all of us moving forward together, I don't think you can go wrong."

The Kansas African American Museum is currently still in its longtime home at 601 N. Water. The museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon. through Fri. and noon to 4 p.m. Sat.

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## LEGAL NOTICE

### IF YOU ARE INCLUDED IN THE WICHITA POLICE DEPARTMENT'S GANG LIST/DATABASE AS AN ACTIVE OR INACTIVE GANG MEMBER OR GANG ASSOCIATE, YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED.

A settlement has been proposed in a class action lawsuit alleging that the City of Wichita violated the constitutional rights of Class members by including them in the Wichita Police Department's Gang List/Database in the case Progeny v. City of Wichita, Case No. 6:21-cv-01100-EFM (D. Kan.). The U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas authorized this notice.

### WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT?

All living persons included in the Wichita Police Department's Gang List or Gang Database as an Active or Inactive Gang Member or Gang Associate.

### WHAT IS THIS CASE ABOUT?

Plaintiffs allege the City of Wichita is violating their civil rights and the rights of Class members by including them in the WPD's Gang List/Database. This lawsuit seeks to change the WPD's policy and practices. The City denies it is violating the rights of Plaintiffs or Class members.

### WHAT DOES THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

This settlement makes changes to how the WPD operates its Gang List/Database. **The Settlement Agreement does not include payment of any money damages for Class members.** Full details about the proposed settlement, including the full Agreement, are available at [www.kansasappleseed.org](http://www.kansasappleseed.org) or [www.aclukansas.org](http://www.aclukansas.org).

### WHO REPRESENTS YOU?

The Court appointed lawyers from the ACLU of Kansas, Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, and the law firm Shook, Hardy & Bacon to represent you as "Class Counsel."

### WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

If you are a Class Member, you may (1) do nothing; (2) send in a comment supporting or objecting to the settlement; and/or (3) go to a hearing about the fairness of the settlement. The detailed or "Long Form" notice, which can be found at [www.kansasappleseed.org](http://www.kansasappleseed.org) or [www.aclukansas.org](http://www.aclukansas.org), explains how to submit a comment.

The Court will hold a hearing on **August 23, 2024 at 1:30 PM in Courtroom 414, U.S. District Courthouse, 401 N. Market, Wichita, KS 67202.** The Court will decide whether the proposed settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate. You may but aren't required to go to the hearing. You may but aren't required to hire an attorney to go to the hearing.

### HOW CAN YOU GET MORE INFORMATION?

A detailed notice and other information, including instructions on how to send a statement in support of or in objection to the settlement, are available at [www.kansasappleseed.org](http://www.kansasappleseed.org) or [www.aclukansas.org](http://www.aclukansas.org).

**DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT** or the City of Wichita or the Wichita Police Department concerning this notice or lawsuit.

CALENDAR, from Page 21 ↓

significant events before, during, and after the transatlantic slave trade. Participate in crafting handheld African flags, a hands-on activity that makes history come alive. Engaging Speaker: We are honored to have {Ms. G.G. Owens} from the International Black Hat Society

**Fri., July 12, 7 pm: Marcus Lewis Big Band Brass Boujee w/ DJ Skeme,** The Ship, 1221 Union Ave. Combining hip-hop and big band jazz sounds, Marcus arranges original songs to create a sound that draws in fans of jazz, hip-hop, and beyond. Cost \$15 <https://bit.ly/3VtKFcW>

**Sat. July 13, 7 - 11 pm: National Black United Front African Heritage Industrial Event Venue,** 1670 E 63rd. Dancing within a mature

audience atmosphere, Cultural cuisine, Live entertainment & DJ. African attire or evening wear. COST: \$75. For ticket information call (913) 703-6632 or [nationalblackunitedfrontkc@gmail.com](mailto:nationalblackunitedfrontkc@gmail.com)

**Sat. July 13, 9 am - 4 pm: National Black United Front Workshops And Luncheon,** Bruce R Watkins Center, 3700 Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.: Food sovereignty, education, economic development, health-care, youth convention and buy black market. COST: \$50 (Adults) (\$10 (19 and under) <https://buy-tickets.at/nationalblackunited-front/1260536>

**Sat. July 13, 10 am: Operation Valor,** Vine Street Brewing Co., 2010 Vine St. Help raise money for the Men and Women of Camp Valor Outdoors. All proceeds will go to help this

non profit PTSD outreach program for veterans. Come see some amazing vendors, badass entertainment. FREE

**Sat. July 13, 10 am - 2 pm: Public Health & Safety Fair,** Kansas City Urban Youth Academy, 1622 E 17th. Health screenings, immunizations, bicycle giveaway, smoke detectors, car booster seats FREE

**Sat. July 13, 11 am - 4 pm: Artist Unplugged.** Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 4525 Oak St. Meet the Kansas City artists featured in the exhibition A Layered Presence / Una presencia estratificada and get to know the stories and creative processes behind their works on view.

**Sat. July 13, 1 - 10 pm: KCarnival on the Vine,** Velvet Freeze Daiquiri, 1827 Vine St. Special performances, Reggae and Hip Hop DJs, Dance performances, Body/face painting, Art, fashion, Vendors, Food trucks and more. COST: \$5 - \$35 <https://bit.ly/3VJCalz>

**Sun. July 14, - 11 am: National Black United Front Spiritual Circle,** Laya Center, 1814 Oak Street

**Sat. July 20, 11 am - 4 pm: Christmas In July: The Connection Fair,** Smith-Hale Middle School, 9010A Old Santa Fe Rd, Non-profits, food trucks, & diverse vendors, showcase your offerings & connect with the community.

**Thur., July 25, 4:30 - 6:30 pm: Community Appreciation & Celebration,** Keystone CoLAB, 800 E 18th. Come together to celebrate our achievements and look forward to the future! Food and beverage will be provided. FREE

### NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

IN THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT COURT, SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS  
IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF

Carissa Elizabeth Boyd (Petitioner)  
and  
Rico Teron Boyd (Respondent)

Case No. 23DM4158

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 23 OF KANSAS STATUTES  
ANNOTATED NOTICE OF SUIT THE STATE OF KANSAS TO:  
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a petition has been filed in the District Court of Sedgwick County, Kansas by Petitioner, praying for an absolute decree of divorce, and you are hereby required to plead to such petition on or before the 12th day of July, 2024, in said court at Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

Carissa Elizabeth Bilson  
Petitioner

### NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

IN THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT COURT, SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS  
IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF

Olivia Richardson (Petitioner)  
and  
Dyemond Richardson (Respondent)

Case No. 23DM2746

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 23 OF KANSAS STATUTES  
ANNOTATED NOTICE OF SUIT THE STATE OF KANSAS TO:  
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a petition has been filed in the District Court of Sedgwick County, Kansas by Petitioner, praying for an absolute decree of divorce, and you are hereby required to plead to such petition on or before the 29th day of June, 2024, in said court at Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

Olivia Richardson  
Petitioner



Submit your  
community event  
information to  
[guillory@tcvpub.com](mailto:guillory@tcvpub.com)





# Igniting potential. *Driving progress.*

“We are committed to Kansas City and its growth and recognition as a city of innovation, collaboration, and connectivity.”

— Dr. DeAngela Burns-Wallace  
*President and CEO, Kauffman Foundation*

Together with our community, the Kauffman Foundation is committed to help position Kansas City as a national model for equitable economic mobility.

Mr. Kauffman's core values remain at the heart of our mission, shaping our approach to increasing college access and completion, strengthening workforce opportunities, and improving access to business ownership.

Learn more about the  
Foundation's strategic refresh at  
[Kauffman.org/our-strategy](https://kauffman.org/our-strategy)

