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THE VOICE

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 16
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LOOKING AHEAD

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We're Taking Our End of Summer: Instead of our usual every-other-week schedule, we'll be back with our next print edition on Sept. 13. Stay up to date during our break by reading us online.

If You're Not Reading Us Online...

YOU'RE MISSING A LOT

Here are a few of the stories we've published exclusively online. Go check them out online or sign up for our one of our newsletters so you don't miss any of our great news.

Wichita News

Help Wichitan Sharon Ingram Celebrate Her 90th Birthday
New Wichita Library Solar Benches Provide Free Wi-Fi, Charging Stations

You had to notice the difference, check out these ladies behind the DNC

Ferguson Officer Critically Injured At Protest On The 10th Anniversary of Michael Brown's Death

Missouri News

5 Issues Headed for November Vote in Missouri
Hemp Biz Leaders Call MO Gov's Order Banning THC Products An 'Overreach'

Health

15 Foods That Cause Bloating
6 Scary Cancer Myths Debunked

Sports

Is This the Blackest Olympics Ever?

National

With Black Women at the Helm, See if You Can Recognize Their Flare at DNC

Yes, the Olympics is behind us but relieve some of the Blackest moments through video in this post.

Kansas Primary Election Ads Offered Educational Opportunities Galore. Well, Kind Of.

By Thomas Arnhold
Guest Contributor

Even though my political beliefs tend toward the moderate and liberal, I found the right-wing conservative political advertisements this primary season to be quite informative.

Here is some of the information I learned from those Kansas ads.

The only class of people worse than me are those who cross into the United States illegally to seek asylum. The small children, mothers, fathers and others who flee criminal gangs and other problems in their own country and trek hundreds of miles to get to the United States are not only

despicable, but they also are evil, criminal drug dealers and rapists. The very few who are not criminals drain our economy, receive huge subsidies from the federal government and take jobs away from Americans and illegally vote in our elections.

You should not be allowed to hold office unless you own at least one semi-automatic rifle and shoot some inanimate object in a television advertisement.

The federal government is not welcome in my state and should not be allowed to interfere in my state government. My state should not accept any federal money for highways, infrastructure property or help from FEMA, the next time there is

a major disaster here.

We should go back to paper ballots that are hand counted. If it takes 15 days to count them by hand, so be it.

No matter what I do, it should be with the approval or endorsement of Donald Trump. He is the man. If you don't have Trump's endorsement, you ain't s***.

Taxes are bad and are socialism. It does not matter if our roads and infrastructure are falling apart, we cannot raise or maintain our current taxes to fix them. If you need a service, pay for it yourself. If a major project is needed bad enough, a corporation will build it. If possible, cut taxes for the wealthy. I do not need my taxes lowered, because tax savings for the rich will trickle down to me.

China loves this part of the United States. To the Chinese, Kansas looks like a veritable Garden of Eden. It must be true, because the conservative ads say the Chinese are trying to buy all the land around here.

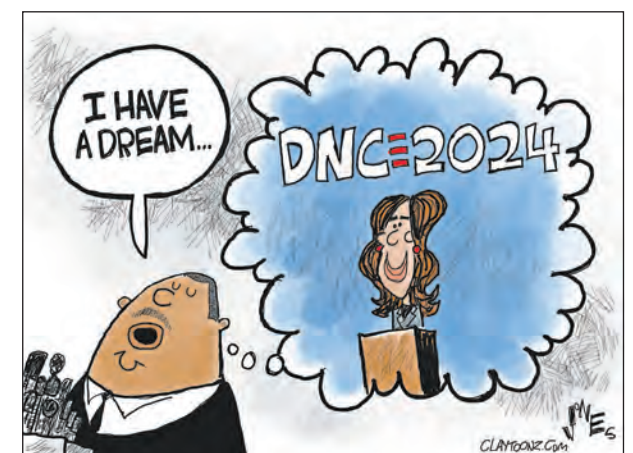
It is absolutely, positively, impossible to be too conservative in a Republican primary. The more radical your conservative views, the better your odds of winning. Or at least running in another primary somewhere down the line.

I learned so much this primary season. I can't wait to see what lessons the general election has to teach.

Tom Arnhold is a retired attorney, judge and a 24-year veteran of the Kansas Army National Guard, where he served as a JAG officer.



CARTOON



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With Black Women at the Helm, The DNC Looked Different

Not just at the head, Black women had a deep in leadership roles at the Democratic National Convention

Democratic National Committee Chair Jaime Harrison and convention chair Minyon Moore (second from right), Keiana Barrett, senior advisor to the host committee, and Christy George, executive director of the host committee, talked to reporters in Chicago Aug. 1, 2024.

Just weeks ahead of the Democratic National convention, Minyon Moore, chair of the party's political showcase, didn't know who Kamala Harris would pick as her running mate.

Still, Moore was managing to "slightly" restructure the program to highlight Harris'

values and introduce her to American voters, as thousands of delegates, lawmakers, volunteers and others were getting ready to gather in Chicago to help her win the White House.

Interest in the convention increased after Harris replaced President Joe Biden on the Democratic ticket, convention officials said.

For the first time, a woman of color is the presidential nominee for a major political party and Black women will play most of the key roles in leading the Democratic convention – the party's premiere national showcase.

"We're seeing these prominent leadership roles in the hands of African American women," said Wendy Smooth, a professor of Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies and Political Science at The Ohio



Minyon Moore

State University. "It really comes as no surprise because they have certainly put in the work and have been pivotal contributors."

For decades, Smooth and other experts said, Black women have worked – often behind the scenes – strategizing, mobilizing and organizing voters of color for the Democratic Party.

With them out front at the convention, among other



Kamala Pop Up Rally

Wichitans of All Parties Are Getting Behind Harris. The excitement is brewing in Wichita for the Harris Walz team. Join the excitement at the Kamala Pop-Up Rally. Thurs., Aug. 29 6 p.m. in Naftzger Park

things, that leadership will feature more speakers from often marginalized communities.

"We do want to make sure that America sees the diversity of who we are and how we're trying to usher in ... a new generation," Moore told a small group of reporters before the convention in Chicago.

More young people, older people, people from LGBTQ+ communities and people of different ethnicities and faiths will appear on the podium than in years past, she said, and the convention will salute civil rights veterans such as the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who ran for president in 1984 and 1988.

"Black women play a significant role in the future of this party and have always, but especially now

with a Black woman at the top of the ticket," said Marcia Fudge, who served as convention chair in 2016 and is now co-chair of Harris' presidential campaign. "The significance of it is that we all have the kinds of experiences that we know are going to be needed to get us through this convention and through this election."

DNC Convention Leaders

It was Biden who selected people to head the convention, including people he trusted, who could get the job done and who had a wide network, Fudge said.

Fudge, co-chair of the DNC Credentials Committee, said Biden also chose people who had run conventions and "who were very capable of making sure that we have the best convention that we've ever had."

Moore, a Chicago native, has spent decades in national Democratic politics, including working on Jackson's presidential campaign. She is also a former CEO of the DNC and was an adviser to Biden.

In addition to Moore, other African American women at the convention helm, include

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KC Partners with Divine Nine to Launch Voter Registration Initiative

'Vote Your Voice KC' offers voter registration at community centers staffed by Divine Nine volunteers.

By **Thomas White**
Kansas City Reporter

The Kansas City Council has passed an ordinance to establish "Vote Your Voice KC," a civic program aimed at increasing voter registration and participation across the city.

The initiative, sponsored by Mayor Pro Tem Ryana Parks-Shaw, will place voter registration kiosks in all 10 Kansas City community centers, and plans on adding even more community partners like the Mattie Rhodes Center.

"We're breaking down barriers," said Parks-Shaw. "We want to make sure that we make voter registration available to as many people in our community as possible, recognizing that we have internet gaps and people with limited



KC has teamed up with the Divine Nine for the "Vote Your Voice" voter registration initiative.

access."

According to Parks-Shaw, only about 45% of eligible voters in Kansas City are currently

registered. The initiative aims to significantly increase that number before the upcoming November election and beyond.

"This statistic is not just a number," said Parks-Shaw. "It represents our friends, neighbors, and family who are missing out on the chance to shape the future of our community."

The Greater Kansas City National Pan-Hellenic Council, representing nine historically Black fraternities and sororities known as the "Divine Nine," will partner with the city to staff these registration hubs. Joseph Nelson, social action chair for the Greater Kansas City National Pan-Hellenic Council, outlined the organization's role:

"We'll be manning a lot of the community centers and we're going to be at a lot of events in the city to make sure folks have the opportunity to register," said Nelson. "But we're also going to educate folks on the new laws and opportunities that are available in the state of Missouri."

Missouri now allows felons who have completed their probation and parole the right to vote. Senior citizens and people with disabilities in Missouri can now fill out a form to have an absentee ballot mailed to them automatically instead of requesting one for each election.

Kiosks are being installed this week at the community centers where residents can register to vote or ensure that they are still registered to vote. The deadline to register and still vote in the November Election is Oct. 9 in Missouri and Oct. 15 in Kansas. You may also register online at Vote.gov.

Voter Registration Kiosks Will be Available at the Following Community Centers:

Kansas City North Community Center
3930 N.E. Antioch Road, KCMO
Mon. - Thu. 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Friday 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Line Creek Community Center
5940 N.W. Waukomis Drive, KCMO
Mon. - Fri. 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Garrison Community Center
1124 E. Fifth Street, KCMO
Mon. - Thu. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.;
Fri & Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Gregg/Klice Community Center
1600 John Buck O'Neil Way, KCMO
Mon. - Fri. 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Mary Williams-Neal Community Center
3801 Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd., KCMO
Mon. - Thu. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Fri. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Tony Aguirre Community Center
2050 W. Pennway St., KCMO
Mon. - Thu. 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.;
Fri. 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Westport Roanoke Community Center
3601 Roanoke Road, KCMO
Mon. - Thu. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Fri. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Hillcrest Community Center
10401 Hillcrest Road, KCMO
Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Marlborough Community Center
8200 The Paseo Boulevard, KCMO
Mon. - Thu. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.;
Fri. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Southeast Community Center
4201 E. 63rd Street, KCMO
Mon. - Thu. 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Fri. 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Mattie Rhodes Center
148 N. Topping Ave. KCMO
Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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New Names to be Added to KC Civil Rights Monument

The Monument to Freedom, Justice, and Courage will have 86 new names added Aug. 24

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

The Monument to Freedom, Justice, and Courage in Kansas City's Leon Jordan Memorial Park will soon honor 86 new individuals for their contributions to civil rights in Jackson County.

A ceremony recognizing the honorees takes place Sat., August 24, at 10 a.m. at the park located at 31st and Benton Boulevard.

"The Monument honors those who have made significant contributions since the Civil Rights Movement in Jackson County," said Jackson County Legislator Venessa Huskey.

This monument can accommodate up to 1,000 honorees, with up to 100 new names added annually. The Freedom Wall Commission, who selects honorees, is appointed by the County Executive, and consists of 11 Jackson County residents, including one county



The Monument to Freedom, Justice, and Courage Wall at Leon Jordan Memorial Park.

legislator. Members are chosen for their knowledge of civil rights history and the contributions of African Americans to Jackson County. Honorees are selected based on a

long list of criteria like their leadership and contributions to the Black community in Jackson County. The commission considers individuals who have demonstrated exceptional qualities such as a commitment to justice, willingness to take risks, and the ability to inspire hope and positive change.

Potential honorees are nominated by community members and reviewed by the Freedom Wall Commission. Nomination categories include neighborhood leadership, politics, education, healthcare, civil rights activism, and business, among others. Nominees can be living or honored posthumously.

About Leon Jordan Memorial Park & The Monument to Freedom, Justice, and Courage

The freedom wall is constructed of brick and polished concrete blocks and stands 8 feet high by 33 feet long. It forms a half-circle

around the Leon Jordan statue, creating a powerful tribute to local civil rights leaders.

Leon Jordan was a Kansas City police officer, politician, and civil rights activist who co-founded Freedom Inc. Along with the park bearing his name, he is commemorated directly in front of the freedom wall with a 7-foot-tall bronze statue. The statue, dedicated in 1975, is believed to be the first public monument to an African-American leader in Missouri designed by an African American artist.

This Years Honorees

The recognition serves as a lasting tribute to those who have worked tirelessly to advance civil rights and improve the quality of life in Jackson County's urban communities. It also provides inspiration for future generations to continue the fight for equality and justice.

2023 Freedom Wall Honorees

Name: Category

Tyrone Aiken: The Arts/Entertainment
Klassie Alcine: Community Organizing/Engagement
Beverly C. Allen: Education
Dr. Charles H. Allen: Business
Edward Walter Anderson: Business
Rev. Samuel W. Bacote: Faith/Religion
Dr. Kimberly Beatty: Education
Carl Boyd: Education
Erika Brice: Civil Rights/Activism
Hazel Browne Williams: Education
Joshua Bodden: The Arts/Entertainment
Gwendolyn Russell Calderon: Business
Greg Carroll: The Arts/Entertainment
Dr. Michael Charles: Education
Nathaniel Clark Smith: Education
Pat Clarke: Neighborhood Leadership
Dr. Derald Davis: Education
Dr. Auburn E. Ellis: Entrepreneurship
Rafaela "Lali" Garcia: Civil Rights/Activism
Carol Green: Community Organizing/Engagement
Edith Haney-Galvin: Community Organizing/Engagement
Christopher Harris: Youth Services

Dawn C. Hickman: Community Organizing/Engagement
Rev. Dr. Robert Lee Hill: Faith/Religion
Dr. Gayle Holliday: Politics
Justice Horn: Community Organizing/Engagement
Wilhemina E. "Nina" Howard: Healthcare/Medicine
Whitney Huell: The Arts/Entertainment
Venessa Huskey: Community Organizing/Engagement
Steve Israelite: Philanthropy
Elise Jackson: Community Organizing/Engagement
Barbara J.K. Johnson: Neighborhood Leadership
Patricia Jones Macklin: Community Organizing/Engagement
Waymond King: Youth Services
Alice Kitchen: Civil Rights/Activism
Lisa Lopez-Galvan: Media
Tonja McCoy: Education
Shirley McDonald: Entrepreneurship
Earline McKelvy: Education
Bonnaye Mims: Politics
Ina Montgomery: Education
Jerry Morales: Sports
Dr. Sere S. Myers, Sr.: Healthcare/Medicine

Dr. Troy Nash: Business
Calvin Neal: Community Organizing/Engagement
Dina Newman: Neighborhood Leadership
Cynthia Newsome: Media
Edward J. Newsome: Business
Glenn North: The Arts/Entertainment
GG Owens: Community Organizing/Engagement
Ryana Parks-Shaw: Politics
Dr. Amy Patel: Healthcare/Medicine
Brenda Pelofsky: Healthcare/Medicine
Henry Perry: Business
Kathryn Persley: Community Organizing/Engagement
Pastor Alice Piggee-Wallack: Community Organizing/Engagement
Carl Price: Education
Rev. Rickey D. Rambo: Faith/Religion
Kimberly M. Randolph: Community Organizing/Engagement
Judge Howard F. Sachs: Civil Rights/Activism
Rev. Tex Sample: Civil Rights/Activism
Karen Slaughter: Neighborhood Leadership
Shafeeqa Small: Community Organizing/Engagement

Dr. Joseph Snorgrass: Education
Erik Stafford: Community Organizing/Engagement
Carrie Stapleton: Media
Leon Stapleton: Business
Wilhelmina L. Stewart: Community Organizing/Engagement
Marquita Taylor: Neighborhood Leadership
Joseph Thomas: Community Organizing/Engagement
Qiana Thomason: Healthcare/Medicine
Lafayette A. Tillman: Civil Rights/Activism
Dr. Jacob A. Wagner: Education
Calvin Carzell Wainright: Youth Services
Lewis George Walker: Media
Barbara Anne Washington: Politics
Archie Welch: Politics
Eric L. Wesson: Media
Gloria J. Westbrooks: Education
Robert R. Wheeler: Education
Bridgette Williams: Business
Carmalotta Williams, PhD: Education
Toi Wilson: Neighborhood Leadership
Judge Brian C. Wimes: Law/Criminal Justice
Michelle Wimes: Healthcare/Medicine
Dr. Gerald Woods, MD: Healthcare/Medicine

Remodeled Wichita Dollar General Offers Fresh Meat, Fruits & Veggies

Location on East 21st Street helps address the area's food desert.

By Bonita Gooch
Editor-in-Chief

If you lived near 21st and Grove in the heart of Northeast Wichita, walked to your refrigerator and you needed just one fresh ingredient to prepare your evening meal, too bad. The nearest

store selling fresh meat and vegetables was three miles away.

While three miles is an inconvenience for some, it's nearly impossible for the 20% of households in ZIP code 67214 without a vehicle. That's why the recently remodeled Dollar General at 2020 E. 21st Street is being happily received.

Dollar General recently remodeled and upgraded the store to its DG Market format. These stores offer healthier food selections, including fresh meats, fruits and vegetables, along with the same categories, brands and products offered at other Dollar General stores.

The renovated location includes several banks of commercial-grade refrigeration units with fresh meat, vegetables and fruit. The meat selection includes fresh pork, beef and chicken options, including an always-useful one-pound

roll of 80/20 ground beef.

Produce selections include seasonal fruit such as grapes, blueberries, apples and oranges. Vegetables include staples like carrots, potatoes and onions plus bagged salad options. Another nice addition is fresh-packaged options of prepared coleslaw and potato and macaroni salad.

The redesign also expanded the store's selection and quality of frozen food options. Dollar General stores always offer frozen food options, but the redesign adds more freezer capacity and expands the variety of frozen product offerings.

The store is also equipped with a large cooler for fresh milk and dairy products. When we visited, there was only one gallon of milk left. We're not sure if the cooler still hadn't been stocked or whether the empty shelves reflected a high level of demand.

In response to a request from The Voice, Dollar General representatives says the chain does not currently have plans to convert more stores in the Wichita or Kansas City area to DG Markets.

Dollar General has added fresh produce only – not fresh meat – to five of their Wichita locations: 1918 E. 13th St., 4011 S. Laura, 4549 E. Pawnee, 2427 W. Pawnee. The company has fresh produce in 5400 stores across the country, “giving us more individual points of produce distribution than any other U.S. mass retailer or grocer,” wrote Dollar General representatives in response to our information request.



No this isn't the meat section at Dillons, Sun Fresh or Walmart. This is the fresh meat section at the new DG Market in Wichita.

What Happened to Wichita's Plan to Add Fresh Produce to Neighborhood Stores?

By Bonita Gooch
Voice Editor-in-Chief

In 2022, the City of Wichita allocated \$1 million from federal pandemic funds to seed a program aimed at making fresh produce available in designated “food deserts,” and in February 2023, after working with a consultant, the city approved the Healthy Corner Store Initiative.

The plan, modeled after similar plans across the country, called for the city to work with existing local store owners to add produce sales to at least 12 “corner store” locations within Wichita area food deserts by the end of 2024.

The plan called for bypassing national chains typically found in lower-income areas like Dollar General and Family Dollar.

“We've learned that the managers of those stores have very little control over inventory,” consultant Eileen Horn with New Venture Advisors said in 2022. “It can be really difficult trying to work with corporate ownership, which tends to want consistent inventory in every store. The local retailers have a much smoother path to decision making.”

That path hasn't been very smooth. Two years after authorization, the city's Healthy Corner Store Initiative program still isn't up and running.

After contracting with a consulting firm to develop



Kansas City, MO has a successful program getting fresh produce into food deserts working with community corner stores. Learn more about Kanbe's Market, a non-profit, produce organization that began in 2016 and now provides fresh produce access to more than 250,000 residents. Read our 2022 story. Kanbe's Working to End Food Deserts Through Innovative Partnerships with Local Corner Stores. @ <https://bit.ly/3XddBaX>

an implementation plan for the program, the has grown through two rounds of requests for proposals – one in 2022 and the second in 2023 – and held multiple committee See **Fresh Produce** Page 8 →

Supermarket Redlining: *Food Deserts Are Deliberate*

By Bonita Gooch
Voice Editor-in-Chief

Food deserts, areas where people have very limited access to healthy foods, don't just happen, they're deliberate. One of the biggest contributors is Supermarket Redlining.

Supermarket redlining is the disinclination of major grocery chains to open or maintain

stores in disproportionately Black, low-income communities. Grocery store owners avoid opening stores in food deserts because market research suggests more affluent areas are more profitable.

Some common characteristics across food deserts—lower rates of employment, and higher rates of poverty—are the same characteristics that scare off retailers.

Instead of full-service supermarkets or grocery stores, food desert residents must rely on convenience stores, discount markets, fast food restaurants, drugstores, or gas stations to buy groceries. Rather than fresh produce, those stores are more likely to stock limited supplies of highly processed food, prepackaged meats, sodas and salty snacks – and sell them at inflated prices – than stores in more

affluent areas.

Supermarket Redlining is a related consequence of housing redlining in the 40s, 50s and 60s. That redlining created the segregated communities, where supermarket redlining is taking place.

Compared to 31% of White people, only 8% of Black people live in a census tract with a supermarket.

How Can a New Code of Conduct Address Discrimination in Wichita Public Schools

As part of a settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice regarding a “pattern of discrimination against Black and disabled students, in disciplinary actions, the district has developed a new student Code of Conduct.

In response to charges of discrimination by staff of Wichita Public Schools, it’s the district’s students that are getting a new policy, not district’s staff.

After the U.S. Dept. of Justice announced that a civil rights investigation found district staff engaged in a “pattern of discrimination against Black and disabled students,” many community members were hoping for corrective policies directed at the teachers, not at the students.

Instead, the district

announced a new “code of conduct” for students, not teachers.

Wichita Public Schools Board member Melody McCray-Miller says the policy is for teachers and it benefits students.

“It’s actually a code of conduct better outlined and designed to protect the rights of students,” said McCray-Miller.

The policy establishes well-defined and strict standards for discipline that must be followed in issuing discipline. The new policy leaves little room for flexibility in

For More Information
<https://www.usd259.org/code>

There you can read:
 DOJ Settlement Agreement
 Existing Code of Conduct

Proposed Code of Conduct

Submit comments about the proposed code

how discipline is applied across the district.

“Before, there was all kinds of discretion,” said McCray-Miller. “That’s the reason why from building to building the rates of disparities were so different, because there was no consistent consequence that everyone had to recognize. So, now the code of conduct is very explicit.”

Developing a better code of conduct was a requirement of the district’s settlement agreement with the DOJ. The settlement also requires the district to solicit, receive and consider community input on the policy.

Family and community members can read and comment on the 16-page policy on the district’s website,



Fights are Level 1 or 2 violations in USD 259’s proposed Code of Conduct. What does that mean?

www.usd259.org/code. They can also learn more about the policy, ask questions and share their likes and dislikes about the policy at a final community meeting on Wed., Sept. 25, 6 p.m. at the USD 259 School Service Center, 3850 N. Hydraulic.

District officials plan to submit the new code of conduct to the DOJ for review by Oct. 15. If it’s accepted, they will roll it out districtwide in January.

“It’s a lot, but it is more than what we had and we have an opportunity to actually do it right and reduce these ridiculous disparities [in discipline] we see,” said McCray-Miller.

Code of Conduct Basic

The draft code of conduct categorizes student violations into three levels. As defined:

Level 1 - offenses do not threaten safety or significantly disrupt a school activity

Level 2 - offense significantly disrupts an activity
Level 3 - pose a threat to safety

The document also digs into categories of offenses, further defines actions/subcategories within each of these categories and sets a level of violation for each offense.

For example, offenses under the drug-related category

See **Conduct Page 8** →

BLUE ACES 1969: 55th CLASS REUNION
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Clean Air • We’ve got this!

Fresh Produce, from Page 6 ↓

meetings and listening sessions. Earlier this year, they finally contracted with Wichita State University Community Engagement Office to function as the program administrator.

Since being engaged, WSU CEI has held additional community listening sessions and as a result has developed a revised implementation plan for submission to the city and at this point, it will be impossible to reach the city's goal of having 12 Healthy Corner Stores partners by the end of the year. In fact, they're hoping to have just one.

They are looking for and encouraging a potential partner to step forward to implement a pilot program with technical assistance and support provided to build the structure. They hope the pilot operator will help serve as a mentor and encourage other store operators to sign on to the initiative.

At this point, CEI says they need to have more conversation with potential stakeholders who are hesitant to get involved. With the help of stakeholders who attended CEI's June 2024 listening session, CEI says they've identified 24 potential partners and stores they'll begin by reaching out to.

Conduct, from Page 7 ↓

are broken down into four subcategories. Possession of marijuana paraphernalia is a Level 1 offense, possession of drugs is a Level 2 offense, and smoking marijuana and selling marijuana and other illicit drugs are both Level 3 offenses.

The policy also clearly defines the "response/interventions" that can be given to students whose conduct violates the district's new code.

There are 17 responses that can be given to Level 1 offenses, including a calm-down walk, confiscating items, loss of privileges, parent/guardian contact, mentoring, restitution, preferential seating and meaningful job.

What is a Level 1 offense? Here are a few examples: insubordination, lying, disruptive behavior, theft, truancy, vandalism, and academic misconduct.

Even with Level 2 offenses, the punishment, i.e. response and interventions, focus on keeping students in school. At this level, the responses include corrective actions designed to address the inappropriate

behavior. Examples of responses/interventions at this level include development of a behavior contract, referral to the district's General Education Intervention Team, bus suspension, detention, development of a behavior intervention plan, conference with student and parent, and in-school suspension.

Repeated Level 1 offenses can raise those offenses to Level 2.

McCray-Miller says the interventions are the key to the program's success. In the past, she says, students would be sent to the office, nothing would be done and they would be sent back to the classroom and do the same thing again.

"You're not trying to intervene and correct the behaviors," said McCray-Miller. "Now, we have what's called behavioral intervention protocols."

Level 3 offenses, which rise to the level of safety concerns, call for out-of-school suspensions and even expulsions.

Implementation

"The goal for the document is to provide equity, consistency and

clarity," said Vince Evans, assistant superintendent of student support services.

But, he admits the program still allows for some flexibility in teacher application. "Because we know situations are unique, and we know we need to rely on the professional judgment of our staff"

As part of the settlement agreement, the district will be tracking disciplinary actions and compiling them into a report submitted regularly to the DOJ. To prepare the report, all disciplinary actions will be recorded in the district's Synergy system.

McCray-Miller is pleased with the data gathering and wants to make sure it's shared with the schools and with the staff. While not specifically with names attached, she's hoping there's a mechanism that will allow the teachers to see how their disciplinary actions compare to others across the district.

"The buildings need to know where they are. They need to know they're the ones that are sending the majority of students," said McCray-Miller.

DNC, from Page 3 ↓

Christy George, executive director of the host committee, who helps raise money for the convention. George was first assistant deputy governor for budget and economy in the office of Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker.

Keiana Barrett, a senior adviser to the host committee, leads procurement efforts and advises on business equity practices and youth engagement. She has served on the communications team for Rainbow Push and the Congressional Black Caucus.

In addition to existing leaders, Moore said she, George and Barrett "recognize that the convention was an opportunity to build a bench of talented women."

Daughtry said the Democratic party has made strides since Alexis Herman served as CEO of the convention in 1992, noting that she and other Black women were appointed to their positions.

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Want to Feel You're Living a Longer, Fuller Life?

The years seem to pass more quickly as we age. But they don't have to. Here's What Neuroscience says works!!

SENIOR VOICES

A SPECIAL SENIOR SUPPLEMENT
TO THE COMMUNITY VOICE

By Jeffrey Haden
Guest Contributor

Our house on the lake has a quarter-mile walkway over the water that leads to a dock. Looking back, the first time we walked it -- when we were considering buying the house -- seemed to take forever. Shoreline, bay grasses, herons, egrets, crabs, oyster beds, barrier islands off in the distance -- there was so much to see. (Plus there was the curiosity factor: Who builds a dock that long?)

When I think back to walking out to the end of the dock yesterday, though, it seems like it took seconds.

Hold that thought.

Time seems to pass more quickly as we age, and for good reason. (Well, not for good reason -- how could time passing more quickly be good? -- but at least for scientific reasons.)

Research published in Scientific Reports suggests how you perceive the passage of time is related to the amount of new perceptual information you absorb. When you're young, so many things seem new, and your brain has more to process. That makes the passage of time feel longer; as you get older, relatively little seems new, which means your brain has less to process, and time seems to have sped up.

In a similar way, a study published in Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews found that once we reach our



Neuroscience Says Making Denser Memories Is the Best Way to Slow the Passage of Time. SVITLANA - STOCK.ADOBE.COM

20s, the release of dopamine as the result of experiencing new stimuli starts to drop, also causing time to seem like it passed more quickly.

Then there's the effect of dense memories. I remember a lot about that first walk on the dock because everything seemed so new. Yesterday? I saw, heard, and smelled the same things, but by now I've experienced them many times. They didn't recruit as many new areas of my brain, so my new memories aren't dense. They're thin.

As a result, when I look back, my sense of that time is compressed.

That's why many successful entrepreneurs grow bored once their companies are thriving; maintaining what you've built results in a greater proportion of thin to dense memories.

That first sale? You remember it forever. The 968th? Lost in the blur.

(Quick aside from the Voice team: We think about how it always seems like it takes

longer to get somewhere than it takes to get back. That's because on your way there, everything is new and different, but on your way back you already know what to expect, you've seen it before.)

So how do we slow the passage of time? Here's step one, courtesy of Stanford neuroscientist David Eagleman (long, but worth it):

We all have the impression that a childhood summer seemed to last forever, but when you're older, the summers are here and then they're gone and years zip by ...

It's because the job of the brain is to build an internal model of the world out there. Your brain is locked in silence and darkness inside your skull, and all it is trying to do is understand the structures of the world so it can operate in it better. Whenever it encounters a surprise, it writes that down and it makes changes to your circuitry.

But as you go through life and your brain develops

better models of the world, less and less carries much surprise. This is why you lay down fewer memories as you age. You've seen that situation before, you've met that personality before, you've done that job before. The memories you lay down are much thinner. They're more impoverished.

But in contrast, when you're in your childhood, everything is new. And so the richness of your memories gives you the impression of increased duration.

When you are looking back at the end of a childhood summer, it seems to have lasted for such a long time because everything was new. But when you're looking back at the end of an adult summer, it seems to have disappeared rapidly because you haven't written much down in your memory.

Here's the Fix

So here is the take-home lesson. We have to seek novelty, because this is what lays

down new memories in the brain.

Try new things. Do new things. Push yourself. Try to create more firsts, and more different experiences. Do that, and when you look back, time will seem to have passed more slowly, because your memories will be much denser. That will change your perception of what psychologists call retrospective timing.

Then leverage the power of what psychologists call prospective timing. Generally speaking, prospective timing is looking forward to predicting future outcomes, especially regarding time. (Like how long mowing your lawn will take.)

But planning and scheduling certain activities, which is also an aspect of prospective timing, can make time seem to go a little more slowly. Going on vacation in a month? Put the date on your calendar. Stick a note on the fridge. Looking forward will make the intervening days feel like they take longer

-- and make the anticipation a little sweeter.

Then, when you're actually on vacation, abandon your normal routine. Do as many things differently as you possibly can. Spend the morning checking emails and responding to sales inquiries and all the other stuff you do every other morning and your memories of those hours will be thin, not dense, and that time will feel like it flew by.

As Eagleman says, doing new things -- or just doing the simplest things a little differently, like taking a different route to work, or rearranging your office, or even just brushing your teeth with your non-dominant hand -- will "make you seem as though you are extending your time a bit because you're forcing your brain off its hamster wheel of doing things a particular way every day."

Since time is your most valuable resource, why wouldn't you want to make it seem to last as long as possible?

Protecting Yourself After Massive Social Security Data Breach

A data breach involving billions of records, including social security numbers, has consumer advocates urgently sounding an alarm.

By Voice News Service

A data breach involving billions of records, including social security numbers, has consumer advocates urgently sounding an alarm.

A data breach involving billions of records, including social security numbers, has consumer advocates urgently sounding an alarm. If you haven't taken steps to protect yourself from identity theft yet, experts say you need to do so immediately.

The hackers may have stolen and posted every American's social security number.

According to a class-action lawsuit, a hacking group claimed in April to have stolen personal records of nearly three billion people from National Public Data, which offers personal information to employers, staffing agencies, and others who do background checks.



A recent hack involves the data of billions, including social security numbers. *RANCZANDRAS*

The hackers allegedly tried to sell the data but have now posted most of it for free online.

"Really just focusing on freezing my credit scores and changing my passwords and staying safe," said

Gregory Luehrs of Wynnewood.

And, that is exactly what you should do if you haven't already, according to expert Rob D'Ovidio.

"We're really concerned because of social security information is

was allegedly compromised address information all going back 30 years," D'Ovidio said.

So what else should you do?

D'Ovidio said you should put a freeze on your credit report with the three major credit bureaus - Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion. That way criminals cannot take out loans or open up financial accounts or credit cards under your name.

Also, check your credit report. You can do that for free with each of the credit bureaus.

"I even urge parents to do this for the kids," he said.

Also, if you can, sign up for a free credit monitoring service. If not, put a fraud alert on your account with the credit bureaus.

"If someone's going to open an account in your name, and they've run a credit check to do that, you get alerted, and you have to approve that account," he added.

Google and Experian can scan the dark web for your information to see whether it's out there.

You can also try a free tool from the cybersecurity company Pentester that offers to search for your information in the breached National Public Data files.

Finally, make sure all of your accounts require two-factor authentication to log in.

We reached out to National Public Data Base about the hack but, so far, they have not responded to the Troubleshooters for comment.

For more information:
 ID Protection Tips:
[IdentityTheft.gov](https://www.identitytheft.gov)
 Step By Step Guide to
 Freezing your Credit Files:
[PIRG.org](https://www.pirg.org)
 National Public Data Breach
 Check: [NPD.pentester.com](https://www.npd.pentester.com)

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Biden Administration Announces Negotiated Drug Price Reduction Deals for Medicare

By Associated Press

Taxpayers are expected to save billions after the Biden Administration inked deals with pharmaceutical companies to knock down the listed prices for 10 of Medicare's costliest drugs.

But how much older Americans can expect to save when they fill a prescription at their local pharmacy remains unclear, since the list cost isn't the final price people pay.

After months of negotiations with manufacturers, list prices will be reduced by hundreds — in some cases, thousands — of dollars for 30-day supplies of popular drugs used by millions of people on Medicare, including blood thinners, diabetes drugs and blood cancer medications. The reductions, which range between 38% and 79%, take effect in 2026.

"I've been waiting for this moment for a long long time," President Joe Biden said this month. "We pay more for prescription drugs, it's not hyperbole, than any advanced nation in the world."

Taxpayers spend more than \$50 billion yearly on the 10 drugs, which



The price of 10 of the costliest drugs under Medicare have been reduced thanks to negotiations authorized by Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act. No Republicans voted in support of the act.

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include popular blood thinners Xarelto and Eliquis and diabetes drugs Jardiance and Januvia.

With the new prices, the administration says savings are expected to total \$6 billion for taxpayers and \$1.5 billion overall for some of the 67 million people who rely on Medicare. Details on those calculations, however, have not been released. And the White House said it could not provide

an average cost-savings for individual Medicare enrollees who use the drugs.

That's because there are a number of factors — from discounts to the co-insurance or copays for the person's Medicare drug plan — that determine the final price a person pays when they pick up their drugs at a pharmacy.

The Biden Administration says Medicare recipients will save about \$1.5 billion on out-of-pocket costs for medications to treat diabetes, heart disease, types of arthritis and other ailments under new prices negotiated with drug companies that will take effect in 2026.

The savings range from 79% for Januvia, used to manage diabetes, to 38% for Imbruvica, which is used to treat blood cancers. That is the medication's cost before any discounts or rebates are applied, but not what the price people actually pay when filling their prescriptions.

"It is hard to say, exactly, what any enrollee will save because it depends on their particular plan and their co-insurance," said Tricia Neuman, an executive director at the health policy research nonprofit KFF.

Those savings won't kick in until 2026. Until then, some Medicare enrollees should see relief from drug prices in a new rule starting next year that caps how much they pay annually on drugs to \$2,000.

Vice President Kamala Harris, however, wasted no time Thursday campaigning on the new drug deals, especially since no Republicans supported the law, called the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and it barely passed Congress in 2022.

"Two years ago, as vice president, I was proud to cast the tie-breaking vote that gave Medicare the power to negotiate," Harris said to cheering crowds. "In the two years since, we've been using this new power to lower the price of life-saving medication."

A look at the drugs and the negotiated prices.

Januvia

Manufacturer: Merck Sharp Dohme
Conditions: Diabetes
Negotiated price: \$113 for a 30-day supply
Reduction: 79%

Fiasp; Fiasp FlexTouch; Fiasp PenFill; NovoLog; NovoLog FlexPen; NovoLog PenFill:

Manufacturer: Novo Nordisk
Conditions: Diabetes
Negotiated price: \$119 for a 30-day supply
Reduction: 76%

Farxiga

Manufacturer: AstraZeneca AB.
Conditions: Diabetes, heart failure and chronic kidney disease
Negotiated price: \$178.50 for a 30-day supply
Reduction: 68%

Enbrel

Manufacturer: Immunex Corp.
Conditions: Rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis
Negotiated price: \$2,355 for a 30-day supply
Reduction: 67%

Jardiance

Manufacturer: Boehringer Ingelheim
Conditions: Diabetes, heart failure

See **DRUGS** Page 23 →

These 3 Changes Are Coming to Medicare in 2025 *Are You Prepared?*

There's a new cap on out-of-pocket drug costs.

A new warning system will be in place for Medicare Advantage.

There's likely to be a shift in Part B premium costs.

It's important to know what the new year has in store.

Millions of older Americans receive health coverage through Medicare. But just because Medicare has been around for a long time doesn't mean the program never changes. Here are some important updates for 2025 that every Medicare enrollee should be aware of.

1. A new \$2,000 annual cap on out-of-pocket prescription-drug spending

Enrollees in Medicare Part D commonly face tremendous out-of-pocket costs in the course of

paying for prescriptions. But thanks to a new rule, some beneficiaries may be in for relief.

Starting in 2025, all Medicare Part D enrollees will have their out-of-pocket prescription-drug costs capped at \$2,000. Furthermore, enrollees in Medicare Parts B and D who receive insulin through a pump will have their monthly cost capped at \$35.

Even with these changes in place, it pays to shop carefully for a Part D drug plan during Medicare's open enrollment, which begins this year on Oct. 15 and runs through Dec. 7. But Medicare enrollees with high-cost prescriptions can take comfort in knowing that their spending will soon have a limit.

2. A midyear benefits notification for Medicare Advantage enrollees

Seniors can choose between Original Medicare

-- Parts A and B, plus a Part D drug plan -- or Medicare Advantage, which commonly provides all-in-one coverage. The benefit of signing up for Medicare Advantage is that these plans generally offer supplemental benefits beyond what original Medicare covers. For example, Original Medicare doesn't pay for dental care or eye exams, but many Medicare Advantage plans cover these critical services.

That said, supplemental benefits can vary from one Medicare Advantage plan to another. And enrollees who don't know what those benefits entail may lose out on them.

To solve that problem, beginning in 2025, Medicare Advantage plans will be required to send enrollees a personalized midyear notice of unused supplement benefits. That notice will list the added benefits available to plan participants, as well as instructions on how to access them.

3. A new standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B

There's a cost associated with Medicare Part B that commonly changes every year. Right now, the standard monthly Part B premium is \$174.70. In 2025, that premium is likely to rise, although we don't know the extent of that increase at the moment.

That's important, though, because seniors who are enrolled in Medicare and Social Security at the same time have their Part B premiums deducted automatically from their monthly benefit payments. Meanwhile, initial Social Security cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) projections are calling for a smaller raise in 2025 than in 2024. But if the cost of Medicare Part B increases substantially, it could eat away at what minimal raise that Social Security recipients get in the new year.

What About Switching From Medicare Advantage to Medigap Coverage?

Medicare Advantage may have lower monthly costs, but if you get sick, you'll typically pay more out of pocket.

By The Voice News Service

Medicare open enrollment is scheduled to run Oct. 15 to Dec. 7. That's when seniors can switch coverage between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage or change a prescription drug plan.

Original Medicare is a health plan that has two parts: Part A (hospital insurance) covers in-patient hospital and skilled nursing care, and Part B (medical insurance) covers physician services.

Original Medicare is managed by the federal government. This is the typical Medicare insurance most people are familiar with. These plans typically cost about \$165 a month (with the cost deducted from your social security check). Many people pay extra for Medigap, to cover copays and other out-of-pocket costs, as well as a Part D plan for drugs.

Medicare Advantage is a health plan called Part C and is offered by private insurance companies as an alternative to Original Medicare. It replaces and cancels your Original Medicare plan if you choose this option. It provides the benefits of Part A, B, and often D, usually for about the same amount, with lower copays, so there's no need for Medigap. Some Medicare Advantage plans offer benefits not in Original Medicare, such as fitness classes or vision and dental care.

Choosing between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage requires careful consideration of your finances and health needs. Medicare Advantage plans can carry hidden risks, especially for people with major health issues. Some people in Medicare Advantage plans may end up paying unexpectedly high costs when they become ill or find that their network lacks the providers they need.

With Original Medicare, individuals can see any provider who accepts Medicare, which is most.

However, Medicare Advantage plans typically require that you get care from a more limited network of providers, and, in most cases, you will need a pre-authorization from the insurance payer to see specialists, receive Part B drugs, get skilled nursing facility stays or inpatient hospital stays, receive mental health services or receive diagnostic services such as procedures, labs, tests, therapy, dialysis, hearing, eye exams, dental care and many other services.

A recent Kaiser Health study found that about half of all Medicare Advantage enrollees would end up paying more than those in Original Medicare for a seven-day hospital stay.

Medicare Advantage plans may be especially problematic for people in rural areas. A 2021 study found that rural Medicare Advantage plan enrollees were nearly twice as likely to switch back to Original Medicare as those in urban areas. The networks of providers in rural areas are especially narrow, making it harder for people to get care.

In addition, several hospitals across the county have decided not to accept Medicare Advantage plans as they can be detrimental to the patients they serve and often not reliable in payments for care. This also is true in Kansas, where we have seen an increasing number of hospitals not accepting Medicare Advantage plans.

Nearly all Medicare Advantage plans (99%) require approvals and authorizations before care can be given. In a 2022 American Medical Association survey, 94% of physicians polled said authorizations delayed medical care. According to KFF, two million Medicare Advantage requested authorizations and approvals were denied in 2021 by Medicare Advantage plans.

Kansans should be aware that the only way to learn about a Medicare Advantage plans' approval and authorization practices is to ask their physician and hospital provider.

Contact your local health care providers. They can connect you with individuals who can help you navigate the differences between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage.

This article was submitted by the Kansas Hospital Association, a voluntary, no-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 237 member facilities, of which 121 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA's vision is: "Optimal Health for Kansans." It may be slightly slanted, but it's fairly factual. A lot of seniors jumped to Medicare Advantage because of its cost compared to Medigap. However, it can come down to a case of pay now, or pay later.

If you're thinking about making the switch, read the fine print in the article "What Can You Do During Medicare Open Enrollment?"

Mark Your Calendar

You don't want to miss these important Medicare open enrollment dates



October 15, 2024
First day of Medicare
Open enrollment



December 7, 2024
Last day of Medicare
Open Enrollment



January 1, 2025
New Medicare
coverage begins



Medicare Advantage plans often come with free gym memberships and other perks that make them attractive in the short run. However, when you're sick, the out of pocket expenses are can be much greater than those for Medigap. PILIPPHOTO - STOCK. ADOBE.COM

What Can You Do During Medicare Open Enrollment?

You can do the following during the Medicare open enrollment period:
Switch from Original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage plan, or vice versa.
Change from one Medicare Advantage plan to a different Medicare Advantage plan.
Change from a Medicare Advantage plan without drug coverage to a Medicare Advantage plan with drug coverage, or vice versa.

Enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan.

Jump from one Medicare drug plan to a different Medicare drug plan.
Quit your Medicare prescription drug coverage.

If you return to Original Medicare during this annual enrollment period and you want Medicare Supplement Insurance, also known as Medigap, you may pay more than you expected for a supplement policy, or you may be denied coverage.




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How to Sell Stuff You No Longer Need

From Craigslist to eBay and beyond, here's how to turn your castoffs into cash

By The VOICE News Service

Americans have a lot of stuff, and seniors especially do. We have stuff—in our closets, basements, attics, garages, and in some 2 billion square feet of rental self-storage space. And a lot of that stuff, whether it's been inherited, acquired over a lifetime, or delivered to our door during the pandemic, is overflow we want to get rid of.

But beyond honoring the time-tested tradition of the neighborhood yard sale or hauling it all to the local consignment shop or simply donating it, what are the best ways these days to shed objects and maybe get some return on your investment?

To be clear, decluttering with the aim to turn trash into treasure can be a lot of work. Before you start, reflect on whether you have the bandwidth and time for it or whether you're better off having the stuff hauled away for you, says Jevata Crawford, a professional organizer whose company, Project Move in Allentown, Pa., helps people downsize and clear out homes of deceased relatives. Pro organizers charge about \$75 to \$100 an hour.

Or you can call local charities that run resale shops or find new purposes for used goods to see whether they'll take the stuff off your hands.

If you decide to do it yourself, before you start, search recalls.gov to make sure nothing you're selling has been recalled, which is illegal as well as unsafe.

Here are some other tips to make the job worth it.

Finding the Right Buyers

"There's somebody looking for every type of thing you can imagine," says Crawford, who sometimes sells clients' castoffs on eBay. The trick, she says, is to figure out the best platform for each item, noting the different levels of effort required in terms of marketing and getting it to its new owner, and the different costs and commissions. How money changes hands also varies, with many sites handling the financial end and others leaving it to you. So you need to consider not only what you're selling but also how much help you want and how much of the proceeds you want to keep.

On the other end of the spectrum is Craigslist, which is free to use except in certain places and for items in a few categories, including motor vehicles. But you're on your own for listing items, communicating with potential buyers, and arranging pickup or



Does your house look like this? Maybe it's time to sell some things!

drop-off and payment.

Listing an Item for Sale

Once you've settled on a platform, the next step is to create your listing. While particulars vary depending on the site you're selling on, there are some general guidelines.

Price it right. Many platforms allow you to search previous sales of similar items to determine the going rate for any given thing. Using them, you might be surprised by how much your old junk is worth. A recent eBay search of sold items uncovered an 80 percent-full 6.5-ounce Bath & Body Works lotion in the beloved but no longer available Aromatherapy Optimism Bright Blossoms scent that went for \$24.99, plus shipping.

If you have something of value you can't evaluate that way, you may want to call in a pro. Use the member directory of the Appraisers Association of America to find someone who, for a fee, can assess your item's value. Expect to pay anywhere from \$25 to over \$300 an hour for an appraiser to do this, according to HomeAdvisor, which connects homeowners to service professionals. If you have an in-demand item you think will inspire lots of interest that could drive up the price, instead of setting a price you may want to try selling it by auction, an option on eBay. (You can set a reserve, or minimum, price you're willing to accept to safeguard against the item selling too cheaply.) Auction listings on eBay are active for one to 10 days, while buy-it-now or fixed-price sales don't expire. On eBay and many other recommerce sites, you can also allow potential buyers to make

you an offer. Poshmark even lets you set up a live online auction to hawk your wares.

Headlines matter. Descriptive headlines attract buyers, so write ones that help shoppers doing keyword searches on the site find what you're selling. Your item is likely to move faster if instead of "blue cardigan" you write "women's medium navy blue cropped V-neck 100% cotton cardigan." You can also include key terms like gently used, vintage, or NWT (new with tags).

Be honest. in the product description. Clearly disclose the condition of the item you're selling and the materials it's made of. A good practice is to underpromise and overdeliver, so be sure to point out flaws if there are any, and provide accurate measurements.

Use photos. Make sure to include numerous clear and well-lit images that make your item look attractive. Photos should be taken from multiple angles—top to bottom, back and front. Iron clothing items and lay them flat, or better yet, put them on a tailor's form. Where appropriate, style the photo, for example, by using interesting or colorful backgrounds.

Be responsive. Prompt communication and clear answers will reassure buyers that you're engaged and motivated to sell. Opt for alerts from the platform to make sure you don't leave potential buyers on the line for too long.

Set a time limit. Indicate how long you'll keep the listing active until the item sells.

Where to Do Your Selling

Once you've figured out what you want to sell, you'll need to decide where to sell it. Here's a sampling of some of the biggest reselling sites in the U.S., with info on what each specializes in and how much they charge for the service.

eBay:

The superstore of internet reselling
 Founded: 1995
 Scope: Global, with 1.8 billion active listings and 133 million registered users.
 Listing fee: Sellers get 250 free listings a month, then pay 35 cents per listing.
 Commission: It varies from 3 percent or more depending on the product category and sale price, plus 30 cents per sale.
 Top sellers: Men's clothing and shoes, small kitchen appliances, watches, and electronics.

Poshmark:

Built on the principle that buying and selling fashion items should be "simple, social, and sustainable."
 Founded: 2011
 Scope: 80 million registered users in the U.S. and 200 million+ items for sale.
 Listing fee: None
 Commission: \$2.95 for sales under \$15; 20 percent for sales over \$15.
 Top sellers: Nike shoes, Lululemon apparel, Coach bags, Free People tops, and Victoria's Secret intimates and sleepwear.

Craigslist:

Newspaper classifieds gone digital.
 Founded: 1995
 Scope: Craigslist had 160.4 million visits in May of this year and is one of the world's largest classified websites.
 Listing fee: None
 Commission: None
 Top sellers: Large items for local pickup.

Facebook Marketplace:

Meta's marketplace, where social networking meets resale shopping.
 Founded: 2016
 Scope: All 2.98 billion Facebook users can access local community listings.
 Listing fee: None
 Commission: 5%, with a minimum of 40 cents.
 Top sellers: Women's clothing, collectibles,

See **STUFF** Page 15 →



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* To be eligible, household income must be below 200% of the federal poverty level based on household size.

STUFF, from Page 14 ↓

toys, and furniture.

AptDeco:

Claims to be “the easiest way to buy and sell used furniture.”

Founded: 2014

Scope: Nationwide, with more than \$60 million in sales and 400,000 users.

Listing fee: None

Commission: Up to 48%.

Top sellers: Dressers, sofas, dining tables, coffee tables, and beds, particularly from brands like Anthropologie, Blue Dot, Herman Miller, and West Elm.

Discogs:

The internet’s corner record store, a huge marketplace for music collectors.

Founded: 2000

Scope: Global, with 62 million listings.

Listing fee: None

Commission: 9%

A Word on Taxes

When you sell something on eBay or elsewhere for less than you originally paid for it, the transaction generally doesn’t need to be reported to the IRS, according to the agency. By contrast, if you sell something for more than you originally paid, according to the letter of the law it’s reportable. And if the total volume of your sales on any given platform exceeds \$600 in a year, starting in 2023 the platform is required by law to issue you a 1099-K form for reporting purposes.

Stay Safe When You Sell

Take these precautionary steps whenever you’re exchanging goods for money, in person or not.

Even when using a platform that’s more anonymous—one that handles payments so that sellers and buyers don’t have to exchange payment or banking information, and where goods are shipped or delivered rather than picked up—you still

have to be careful.

Tip 1: Never take a transaction or discussion off the platform. Scammers may entice you by offering more than your asking price, for example, perhaps with the intention of ripping you off. Or they may falsely claim the goods you sold them never arrived or were damaged and demand that you make restitution. If anything about an interaction with a buyer feels amiss, contact the website’s customer service or fraud department.

Tip 2: For in-person transactions, always lay out all of the terms in advance—the price, type of payment, meeting location, and time. If possible, complete the transaction during daylight hours in a public place, like a police station. Hundreds of police stations in the U.S. participate in a program called SafeTrade, which was founded by Peter Zollman in 2015 to give online buyers and sellers a public meet-up space that’s under surveillance to finalize

deals. Go to safetradespots.com to find one near you.

Tip 3: Meet at a secure location. If you’re selling something so large that the buyer has to come to your home to see it, consider meeting at a police station in advance to photograph each other’s ID. Tell your buyer that it’s for their protection as well as your own.

Tip 4: Be cautious about what kind of payment you accept. Cash is king, but say no to personal checks, which may bounce, or money orders and cashier’s checks, which are easily counterfeited. Instead, use services such as PayPal, Venmo, and Zelle because they allow you to receive payment for the item you’re selling without having to give up your banking details. Another benefit: You can see that the money has been transferred into your account before you hand over the merchandise.

This article also appeared in the September 2023 issue of Consumer Reports magazine.



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KU Begins Accepting Participants in Historic “All of Us” Research Program

A project of the National Institute of Health, the program aims to gather health data from one million participants for health research

By Voice News Service

Since its launch in 2015 under Pres. Barack Obama’s administration, the All of Us Program has proven to be a game changer in health research.

Unlike research studies that focus on one disease or group of people, All of Us is recruiting one million participants who will provide health information that will become part of a diverse database researchers can tap into instead of researchers spending time recruiting volunteers and creating new data sets over and over for different studies.

It’s an approach that has already proven to accelerate health research and medical breakthroughs, since it began enrolling participants in May 2018. As of this month, the program has 566,000 participants. This month, the University of Kansas Health System announced it is ready to begin enrolling participants in the research program.

“All of Us is an ambitious project that has the potential to revolutionize how we study disease and medicine,” Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said.

A major goal of the program is to support research

that moves health care from far from optimal one-size fits-all medical care to more tailored treatments and prevention strategies in the future.

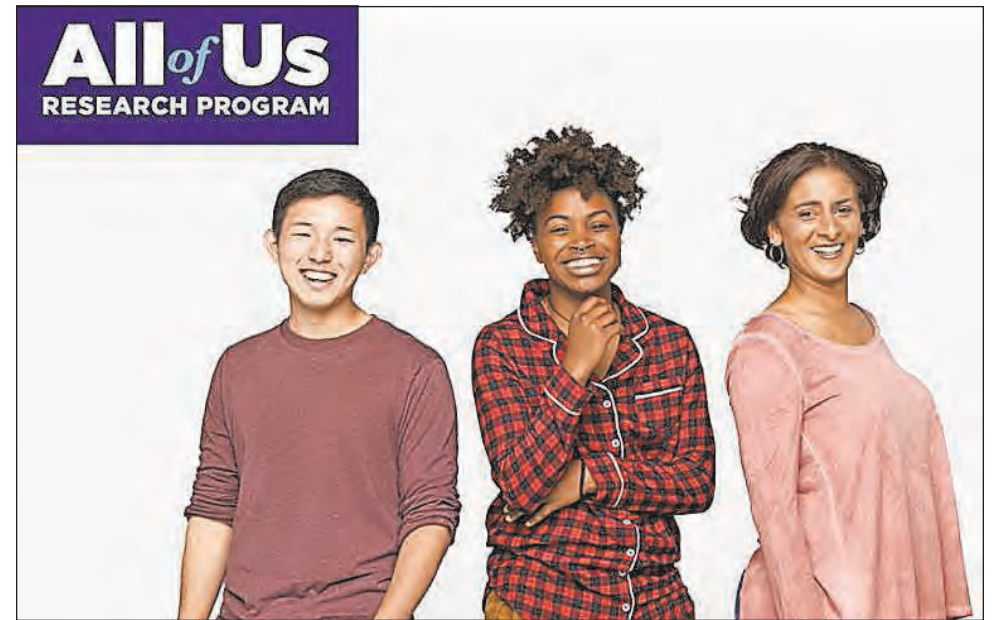
Who Can Participate?

The Kansas Health System is part of a Midwest consortium designed to make sure participants from Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska are included in the database. The consortium’s goal is to enroll 30,000 participants.

Anyone 18 and older can participate in the research program. You don’t have to be healthy, a specific age, or a specific weight. The goal of the program is to include data from a diverse group of participants.

“Building a diverse participant community will be vital to the success of All of Us, so we can address the many pressing health conditions that disproportionately affect underrepresented communities,” said Dara Richardson-Heron, M.D., chief engagement officer of the All of Us Research Program. “The All of Us Research Program has the potential to help researchers better understand and begin chipping away at health disparities so that everyone can benefit from better health, better health care and exciting new breakthroughs.”

Participants are asked to share different types of health and lifestyle information, including online Program participants will share information over many years in a variety of ways, through surveys,



The All of Us Research Program, started in 2015 under the Obama Administration, is finally enrolling participants in Kansas and Missouri. This project is changing health research in America. Participation is simple and participants receive personalized health-related DNA results detailing whether they have an increased risk for specific health conditions or how their body might process certain medications.

Enrolling in All of Us Research

To enroll in the program online and for additional information including frequently asked questions with answers go to <https://www.joinallofus.org/heartland> > Call (913) 588-2888 Email allofus@kumc.edu

electronic health records (EHRs), physical measurements, blood and urine samples and wearable technologies. The information is stripped of any personal identifiers.

The surveys will cover a range of topics to learn more about participants’ overall

health and habits and where they live and work. The EHR data will offer useful information related to medical histories, side effects and treatment effectiveness.

At different times over the coming months and years, some participants will be asked to visit a local partner site to provide blood and urine samples and to have basic physical measurements taken, such as height and weight. To ensure that the program gathers information from all types of people, especially those who have been underrepresented in research, not everyone will be asked to give physical measures and samples.

Some participants may be invited to join follow-up research studies, including clinical trials.

In addition to the data from surveys, electronic health records, physical measurements and Fitbit devices, the data also includes genome sequences that are used to develop personalized health-related DNA results for participants. So far, more than 100,000 participants have received one or more of these reports detailing whether they have an increased risk for specific health conditions or how their body might process certain medications.

These health-related DNA results are part of the program’s commitment to share information and return value to participants, while also making their data broadly available for research use.

See Research Page 23 →

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Beloved Boutique Empowers Young Black Entrepreneurs in KC's Crown Center

What was supposed to be an 8-week summer program for young Black girls has been extended to at least the end of the year

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

Shoppers strolling through Crown Center, this summer, may have been surprised to find a boutique with an exceptionally young staff.

No, retail workers don't all look like kids anymore. You may have stumbled upon Beloved Resale Boutique for Women, a pop-up boutique staffed with local middle and high school girls from the We Are Beloved Summer School Program.

The boutique and the summer program are a project of KC-based non-profit The Nia Project that focuses on supporting projects that build confidence, capacity and opportunity for Black girls and women.

The eight-week summer program for young women ages 12-17 focused on personal leadership, civic engagement and entrepreneurship.

"We were using the boutique as a carrot, really,

because who wants to go to summer school and learn about literacy and math? Nobody," says Terri Barnes, The Nia Project founder and president. "So to make it interesting. We put it around this idea of a boutique, and it worked: every girl wanted to work in the boutique."

The Beloved Boutique and the summer program were both a huge success. Program participants received mentorship and lessons for four hours a day. The program started with 36 participants with 30 completing the 8-week program. Participants who completed the program received a \$500 stipend.

Crown Center management is so pleased with the shop, they offered to extend the store's lease through the end of the year and the pop-up stores may continue even longer.

"It went very well this summer. The girls loved it, the customers loved it. We really enjoyed it," says Barnes. "And we want to



Terri Barnes inside Beloved Boutique.

continue seeing if we can figure out a way to make this work in a hybrid kind of situation."

Summer Entrepreneurship Training

The girls receive hands-on training in all aspects of running a retail business - from sourcing and pricing merchandise to customer service and money

management. Barnes says the program is filling a critical gap, since many of the program participants were already running small businesses like hair styling, nail services and baking, but lacked the business acumen to take their ventures to the next level.

"African American women are opening the most businesses over the past several years," Barnes



The boutique has a unique mix of new and gently used clothing, shoes and accessories. It also features products from several Black female entrepreneurs and artists.

Black Female Vendors at Beloved

- **Dee Milton** - Kansas City Candle Company
- **Sher Mirador** - Sherrlyn Designs
- **Clarissa Knighten** - Rissa's Artistic Design
- **Jennifer Johnson** - JGYPSY Creations
- **Cassandra Coffee** - Cassandra Coffee Photography
- **Brey** - Artistically Brey
- **Tishay M. Terry** (12-year old) - Shay's Closet

Retail Incubator

In addition to being stocked with new and gently used women's clothing, shoes, and goods priced at a bargain, the boutique also features products from six local Black women-owned businesses, including candles, jewelry, artwork and more. Customers can expect a high-end, chic shopping experience, with new items arriving weekly.

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Restaurants Face Challenges, Seek Solutions in KC's Historic Jazz District

With Soiree set to close and others struggling in the area, what can be done to make restaurants work at 18th & Vine?

By **Thomas White**
Kansas City Reporter

Inside Soiree, an anchor tenant in Kansas City's historic 18th & Vine Jazz District, owner and chef Anita Moore is working some of her last shifts. After five years in business, Soiree will close its doors at the end of August.

"Despite our best efforts to recover, the financial strain has proven insurmountable," Moore wrote in a letter to customers. "The lack of investors and ongoing economic pressures have left us with no choice but to close our doors."

Soiree's closure is the latest in a pattern of restaurant struggles in and around the 18th & Vine district. Around the corner, award-winning chef Shanita McAfee-Bryant is fighting a potential eviction from her space at 2000 Vine Street, where she operates The Prospect KC, a culinary training nonprofit and cafe.

The restaurant industry is a notoriously fickle business, but restaurants in the Jazz District face unique challenges. The restaurants must deal with a lack of foot traffic, competition from nearby entertainment districts, and a lack of coordination with area cultural groups and organizations.

City Councilmember Melissa Robinson, who represents the district, remains heavily involved in development of the Jazz District. She says the city continues to work on growing and invigorating the district.

"I think there's an opportunity for a solution for the folks that are down there," says Robinson. While the fix may not be simple, she says increasing rooftops and foot traffic are a must for restaurant and retail businesses to succeed in the district.

Supportive Residential Base

By "rooftops," Robinson means increasing the number of people living in the district is a way to help



Owner and Chef of Soiree Anita Moore.

increase foot traffic.

Recently opened One Nine Vine Apartments added new residents to the district, and renovation of Parade Park will also increase the district's residential count. The second phase of the One Nine Vine project has been approved for construction, which will bring even more residents.

What's particularly good is that these projects are market-rate rentals that help to create a mixed-income neighborhood. Apartments in the district had been mostly low-income housing. A mixed-income neighborhood can better support nearby restaurants.

Increasing Foot Traffic

Chuck Byrd operated Bayou on the Vine, a Cajun restaurant and bar on the corner of 18th and Vine, from 2018-2021. He quickly identified foot traffic as a major hurdle for restaurants in the area.

"You need something down there that's going to be the staple and that's going to create foot traffic, not just on the weekends, but Monday through Friday," says Byrd.

Byrd's restaurant ultimately closed due to building maintenance issues, highlighting another challenge in the historic district - aging



Restaurants have struggled recently in the 18th & Vine Jazz District.

infrastructure in some properties.

For Soiree, which leased its space from the city, building issues were less of a factor since the city is required to keep the building up to code.

Byrd says his business benefited from Sprint's hub in the area, but they've moved out. While the jazz and Negro Leagues museums drive traffic to the district on a daily basis, they don't drive enough traffic to the district to sustain one, let alone multiple restaurants. He says the district needs another big draw or the cumulative impact of smaller draws like programs, businesses with employees and/or more residents.

The Right Mix of Activities

"What I am noticing is two-fold," says Robinson. "One, there has to be programming in the area where you are driving foot traffic, and two, we need complementary businesses to meet that foot traffic."

The district has an increasingly busy programming schedule, but there's always room for more, especially with the traffic volume restaurants need.

The American Jazz Museum has stepped up its programming with a great lineup in the Blue Room, jazz concerts on the pavilion, and jazz storytelling to attract more visitors.

The Zhou Brothers Art Center opened with a gallery and

expanded event space that can attract large crowds, and KC Friends of Alvin Ailey has a regular mix of community-based classes for youth and adults.

Under construction is a renovated Boone Theater, which will house The Black Movie Hall of Fame, and street festivals are a regular in the district almost six months out of the year. The Gem Theater has an active mix of events.

"We don't want those folks to just come in and not activate their wallets," says Robinson.

The Right Mix of Businesses in the District

Second, Robinson noted the need for a mix of businesses that complement the needs of foot traffic in the district. She suspects the district needs more options for visitors.

"If someone wants a cup of coffee, they have to go over to McDonalds on 14th and Prospect," noted Byrd, pointing to a shortcoming in the district's service mix.

Other options are places for families to grab breakfast before a baseball game at the Urban Youth Academy or lunch after a museum visit. She said the city is open to a number of options, including a place to grab light snacks in a convenience or grocery store, a lynchpin restaurant, and a place for coffee or a light lunch.

Robinson says that the city (which owns much of the property in 18th & Vine) needs to meet with the area's cultural institutions and existing residents to see what is needed. She noted that evaluating the right mix of businesses to complement the new residents will be crucial.

Request for Proposals

The city plans to release a broad Request for Proposals for three vacant restaurant spaces in the coming months. The three spaces

See **JAZZ** Page 22 →

Submit Your calendar item at <https://bit.ly/4dftOSD>

WICHITA

Thu., Aug 29, 6 pm: Rally for Kamala Harris Naftzger Park, 601 E. Douglas

Thu., Aug. 29, 7:30 pm: Nadjah Nicole, Walker's Jazz Lounge, 252 N. Mosley. This finalist on NBC's "The Voice" will bring an unforgettable experience to Wichita. COST \$15+ <https://bit.ly/3WTe0xW>

Thu., Aug. 29, 2-3 pm: Renters' Rights, Wichita State University, Rhatigan Center, East Beggs Ballroom, 3rd Floor.

The Sunflower and Wichita Journalism Collaborative will host a panel that will provide college students with the information they need to be informed renters. A representative from Consumer Credit Counseling also will be on the panel and discuss the importance of credit scores and how to budget for housing and other needs. There will be time for questions.

Fri., Aug. 30, 7 pm: Jazzy Soul Night, Walker's Jazz Lounge, 252 N. Mosley. Enjoy Fountain and band members Charlie Ray, Marty Bowie and Corey Rolfe will be joined by several guest singers, making this a spectacular night of music you won't want to miss. COST \$15+

Fri., Aug. 30, 8 pm: We Got Them Jokes Comedy Tour, Lava Hookah Lounge, 6260 E. 21st St. Headliner DeSoFunny, Uncle Bam, Tre Diesel, and host "Superstar" Mark Jones. This is the last stop of the tour. COST \$25 at door

Sat., Aug. 31, 5 - 10:30 pm: 11th Wichita African Union Annual Celebration, Hyatt Regency, 400 W. Waterman. A cultural celebration where they will award scholarships to college and university students, celebrate the Union with cultural activities and displays. There will be food, music, dance, silent auction raffle drawing and a presentation on Africa and the African Diaspora today. COST \$75 <https://bit.ly/4fSOaCT>

Sat., Aug. 31, 7 - 9 pm: FR3DEM Music, Naftzger Park, 601 E. Douglas. Free-flowing jam session, courtesy of FR3EDM Music. Live performances by up-and-coming artists. **FREE**

Sat., Aug. 31, 4:30 pm: Wichita Gospel Music Hall of Fame, Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, 2727 E. 25th St. N. Honorees: Pastor Ronda Kingwood; ARISE, Inc.; Paul White Sr.; Pastor Tommy Wade; Evangelist Stephanie Vann, Exalt Chorale/Jermane Milton; the late Brandon McCray; and Roberta Jackson Durant. **FREE**

Sat., Aug. 31, 12 - 4 pm: Homeless Outreach by Community Jam Force & The Phoenix, 145 N. Wabash. Mobile showers sponsored by Carrs Plumbing and HVAC, with fresh clothing and free haircuts (several barbers and hair stylists will be on hand), and hot meals. Volunteers wanted, call 316-252-1146.

Fri., Sept. 6, 6 - 10 pm: The Session Live, The Center, 1914 E. 11th St. Celebrating the

award-nominated podcast "The BlackMen's Locker." This exclusive event is tailored for adults 21 and older, promising an engaging experience with discussions that dive deep into culture, society, and personal growth. Tickets at TheBlackMensLocker.com.

Sat., Sept. 7, 9 am: Demofest, Hyatt Regency, 400 W. Waterman. Info TBA - currently finalizing ticketing, schedule, and keynote speaker for lunch and VIP events (no banquet this year). Event by Sedgwick County Democratic Party. **COST: TBD**

Sat., Sept. 7, 10:30 am - 1 pm: The Sister Circle Brunch, Petroleum Club of Wichita, 100 N. Broadway - Room 900. Say goodbye to summer. Ticket includes brunch buffet and beverage, music by DJ Detroit, cash bar, giveaways, networking and sisterhood. COST \$35+ <https://bit.ly/4d9tMeW>

Sat., Sept. 7, 6 pm: 2024 Blackout Awards ICT Black Hollywood, WSU Metroplex, 5015 E. 29th St. Includes red carpet entrance, VIP lounge, hors d'oeuvres, welcome cocktail after-party. COST \$125 VIP, \$65 general admission. Tickets www.BlackOutICT.com.

Sat., Sept. 7, 8 am: 2024 Wichita 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb, Epic Center, 301 N. Main. Climbing 110 flights for the Fallen 343 and never forgetting the ultimate sacrifices made on Sept. 11, 2001. **FREE**

Thu., Sept. 12, 9 am: When Everyone Leads, Kansas Leadership Center, 325 E. Douglas. This six-hour, one-day course makes leadership radically accessible and inclusive, and helps unleash capacity for collective leadership in teams, organizations, coalitions and communities. **FREE.** Registration closes Aug. 29 or when max capacity is reached. <https://bit.ly/3yLWROO>

Fri., Sept. 13 & Sept. 20, 9 am - 3:30 pm HealthCore - Via Christi Mobile Mammography, HealthCore Clinic, 2707 E. 21st St. You must schedule an appointment. They bring the equipment and providers to you. Women over 40 are eligible for screening if it has been at least 12 months since their last mammogram. Appointment must be made at HealthCore. **FREE**

Sat., Sept. 14, 10 am: Business Launch & Book Signing, Aroma Coffeehouse, 2243 N. Ridge Rd. Interested in having your book or personal story written? Meet Ty Davis and learn all about the ghostwriting service that he provides. Ty will read from the two books that he has written describing his life story. Prizes. **FREE** plus handcrafted coffee, drinks, homemade goods, and snacks for purchase.

Sat., Sept. 28, 6 pm: CASA of Sedgwick County Benefit: CASAINO, Beggs Ballroom, Rhatigan Student Center, WSU. An exciting evening of casino games, raffles, auctions, a roving illusionist, music by DJ Carbon, food, prizes and more. For more info, contact Danielle Thompson at dthompson@

casaofsedgwickcounty.org

Fri., Oct. 11, 9 am - 3:30 pm HealthCore - Via Christi Mobile Mammography, HealthCore Clinic, 2707 E 21st St. You must schedule an appointment. Contact your host site organizer to schedule. They bring the equipment and providers to you! -Women over 40 are eligible for screening if it has been at least 12 months since your last mammogram. Appointment must be made at HealthCore. **FREE**

Sat. Oct 19, 6 pm: 104th Annual Wichita NAACP Freedom Fund Awards Banquet, Marriott Hotel, 9100 Corporate Hills Dr. (Kellogg & Webb). 2024 Honorees are: Pastor Yolanda Oliver; Michael Jackson; Janice Thacker; Moniqueka Holloway; Junetta Everett; Dr. J Michelle Vann; LEGACY AWARDEES: Tracee Adams, Lynette Woodard, Chela Love, Charles Knox, Twanda Hamilton. COST: \$75 Purchase tickets at wichtaksnacp.org

OVERLAND PARK

Sun., Sept. 1, 8 pm: Skating Party, Skate City, 10440 Mastin St. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Upsilon Rho Chapter hosts scholarship fundraiser & voter registration. Adults only. Tickets at: akaupsilonrhoomega.com. COST \$20

TOPEKA

Thu., Sept. 5, 6:30 pm: Black Women You Should Know About, ArtsConnect, 909 N. Kansas. Hear how Ella Baker and Bell Hooks, two Black women, redefined excellence. Daisy Karimi and ShaMecha King-Simms will be our presenters for the evening. Anita Alexander will inform us about voting this election season.

KANSAS CITY

Tue., Aug. 27, 7 pm: Taco Tuesday, 1827 Vine St. Hosted by Everybody Loves Ross Podcast. \$2 tacos, games and karaoke. Drink specials. **FREE**

Sat., Aug. 31, 4 - 8 pm: Fine Art & Wine Festival, 6143 Blue Ridge Blvd. Complementing the art, local winery and vineyards Black Farmer Jane and Me-Kol's Validation Privilege, offer tastings of their finest wines. Visitors can sample a range of varieties from sweet red and white wines, to robust and crisp reds, and bubbly whites. COST \$25

Sat., Aug. 31, 9 am: Mock Interviews, Kansas City Keystone CoLAB, 800 E. 18th St. They will help you get to where you want to be. Whether that is finding a code bootcamp, prepping for a job interview, or leveling up your skills, There will be experienced programmers looking to share technical knowledge and access to their network. Register <https://bit.ly/4dLGIINE>. **FREE**

Sun., Sept. 1, 4 pm: Kansas City Women Empowerment, The Krave KC, 9700 E. 63rd St. Fun-filled event where you can meet new people, enjoy great food, and participate in

exciting activities. COST \$20

Sun., Sept. 1, 6 pm: Richard Wright and Ta-Nehisi Coates On Black Identity, BLK + BRWN, 104 1/2 W 39th. Through focused sessions, attendees will delve into the life, literary style, and thematic contributions of different Black authors, engaging in discussions that dissect topics such as race, identity, feminism, activism, and more. **FREE**

Fri., Sept. 6, 10 am: Jazz Storytelling, American Jazz Museum Atrium, 1616 18th St. Aimed at toddlers to early elementary schoolers, Jazz Storytelling is led by vocalist Lisa Henry, storyteller Brother John, drummer Mike Warren, and bassist Tyrone Clark. Their master storytelling skills bring an innovative, engaged approach for you and the whole family to enjoy. **FREE**

Fri., Sept. 6, 6:30 pm: Dope Black Dads KCK, National Center for Family and Parent Leadership, 2100 N 13th St. Empowering Black fathers in their knowledge around maternal and infant health. Giving Black fathers the opportunity to have a safe space to speak on issues that affects them the most, while breaking down the stigma and increasing mental health awareness for Black men. **FREE**

Sun., Sept. 8, 3 pm: Kansas City's Taste of Brazil, American Jazz Museum Atrium, 1616 E. 18th St. Featuring the Sons of Brazil. **FREE**

Fri. - Sun., Sept. 13 - 15, 5 pm: KC's Reggae Music & Jerk Festival, Berkley Riverfront, 1298 River Front Dr. Fri. (5-11 pm) mainstage lineup - Tradition Music Society, Esoke Dancers, Jah Lion, New Common Ground, Empress Akua, The Meditations. Sat (noon - 11 pm) - DJ Eddie Bo, DJ Junior George, Osezua, Maganda, Yard Squad, Empress Akua, Upfront, Kenyatta Hill. Sun (noon - 11 pm) - Ras Shumba Matsiga, Aryana Nemati, A-Z One, Deepa Reality, Page 7, Michael Long, Luciano. COST \$20+ <https://bit.ly/3AuryIS>

Sat., Sept. 14, 7:30 pm: Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center 35th Anniversary Legacy Concert, Gem Theater, 1615 E. 18th St. Performances by Regina Belle, Shai, & Sunshine Anderson. COST \$65+ <https://bit.ly/3YPthm1>

Thu., Sept. 19, 7 - 10 pm: AJM Presents: 18th & Vine Summer Concert Series, American Jazz Museum, Jay McShann Pavilion, 1616 E 18th. Featuring BOKU Maru. **FREE**

Sat., Sept. 28, 6 pm: The G.I.F.T. Of Color Gala, The Lex at the Municipal, 301 W. 13th St. A Night to Remember: Uplifting Our Community's Entrepreneurs. Not just an evening out, a statement of support and a celebration of what we can accomplish together. COST \$100 <https://bit.ly/4eqQdgX>

Sat., Sept. 28, 8 am: Black Women Get Fit 2024. Southeast Community Center, Swope Park Bandstand & Surrounds. Keynote Speaker, Meredith Rose, CEO & President of Cornerstones of Care. The ultimate day party.

BlackOut ICT Awards Return to Celebrate Wichita Black Excellence

It's one of Wichita's premier events, back after a one-year break.

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



The countdown is on. Wichita's BlackOut ICT Awards Show is back and it's just weeks away.

There will be ladies and gents in their finest apparel and rubbing elbows with Who's Who in Wichita, with red-carpet picture opportunities culminating with an enjoyable, well-produced show that reveals the top award winners in 30 categories.

The third BlackOut ICT Awards Show, recognizing the outstanding achievements of Wichita's Black professionals, is set for Sat., Sept. 7.

After selling out the Crown Uptown Theater last time out, they're moving the event to a bigger venue – Wichita State University's Metroplex, at 29th Street North and Oliver.

With doors opening at 4:30 p.m. and the show starting at 6 p.m., there's plenty of time for pre-event socializing. General admission attendees can gather in the main lobby and, yes, there will be a cash bar, but drinks cannot be taken into the



The BlackOut ICT Awards were created and developed by these four ladies, whom you'll see actively engaging with people at the event.

auditorium.

While general admission will offer a good vibe, if you want to step it up a notch, consider purchasing a VIP ticket. This experience includes a pre-event reception in the VIP lounge with a free welcome drink and hors d'oeuvres, VIP seating and an after-party following the show.

General admission tickets are \$65 and VIP tickets are \$125. Tickets can

be purchased online at <https://ticketstripe.com/theblackoutict>.

Since its debut in 2019, this prestigious event has offered an unparalleled platform to celebrate local talent.

"This event is about more than just awards," said Ashlee Norris, one of the four event organizers and owner of Simply

See **BLACKOUT** Page 23 →



ARISE

8th Wichita Gospel Music Hall of Fame Honors Aug. 31

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

Wichita's finest in gospel music will be honored at the eighth annual Wichita Gospel Music Hall of Fame Awards presentation on Sat., Aug. 31, at Progressive Missionary Baptist Church.

This year, six individuals and two choirs will be inducted. In addition, for the first time, Wichita Gospel Music Hall of Fame founder Cameo Profit will present a special Founder's Award.

Selected to the hall of fame from Wichita's abundant list of great gospel talent are:



Pastor Ronda Kingwood has been singing in churches and on stages around Wichita for decades. She drew a lot of attention as the director of magnification at Saint Mark United Methodist Church and now she's senior pastor of Heart of Christ Church.

Paul White Sr. has been



active in Wichita's gospel music community for more than four decades. He's an active member of Saint Mark United Methodist, where he sings in choirs, but he can always be counted on to show up in support of gospel music across Wichita, regularly singing in community choirs such as the Riverfest And Martin Luther King Jr. celebration choirs.



Pastor Tommy Wade is being honored for his support of gospel music in Wichita. As senior pastor of New Jerusalem Baptist Church, he opened his

sanctuary for gospel concerts at a time when Century II and other large venues weren't an option. At 80, he's the last of his generation in Wichita church leadership.



Evangelist Stephanie Vann is a well-known singer who was the first recording artist signed to Wichita's Moshika Records. Her 2002 album "God Is" had great success on the gospel music record charts.



Roberta Jackson-Durant is a Wichita native who moved to Atlanta, where she See **HONORS** Page 23 →

Strangers Rest Church Wichita Celebrates 70th Anniversary

Pastor Earl Burkhalter & the Strangers Rest Congregation complete two-weekend celebration Sun., Aug. 25.

By P.J. Greikspoor
Wichita Reporter

Wichita's Strangers Rest Missionary Baptist Church is celebrating its 70th anniversary this month with a concert, a black-tie gala and special services with guest ministers held over two weekends, ending Sun., Aug. 25.

It was in the summer 1954 when the Rev. Curtis Williams felt the call to lead a group of about 20 baptized believers from Wichita's Planeview neighborhood to form a new church. They met at the YMCA at 1221 N. Cleveland, in Wichita, and designated their congregation Strangers Rest Baptist Church.

Since that humble beginning, Strangers Rest has had two more homes: the first at 1943 N. Ash and the current location, at 2521 N. Grove. It has been served by five pastors: the Rev. Williams, the Rev. C. B. Brookins, the Rev. Albert Scott, the Rev. F. Earl Hutchinson, and the current

senior pastor, the Rev. Earl L. Burkhalter.

Each pastor contributed accomplishments that brought Strangers Rest to its current status.

Brookins moved the church to its current location, which had been the Church of the Nazarene.

Scott started a religious educational school and had a vision for a greater church campus. He died suddenly while preaching a revival in Denver, CO, before realizing his dream.

Hutchinson had a vision and a plan. He started a "By Faith Building Fund" by contributing the first \$1,000 and challenged the members to make pledges. Within two years, a new building and sanctuary were completed and the exterior of the old building was renovated.

Burkhalter, a Wichita native, accepted a position as interim pastor in 1989, and a few months later was installed as full-time pastor.

"I had never pastored before, but, by God's grace, I

was able to lead companies and congregations through rough waters. Now, 35 years later, I'm still navigating Strangers Rest Church by the Lord's grace," Burkhalter said.

Burkhalter and his wife, Carolyn, have four daughters, 16 grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

Under his leadership, the church has fully paved a parking lot with sidewalks all around the church, added administrative parking and completed the renovation of the original church building into what is now C.B. Brookins Fellowship Hall. The church sound system has been enhanced, they've purchased a new church van for outreach ministry, replaced air conditioning units and paid off the mortgage.

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, the church began sharing their Sunday services via conference call and Facebook.

The Celebration

The celebration of 70 years of Strangers Rest began with a pre-anniversary concert on Sat., Aug. 17, 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary. The concert featured Clifton Fisher and Total Restoration Singers with special guest Cherrie Dennis Baldon.

The black-tie gala and 70th anniversary banquet will be held on Sat., Aug. 24, 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Plaza, 549 S. Rock Road, Wichita. The Rev. Dr. F.D. Sampson Sr. of Houston will be the guest banquet speaker.

Tickets, which should have been purchased by Aug. 19, were \$50 each.

Guest pastor for the 10 a.m. anniversary celebration on Sun., Aug. 25, will be the Rev. Sam Holmes from Paradise Baptist Church, Tulsa. The 4 p.m. closing celebration will feature Pastor Leland Brown from Tabernacle Bible Church, Wichita.



First Lady Carol and Pastor Earl Burkhalter

JAZZ, from Page 19 ↓

include Soiree's spot on the corner and two adjacent storefronts. They could be combined into a larger space or used as three distinct businesses.

In addition, the city is exploring new ways to support aspiring restaurateurs in the district. Robinson mentioned the possibility of an incubator-style approach, similar to a program at the Kansas City airport where chefs can test concepts before opening standalone restaurants.

"We are open to all ideas," Robinson said.

What's next?

Robinson says that as new

development comes to the area, maintaining the district's identity as a hub of Black culture and history remains a priority. Byrd cautioned that there's a risk of gentrification if the area becomes more of an entertainment district than a historic district.

"Between 18th and Vine and 12th and Brooklyn, that's the only thing we have left as Black people," Byrd said. "They're just waiting for us to exhaust all of our efforts down there, and they will then connect 18th and Vine with the Crossroads, and then it'll become an entertainment district. The only problem is the new owners down there won't look like me or you."

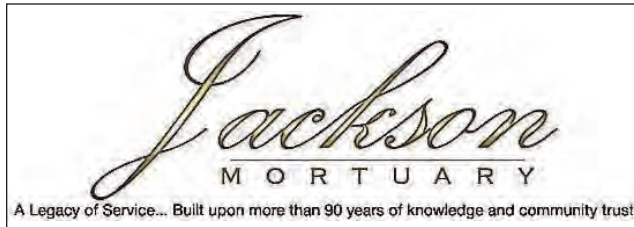


FREE EVENT! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

FALL EXHIBITION
OPENING CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29 | 5:30-8 P.M. | 1845 FAIRMOUNT

Ulrich
Museum
of Art

**Edward Z. Jones, 96**

Feb. 4, 1928 - Aug. 11, 2024

Service will be held Tue., Aug. 27, 11 a.m. at St. Mark United Methodist Church, 1525 N. Lorraine.

Ada Wesley, 86

June 20, 1938 - Aug. 7, 2024

Service was held Aug. 16 at Greater Mizpah Baptist Church.

Eddie L. Caddell Jr., 62

Sept. 1, 1961 - Aug. 5, 2024
Service was held Aug. 23 at St. Mark Cathedral Church of God in Christ.

Minnie James, 49

Sept. 24, 1974 - Aug. 5, 2024

Service was held Aug. 22 at New Testament Non-Denominational Church.

George Lattimore, 61

Oct. 1, 1962 - Aug. 5, 2024
Service was held Aug. 24 at Mt. Olive COGIC.

Lucille Portley, 59

June 4, 1965 - Aug. 3, 2024
Service will be held Sat., Aug. 31, 11 a.m. at New Life Church, 1156 N. Oliver.

Pamela A. Scott, 65

May 10, 1959 - Aug. 3, 2024
Service was held Aug. 23 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel.

Maccyne Johnson, 92

Sept. 19, 1931 - Aug. 2, 2024

Service was held Aug 17 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel.

Walter R. Underwood, 79

July 21, 1945 - Aug. 2, 2024
Service was held Aug. 16 at Greater Mizpah Baptist Church.

DRUGS, from Page 11 ↓

and chronic kidney disease
Negotiated price: \$197 for a 30-day supply
Reduction: 66%

Stelara

Manufacturer: Janssen Biotech Inc.

Conditions: Psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis
Negotiated price: \$4,695 for a 30-day supply
Reduction: 66%

Xarelto

Manufacturer: Janssen Pharms
Conditions: Prevention and treatment of blood clots.
Reduction of risk for patients with coronary or peripheral artery disease
Negotiated price: \$197 for a 30-day supply

Reduction: 62%

Eliquis

Manufacturer: Bristol Myers Squibb
Conditions: Prevention and treatment of blood clots
Negotiated price: \$231 for a 30-day supply
Reduction: 56%

Entresto

Manufacturer: Novartis Pharms Corp
Conditions: Heart failure
Negotiated price: \$295 for a 30-day supply
Reduction: 53%

Imbruvica

Manufacturer: Pharmacyclics LLC
Conditions: Blood cancers
Negotiated price: \$9,319 for a 30-day supply
Savings: 38%

Research, from Page 17 ↓**Researchers and Data**

Ultimately, the All of Us Research Program will be a rich and open data resource for researchers and scientists. Researchers of all types, from citizen scientists to investigators in academia and

industry, may request free access to the data, which will be de-identified to protect participant privacy.

More than 5,000 researchers have registered to use the All of Us Researcher Workbench. Registered researchers have access to an expanded set of tools to use in working with available data types.

"Now, through a partnership with participants, researchers, and diverse communities across the country, we are seeing incredible progress towards powering scientific discoveries that can lead to a healthier future for all of us," said Josh Denny, M.D., M.S., chief executive officer of the All of Us Research Program.

BLACKOUT, from Page 21 ↓

Beautiful Hair Salon. "It's about celebrating the hard work, creativity, and impact that these individuals have on our community. It's a moment for us all to come together and recognize excellence in our own backyard."

Joining Norris in executing the awards program are her friends and fellow cosmetologists: Julia Brown, owner of Bijoux Beauty Bar; Erin Garcia,

owner of Erin E'Nae Hair & Beauty; and Paris Walker, co-owner of Mark Paris the Shoppe.

While they promise this year's event will deliver, they aren't revealing much about what attendees can anticipate. Here's the only hint they shared: This year's show is geared toward iconic Black movies.

The nomination process is over, as is voting by the public.

This year, awards will be

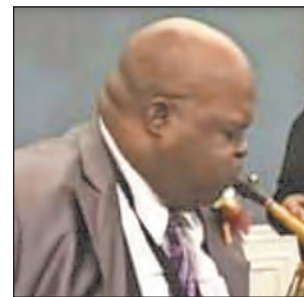
given in 30 categories:

- Poet Award
- Braider Award
- Loctician Award
- Esthetician Award
- Male Actor Award
- Female Actor Award
- Good Eats Award
- Boutique Award
- DJ Award
- Barber Award
- Cosmetologist Award
- Nail Tech Award
- Mental Health Champion
- Makeup Artist Award

- Athletic Trainer Award
- Fitness Instructor Award
- Sports Organization Award
- Videographer Award
- Photographer Award
- Lash/Brow Tech Award
- Podcast Award
- Gallery Art Award
- Realtor Award
- Custom Design Award
- Dance Award
- Drink Up Wichita Award
- Broadway Actor Award
- Broadway Actress Award
- New Business Award

HONORS, from Page 21 ↓

forged a reputation under former Wichitan minister Dirk Cheney. Her voice became so notable that she became a member of Bobby Jones Gospel Ensemble and appeared on television every week on Jones' popular BET show.



Dr. Brandon McCray (posthumous) was a world-renowned gospel saxophonist and reverend, and a dedicated music educator. His music moved. Sadly, McCray died early in the COVID-19 pandemic at age 52.

Group honorees:

ARISE, Inc., was founded in 1988 to educate about the history of Negro spirituals. The multi-cultural, multi-generational ensemble, with about 35 members, remains true to its

**Jermaine Dupree and exalt**

roots and hasn't stopped performing since.

Jermaine Milton and Exalt Chorale gave birth to contemporary gospel music in Wichita in the new millennium. The group was founded and directed by Milton, whose gifted voice was featured in most of the group's songs.

Founder's Award

Trevon Houston, a talented drummer who has played in Wichita area churches for decades, will be the recipient of the event's first Founder's Award. Profit says the award is personal, with him selecting people to honor who have had a great impact on his life. Profit says he decided to become a

drummer after seeing Houston play in a church.

"I watched him as a child and it made me want to become that," said Profit. "He was my mentor and he still is until this day."

Awards Ceremony

The Aug. 31 award ceremony will be held at Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, 2727 E. 25th St., Wichita. The event is free, but there will be a freewill offering. The event begins at 3:30 p.m. with a red carpet moment. The program begins at 4:30 p.m. That's an earlier start time than in the past.

"I wanted the seasoned people to be able to come out and

still be able to get home while it's still daylight," said Profit.

The Wichita Gospel Music Hall of Fame was started by Minister Cameo Profit, a talented gospel performer in his own right. Each year, he sponsors the program, free of charge, with the costs coming out of his pocket.

"Oftentimes, you can feel forgotten or feel looked down upon or replaced. This program lets them (honorees) know they will never be forgotten," he said. "I love God, but it's good to be appreciated too."

He hopes to eventually have a permanent location for the hall of fame.

The freewill offering will help him with that project and other ministry and project goals.

8th Annual Gospel Music Hall of Fame

Sat., Aug. 31, 3:30 p.m. Red Carpet; 4:30 p.m. show begins
Progressive Missionary Baptist Church
2727 E. 25th Street, Wichita
Free & Open to the Public
Freewill offering



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://www.kauffman.org/our-strategy)

