

# Liberty home goods and juice store to open second location in North Kansas City

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A gift shop based in Liberty is set to open a second location this month in North Kansas City.

Lemonality, which sells fresh squeezed juices, home goods, party supplies and stationery at 10 W. Kansas St., is opening a second shop inside North Kansas City's Iron District on March 14.

Owner Tawni Jedwski, 34, opened Lemonality in 2022 after having an online Etsy store. At that point, she had gotten tired of selling online and wanted to open a brick and mortar store instead.

"At that point, I had never worked a day of retail in my life, so I truly had no clue what I was doing. I just knew I wanted it to be a fun and a happy place," she said.

Jedwski sells both local products made locally and from around the country, emphasizing small businesses she can relate to.

The new storefront will be tiny, inside the Iron District, 1599 Iron St., an outdoor food court made of repurposed shipping containers. Jedwski said she is being strategic with shelving inside the unit to maximize the amount of things that can fit inside.

"We wanted to get closer to downtown. There's a lot of people

that don't know about us, and we've been around for almost four years, and the juice and lemonade thing has been a really fun addition to our store," Jedwski said.

Lemonality introduced the drink bar two years ago in Liberty to add another fun twist to the store. The menu has two sides: customizable freshly squeezed lemonade and cold pressed juices. There are six staple juices on the menu, and rotating flavors of the week, according to Jedwski.

"You choose your sweetness level," she said. "We do lots of specialty flavors, so we try to do themed with the holidays or with events in Kansas

City."

Shoppers can expect the second Lemonality location to have a good mix of merchandise sold in the Liberty location, including puzzles, candles and Kansas City-themed items. It will not, however, sell party supplies and balloons like at the Liberty location, according to Jedwski.

"We want people to say, 'Wow, we've never seen this before,'" she said. "This is so different, I've never seen this company or brand, and that's just what I try to do."

Jedwski hopes in the future to expand to another unit in the Iron District to have space for a second fresh juice bar. Until then,



Tawni Jedwski

Lemonality will open its second location inside North Kansas City's Iron District March 14.

the second location will sell bottled juices freshly squeezed at the Liberty location.

The shop will be located

next to the next to Melt Box ice cream and will be open Thursday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

FROM PAGE 1A

## JUDGE

irreparable harm if the court did not intervene.

"Each side tells the Court 'harm will happen' to their side no matter what the Court does," McCabria wrote. "But the Court cannot fairly analyze important concepts like injury to personal autonomy, informational privacy or equality under the law (or even determine whether they apply) without examining well-developed factual scenarios that have been subjected to challenge and debate."

### JUDGE TOUTS KANSANS' TOLERANCE

The new law, which was enacted by Republican supermajorities in the Legislature over Gov. Laura Kelly's veto, vio-

lates multiple provisions of the Kansas Constitution, the ACLU argues.

The law establishes penalties for people who don't use restrooms on government property in accordance with their sex assigned at birth. It also prohibits state agencies from updating the gender markers on driver's licenses and birth certificates and requires anyone who has amended that information on their documents to surrender them for replacement at their own cost.

The legal challenge was brought on behalf of two trans men who live in Lawrence and are identified under pseudonyms in court filings as Daniel Doe and Matthew Moe.

Kobach, who urged the Legislature to pass the law, is leading its defense on behalf of the state.

"The Attorney General says the restroom component of the Act was necessary to protect Kansans from encounters that invade their sense of security, privacy and tradition. No examples of actual encounters have been offered to the Court," McCabria wrote.

"Plaintiffs say that obeying the law will lead to encounters that invade not only their sense of self but also the sense of security and privacy of those they will encounter in the assigned restroom. No examples of actual encounters with others having occurred or ongoing were presented to the Court," he added.

Arguments put forward by both sides about the driver's license and birth

certificate provisions of the law were similarly unsatisfactory to the judge.

"In hearing the arguments of each side, the Court is struck by a basic assumption each side makes about the other — that our 'lesser angels' drive our choices," McCabria wrote.

"Yet, the very paucity of actual examples that either side has put forward in any of the arguments suggests the opposite — that the vast majority of Kansans are tolerant, understanding, accepting and generally supportive of each other and that the vast majority of transgender persons have experienced this as Kansans."

McCabria ordered attorneys for both parties to appear in court next Wednesday at 9 a.m. for a case management conference.

## Five people injured, including police officers, following fire in Bonner Springs

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Five people, including two police officers, were injured in Bonner Springs house fire on Monday.

First-responders with the Bonner Springs fire and police departments were called to the 500 block of Allcutt Avenue just before 7:15 p.m. Monday on reports of a house fire, according to a news release from Bonner Springs Police Department chief of police William Naff.

Officers noticed heavy smoke and fire coming from the house, and two witnesses told them that there were

still people inside the home, Naff said. Officers and firefighters were able to safely remove everyone from the residence.

Two residents and a citizen, who stopped to assist officers, were transported to an area hospital with serious injuries, Naff said. The good Samaritan had been released by Tuesday evening.

Two officers were also transported to an area hospital with minor injuries and smoke inhalation, Naff said. They had been released as of Tuesday evening.

Investigators are still working to determine the cause of the fire.

FROM PAGE 1A

## ICE

past years from CoreCivic . . . was acceptable."

"Through this process, the city has secured stronger oversight, clearer guardrails and a significant financial concession that protects our taxpayers moving forward," Pittman said.

On Monday night, faith leaders from across the Kansas City metro held a vigil near the prison, denouncing the Trump administration's mass deportation strategy and CoreCivic's human rights record. On Tuesday, city officials limited the public comment time to one hour, but demonstrators gathered early at City Hall and stayed late protesting outside.

"Giving CoreCivic an opportunity to open their facility in Leavenworth endangers us all," said Noah Baker, a student at Leavenworth High School, during the public hearing. "If they are allowed to violate human rights and break laws and get away with it and get away with it, that is dangerous. Because what is stopping them from detaining and abusing people if not you here today?"

CoreCivic says the prison can accommodate 1,033 incarcerated adults and that it has already hired approximately 280 of the 300 workers it plans to employ there. The company has agreed to pay the city a one-time impact fee of \$1.5 million on top of \$400,000 in annual payments to account for additional police resources and general administrative costs associated with the prison's operation.

The mood was tense throughout the meeting as more than a dozen law enforcement officers sur-

veyed the action within the packed commission chamber, the overflow room and outside City Hall. Two people were arrested for disrupting the meeting with anti-CoreCivic interjections.

Nineteen-year-old Jalen Brown and 33-year-old Adam Meysing were taken to the county jail and held on unspecified charges at \$250 cash bail, sheriff's office records show. They were both released after the meeting ended, when fellow protesters showed up at the jail to post their bail.

### MISGIVINGS IN A PRISON COMMUNITY

CoreCivic's correctional facility is one of five in Leavenworth County, along with FCI Leavenworth, Lansing State Prison, the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth and a day reporting center owned by another private prison company, GEO Group.

An unspecified number of non-citizen detainees are already being held at FCI Leavenworth under a 2025 agreement between ICE and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

But CoreCivic's detention center has stood empty since the end of 2021, when its contract with the U.S. Marshals Service lapsed under a Joe Biden executive order barring the Department of Justice from contracting with private prisons.

In the months before its closure, as chronic understaffing and the stockpiling of weapons and drugs threatened inmate and employee safety, the prison earned a scathing assessment from U.S.

District Judge Julie Robinson, who called it "an absolute hell hole" during



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Yazmin, a regional resident and a DACA recipient, addressed supporters after the Leavenworth city commission approved a zoning permit Tuesday, March 10, that allows a private prison company, CoreCivic, to reopen its shuttered prison on the outskirts of town as an ICE detention center.

a sentencing hearing in September 2021.

Attorneys representing inmates there said the facility's culture of violence and inattentiveness led to two suicides and at least 10 severe beatings and stabbings in its final year of operation.

"Where our current prisons make community, CoreCivic makes profit," Leavenworth resident Alida Kress said during public comments. "Leavenworth has welcomed them before and been betrayed by them before. When they operated here, they cut costs, they lied, they understaffed, they neglected their inmates. They created an environment that fostered violence."

From the outset, CoreCivic's attempts to rebrand the facility it first opened in 1992 as an ICE detention center roiled the community.

In 2023, local officials short-circuited negotiations when loud opposition from residents

prompted the county to stop serving as an intermediary between the company and ICE. A renewed effort in 2024 was met with similar resistance, from concerns over the prison's history of violence to fears that immigrants brought to Leavenworth might take up permanent residence there.

The agreement approved by the City Commission on Tuesday prohibits immigrant detainees from being released into Leavenworth unless they were arrested there or if a court specifically orders it. Otherwise, detainees being released or deported would be taken to Kansas City International Airport.

CoreCivic will be required to maintain a staffing level of at least 0.29 full-time employees for every one detainee that it houses.

The city and company agreed to the establishment of a community task force designed to hold CoreCivic accountable for

any violations of the agreement, including provisions requiring it to grant access to the premises within two business days upon the request of law enforcement or city inspectors.

### CORECIVIC'S OTHER ICE PRISONS

The Brentwood, Tennessee-based prison chain has capitalized on a fraught moment in American history, positioning itself as an indispensable government partner in President Donald Trump's quest to deport millions of noncitizens during his second term.

"Our business is perfectly aligned with the demands of this moment," CoreCivic former CEO Damon Hininger said during an August 2025 earnings call. The company posted record revenue last year.

It's unclear exactly how many ICE detention centers the company currently operates. Last March, a company representative

told The Star it had 14 active ICE facilities.

CoreCivic has faced a slew of lawsuits that include accusations of medical neglect and falsifying records to cover up unsafe conditions in its facilities. Roughly 100 lawsuits had already been filed against the company, its wardens, officers and medical staff in 2025 by August, Nashville Scene reported.

"These suits allege a host of human rights abuses, including civil rights violations, physical and sexual assault, and failure to protect inmates from harm," the National Immigration Law Center says on its website.

One such lawsuit, filed by people detained at CoreCivic's California City Immigration Processing Center, describes conditions there as "decrepit" and "punishing." Medical neglect, bug infestations, inadequate counsel and a lack of access to legal counsel are among the allegations outlined in the complaint.

"In their haste to warehouse hundreds of men and women in this isolated facility, Defendants have failed to provide for the basic human needs of the people for whose lives and wellbeing they are legally responsible," the lawsuit says.

CoreCivic has denied wrongdoing and insists it provides adequate accommodations for inmates.

"In facilities where CoreCivic provides medical care, licensed doctors, nurses and mental health professionals are on-site around the clock. Every detainee has daily access to medical services, and we coordinate with local hospitals for specialized care," Steve Owen, CoreCivic's vice president of communications, wrote in a recent Star guest commentary.