

# THE VOICE

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## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Special Section in our Feb. 16, 2024 issue

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Volume 31, No. 3 · communityvoiceks.com · Friday, February 2, 2024

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# Bridging Divides: A Call for Bipartisanship & Community Focus

By Megan Marshall  
Jackson County Legislator

In the heart of Jackson County, where our community's rich tapestry weaves together diverse perspectives, recent criticisms as Vice Chair of the Jackson County Legislature prompt me to explain my decision to vote for Republican Jeanie Lauer as Chairwoman.

Since Donald Trump's 2016 election, American politics has experienced a seismic shift, fostering polarization where personal attacks overshadow substantive policy discussions. In this challenging environment, bipartisanship is not a mere preference but an essential pillar for effective governance.



My two-decade journey in the United States Marine Corps instilled in me the values of service, collaboration, and a commitment to the common good. Military education revealed bipartisanship's profound impact in driving racial, social, and economic advancements for black Americans.

President Harry Truman's bipartisan appointment of centrist Republican Sen. Harold Burton to the Supreme

Court exemplifies the power of bipartisanship in shaping civil rights cases. Cases like *Sweatt v. Painter* and *Shelley v. Kraemer* reshaped public institutions and neighborhoods, countering racial covenants in places like Kansas City.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964, a significant legislative achievement, resulted from bipartisan collaboration between Democratic Sen. Mike Mansfield and Republican Sen. Everett Dirksen. Their leadership and support from 27 Republican Senators overcame the longest filibuster in Senate history, leading to the Act's passage.

In 2017, Republican Sen. John McCain's stance against repealing Affordable Care Act components underscores the importance of bipartisan efforts for the benefit of all. His call to "trust each other" resonates with my decision to vote for Jeanie Lauer in 2023 amidst partisan challenges.

The 2023 county legislative year faced partisan isolationism and intraparty warfare, hindering effective governance. Voting for Lauer signaled a commitment to bipartisan operation amid challenges.

While some see Lauer's presence as Chairwoman as unprecedented, it is not. Since 2013, Republicans Greg Rounds and Theresa Galvin have served in the role, both nominated by Democrats. Notably, Black Democrats Bishop James D. Tindall and attorney Ronald Finley supported Republican nominees in 2013, 2019, and 2020, reflecting a less partisan past.

These examples aren't meant to besmirch public servants' legacies but to remind the public of less partisan local politics and Black Democrats' collaboration with White Republicans.

My role as a legislator is not to agree with members of the

governing body solely based on shared racial identity or political party but to collaborate with all members for the greater good of the county. My commitment to the Black community transcends public service—it is deeply personal. I am a girl from the Southside of Chicago, a mother who has raised Black babies, and a woman who has served in the most elite branch of the military as a minority. I understand the challenges our community faces and I will continue to work diligently towards bettering those conditions.

Criticism is inevitable, but character assassinations are counterproductive. I approach my position with an

open heart, a listening ear, and a desire to understand. Disagreements on votes shouldn't derail our focus on critical issues like violent crime, affordable housing, homelessness, and re-entry for the formerly incarcerated.

The Jackson County Legislature can make significant strides on these issues, and my commitment remains steadfast. Working with fellow legislators, I am eager to prioritize community needs over partisan battles. By embracing diverse perspectives and learning from historical examples, we can pave the way for a brighter future for all in Jackson County, especially the Black community.

## CARTOON



## THE VOICE

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

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

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

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

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

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## Check Out These Great Stories On our Website

Like we always say, if you're not reading us online, you're missing a lot.

### Mayor Lucas Announced Inaugural KC Poet Laureate

After, this first-gen, queer, Black, femme, poet, organizer, educator and theologian who battles with mental illness was introduced as Kansas City's inaugural . She wowed those in attendance with a powerful poem she'd written for the occasion. Meet her and hear her poem on our website.

### Sneak Peek: Zhou B Arts Center in 18th & Vine

A pictorial look at the new arts center ahead of its grand opening.

### Former Foster Care Children Help Design New Home Placement Program for Individuals 16 and Over

The former foster kids helped DCF develop the program that gives youth a say in their placement.

### Need a Summer Job?

Wichita's Way to Work is looking for 175 young people for summer work

### Former The Voice Reporter Malcolm Carter Announces Wichita Departure for a Job in Detroit

After leaving The Voice, Carter had become a young Wichita leader who will be sorely missed.

### Spectrum Accepting Business Applicants for Pay It Forward Campaign

Selected companies will receive complimentary advertising campaign and commercial for both TV and streaming

### KC Black Rep's Newest Production Features Local Jazz Great

Check out local jazz standout Eboni Fondren this week-end and next.



Eboni Fondren

## CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

# "The History of the Negro Baseball Leagues"

presentation by **BYRON MOTLEY**

**Tuesday, February 6 at 6:00 p.m.**

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Mr. Motley's presentation will include a short introduction and then the presentation of a documentary movie he has created called, "The League."

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# Activist Advocates for Establishment of Wichita Reparations Commission

On Feb. 13, Wichita Activist Mary Dean will ask the City Council to establish a commission to look at discriminatory practices and how they have harmed the city's Black residents.

## Key Points:

- Activist Mary Dean is advocating for reparations for Black residents of Wichita.
- She aims to get a city council resolution to support the formation of a commission to study reparations.
- Dean believes reparations are necessary to compensate for years of discrimination and denied opportunities.

**By Bonita Gooch and P.J. Griekspoor**  
Wichita Reporter

Most people agree, Black people in America suffered considerably from 400 years of slavery, but when Wichita activist Mary Dean talks about making amends, she's also talking about amends for more than slavery. She's also looking for amends from the past 150 years of discrepancies between the promises of the American Constitution and the galling limitations forced upon Black Americans.



Mary Dean

She points to laws barring Black people from enjoying a decent education, a fair wage, a trial by their peers, the right to vote, and more. And she sees the resulting impact these discriminatory laws

and practices have had on her family and other African Americans in Wichita and Kansas.

On February 13, Dean plans to ask the Wichita City Council to appoint a commission to study the impact discriminatory practices like these and others have had on Wichita's Black citizens and to propose specific ways amends can be made to help catch up, or compensate, these individuals for this discrimination.

"When people think of reparations they think it only has to do with slavery and that it's just about a check," says Dean. "There's nothing wrong with a check, but there's a lot more and I'm asking for a commission of qualified individuals to look into, identify and quantify the damages of local discrimination."

Dean says the commission should be made up of individuals with expertise in several key areas: housing, economics, criminal justice, health care and education. These are similar to the areas of focus for the Kansas City Reparations Commission appointed by Mayor Quinton Lucas in May 2023.

Dean points out a number of local policies and practices that she says have had a negative impact on Wichita's Black residents.

"For years, people were living on top of contaminated soil and water without even knowing it. People have not been compensated for the lives and property lost when a tanker plane crashed into their neighborhood," says Dean.

Based on Wichita's history with the 29th and Grove chemical spill, Dean is also asking for a local commission to look into discriminatory environmental justice practices on a local level.

## National Reparations Movement

It was 1989 when Congressman John Conyers first introduced HR40, a resolution to establish a commission to examine the merits of introducing reparations to African-Americans. Conyers died in 2019 without the bill getting much consideration, but since his death, what was once a fringe idea is growing in interest and support.

More states and local municipalities are launching task forces and programs to examine possible forms of reparations.

"Evanston, Illinois is the first city in the country to actually do reparations," said Dean. "They are dispensing checks for \$25,000 to their residents. New York City and Kansas City, Mo. have named commissions to study reparations for their citizens."

The State of California has also been aggressively reviewing if and how to administer reparations and the State of New York recently authorized establishment of a reparations commission.

Dean has been working with the national organization, Journey for Justice dedicated to promoting more equitable and sustainable educational opportunities and with attorney Mickey Dean, adviser to Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas' Reparations Commission.

Dean and that commission have struggled to get the funding to pay for the necessary research to establish and identify the extent of harm experienced from discriminatory practices. They have asked for \$500,000 for their study.

"I think it would be wonderful for the city of Wichita to do the right thing during Black History Month. "I'd love to see us start a commission to help the healing process for 40,916 Black people in the city of Wichita," said Dean. "I'd also like to see the State do the same thing for all 178,000 Black residents of the 105 counties in Kansas."

## Celebrating Wichita's Black History



Thursdays, February 1-29  
12:30-1:30 p.m.  
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JE Dunn invites M/WBE subcontractors to call if any assistance is required or questions arise concerning work segmentation, work and contract requirements, or the form of proposal requested. Questions should be directed to Emily Allen, Project Manager, by phone at (217) 550-6157, or by email at [Emily.Allen@jedunn.com](mailto:Emily.Allen@jedunn.com).

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**League 42 ‘Overwhelmed’ by Support**

Learn more about the inner city baseball league and its programming, stay up to date on the groundswell of support for the league and get the latest on police progress on arresting the individuals behind the destruction of the Jackie Robinson sculpture online at [www.communityvoiceks.com](http://www.communityvoiceks.com).



**By PJ Griekspoor**  
Wichita Reporter

League 42 Executive Director Bob Lutz was a bit off-balance by Wednesday night, three days after thieves cut down and hauled off the Jackie Robinson statue that enhanced the entryway to the children’s baseball league’s home in Wichita’s McAdams Park.

No motive for the deed has emerged and, so far, no suspects have been arrested. The statue was found Tuesday just a few miles away, in a local park dumpster, cut in pieces and set on fire.

But the public response to the incident and the support shown for the 11-year-old baseball league that gives kids from low-income

The nation was saddened and shocked by news that the bronze statute of Jackie Robinson had been cutdown at its feet and stolen from its perch at the entry to the home of Wichita’s inner city children’s baseball league.

families a chance to learn to play baseball, has been overwhelming.

A GoFundMe established to support replacing the statue had far outreached its goal of \$100,000. Lutz says a duplicate of the statue will replace the one that was destroyed, with some extra funds set aside for security. Additional funds will help the 600-player league, that keeps its prices affordable so everyone can afford to participate, with extra supplies and equipment.



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# Thrive Awards: LISC of KC Honors Equitable Community Development



LISC Thrive Award winners are (L-R) Jerusalem Farm, Brandon Calloway, Simone Curls, Pamela Smart, and Nailah M'Biti with Geoff Jolley, Executive Director  
SAMUEL JORDON IISAMUEL JORDON IMAGESROYAL PHOTOGRAPHY LLC

**By Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

For more than 40 years, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Kansas City has hosted the Thrive Awards as a way to honor those working toward equitable and inclusive community development.

LISC is a nonprofit that coordinates and invests resources to revitalize communities. They do so by partnering with or awarding grants to groups working on the ground level. LISC KC has attracted more than \$610 million in development into urban KC neighborhoods.

Late last year, the Thrive Awards - LISC's celebration of community development - returned to celebrate those in our community who are making a difference at the Urban Youth Academy.

## 2023 Thrive Awards & Winners Jim White Community Development Legacy Award

**Winner: Pamela Smart**

Pamela Smart has been the executive director at Mt. Carmel Redevelopment Corporation (MCRC) since 2000. Smart and MCRC oversaw the development of 48 new affordable homes, a 61-unit senior housing facility, and three transitional housing duplexes in a previously blighted neighborhood in KCK.

Smart and the MCRC partner with the Unified Government to manage the Wilhelmina Gill Multi-Service Center. The center offers hot meals and holistic community services.

## Outstanding Partner of the Year

**Winner: Jerusalem Farm**

Jerusalem Farm is a faith-based but nondiscriminatory nonprofit that works to improve the six historic neighborhoods in Northeast KC, home to the city's highest density of immigrants and refugees.

Jerusalem Farm's most ambitious work is its home repair program. If someone in their

service area has a lower income, they can qualify for home repair for only the cost of materials. Over the past two years, they have also introduced a dignified workforce program that hires workers from the northeast area and trains them in home repair skills.

## Financial Empowerment Champion

**Winner: Generating Income For Tomorrow (G.I.F.T.)**

G.I.F.T. started with the idea that the Black community could jumpstart their development if 15,000 people gave \$10 a month.

Since its inception in 2020, G.I.F.T. has given out \$1.24 million in grants to Black-owned businesses in historically redlined parts of KC. G.I.F.T.'s efforts have also helped create 108 new jobs, averaging \$16+ an hour on the city's east side.

## Economic Development Champion

**Winner: Simone Curls**

Curls is the executive director of the Prospect Business Association (PBA), which works to create a healthy urban core through business and economic development in the Prospect Ave. corridor.

Through her work with the PBA, Curls has served 1,500+ businesses over the past two-and-a-half years and helped businesses in the area secure \$4.2 million in capital.

## Affordable Housing Champion

**Winner: Nailah M'Biti**

M'Biti got into development as a staff member on the Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council, where she worked on an affordable housing project at 39th Street and Garfield.

After her tenure on the council, M'Biti started a consulting firm, Accomak Development Group, where she works with nonprofits looking to develop affordable housing with neighborhoods in mind.

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# Taylor & Alyssa Countee

Taylor and Alyssa Countee are the newlyweds of this year's group. The young Wichita couple married in 2021 and have no children. Taylor is a senior cyber security analyst and Alyssa is a nail technician.

**When did you meet?**  
June 6, 2016

**How did you meet?**  
**Alyssa** – We were kind of set up through my best friend Gena and technically met on our first date. Neither Taylor nor I are big partiers, but there was one night we were both out downtown and I caught his eye. He then reached out to my best friend Gena to try and talk to me.

**How was your first date?**  
**Alyssa** – I consider our first date when I invited myself to go with him and his friend to see Common at the RiverFest.

**Taylor** – I don't consider it our first date, but I'll go with it.

**The Turn - How did you know he/she was the one?**  
**Taylor** – From the caring nature she shows toward her family and friends and when it eventually became toward me.

**Alyssa** – As corny as it may sound, I just knew in my heart Taylor was the one pretty early on. There was just something that made me feel like my heart was safe with him. Ultimately, it was his thoughtfulness. Everything Taylor does has intention, and it's showed throughout our relationship.

**What were a few memorable parts of the wedding?**



Cutting the cake and the speeches were really memorable.

**Who does the cooking?**

Alyssa does the cooking, always mindful to eat whole foods, which is the kind of cooking taught in the Turner family household.

**What have you learned to appreciate about your wife/husband that you didn't know when you were first married?**

**Taylor** – Alyssa's continuous commitment to keeping us healthy and whole.

**Alyssa** – I've learned Taylor is an extremely proud husband and works tirelessly to make sure we're both happy and growing as individuals and together.

**Words of wisdom for other couples?**

**Taylor** – Take your time getting to know your partner to make sure they're really your person.

**Alyssa** – As you're looking for your other half, or even as you're someone's other half, your personal growth journey hasn't ended. We all come to relationships with baggage and hopefully as you're in your relationship, your partner is helping work through that growth and growing with you.

**What movie could you watch together over and over again?**

Probably any Marvel movie, for research purposes lol.

**What song is on your romantic playlist?**

**Taylor** – "You Don't Even Know" - The Internet  
**Alyssa** – "The Impossible" - Mariah Carey

# Gregory & Carol Cole

Greg and Carol Cole are Wichita residents who've been married since 1991. Greg is originally from Baltimore and met Carol, a Wichita native, when he was on active duty in the Army and had just arrived in Wichita. He's a business owner and she's an executive secretary. Combined, they have three children and seven grandchildren.

**How did you meet?**  
Greg and Carol connected thanks to a hookup by her sister, Carla Eckels. Greg was on the campus of Wichita State University, where Carla worked. When they met, Carla thought he would be a great catch for her sister and asked if he was married. She invited Greg to their church, St. Paul AME, to meet Carol. That was Feb. 1990 and the couple married 18 months later. When you know, you know.

**How was your first date?**  
**Greg** – Our first date was at Bennigan's. We shared wings and dessert together, which is a big deal because Carol doesn't allow ANYONE to eat off her plate.

**The Turn - How did you know he/she was the one?**  
**Greg** – I knew she was the one for me when she was hesitant to allow someone to get close to her child without first knowing the character of the person and the fact that she did not enjoy cooking on a regular basis. (Sounds like Greg's the cook in this house.)

**Carol** – I knew he was the one when he took me to Baltimore to meet his family. They are just like him, so loving and kind.

**What were a few memorable parts of the wedding?**  
The day we married was the heaviest rainfall in the city in a



long time, still to this day, and yet everyone that was invited showed up and had a ball.

**Greg** – I remember the music and song selections that were sung by our friends and the reception that followed with a cake that had three flavors.

**Carol** – The ceremony was spirit filled and the after party was EPIC with lots of dancing!

**Who's the neat freak?**  
We both share in the effort of keeping things in order. Neither of us is compulsive about it though.

**What chore does your spouse hate doing the most?**  
Greg does not like cleaning bathrooms and Carol prefers not to cook if she does not have to.

**Who does the cooking?**  
**Carol** - Greg, Greg, and Greg because he is much better at it. (Confirmed, Greg does the cooking.)

**What have you learned to appreciate about your wife/**

**husband that you didn't know when you were first married?**

**Greg** – I appreciate the fact she lets me be the authentic me and she does not let anyone try to take advantage of my kindness and generosity.

**Carol** – I appreciate how incredibly generous he is with his time, talent and treasure.

**Words of wisdom for other couples?**

Continue to date throughout your marriage. Cultivate your friendship. Be active listeners and strive to move on from adversity and hardships. Actively appreciate each other and value what they bring to the relationship. Always say "please" and "thank you."

**What song is on your romantic playlist?**

Our playlist is always evolving so anything by Babyface and After7. They always seem to get it right!

# Lee & Terri Barnes

Lee and Terri Barnes, Kansas City natives, met in 7th grade at Central Middle School, and eventually found their way to walking down the aisle in 2006. Lee, who recently finished two four-year terms on the KCMO City Council, is a development and government affairs consultant. Terri, founder and president of the nonprofit The Nia Project, is currently serving as the interim executive director of Lead to Read. They have one adult son.

## How was your first date?

Because our relationship started out as a friendship, neither of us really remember a first date! After 7th grade, we never saw each other again until we were adults - mid-20s. At the time, we were both in other relationships.

## The Turn - How did you know he/she was the one?

After 11 years of dating, Terri told Lee she wouldn't go another year as a girlfriend. She got a ring for Christmas 2005 and they married the following year.

## What were a few memorable parts of the wedding?

It was a beautiful wedding with family and close friends. The couple had an African-themed wedding, complete with an authentic African meal served at the reception, along with dancers and drummers.

Our good friend Elton Gumbel wrote a song for us for our wedding day, "Only God Can Hear." It was so beautiful.

## Who's more social?

If it is with familiar groups



and people, Lee is more social. If it is a group of strangers, Terri would definitely be more social.

## Who does the cooking?

We eat out A LOT.

## What place within 200 miles would you like to go to spend a few days? What would you do there and why?

St Louis - it's a little further than 200 miles, but always a great time. We typically jump on the road for a comedy show or concert.

## Who tends to be more romantic?

**Terri** - Lee has his own definition of romance and most of the time his definition and my definition don't match! If Lee goes to 7-11 for a snack and brings back my favorite candy bar or snack without me asking for it - he would chalk that up as romance. We know - we have work to do!

## What have you learned to appreciate about your wife/husband that you didn't know when you were first married?

**Terri** - I appreciate Lee's commitment to family and deep sense of responsibility to Black people and community. We really have that in common.

## Words of wisdom for other couples?

**Lee** - Don't go in with the idea that you are going to change that person. Make sure you appreciate who they are, as they are.

**Terri** - Love who you have and not who you want them to be ... Don't make excuses for bad behavior.

## What song is on your romantic playlist?

**Terri** - it would be KEM's entire body of work. **Lee** - it would be Cameo, Confunkshun and Luther Vandross.

# Garvin & Dr. Teresa Marshall

Garvin and Dr. Teresa Pouncil Marshall, Lee's Summit residents, have been married since 1995. Garvin is a wellness coordinator on a data team with Quest Diagnostics. Teresa is a family physician and shareholder and physician leader at her location with Encompass Medical Group. Garvin was raised in Wichita, while Teresa is a Kansas City, KS, native. They have three lovely daughters who are still at home pursuing their post-high school education.

## How did you meet?

They met in 1995 on a blind date set up by a mutual friend. (Shout out for the hookups, the second in this year's group.) They were married a year later, in 1996. (Shout out for knowing what you want, one of several quick to the altar relationships in this year's group.)

## Tell us about your first date

They had dinner at Plaza III restaurant on the Country Club Plaza.

## The Turn - How did you know he/she was the one?

**Garvin** - It was love at first sight. After we spoke on the phone and agreed to go out, I knew we could be friends but when I saw her for the first time, I knew immediately that I wanted to marry her.

**Teresa** - It was the fact that we were compatible. We could have stimulating conversations on all types of



topics and both were down to earth and willing to have fun. We both had a love for Christ and a desire to raise a family.

## What were a few memorable parts of the wedding?

Garvin, who grew up singing in church, sang "In You" by Glen Jones to his bride after she walked down the aisle. The song had been on a slow jams tape made by her brother. They enjoyed dancing to it while they were dating.

## Who tends to be more romantic?

Teresa because she works hard to know Garvin's love language (quality time and physical touch) and try to make sure he feels loved and appreciated at all times. Teresa's love language is acts of service. (Another reference to "The Five Love Languages" by Gary Chapman; might be worth reading!)

## What have you learned

**to appreciate about your wife/husband that you didn't know when you were first married?**

**Garvin** - She is a real follower of Christ by actions not just words and is very beautiful inside and out.

**Teresa** - That he is loyal and devoted. He is a true gentleman that is serious about leading his household according to God's will. He will do anything for me, our daughters and my mother (our only living parent). He may be a little grumpy, but that doesn't mean he won't be there.

## Words of wisdom for other couples?

Always be willing to compromise and be willing to admit when you are wrong.

## What song is on your romantic playlist?

"Always and Forever" - Luther Vandross remake.

# Bishop Herman & Anadina Hicks

Bishop Herman and Anadina Hicks are the senior pastor and first lady at Greater Pentecostal Church of God in Christ in Wichita. He's originally from Greenville, MS, and she's from Wichita Falls, TX, where the couple met in 1986 at a church banquet. They married a year later, in 1987. They live in Derby, KS, a Wichita suburb, and have four children and one grandson.

## How did you meet?

Herman was stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base when he saw Anadina at that church banquet and he was smitten.

**Herman** – She was wearing a blue dress ... and fine. “When I saw her leaving the banquet, I ran to the door to open it for her just so I could say ‘hello.’” That was all he said. but for the next two weeks he went to her job during his lunch break just to watch her through the window. “I didn’t realize that was called ‘stalking.’” Eventually they met at church, he got her phone number from her sister and the rest is history.

## How was your first date?

He allowed her to pick the restaurant and said she chose a pizza place because she wasn’t sure what kind of guy he was.

## The Turn - How did you know he/she was the one?

**Herman** – I knew when I saw her at the banquet that I wanted her. She



was one of the most beautiful women I had ever seen. I was hooked!

**Anadina** – I knew he was the one because of his love for God.

## What were a few memorable parts of the wedding?

Their wedding was on a military base, and Herman wore his military uniform, as did all his groomsmen. “We had individuals from the Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marines in our wedding.”

## Who’s the neat freak?

**Anadina** – “My husband. He is a perfectionist.”

## Who does the cooking?

Anadina is an amazing cook and she loves to try new dishes.

Who tends to be more romantic?

**Herman** - Anadina wins this one. “She is just that kind of lady.” But Herman says he comes up with his share of great romantic

ideas.

## Who’s better at gifting?

**Anadina** - Herman gives the best gifts.

## What have you learned to appreciate about your wife/husband that you didn’t know when you were first married?

**Herman** – She is very gifted in many ways, and she knows how to pray. Every man needs a praying woman.

**Anadina** – I appreciate how smart, gifted and anointed my husband is.

## Words of wisdom for other couples?

Fast, pray, read your Bible, and be considerate of one another. Don’t forget the family prayer. Pray as a family and pray together as a couple.

## What song is on your romantic playlist?

“You Are So Beautiful”

# Dr. Jesse & Mary Barnes

Dr. Jesse Barnes, Ed.D., from Wichita, and Mary from Kansas City, have been married since 2006 and made Kansas City their home. Jesse is executive director of Grace United Community Ministries and the Aim for Success educational program. Mary is a contract and compliance administrator for the Port Authority of KCMO. They have no children.



## How did you meet?

Jesse and Mary were introduced by a mutual friend on the steps of the Atlanta University Library. Mary attended Clark Atlanta University and Jesse went to Morehouse College.

## How was your first date?

Ten years after meeting in Atlanta, they became reacquainted when the two were bridesmaid and groomsman in their respective college friends’ wedding in Memphis. Jesse reached out to Mary and visited her in Kansas City. He sent her a dozen pink roses in advance and took her to dinner at The Cheesecake Factory.

## What were a few memorable parts of the wedding?

Over 300 guests attended their wedding at St. John’s United Methodist Church on Ward Parkway. The couple was escorted in a vintage 1955 Bentley to the three-course dinner reception at the Country Club Marriott. The music included a string ensemble, trumpets, a guest soloist from Atlanta, and a serenade by the groom to the bride during the ceremony.

## Who’s more social?

Both Mary and Jesse are outgoing and active in the community including: church ministry, Alpha

Kappa Alpha sorority, Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, boards, and a host of cultural affairs including the symphony, theater, banquets, and philanthropic events.

## What place within 200 miles would you like to go to spend a few days? What would you do there and why?

Jesse and Mary enjoy visiting Branson, MO, for the lakes, quaint restaurants, shopping and spending time together.

## Who tends to be more romantic?

In our relationship, it depends on the time of year and our schedule. Sometimes it’s Jesse with romantic nights on the town, and then it’s Mary setting the scene for a romantic evening at home.

## Who’s better at gifting?

Early in our marriage, we read “The Five Love Languages: How to Express Commitment to Your Mate” by Gary Chapman. One of Mary’s love languages is receiving gifts. Jesse enjoys finding special gifts, and over the years has built her jewelry (and other collections)

through gifting.

## What have you learned to appreciate about your wife/husband that you didn’t know when you were first married?

**Jesse** – She provides significant insight into various situations, is a supporter and has assisted me through the years in my role as a non-profit executive.

**Mary** – He is a wonderful encourager, confidant, and has thought provoking conversation that ensures as long as we are together we will always have an enjoyable time.

## Words of wisdom for other couples?

Placing God at the center of their lives is essential to a happy marriage. Communication is important and spending time together is also a foundation of a good relationship.

## What song is on each of your romantic playlist?

“Forever” by Jason Nelson  
“Overjoyed” by Stevie Wonder  
“Sentimental Reasons/Tenderly/Autumn Leaves Medley” by Natalie Cole

# To Reduce Jail Population, KC Explores Alternatives to Incarceration

Commission to recommend a host of alternatives including pre-trial supervision, harm reduction workers, and a diversion center.

**By Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

Kansas City, MO, has not had a jail since 2017, and as officials weighed the cost of building a new jail, they also decided to weigh the downstream costs of incarcerating individuals for low-level, non-violent municipal crimes.

In June 2023, KC formed an Alternatives to Incarceration Commission, and by July, the 10-member commission decided not to make a recommendation on the number of jail beds but to put their full focus on studying ways to connect lower-level municipal offenders with resources and to target a holistic approach to reduce the number of people the city incarcerates.

After months of work, the Commission identified four areas that they say are the root causes of the majority of crimes committed in KC: poverty, substance use, mental health issues, and lack of housing.

The commission is due to submit their recommendations City Council soon and discussed possible recommendations during a Jan. 16 special committee meeting. While details are still being ironed out, here's a preview of what the commission hopes the city will enact.

## Non-Arrest Community Centered Response & Hotline

The commission was very impressed with a presentation from Atlanta's Policing Alternatives Diversion (PAD) initiative. Just like the Atlanta initiative, the commission hopes to see a non-emergency line established that would be used to call harm reduction workers to help individuals experiencing quality-of-life issues.

Instead of calling 911, a citizen would call 311 for non-crisis situations. In Atlanta, for example, if a business owner has a houseless



KCMO hasn't had a jail since 2017 and has been renting space in another jail outside Jackson County. Should they consider alternatives to incarcerations instead of building a new jail?

person sleeping in front of their business, they call 311, and "harm reduction leaders" come out and engage with them. The harm reduction workers then connect the person with the services they might need, including shelter, food, transportation, mental health or substance use treatment, and/or other needed services.

"Members of KCPD aren't social workers or therapists," said commission member Amaia Cook. "PAD connects people in need with resources."

## Atlanta PAD sends harm reduction workers in lieu of police in the following types of cases:

- Disturbances - someone yelling outside a business or blocking traffic.
- Public indecency - someone naked or bathing in a public place.
- Welfare - someone asking for food or help.
- Mental health - someone who appears disoriented, erratic, or is talking to themselves.
- Substance use - someone using drugs in public.
- Basic needs - someone in need

of shelter and sleeping outside.

- Public health - someone getting food from a dumpster or using the bathroom in a public place.

The commission sees implementing a PAD program to respond in these areas as a start for Kansas City, with the potential of expanding or adjusting the list.

Over a period of three months in 2023, Atlanta's PAD engaged with 570 people. Of them, 98% had not been subject to arrest in the following three months, indicating that when connected with stabilizing services, individuals are not prone to repeat criminal actions.

## Diversion & Harm Reduction Center

The commission proposes building a diversion center to house, largely under one roof, the services the PAD initiative offers. The proposed center would also function as a pre-arrest deterrent.

If an officer has probable cause to arrest someone but sees the person is suffering quality of life issues related to housing, substance use, mental health issues, or extreme poverty, they can offer diversion

services instead of arrest. With their consent, the officer would then drop the person off at the diversion center, and no arrest is made.

Once at the diversion center, the person is met by specialists who will work to address their immediate needs. From there, the person can get a range of services, including a hot meal, showers, clean clothes, health screenings, connections to housing, health care, and other stabilizing services like case management or legal aid.

Cook says instituting a diversion center and a program like Atlanta's PAD initiative would also work to alleviate a shortage of 911 dispatchers and police officers in the city.

"A crucial aspect of PAD is that it's taking away the burden from law enforcement and even places like the [hospital] emergency department," says Cook.

## Pre-Trial Supervision

Many cities, including Wichita and Lawrence, have a pretrial supervision program put in place in lieu of holding people in jail, but Kansas City does not.

For example, Douglas County, KS, evaluates the risk of those awaiting trial and releases low-to-moderate-risk individuals and keeps tabs on them through the end of their trial by calling or texting reminders, requiring in-person meetings and/or electrical device monitoring.

When Kansas City commissioned a study on the need for a city jail, it was projected that implementing a pretrial supervision program could reduce the number of people they incarcerate by 19%.

"That percentage is not a drop in the bucket, that's fairly substantial," said Director of Public Safety Melesa Johnson.

The commission recommends using a risk-assessment tool developed and tested by the Center for Court Innovation in New York. The tool,

## Alternatives to Incarceration

### Commission Members

Megan Case (Co-Chair): KC Administrator of Corrections  
 Melesa Johnson (Co-Chair): Mayor's Office, Director of Public Safety  
 Katheryn Shields: Former 4th District At-Large Councilwoman  
 Darrell Curls: 5th District At-Large Councilman  
 Courtney Wachal: Municipal Court Judge  
 Eric Wesson: The Next Page  
 Amaia Cook: Decarcerate KC  
 Annie Struby: Rose Brooks Center  
 Connor Swanton: Legal Aid of Western Missouri - Municipal Criminal Defense Division  
 Johnny Waller: UMKC's Clear My Record Expungement Project Manager

called CCAT, consists of 30 questions that have been proven to predict if someone will appear for their court date or re-offend. The CCAT assessment also helps identify trauma and mental health issues.

Johnson says the city would hire someone to administer the CCAT, which takes about 15 minutes to complete. Johnson also says individuals accused of crimes that have a human victim and those who pose a danger to the public would not be eligible for the pretrial supervision program.

## Take a Housing First Approach

Atlanta PAD includes a provision for immediate shelter, food, and transportation for up to three months for those in need. The KC Alternatives to Incarceration

See **INCARCERATION** Page 14 →

# KC Bans Source of Income Discrimination

Landlords could face fines for discrimination.

By **Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

Kansas City Council chambers overflowed with a sea of yellow shirts Jan. 25, as nearly 200 members of the citywide tenants union KC Tenants celebrated a policy victory with cheers.

The applause was for KC's newest ordinance, passed by a 10-3 vote, which bans source of income discrimination against renters, who make up half the city's population.

The ordinance bans landlords from denying housing to potential renters based solely on their source of income, use of vouchers like Section 8, credit score, criminal record, or previous evictions.

"The effort [new ordinance] is to make life a little bit easier for renters in our city," said Mayor



Mayor Lucas addressed SOI discrimination at a rally on city hall's steps. CREDIT: THOMAS WHITE / THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Quinton Lucas, who co-sponsored the ordinance.

A major concern of those behind the ordinance was minimizing a landlord's ability to refuse to accept tenants simply because they're utilizing government assistance. It's a practice that has been criticized for disproportionately affecting women, disabled, elderly,

and Black renters, limiting their housing options and perpetuating inequality.

Black women have been particularly affected by source of income discrimination. Before the vote, 145 Black women from KC signed a letter sent to the city council pointing out that 60% of Missouri's voucher holders are Black and that

43% are single mothers.

"There is little to no difference between source of income discrimination and racial discrimination in housing," reads the letter. "Source of income discrimination is modern-day redlining."

Kansas City joins a growing list of municipalities — including 85 cities, 21 counties, and 17 states — in implementing an SOI discrimination ban. The new law is set to take effect in six months and represents a concerted effort by the mayor and KC Tenants, who worked together to write the initial draft of the ordinance.

The ordinance bans discrimination against tenants based solely on:

- Source of income from an occupation, including gig work or paying rent in cash.
- Use of public programs like Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers.

- Poor credit score.
- Prior evictions and alleged damages older than 12 months.
- Prior convictions or arrests.

Proponents say that the ban is expected to create more opportunities for working-class tenants to secure housing in previously inaccessible neighborhoods. Members of KC Tenants also predicted that the new ordinance would provide relief to individuals with the financial means to rent but were previously overlooked due to their source of income.

The ordinance also has teeth and allows tenants to report discrimination to the city's civil rights office in person, via email, or by calling 311. Violating landlords can face fines of up to \$1,000 for each offense, with repeat violators facing probationary measures affecting

See **DISCRIMINATION** Page 14 →

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# 'We Want to Quit' Campaign To Target Black Smokers in Wichita

In addition to cessation measures the campaign will delve into the racism of smoking as a way of building support from the community.

**By Bonita Gooch  
and P.J. Griekspoor**  
The Community Voice

Smoking is an addiction that's very hard to beat. That is not news to any of the 70% of African-American smokers who have tried – and failed – to break the habit.

Now, the Local Health Equity Action Team (LHEAT) in Sedgwick County has joined with the national "We Want to Quit" Campaign for a targeted campaign to help Black Sedgwick County residents who are trying to quit.



companies have promoted for decades," something a lot of Black Americans aren't aware of. By doing so, they hope the campaign can help members and coalitions from the community step-up and advocate in a way that can make an impact on smoking among Wichita's Black residents.

## The History of African Americans and Big Tobacco

Internal documents from RJ Reynolds, the maker of Salem, Vintage and Camel cigarettes, detail how the company created special displays to corner stores in Black neighborhoods and made an effort to push menthols by making them cheaper than other cigarettes. According to a 1988 company document, 70% of Black smokers were choosing menthols at the time. Today, more than 90% of Black smokers choose menthols.

The problem is menthol smokers hold the product in longer with the cooling effect of menthol tricking the body, making it easier to breathe the tobacco in deeper and hold for longer, which brings nicotine into the bloodstream.

To quote Dr. Philip Gardiner, Co-Chair of the African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council, "Menthol makes the poison go down smoother."

Tobacco companies were also among the first to feature Black models in ads and to hire Black executives at a time when segregation was the law of the land in much of the United States.

Tobacco companies also funded scholarships for Black students and made donations to the NAACP, members of the Congressional Black Caucus and other Black leadership groups for decades. Older

Americans remember the popular Kool Jazz Concert series and tobacco companies handing out cigarettes in the community.

It was an intentional targeting strategy, and it worked.

Watch the Community Voice website and print publication for more info on the "We Want to Quit" effort in

the weeks and months ahead. Beyond the history of Big Tobacco, the campaign will focus on:

- Menthol as a social justice issue,
- The stress of racism, and
- On engaging the African-American community on addressing this major health related problem

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# Black History Month Calendar

Our space is limited this issue, so we focused on Black History events taking place early in the month. You can see more events and Black History coverage on our website at [www.communityvoiceks.com](http://www.communityvoiceks.com) and in our Feb. 16 issue. Get Out and Explore Our History!!

## WICHITA AREA

**Tues., Feb. 6, 6pm: The History of the Negro Baseball Leagues**, Butler Community College, ElDorado Campus, Hubbard

Welcome Center. A showing of documentary "The League" will follow a short introduction of the movie by its creator Byron Motley. Q&A will follow.

**Thu., Feb. 8, 12:30 - 1:30 pm: The Wichita African American Business History Project**, Advanced Learning Library, 711 W 2nd, Dr. Robert Weems Jr., Willard W. Garvey Distinguished Professor of Business History at Wichita State University, will share stories from his oral history project. **FREE**

**Fri., Feb 9, 12 – 1 pm: Big Idea: The Women of Brown.** Advanced Learning Library, 711 W 2nd. Twelve Black women were plaintiffs in the landmark case, but their contributions to the civil rights movement have often been overlooked. This presentation will shine a light on their stories and ensure that their names are not forgotten. **FREE**

**Thu., Feb. 15, 12:30-1:30 pm: African American Journalism**, Wichita Public Library - Advanced Learning Library, 711 W 2nd. In this program, Bonita Gooch, editor-in-chief of The Community Voice, the leading publication for African-American communities in Kansas, will present a talk about the role of African-American newspapers in Wichita. **FREE**

**Sat., Feb 10, 1 pm: Black History Month Program and Celebration** Black Archives of Mid-America, 1722 E. 17th The Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group celebration will feature Kirk Sharp, Executive Director of the Gordon Parks Museum in Ft. Scott, KS, with his presentation, Gordon Parks: The Renaissance Man. **FREE**

**Mon. Feb. 12. 6 – 7 pm: African American Genealogy: Methodology and Midwest Genealogy Center**, 3440 S Lee's Summit Rd. LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson's presentation will illustrate both methodologies and strategies for meeting the Genealogical Proof Standard when researching families that survived American slavery. **FREE**

**Sat. Feb. 17, 11 am: 32nd Annual Black History & Scholarship Celebration**, Memorial Hall, 600 N 7th Trfwy. Sponsored by the Wyandotte Unified Government Black History Committee. A focus on cultural pride with keynote speaker, Dr. Natasha Hampton. COST \$110 <https://bit.ly/3vNmAo4>

**Sat. Feb 17, 4 pm reception 5 pm dinner: Black Archives 50th Anniversary Gala.** Kansas City Convention Center, 301 W 13th. is "No Revisionist History: Tell the Truth," with author, social activist and political commentator Michael Harriot, author of "Black AF: The Un-Whitewashed Story of America." COST: \$125 <https://blackarchives.org/>

## KANSAS CITY

**Wed. Feb. 7, 1 pm: Black History Month Conversation**, Park University, Jenkin & Barbara David Theater, Featuring Gwendolyn Grant, president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Kansas City. **FREE**

**Sat., Feb. 10, 10 am: Buy Black Expo**, Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center, 3700 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. The 2024 Buy Black Expo – shopping with vendors plus a showing of the documentary "The Big Payback." chronicling how Evanston, IL adopted and distributed tax-funded reparations. Evanston lead Robin Rue Simmons will be there for a Q&A. **FREE**

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Register for YEC on VentureDash, submit an executive summary, & a 1-2 minute elevator pitch video. The competition opens January 2 and the last day to register is February 19.  
[goventuredash.com/competitions/539](https://goventuredash.com/competitions/539)

**STEP 2 TRADE SHOW**  
Showcase your business at the trade show on **Friday March 1st, 9:00 am-3:00 pm at Wichita State University 1815 Innovation Blvd.** Each participant will have a table to showcase their business for judges and the public.

**STEP 3 FINALS**  
After the trade show judging is complete, the top 6 participants will go on to participate in a finals presentation, then winners\* will be announced when presentations are complete.  
\*The 1st place winner will have the opportunity to compete at the state competition.

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# 'The Session' Unites Diverse Women at KC Melting Pot Theatre

An anger management session leads to twists and deep talks, Feb. 8 - 17.

By **Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

The Kansas City Melting Pot Theatre is ready to treat audiences with a staging of "The Session," written by KCMPT co-founder Harvey Williams.

The play is set in a small town, with all the action taking place at a mandated anger management therapy session, where five women from diverse backgrounds converge to grapple with their personal challenges.

"This is a play for everyone," says director Lewis Morrow. "Be prepared to see something funny and dramatic. It's going to hit home and bring up some good points, but just expect to see an overall good story from a perspective that audiences may not necessarily be familiar with."

Morrow said the characters are dealing with issues that range from intergenerational trauma to dealing with prejudice and grappling with the American dream. He describes the play as timeless and predicts



audience members will identify with the characters' anger, hurt, and challenges, sparking discussions on judgment, misconceptions, and societal views.

#### The Cast:

- Casey Jane as Ms. Hunter
- Briana Van Deusen as Beth
- Tailor Smith as Reatha
- Areli Gil as Cynthia
- Amber Redmond as Davis

This is Morrow's directing debut for Melting Pot, and he described getting the director's nod as a wishlist item.

"The Session" takes place over two acts of 40 minutes with an

intermission, at the Just Off Broadway Theatre, 3051 Penn Valley Dr., KCMO. Tickets start at \$17.25 and are available at <https://bit.ly/KCMPTSession> or [kcmeltingpot.com](http://kcmeltingpot.com).

#### Showtimes

Thu., Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m.  
Fri., Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sat., Feb. 10 at 2 & 7:30 p.m.  
Wed., Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m. w/ Artist Talkback  
Thu., Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. w/ Artist Talkback  
Fri., Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sat., Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m.

# KC Rep Brings 'Nina Simone: Four Women' to the Stage Feb 13 - Mar 3

KC Rep's "Nina Simone: Four Women" brings iconic singer's story to life

By **Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

Described as "riveting, relevant, and oh so real" by Broadway World, "Nina Simone: Four Women" promises a compelling theatrical experience, exploring how the iconic singer gave voice to countless Black women fighting against stereotypes and racism.

"This new work dramatically reveals the pivotal moments when Nina Simone exploded expectations and transformed from revered singer to a leading voice for all Americans during the civil rights movement," says KC Rep Artistic Director Stuart Carden.

The play delves into Nina's extraordinary artistry but also explores the journey of the women around her as they navigate a path of discovery and healing with the production featuring some of Nina Simone's most powerful Civil Rights anthems, including "Mississippi Goddam," "Go Limp," and "Young, Gifted, and Black."

Lead actress Alexis J. Roston is a



Alexis Roston

talented stage and TV actress making her KC debut after gaining accolades wherever she goes. "Time Out" Chicago calls her "phenomenal," and "Showbiz Chicago" raves, "Roston holds the audience in the palm of her hand."

Roston, who's also a director, playwright, and Howard University graduate, will be joined on stage by a dynamic group of touring professional actresses: Gabrielle Lott-Rogers, Toni Martin and Brittney Mack.

The play is staged at the Copaken Stage in KC's Power and Light District; tickets start at \$35 and are available at [kcrep.org](http://kcrep.org).

#### Showtimes

**Tuesdays - Thursdays at 7 p.m.**  
Feb. 13, 14, 15, 28, 29  
**Fridays at 8 p.m.**  
Feb. 16, 23 & March 1  
**Saturdays, 2 & 8 p.m.**  
Feb. 17, 24 & March 2  
**Sundays, 2 p.m.**  
Feb. 18, 25 & March 3

## INCARCERATION, from Page 10 ↓

Commission will look for similar support to help with housing concerns.

The commission's recommendations are similar to the "Zero KC" recommendations proposed by the

Kansas City Houseless Task Force in fall 2022. Instead of treating the person's issues first, the city's plan focuses on a housing first approach — get the individual housed first, then begin to work on the problems that have led to their houselessness.

Studies have found that providing housing to people experiencing homelessness reduces the individual's probability of committing a crime by 80%.

#### What's Next?

A city statistician is looking into the local impact of implementing these programs. They'll look at how much a hotline will ease the burden on 911, how many KCPD working hours will be reduced, and how many fewer people would end up in jail.

The commission is expected to make formal recommendations to the full city council soon, and the council would then need to draft legislation to implement any or all of the initiatives outlined by the commission.

## DISCRIMINATION, from Page 11 ↓

their rental permits. The new law also requires the city to proactively scan for rental ads using discriminatory language like "no Section 8."

#### Opposition & Compromise

The three council members who voted no cited the ordinance's mandate on landlords to comply with the federal government's housing program as the reason for their no votes.

Landlords are often reluctant to accept Section 8 vouchers because of additional paperwork and needing their properties to pass an inspection to be in compliance with federal housing standards.

To address some of the issues raised by the landlords, the city council negotiated privately over the course of weeks to come up with a set of compromises.

Landlords can still deny renters who are otherwise protected by the ordinance, but they must consider other factors provided by the tenant in their application.

For example, if a renter has a past eviction, they can attach references, efforts they took to avoid eviction, or records showing a good history since the eviction. The landlord would have to consider that additional information but would still be able to use their discretion to deny or approve the renter.

In another amendment aimed at landlords, they will be able to deny outright those with sexual or violent offenses. In addition, the ordinance creates a new landlord liaison position at city hall and exceptions for some older properties that can't pass inspection.

"Nobody's completely happy, so I think we've done a very good job," said Councilmember Melissa Patterson-Hazley.

The compromises also prohibit publishing the names of landlords who are being disciplined for noncompliance with the ordinance and create a \$1 million mitigation fund for landlords. The mitigation fund is said to be similar to a program offered in Johnson County that financially rewards landlords who take renters with housing vouchers and sets aside funds to cover damages caused by a voucher-using tenant.

**Someone Finally on Trial for 2002 Murder of Run-DMC's Jam Master Jay**

Finally, one of the most infamous unresolved slayings in hip-hop, has someone on trial. Prosecutors allege two men accused of killing Run-DMC's Jam Master Jay (Jason Mizell) were both close to the trailblazing DJ, when they killed him in his recording studio over a failed drug deal.

Mizell helped shape hip-hop with his Run-DMC bandmates in the 1980s, but as success waned, he turned to dealing cocaine.

He was 37 when he was shot dead, shortly after acquiring 10 pounds of cocaine to be sold in Baltimore. Prosecutors said his godson, Jordan, and Washington, a friend who was staying with Mizell's sister, thought they would be part of the lucrative deal, worth nearly \$200,000, and became enraged when Mizell told them they were cut out.



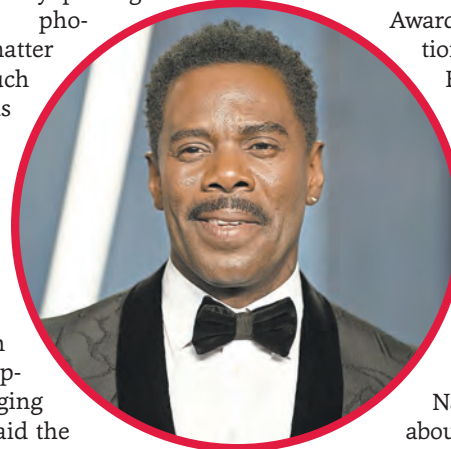
Snoop Dogg

**Snoop Dogg Prioritizes Marriage Over Money, Turns Down \$100M Onlyfans Nude Deal**

Snoop Dogg turned down a \$100 million offer to create adult content on OnlyFans due to respect for his wife Shante Broadus.

While OnlyFans features creators of all kinds, Snoop implied he would have to share nude photos to earn the estimated \$100 million. Snoop believed his longtime spouse would never approve of him publicly posting intimate photos, no matter how much money was offered.

While rejecting OnlyFans, Snoop has still expanded his business venture. In August 2022, he launched his first shoe collection with Sketchers, including slippers and sneakers ranging from \$100-\$125. Snoop said the line reflects his "ideas, flavor and swag."



Coleman Domingo

Snoop has also entered children's entertainment, releasing the animated series "Doggyland" in 2022 which teaches educational concepts through music. He promotes the YouTube series on social media, likely earning revenue from the views.

**Colman Domingo Set to Star and Direct Nat King Cole Biopic**

Fresh off receiving a Best Actor Academy Award nomination for portraying Bayard Rustin in "Rustin," Colman Domingo is slated to star in and have his directorial debut in a biopic centered on the life of the legendary Nat King Cole.

Domingo co wrote the play "Lights Out: Nat King Cole," a play about Cole's life that imagines what may have been going through his mind as he filmed



Garrett Morris

**"The Nat King Cole Show" Christmas special in 1957.**

This year, Domingo also starred in "The Color Purple." 2024 is shaping up to be a banner year for him. In front of the camera, he's set to appear in "Drive-Away Dolls", "Sing Sing," and has been cast as Joe Jackson — the entrepreneurial, borderline abusive father of legendary pop-sensation Michael Jackson — in Antoine Fuqua's Michael Jackson biopic.

**Garrett Morris Honored With A Star On The Hollywood Walk Of Fame**

One of our favorite TV uncles was recognized with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Feb. 1. Morris is beloved by generations of TV watchers as one of Saturday Night Live's original "Not Ready for Prime Time Players." Morris has also stacked up a long resume of roles on tv comedies including "Martin," "The Jamie Foxx Show," "The Wayans Brothers" and "2 Broke Girls."

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