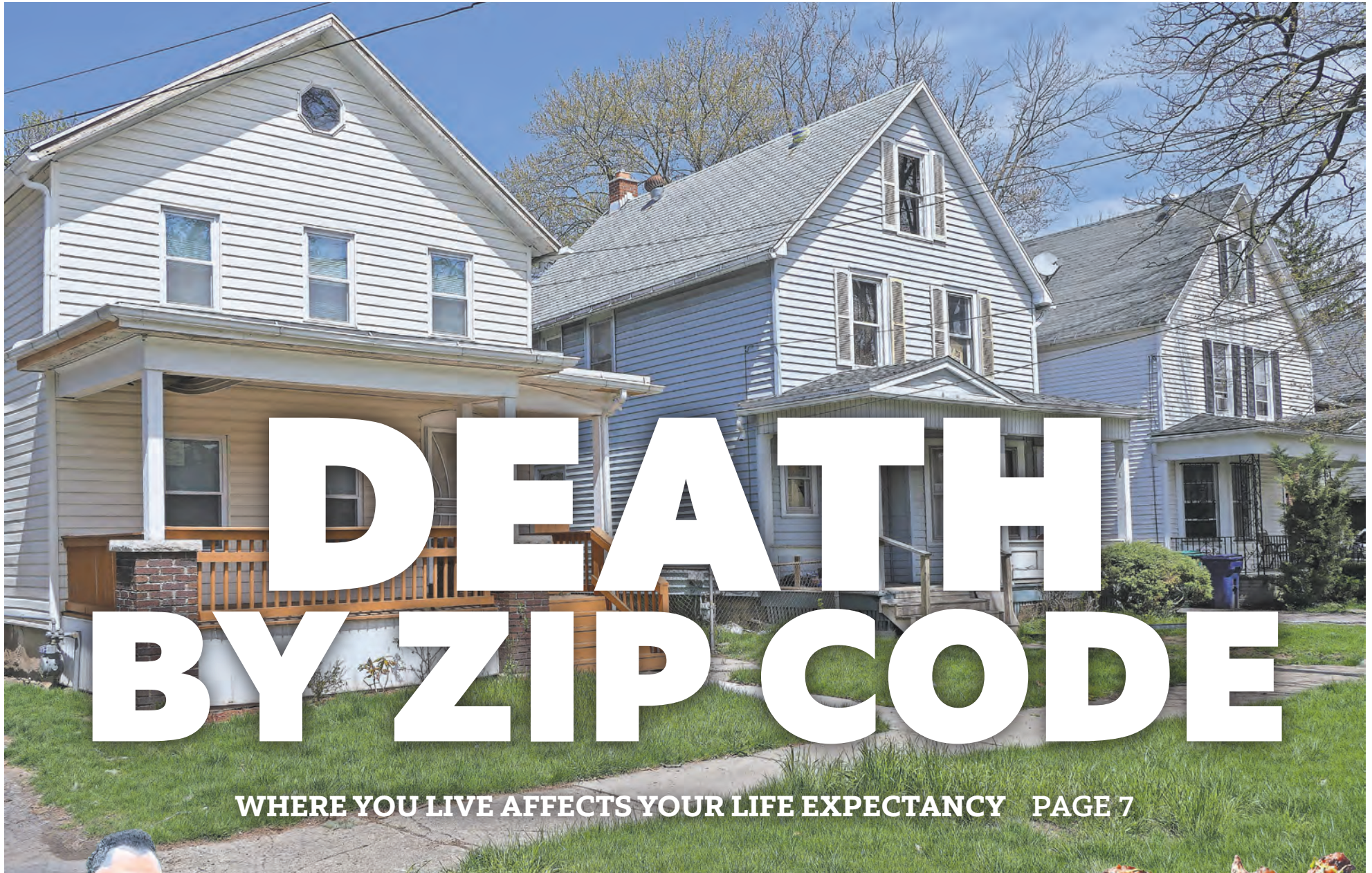


THE VOICE

A Trusted Voice From The Community's Perspective



DEATH BY ZIP CODE

WHERE YOU LIVE AFFECTS YOUR LIFE EXPECTANCY PAGE 7



Coach Larry Allen
Recognized for Impacting
Young Athlete's Lives Page 10

A Taste of Two Worlds:
Mesob's Flavorful Expansion
In Kansas City Page 14



Volume 31, No. 17 · communityvoiceks.com · Friday, August 9, 2024

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THE VOICE

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 16
FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2024

LOOKING AHEAD

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Sign Up for Our Weekly Newsletter: If you don't have time to stop by the website on a regular basis, sign up for our weekly newsletter. Once a week, we'll send you a newsletter summarizing our top five stories of the week.

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on our website. Not just current and recent issues. You can read issues dating back several years. Go to www.CommunityVoiceKS.com, click on "e-editions." Plus, our archive is searchable. If there's a particular story you're looking for, just enter a defining word for the story in the search box.

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

Wichita Man Pleads Guilty to Hate Crime

New Wichita Library Solar Benches Provide Free Wi-Fi, Charging Stations

Kansas City News

Construction Industry Reaches Out to KC Community with Job Fair

Jackson Co. Expands Senior Property Tax Credit

National

Five Things to Know About Kamala Harris' Criminal Justice Record

Health

Blood Test for Colon Cancer Screening is Approved by US

Regulators

(This article was published in our Wednesday health newsletter, sign up for it and receive more great health stories each week.)

Sports

USPS Issues Commemorative Stamp Honoring Hank Aaron

We've had lots of Olympics coverage including focused on our reader's interest including:

The Olympics are Giving Breaking a Global Stage in Paris. Not Everyone is Celebrating

Arts, Culture & Lifestyles

Survey: How Many Couples View Alcohol as Essential to Their Relationship?

Community Voice Selected to Participate in Pilot Sustainability Project

By The Voice News Service

The Wichita Foundation and LION Publishers have teamed up to offer Sustainability Audits to four Wichita-based publications as part of WF's Press Forward Wichita grants.

The pilot program will examine the business operations of four grant recipients of Press Forward Wichita, powered by WF – The (Kansas) Community Voice, The (Kansas) Journal, Wichita by E.B., and Wichita Life ICT. WF is also funding a one-year membership in LION Publishers for the cohort.

LION's Sustainability Audit, introduced in 2021, is a thorough assessment of a news business, with recommendations and resources to help enhance organizational sustainability. The Audit process consists of:

- A questionnaire to define the current state of the organization in terms of operational, financial, and journalism metrics.

- An interview with an expert analyst to dive deeper into the business.

- An audit report compiled by the analyst and LION staff summarizing organizational strengths and recommendations for action to enhance organizational sustainability.

"The Community Voice is approaching 30 years old, and in those years we've never had a more personalized opportunity to assist us in growing and improving our business," said Bonita Gooch, owner of The Community Voice. "We're excited to work with LION, appreciate Wichita Foundation for their ongoing support and can't wait to see the results of this program manifest in improved products for our readers."

"This partnership highlights our commitment to fostering a vibrant, sustainable local news ecosystem," said Courtney Bengtson, WF's chief strategy officer. "By providing resources through the Sustainability Audit, we are investing



in the future of storytelling in Wichita and connecting our community with the information they need to thrive."

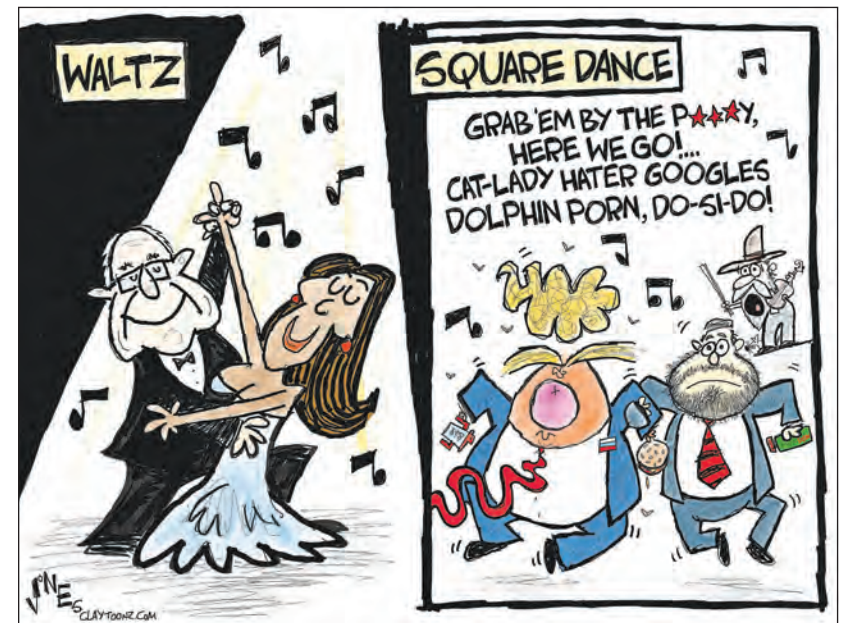
"We're very excited for these publishers to join the hundreds of publishers who have already experienced how the Audit has helped their news business," said Chris Krewson, LION's executive director. "We know having a shared language and set of guideposts will help even more publishers reach sustainability

and ultimately strengthen the local news industry, which is why LION set a strategic goal of making the Sustainability Audit an industry standard."

LION Publishers is a national nonprofit serving local journalism entrepreneurs.

Since 1986, the foundation has partnered with people, families and organizations to build community through the Fund for Wichita and nearly 300 charitable funds.

CARTOON



THE COMMUNITY VOICE

PO Box 20804 | Wichita, KS 67214
316.681.1155 | ISSN 1090-3852
www.communityvoiceks.com

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: Published BiWeekly
\$27.95/yr. Sedgwick County
\$35.95/yr. Outside Sedgwick County
\$73.99/yr. Outside Kansas

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National Brief

JUDGE RULES AGAINST MAJORITY OF CLAIMS IN BLACK STUDENT'S HAIR DISCRIMINATION CASE

A federal judge has dismissed most of the claims in a lawsuit filed by a Black Texas high school student who alleged that school officials had violated his civil rights by insisting he cut his hair to fit school policy.

Darryl George's battle with Barbers Hill High School in Mont Belvieu began last summer when he faced numerous in-school suspensions over his natural locs.

School officials said George's locs fell below his eyebrows and ear lobes, which violates the district's dress code for male students.

George and his mother sued a number of people including the school district, the district superintendent, his principal and assistant principal as well as Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Attorney General Ken Paxton for violation of the state's CROWN Act.

In the Aug. 6 ruling, U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Brown dismissed the claims against almost everyone. The judge dismissed claims of racial bias in the policy and claims of violation of his First Amendment rights.

However, George's claim of sex discrimination stood. In his ruling, Brown wrote: "What is the rationale for the dress code's distinction between male and female students? Because the District does not provide any reason for the sex-based distinctions in its dress code, the claim survives this initial stage."

What Made Walz Stand Out for Harris

By Associated Press

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz wasn't one of the names you heard the most leading up to the final days of consideration for a vice-presidential running mate for Kamala Harris, so his selection was a surprise to many, including a number of Washington insiders.

What made him rise to the top? Here are a few points that seem to have led to his selection.

His Dad Vibes

He comes across as the kind of guy that makes a good dad, and that came through in some videos that have become a hit on social media. He's approachable and fun-loving.

Walz, a balding 60-year-old former high school football coach, has become a liberal favorite on social media precisely for his off-the-charts levels of uncoolness.

A year-old video he filmed with his daughter, Hope, while visiting the Minnesota State Fair went viral. It showed Walz screaming on a ride called the Slingshot and cheerfully admonishing his daughter for her lack of interest in eating corn dogs.

"I'm vegetarian," his daughter said.

"Turkey, then," the camouflage-hat-wearing Walz said.

In other resurfaced videos, he seems to enjoy doting on the family cat, Honey, and cats are awfully popular on social media.

A person close to the selection process said that Walz's previous career as a high school teacher and football coach also appealed to Harris, who has gained the support of the nation's teachers unions.

The American Federation of Teachers, a powerful labor broker in Democratic politics, last month became the first labor union to endorse



Harris and Walz appear to have a chemistry, which in the end, was one of the major reasons she reportedly selected him.

Harris. And the National Education Association, the largest labor union in the country, announced its support for the Democratic ticket on Aug. 6 after Walz's selection was revealed.

His Populist Policies

As governor, Walz championed a host of liberal policies in Minnesota that are popular with Democratic and independent-leaning voters, including a statewide child tax credit and a paid-leave program, focused on helping lower- and middle-income Americans. A Harris administration would try to enact legislation like this on a national scale, according to two people directly familiar with the vice president's decision-making.

In 2023, Walz signed into law a bill that gave schoolchildren access to free meals, making Minnesota the fourth

state in the nation to provide free meals.

Beyond economics, Walz also signed a bill in 2023 that codified the protections of Roe v. Wade, which had guaranteed a constitutional right to abortion, into law in his state.

Walz also has a personal story about in vitro fertilization, which has been targeted by conservative groups who say frozen embryos could be considered "extrauterine children." To conceive his daughter, Walz and his wife, Gwen, had gone through treatments for the procedure that stretched over seven years.

On foreign policy, Walz has not spoken extensively about the war in Gaza, one of the thorniest issues facing the Biden administration. On immigration, Walz has said he supports a pathway to citizenship for people brought to

the United States as children, which is in line with the current administration's policies.

His Potential to Speak to Rural Voters

Raised in rural Nebraska, Walz is the son of a homemaker and a public school administrator. He enlisted in the Army National Guard at age 17.

A post from Harris on Instagram ticked off more facts about his past: "His father died of cancer when he was 19, and his family relied on Social Security survivor benefit checks to make ends meet. At 17, he enlisted in the National Guard, serving for 24 years. He used his GI Bill benefits to go to college, and become a teacher."

If that sounds like a checklist of biographical items that could appeal to Midwestern voters, that is exactly the

thinking of Harris and her advisers, who believe that she needs someone with political pull in Midwestern states — including Michigan and Wisconsin — that are considered must-wins for her.

He is a hunter who has spoken of his gun ownership and past "A" rating from the National Rifle Association. In 2016, Guns & Ammo magazine included him on its list of top 20 politicians for gun owners. But after a teenage gunman killed 17 people at a Florida high school in February 2018, Walz spoke out in favor of an assault weapons ban.

In 2023, he signed into law a bill that would require people buying firearms to undergo background checks and allow law enforcement officials the ability to

See Walz Page 13 →

Jackson County Will Have First Black Female Prosecutor

Melesa Johnson wins Democratic primary and will face Tracey Chappell in November

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

Melesa Johnson impressively won the Democratic primary for Jackson County Prosecutor with over 48% of the vote in a three-way race.

Johnson's victory means that regardless of the outcome in November, Jackson County will elect its first Black female prosecutor as Johnson will now face Republican Tracey Chappell in the general election.

Johnson, who currently serves as Mayor Quinton Lucas' director of public safety, defeated two other Democratic candidates - John Gromowsky, an assistant county prosecutor, and Stephanie Burton, a local criminal defense attorney.

At The Combine for her election night celebration, Johnson addressed an excited crowd. "People who live in communities heavily impacted by crime want good relationships with their law enforcement officers," said Johnson. "We can't incarcerate our way out of this issue."

Johnson's background and balanced approach to public safety set her apart from the other candidates. Growing up in the high-crime Oak Park neighborhood, Johnson has personal experience with these challenges. She has promised to take a "holistic approach" that combines aggressive prosecution with increased support services and diversion programs.



Johnson

"Thank you for believing in innovation, creativity, and problem solving instead of repeated explanations on why things won't work," Johnson told supporters.

Johnson has vowed to target juvenile crime through focused deterrents and partnerships with schools, as well as create a new "opportunity court" to provide job training, conflict resolution, and financial literacy for non-violent offenders. She also plans to increase the focus on prosecuting property crimes that are often deprioritized.

Johnson's victory comes after a contentious primary race marked by accusations of using race as a political wedge. The presence of three Democratic candidates, including two Black women, had raised concerns about the possibility of splitting the Black and progressive vote. However, Johnson's campaign coupled with endorsements from the mayor, Freedom Inc., and former prosecutor Jean Peters Baker helped carried her to victory.

And the Kansas Winners Are

These four candidates move ahead to the November election without a challenger, since no one from an opposing party filed to run for their seat.

By Bonita Gooch
Editor-in-Chief

We followed a number of races throughout the primary season, with some of them being decided by the primary vote, since there isn't anyone running from the position from the opposing party.

So, winners after the primary are:

David Haley, Senate District 4 in Wyandotte County. Haley, the longest-serving member of the Kansas Senate had a serious challenger this time in **Ephran Taylor III**. Taylor was correct, his youth would have added diversity to the Kansas Senate, but the voters didn't see it that way, instead choosing to send a well-known and long-term public servant back to Topeka.

Wyandotte County voters went with the familiar in the four-way race for the House District 35 seat. Wyandotte residents seemed fairly unanimous in their desire to replace their current one-term representative, **Marvin Robinson**, but instead of considering two rather talented younger candidates - **Michelle Watley** and **Kimberly DeWitt**, they went with **Wanda Brownlee Paige**, who currently serves on the Kansas City Kansas Public School Board. Brownlee Paige has served on the school board since 2018 and her current term doesn't end until 2025.

She joins the list of Wyandotte officials elected to two positions. In addition to his position in the Kansas Senate, Haley has been elected to serve on the Kansas City Board of Public

Utilities Board of Directors. Paige's double-dip will be similar to Valdenia Winn's, who is an elected member of the KCKPS Board and has served in the Kansas House since 2001.

Other races that were decided in the primary include:

Brooklynne Mosley's win in a three-race for the House District 46 seat representing Lawrence, KS, means there will be at least one additional African American in the Kansas House since the rest of the African-American incumbents are running unopposed. Mosley, a 10-year Air Force veteran, vice president of mobilization for a political consulting firm, political organizer and campaign operative, earned 67% in her win over two other candidates.

Allison Williamson fell short in her bid to unseat incumbent Judge Jane Sieve Wilson, who has served in the Wyandotte 29th Judicial District Court since 2019. Wilson earned 54.6% of the vote in this two-way race.

Jacqueline Kelly will become the only African-American judge serving in the 18th Judicial District Court in Sedgwick County. Sedgwick County judicial



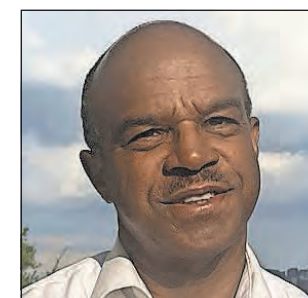
Brownlee Paige



Kelly



Mosley



Haley

races are partisan and the county has a history of only electing Republicans. In fact, 100% of the judges are Republicans, and so, as a

Republican candidate, Kelly only had to overcome being Black, something she did in flying colors by earning 38.8% of the vote.

On to the November Elections

Our election coverage continues as we head to the November election. So far, our coverage has focused on candidates with a primary. With the primaries behind us, our converge will move on to highlight candidates that might otherwise fly under the radar and on races and issues of particular importance to our readers. Stick with us and be an informed voter.

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Briefs

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter



KC Local Quincy Hall Takes Olympic Gold

Quincy Hall, a Raytown South High School alum, secured Olympic gold in the men's 400-meter final at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris on Wednesday.

Hall, 26, made a dramatic comeback in the last 100 meters of the race, overtaking Great Britain's Matthew Hudson-Smith by just .04 seconds to win with a time of 43.4 seconds. This marked a personal best for Hall and the fifth-fastest time ever recorded in the event.

Hall's victory ended a 16-year gold drought for the U.S. in the men's 400 meters, with the last American winner being LaShawn Merritt in 2008. His win also brought the 20th gold medal in the event for Team USA in Olympic history.

GG Owens to be Honored at Monument to Freedom Justice & Courage Ceremony

GG Owens will be recognized on Aug. 24, at the Monument to Freedom Justice & Courage Honoree Celebration, held at Leon Jordan Memorial Park in Kansas City, Missouri. The event, organized by Jackson County Legislator

Venessa Huskey and the Freedom Wall Commission, honors individuals who have made significant contributions to civil rights and the advancement of people of color in Jackson County.

Owens, whose name will be added to the monument, has been acknowledged for her exceptional leadership and ongoing efforts to enhance the quality of life in the community. Owens expressed her gratitude, stating she is "honored and humbled" to receive this recognition.

The celebration will begin at 10 a.m. at 31st Street and Benton Boulevard. Those wishing to attend are asked to RSVP to Dawn Hickman at dhickman@jacksongov.org or call 816-881-3806.

Black Hat Society to Celebrate 26th Annual Marcus Garvey Day

Kansas City's Black Hat Society will host the 26th annual Marcus Garvey Day celebration on Aug. 24-25, honoring the legacy of the influential Black nationalist leader. The two-day event will feature a motorcade, an awards ceremony, and community activities that highlight the contributions of local heroes and volunteers.

The festivities will begin on Saturday,

Aug. 24, with an award ceremony at Leon M. Jordan Park at 10 a.m. The evening will continue with a VIP event from 7 p.m. to midnight at The Mecca Event House, located at 3302 Prospect Ave. The BYOB gathering will include music, dancing, and a meal, with attendees encouraged to bring their own chairs. The event is free, but RSVP is encouraged by emailing owensmsgg@gmail.com.

On Sunday, Aug. 25, the celebration will resume with a motorcade starting at 1 p.m., where participants are invited to decorate their vehicles with red, black, and green balloons and streamers. The motorcade will travel through Kansas City's historic districts before returning to The Mecca Event House for the awards ceremony. Community members will be recognized for their dedication and service, with special honors given to members of the Black Hat Society, the Universal African Peoples Organization, and local volunteers.

The Marcus Garvey Day events are part of Black August, a month dedicated to Black history and activism. They are free and open to the public, and food will be provided to all guests.

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KCK Officials Helped 'Cult' Flourish Despite Warnings of Child Abuse, Say Prosecutors

United Nation of Islam ruled Wyandotte's Quindaro Boulevard for two decades. The group's leaders are about to go on trial.

By Grace Hills
Kansas Reflector

For nearly two decades, local government officials in Kansas City, Kansas — operating under the pretense of reviving a neighborhood they considered blighted and dangerous — aided a quasi-religious group whose leaders now face federal charges of trafficking children.

Six people connected to an organization formerly known as the United Nation of Islam went on trial this week in Federal Court in Wyandotte County. Allegations are the group forced children as young as 8 to work without

pay. The indictment says the group, which a federal judge labeled a "cult," also beat children, denied them health care, and forced them to eat strict diets.

"You have to recognize this was an organization. This is a system, a business, right? A business has to actually engage with political members to do what they have to do," a woman who was trafficked by the group told Kansas Reflector. "So, if that's the case, how did they do this for years?"

She alleges the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City and the public school board

ignored warning signs as they helped the United Nation of Islam flourish.

In 1996, a group from UNOI led by the late Royall Jenkins, UNOI's leader who claimed to be Allah, told the city commission the group was moving to Kansas City to create its headquarters. Group leaders had decided to make Kansas City their "heaven."

The UNOI ruled over the Quindaro Boulevard area starting in 1997 — running storefronts like "Your Diner," "Your Bakery," "Your Gas Station," and others.

A Kansas Reflector investigation uncovered details of the group's activities and local

officials' support through federal and state court documents, city records, and interviews with the human trafficking survivor, a former city commissioner, a Dept. for Children and Families spokeswoman, and a human trafficking expert.

Nathaniel Barnes, a city commissioner in 1996, said he "raised an eyebrow" when Jenkins claimed to be Allah. But Jenkins promised big ideas — like creating housing and storefronts.

From 1998 to 2000, the Unified Government donated five buildings to UNOI, all on or near Quindaro Boulevard. Barnes said the government just needed to make sure the group was classified as a non-profit, which it was, before donating the buildings. These buildings were used for labor trafficking of minors, sexual and physical abuse, fake schooling, and unregulated medical practice, according to prosecutors and survivors.

The woman who talked to Kansas Reflector about being trafficked by Jenkins as a child said she suffered severe panic attacks and depression after she escaped UNOI. She recalled a three-month stay at a mental health hospital, where she told her doctors of the physical, sexual and psychological abuse she suffered and witnessed.

She did not press abuse charges. Kansas Reflector doesn't identify survivors of domestic and sexual violence without their consent, and she asked that her name not be used.

She said government officials enabled UNOI because it allowed them to "take the burden off" of running the



Youth members of the KC-based United Nation of Islam, spoke at a Wichita town hall in 2006. A trial against leaders of the organization is underway in Kansas City. They are facing federal charges of trafficking children.

Quindaro area, an area of low socioeconomic status and high crime rates. Defendants called the area the "dangerous part of town," court documents show.

One of Jenkins' daughters told The Pitch in 2003 that at least five members had called the state's child abuse hotline, including her. She died in 2008, and court documents show that Jenkins announced to members that he "had his daughter killed."

An employee at the Dept. for Children and Families, known at the time as Social and Rehabilitative Services, told The Pitch she had joined law enforcement to investigate, but the group's security guards blocked her from entering the property.

Despite the warning signs, in March 2003, the Unified Government donated another building.

About the United Nation of Islam

The United Nation of Islam, which rebranded as the "Value

Creators" and "The Promise Keepers," is a breakaway sect of the Nation of Islam. After Nation of Islam leader Elijah Muhammad's death in 1975, Jenkins said he was visited by angels or scientists who took him around the universe to show him how to rule earth. He said those who chose to follow him would be protected when the "final destruction" came.

Jenkins told members to give up everything to UNOI: their money, their food stamps, deeds to their property. Even their children.

The survivor who was abused by the group said that when she was moved from her home state to Kansas City, she and other children ages 7 to 12 were picked up in the middle of the night and transported by a charter bus, purchased by UNOI. Neither the parents nor the children knew where they were going. A week after their arrival in Kansas City, the children were allowed minimal, monitored contact with their parents, she said.





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Your ZIP Code Might Determine How Long You Live

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

Why are people in some places in the U.S. consistently less healthy and have a shorter lifespan than others?

If you look at health and fitness magazines, it may seem like poor diet, lack of exercise and other bad behaviors are to blame. Genetics and access to health care are also commonly cited reasons for why some people are healthier than others.

But where a person lives, works and plays also matters. Research shows where you live plays a powerful role in your health.

Dr Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, president of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, has stated: “We know that a child’s life expectancy is predicted more by his ZIP code than his genetic code.”

Researchers from the New York University School of Medicine recently used data from NYU Langone Health’s City Health Dashboard to find that 56 of the U.S.’ 500 largest cities are home to people who can expect to live at least 20 fewer years than those in other neighborhoods, even if they’re just blocks or miles away.

A ZIP code’s influence on the health of those living there is multifold. Where you live directly affects your health in several ways, from exposure to air pollution and toxins to accessibility of healthy food, green space and medical care. But it’s also a more subtle indicator of socioeconomic factors that are inherent to health and longevity, including race and income.

The cities with the widest gaps in life expectancy, the NYU researchers found, were those that were most segregated by race and ethnicity, with predominantly minority neighborhoods often facing obstacles – like poverty, untenable housing costs, unemployment and subpar social services – that don’t affect majority White neighborhoods to the same degree.

Links between race, poverty and health have been reinforced by years of inequality, and disentangling them won’t be easy. But understanding the ties between ZIP code and health can help local lawmakers, public health officials and community representatives begin to level the playing field for their residents, the NYU researchers argue.

Social Determinants of Health and Health Disparities

It’s easy to pick out the neighborhoods in our cities where the lifespan is shorter. They’re the poorest neighborhoods and the



A ZIP code’s influence on the health of those living there is multifold. *SPIROVIEW INC. - STOCK.ADOBE.COM*

neighborhoods with the most crime. They’re the neighborhoods with few grocery stores or resources.

The items just described are called social determinants of health – the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes. They are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of “forces and systems” shaping the conditions of daily life.

These “forces and systems” shaping daily life include:

Economic policies and systems – example: what is the minimum wage?

Development agendas – example: does my local government prioritize and incentivize the development of affordable housing, allowing environmentally unsafe construction near residential areas?

Social norms – example: is the norm in my community to fight with fists or with guns and discrimination?

Social policies – examples: job training, neighborhood renewal and disability services.

Political systems – example: has my state passed Medicare expansion, abortion laws, foster care policies and funding for education?

Social determinants of health have a major impact on health inequities – the unfair

and avoidable differences in health status seen within cities. In cities, states, and countries, all levels of income, health and illness follow a social gradient: the lower the socioeconomic position the worse the health.

Research shows that social determinants can be more important than health care or lifestyle choices in influencing health. For example, numerous studies suggest that SDH account for between 30-55% of health outcomes. In addition, estimates show that the contributions from outside of health to population health outcomes exceed the contribution from the health sector.

Addressing SDH appropriately is fundamental for improving health and reducing longstanding inequities in health, which requires action by all sectors and civil society.

African Americans and Social Determinants of Health

What are some of the SDHs contributing to the low health outcomes of African Americans? If we can begin to address some of these issues, we can begin to improve life expectancy in some of these zip codes.

Education: Fewer blacks graduate from high school (72.5 %) than do non-Hispanic Whites (87.2 %), and more Whites than Blacks earn a bachelor’s degree.

Unemployment rate: While



We know that a child’s life expectancy is predicted more by his ZIP code than his genetic code.”

DR RISA LAVIZZO-MOUREY
Former President of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

unemployment rates for all Americans is historically low, the Black unemployment rate remains double that of Whites.

Poverty: Poverty is a prime predictor for lacking basic human essentials including adequate clean water, nutrition, health care, education, clothing, and shelter. African Americans are the poorest ethnic group in America and have had the lowest median household income in America.

Other Neighborhood Issues

The **quality of housing** affects health, and African Americans live in some of the country’s lowest-quality housing. Asthma is related to poor housing, and African Americans are disproportionately affected from asthma. Segregated housing is correlated with a significant increase in cardiovascular disease.

Transportation is often a problem in poor communities, presenting obstacles to accessing health care services, especially preventive care.

Access to healthy foods is also a frequent problem in poor African-American communities. “Food deserts” describe neighborhoods without easy access to supermarkets that sell fresh produce and other healthy foods.

Several studies also document that the food that is available in poor Black neighborhoods is less fresh and of lower quality. In contrast, alcohol outlets are much more numerous in Black neighborhoods. It is not surprising that rates of obesity and diabetes are highest in poor Black neighborhoods.

Black people are significantly more likely to reside near sources of **air pollution and other environmental problems**

See **ZIP CODE**, Page 8 →

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH For familiar ZIP codes in our service area

See how low the social determinants of health measures are in these ZIP codes with low life expectancy

ZIP Code	Wichita 67214	Kansas City KS 66104	Kansas	Kansas City MO 64130	Missouri
Demographics					
Life Expectancy (years)	69.90	70.10	78.60	66.00	75.10
Black Population	39.19%	36.80%	7.20%	84.60%	12.70%
Social Characteristics					
High School Completion	76.00%	75.90%	91.80%	84.90%	91.30%
Females Married (age 15+)	22.40%	39.00%	50.20%	23.10%	47.40%
Economics					
Household Income below \$25K	40.80%	23.80%	15.30%	50.50%	17.30%
Unemployment rate	6.20%	4.10%	2.60%	5.70%	2.70%
Housing					
No Vehicles Available	22.50%	7.60%	5.10%	20%	6.60%
Median House Value	\$70,300.00	\$109,600.00		\$60,300.00	
Owner Occupied	36.90%	64.50%	66.70%	53.60%	67.60%
Median Rent	\$702.00	\$1,006.00	\$986.00	\$953.00	\$957.00
Demographics	39.19%	36.80%	7.20%	84.60%	12.70%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Data Profiles -- 2022 data
<https://www.cdc.gov/places/social-determinants-of-health-and-places-data/>

ZIP CODE, from Page 7 ↓

having broad negative health impacts.

Violence is also a major determinant of health disparities. Firearm homicide was the leading cause of death for African-American males ages 15-34 with firearms being used in over 91% of homicides of African-American males ages 15-34.

It must also be noted that Black children are twice as likely to witness domestic violence and 20 times more likely to witness a murder than White children. Persons who live in poor neighborhoods are also much less likely to gain the benefits of exercise because of safety concerns

Incarceration – Approximately 50% of all inmates in U.S. jails and prisons are Black, even though they represent less than 13% of the population. One in six prisoners has a diagnosable mental illness. This population also suffers from infectious and chronic diseases at rates that

are four to ten times higher than the total population.

Not only do prisoners come from disproportionately poor populations, but a lack of adequate healthcare has been well documented in many U.S. prisons and jails, although this population has a constitutional right to health services.

The impact of incarceration on the family is devastating. One of every 15 Black children has an incarcerated parent, compared to one of every 110 White children. Research has shown that children of incarcerated parents are six times more likely to be incarcerated themselves during their lifetimes

If we are to improve the life expectancy of Black people in America, which requires more than just better health care, we must begin to address these social determinants which can be more important than health care or lifestyle choices in influencing health.

By a look at the stats, there's lots of work to be done.



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Murals Unveiled at Lynette Woodard Center Honoring Wichita Basketball Legends

By Bonita Gooch
Voice Editor-in-Chief

The MEFSEC, now known as the Lynette Woodard Center, gave rise to a number of great basketball players, many of whom went on to play in the WNBA and the NBA. One of those was Lynette Woodard, who the center was renamed after in 1984.

Woodard was on hand late last month for the unveiling of new artwork honoring many of Wichita's great players who polished their game at the MEFSEC.

With the center named after her, it was logical that Woodard's mural is the largest, but the list of those honored with murals of their likeness included Korleone Young, Maurice Evans, Adrian Griffin, Taj Gra and Aubrey Sherrod. Female ballers weren't forgotten. Murals were also included for Collen Bowser Edwards, LaToya Randle and Angela Buckner, who currently serves as the center director.

If you can't get by the center to see the

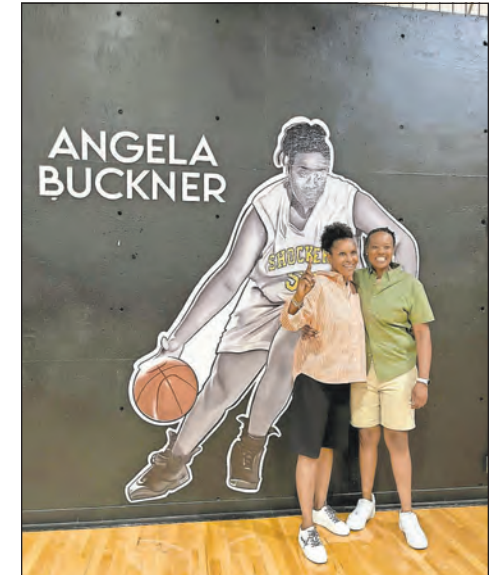


A mural recognizes Adrian Griffin who went on to play and coach in the NBA. Griffin was on hand for the unveiling.

murals, you can check them out on our website communityvoiceks.com, click on Wichita and Wichita sports.



Lynette Woodard poses for a picture in front of her mural with Larry Dennis, who was a long time director of the center. Dennis, a basketball standout, is also honored with a mural.



Lynette stands in front of the mural of Angela Buckner, a Wichita State University standout, who currently serves as the center director.



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Wichita Coach Recognized for Transforming Lives of Young Athletes

Larry Allen, who coached junior league and high school football for more than 42 years, was recently awarded the Theo Cribbs Jr. Man of the Year Award.

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

Recently, Coach Larry Allen received some long-overdue recognition.

Allen, who coached junior league and high school football in Wichita for more than 42 years, received the Theo Cribbs Jr. Man of the Year Award at a dinner attended by more than 50 of his former players.

Speaker after speaker shared stories about the major impact Allen had in their lives.

“He taught us more than football. He taught us about life, about staying out of the system and going to colleges,” said William Polite, who was on one of Allen’s earliest teams. “Coach Allen had a motto, ‘I’m not just here to build football players, I’m here to build young men.’”

He was successful in his goal, with many of his players going on to stellar positions at work and in the community.

“There are NFL players, teachers, preachers and pastors, doctors and lawyers and even just Christian married men taking care of their responsibility, and I am very proud of their accomplishments,” said Allen

He gained a reputation for his tireless effort to help children who weren’t expected to succeed and had little hope. He gave them the confidence they needed to overcome the negative forces in their life by turning them into positives.

“Many of my former guys did not have a dad in the home, but I made it clear while mentoring them that that could not be an excuse for not being successful,” said Allen. “In

fact, that should be the motivation you need to be successful, so never give up and feel sorry for yourself, because hard work and dedication to a cause can change the course of your life.”

The ICT Dawgs youth football program bestowed Allen with the Theo Cribbs Jr. Man of the Year Award in memory of another legendary local coach. Cribbs founded the Wichita Bulldogs in the early 1980s, after working more than a decade with the Wichita Colts organization. Through both organizations, he mentored children and instilled in them discipline and pride. He remained involved until his death in 2023.

Early Days

Allen grew up in sports: football, baseball and basketball. With a big family full of boys, and one girl, life at the Allen house revolved around sports and church.

His father, Alvin “Pappy” Allen, founded the Wichita Colts junior league football program in 1964.

It was, and still is, one of the city’s most successful youth football organizations. That’s why this recognition from the Wichita Bulldog speaks extra volumes about Allen’s impact.

Allen grew up in the Colts program and when he aged out of it, he transitioned to Wichita South High School, where he was a star. In 1972, he helped South win its first city football title.

“Larry was the man who led the team to



The banquet was attended by many of Allen’s former players. Some of them gathered for a photo with him after the banquet.

the championship,” said his former South High team manager Randy Ehrlich. “As the star running back, Larry was in a league of his own. He didn’t showboat or act special, but when the quarterback put that football into his gut, as running back, he was phenomenal - bobbing and weaving, lightning-fast runners that put the crowd on their feet.”

Even back then as the team leader, he had a powerful saying: “Never, never, never give up!”

After high school, Allen attended Garden City Community College on a football scholarship. After that, he played Division 1 ball at the University of Ohio.

After college, he had offers to play for the Pittsburgh Steelers, New England Patriots, and Seattle Seahawks - but he was thrown a curve ball when his mother passed.

He decided to turn down the offers to come back to Wichita and

help his siblings and family members who needed direction. He focused on family, completing his education and marrying his high school sweetheart. He and wife Deborah will be married 50 years this December.

“Guys, if you had a choice of coming home every night to such a beautiful woman as Deborah or playing professional football, what would you do?” he said at the banquet in full appreciation of his bride.

Coaching

Allen began his coaching career with the Colts in 1976. Early on, he worked with the older boys, getting them ready for high school football and beyond.

Along the way, he produced a number of community college, Division 1, and NFL players. While Allen didn’t want to name any of the players for fear of leaving some out, others were willing to name drop.



Larry Allen



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Community Celebrates Unveiling of New Jackie Robinson Statue

By The Voice News Service

The statue of Jackie Robinson in bronze was welcomed home Aug. 5 by Little League players and former Major League Baseball all-stars, just over six months after the original was destroyed by thieves.

The original sculpture of the baseball icon resting a bat on his shoulder was cut off at its ankles in January, leaving behind only Robinson's cleats at McAdams Park in Wichita.

An identical statue was returned to the park, where about 600 children play in the urban youth baseball league called League 42, and named after Robinson's uniform number with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Playing for the Dodgers,

Attending the event were representatives of MLB and former players such as Tony Regans, CC Sabathia and Dellin Betances.

The nonprofit was met with an outpouring of support and hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations after news of the stolen statue shocked the community and spread across the country. The donations helped fund the replacement statue, as well as improvements to the plaza where it stands, the



Negro League Baseball Museum President Bob Kendrick was on hand for the occasion.

nonprofit's facilities and its programming.

Firefighters found burned remnants of the original statue five days after it disappeared. One man pleaded guilty and will spend about 15 years in prison, although most of that time is related to a burglary that happened a few days after the statue heist.

Ricky Alderete was sentenced Aug. 2 to 18 months and ordered to pay \$41,500

restitution for stealing the statue, an act he said stemmed from his addiction to fentanyl.

The lonely cleats of the original found a new home at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, MO. Bob Kendrick, president of the NLBM attended the unveiling ceremony.

Robinson played for the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro Leagues before joining the Brooklyn Dodgers.



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UNITED NATION OF ISLAM, from Page 6 ↓

Children worked up to 16 hours per day in UNOI storefronts without pay. Court documents show that although members could be of any age, the defendants primarily used the labor of minors, the youngest 8 years old. In return, they would get meals, accommodations and housing, according to court documents.

Restricting meals was often used as a form of punishment — the meals they did receive were small and sparse, and Jenkins only allowed them to eat “clean” foods, which were bean soup, salad and occasionally fruit, former members told federal investigators. Court documents outline the colonics members were forced to get, which is a medical procedure designed to “cleanse” the colon by flushing water through it. It is considered unhealthy and dangerous by doctors. Documents also outline weekly weigh-ins and mandated weight for women and girls.

Court documents show members were not allowed to consume media that was not approved by Jenkins, and were not allowed to wear clothes or use toiletries not made by UNOI. Members had to make requests for any outside item, and requests often were denied.

Read the rest of the story @communityvoiceks.com. Kansas city news

LARRY ALLEN, from Page 10 ↓

Most successful among them was Wichita legend Barry Sanders, who, as an eighth- and ninth-grader, completed a lot of his high school preparatory skill development on Allen’s team. Sanders went on to win the Heisman Trophy and played 10 seasons for the Detroit Lions.

In addition to coaching junior league football for 21 years, Allen was an assistant coach on the high school level for 21 years: 10 at Kapaun Mt. Carmel, three at Wichita Heights, five at Wichita Southeast, and three at Sunrise Christian Academy.

“One of the biggest tragedies is that he was never allowed to [head] coach at the high school level,” said Polite. “He was one of the brightest football minds in the city for years, but the good old boys club, they wouldn’t give him a chance.”

It would be decades before Wichita hired an African American as a head high school football coach, even though they had several head basketball coaches, including Allen’s brother, Greg Allen.

Personal Life as an Example

Allen did all of his work molding

players and young men while working full time at Boeing Aircraft from 1976 through 2006. In addition, he and his wife had and raised three children.

“The coaching was a bonus,” said Allen, who called football his therapy and a passion he inherited from his father.

Still active, he works for USD 259 doing what he loves, mentoring young men in the school district’s Future Ready Program. He’s also authored a workbook, “The Lord’s Champion,” to help youth become the kind of men “the Lord designed us to be.”

Allen has always been equally passionate about his faith in God and shared it openly with his players.

“My Christian journey and my family commitment hopefully showed my guys that faith in God plays a major role in any success you plan to have in this life,” said Allen. “I always spoke this way to my guys. Thank God many of them were listening, because every church I go to in the urban community, I find many of my former players there serving, preaching and praying. All my coaching, teaching, training, & equipping is on full display and that makes me very proud.”

Walz, from Page 3 ↓

intervene if a person owning a firearm posed a risk to themselves or others.

His Contrast With Trump’s Running Mate, JD Vance

Harris and her advisers believe Walz will match up well on a debate stage against U.S. Sen. JD Vance of Ohio, former President Donald J. Trump’s vice-presidential candidate and a fellow Midwesterner.

As they watched Walz closely during a breakneck vetting period, Harris and her team liked his straight-talking style, including when he called Trump and some other Republicans “weird.”

“You know there’s something wrong with people when they talk

about freedom: freedom to be in your bedroom, freedom to be in your exam room, freedom to tell your kids what they can read. That stuff is weird,” Walz said during an MSNBC appearance on July 25.

In the end, it came down to winning — and chemistry

Several people close to the decision-making process said that Harris held in-person interviews at the vice president’s residence with several hopefuls, including Walz, Gov. Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania, and Sen. Mark Kelly of Arizona. In the end, they said, Harris simply connected the best with Walz.

Her selection suggests that she trusts Walz not only to help her win but also to help her govern.

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A Taste of Two Worlds: Mesob's Flavorful Expansion in Kansas City

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

Mesob Restaurant & Rhum Bar marries Caribbean and Ethiopian cuisines under one roof and has gained a devoted following since 2011.

The Black-owned restaurant has opened a second location and is poised for even more expansion, bringing its vibrant flavors and warm hospitality to new corners of the metro area. The pairing of Caribbean and Ethiopian food may not have an initial obvious connection, but neither was the partnership of Chef Cherven Desauguste and Mehret Tesfamariam, who are now the married co-owners of Mesob. "We met when I was the Chef at a casino, I saw her, said hi and she completely ignored me," says Desauguste. "I wasn't pushy, but I kept showing up consistently."

Desauguste, who's a classically trained chef with decades in high-end environments, says Tesfamariam, who has similar food service experience, didn't talk to him for the first year or two they worked together.

But Kansas City diners are glad they started talking, because they created a restaurant that is consistently rated as one of the best in the city.

The two started a humble restaurant on Independence Avenue in 2011 and decided to pay homage to their roots. With Desauguste from Haiti and Tesfamariam from Eritrea, they decided on Caribbean & Ethiopian Cuisine.

For Kansas City diners who haven't discovered Mesob, Desauguste has a simple message: come to any of their locations with an open mind and a willingness to explore.

Whether you're a seasoned foodie looking to expand your palate or a curious newcomer to Caribbean and Ethiopian cuisines, Mesob promises a welcoming environment.

Two Cuisines, One Kitchen

The dual menu has something to satisfy even the pickiest eater. Ethiopian food is known for vegetarian and vegan dishes, and Mesob has many herbaceous options like the Misir Wot, a dish of lentils stewed in a rich berbere sauce with onions, garlic and ginger.

Most of the items ordered from the Ethiopian side of the menu are served with injera, which is a spongy flatbread that's naturally gluten free.

For the uninitiated, Desauguste says Ethiopian food has a lot of slow cooking and tends to have spices similar to Indian food, while Caribbean utilizes more fresh herbs, seafood, and what could be considered comfort food.

"Expect flavors, lots and lots of flavors," says Desauguste.

The most popular dish on the Caribbean side of the menu is the fall-off-the-bone tender oxtail braised in red wine, served with collard greens and rice and peas. Another popular choice is the whole fried snapper, a showstopper that arrives at the table crispy on the outside and succulent within, often weighing in at 1.5 to 2 pounds.

For those craving Ethiopian flavors, the lamb tibbs are a must-try. Desauguste says if you haven't had tibbs before, think of African fajitas. The tender chunks of lamb are sautéed with a blend of house spices, clarified herb butter, onions, garlic, jalapeños, and tomatoes. The dish is served atop injera, the spongy flatbread, which serves as both plate and utensil in Ethiopian cuisine.

A Rum Lover's Paradise

While the food alone is enough to draw crowds, Mesob's bar program, particularly its extensive rum selection, has become a destination in its own right. Desauguste has curated a



Rare Rhum 2: MESOB co-owner Chef Cherven Desauguste, stands in front of Mesob's Rum closet. The restaurant's bar program, particularly its extensive rum selection, has become a destination in its own right.



Snapper The whole fried snapper is a showstopper that arrives at the table crispy on the outside and succulent within.

SPENCER ELLSPERMAN

selection that would make any spirits enthusiast weak at the knees.

"We're the only premium rum bar in Kansas City," Desauguste says proudly.

Read more about Mesob's Rhum Bar online.

New Locations and Expansion

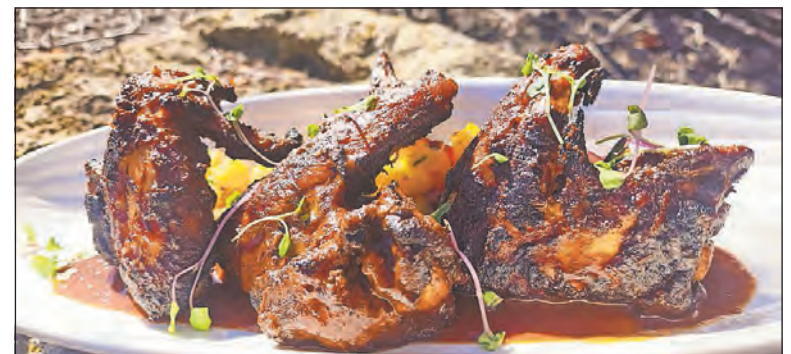
The new location on Northwest 64th Street opened in December and has grown its clientele, with the past two months being the busiest.

The new location has the same atmosphere and staff as the midtown location and much of the same menu, although there are some local variants. There is a happy hour and location specific daily specials aimed at bringing in dinners with diverse tastes, including a street taco Tuesday. Their standard menu features entrees that run between \$25 and \$30 and seasonally, they're open for lunch Tuesday through Thursday.

The northland location also features collaborative multicourse events, featuring other local chefs



Interior The staff at Mesob is warm and welcoming and the interiors are bright with joyful colors, but this is still a wonderful white



Jerk Chicken Jerk chicken is a must have for a Caribbean restaurant

and rum pairings. The next rum-paired dinner will be in September. It will be a collaboration with Chef Brian Hove of KoZak's in Smithville and will feature a five-course meal for \$150.

For the couple, Mesob is more than just a restaurant – it's a way to share their heritage, their love of food, and their commitment to hospitality with the Kansas City community. And as they look to the future, expanding their reach and introducing more diners to their unique culinary

vision, one thing is clear: Mesob's star is on the rise, and Kansas City's food scene is all the richer for it.

This is an abbreviated version of this story. For more detail, including restaurant locations and hours, and upcoming events, read the full story on our website at www.communityvoiceks.com. Click on lifestyle, then Arts, Culture & Lifestyle.

WICHITA

Tue., Aug. 13, 10 - 11 am: Storytime in the Park, Naftzger Park, 601 E. Douglas. Super-duper fun reading to and for kids. So, grab your capes and your imagination and join us. **FREE**

Wed., Aug. 14, 12 pm: 316 Mixer - Respect the Collective, Vorshay's Cocktail Lounge, 417 E. Douglas. Linking, drinking, singing, thinking about how we can mobilize as a people, learning to live productively and peacefully. Big Game Olympiad & Cookoff, Bid Whist, spades, tonk, and pinochle, dominos, 3-on-3 basketball, Madden and 2K tournaments; Surf vs. Rib and fish cookoff; Panel Discussions: Respect the Collective - Co-Op Mentality: If I eat, then we eat. As long as we are eating then I'm good, How to break the cultures of divisiveness and distrust in the community. 316 Mixer Gourmet Soul Dinner, Town Get Down, Old vs. New School, Two step vs. Twerk contest, Spoken Word vs. Battle Rap, Hip Hop vs. R&B; Best-Dressed Man, Woman and Couple.

Fri., Aug. 16, 7 pm: Reggie Littleton Trio, Walker's Jazz Lounge, 255 N. Washington. Soulful tunes and impeccable musicianship create the perfect ambiance for an unforgettable night out. Reggie Littleton - electric bass, Marty B - piano, Brian Powell - drums. COST \$10

Fri., Aug. 16, 10 am - 5 pm: 2024 Veteran Art Show, WSU Metroplex, 5015 E. 29th St. N. Annual event honors the creative talents and personal narratives of our veterans in the Divisions of Art, Creative Writing, Music, Dance and Drama. **FREE**

Fri., Aug. 16, 5 - 10 pm: Shop & Grub, Exploration Place, 300 N. McLean Blvd. Shop & Grub market featuring a unique variety of vendors selling vintage clothing, jewelry, accessories, home goods, wine, food, music and more. The ultimate outdoor market in the ICT. Full schedule and vendor application available at shopandgrub.com. **FREE**

Sat., Aug. 17, 9 - 10 am: SHINE Dance Fitness, Naftzger Park, 601 E. Douglas. Enjoy this unique workout rooted in traditional jazz, ballet and hip-hop, which provides the perfect balance of cardio, toning, and strength

components. **FREE**

Sat., Aug. 17, 6 pm: '90s Pump Up the Jam, Douglas Social, 2518 E. Douglas. Food trucks, '90s jams w/ DJ Tommy Billions, vendors, retro games & trivia, prize giveaways, DJ 4THE WIN Jayden aka Flemmy & DJ Fluid, best outfit contest, dress code = 90s. Drink specials, tunes and food on deck. COST \$10+

Wed., Aug. 21, 4 - 6 pm: FAFSA Completion Workshop, WSU Tech, 299 S. Grove. Free events for you to get the financial aid assistance you need to complete your FAFSA application and get ready for classes. Our team of experts will be available to guide through the entire process, answer questions, and help ensure you have everything needed to secure the financial aid you deserve. Bring: Form of Identification, Documentation of 2022 Taxes. Register: <https://apply.wsutech.edu/register/fafsa2425>

Thu., Aug. 22, 7 pm: Kimberly Paige Quartet, Walker's Jazz Lounge, 255 N. Washington. An evening of jazz. COST \$10+ <https://bit.ly/4fA0szV>

Thu. Aug. 22, 6 pm: #PLAY2024 Celebration, Kansas Leadership Center, 325 E. Douglas. Youth from the Progeny Kansas leadership program will present their policy pitches on changes that they want to see in their communities and their action plans around how to make those changes happen. Please register to get an accurate count for food, drinks and seating: www.progenyks.com

Fri., Aug. 23, 7 pm: Infinite Layers, Walker's Jazz Lounge, 255 N. Washington. Groove to the rhythm of smooth melodies and neo-soul beats. Featured artists: Martin Bowie - keyboards, Charles "Charlie Ray" Jackson - bass guitar, Willie Wactor III - sax, Corey "Young C" Rolfe - drums. COST \$10+

Fri., Aug. 23, 6 pm: WAM Nights: Drop-in Coloring For Adults, Wichita Art Museum, 1400 W. Museum Blvd. Join artist Sontia Levy-Mason, owner of Get Ya Color On Studios, for a relaxing evening of coloring. Bring a friend, get a drink from the bar, and unwind with a custom-designed coloring sheet inspired by WAM's collection. No artistic skill necessary and no reservations required. **FREE**

Sat., Aug. 24, 7:45 pm: Somethin' Xtra

Band Live, Odd Fellow Hall, 104 N. Walnut. We are back and ready to make you dance. Celebrate the return of "Somethin' Xtra!" with special guest Kimberly Paige. COST \$20 advance, \$25 at door. oddfellowhall.com

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. Anita Alexander will inform us about voting this election season.

KANSAS CITY

Tue., Aug. 13, 7 pm: Taco Tuesday, 1827 Vine St. Taco, games & Karaoke. Taco \$2. **FREE**

Thu., Aug. 15, 7 - 10 pm: AJM Presents: 18th & Vine Summer Concert Series, American Jazz Museum, Jay McShann Pavilion, 1616 E. 18th. B Side Band. Celebrate jazz history and community with us. **FREE**

Thu., Aug. 15, 1 - 5:30 pm: The Power of Entrepreneurship: Connecting Communities, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, 1 Memorial Dr. Individuals and organizations from various sectors of the entrepreneurial ecosystem can forge new connections and explore how our ecosystem and entrepreneurs' needs have shifted. **FREE** - reservations <https://bit.ly/3yBWR3F>

Sat., Aug. 17, 9 pm: All Black R&B Party, Kansas City Juke House, 1700 E. 18th. Sing and dance the night away. R&B jams ALL NIGHT provided by DJ Footh and DJ 9eleven. Hosted by Bizzy Benton and Sweets. COST \$10+ <https://bit.ly/4fun7xD>

Sat., Aug. 17, 9:30 pm: Afrobeats Classy & Elegant, 3421 Main St. Sophisticated and stylish Afrobeats dance class will have you feeling classy and elegant all night long. COST \$20 <https://bit.ly/3SFEQsh>

Sat., Aug. 17, 9 - 11 am: Mock Interviews, Kansas City Keystone CoLAB, 800 E. 18th St. We 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. We have experienced programmers looking to share our technical knowledge

and access to our network. Register: <https://bit.ly/3AgmcAU>

Sun., Aug. 18, 2 - 8 pm:

Soul Sessions Kansas City: The R&B Only Day Party, Equal Minded Night-Lounge & Event Venue, 4327 Troost Ave. The ultimate R&B day party. Craft cocktails + R&B music. COST \$1+ <https://bit.ly/46uCHp3>

Sat., Aug. 24, 5 - 8 pm: Kijji World Art & Fashion Show, Gem Theater, 1615 E. 18th St. A mind-blowing fusion of art and fashion. COST \$30+ <https://bit.ly/3za4v5t>

Sat., Aug. 24, 10 am - 4 pm: Sips For Scholarships 2024. Cosentino's Price Chopper, 8700 E. 63rd St. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Omicron Xi Lambda Educational Foundation invites you to the premier wine tour and have some fun while you're at it. Discover the beauty of rolling vineyards in the region. Exclusive tastings & travel in style and comfort with our deluxe transportation. COST \$60 <https://bit.ly/4drmlQ8>

5th Annual Northeast Wichita Community Clean Up Challenge

There will be a community clean up along Grove from 21st to 9th Street, Sat., Aug. 17 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. The community is invited to come out and help.

The goal, says event organizer Juanita Blackman, is to help clean up Grove for the students who will be returning to school at Spaght and Mueller. Community, church, youth organizations and individuals are invited to come out and help.

The focus will be on mowing lawns, picking up trash and cleaning up sidewalks. If you have tools and trash bags you can bring and use, that will be helpful.

Interested individuals are invited to attend a committee meeting on Tues., Aug. 13, 6 p.m. in the parking lot of Brotherhood church. For more information call (316) 871-250.

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