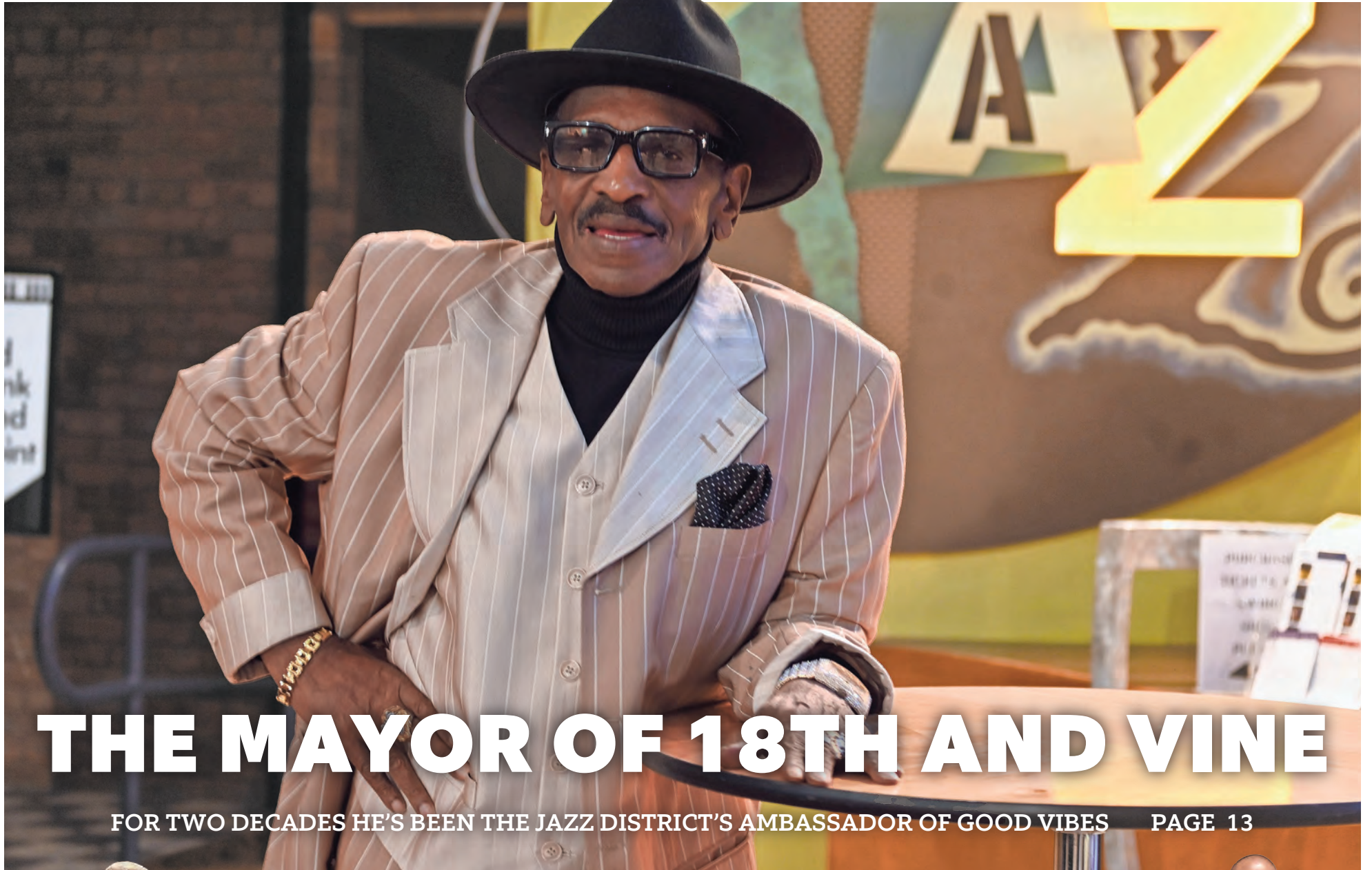


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THE MAYOR OF 18TH AND VINE

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VOLUME 31, NUMBER 24
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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.

HBCU Enrollment Boom: Shout out to the HBCU graduates, or those interested in attending an HBCU. It seems Black colleges and universities are experiencing an application boom.

Del Walmart Rollback: This time a rollback at Walmart had nothing to do with prices. The organization announced under pressure that they're rolling back what was aggressive DEI programming.

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Final Call for Person of the Year Nominations

By Bonita Gooch
Voice Editor-in-Chief

Who do you think is a person of the year in your community?

This a final call for you to nominate a person you think is deserving.

In January 2025 we'll recognize a person of the year in both of our markets – Wichita and Kansas City – and you can help select them.

We're accepting nominations through Mon. Dec. 16.

Nominating someone is easy and online.

No, there's not a big prize with this recognition. We'll recognize both winners with a story in our print and online edition with a place of honor as the cover photo for that issue, on our website, and with a physical recognition of the honor.

To nominate someone,

go online using the QR code below.



LOVELEEN - STOCK.ADOBE.COM

Hat's off to KS Gov. Laura Kelly For Pardoning Non-Violent Drug Offenders

By Bonita Gooch
Editor-in-Chief

Deshaun Durham, 24, walked out of prison on Friday morning, Dec. 6, after more than 2.5 years incarcerated in a Kansas prison for possessing 2.4 pounds of cannabis. He is free because Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly granted him clemency.

Durham was only 19 when authorities raided his Manhattan apartment and found pot. He took a plea deal, and pleaded guilty to one count of possession with an intent to sell, expecting 36 months in prison. Instead, he was sentenced to 92 months, nearly 8 years, by District Court Judge John Bosch and was serving out the sentence at Hutchinson Correctional Facility.

According to the Kansas Sentencing Commission, Kansas courts typically give probation for people with no criminal history. It was a rare



occurrence for a first-time offender such as Deshaun to receive a jail sentence, and even rarer to receive such a harsh sentence for cannabis.

A strong team of supporters worked endlessly to free Durham: His mother, Brandy Wishard; his attorney, Bary Grissom; musician and advocate Melissa Etheridge; and Last Prisoner Project activist Donte West. West spent nearly four years in a Kansas prison for possession of marijuana with intent to distribute before being exonerated in 2021.

West works with the Last Prisoner Project to help other incarcerated cannabis offenders. He worked diligently to bring attention to Durham's case along with filing the clemency with the assistance of Grissom.

"Kansas taxpayers spend an average of \$30,100 annually per inmate. For a first-time cannabis offender such as Deshuan, with no criminal history and a release date in 2028, we have to ask ourselves: Does the time fit the crime, and is it worth the expense to keep him in prison?" wrote West in an editorial for the Kansas City Star.

Kelly's History of Commutation

Gov. Kelly has a history of commuting sentences, particularly for non-violent offenders. In 2021, Kelly commuted the sentences of several nonviolent drug offenders, demonstrating her willingness to address such

injustices.

This time, Kelly cut short the prison sentences of Durham and one other person and pardoned five others.

Kelly overrode a rejection from the Kansas Prison Review Board of Durham's petition for clemency.

In 2018, Kelly said: "When we incarcerate those people for first-time drug offenses, we're really separating them from work, separating them from family and doing great devastation to them individually, but also, I think, our economy."

It's great to have a governor in place who understands the damage the state's drug laws and ambitious judges are serving up for nonviolent criminals and their actions that in 38 other states wouldn't even be a crime.

It's time for Kansas to legalize marijuana and for the unified law legalizing marijuana to be passed by the United State Congress.

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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)

Press Releases: press@tcvpub.com
Advertising: adcopy@tcvpub.com

Contributing Writers:
Thomas White | Kansas City
twhite@tcvpub.com

Advertising Sales:
Cornell Hill | hill@tcvpub.com

Office Administration:
Elaine Guillory | guillory@tcvpub.com

What to Know About Scott Turner, Trump's Pick for Housing Secretary

By Associated Press

Scott Turner, President-elect Donald Trump's choice to lead the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, is a former NFL player who ran the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council during Trump's first term.

Turner, 52, is the only Black person selected to be a member of the Republican's cabinet.

Here are some things to know about Turner:

From Professional Football to Politics

Turner grew up in a Dallas suburb, Richardson, and graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He was a defensive back and spent nine seasons in the NFL

beginning in 1995, playing for the Washington Redskins, San Diego Chargers and Denver Broncos.

During off-seasons, he worked as an intern with then-Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA). After Turner retired in 2004, he worked full time for the congressman. In 2006, Turner ran unsuccessfully as a Republican in California's 50th Congressional District.

Turner joined the Texas House of Representatives in 2013 as part of a large crop of Tea Party-supported lawmakers. He tried unsuccessfully to become speaker before he finished his second term in 2016. He did not seek a third term.

Motivational Speaker & Pastor

Turner also worked for a

software company in a position called "chief inspiration officer" and said he acted as a professional mentor, pastor, and counselor for the employees and executive team. He has also been a motivational speaker.

Turner is married to Robin Turner, a former educator and an advocate for community development. They have a son, Solomon Turner, who is currently pursuing his college degree.

As a family, they are deeply rooted in their faith and community, often participating in church activities and outreach programs. Scott frequently speaks about the importance of his family as a source of strength and inspiration in his life.

His church, Prestonwood

Baptist Church, lists him as an associate pastor. He is also chair of the center for education opportunity at America First Policy Institute, a think tank set up by former Trump administration staffers to lay the groundwork if he won a second term.

Community Advocacy

After retiring from the NFL, Turner shifted his focus to public service, becoming a leading advocate for community development and economic empowerment. He founded several initiatives aimed at improving access to education, housing, and job opportunities in underserved communities. Turner's approach emphasized collaboration among local governments, nonprofits, and private



Scott Turner, a former football player and elected official in Texas, also served in President Trump's first administration. He has a reputation for community advocacy and for helping the underserved.

businesses to drive sustainable change.

Headed Council in Trump's First Term

Trump introduced Turner in April 2019 as the head of the new White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council. Trump credited Turner with "helping to lead an Unprecedented Effort that

Transformed our Country's most distressed communities."

The mission of the council was to coordinate with various federal agencies to attract investment to so-called "Opportunity Zones," which were economically depressed areas eligible to be used for federal tax incentives.

See **TURNER** Page 7 →

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KC Daiquiri Shop Closed

The good times have come to an end at KC Daiquiri Shop, as the well-known Mardi Gras-themed getaway on Grand Boulevard shut down its years-long revelry.

By Tommy Felts
Startland News

The good times have come to an end at KC Daiquiri Shop, as the well-known Mardi Gras-themed getaway on Grand Boulevard shut down its years-long revelry.

“This decision has not come lightly,” Kinley Strickland and Calvin Vick, owners of KC Daiquiri Shop, said in a social media post announcing the business’ plans to close Dec. 1. “We have faced a slow economy, challenges with local and state government, and ongoing legal battles with neighboring businesses that have been less than supportive.”

The news follows the closures earlier this year of Soiree, The Krave, and Privee — Black-owned restaurants that each became a staple of Kansas City’s evolving food scene.

KC Daiquiri Shop opened in 2019, building its colorful, music-wrapped brand from the storefront at 1116 Grand.

Strickland and Vick were at the front of the line in 2020, pushing for restaurant industry and city ordinance changes to allow establishments like KC Daiquiri Shop to offer cocktails-to-go during the pandemic — a move aimed at saving their livelihoods, as well as helping out customers in search of an escape back to normalcy.

“We developed a special product. It’s not like you can go to a restaurant or a bar and get it,” Vick told Startland News in 2020, describing the ways KC Daiquiri Shop innovated and advocated for itself in the face of COVID setbacks. “People come to us from St.



Kinley Strickland and Calvin Vick, KC Daiquiri Shop, in 2021. (Photo: Tommy Felts, Startland News)

Joseph, Wichita, Iowa.”

Strickland and Vick left their corporate careers for entrepreneurship in 2018, driven by Vick’s daiquiri shop concept. With support from their sister company in Dallas with owners from New Orleans, they wanted to offer a taste of the city in the Midwest.

“We knew we’d be successful. A lot of people didn’t believe in the concept in the Midwest, but we know it would work,” Strickland told Startland News earlier this year. “No one has the authentic New Orleans experience with the frozen daiquiris, Cajun and Creole food, the atmosphere, or the vibe.”

Riding a parade of post-pandemic success, KC Daiquiri Shop later opened a seasonal ballpark stand at Legends Field in Kansas City, KS, home of the Kansas City Monarchs, along with a standalone Cajun restaurant — KC Daiquiri Shop: Bistreaux — in 2021 in Overland Park.

The Bistreaux concept closed in October 2023.

“Throughout our journey,

we have been proud to provide not just delicious food and drinks, but also a place where our community could gather, connect, and celebrate,” Strickland and Vick said in their social media statement. “We have created jobs, offered opportunities to second-chance felons and our displaced citizens, and continued to foster a sense of belonging that we hope has enriched your lives as much as it has enriched ours.”

The business partners’ next steps: regroup, reflect, and rebuild, they said, emphasizing it’s not the end for them.

“We believe in the resilience of our community and the power of support we have always shared. We trust that this moment will lead to new beginnings and opportunities for us all,” they said.

“Thank you for the love, support, and memories over the years. We will carry the spirit of the DaqShop and the connections we’ve made into whatever comes next. Keep an eye out for what lies ahead — we are excited for the future!”

Black Business Tour Rallied Support for Wichita’s Black-Owned Businesses

Pre-Thanksgiving tour kicked off holiday shopping for eight downtown Wichita businesses. Check out the video tours of all eight businesses.

By Bonita Gooch
Editor-Chief

The overwhelming response was surprise and astonishment from the more than 75 participants in the Black Business Tour held in downtown Wichita on Sat., Nov. 23.

Most of the participants admitted not knowing about only one or two of the businesses. Despite their knowledge, they said the tour provided the kick-start they needed to visit the businesses they knew, as well as those they didn’t know, and the additional motivation needed to open their wallets and support the businesses with their dollars.

The day kicked off with a pre-tour champagne brunch on the top floor and deck of the IMA office in downtown Wichita, where presentations were made by the event promoters and Wayne Bell, local district director for the U.S. Small Business



Go on a guided video tour of 2 Beatz Boutique hosted by owner Felecia Thompson. Hers is just one of eight video tours of businesses on the recent Black Business Tour held in downtown Wichita. Click the QR code to see the business tour videos.

Administration. There were also drawings for prizes.

Participants then departed by bus or their private car to visit the eight participating businesses. Here are the businesses, along with a brief description of their product offerings and location.

If you want to learn and see more, online, we have a short video tour of each of the businesses guided by the owners.

2 Beatz Boutique, 320 S. Market, is a trendy women’s fashion and accessory shop for sizes from small to 3x. The selection was great, unique and affordable.

Lola Candle Co., 1029 W. Douglas Ave., Suite 101, is an eco-luxury home fragrance shop with a DIY candle bar. Create a custom scent of your own and/or bring your crew for a candle-making event.

The BlackPrint ICT, 104 N. St. Francis, Suite A, is a retail shop featuring a curated collection of Black-produced products. Many, but not all, of the products are made by Wichita creatives.

Left on Read, 612 E. Douglas Ave, Suite 200. Head down the alley to this

See BUSINESSES Page 7 →



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New Automatic Airline Refund Rules Are Now in Effect — Here's What's Covered

The new rules should make it easier to receive refunds.

By The Voice News Service

The U.S. Dept. of Transportation's new rules mandating automatic refunds for significantly delayed or canceled flights are in effect just in time for the holiday travel season.

While these changes don't significantly change what you're entitled to, they provide clarity and should make it easier to receive refunds for flight cancellations and significant delays.

It can still make sense to have supplemental travel insurance or pay with a travel credit card with built-in insurance benefits to ensure you're fully covered. Here's what you need to know about the new rules and how you'll be impacted.

When Airlines Owe You a Refund

The new rules make it easier for you to get your money back because they require airlines to automatically provide prompt cash refunds when you're entitled to one. The new guidelines strictly define prompt as seven business days for credit card purchases and 20 calendar days if you used any other form of payment. You'll receive the full amount you paid minus any portion of the travel you've already used. The refund must be in cash or made to the original form of payment (credit card, miles, etc.).

You're entitled to an automatic refund if you don't accept alternative transportation options offered by the airline or travel credits when one of the following happens:

- Your flight is canceled
- Your domestic flight is delayed by three hours or more

- Your international flight is delayed by six hours or more
- Your departure or arrival airport changes
- The number of connections increases
- Your cabin class has been downgraded
- A change in aircraft or connecting airport is "less accessible or accommodating" to your disability

You're also entitled to a refund if you pay for an additional service such as inflight Wi-Fi or seat selection, and the airline fails to provide the service. Checked bag fees are refundable when your baggage is delayed by:

- 12 or more hours for a domestic flight
- 15 to 30 hours for an international flight (depending on the length of the flight)

When Airlines Don't Owe You a Refund

If you purchased a non-refundable ticket and your flight delay doesn't qualify as "significant" under the new guidelines, the airline isn't required to provide you with a refund. In the U.S., airlines also aren't required to refund you for delays that are considered uncontrollable. You typically won't be eligible for a refund for unsatisfactory service or delays caused by:

- Personal reasons (sickness, late for your flight, etc.)
- Weather or natural disasters
- Air traffic
- Safety or security issues

Airlines aren't required to reimburse you for incidental expenses you incur because of a delay, such as meals and lodging. However, depending on

the situation and the airline, they may provide meal or hotel vouchers or reimburse you for additional expenses you incur. So be sure to reach out to the airline as soon as possible if your flight is delayed or canceled.

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Young at Heart; Or Are You?

Your heart can actually be pretty old, with your heart aging faster than you do.

By Cleveland Clinic

You may think that with each passing birthday, your heart turns the same age as you do. But in reality, your heart can sometimes age faster than you do.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), half of adults assigned male at birth (AMAB) and 20% of adults assigned female at birth (AFAB) in the U.S. have a heart that's five years older than their chronological age. For people who are Black, the gap can be as high as 11 years.

Cardiologist Vikas Sunder, MD, explains how your heart ages over time, how to know if it's aging prematurely and ways to keep your ticker healthy and young.

How do I Know if My Heart is Aging Prematurely?

Because it's possible for your heart to age faster than your chronological age, you can get an idea of what your "heart age" might be through an online heart age calculator. It's a way to quantify your cardiovascular age based on different risk factors like high blood pressure, past health issues and family history.

Wondering why this matters? Well, aging hearts are more likely to have stiffer, calcified arteries, thickened and stiffer muscle tissue, abnormalities in their conduction system and dysfunctional valves.

Another more recent way to quantify your overall risk for cardiovascular disease is to use the American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology's Cardiovascular Risk Calculator. The online tool uses similar metrics to



determine your baseline risk over the next 10 years of having atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease.

An older heart age or an increased risk for heart disease is obviously not what anyone is hoping for, but the good news is that knowing this information can help you and your healthcare provider prevent future issues.

Risks Associated with Your Heart Aging Faster

Factors like your health history can help give your healthcare provider an idea of what age your heart is and your overall risk for cardiovascular disease. The genes you inherit from your parents may play a role, but other lifestyle factors are important, too.

While some of these can't be modified, you're able to

manage the majority. These risk factors include:

Chronological age. Heart disease risk begins to rise after age 55, as your blood vessels begin to stiffen and a lifelong buildup of plaque in the arteries starts interfering with the flow of blood.

Sex. Men and people AMAB get heart disease about 10 years earlier than women and people AFAB. Females are generally protected by estrogen until after menopause, when their heart disease risk begins to match that of males.

Family history. Your risk of heart disease is higher if your biological father or brother was diagnosed with it before age 55, or your biological mother or sister before age 65.

Blood pressure. Blood pressure beyond 120/80 mmHg ages your heart.

Diabetes. Diabetes or pre-diabetes puts you at greater risk for heart problems.

"We know that the most important way to prevent cardiovascular diseases like atherosclerosis, heart failure and atrial fibrillation is promoting a healthy lifestyle throughout life, and we take a team-based approach to help our patients achieve this," shares Dr. Sunder.

How to Keep Your Heart Young and Healthy

You're never too old to reduce your risk factors — and your heart's age. Here are some things you can do to help your heart stay young:

Take Care of Your Chronic Diseases or Conditions

Keeping your blood pressure in the normal range can minimize your risk. The same goes for diabetes and high cholesterol. Other diseases, like thyroid disease, as well as some medications, may weaken your heart. Have regular checkups, follow your provider's treatment plan and take your medications as prescribed.

Stay Active

Your heart needs exercise to keep it in shape. Exercise increases your heart's

pumping power and helps deliver oxygen throughout your body. Regular exercise also helps keep weight and blood pressure managed and reduces stress. If you have an illness or disease that makes exercise difficult, look for a modified exercise program that's more suited to your abilities.

"We recommend trying to aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity, for example, doubles tennis or brisk walking," suggests Dr. Sunder.

Keep a Good Diet

Another way to show care for your heart each day is by following a healthy diet. This is because many of our food's ingredients can help keep cholesterol and blood pressure levels balanced. But take heart — you don't have to eliminate all of your favorite foods completely.

In fact, having a heart-healthy diet may just mean incorporating more things on your plate like whole grains, vegetables and lean protein. Dr. Sunder also recommends avoiding trans fats, as well as consuming saturated fats, salt and refined sugar sparingly.

See HEART, Page 7 →

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TURNER, from Page 3 ↓**Vision for HUD**

According to the website KnowInsiders.com, as secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Turner is expected to focus on:

Expanding Affordable Housing:

Turner plans to address the growing housing crisis by increasing access to affordable housing, particularly for low-income families and veterans.

Promoting Public-Private Partnerships:

Drawing on his experience with Opportunity Zones, Turner aims to foster collaborations between government, nonprofits, and private developers to create sustainable housing solutions.

Revitalizing Urban Communities:

Turner's leadership will prioritize urban renewal projects, focusing on infrastructure improvements, job creation, and

access to quality education in underserved areas.

Homelessness Prevention:

Turner has expressed a commitment to reducing homelessness through comprehensive programs that address root causes such as mental health, substance abuse, and unemployment.

Economic Empowerment:

Turner believes that housing stability is intrinsically tied to economic mobility. His policies are expected to integrate housing initiatives with job training and education programs to help families achieve long-term financial independence.

The Role of HUD

HUD is responsible for addressing the nation's housing needs. It also is charged with fair housing laws and oversees housing for the poorest Americans, sheltering more than 4.3 million low-income families through public housing, rental subsidy and voucher programs.

BUSINESSES, from Page 4 ↓

brand-new bookstore that held its soft open on the day of the tour. Their diverse collection of books includes a large group offering from Black authors.

Sugaring with Love, 612 E. Douglas Ave., Suite E. This warm spa-like environment features body sugaring, a unique trend in hair removal for both men and

women. They promise it doesn't hurt, and upper lips and chins are their most requested areas.

Bridge + Grace Studios, 612 E. Douglas, Suite G, is a well-equipped, creative studio space designed for rent to entrepreneurs, businesses and influencers who need production space. Rent this space to help elevate your brand.

Wichita Cheesecake

Company, 801 E. Douglas Ave., Suite 110. At 10 years old, this source for a delectable assortment of cheesecakes by the slice or whole was the granddaddy of the tour, having proven its staying power with a great product.

Greater Common Grounds Coffee & Co., 922 E. Douglas Ave., is less than a year old and

already developing a cult following. In addition to coffee, they have a nice lite menu with crepes and charcuterie boards, along with live entertainment at night.

This tour was such a great success that the planning committee has plans to sponsor another one in the spring. Stay tuned.

HEART, from Page 6 ↓**Stop Smoking**

This is absolutely necessary to protect your heart. Tobacco is very addictive, and quitting is hard: The average person tries seven times before succeeding. Tell your provider you'd like to quit and ask for a plan — it's one of the best things you can do to care for your heart.

Don't Drink a Lot of Alcohol

Reducing your alcohol intake is another great way to keep your heart in good shape. Excessive drinking has been linked to cardiovascular conditions like

high blood pressure, cardiomyopathy and a greater risk of stroke. Generally, it's best to not exceed more than two drinks if you're male and no more than one drink if you're female.

Not sure how much is too much? Here's what generally counts as "one drink," based on the type of alcohol:

- Canned beer: 12-ounce bottle.
- Wine: 5-ounce glass.
- Distilled spirits (like gin, rum, tequila): 1.5-ounce shot glass.
- Get Regular Checkups

Sometimes, your heart may need a checkup even if you don't feel like you need one. That's why it's good to get regular exams so a physician can test your blood pressure, triglycerides, fasting glucose and cholesterol, or just discuss any symptoms you may be having.

Don't Ignore Unusual Symptoms

While getting regular checkups is important, it's also crucial to listen to your body when it's telling you something is up.

If you develop any of these symptoms, contact a healthcare

provider immediately:

- Shortness of breath.
- Swelling in your legs.
- Chest pain.
- Unexplained fatigue.
- Sudden change in exercise tolerance.
- Heart palpitations.
- Confusion.
- Dizziness.

The Bottom Line

As you age, your heart may need some extra care and attention. By working in healthy habits and listening to your body, you'll help keep your heart strong.

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Justice Denied: Former KCK Detective's Death Leaves Legacy of Pain, Questions Unanswered

Survivors are left without their day in court but their push for reform continues.

By **Thomas White**
Kansas City Reporter

The long-awaited federal civil rights trial of former Kansas City, Kansas, Police Detective Roger Golubski ended before it could begin on the morning of Dec. 2, when the 71-year-old was found dead from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound at his Edwardsville home.

Justice for Wyandotte co-founder Khadijah Hardaway says there was a dark cloud over the Topeka courtroom that morning and that news of Golubski's death brought an overwhelming sense of grief.

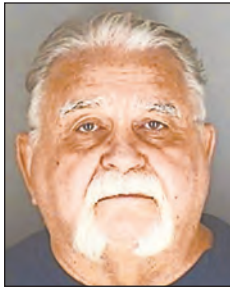
"My jaw dropped like a cartoon," says Hardaway. "It's heart wrenching for the victims not to get their day in court." Golubski faced six federal civil rights charges for allegedly kidnapping and sexually assaulting two women while serving as a police officer between 1998 and 2002.

A Pattern of Predation

Federal prosecutors had prepared a sweeping case against Golubski, and planned to present testimony from up to nine women who would describe instances of rape, stalking, or attempted assault by the former detective.

One survivor, identified in court documents as S.K., was only 13 years old when the reported abuse began. The other central victim, Ophelia Williams, came forward publicly about her experience. She reported that Golubski first assaulted her in 1999, shortly after her teenage sons were arrested in a homicide case he was investigating.

The prosecution's case would have demonstrated how Golubski allegedly targeted



Roger Golubski's death leaves questions about accountability.

vulnerable Black women, using his badge and position of authority to shield himself from justice while committing heinous crimes between 1983 and 2004.

Deeper Corruption

A second federal indictment exposed even darker allegations. Prosecutors charged Golubski with running a protection racket and collaborating on a sex trafficking operation with drug kingpin Cecil Brooks between 1996 and 1998. The operation allegedly held young women and girls in "involuntary servitude" at a Kansas City, KS apartment complex.

Activists say that corruption in the KCK Police Dept. extends well beyond Golubski's individual actions. Additional lawsuits suggest a systemic pattern of misconduct that was enabled and protected by department leadership over multiple decades.

A 2023 federal lawsuit filed by five Black women provides some of the most comprehensive allegations of institutional corruption. The suit names four former police chiefs - Thomas Dailey, James Swafford, Ronald Miller, and Terry Zeigler - as defendants. Notably, Zeigler served as Golubski's partner before rising to become chief of police, raising questions about



Justice for Wyandotte co-founders Khadijah Hardaway (left) and Nikki Richardson (right).

how much leadership knew about and potentially enabled misconduct." From Day One, it was clear that Golubski did not act alone," says Hardaway.

The lawsuit describes what plaintiffs characterize as a "government-sanctioned protection racket" involving multiple detectives beyond Golubski, including Zeigler, Michael Kill, Clayton Bye, and Dennis Ware. These officers allegedly provided protection to gang operations dating back to 1975, received payments in the form of money and drugs, provided advance notice of police raids, and assisted in trafficking women.

The lawsuit alleges that this corruption was "common knowledge" within the department and the Wyandotte County Unified

Government, yet the officers involved were never reprimanded and instead received promotions. Former Chief Dailey, for instance, was

previously accused of accepting money from a prostitution ring in exchange for advance notice of police raids.

Current KCKPD Chief Karl Oakman has initiated a review of 155 cases involving Golubski, with 45 reviewed so far. However, social justice activists have criticized the department investigating itself, calling it a "major red flag." They have long demanded a U.S. Dept. of Justice investigation into the entire department.

The McIntyre Connection

The case that first brought public attention to Golubski's misconduct involved Lamonte McIntyre, who spent 23 years in prison for a 1994 double murder he didn't commit. Following Golubski's death, McIntyre expressed his frustration to the Kansas City Star.

"This is not justice. Justice is facing your accusers," said McIntyre. "If you commit a crime against the society that

you are a part of, justice is facing that society. Him killing himself is not justice. That's him avoiding it."

Court documents revealed troubling connections between the murder case and Golubski's alleged protection racket. The murder victims - cousins Daniel Quinn and Donald Ewing - had been threatened by Cecil Brooks days before their deaths over allegedly stolen money or drugs.

Yet Golubski identified McIntyre as the killer within six hours, conducting minimal investigation.

McIntyre's mother, Rose, alleged Golubski framed her son because she rejected his sexual advances. The McIntyres won a \$12.5 million settlement from the Unified Government in June 2022.

Questions Surrounding Death

According to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Edwardsville Police received a 911 call from a neighbor who

reported hearing a gunshot. When officers arrived on the scene, they found Golubski deceased on his back porch with a fatal gunshot wound. The KBI statement indicated there were "no indications of foul play."

The timing - just before jury selection was set to begin in Topeka - raised immediate questions about supervision of the former detective, who had been under house arrest. Golubski had been prohibited from possessing "firearms, destructive devices, or other weapons" as a condition of his release.

"We know he's not supposed to have any guns, so how in hell did that happen?" says Hardaway. The KBI announced Dec. 3 it would investigate how Golubski accessed a weapon while under house arrest. The incident follows a pattern of questionable supervision - in March 2023, Golubski violated his pretrial release by visiting a restaurant but faced no serious consequences.

The social justice organization MORE2 has called for an outside investigation of Golubski's death. In a statement, the organization said they have "spoken to several survivors of KCKPD violence, nonfeasance, and cover-ups" who are in disbelief about the suicide ruling.

Legislative Response

Kansas state Sen. David Haley, who represents Wyandotte County, says he plans to reintroduce for the 2025 Kansas legislative session two reform bills inspired by Golubski's alleged crimes. One bill would provide payment from the perpetrators for people who are wrongfully

See **JUSTICE** Page 15 →

Meet the Mayor of 18th and Vine

How did Ronnie Matlock rise to ambassador of good vibes for KC's Historic Jazz District.

By **Thomas White**
Kansas City Reporter

At six o'clock on a quiet morning in Kansas City's historic 18th & Vine District, Ronnie Matlock's phone rings.

There's a VIP coming to the American Jazz Museum, and they need him to come in to greet the guest. It's just another day for the man known affectionately as the "Mayor of Vine Street," whose two-decade tenure at the museum has made him as much a part of the district's fabric as the jazz that once filled its streets.

Matlock is part historian, part ambassador, and a full-time advocate for the district he calls home. He has transformed his role as museum host and greeter for the past 22 years into something far more significant.

He's the welcoming face of the American Jazz Museum, sharing stories, history, and an infectious enthusiasm for KC's rich musical heritage.

In short, he's the mayor. "They started having fun calling me the mayor, but I want you to know that I have nothing to do with no pot-holes," says Matlock. Matlock has welcomed visitors from every corner of the globe. Music enthusiasts from Osaka to Israel have made the pilgrimage to this cornerstone of jazz history, each finding in Matlock a passionate ambassador for Kansas City's musical legacy and the Jazz District. His encounters with jazz luminaries and celebrities alike read like a who's who of American music & culture: Patti LaBelle, Buck O'Neil, Dave Brubeck, Harry Connick Jr., Walter Cronkite, Bill Cosby, Nancy Wilson, Joe Sample, Al Jarreau and dozens more have all crossed paths with the mayor of 18th & Vine.

The Making of an Unofficial Mayor

Today, Matlock is almost always present around the district. When he's not working as a host and greeter at the American Jazz Museum, he's volunteering at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum next door or brightening folks' days at The Blue Room Jazz Club.

But the path to Matlock's informal mayoral status began even before joining the museum. He worked all over the neighborhood, including as a doorman at the Peachtree Restaurant, one of the earliest occupants of the revitalizing



district, Red Vine (now Juke House), Danny's Big Easy, and Bayou on the Vine. His omnipresence and genuine love for the community naturally led to the nickname. What truly sets Matlock apart is his gift for making connections.

"Whoever walks in the door, my job is to make them feel comfortable," Matlock says that even on difficult days, he focuses on lifting others' spirits.

"My job is to make that person walk away saying, 'Man, he made my day.'"

It doesn't hurt that if you've met Matlock once, he's instantly recognizable. He's always impeccably dressed in a pressed suit, polished shoes, and a hat. Matlock's sharp-as-a-tack appearance comes from lessons learned in his youth; he learned from his older brother, Antoine Brown, and the generation before him to always dress well.

"Nowadays, the kids call 'em OGs, but some old-timers used to always tell me, 'Hey, man, shine your shoes, put on something nice. You may not have a dime in your pocket, but look like you're somebody.' So I started matching their style, and it just kind of stuck," he said.

From Wichita to the Heart of Jazz

Matlock grew up in Wichita — on 16th & Grove and Prince Street before that — and still has many friends and family there. He says he maintains a strong friendship with Jim Trotter, and some of his Hervey family members are still in Wichita today. But in 1968, an 18-year-old Matlock left Wichita with a simple goal to strike out on his own.

He landed in Kansas City and found work as an MC at Roy's Golden Lounge on 27th and Troost, where his natural talent for hosting first emerged. Matlock says he had no idea he possessed such a gift for connecting with people, but his mother's advice shaped his approach. "My parents trained me well," says Matlock. "My momma used to always tell me, 'Smile, it doesn't cost you a quarter, and learn to listen,' so I learned to listen, and I learned people."



If you've been to Kansas City's Historic Jazz District for socialization, dining or to visit one of the museums, you've likely met Matlock, the unofficial Mayor of 18th and Vine.

Watching 18th & Vine Rise Again

When Matlock arrived, 18th & Vine was a shadow of its former glory. Living around the corner from what would become the American Jazz Museum, he witnessed the district's re-birth firsthand.

The \$50 million museum project in 1997 marked a turning point, bringing stars like Billy D. Williams and Al Jarreau to the neighborhood for its grand opening. From there, he watched as the vision of then Mayor Emmanuel Cleaver and others to revitalize the area began to bear fruit. The complex that today houses the American Jazz Museum, the Blue Room, and the Negro Leagues Museum impressed Matlock. He already loved baseball and jazz, so one day, he came in to try and get a job.

At first he worked as a custodian, cleaning the building for Rightway Janitorial Service. But, he also got to talking to folks, and it wasn't long before his gift of gab was noticed and he moved into his current role.

His true passion lies in sharing the district's story with everyday visitors: From how KC started as a blues city more than jazz, to explaining how African Americans migrated to Kansas City in the late 1920s, bringing the musical traditions that would transform the city's cultural landscape.

A Living Legacy

Today, as 18th & Vine continues to evolve, Matlock remains its most devoted ambassador. While he's reduced his hours since the pandemic, even at 75 years old, he has no plans to retire any time soon. "I'll have to make a

long-distance call to the good Lord and see what he's got on the schedule," says Matlock when asked how long he plans to keep working at the museum.

For those fortunate enough to meet him, Matlock transforms a visit to the American Jazz Museum into something more meaningful: a personal connection to the living history of the Kansas City Jazz District, served with a smile that hasn't dimmed in decades.

"It's been a joy in my life to be down here," says Matlock.

Stop By and Meet the Mayor of 18th and Vine at these locations

American Jazz Museum

1616 E 18th St, KCMO

Open for Tours

Tue - Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sun Noon to 5 p.m.

The Blue Room

The live jazz venue within the museum
Free Monday Night Jam Sessions 7-10 p.m.

Free Jazz at Noon first & second Thursdays

Free Indigo Hour every Friday at 5 p.m.

Friday & Saturday Night Sets at 8:30 and 10 p.m.

\$10 for one set, \$15 for both

Safe Streets Unique Approach Education, Resources for Substance Misusers

As the War on Drugs shifts from arrest to treat, Safe Streets Wichita responds with a unique model in Wichita.

By Bonita Gooch
Editor-in-Chief

Drug advocacy was an all-hands-on-deck issue in the African-American community during the crack epidemic of the 1980s.

However, in the decades since, once-abundant drug treatment, resources and support services supporting addiction in the Black community have almost disappeared.

Aonya Kendrick Barnett is CEO of Safe Streets Wichita, Inc., a nonprofit focused on providing resources and support to address substance misuse and mental health issues in Wichita. The organization supports all communities, but she's determined to keep a keen eye on the issues of Black, Brown and other groups whose substance abuse and mental health problems haven't been given much attention in the past few decades.

After crack came the rise of meth, followed by the growth in opioid addiction in the mid-'90s. Opioid abuse was initially

a relatively White addiction, with Whites getting hooked on prescribed opioids, while Blacks were often under-prescribed the drug.

However, with the growing availability of the synthetic opioid fentanyl, a street drug that doesn't require a prescription, overdoses in Black communities have risen at a faster rate than in White communities.

In addition, still needing attention Barnett says, is the ongoing impact in the Black community from decades of the war on drugs. The result is a lot of people still caught up in the system of marijuana charges and entangled in the criminal justice system.

These are both problems Safe Streets is working to address.

New Drug Approach

Unlike the 1980s, when drug addiction was seen as a crime, the world is beginning to recognize addiction as a disease, something Black people said all along.

"What the Black

community heard was arrest, stigma, shame, judgment and criminalization," says Barnett. "Now that other communities are being impacted, there is a huge White gaze over it. So now it's, 'oh, let's think about public health approaches to it.'"

Despite past treatment of the Black community, Barnett welcomes the change.

"We kind of have to bite that bullet, but then you have to forge forward and the door is open a little bit," she says. "So while they're talking about treatment, recovery, reparations, and repair, it's important for us to be there so we can remind them these are the communities who have been most at risk, and most marginalized."

Safe Streets Programming

Instead of total abstinence from drug use, Safe Streets focuses on education and harm reduction.

"We don't condemn or condone substance use, but we know people use substances, and so when you're using those substances, you should be able

to be an informed person and know that maybe your substance doesn't have fentanyl in it," says Barnett

Safe Streets started as a coalition in 2015 addressing gang violence but transitioned to overdose prevention during the pandemic. Last year, Barnett formally organized Safe Streets as a nonprofit. She serves as the organization's part-time CEO and works with a small dedicated team of contract workers to handle the organization's programming, including their very strong outreach efforts.

Workers for Safe Streets spend the majority of their time engaged in the community providing accurate information about the risks associated with substance misuse and promoting healthy lifestyle choices.

The organization has packaged and handed out more than 6,000 Personal Protection Equipment kits they hand out in the community. The PPE kit includes fentanyl test strips, naloxone, gloves, and CPR



New Harm Reduction Lounge Supports Collaboration

Sarah Myers (Left), Social Impact Leader of ICT Tree huggers and Aonya Kendrick Barnett, CEO of Safe Streets Wichita are pictured at the Harm Reduction Lounge in Northeast Wichita. The shared space supports both organizations who are teaming up to tackle mental health, substance use and environmental challenges in Wichita. This newly established space serves as a gathering point for community members, organizers, and advocates to unite and collaboratively address these issues.

face shields. Safe Streets also hands out a kit that includes free condoms and the morning-after pill.

Safe Streets also advocates for policy changes on a local

and state level. Last session, they supported passage of the Good Samaritan law, signed by

See **Drug Education** Page 15 →

Tired of Just Getting By? Program Teaches How to Get Ahead

Free program teaches skills to build stability and resources, ultimately leading to a better quality of life and getting ahead.

By Bonita Gooch
Editor-in-Chief

Do you feel like your life is just one challenge after another?

Do you struggle with paying

bills, have difficulty finding or maintaining stable employment, have issues with your housing or lack reliable transportation?

You could benefit from participation in "Getting Ahead in

a Just Getting By World," a free program designed to help participants build resources for a better life.

Getting Ahead is a national training program being offered in Wichita by BridgesICT. Formed in 2023, BridgesICT began offering the Getting Ahead workshop in the city's 10 lowest-income neighborhoods as a way to help under-resourced individuals investigate and address barriers that keep them from getting ahead.

Getting Ahead is a 16-week workshop led by facilitators in a "kitchen table" format. Together participants



investigate barriers to getting ahead in Wichita and learn the tools and resources they need to improve their situation.

Classes meet once a week. A free family meal is provided during the work sessions and free childcare is provided. In addition, participants receive

Here's info on upcoming English Language Getting By sessions

Dellrose United Methodist Church:

Classes are Wednesdays, Jan. 15 through May 7 with time off for spring break.

Call Teketa Harding at 316-641-4182 or

Email Tekhardi@aol.com.

Spaght Elementary:

Classes are Thursdays, Jan. 16 through May 8 with time off for spring break.

Call Marva Lincoln at 316 684-4673 or

Email mlincoln@hopenetworkwchita.org.

a stipend gift card after each session.

New workshops are scheduled to begin after the first of the year and enrollment is

being accepted now. For maximum effectiveness, workshops are limited to 15 participants, so move quickly to reserve your space.



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Rendering of inside of renovated and expanded Maya Angelou Branch Library.

Closed Maya Angelou Branch Library Scheduled to Reopen Late February

By Bonita Gooch
Voice Editor-in-Chief

The Maya Angelou Branch Library, 3051 E. 21st St., closed for renovation since October 1, is scheduled to reopen in late February. The branch is undergoing a complete interior remodel as part of the Library's master plan to enhance services at branch locations.

Customers are being redirected to the Rockwell Branch of the Wichita Public Library, located at 5939 E. This design puts an addition on the west side of the building; changes the interior layout; adds a study room; and includes new flooring, furniture, lighting, and art.

History of Northeast Wichita Branches

It's hard to believe the rather modern branch is nearly 30 years old. It opened in 1996 after a history of starts and stops for libraries in Wichita's Northeast

Community.

In the 1920s and 1930s, the city library and school system jointly operated part-time libraries for students at various schools throughout the city. Even though Wichita's modern branch library system began in 1954, it was a while before Northeast Wichita had a branch.

Beginning in 1958, the library delivered services from a small space inside the McKinley (later renamed McAdams) Park Community Center building. While not officially called a branch, this was the earliest known city library location in northeast Wichita.

Northeast Wichita didn't get a full library branch to replace the McAdams Park until 1969 when a branch was opened in the former Steen IGA building at 2225 E. 21st St. but it closed a year later.

The branch then opened as the Northeast branch at 2420 E. 21st.

In 1972, the branch moved

to 2620 E. 21st.

In 1977, there was a proposal to put a branch library at what would become the Atwater Community Center at 2755 E. 19th. On June 11, 1979, the Northeast branch opened at this new location.

In 1986, the Northeast branch moved again, this time to Madison Square strip mall, 2225 E. 21st. By the early 1990s, it was apparent the library branch would need to move again.

After considering several lots near 21st and Hillside, the city council settled on the current site with the branch opening in 1996.

Alternative Branches

During the construction process, customers can also access the following nearby library locations:

- Advanced Learning Library, 711 W. 2nd St.
- Evergreen Branch, 2601 N. Arkansas
- Walters Branch, 4195 E. Harry St.

Time to Vote for 2025 Kansas Black Teachers Hall of Fame

People are encouraged to VOTE for three Black teachers who impacted their lives.

Voting is from Dec 7, 2024 through December, 24, 2024. Votes can be entered at <https://it.ly/U2WP>.

 JESSE ADAMS PE & Social Studies	 MRS. VIVIAN ALEXANDER Math	 WILLA ANDREWS Homecoming & Social Studies	 WILLIAM ASTLE Science	 MORRIS BAILEY D&H
 WESLEY BARTEL English & Social Studies	 MRS. MINNIE BROWN Physical Education	 FRANK CRAWFORD Math	 YVONNE DAY Physical Education & Social Studies	 EUGENE FRANKLIN English & Social Studies
 ANTRON GUEST Algebra & Math	 CURTIS HIGHOWER Physical Education	 MRS. MAUDIE HARRISON Homecoming	 RALPH HOCKETT English & Social Studies	 PAUL GEORGE Art

KANSAS BLACK TEACHER'S HALL OF FAME Celebrates its 10th Anniversary

Jazz Museum entertainment director & musician fuses East Texas barbecue traditions with Kansas City.

The Jazz of BBQ:
How Gerald Dunn
Improvises with
Smoke & Fire

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

In jazz, every musician brings their own interpretation to familiar standards. For Gerald Dunn, that same principle applies to barbecue at his Grandview restaurant, Dunn Deal BBQ.

“I treat smoking meat like I treat music,” says Dunn, who splits his time between his BBQ joint, being the band leader of The Jazz Disciples, serving as director of entertainment at the 18th & Vine District’s American Jazz Museum and



Brisket is his specialty, His brisket it’s served Texas-style, meaning it is sliced thick, and the customer has the choice of either “fatty” or “lean” brisket with no burnt ends.

serving as general manager of the museum’s nightclub, The Blue Room.

“It’s like playing a Charlie Parker number,” says Dunn, also a saxophonist. “Everybody knows the composition, but inside of it, each musician brings

their own experience through different notes and scales and harmonies and phrases. You improvise, and that’s how you find your unique voice.” For Dunn, that voice carries the twang of East Texas barbecue with subtle Kansas City



Gerald Dunn, director of entertainment at the American Jazz Museum, brings East Texas barbecue traditions to Kansas City at his new Grandview restaurant Dunn Deal BBQ. Behind him are some of the barbecue tournament trophies he’s won.

harmonies. Since quietly opening in March 2024, his Friday-and-Saturday-only operation has built a following by merging his grandfather’s time-tested techniques with local traditions. Early mornings find Dunn tending fires of hickory — sometimes blended with pecan or post oak — behind the carry-out-only restaurant at 506 Main Street. By opening time at 11 a.m., lines form outside, and the restaurant usually sells out around 4 p.m.

The brisket is Dunn’s signature, seasoned with a family recipe that reflects his East Texas roots near the Louisiana border. While Central Texas barbecue typically uses just salt and pepper, Dunn’s rub incorporates Cajun elements passed down through generations. “Brisket is my forte,” says Dunn. “I want to be known as the brisket king.”

His brisket is served Texas-style, meaning it is sliced thick, and the customer has the choice of either “fatty” or “lean” brisket with no burnt ends.

The lean portions come from the brisket flat and resemble what most in KC think of when ordering brisket. The

Dunn Deal BBQ

506 Main Street,
Grandview, MO

Open Fridays &
Saturdays
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Currently Take-out
Only

family-bonding event, a community event.”

Dunn spent years smoking meats for catering and competing in barbecue contests, with his trophies and ribbons now displayed at the restaurant. His barbecue caught the attention of Grandview city officials, who encouraged him to open a brick-and-mortar location.

Beyond the celebrated brisket, Dunn offers pulled pork, chicken, turkey, ribs and sausage. Sides include french fries, coleslaw, potato salad and baked beans. Daughter Marissa Hill contributes award-winning banana pudding.

The restaurant’s atmosphere mirrors Dunn’s musical background, with jazz and blues providing the soundtrack. Future plans include outdoor seating and possible live entertainment once ongoing street construction concludes.

For now, Dunn focuses on consistency, treating each cut of meat like a musical composition requiring careful interpretation.

The result is distinctly his own — a smoky symphony that’s drawing crowds to Grandview.

Nominate Someone for

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- Our community is better because of him or her
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Click to nominate someone or learn more

Nominations Open Thru Monday, Dec. 16

THE VOICE

Mayor Lucas Accused of Skirting City Gift Ban to Pay for Travel

A nonprofit used by Mayor Quinton Lucas' predecessor primarily to bring speakers to Kansas City to talk about economic development but Lucas and his former chief of staff use it for Chiefs trips and other travel.

By Allison Kite
Missouri Independent

It cost \$23,518 for Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas, a top aide and two police officers on his security detail to attend the Super Bowl in Phoenix last year.

The day after the game, the cost was covered by a \$24,000 check from the Heavy

Constructors Association, a politically-connected trade group.

Neither the price of the trip nor the donation were ever made public.US

That's because the mayor and his now-former chief of staff, Morgan Said, ran the spending and donation through the Mayors Corps of Progress for a Greater Kansas City Inc., a nonprofit established 50 years ago to help attract economic development to the city that is not required to disclose its financials.

Receipts, emails and other documents obtained by The Independent show that over the course of Lucas' first term in office, the Mayors Corps spent more than \$35,000 on Kansas City Chiefs tickets, hotel stays, flights and dinners.

While expenses filed by Said often represented costs incurred by both her and Lucas, they were primarily in



Mayor Lucas poses for a photo in front of Allegiant Stadium near Phoenix at the 2023 Super Bow. The \$23,518 for Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas, a top aide and two police officers on his security detail to attend the Super Bowl in Phoenix last year was paid for by a nonprofit Mayors Corps of Progress.

MAYOR QUINTON LUCAS
FACEBOOK

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Butler
Community College

her name.

In an interview with The Independent, Lucas defended the spending, saying the Mayors Corps allows him to promote the city at conferences and sporting events and on international trips.

"I see nothing inconsistent with that, and it's really not even my opinion," said Lucas. "It's the opinion of our

counsel."

His office used the fund "with a primary goal of never billing the taxpayers for business prospecting and promotion."

Lucas said the organization has a board of directors that can review expenses, but added that he did not know who serves on the board. The Mayors Corps' most

recent filings with the Missouri Secretary of State show the three-member board includes both Lucas and Said.

How Lucas utilized the nonprofit differs from his predecessor, who primarily used it to bring speakers to Kansas City to talk about various economic development proposals and other projects to benefit the city. The change has raised concerns that Lucas is using the nonprofit to evade transparency and the city's ban on public officials accepting high-dollar gifts.

Craig Holman, a government affairs lobbyist for Public Citizen, a progressive government watchdog, said the Mayors Corps "sounds like a very shady organization."

"We've got potential violations of the ethics code," Holman said, "potential violations of the Internal Revenue code and we have potential violations of the campaign finance law."

Patrick Tuohey, a senior fellow at the conservative Show-Me Institute, said when candidates or elected officials have a "slush fund," then individuals and organizations can support them in a way that's not transparent.

"This just feels like another way," he said, "that moneyed interests can have access to politicians."

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Applications for Choice Programs including Magnet, AVID, IB, BioMed, Early College Academy, Education Imagine, and FutureReady Centers are open for the 2025-26 school year.

Go to bit.ly/DECapply2526 for more information about applying.

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WICHITA

Sat., Dec. 7, 10 am - 5 pm: Wichita Art Museum Holiday Open House with free admission to Robert Peterson: Somewhere in America exhibit: Wichita Art Museum, 1400 Museum Blvd. Celebrate the season with fun and festive activities throughout the museum. Peterson renders African American life beautifully and joyfully, rejecting stereotypes to celebrate the "Black experience as [he] knows it." More info: <https://wam.org/.../robert-peterson-somewhere-in-america>. **FREE**

Sat., Dec. 7, 6 - 9 pm: 60th Birthday Bay: David & Will, The Center, 1914 E. 11th St. David Usher and William (Bill/Will) Vann are turning 60 and it's going to be a throwback. Bring those pictures from when they had hair lol. There will be food, games, music and lots of laughs. This is designed to celebrate them while having fun with all the other Robinson, South and East High friends that turned 60 this year. RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/XvdBWWtwsjPjXMD7A>.

Sun., Dec. 8, 4 pm: 41st Annual Dennis Family Christmas Concert - "Repeat the Sounding Joy," Tabernacle Bible Church, 1817 N. Volutsia. **FREE**

Sun., Dec. 8, 3 - 5 pm: Holiday Black Business Circle, Wichita State Connect, 1845 N. Fairmount. Celebrate the excellence of Black-owned businesses with holiday shopping. Start your holiday off right by supporting Wichita talent. **COST: 1 CANNED FOOD.**

Wed., Dec. 11, 6 pm: Job Prep for Teens: Info Night. YMCA Robert D Love, 430 N. Market. A program that helps teens with life-long employability skills such as shaking hands, eye-contact, resume building and the importance of hard-work. Students who graduate from the program qualify for a job during the summer. RSVP here: <https://forms.office.com/r/U98V1RSPCF> **FREE**

Wed., Dec. 11, 4 - 7 pm: Unlock Your Path - Financial Aid

Completion Event, 2755 E. 19th St. Hands-on workshop where you'll get expert guidance to complete your FAFSA and explore financial aid opportunities to help make college more affordable. Register at: <https://apply.wsutech.edu/register/fafsa12>. **FREE**

Fri., Dec. 13, 6 - 8 pm: Winter Wonderland, Naftzger Park, 605 E. Douglas. Roast s'mores by crackling fire pits, visit Santa and Mrs. Claus, and watch out for the playful Grinch. Sip on rich hot cocoa while holiday melodies fill the air from live entertainers, photo stations, Indulge in the sweetness of the season with candy canes and cookies. Gather around at 6 pm sharp when the switch is flipped on the holiday tree. **FREE**

Fri., Dec. 13, 9 am - 3:30 pm: HealthCore Clinic-Via Christi Mobile Mammography Van, HealthCore, 2707 E. 21st St. You must schedule an appointment. Contact your host site organizer to schedule. Via Christi brings the equipment and providers to you. Regular breast health screenings help find breast cancer early when it is most treatable and has the most treatment options. **FREE**

Sat., Dec. 14, 9 pm: Kimberly Paige Band, Vorshay's Cocktail Lounge, 417 E. Douglas. An unforgettable night of good vibes and high-frequency energy with the Kimberly Paige Band.

Sat., Dec. 14, 10 am: Kansas Global Holiday Market, Naftzger Park, 605 E. Douglas. Family-friendly event features foods, crafts, and performances from around the globe. Discover unique gifts, enjoy international flavors, and experience live cultural performances that celebrate the richness of our global community. **FREE**

Sat., Dec. 14, 12 - 3 pm: Community Christmas Party & Toy Giveaway, Mid-America All-Indian Center, 650 S. Seneca. Come together for a great cause, leaving a lasting impact, starts with giving back. Games, Snacks, Face painting, photo with Santa, and the big toy giveaway. **FREE**

Sun., Dec. 15, 3 pm: "Wichita Blues: Music in the African American Community," exhibit and book release, CityArts, 334 N. Mead. The book focuses on the



Submit Your King Holiday Events

Our King Holiday calendar of events will be printed in our Jan. 10 issue. To make sure your event is listed, make sure to have your event information submitted by Fri., Jan. 3. Submit your King event, or any event, using this QR code.



legacy of blues music in Wichita with 19 interviews of local musicians - view photos of some of these iconic local musicians in our Main Hall Gallery now through Dec. 22. The photos were taken by Arthur Kenyon in 1996-97. A short biographical statement is next to each musician. **FREE**

Wed., Dec. 18, 12 - 6 pm: Last Minute Holiday Market, WSU Metroplex, 5015 E. 29th St. What to Expect: unique gifts - something for everyone from over 50 local small businesses offering products, treats and gift certificates. Meet Santa and check out food vendors for lunch and dinner.

Tue., Dec. 31, 9 pm - 1 am: Omega Psi Phi, Gamma Upsilon New Year's Christmas Party. The Winslet Venue, 1550 N. Lindberg Cir. Music by DJ Rickey and Kimberly Paige plus cash bar. Limited tickets available. Tickets available from Curtis Whitten at 316-518-8074 and Harry Willis at 316-992-1420. **COST \$125+**

Sat., Jan. 18, 11 am - 1 pm: Sister Circle Brunch - How to Thrive in '25, Petroleum Club, 100 N. Broadway - 9th Floor. A panel featuring notable women. For info, contact cm@cmeleadup.com or 316-512-1190.

KANSAS CITY

Sat., Dec. 7, 7 - 9:30 pm: A SOULful Christmas, 900 Linwood Blvd. Performances by Douglass Walker, Jae Reneé, Carlton Rashaad, Marlin Hatcher Jr, Ashley Brewer, O'Dell Talley, and hosted by Sean Tyler. **COST \$30**

Sun., Dec. 8, 10 am: International Sunday, Victorious Life Church, 3400 Paseo Blvd. Featuring Pastor Alex Illash from the Ukraine to discuss issues of Ukraine. Uplifting worship with Bishop Mark C Tolbert, overseer, and Elder CD Collier, senior pastor. **FREE**

Fri., Dec. 13, 6 - 9 pm: New Teachers on the BLOC: Educator Winter Gala, Keystone CoLAB,

800 E 18th St. Brothers Liberating Our Communities winter gala will give you the opportunity to hear more about BLOC's work, meet the fellows and men that make up the organization and hear their stories, and support BLOC for the upcoming year in their endeavors. A Vegas Style Casino night with unique entertainment, and delicious bites. **COST \$100+** <https://bit.ly/4imSz2r>

Sat., Dec. 14, 12-6 pm: Swap Shop: KC's #1 Sneaker Expo, Keystone CoLAB, 800 E. 18th St. Browse through a wide selection of kicks, meet fellow sneakerheads, and maybe even find that rare pair you've been searching for. Don't miss out on this opportunity to buy, sell, or trade your favorite sneakers. **COST \$15+**

Sat., Dec. 14, 9 am - 12 pm: 16th Annual Breakfast With Santa!, ArtsTech, 1522 Holmes St. A festive tradition bringing families together to support ArtsTech programs - Youth Programs for age 12 to teens. Enjoy a free picture of you and your family with Santa. There will be gifts for youth (17 & under). Unlimited pancakes - while they last, a gift bag raffle, and holiday fun with family & friends. **FREE**

Sat., Dec. 14, 4 - 8 pm: Don't Touch My Hair - Art & Poet Exhibit, 1106 E. 30th St. - Suite E. A one-of-a-kind event bringing together visual art, spoken word poetry, and a lively paint & sip experience - curated to inspire, connect, and uplift. General Admission 1 (GA1) tickets allow access to the art exhibit only. **COST \$10+** <https://bit.ly/3CYP5nm>

Sat., Dec. 14, 11 am - 4 pm: KC G.I.F.T. Presents: GIFT Wrapped Holiday Market. Kansas City GIFT, 5008 Prospect Ave. Shop small, support Black-owned businesses this holiday season, and meet KC Black Santa! Bring the whole family for a fun day out! **FREE**

Thu., Dec. 19, 7:30 - 10:30 pm: Christmas Jazz Nights, Arts on Broadway, 3550 Broadway Blvd.

KC GREEN is a Kansas City based band that pays tribute to soul jazz guitar great Grant Green, among others. **COST \$25+** <https://bit.ly/3CTUwTy>

Thu., Dec. 19, 6:20 - 7:30 pm: Zumba With Tai, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Kansas City, 1709 Walnut St. Get ready to dance, sweat, and have a blast while getting a great workout in. Tai will lead you through energizing routines that will make you forget you're exercising. No experience necessary. **COST \$5**

Mon., Dec. 23, 7:30 - 10:30 pm: Christmas Jazz Nights, Arts on Broadway, 3550 Broadway Blvd. Eboni Fondren is a dynamic entertainer who brings passion and excitement whenever she takes the stage. **COST \$25+** <https://bit.ly/3CTUwTy>

Tue., Dec. 31, 6 pm - 1 am: New Year 2025, Stoney Creek Hotel Kansas City, 18011 Bass Pro Dr. Let's ring in New Year 2025 together with a night full of joy, laughter & unforgettable memories, with Carmichael Musiclover & Urban Mystic. Two DJs will light up your night and keep your dancing pleasures on deck. DJ Foots (Mr. Make Ya Feet Hurt) & DJ Tee Stylez (Ladies of The Core). **COST \$125+**

KANSAS CITY, KS

Fri., Dec. 13, 5 - 10pm: Celebrating 20 Years Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce Annual Holiday Scholarship & Awards Dinner. Children's Mercy Park, 1 Sporting Way, Kansas City, KS. A night of recognition, good food, and great company. This year's special event will be celebrating 20 years of serving small business, honoring outstanding individuals who have paved the way, and scholarships for StriveSphere HBCC's capacity building cohort. Enjoy the soulful entertainment of violinist Riz Oshe; multi-instrumentalist, vocalist and poet Jasmine "Jass" Couch; and KC's R&B/neo-soul sensation "LB" LeVelle.



Grover Shelby, 89

Nov. 8, 1935 - Dec. 2, 2024 Service will be held at 2 pm on Friday, Dec. 20, at Eastside COGIC, 5955 E. 29th

Clinton Jay Little, 46

June 13, 1978 - Nov. 28, 2024 Service will be held at 3:30 p.m. Dec. 29 at O. J. Watson Park-Seasons Venue, 3022 S. McLean.

Terry Mitchell Sr., 52

Jan. 4, 1972 - Nov. 28, 2024 Service will be held at 2 p.m. Dec. 27 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel, 1125 E. 13th.

Johnnie Bowens, 85

Sept. 8, 1939 - Nov. 25, 2024 Service will be held at noon Dec. 13, at Jackson Mortuary Chapel, 1125 E. 13th.

Zelma "Flip" Alphonso Anderson Jr., 67

Sept. 27, 1957 - Nov. 24, 2024 Service was held Dec. 5.

Irving Davis Tanner, 86

Aug. 14, 1938 - Nov. 21, 2024 Service was held Dec. 6 at White Chapel Cemetery.

Veronica Gail Rogers, 66

March 27, 1958 - Nov. 17, 2024 Service was held Dec. 6 at New Life Church.

Drug Education, from Page 10 ↓

Gov. Laura Kelly in May. The law protects civilians who help people they believe to be injured or otherwise in danger.

For the upcoming legislative session, they'll work in support of expanding Medicaid, legalizing marijuana, and expanding treatment facilities for adults and youth. In addition to those highly supported issues, this year

they're advocating for passage of a more controversial bill to legalize sterile needle exchange. Safe Streets will also advocate for repair from the harm some individuals are experiencing as the result

JUSTICE, from Page 8 ↓

incarcerated and the other would make it a crime for someone in a position of authority, like a police officer, to misuse their power to harm or injure someone.

"We have victims who are still going through mental, emotional, financial [hardship and] have no recourse," Haley told Fox4KC. "If he were found guilty, in this case we would want the act that I'm pushing for to offset some of the costs of the victims."

The bills (Senate Bills 186 & 187) were introduced in a previous session but received no action from the legislature. Haley says he hopes the Golubski charges

will help open the eyes of members of the legislature to the value of the recourse afforded victims under these bills.

What Happens Next

As investigations into Golubski's death proceed, Justice for Wyandotte maintains that his passing cannot mark the end of the fight for accountability.

"I would like to see as many of those officers that are listed as co-conspirators [in various lawsuits] and are still living brought to justice," says Hardaway.

The organization continues to push for greater transparency from KCKPD and the Unified Government, having successfully

advocated for the creation of a cold-case unit to investigate more than 280 unsolved cases, many involving Black victims.

Justice for Wyandotte is also currently working to organize a community town hall to begin the healing process and chart a path forward for meaningful reform. They maintain a solidarity fund to help sustain victims through the justice process by assisting with utilities, housing, and therapy needs.

"We need our municipalities to do better," says Hardaway. "The biggest issue in the Wyandotte community is that these people feel beholden to protect [law enforcement] rather than the community."

of certain drug charges. Depending on the charges, they'll call for automatic expungements, restoration of some rights and other remediations.

While Safe Streets may be a new organization to some members of the community, Barnett says the program has been around a long time, she's experienced in the field and she's done her research, including reaching out to

some of the individuals who successfully led culturally focused drug programs in the past. "I think for it [Safe Streets] to be in our hands and in our community is really amazing," she says.

In Good Hands

Gift Ban, from Page 13 ↓

Jon Berkon, an attorney for Mayors Corps, contends Lucas and Said's travel helped attract film industry investments to Kansas City and contributed to Kansas City becoming a host for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The organization, Berkon said, helped Lucas be able to serve in national organizations and build relationships with members of Congress and governors.

The obfuscation of spending extends beyond the non-profit, The Independent has learned. A political action committee established to support Lucas' political career, called United We Stand, spent almost \$1,700 late last year for a tuxedo and \$9,500 for polling about a new Kansas City Royals baseball stadium in Clay County.

Unlike the Mayors Corps,

United We Stand is obligated to disclose its spending. But Said requested the tuxedo be listed only as an "inaugural expense." The polling — which Lucas said at the time he didn't know who paid for — was called "research."

Mayors Corps of Progress

The Mayors Corps of Progress was established by former Kansas City Mayor Richard Berkley, but later lapsed. Lucas' predecessor, Mayor Sly James, reestablished the organization when he took office in 2011.

According to the organization's bylaws, it was created "to hold, attract, develop and encourage the economic development of the Kansas City community and to further the common good and general welfare of the citizens of Kansas City."

The bylaws say: "The

corporation shall not be used for either business or political purposes or for the pecuniary gain or profit of its organizers, board of directors, officers, members or any other person."

During James' tenure, the Mayors Corps met regularly and included members from major corporate employers, unions, hospitals, law firms and nonprofits.

While the Mayors Corps is not legally obligated to disclose its donors, it previously provided the information voluntarily to journalists. Lucas' office declined to do so this week.

For the balance of this story, go online to: wjdkjlsjdsjlsj.

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