

THE VOICE

A Trusted Voice From the Community's Perspective



ELIMINATED

GREG "HITMAN" WILLIAMS

THE HITMAN REFLECTS ON HIS SURPRISING JOB ELIMINATION & HIS NEARLY FIVE-DECADE RADIO CAREER – GOOD AND BAD. PAGE 5-6



Willie Lanier

His Planned Development In Downtown KC Has Died a Quiet Death

Page 7

Ford Carr

They're After Him and Want Him Out of the State House of Representatives

Page 4



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Regulations Rolled Back to Allow Segregation

We wrote about this before, but in case you missed it ...

By **Stacy M. Brown**
National Newspaper
Publishers Association

The Trump Administration has blatantly resurrected segregation in federal contracting, undoing decades of civil rights progress by removing anti-segregation mandates.

According to reporting from NPR, employees from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) were sent memos that state: "FAR 52.222-21, Prohibition of Segregated Facilities, and FAR 52.222-26, Equal Opportunity will not be considered when making award decisions or enforcing requirements."

The regressive move reopens the door for racially divided facilities, reminiscent of the Jim Crow era, with potential "Whites Only" and "Colored" signage in government-funded workplaces. Nonetheless, under the current amendment, businesses will still be required to follow state and federal laws, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which declared segregation as illegal.

"This isn't just a policy shift; it's a moral catastrophe," Melissa Murray, a constitutional law professor at New York University, told NPR. "We are witnessing the deliberate dismantling of civil rights protections that generations fought to secure."

The changes, initiated without the customary public comment period, have



been implemented to align with new executive orders on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). However, this sudden shift has sparked accusations of undermining democracy and transparency. An anonymous federal employee expressed outrage to NPR.

"This is an outright assault on democratic norms, a covert operation to reintroduce segregation without public scrutiny," the unnamed employee remarked.

Other federal agencies in addition to NIH have received directives to disregard previous anti-segregation clauses in their contracting processes.

Inquiries to the General Services Administration about bypassing established procedural protocols were met with vague assurances.

"The GSA is committed to implementing executive orders effectively and promptly," GSA spokesperson Will Powell stated.

Kara Sacilotto, an attorney specializing in federal contracts, pointed out the broad attack on civil rights,

noting that the targeting of these protections extends beyond racial lines to include gender identity, previously expanded under the Obama Administration.

"It's clear the target is not just racial equality but all forms of civil rights progress," Sacilotto explained.

Professor Murray added, "This isn't just a rollback of civil rights protections — it's a signal that we're stepping back into a darker past, one that we've worked hard to move beyond."

FOR MORE RELATED KNOWLEDGE READ: Trump Doesn't Only Want to End DEI. He's Also Voiding a Civil Rights-Era Anti-Discrimination Rule While DEI promotes fairness, another Trump order ends Equal Employment opportunity in federal employment and contracting, making it legal to discriminate in hiring. <https://bit.ly/4kKV8wo>

Trump Promises 'Restitution' To 'Victims' Of DEI 'Discrimination' If it sounds a lot like reparations that Black people have asked for and been denied, then, you're not mistaken. <https://bit.ly/4iFIG07>

CLAYTOONZ: The Sheeple's Court



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Renovated Maya Angelou Branch Library Reopens

By Bonita Gooch
Voice Editor-in-Chief

The renovated and expanded Maya Angelou Branch Library, at 3051 E. 21st St., Wichita reopened this week after undergoing a complete interior remodel. The remodel, which closed the library in October, is part

of the Library's master plan to enhance services at branch locations.

The remodel included a new addition on the west side of the building; changes to the interior layout; a new study room; new flooring, furniture, lighting, and art.

Although the library has

reopened, the renovations are still not finished. They're waiting on new shelving and planned art installation.

A formal reopening program is planned for late May.

In the meantime, to help accommodate customers at the Rockwell Library, which is now closed for remodeling,

the library is operating with extended hours.

The library is open:

Monday - Thursday
10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday & Saturday
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday
1p.m. - 5 p.m.



The expanded computer bank was already getting customer use.



The library includes a bright seating and activity area for small children.



The remodel included the addition a small addition on the west side of the building with lots of windows. The room is furnished with comfortable upholstered furniture.

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Ford Carr Update: Now It Appears to be Carr Against the Republican House

Despite a bar fight, some terse words in emails to Democrats and Republicans and now a formal complaint filed against him, Kansas State Rep. Ford Carr says his passion for his constituents won't allow him to pull back.

By Bonita Gooch

The Community Voice
Editor-in-Chief, and
Tim Carpenter
Kansas Reflector

It's been a contentious year for two-term Kansas State Rep. Ford Carr. He admits, he's passionate about his constituents and he's been vocal about Republicans' "agenda of horrible, discriminative and hateful legislation for Black people as well as all minority groups."

His terse words aren't just limited to Republicans. He's also had a few choice words for Democrats, saying they lack "courage to do more, risk more and fight harder than we have" against Republicans who dominate the legislature.

No more is Carr "willing to go high, when they go low." To the Democrats he says, "when they [Republicans] go low, introduce their a** to the basement. Our constituents deserve nothing less."

True to his words, Carr has proven to be a different kind of legislator than people in Topeka are accustomed to and his outspoken approach has drawn considerable resistance.

Last month, Carr made a statement in House chambers indicating some representatives might harbor racist sentiment. The statement upset Wichita Rep. Nick Hoheisel so much that the Republican approached Carr at his desk on the House floor.



A special committee of the Kansas House is looking into a complaint filed by Derby Republican Rep. Leah Howell (left in front row) against Hoheisel for his actions, the representative directed threatening language and a curse word at him.

(TIM CARPENTER/KANSAS REFLECTOR)

That complaint, reviewed by an appointed six-member panel comprising three Republicans and three Democrats, deadlocked. The three Republicans urged Carr's dismissal and the three Democrats sought further consideration of the issues.

Complaint Filed Against Carr

Now, Rep. Leah Howell of Derby, a Republican, has filed a formal complaint against Carr. The complaint, endorsed by House Majority Leader Chris Croft of Overland Park, alleges Carr should be reprimanded, censured or expelled by the full House for engaging in "patterns of violent rhetoric, physical violence, intimidating behavior and derogatory language which

is unbecoming of any Kansan, much less a member of the Kansas House."

The filed complaint included documents tied to bitter exchanges between Carr and Republicans and Democrats. It appears this complaint will be taken up by the same investigatory committee that reviewed Carr's complaint against Hoheisel.

Carr has requested a precise declaration of which House rules Howell is accusing him of violating. He said the four-dozen pages of emails, news articles and correspondence accompanying Howell's complaint don't point to a specific infraction. He also asked for sufficient time to prepare a defense.

"If I'm not sure what the crime is that I'm being accused of, I don't know the rule, how would I defend myself?" Carr asked the House committee.

What's in the Complaint Against Carr

The file containing Howell's evidence against Carr and obtained by the Kansas Reflector begins with information about Carr's verbal "attack" in 2023 on Marvin Robinson, an African American and Democrat state representative from Wyandotte County.

On the House floor, Carr called Robinson a "house Negro" for his almost unanimous voting record in support of Republican policies and proposals. Robinson died late last year.

The packet also includes information about a letter from House Speaker Dan Hawkins (R-Wichita) and House Speaker Pro Tem Blake Carpenter (R-Derby) that advised Carr not to engage in disparaging and disorderly remarks during House debate. The letter, tied to the Robinson incident, said a formal

House complaint would be filed against Carr if he repeated the offense.

"While we recognize that disagreement over policy is part of the process," the Hawkins and Carpenter letter said, "proper decorum in addressing the House is essential for proper functioning of the legislative process and respect of the House. Your conduct failed to maintain proper decorum."

The complaint also included a set of emails from January between Carr and House Minority Leader Brandon Woodard (D-Lenexa) as well as a Kansas House Democrat staff member. The exchange centered on Carr's objection to being assigned the Capitol office formerly occupied by Robinson.

"This must be some sort of retaliation for votes I took in previous years," Carr told House staffer Logan Demond. "You can have my things boxed and left in the office lobby and I will take them home, but I'll be damned if someone will sit me in the seat of a dead man that I had issues with."

Woodard, in response to Carr, wrote that "retaliation isn't in my nature" and that House furniture belonged "to the people, not us. If you'd like to discuss alternatives, we are ready to find a solution. But I will ask you to at least be respectful of our staff."

The complaint against Carr also included a letter sent by Woodard to Carr informing Carr that he wouldn't face a complaint for Carr's involvement in a fight with Wichita City Councilman Brandon Johnson in January. The fight took place in a Topeka tavern across the street from the Capitol.

In that encounter, which was captured on video, Carr shoved to the floor Democratic Rep. Henry Helgerson, who had attempted to diffuse the situation by stepping between Carr and Johnson.

Eliminated

Greg 'The Hitman' Williams reflects on his job loss and the good and the bad of his nearly five-decade radio career.

By Bonita Gooch
The Voice Editor-in-Chief

Thursday morning, March 6, started like any other day for Greg "The Hitman" Williams. He woke up, did his job, and had no idea what was coming when he jumped on a Zoom call while waiting at his doctor's office.

What was coming was a digital dismissal and he was the human toll.

He admits he was "blindsided" by this unexpected end to what had been a successful, nearly 25-year run as the top DJ at the top radio station in the Wichita market. He didn't see it coming.

The fact that he wasn't being fired, but that his job was "being eliminated" didn't lessen the blow a bit. He compared it to "getting hit with a punch. You didn't see where it came from and all you know is that you're knocked out."

Hitman's Story

That knockout punch will more than likely bring an end to the historic run at KDGS-FM. Since 2000, he's been Wichita's morning-drive-time radio star.



Hitman with Lil Wayne at the 2015 Powerhouse Jam. Over the years, POWER with Hitman brought a number of great concerts with top artists to Wichita.

With a long line of female co-hosts, he's been the star, lead personality and consistent name brand of the "Hitman and (fill in the blank) Show" on KDGS, POWER 93.5, Wichita's most popular station that plays hip-hop music. His was the longest running No. 1 morning-drive show in the market.

But more than an on-air personality, Hitman was also the station's program/brand manager, a management position that put him in charge of the station's programming, marketing, and overall brand strategy. In that position, he worked to ensure audience engagement, revenue growth, and a consistent station identity.

He also served as program/brand manager for KEYN, a classic hits station that's another one of six Wichita-based stations owned and operated by Audacy, a leading national, multi-platform audio content and entertainment company.

His Beginnings

For Hitman, serving as brand manager for KEYN was like coming full circle. He worked at the station for two years in the early '80s. It



Greg "Hitman" Williams was the man behind the soundtrack of generations of Wichitans' lives. Earlier this month, despite being the top morning-drive DJ in the market, his position was eliminated, leaving the community stunned.

was his first full-time radio job. It was where he honed his skills, built confidence, and took the first major step toward his future success in the industry.

However, his first radio job was working an overnight, weekday shift at Wichita AM Top 40 station KLEO. He was just 17, and was given a rare opportunity as a teenager and an equally rare opportunity as an African American.

Back then – and still – African Americans didn't work at traditionally White-formatted Top 40 stations.

Radio still has a "self-imposed color line," says Hitman. "Traditionally, if you're African American, you do Urban Radio and it (Urban Radio) traditionally pays less than Top 40."

Not to say he followed the money, but Hitman's next job was a brief stint at a country station in San Diego before being recruited back to Wichita in October 1983 to work for KKRK, another Top 40 station.

He didn't expect his time there would be an almost straight 17-year run. He left for one year in 1995 to help transition 93.9 from an Urban Adult Contemporary station to POWER, but returned due to what he called "bad ownership."

Leaving Top 40

In early 2000, Hitman finally left Top 40 behind when the new owners of POWER came calling. The station was in the midst of a major controversy and they needed help "righting the ship."

Earlier that year, The Community Voice received an on-air recording of POWER disc jockey Kid Chris telling a younger listener to take a gun to school as a way to end a brewing controversy.

The Voice's story about the recording caught fire and the community responded angrily. There were organized protests against the station, the Wichita City Council passed a condemning resolution and as a result, KDGS could barely sell any commercial spots.

Despite the Kid Chris controversy, there was a lot of love for the station because it was playing a mix of music that included a lot of hip-hop, and it was a format that was missing in the market. When Chris was ousted and a new team was rumored to be coming, there was a lot of concern the station's format would revert back to something more traditional.

As part of the new station reveal, for three days in a row, the station played nothing but the song "I Got the Power" by Snap.

"I really wanted to pound it into

people we were still going to be POWER," Hitman said. When the station went on the air, Hitman's message to the community was, "I'm gonna tell you guys we love you, because we know you guys love us and we never told you we love you back."

That was the start of an amazing 24.5-year run.

Building a POWERhouse

At POWER, Hitman adopted several strategies that catapulted the station to the top.

One was having a strong local and community focus.

"Great radio stations are local, a station that's really serving their community. I've always believed that," said Hitman.

So he worked hard to live by that policy, including adding a local community issues show that ran for six years, "The Community Voice Radio Show," hosted by The Voice editor-in-chief Bonita Gooch and then-school board member Michael Kinard.

While other major radio chains were serving up the same music and programming to all of their markets as a way to save money, POWER's owners supported allowing Hitman to control management of the station's music.

HITMAN, from Page 5 ↓

“That was a unique component of all of our brands and I made every effort to make the station sound as much like Wichita as possible,” said Hitman.

Another strategy Hitman implemented was projecting a “fun, energetic and exciting” station.

Recognizing people were up against a lot of pressures in society and in their lives, he wanted the station to be an escape for people from their everyday problems.

“They didn’t want to hear problems from us,” recalled Hitman. “They wanted to listen to us and have a good time.”

In another move made just before the pandemic, Hitman pushed the owners to fully embrace their hip-hop roots.

“I think ownership did not want to implicitly come out and say hip-hop,” said Hitman, but with a little nudge, they gave him the freedom to make that programming move.

It was a wise move since hip-hop has grown into the No. 1 contemporary music choice of young adults, the market they were targeting.



During his more than four decade career, Hitman interacted with numerous stars of music, tv and film including new R&B smooth crooner Teddy Swims.

To pull it all together, Hitman said he didn’t work just 9 to 5; instead he gave whatever it took. He wanted the station to be right. He wanted it to be good.

The result: POWER has consistently been the No. 1 music station in the market and Hitman’s show also maintains a position as the top morning-drive-time show in the market.

Controversy

Hitman had a rather charmed career at POWER, except for an incident that blew up almost two years ago.

An employee Hitman had recently fired accused him of making

homosexual advances. The employee went on to proclaim he was fired because he rebuked Hitman’s passes.

The former employee went to the local CBS affiliate, KWCH Channel 12, with the unsubstantiated story and they picked it up and ran with it.

“They did it for the headlines,” said Hitman, “and they beat the living sh\$t out of me for three days with lies. But after the investigation was done, and all of it was determined untrue, they never said a word about that.”

Hitman said what disappointed him even more was the lack of support he received from the community.

“What was disheartening to me

is that the people that stabbed the hardest and the deepest, personally, in my opinion, were my own people,” he said. “I felt like the community I’d given so much to, fought so hard for, brought so many special things that the city had never experienced before, and to have my community turn on me like that. Even now, it’s still disappointing.”

“You don’t get to be a guy like me, having the profile that I have in this community, and move around this community and be that kind of person and it just comes out after you fire somebody. It just doesn’t happen,” he continued.

He recognizes that no matter what the facts are, he’ll never be able to convince some people that it wasn’t true, but he said the fact that the company didn’t terminate him then, because they knew it wasn’t true, should speak for something.

Why Was He Let Go?

On the same day Hitman was let go, Audacy laid off between 250 and 300 employees across the company as part of “cost-savings restructurings,” reverberations from Audacy emerging

from bankruptcy restructuring last September.

Like Hitman, the list included a number of long-serving employees, many of whom – due to their longevity – were probably among their respective stations’ highest paid employees.

Hitman developed a successful model for Audacy to follow, something they probably plan to follow with less expensive employees. Besides, they’re aware hip-hop listeners in Wichita have no place else to turn.

What’s Next for Hitman?

Although now in his early 60s, Hitman said he won’t be retiring – but exactly what he’ll do next, he still hasn’t decided.

Unless it’s an awfully great offer, his next steps won’t be back on air.

Over nearly five decades in broadcasting, he’s developed a lot of skills, and has lots of

connections, both of which he could use going forward. For now, he’s going to take a

little time off, relax and enjoy life ... and not get up at 4 in the morning.

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Lanier Project for Downtown KCK Dies a Quiet Death

Plus More on Downtown KCK Development

By **Bonita Gooch**

The Voice Editor-in-Chief

The much anticipated development project proposed by developer Willie Lanier Jr. for downtown Kansas City, KS, has died a quiet death.

The project, which started under former KCK Mayor David Alvey, had been the source of many clashes between KCK Mayor Tyrone Garner and the Unified Government Board of Commissioners. By the time Garner took office, the projects had already had numerous extensions and since then had received at least a couple more.



With the failure of the Lanier Development Project in downtown KCK, the commission may consider reopening the Reardon Convention Center which has been closed since 2021.

The last extension to the development agreement, made in April 2024, required work on the project to get underway by the end of February 2025. Our sources say Lanier did ask for another extension,

but was reminded the commissioners were clear when they made the last agreement extension that it would be the final one.

Initially approved in 2020, the \$25 million project would have replaced the closed Reardon Convention Center in downtown KCK with a 7,500-square-foot multipurpose community meeting space and redevelop the balance of the with a multi-floor building that would include 85 to 100 apartment units with approximately 7,000 square feet of retail space on the ground floor.

Some delays in the project were due to changes in local leadership and differing visions for downtown KCK.

Garner supported maintaining the Reardon Center instead of razing it but didn't

get much support from other commissioners. The Reardon Center has been closed since 2021, leaving the city without a large meeting or convention location.

With the Lanier Development project behind them, Garner says he will put a discussion for next steps at the convention center on an upcoming agenda. A group of city officials recently toured the facility, which Garner says is outdated but in good structural condition.

The city has \$6 million in revenue generated from a sales tax in a designated Downtown Community Improvement District. If approved by the commission, the funds could be used to make improvements and renovations to the Reardon Center.

Garner, who has decided not to seek reelection, says he feels strongly this is a decision that should be left to the Commissioners.

More Downtown KCK Development News

The Hilton Garden Inn next to the old Reardon Center was recently sold. No additional plans have been announced for the hotel, but the hotel likely suffered economically by the loss of convention traffic from the Reardon Center.

The Minnesota Avenue Triangle Project planned at 4th and Minnesota Avenue in downtown KCK has also fallen through. The project was awarded to developers Flaherty & Collins, who submitted the project as a response to a Request for

Proposal issued by the Unified Government. The two-phase \$145 million project was supposed to break ground this summer on a 12-story tower with 244 apartments.

According to city officials, the developers pulled out of the project citing a funding gap.

The MERC, a downtown cooperative grocery store that opened in July 2020, is also weighing shuttering its doors. The store was built to address KCK's downtown food desert and expected to benefit greatly from residents of the Lanier Project that never came through. Present concerns expressed by the store are a growing homeless population in downtown KCK and shoplifting, both of which are negatively impacting the operation's bottom line.

Ad Hoc to Build \$6M Center for Healing & Justice in East KC

The new facility aims to expand services for violence-impacted communities.

By **Thomas White**

Kansas City Reporter

Ad Hoc Group Against Crime will soon break ground on a new \$6 million Center for Healing and Justice at the corner of 31st Street and Benton Blvd. in KC's Santa Fe neighborhood.

The 8,800-square-foot, two-story facility will provide expanded services for families affected by violence and crime, with construction scheduled to begin this month.

The project removes three blighted vacant lots — donated by The Hope Center — and replaces them with a modern facility designed to complement the surrounding architecture



Alvin Brooks

while symbolizing hope and community investment.

The project, located across from the Leon Jordan Memorial Park, received \$2 million in Central City Economic Development (CCED) funding as part of the organization's effort to establish a stronger presence in Kansas City's urban core. Additional funding comes from \$2.1 million in foundation pledges, \$150,000 in donor support, and \$1.7 million in new market tax credits.

"We are passionate about

the Ad Hoc Center for Healing and Justice because we believe in the transformative power of design," said Pete Sloan of HOK, the project's architect. "This crucial project will serve as a trusted bridge between the community and the criminal justice system, empower Ad Hoc Group Against Crime to continue their essential work, and stand as a beacon of hope for the community."

Founded in 1977 by local civil rights activist, former policeman and city official Alvin Brooks, Ad Hoc has long served as a liaison between the community and law enforcement, focusing on violence intervention and prevention in Kansas City's most affected neighborhoods.

"Ad Hoc Group Against Crime's Center for Healing and Justice strives to deliver much-needed socio-economic and mental health services that provide stability

to underserved families and communities in the Kansas City metropolitan area," said Damon Daniel, president of Ad Hoc Group Against Crime.

The new center will feature a community hall, office spaces, consultation rooms, a training facility, and an outdoor patio. JE Dunn Construction will serve as the general contractor, with construction expected to take about 12 months, for a spring 2026 completion.

The building addresses a critical need in an area that historically has a large percentage of the city's homicides.

"The burden of violence and homicides are shouldered by communities of color," said Daniel. "Neglecting that harm perpetuates racial injustice and compromises the goals of diversity and shared prosperity."

Ad Hoc currently serves



A rendering of the exterior of the Ad Hoc Center for Healing and Justice viewed from Benton Blvd.

about 700 families annually through its healing and justice-focused programs. The organization hopes the new facility will allow them to help many more families each year by expanding their services directly in the communities most affected by violence.

The center's 'healing' services will include grief counseling, neighborhood canvassing, prayer vigils, survivor care, and a 24-hour

community hotline. "Justice" services will feature cognitive behavioral therapy, healthy relationship classes, victim policy advocacy, and employment readiness programs.

Ad Hoc plans to integrate itself into the Santa Fe neighborhood by providing free services to residents, including crime prevention assessments, meeting space, and workforce development programs.

★ ★ ★ VOTE APRIL

On the April Ballot

\$474M for Kansas City Schools

KCPS Asks Voters to Approve First Bond Since 1967

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

When the polls open April 8, Kansas City Public Schools (KCPS) will ask voters to approve a \$474 million bond measure – the district’s first since 1967. The proposal aims to modernize aging buildings, improve learning environments, and address critical maintenance needs across the district.

What’s at Stake

With KCPS buildings averaging 60+ years old and an estimated \$1.25 billion in deferred maintenance, district leaders say the investment is long overdue.

“You would be appalled to know how poorly the Kansas City Public Schools are funded,” said district administrator Keith Smith. “Out of the 17 surrounding area school districts, we’re ranked second to last and that is a travesty.”

If approved, the bond would fund major renovations, new construction, and essential repairs to HVAC systems, roofs, and plumbing infrastructure across all district schools.

“We are doing so much for our students with so little,” said school board member Monica Curls. “It’s up to us adults to help make this a better situation for them.”

The bond measure requires approval from four out of every seven voters (57%) to pass. If the bond passes, KCPS will establish an independent Community Bond Oversight Committee and hire an auditor to ensure funds are spent only on approved projects.

“We have world-class educators, but not world-class facilities right now,” said Smith. “This is an opportunity to be able to take that next step.”

Cost to Taxpayers

The proposed \$474 million bond would be repaid through property taxes collected from property owners within the Kansas City Public Schools district boundaries.

According to district estimates, the average homeowner would pay approximately 64 cents per day in additional property taxes. For a homeowner with property valued at \$200,000, the tax increase would be \$231.80 per year.

Commercial property owners would face a proportionally higher tax increase. For a commercial property valued at \$200,000, the additional annual tax burden would be approximately \$390.40 - about 68% more than residential property of the same value. This difference is due to how commercial and residential properties are assessed differently for tax purposes in Missouri.



KCPS are dealing with overcrowding conditions at many schools; as an example, the auditorium stage at East High is being used as a testing center. There is also a major need for infrastructure repair and maintenance.



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We have Q&A information about candidates for school board races on our website communityvoiceks.com
For Hickman Mills @ <https://bit.ly/4iLaJdE>
Raytown @ <https://bit.ly/4iLQNY5>
KCPS @ <https://bit.ly/4ieuqKR>

The tax increase would remain in effect for the duration of the bond repayment period, which typically ranges from 20-30 years for school district bonds of this magnitude. The district has emphasized that this investment – while requiring additional taxes – would address critical infrastructure needs.

For context, KCPS notes that surrounding school districts routinely pass bonds to maintain their facilities, while KCPS has been unable to access this funding mechanism for nearly six decades, contributing to its significant maintenance backlog.

Major Projects Planned

The bond would fund several significant projects:

New Middle School at Southwest

- Transforms the historic Southwest High School building in Brookside
- Creates a neighborhood middle school south of Brush Creek
- Moves sixth graders from elementary to middle school
- Estimated cost: \$70 million (\$45.1 million from the bond)
- Two New Elementary Campuses

KC PUBLIC SAFETY TAX VOTE

New City Jail at Center of April 8 Ballot Question

Quarter-cent sales tax would fund new municipal detention center.

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

Kansas City voters will decide April 8 whether to renew a 1/4-cent public safety sales tax to fund a municipal jail and emergency services. If it isn't renewed, the tax is set to expire in June 2026.

If approved, the vote would extend the tax for 20 years and primarily fund a detention and rehabilitation center, plus support police equipment and emergency services.

How the Money Would Be Used

The tax currently generates about \$24 million annually and is expected to increase by 2% each year.

The funds will be used to pay for construction of the proposed 250-bed detention center. The design includes dedicated spaces for mental health care, substance abuse treatment, and standard detention beds, reflecting a commitment to addressing the diverse needs of the inmate population.

In addition, funds would go toward:

- The new detention center operation
- Improvements to the city's 911 system
- KCPD camera system upgrades (body and dash cameras)
- A new building for the Central Patrol Division

The Detention Center Plan

The city plans to build its jail in eastern Jackson County next to the new Jackson County Detention Center near Blue Valley Park. The city has

already spent \$2.3 million to purchase the land.

In 2015, the city discontinued operating its municipal jail due to outdated facilities and non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The city initially arranged to house detainees at the Jackson County Detention Center. However, in 2019, Jackson County terminated this agreement, citing financial concerns.

Since then, KCPD has been transporting detainees to a jail in Vernon County about 90 minutes away at an approximate annual cost of \$1.8 million.

The municipal jail will hold people charged with offenses that don't rise to state prosecution level, including:

- Thefts under \$750
- Assaults without weapons
- Some drug offenses
- Bar fights
- Automobile "sideshows" (illegal street gatherings)
- Public disturbances

The exact cost of the detention center remains unclear, but estimates suggest the facility could cost upward of \$800 million over its lifetime, which opponents say is more than this tax can provide.

"The city could have to come back later and ask taxpayers for millions more in operating costs," said Amaia Cook, executive director of Decarcerate KC. Cook also pointed out that Kansas City residents are already paying for the new county jail.

Arguments for Supporting the Tax

Mayor Quinton Lucas backs the renewal, calling it part of a comprehensive approach to public safety. The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City have endorsed the measure.



A new \$301 million, 1,000-bed Jackson County jail currently under construction is expected to be operable later this year. KCMO opted to construct a separate facility citing the needs for their detainees to have services focused on stabilization and reentry support.

"[Voting Yes] brings us closer to a safer Kansas City," Lucas said. "We need to ensure bad acts have consequences that are swift and certain."

Jackson County Prosecutor Melesa Johnson argues municipal offenders currently face few consequences.

"They are fully aware we don't have a detention center," Johnson said during a public debate.

Arguments for voting yes:

- Local detention would eliminate the 90-minute transport to Vernon County
- A city-owned facility could better address mental health and substance abuse needs
- Low-level offenders currently face few consequences for disruptive behavior
- The tax is not new but a

continuation of an existing tax

- The facility would be built alongside existing county facilities for efficiency

Councilwoman Melissa Patterson Hazley says she was initially skeptical but supports the tax after seeing specific crime problems in the third district that she feels can be addressed by the proposed detention facility.

Arguments Against the Tax

Decarcerate KC has organized a "No Taxation for Incarceration" campaign. KC Tenants, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, City Councilman Jonathan Duncan, and others have voiced opposition to the measure.

"We strongly oppose this jail tax because we know it doesn't do anything to

prevent crime," said Cook with Decarcerate KC. "The dire need is to invest in prevention, not incarceration."

Arguments for voting no:

- The jail would be expensive to build and operate with little public safety benefit
- Funds could instead address root causes: mental health, substance abuse, poverty
- Incarceration disproportionately impacts Black and low-income communities
- The average stay in city jail is just five days
- Similar approaches haven't reduced crime

The Rev. Dr. Vernon Howard Jr., president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, questioned the jail's effectiveness.

"It wouldn't do anything

to make the people around Prospect and Linwood feel safer," Howard said. "Voting against this does not mean you are against public safety; it means you are for a real, comprehensive program."

What Happens If It Passes

If voters approve the tax renewal:

- Construction would begin on the municipal detention center near the Jackson County jail
- The KCPD would receive funding for technology upgrades
- The tax would continue through 2045
- The current arrangement of housing detainees in Vernon County would be phased out

"I feel confident that we right-sized this facility to meet that specific need," said Fourth District at-Large Council member Crispin Rea. "You're not wasting money on over-incarcerating, but we're meeting the need."

What Happens If It Fails

If voters reject the tax renewal:

- The 1/4-cent sales tax would expire in June 2026
 - Plans for a new municipal detention center would be reexamined or delayed indefinitely
 - The city would need to continue contracting with facilities like Vernon County
- Alternative funding would be needed for planned police and emergency service improvements

The city would need to develop new strategies for addressing low-level offenses

"We deserve something more than the same approach that has failed to improve public safety time and again," reads a statement from groups opposing the tax.

Black Business 'Shark Tank' Pitch Competition Returns for 3rd Year

10 local Black-owned businesses will compete for \$60,000 in prizes on March 29 at the Delta Athenaeum.

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

Ten local Black-owned businesses will compete for \$60,000 in prizes on March 29 at the Delta Athenaeum when G.I.F.T. (Generating Income for Tomorrow) hosts its annual Pitch Black Business Summit, showcasing Black entrepreneurs in a "Shark Tank"-style competition. The Pitch Black Business Summit is back for its third year and builds on G.I.F.T.'s mission to close the racial wealth gap by awarding grants to Black-owned businesses in historically underserved neighborhoods.

"We're excited to continue our commitment to supporting the incredible talent and vision of Black entrepreneurs in Kansas City," said Brandon Calloway, CEO and co-founder of Kansas City G.I.F.T.

The 10 competing businesses span diverse industries, from food service to wellness, retail to martial arts. Five were selected by G.I.F.T.'s board of directors, with the other five chosen from a hat during a live Instagram drawing.

Black-Owned Businesses Competing:

- **The Combine:** A bar & grill specializing in pizza, sandwiches, and salads located at 29th & Troost in KCMO.
- **The Black Pantry:** A boutique shop at 31st & Gillham in KCMO, showcasing a curated selection of products exclusively from Black-owned businesses, including home goods, specialty foods, and



Black Pitch 2023 winners were LaVita Green, Caresticks Mobile Phlebotomy; Dion Dodson, Deluxe Transportation Group; and Dayonne Richardson, Mirror Mirror Books.

daily essentials.

- **In Good Company:** An East Crossroads cocktail lounge offering an alternative to club chaos with a "good people, good drinks, good vibes" atmosphere, that's exploring a membership-only model.
- **The Mutual Musicians Foundation:** Established in 1917, this historic foundation in the heart of the 18th & Vine Jazz District preserves KC's rich

jazz heritage by hosting live performances and educational programs.

- **Civic Saint:** A social venture founded by Godfrey Riddle that creates sustainable, ultra-affordable housing using compressed earth bricks (CEBs). The company aims to provide quality affordable homes in KC's historically redlined neighborhoods.
- **On The Rocks Gourmet Jams:** Specializes in liquor-infused jams that blend premium spirits with fresh fruits,

offering a unique and flavorful twist perfect for cooking, spreading, or garnishing.

- **AIMwell Yoga:** Striving to make yoga accessible to all communities, they offer classes throughout the KC metro area and partner with schools to introduce yoga to students.
- **Hive + Harvest:** A specialty coffee roaster and beekeeping venture dedicated to crafting exceptional coffee and producing sustainable local honey.
- **Taylor Made It:** Led by Taylor Hayes, the company offers sound design, podcast production, and consulting to help creators elevate their content including work on shows like "The Breakfast Club" with Charlamagne Tha God.
- **Integrity Martial Arts Academy:** Offers youth and adult programs that build confidence, self-discipline, and practical self-defense while fostering leadership and community engagement.
- **G.I.F.T.** typically awards

grants to businesses between 9th Street and Bannister Road, from Troost to Hardesty Avenue. But the pitch competition expands those boundaries to include Black-owned ventures throughout the KC area.

The local entrepreneurs will pitch to a panel of judges who will then choose winners. The grand prize is \$30,000, while second place gets \$20,000, and third place will earn \$10,000. Tickets to the pitch competition and business summit cost \$10 and include lunch. Attendees can also shop from local Black-owned vendors and participate in business development classes designed for entrepreneurs of all levels.

3rd Annual Pitch Black Business Summit

Delta Athenaeum at 900 E. Linwood, KCMO
Sat., March 29, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
\$10 ticket includes lunch
Tickets available at bit.ly/PitchBlackBizSummit

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Businessman Junior Bridgeman Dies at 71

Junior Bridgeman, a basketball standout who led the University of Louisville to a Final Four, starred for the NBA's Milwaukee Bucks and then launched an even more successful career as a businessman with stakes in restaurants, publishing and the Bucks franchise, died March 11 at age 71.

Bridgeman died unexpectedly after suffering a health emergency at an event in his adopted hometown of Louisville, KY. He's believed to have died of a heart attack.

Why his death may matter to you if you reside in Kansas or Missouri, is because if you've had a Coke, Sprite, Fanta, Powerade, Dasani, Body Armour or any Coca-Cola-brand drink since 2017, Bridgeman had a hand in it.



Junior Bridgewater

Since 2017, the Bridgeman-owned Heartland Coca-Cola has had the Coca-Cola bottling contract for Kansas, Missouri and Southern Illinois. It's just one of several businesses he owned that contributed to his \$1.4 billion net worth and to him reportedly having the most successful post-playing business career of any professional athlete.

He did this despite never

making more than \$350,000 a season during his 12-year NBA career (1975-87).

Bridgeman the Entrepreneur

Bridgeman built a fast-food empire that, at its peak, totaled more than 450 Wendy's and Chilis Restaurants. He expanded his business portfolio with the Heartland Coca-Cola bottling agreement.

In 2020 he bought Ebony magazine for \$14 million, after the publication went bankrupt earlier that year. The magazine had documented Black life in America since 1945.

He invested in NBA Africa and in September, the Bucks announced Bridgeman had purchased a 10% interest in the team.

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Members-Only Crossroads Cocktail Bar Offers Escape From Nightclub Chaos

In Good Company is setting itself apart from nearby Power & Light hot spots. Members will pay a minimum of \$50 a month for access, which includes four drink credits and up to four guests per visit.

By Joyce Smith
Startland News

A new East Crossroads venue on McGee offers no clues of what's inside.

The black facade out front features no marquee. No neon lights.

It's the first indication that In Good Company is something different from

neighboring Power & Light District hot spots.

The goal: Good people. Good drinks. Good vibes.

"It's not a club. It's more relaxed, a more mature essence if you don't want the hustle and bustle. That's why there are no TVs," said Cedric Ransburg, who owns the business alongside Daniel Edwards. "It's a haven ... a hidden gem."

For now, the cocktail bar is open to the public, but it will transfer to membership format this month. Members will pay a minimum of \$50 a month for access, and four drink credits. Members also will be able to bring up to four guests per visit.

Ransburg and Edwards were college roommates at the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, and served as best man at each other's weddings.

Ransburg has more than 15 years' experience in the hospitality industry in Kansas City and Los Angeles — 20, if you count his high school jobs, he said. Edwards is an architectural engineer and owns Eastside Lumber.

"We are a social contact club. For people who don't want to be yelled out; they don't want to be screamed out; they don't want to be bumped into. A spot where it is safe to hang out, it is fun to hang out," said Edwards.

They liked that the 1518 McGee St. spot is just south of the T-Mobile Center and the Power & Light District, but in the Crossroads, which is "not oversaturated with corporateness," Ransburg said.

"It's very down to earth with a lot going on, a lot of creativity," he said.

They wanted to set In Good Company apart from Power &



Cedric Ransburg is one of the co-owners of In Good Company, a new membership-only cocktail bar in the Crossroads.

the East of Bartle Hall (with orange juice, lime cordial, coconut and seltzer), and the Revolver (coffee-infused bourbon, coffee liqueur, orange liqueur, and orange bitters). But a new cocktail menu will debut soon.

The owners want to establish an artist-in-residence program to foster local artists, even recording their performances. It also has a DJ booth and is available for private events.

Hours are 4 to 11 p.m. Wed. and Thu., and 4 p.m. to midnight-ish Fri. and Sat. The business is closed Sun. through Tue.

Light venues, as well as the two nightclubs that had previously operated there.

The space has a living room vibe with multiple seating areas, exposed brick, and a

dramatic 30-foot ceiling with skylight. The upstairs loft overlooks the first floor and features plush recliners to settle in for people-watching. Cocktails currently include

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WICHITA

Thu. - Sat., March 20 - 22, 10 am - 10 pm: ESPN Wichita Fan Zone, Historic Union Station. The ultimate destination for basketball fans during March Madness. This event offers games on the big screen, interactive activities, giveaways, and appearances by local sports personalities. Enjoy local restaurants, music, and an electric atmosphere. **FREE**

Sat., March 22, 9 am: Brunch & Blooms, Atwater Neighborhood City Hall, 2755 E. 19th. Join us for brunch and connect with local growers & help you plan your garden for the year. Sponsored by Common Grounds Growers. **FREE**

Fri., March 28, 5 - 9:30 pm: Downtown Food & Booze Truck Rally, Wichita Boathouse, 515 S Wichita. Sixteen food trucks, live Music, local artists, yard games and more, small business vendors. **FREE**

Fri. March 28, 10 am - 2 pm: Job Fair Hosted by Dole VA Center. Hyatt Regency, 400 W Waterman. This event is Veteran-focused but welcomes all job seekers. Connect with 100+ employers read to hire and discover your next opportunity. **FREE**

Sat., March 29, 7 pm: Chris "Kid" Reid, Vorshay's, 417 E. Douglas. Best known as half of hip-hop musical act Kid 'n Play, Reid has been touring as a standup comedian for the past several years. Come see his hilarious comedy stylings at Vorshay's for one weekend only. COST \$25+

Sun., March 30, 3 pm: Harlem Globetrotters, Intrust Arena, 500 E. Waterman. Witness the world-record-breaking, trick-shot stars of basketball live as they bring their signature spins, dunks, and slams to the court, taking on their determined rivals, the Washington Generals. COST \$25+ selectaseat.com/globetrotters25

Sun., March 30, 10 am: Brunch & Bold

Conversations Empowering Women. The Sweet Spot, 7703 E. Douglas. In celebration of Women's History Month, NAAAP-Wichita and ICT-UP are hosting a brunch aimed at empowering and celebrating women. This event will serve as a chance to strengthen the bonds within our members between both organizations and the broader community.. Admission includes an all-you-can-eat buffet. COST: \$30+ <https://bit.ly/3RcQvgW>

Fri, April 4, 1 - 3 pm: Gamma Upsilon Chapter, Omega Psi Phi: Talent Hunt: WSU, Marcus Welcome Center. Areas of performance: music, dance, dramatic interpretation, and visual arts. Send email to kysylvesterharrison@gmail.com for applications to enter contest, **FREE**

Fri, April 4, 6 - 8 pm: Shift BBQ, Shift Auto Society, 406 S Market. Do you like cars and a FREE wagyu burgers? This is the event for you! Everyone is welcome! Check out the awesome facility of Shift Auto Society while chowing down on some of the best burger you will ever taste! **FREE**

Fri, April 4, 10 am - 4 pm: Expungement Clinic, Goodwill Opportunity Center, 2700 N Woodland. Sponsored by: Kansas Legal Services, Koch, and Goodwill. Volunteer attorneys will provide free assistance for those who qualify for an expungement. Appointments are required! Registration Deadline: March 25, 2025, Call 316-257-3975 or Email klsprobono@klsinc.org to check eligibility and secure your spot. **FREE**

Sat. April 5, 10 am - 2 pm: Used Book Sale, Wichita Public Library, 711 W 2nd. The event is open to the public and customers may either buy a FWPL cloth tote bag and fill it for \$10 or bring a previously purchased FWPL bag (green, blue or purple with FWPL logo) and fill it for \$5. **FREE**

Sat. April 5, 10 am - 2 pm: Community Baby Shower & Resource Fair. Sedgwick County Health Department

1900 E. 9th St. Attend a safe sleep demonstration and receive a FREE portable crib—one per household, while supplies last. To be eligible, you must sign up for a safe sleep demonstration at the event (first-come, first-served) and attend the demonstration in-person. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3XX-mPIL> **FREE**

Sat. April 5, 10 am - 1 pm: Child Safety Fair. Exploration Place, 300 N McLean. WASAC and the Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County have teamed up to bring this fantastic fun. Families will have the chance to learn about vital community resources, play games and get crafty, meet local first responders, visit the Wichita Public Library Book Bus, and much more. **FREE**

Mon., April, 7, 9 am - NOON: Cost of Poverty Experience. Sedgwick County Extension Office, 7001 W 21st. Explore the lived experiences of poverty Through The Eyes of real families. Limited seating. **FREE**

KANSAS CITY

Fri., March 21, 5 pm: Financial Freedom Conference, Linwood Boulevard SDA Temple, 4300 Linwood Blvd. Gain actionable tools to improve your finances. Learn from experienced coaches. Walk away with a clear roadmap to financial freedom. Presenters: Joseph Nyamwang, a financial strategist and the founder of Financial Legacy Academy; and Kymone Hinds, a business coach, speaker, and founder of Monetize Your Ministry Academy. **FREE**

Sat., March 22, 12 pm: KCPS School Board Candidate Forum, KC Public Library-Plaza Branch, 4801 Main St. Join The BLAQUE Vote Cohort and BLAQUE KC for a high-stakes KCPS School Board Candidate Debate Forum. **FREE**

Sat., March 22, 6 pm: University of Arkansas Vesper Choir, Pleasant Green

Baptist Church, 2010 E. 30th. **FREE**

Sun. March 23, 3 pm: University of Arkansas Vesper Choir, Pleasant Green Baptist Church, 2010 E. 30th. **FREE**

Mon. March 25, 6 pm: Why Didn't We Know?: The Forgotten History of the Colored Conventions and 19th-Century Black Political Organizing. Black Archives of Mid-America, 1722 E 17th. Lecture by Dr. Gabrielle Foreman. Attendees will learn about an ongoing campaign for Black rights which served as the prequel to the NAACP, Civil Rights, and Black Lives Matter movements. **FREE**

Wed., March 26, 5 - 7 pm: Celebrating Women In Sports. Negro Baseball Museum, 1616 E. 18th. Panel moderator: Rae Daniel; Action News Anchor, Panelist, Featured guest; Lynette Woodard with Angel McGee, Chioma Atanmo and Kathy Nelson. COST \$10

Thu., March 27, 11:45 am - 1:30 pm: 2025 Difference Maker 67th Awards Luncheon, The Abbott, 1901 Cherry St. Profound conversation speaking

"Power of Truth; Unshocking Potential for Justice, Equity and Empowerment for All" featuring Melesa Johnson, Jackson County Prosecutor; Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr., NYT Bestselling Author, professor at Princeton University and MSNBC commentator; with moderator Gwendolyn Grant, president & CEO, Urban League of Greater KC. COST \$100 <https://bit.ly/3CD5IUP>

Thu., March 27, 7:30 pm: Wanda Sykes: Please & Thank You Tour. Kansas City Convention Center, 301 W 13th COST: \$42+ via ticketmaster.com

Thu., March 27, 5:30 - 8 pm: PWOC presents Strength of a Woman; The Ultimate Mary J Blige sing-along. Level KC, 3421 Main St. Sing, network, connect and support. party with a purpose Support the

featured non-profit partner HBCU Walking Billboard and learn about the services they offer and how to get involved. Enjoy refreshments, entertainment, and door prizes. COST \$25 <https://bit.ly/41ULlep>

Sat., March 29, 10 am - 1 pm : Eighth Biennial Nefertiti Awards & Scholarship Brunch. Unity Hotel and Conference Ctr. 1901 Northwest Blue Parkway **Lee's Summit.** A fabulous brunch celebrating excellence in leadership and awarding scholarships at the Eighth Biennial Nefertiti Awards! COST: \$50

Sat., April 1, 11 am - 2pm: African History Saturdays. DuBois Learning Center, 4510 Linwood Blvd. A powerful day of education, culture, and community. Attend in person or virtually! (A link will be emailed exclusively to those who RSVP). Event Schedule: 11 am - 12 pm – Opening Affirmation, Black Business Highlight & Lunch; 12 - 1:30 pm – Main Program, 1:30 - 2 pm– Call to Action & Networking. RSVP: campchoicekc.com or 816-560-0977. **FREE**

Fri., April 4, 8 - 10 am: 8th Annual Inspiration Breakfast. Matt Ross Community Center, 8101 Marty Street. Keynote speaker is Prosecutor Melesa Johnson. Breakfast, coffee, new connections, and great inspiration will all be there for you. Overland Park COST \$35 <https://bit.ly/4ixCpT3>

Sat., April 5, 1 - 3 p.m., 2025 Talent Hunt Competition, Southeast High School, 6800 Meyers Blvd. Categories of competition include vocal, instrumental music, interpretative movement, speech and visual arts. Apply at www.betaomega1922.com. Accepting applications through March 28th. Presented by Beta Omega Chapter, Kansas City **FREE**

Tue. April 8, 6:30 pm: Jazz Organizations "Common Ground" Panel

Discussion, Folly Theater, 300 W 12th. Bring together many of KC's Jazz Orgs to discuss the vibrant jazz scene in Kansas City. Featuring panelists: BJ Jansen, Allyssa Bell-Jackson, Dr. Dina Bennett, David Basse, Rick Truman and Anita Dixon. Cost: \$20

Sat., April 12, 10 am - 12 pm: "Spring Edition: Kansas City Jazz Alive," 18th & Vine Walking Tour, 1616 E. 18th St. A fun and informative walking tour. The tour will start at 1616 E 18th St, with guide Chuck Haddix, author and radio host, who will lead you through the streets where jazz legends once roamed. COST \$25

Sat., April 12, 11 am - 2 pm: Legacy of Excellence Scholarship Brunch. 1824 The Paseo. Celebrating the rich history of our beloved Lincoln while ushering in the next generation of excellence. This brunch is where Scholarship Brunch is a special event to honor outstanding students and their achievements. Enjoy a delicious meal while supporting education and the next generation of leaders. COST \$50

Sat., April 26, Noon - 4 pm: Gumbo Fest 2025, The ProspectKC, 11 E. 40th St. Live gumbo tasting contest, prizes & giveaways, tons of local vendors, live music, games & family fun ... and more. COST \$15

SALINA

Sun. March 30, 10 am: 26th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration. St John Baptist Church, 215 S Chicago. Celebrating Pastor Allen Smith, Anniversary Worship Service guest speaker Pastor Terrell Davis, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Wichita. **FREE**

Sat. March 29, 7:30 pm: Black Violin, Stiefel Theater, 151 N Santa Fe. Step into Black Violin's Full Circle Tour, where GRAMMY-nominated duo merge classical depth with hip-hop's pulse. COST: \$38 www.stiefeltheater.org/shows/black-violin



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Billy D. Cotton, 86

Oct. 19, 1938 - March 16, 2025
Service will be held at NOON on Sat., March 29 at WSU Metroplex Rm180.

Clarence E. Scott, 86

Aug. 14, 1938 - March 11, 2025
Service was held March 21 at St. Mary Missionary Baptist.

Robert Lollis, 67

April 1, 1957 - March 6, 2025
Service was held March 22 at Antioch Baptist Church.

Robin R. McGee, 50

June 28, 1974 - March 5, 2025
Service will be held at 12 p.m. on April 12 at New Testament Non-Denominational Church, 250 N. Meridian Ave.

Kipothy "Kip" Lamont Chappell, 61

Aug. 23, 1963 - March 4, 2025
Service was held March 19 at North Heights Christian Church.

Mario Sebastian, 50

Aug. 22, 1974 - March 4, 2025
Service will be held at 1 p.m. March 28 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel, 1125 E. 13th St.

Bertha Golston, 88

Aug. 20, 1936 - March 3, 2025
Service was held March 13 at St. Mark Cathedral of Praise COGIC.

Larry Vaughn Huff, 83

Jan. 29, 1942 - March 3, 2025
Service will be held at 11 a.m. March 26 at Tabernacle Bible Church, 1817 N. Volutsia.

Shondaland's New White House Murder Mystery Premiered on Netflix

This new eight-episode series stars Uzo Aduba, Crazy Eyes in Orange is the New Black, in a clever comedy mystery that began streaming March 20.

It's a murder mystery revolving around the most disastrous (and deadly) state dinner in history, with Aduba starring as wry detective Cordelia Cupp.

The premise: A dead body is discovered during a high-profile White House state dinner, sending the residence staff and D.C.'s elite into a frenzy. Enter Cordelia Cupp (played by Uzo Aduba), an eccentric detective with a



talent for cracking impossible cases and delivering razor-sharp one-liners.

Cordelia Cupp is a consulting detective for the Metropolitan Police Department and the most sought-after investigator in

the world. She's known for her unexpected humor, relentless pursuit of truth, and sharp eye for human behavior.

"It's funny, it's suspenseful, it's clever, it's totally farcical in places, it's genuinely romantic in others."

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VOTE, from Page 8 ↓

challenges with aging infrastructure across its district facilities, with many buildings showing serious signs of deterioration after decades without bond funding for capital improvements.

"The funds that we're supposed to be using in the classroom, we're using to try and fix buildings," says school board member Jamekia Kendrix. "We're spending \$20 million on air conditioning units, and that's not even putting a really big dent in what it is that we need."

Woodland Early Learning Center, one of the district's two

Pre-K centers, exemplifies these challenges. The building has received a concerning rating of just 5.6 out of 10 for overall building condition. Even more troubling is its learning environment score of only 1.64 out of 10 for young students during their most formative educational years.

The facility contains an Olympic-sized pool that sits unused because the district lacks funds to repair and maintain it. The building houses not only the Early Learning Center but also the International Welcome Center and Global Academy, putting further strain on the aging structure.

At Manual Career and

Technical Center, despite its role in providing valuable career training programs in culinary arts, construction technology, engineering, and multimedia, the building requires an estimated \$99 million in deferred maintenance. The center serves KCPS students and those from charter schools across the area.

These infrastructure challenges extend beyond these highlighted buildings. According to district officials, many KCPS buildings lack adequate air conditioning, functioning HVAC systems, and reliable plumbing.

The total deferred maintenance across all district buildings is estimated at approximately \$1.25 billion - \$650

million for critical repairs and another \$600 million for necessary improvements. Board member Kendrix emphasized that these conditions affect teacher recruitment and retention as well.

"Who wants to go to work in a building where your furniture is broken, or where you don't have air conditioning, or where you have walls with holes in them or restrooms where you wouldn't even want to sit?" asked Kendrix.

The proposed bond seeks to address these critical infrastructure needs while also creating learning environments that better support modern educational practices and technology.

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Kansas City

Photo Credit: Brandon Bartoszek

FISH & MORE 2021 S Oliver (316)201-4949 Open: MON-SAT 11 am - 8 pm

MONDAY SPECIAL Whole Catfish with 2 sides & 1 drink

2 TUESDAY SPECIALS

- Catfish Nuggets with 1 side & 1 drink
- Large Bone-in Fried Pork Chop - 2 sides & 1 drink

2 Wednesday Specials

- 2 piece Catfish Steak with 1 side & 1 drink
- 10 Chicken Tenders with large side & 2 drinks

Thursday Special Large Bone-in Fried Pork Chop with 2 sides & 1 drink

FROZEN FISH

Catfish Nuggets (2 lbs)	\$10.00
Catfish Steaks (2 lbs)	\$13.50
Whole Catfish (2 lbs)	\$14.00
Catfish Fillets (2 lbs)	\$18.00
Perch Fillets (2 lbs)	\$18.50
Walleye Fillets (2 lbs)	\$28.00
Small Bone Buffalo	\$9.75

Case of Fish Special Order

FISH & MORE

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BEING & STAYING
HEALTHY**



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