

THE VOICE

A trusted voice from the community's perspective



LOVE COUPLES

4 COUPLES SHARE THEIR STORY OF LOVE PAGE 6-7



STAR Bonds Vote
Why Wyandotte County
Didn't Just Say NO? Page 3

New Coach Jen Pillich
Takes Wichita Heights Girls
B-Ball to State's No. 1 Page 10



Volume 33, No. 3 · communityvoiceks.com · Friday, February 6, 2026

PRSRRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
WICHITA KS
PERMIT NO. 560

Change Service Requested

The Community Voice
P.O. Box 20804
Wichita, KS 67208

THE VOICE

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 3
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2026

MORE WAYS TO CONNECT

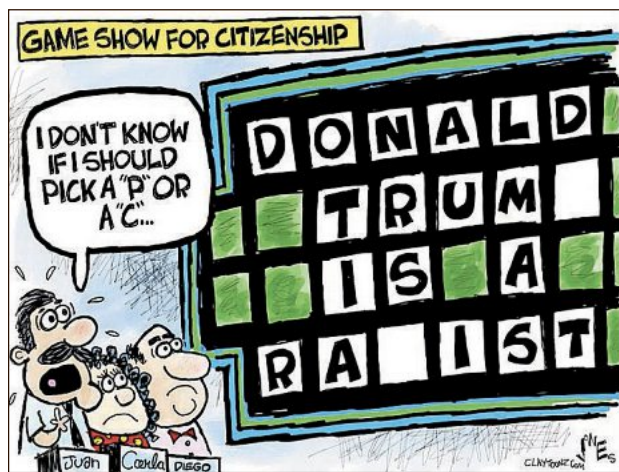
CONTACT US



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



CARTOON



A Century of Black History Celebration

This month we join in the 100th Celebration of Black History Month.

One hundred years ago, Carter G. Woodson put forward a radical idea: that Black history deserved intentional study, recognition, and preservation. In 1926, Negro History Week was born—not as a symbolic gesture, but as a corrective. Woodson understood that Black contributions were foundational to the American story, yet routinely ignored, distorted, or erased.

But today, when Black History is

under attack, the work before us is even clearer.

The next chapter of our history is being written now — and it must be written by those willing to preserve truth, protect memory, and insist that our stories remain visible.

At The Community Voice, that responsibility remains unchanged. We will continue to tell the stories that history might otherwise forget—because our past, our present, and our future depend on it.



BLACK HISTORY EVENTS

KANSAS CITY

Sat., Feb. 21, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Marriott Downtown KC, **Annual Black History Luncheon.** An annual celebration honoring the **legacy, achievements, and cultural contributions of African Americans** in the Kansas City region. Sponsored by the Black Archives of Mid-America. \$125 ticket.

Sat., Feb. 28, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Carl Bruce Middle School, 2100 N. 18th St., KCK. **A Celebration of Black History.** Celebrate the legacy, achievements and future of Black excellence through education, history and community connection. HBCU & Greek Fair, Black-Owned Business vending, Greek Step Show & Stroll Show, Food Tasting Experience. Sponsored by KCK NAACP Branch, GearUp KCK & KCMO

Sat., Feb. 28, 1 p.m., Black Archives

of Mid-America, 1722 E. 17th Ter KCMO **Black History Month Program.** Sponsored by the Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group. The guest speaker will be Dr. Curtis V. Smith, an accomplished author and historian, and a retired Professor and Dean at the Kansas City Kansas Community College. His presentation will be, "Kansas City, Kansas: Cultural Rhythms in Ragtime and Jazz." RSVPs are requested to kcblackhistory2@gmail.com.

Sat., Feb. 28 **KCK Black History & Scholarship Celebration** – See Story page 8

WICHITA

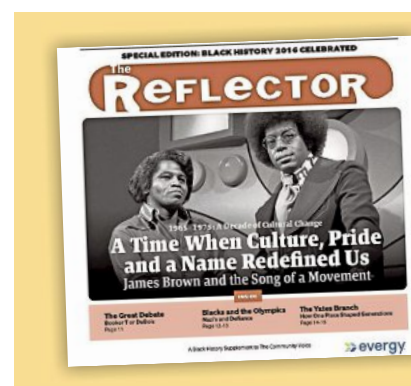
Sat. Feb. 21, 10 - 11:30 a.m., The Kansas African American Museum, 601 N. Water, Wichita. **Black Cemeteries of Kansas.** Join local cemetery historian Barb Myers

as she discusses segregated cemeteries in Kansas. Free but RSVP requested. Go to tkaamuseum.org and click on get involved.

Sun., Feb. 22, 3-5 p.m., Carl Brewer Center, McAdams Park, Wichita. **Black History Program.** Fun-filled family afternoon, special guests speakers, good food, Free and open to the public but RSVP requested. RSVP here. bit.ly/3O8Z0eD

Sat. Feb 28,, The Kansas African American Museum, 601 N. Water, Wichita. **Mask-Making Workshop.** Create, connect and explore culture with TKAAM volunteer Lovette Mba! 10 0 11a.m. - K-5 and 11:30a.. - 1 p... 6-12th. \$10 per person. For tickets, go to tkaamuseum.org and click on get involved. Scholarships are available. Call (316) 262-7651.

Sat. Feb. 28 **Black Business Tour** – See Story Page 9.



The Reflector is Available to Read Online

The Reflector 2026, our special Black History supplement was an insert in our January 23 issue. In case you missed it. You can read it on our website communityvoiceks.com. Click on e-editions.

FYI: You may not know it, but you can read the electronic version of all of our print editions, dating back to 2013, on our website. Looking for a particular story, use our search to find it. Again stories are online dating back to 2013.

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

The contents of each issue of The Community Voice are copyrighted. Articles appearing in The Community Voice may not be reproduced without written permission of the Editor. All rights reserved.

ADVERTISING RATES:
Email: Hill@tcvpub.com

EDITORIAL: Readers with story or photo ideas, tips, criticisms or suggestions on coverage are urged to contact the Editor. All submissions to the paper, letters and columns are subject to editing for length, style, taste and legal considerations.

CORRECTIONS: The Community Voice strives for accuracy and fairness. Readers who believe a story or headline is inaccurate or misleading should contact the Editor.

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

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

Contributing Writers:
Tyjuan Davis | Wichita tdavis@tcvpub.com
Advertising Sales:
Cornell Hill | hill@tcvpub.com
Office Administration:
Elaine Guillory | guillory@tcvpub.com

Clearing Up the Chiefs Stadium Vote: What Wyandotte County Approved

A Breakdown of the Taxes, Boundaries, Safeguards, and Community Impacts Behind the 7-3 Vote

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

After weeks of public concern, a compressed state-imposed timeline, and hours of testimony, the Wyandotte County Commission voted 7-3 to approve an ordinance pledging limited local taxes within a defined project area to help repay STAR bonds tied to a proposed Kansas City Chiefs stadium and entertainment district.

Commissioners Andrew Davis, Jim Lopez, and Gayle Stites voted against the ordinance, citing concerns about



An interior view of the Kansas City Chiefs' stadium. Wyandotte County commissioners voted 7-3 to approve a STAR bond district tied to a proposed stadium project, emphasizing oversight rather than a final deal.

the speed of the process, unanswered questions, and long-standing inequities in investment across Wyandotte County.

Supporters of the ordinance emphasized that the vote was not an endorsement of every detail of the project. Instead, they described it as a

strategic decision to ensure the Unified Government retained leverage and a formal role in negotiations largely driven by the State of Kansas.

A Fast-Moving Process, Set by the State

The vote came less than 60 days after the state announced its intent to pursue a STAR bond-financed stadium in Wyandotte County. Commissioners repeatedly raised concerns about the pace, noting that many key agreements have not yet been finalized and that the county was required to act before seeing all "definitive documents."

Several commissioners contrasted Wyandotte County's experience with that of Olathe, whose city leaders had been involved earlier in negotiations related to a proposed Chiefs training facility. Wyandotte County officials said they were brought into discussions later and were asked to make decisions under

tight deadlines while operating under nondisclosure agreements that limited what could be shared publicly.

Despite those concerns, a majority of commissioners concluded that declining to participate would leave the county with little influence over a project they believe is likely to move forward regardless.

Project Area vs. STAR Bond District: A Critical Distinction

Understanding the difference between the **local project area** and the broader **STAR Bond district** is essential to understanding the vote.

The ordinance approved by the commission applies only to a defined **local project area** of approximately **235 acres** in Kansas City, Kansas. That area is generally described as:

- **State Avenue to the south**

See **STADIUM** Page 5 →

Capitol Federal

Home at Last

A Home-At-Last loan from **Capitol Federal**® offers qualified buyers:

- No minimum loan amounts
- No up-front mortgage insurance premium
- Homebuyers education by recognized community organizations
- Low down payments & competitive rates
- Local service for the life of the loan

View CapFed's loan options and apply today.

Or find the right loan for your needs with a **Purchase + Improvement loan** or **Home Equity Line of Credit** from CapFed®.

888.8CAPFED | capfed.com

70% of African Americans who smoke report a desire to quit.

commit to QUIT

CONTACT
1-800-QUIT-NOW
or **KSQUIT.ORG**

Sponsored by
SEDGWICK COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH ACTION TEAM

Kansas GOP Push to Ban Required DEI, CRT Coursework Draws Sharp Pushback

By Kansas Reflector

Kansas House Republicans ignited a heated debate Tuesday with a bill that would prohibit diversity, equity and inclusion and critical race theory content from being required in most degree programs at the state's public universities.

House Bill 2428 — titled the *Freedom from Indoctrination Act* — would also mandate that students complete a civics course to earn a bachelor's degree and require freshman orientation programs to focus on First Amendment rights. Implementing the bill across Kansas' six public universities would cost at least \$5 million, according to estimates.

Opponents outnumbered supporters by roughly two to one during a House committee hearing, offering sharply different views on academic freedom, free speech and the role of the Legislature in shaping higher education.

Rep. Kristey Williams, an Augusta Republican and frequent critic of DEI, argued the bill was necessary to prevent what she described as ideological pressure on college campuses. "This bill allows for teaching controversial subjects and open inquiry," Williams said, while prohibiting "mandatory ideological statements" or

institutional pressure to conform.

Democratic lawmakers pushed back, calling the legislation an overreach. Rep. Kirk Haskins of Topeka, a college professor, labeled the proposal "political theater," while Rep. Barbara Ballard of Lawrence said lawmakers should "stay in their own lane" rather than dictate curriculum.

What the Bill Would Do

Under HB 2428, public universities could not require students to take courses containing DEI or CRT content as part of degree requirements, though such courses could still be offered as electives. The bill defines prohibited content broadly, including instruction on topics such as institutional racism, unconscious bias, gender identity and social justice.

The legislation would still allow instruction on historical events such as slavery, the Holocaust and the internment of Japanese Americans. Programs primarily focused on racial, ethnic or gender studies could apply for exemptions.

Beginning in the 2027–28 academic year, students would be required to take coursework on the U.S. Constitution, founding documents and Supreme Court decisions, along with instruction on political ideologies such as



A sign opposing diversity, equity and inclusion sits outside the Kansas Statehouse as lawmakers consider legislation restricting DEI and critical race theory in public universities.

communism and totalitarianism.

Concerns About Academic and Workforce Impact

Kerry Gooch, a Kansas Black Leadership Council board member and Kansas State University graduate, said the bill would weaken degree programs by allowing students in education, social work, health care and other public-facing professions to graduate without

being required to examine perspectives or life experiences different from their own.

"This matters because graduates of these programs will serve Kansans from every background imaginable," Gooch said, noting the growing diversity of classrooms, workplaces and communities across the state.

Gooch also questioned how students could meaningfully study landmark Supreme Court cases while being restricted from engaging with the historical and systemic realities behind them. "It is difficult to understand how students can meaningfully study those cases, including decisions like *Brown v. Board of Education*, without engaging honestly with the context they addressed," he said. "Omitting that context risks producing an incomplete and misleading understanding of our own history."

Gooch said the bill does not promote academic rigor or freedom, but instead replaces educational judgment with legislative restrictions.

Eugene Rice of the Kansas Conference of the American Association of University Professors said universities and the Kansas Board of Regents — not lawmakers — were best equipped to shape curriculum.

HB 2428 remains under consideration by the House committee.

Missouri Lawmakers Weigh Video Lottery Plan as Gray Market Slot Machines Persist

A proposed video lottery system would give unregulated convenience store games two years to exit the market, but opposition remains divided and powerful.

By Voice News Service

Companies profiting from unregulated convenience store slot machines would have two years to pull their games off the market under a bill advanced Monday in a Missouri House committee, the latest attempt by lawmakers to address the state's long-running "gray market" gambling problem.

The bill would replace the widely used but largely unregulated machines — often found in convenience stores and bars — with a state-run video lottery system overseen by the Missouri

Lottery. The two-year transition period is double the time originally proposed by Rep. Bill Hardwick, a Republican from Dixon.

Hardwick said the original timeline proved too aggressive.

"The original bill may have been too aggressive in terms of getting purchase contracts and to propagate rules," Hardwick said. "So it seems like for now, we're going to try a two-year transition period."

The bill is part of a years-long effort by legislators and law enforcement officials to rein in the machines, which operate outside Missouri's gambling laws and generate no direct revenue for the state. Despite repeated attempts, lawmakers have struggled to find consensus on whether to regulate, replace, or eliminate the games altogether.

Hardwick said he remains confident the bill can pass the House, but the committee's 8–5 vote — with three Republicans joining two Democrats in opposition — underscores

how fragile support remains. A similar bill last year passed the House by a single vote more than the 82 needed but ultimately died in the Senate.

Opposition to the proposal comes from both sides of the gambling industry. Companies that profit from the unregulated machines have lobbied heavily against any new controls, while casinos argue the games should be removed entirely rather than regulated under a new system.

Under Hardwick's revised bill, the Missouri Lottery would have authority to license video lottery machines for installation in retail locations across the state. Licensed machines would be required to pay out at least 80% of wagered money as prizes, with roughly one-third of profits dedicated to state education programs.

The bill would also impose a 3% tax on video lottery profits to aid local governments and would increase the fee casinos pay for each

patron entering the gaming floor from \$2 to \$4.

During a public hearing Jan. 27, Hardwick and other supporters said the video lottery system could generate up to \$600 million annually for education. The increased casino boarding fee and additional licensing fees could generate up to \$55 million for state veterans programs.

If those estimates hold, video lottery would become one of the most lucrative gambling operations for both vendors and the state treasury.

The most recent expansion of gambling in Missouri, sports wagering, was approved by voters in November 2024. In its first month of operation, gamblers wagered \$543 million, won \$437.7 million back, and generated \$521,000 in state tax revenue.

For the fiscal year that ended June 30, gambling generated about \$700 million for education programs, including \$364 million from casino taxes and \$337 million from the Missouri Lottery.

STADIUM, from Page 3 ↓

- **Parallel Parkway to the north**
- **Roughly 118th Street to 126th Street**

This project area is where the Unified Government is pledging its **general 1% sales tax** and its transient guest tax to help repay STAR bonds.

The **STAR Bond district**, established by the state, is much broader. It includes:

1. **Kansas City, Kansas**
2. **Bonner Springs**
3. **Edwardsville**
4. **Lake Quivira**
5. **Olathe**
6. **Portions of Shawnee, Lenexa, and Merriam**

Incremental **state sales tax revenues generated within this multi-city district** would be pledged toward repayment of the bonds, even though the stadium itself would be located in Wyandotte County.

What the Vote Actually Does – and Does Not – Do

There was significant concern about the fiscal impact of the stadium, with much of the confusion stemming from uncertainty over which taxes the Unified Government was pledging to support the project.

The ordinance **does not pledge all city or county sales taxes.**

Instead, it authorizes the pledge of: The Unified Government’s **general 1% sales tax**, but **only the incremental portion generated within the project area**

The **transient guest tax at its current 8% rate**, generated **within the project area only**

- The ordinance explicitly excludes:
- The 0.25% emergency medical services sales tax
 - The 0.375% public safety and neighborhood infrastructure sales tax
 - Any sales taxes already committed to other purposes

While Wyandotte County’s transient guest tax is capped at 10%, only the **current 8% rate** is pledged. Any future increase above that level would **not** be committed to the project.

What “Incremental” Sales Tax Means

The Unified Government pledged its **incremental sales taxes generated within the project area** to help repay the STAR bonds.



A celebratory sign in a Kansas building shortly after the announcement about the deal to move the Chiefs to Kansas. Great news, but there’s still lots of work to be done.

Incremental sales tax refers to the increase **in sales tax revenue above a defined base amount once the district is established.** That distinction became a key source of misunderstanding during public comment, with many residents believing the city was pledging its incremental sales tax **citywide for 30 years**, which would have represented a significant financial hit.

Because the project site is largely agricultural land with little to no existing sales tax activity, nearly all sales tax generated within the project area would be considered incremental.

Safeguards Added by the Commission

The ordinance approved Tuesday night includes several safeguards added by the commission to protect the interests of Wyandotte County residents and preserve local leverage.

- Those conditions include:
- Project area boundaries cannot be expanded without commission approval
 - The Unified Government retains review authority over key “definitive documents,” limited to provisions that directly affect Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas
 - Those documents include development agreements, land transfers, maintenance agreements, non-relocation agreements, and the community impact agreement
 - STAR bonds must be issued by **Dec. 31, 2031**, ensuring the county is not bound indefinitely to a project that may never materialize

Attorney Todd LaSala of Stinson LLP told commissioners the deadline was important to prevent the pledge

from lingering without a clear path forward.

Community Impact Fund

The Community Impact Fund is a pool of money established under the state-Chiefs framework to support **community-serving projects designed as support of the stadium’s broader economic impact.**

Spending from the fund is structured so that **no more than 50% may be used in the Kansas City metro area.** LaSala said he believes that limitation reflects the state’s position that this is a statewide project and that some benefits should accrue to communities and organizations outside the metro area. He also noted that statewide funding sources, such as lottery revenues, could potentially contribute to the project.

By conditioning its approval on having a seat on the fund’s governing board, the Unified Government ensured it would have a voice in how the funds are distributed – positioning the county to influence how, and whether, Wyandotte County programs and organizations benefit.

Stadium Ownership and Property Taxes

The stadium would be owned by a **state agency**, which means – like most government-owned property – it would be **exempt from property taxes.**

That exemption applies only to the stadium itself. Private development in the surrounding entertainment district is expected to generate property tax revenue unless developers later seek abatements or other incentives, which would require local approval.

Infrastructure, Utilities, and BPU

Infrastructure costs were a major concern for residents worried about

the long-term economic impact of the stadium. The agreement is not fully clear about what qualifies as stadium infrastructure, but county officials said they are comfortable that required water, sewer, and electrical improvements tied to the project will be covered under STAR bond financing.

Street and road improvements within the district are also expected to be covered under the STAR bonds rather than becoming an ongoing burden on city or county budgets.

Officials emphasized that **BPU PILOT payments are not pledged** to the project and that infrastructure upgrades should not shift costs to utility ratepayers.

Public Safety

While the Kansas City Chiefs would be responsible for security associated with the stadium itself, the county anticipates some additional police and fire demand related to events. Those costs were included in the financial projections presented to commissioners.

Financial Impact: Benefits vs. Costs

A financial impact analysis prepared by Canyon Research Southwest Inc., with additional modeling by Municipal Consulting LLC, examined the projected fiscal effect of the project over 25 years.

Projected benefits include increases in:

- Unpledged sales tax revenues
 - Property taxes from ancillary development
 - Transient guest taxes not committed to bond repayment
 - Other governmental revenues tied to increased activity
- Projected increases in costs include:
- Infrastructure and maintenance
 - Public safety and service demands
 - Ongoing operational impacts

The analysis projected **\$488 million in benefits, \$396 million in costs, and a net surplus of approximately \$92 million** over 25 years. Officials noted that if STAR bonds ultimately cover more infrastructure costs than assumed, the county’s financial outcome could improve.

Bridges and Transit Improvements

Commissioners also highlighted major infrastructure investments negotiated by Mayor Christal Watson as part of discussions surrounding the project.

Those include:

- **Central Avenue Bridge**, closed in 2021, which connects Kansas City to KCK’s bustling Central Avenue Corridor. The Unified Government has struggled for years to find the money to replace the locally owned bridge. The state has committed **\$135 million** toward its replacement.
- **Kansas Avenue Bridge**, a critical connector between Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri that carried about 7,000 vehicles daily before it was closed in 2022.
- **Union Pacific Bridge**, which serves key rail and roadway connections and requires major repair.
- **East-west bus route improvements**, aimed at strengthening transit service across Wyandotte County and improving access between the county’s east and west sides.

Commissioners noted that aging bridges, limited river crossings, and years of underinvestment had effectively left Kansas City, Kansas landlocked, with few options for east-west connectivity. The stadium negotiations created leverage to secure state funding that had long been out of reach.

A Strategic Decision

The vote closed with remarks from Mayor Christal Watson, who acknowledged the frustration many residents felt about the speed and structure of the process but emphasized that the commission’s responsibility was to protect Wyandotte County’s long-term interests in a project largely controlled by the state.

That sentiment was echoed by Commissioner Tony Pacheco, who said the ordinance was not about control, but about securing a seat at the table – giving the county leverage, review authority, and an opportunity to shape outcomes that could otherwise move forward without local input.

While Commissioners Andrew Davis, Jim Lopez, and Gayle Stites voted against the ordinance, the majority concluded that participating – rather than standing outside the process – placed Wyandotte County in the strongest position to influence a project they believe is likely to move forward regardless.



Andrew & Andrea Davis

Kansas City, KS

Andrea and Andrew Davis are proud residents of The Dotte. Andrea, a KCK native, is a bilingual play and trauma therapist. Andrew, a Chicago native, is engaged in philanthropy and also serves as a Commissioner for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas. They married on Dec. 30, 2018, and are currently enjoying this season of life together with no children.

When did you meet? We met in 2014 on Facebook prior to starting our freshman year at the University of Kansas.

How did you meet? We connected through a KU Facebook group for incoming 2014 students after Andrew posted about finding a campus ministry. Andrea commented with the same interest. After becoming friends, she noticed his post sharing Christian hip hop lyrics, bonded over the niche genre, and Andrew shared his number, beginning their friendship.

Tell us about your first date. After 2 years of building a friendship, we decided to take the next step and had our first date in 2016. We watched the sunrise from the rooftop of Andrea's dorm then shared breakfast at First Watch in Lawrence.

The turn (how did you know he/she

was the one?) Andrew knew over time after spending 2 years as friends and 18 months dating. Andrea knew Andrew was the one after seeing how Andrew treated some of the challenging parts of her.

Tell us a few memorable parts of the wedding. Our Black Panther-themed wedding celebrated Blackness inspired by the film's debut. Bridesmaids wore red, grooms-men black with green accents honoring the Pan-African flag. Tables featured African prints representing tribes from the movie, and the wedding party entered to "All the Stars" by Kendrick Lamar and SZA.

Who's more social? We both are pretty social but find a good balance between socializing and having time at home.

Who's the neat freak? Andrew is definitely the neat freak! Andrew grew up with a large family and found it much easier to adjust and maintain organization and cleanliness. Andrea, who grew up in the household with an older sister always had her own space, tends to be a bit less organized and neat.

What chore does your spouse hate doing the most? Andrea does not like composting or putting the garbage out. Andrew does not like doing laundry, dishes, or vacuuming.

Who does the cooking? We both enjoy

cooking! Andrew tends to throw down on holiday favorites like sweet potato pie and other baked goods. But we both enjoy having some fun in the kitchen.

Who tends to be more romantic? We are both romantic in our own ways. Andrew likes to plan getaways and Andrea likes to give gifts.

What have you learned to appreciate about your wife/husband that you did not know when you were first married? Andrew: I admire Andrea's talent, strong work ethic, and the way she shines when living her passion as a therapist. Andrea: I appreciate Andrew's growth as a politician; early student government losses in college shaped his wisdom and character, preparing him for the local races he has since successfully won.

What kind of movies do you like watching together? We mostly enjoy watching shows (like The Boys, Breaking Bad, Power, and Industry) together. But we love going to the movies to see any of the Marvel movies, Ryan Coogler films, and anything with Black actors, writers, and directors.

What song is on each of your romantic playlist? ICU by Coco Jones No Air by Jordan Sparks and Chris Brown



Robert & Nancy Bunville

Salina, KS

Robert and Nancy Bunville reside in Salina. Robert, a system engineer is originally from Leavenworth, and Nancy, a registered nurse who was raised in Chamberlain, SD have built a life together grounded in professional service and family. They were married on July 22, 2000, and are the proud parents of four children, grandparents to three, with the joyful anticipation of another grandchild on the way.

When did you meet? Denny's restaurant

How did you meet? We met while working together at Denny's restaurant, turning long shifts and shared laughs into the beginning of our story.

Tell us about your first date. Our first date was going to the movies together, sharing popcorn, laughter, and the excitement of seeing a film side-by-side.

The turn (how did you know he/she was the one?) I knew she was the one because it simply felt right, and our bond as best friends made the relationship feel natural, safe, and meant to be.

Tell us a few memorable parts of the wedding. One of the most memorable moments of our wedding was when

Robert's dad sang "One in a Million" by Larry Graham, a heartfelt performance that filled the room with love and made the day even more special and unforgettable.

Who's more social? Robert is definitely the more social one, serving as a deacon at St. John Baptist Church and staying actively involved in the men's bowling group, where he enjoys fellowship and building strong connections with others.

Who's the neat freak? Robert is the neat freak, because he's very organized and takes pride in keeping everything in its place, which helps things run smoothly and brings a sense of order to everyday life.

What chore does your spouse hate doing the most? Robert, yard work. Nancy, dishes

Who does the cooking? Robert, I love cooking

Where is your favorite weekend destination or what would be a weekend destination you would like to go to that you haven't already and why? Our favorite—or dream—weekend destination is New York City, because there is so much to see and experience, from iconic

landmarks and Broadway shows to world-class museums, diverse neighborhoods, and the nonstop energy that makes every visit feel exciting and full of possibility.

Who tends to be more romantic? Robert, I just love showing my wife love and affection

Who's better at gifting? Nancy is better at gifting because gift-giving is her love language, and she expresses care and affection most naturally through thoughtful presents.

What have you learned to appreciate about your wife/husband that you did know when you were first married? Robert, How she took care of our finances Nancy, How he took care of me and the home

What kind of movies do you like watching together? Comedies

What song is on each of your romantic playlist? Robert, Keith Sweat "Twisted". Nancy, Jaheim "Just in Case"

What is your favorite couple song? Joe, I Wanna Know

Words of wisdom from both of you for other couples. Robert, Put your spouse first before yourself. Nancy Put God first in your marriage



Daley & Christyn Gunter

Wichita, KS

Daley and Christyn Gunter have been married since July 30, 2016. And are the proud parents of three beautiful daughters and continue to build their life together rooted in faith, service, and community. Daley, an Engineer II, is a Wichita native, and Christyn, a pastor, is from Norman, OK.

How did you meet? We met summer 2014 at a mutual friend's wedding. Christyn was the maid of honor and Daley was in attendance as friend in support of the groom

Tell us about your first date. Our first date was at the Gun range in Wichita, KS.

The turn (how did you know he/she was the one?) She sent me a care package with a Bible, and other gospel paraphernalia when I was living in Washington DC. She would often ask how's your heart, how's your soul. She cared about more than just my physical, but my spiritual as well and that is jewel. Christyn: He listened to me intently, believed in me, and loved family. He chose God above all.

Tell us a few memorable parts of the wedding. All of it. Start to finish

Who's more social? Christyn

Who's the neat freak? It's a tie

What chore does your spouse hate doing the most? Christyn: The dishes Daley: picking up the kids toys

Who does the cooking? It's a tie. With a busy schedule, we both share the load and split the kitchen duties.

Where is your favorite weekend destination or what would be a weekend destination you would like to go to that you haven't already and why? Miami Florida. We love the beach

Who tends to be more romantic? Daley, how else is it supposed to be?

Who's better at gifting? Christyn, giving is her love language.

What have you learned to appreciate about your wife/husband that you didn't know when you were first married? Daley: Her love for God, Her love for family, She's an awesome mother and role model to our daughters, Her love for people, Her work ethic, and her ability to wake up every day and choose me. Christyn: His creativity, his willingness to bring the best out of people, He's a really great dad.

What kind of movies do you like watching together? We love comedies,

thrillers and suspense films. . What song is on each of your romantic playlist? Alone With You, Tevin cambell

What is your favorite couple song? The point of it all- Anthony Hamilton (we really have a lot of them we just picked one)

Words of wisdom from both of you for other couples

- Keep God first.
- God gives new mercies every day, mimic him.
- You're constantly evolving, give yourself grace. You're not going to be the version of you when you first got married, so have fun reintroducing yourselves to each other every year.
- Respect each other, support, protect each other. Life is short, forgive fast, and fail forward.
- Over communicate, your partner isn't a mind reader.
- Date to marry, marry to date.
- Learn to Always make time for each other. When the kids leave, and the job ends, all you'll have is each other. In the midst of the chaos, never lose sight of you two.



William & Rosie Knox

Wichita, KS

Retirees William and Rosie Knox have been married 65 years. They're both retired. Him after 33 years at Coleman and her after 20 years at Beech Aircraft. They are the proud parents of four children—two sons and two daughters, nine grandchildren and five bonus grandchildren.

When did you meet? "We met in the early fifties when I was eight years old and he was a little older. Rosie was visiting Wichita for the summer.

How did you meet? We were both just a couple of kids playing around the neighborhood on East Murdock.

Tell us about your first date. "Our first date was at Skateland South on MacArthur when we were in our early teens. It was simple, fun, and full of laughs..

The turn (how did you know he/she was the one?) "We picked each other from the moment we first met. I even told my girlfriend back then that I had found someone I thought I wanted to marry. Life pulled us apart for a few years, and we lost touch when his family moved to 16th and Pennsylvania and mine stayed over on Murdock.

Tell us a few memorable parts of the wedding. We didn't have a penny to our names. When we went back to my mother-in-law's house, William checked the mailbox and found his income tax refund waiting for us. All of a sudden, we thought we'd hit the jackpot—and we celebrated like big spenders and partied hard.

Who's more social? Rosie: I am definitely the more social one. I've been a member of the OES, Lutie A. Brown #16, for 20 years and we're both members of the McAdams Golden Age Club. Rosie also stays active in her neighborhood association, Matlock Heights, and together we attend Greater St. Mary's MBC.

Who's the neat freak? He's definitely the neat freak—always reminding me to put things back where they belong. One time, when I went to visit my daughter in Atlanta, I came home to find he had completely rearranged all the closets. That pretty much says it all.

What chore does your spouse hate doing the most? He hates picking up after me.the most is.

Who does the cooking? We both do

the cooking—it just works for us. I especially love it when he cooks pinto beans and PF.

Where is your favorite weekend destination or what would be a weekend destination you would like to go to that you haven't already and why? Atlanta Ga, we haven't been in a while together because of his limitations of driving.

Who tends to be more romantic? He tends to be the more romantic one because he's very passionate and always compliments me, no matter how I'm looking.

What kind of movies do you like watching together? We enjoy watching Westerns together, especially the old ones. There's just something about those classic Western movies that we both really love.

What song is on each of your romantic playlist? Where did we go wrong By LTD; You and I" by Stevie Wonder

Words of wisdom from both of you for other couples. Practice patience with each other—it makes all the difference.

KCK Black History And Scholarship Celebration Returns Feb. 28

Kansas City, Kansas will host the **34th Annual KCK Black History and Scholarship Celebration** on Saturday, Feb. 28, bringing together community leaders, residents, and supporters for an afternoon of reflection, recognition, and investment in local students.

The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at **Memorial Hall**, 600 N. 7th Street, during a brunch-style program designed to allow attendees to enjoy the rest of their day. Advance tickets are required for entry, with individual tickets priced at \$110, which include a full brunch buffet and signature event drinks.

This year's theme, "**Visions of Liberation: Honoring the Past, Reimagining the Future,**" centers on community initiatives and investment, resiliency, sustainability,

and the impact of storytelling and folk traditions. The program will feature live music, discussion panels, and opportunities for networking with community leaders.

Proceeds and donations from the event will support scholarships for students in Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas.

During the celebration, **DJ Joe and Donnell's Restaurant** will be recognized with the Business Award, while **Bonita Gooch**, Publisher of **THE VOICE**, will receive the **Community Leadership Award** for her contributions to community storytelling and advocacy.

Attendees are encouraged to dress in cocktail brunch chic attire.

FOR TICKETS GO TO
bit.ly/4ti71y9.

Exploration and TKAAM Partner on Black History Outdoor Display

For the fifth consecutive year, Exploration Place is partnering with The Kansas African American Museum to commemorate Black History Month with a large-scale outdoor display.

Each night during February, Exploration Place will honor African American scientists and STEM leaders by projecting giant portraits onto the side of its building. The display will be freely viewable from the path along the Arkansas River. Visitors also may take in the display from inside Exploration Place on Thursday nights, when the museum is open until 8 p.m. Admission is not required to view the display from the Exploration Place promenade.

Changing weekly throughout the month, the display will honor Wichitans' contributions to Black history:

Week 1: **Harold Miller** is a U.S. Navy veteran who in 1970 became the first African American to serve as

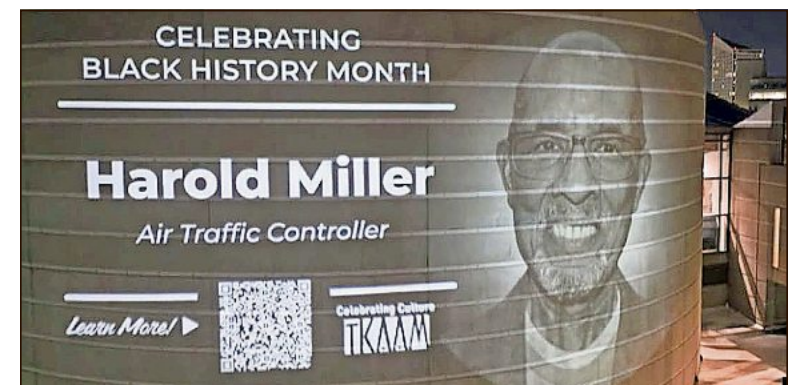
an air traffic controller in the Wichita tower. Eventually, he was promoted to supervisor in the central region.

Week 2: **Charyl McAfee-Duncan** is a licensed architect who is a committed mentor to girls interested in STEAM and an advocate of public art programs.

Week 3: **Dr. Donald Jackson** was a World War II Tuskegee airman who later became a veterinarian in Wichita from 1957 until 2001.

Week 4: **Col George Boyd** served for nearly three decades in the U.S. Air Force, including serving as an all-weather jet fighter radar intercept officer and as the commander of the Kansas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol.

Make it an evening and stay to watch the nightly 7 pm Ring of Fire lighting at the Keeper of the Plains from the new Wichita Foundation Amphitheater.



See More Black History Events Page 2

There's a lot you can do with a HELOC.

Whether you're planning renovations, consolidating debt, or preparing to make a large purchase, a home equity line of credit offers you convenient access to affordable funds that you can use in a variety of ways.

Visit intrustbank.com/heloc to learn more and apply now.



INTRUST
Bank.
Tradition for TODAY.

Jury Awards \$8.4 Million to Family of Cedric "CJ" Lofton in 2021 In-Custody Death

By Bonita Gooch
Editor, In Chief

A federal jury on Wednesday awarded \$8.4 million in compensatory damages to the family of **Cedric "CJ" Lofton**, a 17-year-old Wichita teen who died after being restrained face-down for nearly 40 minutes inside the Sedgwick County Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center in 2021.

The eight-member jury

— seven women and one man — found that juvenile corrections officers violated Lofton's constitutional rights during the restraint, which left the teen unresponsive in the JIAC lobby. All jurors were White. The verdict came after two days of deliberations.

The jury awarded compensatory damages but did not consider punitive damages after the plaintiffs dismissed that portion of the claim. During testimony, officers

stated they had not been trained on the dangers of prone restraint and did not know the technique could be fatal.

Lofton died two days after the incident from complications of cardiopulmonary arrest following a physical struggle while restrained in the prone position, according to the medical examiner. His death was ruled a homicide. No criminal charges were filed.



Moments after the verdict, Marquan Teetz and his aunt Frances address the media outside the Wichita courthouse following a jury's \$8.4 million award in the death of Cedric "CJ" Lofton

What Happened to CJ Lofton

On Sept. 24, 2021, Lofton — a foster child — was experiencing a mental health crisis when Wichita police were called to his foster home. According to court testimony and records, officers attempted to take him to a hospital for a mental health evaluation, but after an altercation, police

Video from the JIAC lobby shows officers

restrained the 135-pound teen face-down on a concrete floor for approximately 39 minutes. The video shows Lofton being held down even after he stopped actively resisting. When they realized he wasn't breathing they called EMS who worked to resuscitate the youth and transported him to a nearby hospital.

He never recovered.

Family attorneys argued that Lofton would be alive today if officers had handcuffed him and placed him upright, rather than continuing the prone restraint.

No Criminal Charges Filed

Despite the medical examiner ruling Lofton's

death a homicide, Sedgwick County District Attorney **Marc Bennett** declined to file criminal charges against any of the officers involved.

At the time, Bennett cited Kansas Stand Your Ground law and legal standards related to officers' perceptions

See CJ LOFTON Page 16 →

Wichita Black Business Tour Highlights Local Entrepreneurs, Community Investment

By Voice News Service

A guided bus tour highlighting Black-owned businesses across Wichita will take place Saturday, Feb. 28, offering residents a hands-on way to support local entrepreneurs while learning more about the city's Black business community.

The Wichita Black Business Tour is a free, curated experience designed to introduce participants to more than 10 Black-owned businesses. The tour includes transportation between stops, opportunities to meet business owners, and time to shop, network, and learn about each business's role

in the community.

Tasha Hayes, who is organizing the tour, said the event is about visibility and economic opportunity.

"It's a great opportunity for individuals to explore black-owned businesses in the downtown, old town and college hill area," Hayes said. "It provides an opportunity to bring awareness to the businesses and economic development."

The tour's theme, "Standing on Business 365," emphasizes the importance of supporting Black-owned businesses year-round, not just during Black History Month. Organizers say the event is intended to strengthen community connections while encouraging

long-term investment in local businesses.

Participants will check in before boarding shuttle transportation that will take them to several featured businesses throughout the city. Light refreshments and small bites will be provided during the tour, which is expected to last several hours.

While the event is free, space is limited and advance registration is required. Organizers encourage those interested to sign up as soon as possible to secure a spot.

More information and registration details are available online at bit.ly/4bFZ938.

Wichita Heights Girls Basketball Reaches New Level Jen Pillich

In her first season Jen Pillich has reshaped the culture at heights, unlocking confidence, connection, and belief across the roster.

By **Matt Resnick**
Voice Contributor

Wichita Heights senior Terri Brown spent the first few years of her high school basketball career going through the motions on the hardwood, playing without a clear sense of purpose.

But ever since veteran head coach Jen Pillich arrived on the scene this season, a dramatic shift in tone and philosophy is taking hold and has the undefeated Heights' girls chasing greatness as legitimate Class 6A title contenders.

"I had never really come out of my shell before this year," Brown told *The Voice*, shortly before Heights' semifinal matchup in the Capital City Classic last week. "But my teammates and coaches are making it exciting; they make you want to interact and be social."

Brown said it's refreshing that Pillich allows players to work through and learn from mistakes while playing fast and loose, as opposed to being quickly yanked from a game. Brown added that she lacked confidence entering the season, but has flourished under Pillich. And that's been a common theme, with Pillich molding complementary pieces into stars en route to a sparkling 15-0 record.

"The entire coaching staff pours their energy and time into making us better," Brown said.

Heights returns to the court Friday night for a crosstown road clash with Wichita South. Also included among the six games remaining on its regular-season slate is a rematch with Wichita East on Feb. 20.

Queen of the court

Pillich, a former star high school hoopster from Texas in the early 1990s, signed to play for the University of Southern California. During her brief time at USC, she was teammates with Lisa Leslie, a women's basketball icon and role model to Pillich. Her coaching credentials also include a stint as



The Wichita Heights girls basketball team has surged to the top of the rankings this season. The unbeaten Falcons are currently ranked No. 1 in Kansas.

head coach of the Texas College women's basketball team.

Pillich preaches defensive principles and hard-nosed grit. Opponents are averaging just 33 points per game against Heights this season. And for Pillich, good defense leads to offense.

"It's about keeping teams from scoring while capitalizing on turnovers," she said.

Junior Ashlynn Reed said she first realized something special was brewing when Heights toppled top-ranked archrival Wichita East in a 54-51 thriller in mid-December.

"We battled through the entire game," Reed said, "and those are hardships that have allowed us to continue doing what we're doing."

Even more striking, Reed said, was observing the spirited nature of her teammates after the game, following their selfless play on the court. "Just seeing everybody smile after the win is one of my favorite memories."

"It's been very encouraging for me to be able to just keep pushing myself to be great, not just for myself, but for the team as well," Reed said.

Pillich ranks the triumph over Wichita East as one of her fondest experiences this season. She described a highly anticipated matchup that resulted in an electrifying atmosphere.



Heights Senior Terri Brown, is the team captain, and leads the Falcons in field goal percentage.



Coach Jen Pillich's coaching credentials also include a stint as head coach of the Texas College women's basketball team.

girls' hoops program has been led by a female coach.

Pillich also serves as an English instructor and athletic director at Robinson Middle School.

Pillich, a student of the game, has a sounding board in Wichita sports legend Lynette Woodard, as their "kinship" spans several years.

Woodard, a Wichita North alum, was present in Topeka for Heights' victory over Derby. After the game, Woodard and a Heights coach busted into a celebratory dance on the court — something they hope to repeat in March as state champions.

"I'm very confident in this team and feel like we are going all the way," Reed said.

"I honestly believe that was a turning point for our 'engine of belief' that started us on this momentum we are in," Pillich said.

Under Pillich's tutelage, Aaliyah Waller has made an immediate impact during her freshman campaign. In Heights' Capital City Classic win over Derby on Jan. 31, the 5-foot-7 guard dropped in 10 points. Waller credits her coaches and teammates for instilling a culture of connectedness on the court and camaraderie away from it.

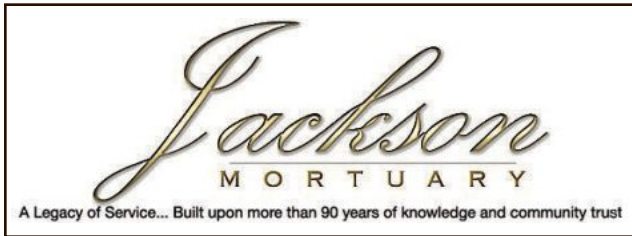
Pillich said that the harmony she has cultivated extends beyond just the players and coaching staff.

"I'm grateful for the community support," she said. "We also have parents who are showing up and assisting us with community service events."

Pillich added that she's delighted about the outpouring of support for basketball in Wichita, differing drastically from her years spent coaching in Texas, where football is king.

Representing

While Pillich touts the strides made by her squad during her debut campaign at Heights, she also takes much pride in having assembled an all Black, female coaching staff. She added that her hire represents the first time in decades that the Heights



Mary Frances Terry, 74

April 12, 1951 - February 3, 2026
A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

Bryant Moose, 67

December 11, 1958 - January 31, 2026

Chisholm Trail Church of Christ
5833 E. 37th St N., Wichita, Kansas 67220 • 316 683-1313

Join us each Sunday in person at 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. for our worship service or online @ 10 a.m.

www.chisholmtrailcofc.org/live
Bible classes for all ages on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Barry L. Gainey, Minister

Ms. Henry Blanton, 87

August 14, 1938 - January 30, 2026
Service will be held at 10 am on Fri., Feb. 20 at Madison Ave Church of Christ, 1740 N. Madison.

Star Tremeka Beasley, 46

May 8, 1979 - January 29, 2026
Service will be held at 11 am on Tue., Feb, 17 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel, 1125 E. 13th.

Gorman Alex Shaw, 86

August 24, 1939 - January 29, 2026
Service will be held at 10 am on Sat., Feb.14 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel, 1125 E. 13th.

Robyn Williams, 43

October 4, 1982 - January 28, 2026

Phillip Leonard Polite, 39

October 15, 1986 - January 27, 2026
Service was held on Feb. 4 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel.

Sharon K. Williams, 76

August 5, 1949 - January 26, 2026
Service will be held at 3 pm on Fri., Feb.13 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel, 1125 E. 13th.

Liza Ann Williams, 76

October 8, 1949 - January 25, 2026
Service will be held at 11 am on Thur., Feb.12 at Upper Room Church, 2036 N. Pennsylvania.

Frances Yvonne Williams, 85

October 18, 1940 - January 24, 2026
Service was held on Feb. 7 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel.

Sue Lynne Greene, 58

October 23, 1967 - January 23, 2026
Service will be held at 11 am on Fri., Feb. 13 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel, 1125 E. 13th.

Phyllis G. Carr, 88

December 11, 1937 - January 21, 2026
Service was held on Feb. 5 at Calvary Baptist Church

CJ LOFTON, from Page 16 ↓

of threat — a decision that drew sharp criticism from community members, civil rights advocates, and Lofton’s family. The ruling left

civil court as the only path for accountability.

Family Reaction

Lofton’s older brother, Marquan was present as the verdict was announced.

What Comes Next

The verdict marks a significant moment in a case that has lingered for more than four years, but it does not end the

broader questions surrounding mental health response, restraint practices, and accountability inside juvenile detention facilities.

Sedgwick County officials have previously pledged reforms following CJ Lofton’s death, including changes to use-of-force policies and training related to prone restraint. How those reforms have been implemented — and whether

they have prevented similar incidents — remains an open question.

The Community Voice will continue reporting on the Lofton case, including reaction from the family, community leaders, and county officials, as well as a deeper examination of how a teen in crisis ended up dead in a juvenile detention lobby instead of receiving mental health care.

MBE / WBE INVITATION TO BID

JE Dunn Construction Company is bidding **Grandview 2024 – Pkg. 5 – Conn West Elementary, Belvidere Elementary, High Grove Early Childhood Center Kitchen and Art**

Rooms and request your bid proposal for applicable material and/or labor.

- 01.74.02 – Final Cleaning
- 02.41.00 – Selective Demolition
- 03.00.00 – Building Concrete
- 04.20.00 – Masonry
- 07.84.00 – Firestopping
- 08.10.00 – Doors, Frames, & Hardware
- 09.50.00 – Acoustical Ceilings, Drywall, & Framing
- 09.65.00 – Resilient Flooring & Base
- 09.67.00 – Resinous Flooring
- 09.90.00 – Painting
- 11.40.00 – Food Service Equipment
- 12.30.01 – Carpentry, Casework, & Specialties
- 22.00.00 – Plumbing
- 26.00.00 – Electrical & Fire Alarm

Bids will be received by JE Dunn via BuildingConnected.com until **February 27 th , 2026 at 10:00 AM.**

JE Dunn invites subcontractors to call if any assistance is required or questions arise concerning work segmentation, work and contract requirements, or the form of proposal requested.

Questions should be directed to Maxwell Heinen, Project Manager, by phone at (816) 859-3862, or by email at max.heinen@jedunn.com.

EOE, Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran/Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity



MBE / WBE INVITATION TO BID

JE Dunn Construction Company is bidding **KCPS Central High School CTE – Pkg. 01 –** and request your bid proposal for applicable material and/or labor.

- 02.40.00 – General Trades
- 09.65.00 – Resilient Flooring and Carpet
- 09.67.00 – Fluid Applied Flooring
- 12.66.00 – Bleachers
- 22.00.00 – Plumbing
- 23.00.00 – Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- 26.00.00 – Electrical/Communications/Security Systems/Fire Alarm
- 31.00.00 – Earthwork and Site Demolition
- 32.12.00 – Asphalt Paving
- 32.13.00 – Site Concrete

Bids will be received by JE Dunn via BuildingConnected.com until **February 11 th 2026 at 2:00 PM.**

JE Dunn invites subcontractors to call if any assistance is required or questions arise concerning work segmentation, work and contract requirements, or the form of proposal requested. Questions should be directed to Darren Younker, Senior Project Manager, by phone at (707) 327-6338, or by email at Darren.Younker@jedunn.com

EOE, Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran/Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity



Black Film Fest Showcases Kansas City Stories Through Film

Kansas City PBS will spotlight local Black filmmakers during the **Reel Black Film Fest**, a community-centered celebration of Black storytelling and cinema taking place **Saturday, Feb. 21**, at the **Gem Theater** in the historic 18th & Vine Jazz District. Admission to Saturday's screenings is free and open to the public.

Doors and vendor areas open at **1:30 p.m.**, with films beginning at **3 p.m.** The festival highlights Kansas City-based filmmakers whose work explores Black history, resilience, and legacy through a deeply local lens.

The afternoon opens at 3 p.m. with *Land of Opportunity: The Road of Resistance*, directed by **Nico Giles Wiggins**. Inspired by Richard Rothstein's *The Color of Law*, the documentary examines the construction of U.S. Highway 71 and how urban renewal policies displaced more than 10,000 families, permanently reshaping Kansas City's historic Black neighborhoods.

At 4:30 p.m., audiences will see *The Potato King: A Dynasty Built on Dirt and Dreams*, directed by **Jacob Handy**. Told through the perspective of local farmer Mike B. Rollen, the film chronicles the life of Junius Groves, a formerly enslaved man who became one of the wealthiest Black farmers of his time through innovation, land ownership, and perseverance.

Following an intermission at **5:40 p.m.**, the final screening begins at **6 p.m.** with *Diamond Jubilee: A 75-Year Celebration of Carter Broadcast*, directed by **Kerry Rounds**. The film honors KPRS, founded in 1950 by Andrew "Skip" Carter as the



nation's first Black-owned radio station west of the Mississippi River, and its lasting influence on Black media and culture in Kansas City.

Additional free events surround the festival. **Reel Black on Tap** takes place **Friday,**

Feb. 20, from 8 to 10 p.m. at **Vine Street Brewing Co.**, offering a casual after-party to kick off the weekend. The celebration concludes with a **free closing reception** on **Saturday, Feb. 21**, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the **American Jazz Museum**, featuring award presentations, filmmaker mingling, and light bites. The events are free but you must RSVP to get your ticket. Go to Eventbrite of go to: bit.ly/4ts59TE

Editor's note: The Reel Black Film Fest was originally promoted as a two-day festival. However, no public listing of film screenings scheduled for Friday was available at the time of publication.

Checking made simple — No surprises!

No monthly account fee

No minimum credit score

No overdraft risk or overdraft fees

Open Your Fresh Start Checking Account Today Online at wichtafcu.com

WICHITA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



Groundwater, Health, and You.

A Clear Way Forward: Free Health Testing

These tests look for health effects that may be linked to contaminated groundwater exposure.



FREE Health testing events provided by the Wichita Black Nurses Association

You are invited get a free health test if you lived, worked, went to school, daycare, or church near 29th & Grove at any time from the early 1970s to today.



- ➔ **Saturday, February 7, 2026** 10am—2pm
Chisholm Trail Church of Christ | 5833 E 37th St E, Wichita, KS
- ➔ **Saturday, February 14, 2026** 10am—2pm
Greater St. Mary's Baptist Church | 1648 E 17th St. N, Wichita, KS
- ➔ **Saturday, February 21, 2026** 10am—2pm
The Center | 1914 E 11th St N, Suite B, Wichita, KS
- ➔ **Saturday, February 28, 2026** 10am—2pm
Homebound Visits | If you are homebound, please call 316-882-1778 between 9 AM to 3 PM, Mon-Fri, to schedule a home testing appointment.