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Surge of weekend gunfire kills 3, injures 2 in KC area

BY ROBERT A. CRONKLETON
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Another surge of gun violence swept through the Kansas City metro this weekend, leaving three people dead and two others wounded, authorities said.

The separate shootings unfolded hours apart — one in Kansas City, Kansas, and the other in south Kansas City. In Kansas City, Kansas, officers responded shortly after 7 p.m. Saturday to a triple shooting in the 1600 block of Washington Boulevard, said Capt. Osvaldo Navarro with the Kan-

sas City, Kansas Police Department. They found three shooting victims: two men and a woman. One man died at the scene, Navarro said. The second man died later at the hospital. The female victim's injuries were not life-threatening, Navarro said. Police later identified the men

killed as Tyler Wheeler, 26, of Kansas City, Kansas, and Victor Loza, 22, of Bonner Springs, Kansas. The woman who survived the shooting is a 19-year-old from Kansas City, Kansas. The shooter fled before officers arrived, and no suspect information was available. The double homicide marks

the 13th and 14th killings of the year in Kansas City, Kansas, according to data tracked by The Star, which includes fatal police shootings. That compares to 17 homicides reported at this time last year.

TEEN KILLED IN DOUBLE SHOOTING IN SOUTH KC
Roughly five hours later, gunfire in a parking lot in south Kansas City killed a 14-year-old boy, identified by police as Teandre Gibson, and wounded a girl under the age of 16. Officers were called just after 12:15 a.m. Sunday in the 1700 block of East 97th Street in the

SEE GUNFIRE, 4A



TAMMY LJUNGBLAD tjungblad@kcstar.com

Construction work continues on a new pavilion for the new Farmers Market and Downtown Gathering Space Improvement project in downtown Overland Park.

INSIDE LOOK

Farmers market construction reshaping downtown Overland Park

BY TAMMY LJUNGBLAD
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Downtown Overland Park is undergoing a major transformation. Construction of the new Overland Park Farmers Market is well on its way there. The development is part of part of the \$34 million Farmers Market and Downtown Gathering

Space Improvement Project. The new market place replaces the original 1991 structure which has already been razed. The new pavilion will feature indoor vendor areas, permanent shade structures, expanded seating, and amenities like solar panels, electric vehicle chargers, and native landscaping in the space between Santa Fe Drive and Marty Street. The year-round gathering space will

get upgraded restrooms to add to visitor comfort. The space will also include a venue that can accommodate watch parties, concerts and other public events. In a nod to the clock tower that stands tall over the downtown along Santa Fe Drive, the new market will be called Clock Tower Landing. It's expected to be completed by the summer of 2026.

Shoppers can still stock up on fresh produce and other goods while the farmers market operates on Wednesdays and Saturdays at the Matt Ross Community Center parking lot at 8101 Marty St. Overland Park's investment follows a regional trend, with nearby Parkville and Lee's Summit which have also unveiled new farmers markets.

Outgoing Independence chief leaves complex legacy

BY ILANA AROUGHETI
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The surprise exit of Independence Police Chief Adam Dustman on Friday leaves the city with several major vacancies to fill — and leaves the police department with several ongoing legal challenges. Dustman requested leave from the Independence Police Department on May 23, shortly after returning from a trip to Washington, D.C., during National Police Week. The department has remained tight-lipped about the reasons behind his exit. However, KMBC reported that before Dustman's resignation, IPD had opened an internal investigation into his conduct during the trip. Dustman spent his entire law enforcement career, and his entire working life, with the Independence Police Department. He was hired in 2008 after graduating from the University of Central Missouri in 2007, and stepped into the role of interim chief in February 2022 before receiving a full-time appointment in 2023. The department credits Dustman with leading the department through a period of progress and modernization, including updating some facilities and securing funding for new equipment. In an email to IPD employees the night before he took leave, Dustman wrote that he wanted to "focus on being the best version of myself and the best dad that I can be." Dustman's wife Sara, nee Fisher, filed for divorce in April, according to Jackson County court records. Dustman's surprise exit caps

SEE DUSTMAN, 4A

UNIQUELY KC

KC fashion designer goes 'full throttle' on style

BY J.M. BANKS
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Sheraz Pompey had a love for fashion, style and clothing spanning back to his teenage years.

He learned to express himself by creatively styling what he had. He often borrowed from siblings and pieced together unique outfits. A fashion design class that he enrolled in at Paseo High School transformed his

resourcefulness into a true artistic pursuit. By the time he walked the stage at graduation, he was already designing and sewing his own garments, laying the groundwork for a path. Instead of chasing success in

bigger markets, Pompey stayed rooted in Kansas City and built his name one design at a time. A breakthrough came when he was asked to create a collection for a local fashion show, launching him into the spotlight and solidifying his decision to pursue clothing design professionally. Over a decade later, Pompey co-owns a boutique, The Blueprint KC, with his sister, in Grandview, where he crafts custom looks that defy fast fashion and trend-following. Recently Pompey sat down

with the Star's culture and identity reporter J.M. Banks and talked about creating fashion inspired moments, telling stories and pushing Kansas City's fashion culture forward through unapologetic originality. **Can you tell me a bit about your background and how you got started in fashion?** I've been in the fashion industry for 11 years. It all began my junior year at Paseo High School. I took a half-semester of

SEE DESIGNER, 3A



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