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VIOLENCE

home,’ and I keep reading that message,” she said through sobs, adding she regrets letting her stay. Preliminary evidence indicated Traelynn was inside the home when gunfire from one or more people outside struck her, according to police. No suspect had been named by police as of Wednesday afternoon.

AN ARTIST AND ASPIRING BEAUTICIAN

From the age of three, Traelynn was painting and snipping her own hair, sparking her love for cosmetology, her mother said. “I caught her one time when she was three,” O’Dell said. “Her grandmother had bought her finger nail polish for her third birthday... It was meant for me to put on her, but she got a hold of it and had done her own toes.” As she got older, Traelynn started painting various designs and portraits on nails. She also developed her passion for hair, and would get together with her friends to do each other’s hair and nails. “She had really beautiful curly hair. She was just happy, fully of energy, bubbly, smart, sweet. A blessing,” O’Dell said. Aside from cosmetology, Traelynn loved to dance, and had been involved with cheerleading through the school since 7th grade. “She was a light, she

was a light in our life. She was so much personality in one little person,” O’Dell said. “...the impact of losing her, our family is broken right now. This is horrible.”

‘I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT THIS HAPPENED’

O’Dell was still awake when she got a random Facebook call from someone around 1 a.m. Thinking it was strange, she attempted to call her daughter, but got no answer. Knowing her daughter was out and given the time, she decided to ask the person who they were. “I asked, who is this to the person calling me, and they said, ‘It’s about Traelynn, I need you to call me,’” O’Dell said. On the line was the aunt of one of the girls who was in the home. The aunt explained Traelynn had been killed. O’Dell screamed, and said she continued screaming for hours. O’Dell said her family lives in the Grandview and Belton area for the most part, and that though she knew where Traelynn was, it was not an area she was particularly familiar with. Traelynn had assured her mother she was in a safe home. But O’Dell said had she have known there was any potential for danger, she would’ve picked her right up. “She’s not normally in that area,” she said. “It isn’t normal for her. “

Neighbors on Norton Avenue said there had been a shooting at the same home weeks before Traelynn was killed. Alayna Gonzalez, spokesperson for the Kansas City Police Department, said police didn’t receive additional calls for shootings to that address, but did say there was a call for sound of shots on July 30 at the residence, but that there were no indications later it was a shooting. “I don’t believe that girl who had passed away had anything to do with it,” said Shahn Johnson, who lives across the street. “I just think that she was in the wrong place at the wrong time.”

O’Dell had always been hyper aware of her daughter, never allowing her to be outside walking by herself and always keeping tabs on her location. All in effort to prevent Traelynn from going missing like O’Dell’s cousin, Jody Ledkins. Jody, then 14, was last seen on May 23, 1985, walking northbound on Winchester from 14th Street, according to the Kansas City Police Department’s unsolved missing person’s page. Police suspect foul play. “I was brought up and my dad was so strict about it because of her. So he was extremely strict on me not being out past dark and things like that because of her. So it’s like, it kind of like trickled down, because of that. It made me super paranoid,” O’Dell said. “I would never have her be in this kind of situation.

I cannot believe that this happened,” she said. Funeral plans have yet to be finalized, but O’Dell is planning on having a celebration of life with a butterfly release, likely in Grandview. She also hopes to start a fund on Venmo, where people can donate money to buy billboards with Traelynn’s face on it, bringing attention to problems with gun violence. “I want everyone to see how tragic it is when you lose a child to gun violence. I mean, it’s not like anything that you could ever feel in your whole life,” O’Dell said. “She was taken violently. She was so sweet. She did not deserve this. She wouldn’t have done anything for anybody. She was sweet, beautiful soul.”

Rosilyn Temple, founder of Mothers in Charge, a group that works with police to provide trauma informed crisis information to families, went and visited O’Dell the day after Traelynn was killed to bring her comfort and answer questions. She describes it as the mothers being a part of a group they never asked to join. “She was a young, 16-year-old still in school. And we would never know what her potentials would have been. The community has to step up and get these people off the streets.”

Alayna Gonzalez, spokesperson for the Kansas City Police Department, said Wednesday afternoon that detectives are making progress identifying a person of interest.



Star file photo

Marsh’s Sun Fresh in Westport has been purchased by Cosentino’s.

Well-known local operators taking over this longtime Kansas City grocery store

BY JENNA THOMPSON
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Marsh’s Sun Fresh in Westport has been purchased by Cosentino’s Food Stores. The grocery store at 4001 Mill St. will close at 7 p.m. Wednesday and reopen at 8 a.m. Thursday under Cosentino’s ownership, according to a press release. The store will keep its employees while making some minor updates to lighting and other equipment, as well as the addition of a drive-thru pharmacy. “Congratulations to the Marsh family for their years of service to Westport and the surrounding communities,” John Cosentino, owner and vice president, said in the release. “As a family-owned company, we are excited to be a part of the Westport community.” Melinda Tiemeyer, a spokesperson for the company, said the plan for now is for the store to remain a Sun Fresh. Cosentino’s owns 32

stores in the area under the brands Price Chopper, Apple Market, Sun Fresh and Cosentino’s Market. New Mark Sun Fresh at 10225 N. Oak Trafficway and Cosentino’s Sun Fresh at 18001 E. Highway 24 in Independence are also Cosentino’s brands. Another Sun Fresh closed on Kansas City’s East Side yesterday at 3110 Wabash Ave., despite millions of dollars from the city. That store was owned by Community Builders Kansas City. A Balls Food Stores-owned Price Chopper is closing in Overland Park at 7000 W. 75th St. Meanwhile, a developer wants to build a new Costco in Lee’s Summit near U.S. Highway 50 and Missouri Route 291. The Westport Sun Fresh has been open at that spot since around 1996, according to The Star’s archives. It moved into the newly built shopping center from the Old Westport Shopping Center at Westport Road and Southwest Trafficway.



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Green Street features an inclusive playground.

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MARKET

50 vendors inside, with room for another 50 outside. The 17,000-square-foot pavilion will allow the city to extend the farmers market season into the colder months. Its 10 garage-style doors open to a spacious lawn area out front. Arches and sculptures surround the area and light up at night in a section that Baird calls the “wicket garden.” “We’re trying to create a space that you really can’t get anywhere else in

the Midwest,” he said. “An inviting, welcoming atmosphere in a park-like environment.” The space aims to host various music and arts events. **LEE’S SUMMIT’S DOWNTOWN AS A ‘REGIONAL DESTINATION’** Though the project’s initial planning phases began years before, voters approved a \$600,000 bond for the project in 2013.

The grand total ultimately tallied up to \$43 million, Baird said. “I know that’s a large number ... we’ve had years and years to work on this,” he said. “We have multiple funding sources.” The change in Lee’s Summit’s farmers market space further speaks to the city’s growth over the years. Baird said he’s begun to see the downtown area as a popular spot for young professionals. As more developments pop up around the city — including Discovery Park and Streets of West Pryor — Baird believes the city will become a place to visit. “This is going to make us a regional destination, our downtown that is,” he said. “Because you’ll want to go experience it at least once, and then when you do, I think you’ll want to

come back.” **OPENING EVENTS AT GREEN STREET MARKET** Opening weekend will kick off with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Aug. 15 at 6 p.m., featuring food trucks and live music. The farmers market will open at the space the next day from 8 a.m. to noon. On Sunday, yoga and pilates classes, yard games and more will be available. For the weekend’s full schedule, visit the development’s website at cityofls.net/green-street. Meanwhile, Overland Park is redoing its downtown farmers market space, which will also feature an indoor-outdoor pavilion. The new Overland Park Farmers Market hopes to open by spring 2026.

Kansas City area outlet mall is adding two new footwear stores

BY JENNA THOMPSON
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The Legends Outlets Kansas City is gaining two new footwear brands. Crocs is coming to 1843 Village West Parkway Suite C-115 in Kansas City, Kansas.HeyDude will open next door at C-113. A grand opening for HeyDude is scheduled for Friday, with Crocs following suit Sept. 5. Colorful clog brand Crocs was founded in 2002 and has since sold more than 350 million pairs across 90 countries. In 2022, Crocs acquired slip-on shoe brand Hey-

Dude for \$2.5 billion. HeyDude was founded in Italy in 2008. Meanwhile, two new entertainment concepts are coming to the KCK mall. Go-kart facility K1 Speed is coming to The Legends in summer 2026 at North 98th Street and State Avenue. Interactive art exhibit Atlas9 is opening in the area this fall at 1100 N. 98th St. In June, Margaritaville Hotel also opened in the area at 1491 N. 98th Terrace. Other tenants at The Legends include Coach, AMC and Dave & Busters.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

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THE KANSAS CITY STAR

290-240 (ISSN 0745-1067)

WEEKLY SUBSCRIPTION PUBLISHED RATES	
Sunday-Friday	\$34.99/week*
Sunday only	\$34.99/week*
Wednesday/Sunday	\$34.99/week*

Single-copy rates: Daily \$3*, Sunday \$5.99*, Special Editions \$7.99*/\$9.99*. **Digital only, including Edition:** \$34.99 per week*

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Subscriptions renew automatically at the then-current rate (up to \$34.99/week) unless canceled. Payments are non-refundable and include applicable tax. Payments, credits, debits, and price changes may adjust your expiration date. A \$0.59 weekly supply-chain charge and a \$4.99 fee for mailed renewal bills apply. Home delivery includes the Thanksgiving Edition; premium fees of \$4.99 apply on 4/13, 6/22, 8/24, 10/19, and 11/27 and \$9.99 on 5/11, 12/7 in 2025, and on 4/26, 7/26, 9/27, and 12/27 in 2026. Content delivery methods may vary, and print subscriptions may be substituted with digital editions. Rate change notices are sent 30 days before they take effect. To cancel, contact us 30 days before expiration at 1-877-962-7827 or at <https://kansascity.com/cancel> Cancellations take effect at the end of the current term. Additional Terms of Service apply at <https://www.kansascity.com/terms-of-service>

The Kansas City Star is published daily, except Saturday. 5151 Merriam Drive, Merriam, Kansas 66203 (by appointment only) Periodicals Postage Paid at Kansas City, MO. (USPS 290-240.) **Postmaster:** Send all UAA to CFS : NON-POSTAL & MILITARY FACILITIES: send address corrections to McClatchy 1601 Alhambra Blvd Suite 100 Sacramento, CA 95816.

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