



# The Record

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## Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

**S**ANTA CLAUS and MRS. CLAUS are coming to town! The Parks and Recreation Department of the U.G. is holding four family free events this month. If you miss one you have an opportunity to attend another.

First off, "Donuts with Santa" at Memorial Hall on Saturday, December 13 from 9am-12pm. Enjoy the inflatables, face painting, holiday crafts, donuts, and hot chocolate and have your picture taken with Santa. 600 N 7<sup>th</sup>. Goodies while supplies last.

On Wednesday, December 17, experience

"Story Time with Mrs. Claus" at Armourdale Community Center from 5pm- 6pm. Eat your way through sweet treats as Mrs. Claus reads a heartwarming story. 730 Osage. Registration is needed. Call Parks & Rec 913-573-8327 or go online at [wycokck.org/parks](http://wycokck.org/parks).

In the Argentine area, Joe Amayo Community Center is holding "The Great Gingerbread Blow-Up" on Saturday, December 20 from 12pm-2pm. Design and decorate your own gingerbread person to take home. 2810 Metropolitan. Registration is needed. Call Parks & Rec at 913-261-4382 or go online at [wycokck.org/parks](http://wycokck.org/parks).

Check out the "Sugar Cookie Studio" at Beatrice Lee Community Center, 1210 N 10<sup>th</sup> on Tuesday, December 23, at 5 pm. A family friendly cookie decorating event in which registration is needed. Call Parks & Rec at 913-573 8327 or go online to [wycokck.org/parks](http://wycokck.org/parks).

The Turner Recreation Commission is inviting all to join them at "Pajamas & Pastries with Santa" on Friday, December 19 from 6pm-8pm in the Turner Rec Gym, 831 S 55<sup>th</sup>. This free family event includes balloon artists, face painters, sweets and best of all, SANTA.

On another note, On December 15, the inauguration ceremony for our elected officials will be held at 5pm at Memorial Hall. Join in welcoming our new Mayor, newly elected and re-elected Commissioners and the Sheriff.

Three items from the Turner Community Library- on December 16, Share the Book Club meets at the Windmill KC at 1pm, registration preferred. On December 18, the Graphic Novel Club: The Snowcat Prince meets at Turner Garden at 3:30pm. Registration required. [kckpl.org](http://kckpl.org). On December 19, make a "Seasonal Scents Keepsake: DIY Potpourri Session at 2pm at Turner Community Garden. Registration required [kckpl.org](http://kckpl.org). That's it for now.

Until next time, stay safe and be kind to those around you.

## Stock Market Insights

### Staying the Course Paid Off: Now the Focus Turns to 2026

**Joe Shearer, CPFA® is Vice President and Wealth Advisor at Fervent Wealth Management**

This year my family and I spent Thanksgiving a little differently; we traded turkey and cold weather in the mid-west for sunshine and sand in Cancun. It was our first time traveling out

of the country for the holiday, and stepping into a new setting offered some welcomed perspective. Much like markets this year, the experience reminded me that change can be healthy, and sometimes staying patient through a little uncertainty leads to a rewarding payoff.

Investors who stuck with their plan through November were rewarded, as the major stock indexes bounced back from a brief mid-month pullback to finish near record highs. That rebound marked the seventh straight month of gains for the S&P 500, providing nice momentum heading into the holiday season. Growing confidence that the Federal Reserve may begin cutting interest rates helped fuel the rally, but optimism around the economy, corporate

earnings, and ongoing investment in artificial intelligence also played meaningful roles.

As we head into December, the job market will continue to steer market sentiment. Healthy employment is critical to sustaining consumer spending, especially during the important holiday shopping period. We're expecting job growth to remain positive, even if it's slower, as government data catches up now that the shutdown has passed. It's also worth noting that the roughly \$130 billion in annualized tax cuts from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBB-BA) are scheduled to kick in starting February 2026. Meanwhile, the White House has shifted its focus toward affordability pressures. The "K-shaped" economy—where higher-income households benefit from rising assets while many others face day-to-day financial strain—remains a real challenge. Policies that help lift the lower



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## Market Insights...

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half of that "K," potentially through housing initiatives, could help support consumer spending.

Even as consumers remain resilient, corporate America is delivering. Third-quarter earnings results once again demonstrated companies' ability to clear a tougher bar. More than 82% of S&P 500 companies beat earnings expectations, the highest rate since 2009. Profits grew 13%, marking the fourth straight quarter of double-digit growth. Despite higher tariff costs, profit margins expanded thanks to disciplined cost control and productivity improvements. Management teams broadly expressed confidence in demand heading into next year, and analysts have already begun raising their earnings expectations for 2026. All of this reinforces the case for keeping equity exposure aligned with long-term targets.

Looking toward 2026, several factors deserve close monitoring.

The Fed's next moves remain front and center, with inflation and employment data guiding how many rate cuts may follow the one widely expected in December. Investors will also be paying attention to how AI investments evolve, the impact of midterm elections, the direction of the U.S. dollar, and ongoing geopolitical risks.

In this environment, diversification and risk management will matter more than ever. We should expect periods of volatility; those pullbacks may create attractive opportunities for disciplined investors. Areas tied to long-term drivers like AI, fiscal stimulus from the OBBBA, and shifts in regulatory policy could

offer compelling potential, but flexibility will be key. Ultimately, market corrections are simply part of the journey in pursuing meaningful long-term returns.

Experiencing the holiday in a completely new environment helped me step back and see things with fresh eyes. As we move into 2026, I encourage investors to do the same: keep perspective, stay flexible, and remember that short-term noise rarely changes the long-term outlook.

Have a blessed week!

Joe Shearer

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## UG Treasury Provides Update Regarding 2025 Property Tax Statements

KANSAS CITY, KS - The Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas (UG) Treasury Department wanted to alert Wyandotte County/KCK residents that all 2025 tax statements have been mailed as of Thursday, December 4, 2025.

On November 21st, all tax statement data was published on the Unified Government website. To ensure residents were informed about this year's tax statements, Pay-It issued an email notification to all registered users on November 26th, indicating that 2025 property tax bills were available, and that bills were available to view and pay online.

2025 property tax statements for Wyandotte County residents were mailed in phases and have now been fully mailed out as of December 4th. (Please see statement mail-out schedule below)

- \* November 29, 2025: 20,000 statements
- \* December 1, 2025: 25,000 statements
- \* December 2, 2025: 20,000 statements
- \* December 4, 2025: 10,000 statements (final mail out)

This year's payment deadlines are December 22, 2025, and May 11, 2026, as both fall on weekends in this cycle.

Bills can be viewed & paid online at <https://mywyco.wycokck.org/>.

How to check your amount due?

1. Online through myWyco app
2. Appraiser's Website for the Real Property Value/Tax Search
3. Call the Treasury Office at 913-573-2821

How to pay?

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3. Drop Box - Located at 8200 State Ave, Kansas City, KS 66112
4. In Person at one of the Treasury Offices:

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 \* Downtown Office: 710 N 7th, Kansas City, KS 66101  
 \* Annex Office: 8200 State Ave, Kansas City, KS 66112  
 \* If there is a mortgage on your property, please contact your mortgage company directly to request the refund. Please do not hesitate to contact the Treasury Department at 913-573-2821, if there are any additional questions or concerns.



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# Rep. Derek Schmidt Introduces Bill to Coordinate Federal Response to Scams

Congressman Derek Schmidt (KS-2) this week joined in leading a bipartisan group of Senators and Representatives to introduce legislation requiring the federal government to better coordinate its work to fight scams and protect consumers, particularly seniors.

The National Strategy for Combating Scams Act would require coordination among the numerous federal agencies that have jurisdiction over different aspects of fraud and scams. The bill also would require federal agencies to improve anti-scam coordination with state and local authorities.

Each year, Americans lose billions of dollars to scams and fraud. While all Americans can be targets, scammers often disproportionately target seniors and may be particularly aggressive during the holiday season.

“As a former Kansas attorney

general, nothing makes my blood boil more than crooks and scam artists who ripoff billions of dollars each year from Americans, particularly preying on our seniors,” Schmidt said. “Too often, the alphabet soup bureaucracy of federal agencies assigned to protect Americans from scammers get stuck in their individual silos of responsibility and jurisdiction. Our bill is aimed at coordinating the federal response to scams and improving the cooperation among the authorities who are supposed to stop them and protect Kansans.”

The National Strategy for Combating Scams Act (H.R. 6425) would establish a federal working group led by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to coordinate the efforts of more than a dozen federal agencies in combating scams. The working group would also be tasked with increasing coordination with Federal,

State, local and Tribal governments. Schmidt is the Republican co-lead on the bill, introduced yesterday together with Congressman Gabe Amo (D-RI-1). Companion legislation was introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Rick Scott (R-FL), Mark Kelly (D-AZ), and Ashley Moody (R-FL).

“Too many Rhode Islanders have been taken for a ride by scammers skimming their pockets and stealing their hard-earned money, leaving many devastated and destitute,” Amo said. “I’m proud to introduce these bipartisan measures, one of which is also bicameral, to ensure we are addressing the rising scam threat in a coordinated and strategic manner. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and the Senate as the national strategy is developed to keep fighting scammers and keep Rhode Islanders’ money

where it belongs, in their pockets.”

In addition to the National Strategy for Combating Scams Act, Schmidt has cosponsored the STOP Scams Against Seniors Act (H.R. 6426) which would authorize the use of federal grant funds to establish and support Elder Justice Task Forces to help local, state, and federal agencies work together to investigate and prosecute illegal scammers. Schmidt also cosponsored a resolution (H.Res. 931) supporting the designation of December 4 as “National Scam Prevention Day.”

During his prior service as Kansas attorney general, that office recovered a record-setting amount of money from scammers and returned it to Kansas consumers. Schmidt also previously chaired the national consumer protection committee of the National Association of Attorneys General.



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## Tom's Tasty Treats

By Tom Valverde

This week's tasty treat is a good one because it has many variations and it's a basic cookie that comes together in an hour. Add the spice of your choice. A teaspoon of Cinnamon or nutmeg.

Or you can add a cup of semi-sweet chocolate chips, a tablespoon of grated lemon or orange rind, a cup of dried cranberries or raisins, pecans chopped finely, or walnuts in the dough would be really good.

Additionally, these delicious cookies may be frosted with butter cream frosting or drizzled with melted chocolate, then decorated with colorful sprinkles. The dough must be chilled until firm.

Please give them a try:

### TOM'S CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Ingredients:

1 c Butter  
3/4 c Sugar  
3/4 c Brown sugar  
2 Eggs  
1 1/2 Vanilla

3 c Flour  
1 t Salt  
1 1/2 Baking Powder  
Chocolate chips  
Grated rind  
Spice-use as desired  
Nuts of choice  
Dried Cranberries or Raisins  
Color Sprinkles, optional

In a large bowl combine and whisk together the sugar, light brown sugar, butter, vanilla, and the eggs. Add the flour, baking powder, salt, chocolate chips, and grated rind,spices if using, and dried cranberries or raisins mix together well with a wooden spoon. Add nuts if using.

Divide the dough into 4 equal pieces. Shape each into a log that's 1 1/2" in diameter. Wrap the rolls in plastic wrap and chill until firm about 2 hours.

Set oven to 400°. Line the cookie sheets with parchment paper. Slice the dough 1/4" thick and set 1" apart on the cookie sheet. Bake at 400° for 5 or 7 minutes. Remove the cookies from the cookie sheets as soon as they come out.

Cool completely prior to frosting. Store in an airtight container or

Ziploc bags. Decorated plastic bags will make a great way to gift your Christmas cookies. Be generous with your friends and family and neighbors. Merry Christmas. Enjoy!

## Protect Vulnerable Adults from Financial Exploitation Act

Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt, today, announced state efforts have prevented over \$4.97 million from going to bad actors through the Protect Vulnerable Adults from Financial Exploitation Act.

"Identification and prevention of financial exploitation in vulnerable populations is a priority for our Department," said Commissioner Vicki Schmidt. "This law has given financial advisors, DCF and the Department of Insurance more tools to help prevent fraud and to go after bad actors."

Kansas legislation effective July 1, 2024, requires broker-dealers and investment advisers to report certain instances of financial exploitation, including potential exploitation. The law allows broker-dealers and investment advisers to delay transactions that are suspected financial exploitation so KDOI and APS can investigate.

"When an adult experiences financial exploitation, the impact reaches far beyond lost assets. It can erode the core foundations of life—autonomy, trust, and self-confidence," said DCF Secretary Laura Howard. "We are committed to partnering with state and local agencies to protect vulnerable adults and connect them to resources for lasting recovery."

For fiscal year 2025, \$10.5 million was reported lost by fraud and financial exploitation before KDOI and DCF were involved. Due to the protections provided by the Act, industry professionals, KDOI, and APS prevented \$4.97 million from going to bad actors. Through the Act, 140 reports have been received. Of the 140 cases, 63 victims were female and 54 were male. The average age of reported victims was 73.

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