

Kansas Legislature faces many issues

By Murrel Bland

The Kansas Legislature is in high gear these days as more than 600 bills have been introduced this session. The Legislative Committee learned the details of several bills Friday morning Feb. 11 as it met via ZOOM. The Committee is part of the Kansas City, Kansas, Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Kansas Chamber of Commerce has proposed one of the more controversial bills which would provide tax relief to Kansas businesses and also provide relief to Kansans paying higher state taxes because of federal tax changes. Governor Laura Kelly vetoed a similar bill two years ago. Critics, including Democrat and moderate Republicans, have said this reminds them of the disastrous tax cuts of the Governor Sam Brownback era. The present issue has passed the Kansas Senate earlier this year.

There are two bills that focus on sports betting. One is backed by casino interests; the other is broader and would allow convenience stores to benefit.

Mike Taylor, a lobbyist for the Unified Government, said the chairman of the committee handling STAR bonds legislation, State Senator Rob Olson from Olathe,

favors the use of STAR bonds for economic development. Legislators have criticized STAR bonds because they have been abused. However, the proper use of the bonds has been demonstrated with such developments as Legends Outlets.

Taylor said any legislation that might restrict the use of STAR bonds would not affect those being used for the Homefield development; those bonds were grandfathered. Homefield is being developed on property where Schlitterbahn was. With STAR bonds, developers use

sale tax revenue to pay for infrastructure.

There was discussion about the cyberattack on the Kansas Department of Labor. Hackers broke into the computerized records of thousands of Kansans, acquiring their Social Security numbers and have filed false claims. Estimates are that more than \$70 million has left the state. Many people with legitimate unemployment claims have been shut out.

Murrel Bland is the former editor of The Wyandotte West and The Piper Press. He is executive director of Business West.

Business West Bulletin

Providence selected as a best hospital

Healthgrades has chosen Providence Medical Center as one of 250 best hospitals in America.

The distinction places Providence in the top 5 percent of nearly 4,500 hospitals for its superior clinical performance. Healthgrades is the leading resource that connects consumers, physicians and health systems. Karen Orr, the chief executive officer at Providence, said this is the fourth year in a row that Providence has received this distinction. Last year, Providence celebrated its 100th anniversary of the mission to treat every patient with compassionate and exceptional care.

Program offered about Medicare

The Shepherd's Center of Kansas City, Kansas, will sponsor a conversation about Medicare at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 4 via ZOOM. The link information: www.zoom.us/j/96748589669. Telephone 312-626-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Women with Secrets

By Dr. Jim Haas

And not just secrets, but top secrets. With war on the horizon in 1941, the U.S. Navy needed to expand its small but excellent code-breaking operation. Men would be needed for sea duty, so the Navy asked presidents of the Seven Sisters colleges—elite women's counterparts to the Ivy League universities—to identify top students with backgrounds in math, languages, science, or liberal arts, studies that put a premium on seeing patterns and complex connections among facts.

Selected students were invited to meet with a naval officer who asked if they liked crossword puzzles and if they planned to marry soon. Of those who answered "yes" and "no," a few dozen were offered mysterious jobs in Washington, D.C. Lured by patriotism and adventure, many accepted, were sworn to secrecy—*nothing* about their job was to be mentioned to *anyone* on pain of death—and traveled to the nation's capital where they became civilian g-girls (government girls), among the first of thousands who came after Pearl Harbor to keep the government running.

The college women were trained in the dark arts of cryptanalysis: how to discover the meaning hidden in what appeared to be random groups of words or numbers that weren't random at all. Militaries and diplomatic corps used codes (words or numbers substituted for others according to a secret code book) and ciphers (words scrambled according to a secret algorithm) to hide their intentions from the prying ears of radio interceptors. The Navy soon found their young coeds able and reliable with some having a rare talent for the top-secret work.

The Army, too, needed more code breakers and recruited schoolteachers who, in those days of few professional opportunities for women, were among the brightest and best educated. Even though Army work paid poorly, teaching paid even less, so hundreds left their classrooms and teachers colleges for crowded offices in Washington where they became as successful as the Navy women.

To enhance pay and prestige, the Navy created the WAVES, women reservists with ranks (but not pay) equal to men. Many of the cryptanalysts volunteered and joined as officers. The Army followed with the Women's Army Corps (WACs).

A stunning success came in April 1943 when Navy women decrypted an intercepted Japanese message with the detailed itinerary of a South Pacific inspection tour by fleet commander Admiral Yamamoto, architect of the Pearl Harbor attack and Japan's most revered military leader. Four days later and 9,000 miles away, Army P-38 pilots spotted the Admiral's plane exactly where the Navy women said it would be and shot it down. There were no survivors. By 1944, the women were so good at decrypting routes of Japanese troop and cargo ships and tankers that U.S. submarines sank hundreds, severely damaging Japan's military and economy.

With British help, Army and Navy women tracked German subs in the Atlantic so convoys could be rerouted and learned the exact positions of German troops in France before the Normandy invasion. By war's end, more than 10,000 WAVES, WACs, and civilian women had served in intelligence jobs where they saved countless Allied lives and shortened the war. Some of the best stayed on becoming senior leaders of the intelligence community that saw America through the Cold War.

Like Rosie the Riveters in defense industries, code breakers proved that women could do demanding, high-pressure work as well as men and helped open professional jobs to women in coming decades. The full story of these young women, including their personal lives, is told in Liza Mundy's book *Code Girls*, a *New York Times* bestseller. It's an uplifting story of change in America.



Sue's Sudsy Soapbox By: Sue Reich



Here I am again. Where did this week go? Tomorrow Mr. Ed and I are going to get our second shot. Heard different things about the second one but we already started and by golly we are gonna finish. I had the weirdest dream about those vaccinations the other night. Remember the movie, the "Body Snatchers?" My dream reminded me of that movie. Now remember, it was just a dream. But there was a conspiracy against our world by aliens. There was a virus going around that was going to make everyone pass away and we had to get vaccinated to be saved. But, that was a bunch of hooley, it was to turn us into zombies. Then we would be shipped off somewhere, but then gosh darn it, I woke up. Never did finish it so I don't know if we became zombies or not.

So anyway... Was busy today as usual. Took my little Rat Terrier to the Bethel Animal to have his teeth worked on. Got some pills from the vet for my terrier and my mixed collie. She has pancreas problems and has to eat cooked rice and white chicken meat. Seems like every day, cook rice, cook chicken. The little Terrier has to eat that for a while because of his teeth. Then came home but had to go to Dollar General to get me a pair of reading glasses because I had somehow lost mine. So now I have to go get my eyes checked and get a pair of glasses. I even went back to Dollar Tree to see if anyone found them. That sweet little gal who works there looked everywhere, no glasses. I did a story on her about a year ago. She had an accident and had to roll around in a chair at work. Doing ok now. You know, I really like our little stores in the Argentine and Turner area. Most of the people are

so friendly and put up with a lot from their customers. Just love all of them. The people at CVS are so nice and helpful, the ones at Sunfresh the same. Dollar General clerks and stockers are really neat and of course they know me now. Same with Dollar Tree. I like Heather, Kyle, Art, Dorothy, just all of them and they are eager to please.

So, Dr. Seuss has 6 books that will not be printed because of racial undertones. But look at all the videos, movies and porn magazines that dehumanize women, kids and people of all races that are still around.

Any churches that are going to be open again for services, let me know. If you took *The Record* and would like to get them again, let me know and about how many you need.

As of April 1st, all students will be going back to Harmon full time. Teachers in the KCK school district are getting their vaccinations.

Well, my favorite townspeople, guess I'll sign off. Will let you know how our shots turn out, (Just hope we don't turn into Zombies). Take care, wear those masks and mind your p's and q's. Lvyva all, Sue. Here is something in memory of Gayle, Carolyn and Marilyn Larson. My wonderful sisters.

"When you and your sister used the good dishes to play house, climbed the backyard tree and couldn't get down and cut each other's hair to practice to be a possible future as a beautician, you brewed mud tea on the kitchen table and you blamed your sister for getting you into trouble. It's only fair that now you thank her for all those glorious memories."

Words From the Heart.

Tuckertown Rascals of Argentine

By: Sue Reich

This zany trio, known as the Tuckertown Rascals had one of the first so-called Hillbilly band. Although they didn't play hillbilly songs, they could play any type of music and Gayle (Larson) could sing any type of song. Edna played the accordion, piano, organ, keyboard, uke, harmonica and accompanied Gayle when she sang. Bus

made several of their instruments, like the washboard, bazooka, the "tub", and they each had their own specialty. Edna, Bus and Gayle were in all of the parades in Argentine, they were on tv, at the Parish House in Argentine, at Argentine High school, won a trip and was on the Ted Mack Show. Pat Hanlon and Lorene

and their two daughters were on the Ted Mack Show with them. Pat Hanlon was the KCK finance commissioner, inventor, and businessman. Gayle eventually went out on her own and made rock n' roll records, (remember the 45's?) She sang at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas. Eventually the band broke up, but the

other three sisters of Gayle joined the band.

The name Tuckertown was the idea of Bus. It was part of Argentine many many years ago. He liked the name of Tuckertown and that name stuck with them the rest of their lives. They are all gone now but left a legacy of their own.



This is the rest of the Larson family playing at Reich's Club on Strong Avenue. They were still called the Tuckertown Rascals.



Mary and Jerry Gensler at one of our last get togethers. Jerry has since passed. Notice, we didn't wear those masks then.



Gary and his son Caleb, standing in front of Caleb's new truck. It was his birthday present that year.

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

The garden catalogues have arrived, the seeds ordered and received and are now in the process of being planted. Calvin starts all our annual flowers from seed each year and this one is no different. I asked him to order some perennials this time around as I would like to get something that doesn't have to be planted each year. Less work for him since my knees won't let me get down on the ground anymore.

I've been spending a lot of my time watching Zoom gardening presentations. Much involves knowledge I have already ac-

quired although each seems to bring something new to learn.

The Kansas City Community Garden is again presenting their spring workshops from March 9 to May 18 by live streaming. All workshops are free, but reservations are needed. Reserve a seat at www.kccg.org/workshops or 816-931-3877. If you are unable to register you may view the workshop at your convenience (<https://kccg.org/how-to-videos/>). The two March topics are Vegetable Gardening Basics (March 9) and Kick-Start your Garden: Planting Early Spring Crops (March 19 at noon). Three more programs are offered in April and two in May.

The next program on the K-State Extension Garden Hour is March 17 from 12-1. The title is Pruning Like a Pro - Tips for Trees and Shrubs. For me, it is important to know not only how but when to prune various plants.

Due to the uncertainty of Covid-19 restrictions, the Wyandotte Master Gardeners are planning to hold their annual plant sale online this year on

April 30 and May 1 at the K-State Research and Extension office at 79th and State. As more information is available, I'll be sure to let you know.

Tearing myself away from the computer, I managed to get in a little reading this past week. The latest is Lisa Gardener's "Before She Disappeared." Ms. Gardener's books have been on my radar since 1999. She has created a few characters in a series of novels, but I normally like the independent ones she writes. Frankie Elkins may be the exception; she just may be the start of a new series. Frankie is a recovering alcoholic who has devoted her life in searching for the lost and forgotten. As they say on TV, the Cold Cases. She has found fourteen so far but none of the victims were alive. For some reason, Frankie is convinced this young girl is. There are plenty of twists and turns in this book. I couldn't put it down and finished it in two days.

Time for me to go, so...
Until next time, stay safe and please be kind to those around you.

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SENATE NEWS

By Sen. Pat Pettey

The bulk of the work this week happened in committees. On Monday, we paused work so that legislators and staff had the option to attend funeral services for Senator Bud Estes, who passed away on Saturday, February 13th. We picked back up on Tuesday, where we addressed two bills on the consent calendar and two appointments. On Thursday, we passed three resolutions. All of these measures passed, and I voted YES on each of them.

Next week is turnaround -- the midway marker for session and the last day to consider non-exempt bills in their house of origin. The big bill to watch next week is SB 273, which addresses the Kansas Emergency Management Act (KEMA). The bill that was worked in the Senate Committee on Judiciary last week does not include an extension of the current emergency declaration, which jeopardizes our state's ability to ramp up vaccine distribution, to ensure food insecure Kansans have access to community food bank services, and puts federal reimbursement for response costs at risk. We are all tired of this pandemic, but ending the emergency declaration will not end the real health risks and response challenges Kansans continue to face. I look forward to what is sure to be a spirited debate over this next week on the Senate floor.

I welcome your input on any of these issues. Please feel free to contact me at 785-296-7375 or pat.pettey@senate.ks.gov.

An Eye on the House K-12 Budget Committee

On Thursday, the House Committee on K-12 Budget bundled several bills to create a giant education package which some Representatives are concerned will put Kansas out of compliance with federal guidelines. The bill includes a voucher program, the scholarship tax credit program which redirects public funds to private schools, Governor Kelly's recommended budget for education, the extension of the state 20 mill tax levy, and various additional

amendments. House Democratic Leader Tom Sawyer has called it a "Frankenstein" bill which jeopardizes our state's ability to adequately fund our public schools at constitutionally-required levels. We will be addressing it when it comes to the Senate Way and Means Committee.

Unemployment Updates

My office continues to hear heartbreaking and frustrating stories from constituents trying to navigate our overwhelmed unemployment insurance system. Our staff is working hard to get your issues addressed by the Department of Labor. If you are in need of assistance, please email me or call my office and provide:

- Your first and last name, and middle initial
- A good callback number
- A good email address
- Your residential address
- The last four digits of your Social Security Number

• A summary of your issue
If you are not my constituent, you can find your legislator and their contact information here.

Governor Kelly is doing everything in her power to fix the issues at the Kansas Department of Labor. She knows this has been a very, very difficult time for a lot of Kansans.

Governor Kelly wrote a letter to the Kansas delegation and congressional leadership urging her federal partners to do the following:

- o Allocate funds for states to fast-track IT modernization projects;
- o A permanent source of funding to ensure that states can react pro-actively and respond to future crises;
- o Solvency relief for states' unemployment trust fund.

ISSUES KDOL IS FACING

• The need to respond, process, and deliver thousands of claims and answer hundreds of thousands of calls every single day.

• Prior to March, KDOL was responsible for administering one program, but in response to COVID, the federal government created another three. Aligning the ancient system with every new federal program is like translating hieroglyphics into English, and then doing it three different times.

WHAT KDOL HAS BEEN ABLE TO DO, DESPITE HISTORIC HURDLES

• Since mid-March, KDOL has paid out nearly \$4 million in weekly claims.

• That's delivering over \$2.6 billion in unemployment benefits. This is about eight years' worth of work for the agency.

• KDOL scaled up their call center staff from 20 to over 450 people and we are in the process of hiring another 100 staff to assist claimants.

• With the new security system, KDOL has stopped nearly 5 million fraudulent logins.

• Fraud is not a problem that is unique to Kansas – all states are experiencing issues with fraud.

• Nationally, the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General now estimates that fraud could cost taxpayers nearly \$360 billion nationally.

MODERNIZATION

Ensuring timely payments can come with a new modern system.

• Modernization is a time intensive problem. It's a multi-year process that we are actively working to speed up. Bids for a new system will go out in the coming months and work will begin on it by the end of the calendar year.

• In order to expedite this modernization effort, this year, Governor Kelly's proposed budget invests over \$37 million to restart the modernization process.

• These efforts will be fast-tracked under Amber Shultz's leadership, who Governor Kelly appointed as KDOL's Acting Secretary in January.

BPU Extends Moratorium on Disconnects Until March 31st

The Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (BPU) will not disconnect utility service for non-payment as customers and communities are facing potential hardship from coronavirus through March 31st. This temporary moratorium which has now been extended another month includes residential and business customers. Utility disconnects will resume on April 1st, 2021.

Customers are encouraged to stay current with their bills to avoid getting too far behind and if anyone has any BPU billing or customer service questions, they can call 913-573-9190 and a utility representative is available to assist.

“As the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic con-

tinues to spread throughout our community, we will once extend our current moratorium on all utility disconnects,” said William Johnson, BPU General Manager. “It is important for us to continue to support our customers who are continuing to experience hardships during this time.”

BPU wants to remind customers to take advantage of the Kansas Low-Income Energy Assistance (LIEAP) program which is still accepting applications until Wednesday, March 31st. To learn more about eligibility requirements or fill out a LIEAP application, visit the Kansas Department for Children and Families website or call 1-800-432-0043. LIEAP applications on the Kansas Department for Children and Families website at Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) until Wednesday, March 31.

BPU has learned that additional utility assistance funds may be available in mid-March through the Kansas Housing Resource Corporation (KHRC) and will be letting customers know when these funds become available and how to apply. If you typically pay in person, there are a number of quick, easy, and convenient ways for customers to pay their monthly utility bill remotely. These include:

• On-line at www.BPU.com – available 24 hours a day, seven days a week using a credit card or savings/checking account. Available in English and Spanish, payments are posted the next day.

• By Phone – dial 1-855-278-2455 (1-855-BPU-BILL), using a credit card or savings/checking account.

• Auto-withdrawal – automatic check withdrawal allows your payment to be made from your savings or checking account on a monthly basis. Call 913-573-9190 to enroll.

• U.S. Mail – mail your payment to BPU at P.O. Box 219661, Kansas City, MO 64121-9661 in the return envelope provided with your monthly bill.

• FlexPay - allows customers to monitor their electricity and water on an “as needed” basis, with services purchased on a pre-paid basis. There are no deposits and no late fees. Call 913-573-9190 to enroll in this program.

• Self-Service Payment Kiosks and Payment Drop Box – available 24/7, just

inside the BPU lobby doors located at 540 Minnesota Avenue, KCK.

• Grocery store Pay Site kiosks in the greater Kansas City area. Click here for a list of participating locations or call 1-877-876-7076.

• BPU has temporarily waived fees to use PaySite kiosks to make payments. PaySite kiosks accept cash and checks.

Residential customers who are financially impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak can set up payment arrangements by calling 913-573-9145.

BPU is closely following the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) guidelines and recommendations on the steps it can take to help prevent the spread of the virus. BPU will continue to closely monitor this situation and do all it can to protect its customers, employees, and the general public.

Winter Storm's Impact on Kansas Gas Service

Kansas Gas Service, a division of ONE Gas, Inc., is the state's largest regulated natural gas utility serving more than 635,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in 341 communities across Kansas. Throughout the recent extreme weather event, employees worked around the clock to make sure customers continued to receive service. Because of these efforts and especially the conservation efforts of customers, Kansas Gas Service avoided any widespread outage in our service territory.

As a reminder, by law, Kansas Gas Service makes no profit on the cost of gas.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do we have to continue to conserve or are things back to normal?

• Residential customers can return to normal natural gas usage. Although customers may return to normal usage, reducing natural gas usage will help minimize increases to their monthly bill. Customers are encouraged to continue to follow the conservation tips that have been communicated throughout this winter weather event.

• Commercial and Industrial customers may resume normal operations.

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Senator Pettey... ...from page 4

Will customer bills be higher?

• Due to the prolonged, historically low temperatures, we saw much higher natural gas use and a significant increase in natural gas market prices.

• While Kansas Gas Service does not markup the price of natural gas, these events will have an impact on customer bills.

How much will my bill increase?

• At this time, we cannot quantify what the impact on customer bills will be. We are working with our regulators to level out the impact to our customers.

What is being done to help reduce the impact to customers?

• The KCC has issued an order that authorizes natural gas and electric utilities to defer any extraordinary costs incurred associated with ensuring that customers continued to receive service during the cold weather event.

• We will work with every customer to help them find alternatives for paying their bill.

When will I see the increase in my bill?

• It is likely that customers will see the impact on April bills or later.

Why are you increasing my bill?

• Customers should prepare for higher natural gas bills because of the increased usage for home heating during the extreme cold weather. The substantial increase in the cost of gas due to the recent spike in commodity prices will be deferred to prevent those gas costs from hitting customer bills all at once in the coming months.

• We purchase the gas from suppliers and then deliver it to customer homes. The price we pay the suppliers for gas is the price customers pay. There is no markup.

Why didn't you purchase gas for the winter storm when prices were lower?

• We did. Due to the historically low temperatures that remained below freezing over an extended period of time, we experienced much higher natural gas demand that resulted in a significant increase in natural gas market prices on a portion of the

supply purchased during this period.

What can I do to minimize the impact to my bill?

• One thing customers can do right now to minimize the amount of their bill, is to follow the conservation tips that we communicated throughout the winter storm.

What payment options are available if I need assistance paying my bill?

• Apply for aid through our Share The Warmth program. To receive help in paying your natural gas bills through the Share The Warmth program, call 1-800-227-2156.

• Customers can reduce the fluctuations of their monthly gas bill by registering for our Average Payment Plan.

• The Average Payment Plan is a way to reduce the volatility of seasonal energy expenses by spreading out the cost throughout the year.

• We also partner with financial assistance agencies that manage available funds for eligible customers that need help paying their utility bills. A web page that is updated regularly with payment resources and information is available at <https://www.kansasgasservice.com/cares>.

Appointment of Wyandotte County Election Commissioner

Kansas Secretary of State Scott Schwab announced the appointment of Michael Abbott as Wyandotte County Election Commissioner. Abbott was unanimously recommended to Secretary Schwab by the panel tasked with conducting applicant interviews.

"We are thrilled with the selection of Michael Abbott as the next Wyandotte County Election Commissioner," said Secretary Schwab. "Mr. Abbott has institutional knowledge of the Wyandotte County Election Office and strong, established relationships with the Unified Government of Wyandotte County."

Mr. Abbott has lived in Wyandotte County since 2010. His diverse background includes public and private sector leadership. Prior to becoming Wyandotte County Election Commissioner, Mr. Abbott served as Program Coordinator for Election Technology in the Wyandotte County Election Office. He previously worked for AT&T as a Retail Account Executive Manager, Dealer Account

Executive and Retail Sales Consultant. Mr. Abbott is a member of the MS-ISAC (Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center) which is a voluntary program within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He serves as the Wyandotte County subject matter expert on the statewide voter registration database. Abbott holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Organization Management and Leadership from Friends University and an Associates Degree in Communication Studies from Cowley County Community College. Mr. Abbott resides in Kansas City, Kansas with his wife and two children.

Black History Month

February is Black History Month, a time devoted to celebrating and recognizing the central role of Black Americans in U.S. history.

Like "Bullet Joe" Rogan, Lynette Woodard was a trailblazing Kansas athlete. This Wichitan led the Wichita North basketball team to win the 5A state championship in 1975. She then set records and helped the University of Kansas team win three straight Big Eight Championships before leading the U.S. Olympic's basketball team to a gold medal in 1984. She was also signed as the first woman on the Harlem Globetrotters.

On Sunday, many political leaders celebrated John Lewis's birthday, the first since his passing in July 2020. Lewis was an iconic civil rights leader who helped organize the 1963 March on Washington and led the first march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where he and other marchers were attacked by state troopers and police. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1987 until his death, representing Georgia's 5th congressional district.

Sherman Jones was a Major League Baseball pitcher who turned to politics later in life. Jones played for the San Francisco Giants, Cincinnati Reds, and New York Mets. He appeared in Game 5 of the 1961 World Series for the Reds against the New York Yankees. After leaving baseball, he served in the Kansas City Police Department for 22 years. He was later elected to the Kansas House of Representatives, where he served from 1989 to 1992, before being elected

to the Kansas Senate, where he served until 2001.

I had the pleasure of knowing Sherman personally and he was a personable, knowledgeable DOTTE.

Important State Phone Numbers

Here is a list of numbers I often receive requests for during the Legislative Session. I hope you will find this information helpful.

Attorney General
(888) 428-8436

Child Abuse Hotline
(800) 922-5330

Consumer Protection
(800) 432-2310

Crime Tip Hotline
(800) 572-7463

Crime Victim Referral
(800) 828-9745

Department on Aging
(800) 432-3535

Driver's License Bureau
(785) 296-3963

Fraud Hotline
(800) 432-3919

KPERS
(888) 275-5737

Governor's Office
(877) 579-6757

Highway Conditions
(800) 585-7623

Housing Hotline
(800) 752-4422

KanCare Consumer Assistance
(866) 305-5147

Kansas Jobs
(785) 235-5627

Kansas Lottery
(785) 296-5700

Kansas State Library
(800) 432-3924

Legislative Hotline
(800) 432-3924

School Safety Hotline
(877) 626-8203

Business West Bulletin...

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6799, Meeting ID : 967 4858 9669. For more information, telephone Molly Gotobed at 913-228-2781 or email mollygotobed@wycohealth.com. The Kansas Assistance Network will be a co-sponsor of this discussion.

Wyandot Behavioral Health Network to receive major grant

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, a division of the federal Health and Human Services Department, has awarded a grant of nearly \$4 million to the Wyandot Behavioral Health Network. The grant will allow the agency to enhance its existing services and add to programs which serve highest risk individuals. The award is possible because the Wyandot Network is a certified community behavioral health center.

First Federal Bank names Community Development Officer

Sandra Olivas is the Community Development Officer at First Federal Bank. She recently came to First Federal from the Bank of Labor. Previous to that she has nearly 15 years' experience as a reporter for KCTV Channel 5. She also worked for WIBW Channel 13 in Topeka. In her new job, she will help families and individuals in attaining first-time home ownership. She has served in various voluntary organizations including The Junior League of Wyandotte and Johnson Counties and Community Housing of Wyandotte County. She will office at First Federal's location at 711 Minnesota Ave.

What to do if victim of unemployment fraud

State Rep. Kathy Wolfe Moore (D-36th Dist.) reports several of her constituents have been the victims of fraudulent unemployment claims being filed with the Kansas Department of Labor. Such persons should go to the website <https://www.fraudreport.ks.gov>.

For more information, telephone 913-766-4300 or 913-406-6266 or email murrel@mcbconsultinginc.com

Guest Editorials

Quotes To Ponder

By: Tom Valverde

“This shameful story might have taken place anywhere in the United States. It even could have happened in your town. It began with the pitiful wail of a siren, screaming through the balmy Spring air. The milling crowd around the jailhouse grew noisy as the squad car pulled up. A door swung open, and Sheriff Doug Lawson stepped out. He raised his hand to silence the angry shouts from the crowd. Then, the young, unarmed, black man, Aubrey Collins, the man the Sheriff had pursued, turns, and he sees the expression of contempt on the Sheriff's face, the sheer hatred he had in his dark eyes, and he turns and runs. The Sheriff “knew” that the young, black man was guilty, and he shoots him in the back as he flees. The crowd started asking questions, “D ‘ja Get ‘im Sheriff?” The Sheriff said, “He’ll get his when the time comes, now, stand back!”

He shot the man dead! Whether Aubrey Collins was innocent or guilty, is not important. But for any American to have so little regard for the life and rights of any other American, is a debasement of the principles of the United States Constitution upon which our Country is founded!

The Editors EC comics, 1952 “The Guilty” Shock Suspense Stories, 3 Nearly 70 years later and it seems as if the Country has regressed to these Pre-Civil Rights thinking and opinions. We live today in a divided Country. And scenes, as in the above story are a daily occurrence. How many young, black men have been shot and killed as in this story? How many times has an officer of the law acted as Judge, Jury, and Executioner? What a terrible condition our whole society seems to be in once more. And after So many people have fought So many battles for Civil Rights, we have been led astray to find our people and communities divided.

The poison of hatred first entered via openly racist, and xenophobic talk radio programs. And the past four years of the former president's support of hate groups, such as Proud Boys, Oath Keepers, and the KKK. In the wake of the Black Lives Matter protests last Summer, Trump directed the Proud Boys by telling them to “Stand and Stand by.” Ms. Lindsay Ayling, PhD candidate from the University of North Carolina was on the ground during the violent Insurrection at the Capitol, on January 6th. She made this observation: “Trump has been the catalyst for this sort of “Mass radicalization.” Trump knew that the Proud Boys and other Extreme Fascist groups were going to be present on January 6th because the Boys have been organizing multiple rallies for Trump in the U.S. since he lost the election.” Ms. Ayling recorded the various far-right, White Supremacist groups that participated at the riot on the Capitol: Proud Boys, OATH Keepers, QAnon, Unite the Right, the KKK, The NSC-131, Nationalist Social Club, Boogaloo Boys a group that's convinced of another U.S. civil war and other Fascist groups.

Proud Boys were seen wearing Proud Boys colors, patches, flags and apparel affiliated with the group. Some wore patches with the acronym FAFO, which stands for “F*** Around and Find Out,” a slogan that's affiliated with the Boys. These groups are Pro-gun, Anti-Government and White Nationalist. They have formed chapters in almost every state with Anti-Government militias and are part of the Far Right. Many have Military training and are considered as dangerous. In an interview with World News-CTV News, Ayling said, “The fact that Trump is continuously galvanized such a diverse collective of problematic ideologies is really disturbing. “In the past four years, it is Trump that's directly responsible for the mainstreaming of hate. Trump communicates in their Hate-filled language and incited these various hate, far right and Fascist groups.

Talk radio and FOX News also have been outspoken supporters of Trump and his hate and fear mongering. There is enough blame to go around, but it is the responsibility of every U.S. citizen who opposes the return to our segregated past to learn about these far-right, Anti-America, Fascist groups. They have erroneously referred to themselves as “Patriots.” No true Patriot would even consider bringing the wrath and chaos of civil war to the United States.

AG Derek Schmidt: Unusual Effort Returns More Than \$3.9 Million To Scam Victims So Far

TOPEKA – The amount of money returned to Kansans who were scammed using wire transfers over Western Union has grown to more than \$3.9 million, Attorney General Derek Schmidt said today.

In November 2017, Schmidt announced a landmark legal settlement with Western Union that required the company to provide refunds to Kansans who could prove they lost money to a scam and used Western Union wire services to send money to the scammers. The settlement, which was reached by Kansas alongside other states and the federal government, resolved allegations that the company had willfully turned a blind eye to the use of its services to defraud people.

To date, the settlement has resulted in refunds of more than \$3.9 million to more than 1,200 Kansans who had wired money to scammers. That figure is more than double the \$1,758,988 in reported refunds by June 2018, and some claims remain to be processed.

“Our consumer protection team went the extra mile to find Kansans who had wired money to scammers and notify them of their potential eligibility for a refund

through this settlement,” Schmidt said, “and that extraordinary effort has made a real difference for hundreds of scam victims.”

After the settlement was approved by the court, getting the word out to victims proved difficult because many victims had not filed complaints and therefore were unknown. To address that problem, the attorney general's Consumer Protection Division obtained from Western Union a list of Kansans who had wired large amounts of money in recent years and mailed a personal notice to more than 25,000 people in the state, informing them of their potential eligibility for a refund.

In response to the notice, several hundred scam victims in Kansas contacted the attorney general's office and received help filing refund claims. Many more filed claims without the attorney general's direct assistance, bringing the total claims returned to Kansans to \$3,952,222.05 as of November 11, 2020. The deadline for filing claims was May 31, 2018. Currently there is no end date announced for the program to complete the processing of claims.

Of those victims the at-

torney general helped with filing, 23 had lost \$20,000 or more. The largest refund amount the attorney general filed for one person was \$65,821. Kansans who filed claims were notified by Western Union when their claims were accepted and funds returned. It is unknown how many claims remain in process or were denied by the claims administrator.

“Most of the time, once money is wired to a scammer, that money is lost,” Schmidt said. “This rare opportunity to return so much of that money to scam victims in Kansas was gratifying. But it also is a sobering reminder just how widespread and common these scams are, so we will continue our efforts to help Kansans avoid scams and hold onto their hard-earned money.”

As part of the 2017 settlement, Western Union admitted to processing hundreds of thousands of fraudulent wire transfer transactions as part of scams including the “grandparent scam,” where a scammer poses as a family member in need of immediate financial help, or lottery scams and other schemes involving the promise of prizes or job opportunities. In each of these scenarios, the scammer directed the victim to wire money through Western Union. The settlements stated that various Western Union agents were complicit in these schemes, including receiving a cut of the scam proceeds in exchange for processing the fraudulent transaction.

LEGAL PUBLICATION

LEGAL PUBLICATION

ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS

The Board of Education, Unified School District No. 500, Kansas City, KS will accept sealed bids for: IFB 21-004 – Monument Sign and Installation for Washington HS. Sealed bids should be addressed to: Purchasing Department, Board of Education, 2010 N. 59th Street, Room 370, Kansas City, KS 66109 - “IFB No. 21-004 – Monument Sign – Washington HS”

Pre-Bid Conference: 7340 Leavenworth Rd, Kansas City, KS 66109: 03/09/21 @ 10:00 AM

Proposals will be opened 03/17/2021 @ 10:00 AM in the Purchasing Office.

Solicitation Documents Available at: www.kckps.org

(First published 3-11-21)

1t-The Record-3-11-21

ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS

The Board of Education, Unified School District No. 500, Kansas City, KS will accept sealed bids for: IFB 21-005 – Monument Sign and Installation for FL Schlagle HS. Sealed bids should be addressed to: Purchasing Department, Board of Education, 2010 N. 59th Street, Room 370, Kansas City, KS 66109 - “IFB No. 21-005 – Monument Sign – FL Schlagle HS”

Pre-Bid Conference: 2214 N. 59th St., Kansas City, KS 66104: 03/09/21 @ 10:45 AM

Proposals will be opened 03/17/2021 @ 10:30 AM in the Purchasing Office.

Solicitation Documents Available at: www.kckps.org

(First published 3-11-21)

1t-The Record-3-11-21



Passings...

By: Sue Reich

Caron (Hill) Roudebush, age 80, passed away February 26, 2021. Turner High school graduate class of 1959.

Janet Rae Billbe, age 69, passed away February 27, 2021. Wyandotte High School graduate, class of 1970.

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