

# The Record

## OBITUARY

### Carole Diehl



Carole Diehl, of Leavenworth, KS, formerly of Kansas City, KS, passed away Friday, March 26, 2021. Some may say heaven gained an angel, but we believe they simply got her back; she was the purest form of an angel on earth. Her love was beyond unconditional, truly something unimaginable for most.

Carole was born in the Armourdale area of KCK, on May 4, 1936. Other than traveling as an Army 'brat' while her stepfather was in the service, she lived her life in the Kansas City area.

Carole, as a child, never experienced the home, family, and white picket fence life, so when she and Floyd were married, it was important to her to see that her family enjoyed all the things she missed as a child. She and Floyd provided these things for their family and showed them what a true love story looks like.

Carole spent many years volunteering and doing community service, sitting on boards, and joining groups to try and make a difference. For the last 25 years, she was the president of the Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Association after she and Floyd moved back to the Strawberry Hill neighborhood, just houses from his childhood home. She loved the Hill. She wrote her own byline for The Kansas City Kansan for 4 years, "From the Hill" with her own "Remember When" addition, passing on the history of the Hill.

Carole was an avid bowler, bowling in leagues for many years. She eventually had to give it up, due to health problems. She made many friends, and even became the mascot for another team, once she was no longer able to bowl.

When the children grew up and left the nest, Carole started a monthly family gathering called Diehlfest, which continued to her death. Her sole purpose was to keep the family close-knit and loving, and for the grandkids to know and love each other. Family was very important to them both, and they succeeded in building those strong family ties she wanted so badly. She and Floyd always put family first and did their best to make everyone else's lives better or easier. Carole never got over the loss of her husband of 61 years, but the love and support of her family kept her going.

Carole was preceded in death by her soul mate, Floyd B. Diehl. They were the proud parents of four children, whom she would likely deem as 'wonderful'; James Diehl,

Ron (Sandra) Diehl, Sheila Wright and Lori (Kevin) Neeley, who in turn gave them nine beautiful grandchildren: Corey, Lindsay, Alan (Lindsay), Stephanie (Danny), Bennett (Amy), Ryan, Curtis, Brandi, and Darrick (Ashley). These children gave them 17 great-grandchildren. She also had many 'adopted' children, as she called them, who were loved as much as her own. Many of her children's friends still call her Mom. They are a very close-knit family, with much love and happiness. Carole has left a legacy for her family; one of love, kindness, strength, and support. She taught us that family is the most important 'thing' one can have, and that with that, we are all the wealthiest people on the planet. She will never know how many lives she touched, and how many people's paths were changed by her unconditional love and support. She has left a hole in the hearts of all who loved her.

These words fail to do her justice. She will live on in the many memories and pieces of wisdom passed down (even if in mixed metaphors). And always remember to never "bite a bull horse in the back"!! She is probably volunteering and bowling in heaven with Floyd right now. Carole will be interred at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Kansas City, KS. A graveside service will be held April 17 at 9:30 a.m., at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens, where she will be interred with her true love, and all are welcome to attend. A celebration of life ceremony will be planned for later this summer when we can all gather as normal.

## Fools Rush In

By Dr. Jim Haas

Politicians and their staffs sometimes stretch the truth and change the subject and talk when they should listen, but of late, some have said or done things that are just crazy. Case in point: The Idaho legislature last month ended the state's 32-year participation in Powerball. Republican Heather Scott objected to the lottery expanding next year to Australia where that government's share of the profits could be used for "anti-gun causes which they see as good, and we see as not good."

Your guess is as good as mine why she cares what a country

on the far side of the Pacific does about guns, but she does. She apparently does not care about the \$28 million in annual lottery sales or the \$14 million Idaho schools receive from it each year. She cares about guns. Maybe she dreams about them.

Another Republican with a gun fetish is Colorado Representative Lauren Boebert. Two hours after a gunman murdered ten people in a Boulder grocery, Boebert sent a fundraising email saying, "the radical gun-grabbing left" wants to "criminalize the private transfer of firearms." Crazy? Maybe. Cruel and unfeeling? Absolutely. Boebert owns Shooters Grill in the town of Rifle (of course) where waitresses carry sidearms. She has a long record as a scofflaw. Boebert may agree with conservative pundit Bill O'Reilly's 2017 comment that mass murders are "the price of freedom." Crazy.

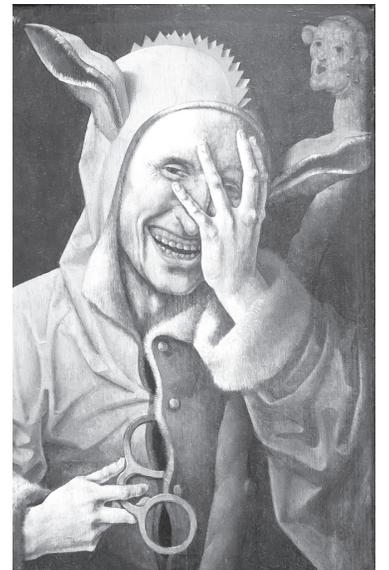
Then there's former Trump attorney Sidney Powell, who is being sued for \$1.3 billion by Dominion, maker of voting machines for the U.S. and Canada. After the recent election, Powell claimed, with zero evidence, that Dominion's programming could switch votes away from Trump, technology she claimed was invented in Venezuela to steal elections there as part of a Communist plot. Powell then sued to overturn results in four states. Dominion says she and others who repeated her claims, including Fox News, harmed the company's reputation.

Powell's conspiracy theory was crazy enough, but her defense in court is crazier still. She claims, through her attorneys, that whatever she said is legal free speech and—get this!—"No reasonable person would conclude that the statements were truly statements of fact." That may be so, but many people concluded just that, and some of them attacked the Capitol looking for blood. Some still believe the big lie that the election was "stolen."

*Daily Beast* writer Matt Lewis recalled the story of the lady who said to Adlai Stevenson, "Governor, every thinking person would be voting for you," to which Stevenson said, "Madam, that is not enough. I need a majority." Surely, any thinking judge will laugh Powell's "Gee, your Honor, I was just kidding" defense right out of court.

Not crazy words, but a crazy photo came last month from Georgia Republican Governor Brian Kemp after he signed a sweeping new voter suppression law designed to make voting more difficult for Blacks, students, and others who tend to vote Democratic. A framed picture of Georgia's Calloway Plantation where hundreds of Blacks had been enslaved was in Kemp's staged photo of himself and six other white Republican men taken after the signing.

Why, you might wonder, is a picture of a slave plantation hanging in the governor's office? That grim history is something he should be ashamed of, not celebrate. Maybe he *was* ashamed: governors love to sign important laws on TV to take the credit, but Kemp's signing was behind closed doors with just a photo. A Black Georgia legislator, wanting to witness the signing, knocked on Kemp's door but was arrested and taken away by officers. Crazy public relations, Governor.



## Sue's Sudsy Soapbox By: Sue Reich



**H**appy (not a typo) Easter everyone. Yep, it is (was) no typo again, Easter already and got my other stuff off the front door so I got my St. Pat's stuff down. Man, this is keeping me busy. Take this down, put this up, put that away, look for that. Where does the time go? Did you go to church for Easter? That is just about the only time that people get in the church mood is when it is a holiday like Christmas or Easter. Lots and lots of people don't go during this pandemic. Around Christmas time at First Baptist Church of Turner. Steve had a real nice ceremony. Try to make Easter if possible. Our insurance company had a nurse come by today and check us ol' folks. Had to show her all our meds, answer a bunch of questions, ask if we are depressed. Heck yes, I was depressed. When most of your friends and family all pass within the same few months, that is hard to get over. I will probably always have sessions of depression. Got cousins here and there but we all have our lives and don't get together like we did when we were kids. Besides we are all older and just don't get around like we used to. Got my furbabies though.

Speaking of furbabies, gonna take all of them to the veterinarian tomorrow. Worm pill time. If you have furbabies, be sure and get them checked for heart worms. That is a horrible thing for those little ones to go through. Take care of them if you love them like I love mine. They sleep in my bedroom with me. Since Mr. Ed and I have been together, they have always been with me. Well, I lost another longtime friend. I talked to her 2 weeks before she passed. She had lung cancer and smoked like a

chimney. Until several years ago, but then it was too late. Bless her heart. Carole ran with Barbara, Sister Gayle and Louise. Barb and Carole married brothers and they both passed some time ago. They were all like sisters to me and were usually at our house. Carole and Gayle and Barb babysat me one time and made me go outside in the evening and locked me out. They scared me to pieces. Told me they saw a UFO and for me to check it out and I must've been about 6 or 7. "Aliens will get you," they told me. "Wah, wah, let me in, I'm gonna tell mamma on you." Of course, I told mom and she laughed her heinie off. She loved all those girls that Gayle ran with. They all grew up together and went to Argentine High together. Now they are all together again.

Hey, guess what? Love all of you people and really miss every one too. Sure gets lonesome until I get out to deliver *The Record* on Tuesday. Soon as they get this pandemic conquered, ol' Sue is gonna get out and run around and hug everybody, kiss their cheek, and shout hallaluuuuuuuya! Please take care, get your vaccinations, wash those hands and sanitize everything. K? Your friend, Sue. Attention: To all the churches that are open again, if you took *The Record*, please let me know thru *The Record* office. It has been a horrible year with this pandemic and all and we would like to have you back again.

This is in memory of my three wonderful sisters: Gayle, Carolyn and Marilyn (Larson) Sisters can be so different from the friends they choose. Serious and Scholarly, instead of bubbly and carefree or dramatic and vivacious rather than sensible and serious. Whatever the contrast, no friendship could ever be as compelling as the one you have with your sisters.

### Shorty Stuff

**By: Sue Reich**

Worm Moon: New to me, when the full moon comes out in the first day of Spring, So do the worms. They are all over the driveway and the porch. Next day they were all

gone. That is why it is called Worm Moon.

Trash, trash and more trash. Everywhere in Morris, on Inland Drive Holliday Drive up the road turns into Metropolitan.

Rosedale has a road that needs fixed badly. There is even a sign up that says something like: "PLEASE FIX OUR ROAD". We waited 11 years for our road to be fixed, then it collapsed again. It is ok now.

### Common Denominator

1. moccasin, tower, wheel
2. burger, boom, blast
3. Adam's, crab, road
4. rubber, marching, aid
5. Salvation, U. S., ants



A well-known "Angel" & her sidekick, Mr. Ed, donated their stimulus check to Jim Jarsulic and Calvin Hoover so they could get bathrooms put in the "Community Building" next to the garden. By the way, volunteers are needed to help in the garden.



This is a team of workers getting some much-needed work done since the weather is permitting.



Enright garden is moving into the front of the Community Building.

# Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

Three years ago, Jim Jarsulic and Calvin Hoover started Community Garden Inc., a non-profit to purchase the building (formerly Dr. G's family practice) adjacent to the Turner Community Garden. In the past the building provided an entrance to the garden and fears at that time were that the entrance would be closed off to those who volunteer there if the facility was sold to an outside interest. The building would be able to provide rooms for garden instruction, shelter, and small gatherings in addition to generally sup-

porting the efforts of the garden. The Burlington Northern Southern Pacific Railroad who leases property to the Turner Garden held a fundraiser for the new non-profit in 2019. Customers who bought honey from the Saturday Turner Garden Markets have helped in fundraising. A decision to allow businesses to temporarily occupy the site was made. Work has begun on the interior of the building and the parking area secured is by fencing.

This month and for the next few months, Enright Gardens from Edgerton will be selling hanging baskets, perennials, annuals, vegetable plants (tomatoes, peppers, etc.), and herbs at the Community Garden building, 55<sup>th</sup> & Klamm. Enright's have been in business for over 40 years and sell at their locations in Edgerton (2351 N. 400 Road) and Kansas City River Market. This year will be a first at the 55<sup>th</sup> & Klamm location (previous years at 59<sup>th</sup> & County Line Road). Hours of operation will be

Monday-Saturday 9 am-6pm and Sunday 12pm-4pm. As soon as I have an opening date, I'll pass it along.

Turner Recreation Commission is now accepting enrollment in their Summer Explorer Camp for ages 5(must have completed kindergarten) through 12. The session runs from June 1 through June 30; hours are 7am-6pm. Masks are required, and space is limited. The cost is \$90 per week plus a onetime \$35 registration fee. For more information contact [turnerrec@turnerusd202.org](mailto:turnerrec@turnerusd202.org) or call 913-287-2111. You might also check out their Facebook page.

I still have three open plots available for rent at the Turner Community Garden. They are 4' X 12'. They are 15 each. Interested parties need to contact Turner Recreation to secure a spot. Payment to be made at the Turner Rec Business office.

Warm and sunny days are calling my name, so... Until next time, stay safe and please be kind to those around you.

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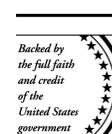
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# SENATE NEWS

By Sen. Pat Pettey

## This Week at the Capitol

On the floor this week, the Senate took action on 25 bills and 2 appointments.

The vast majority of these bills were non-controversial, and I was proud to join my colleagues in voting in favor. There were a few bills worked on the floor this week around which there was quite a bit of debate.

Senate Substitute for HB 2166 creates a number of new distinctive license plates, which allow Kansas drivers to support select organizations financially and visually on their vehicle. This bill creates Braden's Hope for Childhood Cancer, Proud Educator, and Alpha Kappa Alpha plates. An amendment in the Senate Committee on Transportation also created a Gadsden flag plate, with funds benefitting the Kansas Rifle Association. On the Senate floor, Senator Mary Ware shared some history of the flag's creator, Christopher Gadsden, who operated a wharf through which more slaves were sold than any other location in America. Gadsden himself owned more than 90 slaves, and continued operating this wharf even after the slave trade was outlawed. This information was not considered by the Transportation Committee, since this particular plate was added on as an amendment and there was no opportunity for public comment on it.

- I supported Senate Democratic Leader Dinah Sykes's amendment to remove the Gadsden flag plate from the underlying bill. Something this controversial deserves the scrutiny of the full legislative process.

The amendment to remove this plate from the bill failed 11-26. Senator David Haley successfully added a plate benefitting Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, while Senator Sykes's other amendment creating a plate in support of public education and benefitting the Kansas Teacher of the Year fund failed 15-15.

The second bill that prompted lively debate was Senate Substitute for HB 2072. I voted for this bill. This bill creates the Utility Financing and Securitization Act, which

allows for the securitization of utility assets to recover energy transition costs for electric public utilities. This Act would also allow electric and natural gas public utilities to pursue securitization to help finance qualified extraordinary expenses, such as fuel costs incurred during extreme weather events. The second part of this bill was non-controversial, given the steep prices we saw after the extreme winter weather in February of this year.

There was controversy on the other side of the aisle about the first part of the bill. While 82% of Kansans support programs that promote energy efficiency and a transition toward more renewable energy, Senators Mike Thompson and Caryn Tyson led the charge against renewable energy on Thursday afternoon in a debate that lasted over an hour and a half. I voted against their attempt to hinder energy companies' ability to diversify their energy sources, and was glad to support the underlying bill, which is good public policy.

Next Wednesday is the deadline for non-exempt bills to be passed out of their second chamber. The Senate will be in session the majority of the day on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and we expect to debate dozens of bills. You can watch live on the Kansas Legislature Youtube Channel.

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](mailto:pat.pettey@senate.ks.gov).

## Election Bills

Many of you have likely seen the troubling voter suppression bills coming out of the Georgia Legislature. I am sad to report that things aren't much better here in Kansas.

This week in the Senate Federal & State Affairs Committee, multiple election bills were passed to restrict advance mail ballot voting. Amendments made to SB 11 decrease the amount of time for submitting advance ballots from 20 days before an election to just 15 days. This bill also requires local election officers to verify the voter's signature on their ballot. If the signature cannot be matched to the one on file, the ballot cannot be counted.

SB 292 creates a number of logistical hurdles for elderly

and disabled voters by limiting the number of ballots a person can take to a drop-off box or the election office. Currently, there is no limit to the number of ballots an individual can deliver. This bill would limit the number to five. The bill was amended in committee to also prohibit candidates from picking up and delivering completed advance mail ballots.

Perhaps the most blatant attempt at voter suppression was made with SB 307, which requires advance mail ballots to be returned to the election office by 7pm on election night to be counted. Under current law, ballots postmarked by the election date may be counted if they are received within 3 days after the election. It is not surprising that this bill was thrown onto the agenda at the last minute, giving concerned Kansans just over 12 hours notice to read the bill and submit testimony. The state organization representing Kansas county clerks and election officials strongly opposed a similar piece of legislation in the House.

In addition to restricting mail-in voting, the committee also prohibited the Governor, Secretary of State, and judicial branch from altering election regulations or procedures even in extreme circumstances such as a natural disaster or global pandemic with HB 2183. Both Republican and Democratic members of the committee expressed concern that county election officials were not consulted by the Senate committee on the cost, logistical issues, or other burdens many of these measures may place on our counties' ability to properly run elections.

## Kansas Emergency Management Act

On Wednesday, Governor Kelly signed Senate Bill 40, the Kansas Emergency Management Act bill that was approved by the Senate last week, into law. Among other provisions, Senate Bill 40 modifies the procedure for the declaration and extension of a state disaster emergency under the Kansas Emergency Management Act, and extends the current disaster declaration to May 28, 2021.

Several executive orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic were set to expire on March 31 in conjunction with the expiration of the state of

disaster emergency. Senate Bill 40 includes a provision that revokes all current executive orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Governor retains the authority to re-issue orders under the new process imposed by the bill.

On April 1, the Governor will re-issue several executive orders, which will remain in effect until rescinded or until the statewide state of disaster emergency expires, whichever is earlier. Among the executive orders she is re-issuing is No. 20-68, the statewide mask order.

One of the provisions of Senate Bill 40 is that the Legislature or the Legislative Coordinating Council—which is comprised of the Senate President, Senate Majority Leader, Senate Minority Leader, Senate Vice-President, Speaker of the House, House Majority Leader, and House Minority Leader—may review and, if they choose, revoke any emergency orders issued by the Governor.

I voted for Senate Bill 40 because it was a good-faith compromise between Republicans, Democrats, and the Governor's Office. One of the provisions that gave me pause was the increased legislative oversight which had the potential of veering into political overreach. Unfortunately, that's exactly what is happening, as extremist leadership has declared they will fight the mask order.

As I have shared many times, everyone is tired of this pandemic, but we cannot legislate it away. We have made significant progress in reducing transmission and keeping our neighbors safe from the virus. Vaccinations have ramped up (good news on that below) and hospitalizations and deaths are down. This close to the finish line of the pandemic, we can't let up on public health recommendations.

## Relaunch of Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment Program

Governor Laura Kelly announced the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) program has relaunched to assist unemployed Kansans with job searches and career counseling.

RESEA is a collaboration between the Kansas Department of Commerce and the Kansas Department of Labor

to provide early-intervention job search assistance and career counseling to unemployment claimants deemed likely to exhaust their benefits. In order to continue receiving benefits, individuals who are selected are required to participate.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, appointments will be entirely virtual. If internet access is an issue, case managers will work with participants to find an alternative appointment method.

This program is being reinstated with the following objectives in mind:

- Quickly assist unemployed Kansans in finding new, meaningful work in our state;
- Strengthen the integrity of Kansas' unemployment program;
- Promote alignment with the vision of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA);
- Establish RESEA as an entry point to other workforce system partners.

Kansans receiving unemployment who are selected to participate in the RESEA program will receive a letter soon with more information. They will also be assigned a Case Manager who will provide necessary documentation.

Appointment dates for RESEA program participants will begin on March 29.

## Jacy Hurst and Lesley Isherwood Appointed to Kansas Court of Appeals

Jacy Hurst Becomes First Woman of Color on Kansas Court of Appeals

The newest Kansas Court of Appeals judges are Jacy Hurst and Lesley Isherwood after the Kansas Senate confirmed Gov. Laura Kelly's picks on Tuesday. Notably, Hurst will be the first woman of color on the Court of Appeals.

A Lawrence resident, she is a partner with the law firm Kutak Rock LLP in Kansas City, Missouri. Much of her legal career was spent representing businesses in the employment, health care and regulatory areas. She has also provided pro bono legal services to individuals in criminal and family law cases.

Isherwood is the senior assistant district attorney for Sedgwick County and has been a prosecutor

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## Senator Pettey... ...from page 4

since 1999. She's argued more than 100 cases before Kansas appellate courts and authored over 1,000 appellate briefs, a strength she brought up during her confirmation hearing.

Both highlighted the community work they did outside law, from mentoring disadvantaged women to coaching recreational soccer. And lawmakers praised both for the work and expertise they have.

The two candidates reaffirmed they wouldn't be judicial activists, describing themselves as originalists, as opposed to treating the Constitution as a living document.

### Kansas to Move to Phase 5 of Vaccine Distribution Plan

Starting Monday, March 29 all Kansans (16+) Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccine

Governor Laura Kelly today announced that starting next Monday, March 29, 2021, the State of Kansas will make the COVID-19 vaccine available to all Kansans (16+), entering the final Phase 5 of the Vaccine Prioritization plan.

"With the anticipated increase in supply from the federal government, we must get every dose of vaccine into arms quickly," Governor Laura Kelly said. "I strongly encourage every Kansan to get the COVID-19 vaccine so we can get back to school, back to work, and back to normal."

Kansas will become the 8th state to make the vaccine available to all adults, joining Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Utah, and West Virginia.

As of March 26, 35.1% of the adult population in Kansas had received at least one dose of the vaccine.

In the early part of the vaccination program (December 2020 – February 2021), limited federal supply led to demand for vaccine consistently outstripping supply. However, the supply increases of recent weeks have reversed this situation. Local Health Departments (LHDs) and providers have started reporting a decline in demand despite the state opening to Phases 3 and 4 populations. To ensure no

vaccine goes to waste, the Kelly administration decided to open eligibility to all Kansans.

Kansans are encouraged to use the Vaccine Finder tool to find the nearest location with available vaccine.

About the COVID-19 vaccines:

- COVID-19 Vaccines work: New England Journal of Medicine published a study on Feb. 24 that found researchers in Israel and the U.S. report that the vaccine made by Pfizer-BioNTech was highly effective in protecting against infection with the COVID-19 virus, lowering people's chances of getting sick with the disease—especially severe disease—and dropping COVID-19 hospitalization rates.

- Scientists have been researching mRNA technology, which makes it possible to create a vaccine faster, for years to prepare for potential infectious viruses. This research and the high supply of volunteers for clinical trials led to the relatively quick development of the COVID-19 vaccines.

- COVID-19 vaccines must meet rigorous standards and have undergone the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. The three COVID-19 vaccines had to meet safety and effectiveness standards to be approved for Emergency Use Authorization and have been evaluated in tens of thousands of participants in clinical trials.

Go get your vaccination! And encourage all your friends and neighbors to get vaccinated as well.

### Early Learning Caucus Forum

I am the chair for the Early Learning Caucus. On Monday, March 22nd, the Early Learning Caucus invited all legislators to attend a forum.

Gail Cozadd, CEO of the Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL) was the presenter. KCSL is a state-wide nonprofit serving children since 1992.

The topic of the forum was the Kansas Healthy Families Program. She started with some background on the program and continued with goals and outcomes.

Program background:

- Works to create, repair and restore healthy

parent-child relationships (signature program of the Prevent Child Abuse America (PCAA))

- Evidence based home visiting model

- Accredited by HFA as a multi-site system

- 10 Healthy Families Programs in KS across the state serving multiple counties

- 757 families served in 2020 (doubled in four years with the TANF funding)

Goals:

- Build and sustain community partnerships

- Cultivate and strengthen nurturing parent-child relationships

- Promote healthy childhood growth and development

- Enhance family functioning by reducing risk and building protective factors

Outcomes:

- Reduce child maltreatment

- Increase immunization

- Increase prenatal care

- Increase access to primary care medical services

- Decrease preterm, low weight babies

- Decrease dependency on welfare or TANF and other services

- Improve parent-child interaction

- Improve school readiness

### Parents as Teachers Turner USD 202

Do you have a kiddo between ages 0-3? Consider enrolling in our Parents as Teachers program!

One of the many benefits of our Parents as Teachers program is getting visits from our Parent Educators, who inform, support, and encourage parents through an evidence and research based program. Home visits include play time, resources for the family such as books and needed toiletries, and a time for the Parent Educator to talk with the parent(s) about what growth stage their child is in and how they can help their child's development at home

Check out the link to learn more about Parents as Teachers. <https://www.turnerUSD202.org/resources/community-resources/parents-as-teachers> or call 913-288-4197.

### Spring Clothes Drive

Cross-Lines - 736 Shawnee Ave - Kansas City, KS

## Opponents, Proponents Discuss Public Funding Of Private Schools

By: Murrel Bland

It was an interesting discussion about public money being used by private schools when the Legislative Committee met Friday morning, March 12 via ZOOM. The committee is a function of the Kansas City, Kansas, Area Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Alicia Miguel, the Kansas City, Kansas, School District Superintendent, expressed her opposition to two bills in the Kansas Legislature--Senate Bill 61 and House Bill 2119.

The House bill would allow educational savings accounts for private schools. Dr. Miguel said that is just another name for vouchers. She said this legislation that would take money away from public schools should be of concern for the general public and businesses. She said that there is concern that if public money goes to religious schools, there is an issue of separation of church and state.

Libby Knox, who is Director of Development for the Catholic Education Foundation, had opposing views. She spoke in favor of Senate Bill 61. She said the legislation would expand the areas in which tax credits could be used. She said presently there are needy persons who are excluded. She said the program exists according to narrow guidelines established by the courts.

Knox said she was not speaking in favor of House Bill 2119. She said the needy persons helped by the program have a 99 percent high school graduation rate.

Edwin Birch, the Executive Director for Communication and Marketing for the Kansas City, Kansas, School District, said he worked for the Kansas City (Mo.) School District, and saw charter schools take away substantial funds from the public school system. Birch, also worked as public information officer for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas.

Stephen Linkous, the Chief of Staff for the Kansas City, Kansas, School District, said he comes from Denver where charter schools diluted funds for public schools.

There was discussion about Senate Bill 50 which passed out of the senate 35-3; it would help assure sales tax is collected on internet sales.

Also discussed was the legislation that would affect STAR bonds; The minimum for a STAR bond financing project would be \$75 million; Mike Taylor, the lobbyist for the Unified Government, said that a \$50 million minimum would be more practical. A STAR bond project uses the money that would normally be collected from sales tax to pay for infrastructure such as streets and sewers.

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

## Severe Cold Weather Causes Many Problems

By: Murrel Bland

I have some good friends who moved from Kansas City, Kansas, to Houston a few years ago. They wanted to be closer to their family. They like Texas, but didn't expect to be without electricity for four days. They survived in better shape than some of the natives of the Republic of Texas during the recent cold snap.

Being without electricity isn't fun for anyone. I recently lost electricity for about two hours. That was inconvenient, but nothing like what Texans suffered. I am glad that the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities was in good shape to deal with severe cold weather.

The BPU is part of the Southwest Power Pool, a consortium of utilities in some 14 states which offers a supporting grid during an emergency such as the one suffered last month. Each member utility reduced its power output with selected shutdowns such as the one I experienced with BPU. This was the first time that the Power Pool conducted such an extensive operation—called Level Three.

Texas is not part of the Southwest Power Pool. In typical Texas style, it has its own grid—but that proved ineffective. The problem was not an excessive turn to green energy. Despite warnings from experts, Texas was not prepared for such an emergency. Extreme cold weather caused equipment to malfunction. Now, an independent agency has said the grid has overcharged utilities an estimated \$16 billion. The largest power cooperative in Texas has filed for bankruptcy protection, citing high invoices from the grid.

The Kansas Legislature is providing \$100 million in low-interest loans to help cities who would risk losing their electricity if bills were not paid.

Here in Kansas City, Kansas, the BPU will not disconnect utility service for non-payment for those facing hardship because of the coronavirus pandemic. BPU reminds customers to take advantage of the Kansas Low-Income Energy Assistance Program. The telephone number for LIEAP is 1-800-432-0043.

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

# Guest Editorials

## Former Trump Lawyer Admits That She Lied — The “Big Lie” Was In Fact A Big Lie!

By: Tom Valverde

Ms. Sidney Powell had made many untrue statements that supported Trump's narrative about how the 2020 Election had been “rigged,” in order for Joe Biden to win. She usually would appear at press conferences with Rudy Giuliani at her side and gave several interviews for FOX News. And always would indeed say that the Election was a fraud, with never any evidence to support her words: “Trump is a victim of a rigged election.” “They had this all planned-- It is one huge, huge criminal conspiracy.” An international syndicate of Globalist, Communist, Corporations were involved in the theft

of the Election.” “There's all kinds of evidence available, forensic evidence “Out there! Dominion and it's minions and other State officials everywhere are apparently out there trying to destroy everything they can get to before we can seize it!” Ms. Powell appear on Fox on the now cancelled Lou Dobbs and said, “I can hardly wait to put forth, ‘all the evidence we have collected on Dominion Voting Machines! Starting with the fact it was created to produce altered voting results in Venezuela for Hugo Chavez. I'm going to release the Kraken!”

“In early March, the Supreme Court threw out Sidney Powell's remaining Kraken case.” Forbes quote

with months of negative comments by Trump's lawyer, Dominion decided to fight Powell and sued her in a \$1.3 Billion defamation case. Marc Elias, Election Attorney, “Ms. Powell lied repeatedly about the outcome of the Election and about the role that the Voting Machines played or didn't play. The damage Powell did to Dominion is significant, but it was her and Trump's “Big Lie,” that culminated in the violence on January 6th at the Capitol. And the lie of a “Stolen Election” has created a fury of new voter suppression laws to be taken up by Republicans in States all across the Country.

Republicans are still clinging to this false narrative some say to keep peace with the former president. But, now, they all are showing their true colors and care little about the 15th Amendment that protects American's Legal Right to Vote. Lawyers for Ms. Powell were in Court using the fact that, “Her claims were so unreasonable that ‘reasonable people’ would not believe her Election Fraud claims.” They added: “The claims she made for months were not at all true and too ridiculous to be defamatory.” After 5 months of the “Big Lie,” it now appears that Ms. Powell is saying that the Pro-Trump protesters “Should have known better than to believe her!” This is no defense; her words still remain actionable defamation.

Ms. Powell still maintains her innocence, she went on a MSNBC program and said, “No reasonable person would conclude that my statements were truly statements of fact!” How absurd, she now is placing the onus for whether to believe that the lawyer hired and signed for by the former president of the United States onto the American public. Any person with such responsibility in the Government is automatically going to have their often repeated statements accepted as being truthful.

Powell's lawyers moved to dismiss the defamation lawsuit filed by Dominion Voting Systems. They said that “Dominion was at fault, at an orchestrated fraud effort!” “Powell's statements were so outrageous that reasonable people would not accept such statements as fact! The Problem for Powell

is that by appearing on FOX News programs, She should have known that she was not speaking to reasonable people or even rational people. She was talking to people who are the sort of irrational that is required to support an inept, corrupt and continuously lying president. They are unable to distinguish between Trump's purely

concocted lies and conspiracy theories and reality. Unfortunately for Powell, the facts will be known her, “They should have known better than to believe me,” is no defense, and truth will out she will be found guilty of defamation and most likely be disbarred. Justice, for having almost caused the fall of this democracy.

## Quotes To Ponder

By: Tom Valverde

“The disinformation campaign waged against our company has caused us severe damage and undermined trust in American democratic institutions. Their Lies have also threatened the personal safety of our employees and customers. No amount of money will repair the damage done.”

*John Poulos, CEO, Dominion Voting Systems*

Earlier in the week, Dominion filed a \$1.3 Billion dollar lawsuit against the former president's Lawyer, Ms. Sydney Powell. At weeks end, on Friday morning Dominion filed a \$1.6 Billion dollar Lawsuit against FOX News for its false claims in the 2020 election. The suit alleges that FOX News knowingly continued to make false claims about Dominion Voting Systems during it's coverage of the 2020 Election.

Pete Williams, MSNBC news analyst said, “Dominion is seeking \$1.6 Billion in damages and potentially other damages as well. Dominion says that FOX, “Started to lose viewers after FOX called the Election for Arizona before any other network did for Biden. Trump loyalist began to go elsewhere for their Election news. Dominion provided a chart that shows the dramatic drop in viewers and ratings for FOX once it announced the Biden victory in Arizona.” “What FOX did in an effort to “Lure Trump supporters back,” was to embrace the false claim that Dominion had a system that allowed votes to be flipped for Biden.

FOX had said that Dominion had originally used this in order to flip Votes to Fix the Election in Venezuela for Hugo Chavez. Marc Elias, Election Attorney confirmed that FOX knew that the Election Fraud narrative was false, all along, speaking of Dominion, “We told them Dozens of times! Anchors, Producers that this was false, we demanded retractions!” Pete Williams: “If a network continues to broadcast falsehoods, even after its been told about them, that's actionable.”

FOX produced a statement in response to Dominican's Lawsuit: FOX News Media is proud of our 2020 Election coverage which stands in the highest tradition of American journalism and will vigorously defend against this baseless Lawsuit in court.” They will be up against a leading expert in the field of Liable law. Dominion has hired Rodney Smolla from the University of Delaware Law school for its defense. With President Joe Biden, we are beginning to see how much Elections matter. We can move forward once all the racial Hated, Lies, and Division are brought out in the open and revealed for the Fraud that Trump inspired in his cult followers to believe in. Off into the “dustbin of history” with all of the former president's crimes and deceit! What a great reprieve!



## Passings...

By: Sue Reich

Wendy Doty, age 42, passed away March 22, 2021. Wyandotte High School.

Carole (Howard) Diehl, age 85 passed away March 20, 2021. Argentine High School 1954. Wrote for the Kansan.

Earl Tyrers, age 78. Argentine High school Class of 1958.

Edward Lewis, age 78. Argentine High School Class of 1958.

Jessica Walter, age 80, passed away March 24, 2021. Actress in TV and Movies: “Play Misty For Me.”

## Tom's Tasty Treats

By: Tom Valverde

So many people ask me for more recipes that are special and incorporate chocolate as their primary flavor. I've come across an unusual recipe and it's quick and simple to make a different and dense chocolate fudge cake! Delicious and a specialty of French bakeries you are sure to love.

### Fondant Au Chocolate

#### Ingredients:

8 oz. 70% Bittersweet Chocolate, finely chopped  
1 c Butter  
4 lg Eggs  
1 c Sugar  
1/2 t Instant Coffee or Espresso powder  
1/4 t Salt  
1 t Vanilla, Or use 1T Cognac or Brandy  
1/4 c Flour

#### Directions:

Grease an 8” pan with butter, and line with parchment paper.

Melt the chocolate and butter together. Several short times and stirrings in a microwave works fine. Add the instant coffee and stir until dissolved.

Beat the eggs and add the sugar slowly. Add the salt and beat until thick and pale yellow. Mix in either the vanilla or Cognac. Pour the cooled melted Chocolate mixture and mix together well. Using a spatula, fold in the flour. Place the batter into the prepared pan. Tap lightly on counter and leave out for One hour.

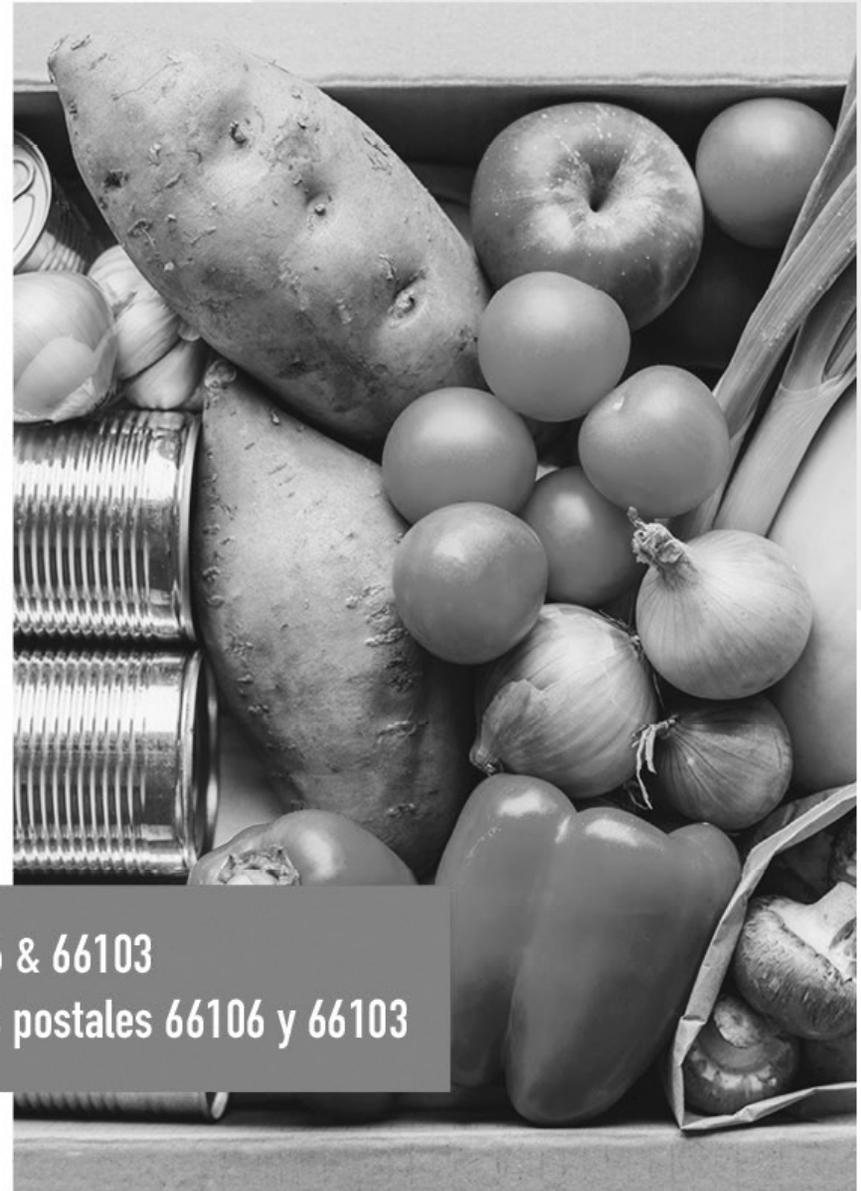
After 40 minutes, set the oven to 350°. Once up to temp, bake for 30-35 minutes, until puffed and set.

Run a sharp knife around the pan edge. Leave cake in the pan for 10 minutes, then invert onto a cake plate.

This dense, chocolate cake is fine with a dusting of powdered sugar. Serve it, “A la mode,” with a scoop of vanilla ice cream or with a dollop of whipped cream. In summer months, add fresh berries of your choice. Rich, chocolate cakes don't get much better. This is a “keeper” recipe, sure to satisfy any chocolate lover. Enjoy!

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**THE HUB ARGENTINE**

3730 Metropolitan Ave | Kansas City, KS 66106

 [www.thehubargentine.org](http://www.thehubargentine.org)

 913-831-4531

 [info@thehubargentine.org](mailto:info@thehubargentine.org)