

Governor Laura Kelly Proclaims Older Americans Month

TOPEKA – Today, Governor Kelly proclaimed the month of May 2021 as Older Americans Month to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Kansas’s older adults.

“The last year has been challenging for all of us, but especially for our older Kansans,” said Governor Laura Kelly. “Despite this adversity, older Kansans remained resilient and committed to their communities. I hope all Kansans will join me by celebrating Older Americans Month and recognizing the important role these individuals play in our state and nation.”

Each year, the federal Administration on Aging, part of the Administration for Community Living, proclaims the month of May as Older Americans Month (OAM) throughout the nation. Governor Kelly was joined by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) and the Kansas Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (k4ad) along with other community members and associations for the proclamation signing.

“It’s so fitting we’re here today with Governor Kelly celebrating Older American Months and that the 2021 theme is ‘communities of strength,’” KDADS Secretary Laura Howard said. “Over the past 15 months we have seen that strength and resilience from the aging network in Kansas as well as older Kansans and their caregivers and community partners. I congratulate all of them for this recognition and thank them for embracing innovative strategies during a pandemic to ensure older citizens in our state received supports for not only their basic needs, but emotional needs as well.”

For 58 years, OAM has been observed to encourage and celebrate older Americans and their countless contributions to our communities. This year’s OAM theme is Communities of Strength, recognizing the important role older adults play in fostering the connection and engagement that build strong, resilient communities. During Older Americans Month, Kansans are encouraged to celebrate older Americans and the key role they play in sharing the wisdom and experience to inform today’s decisions and fostering the connection and engagement that build strong, resilient communities. Additionally, Older Americans Month recognizes the responsibility to ensure that every Kansan and American has the opportunity to age with dignity.

“The Association appreciates Governor Kelly’s awareness of the resilience, strengths, and contributions of older Kansans and acknowledging their role to strengthen and improve our communities,” k4ad Executive Director Leslie Anderson said.



Governor Kelly Announces Kansas Has Administered Over Two Million COVID-19 Vaccines

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly today announced that Kansas has administered over two million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, more than doubling the number of doses administered in about six weeks.

“Kansas is making measurable progress getting shots in arms across the state, but we have more work to do to reach herd immunity and ensure Kansans get back to work, back to school, and back to normal,” Governor Kelly said. “Cases of COVID-19 variants are rising across the state. To maintain our recovery efforts, we must ensure that every Kansan is vaccinated.”

To date, the CDC reports that Kansas has administered 2,059,674 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. About 43% of Kansans have received at least their first dose, with nearly 33% fully vaccinated.

“This is a great milestone for Kansas, but there is still more work to do,” Dr. Lee Norman, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, said. “We encourage all Kansans who have yet to be vaccinated to take that initial step to get vaccinated.”

“My administration is concerned with reports that some counties in Kansas are turning away vaccines due to vaccine hesitancy in some communities,” Governor Kelly said. “I want to be clear. The vaccine is safe, it’s effective, and it’s free. I urge all Kansans to get vaccinated, and to encourage your families, friends, and communities to do the same.”

All Kansans are encouraged to visit Vaccines.gov to find the nearest location with an available vaccine.

Wyandotte County Business To Pay \$3,300 Fine For Selling Counterfeit Vaping Products

TOPEKA – (May 6, 2021) – A Wyandotte County woman has been ordered to pay \$3,300 in penalties for selling counterfeit e-cigarette products, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said today.

Estanya Tenhue, owner of America for Humanity, Inc., doing business as Bargain Hunters, was ordered to pay \$3,300 in civil penalties in a consent judgment approved Thursday in Wyandotte County District Court by Judge Constance M. Alvey. The defendant was also ordered to reimburse the cost of the attorney general’s investigation into her business practices.

The attorney general alleged that the defendants knowingly misled consumers by falsely representing e-cigarette products to be authentic branded merchandise when in fact they were not. The counterfeit products involved in this case included vaping devices and vaping liquids.

The consumer protection judgment is the fourth reached by Schmidt’s office in the past nine months addressing counterfeit e-cigarette products discovered by the attorney general’s Tobacco Enforcement Unit.

In September 2020, Veneeth Kanti, Gayatri Kanti and Morani, Inc., doing business as Logan 66, were ordered to pay \$7,500 in civil penalties and the costs of the attorney general’s investigation in a case filed in Franklin County.

In October 2020, Aaron Dune and Smoke Stax, LLC, were ordered to pay \$5,000 in civil penalties and the costs of the attorney general’s investigation in a case filed in Sedgwick County.

In February 2021, Vinodbhai Patel, operator of Jay Ganes, LLC, and the company were ordered to pay \$30,000 in civil penalties and the costs of the attorney general’s investigation in a case filed in Wyandotte County.

Additional investigations into counterfeit vaping products remain pending. Copies of the consent judgments can be found at www.InYourCornerKansas.org/judgments.

Sue's Sudsy Soapbox By: Sue Reich



Well, I finally had a birthday where I was recognized at my kids' home. My son John, (my private Uber), came and picked Mr. Ed and I up and took us to their home. Dear Matilda had a wonderful taco bar all fixed and ready to go. She baked the best darn cake. They sang to me and I opened the gifts. Had a grrrrreat time with my little family. The last two birthdays were actually awful. One of them, my sister died two days before. Anyway, to make a long story short, this made up for the past couple of years.

Today I went to my dentist in Argentine (Brotherson). I could not believe it; it had been since 2013 since I have gone. Have been so busy with personal problems, deaths, this pandemic, just everything. Been so wrapped up in everything else that I actually forgot about myself. People, please, don't get so involved with the world's problems, this pandemic, the election, all the evil going on around us. Take care of yourself. I just forgot I am still a "person", lost 30 lbs, just sort of forgot that I still have a life.

What about the gorgeous place down on 55th Street and Klamm or at the stoplight on Inland Drive? Man, those people are really doing a fine job on that corner. Lots of color from the flowers, the wrought iron fence, the great signs, just everything. I still say that when I get myself squared away, I have to go down and work on Ol' Digger. Rain, snow, sleet, wind, a dab of sun now and then keeps me from doing anything there so far. I have about 50 saplings growing up in back in my yard and I have been spraying and digging. Those little buggers will be big trees if I don't keep on them. Had that jungle all cleared out a year ago but sort of forgot about that one spot. It had ivy in it, but it didn't

take. So now I need a ton of grass seed or whatever to fill it in again.

Did you hear about Denny the barber on Maple Hill? He had a surgical procedure done and there was a problem. He had to take off from his barbering until he was able to work again. Then the groomer at Bubbles and Bows had to go to the hospital the day I had my furbaby up there getting groomed. I happened to be down on Strong and buzzed up there to get her. He had a problem too but is better. Darlene is leaving this Saturday to fly to Disneyworld in Florida. She has been there about thirty-some times and couldn't go last year because of the virus. Bound and determined to go this year. She and her daughter and her daughter's son are all going. That lady is a Mickey Mouse fanatic.

Well, all my dear friends and family, please take care, get those shots. Got mine!! Someday this will all be over with. Don't know when, probably another several months. Lvya all, really, I do. from your friend, Sue. Here is another little adage in the memory of my three sisters (and yours if you lost them). Gayle, Carolyn and Marilyn, (twins) Larson. All of Argentine. A sister remembers times when you were almost perfect and times when you were anything but. Yet she loves you all the more for both. From: *Heart to heart*.

Short Stuff

By: Sue Reich

Well, now what? The more we talk about trash around our area, the more we get. Folks listen: There are numerous places to put your crummy trash. Not on our streets, or on turnarounds. Come on now, grow up. Deffenbaugh is just up on Holliday Drive. Set in in your driveway, they will pick it up.

Thanks for your compliments about the Great Generation. A lot of people knew that wonderful gentleman that I wrote about.

Rosedale Round-Up

By: Sue Reich

Summer Program for K-8 will start June 14-July 23.

Get in touch with the Rosedale Summer program facilitator. The Saturday clean-up days were a big success. Thanks to

all the staff and volunteers. Wyandotte County recycling and yard waste center is located at 3241 Park Dr. KCK

66102 Thurs, Fri., Sat. and Sun. Classroom Facilitators will serve from June 1 to July 31, 2021.



This is on that turnaround on Metropolitan out of Morris. There ARE other places that are legal to dispose of junk like this. When I came back, there was a whole lot more, shame!



Why isn't there a \$1,000 fine here and no dumping signs? I will make the signs myself if I have to.



Finally, Strong Avenue has gotten a facelift. Strong has seen many changes with all the businesses that has come and gone. With a few floods, this pandemic, parades, a couple of murders, fires, just about everything. Glad to see it is still taken care of.

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

For the past several years, the Turner Community Garden has given away free vegetables. For a time, we gave to local food banks and various charities. A few years back we built a free food bin in the garden where community members or whoever wanted some fresh veggies to stop by and take what they needed. Since the pandemic hit, there was a greater need for not just fresh vegetables but canned goods and last fall, we start-

ed putting canned goods and nonperishables in the bin. Then the cold weather set in, Calvin would go down every evening and put the canned goods in the Community Gardens building and then take them out the next day.

Pastor Steve Neal of the First Baptist Church of Turner approached Calvin and suggested they could pool their resources and open the church on Saturdays to give away food. This was a win for Calvin because he no longer had to go to the garden twice a day in the middle of winter. They, plus many volunteers set up the pantry and then Calvin built racks for clothes to be distributed.

Thus began the Turner Community Garden and First Baptist Church Food Pantry and Clothes Closet. The adjacent building to the garden has been undergoing some changes that affected

the garden and the food bin had to be moved. In addition, Pastor Steve started receiving more perishables than he could give away on Saturdays. He and Calvin talked. They decided our food bin could be of more value to the community if it were used to hold those perishables and accessible to the public twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Today the food bin was moved to east side of The First Baptist Church of Turner.

In this process, the name of our cooperative has been changed to Caring Connection Collaborative (Turner Food Pantry & Clothing Closet). Nonperishables and clothing continue to be given away on Saturdays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

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

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Unified Government Public Health Department Expands Mobile COVID-19 Vaccine Unit Access in Wyandotte County

Adjusted hours at vaccine sites to offer mobile clinics for organizations and businesses
Today the Unified Government Public Health Department (UGPHD) announced that it is expanding its mobile COVID-19 vaccination efforts. Businesses, organizations, and other groups in Wyandotte County can now request on-site vaccine clinics for groups. This mobile vaccine service and the COVID-19 vaccinations are free, and no insurance is required.

“We recognize that coming to our vaccine sites doesn’t work for everyone, so now we are bringing vaccines to our community members,” said Juliann Van Liew, Director of the Unified Government Public Health Department. “I feel very strongly that bringing vaccines to community spaces is the way forward to increase vaccine accessibility and get more of our community members vaccinated. Any organization in WyCo can sign up for this free service – that could be a church offering vaccines for their members, a business getting their employees vaccinated, an apartment complex providing vaccines for their residents, or any other organization in the area that has a group of folks who want to be vaccinated.”

How to sign up

Organizations and groups can sign up by going to WycoVaccines.org, and clicking the Mobile Vaccine Request button to fill out the request form. Those without internet access can call 3-1-1 (or dial 913-573- 5311 if calling from outside of Wyandotte County) for assistance with arranging a mobile vaccine request.

Before you submit your request, you will need to know:

- How many people in your group want to be vaccinated
- The address of where you want to host the mobile vaccine clinic
- Contact information for the primary contact at your organization (this way the UGPHD can reach out about logistics and scheduling)

In addition to offering vaccines to the group that has signed up, the UGPHD is working to open up some of these mobile clinics to the general public when it is feasible to do so. Information on additional vaccine locations or events open to the public will be posted at WycoVaccines.org or on the UGPHD Facebook and Twitter pages (@UGHealthDept).

Mobile Vaccines are not just for groups, but also for individuals who cannot come to the UGPHD vaccine sites. The Mobile Vaccine Request is still accepting requests from individuals who are homebound who need to receive a vaccine in their home. The request works the same way - just fill out the form at WycoVaccines.org or call 3-1-1.

Adjusted hours at regular vaccines sites

Starting May 10, the UGPHD is reducing some of its hours at the existing vaccination sites in order to provide more mobile vaccine opportunities. The UGPHD is reducing vaccine hours the former Best Buy location and at the Armory. Additionally, due to lower demand, the former Best Buy site is closing after May 25. Monday through Friday vaccine hours will continue at the former Kmart location at 78th and State Ave in Kansas City, KS. Wednesday evening hours at the former Kmart have been extended to 7:00 p.m. Anyone age 16 and older can get vaccinated with or without an appointment at these locations. See updated schedule below.

Former Best Buy

10500 Parallel Parkway Kansas City, KS 66109

Mondays and Tuesdays

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Site will be closed after May 25th.

Former Kmart

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Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Hours extended: Wednesday: noon – 7:00 p.m.

The Armory

100 South 20th Street Kansas City, KS 66102

Wednesday – Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Saturdays in May and June are provided in partnership with Donnelly College. Please note: Saturday clinics provide the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine and are for people ages 18 and older.

Help for Those Who Need Transportation

The UGPHD also offers free transportation to a vaccination site for individuals, families, and groups. To submit a request, go to WycoVaccines.org. Residents with no internet connection can call 3-1-1 to make their transportation or homebound vaccination request.

Additionally, bus access has been expanded for Saturday vaccine clinics in May at the Armory. Bus Routes 102, 103, and 118 now provide service to The Armory on Saturdays, every 30 minutes. There is also a special transfer stop between Route 106 and Route 118 at 18th & Quindaro, Kansas City, KS.

Kansans Safely Dispose of More Than 9 Tons of Unused Medicines

TOPEKA – (May 4, 2021) – Kansans safely disposed of more than 9 tons of unused and unwanted medicines during National Drug Take-Back Day on April 24, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said today.

Kansas law enforcement officers collected 18,880 pounds of medicines at 124 locations throughout the state during the event, according to a report from the federal Drug Enforcement Administration. This was the largest amount of medications collected in Kansas since the event began in 2010, eclipsing the previous mark of 17,230 pounds collected in April 2018.

“Safe storage and proper disposal are the keys to preventing the accidental or intentional misuse of prescription medications,” Schmidt said. “Kansans continue to recognize the importance of safely disposing of their unused medicines during these Drug Take-Back events. I appreciate the leadership of the DEA and local law enforcement agencies in providing this service for Kansans.”

Kansans have safely destroyed a total of 221,914 pounds of medications in the 20 collection days that have been held since 2010. Law enforcement agencies turn the drugs they collect over to the DEA, which safely destroys the medications.

Unused prescriptions can be turned in year-round at many local law enforcement locations as well as a limited number of other locations. Kansans should contact their local sheriff’s office or police department for more information.

Kelly Announces Tax Receipts

TOPEKA – Today, Governor Laura Kelly announced Kansas saw a \$91.3 million, or 10.2%, growth over the estimated tax receipt with \$982.4 million in total tax collections during the month of April. That is \$404.3 million, or 69.9%, better than last year. This increase is due, in part, to businesses having opened back up compared to the same month last year.

“Our April tax collection numbers are encouraging, but we must maintain fiscally-responsible policies as we continue to recover from COVID-19 to ensure our continued growth,” said Governor Laura Kelly.

With federal stimulus money, federal tax refunds, and state tax refunds getting into the pockets of Kansans, retail sales and compensating use tax collections were more than the estimate. Retail sales tax collections were \$236.5 million; a 9.5%, or \$20.5 million, growth from the estimate. Compensating use tax collections were \$59.2 million; up \$13.3 million, or 29.0%, for the month.

In addition to changing consumer purchasing patterns, another contributing factor to the increase in compensating use tax collections is the fact that more out-of-state businesses are registering with the state to collect and remit taxes that are due and owing.

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Guest Editorials

Quotes To Ponder

By: Tom Valverde

May 24, 2002: On this day, legendary film actress Elizabeth Taylor, is seen walking the red carpet into an annual charitable fundraising event, amFAR Gala Cannes (amFAR stands for the American Foundation for AIDS Research), held every year since 1993 during the Cannes Film Festival, Cannes, France. Elizabeth Taylor co-founder of amFAR, used her celebrity to help people with HIV and AIDS. She was the first Hollywood Activist and raised over \$100 million dollars in her life for research and for services for those living with AIDS.

Taylor is approached by a reporter, who says that, "The average person's help wasn't wanted in the fight against AIDS, most people can't afford to pay to attend the Gala." Elizabeth Taylor is visibly upset after hearing this comment, she turned and said, "I'm not talking about people who come here! Does it take a super-rich person to get behind a Volkswagen and deliver meals that are already prepared and delivered to somebody sick in bed? Does that take a millionaire? Would you do it?! Well then, G** d****t, go out and do it! Okay." Ms. Taylor then calmly turns to enter the pavilion! Elizabeth Taylor was and continues to be an inspiration!

When work associates at Hallmark Cards and many close friends and acquaintances were dying each week, it was beyond devastating and sad. And when a very close friend, Greg, died I went to my room and screamed out, "Why am I here, God?" Then, I glanced over to a bookcase, and saw a small photo in a silver frame. It held a photo of one of my favorite people, my Elizabeth Taylor. It was at that precise moment, that I knew what I had to do! I would become an AIDS advocate and do what I could to help prevent the further spread of this dreaded disease.

In Kansas City, I co-founded the Hispanic AIDS Coalition of Greater Kansas City, and served as its president for over ten years. I was the first Hispanic man to serve as a director on the Good Samaritan Project and was development director. We partnered with Hallmark Cards, Inc. The Good Samaritan Project provides case management and direct services for people living with AIDS. I was honored to serve on the only National Latino Gay and Lesbian agency in Washington, DC and served eight years and also was development director. I was asked to serve on the board of the Midwest Hispanic AIDS Coalition, in Chicago, IL. I served two, four-year terms, as development director.

In Overland Park, KS, the Health Department was seeing a large number of married men testing positive for HIV. In 2005, I was a co-founder of a new organization with the primary focus was on prevention of HIV to men who engage in sex with other men, (MSM) Healthy Living Projects. It now offers testing for STDs and HIV and has MSM support groups. Often in life, we consider it to be, someone else's job to help find solutions to big problems. Elizabeth Taylor said it best, when she said, "Does it take a millionaire?" "Would you do it?" "Well, then, God damnit, go out and do it!" Anyone can help and be of service. All that's needed is a caring heart, the will and the passion to get a job done, and to put forward your best efforts. Simply try to help, and you will!

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Tom's Tasty Treats

By: Tom Valverde

This week's tasty treat uses one of my most favorite spices. I hadn't heard of it prior to seeing an episode of "Cooking with Julia Child." Her guest was a talented baker, Beatrice Ojakangas! A delightful lady who is greatly responsible for keeping traditional recipes from Finland and other Scandinavian countries and promoting them in her dozens of cookbooks. The spice is Cardamom, it has a flavor that is unique and really adds great flavor to many sorts of baked goods. Cardamom comes already ground, buy a fresh bottle. Its flavor is best when it is still in small pods, and then removed and ground in a mortar and pestle, into a powder. These cookies are great, and I hope you will try:

Lemon Cardamom Cookies

Instructions:

- 1/2 c Butter
- 1/4 c Crisco
- 1 c Sugar
- 1/2 c Powdered Sugar
- 1 Egg White
- 1 t Vanilla
- 2 t ground Cardamom
- 1/2 t Salt
- 2 1/2 c Flour
- Finely grated zest of 1 Lemon

Directions:

Cream the butter and Crisco until blended in a mixer, 2 minutes, mixer set at medium speed. Add the sugar and the powdered sugar, and beat until light and fluffy, 3-4 minutes. Beat in the egg white, vanilla, cardamom, and salt; beat until blended and scrape down the bowl as necessary. Set mixer speed to low and beat in the flour until no streaks of white remain visible.

Place a long sheet of plastic wrap on the counter then place the dough on it. Form a log that's 3" across. Wrap and chill for 45 to 60 minutes, until firm.

Slice dough into 1/2" thick cookies using a sharp knife, dip in flour if needed. Place on parchment lined cookie sheet, space 1 1/2" apart. Chill again for 30 minutes.

Bake one sheet at a time, for 8-10 minutes. The edges will be lightly browned, and the centers set. Leave the cookies on the cookie sheet for 5 minutes. Then transfer to a wire rack to cool. Store in an air-tight container. Dust the cookies with additional powdered sugar, just before serving, if you like. I prefer them plain.

These cookies are made for a cup of tea! Remember to share some of these wonderful treats with a live alone family member, neighbor or friend. They will greatly appreciate your thinking of them. If you enjoy cookbooks, I hope you will buy a new baking cookbook by this talented cookbook author, Beatrice Ojakangas. You'll be so inspired to try her many special Finnish and Scandinavian recipes. I especially love all her Christmas specialties! Enjoy!

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Department on Aging
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Driver's License Bureau
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Fraud Hotline
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KPERS
(888) 275-5737



Passings...

By: Sue Reich

Betty Mixer, age 98, passed away May 3, 2021. Turner High President of Senior Class and cheerleader. Thomas Mixer Jr., also of Turner High. Married 65 years. Turner Baptist Church.

Robert Terrill, age 85, passed away April 5, 2021. Argentine High graduate class of 1954.

Vernon Nail, age 90, passed away April 21, 2021. Apprentice at Argentine Shop for Santa Fe Railroad. National Guard.

Michael Collins, age 90. American Astronaut Apollo 11.

Clayton Schenkelberg, age 103, passed away April 14, 2021. Oldest Pearl Harbor survivor.

Johnny Crawford, age 75, passed away April 29, 2021. Played the son in TV "Rifleman".

Olympia Dukakis, age 89, passed away April 29, 2021. Actress in movies "Moonstruck".

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