

## UG Public Health Department Launches Phase Two of COVID-19 Vaccine Incentives Incentives Include \$500 Raffles, Instant "Spin to Win" Prizes

On July 14, the Unified Government Public Health Department (UGPHD) will launch the second phase of its incentive program aimed to encourage Wyandotte County residents to get their free COVID-19 vaccination. Anyone 12 and older who gets vaccinated at the UGPHD vaccination facility (7836 State Ave) will be eligible to "Spin to Win" one of several instant prizes or enter a raffle to win one of two \$500 Visa gift cards given away each day the vaccine site is open (Wednesday through Friday).

"Especially now that we have more than 40 confirmed cases of COVID-19 caused by the Delta variant, it's more important than ever that Wyandotte County residents get vaccinated against the virus," said Nicole Garner, UGPHD Planning and Operations Manager. "The vast majority of those Delta variant COVID cases occurred in unvaccinated people. We want to find new and innovative ways to encourage Wyandotte County residents to come in now and get vaccinated and help protect our community."

"The Delta variant of COVID-19 spreads more easily than other variants,"

explained Dr. Allen Greiner, Chief Health Officer of the Unified Government Public Health Department. "Wyandotte County continues to lag behind other counties in the region and throughout Kansas - in fact, the majority of Wyandotte County residents have not received a COVID-19 vaccine. This puts our community at especially high risk of increased outbreaks of the Delta variant of the virus, because it spreads so easily."

### The Latest Vaccine Incentives

Now people ages 12 and older who get vaccinated at the UGPHD vaccination facility can "Spin to Win" one of a variety of instant prizes or they can be entered into a raffle to win one of two \$500 Visa gift cards given away each day. The "Spin to Win" and raffle prizes are available for Wyandotte County residents only. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to participate.

Instant "Spin to Win" prizes include:

- \$50 Visa gift card
- \$25 Visa gift card
- \$15 gift card to a local restaurant
- Custom t-shirt

After patients have been

vaccinated, they can spin a prize wheel at the vaccination facility to see which instant prize they have won. Or if they prefer, they can be entered into a raffle for one of two \$500 Visa gift cards.

### Incentives for COVID-19 Testing Also Available

People who live in Wyandotte County who come in to a UGPHD site for a COVID-19 test will receive a \$25 Visa gift card (one gift card per person, while supplies last). People coming in to get vaccinated may get tested at the same time and receive the incentives available for both the vaccine and testing. The UGPHD offers COVID-19 saliva tests ("spit tests" with no swab).

Anyone age 12 and older who lives in Wyandotte County is eligible to get vaccinated and receive a gift. People of all ages who live in Wyandotte County are eligible to get tested and receive a gift. Minors should be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

### Additional Give-Aways This Summer

The UGPHD's #IHelded-ConquerCOVID incentive program will offer different

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## Plans For Downtown Campus Told

By Murrel Bland

There is a social and economic dividing line in Wyandotte County with 72nd Street being the line of demarcation.

That was the message that Dr. Greg Mosier brought to a meeting of the Congressional Forum Friday, July 16 at Children's Mercy Park. About 60 persons attended. The Forum is a committee of the Kansas City, Kansas, Area Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Mosier said the household income west of 72nd Street is about \$64,000 a year; east of 72nd, the average annual income is about \$36,000. His solution is education that speaks to the needs of employers in Wyandotte County. Presently, there are more than 5,000 job openings in Wyandotte County. Many of these jobs pay more than \$50,000 a year.

The College, in cooperation with other social service agencies and others, is planning for a Downtown Community Education Center. The total cost would be more than \$70 million. The College would invest \$10 million in the project without increasing the mill levy.

Course offerings at the downtown campus would include English as a second language, general education diploma, automation engineering, biological sciences, administrative office professionals, general chemistry, commercial construction technology and welding.

Other agency partners will include the YMCA, the Wyandotte Behavioral Health Network, Swope Health, Kansas City, Kansas, Public Schools and Community America Credit Union. Through this cooperative effort, the cycle of poverty can be broken, Dr. Mosier said.

Private sector giving will play a key role in the downtown campus. Dr. Mosier announced a \$10 million investment from the Sunderland Foundation. He said the goal of the fund-raising effort will be to have half of the \$70 million raised by the end of 2021. Other sources of funds would include federal and state governments.

Dr. Mosier came to the Community College in 2018 from Rochester (Minn.) Community and Technical College. Previously he was a vice president at Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology, Omulgee, and a dean at Moberly (Mo.) Area Community College.

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

## Traffic Tweeters: 1 in 5 Kansans Use Social Media While Behind The Wheel, Poll Reveals

- Almost 1 in 5 have taken a selfie while driving.
- 18% of drivers are unaware it's illegal to use a cellphone while driving.
- Infographic showing driving while using social media stats across the country.

We're used to a certain level of distraction while we're driving: listening to a podcast about serial killers or catching up with the sports news on local radio. But these kinds of things require us to be passive, and don't require our hands to leave the wheel. However, due to everyone's increased obsession with social media, it's become more common to find drivers turning to their phones while on the road - and not just at the traffic lights...

Gunther VW Fort Lauderdale commissioned a survey of 3,100 drivers and quite shockingly, found that almost 1 in 5 (19%) drivers in Kansas admit to using social media while behind the wheel (compared to a national average of 26%). More specifically, almost 1 in 5 (16%) of us have taken a selfie while driving.

Drivers in South Dakota and Rhode Island seem to be the most distracted drivers across the country with half (50%) admitting they have used social media while driving. Comparatively, only 11% of those in Arkansas say they've done so.

And what platforms are we most likely to use while driving? Over half (58%) said Facebook, which often involves reading bor-

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## Sue's Sudsy Soapbox By: Sue Reich



Okay, so here we go again. I am sick and tired of people who don't know how to put their trash in the proper receptacles. What is wrong with people anyway? Good grief there are all kinds of places to put it. Set it on your own curb on trash day. It will get picked up. This is getting so ridiculous, and it really makes me mad. We live in a beautiful area with lovely trees and animals and then come upon upper Holliday Drive and there it is, every week. Go live somewhere else if you want to be trashy. We don't need stuff like this piling up and demeaning our beautiful scenery. Dang, people, grow up! There, I said it. GROW UP! I hope we get a big sign that says, NO DUMPING, \$1,000 fine and put up some cameras. There are cameras everywhere else, why not there? Trash, trash, trash, everywhere.

Well, it has been a year since little Olivia Jansen was murdered. Hope they put those two idgets where they belong and keep them there forever. Every once in a while I go through the memorial and take pictures. That darling little child did not deserve that. How could a daddy and his so-called girlfriend do that to an innocent baby? Don't forget to put out yellow ribbons in your yard in remembrance of Olivia.

Got my painting done, started on my kitchen cabinets. That is going to take me awhile. Used some varnish remover and scraped and sanded and then I will do a couple doors. Gonna do the worse ones first. Took me awhile to fix the door on the other one down below the oven. Couldn't find the right hinge. But finally figured something out. Never got any help from anyone that should or could have helped me when it broke. So here I

am 20 years later still trying to do it myself.

Miss my gentle giant BoBo. Dang, I shouldn't get so attached to my furbabies. But they love me, and I love them and then when they are gone, I have a hard time getting over them. Down to two now. Little Moosie really is attached to me. I can't go anywhere or do anything without him right there with me.

You know, I don't answer my landline anymore. Get soooo many of those scam calls. One day we had 15. The next day about the same. So, I just unhooked every single phone in the house and had a peaceful weekend. Finally hooked them up on Tuesday. I think. Talk about scammers, this country is getting full of them. They even get my cell phone sometimes. I have one phone that lets us know who is calling, that way I don't have to answer it. Don't you think there should be a law against those crackpots that do that? It starts in about 8 a.m. and then every 10 minutes or so, it is a constant disturbance. Why are some people so crass? They are so insensitive anymore. A lot worse than I remember just a few years ago. We used to pull silly stuff on the phone when we were kids. I would go up to Carol and Frieda Adcox and we would ask for Harry Carry or is your refrigerator running? You better catch it. Do you have Prince Albert in a box? Better let him out so he can breathe. But these idgets now want that great ol' \$\$\$\$\$. We also had lines that were shared called, "party lines". My funny mom used to get on our and listen in to a man and woman that were having an affair. Then, a man came to our door and asked mom about it, of course she confessed. He was the husband of the gal that was having the affair. It was fun in those days, the innocent things we used to do. Oh, I am sure we irritated people like we get irritated now. lol.

Well, people, take care, wear your masks if needed. Always sanitize and get vaccinated. It is important. Luvya all dear friends, mind your p's and q's. Here is another prose/poem about sisters. For my three, Gayle, Carolyn and Marilyn Larson. All of Argentine High

school. Love you and miss you. "Hand in Hand When you've made a mistake and want to get it off your chest, tell your sister. She won't be

surprised; she's seen you through all sorts of jams. She probably won't be worried either. She's also seen you solve all kinds of problems.

To top it off, she probably did something similar that she'll share with you. With your sister's reassurance that problem dwindles."



Olivia Jansen's memorial has really grown. It was a year ago already that her dad and his girlfriend allegedly murdered her and buried her near Steel Road. This is only part of her memorial on Steele Road.



Her mommy had this put up in memory of her baby that was murdered.



They just won't stop, will they? Where is that \$1,000 fine sign that says no dumping?

# Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

Every year for the past several years I have participated in the Kansas City Kansas Public Library's summer reading program. This year I didn't register but did write down the books I read and discovered I really don't have one specific genre. Just like me - jack of all trades - master of none.

I noticed I started heading toward the historical fiction area but had almost limited myself to World War II. Two of note are "White Chrysanthemum" by Mary Lynn Brocht and "The Girl with the Blue Star" by Pam Jenoff. Both feature strong



women in crisis, one kidnapped to work in the slave trade by the Japanese in Korea and the other living in the sewers of Krakow, Poland. Both books were recommended to me by a lady that reviews books for Simon & Schuster.

John Grisham's latest book is "Sooley" about a Sudanese basketball player, his acclimation to American life and the suffering of his people in Sudan. It was a departure for him, but I think (because of the basketball moves) it may appeal more to men than women. It saddens me to see

how horrible the conditions are in Sudan and Uganda.

Dean Koontz's "The Other Emily" was typical Koontz. Very strange, all twisty, and somewhat predictable because the outcome was so sci-fi and out there. Why do I take myself on these journeys?

A little romance never hurt anyone, and I found it in "Legacy" by Nora Roberts. This is another story about strong women (sisters), their history, the roads they chose to follow and how

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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Publishers of The Record

Jon A. Males  
Owner/Publisher/Editor

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The Record (USPS No. 002269) is published weekly every Thursday by The Record Publications at PO Box 6197, Kansas City, Kansas 66106. Newsstand price, single copy, 35 cents; subscription price per year, \$16.13. For editorial, display, and classified advertising information call 362-1988. Periodical postage paid at Kansas City, Kansas 66110. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Record, 3414 Strong Ave., P.O. Box 6197, Kansas City, Kansas 66110.

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## Comin' & Goin' Turner Style...

...from page 3

they life was impacted. A sweet little book recommended to me was "Meet Me at the Museum"

By Anne Youngson was composed of letters from two people (a retired Danish Professor and an English woman who feels trapped in a life not of her choosing) who share a common interest. Both believe their love stories are over.

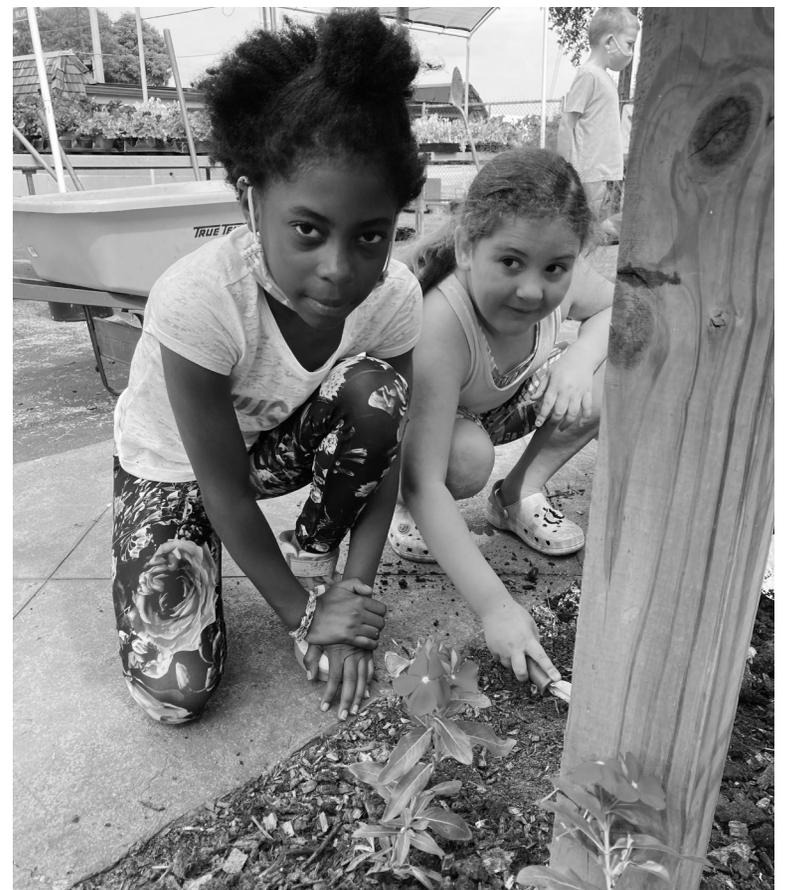
During the recent downpours, I read "The Secret History" by Donna Tartt, who won the Pulitzer for "The Goldfinch".

This was an earlier book and like "The Goldfinch" was over 400 pages long. The story involved four teenagers in the mid 80's

attending a college back East and narrated by one of the students. It took some wading through, but I did enjoy it.

If you get an opportunity stop by the garden. the Turner Rec Summer Camp kids came back to finish the planting that they started last week and did a super job. The building and its surrounding are getting a make-over. Tour the garden, new picnic tables have been added, and the all the flowers and vegetables are flourishing. Tomatoes are beginning to ripen.

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



## IRS Online Tool Helps Families Determine If They Qualify For The Child Tax Credit

The IRS urges families to use a special online tool, available only on IRS.gov, to help them determine whether they qualify for the child tax credit and the special monthly advance payments beginning July 15.

The Child Tax Credit Eligibility Assistant is interactive and easy to use. By answering a series of questions about themselves and their family members, a parent or other family member can quickly determine whether they qualify for the credit. This tool is available in Spanish.

This tool may be particularly useful to families who don't normally file a federal tax return and have not yet filed

a 2019 or 2020 tax return. Often, these are people who receive little or no income, including those experiencing homelessness, low-income households and other underserved groups. This tool can help them decide whether they should take the next step and register for the advance child tax credit payments.

The Child Tax Credit Eligibility Assistant does not request any personally identifiable information for any family member. For this reason, its results are not an official IRS determination. The results are reliable, though people should consider the results preliminary, even if all their answers

are accurate. The IRS does not keep the answers the user supplies, or the tool's results.

To help people understand and receive this benefit, the IRS has created a special Advance Child Tax Credit 2021 page on IRS.gov. This page provides the most up-to-date information about the credit and the advance payments. Among other things, the page already features a link to both the Non-filer Sign-up Tool, and the Child Tax Credit Eligibility Assistant, along with the Child Tax Credit Update Portal.

If eligible, the Non-filer Sign-up Tool is available for those who don't normally file tax returns.

The online Non-filer Sign-up Tool helps eligible families who don't normally file tax returns register for the monthly advance child tax credit payments. It offers a free and easy way for eligible people who don't normally have to file taxes to provide the IRS the basic information needed – name, address, and Social Security numbers – to figure and issue advance child tax credit payments.

This tool is also helping eligible individuals who don't normally file tax returns register for the \$1,400 third round of Economic Impact Payments, also known as stimulus checks, and claim the recovery rebate credit for any amount of the first two rounds of Economic Impact Payments they may have missed.

### **No action needed by most other families.**

Eligible families who already filed or plan to file 2019 or 2020 income tax returns or used the Non-filer tool during 2020 to sign up for the Economic Impact Payments, should not use the Non-filer Sign-up Tool. Once the IRS processes their 2019 or 2020 tax return, the information will be used to determine eligibility and issue advance payments. These families do not need to do anything else to get their payments.

### **Here's who should not use this tool.**

Families who want to claim other tax benefits, such as the earned income tax credit should not use the Non-Filer Sign-up tool. They should file a regular tax return. For them, the fastest and easiest way to file a return is the Free File System, available only on IRS.gov.

drivers don't know it's actually illegal to use a cellphone while driving. When asked whether people who do this should face the same penalties as drunk drivers, almost half (48%) agreed - but worryingly, 21% of drivers said they didn't think using social media while driving affected their driving capabilities. And if a friend posted a selfie while driving, 1 in 10 (12%) people admit they would probably like the post.

'It's deeply concerning if over 1 in 4 of the driving population aren't aware of these rules of the road,' says Joseph Gunther IV from spokesperson from Gunther VW Fort Lauderdale, 'as it can have serious consequences. Being distracted by social media means you're more likely to have an accident; best to keep the updates to when you're parked up.'

- COVID-19 vaccination hours: Wednesday - Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

- COVID-19 testing hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Please note: the Armory vaccination site is now closed.

In addition to the Kmart site, the UGPHD's mobile vaccine team will provide vaccinations at several upcoming community locations and events. Find out more about upcoming events on the UGPHD Facebook page: facebook.com/UGHealthDept

Mobile vaccines can still be requested online at WycoVaccines.org or by calling 3-1-1 (913-573-5311).

## Traffic Tweeters...

from page 1

ing status updates or scrolling through quick new snippets. 12% said Snapchat, where you watch short videos - possibly involving cats and 10% said Twitter, which involves reading a range of tweets, some which can make you laugh, some of which can make you angry. 8% said Instagram, involving scrolling through pretty images and perhaps catching up on celebrity updates. Another 8% watch longer videos on YouTube and just 4% exchange messages on WhatsApp while driving.

This all adds up to a driver's attention being severely distracted from what's going on them, and on the road ahead. And far more seriously, it turns out 1 in 5 (18%)

## UG Phase 2...

from page 1

gifts and prizes in the coming months for people who live in Wyandotte County who choose to get vaccinated or tested.

Stay tuned for updates on available give-aways on the UGPHD's Facebook and Twitter (@UGHealthDept) or at WycoVaccines.org.

UGPHD Vaccine Clinic Hours

The UGPHD still provides vaccines and testing each week at its location at the former Kmart building, 7836 State Ave, Kansas City, KS 66112.

## Tasty Treats

By: Tom Valverde

In April of 2020, a secret recipe was finally made public! These cookies greet all guests at the Hilton owned, Double Tree hotels. Warm and crunchy on the outside and chewy and fully loaded on the inside! This recipe is a keeper. Hope you will treat yourself, your family and your friends to:

## Loaded Chocolate Chip Cookies

### **Ingredients:**

1 c Butter  
3/4 c + 1 T Sugar  
3/4 c Brown Sugar  
1/2 t Salt  
2 Lg. Eggs  
1 1/2 t Vanilla  
1/4 t Lemon juice  
2 1/4 c Flour  
1 t Baking Soda  
A "Pinch" of Cinnamon  
1 3/4 c Walnuts, coarsely chopped  
1/2 c Rolled Oats  
2 2/3 c Semi-sweet Chocolate chips

Note: For a smaller batch, cut ingredients quantities in half. Make sure all ingredients are at room temperature, leave out for an hour.

### **Directions:**

Set oven to 300°. Line cookie sheets with parchment paper.

Some people dislike the bitter flavor that walnuts sometime have. To correct this, just boil the halves for five minutes, then place on a cookie sheet and toast in a 300° oven for six or seven minutes. Once they have cooled, chop them coarsely.

Place the butter in the bowl of a mixer and beat for 15 seconds on medium speed. Add the sugar, brown sugar, and salt then, beat on low speed until blended.

Once blended, increase the speed to medium and beat for just 50 seconds. Try not to over beat the butter and sugar or it will be over aerated, and the cookies will spread too much.

Scrape down the bowl and add the eggs, Vanilla and the lemon juice. The lemon juice is one of the secret ingredients and works with the baking soda to give the cookies the right texture and chewiness.

Beat on medium speed for 1 minute, scrape the bowl again afterwards. Sift the flour, baking soda and the pinch of cinnamon directly over the butter mixture. The cinnamon is the other addition that helps to give the cookies their great flavor. Only a pinch, no more. Fold in gently and continue until all the flour is absorbed.

Next, add the walnuts, oats and chocolate chips. There are nearly as much additions as there is batter. Fold them all in and try to distribute them evenly. The small amount of oats is the final of the secret ingredients and lends the cookies their chewiness.

Use a large scoop to place the dough onto the cookie sheets, spacing 2" apart. Flatten each with a tap of your fingers, just slightly.

Bake at 300° for 20 minutes until lightly golden. Smaller balls of dough will bake in less time. Leave the cookies on the cookie sheet for 20 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to finish cooling.

This great recipe is now in the public domain, good thing, because these will be your only go-to recipe for the best, loaded chocolate chip cookies. Wonderful with a cold glass of milk and great to pack into lunch bags, in a plastic bag to keep fresh. Enjoy!



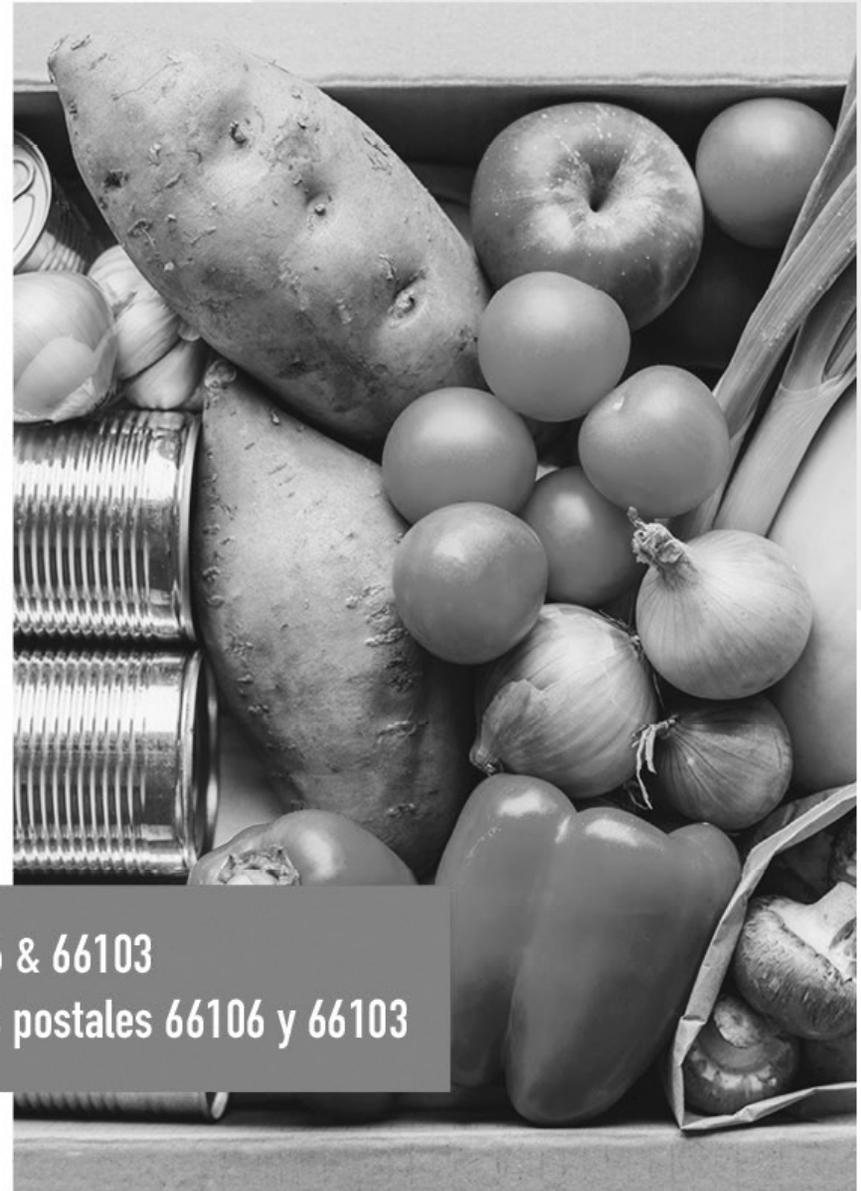
## Passings...

By Sue Reich

Timothy John Margrave, age 72, passed away on July 9, 2021. He was a member of the USMC, USNG and KCKFD.

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