

Governor Laura Kelly's Statement Addressing the Updated CDC Guidance

TOPEKA – The following can be attributed to Governor Laura Kelly regarding the CDC's updated mask guidance:

"While we are still reviewing the new guidance and what it means for Kansas, this administration has consistently followed the recommendations from the experts at the CDC – and we don't intend to stop. Right now Kansas is at a crossroads. The new Delta variant has caused COVID-19 to surge in our communities and some of our hospitals are moving towards capacity. The bad news is that parts of our state fall into the "hot spot" category for new cases, the good news is we have a vaccine to protect us from the virus that is safe, effective against severe illness, hospitalization and death, and free. I strongly urge every Kansan who isn't vaccinated to get one right away. That is the best way to stop the spread of COVID in our state. For those who are vaccinated, I ask that you speak with your friends, neighbors, and loved ones who are unvaccinated and encourage them to get vaccinated to protect themselves and our state."

KCC Approves AG's Request to Join Winter Weather Gas Cost Dockets

TOPEKA – This morning the Kansas Corporation Commission approved Attorney General Derek Schmidt's request to participate in three dockets investigating unusually high natural gas prices during the February winter weather event and how gas utilities plan to recoup the charges. The three dockets involve costs incurred by Kansas Gas Service, Atmos Energy and Black Hills Energy and their respective customer payment plan proposals.

"While our jurisdictional responsibilities are distinct, the KCC and Attorney General have a good track record of working together on behalf of Kansas customers. I welcome the AG's participation in these proceedings to support its ongoing investigations," said Commission Chair Andrew French.

On February 15, the Commission instructed all jurisdictional utilities to do everything necessary to ensure continued service to Kansas customers. The costs were deferred and each utility was required to file a proposal for recouping those charges, which must be approved by the Commission.

Around the same time, the Attorney General's office announced an investigation to determine whether the unprecedented gas prices violated state consumer protection laws. That investigation continues.

On July 19, the Attorney General's office filed a petition to intervene in the KCC cases citing the authority to enforce the Kansas Consumer Protection Act and protect consumers from suppliers who commit deceptive practices.

As an intervenor in the KCC cases, the Attorney General will have access to all documents filed, have the ability to file testimony, question witnesses and participate in any scheduled proceedings.

Excessive Heat Expected to Burden Batteries, Test Tires AAA offers tips for avoiding car troubles.

WICHITA, Kan. AAA Kansas is expecting an increase in roadside assistance calls with the soaring temperatures and summer activities in full swing. Car batteries will be tested by the extreme heat, and there will likely be an increase in tire troubles as well.

"Inevitably, these high temperatures will bring a wave of calls from motorists whose batteries fail," said Shawn Steward, AAA Kansas spokesman. "And, in this heat, drivers and their passengers' safety is at risk as well, so it is critical that everyone prepare accordingly."

"Having your vehicle serviced by professionals who are trained to identify potential problems can help prevent heat-related breakdowns and often saves money on repairs," AAA Kansas' Steward added. "The best way to keep a car in top shape is to have a trusted repair shop where you can go when it's time for service."

A professional and thorough vehicle inspection can proactively help reduce the chance of a serious breakdown. If a car does end up at a repair shop, not only will a vacation road trip or everyday transportation be interrupted, but drivers can expect to spend anywhere from several hundred to several thousand dollars to get back on the road.

Take the guesswork out of finding a trusted repair facility by trusting a local AAA Approved Auto Repair (AAR) facility. These shops must adhere to a stringent set of standards for certifications, technical training, cleanliness, insurance requirements, and customer service set forth by AAA.

Tips to avoid heat-related car troubles:

1. Get your battery tested and, if necessary, replace it **BEFORE** it dies

Most batteries last 3-5 years and each day of extreme weather pushes a battery closer to its end. AAA members can request a AAA Roadside Service technician to come to them and test their battery free of charge. Should the battery need replacement, the technician can usually replace it on location.

2. Make sure tires are properly inflated

Driving on under-inflated tires can cause tires to overheat and increase the likelihood of a blowout. This problem becomes even more of a concern when road temperatures are extremely high.

For accurate results, tires should be checked at the beginning of travels before driving any great distance. They should be inflated to the pressure recommended by the vehicle manufacturer – not the number molded into the tire sidewall.

Recommended tire pressures can be found in the owner's manual or on a sticker normally located on the driver's door jamb or the inside of the glove compartment door. Some vehicles use different pressures for the front and rear tires. While checking the tire pressures - including the spare - drivers also should inspect the tire treads for adequate depth and any signs of uneven wear that might indicate a suspension or alignment problem.

3. Check all fluids.

When fluid levels are low, the possibility of overheating increases. Drivers should check all vehicle fluids including motor oil, transmission fluid, power steering fluid and brake fluid to ensure they are filled to the appropriate levels. If any fluids need to be topped off, be sure to use the type of fluid specified in the owner's manual.

4. Have a roadside rescue plan to summon qualified help should it be needed. Check to make sure your AAA membership is active and suitable for the distance you plan to travel.

5. Stock a summer emergency kit.

Even with proper preventive maintenance, summer breakdowns can still occur, so AAA recommends every driver have a fully charged cellphone on hand so they can call for help when needed and also keep a well-stocked emergency kit in their vehicle to ensure everyone's safety while they're waiting for help to arrive.

The emergency kit should include water, non-perishable food items, jumper cables, a flashlight with extra batteries, road flares or an emergency beacon, basic hand tools, and a first aid kit.

Sue's Sudsy Soapbox By: Sue Reich



Going to see if they want that. Didn't realize that downsizing was so hard. We merged a lot of our stuff 22 years ago, but kept too much I guess for sentimental reasons. But at least I got (with Deb's help), at least 95% of it done.

The Humane Society on 54th and Parallel really needs help. They need bags of cat food, washable bedding like old towels, sheets, pillow cases, \$\$\$\$\$\$, bags of dog food. Seems they have an access of animals that needs food, bedding and homes. If you have a group that likes to do good deeds, there is a project there for you. Especially food. K?

Plus if you want an event put in the Record, send it to the Record two or three weeks ahead of the time of the event. Or to imadotte76@gmail.com.

Guess I will sign this off and remember, I lvy a all, really. Mind your p's and q's, wear your masks, please if not for you, but for others. Get your vaccination, Mr. Ed and I did and we are still here.

Here's a bit of prose or poetry in memory of Gayle, Carolyn and Marilyn Larson all of Argentine.

Forever Friends

You can take your sister's friendship for granted. It's okay because she takes yours for granted too. Both of you cherish your relationship all the more because it doesn't need tending.

Well, it happened again. Three weeks after I lost my gentle giant, BoBo, had to take Lady, my mixed collie in and had her put down. Just can't get over losing my furbabies. Am down to my sweet little Rat Terrier. At first, he and Lady looked for BoBo. Now my little guy is looking for both of them. Mr. Ed and I went to get our new glasses and I left the tv and lights on just for him. He sticks to me like glue and sleeps with me too. I just get too attached to them but at least we give them a good home with love and shelter.

What about this weather? How it constantly changes. Those storms tore lots of trees and property up and now the heat will burn everything up that's left. I know the guys at the community place on 55th street in Turner left early because of the heat. I am still donating things to them that we aren't using any more. Furniture to dispose of too.



These three little beauties all live in Nevada now. They are sisters by the name of Donica, Elizabeth and Kate. Elizabeth was in the Army and when Robin Williams went to visit the troops she got a great big hug from him. Their grandma was Gayle Larson who went to Franklin Grade School and Argentine High School.



These are my Hollyhocks. I call them "Freddie's Flowers". I had to wait a whole year before they grew and bloomed.



Take a good look at DIGGER. He is going to undergo a big change this year.



Half of old Junction grade school is down.

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

I was watching the weather report on television the other day when the weatherperson noted that we had not had a 100 degree day since 2018. It got me to thinking about the time when I was a kid that August was the month that it hit 100 degrees quite a few times. I remember that the city newspaper, "The Kansas City Kansan" used to run a contest every year that citizens could send in a guess which day the temperature would reach 100 and give a \$100 prize. The bank on Minnesota Avenue had a sign that would register the heat. We didn't have air conditioning at home, just oscillating fans. My

sister and I would sit on the front porch of our house, listen for the jingle of the ice cream truck, and beg mom for some money to buy a cold treat – a fudgsicle, bomb pop or a dream bar- my favorite.

We usually spent a week or so at my grandmother's house each summer. She had a big water cooler that fit in one of the windows. An outside hose fed into it, drained outside and we thought we were really uptown. My grand folks lived about three blocks from a park with a kiddie and adult swimming pool which we went to every chance we could. My sister taught herself to swim in that small pool and was dog paddling when she was only four years old. A feat at the time. At night Grandma would open the windows in the bedrooms and turn on the attic fan. Sometimes it got so cool we had to cover up.

I was already married by the time my folks had central air conditioning installed and when we bought our first house, we used to sleep our front room with the windows open because of the cross ventilation. When my babies came along it was time to make a change and we had central air put in. I haven't looked back. I

am spoiled, I always worked in an air conditioned office, rode in an air conditioned car, lived in an air conditioned house and since we've been more or less confined indoors, I can't take the heat. Now we have the heat index, a combination of temperature and humidity which gives us what the temperature feels like. I wonder when I was a kid on those 100 degree days what the feel like temperature really was when I was sweltering. Those were the good old days?

I just finished the new psychological thriller by Alex Michaelides, "The Maidens". Its one of those books you can't put down once you start and keeps you guessing all the way through. Michaelides wrote "The Silent Patient" in 2019 that was on the New York Times best seller list for over a year. I read it then and reread it again after I finished this new novel. Both books are somewhat connected. I won't tell you how but if you decide to read one, then read the other. It makes no difference which you read first. Both are enjoyable.

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

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Business West Bulletin

By Murrel Bland

Cerner to sell office buildings

The Cerner corporation has announced to its employees it will sell the two buildings in Village West. In June, Cerner announced that most of its employees would not be required to come to offices after about a year of working remotely because of the coronavirus pandemic. According to a daily newspaper article, the company does not need the office space. Cerner is the largest private sector employer in the Kansas City Area with about 13,000 persons. It has about 26,000 worldwide. The Unified Government is reviewing the incentives it provided Cerner to determine what claw-back opportunities might exist.

Business West encourages holding the line on property taxes

Business West is visiting all elected officials in Wyandotte County, encouraging them to hold the line with property taxes. Overall, the assessed valuation of property in Wyandotte County has increased about 13 percent compared to last year.

Warning sounded about telephone scam

The Kansas City Board of Public Utilities is warning customers about a scam. According to a BPU representative, a person, alleging to represent BPU and using the telephone, demands payment, threatening to shut off utilities unless a payment is made within 30 minutes. The caller claims payment can be made using a gift card or prepaid debit card. BPU customers should hang up and telephone BPU customer service at 913-573-9190.

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

Tax Tips for Students Working Summer Jobs

During the summer many students focus on making money from a summer job. They may want to gain work experience, earn some spending money or help pay for college. Here are some facts all student workers should know about summer jobs and taxes.

Not all the money they earn will make it to their pocket because employers must withhold taxes from their paycheck.

New employees: Employees – including those who are students – normally have taxes withheld from their paychecks by their employer. When anyone gets a new job, they need to fill out a Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate, and submit it to their employer. Employers use this form to calculate how much federal income tax to withhold from the new employee's pay. The Withholding Estimator on IRS.gov can help a taxpayer fill out this form.

Self-employment: Students who take on jobs like baby-sitting, lawn care or gig economy work are generally self-employed. Money earned from self-employment is taxable, and these workers may be responsible for paying taxes directly to the IRS. One way they can do this is by making estimated tax payments during the year.

Tip income: Students who earn tips as part of their summer income should know tip income is taxable. They should keep a daily log to accurately report tips. They must report cash tips to their employer for any month that totals \$20 or more.

Payroll taxes: This tax pays for benefits under the Social Security system. While students may earn too little from their summer job to owe income tax, employers usually must still withhold Social Security and Medicare taxes from their pay. If a student is self-employed, Social Security and Medicare taxes may still be due and are generally paid by the student.

Reserve Officers' Training Corps pay: If a student is in an ROTC program, and receives pay for activities such as summer advanced camp, it is taxable. Other allowances the student may receive – like food and lodging – may not be taxable. The Armed Forces' Tax Guide on IRS.gov provides details.

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.

Turner School District Announces Free School Meals for all Students This Year!

By Tom Valverde

During the 2021-2022 school year, students will enjoy breakfast and lunch at school. The Turner School District appreciates the new, federal USDA program.

Through the new Meal Program, all costs are covered by the USDA. And, there's no application to fill out, the students receive good, nutritious, meals and it's all free.

The Turner District said that it, "Encouraged families to take advantage of the free school meals. Every meal that is served helps Turner food service financially and keeps local food service staff members employed. These meals, which are safe, nutritious, and delicious, help extend family food budgets, too."

For further information, call the Turner United School District food services at 913*288*4141.

TURNER TODAY, July 2021, information source.

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Passings...

By Sue Reich

Shirley Courtney, age 61m passed away on July 17, 2021. Washington High School, 1968 graduate.

Barbara Euginger, age 72, passed away on April 18, 2020. Taught math in the KCK school district.

Georgia Rolf, age 77, passed away on June 22, 2021. Lived in Armourdale. Wyandotte High School, 1962 graduate. Worked at the Wyandotte County Health Department.

Huden Frank Jenkins, age 83, passed away on July 4, 2021. Raised in Kansas City, Kansas

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