

By Sharon Hoover

T's only partway into March and I'm ready for April. There are still some upcoming events in March, so I won't write it off entirely.

Folks who are turning 65 in a few months and have questions about Medicare are invited to Turner Recreation Center (Bear's Den) on March 21 at 6:00pm to a free workshop by Kirk Davis of Medicare Simplified KC. Mr. Davis is a licensed insurance agent who works with Medicare enrollees to explain Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement and Prescription Drug Plan options. Feel free to bring a friend. RSVP 816-529-4361. He may also be reached at <u>kirk@</u> medicaresimplifiedKC.com.

Turner High School seniors planning to attend college and interested in receiving a scholarship should contact Counselor Suzanne Wilson Yao. Turner Community Connection is offering \$500 renewal scholarships. Applications are in MS. Yao's office. Deadline for returning the forms is March 21, 2023.

Harvesters Food Distribution at Sunset Hills Church, 6347 Leavenworth Road will be at 1:30 on March 17. This program is co-sponsored by the Leavenworth Road Association & the Church in partnership with the KCKPD's Community Policing Unit. It is a continuing program and occurs the first and third Friday of the month. I've mentioned this before but sometimes events are worth repeating.

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

The Livable Neighborhoods Monthly Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month at 9:00am from January through October: this month, March 23. You can attend in person or via Zoom. To get a Zoom invitation please send an email to <u>livableneighborhoods@</u> <u>wyco.org</u>. Representatives from the UG Mayor's Office, UG Public Health, WYCO Sheriff's Dept., WYCO/KCK District Attorney's Office, KCK Police Dept., KCK Fire Dept., UG Resource Center, KCK School District US 500, Turner School District, BPU, and the Livable Neighborhood's Task Force will be in attendance.

Just a reminder of the free American Sign Language event at Turner Recreation on March21 at 6:30pm.

This week I finished a new novel which was highly recommended "The Color of Family" by Jerry McGill. It is about a well-to-do family who suffers a tragedy and how they must confront the past while dealing the present. It is only 239 pages long but very powerful.

Until next time, stay safe and be kind to those around you. Continue to pray for the brave Ukrainians fighting for the right to remain free.

Unified Government Appraiser's Office to Host a Series of Open House Sessions

Kansas City, KS –With the upcoming mailing of 2023 Notice of Appraised Values and Classifications on March 9, 2023, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and KS (UG) Appraiser's Office will be hosting a series of open house sessions.

The open house sessions offered at various community centers will allow residents to meet representatives from the Appraiser's Office, ask questions, learn details about the appraisal process, as well as receive information on the appeal process.

"I encourage anyone who has questions or concerns about their Wyandotte County valuation to attend one of these sessions, said County Appraiser, Matthew Willard. Topics covered will include how values are established, how a property tax bill is calculated, and how to file and prepare for an informal appeal."

According to the Wyandotte County 2023 tax year market study conducted by the Appraiser's Office all market areas will be increasing in value. Average and median sale price and sale price per square foot indicators as well as with statistical model indicators were reviewed to figure the overall median value trends in each market area. Factors including high demand and low supply continues to drive the demand for residential property in Wyandotte County. A study focusing on the residential market indicates a median uptick trend of 20% over the course of 2022. A median value is the midpoint in a series where half of the values will increase at a higher rate and half will increase at a lower rate.

Dates & Locations

- *March 11, 2023–10AM to 11AM (Eisenhower Community Center) -2901 N. 72nd Street, KCK, KS 66104
- * March 14, 2023 6 PM to 7 PM (Beatrice L. Lee Community Cen-
- ter)–1310 N. 10th Street, KCK, KS 66102

- * March 15, 2023 6 PM to 7 PM (George Meyn Center)- Wyandotte
- County Park, 126th State Avenue, Bonner Springs, KS 66012 * March 18, 2023–10 AM to 11 AM

Joe E. Amayo Argentine Community Center – 2810 Metropolitan Avenue, KCK, KS 66106

As residents begin to receive their 2023 appraised values and classifications in the mail beginning on March 9, 2023, the Appraisers Property Search site will also be updated with the latest property information. For more information about the Appraiser's Office, please visit their website at Appraiser's Office – (wycokck.org).

Insurance Consumer Connection Make Sure You Are Covered for Severe Weather Damage



Topeka, Kan. - Spring is arriving in Kansas, and severe weather along with it. If it has been several seasons since you last reviewed your homeowners insurance policy, the next round of storms could bring an unwelcomed surprise. Inflation and rising construction costs, along with gaps in coverage could mean that your home is underinsured. Insurance carriers

reported over 30,000 claims in Kansas during the peak of last year's storm season. It is important to review your current coverage to ensure that your home is sufficiently covered.

"Severe weather damage is a threat to Kansans every year. If you wait until the next thunderstorm or flood strikes it may be too late to protect your property," Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt said. "Now is the time to check with your insurance agent to make sure your homeowners policy provides adequate coverage before storm season arrives."

Keep your coverage currentwhether your home is insured for replacement cost or actual cash value, it is important to keep track of construction costs. Home additions, renovations and



Owner/Publisher/Editor

Policy On Opinion

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YOU are invited

Anyone who believes in the mission of The League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC is eligible to join us. Being part of the conversation will bring us together with all of society.

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the largest and oldest Hispanic and Latino civil rights orga-

nization in the United States.[2] It was established on February 17, 1929, in Corpus Christi, Texas, largely by Hispanics returning from World War I who sought to end ethnic discrimination against Latinos in the United States. The goal of LULAC is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health, and civil rights of Hispanic people in the United States. LULAC uses nationwide councils and group community organizations to achieve all these goals. LULAC has about 132,000 members in the United States.

Council 11085 has LULAC members in the counties of Douglas, Johnson and Wyandotte (Kansas) – Clay and Jackson (Missouri).

Join us at the monthly Zoom meetings – the second Saturday of each month at 2 p.m.

Rudy Padilla Email opkansas@swbell.net Maria Cristina Herrera MariCriszap@gmail.com inflation are just a few ways your coverage may become inadequate. It is your responsibility to update your coverage in case of a loss. Not all policies cover these expenses: water and windstorm damage, debris or tree removal, severe back-up due to flooding, sump pump failure, or additional living expenses if a disaster forces you from your home.

If a disaster does strike, the last thing you want to worry about is making a list of everything you owned for loss purposes. Make sure to keep and update an inventory of your personal property stored in a safe place such as a fireproof box or a safe-deposit box. You can download a copy of the Personal Home Inventory to help you keep track. There are also several free apps available through your preferred smartphone's app store that allow you to safely store a digital copy of your home inventory and easily update it as needed.

For more information about homeowners coverage, visit the Home & Renters Insurance page on the Department's website. Should you need to file a claim this season, consult the Homeowners Claim Settlement Guide or contact the Kansas Insurance Department's Consumer Assistance Division toll-free at 1-800-432-2484, by email kid.webcomplaints@ks.gov or visit the Department online at insurance. kansas.gov for any claims-related questions or concerns.

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The Kansas Legislature established the Kansas Insurance Department in 1871, currently led by Commissioner Vicki Schmidt. The mission of the Department is to regulate companies that sell policies in Kansas to ensure solvency and compliance with state law, educate consumers about all things insurance and securities, and advocate for a strong and competitive market to give Kansans choices when shopping for products that meet their needs.



Topeka, Kan. - Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt announced, today, that the Kansas Insurance Department is now accepting appointments for livescan fingerprinting. Applicants who are pursuing their license can now complete the fingerprinting requirement at the Department's office in Topeka via a livescan fingerprinting machine.

"Livescan fingerprinting is another improvement the Department has implemented to make the licensure process as efficient and accessible as possible," Commissioner Schmidt said. "The Department has worked with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, local law enforcement agencies and other partners to expand access to livescan fingerprinting across the state to make it easier than ever for insurance applicants to get fingerprinted for licensure."

In addition to the livescan machine at the Department's office in Topeka, applicants can also get their fingerprints taken via livescan at 31 other locations across Kansas. For a list of locations that are offering livescan fingerprinting, see the Department's Fingerprint FAQ's.

Fingerprints at the Topeka office will be taken by appointment only. To make an appointment at the Department's office, complete our online Fingerprint Appointment Request form. The Kansas Insurance Department is located at 1300 SW Arrowhead Road, Topeka, Kansas.

Following the passage of SB 37 in 2021, the Department overhauled the insurance producer licensing process. The expansion of livescan fingerprinting is another step in the Department's ongoing efforts to modernize and streamline the licensing process for the thousands of applicants seeking to do business in Kansas. For more information on the licensing process, contact the Producer Licensing division at 785-296-7862, by email at kid. licensing@ks.gov, or visit insurance.kansas.gov.

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The Kansas Legislature established the Kansas Insurance Department in 1871, currently led by Commissioner Vicki Schmidt. The mission of the Department is to regulate companies that sell policies in Kansas to ensure solvency and compliance with state law, educate consumers about all things insurance and securities, and advocate for a strong and competitive market to give Kansans choices when shopping for products that meet their needs.

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SENATE NEWS

By Sen. Pat Pettey

THIS WEEK AT THE CAPITOL Legislators returned this week after a short break following the turnaround deadline last Friday. Work has moved back to committees, as the Senate begins to hear bills that were approved by the House, as well as Senate bills that were introduced in exempt committees or were blessed by leadership.

I encourage you to contact me with any concerns or questions you have about bills or committee meetings. Feel free to contact me at 785-296-7375 or pat.pettey@ senate.ks.gov. I am also happy to set up a Zoom to discuss any questions or concerns.

BLESSED BILLS

Any Senate Bills introduced in committee that have not passed out of the Senate at this point are considered dead. The exception is bills introduced in or referred to the Assessment & Taxation, Federal & State Affairs, and Ways & Means committees. On the final day of session last week, leadership "blessed" – referred from their original committees to one of those exempt committees – the following bills:

• SB 244: Authorizing the attorney general to prosecute any crime



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Young Management Corporation and this Property do not discriminate on the basis of disability status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs and activities.

The person named below has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR, part 8 dated June 2, 1988).

Carla Schubert, Section 504 Coordinator Young Management Corporation 22602 State Line Road Bucyrus, KS. 66013 913-947-3131 - TTY: 711 that is part of an alleged course of criminal conduct that occurred in two or more counties.

• SB 234: Prohibiting governmental entities from sharing or transmitting social care information into a closed loop referral system.

• SB 139: Expanding newborn screening services and increasing transfer from the medical assistance fee fund to the Kansas newborn screening fund.

• SB 103: Updating certain provisions of the Kansas dental practices act relating to dentist information requested by patients, in-person practice requirements in dental office using licensee's name, unprofessional conduct and patient complaints

• SB 74: Providing for joint liability for costs and sanctions in third-party funded litigation, requiring certain discovery disclosures and requiring payment of certain costs for nonparty subpoenas.

• SB 62: Enacting the protect vulnerable adults from financial exploitation act, requiring reporting of instances of suspected financial exploitation under certain circumstances and providing civil and administrative immunity to individuals who make such reports.

• SB 20: Requiring child care facilities, elementary, secondary, postsecondary educational institutions and employers to grant exemptions from vaccine requirements without inquiring into the sincerity of the request and repealing the meningitis vaccine requirement to live in student housing.

• SB 238: Increasing criminal penalties on drug-related crimes when the drug is fentanyl and creating special sentencing rules for mandatory imprisonment and additional terms of imprisonment for drug-related crimes when the drug is fentanyl or is attractive to minors because of its appearance or packaging.

• SB 204: Replacing the definition of "charitable beneficiaries" with "qualified charities" in the technology-enabled fiduciary financial institutions act.

• SB 193: Enacting the reduce armed violence act to increase the criminal penalties for certain violations of criminal possession of a weapon by a convicted felon that involve firearms.

• SB 166: Requiring public disclosure of an application for a transmission line siting permit under the jurisdiction of the state corporation commission.

• SB 163: Creating the Dwayne Peaslee technical training center district act to authorize the establishment of the Dwayne Peaslee technical training center district in Douglas county.

• SB 114: Creating definitions for "advanced recycling" and related terms and separating advanced recycling from the current solid waste management system.

• SB 112: Authorizing registered nurse anesthetists to engage in independent practice and prescribe drugs and prohibiting registered nurse anesthetists from performing or prescribing drugs to induce an abortion.

• SB 104: Allowing a surcharge when purchases are made with a credit or debit card.

• SB 68: Providing incumbent electric transmission owners a right of first refusal for the construction of certain electric transmission lines.

• SB 63: Expanding the scope of uses of campaign contributions to include family caregiving services.

• SB 23: Eliminating the statutory 15% alternative investment limit for the KPERS fund and requiring the KPERS board to establish an alternative investment percentage limit.

KEEP AN EYE ON COMMIT-TEES THIS WEEK

This year, I serve on the following committees:

- Education
- Public Health and Welfare
- Ways and Means

You can click on the hyperlinked committee names to access the upcoming agendas.

There's a lot on deck next week in committees. Some committee work to keep an eye on:

• BULLYING CHILDREN: This bill passed the Senate twice during the 2021 session and once during the 2022 session before being

Pettey... ...from page 4

twice vetoed by Governor Kelly. SB2238 would prohibit trans girls from kindergarten all the way up to college from playing school sports with their peers. This legislation demonstrates a deep misunderstanding of the lived experience of trans people, and it mandates their ostracization. We were able to uphold the governor's veto last session, and we're not giving up this year. This bill has a hearing in Senate Education on Monday. KSHSAA already has a process in place in KC that is working very well.

• RESTRICTING THE FREE MARKET: SB 224 is the state of Kansas's attempt to restrict the free market's ability to decide which industries they'd like to invest in. It would require KPERS to divest from and prohibit state contracts with entities engaged in "ideological boycotts." Ironically, this prohibition is a direct attempt to restrict private industry to comply with one ideological position in terms of environmental, social, and governance factors. It would also require KPERS to not act as a fiduciary, which is troubling. This bill has a hearing in Senate Federal and State Affairs on Tuesday.

• PREVENTING DEADLY DRUG OVERDOSES: During the 2022 veto session, the Kansas Senate rejected an amendment that would have decriminalized fentanyl test strips, a proven harm-reduction measure that prevents opioid overdoses and deaths. At the time, senators running for higher office rejected this policy on the grounds that they would have promoted illicit drug use. I'm glad that we have another opportunity to correct the record on that through HB 2390, which has a hearing in Senate Public Health and Welfare next week. We know that prohibitions and "tough on drugs" policies are not sufficient deterrents to addiction. Fentanyl test strips provide people who use drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin with important information about

fentanyl in the illicit drug supply so they can take informed steps to reduce their risk of overdose.

• USHA'S BILL: The newest member of the Senate Democratic caucus, Senator Usha Reddi, has a hearing on a bill on Thursday in Senate Tax. SB 101 would provide a sales tax exemption for area agencies on aging.

• PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS: In February, the House passed HB 2236by a vote of 75 to 47. This bill advances the moral panic around learning and growing by suggesting that our public schools – which are subject to strict oversight by the state – are hiding nefarious materials used to brainwash our children. This "Parents' Bill of Rights" coopts civil rights language in order to undermine our public school teachers and districts that teach and care for Kansas kids. Ithas a hearing in Senate Education on Thursday.

S&P GLOBAL IMPROVES KANSAS CREDIT OUTLOOK UNDER GOVERNOR KELLY

This week, S&P Global, a worldwide credit rating agency, announced it has improved its credit outlook for the State of Kansas to 'positive' from 'stable,' citing Governor Laura Kelly's efforts to close the Bank of KDOT, balance the state budget, pay off KPERS debt, and achieve record-low unemployment rates. This increases the likelihood that within the next two years the agency will improve Kansas' credit rating, which dropped during Governor Sam Brownback's administration due to his failed tax experiment. S&Paffirmed Kansas' credit rating as AA-.

S&P also improved its credit outlook to 'positive' from 'stable' and affirmed its AA credit rating on the Kansas Department of Transportation's highway revenue bonds outstanding.

In its report, S&P cited Governor Kelly's recommended budgets for fiscal years 2023 and 2024 as indicators of continued fiscal responsibility that could lead to a credit rating upgrade and warned against irresponsible tax plans that could lead to a credit rating downgrade.

Prior to Governor Kelly's admin-

istration, the State of Kansas' S&P credit rating and outlook was downgraded four times between 2014 and 2017. The state's credit rating was downgraded from AA+ to AA in August 2014, put on a negative credit watch in 2016, downgraded again to an AA- in the same year, and the outlook downgraded from 'stable' to 'negative' in 2017. S&P improved the state's credit outlook from 'negative' to 'stable' in 2018 after lawmakers rolled back the Brownback tax experiment.

SENIOR UTILITY TAX RE-BATES

Residents of Kansas City, Kansas 65 years of age or older can apply for a Utility and/or Sales Tax Rebate. If you live in Bonner Springs or Edwardsville, these rebates are not available to you.

HOW DO I QUALIFY?

If you answer yes to all of these questions, one or both of these rebates could be available to you:

• Are you a resident of Kansas City, Kansas?

• Were you 65 years of age or older during the entire previous year?

• Is your gross income from all members of your household \$25,000 or less?

WHEN CAN I APPLY?

You can only apply for the Utility and/or Sales Tax Rebates from January 2 through March 31 of every year.

WHAT DO I NEED?

If you pay BPU, Gas or AT&T bills, you will need copies of your previous year's utility bills. You can obtain copies of your BPU bills by calling BPU. Be sure to tell them you are applying for the Utility Rebate.

Argentine Middle Schools Students Page for Senator Pettey. The students are Kaylie Hernandez, Liberty Calloway, and Gideon Griffin. They were accompanied by Sara Esther, a 6th grade social studies teacher at Argentine.

FOLLOW OUR WORK

In addition to watching legislative proceedings live, you can always stay up to date with legislative matters by following our caucus's social media accounts. Our staff live-tweets Senate session daily, provides updates on legislation regularly on Facebook, and shares resources to help you advocate for your issues on Instagram.

IMPORTANT STATE PHONE NUMBERS

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

Attorney General (888) 428-8436

Child Abuse Hotline (800) 922-5330

Consumer Protection (800) 432-2310

Crime Tip Hotline (800) 572-7463

Crime Victim Referral (800) 828-9745

Department on Aging (800) 432-3535

Driver's License Bureau (785) 296-3963

Fraud Hotline (800) 432-3919

KPERS (888) 275-5737

Governor's Office (877) 579-6757

Highway Conditions (800) 585-7623

Housing Hotline (800) 752-4422

KanCare Consumer Assistance (866) 305-5147

Kansas Jobs (785) 235-5627

Kansas Lottery (785) 296-5700



CHILD CARE/DAY CARE

EL CENTRO ACADEMY FOR CHILDREN Ages 2 1/2 to Preschool - all day 1330 S 30th, Kansas City KS 913.677.1115

CHURCHES

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Health Care And Community Prevention Centers

VIBRANT HEALTH Argentine location: 1428 S. 32nd St. Monday - Friday, 8-5 pm All locations phone, 913*342*2552

Partnership for Drug-Free Kids 855*378*4373

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800*273*8255

KC Care Health Center 816*753*5144

Senior-focused Health Care, Partners in Primary Care Medicare-Advantage Care Center 7527 State Ave. 913*355*6986

HEALTH CARE

EAST ARGENTINE NURSING SERVICE Clinic Tu/Th 3:00-5:30 p.m. 14th & Metropolitan

PET CARE/GROOMING

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THE AHS REUNION COMMITTEE IS HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE ANOTHER ANNUAL REUNION ALUMS VERY PROUD OF THEIR HERITAGE CELEBRATE THE FINAL GRADUATING CLASSES OF ARGENTINE HIGH SCHOOL



PO Box 6197 Kansas City, KS 66106

ARGENTINE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

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Classes of 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973 will be Honored for reaching their 50th Reunion year*

DATE:	SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023
TIME:	11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
	MEAL SERVED at 12:30

LOCATION: EMBASSY SUITES, OLATHE 10401 S. RIDGEVIEW ROAD OLATHE, KS 66061

MENU: Buffet - Beef Tri Tip & Smoked Chicken Breast, two sides, roll, dessert & beverages (water & iced tea) (Absolutely No Food or Beverages are to be brought into the Reunion Event)

Cash Bar Available

COST: TICKET PRICE: \$50 PER PERSON

DRESS: CASUAL (JEANS AND SHORTS ACCEPTABLE)

REGISTRATION: MAY BE COMPLETED ONLINE OR BY RETURNING THE REGISTRATION FORM BY APRIL 1, 2023

Due to the large attendance expected early registrations are encouraged by April 1, 2023. Reservations will be accepted no later than June 1, 2023. <u>NO DAY OF RESERVATIONS ARE POSSIBLE FOR THIS EVENT.</u>

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND?

ONLY AHS GRADUATES THROUGH 1973 ARE ELIGIBLE

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR A RESERVATION FORM

AND WEBSITE INFORMATION

AHS 2023 REUNION COMMITTEE PO BOX 860124 Shawnee, KS 66286-0124 913-850-0105