



# The Record

Volume 136

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Number 15

## Successful Black Farmer Had Very Humble Beginning

By Murrel Bland

He came to Wyandotte County in 1879 with 90 cents.

In the next 45 years, Junius George Groves developed one of the country's most successful potato farms in Edwardsville, Kan. He also became one of the successful and wealthiest Black businessmen in the United States.

The story of Groves was the subject of a presentation at a quarterly meeting of the Wyandotte County Historical Society Sunday, March 26 at the George Meyn Community Center in Wyandotte County Park, Bonner Springs. Brad Harrington, whose family owns the funeral home in Bonner Springs, told of the many accomplishments of Groves who was known as "The Potato King of the World."

Groves was born in 1859 into slavery in Green County, Ky. He came to Wyandotte County as part of the Exoduster Movement in which ex-slaves left the South. He began his agricultural efforts as a sharecropper. In a few years, Groves and his wife, Matilda

Stewart Groves, began buying land, culminating in about 500 acres in what is now Edwardsville. He grew more bushels of potatoes per acre than anyone else.

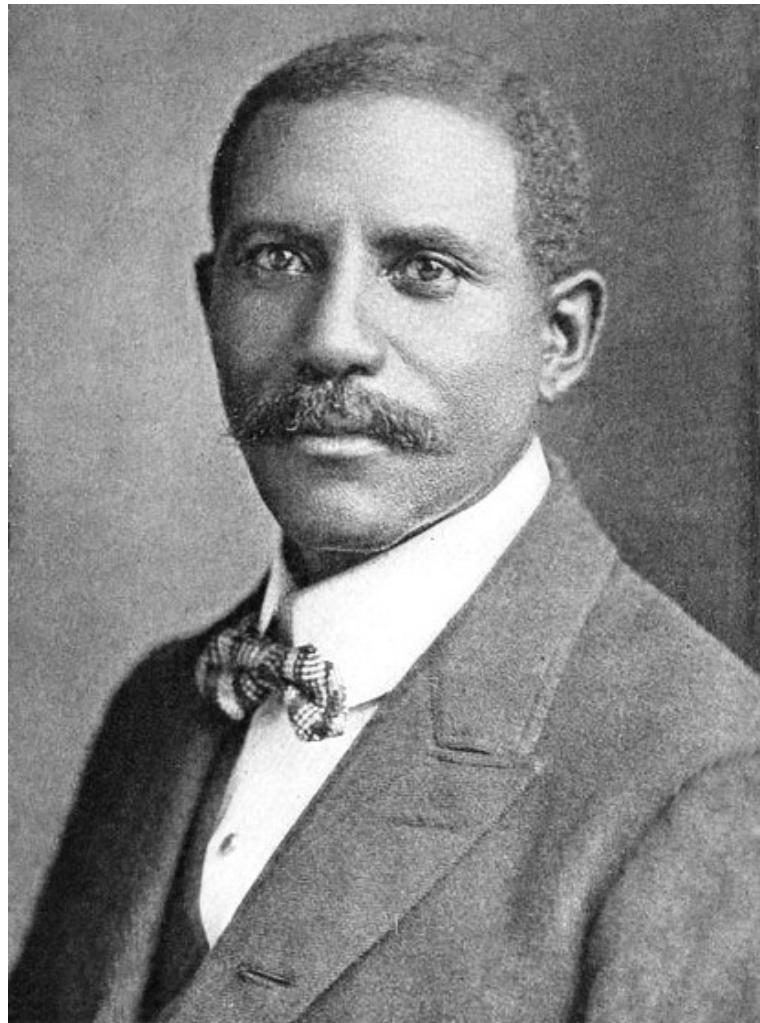
Groves co-founded and was President of the State Negro Business League; was Secretary of Kaw Valley Potato Association; and was Vice President of the Sunflower State Agricultural Association.

Although Groves received various recognition for his accomplishments, Harrington suggested that two organizations, the City of Edwardsville and the National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame, need to honor Groves. A park in Edwardsville, which was part of Groves' farm, could be named in his behalf.

Groves died of a heart attack in 1925 in Edwardsville.

Information for the story was taken from the information in the Kansas Room of the Kansas City, Kansas, Public Library.

*Murrel Bland is the former editor of The Wyandotte West and The Piper Press.*



Junius George Groves

## Watch out for fraud with Self-Directed IRAs

Topeka, Kan. — An Individual Retirement Account (IRA) can be a great way to save for your retirement. Traditional IRAs are held for investors by custodians: banks, trust companies, or others regulated entities. Self-directed IRAs (SDIRAs) are also held by custodians; however, they are only responsible for its administration, and have no obligation

to review the investments made through the account. SDIRAs may also allow investment of retirement funds in "alternative assets," such as precious metals, real estate, or cryptocurrency. These unique attributes of SDIRAs may be attractive to some investors, but they come with a heightened risk of fraud.

"While the decision to invest with a self-directed IRA is up to

the individual investor, there are unique scams associated with these accounts," Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt said. "As with all investments, it is important to understand the risk of fraud so you can make informed decisions about your money."

Commissioner Schmidt encourages Kansans to watch out for these fraud risks associated with

SDIRAs:

- \* Fake Custodians and Misrepresentations of Responsibilities – Watch out for fraudsters using a fake SDIRA custodian in an attempt to steal your money. Before making a deposit with a SDIRA custodian, make sure they are legitimate. The IRS

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

# AG Kobach thanks legislators for overriding veto regarding Fairness in Women's Sports Act

TOPEKA – Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach issued the following statement today of the Kansas House and Senate successfully overrode Gov. Laura Kelly's veto of the Fairness in Women's Sports Act. The House voted in a bipartisan manner 84-39 to override, while the Senate voted 28-12.

"I applaud the legislature for overriding the governor's veto and protecting girls' sports,. As the father of five daughters who are involved in sports, I care deeply about the fairness in girls' sports," Kobach said. "If any group challenges this law in court, I will defend it vigorously. And I am confident that the law will survive any challenge."

The bill requires all interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, and club athletic teams that are sponsored by public elementary, secondary, and postsecondary institutions that compete against teams from other public educational institutions to be based on the biological sex of the team members. The bill states athletic teams or sports designated for females, women, or girls shall not be open to students of the male sex.

## Register Now for the 2023 Blue Devil 5K

A Kansas City Kansas Community College tradition returns this spring with the 2023 Blue Devil 5K.

The Blue Devil 5K begins at 8 a.m. May 6. The course winds through the KCKCC campus on the roads, walking paths and sidewalks. The Kids Trot follows at 9 a.m. and is geared toward children 11-years and younger. Children will run according to age groups, and distances will range from 25 meters to one-quarter of a mile. No strollers are allowed.

Childcare volunteers will provide activities for the children from 7:30 to 9 a.m., so parents can participate in the run/walk. Registration for the 5K is \$25 per person. The Kid's Trot is \$12. Registration for both the Blue Devil 5K and the Kid's Trot includes a T-shirt, Finisher's Medal, Goodie Bag and an all-you-can eat pancake breakfast following the event.

Awards will be given to the top overall male and female finishers. In addition, the winner of each age group will receive an award.



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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 organization 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](mailto:opkansas@swbell.net)

Maria Cristina Herrera [Maricriszap@gmail.com](mailto:Maricriszap@gmail.com)

## Self-Directed IRA...

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keeps a list of nonbank custodians on their website. While the list does not include all custodians, if they do not appear on the list, consider conducting additional research before opening an account. Fraudsters may also make false claims that SDIRAs have validated their investment. Since there is no such responsibility for SDIRAs, fraudsters may still attempt to sell you fraudulent investments through legitimate custodians. Be extra cautious of unsolicited investment offers that promote the use of a SDIRA. Contact the Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner, a division of the Kansas Insurance Department, to verify if the offered investment is properly registered.

\* Exploitation of Tax-Deferred Account Characteristics – As with other IRAs, SDIRAs are tax-deferred accounts that carry a financial penalty for prematurely withdrawing money before reaching a certain age. This penalty may lull an investor into passive management of their account, and combined with the lack of custodial oversight, could result in the fraud going unnoticed. If you invest using an SDIRA, verify the information in your account statements often and be mindful of the illiquidity and tax characteristics of any alternative investments.

For more information about the risks of fraud and self-directed IRAs, visit [www.nasaa.org](http://www.nasaa.org) and [www.finra.org](http://www.finra.org). If you suspect you have been a victim of securities fraud, please contact the Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner at 785-296-3071 or file a complaint online at <https://insurance.ks.gov/department/ksc/complaint/ksc-complaint.php>. All investments carry risk, so visit SmartInvestKS.com to learn more about different types of investments and how to avoid fraud.

The Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner, a division of the Kansas Insurance Department, regulates the offer and sale of securities in Kansas--the birthplace of "Blue Sky Laws." In 2017, the Office was merged with the Kansas Insurance Department.



By Sharon Hoover

**I**hope you've found some treasures you want to get rid of while spring cleaning because Shepherd's Center of KC can use them. Their annual Bric-a-Brac sale is May 5 & 6 at Grace Lutheran Church at 3333 Wood Drive. Donations will be accepted on May 4<sup>th</sup> at the church. Days of the Sale will be May 5 from 8am-4pm and

# Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

May 6 from 8am-3pm. No clothes or magazines. I've already filled a couple of boxes for them.

The BPU summer work applications are now available at Turner High School. Turner Community Connections coordinates this program and places students in this summer work program throughout our community. Contact Chandra Ward at 913-909-0654 or Barb Kill 816-804-9868 of TCC for more information.

The TRC Elderberries Potluck Luncheon will be April 19 at noon in the Bears Den. Ham is the main dish. Bring your favorite Spring dish. See old friends and meet new ones.

The Hope Bus Food Pantry on Wheels will be at Bethel SDA Church on Wednesday, April 19 from 5pm-6pm. The church is

located at 6910 Riverview, KCKS. This free event is sponsored by the Adventist Community Service partnership of Bethel SDA and New Haven SDA Church, Overland Park, KS.

TRC is now taking applications for Summer Camp. Dates of the camp are 5/30/2023-8/4/2023. Hours of camp 7:30 -5:30 (closed July 4). Fees are \$105 per week with a one-time \$40 registration charge. Requirements are a completed registration form, Immunizations records (requested) and birth certificate (if needed). The link to access the registration form & other important information is <https://bitly/trccchildcare> such as Registration Form, TRC Summer Handbook, & documentation needed. Registration forms are also available in the TRC office and can

be completed on site, but you must have a completed registration form, documentation and payment to the TRC office.

Do you have a child that will be 3 or 4 years of age before August 31? Turner USD 202's preschool program has certified teachers and provides transportation for the little ones. By the end of the program, kiddies will be able to recite the alphabet, use new words, count to 30, play appropriately with others, put simple words together & much, much more. One requirement, Must be potty trained. For more info contact [www.turnerusd202.org/preschool](http://www.turnerusd202.org/preschool).

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.



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# SENATE NEWS



By Sen. Pat Pettey

## KDHE MEDICAID INFORMATION

Sen. Pettey received this email from KDHE regarding Medicaid unwinding information and was asked to pass it on to her constituents.

*Good afternoon,*

*You have likely heard from KDHE that the period of continuous eligibility for Medicaid is coming to an end. For the first time in over three years, households enrolled*

*in the Medicaid program need to have their eligibility recertified to remain on the program. While these redeterminations will undoubtedly result in thousands of households losing Medicaid coverage because they are no longer eligible, thousands more who would otherwise eligible could be removed from the program because KDHE is unable to contact them for their redetermination.*

*In an attempt to keep the number removed from the program for strictly administrative reasons as low as possible, Community Care Network of Kansas and Cover Kansas are working with a coalition of organizations to spread the word about the redetermination*

*process and encourage families on Medicaid to update their contact information before KDHE tries to contact with them. To that end, we just issued the following news release and are trying to use every avenue possible to let recipients know that the need to update their contact information. We're reaching out to you because you likely have families in your district who could benefit from this information. We would like for you to share this information in newsletters or other communications that you send to your constituents.*

*Thank you for your assistance.*

## SENATE NEARING FIRST ADJOURNMENT

Legislators worked all day on the floor Monday through Wednesday of this week in order to meet the deadline for non-exempt bills to be passed out of their second chamber. Conference committees also began meeting this week. All of this is in preparation for the upcoming first adjournment, scheduled for April 6th.

After this date, most bills that haven't passed both chambers can no longer be debated. That said, certain bills, particularly those concerning appropriations, are exempt from this deadline. Following a break in April, legislators will return for the veto session. At that time, exempt bills, conference committee reports, and any vetoes by the governor will be considered.

It is truly an honor to serve you in Topeka. If you have any questions, please 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.

## COMMITTEE UPDATE

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.

## ACTION ON THE FLOOR

The Senate-as-a-whole considered over 80 bills, including a po-

tential constitutional amendment. Below, I've highlighted a few of the major debates that took place on the Senate floor this week. A full list of bills, along with my vote on them, is at the end of this newsletter.

## Senate Democrats Lead with Bills, Amendments Protecting Children

Survivors of childhood sexual abuse have been at the statehouse nearly every day this legislative session, sitting at a table on the ground floor that all legislators pass as they enter the building. Their appeal has been simple: remove the statute of limitations to prosecute these types of crimes. Get known predators out of our communities. Protect Kansas kids.

On Wednesday, the Senate unanimously passed S Sub for HB 2127, which permits a prosecution for childhood sexual abuse to be commenced at any time. It also extends the time to file civil actions against an individual perpetrator or an entity for recovery of damages caused by childhood sexual abuse. Senator Cindy Holscher – who has spearheaded this legislation in the Senate – and Senator Usha Reddi – herself a survivor of sexual abuse who was able to seek justice against her abuser just a few years ago – both delivered powerful remarks about the impact this will have on Kansas kids. Survivors will be more empowered to report their abusers to the police, and predators will not be shielded by a statute of limitations that would allow them to continue preying on vulnerable children. I am so grateful for the work legislators, leadership, and most of all the survivors have done this session to pass this important policy.

Senate Democrats also led in the adoption of amendments to several bills this week, all aimed at helping Kansas families and children. SB 147 increases the Kansas adoption tax credit from 25% of the Federal Adoption Tax Credit to 100%. Senator Dinah Sykes proposed an amendment to increase the Child and Dependent Care Expense Credit from 25% to 50%. Senator

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## Petty...

**...from page 4**

Jeff Pittman proposed an amendment to provide for an extra 50% credit for the adoption of certain children with special needs. And Senator Tom Holland proposed an amendment to make the Adoption Tax Credit refundable. All of these amendments were adopted, and the bill passed out of the Senate unanimously.

And during debate on SB 265, which establishes penalties for repeat violations of a protective order, Senator David Haley successfully amended the bill so that defendants convicted of an offense causing death or incapacitation of a victim pay restitution in the form of child support to any minor child of such victim. The bill passed out of the Senate unanimously. These are all great policies to make Kansas safer for Kansas kids and families, and I'm grateful to have the opportunity to support and highlight them.

### Bipartisan Rejection of Cruel and Irresponsible Bills

HB 2141 would require parents who do not have custody of one or more of their children to cooperate with Child Support Services or be disqualified from receiving food assistance. There are a number of reasons that this legislation, which the carrier deemed "pro-personal responsibility," is problematic.

First, holding food assistance hostage will not make people pay missing or partially-paid child support; it'll just make them hungry. Second, it disturbs families' existing support systems that they have determined are in their children's best interests. Not all families participate in formal child support arrangements, and a non-custodial parent of one child may be the custodial parent of another child. With 1 in 7 Kansas kids going hungry every year, it's cruel to make it even harder for parents to provide for them by eliminating this type of assistance. And keeping Kansans hungry will not lead to behaviors deemed acceptable by some legis-

lators. It'll just lead to more hungry Kansans. This bill was directed at low income Kansans ie those making minimum wages. We need to look for ways to help not hinder.

During the final action vote on this bill, two Republican senators changed their votes, killing the bill for the session. I'm grateful that they joined me in rejecting this harsh, punitive proposal.

The Senate rejected an ill-conceived tax policy proposed by Senate President Ty Masterson to walk back his food tax counter-proposal that would have devastated our cities' budgets. We also re-referred to committee a constitutionally-dubious bill that would penalize social media services for removing misinformation, racism, and hate speech from their platforms. This bill was originally heard in the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs, whose chair is infamous for sharing misinformation online. It's been sent to Senate Judiciary, which may or may not schedule a hearing.

### Politicians Playing Physician, Again

The Senate considered three bills this week that directly undermine proven public health interventions.

In the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, a bill that would have decriminalized fentanyl test strips – a move that would have drastically reduced opioid overdoses and deaths in our state – was gutted in favor of language that passed the Senate earlier this session that the House refused to take up. As I said in February, it's all in the bill's short title: restricting the authority of the Secretary of Health and Environment (and local health officers!) to prevent the introduction and spread of infectious or contagious diseases. This bill passed the Senate by a vote of 22-18 in February, but saw no movement in the House. So Senator Beverly Gossage sacrificed a life-saving measure in favor of making our communities sicker.

On top of that, we passed two additional bills targeting vaccinations specifically. SB 314 prohibits KDHE from requiring Kansas stu-

dents to take the COVID vaccine to attend public schools. Nevermind the fact that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment does not require this, and that the state's required vaccine list has updated only a handful of times since 1978. Flu vaccines aren't even required! But facts are inconvenient when stoking fear and distrust in our fellow Kansans.

And while that bill only targeted the COVID vaccine, SB 315 would expand the definition of religious exemption and prohibit the state from inquiring into the sincerity of the religious belief justifying the exemption. There is over a century of case law at all levels of the judicial system demonstrating that governmental vaccine mandates are constitutional. In *Prince v. Massachusetts*, the Supreme Court held that 'the right to practice religion freely does not include liberty to expose the community or the child to communicable disease or the latter to ill health or death.' Our current state policies are much more flexible than what is constitutionally permissible. We allow families the latitude to have sincerely-held religious exemptions, and it is KDHE's practice not to inquire into the sincerity of the request. But blanket exemptions undermine the efficacy of public health interventions that rely on herd immunity.

Vaccines are safe. They are effective. They protect children's health; they protect the community's health; they protect the health of immunocompromised people; they keep parents in jobs; and they keep vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks from overwhelming our healthcare system and hurting our communities. We've got to stop validating mistruths and misconceptions about public health, and elected leaders need to have the courage to stand up for the vast majority of Kansans who want our state to remain safe and healthy for our families.

### August Settled Abortion – Or Did It?

For months leading up to the August 2nd vote, we were told

that we must listen to the people: In June 2022, Senate President Ty Masterson told reporters that "it's not what lawmakers would like to do, it is what the people would like to do" and that "it's the people of Kansas's decision." Nearly 60% of Kansans – Democrats, Republicans, and Independents – voted no on giving "elected state representatives and state senators" more power to "pass laws regarding abortion." Voters upheld the status quo – and ever since, the Kansas Legislature has attempted to undermine the voters' will by chipping away at a personal freedom that Kansans cannot trust politicians to interfere with.

The Senate considered two bills this week that address abortion. The first, SB 297, amends the definition of abortion in statute. The second, HB 2313, would force doctors to rip babies from their grieving mothers' arms to attempt to save infants with fatal defects that have no chance of living outside their mother. And over on the House side, representatives passed a bill that would require physicians to lie to their patients who are considering getting a medication abortion.

These policies are transparent attempts by politicians who want to have the ultimate authority to decide when we think a D&C counts as an abortion and when it doesn't; to decide when a woman can be trusted to make decisions for herself and when she can't; to craft definitions for future court cases, future amendments, future attempts to take away fundamental rights.

On Monday, Attorney General Kris Kobach's office argued in front of the Kansas Supreme Court, suggesting that another constitutional amendment on abortion is imminent. The chief funder behind the failed constitutional amendment said as much before it had even been defeated. Kansas voters should listen to Kris Kobach and the legislators who are making clear that they want to control these private decisions, no matter what the voters say.

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# Social Security Honors Our Military Heroes

On Memorial Day, our nation honors military service members who have given their lives for our country. Families, friends, and communities pause to remember the many great sacrifices of our military and ensure their legacy lives on in the freedoms we all enjoy. We recognize these heroes who, in President Lincoln's words, "gave the last full measure of devotion."

The benefits we provide can help the families of deceased military service members. For example, surviving spouses and their dependent children may be eligible for Social Security survivors benefits. You can learn more

about those benefits at [www.ssa.gov/survivors](http://www.ssa.gov/survivors).

We also offer support to our wounded warriors. Social Security benefits protect veterans when an injury prevents them from returning to active duty or performing other work. Wounded military service members can receive expedited processing of their Social Security disability claims. Are you a veteran with a 100% Permanent & Total compensation rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs? We will expedite your disability claim. Both the Department of Veteran Affairs and the Social Security Administration have dis-

ability programs. You may qualify for disability benefits under one program but not the other, or you may qualify for both. Depending on your situation, some of your family members, including your dependent children or spouse, may be eligible to receive Social Security benefits.

Want more information? Visit [www.ssa.gov/people/veterans](http://www.ssa.gov/people/veterans) for answers to commonly asked questions or to find information about the application process.

Thinking about retirement?

Military service members can receive Social Security benefits in addition to their military retirement benefits. For details, visit our webpage, You Can Get Both Military Retirement and Social Security Benefits, at [www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/veterans.html](http://www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/veterans.html).

Please share this information with the military families in your community. To the veterans who bravely served and died for our country, and to the military service members who serve today, we honor and thank you.

## Tom's Tasty Treats

By Tom Valverde

If you been a faithful reader of Tom's Tasty Treats, you know that I will always include a recipe each Spring using fresh Rhubarb. I've a new recipe here for a quick cake made with thinly sliced Rhubarb. It became a favorite of mine the first time I tasted Strawberry Rhubarb pie and I count myself as a big fan. I sincerely hope you will try this very soon!

### RHUBARB DESSERT CAKE

Ingredients:

- 2 c Flour
- 1 1/2 t Baking Powder
- 1/2 t Salt
- 1 t Lemon juice
- 1/2 c Half and Half
- 2 c Rhubarb, sliced thinly
- 1/2 c Butter at room temperature
- 1 c Sugar
- 1 lg. Egg at room temperature
- 1 t Vanilla
- 1/8 t Almond extract

Topping:

- 1 or 2 t Sugar

Set oven to 350°. Butter a 9"x9" square pan. Add the lemon juice to the Half and Half, stir well then, set aside. Slice the Rhubarb. If using frozen, do not thaw before slicing in a food processor. Combine the flour, baking powder and salt and whisk together. In the bowl of a stand mixer, cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy; about 4 minutes. Beat in the egg and Vanilla and the Almond extract.\*

\*This is optional, if not using, add 1/2 t Vanilla.

Add 1/2 of the flour mixture together with the Half and Half; mix well. Add the remaining flour mixture and mix just until combined. Try not to over mix. Add the Rhubarb and fold in gently; expect a thick batter. Add the batter to the pan evenly. Top with the sugar. (Very good with a 1/2 c sliced almonds also.)

Bake for 40-45 minutes at 350°. Let cool before slicing. This is a great cake to celebrate the arrival of Spring.

Enjoy!

## Free Food Pantry

For people who live or work in zip codes 66106 & 66103

Tuesdays: 9am-12pm • 2nd Saturdays: 10am-2pm

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### **ARGENTINE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI**

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**\*\*\*Classes of 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973 will be Honored for reaching their 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion year\*\*\***

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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. NO DAY OF RESERVATIONS ARE POSSIBLE FOR THIS EVENT.**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND?**

**ONLY AHS GRADUATES THROUGH 1973 ARE ELIGIBLE**

**PLEASE CONTACT US FOR A RESERVATION FORM**

**AHS 2023 REUNION COMMITTEE**

**AND WEBSITE INFORMATION**

**PO BOX 860124**

**Shawnee, KS 66286-0124**

**913-850-0105**