

The Record

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Number 16

Governor Laura Kelly Discusses Impact of “Axe the Food Tax” Plan for Child Care Facilities

Eliminating the state sales tax on groceries could save the Kansas child care sector \$7.5 million per year, an average of approximately \$22,776 per facility

TOPEKA—, Governor Laura Kelly toured the T-Rocks Child Care Center in Topeka to discuss her “Axe the Food Tax” plan and how it could help child care facilities. As food prices have gone up due to pandemic-induced inflation, child care facilities see their budgets squeezed, just like every Kansas household. Child care is vital to keeping the Kansas workforce strong and the economy growing.

“Completely eliminating the state sales tax on groceries will assist these facilities in keeping their doors open and providing the care needed for Kansas’ working families,” Governor Kelly said. “We must ‘Axe the Food Tax’ now. I’m calling on the Legislature to send me a clean bill eliminating the state sales tax on groceries.”

T-Rocks Child Care Center owners say the cost of food is the second-highest expenditure, following salaries. Approximately 79% of child care providers in the state would benefit from eliminating the state sales tax on groceries. If the state sales tax on groceries were eliminated, the state’s child care sector would see approximately \$7.5 million in savings, depending on the type



of provider. That is an average of \$22,776 per child care program per year.

Legislators return to the Statehouse on April

25, where they can “Axe the Food Tax,” eliminating the 6.5% state sales tax on groceries, and it still could be implemented on July 1, 2022.

Unified Government Launches Notice of Funding Availability for American Rescue Plan Act Funds

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County has issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the local recovery funds from the American Rescue Act Plan (ARPA). The grant program will be open to all Wyandotte County non-profit organizations and Unified Government departments. This funding is to be used for various projects for the betterment of Wyandotte County’s citizens and communities as part of our pandemic recovery.

“We know that many organizations in Wyandotte County are prepared to offer vital services and suggest creative solutions to the challenges brought on or intensified by the pandemic,” said ARPA Subcommittee Chair Commissioner Angela Markley (District 6). “We are excited to offer all of those partners the opportunity to share their ideas and programs through this application, and we look forward to providing financial resources through a fair and transparent process.”

The Unified Government launched the ARPA Subcommittee in November 2021 to develop recommendations for the full governing body on how to allocate the local recovery funds and balance prioritization with other federal grant funding opportunities for maximum impact. The UG will receive \$87.5 million in federal aid over two years with \$55.4 million allocated to the City of Kansas

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Sue's Sudsy Soapbox



By Sue Reich

Well, look who's back. I guess it's me. These past three years have been a trying time in my life. Thanks to all of you for the condolences concerning Mr. Ed.

So let's get back to business. First of all, there is still the possibility of the All Class Reunion of AHS. Last I know of it is going to be in Old Shawnee Town in Johnson County, the end of July. It has been quite a chore for Barbara Sue. So many places have closed because of Covid

that she touched base with. I surely will keep you informed.

Guess what? The wonderful group in proper Turner are working their fannies off to open the "TURNER DEPOT". Can't hardly wait. There are going to be a lot of things in there for the community. Jim, Calvin, Alex, just many volunteers, donations of material and

money really helps.

Enright Garden should have those beautiful flowers in by the time this comes out. There will be some very nice things there for our community. Also IF you can help out with your garden, carpentry, painting or monetary abilities, they can surely use the help. Hey, these people are so great to do this for you all. Please

take all this in consideration.

Well, hey dear readers, please take care, lvyva all. From your little o' gal from Argentine. Sue

Notification about Maple Hill Cemetery. It will be gated and locked at sunset and opened at sunrise. It is so sad that certain activities are going on there. Hope this helps.



Look very close. My wonderful daughter in law put this Spring wreath on their front door. Momma bird built a nest in it and laid eggs in it. Nature minded, my family goes through the garage door, as not to disturb their new tenants.



These are the bird eggs.

Lowering your Tax Day burden

It is the time of year when friends and family will gather to hunt those colorful eggs. It is also a good time to hunt for ways to build your nest egg. April is financial literacy month and in the spirit of financial empowerment, the Kansas Insurance Department would like to share three nest egg building strategies worth careful consideration.

1. Traditional Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) - An IRA is a retirement account that offers a special tax benefit. All funds within an IRA are intended to be used at or near retirement (after age 59 1/2). When an IRA owner contributes their earned income into the account, their tax burden is lowered that year. These "tax-deferred" funds, along with any investment growth, are taxed when withdrawn during

retirement.

2. Roth IRAs - A Roth IRA is a retirement savings account that offers two special tax benefits. The investment earnings in a Roth IRA are intended to be used at or near retirement (after age 59 1/2). Roth IRA owners who contribute their earned income into the account do so with post-tax dollars. These "after-tax" funds not only benefit from tax-free investment growth, but the money saved can be withdrawn tax-free.

3. Health Savings Accounts (HSA) - An HSA is a savings account that offers three special tax benefits, often referred to as the "triple tax break." Funds saved in an HSA are intended to pay for the health care needs of the account owner and their dependents. Savers who open an HSA can avoid paying

taxes on: (1) their earned income contributed to the account, (2) any investment growth within the account, and (3) account funds used to pay for qualified medical expenses. HSAs have the tax reduction benefits of both an IRA and Roth IRA, but, unlike retirement accounts, HSA funds can be accessed immediately.

"I would encourage all Kansans, regardless of their stage in life, to have a plan for their financial future," Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt said. "There are many licensed and qualified professionals in the state of Kansas who can assist with finding the right plan for you."

To find resources, learn more about various product offerings or conduct a background check on an investment advisor visit insurance.kansas.gov.



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By Sharon Hoover

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

one of the first to participate in the program in May 2014. Both Jim and Calvin were interviewed and gave a brief history of the garden and its interaction with the community. CONGRATULATIONS, GUYS! Both of you do such a super job. An online subscription to The Beacon is free and published on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

ENRIGHT GARDENS should be ready for business at the Community Garden Bldg. (667 S. 55, KCK) by the time this column is published. The cold weather at night delayed the opening. This is second year at this location. They will be selling perennials, annuals, vegetables plants (tomatoes, peppers, etc.) and herbs. Hours of operation are Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm and Sunday noon to 4pm.

We purchased some beautiful flowers for our home garden last year and they did very well.

Wyandotte Master Gardeners are holding their annual fundraising Plant Sale on Friday, 29 from 9am-5pm and Saturday, April 30, 9am-2pm. Vegetable plants, perennials and native flowers grown by the Extension Master Gardeners will be offered for sale. They have a catalog of the plants posted on their website during the two weeks before the sale: www.wyandotte.k-state.edu This year there will be no online ordering. The plants will be in the Wild Cat Room at the Extension Office, 1216N 79th St., KCK for in person purchasing on the above dates and times.

Turner Recreation Commission is bringing back the Summer Food Truck Series starting Thursday,

May 8 from 6pm-9pm. The Food Trucks will be in the Turner Rec parking lot every Thursday in May, June, & July. Enjoy food, music, and yard games.

Calling all Artists for Downtown KCK for the Friday Take Out Series. Every Friday June 3-September 2 from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm at 7th & Minnesota Ave. If interested email director@downtownkck.org.

Los Garcia Bros. "Latino World Festival" will be held on May 21 at Memorial Hall, 600 N. 7th St. KCK. The Indoor Festival runs from 3pm-11pm; Outdoor Festival from 12pm - 4pm. Entry fee \$10 - Drinks-Free Parking, Check FB Latino world festival.

Until next time, stay safe, and be kind to those around you. Pray for the brave Ukrainians.

The April 13, 2022, edition of The Kansas City Beacon featured "KC's Giving Grove", a nonprofit that started planting gardens and orchards in 2013. Its footprint has expanded to more than 330 orchards in 10 cities. The spotlight was on the Turner Community Garden being



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SENATE NEWS



By Sen. Pat Pettey

LEGISLATURE REACHES FIRST ADJOURNMENT

The 2021 Legislative Session reached first adjournment on Friday, April 1. After a short, unpaid break, legislators return April 25 for Veto Session. Over the break, if you have any questions about any of the legislation being considered, feel free to contact me.

DEAL ON SALES TAX ON FOOD REACHED

Late Thursday night, a tax

conference committee came to an agreement on gradually reducing the state sales tax on groceries. Currently, Kansas's state sales tax on food is 6.5%, the second highest rate in the country. This proposal would stagger the reduction of the state portion of the food sales tax over three years, taking it to 4% in January 2023; 2% in 2024; and 0% in 2025.

While our budget has enough room to get all of this done this calendar year, the majority party has a vested interest in both advancing this important policy for their constituents and ensuring that the political benefit of passing such a popular policy does not go to Governor Kelly. Let's be clear:

it is perfectly possible to eliminate this tax by October of this year. The only thing standing in the way is legislative leadership.

This was made all the clearer on Friday night, the final day of regular legislative session. As the Senate was returning to the floor to begin debate on legislation promoting housing affordability, reducing barriers to childcare for working families, legalizing sports wagering, and reducing the sales tax on food, the House abruptly adjourned until April 25th. With no path to advance these bills during regular session, Senate leadership quickly followed suit and passed their adjournment resolution.

The Legislature can still take up this proposal when we return for Veto Session at the end of April. If this issue is important to you, I encourage you to contact legislative leadership to ask them to make eliminating the food sales tax the first order of business upon gaveling in on April 25th.

BUDGET PASSES THE LEGISLATURE

On Friday, the Legislature passed our initial budget. It passed by a vote of 33 to 5, and I voted YES. While I am disappointed it does not include Medicaid expansion – which will cause our state a net loss of \$68.5 million and hurt our workforce – there are many provisions that I support:

- **CLOSING THE BANK OF KDOT:** This budget not only fulfills the Governor's promise to close the Bank of KDOT, it ends other extraordinary transfers out of the State Highway Fund. These transfers for non-infrastructure programs such as Mental Health Grants and debt service on bonds will now be funded out of SGF, returning needed infrastructure dollars to their original purpose.

- **COMPENSATING STATE EMPLOYEES:** After failing to give state employees a raise last year, this budget provides a 5% pay raise across the board, including in the judicial branch. We still have more work to do, since prison, state hospital, veterans home, and agencies with a career progression plan (like Kansas Highway Patrol and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation) were excluded from the pay increase.

- **STATE WATER PLAN:** The budget includes full funding for the State Water Plan for the first time in 15 years, with an \$80 million one-time payment for water storage obligations for Big Hill, Clinton, and Hillsdale Reservoirs.

- **HIGHER EDUCATION:** The budget includes significant investments in higher education, both through state and federal funds. Of the \$295 million preliminary appropriations, \$28.5 million will go to community colleges, \$19 million to need-based scholarships, and \$20 million to capital projects.

The budget notably does not include K-12 education funding. Like last year, the House proposed that budget separately from the larger budget, and the House K-12 Education Committee tied funding to controversial policy pieces that jeopardize our standing under the Gannon school funding ruling and create inequality in the system. This was a non-starter for senators from both parties last year, and this year's similarly controversial package was so toxic that it did not even make it to the Senate floor for a vote.

ACTION ON THE FLOOR

The final week of legislative session is generally dedicated to debate on conference committee reports, which I dive into below. The Senate also has the ability to consider exempt bills – those that come out of Assessment & Taxation, Federal & State Affairs, or Ways & Means – on general orders, or, as was the case this week, by suspending Senate rules to debate, amend, and vote on bills outside of the committee of the whole.

The only bill that was not sent to a conference committee after its passage was HB 2717, which passed the House by a vote of 84 to 38 last week. This bill sets its sights on Wyandotte County's "Safe and Welcoming Wyandotte" policy adopted this spring.

Safe and Welcoming Wyandotte regulates the way in which local law enforcement cooperates with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. In a manner entirely consistent with federal law, it permits cooperation only in instances where a judicial

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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).

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Young Management Corporation
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Petty... ...from page 4

warrant is present or public safety is at risk. Similar ordinances have been adopted in Lawrence and Roeland Park, and Wyandotte's was adopted after 5 years of study and community discussion. Derek Schmidt – the attorney general who is running for governor – asked for HB 2717 in direct response to Wyandotte County's decision, and some have noted his indifference to previous ordinances adopted in non-election years. HB 2717 undermines local control and prevents communities from adopting policies that protect residents and strengthen relationships. I voted NO.

Motions to Concur

For a bill to become law, it must go through the committee and deliberation process in both the Senate and the House. Naturally, bills that come out of one chamber often end up looking much different by the time they make it out of the other chamber. Sometimes those differences need to be worked out, and that's where conference committees come in. But when a bill's house of origin is alright with the version that came out of the second chamber, the committee's chair will make a motion to concur.

The Senate considered 12 motions to concur this week on bills we had addressed earlier in the session. I did not prefer the House position on any of the bills I had originally found problematic, and my votes on these bills remained the same as when I first voted on them.

Conference Committee Reports

The rest of the time on the floor this week was spent considering Conference Committee Reports (CCRs). Conference committees are formed when there are differences between the Senate and the House's versions of a bill, requiring negotiations. The committees are made up of the chair, vice-chair, and ranking minority member of the committee in which the bill was originally worked. In theory, these 6 legislators work out those differences and bring

a compromise bill to their respective chambers for consideration. Often, though, these conference committees are opportunities for legislative leadership to bundle bills or replace them outright with their legislative priorities. Once these CCRs come to the Senate floor, they are not subject to amendment. Below are a few CCRs of interest that passed this week:

- **HOPELESS ACT:** In 2015, the Kansas Legislature passed the HOPE Act, which was followed by a trailer bill in 2016 creating additional barriers to restrict food assistance for vulnerable Kansans. According to Kansas Appleseed, food assistance programs such as SNAP help reduce hunger, improve nutrition, strengthen economies, and lift people out of poverty. This year's S Sub HB 2448 would add even further restrictions, including requiring individuals to complete an employment and training program in order to receive food assistance. The conference committee agreed to amend the bill to specify the training would apply only to individuals who are not employed at least 30 hours per week.

- **MEGA-TAX BUNDLE:** This conference committee report includes over 20 individual pieces of legislation, hitting property, income, and sales tax. While I think it would be better to consider each policy's merits individually, this type of bundling is a favorite tool of leadership's to push through as much as possible, good and bad. This bill had more good than bad in it, including property tax abatement in cases of natural disasters, an income tax checkoff for contributions to Kansas State Historical sites, and a property tax exemption for certain disabled veterans.

- **REDISTRICTING MAPS PACKAGE** Tradition has held that the Senate is responsible for drawing its state senate redistricting map, and that the House will respect that determination by passing it out clean (and vice versa). This year did not exactly follow that tradition, though no legislative lines were altered by the other chamber. Instead, the House amended the Senate map to include the House map, creating a bundle.

It also created the opportunity to form a conference committee, where Republican leadership's Apple state board of education map was inserted. All three maps now head to the governor. She can sign the maps, allow them to become law without her signature, or veto them. A veto would require the legislature to start from scratch on all three maps.

- **LIABILITY FOR HOSPITALS:** H Sub for Sub SB 286 extends policies the Legislature passed last year providing civil immunity to hospitals and nursing homes treating COVID-19 patients. It also increases criminal penalties for individuals convicted of assaulting a hospital employee. I have great admiration for the efforts of our healthcare providers and healthcare workers during the COVID-19 emergency and support the enhanced penalties for battery against them included in this legislation. This immunity for healthcare providers in this legislation is temporary, limited, and only applying in cases where treatment is related to COVID-19, whether the patient is vaccinated or not.

- **KANCARE CONTRACTS:** Legislative Republicans are hedging their bets that Governor Kelly is defeated this November with HB 2387. This bill forbids the governor from requesting proposals for Kancare (the state Medicaid program) or entering into any new contracts with managed care organizations for the administration of and provision of benefits under the medical assistance program. This bill puts our state in legally dubious waters, and unnecessarily harms Kansans participating in the program.

- **LEADING WITH CRUELTY:** For the fifth time in less than 18 months, the Senate debated a policy targeting transgender girls in school. SB 160 passed the House by a vote of 74 to 39, and passed the Senate by a vote of 25 to 13. There is one transgender girl in Kansas who has submitted an application to KSHSAA to play school sports. There is absolutely no reason for the legislature to spend this much time and energy on a policy that will have absolutely no impact on advancing the rights of women, but will undoubtedly indicate to trans

Kansans that they are different and that their dignity is up for debate by their government.

- **PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS:** The so-called "Parents' Bill of Rights" remains a cheap attempt for politicians to reap the benefits of the nationwide campaign to convince parents that schools and teachers are trying to indoctrinate their kids. SB 58 is the latest iteration of that proposal. It passed by a vote of 23 to 15, and I voted NO.

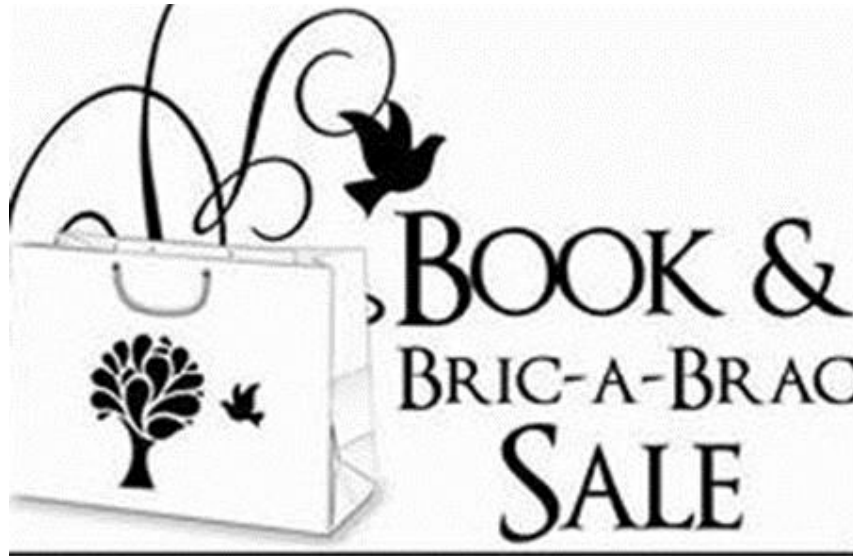
VOTER SUPPRESSION—WITH A SIDE OF A CORRUPTION COVER-UP

Earlier this month, the Senate voted on S Sub HB 2056, a behemoth voter suppression bill aimed at undermining the integrity of our election offices and making voting by mail ballot much less accessible to Kansas voters. My colleague Senator Ethan Corson has a column in the Kansas City Star explaining how these policies are unnecessary and promote a politically expedient lie that undermines our democracy. The marginal improvements made by the conference committee do not fix this inherent flaw in the bill.

During the conference committee process, Republican leadership proposed a seemingly out of nowhere provision requiring that the executive director of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission—the watchdog agency charged with, among other responsibilities, enforcing campaign finance laws—be a licensed attorney in good standing. The Topeka Capital-Journal has excellent reporting on the ongoing dispute between the Kansas Ethics Commission and a conservative Overland Park group that precipitated this attempted ouster.

The proposal quickly backfired, not only because of its brazenness, but also because it prompted the floodgates to open on rumors that have been swirling around subpoenas issued by the Kansas Ethics Commission to Republican lawmakers and right-wing advocacy organizations. The provision was not included in the final conference committee report on HB 2056, which is still a terrible bill.

The Shepherd's Center of Kansas City, Kansas



Annual Used Book and Bric-a-Brac sale benefitting the Shepherd's Center of Kansas City, Kansas

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SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022 – 8am to 3pm

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 3333 WOOD AVENUE,
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Donations will be accepted at the church beginning at 8am
on Thursday, April 28, 2022.

No clothing or magazines will be accepted.

Call 913-281-8908 with questions or to schedule donation
pick-up. Donations are tax deductible.

PS: We need volunteer help to organize and run the sale!

Can you give us an hour or two on Thursday to set up, or

Friday and Saturday of the sale? Call Melissa at

*the Shepherd's Center office, 913-281-8908 to sign up for
a shift!*

LEGAL PUBLICATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS:

The Board of Education, Unified School District No. 500, Kansas City, KS will accept sealed bids for: IFB 22-012 Dairy Vendor 2022/2023 School Year.

Sealed bids should be addressed to: PURCHASING Department, Board of Education, 2010 N. 59th Street, Room 370, Kansas City, KS 66104 - IFB No. 22-012 Dairy Vendor.

Bids will be opened: 04/28/2022 @ 1:30PM in the Purchasing Office.

Bid Documents are available online at <https://vrapp.vendorregistry.com/Bids/View/BidsList?BuyerId=c00af89d-f6af-4f0e-b823-f145c898cc06>

(First published 4-21-22)
1t-The Record-4-21-22

INVITATION FOR BIDS:

The Board of Education, Unified School District No. 500, Kansas City, KS will accept sealed bids for: IFB 22-014 Produce Vendor 1st Semester 2022/2023 School Year.

Sealed bids should be addressed to: Purchasing Department, Board of Education, 2010 N. 59th Street, Room 370, Kansas City, KS 66104 - IFB No. 22-014 Produce Vendor.

Bids will be opened: 04/28/2022 @ 2PM in the Purchasing Office.

Bid Documents are available online at <https://vrapp.vendorregistry.com/Bids/View/BidsList?BuyerId=c00af89d-f6af-4f0e-b823-f145c898cc06>

(First published 4-21-22)
1t-The Record-4-21-22

INVITATION FOR BIDS:

The Board of Education, Unified School District No. 500, Kansas City, KS will accept sealed bids for: IFB 22-013 Dish Machine for Sumner Academy.

Sealed bids should be addressed to: Purchasing Department, Board of Education, 2010 N. 59th Street, Room 370, Kansas City, KS 66104 - IFB No. 22-013 Dish Machine – Sumner Academy.

Bids will be opened: 04/28/2022 @ 2PM in the Purchasing Office.

Bid Documents are available online at <https://vrapp.vendorregistry.com/Bids/View/BidsList?BuyerId=c00af89d-f6af-4f0e-b823-f145c898cc06>

(First published 4-21-22)
1t-The Record-4-21-22

Request for Proposal Advertisement

Turner Unified School District No. 202 is seeking Bid Proposals to replace roofs at Turner Middle School and Turner Recreation Center.

Documents pertaining to this Request for Proposal will be provided to any qualified contractor free of charge by email request sent to crockettc@turnerusd202.org

Turner USD 202 Facility Supervisor, Chris Crockett will host the blind bid opening Wednesday April 27, 2022 at 11:00 pm. The location of the bid opening will be the Facility and Grounds Building located at 5800 Metropolitan, Kansas City, KS 66106. Turner USD 202 will announce the vendor that is awarded the bid Wednesday May 4, 2022.

(First published 4-21-22)
2t-The Record-4-28-22

LEGAL PUBLICATION

LEGAL PUBLICATION

**TURNER
RECREATION
COMMISSION
NOTICE TO
BIDDERS:
REQUEST
FOR BIDS
FOR WORK
VEHICLES**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Executive Director of Turner Recreation Commission, Kansas City, Kansas until 1 pm on May 6 at Turner Recreation Commission Center, 831 S. 55th St. Kansas City, Kansas 66106, for work vehicles.

Bids shall be identified on the exterior of the sealed envelope with all the information required by law, including the name of the project and the bidder's name and address. No bids will be received or accepted after the above specified time for the opening of bids. Bids submitted after the designated hour will be deemed invalid and returned unopened to the bidder.

The Turner Recreation Commission reserves the right to waive any irregularities or reject any or all bids, as well as the right to place orders based on the Commission's needs and budget constraints; therefore, the Commission may not order every item listed in the bid document. Copies of the bid document may be obtained at Turner Recreation Commission Center located at 831 S. 55th St., Kansas City, KS 66106. The Turner Recreation Commission complies with all statutes and regulations as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and as amended, and the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (P.I.100.259).

TURNER RECREATION
COMMISSION/rs

(First published 4-21-22)
1t-The Record-4-21-22

American Rescue...
...from page 1

City, KS and \$32.1 million for Wyandotte County. Half of the funding is already available to the Unified Government and the remainder will be available in May 2022.

Interested applicants are encouraged to register to attend a grant information session this Wednesday, April 13, 2022, from 9:00AM-10:00AM via Zoom.

The Board of Commissioners have identified four core values to guide our pandemic recovery: equity, collaboration, innovation, and resiliency. Through several workshops in Fall 2021, the Commissioners requested that money be spent to reflect these values while creating sustainable impact on our community. The American Rescue Plan Act local recovery funds have specified eligible uses, including:

Awardee staff salaries, digital infrastructure, life skills training, expansion of childcare services, food security, other to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

Applications will be accepted now through May 27, 2022.

**Passings...**

By Sue Reich

Bobby Rydell, age 79, passed away on April 5, 2022, weeks before his 80th birthday. Teenage heart throb.

Gilbert Gottfried, age 67, passed away on April 12, 2022. Comedian.

Estell Harris, age 93, passed away on April 2, 2022. Played Mother of George on TV's Seinfeld.

William Hurt, age 71, passed away on March 13, 2022, one week before 72nd birthday. Actor and Oscar winner.

Tim Considine, age 81, Passed away on March 3, 2022. TV shows: Spin & Marty, Micky Mouse Club, Hardy Boys, My Three Sons and the movie, Shaggy Dog.



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