



The Record

Governor Kelly Announces Kansas Find My Vaccine Tool

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly today announced the launch of the “Find My Vaccine” mapping tool, designed to help Kansans locate sites that are administering vaccines in their communities. The tool is available now on <https://kansasvaccine.gov>, Kansas’s COVID-19 vaccine website. Kansans in vaccine phase 1 and 2 are recommended to use this tool as a resource for finding providers who are or will be offering the vaccine.

“The ‘find my vaccine’ mapping tool allows any Kansan, regardless of where they live, to find the closest vaccine provider to their community,” Governor Laura Kelly said. “The national shortage continues to be the biggest obstacle to delivering vaccines, and that means, many of our enrolled providers do not yet have sufficient vaccines to offer to the general public. But we know it’s better to be ahead of the curve and have this platform ready to go before supply has caught up, so that every Kansan is familiar with the tool and so we can be prepared as more providers are activated.”

The Kansas Find My Vaccine tool allows Kansans to:

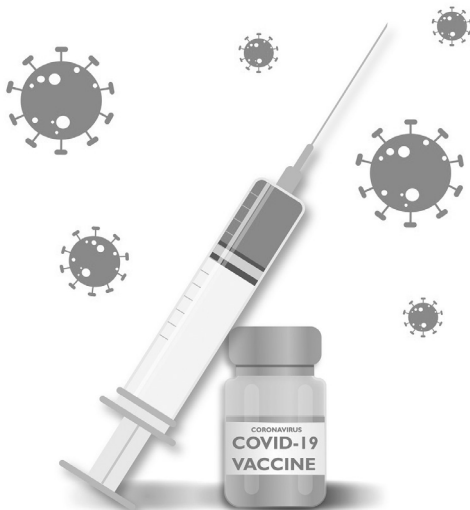
vaccine locations

2. Identify which locations have recently received vaccine doses

3. Access contact information for each location to confirm eligibility and availability

The tool includes locations that are participating in administering COVID-19 vaccines and have provided their information to share with the general public. As federal supply increases, Find My Vaccine will evolve to support the COVID-19 vaccination effort by listing more providers and linking to details and scheduling opportunities as they become available. As the vaccine supply continues to grow, the State asks all enrolled providers who intend to vaccinate the general public to provide their information for Kansans to see in Find My Vaccine. Further information on how to provide information can be found here.

Vaccines are being delivered to all 105 Kansas counties on a weekly basis, but not all providers may be listed on the map at this time. If you do not see an active



location in your area - and you are in Phase 1 or 2 - ask your local health department how to access the vaccine. Weekly vaccine allocations for each county are available on the KS COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard.

About ‘Find My Vaccine’ Tool

Find My Vaccine allows eligible Kansans to look up their current location and find nearby COVID-19 vaccination locations, see which locations have received doses, and access contact information. To access “Find My Vaccine” and for more information, please visit <https://www.kansasvaccine.gov/160/Find-My-Vaccine>

Governor Kelly Announces Medicaid Expansion Bill Funded By Medical Marijuana

Governor Laura Kelly announced legislation to expand Medicaid (Kancare) and provide health insurance for 165,000 Kansans. The legislation also establishes a regulatory framework to make Kansas the 48th state to legalize medical marijuana.

This Medicaid Expansion bill includes the same components of the compromise legislation from last year with the following exceptions:

- The re-insurance program has been removed.
- The Medicaid Expansion Surcharge paid by Kansas hospitals to offset the state general fund costs of expanding Medicaid has been removed.
- In place of these two programs, a proposed medical marijuana bill has been inserted.
- This bill is modeled after Ohio’s framework and similar to the bill that has been proposed by House Republicans.
- The fiscal note of this portion of the bill should more than offset the state general fund costs of Medicaid Expansion.

“Our economic recovery depends heavily on our ability to attract and retain businesses throughout the state,” Lieutenant Governor Toland said. “Kansas has no business giving companies even one reason to look elsewhere — and I can say, unequivocally, that the availability of healthcare and well-being of all Kansans matters a great deal to companies considering places to locate and grow.”

Under the proposed legislation, Medicaid will be expanded to the full 138% Federal Poverty Line at 90% to 10% match from the federal government. The bill requires the Secretary of Health and Environment to collect information from applicants regarding their employment history through the Medicaid application and refer unemployed or underemployed individuals to the Department of Commerce or Department of Children and Families to assist with locating job opportunities through work referral programs.

Individuals will be required to pay a premium not to exceed \$25 per person or \$100 per family, with a provision to grant exceptions based on hardship. Premiums that go more than 60 days unpaid are referred to the established debt setoff program through the Department of Revenue for collection.

“Making health care available to thousands of low-income, uninsured Kansans would help working Kansans and their families, resulting in a healthier, more productive workforce and benefit employers across the state,” Tracey Osborne Oltjen, President and CEO of the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, said. “We know that people who have health coverage are generally healthier and more productive at work. From a business perspective, that’s why Medicaid expansion is so important. Until we expand Medicaid in Kansas, we risk falling further behind our neighbors. We should not stand as an island on this issue, creating expensive challenges for our residents and our businesses.”

Kansas is one of only three states without legalized medical marijuana and one of twelve that have failed to expand Medicaid.

“Expanding Medicaid is one of the most cost-effective tools our state can use to protect our residents, health care providers and economy during the COVID-19 crisis and later as we rebuild,” April Holman, Executive Director of the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas, said. “With that in mind, we commend the governor for her commitment to this issue. We will need to discuss the full scope of Governor Kelly’s proposal with our coalition. However, we remain unified in urging the Legislature to act on expanding Medicaid now. On its own, expanding KanCare will prove to be a budget positive proposal that will create thousands of jobs.”

The bill designates the Kansas Department of Health and Environment responsibility for overseeing patients and their use of medical marijuana, KDOR is responsible for licensure and fee collections as well as regulation of producers, and the Board of Healing Arts is responsible for certifying prescribing physicians. However, it also establishes a bipartisan medical marijuana advisory committee with appointments made by the governor, legislative leadership, and chaired by the Secretary of Health and Environment.

Sue's Sudsy Soapbox By: Sue Reich



I watched the memorial service for Brian Sicknick, the man that died the day after the storming of our Capitol with that wild mob. Six people died from the riot, and Sicknick was only 42 years old. So sad. I just don't understand people anymore. Is it because of this coronavirus, is it the election, is it the crazy upside-down world of ours that people just can't think straight anymore? I know I get restless and can't wait until Spring so I can get outside again and do the things I like to do outside. Now I understand it is going to get cold again.

I still get out and deliver *The Record* and stop and see what's going on in the garden and the new building that is part of the garden now. Boy, Jim and Calvin are really putting blood, sweat and tears in that place. I have a lot of things I am going to donate to it. It is a lot bigger than it looks too. Going to have a handicap ramp in the back, a couple of bathrooms, bakery, coffee shop, just about everything. All we need is a couple of gates for the west and south side. Those men have done a great job and wish I could get down there and help them more, but I have my hands full at home. I was checking out ol' Digger the bear that I donated. He needs a hat and another paint job. Hopefully I can get my paint and brushes together and do a refresher job on him. I think he needs a different outfit, something more updated. How about a tux or a crazy outfit of some sort? A clown maybe? Well, I will have an idea before it gets too warm. I always loved to go to the garden when the weather is nice. We had a meeting down there the last of the warm

days. Of course, we all had our masks on.

Know what I really want to do? I want to go fishing. I haven't fished for 20 years. You know that little lake by Turner high school? That used to be a big lake and my mom and I used to go there and fish. There was no school there, that part of 55th street was really shady with trees, it was so peaceful and cool. Sure is different now. No shade trees, more houses, a high school now and the big fishing lake is a pond. Our communities have really changed in the years gone by. All the businesses that that used to be in Argentine and Turner have disappeared, the clubs like the Lions Club in Turner, Argentine Activities Association, the neat RX stores where you could sit on a stool and have a soda and neat little stores of all kinds. The floods had a lot to do with that and most of the owners never came back. But that big pay lake on 55th street was such a neat place to go. We really did have some good old days.

So, how is everyone taking this quarantine thing we have been going through? I guess I am sort of getting used to it. Some people don't wear masks or take precaution. I sure do. I have "cutout friends" at my house. You should see my front room. Darlene is at the dining room table with her little fur baby, Deb is across from Darlene. Phylis is on the couch, David is in the front room with a red nose on holding a broom, John isn't there, he probably is in Florida. So, I do have a lot of company. They don't talk much though. lol. Boy, I wish we could all get together again.

Well, ya'll, guess I will sign off. Watch your p's and q's, wash those hands, sanitize, sanitize and sanitize. I really do miss everyone. So glad I stopped by and seen Jim and Calvin today. They are two KOOL guys. Take care and please don't take chances, this virus is a real serious thing. Love you all, be good. Be kind. Sue

"One of the secrets of life is keeping your friends hugging distance."

From: *The Heart of Friendship*



Calvin Hoover still working for our community in Turner.



Jim Jarsulic working hard for the community of Turner.



Our Capitol where Brian Sicknick was mortally injured. He died on the 7th of January.

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

The seed catalogs just seem to be coming, I could paper a room with their contents. This year Calvin and I are taking a different approach to selecting flower seeds. We both attended a Zoom presentation by Lenora Larson, Miami County Master Gardener on "The No Sow Garden". Lenora has a PhD in Biology, has been growing plants for over 40 years and her mother was a landscape designer. First you must decide how much time you want to spend in gardening and then design your garden - picking the height and color of flowers

that compliment each other. You will want to buy seeds to plant in the spring because they (self-seed) drop their seeds in the fall. Our local nurseries and box stores usually only sell annuals and few perennials. Two good sources for your self-seeders and heirlooms are select-seeds.com and seedsavers.org. Flower Farm in Gardener is also a good source.

To get started, clear the ground and the mulch, remove any woodchips from the garden, scatter seeds in a defined pattern, hand tamp the soil, label everything, water during germination and after germination, thin and heavily mulch. Pinch above the 2 leaves of the flower to increase branching for a fuller plant. Some weeding will be needed. Fertilize if needed, the mulch should turn into compost to feed the soil. Continue to deadhead until September. In the fall, mulch 2" to 4" deep.

Yesterday, we attended a presentation of "Planting Natives in Northeast Kansas" by Sharon Ainsworth,

Douglas County Master Gardener. Native plants are those who have evolved and adapted to a specific location. They are usually drought tolerant and easily managed. A nativar is a cultivar of a native plant. It is manipulated by selective breeding for desired traits. Benefits are color, height, style, size of bloom, and disease. Types are ground cover, sedges, and grasses. If interested, you can download a copy of "A Guide to Planting Natives in Northeast Kansas" at plantnativesks.weebly.com. Retail sources for plants and seeds close to Kansas City, Ks are Happy Apple's Farm in Tonganoxie, Ks and Sow Wild Natives (plants only) in Kansas City Mo. Examples of native plants can be found in The Prairie Center and Kill Creek Park in Olathe; Prairie Acre (KU), Prairie Park Nature Center, and Baker Wetlands in Lawrence, Ks.

My time is running out So...

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SENATE NEWS

By Sen. Pat Pettey

This Week at the Capitol

The week started out slow, but picked up quickly on Thursday, when we debated the constitutional amendment on abortion, followed by the Senate rules. Several amendments to the Senate rules were introduced to promote transparency and bipartisan compromise; no amendment passed. Nonetheless, the Senate and joint rules were overwhelmingly approved by the body. I voted YES.

Next week, we anticipate more work in committees, especially on Tax and Education.

If you want to watch the proceedings of the House or the Senate, legislative proceedings and committee meetings are live streamed from the Kansas Legislature's website and Youtube channel.

I welcome your input on any of these issues. Please feel free to contact me at 785-296-7375 or pat.pettey@senate.ks.gov.

Abortion Amendment Passes

On a vote of 28-11, the constitutional amendment seeking to eliminate abortion rights in Kansas passed the Senate on Thursday after two hours of debate. I voted NO.

Here's what you should know about it: a version of this amendment was first introduced in the 2020 Legislative session. It was introduced in response to the 2019 Kansas Supreme Court 6-1 decision in *Hodes & Nauser, MDs, P.A. v. Schmidt*, which found that "Section 1 of the Kansas Constitution Bill of Rights affords protection of the right of personal autonomy, which includes the ability to control one's own body, to assert bodily integrity, and to exercise self-determination. This right allows a woman to make her own decisions regarding her body, health, family formation, and family life—decisions that can include whether to continue a pregnancy."

This amendment would amend the constitution to explicitly remove the right found by the Supreme Court. Though the Legislature already has the power to regulate abortion – which it has wielded in the form of nearly two dozen medically unnecessary restrictions since 2011 – this amendment

would enable it to pass restrictions in cases of rape, incest, or risk of the life of the mother. It also opens the door to more than just regulation: it allows the Legislature to ban abortion entirely.

During Thursday's debate, three amendments were introduced:

- Senator Pat Pettey (D - Kansas City) introduced an amendment to protect victims of rape and incest, and instances in which the life of the mother is in danger. The Senate rejected this amendment 11-27. I voted YES.

- Senator John Doll (R - Garden City) introduced an amendment to move the amendment from August 2022 to November 2021 for consideration by Kansas voters. The Senate rejected this amendment 11-26. I voted YES/NO.

- Senator Marci Francisco (D - Lawrence) introduced an amendment to clarify the explanatory statements that will appear on the ballot to more accurately reflect what the Constitutional Amendment does so that voters would have a better understanding when deciding how to vote. The Senate rejected this amendment 11-27. I voted YES.

- Kansans deserve the right to make their own personal, private medical decisions without government interference. A constitutional amendment would allow increased government overreach into our private lives.

- This is the next step in a pattern of medically unnecessary restrictions that push abortion care out of reach for our most vulnerable citizens -- with the ultimate goal of banning abortion outright.

This amendment now goes to Kansas voters for approval. It will appear on the August 2, 2022 ballot.

I signed on to these comments by Senate Democratic Leader Dinah Sykes:

"Senate President Masterson declared two weeks ago, in response to Governor Kelly's State of the State, that he trusts Kansans to make their own healthcare choices. Today, he and Senate Republicans revealed that this trust only goes as far as their approved healthcare agenda. They want the power to control the healthcare and personal decisions of Kansans.

"Make no mistake: this amendment opens the door for the Legislature to ban abortion in cases of rape or incest. If approved by Kansas

voters, the Legislature will have unchecked power to ban abortion including in cases where the life of the mother is at risk. And it paves the way for politicians in Topeka to ban abortion outright.

"Kansans deserve the truth, and over the next year and a half, bad faith actors will spend millions of dollars misleading the public about the consequences of this amendment. I urge all Kansans to read the amendment carefully and to make a plan to vote in August 2022. I know that Kansas voters are reasonable and will reject this attempt to strip their fellow Kansans of their constitutional rights."

Other Bills to Watch

- SB 22: This bill has existed in some shape or form for the past several years. While there are some portions of the bill I support, the Kansas Division of Budget estimates that the state would lose over \$620 million over the next three years to pay for multinational corporate tax giveaways. SB 22 would reintroduce the failed policies of the Brownback/Colyer tax experiment, significantly reducing state revenue and jeopardizing our economic recovery from the pandemic.

- SB 61: This bill would expand a K-12 scholarship program that allows families to use taxpayer dollars to pay for private school. Private schools do not have the same reporting and operating criteria as public schools, which raises concerns about equity and transparency. Furthermore, an expansion of this program would result in a reduced budget for public schools, which are still recovering from being chronically underfunded, as well as new challenges presented by the pandemic.

- SB 35: This bill would take away power from the Kansas Secretary of State to allow mail ballots to be counted more than three days after an election.

- SB 34: This bill would sunset all agency rules and regulations after five years unless the Legislature extends them. This will create a lot more work for our agencies which historically have been stretched thin.

Department of Labor Update

- The Kansas Department of Labor is deploying a new security system to fight unemployment insurance fraud.

- This new security system will deploy identity verification software for unemployment insurance accounts and claims. The deployment of the new security system will be a major tool to combat identity theft.

- Deployment of this new system will require some server downtime – and in order to lessen the impact to claimants needs -- KDOL plans to take the servers offline beginning Saturday, January 30. The agency expects to complete the upgrade, and return to normal operations, by Tuesday morning, February 2. This deployment process is similar to the many other states that have also implemented identity verification software solutions.

- In order to ensure unemployment benefit payments are not made on fraudulent claims, KDOL will hold payment of Regular Unemployment benefits until the new system is operational on February 2, 2021. Claimants will get any back pay owed as a result of the hold at that time.

- Once the new identification verification system is brought back online, every claimant will be required to verify his or her identity by answering questions specific to the person's credit history. Once an identity is verified, the system will prompt the claimant to setup two-factor authentication for her or his benefit account moving forward. This additional layer of security is an important factor in protecting KDOL unemployment insurance.

- This will also enable KDOL to make payments more quickly to legitimate claimants while simultaneously helping KDOL fulfill its fiduciary responsibilities.

- Since March 15, 2020 KDOL has paid out over 3.9 million weekly claims totaling over \$2.6 billion between regular unemployment and the federal pandemic programs. For more information, or to apply for unemployment benefits, go to www.GetKansasBenefits.gov.

Vaccine Update

There is a national vaccine shortage, which is why every state has created a phased approach to prioritize the most vulnerable. Until the supply increases, this is not like the flu vaccine where anyone can walk into a pharmacy and get the vaccine immediately.

The Kelly administration is

committed to delivering vaccines efficiently, quickly, and reaching as many Kansas as possible. The vaccine priority groups were designed to be flexible, strategic, and protect as much of the population and our economy as possible.

The Kelly administration is prioritizing transparency and communication with public health officials and Kansans.

County Allocation Data available on COVID-19 Vaccine dashboard:

- Governor Kelly announced that the data dashboard on kansasvaccine.gov/ website now has information on the number of doses distributed to each county, the vaccines administered by first and second dose, vaccines administered by age group, and vaccines administered by sex – all in addition to the vaccination overview.

- This dashboard will be updated every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday by 12:30 pm CT.

- As of January 25, Kansas has reported:

- 132,145 people vaccinated,
- 157,520 total vaccine doses administered,
- 255,550 vaccine doses distributed.

- People Vaccinated represents the total number of individuals with a vaccination record reported in KS WebIZ. This number may differ from total number of first doses administered if records are complete for second doses but not first.

- Total Doses Administered represents the total number of all COVID-19 vaccine doses (e.g. first dose, second dose) that have been given to people in Kansas as reported in KS WebIZ.

- Total Doses Distributed represents the total number of all COVID-19 vaccine doses that have been delivered to vaccine administration sites throughout Kansas. This includes all first and second doses. Second doses are delivered prior to completion of the appropriate interval.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: If a specific group or qualifier is not listed in the phases, how does one know where they fit?

- The State of Kansas created broad but clear guidelines to give local health departments guidance and control to direct vaccinations to their populations.

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LEGAL PUBLICATION

STATE OF KANSAS, ex rel. KANSAS HIGHWAY PATROL V. \$2,380.00 in U.S. CURRENCY

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY, KANSAS
CIVIL DIVISION
STATE OF KANSAS, ex rel. KANSASHIGHWAYPATROL, Plaintiff,
v.

Case No. 2020CV000671
\$2,380.00 in U.S. CURRENCY, m/l;
12 GRAMS OF METHAMPHETAMINE;
AND
56 DOSAGE UNITS OF HYDROXYZINE,

Defendants.

Pursuant to the Kansas Standard Asset Seizure and Forfeiture Act,
K.S.A. 60-4101 et seq.

NOTICE OF PENDING FORFEITURE Pursuant to K.S.A. 60-4109
STATE OF KANSAS TO ANY PERSON WHO HAS AN INTEREST IN THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT(S).

You are hereby notified that civil asset forfeiture proceedings have been filed in the District Court of Wyandotte County by the State of Kansas, ex rel. the Kansas Highway Patrol, praying for a decree forfeiting the above named defendant property to the Kansas Highway patrol as items that were used or intended to be used to facilitate a violation of the Controlled Substances Act, were the fruits of such a violation, or are contraband in and of themselves. You are required to send your claim or petition for recognition of exemption to both the below attorney and the Kansas Highway Patrol no later than 41 days after the 11th day of February 2021. Should you fail to file a sufficient claim pursuant to K.S.A. 60-4111 or a Petition for Recognition of Exemption pursuant to K.S.A. 60-4110, a decree forfeiting any interest in the above defendant property, \$2,380.00 in US Currency, m/l, will be entered in due course thus granting the Plaintiff's request.

Sarah E. Washburn #24687
Legal Counsel / Special Assistant Attorney General
Kansas Highway Patrol
122 S.W. 7th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3847
(785) 296-6800
(785) 296-1790 Fax
Sarah.washburn@ks.gov
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LEGAL PUBLICATION

MBE / WBE INVITATION TO BID

JE Dunn Construction has been pre-selected to bid the Oak Grove School District WP 1 HS, MS PECC Reno Project. This is a rebid package for the following scopes of work: 071.2 – Firestopping, 10G – Signage, 32J - Turf/Playground Surfacing. The rebid package includes the following buildings:

* Oak Grove Primary School and Early Childhood Center (PECC)
Address - 500 SE 17th St, Oak Grove, MO 64075

* Oak Grove Middle School - 401 SE 12th St, Oak Grove, MO 64075

* Oak Grove High School - 605 SE 12th St, Oak Grove, MO 64075

The Roof Replacement package includes the following buildings:

* Oak Grove Elementary School – 501 SE 12th, Street, Oak Grove, MO 64075

* Charlene Roschier Early Childhood Center – 1205 Salem Street, Oak Grove, MO 64075

MBE/WBE participation is encouraged.

Bidding Documents may be obtained by contacting the various plan rooms or via Smart Bid Net (by invitation). Email linda.webb@jedunn.com to receive invitation. Sealed bids are required for all scopes of work. Sealed bid can be mailed or hand delivered to JE Dunn Construction, Attn: Daniel McReynolds, 1001 Locust St, Kansas City, MO 64106 no later than February 17, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

A Pre-bid site walk will be held on February 9th, 2021 at 1:00 PM, starting at the Oak Grove Elementary School. Please contact Daniel McReynolds (daniel.mcreynolds@jedunn.com) at 913-568-8026 or Nathan Quigley (nathan.quigley@jedunn.com) at 913-710-7852 to set up a time or if there are further questions. EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled

Bid Opening will start at 2:30 PM. on February 17, 2021 via Microsoft Teams if you would like to join. Join on your computer or mobile app Click here to join the meeting Join with a video conferencing device 767400073@t.plcm.vc Video Conference ID: 118 225 770 4 Alternate VTC dialing instructions Or call in (audio only) +1 469-340-3667,,783102055# United States, Dallas Phone Conference ID: 783 102 055#

(First published 2-11-21)

1t-The Record-2-11-21

Kansas' January Total Tax Collections 9.7% More Than Previous Fiscal Year

Topeka— For January of Fiscal Year 2021, the State of Kansas saw a nearly 10% performance increase in total tax collections with \$795.8 million collected. That is a 12.8%, or \$90.2 million, increase from the estimate. Those collections are \$70.4 million, or 9.7%, more than January of Fiscal Year 2020.

“While these numbers look promising, my administration will continue to take a close look at all tax legislation that may come to my desk and keep an eye on the fluctuation of the national economy,” Governor Laura Kelly said. “As I’ve said before, we must continue to promote fiscally-responsible practices that will ensure our state will not only recover from the COVID-19 pandemic but continue to grow.”

Corporate income tax collections were 29.9%, or \$6.4 million, more than last fiscal year with \$27.7 million collected for the month. That is an 84.9%, or \$12.7 million, gain. Individual income tax collections were \$457.9 million. That is \$57.9 million, or 14.5%, more than the estimate and \$49.2 million, or 12.0%, more than the previous January.

The individual income tax category is slightly higher for the end of the month due to the Internal Revenue Service’s delay in processing of tax returns to February 12, 2021. Due to that delay, the state cannot begin to process returns and issue refund checks until that time.

Retail sales tax collections were \$3.8 million, or 1.7%, more than the same month of last fiscal year with \$224.6 million collected. That is \$9.6 million, or 4.5%, more than the estimate. Compensating use tax collections were \$64.6 million for January; a \$9.6 million increase from the estimate. Those collections are 22.9% or \$12.0 million, more than last January.

Petty...

from page 4

• Individuals whom are unsure of what phase they fall in should reach out to their local health department to determine where they fit in.

• Just because the state is giving local public health departments the authority to make those decisions, doesn’t mean the state isn’t still in regular contact to help trouble shoot and address these types of situations as they come up.

Q: How will an individual prove that they meet the requirements of the phase?

• Providers have been encouraged to implement some form of patient sub-group verification, but we don’t believe that they should be forced to police the vaccination process.

• We expect Kansans to do the right thing and wait until it’s their turn to receive the vaccine.

• Individuals should check their provider’s screening requirements before going to their appointment.

Q: Is it protocol to vaccinate individuals who have already recovered from COVID-19?

• Yes, reinfection is possible.

• We follow the CDC guidelines and suggest that an individual who has been infected with COVID-19 to wait 90 days before receiving the vaccine.

Q: Does KDHE have any indication on when the AstraZenca and the Johnson & Johnson vaccine would be approved and ready for distribution?

• AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson have not yet submitted their paperwork to the FDA, which is the starting point to gain Emergency Use Authorization in the U.S.

KDADS Receives 988 State Planning Grant for National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

Governor Kelly announced the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) has received the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline’s 988 State Planning Grant through Vibrant Emotional Health, the nonprofit administrator of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (Lifeline). Through this grant, awarded to 49 states and territories, KDADS will develop strategic plans for projected infrastructure needs, volume growth and access to the Lifeline’s new 988 number.

In July 2022, 988 will become the national three-digit

dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, replacing the current phone number of 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Americans needing support should continue to call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) until then.

Vibrant believes the new 988 number, once implemented, will ensure the Lifeline will continue to be America’s mental health safety net by providing emotional support for people in distress, reducing suicides and mental health crises, and providing a pathway to well-being for all.

311 Services Expanded

The Unified Government’s 3-1-1 Call Center now offers 24/7 service to customers. The expansion comes in response to feedback received in the most recent county-wide customer service satisfaction survey and temporary changes to city services caused by COVID-19.

The Unified Government has contracted with Daupler, a Kansas City-based company, to receive calls that come in after normal business hours. Residents and businesses can expect their after-hours calls to be answered quickly by professional staff. Call takers have been trained to provide information about city services, take messages for Treasury & Court staff, and dispatch personnel for Public Works emergencies.

“Public Works has contracted with Daupler for a number of years, so we’re confident in their ability to handle customer inquiries that range from easy to complex,” said Chad Wiggans, 3-1-1/Daupler Expanded Hours Initiative Project Manager. “We’ve heard what our residents and businesses have to say about making customer service a top priority, and we’re excited to implement a program that will meet this need.”

As a high volume of calls are directly related to the County’s COVID-19 response, funding for the expansion of 24-hour service was supported by Phase I CARES Act Funding from the federal government.

Service requests may also be submitted online at mywyco.wycokck.org.

For more information about COVID-19 in Wyandotte County, visit wycokck.org/COVID-19 or call 3-1-1. For more information about CARES funding, visit wycokck.org/CARES.

Guest Editorials

Nursing Home Evictions Continue Affecting Vulnerable And Poorer Seniors

By: Tom Valverde

Many people who reside in long-term care facilities and nursing homes are now experiencing greater numbers of evictions. Vulnerable individuals are being forced out of their care homes without prior notice, preparation, or as much as an appropriate or safe place for these most at-risk people to be left at. The American Bar Association, ABA, has in its volume 41, issue 3, January February 2020 publication, some examples of these nursing home evictions:

Case 1: "Mt. T was evicted from his nursing facility for "Raising concerns about an increase in the price of sodas at the facility's machines. He had also a physician assistant, who came to his room, to leave." Mr. T was forcibly removed and discharged. He knew that he had the right to appeal (In many cases, residents are not told or informed when they are discharged, or have forgotten that they have certain rights, if told when they are first admitted). Mr. T appealed and won his case to be allowed to remain in the facility, but the nursing home refused to follow the hearing's order to permit him to return. Now, upset that may never be allowed to return to his former home, Mr. T is now residing in another nursing home, and is depressed and anxious."

Case 2: "Mr. R received a notice of discharge but management failed to notify his sister, who has Power of Attorney. They also did not notify the State Ombudsman, the Department of Health, or the Appeals officer, as is required by State and Federal regulations. In this terrible case, Mr. R was "Driven to a motel and a "social worker" booked a room for just 3 nights. After that, he would have to move out. The social worker who drove him to the motel left Mr. R with no money, none of his medications, and no phone! This former resident is disabled, and he requires assistance to move as one leg had been amputated."

Case 3: Residents that are on Medicare in facilities belonging to a Corporation were all unexpectedly discharged when Medicare coverage ended. None were given the option to remain and pay privately or through Medicaid. Those discharged also included "Any who still required nursing home level of care." "When discharged these people were either left in homeless shelters, and others even in storage units, in the midst of the Summer heat! Yet others were taken to boarding homes where they reported they were assaulted and/or robbed. In some instances, they were driven to and left in other cities.

Federal Law stipulates that at least one of the following, as being the only permissible reasons for the discharge or transfer of nursing home residents:

- The facility is unable to meet the people's needs and welfare.
- The individual no longer is in need of the nursing home services, because of their improved health status.
- The safety of other home residents and staff is threatened or endangered due to clinical or behavioral status of the resident.
- The health of other home residents is at risk by having the people remain.
- The nursing home resident has failed, after reasonable & appropriate notice, to pay for a stay at the home (Or to have Medicare or Medicaid pay).
- The nursing home ceases to operate.

One unforgettable case involved a nursing home resident who had been in the home for over a year because he is diabetic and had to have an amputation that left him wheelchair bound. One night at 10:30 one of the administrators comes into his room all smiles and announced that it was moving day! The man was given no prior notice, and as he says, he was simply taken and left on the sidewalk, in skid row in Los Angeles, without bedding, cash, or even the medications

he required for his diabetes! He literally, was left there to die. It is unacceptable that anyone be discharged so inhumanely. And worse still, are the incidences of elderly people being simply dropped off to fend for themselves when they lack the health or the resources to do so. Perhaps it will take "hitting them where it hurts," or new, steep-

er fines for each reported case of a poorly administered home discharge. It seems that the corporations who own multiple nursing homes in various states, have yet to respond to federal rules or regulations or to state laws. New hefty fines and penalties may work, to keep them on the straight and narrow. All transgressions Must be doc-

umented and reported! It is very concerning, with Baby Boomers living longer, who wants to stay at a nursing home to be mistreated? And in some cases, pay \$9,000 per month for the privilege of later being treated with less respect than an animal in a shelter?!! Obviously, we must do better for our elderly and handicapped people, it starts by simply caring. With our new President that is empathetic and is very caring, we now have hope for much better operational norms at all facilities and nursing homes. Elder abuse must be stopped!



Passings

By: Sue Reich

Charles Hill, age 69, passed away January 28, 2021. Graduate Argentine high school class of 1969.

Gretchen (Hanson) Richard, age 90, passed away January 18, 2021. Wyandotte high school graduate.

Helen Gurba, age 90, passed away January 24, 2021. Worked for USD 500 at Clyde Huyke Elementary and Arrowhead Middle School.

Donna (Cantrell) Stephenson Stone, age 84, passed away January 27, 2021.

David Trapp, age 66, passed away January 24, 2021. Wyandotte high school graduate.

Jimmie Rodgers, age 87, passed away January 18, 2021. Singer, most notably known for his song "Honeycomb".

Dustin Diamond, age 44, passed away February 1, 2021. Passed away from cancer. He was a comedian and actor on "Saved by the Bell" TV show.

Hal Holbrook, age 95, passed away January 23, 2021. He was an Emmy Award Actor on TV.

Cicily Tyson, age 96, passed away January 28, 2021. She was an actress in movies and TV shows.

Quotes To Ponder

By: Tom Valverde

"The evidence is clear. When other attempts to overturn the presidential election failed, former president Trump Incited an attack on the Capitol."

"Trump's refusal to concede the election to Joe Biden encouraged the riot."

"Trump is directly responsible for inciting the deadly attack on the Capitol."

"Trump's statements at the "Save the steal" rally, turned his 'wild' rally into a powder keg, waiting to blow."

"Trump "aimed" the mob down Pennsylvania Ave., like a loaded Canon."

"At base, the Riot was Trump's last-ditch effort to hold onto power."

"The Senate should disqualify Trump for office and make certain that he can never harm our country again."

"This is not a routine Corruption charge. Trump has committed an Impeachable offense of Historic proportions."

"President Trump's conduct must be declared unacceptable in the clearest and most unequivocal terms. This is not a partisan matter. Trump's actions directly threatened the very foundation on which all other political debate and disagreements unfold."

"Trump and his supporters cannot hide behind the process complaint."

Quotes from House Impeachment Managers Pretrial Briefs, 02/02/2021

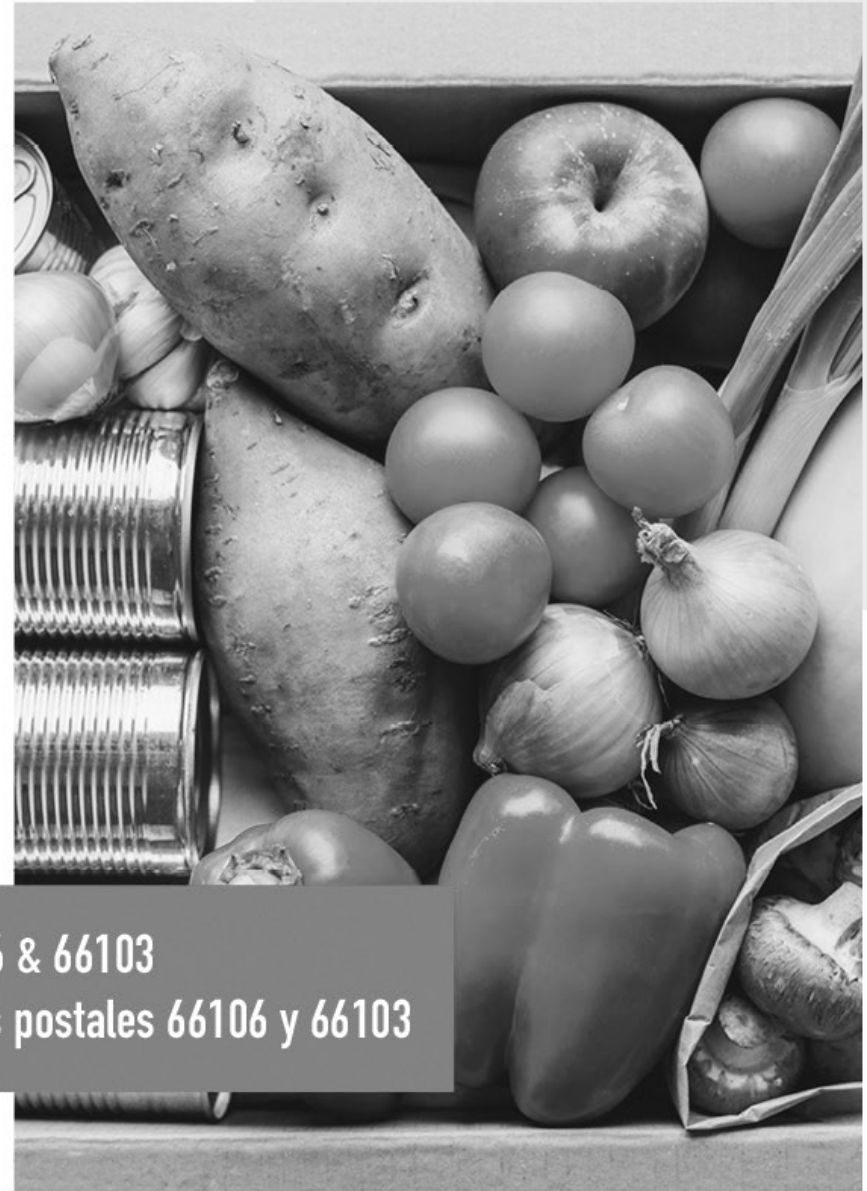
Some who still support the former president have falsely claimed that as a private citizen, he cannot be impeached. This is incorrect for the following reasons:

1. Trump committed the offense while he was still president.
2. He was impeached while still president.
3. The U.S. Constitution gives the Senate the authority to try all impeachments and there exists precedent for trying impeachments of former elected officials.

The framers of the Constitution "Clearly intended for the impeachment process to reach former officials in 1798. Ever since, that has been in the Rule book of the Senate." The president must be held accountable for his actions while in office. He is not above the Law, and when impeached, Trump was a sitting president. His first team of defense lawyers all quit. They may have realized that it is a Federal crime to tell a lie in the Senate chamber. They also disagreed with Trump's initial plans for his defense, namely just how election and voter Fraud should be used as a defense. And with the history of 60 Courts throwing out Trump's suits for lack of any evidence, it would not have been a successful strategy for the defense. Left with nothing to support the case for the defense, they were left with no option but to quit, only days before the start of the Second impeachment of the former president.

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3730 Metropolitan Ave | Kansas City, KS 66106



www.thehubargentine.org



913-831-4531



info@thehubargentine.org