

## Mayor David Alvey and Archbishop Joseph Naumann, D.D. Receive COVID-19 Vaccinations at Kansas National Guard Armory Site



The Unified Government Public Health Department announced that Unified Government Mayor and CEO David Alvey and Archbishop Joseph Naumann, D.D. with the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas both received their first COVID-19 vaccine today. The Mayor and Archbishop Naumann were vaccinated at the UGPHD's vaccination site located in the Kansas National Guard facility.

"The importance of vaccinations to curb the spread of COVID-19, to protect the health of our community, and help us get back on the road to recovery cannot be overstated," said Mayor David

Alvey. "Everyone who lives in Wyandotte County over the age of 16 is now eligible to be vaccinated, and I'm pleased to be joined here today by Archbishop Joseph Naumann in an effort to highlight the importance of vaccinations for our entire community, to assure people that it is safe and effective, and to convey the importance of these efforts in helping defeat this pandemic, which has already caused so much pain and disruption in our lives."

Archbishop Naumann issued the following statement concerning COVID-19 vaccines, addressing some concerns that Catholics and other faith groups may have

with some vaccines:

"First of all, no one should be forced or required to be vaccinated. However, in Catholic understanding, the human person is made in the Divine Image and our bodies are designed to be a temple of God. Thus, we have a responsibility to care for the health of our bodies as well as to protect the health of others.

"I am not a medical expert, but I trust the vast majority of medical experts who advise vaccination for the health of our community. With the widespread availability of the vaccines, we have seen dramatic drops in the number of positive cases, hospitalizations and deaths from Covid. The vaccines are not only helping to prevent the spread of Covid, but they also are allowing businesses, churches and schools to reopen and return to normal. This is beneficial to the mental, emotional and economic health of individuals and the community

"From a moral perspective it is morally permissible to receive all of the current vaccines, even though the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines used a cell line derived from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Governor Laura Kelly Announces Kansans are Receiving Critical Funds for Housing, Utilities

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly today announced that the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) has begun distributing relief funds to applicants of the Kansas Emergency Rental Assistance (KERA) program to ensure families still under financial strain due to the COVID-19 pandemic can stay in their homes, stay warm, and stay connected.

"While our economy and our employment outlook have greatly improved over the last several months, there are still Kansas families across the state who – due to financial challenges caused by the pandemic – need assistance to meet their needs for housing, heating, and connectivity," Governor Kelly said. "I appreciate KHRC for its tireless work to ensure that households in our state get the support they need as quickly as possible."

KHRC was able to quickly build on the success of prior rental program efforts and was one of the first states to fully launch its Emergency Rental Assistance program. Understanding the urgent need of households throughout the State, KHRC is proud to be issuing its first batch of payments just 3 weeks after the program's launch.

Applications for this program opened on March 15, and the first payments were made last week.

The KERA program offers tenants up to 12 months of assistance with current or past due rent and past due utility and internet bills, including electric, gas, water, sewer, trash removal, and home energy services. Renters can apply for assistance with all, some, or any one of the services offered.

Both tenant and landlord must apply online. If the applicant meets the eligibility criteria, KHRC will make payments on the tenant's behalf directly to the landlord or service provider(s).

The KERA program is still accepting applications. You can apply to KERA here.

To ensure applications are processed in a timely manner, applicants must provide copies of the following documentation:

- Past due utility bill or overdue rent or eviction notice.
- Signed lease identifying the residential unit and the rental payment amount.
- 2020 Federal Income Tax Return as filed with the IRS. If tenant hasn't filed 2020 federal income taxes, their W-2 wage statement and all IRS 1099 forms are acceptable.
- Proof of identification, including a current state-issued photo ID, court filing notice, or mail from a federal, state, county, or city agency displaying rental unit's address.

Applications submitted without this documentation are considered incomplete and will not be processed until all materials are received.

Correspondence throughout the processing cycle will take place via email. Applicants will receive automated notification emails when their applications are received and processed.

Applicants who have submitted complete applications but have not received a KERA confirmation email should check their junk or spam folders and add the KERA address to their contacts or safe sender list to ensure future notifications are received.

Applicants should respond to any inquiries or requests from KERA staff as soon as possible.

"Keeping Kansans safely housed and connected to their communities and essential services is more important than ever," said Ryan Vincent, KHRC's Executive Director. "We're so pleased to partner with state leaders in offering this crucial assistance when Kansans need it most."

The KERA program will initially serve Kansans across the state, except those living within the Wichita city limits. Wichita residents may apply for assistance through the Wichita Emergency Rental Assistance Program (WERAP).

To learn more and apply for KERA assistance, visit the KHRC website.

## Sue's Sudsy Soapbox By: Sue Reich



Guess what happened today? It rained, oh yeah. Every other day we have to have a shower. It was so beautiful yesterday. Today wet, nasty, chilly, gloomy, all that icky stuff. Had to do some chores today. You will never believe this, but this computer wouldn't get internet. I was getting sort of worried as to how I was going to do my articles and stuff. Boot this, flip the router, unplug it, smack it with a hammer, yada, yada, yada. So finally came down after the day was winding down, and lo and behold, the darn thing was working. Then, the tv was acting crazy and it would go up to 16 then jump back to 4. Did this for a few days and finally got in touch with Google and they sent a tech out and he had it fixed in nothing flat. It had gotten on selected guide and wasn't programmed to go any further. Why do these crazy things do this? Then for a few days, my cell phone/camera talked and talked and talked and I couldn't get it to shut up. I had to keep the power off because it was getting to me. Went to T-Mobile and sat in the van while this little gal went inside to straighten it out. Whew, everything in this house is acting up. Somehow the phone got connected to deaf/blind app and how that happened, I'll never know. I didn't know there was an app for the sight/hearing impaired. So far these are working, so now I can get some things done.

I colored about 1/2 dozen eggs for Easter. Just colored them with food coloring in hot water and they turned out pretty. There are a couple left. Made some deviled eggs & some egg salad. We just had a small pork roast with the fixins'.

See where the schools are in session. By the time they get going, it will be out for vacation and then start all over again. I loved school. Sometimes I got bullied and picked on but

as I got older, I took up for myself. One time at Franklin grade school, (no names mentioned), a group of girls was after Cousin Arla and I. Aunt Grace was on her front porch and could see up Ruby Avenue. "Arla, Sue, hurry up they are coming after you". But then the next day we would play with them at school. I loved playing jacks on the wall on the back of the school that went to the basement. We would sit on the wall and play jacks most of the recess. Carol Adcox and I loved it.

May Day was another favorite at grade school. I still have a picture of Carol and me in our little peasant outfits. I might put the picture in here someday of she and I. Know what's weird? My son married several years ago, and her maiden name was Adcox. Carol and her siblings were her great aunts and uncle. I showed her a picture of Carol and I on May Day. Dear people, guess I will sign off and get my beauty sleep, (I need it). Please be kind, be safe, use that sanitizer. It has been a long, long year hasn't it? I know we all will be glad when we can get back to normal. (If we can remember). Lvya all, mind your p's and q's. Bye for now, Sue.

In memory of my three sisters, Gayle, Carolyn, Marilyn, all graduated from AHS A special love flows between sisters as joyful a bubbling brook. As deep as a mighty river and as indomitable as a swift mountain stream. From. *Heart to Heart*

### Short Stuff

By: Sue Reich

Read this today in Nextdoor Morris: A woman by the name of Colleen, left her wallet in the cart at Walmart. A man by the name of Mr. Hernandez found it, opened it up to see her name and address and drove to her home to give it to her. She was quite surprised that this kind gentleman would go to such extreme to do that. There ARE KIND people still around.

**Common Denominator Answers:** Ray Charles, Liberace, Victor Borge - All played piano. Fred Gwynne, Boris Karloff Peter Boyle - All were Frankenstein.

Woody Woodpecker, Rita Hayworth, Lucille Ball - All redheads. Dressing, Twist, Fries - All French.



Men doing work on Strong Avenue In Argentine.



Don't know if this restaurant will open again or not. It's the Deep Roots Restaurant on Shawnee Drive where Pizza Hut used to be.



Easter at my house had a funny visitor. He is some kind of duck that wanted to be a bunny. My favorite.

## Kid's Korner

By Sarabell (A/K/A Sue Reich)

### GRINTER PLACE APPLEFEST

*It was the day of the applefest at the Grinter Place  
 There were arts and crafts and lots of food  
 And an old-fashioned gunny sack race.  
 Sarabell looked at paintings,  
 home-made jams and toys  
 There were lots of fun things to do  
 For all the girls and boys.  
 There was a booth about Kansas  
 Sarabell's "home sweet home."  
 She learned a lot about its history  
 where the buffalo used to roam.  
 There were bands that played old music  
 A contest for original dress  
 A drummer boy with confederate money won first  
 place  
 Because he was the best.  
 Sarabell thought, "What a pretty day"  
 To honor the "Grinters" in this wonderful way!*

# Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

I managed to squeeze in a few days to do some reading. Lisa Scottoline, who has written novels for years has just published her first-ever historical novel entitled "Eternal". The story takes place in Rome, Italy 1938-1944. It follows the lives of three teenagers who must face the consequences of Mussolini's alliance with Hitler during World War II. Fascism began in Italy in the early 1920's, and defined as "the philosophy of government that stressed the primacy and glory of the state, unquestioning obedience to its leader,

subordination of the will of the people to the state's authority, and harsh suppression of dissent." One teenager was an Italian, one Fascist Italian, and one Fascist Italian Jew who had grown up with each other since grade school, and their families were close. After Mussolini's meeting with Hitler, edicts from the Fascist government started targeting Jews and limiting their activities and life became quite different for the friends. Mussolini was ousted from power. (He later escaped and ran a puppet regime in North Italy before being killed.) The Nazi's occupied Rome and life became worse for the Jewish people. Synagogues, manuscripts, and sacred papers were destroyed and those in the Ghetto were sent to Auschwitz. The three main characters and families were fictional, but the dates of events and names of the German and Jewish leaders were real. I couldn't put the book down, not only because I am Italian, but because I learned so much about European history. I'm beginning to

think World History and a true picture of American History should be taught in school, especially the last 200 years. After reading Obama's book – he goes into detail about how the situations he had to deal with came about by giving a history of that nation and its conflicts – I am convinced that every American should know the truth and reasons why the decisions were made the way they were.

On a lighter note, "The Wife Upstairs" by Rachel Hawkins is a suspenseful, witty, feministic, and delightful twist on a novel that has been around forever, "Jane Eyre". It is a "timeless tale of forbidden romance, fatal attraction, and a wife that won't stay buried". This is the first adult novel by Ms. Hawkins, she normally writes for the younger set, and this is a departure for her. It is only 290 pages long, fun to read and I almost had it all figured out by the end.

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

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# SENATE NEWS

By Sen. Pat Pettey

## Senate Nearing First Adjournment

Legislators worked all day on the floor Monday through Wednesday last week in order to meet the deadline for non-exempt bills to be passed out of their second chamber. After a short break we are back at the Capitol for conference committee work. All of this is in preparation for the upcoming first adjournment, scheduled for April 9th. This week has a lot of down time since we are waiting on conference committee reports. I am ranking minority on Public Health & Welfare, so I will have those conference meetings.

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 on May 3rd. At that time, exempt bills, conference committee reports, and any vetoes by the Governor will be considered.

## A Rare Honor: Democrats Carrying Bills on the Floor

Generally speaking, members of the minority party are not permitted to carry their own bills when they make it to the Senate floor. These bills are carried by the (Republican) chairperson of the committee the bill passed out of, and the sponsor can then stand in support of the legislation. This has happened several times this session, but this week, our Assistant Minority Leader, Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau (D - Wichita), was asked to carry Substitute for Senate Bill 100. This bill makes it so that those driving with a suspended or revoked license cannot have their licenses suspended or revoked for an additional 90 days if the person's license was suspended for failure to comply with a traffic citation.

This legislation was supported by a broad coalition of Kansans, including the Racial Profiling Advisory Board of Wichita, Americans for Prosperity, Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, the Kansas Sheriffs

Association, and the League of Kansas Municipalities. It passed the Senate 40-0. This law – combined with SB 127 – will ensure that traffic infractions do not prevent everyday Kansans from getting to work and supporting their families. I am grateful to Senator Faust-Goudeau for her tireless work on this legislation and congratulate her for this rare moment for Democrats on the Senate floor!

## Honoring a Civil Rights Icon

On Tuesday, the Senate passed HB 2077 – a law extending the Kansas Criminal Justice Reform Commission – 39-1. Senator David Haley (Kansas City) introduced an amendment on the Senate floor to rename the Kansas Cold Case Task Force after Alvin Sykes, a Kansas City civil rights activist who passed away in March. He was a self-taught lawyer who successfully fought to reopen civil rights-era cold cases, including the Emmett Till case, and pushed for justice in our state. I was proud to support Senator Haley's extremely fitting amendment to honor Mr. Sykes. You can read more about Mr. Sykes's life here. I also served on the Wyandotte County library board with Alvin until his passing.

## State Veteran's Home

In early March, Governor Kelly signed Executive Order No. 21-07 to support Kansas veterans through the establishment of a new state veteran's home in northeast Kansas. EO #21-07 directs the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs to submit an initial application to the United States Department of Veteran Affairs to have up to 65% of construction costs associated with the new veteran's home paid for with federal funds.

HB 2021 – which passed the Senate 40-0 on Wednesday – authorizes the issuance of bonds for the construction of a state veteran's home. Senator Jeff Pittman (D - Leavenworth) has been working on this bipartisan project since he was in the Kansas House. This bill helps close the service gap for too many struggling former service members and their families. Good work, Senator Pittman!

## Action on the Floor

The Senate-as-a-whole

considered several pieces of legislation this week. Bills worth noting include:

•ANTI-VOTING RESOLUTION On Monday, the Senate voted to send a letter to our congressional delegation, urging them to vote no on the For The People Act (HR 1), which passed 220-210 on March 3rd. HR 1 is a comprehensive bill increasing voter access, reforming campaign finance and ethics laws, and promoting election security and modernization. This vote was pointless and kicked off a series of bills debated this week which disenfranchise Kansas voters. I voted NO.

•STATE EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE HB 2218 updates the membership and responsibilities of the Kansas State Employees Health Care Commission, which sets the insurance premium rates for state employees. In committee, an amendment added two legislators (the chairs of the Senate Ways & Means Committee and House Appropriations Committee) and the Insurance Commissioner – all partisan elected officials – to the commission.

•UNEMPLOYMENT BILL Senate substitute for HB 2196 is a mega unemployment bill, which notably creates the Unemployment Compensation Modernization and Improvement Council. It requires the Kansas Department of Labor to modernize its IT infrastructure and provides over \$40 million in appropriations to do so. I voted YES on this bill, which will help our state address long-term issues in our Department of Labor, the consequences of which Kansans have felt acutely over the past year. I also supported Senate Democratic Leader Dinah Sykes's amendment – which was rejected on a voice vote – to extend unemployment benefits to 26 weeks. The bill currently provides 26 weeks of benefits if the state unemployment rate is 6% or higher and provides for less proportionate to lower unemployment rates. A lower state unemployment rate doesn't do much for an unemployed person who needs to get food on the table while they search for a job.

•CONTACT TRACING SB 304 removes the sunset on the COVID-19 Contact Tracing Privacy Act. Contact tracing is the process used by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment

to identify close contacts of expected cases of infectious diseases such as COVID-19. Last summer, the Legislature passed the Contact Tracing Privacy Act to hinder the ability of KDHE to notify close contacts of infected persons. This week, the Legislature voted to remove the expiration of this policy so KDHE will have to continue to obtain the consent of an infected person before they can notify their friends, family, and co-workers that they have been exposed to the virus. It is also important to note that this law applies not only to this current pandemic but also diseases like syphilis and hepatitis. This is yet another policy that hinders our state's ability to stop the spread of COVID-19 and other highly contagious diseases. I voted NO.

•CIVICS TEST HB 2039 requires students to pass an American civics test in order to graduate with a high school diploma. The questions would be taken from the naturalization test administered by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The purported goal of this bill is to increase civic engagement among young Kansans. I was disappointed that the body chose not to consider Senator Sykes's amendment to encourage young Kansans to participate in government by automatically pre-registering to vote those students who pass the civics test.

I raised concerns during the Senate debate with jettisoning "what really works to help students learn" in favor of requiring high schoolers to pass a 60-question civics test before they receive a diploma.

The Kansas State Board of Education's exhaustive approach to improving K-12 social studies standards was adopted in 2013. That was when there was a decision made that it wouldn't just be based on the citizenship test but would be based on understanding and fulfilling the job of a citizen. The guidelines for public schools require knowledge of the three branches of government. Students should know the Constitution embodies the purpose, values and principles of American democracy. The course should be rigorous and relevant with instruction that integrates thinking skills and historic processes. Curriculum should include history,

economics, geography, civics and humanity. Our students are already required to earn credits in government and social studies to graduate.

"Do you want our children who are graduating from high school to just regurgitate, or do you want them to be able to discern and think as a citizen of the United States?"

I voted against this bill because I believe the Legislature should stay in its lane; the State Board of Education has the authority in our Kansas constitution to set curriculum, and we should not overreach our authority.

•JUNK INSURANCE SB 199 amends the law governing short-term limited duration (STLD) policies, which currently allows for policies extending to 6 or 12 months. This bill would allow these policies to last as long as 3 years. Our healthcare system is deeply flawed and plans like these are superficially attractive quick fixes that lead to long-term negative consequences. These plans hurt our most vulnerable in the risk pool by increasing premiums for comprehensive coverage, and they can come back to haunt individuals who elect to use them by capping benefits on coverage for events like heart attacks and excluding coverage for essential health benefits like maternity care. We do need to make our healthcare system work for more people, as a healthy Kansas is a productive Kansas. I hope that my colleagues who supported this bill will support our efforts to expand that access by using the incentives in the American Recovery Plan to expand Medicaid in our state.

•VOTER SUPPRESSION BILLS The Senate considered two bills on Wednesday that will make it harder for Kansans to vote: HB 2332 and Senate substitute for HB 2183. No election officials in Kansas asked for any of the provisions included in these bills. In fact, former election officials have come out against these efforts.

•HB 2332 blocks the ability of the Secretary of State, the executive, or the judicial branch from altering any election regulations even in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency. Not only is this a potentially unconstitutional encroachment on our executive and

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## Senator Pettey... ...from page 4

judiciary's powers, but it also renders our state potentially incapable of carrying out our elections and ensuring the right to vote for Kansans. It also contains many provisions regarding the logistics of mailing applications for advance ballots that are unclear, vague, and have not been vetted thoroughly. At one point in the committee, the chair claimed some of these amendments were being passed because of a problem that "we heard it maybe happened somewhere. We don't know if it happened in Kansas." Restrictive measures like these based on hearsay are solutions in search of a problem and tell the voters of this state that we do not value their right to vote.

• S Sub for HB 2183 is a prime example of voter suppression by making it harder to vote by mail. Especially in extenuating circumstances like a pandemic, advance mail ballots are even more crucial to ensuring Kansans can vote while protecting their own health and safety. Criminalizing with a felony penalty the act of helping your elderly and disabled neighbors return their mail ballots because they are unable to do so is immoral and an attempt to disenfranchise our most vulnerable Kansans. Kansas election officials have stated that our state elections in 2020 were a "shining example of how to do it right" and that our "foundation was solidly in place." These bills serve no purpose other than suppressing Kansans' votes.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE Senate substitute for HB 2153 establishes the Office of the Child Advocate within the Office of the Attorney General. The Senate and the House each had a bill that would establish this office with differences in oversight. In the House bill, the Child Advocate would have been a Senate-confirmed appointment by the Governor and the Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court who would report directly to the Legislature. Instead of a plan with more oversight and accountability, the Senate opted to give this appointment power to Attorney General Derek Schmidt who has shown a willingness to politicize his office and will

now have full access to confidential information regarding foster care.

ANTI-MASK RESOLUTION Our final action on Wednesday was a resolution asking the Legislative Coordinating Council to revoke the new executive order by the Governor mandating Kansans wear face coverings in public places to protect one another and reduce the spread of COVID-19. I voted NO on this resolution.

### Legislative Coordinating Council Meeting

On Thursday, the Legislative Coordinating Council (LCC) – the Senate President, Senate Vice President, Senate Majority Leader, Senate Minority Leader, Speaker of the House, House Majority Leader, and House Minority Leader – met to review the executive orders issued by Governor Kelly this week as she extended the state of emergency declaration through May. These executive orders were for the most part non-controversial, ranging from requiring COVID-19 testing in certain adult care homes to temporarily authorizing for additional vaccinators.

The LCC voted 5-2 to revoke executive order 21-14, which establishes a face coverings protocol and exempts local jurisdictions with their own mask orders in place. The majority did not offer justification for this, other than their desire to be done with the pandemic. We are so close to the finish line, but not all Kansans have had the opportunity to be vaccinated, and the virus is still in our communities – including new, more contagious variants that don't stop spreading at county lines. We have a moral obligation to keep our fellow Kansans safe, and public health experts have given us clear, simple tools to do so. I encourage you to continue to practice mitigation strategies like mask-wearing, hand-washing, and social distancing as we round the bend toward the end of this pandemic. As a side note, I haven't had the flu or a cold this year. Another positive for healthy practice.

### Vaccine Updates

• As of last week, the COVID-19 vaccine is available to all Kansans ages 16 years or older. I encourage all eligible Kansans to #RollUpYourSleeves and get the vaccine. I got mine and experienced few side effects and am glad to have done my part to get

society one dose closer to herd immunity.

• Kansans can find a provider near them with the vaccine available on the Vaccine Finder tool. If Kansans have questions, they should call their local health department or the KDHE Public Information Hotline at 1-866-534-3463 (1-866-KDHE-INF) or email covid-19@ks.gov. In WyCo anyone 16 or over can walk-in for a vaccine.

• As of Friday, April 2, the Kansas Vaccine Dashboard shows that 868,292 Kansans are reported as vaccinated – almost 30% of our population. You can find our COVID-19 vaccine dashboard here. It is updated every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday by 12:30pm.

### Amber Shultz Confirmed as Labor Secretary

In a 40-0 vote today, the Kansas Senate unanimously confirmed the appointment of Amber Shultz as the Kansas Secretary of Labor. Shultz will oversee the state Unemployment Insurance, Workers Compensation, Labor Market Information Services, Labor Relations, Legal Services and Industrial Safety and Health divisions.

Shultz brings over 25 years of experience in technology and innovation. She joined the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) from the City of Lawrence, where she worked as the General Manager of Municipal Services and Operations. During her time there, she led the effort to rebuild the city's enterprise and operational services and facilitate efficient data management.

Since Secretary Shultz began her tenure as Acting Secretary, she has been able to lead the agency through a number of major initiatives. These include the recent deployment of a new fraud mitigation software solution that has to date blocked approximately 6.4 million fraudulent login attempts, and last week KDOL announced that it had begun paying benefits to the recently passed federal American Rescue Plan Act without any delays or gaps. In addition, from Feb. 17 through March 17, KDOL has paid over \$100 million dollars in state and federal unemployment benefits to Kansans in need.

For more information, or to apply for unemployment benefits, go to [www.GetKansasBenefits.gov](http://www.GetKansasBenefits.gov).

## Vaccines... ...from page 1

an abortion to test the efficacy of the vaccines. In Catholic moral teaching receiving these vaccines is not formal cooperation with the abortion that occurred fifty years ago, nor with the unethical taking of the cells from the aborted child. The Johnson and Johnson and Astra Zeneca vaccines used a cell line derived from an abortion in their production and development. Receiving these vaccines also does not involve formal cooperation with abortion or the unethical retrieving of cells from an aborted child.

"I urge Pharmaceutical companies and our government health officials to develop vaccines that are not even remotely connected to abortion. It is not scientifically necessary to use the cell lines developed from abortion. I urge them to develop and provide in the future untainted vaccines."

Anyone age 16 and older who lives in Wyandotte County is currently eligible to be vaccinated, with or without an appointment. To help those who want appointments, the Unified Government Public Health Department (UGPHD) just launched a new online tool that allows people to schedule their COVID-19 vaccination at their convenience.

How to Schedule a Vaccine Appointment Online

1. Go to [WycoVaccines.org](http://WycoVaccines.org), and click on the blue button that says, "Click here to schedule an appointment online."

2. Fill out pertinent contact information.

3. Select a preferred vaccination site. A calendar will then be displayed with available dates.

4. Select a date to see available appointment times, then click the time you would like to schedule.

5. Once the vaccination appointment is scheduled, the application shows a confirmation, along with any additional instructions.

6. When coming in for your appointment, you will be asked to show proof of that you live in Wyandotte County, such as a piece of mail addressed to you, drivers' license, or similar.

Please note that when users book an appointment using the Self-Scheduling Tool, that

means they will be vaccinated within the hour of their appointment time. For example, if a user selects "10 a.m." as their appointment time, they will be vaccinated between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. on their selected date.

### How to Schedule a Vaccine Appointment by Phone

Wyandotte County residents who don't have an internet connection can call 3-1-1 (913-573-5311) for assistance in scheduling their vaccination appointment time and date.

### Vaccinations Also Available Without an Appointment

Wyandotte County residents 16 years of age and older can also get vaccinated without an appointment at any of the UGPHD's three vaccination facilities.

"We want to remove any barriers that keep people from getting a vaccine," said Juliann Van Liew, Director of the UGPHD. "If it's easier for them to walk in, they can walk in, if they choose to schedule their appointment they can. We also have resources to help community members who need transportation to get their vaccine or who are homebound. We want anyone living in Wyandotte County who wants to be vaccinated to have ready, equal access to COVID-19 vaccinations."

People living in Wyandotte County can choose any of the UGPHD vaccination sites for their vaccination, with or without an appointment. These sites are open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

#### West Location

Former Best Buy  
10500 Parallel Parkway  
Kansas City, KS 66109

#### Central Location

Former Kmart  
7836 State Avenue  
Kansas City, KS 66112

#### East Location

The Kansas National Guard Armory  
100 South 20th Street  
Kansas City, KS 66102

Please note: While walk-in patients are welcomed at any of the sites, walk-in patients will not be accepted after 2:30 p.m.

All Wyandotte County residents who want a vaccination (whether by appointment or walk-in) must bring proof of residence with them, such as a piece of mail, drivers' license, or similar.

# Guest Editorials

By: Tom Valverde

Two police officers are suing former president Donald Trump for inciting his supporters, hundreds who later stormed the Capitol in an attempt to prevent the certification of the Electoral College ballots. As the result of their attempt to protect lawmakers, over 100 police officers were assaulted on the morning of January 6. Lawyers for the two police officers filed suit in

U.S. District Court, District of Columbia (Washington), on March 31. They seek damages from Trump for their physical and emotional injuries, \$75,000 to be awarded to each officer, for each of the five counts against Trump. Punitive damages, lawyer and court fees are also being sought from Trump. The counts against Trump include: 1. Directing assault and battery 2. Aiding and

## Latest Lawsuit Holds Trump Responsible for the Insurrection at the US Capitol

abetting 3. Directing intentional infliction of emotional distress 4. Violation of DC statute prohibiting the incitement of a riot and disorderly conduct.

Host of *Deadline: White House*, Nicolle Wallace, asked her guest, Neal Katyal, former Acting Solicitor General and a Professor at Georgetown University, "Perhaps a lawsuit like this will hold Trump accountable, please give us your assessment." Mr. Katyal: "I don't think this is a surprise in any way. I've been waiting for it. Donald Trump fomented violence and Mitch McConnell literally invited this on the floor of the US Senate."

Major Republicans are saying that there is gravity behind this lawsuit, that Donald Trump conspired and gave aid and comfort

to what happened on Jan. 6th. Lawyers for the injured police officers also used the Campaign Rhetoric that the former president used to substantiate Trump's guilt in inciting his Cult supporters to attack the Capitol that then caused the men's physical and emotional injuries. Both officers have complained of not being able to sleep and of suffering from post-traumatic stress symptoms. An Especially incriminating statement made by Trump was pointed out in particular, Trump had said, "I'm calling for a 'Wild protest,' on January 6th!" Trump also provided encouragement to his Cult Followers by saying repeatedly that Vice-president Mike Pence could "Single-handedly," reject the Election Results, based on

the false claim that, "Some States wanted to 'Decertify' or 'Correct' Election results that were not in Trump's favor." The Justice Department has said that, "Dozens of police officers were hurt during the hours of violence at the Capitol. It is pursuing Criminal cases against many of the Pro - Trump rioters." The lawsuit filed by the two Capitol police officers is the third lawsuit that is attempting to hold former president Trump liable for the Insurrection. The first was filed by US Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS), and the second suit was filed by Eric Swalwell (D-CA). Representative Swalwell has since said that he does not look at fellow House members that he believes were of help to the Insurrectionists.

## Quotes To Ponder

By: Tom Valverde

On April 7th, a ruling from the Senate Parliamentarian paved the way for President Biden's Infrastructure package to pass. The Democrats in the U.S. Senate will be allowed to bypass a GOP filibuster on two more bills. The bills need only a simple majority of 51 votes to pass two more bills.

From MSNBC's news program with Lawrence O'Donnell with guest, Rep. Paul Ryan (D-OH), Appropriation committee:

This is an abuse of process and clearly not what reconciliation was designed to do, but the

Democrats are going to go forward anyway.

*Republican staffer*

Mr. O'Donnell: I agree, this is an abuse of the reconciliation process. But this comes after Years of Abuse in the U.S. Senate by Mitch McConnell, forcing the Democrats into this position, because there's no other way to govern in the Senate.

Rep. Ryan: Yeah, well, here we go! They don't have to abide by the rules, when the Republicans are in charge; Deficits don't matter when the Republicans are in charge. Then, all of a sudden, the Democrats come in, and they want everybody to do it differently and Not take advantage. But we're at a crossroads in this country. We're going to make these investments that need to be made. Everybody knows these investments Need to be made! The roads, bridges, the Broadband, after the pandemic-distance learning and tele-medicine. I think this economy could be ready to explode if the Public investments are made. If not, the future is going to belong to China. They're spending 7-9% of their GDP on infrastructure. I support President Biden and what he is doing. In addition, he is setting aside about 40% of these dollars that will go to disadvantaged communities; communities of color and Rural America. We need to invest in our Infrastructure, President Biden is delivering on the promises that he made. President Biden's \$2 Trillion dollar Infrastructure package will lay the basic foundation for raising the U.S. from its 13th place rank in the overall quality of our Infrastructure.

The White House posted a Fact Sheet that details the President's bold plans for the country. But first, it fully tells of the Country's current infrastructure conditions:

After decades of disinvestment, our roads, bridges, and water systems are crumbling. Our electric grid is vulnerable to catastrophic outages. Too many lack access to affordable, high - speed Internet and to quality housing with clean water. It has never been more important for us to invest in strengthening our Infrastructure and our competitiveness and creating good paying jobs of the future.

Preparing for a better future in the 21st Century under the experienced Leadership of President Biden and Vice-president Harris, is only the beginning of the work of Government to take action to improve the quality of life in the United States. They have only been in office for 75 days, but what they have accomplished in less than four months is really amazing. They work to bring unity to the Country. That is an ongoing challenge, but it can be done with their clear vision and leadership.

## Governor Kelly Announces Next Steps for Unemployment Insurance Technology Modernization

Governor Laura Kelly announced a major step forward in the effort to modernize the state's Unemployment Insurance (UI) system at the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL). The agency issued its request for proposal (RFP) for modernizing the over 40-year-old computer system.

"When I learned that the previous Administration abandoned efforts to modernize the state's unemployment computer system in 2011, I immediately tasked the agency with reviving its modernization plans," said Governor Laura Kelly. "Unfortunately, the pandemic hit, and the antiquated technology was unable to keep up with the record volume of claims. Today, we are taking a major step in fixing our broken system. We will finish what other Administrations' failed to do."

Prior to the pandemic, at Governor Kelly's direction, KDOL staff traveled to states that had modernized their unemployment systems to learn from them how Kansas could build a system that would more efficiently serve claimants and businesses. In the past year, the agency has dedicated a specialized team to complete and expedite the modernization plan, incorporating the findings and best practices from these states.

When Governor Kelly took office in 2019, one of her top priorities for the Department of Labor was to modernize the agency's archaic mainframe UI IT system. However, when the state faced record-high unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the agency was forced to temporarily suspend its modernization efforts in order to focus on stabilizing the decades old system.

Today, the system has largely been stabilized and is paying out legitimate claimants in the traditional state unemployment program and new federal benefit programs. Since March 15, 2020, KDOL has paid out over 4.2 million weekly claims totaling over \$2.8 billion between regular unemployment and the federal pandemic programs.

The Kansas Legislature is considering Governor Kelly's \$37.5 million budget request to replace KDOL's aging system.



## Passings

By: Sue Reich

Bob Terrill, age 85, passed away on April 5, 2021. Argentine High School graduate class of 1954.

Earl Tyrus, age 80. Argentine High School graduate class of 1958.

Della Norton, age 80. Argentine High School graduate class of 1958.

## INVITATION FOR BIDS:

The Board of Education, Unified School District No. 500, Kansas City, KS will accept sealed bids for: IFB 21-008 – Produce Vendor for 1st Semester 2021/2022 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. 21-008 – PRODUCE VENDOR 1st SEMESTER"

Proposals will be opened 05/10/21 @ 2 PM in the Purchasing Office.

Bid Documents are available online at <http://www.kckps.org/index.php/invitation-for-bids>

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