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# The Record

## UG Public Health Department Sponsoring Poster Contest for Wyandotte County Students

The Unified Government Public Health Department (UGPHD) is sponsoring a #IHelpedConquerCOVID Poster Contest for students in grades K-12 who attend any of these school districts:

- The Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS
- Kansas City, KS Public Schools (USD 500)
- Bonner Springs/Edwardsville schools (USD 204)
- Piper School District (USD 203)
- Turner Public School District (USD 202)

“We know how disruptive the COVID-19 pandemic has been to students, families, teachers and our school districts,” said Juliann Van Liew, Director of the Unified Government Public Health Department. “This poster contest is a way for students to participate in the COVID response and get creative in helping us spread the word about how important the vaccines are for returning to the activities we love.”

**How To Enter the Contest**  
Poster contest entries can be created in any art medium and must relate to the theme #IHelpedConquerCOVID!. Entries must be original artwork created in pencil, pen, crayon, marker, paint or other similar mediums.

Computer-generated artwork (including clipart) is prohibited. Computer-generated text is acceptable.

The deadline for entries has now been extended to 3:00 p.m. on Friday, April 30, 2021. All entries should be submitted to the school district’s chosen representative. For more details, students and their families can ask the office at their school or their district office.

All students, grades K-12 in any of the school districts listed above, are eligible to compete in the contest. Prizes will be awarded to each district’s first, second and third place winners.

Each district’s First Place

winner will advance to Final Round judging. From this pool of First Place winners, the judging panel will select three Grand Prize Winners – one each from grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. The elementary school Grand Prize winner will receive a \$500 prize. The middle and high school Grand Prize winners will receive \$1,000 prizes. In addition, the winning students’ primary teacher will receive a \$1,000 gift card to be used for classroom activities. Contest winners will be announced in May.

For more information on COVID-19 and vaccinations in Wyandotte county, visit [WycoVaccines.org](http://WycoVaccines.org) or call 3-1-1.

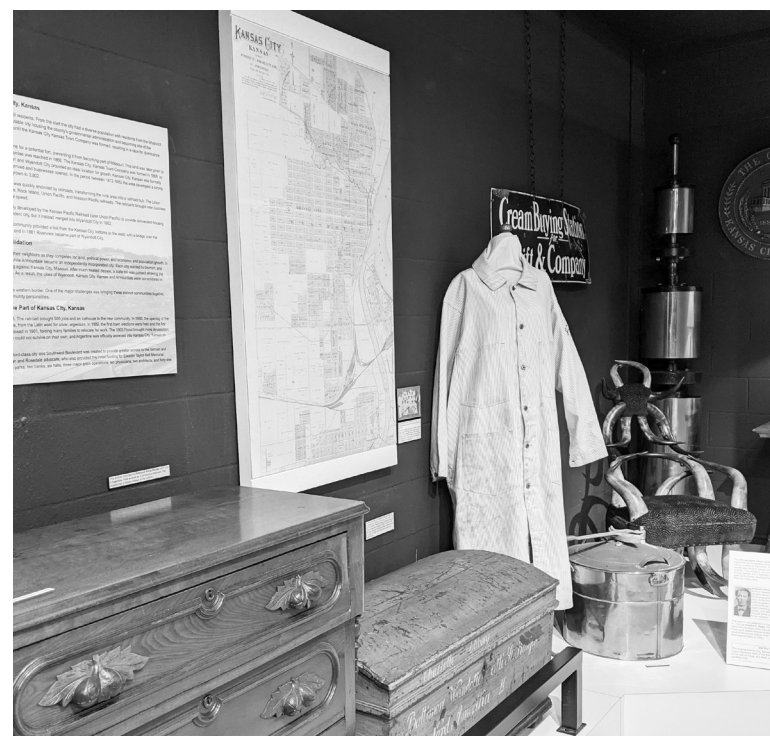
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## Wyandotte County Heritage Exhibit Opens at the Wyandotte County Museum

The Wyandotte County Museum is excited to announce the first phase of our new Wyandotte County Heritage Exhibit will be opening to the public on May 1, 2021. The first phase of the project focuses on telling the interconnected story of community, culture, and industry in Wyandotte County from the early railroads until 1920. This portion of the exhibit sets the stage for visitors to understand the role of railroads in shaping the county and how communities evolved. The exhibit also touches on the diverse ethnic heritage of the county, with expanded coverage of the African American and Hispanic American experiences. This exhibit includes authentic objects with personal stories and fascinating images, and you can even hear the railroad and the shift change steam whistle blowing in the distance.

Phase II of the Wyandotte County Heritage Exhibit is underway for mid-2022. It will focus on the 1920s to the 1951 Flood. This section of the exhibit will include local businesses, schools, entertainment, transportation, social services, and World War II.

Phase III will focus on county developments from 1951 to 2000, including the impacts of the changes in neighborhoods, cultural heritage, modern life, and community pride. The museum plans to install this phase in 2023 to complete this gallery.

We need your help to better tell our county’s history. Museum staff is currently seeking objects with personal stories for potential inclusion in our next two phases. We encourage anyone with objects, images, information, or ideas to reach out to museum at [wycmuseum@wycokck.org](mailto:wycmuseum@wycokck.org) or 913-573-5002.

This exhibit is supported by the Union Pacific Foundation, Barton P. and Mary D. Cohen Charitable Trust, the Wyandotte County Historical Society and Museum Inc. and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas.

Wyandotte County Museum is located in Wyandotte County Park, 631 N. 126th St., Bonner Springs, Kansas. It is open to the public Monday-Saturday 9:00-4:00 pm. The Wyandotte County Museum is operated by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, with support from the Wyandotte County Historical Society & Museum Inc., a 501c3 non-profit. The museum mission is to strive to identify, collect, preserve, interpret, and disseminate material and information pertaining to Wyandotte County history, in order to assist the public in understanding, appreciating and assisting in the preservation of the heritage of this county.

For more information about this exhibit contact the Wyandotte County Museum at 913-573-5002 or visit [www.wycokck.org/wycmuseum](http://www.wycokck.org/wycmuseum)

Periodical Postage Paid  
at Kansas City, Kansas

## Sue's Sudsy Soapbox By: Sue Reich



Look at that? What is that white stuff falling down. Those flakes are so big. Good grief! Is that snow that I see? Well, I'll be darn. It sure is. Man, I was shocked when I got up and yep, there it was, snow. Our area is in the middle of all the weather that is possible. I waited awhile before I delivered because everything was covered. So, I sorta waited until about 11 or so before I went out. Then guess what? By the time I got through, the snow was all gone. The sun came out and then, sleet. What? We must have the craziest weather here than I can remember. But mom told me she had seen it snow on my birthday and it is May 2. I saw it on Easter, Halloween, Valentine Day, just almost every holiday that comes around the first part of the year. I was concerned about the plants that Larry is taking care of and selling. They made room for them at the building they are redoing (in the lot), and so I bought quite a few but sure glad I didn't put them out yet. I have about 50 little saplings coming up on our hill. We have an acre, and I had a company come out and clean out the jungle. But all these little trees are coming up. I dug one up and took it to Larry and he said I am going to have a bunch of trees if I don't get them out. I bought spray, and clipped them, sprayed them and then it snowed. Don't know if the snow washed away the spray or what. Will have to wait and see.

Then one day, I had a flat tire as I went down there and Beth, one of their workers, had a portable compressor and raised the tire and the station at 42nd and Metro, patched it. Then, went to T-Mobile to have my cell phone re-apped, everything was going wrong. Today, the

back gate was left open and Lady got out and was chased down and put back in the yard. So, went to Lowe's to get a new hinge for a kitchen cabinet and was working on that. Seems like I am busy, busy, busy. Took Mr. Ed to the hearing place to have his hearing aids checked today. Started working back on the hinges again.

There wasn't a lot of hoopla when they found that policeman guilty although they were pretty much prepared for one heckofa riot. Fair is fair. I honestly believe this pandemic has a lot to do with people's minds. Sometimes I get lonely because I don't get to talk to my sisters, anymore, but I do think about them every day and even dream about them.

Lost another longtime friend. All my old-time buddies are all passing away. My family, friends, a clown in our troop, a new member of our domino group. He only played once. I try to keep in touch with our domino group. One member hasn't had a very good year. His wife broke her hip and was on crutches later and she was going down their steps in the house and fell and got all bruised up. Now she has to stay in bed with a bummed-up hip and other injuries from the fall. When it rains, pours. Another one of our group is going to go ahead and make her 29th or 30th trip to Disneyworld because she is older, and it will probably be her last time. She is going to fly with her daughter and grandson. Me, sameo, sameo. This has to be the craziest time of everyone's life with all the mass shootings, pandemic, weather, etc. But we have to be patient, we have to be kind, we have to be careful and please try to keep your sanity. lol Now that last one is getting hard for me to do. (lol again)

Well my dear people, mind your p's and q's and be nice to each other. Ivya all even though I don't see all of you hardly anymore. But we will. Oh, by the way, the lady that runs the library wants *The Record* there again. That is a good sign that things are getting better. The KC Windmill is doing good, Big Q, Beauty shops, fast food places, schools are sort of "iffy". Here it almost time for school to be out and they are

just trying to get the kids back in. So anyway, I am gonna wrap this up and say, see ya next week. Sue.

A little poem in memory of my three sisters, Gayle, twins Carolyn and Marilyn Larson all of Argentine. A special love flows between sisters, as joyful as 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

The more I drive from here to Turner and Argentine the more trash I see. Come on people, don't be ridiculous. Quit using this area for your trash bin.

Rosedale is looking for volunteers for their summer work program. Give them a call.

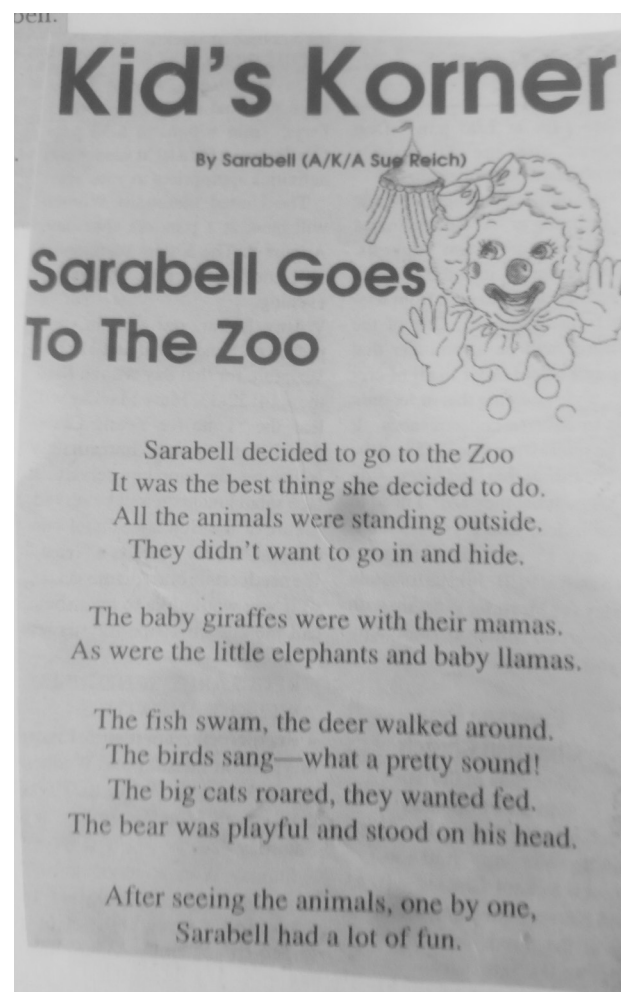
More pets are being injured by wild animals. Please watch them when they are outdoors.

## Common denominator

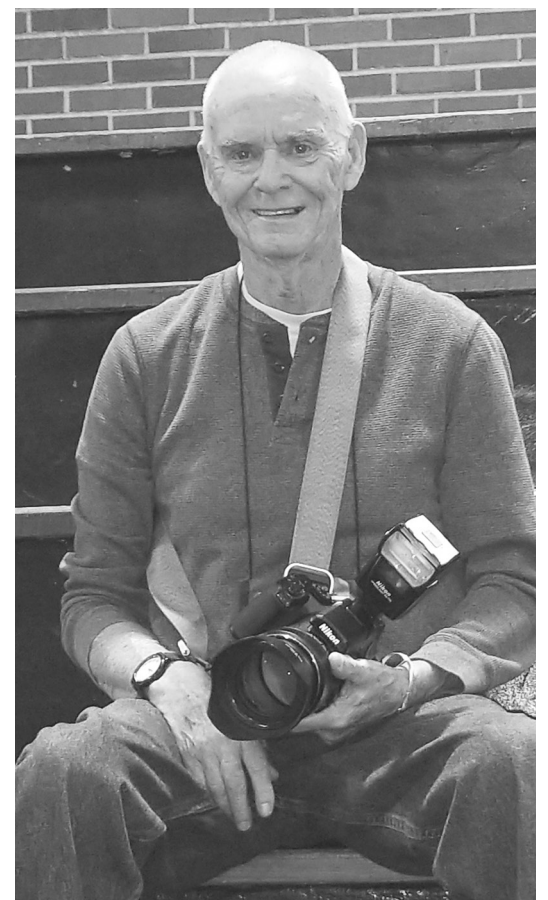
Winston, Raleigh, Salem: Cities/cigarette brands



Gary, my neighbor won 3rd place in car show. Congratulations Gary. His son is the one that caught that big catfish.



Sarabell goes to the zoo.



Saw Steve this week. He usually went to all our events in Argentine & Turner. Always had a camera in his hands. He said he will be doing some things out by the Legends.

# Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

I received the Wyandotte County Association of Retired School Personnel Newsletter from Nancy Warren this morning. Even though I never worked for the school district, I have always been interested in education and asked to be put on their mailing list. I was really surprised to learn that over 23 had passed away since last November. It really hit me hard when I realized one was a former high school classmate – Colleen Debolt Thebo. I had lost touch with her after we graduated but for the past few years, she had posted some beautiful pictures and her artwork



on Facebook. I hadn't seen anything recently and now I know why. She was funny and very witty and will be sorely missed.

Garden work tends to go a little slowly when the weather does not cooperate. This past week was just a bugger-bear. Trying to raise the temperature of the water in the aquaponics area has been a real challenge. Unless the water is 65 degrees, the fish will not survive. We delayed ordering them and this past week didn't help. So far, the fish have not arrived, so we

are okay. The greenhouse is full of flowers and a few tomatoes. Calvin did bring home the tomato plants for a few nights. The new hoop house is a work-in-progress – Larry finished putting up the header and Jim began tilling inside. All that is left to do is add insect covering on the outside and chicken wire on the inside (to keep the animals out, put the cover on and complete the work on the doors. Once done, time to plant.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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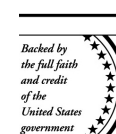
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# SENATE NEWS

By Sen. Pat Pettey

## Legislature Reaches First Adjournment

The 2021 Legislative Session reached first adjournment on Friday, April 9. After a short, unpaid break, legislators return May 3 for Veto Session. During Veto Session, the Legislature must pass a budget. Exempt bills, conference committee reports, and any vetoes by the Governor can be considered as well.

Over the break, if you have any questions about any of the legislation being considered, feel free to contact me by e-mail at pat.pettesy@senate.ks.gov.

## School Funding Update

Perhaps the most shocking action on the floor this week was the defeat – twice! – in the Senate of the Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill 175. This bill is the K-12 education budget, and includes two costly programs which amount to vouchers for private schools. The first expands eligibility for a scholarship tax credit. The original intent of this program was to provide options for at-risk children in the 100 lowest-performing public elementary schools, but this bill expands that eligibility, creating more competition for those scholarships without adding any accountability for those private schools with regard to student admissions, discrimination, or success.

The second program creates education savings accounts for any student who is considered at-risk. Nearly half of Kansas students would be able to re-allocate their state base aid from public school budgets to a fund their families could then use to pay for private school.

I support our public schools and will not support measures that will lead us back to the courts because of our state's failure to meet its constitutional obligation to fund K-12 education. When this measure came to the Senate floor late on Thursday evening, I joined 18 of my colleagues in voting against this bill, causing it to fail. Now former-Senate Majority Leader Gene Suellentrop would have been the deciding vote allowing the measure to pass, but he was absent.

We reconsidered the motion on Friday, when all members were present. Shockingly, it failed again, 20-20.

## Budget Narrowly Passes

After the K-12 education funding bill failed 20-20, the Senate passed 21-14 a budget which includes no funding for K-12 education. I voted No.

This proposed budget's fiscal profile showed a \$726 million deficit through 2023. When we consider budgets, we must always prioritize the need to protect our state's future and be fiscally responsible. A negative balance – without even touching schools – is not a sustainable path for our state.

When the Legislature returns for Veto Session in May, it must pass a final budget. I hope that the outcome of the K-12 budget bill combined with the narrow passage of this budget will be a clear signal to Republican leadership that a budget that doesn't fund public education is a non-starter for Kansans, and it's a non-starter for me.

## Action on the Floor

The Senate-as-a-whole considered 7 appointments and 7 bills on general orders this week.

My two NO votes on general orders were on HB 2089 and HB 2058.

**HB 2089** requires the State Board of Education to establish curriculum guidelines for a standardized firearm safety education program, which school districts could then choose to adopt. It would require the board to base this curriculum on the Eddie Eagle Gun-safe program offered by the National Rifle Association for grades K-5 and hunting education programs offered by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism for grades 6-12. This is another example of the Legislature meddling with the responsibilities of other elected bodies. Curriculum is best addressed by the State Board of Education and local school boards, not legislators whose campaigns are influenced by the special interest group promoted by this legislation.

HB 2058 allows reciprocity to recognize out-of-state licenses to carry a concealed handgun. It also lowers the age to receive a concealed carry license from 21 to 18. Amendments were made on the Senate floor to increase

that age to 19 and 21, and both were rejected. Between 2009 and 2018, the gun death rate in Kansas has increased by 37%. Firearms are the number two leading cause of death for children and teens in Kansas. In an average year, 31 children and teens die by gun in Kansas and 49% of these deaths are suicides. This legislation puts our teenagers, families, and communities in danger.

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. 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:

**ELECTION BILLS** Both of the voter suppression bills considered last week – HB 2332 and S Sub for HB 2183 – passed as CCRs. As a refresher:

- 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. It also contains many provisions regarding the logistics of mailing applications for advance ballots that are unclear, vague, and have not been vetted thoroughly.

- 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.

## UNEMPLOYMENT BILL

Senate substitute for HB 2196 is a mega unemployment bill, which notably creates the Unemployment Compensation Modernization and Improvement Council. It also requires the Kansas Department of Labor to modernize its IT infrastructure.

**STATE VETERANS HOME** HB 2021 authorizes the issuance of bonds for the construction of a state veterans 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. This bill will allow Kansas to meet the rest of the funding obligation to get this home built for our veterans.

## CIVICS TEST

HB 2039 requires students to pass an American civics test and financial literacy curriculum 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. I voted against this bill because I believe the Legislature should stay in its lane; the State Board of Education has the authority to set curriculum, and we should not overreach our authority.

## BULLYING TRANS KIDS

The short title of SB 55 is "Clarifying the authority of healing arts school clinics to provide healing arts services." What we voted on, however, was the so-called Fairness in Women's Sports Act. This bill bans trans girls and women from participating in elementary, high school, and collegiate level sports on girls' and women's teams. The Kansas State High Schools Activities Association (KSHSAA) reports that last year, of over 100,000 student athletes in Kansas, only 5 of them identified as transgender. This bill is another example of extremists exaggerating problems and

creating restrictive, likely unconstitutional legislation in response. I believe that transgender kids, like other students, deserve the same chances to learn teamwork, sportsmanship, leadership, and self-discipline, and to build a sense of belonging with their peers. There are ways to celebrate girls' sports and protect transgender youth from discrimination, making sure that all young people can access the lessons and opportunities sports afford. This bill does not do that, and instead sends a message to trans youth in our state that they are not welcome in the same way as their peers. I voted NO.

Bills Signed by Governor Kelly

Governor Kelly signed several bills into law this week, including:

**Senate Bill 52** establishes the Sedgwick County Urban Area Nuisance Abatement Act. It authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to order the removal or abatement of any nuisance from any property in the unincorporated area of Sedgwick County. All costs associated with the abatement are the responsibility of the property owner.

**Senate Bill 172** amends the Kansas Criminal Code regarding crimes involving property by eliminating the crime of tampering with a pipeline and establishing four new crimes: trespassing on a critical infrastructure facility (CIF), aggravated trespassing on a CIF, criminal damage to a CIF, and aggravated criminal damage to a CIF. The bill also allows a judge to order restitution for property damage to any victim of the four new crimes.

**HB 2022** amend laws concerning the filing of complaints and investigations pertaining to abandoned wells, responsible parties for plugging abandoned wells, and funds used by the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) for plugging abandoned wells.

**House Bill 2050** amends statutes to remove requirements that the following reports and certifications be provided to the Legislative Division of Post Audit (LPA), the Post Auditor, or the Legislative Post Audit Committee.

**HB 2070** allows private,

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

not-for-profit postsecondary educational institutions in Kansas to collect a surcharge on credit card payments. The Kansas Uniform Consumer Credit Code bars sellers from collecting a surcharge on credit card payments, with certain exceptions that currently include Kansas public institutions, municipal universities, community colleges, technical colleges, and vocational schools.

**Senate Sub. for House Bill 2072** creates the Utility Financing and Securitization Act (UFSA), which allows for the securitization of utility assets to recover energy transition costs for electric public utilities whose retail rates are subject to the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC). The UFSA also allows electric and natural gas public utilities whose retail rates are subject to the KCC to pursue securitization to help finance qualified extraordinary expenses, such as fuel costs incurred during extreme weather events.

**House Bill 2112** permits online advertisement and sales of abandoned property by self-storage rental unit operators; provides for the designation by occupants of an alternate contact; and limits claims for loss or damage of stored property to the property value limit provided in the rental agreement.

**House Bill 2126** provides immunity from civil liability for COVID-19 claims for certain covered facilities, including adult care homes, community mental health centers, crisis intervention centers, community service providers and community developmental disability organizations.

**House Bill 2145** exempts the retail sale of electricity by public utilities for electric vehicle charging stations from the jurisdiction of the state corporation commission.

**House Bill 2155** provides for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment response operations for water and soil pollutant release, discharge, or escape.

**House Bill 2162** amends and repeals reapportionment census data laws to conform with 2019 amendments to the Kansas constitution and to remove certain obsolete provisions.

**House Bill 2214** authorizes the Secretary of Administra-

tion on behalf of the Department of Corrections to convey land in Mitchell county to the city of Beloit.

**House Bill 2298** changes requirements for service of process on nonresident drivers and clarifying service of process on certain business entities.

**House Bill 2367** authorizes the state corporation commission to regulate certain transmission line wire stringing activities.

**House Bill 2321** requires utilities to complete the following before construction:

- Notify the city in which the project is proposed at least six months before construction and present preliminary plans, including the locations and dimensions of the project;
- Conduct an open house with sufficient notice to community members in that city allowing affected landowners to provide a public comment;
- And obtain any required permits.

**Senate Bill 118** would establish a procedure by which a city or county may assume the powers, responsibilities, and duties of a special district within the city's corporate boundary or the county's boundaries.

**Senate Bill 64**, as amended, would amend the Kansas Private and Out-of-State Postsecondary Education Institution Act (Act) to clarify the State Board of Regents' (Board) authority over private and out-of-state institutions.

**HB 2063**, as amended, would revise the benefits for members of the Kansas Police and Firemen's Retirement System (KP&F) who are Tier II members, meaning those employees hired since July 1, 1989, who are disabled and ultimately die due to a "service-connected" condition, as that term is defined by law. The bill would apply to deaths that occurred on and after January 1, 2017, and would designate these amendments to law as the Michael Wells Memorial Act.

### Shuttered Venue Operators Grants Program

Governor Laura Kelly announced \$16 billion in grants will be administered to shuttered venues through the Shuttered Venue Operators Grants (SVOG) program. Eligible applicants may qualify for the SVOG grant equal to 45% of their gross earned revenue for 2019, with the maximum amount available for a single

grant award of \$10 million.

Eligible entities must have been in operation by February 29, 2020 and include:

- Live venue operators or promoters
- Theatrical producers
- Live performing arts organization operators
- Relevant museum operators, zoos, and aquariums
- Motion picture theater operators
- Venue must have fixed seating
- Talent representatives
- Owners of eligible business entities

All eligible Kansas venues are encouraged to take part in the SVOG program. You can learn more about the Program and apply here.

### Online Written Driver's License Test Option

On Thursday, the Kansas Department of Revenue's Division of Vehicles launched KnowTo Drive Online, a web-based version of its driver's testing exam, powered by Intellectual Technology, Inc. (ITI). The introduction of this testing service adds to the Department's expanding online services it provides. With KnowTo Drive Online, Kansans have the opportunity to take their written test from the comfort of their home.

Kansas is the newest state to offer testing through KnowTo Drive Online. ITI also hosts self-service kiosks in 13 states, which help motor vehicle agencies extend services to grocery stores and other places of convenience.

The KnowTo Drive Online testing portal is available 24/7 on the Division of Vehicles' website at <http://ksrevenue.org/vehicles>. Fees are \$10 for the first test and \$8.50 for any re-test.

If preferred, the Kansas Driver's License written version of the test will still be available to be taken in the office.

### #RollUpYourSleeves, Get Your Vaccine!

As a reminder, 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.

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](mailto:covid-19@ks.gov).

## Comin' & Goin' Turner Style...

...from page 3

Turner Recreation Commission is holding a Summer Blood Drive in the gymnasium on Thursday, May 13, from 12pm -5pm. You need to sign up for an appointed time slot due to COVID restrictions. Online registration is available. For more information call Stephanie Franke, (913) 287-2111. [www.turnerrec.org](http://www.turnerrec.org)

Turner Recreation Commission is currently taking applications for its Summer Explorer Camp to be held June 1-July 30 from 7am-6pm. The cost is \$90 per week. Online registration is available. Check out [turner-recreation.org/childcare](http://turner-recreation.org/childcare). For

more information call Courtney Leach at (913) 287-2111. [www.turnerrec.org](http://www.turnerrec.org)

The K-State Garden Hour's topics for May are: May 5, Seeds & Gardening and May 19, Xeriscaping- Beautiful Landscapes with Less Water. I hope you have registered for the series; they are good about notifying you about the meeting in plenty of time.

One last reminder, WYCO Master Garden Plant Sale, online only. April 30 & May 1 starting at 9 am. <https://wycomastergardeners.square.site/>

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



# Guest Editorials

## Quotes To Ponder

By: Tom Valverde

Recently, Malcolm Turnbull, a former Prime Minister of Australia, made his informed views known on the news show, "Reliable Sources". This is an excerpt from Turnbull's comments:

*"The Murdoch media empire has enormous Political power. It is the most potent political force in Australia. It does not operate as a conventional news or journalistic operation any longer. Its influence in the United States and Britain, and all the countries where it is to be found, is utterly partisan. It's more like a political party, but the only members are the Murdoch's.*

*And, as you know, it has driven populist right-wing agendas: Denying climate change, supporting extremism on the right of politics — Populist politics. To the extent, and most irresponsibly of all, you might think... supporting the proposition that Joe Biden had in fact stolen the election and was not legitimately elected President. And that, of course, was directly connected to the sacking, the assault, the violent assault on the United States Capitol. A shocking event, and one of the darkest days in American political history. It was an assault on democracy.*

*And, you see, what Murdoch had delivered largely through FOX News in the United States, is exactly what Vladimir Putin wanted to achieve with all his disinformation campaigns: Turning one part of America against another. Exacerbating the divisions that already exist in American society. And undermine the trust Americans had in their democratic institutions. That was the objective of the Russian disinformation campaign, and that's exactly what has been delivered by FOX News. They've become unhinged from the facts. It is now to the point where basically, you can just make stuff up!*

*Everyone complains about social media, but what is being done by curated media, mainstream media, including in particular, FOX News,*

*has done enormous damage to the United States.*

*The question you have to ask yourself is, Is America a more divided country than it was before, thanks to Murdoch influence? The answer must be, yes. Now, that is a terrible outcome... look, when somebody tells lies and spreads disinformation, and you then call them out, you are calling out the liar, not the people who have been taken in by the liar. They are the victims.*

*Murdoch has to take responsibility for what he has done. You know politicians take responsibility -- they come up for election every few years. Murdoch exerts partisan power. Look, I've been involved in media most of my life, since the mid-seventies. I grew up with newspapers that some leaned more to the left, others more to the right. But, they each basically reported the news straight, without lies. And, on election day, they would vote for this or that party, fair enough. What you now have with Murdoch, and you see it in FOX News, is just undiluted propaganda.*

*I saw the relationship between Rupert Murdoch and Donald Trump. I have never seen a politician as deferential to Rupert Murdoch as Trump was. It was clearly a very symbiotic relationship. Murdoch knew Trump very well what Trump's short comings were, he didn't think he was qualified to be president. But, once he thought he could make him president, and have that power and influence over him, he did so. And, to what end? And, where did it end? You ended with an assault on the Congress. You ended up with a country where 1/3 of the public continue to believe that Joe Biden was not legitimately elected. In defiance of all of the facts and all the reality.*

*Now, that is the type of outcome that Vladimir Putin could only dream of having achieved. But, it was done by Rupert Murdoch and his media organization. And they are not held to account, at all. But, they should be.*

*For being so, consistently biased, the UK has banned FOX News. This cable entertainment station provides the lies that support extreme right-wing ideologies. Its mission is to brainwash the poorly educated to believe only the nonsense that FOX News puts out 24/7. And, they've made millions for Rupert Murdoch in the process. Small wonder that the Republicans have always been against providing support to public education. An unsophisticated electoral base is so much easier to manipulate and brainwash. But, we need both electoral parties to balance each other. Sadly, it may take decades before a new, people-oriented, GOP makes a strong come back to American politics.*

*The Republican party has lost support among one key former constituent voter segment; suburban college-educated voters. \*In 2018, 64% of these voters turned out to vote contrasted with only 39% of those with a high school diploma. Many of the Pro-Trump GOP fall into the later set, with only a high school diploma. This shows why there's been such an effort made all across the Country to make it more difficult to cast ballots in elections. \*Source, PEW Research."*

*Very poor strategy and not surprising since the very un-coalesced Republicans haven't been able to put together any substantive legislation of their own. And really, nothing to offer as a counter to President Biden's bold initiatives. The President's confident actions account for his high approval in polls of voters from his party. In mid-April, President Biden held 95% approval. A wonderful achievement, and occurring under his first 100 days as president. Knowing how to govern effectively, providing for the needs of millions in both health and financial crises, have made Joe Biden a president that many support and respect. Results driven, President Biden is diligently working, it isn't about dominating every news cycle or lashing out to complain on Twitter. President Biden has been able to achieve much to support cities, states and the American people.*

## Tom's Tasty Treats

By: Tom Valverde

It's interesting to learn about traditional foods from other countries and to then prepare them to enjoy here in the U.S. This week's tasty treat comes from Norway and it's a quick and easy take on a traditional cookie recipe. With a twist. These cookies are made using the powdered sugar instead of regular granulated sugar. And with this one change, they now are a blend of a sandy and an oatmeal cookie. This is a good recipe to make and freeze half of the cookies for use, up to three months later.

### Norwegian Oatmeal Cookies

Ingredients:

2 c Flour  
1 t Baking Soda  
1/2 t Salt  
1 c Butter, softened  
2 c Powdered Sugar  
1 Lg. Egg at room temperature  
1/2 t Cinnamon  
1 1/2 t Vanilla  
2 c Quick Oats  
1 c Pecans, finely chopped

Directions:

Set oven to 325°. Line cookie sheet with parchment paper.

In a large bowl, combine the flour, baking soda and salt.

In a mixer, cream together the butter and powdered sugar. Beat in the egg, cinnamon and Vanilla. Continue until the mixture is smooth and creamy. Stir in the flour mixture. Gently fold in the oatmeal and finely chopped pecans stirring until blended.

Drop by heaping teaspoon onto the lined cookie sheet. Space 2" apart. Bake at 325° for 17-20 minutes, until lightly golden brown. Let cool completely.

Dust tops with powdered sugar or glaze with a mixture of 1 c powdered sugar and 1 T milk and 1/2 t Vanilla. Additional milk may be added to reach the correct consistency. Drizzle the glaze in a zig zag way that leaves some of the cookie top still showing.

To vary the recipe, try adding 1/4 t almond extract in addition to the vanilla. Top glazed cookies with additional finely chopped pecans, if you like.

These cookies are great with a cold glass of milk or a cup of coffee. Norwegian oatmeal cookies are also great as a dessert to serve with a bowl of vanilla ice cream. Remember to treat someone who is at home alone, it will make them so happy! Your kind thoughtfulness will be appreciated. Enjoy!



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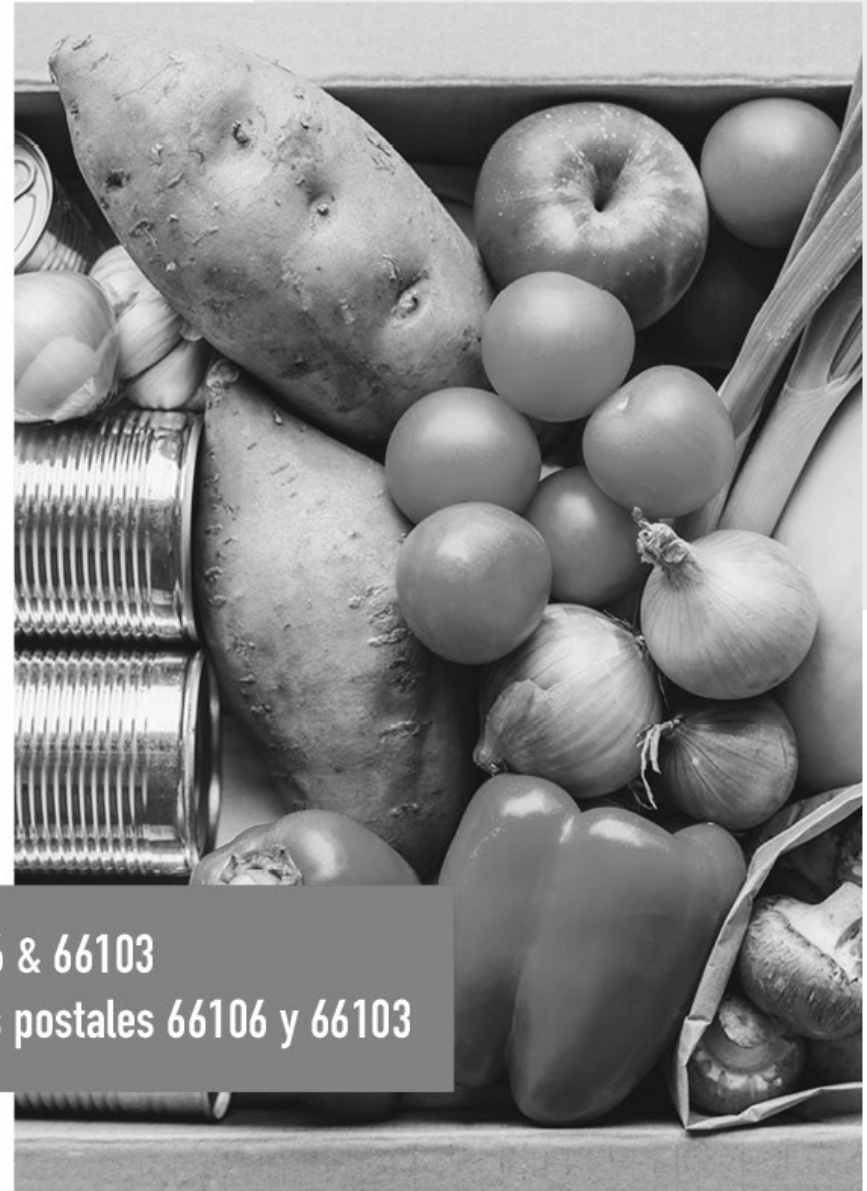
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