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The Record

UG Public Health Department Making Free COVID-19 Vaccinations Available to Anyone 16 Years and Older, Regardless of Residency

The Unified Government Public Health Department announced today that it will now offer free, COVID-19 vaccinations to anyone age 16 and over, regardless of where they live or work (including people who live outside of Kansas). This change will go into effect immediately.

“Getting more and more people vaccinated is the best opportunity we have to control and stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community,” said Juliann Van Liew, Director of the Unified Government Public Health Department. “We’re pleased to be able to offer these free COVID-19 vaccines to anyone who is 16 years and older, regardless of where they live or work, and that includes people who live outside of Kansas.”

Free vaccines are now available at all of the Unified Government’s mass vaccination locations, whether by appointment or walk-in.

Anyone 16 and older who wishes to schedule an appointment can use the UGPHD Self Scheduling Tool. Go to WycoVaccines.org, and click on the blue

button that says, “Click here to schedule an appointment online.” To see this page in Spanish, click on the word “Español” at the top of the page. Wyandotte County residents who don’t have an internet connection can call 3-1-1 (outside of Wyandotte County, call 913-573-5311) for assistance in scheduling their vaccination appointment time and date.

UGPHD Announces Early Morning, Evening Hours

In addition to expanded vaccine access for anyone age 16 and over, UGPHD facilities now have updated hours. The UGPHD is evaluating these new evening and early morning hours for the next three to four weeks. At that time, the UGPHD will reassess and adjust the schedule if needed. The latest hours will be available online at WycoVaccines.org or by calling 3-1-1.

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Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Saturday clinics will continue in May and June - more details coming soon!

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.

Help for Homebound or Those Who Need Transportation

The UGPHD also offers assistance for people who need transportation to a vaccination site, or for those who are homebound and want a free COVID-19 vaccination. To submit a request, go to WycoVaccines.org. Residents with no internet connection can call 3-1-1 to make their transportation or homebound vaccination request.

Taxes Buy Civilization

By Dr. Jim Haas

Taxes are how we pool our money for public health and safety, infrastructure, research, and services—from the development of vaccines and the Internet to public schools and universities, transportation, courts, police, parks, and safe drinking water.

... Holly Sklar

Because of the pandemic, May 15 is this year’s deadline for filing our income taxes. Federal taxes are the lowest in years, depriving us of public benefits enjoyed by people in nearly all other rich countries. We lack universal healthcare with its savings through economy of scale, we fail to develop young talent through universal preschool and free or low-cost public higher education, we burden parents by denying childcare and paid family leave, we fail to provide fast Internet access to every home in America, we lack fast and inexpensive public transport in most places, and the list goes on.



We’ve fallen well behind other countries in providing for the common good. Fortunately, the Biden-Harris Administration is on the job with bold proposals to bring the U.S. up to speed:

- \$2.3 trillion over 10 years for infrastructure from bridges and public transit to high-speed broadband, clean energy, an updated electrical grid, and much more—all using American investment to create millions of good paying American jobs.
- \$1.8 trillion over 10 years to strengthen families with expanded child, earned income, and dependent tax credits; low-cost childcare; paid family and medical leave; universal preschool; tuition-free community college; lower drug costs; and more, including \$80 billion to help the IRS collect revenue due from tax dodgers (more about that below).

Both the Jobs Plan and the Families Plan are popular with large majorities of Americans. One reliable poll shows 66 percent approval. These plans plus the recent pandemic relief have unified Americans behind active, progressive government like nothing else in decades. The success of the Biden-Harris effort to quickly provide no-cost vaccines has demonstrated that, with good leadership, government can work efficiently and effectively.

The Administration plans to pay for these proposals by rolling back the 2017 Republican tax cuts for corporations and for individuals making more than \$400,000 a year and by cracking down on high-income tax dodgers. The IRS has been underfunded for years, is understaffed, and uses outdated technology. The result is that billions in taxes owed by the rich and large corporations go uncollected because it’s too costly to audit their complex returns; it’s much cheaper to audit people like you or me even though the revenue gain is small.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, tax returns subject to audit declined 46 percent between 2010 and 2018; for millionaires—and this won’t surprise you—the decline was 61 percent. Fewer people are employed to track down tax cheaters than at any other time since the 1950s when our population was half of today’s.

A 2019 study estimated that tax cheaters owe as much as \$1.4 trillion, and that while 95 percent of wages are reported because they show up on W-2s, nearly half of business profits, rent, and royalties are not reported. This widespread tax fraud not only adds to the federal debt but puts a huge extra burden on honest taxpayers who have to make up the difference. The \$80 billion for the IRS in the Families Plan will help put a stop to it and reap big gains for a small investment.

The great Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., called taxes “the price of a civilized society.” He was right.

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Sue's Sudsy Soapbox By: Sue Reich



Our garage is really a mess. Yes, we are hoarders. Not just in the garage, a spare bedroom, and our so-called storage room. Since Mr. Ed and I married 22 years ago, neither one of us got rid of too much so we rented a storage place also. The rest of the house looks really okay, but the areas we don't use anymore are an embarrassment to me even though no one is here anymore except he and I. I am not ashamed of my kitchen, dining room, front room, or bathrooms. So where do I start or finish, should I say. I have gotten rid of some things, but who needs tax returns from 20 years ago, 4 or 5 keyboards, 3 china cabinets, tools, tools and more tools? A pool table, about 3 exercise machines, 3 cedar chests, etc. I want to have a garage sale but good grief, putting everything in and out is too much for me. I have donated a lot of stuff to Goodwill, given things to the Community Garden Depot. Would you believe there is still stuff here that the former owners left? Yes, you should. Are we semi-hoarders? I would say we are "keepers". Keep this, keep that, save this, save that? I spent a whole day on one room. Anyone have any ideas? I got rid of a lot of clothes, curtains, kitchen towels, dishes, kitchen utensils, bedclothes. I thought since we had to be quarantined, I could get a lot done. I have but you know what? I think it "grows". Okay, that's enough of that.

I bought some flowers from Larry down at the new place of 55th street and was already to get them planted and... it snowed. Wasn't that snow beautiful? I left later in the day to deliver paper, but the flowers had to wait. Then they called for frost, I

was almost ready to panic. Poor babies were starting to look sort of sorry, but finally today, I got them planted, it started sprinkling then kaboom it poured down. Oh well, if they don't make it, I'll just buy some more. Thanks to Fred, I planted some Hollyhocks last year and by golly they are coming up. He gave me some seeds. I played with Hollyhocks when I was a kid, the petals looked like ballerina skirts and we would dance them and spin them around. They grew wild in the alleys. Now they seem to be hard to find anymore. I love perennials, they just come back every year. Mr. Ed brought the weed wacker out and I cut quite a few weeds until it started raining. I usually get a lot done during the day. It takes a lot to wear me out. Then, I took a nap.

Well all my fellow readers, please watch your p's and q's, please be kind. I know this has been a real horrible time for everyone. So much violence, car wrecks, children being murdered, robberies, senseless, senseless stuff going on. Aren't we supposed to be kind and caring? My gosh, I can't believe those parents killing their babies, their toddlers. And, take care of those furbabies. They are important too. All Lives Matter. Lvyaa all, your friend, Sue

Here is a little something in memory of my 3 sisters, whom I love and miss, Gayle, Carolyn and Marilyn (twins) all of Argentine. The years weave a bond of love among sisters. At first glance, this seems to be an uncomplicated connection, but examine it closely and you'll discover threads of memory entwined with trust, hope, laughter and tears. from: *Heart to heart*

Short Stuff

By: Sue Reich

A lady asked me the other day if I noticed all the trash that is all over the place. Yes, I did notice and even chased a lot of them away that were getting ready to dump. Let's put "no dumping" signs everywhere with \$ 1,000 fine with them.

Masks or no masks. Some weren't wearing them anyway. How and when will we really know?



These 2 characters met in 1993 when they worked in Special Education at Harmon high. They have been friends ever since and are even neighbors now.



Here is another helpful gentleman that works at CVS on Shawnee Drive. He is really good at doing his job, too.



This friendly fellow works at CVS on Shawnee Drive. I don't know who he is because he always has on a mask.



My thoughtful, great neighbors that gave me a surprise birthday party last year.

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

Two days ago, the tilapia arrived and are now being acclimated to their surroundings. It's not just a matter of plopping those tiny fishes into a tank of water. The systems water needs to be added gradually. Acidity and alkaline levels need to be tested and chemicals added to ensure the correct environment. Temperature is a biggy, those fish do not like cold water, so the temperature needs to be checked periodically.

I checked my May calendar today and noticed federal income taxes are due May 17 to file the 2020 return. You can file a free tax return with Turbo Tax, H&R

Block, credit karma, My Free Taxes online services. I don't know how they handle the state income taxes, but it may be worth looking into.

The last few days I've spent a lot of time at the computer, so I will share information I gleaned from it. The Community Health Council of Wyandotte County is offering covid assistance relief. It is another source for free food assistance and cleaning/PPE supplies. For more information - contact wycohelp.org. To submit a request - <https://bit.ly/WyCoFood>

If you are homebound - free rides are available to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Contact ughealth.info/transport or call 311. We all need to get these shots.

The United Government is hiring and has over 39 open positions. Additionally, they are looking for summer/seasonal employees and firefighter trainees. For more information - www.wyco.org/jobs.

The Kansas City Kansas Public Library will be holding their annual Summer Reading Program starting June 1 and ending July 31. Everyone of all ages is invited to participate. This summer-read

books, earn prizes, and have fun. I have my reading wish list ready to go.

Rosedale Development Association is hosting a fundraising event - Virtual Bingo Night- on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 from 7:00 pm-8:00 pm The cost is \$30 per person. Sign up today: rosedalebingo.eventbrite.com.

The Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Dates for the next few months are May 15, June 19, July 17, and August 21. Hours are 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. The site is located at 2443 S 88th St. KCK 66111. Masks are required. Wyandotte County residents only with proof of identity and documentation listing name and address. A list of acceptable and not acceptable items can be found at www.wycockck.org/waste.

Turner Community Connection is holding its second annual Dumpsters & Donuts event at New Story Church (5500 Woodend) May 15 from 8:00am until 12:00 pm. Time to get rid of something you no longer want and get a donut as a reward.

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

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Governor Kelly Encourages Kansas Small Businesses to Apply for Paycheck Protection Program

Paycheck Protection Program Application Closes May 31, 2021

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly today encouraged Kansas small businesses to continue to apply for the 2021 Federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) ahead of the program's extended deadline of May 31st. Kansans can continue to submit applications for forgivable loans for pandemic-battered small businesses.

"Kansas small businesses are the backbone of our economy," Governor Kelly said. "Additional PPP funding will help fuel our continued economic recovery, and I encourage all eligible small businesses to apply for PPP funds before the May 31st deadline. I will continue to push for additional stimulus funding to support our small businesses as we get our state back to normal."

Led by the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Treasury Department, the PPP is a federally administered program providing loans to small businesses to cover payroll expenses. The SBA began accepting applications through Community Financial Institutions on January 11 and through all other financial institutions on January 19. The deadline to apply has been extended to May 31, 2021.

During the 2020 distribution of PPP money, 54,000 small businesses in Kansas received \$5 billion in funding.

"PPP has impacted our business in the most positive way possible," said Andrew Gough, owner of Reverie Coffee Roasters in Wichita. "Quite frankly stated, without the support of the program, we could not have continued to be in business today. Balancing the safety needs of our staff and community with bottom line business survival required support from another source. We now have real hope of surviving this terrible pandemic, both as individuals and as a business."

The 2021 PPP aims to make the program more attractive for small businesses and target the worst impacted industries through the following changes:

- Forgiveness has been simplified for borrowers of \$150 thousand or less, with self-certification option to attest funds are spent appropriately;
- Hospitality businesses, including hotels and restaurants, are eligible for an increased loan total (3.5x monthly payroll);
- Eligible expenses paid for with forgiven PPP loans may now be deducted on taxes for 2020 and 2021 & employers are now eligible for the Employee Retention Tax Credit even after taking PPP funds (reverses earlier guidance from IRS);
- Employers no longer must deduct Economic Injury Disaster Loans from their PPP loan total (EIDL program was refunded with an additional \$40B also);
- Additional categories are now eligible as non-payroll expenses (up to 40% of total loan amount), with operational expenses (including software, cloud services, accounting services, etc.), supplier costs, damage from social unrest, and worker protection expenses;
- Additional groups are eligible for loans, including 501(c)(6)s, housing cooperatives, and direct marketing organizations.

Under the newly extended program, \$234 billion are available with \$12 billion earmarked for businesses in low-income & minority communities, as well as \$15 billion in grants dedicated to live entertainment venues. Through Community Financial Institutions, the SBA hopes to encourage greater access to PPP funds. Businesses that have not received PPP funds previously are eligible for loans up to \$10 million if they have 500 or fewer employees. Businesses that received PPP funds during the first round are eligible for up to \$2 million in funding if they have 300 or fewer employees.

Nearly 2 Million More Economic Impact Payments Disbursed Under The American Rescue Plan; Continuing Payments Reach Approximately 163 Million

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and the Bureau of the Fiscal Service announced they are disbursing nearly 2 million payments in the seventh batch of Economic Impact Payments from the American Rescue Plan.

Today's announcement brings the total disbursed so far to approximately 163 million payments, with a total value of approximately \$384 billion, since these payments began rolling out to Americans in batches as announced on March 12.

The seventh batch of payments began processing on Friday, April 23, with an official payment date of April 28, with some people receiving direct payments in their accounts earlier as provisional or pending deposits. Here is additional information on this batch of payments:

* In total, this batch includes nearly 2 million payments with a value of more than \$4.3 billion.

* More than 1.2 million payments, with a value of over \$3 billion, went to eligible individuals for whom the IRS previously did not have information to issue an Economic Impact Payment but who recently filed a tax return.

* This batch also includes additional ongoing supplemental payments for people who earlier this year received payments based on their 2019 tax returns but are eligible for a new or larger payment based on their recently processed 2020 tax returns. This batch included more than 730,000 of these "plus-up" payments, with a value of over \$1.3 billion.

* Overall, this seventh batch of payments contains about 1.1 million direct deposit payments (with a total value of \$2.5 billion) and about 850,000 paper check payments (with a total value of more than \$1.8 billion).

Additional information is available on the first six batches of Economic Impact Payments from the American Rescue Plan, which processed weekly on April 16, April 9, April 2, March 26, March 19 and March 12.

The IRS will continue to make Economic Impact Payments on a weekly basis. Ongoing payments will be sent to eligible individuals for whom the IRS previously did not have information to issue a payment but who recently filed a tax return, as well to people who qualify for "plus-up" payments.

Special reminder for those who don't normally file a tax return

Although payments are automatic for most people, the IRS continues to urge people who don't normally file a tax return and haven't received Economic Impact Payments to file a 2020 tax return to get all the benefits they're entitled to under the law, including tax credits such as the 2020 Recovery Rebate Credit, the Child Tax Credit, and the Earned Income Tax Credit. Filing a 2020 tax return will also assist the IRS in determining whether someone is eligible for an advance payment of the 2021 Child Tax Credit, which will begin to be disbursed this summer.

For example, some federal benefits recipients may need to file a 2020 tax return – even if they don't usually file – to provide information the IRS needs to send payments for a qualifying dependent. Eligible individuals in this group should file a 2020 tax return as quickly as possible to be considered for an additional payment for their qualifying dependents.

People who don't normally file a tax return and don't receive federal benefits may qualify for these Economic Impact Payments. This includes those experiencing homelessness, the rural poor, and others. Individuals who didn't get a first or second round Economic Impact Payment or got less than the full amounts may be eligible for the 2020 Recovery Rebate Credit, but they'll need to file a 2020 tax return. See the special section on IRS.gov: Claiming the 2020 Recovery Rebate Credit if you aren't required to file a tax return.

Free tax return preparation is available for qualifying people.

The IRS reminds taxpayers that the income levels in this third round of Economic Impact Payments have changed. This means that some people won't be eligible for the third

payment even if they received a first or second Economic Impact Payment or claimed a 2020 Recovery Rebate Credit. Payments will begin to be reduced for individuals making \$75,000 or above in Adjusted Gross Income (\$150,000 for married filing jointly). The payments end at \$80,000 for individuals (\$160,000 for married filing jointly); people with Adjusted Gross Incomes above these levels are ineligible for a payment.

Individuals can check the Get My Payment tool on IRS.gov to see the payment status of these payments. Additional information on Economic Impact Payments is available on IRS.gov.

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Guest Editorials

Whitewashing the January 6th Riots to Remain in Trump's Good Graces

By: Tom Valverde

Republican House Minority Leader, Kevin McCarthy, made new assertions regarding the January 6th insurrection in an obvious attempt to keep himself in the former president's good graces. Here first, are the recorded statements made by McCarthy which show the evolution of his views of the insurrection.

1. One week after the mob attack, McCarthy spoke on the House floor and said, The President bears responsibility for Wednesday's attack on the Capitol by mob rioters... He should have immediately denounced the mob when he saw what was unfolding. These facts require immediate action by President Trump to accept his share of responsibility, quell the brewing unrest and ensure President-elect Biden is able to successfully begin his term.

2. Only 7 days later, McCarthy appears at a news conference, and remarked, I don't think Trump provoked, if you listen to what he said at the rally.'

3. McCarthy spoke with Chris Wallace of Fox news in late April where he gives another description of the events of January 6th. McCarthy refused to answer Wallace directly, and instead said, "I was the first person to contact the president when the riots were going on. He did not see it. President Trump ended the call by telling me that he would put something out to make sure to stop this. And that's what he did, he put out a video later." *This is contradicted by many contemporaneous reports of Trump watching the chaos of the Capitol break-in. White House staff said that Trump watched the riots and that Trump had commented that he thought some of his supporters were, low class.

Wallace corrects McCarthy and said, "A lot later, and it was a pretty weak video. But, I'm asking you specifically, Did he say to you some people are more concerned about the election than you are?" This question is an attempt to set the record straight about Trump's words to McCarthy,

of which there are many verified reports. This is how their conversation went on January 6th. Trump said to McCarthy, "The rioters are Black Lives Matter and Antifa. Trump then adds: I guess they just care about the stolen Election more than you do!" McCarthy screamed at Trump and asked him, "Who the f**k do you think you are talking to?!"

John Avolon, CNN Political Analyst, also had doubts about the veracity of McCarthy's reply to Wallace in which McCarthy now claims that, Trump did not see it. Avolon: We know from Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA), what Kevin McCarthy already told his conference. The idea that President Trump, didn't know and was responding heroically to McCarthy's call to release a statement, Flies in the face of everything we know. This, clean up on aisle insurrection, by McCarthy, out of political expediency, rather than his telling the Truth, standing up for his institutions, is pathetic! The more he seems to spin the narrative that the president did everything right that day. But, that's certainly not what Kevin McCarthy said he thought at the time. McCarthy said nothing about the fact that Trump's statement came 2 hours after the call he made to the White House.

For the Minority leader, it's all about his own political future and about being able to keep the cash flow into the Republican party. It's become custom for anyone with political hopes to lie unapologetically and to also create an alternative version of facts. In order to remain relevant, Republicans have all embraced Trump as he still has support from the MAGA crowd. With so many people with years of experience in Washington, DC, it seems that no one has given thought that Trump may not be around to run in 2024. Trump's legal woes seem to mount each day. Never before has there been a president with so many criminal court cases in their future, after leaving office. There are at least 48 criminal court cases against Trump. He will be 79 in 2024, Trump isn't the picture of health with the added stress of all the criminal court cases adding to a picture of a man with a very uncertain future. Incredibly, Trump remains the mainstay of the few Republican registered voters. A recent Gallop poll shows that only 25% of the electorate identify as being Republican, down from 31% in November 2020. Still, the Republican party continues to pin all it's hope of regaining the White House on a man that just might not be around in 2024. Amazing.

Ghost Tours of Kansas Features Psychic Saturday, May 8th

The longest running and reportedly most haunted hotel in the State of Kansas is hosting a psychic Saturday, May 8th.

Hotel Josephine in Holton opened in 1889 and has been investigated by many paranormal detectives over the past few decades.

Hotel Josephine's new owner, Sara Fox, is hosting Topeka psychic Jo Flowers with an event called Psychic Fun and Feast. The event begins at 6 p.m. and costs 65.00 per person, which includes a meal, presentations and a personalized psychic reading from Flowers.

Hotel Josephine is located at 501 Ohio Street, Holton.

Cathy Ramirez, owner and operator of Ghost Tours of Kansas LLC is co-hosting the event. "Our first Psychic Fun and Feast in April sold out fast and received rave reviews," Ramirez said. Ramirez said one customer on Facebook posted, "My daughter and two granddaughters had a fantastic time there and had an interesting experience. Thank you, we are looking to doing another event. Jo was awesome as always."

Tickets can be purchased at www.ghosttoursofkansas.org

TOM'S TASTY TREATS

This week's tasty treat is made with an unusual way of making a short bread cookie, the dough is pressed into the pan, no rolling out or cutting with a wavy-edged cutter. Just let them cool and then slice as you like.

But, besides the method of baking them, there's the best part of the recipe, the cookies are loaded with dark chocolate that you cut into small chunks. If you prefer, use milk chocolate, I won't tell. Hope you will try:

CHOCOLATE CHUNK SHEET COOKIES

Ingredients:

4 c Flour

1 1/4 c Sugar

2/3 c Cornstarch

1 t Salt

1 1/2 c Butter, melted and cooled

1 T Vanilla

2 c Dark Chocolate, cut coarsely into chunks

Set oven to 350°.

Line a 9 x 13" pan with parchment paper and butter it. Whisk together the flour, sugar, corn starch, and salt. Stir in the cooled melted butter and the Vanilla. Mix to form a soft dough. If the dough feels warm, let cool before adding the chocolate chunks. Crumble the dough evenly into the pan.

Press down with floured fingers or with a flat-bottomed measuring cup. Smooth with an offset spatula.

Bake at 350° for 27-30 minutes. The cookie should just be turning to a light golden brown at the edges with the center set.

Cool in the pan before slicing.

For a smaller batch, bake in a 9 x 9" pan and use

2 1/2 c Flour, 1/2c Sugar,

5 T Cornstarch, 1/2 t Salt,

1 c Butter, 1 1/2 t Vanilla,

1 c Dark Chocolate.

Want more Chocolate?

Top hot cookies with additional grated or chopped Chocolate, let soften, then spread with an offset spatula.

For a special occasion, embellish with chopped pecans while the chocolate is still warm! These are rich cookies that everyone will enjoy. Perfect with a cup of hot coffee!

As always, please remember a live alone or elderly neighbor. Take a plate over or invite them to enjoy your treats and your company.

Enjoy!

Tom Valverde

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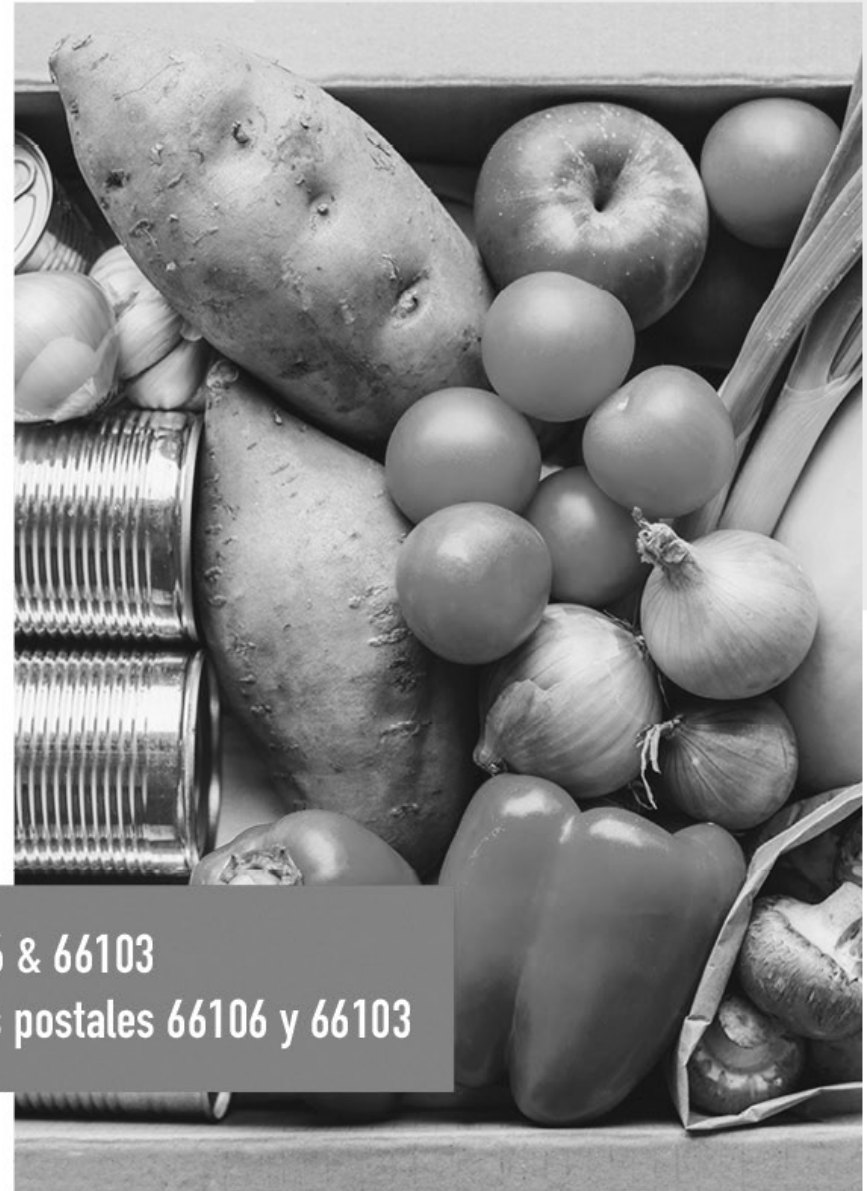
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