

100-Year-Old Tonganoxie Veteran Recalls Deadly Air Combat Over the South Pacific

Hurling only dozens of feet above the ground at more than 300 miles per hour, George Cooper piloted his B-25 through curtains of antiaircraft fire. Japanese warships anchored in Rabaul harbor—together with gunners in the town—did their utmost to knock George and his comrades out of the sky. High above their formation, American fighter pilots tumbled through the sky in deadly dogfights with their Japanese counterparts. Fiercely burning wrecks ashore and in the harbor testified to the deadly nature of the day's combat.

George spotted a line of a dozen or so Japanese floatplanes moored just fifty feet or so from the beach. He dipped the wing of his B-25—named Jayhawk—and lined up on the enemy craft. Seconds later he mashed down on the firing button and Jayhawk's eight, forward-firing .50 caliber machine guns spat heavy, thumb-sized bullets at a rate of 100 per second. When he finished his firing pass a short time later, four of the Japanese machines were aflame and several others were missing pieces.

100-year-old Tonganoxie resident Cooper recently recounted this story and many others to writer and fellow combat aviator Jay Stout during the writing of *Jayhawk: Love, Loss, Liberation*



and *Terror Over the Pacific*. "George's story is unique not only because he is one of the very last—if not the last—survivors of early air combat over the Pacific during World War II," Stout said, "but because of where he came from and what he and his family endured during the war."

Indeed, George was born in the Philippines to Lawrence Cooper, a 1907 graduate of Kansas University, and Prisca Cooper, a Filipina from a well-to-do and landed family. "My grandmother had watched KU being built," said Cooper, "and vowed that her children would study there some day. And my father did just that." Lawrence went to the Philippines to teach

immediately after finishing his studies in Kansas. He quickly rose to become a regional superintendent of schools, but later turned his head to business and became the head of B.F. Goodrich's activities in the Philippines.

George grew up in Manila in an affluent neighborhood that was home to many of the most important people in the archipelago. But Lawrence, George's father, never lost touch with the values he had learned while growing up on the prairie outside Peabody, Kansas. "And he instilled that Kansas spirit in me and my siblings," George said. "Always, we were reminded

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'For the People'

By Dr. Jim Haas

One hundred years ago this month the Nineteenth Amendment gave women the right to vote, and now the Vice-Presidential candidate of the Democratic Party is a woman, only the third of a major party. While Presidential candidate Joe Biden is well known after years as a senator and one of the most active and successful vice-presidents in our history, Kamala Harris is not as well known outside California. With the election clock ticking, it's time to know her better.



Before her election to the Senate in 2016, Harris had been district attorney of San Francisco and was in her second term as California attorney general. As AG, she came to national attention when she refused to accept a paltry \$4 billion settlement for California homeowners defrauded by America's five largest mortgage providers. She and the AGs of many other states had jointly sued for homeowner relief from illegal foreclosures, but Harris saw the proposed settlement as inadequate and forced new negotiations. In the end, she won \$20.4 billion for people of her state and forced more relief in other states as well, the second-largest fraud settlement in American history.

Harris also won billions for citizens in consumer protection cases against the for-profit Corinthian Colleges, banks, and others, in environmental cases resulting from major oil spills from ships and pipelines and from Volkswagen's cheating on their diesel car emissions systems, and in recovering money from banks that had misrepresented investments for state pension funds. She scored major victories in prosecuting drug dealers and breaking up drug cartels and initiated an agreement with Mexico to coordinate law enforcement regarding drugs, human trafficking, identity theft, and tax fraud. Earlier, as San Francisco DA, she had cut the city's school truancy in half by holding parents accountable then, as AG, extended that effort state-wide.

As a senator, Harris is known for her solid research, collegiality, and effective interrogation of committee witnesses. In hearings, she reduced former U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions and current AG William Barr to stammering to avoid perjuring themselves. At one point, Sessions stalled by saying her questions "make me nervous." In Brett Kavanaugh's hearing to become a Supreme Court justice, Kavanaugh, cornered, repeatedly refused to answer a Harris question. She also criticized his skimpy FBI investigation. And she didn't go after only Republicans, being one of the first to call for influential Democrat Al Franken's resignation from the Senate because of alleged sexual harassment. That's equal-opportunity justice.

A century ago, legendary Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., said the then young Franklin Roosevelt had "a second-rate intellect but a first-rate temperament." That temperament allowed FDR to become the most successful president of the past century. Harris clearly has a first-rate temperament and a first-rate intellect making her a worthy running mate to Mr. Biden, whose positive, empathetic temperament has been his hallmark during decades of public service. (Justice Holmes also said, "I like to pay taxes. With them, I buy civilization." Biden understands this and intends to see that corporations and the rich pay their fair share.)

In her acceptance speech, Senator Harris said that one of her proudest moments was the first time she rose in court to represent the public and made the traditional introductory statement, "Kamala Harris, for the People." That's what public service is about.

Election Countdown: 68 Days

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Sue's Sudsy Soapbox By: Sue Reich



What a day this has been, what a weird world we're in, it's almost like living in outer space. I couldn't get my Gmail to work last week and used Mr. Ed's. Just thought I would try mine this time and guess what? Here I am! Crazy stuff. We were pretty busy today. Had some running to do yesterday and more today. Working myself to pieces. Trying to get rid of stuff, like I said I didn't realize we were hoarders. Nigro's are really neat people. They are saving boxes for me so when I go thru all our "keepers", I will have containers to put my "get rid of stuff" in. I can't believe as many times I have moved, I still have as much as I did 25 years ago. I even have some of my grandmother's stuff, my mom's stuff and now mine and Mr. Ed's. We are still trying to find a house to fit our needs. Three bedrooms, 1 and 1 1/2 bathrooms, garage, kitchen, dining room, laundry room (upstairs), front room, typical ranch style house and a regular sized yard. Like I said before, we are at the age we need everything on one floor, around Argentine, Turner, Morris area. I heard houses are really going like crazy. Remember the toilet paper rush? Now it is houses. What the hey?

Still can't get in touch with the place that has those handicap placards. Dang, what is wrong with everything around here? Everything is audio stuff and can't talk to a real person anymore. Mr. Ed needs one and our doctor filled out the form for him and you have to have an appointment but try and get a hold of them is next to a miracle.

Don't know what was going on at JC Harmon today but the front and back

parking areas were quite full. Poor Fred Broski. He had a bit of surgery on his face. He is such a sweet guy. We stay in touch off and on. I always ask about how his wife Jane is. They make such a wonderful couple. He was always such a funnyman on tv. He still has quite a comedic nature. Love people like that. HI FRED! He takes *The Record* so thought I would say Hi to him. You and Jane take care. Lol

My niece in Oregon received the box I sent to her. Going to pack another one up for her shortly. Like I said before, Sister Carolyn and I made miniatures and since she is with my 2 other sis' in heaven I lost my interest is doing things like that. Hope she and her daughters and granddaughters enjoy our artsy craftsy stuff. I sent my estranged son a card with photos in it to him and his family and another one to my nephew of some of his mom and him and his brother. Got to get rid of things. I look around the house and doesn't even look like I made a dent in it. The more I do, the more it grows. lol.

Well my sweet peeps, to whom I love and miss so much. Sure will be glad when this foreign virus is done with us. Those masks make my nose run and my glasses fog up. But I do miss all of you. Miss our Domino Dottes, etc. and all my customers. I still hear from some of you one Facebook, chat, and other electronic means of communication. But love those hugs and seeing those smiles. I did stop by the garden the other day and put masks on Digger and Dottie. Digger needs a hat. Dollie says she is doing ok. She likes her Chief mask. You can stop by the garden and see them. Poor Digger needs some touching up. Whenever I get the time and quit working around my house, I am going to go down there with my equipment and work on them. I found an old Kansan newspaper with my sister Carolyn's picture on the front page, painting Digger. He was at the Kansas Speedway for a few years, now he is with us in our garden. That ol' bear sure got around. Anyhow,

you all take care. Miss you and really want to get back to our old fun way again. lvy a all!!! from Sue, your ol' gal from Argentine. Sue "Words in haste, do friendships waste". "Who gossips to you will gossip of you." Apples of Gold



Digger & Sue wearing their masks in the Turner Community Garden.

OK, Whodunnit?

By: Sue Reich

I am not blaming anyone because I don't know whodunnit. I went outside to bring my empties in, you know, my trash cans and recycle bin. What the? There sat my empty trash cans, but no recycle bin. People must really be hard up to do that, recycle junk and all. I called Deffenbaugh. They hadn't got to my street yet. Hope whoever has it, enjoys it!



Calvin, a garden master of Turner garden. He was one of the first ones to start our garden.



This is one of the first pictures of an Argentine High School senior class. It was taken in 1919. Over 100 years ago. Sharp looking group, aren't they? Recognize anyone?

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

A couple of weeks ago I noted that Beth Wyatt has started a butterfly habitat in the south end of the hoop house and that one Monarch caterpillar had already morphed into a butterfly. Calvin captured another Monarch butterfly in the pollinator garden and introduced the two. It was love at first sight. Last week he and Beth counted 48 caterpillars and know they didn't count them all. It was discovered that a stink bug had killed some. Up to date two stinkbugs have met their end and many of the caterpillars have formed chrysalis. Some

are still roaming and decimating the milkweed plants. A call went out earlier this week requesting milkweed.

The larva Calvin ordered from Monarch Watch arrived Monday and were about the size of the end of a toothpick. The sixteen larvae were in four separate plastic containers and he decided to feed them milkweed to grow larger before he added them to the ones in the garden. He checked on them every day but on Wednesday discovered only four remained. Well, lesson learned, Monarch are cannibals, the larger ones ate the smaller ones – survival of the fittest or in this case – survival of the largest. Before all this happened, Calvin ordered more Monarch larvae, so we are waiting for them to arrive along with the tagging kits for the September migration.

I recently read a book by an author that has been around awhile, Joshilyn Jackson. Her latest is "Never Have I Ever". It is a "tale of betrayal, deception, temptation, and love". It

has a lot of twists with a bit of wry humor. I enjoyed the book and have placed on hold one of her older novels "The Almost Sisters".

I mentioned a long time ago that I enjoy novels from other countries. A Swedish married couple who write by the name of Lars Kepler have a few available books at the KCK Public Library. Translated from Swedish, there is a different flavor to the writing. I can't explain it but each character's nuance – mannerisms – are expressed differently from American prose. Maybe it is the descriptive sentences. Their last book to be translated into English is "Stalker". It is the latest in a series involving the Swedish National Crime Unit, former Finnish detective Joonas Linna and Hypnotist/ Trauma expert Erik Maria Bark. Long but good, once you get into the style of writing.

Until next time please be kind, wash your hands, practice social distancing, and wear a mask.

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George Cooper

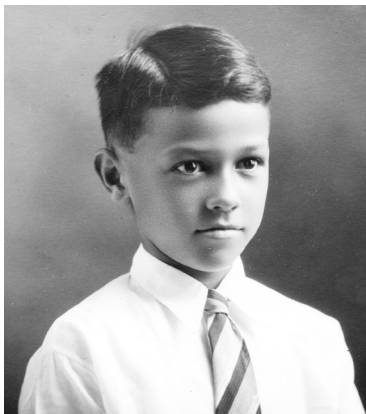
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that he expected us to travel to Kansas when we came of age, so that we could attend KU.”

George, who had been born when Woodrow Wilson was president, made his way to the States as a deckhand in 1940. It was while he was working to make enough money to pay for tuition that he joined the United States Army Air Forces in December 1941, immediately after the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. He went straight into pilot training

By the summer of 1943, George was in New Guinea with the 345th Bomb Group. He was part of many of the most fearsome raids in the war and suffered the loss of many friends. At the same time, he lived in total ignorance and fear of what had happened to his family and friends in the Philippines. He had no idea if they were even alive.

By the end of the war he was in command of a bomb squadron based on Okinawa, south of Japan. As it developed his family survived both isolation and imprisonment. And they were eager to meet the wife he had married in



the States, and his new daughter.

It wasn't until after the war that George realized his dream of attending Kansas University. He graduated with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1949, and has spent the rest of his life in his beloved Kansas. And it's been a very happy and successful one—he retired as a colonel with the

Air Force Reserve, and as a Vice President with Puritan-Bennett, a leader in respiratory products. More importantly, he and his wife Ruth, created a legacy that included six children, 15 grand-children, 2 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren. Many of them are KU alums.

I suppose much of my success

is due to what I learned and what I became during World War II,” George said. “So much was influenced by my experiences not only in combat, but in learning how to be a good follower and a good leader. And that has been useful ever since I came to Kansas.”

George Cooper retired to his farm in Tonganoxie in the 1970s

where he still lives independently. In 2018 he was selected as Kansas University's Mechanical Engineering Distinguished Alumnus. *Jayhawk: Love, Loss, Liberation and Terror Over the Pacific*, was published in August. It tells the story of his growing up in the Philippines, and his wartime experiences in the Pacific.

Fire Station 12 in Kansas City, Kansas Open for Service

Unified Government and Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department officials held a ribbon cutting ceremony, to officially open the Department's newest Fire Station. Fire Station #12, located at 2913 Hutton Road in Kansas City, Kansas, is now officially open to serve and protect the public.

“The opening of Fire Station #12 continues our commitment and focus on providing quality, responsive public safety throughout the entire community,” said Mayor/CEO David Alvey. “This new state-of-the-art facility will expand overall service and readiness in this area, improving service for nearly 2,000 additional rooftops, enhance firefighter safety which remains a critical priority, and provide expanded protection for the community as a whole.”

“My chief concern as Commissioner has always been to increase public safety, and I'm proud to say, that after a long time coming, we have a new Fire Station,” said District 5 Commissioner Mike Kane. “This new station will

improve service and safety for nearly 2,000 rooftops.”

The new station will cover 1,939 rooftops in a 4-minute travel time that were not previously covered before the opening of Station 12.

“This fire station represents our dedication to improving overall readiness and enhancing firefighter and public health and safety in Wyandotte County,” said Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department Chief Michael Callahan during his remarks at the ceremony. “Fire Station #12 will better meet the needs of Western Wyandotte County residents in terms of response time and having adequate staff in the areas where they are needed most.”

The new Fire Station features ten bedrooms, six bathrooms, and a full kitchen. In addition, in an effort to make the building as energy efficient as possible, the building has LED lighting and a state of the art HVAC system.

Many of the features of this building are focused on protecting the health and safety of the firefighters who will work there. Some of these

features include:

- Cancer Prevention Initiative features include a separate locker room, DECON shower rooms, and an extractor/dryer room for cleaning firefighter bunker gear.

- Each firefighter will have two sets of bunker gear, two protective hoods, and a self-contained bunker gear carry bags

- All bunker gear lockers are ventilated.

The Unified Government chose to build Fire Station 12 at the 2913 Hutton Road location for several reasons:

- Having a station at this location increases the Department's ability to respond within four minutes to many existing commercial and retail locations in Western Wyandotte County.

- This location provides the Department with the ability to respond within four minutes to existing gaps in its Area of Response, without leaving underserved areas behind.

- Utilizing this location now makes sense in terms of the population growth pattern of the County, leaving other options open when planning



additional stations to meet future demands.

“I'm proud to serve with a Commission that has chosen to face up to the hard reality that we must build public safety infrastructure where it's needed, and also to rebuild our older safety infrastructure, which we also have plans to commence immediately,” said At-Large District 1 Commissioner Melissa Bynum.

In addition to providing new facilities such as the new Fire Station # 12, the Unified Government is working hard to update and maintain other fire department facilities and provide more and better equipment throughout the

Department. For example:

- Over the past 2 years, the Department has purchased 7 pumpers (with 2 more ordered for the end of 2020), 4 trucks, and 2 ambulances (with 2 more ordered for the end of 2020).

- Increased the Area of Response (AOR) covered by four-minute and eight-minute response times in the city.

- Initiated the first-ever mutual/auto aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions for supplemented response when needed.

- The Department has initiated the first-ever inter-

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Fire Station...

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departmental training with neighboring jurisdictions for collaborative instruction.

- Equipped each firefighter with an integrated, personal Thermal Imaging Camera.

- Equipped all Truck Companies with e-DRAULIC extrication tools.

- Providing robust and recurrent training on emerging Fire Service trends.

- Increased the number of KCKFD personnel responding to every type of alarm.

To further enhance public safety, Callahan said the Department is looking to add 18 new firefighters through a SAFER Grant. The benefits of these additional personnel would be:

- The additional personnel would be used to convert six of the Department's current three-man firefighter pumper units into four-person units.

- This conversion will allow for a more robust and rapid capability to initiate suppression, extinguishment and rescue operations.

- This would allow the Department to conform with the NFPA 1710 Standard for the arrival of a Fire Company within four minutes, as well as the Standard to place four firefighters on the scene within four minutes.

- This would also comply with the OSHA regulation of 2 in/2 out at a fire scene.

"These are the kinds of continuous improvements we are focused on, right now, and in the future," said Callahan. "While I'm proud of the im-

provements we've achieved, I'm also very proud of how rigorously we've worked to do this while stewarding our budget dollars very carefully."

Callahan outlined several fiscal improvements that have been made during his tenure, including:

- Implementing Telestaff, an automated manpower program to streamline and more efficiently manage the daily staffing and overtime operations of the Department.

- Implementing a cyclical apparatus replacement program to ensure greater compliance with NFPA 1901 guidance, and reduce repair and maintenance costs.

- Implementing a lease/turn-in program for fire apparatus to rotate the apparatus that have the highest call volume, reducing repair and maintenance costs.

- By purchasing a new pumper type, the Department saved taxpayers more than \$200,000 per pumper (approximately \$800,000 total savings.)

"I want to applaud all of the Unified Government and Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department staff who have worked to hard to achieve these objectives," said Callahan. "By increasing public safety, we improve the quality of life for all Wyandotte County residents and for our Fire Department staff. On behalf of the entire Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department, we're proud to be a part of this community, and we look forward to serving and protecting the residents of Western Wyandotte County with this new facility."

Tom's Tasty Treats

By: Tom Valverde

Does your family enjoy fruit desserts, do you like the convenience of having them made in advance? Well, this week's tasty treat fits the bill! It's actually better on the second or third day! This "no fuss" treat will become a favorite.

Tom's Angel Food Cooler

Ingredients:

- 1 - 8oz. pkg. Cream Cheese
- 3/4 c Powdered Sugar
- 1 - 8 oz. carton Cool Whip
- 1 - 10oz. Angel Food cake, cut into 1" squares
- 2 - 21oz. cans Cherry Pie filling

Topping:

- 1 - 8oz. carton Cool Whip

Directions:

Beat the cream cheese and powdered sugar until well combined. Fold in the Cool Whip and the angel food cake. Spread mixture into a 9x13" pan.

Chill, overnight. Or keep ready, chilled, and covered.

Try making this with other fruit fillings. Best served in a small bowl then topped with a dollop of Cool Whip.

A chilled treat, the best sort of treat in the Summertime! Enjoy!

Guest Editorial

Disloyal, a Memoir

The True Story of the Former Personal Attorney to President Donald Trump

By: Tom Valverde

The forward to this new book was presented on an interview on MSNBC with host Ali Velshi. After his reading portions of Cohen's forward, Velshi interviewed Natasha Bertrand, National Security reporter at Politico. The following is the forward:

"Trump had colluded with the Russians but not in the sophisticated ways imagined by his detractors. I also knew that the Mueller investigation was Not a witch-hunt." "Trump had cheated in the election, with Russian connivance, as you will discover in these pages, because doing Anything -- to "Win" has always been his model and way of life." "From golden showers in a Sex club in Vegas, to Tax Fraud, to deals with corrupt officials from the former Soviet Union, to catch and kill conspiracies to silence Trump's clandestine lovers I wasn't just a witness to the president's rise -- I was an active and eager participant." "I know where Trump's skeletons are buried, Because I was the one who buried them!" "Trump had also continued to pursue a major real estate deal in Moscow during the Campaign. He attempted to insinuate himself into the world of Vladimir Putin and his coterie of corrupt Billionaire Oligarchs. I know, because I personally ran the deal and kept Trump and his children, closely informed of all the updates, even as the candidate Blatantly Lied to the American people. Trump would always say, "There's no Russia collusion, I have No dealings with Russia... there is No Russia!"

Ms. Bertrand comments, "What we have to remember is the lengths to which the Justice Department and even the Bureau of Prisons apparently were willing to go, to try to prevent Michael Cohen from releasing this book. He was sentenced to home confinement due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, from jail and he was ultimately brought back to prison, after refusing to sign a statement, saying that he would not write a book or speak to the media." That of course, was a deal breaker for Michael Cohen and a Federal Judge ruled that it was a clear act of retaliation and violated his First Amendment rights." "It's pretty remarkable how much the Trump administration doesn't want this book to come out, to the point that a judge, last month said, "This is something that I've never seen in my two decades of being on the bench!"

Ms. Bertrand continues, "There is a lot more that Cohen is going to reveal-- things that were not covered during his testimony before Congress And he knows much about Trump's finances, this information could be possibly dangerous for Trump's presidency." Mr. Velshi said that both the New York District Attorney, and the Attorney General for the State of New York, are currently looking into Trump's financial dealings. "Cohen may be asked to testify again, to provide more detailed information." "Cohen has over 100 recorded conversations." Taped conversations between Trump and Cohen, possible new evidence to finally bring Trump to justice.

Trump has been accused of engaging in lewd sex acts with 13 and 14 year old girls, his penchant for debauchery and his depravity have been well documented, but this new book, "Disloyal" will provide even more details of the president's personal sex escapades, involvement in instances of fraud, infidelity and corruption. This memoir will be a scandalous read and will not serve to gain President Trump any new votes in November. All lost, paid to "win" at any cost!

Trump Adviser Steve Bannon, In Federal Custody, Handcuffed!

By: Tom Valverde

On AUGUST 20, 2020 Steve Bannon, a long-time adviser to President Trump, along with three others, were taken into Federal custody and indicted for their illegal actions involved with the "We Build The Wall" fund, (WBTW) in Manhattan Federal Court. The WBTW successfully raised over \$25 Million dollars from donors all across the country. "The defendants defrauded hundreds of thousands of Donors, capitalizing on their interest in funding the border wall, to raise millions of dollars under false pretense, that all of the money raised, would be spent on its construction." WBTW founder, Brian Kolfage, would "not be paid a cent, but the defendant, Bannon, "secretly schemed" to pass hundreds of thousands of dollars to Kolfage--which he used to fund his lavish lifestyle," said U.S. Acting Attorney, Paula J. Strauss. Bannon received

more than \$1 Million via a non-for-profit organization, which he controlled. Bannon used the stolen money to cover hundreds of thousands of his own personal expenses

The Department of Justice said the three other men who were indicted include Brian Kolfage, WBTW founder, Timothy Shea and Andrew Badolato. SDNY Inspector in Charge, Phillip R. Bartlett said that, "The four created sham invoices and accounts to launder donations and cover up their crimes, "Showing absolutely no regard for the law or the truth!" All four defendants are charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering. Each charge carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

For anyone who is keeping count of Trump's "Best People," Bannon is #6 of Trump's Senior aides who have been indicted. The others: Paul

Manafort, Rick Gates, Micheal Cohen, Roger Stone and Michael Flynn. What an embarrassment of a Presidential Administration, what a negative light it sheds on Trump and his choice of people he associates with. "Water always seeks its own level!" Another point to recall was the large controversy that the SDNY was for the Trump Administration when Attorney General Barr conducted yet another "Friday night massacre," in firing U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman who was the head of the SDNY. After much criticism, Barr was forced to abandon his choice for a temporary replacement. Geoffrey Berman's approved choice instead serves as his replacement; Ms. Strauss. Bartlett said, "This case should serve as a warning for other fraudsters, that no one is above the law, not even a disabled war vet or a millionaire political strategist. The wheels of Justice are running smoothly at the SDNY.

UG Unveils New Inclusive Playground

Wyandotte County's first all-inclusive playground opened to the public on August 21, 2020. In partnership with Variety Children's Charity of Greater Kansas City and the Wyandotte County Parks Foundation, the Unified Government's Parks & Recreation Department began planning for the inclusive playground in 2015.

Inclusive playgrounds are designed to include everyone through thoughtful design, provide a safe place for children of all abilities to play together, are developmentally appropriate for children with and without disabilities, and meaningfully integrate all of the senses while encouraging social play.

Construction of the "Field of Dreams" baseball-themed inclusive park at North 126th Street in Bonner Springs began in March 2020, with the local being selected based on existing topography and the ability of existing parking to accommodate ADA vans and vehicles.

"Variety Children's Charity of Greater Kansas City is a volunteer-driven organization committed to providing children with developmental disabilities the adaptive equipment and opportunities needed for activity and inclusion," said Deborah Weibrecht, Variety KC Executive Director. "We are extremely proud of our partnership

with the Unified Government and the Parks & Recreation Department's steadfast commitment to creating accessible, inclusive environments for our children to learn and play."

Some components of the new inclusive playground include wide routes for wheelchairs, flush transitions between different pieces of equipment, ADA approved swings, and unitary shock-absorbing surfacing.

The playground also includes multi-sensory play pieces to promote play experiences for all of the developing senses. The benefits of fully accessible playgrounds don't stop with kids who have challenges. Able-bodied children learn and grow on accessible playgrounds by interacting with others who are in some ways different from them. Inclusive playgrounds also allow parents and other adults with disabilities to play with their children--something that's often not possible at a traditional playground.

"Thank you to all of our partners who helped makes this playground a reality for our community. Play is a critical part of physical, emotional, mental, and social development for EVERY child, especially for children with disabilities," said Angel Obert, Unified Government Parks & Recreation Deputy Direc-

tor. "This playground is special for our community, as it allows for opportunities that kids with disabilities will now have such as being able to swing, slide and climb with their friends, something they may have never been able to do before at other playgrounds."

Although the park is now open to the public, everyone is reminded to adhere to safety guidelines, including social distancing, mask-wearing, and to be mindful of the number of children playing at once.

For more information about Parks & Recreation in Wyandotte County, visit wycokck.org/Parks. To learn more about the County's ongoing COVID-19 response, visit wycokck.org/COVID-19.



Passings...

By: Sue Reich

Carol J. McDaniel, age: 88, passed away August 15, 2020. Carol was a member of Emerson Park Christian church of Argentine for many years.



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