



# The Record

## Census: Wyandotte population shows gain

By Murrel Bland

After about 50 years of population decline, Wyandotte County is back on the plus side.

The 2020 decennial U.S. Census in recently released data indicated that Wyandotte County has grown by 7.5 percent in the period from 2010 to 2020. That translates from 157,505 to 169,245 persons. Wyandotte County's population peaked in 1970 at 186,845. The largest loss was

seen in the 1980 Census with a 7.8 percent decrease—a loss of 14,000.

For many years, Wyandotte County was the most populous county in Kansas. It saw large gains in its early days. In 1870, the increase was 7406, compared with 1860. The late 1800s continued to see substantial growth. In 1900, the population was 73,227; by 1940, the population had almost doubled at 145,071.

Based on the 2020 Census,

Wyandotte County ranks fourth in population among Kansas counties; it also ranks fourth among those gaining population. The top three most populous counties are Johnson, Sedgwick and Shawnee, respectively. Eighty of 105 Kansas counties lost population since 2010. The 2020 Census indicated Kansas had a population of 2,937,880.

The 2020 Census indicated those of Hispanic origin has shown a substantial increase since 2010—from 41,633 to 55,814 in Wyandotte County. A factor with this increase probably has been the international migration. Black and white population have both decreased since 2010.

In several past years, the loss in population has been the outmigration to nearby counties including Leavenworth and Johnson.

The birth and death factor has also affected Wyandotte County population; Wyandotte County has experienced about two births for every one death.

The 2020 Census indicated there are 68,475 housing units in Wyandotte County; of those, 61,835 are occupied.

Murrel Bland is the former editor of The Wyandotte West and The Piper Press. He is executive director of Business West.

## KDHE Urges Kansans Not to Take Ivermectin for COVID-19

TOPEKA – With a rise in calls to poison control centers and visits to emergency rooms, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is urging Kansans not to take the drug ivermectin unless prescribed by a physician then take it exactly as prescribed. This drug is not approved or authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat or prevent COVID-19. Ivermectin has been approved in humans to treat specific skin conditions like rosacea, head lice or some parasitic worms. Ivermectin is used in livestock as an anti-parasite medicine and

can be found in livestock supply centers. Livestock drugs are highly concentrated for large animals and can be highly toxic in humans.

“Kansans should avoid taking medications that are intended for animals and should only take ivermectin as prescribed by their physician,” said Lee Norman, M.D., Secretary of KDHE. “These highly concentrated doses can cause severe illness and even death in humans. The COVID-19 vaccine remains the most effective way to prevent COVID-19.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

# Afghanistan

By Dr. Jim Haas

A bit larger than France and with some of the world's most challenging mountain terrain, Afghanistan has long occupied a strategic position in world affairs. For more than 2000 years, the Silk Road trade route between China and the Middle East skirted its northern edge with a branch going south the length of the country to India. The area was known as the “crossroads of Asia,” and the rich trade tempted outsiders to conquer it and insiders to become experts at driving them out.



Populated by tribes proud of their independence and often warring with one another, Afghanistan didn't become an organized state until the 1700s. In 1838, its location between the Russian Empire and British India drew it into the conflict between those two Great Powers. A British army invaded hoping to make Afghanistan a buffer between Russia and the riches of India.

It didn't go well. Afghans didn't care for foreign occupation and drove the British out. The last garrison—16,000 people including soldiers' wives and children—left Kabul in the dead of winter on a 90-mile trek toward a fortified town near the Khyber Pass to India. Led by an incompetent general with the curious name of George Elphenstone, nearly all were killed either by Afghan tribesmen who ambushed them in mountain passes or by freezing to death. A few were taken prisoner, including Elphenstone, who soon died. One officer, wounded, reached the town. Two years later, army chaplain G.R. Gleig interviewed the few survivors and wrote, “Not one benefit, political or military, was acquired with this war.”

The British tried twice more, in 1878 and 1919 with modest results. Afghanistan became a kingdom, promoted women's education, abolished slavery, and ended women wearing the burqa. The latter especially upset tribal and religious leaders. Civil war ensued, but the kingdom was largely peaceful until a communist faction staged a bloody coup in 1979. Again, civil war ensued.

Seeing an opportunity to expand their influence, the Soviets invaded, went straight to Kabul, and organized a government more to their liking, fighting rebel tribesmen and bombing rebel towns and strongholds. The Cold War was still on, so the U.S. supported the rebels. Deciding the war wasn't worth the price in lives and treasure, the Soviets left after nine years. Afghans continued fighting among themselves with a fundamentalist religious-political group, the Taliban, gaining control.

Then 9/11 happened. When the Taliban, who had harbored al-Qaeda terrorists, refused to turn over Osama Bin Laden, the U.S. and NATO allies invaded in 2001 and overthrew the Taliban regime. Then, lusting for oil, the Bush-Cheney crew attacked Iraq, which had nothing to do with 9/11 and had no weapons of mass destruction, and put Afghanistan on the back burner while the Taliban gradually regrouped.

The Allies tried for 20 years to build a stable nation, but in early 2020, the Trump Administration, eager for votes by ending an unpopular war, signed an agreement with the Taliban to leave the country in mid-2021. It's been called a “surrender agreement,” and negotiating only with the Taliban undercut the authority of the civil government, so the Taliban soon controlled the major cities while the Afghan army dissolved.

Last month, in a record achievement, the Allies airlifted out 124,000 soldiers, Allied citizens, and Afghan supporters. The cost in lives since 2001 has been estimated at more than 170,000; the U.S. alone spent more than \$2 trillion, a rate of about \$300 million per day.

Afghanistan has been called “the graveyard of empires,” and the three greatest powers of modern times didn't solve its puzzle.

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# Sue's Sudsy Soapbox By: Sue Reich



explained to him that I was trying to give the duck to the college. The guard got a kick out of that and we both figured I may as well take him back home. I did, and we had that ornery critter until he went to Ducky Heaven. Bless his heart.

My youngest son (and I), had gerbils, a mouse, some kind of sand crabs, a parakeet (mine). John asked me one time to watch his kitten, he was going on some kind of cruise or something for the National Guard. Well, sure I watched her, for EIGHTEEN YEARS. What we do for our kids.

Greg Smith and I text each other every once in a while. He was the one that whose daughter was murdered as she came out of a Target store. I met him years ago after Kelsey met her demise and gave him a little lapel cross made of miniature nails. He told me he still had it. He has been quite a busy man and used to send things to put in the Record. She would have been about 32 now and that man hasn't slowed down yet. He started the Kelsey Smith foundation, Golf Classics, held political office, Kansas State Senator, Judiciary, vice chair, Natural Resources, Local Government, Chairs Senate Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee, it goes on and on. This man has been through a lot of sadness and misery, but it made him strong. He tries to keep our streets safe, equips police with tools to do their jobs, keep violent criminals behind bars, and he likes those Kansas City Royals. Thank you Greg for all that you have done and what you do.

Well dear readers, lya all. Take care and mind you p's and q's. No matter what, anyone says, get vaccinated and that booster. This stuff is serious, and it shouldn't be political. I know four people that had it and one other that died. From your Argentine Gal, Sue

To Friends (At the Heart of Friendship)

A friend is someone who sees you as you wish you were and likes you as you really are.

I was thinking today about some of the pets we have had through the years starting when my sons were little up until the time we had cats and dogs. I like cats, I have had a couple or so. Actually I prefer the canine species, but here is one we had quite a few years ago.

It was around Easter time and the pet stores were selling bunnies, chickies and baby ducks. Well, we had a bunny once, never had a chickie, but I ended up buying a duckling. My mom and I had just gone to McDonald's and we were being our silly selves and I told her, "I think I will get a duckling and name it McDuck", since we just ate at McDonald's. So we found a pet store and I got this little yellow feisty duckling. Believe it or not, we had that stinker for 4 or 5 years. He was even a "house duck" and followed us everywhere.

He would even come to the supper table and beg and eat off of a fork. But the older he got, he was getting ornery. Couldn't go outside in the back yard without being chased. So I decided to take him to the KCKCC and put him in the little lake there with his own kind. Got down there and carried him to the water. Nooo, Nooo, he wasn't going to have that. Well, I know, the bridge. So we went up to the bridge and I said, "well, McDuck, love you but you gotta go. PLOP!!! Down he went. By the time I got back to the edge of the water, there he was. So I thought, well darn, guess I will just take him home. You'll never guess what. There was a Security Guard for the college and he asked me if I was trying to steal a duck. I don't remember if I blubbered or what, but I



Does this barber like the Royals and Chiefs? I sure think Denny on Maple Hill does.



This is Elizabeth(Whetsell)Gearhart who was in the Army. Five years ago, she jumped out of an airplane at 13,000 feet. She has done things that no one else would think of doing. Andrea is her mom, the daughter of Gayle (Larson) Tomlinson. Andrea was in the Navy. Elizabeth is Gayle's granddaughter.



David Nigro, well known for his western wear, has a heart as big as the store. When he has clothes, boots or whatever, he sets them out on a bench for the homeless and or needy. Thank you David, you really are a great guy.



This is the old sign that was in Turner's Community Garden. It stood about 10 years or so. It has since been brightly repainted.

# Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

Who knew tomatoes grew in oak trees? I was sitting on my back patio recently when a green tomato landed splat right in front of me. A short time later I saw a squirrel running up that tree with a green tomato in his mouth. He stopped halfway up and had the audacity to eat the thing right in front of me. This now has happened more than once.

Currently, I have four tomato plants near the house that are close to a wrought iron fence. Of those four I have

been able to pick 10 cherry tomatoes from one of the bushes and none from the larger varieties. The green tomatoes had continued to disappear but now the culprit has been discovered. He was using the fencing as his superhighway to my precious plants. My husband, who also shares my love for ripe tomatoes, decided that he would make a mesh screen enclosure for each plant. After boo-coo bucks and 6 hours of labor, he installed his project.

"The game is afoot, my dear Watson." Now the vigil begins! I grab a book and sit in the shadows on my back porch to observe any activity. Soon a squirrel with a green tomato in his mouth enters the yard from The Outback. (I must admit I have a few unprotected tomato plants in the area we call The Outback). He drops the tomato to the ground and heads for my tomatoes (greedy little bugger). My hubby and I watch as he inspects the enclosure, tries a few times to climb it without success, continues to

circle it, studying the situation and then suddenly runs up the wrought iron fence and jumps on the top of the mesh screening. The excitement is mounting. Would he get stuck on the metal prongs? Would he jump into the enclosure? If so, would he be able to get out? Out of the blue, another squirrel swoops in and grabs the tomato that the first squirrel dropped near the oak tree. The first squirrel saw the intruder and immediately began chasing him. It is off to the races. May the best squirrel win and we live to fight another day.

Fortunately, I have a sister, who has only one large variety of tomato and one cherry tomato plant and several cats, who is supplying me with all her extra tomatoes. She has had such an abundant crop; she had been giving them away to her neighbors. Thank heaven for sisters!

Until next time, stay safe, please wear your mask indoors in public places, and be kind to those around you.

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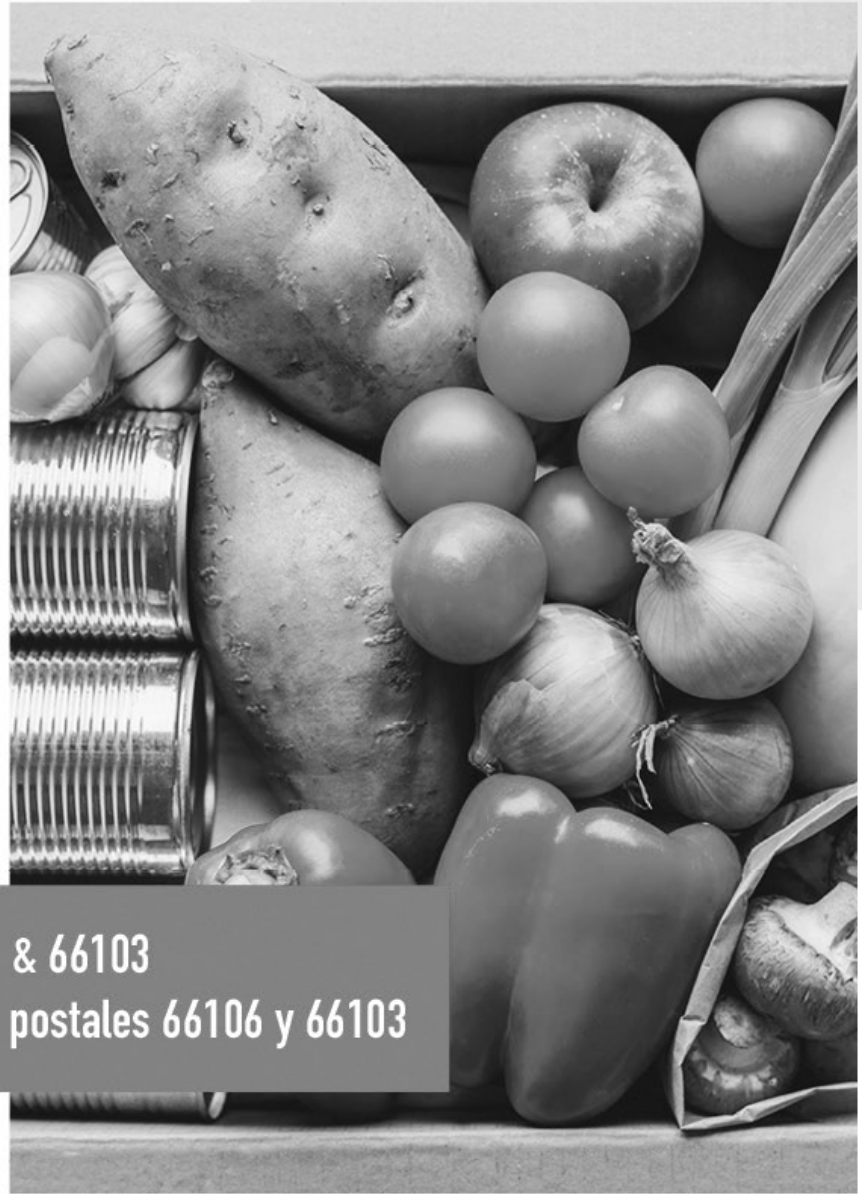
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## Kids who snore could be at risk for blood pressure, heart problems

Obstructive sleep apnea, a type of sleep disorder characterized by disrupted breathing, may be linked to changes in blood pressure and heart structure in children and adolescents, according to a new scientific statement.

The American Heart Association report urges parents and health care providers to consider testing for children who exhibit symptoms, have obesity or have enlarged tonsils, which puts them at higher risk.

Estimates show up to 6% of all children and adolescents have obstructive sleep apnea, according to the statement published Wednesday in the *Journal of the American Heart Association*.

Symptoms of obstructive sleep apnea include habitual snoring, gasps, snorting or labored breathing while sleeping, daytime sleepiness, sleeping while seated with a distended neck, a headache upon waking and signs of an upper airway obstruction. The condition often occurs in children with obesity. About 30%-60% of children who meet the criteria for obesity – having a body mass index in the 95th percentile or higher – also have sleep apnea.

“We need to increase aware-

ness about how the rising prevalence of obesity may be impacting sleep quality in kids and recognize sleep-disordered breathing as something that could contribute to risks for hypertension and later cardiovascular disease,” statement writing group chair Dr. Carissa M. Baker-Smith said in a news release. Baker-Smith is director of pediatric preventive cardiology at the Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Delaware. She also is associate professor of pediatric cardiology at Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.

Obstructive sleep apnea is associated with cardiovascular disease in adults but less is known about how the condition affects the immediate and long-term heart health of children and adolescents. A review of the most current research included in the statement found evidence it can impact emotional health, as well as the immune, metabolic and cardiovascular systems in children and adolescents.

Obstructive sleep apnea risk factors vary with age. In addition to obesity, they include upper and lower air-

way disease; allergic rhinitis, inflammation and swelling in the nose’s mucous membrane; low muscle tone; enlarged tonsils and adenoids; craniofacial malformations; and neuromuscular disorders. Sickle cell disease, an inherited blood disorder, also is a risk factor.

Children born prematurely, who have delayed development of respiratory control and smaller upper airways, also may be at higher risk for sleep-disordered breathing. However, this risk gets smaller as children grow.

The statement supports recommendations from the American Academy of Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery that say sleep studies, or polysomnographies, are the best test for diagnosing sleep-disordered breathing. Prior to getting a tonsillectomy, children should take this test if they have conditions that raise their risk for breathing complications during surgery. These include obesity, Down syndrome, craniofacial abnormalities such as a cleft palate, and disorders such as muscular dystrophy or sickle cell disease.

Children and adolescents with obstructive sleep apnea also may have trouble regulating blood pressure. While blood pressure typically dips

during sleep, children with this condition see smaller dips than those without it. Adults whose blood pressure fails to dip during sleep have a higher risk for cardiovascular events. Because of this, the statement calls for 24-hour blood pressure monitoring to check levels in children with sleep apnea.

Even mild cases of sleep apnea – defined as just two pauses in breathing per hour – are associated with a higher risk for metabolic syndrome in children. Metabolic syndrome is a cluster of factors including high insulin and triglyceride levels, elevated blood pressure and low levels of high-density lipoprotein, or HDL, the “good” cholesterol. Continuous positive airway pressure, or CPAP, is a treatment for sleep apnea that delivers pressurized air through a mask that can lower triglyceride and improve HDL levels.

Long-term, severe sleep apnea also may put children at higher risk for pulmonary hypertension, when pressure in the blood vessels from the heart to the lungs is too high. The statement committee recommends that future research on how sleep apnea affects children’s risk for heart problems incorporates 24-hour blood pressure monitoring and measures of metabolic syndrome factors.

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## Passings...

By Sue Reich

Shirley (Morelock) Woods, age 80, passed away on August 28, 2021. Graduate of Wyandotte High school, 1959.

Drummer, Kenny Malone, age 83, passed away on in August of Covid. Drummer for Dolly Parton.

Kathy Carroll, age 64, passed away on August 23, 2021. St. John Evangelist elementary, 1975 graduate of J. C. Harmon High school. Property manager for Berkshire Village Townhouses.

Stacey Simmons, age 55, passed away on August 23, 2021. Daughter of Don Simmons and sister to Gary Simmons.

Sara Wilson, age 43, passed away on August 25, 2021. Harmon High School graduate. Excelled in Special Olympics, favorite bowling.

Regina (Carey) Hoover, age 68, passed away on August 29, 2021. Argentine High School graduate, 1971.

Richard Billings, age 70, passed away on August 29, 2021. Wyandotte High School graduate, 1969.

Betty Babcock, age 95, passed away on August 30, 2021. Worked at Kansas City, Kansas Structural Steel Credit Union.

Peggy Sue (Hamilton) Frantz, age 67, passed away on August 29, 2021. Argentine High School graduate, 1972. Longtime cake decorator at Finkemeier Bakery. Retired from KCKCC as custodian.

Mary Huffman, age 80, passed away on August 30, 2021. Rosedale High School graduate, 1959. Santa Fe Railroad Police Stenographer, Ret. BNSF Argentine Diesel Facility.

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## Ivermectin...

from page 1

An ivermectin overdose includes gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Overdoses are associated with hypotension and neurologic effects such as decreased consciousness, confusion, hallucinations, seizures, coma, and death. Ivermectin may intensify the effects of other drugs that cause central nervous system de-

pression, such as benzodiazepines and barbiturates.

The COVID-19 vaccine is the safest and most effective way to prevent getting sick and protect against severe disease and death from SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, including the Delta variant. In addition to the vaccine, wearing a mask, washing your hands, and social distancing will help stop the spread of the virus. Find a COVID-19 vaccine near you by visiting <https://www.vaccines.gov/>.

## Public Health Alert

By Tom Valverde

As of August 25, 2021 631,440 Americans have died because of COVID. That’s an average of more than 864 deaths per day due to COVID and the new, highly infectious Delta variant. Remaining unvaccinated is foolish recklessness!

Worse still are those who are Anti-Vaccine, but then go and self-medicate with “Ivermectin” a drug used on farm animals and to prevent heart worms in dogs! Obviously, this will not protect anyone from COVID. Many people have died as a result of using ivermectin instead of being vaccinated. Don’t be another casualty.

Protect yourself and your loved ones, go get vaccinated. The vaccine now is approved by the Food and Drug Administration, so, it’s a smarter choice than using a de-wormer for dogs!

Please wear your nose masks. Wearing a nose mask is a public health measure; not a taking of any of your liberties or freedoms.

I’m referring to protective face masks as nose masks, because they only protect when worn properly; covering both nose and mouth.

Always remember, COVID enters your body via your nose!

This year’s Fall and Winter months are expected to see an increase in new COVID infections. It is vital that everyone be vaccinated. You don’t want to be another casualty of the deadly COVID virus, and the vaccine offers you the best protection.

So, please protect yourself and your family and our local community, it’s the smart thing to do!

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