



The Record

COVID-19 Saliva Testing Now Available in WyCo

Beginning today, the Unified Government Public Health Department (UPGHD) is offering COVID-19 saliva testing at its new COVID-19 testing facility at 7836 State Avenue in Kansas City, KS (the former Kmart location). This new test method will replace the previous type of test used at this location. The previous testing method used a nasopharyngeal swab (swabbing the back of the nose/throat).

“We are excited to have this new testing method available at the testing site at 78th and State Avenue,” said Juliann Van Liew, Director of the Unified Government Public Health Department. “We feel people will find this to be a more comfortable, less intimidating way to get tested for COVID-19, and this will encourage even more Wyandotte County residents to come get tested for the virus.”

How Saliva Testing Works

In this new testing method, the swab is held under the tongue for 60 seconds to collect the sample. There are other guidelines to know about before you come to get tested, according to Van Liew. These include:

- * Do not eat or drink for 15 minutes before arriving to get tested
- * Do not smoke for at least 30 minutes before getting tested

“It’s very important to follow these guidelines before you come to get tested, otherwise, your sample won’t give an accurate result,” explained Van Liew.

The turnaround time for results of the saliva test is the same as for the previous nasopharyngeal test – approximately 48 hours from the time of testing to getting results. Both the saliva and nasopharyngeal test conducted by the UGPHD are what is known as polymerase chain reaction (or PCR) tests. PCR tests detect the molecular makeup of the virus.

Saliva Testing Coming to Wyandotte County Schools

Saliva-based testing will soon be coming to Wyandotte County schools as well, according to Van Liew.

“We’ve been working in very close partnership with school leaders and nurses to establish COVID-19 saliva testing in schools,” said Van Liew. “This means that students who are showing symptoms of COVID-19 can be tested right away, in their school, versus being sent to another testing facility and potentially exposing more people to the virus. This new capability wouldn’t have been possible without the support and partnership of school leaders and nurses throughout Wyandotte County. It’s a big step forward in identifying positive COVID-19 cases in schools, which allows us to take the steps needed to isolate those students and protect the health and wellbeing of other students, teachers and school staff.”

Testing supplies are being delivered to schools today. The UGPHD Chief Epidemiologist, Elizabeth Groenweghe, will be doing training with school nurses early next week, making saliva testing for students available by midweek. The school-based testing will only be available for students who develop symptoms of COVID-19, allowing the testing to be done at the school versus sending the student to another testing site. Couriers will collect testing samples from schools throughout the County each day and deliver them to the lab for analysis.

The next step forward will be to make a combination flu/COVID-19 saliva test available. The UGPHD is working with Sinochips, a diagnostic laboratory which operates on the University of Kansas Medical Center campus, to provide a saliva test that combines three tests in one – simultaneously testing patients for COVID-19, influenza A and influenza B. These combination tests are expected to be available by late November.



Governor Attends Turner Diagonal Interchange Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

KANSAS CITY – Governor Laura Kelly joined national, state, and local officials to celebrate the completion of the Turner Diagonal Interchange project in Wyandotte County today.

“I’m honored to celebrate the completion of the Turner Diagonal interchange, a project that represents both immediate improvements for Kansans and long-term economic growth,” said Governor Kelly. “This new interchange will open nearly 300 acres of land for private development, and we anticipate the creation of over 2,500 jobs in the immediate area.”

At today’s event, speakers included Governor Laura Kelly, Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) Secretary and Director of the Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA) Julie Lorenz, and U.S. Representative Sharice Davids. The event also included a video with remarks from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Secretary Elaine Chao, Unified Government of Wyandotte County Mayor David Alvey, and NorthPoint Development Chief Marketing Officer Brent Miles.

“By utilizing a design-build approach, this project was completed 20 months faster than it would have been using traditional methods,” said Secretary Lorenz. “Thanks to partnerships among the private sector and all levels of government, we were able to deliver a great project in record time, which will improve safety, generate economic growth and provide more transportation options for Kansans.”

The Turner Diagonal Project was awarded a federal BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) grant for \$13 million, which makes up 46 percent of the project funding. The remainder of the project costs were funded by commitments from the Unified Government, KDOT, and NorthPoint Development.

“The Turner Diagonal Interchange sits at the crossroads of the country. It provides better access to businesses and allows freight traffic to move more efficiently and safely through the corridor – and on to the rest of America,” Rep. Sharice Davids said. “We’ve already seen it draw good-paying jobs to the area and it will continue to benefit Wyandotte County and the surrounding communities.”

The Turner Diagonal Interchange sits about a two days drive from 85 percent of the U.S. population. This location services 65,000 vehicles per day, 25 percent of which are trucks, and is very close to other major highways. The new design of the Turner Diagonal Interchange will now meet the community’s needs and the surrounding area.

The existing interchange has been reconfigured to a Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI), allowing the release of KTA and KDOT right-of-way and opening up 300 acres of land for economic development and job creation. The new interchange provides better access to businesses along Turner Diagonal, improves safety, and allows traffic to move efficiently through the corridor. The project added a new shared-use-path and sidewalk from Riverview Avenue through the new DDI and connects to existing sidewalks at State Avenue. The project also addressed freight parking at the truck staging facilities west of the interchange.

Sue's Sudsy Soapbox By: Sue Reich



When is this going to stop? The snow? The virus? The shootings? The murders? Those crazy parents killing their little children? Are people going crazy because they are wearing masks most of the time, being quarantined? Wow, I have never had such a couple of years in my whole life as I have had these past two years. Gonna move, no we are not moving, staying right here where we have been for 21 years. The stress really gets to me and to everyone I know. My wonderful group of people that has gotten together for the past several years are going to get together in the middle of November for a pre-Thanksgiving "mingling". We need each other. I really love those folks and we would do anything for each other. My little bro', David and I are planning to get us all back again each and every month if possible.

You know, I am so sad about these nutty parents that are killing their own kids. It's bad enough that strangers kill people but your own offspring? I have two yellow ribbons on my property for Oliva and that idget that killed his own two sons and kidnapped his two daughters. It really makes me so furious that horrible things like that happen. Poor little kids, they probably didn't know what they did to deserve such an ending.

Let's get to Halloween. This week's snow reminds me of when I used to go out with all the neighborhood kids, my cousins, and there was a bunch of us, and it had snowed and those ol' gauze masks we use to wear wouldn't keep out of the snow or cold. We would drag our bags through the snow and get home with wet candy. No one ever put pins or razor blades in our goodies. Even

Easter it snowed, and we would hunt Easter eggs in the snow. Weather has changed, times have changed, even people have changed. Okay, here it goes, make some cut outs of your kids and send them around to collect cut-out candy. See how much they got. Lol

Has anyone been to Porky's yet in Argentine? I was going to go but got pretty sick and didn't do too much all week. Hopefully they make it okay where Reich's was. I am sooooo bored with all this stuff that is going on. How about all of you? I heard there is going to be another wave of that virus that will be coming through again. I am not going to be one of the first to try out that new vaccine. I want to see how it affects someone else before I try it. Chicken? Heck no, just cautious. I saw where a 12-year-old girl got one of those shots, sure hope it works. I remember when the polio disease hit. Boy, people were really getting weird. They would spray with those big tank trucks all over the neighborhoods. Don't know what they were spraying, but even people that were outside got sprayed too. Wonder what happened to all of those iron lungs that were made by the hundreds?

Well dear people of Argentine, Turner, Armourdale and Rosedale, guess I'll sign off and get myself upstairs with Mr. Ed. You all take care, wear your masks, wash your hands and mind your p's and q's. K? lvy a all, really I do and miss you all so much. Your little ol' gal from Argentine, Sue.

"When Mr. Ed was younger, he used to do push-ups, sit-ups and pull-ups every morning to get in shape. He still does them, but now it's to put on his shirt, pants and shoes". "A grandfather is a man who can't understand how his idget son could have such brilliant and beautiful children." Stolen from Old Jokes from Old Folks

Murdered Students of JC Harmon

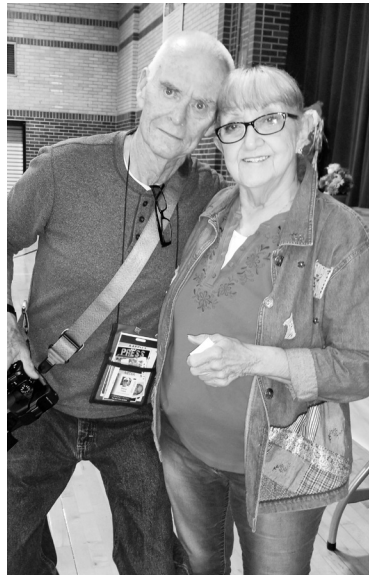
By: Sue Reich

Within just few years, six students of JC Harmon high

school have been murdered. The distraught parents and families of those students are forming a campaign to stop the violence against those high school students. Jesus Abarca was the most recent students to be murdered, in May of this year. Another

student was shot and killed on Maple Hill in a laundromat. Another was killed in an apartment complex just the other night. If you want to join the campaign, email or call the high school and ask for more information. As of now, I don't know too

much about it since it has just been started but I will try and find out about it. This is very important for our community and our high school that was named after a wonderful principal at the old Argentine high school. We must stop the violence in Argentine.



Photos Clockwise:

This is Rosie, she is a member of Good Shepherd, directed by our Commissioner Melissa Bynum.

This is Janet and her friend Charles. Wherever we went, they were there too. Sure miss seeing them.

These are part of the Larson clan at one of our past reunions at Amigos.

Gayle (Larson) Tomlinson and Marilyn (Larson) Durgan, my last two sisters who passed away three months apart last year.

This is part of a picture of 1990's Argentine.

Remember us? We are two reporters who went to every event in our area.



Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

After the snowfall week I looked out the window and saw how pretty the snow lay on my flowers and bushes. Two days later and my yard looks like something from the Addams Family and ready for Halloween. Of course, just like every other holiday that's happened since March, Halloween has been cancelled at my house. It's like Thanksgiving and Christmas will be also be just the two of us. I'm afraid next year will be more of the same. Books are my salvation, if I couldn't read, I would go stir crazy.

Nicholas Sparks' latest book is "The Return". The first novel of his was "The Notebook" which was turned into a movie as have several of his novels that have followed. If you are familiar with his writing, its boy meets girl, boy loses girl, difficulties are solved, and boy gets girl. It not the end of the book but the journey to the end that is interesting. In this story, I learned some anacronyms, discovered some unknown (to me) facts about the life cycle of bees and the different aspects of beekeeping.

Inside the book was a flyer for a virtual author talk with Libby Copeland who wrote "The Lost Family: How DNA Testing is Upending Who We Are" scheduled November 9, 2020 at 6:30 pm. Register at kckpl.librarymarket.com/events/libby-copeland. A limited number of copies will be given away. I did DNA testing through Ancestry.com a few years back and found out most of my ancestors were from Britain, Scotland, Ireland, and

Wales. My grandparents on my father's side of the family came from Italy and I had no Italian DNA just Eastern European. If you look at my nose you know I am Italian. My sister's profile was similar to mine as were both our sons who started the whole testing thing.

John Grisham published his first novel in 1989 "A Time to Kill" and featured Jake Brigance and the town of Clanton, Mississippi. Since that time Clanton has been the location in "The Chamber", "The last Juror", "The Summons", in a collection of short stories in "Ford County" and "Sycamore Row". Jake returned to Clanton in the book "Sycamore Row". Gresham's newest book "A Time for Mercy" finds Jake back in Clanton with all the other characters from all the above novels. Since I have read all the other books, sounds like fun.

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

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The Record Publications

(913) 362-1988

Publishers of The Record

Jon A. Males

Owner/Publisher/Editor

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The Record (USPS No. 002269) is published weekly every Thursday by The Record Publications at PO Box 6197, Kansas City, Kansas 66106. Newsstand price, single copy, 35 cents; subscription price per year, \$16.13. For editorial, display, and classified advertising information call 362-1988. Periodical postage paid at Kansas City, Kansas 66110. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Record, 3414 Strong Ave., P.O. Box 6197, Kansas City, Kansas 66110.

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Requirements:

- Complete and submit [application](#) and payment by August 26, 2020. Course can be paid via paypal on county website.
- Available for about 40 to 50 hours of daytime training classes on Thursday afternoons via zoom from September 3, through December 17, 2020. No Thanksgiving class.
- The Fall 2020 EMG training will be offered virtually through Zoom.
- Applicants must have access to the internet, a computer that has microphone and camera capabilities.
- An actively monitored email account.
- You must have at least a High School Diploma or the equivalent.
- Must be a Wyandotte County resident.



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Guest Editorial

Discrimination, Intolerance At Mexico's Border Began Over 100 Years Ago

By: Tom Valverde

America's misguided views and openly racist official U.S. policies towards the people of Mexico has a long, sad, history. The knowledge of this history was all but swept under the rug. Were it not for the research carried out for the book, "Ringside Seat to a Revolution" by historian David Dorado Romo, none of us would have known about the atrocities at the U.S. - Mexico border. Or how these early Government sanctioned practices, would then serve to inspire the atrocities of Hitler's concentration camps during World War II.

These years witnessed much turbulence, down in Mexico, The Revolution would go on from 1900 to 1920, WWI went from 1914 until 1918, and the Epidemic of the Spanish Flu, from 1918 to 1920. According to Mr. Romo, "People in El Paso were deathly afraid that the Germans would cross into the United States from Juarez, Mexico, into El Paso. Invasion by the Germans was a constant preoccupation for the residents of this U.S. border city." There yet, was another force that began to pervade the United States, the concept of Eugenics, "A means of improving the human race." This was purely "junk science," but it too would go to inspire Hitler's obsession of creating a perfect Aryan human race. But what the U.S. government did to Mexican immigrants was decades before Hitler. It was a goal of Eugenics to create a genetically and morally superior population. One hundred years ago in 1917, this concept would lead to stricter controls on immigration. "Only those people deemed, fit, would be allowed to enter the U.S."

At Ellis Island, health officers weeded out those people considered to be unfit or considered to be disease carriers. The idea of a superior class of people, helped make the country more open to racist characterizations and to produce negative stereotypes. Even some silent movie producers latched on, and would use the derogatory term for Mexicans, greaser, in their movie titles, as in "Broncho Billy and the Greaser." Health concerns and racist and stereotypical views were rampant across the U.S., and especially at the at the border with Mexico. El Paso's mayor, Tom Lea, had an obsession with cleanliness--it defined his political platform, according to Mr. Romo.

Mr. Romo: "Lea was obsessed Not only with physical purity, but also with racial purity. He wanted to clean up El Paso from all bad elements and Lea usually meant racially bad elements."

The city council condemned a part of El Paso that was inhabited largely by Mexicans. Over 130 homes were razed for, "sanitary betterment work." The neighborhood was called Chihuahuita, it was in an area adjacent to the Rio Grande river. First, city inspectors would go door in this Mexican neighborhood. If lice were found, the residents would be, "forced to take vinegar and kerosene baths, have their heads shaved, and all their clothing burned. Fear of disease, even had U.S. officials carry out inspections in Juarez, Mexico, but as Romo writes, "They failed to reveal any Typhus cases in the Mexican city." The mayor also had inmates at the El Paso jail inspected.

Mr. Romo: "They had to strip naked, take a bath inside a tub full of kerosene, and on one occasion, someone lit a match, setting a fire that ultimately killed 27 jail inmates." "No one was charged for the "City Jail Holocaust," a grand jury "refused to indict." Mayor Lea had a great fear of a disease, Typhus, which is transmitted by lice. So, he sent a telegram to the U.S. Surgeon General, Rupert Blue.

It read as follows: "Hundreds of dirty, lousey, destitute, Mexicans arrive at El Paso daily. Will undoubtedly bring and spread Typhus unless a quarantine is placed, at once. The city of El Paso, backed by its Medical board and State and Federal, and Militia officials, here feel that the Federal government should put on a quarantine. Please investigate and advise me, this is necessary to avoid a Typhus epidemic." But, instead of the quarantine, the Federal government paid for the construction of a new disinfection station.

Mr. Romo: "Every Mexican immigrant, considered a "second class" immigrant, had to strip naked, their clothes sent to a large steam dryer and then, sprayed with toxic chemicals." "Then, station officials would inspect each person's body, including their private parts for lice. If they found lice, the immigrants would have to shave their head and all body hair. Then, they would have to bathe in a mixture of vinegar and kerosene. Some immigrants even had their eyes checked for pink eye, some were required to take IQ tests, to prove that they were fit for entry into the U.S. Immigrants from Mexico would have to undergo these procedures, every 8 days! "In addition to the awful cleansing process, there was talk of sexual humiliation", said Yolanda Leyva, historian at the University of Texas at El Paso. "The women would enter, and told to strip, and inspection officers were taking their nude

photos and then would post them at local bars!" "The toxic baths and the dehumanizing process at the border set the stage for a revolt.

Mr. Romo: "The revolt was led by a 17-year-old Mexican maid, Carmelita Torres. On the morning of January 28th, 1917, there was an electric Trolley crossing the Rio Grande and it was filled, mainly by women that cross every day. Ms. Torres gets their attention, and then convinces the majority, if not all of the women on board, not to comply when they arrive at El Paso. This started a spontaneous protest."

Mr. Romo: "Carmelita Torres was just a young woman who was sick of the injustice and the humiliation, that all the women had gone through." "What began as a protest of 200 that morning of the 28th, grew to a crowd of 2,000 people. When the El Paso police tried to disburse the crowd, they were met by bottles and rocks and insults." "Some protesters even laid down on the tracks in front of the Trolley cars to create a blockade." "They were joined by men, in what was called the "bath riots." Together, they shut down the border for several days."

While doing research for the book, "Ringside Seat to a Revolution," Mr. Romo discovered that in the 1920's, the United States government began using ZYKLON B, an extremely poisonous, acid gas to fumigate clothing at the Disinfection Station at the border. "In 1937, in a German pest science Journal, a Nazi scientist, Gerhard Peters, called for the use of ZYKLON B for use in Nazi concentration chambers. In his report, there were 2 photos of El Paso's delousing chambers, to show how effective ZYKLON B had been at the U.S. border to kill unwanted pests. Peters also pushed for the use of ZYKLON B, to disinfect concentration camps. Eventually, this highly toxic gas would be used in highly concentrated doses to murder millions of Jewish people." So, it was the U.S. policy of using ZYKLON B, that served as the inspiration for Hitler's use of ZYKLON B! This was also conveniently, swept under the rug!

In 1942, the United States began a Mexican worker program called the Bracero program, to provide labor for railroads, farms, and ranches. This kept the disinfection programs going. Only now, the U.S. government had a new, highly toxic chemical for use on the men. They were sprayed directly with DDT, an insecticide. A film of the men undergoing the "cleaning process," shows a young man being sprayed all about his face and head and body with DDT. The new government regulations, developed by the U.S. Public Health Service, were put into place over the objections of President Woodrow Wilson. In 1917, well over 100,000 Mexicans, were put through these new and degrading procedures.

Ms. Leyva: "The men would talk about how humiliating it was. Many

men would ask, "Why do they think we're so dirty?" And the new white powder that was used on them, they called it "polvo," Spanish for powder.

Ms. Leyva: The men were stripped naked, sprayed in their faces and private parts and they would inspect the men, like you would inspect livestock!" The disinfecting program continued for the duration of the Bracero program, until the 1960s." It was not until then, that the United States government would acknowledge the danger in DDT, and then, the baths and fumigations were at last discontinued."

Mr. Romo: "You want health to be about programs. At the border, a lot of things never get resolved, they just keep repeating!" After half a century, when these humiliating cleansing policies were ended, we today have even more discrimination and disinformation coming from a racist president and his new station of choice, FOX News. FOX commentator Laura Ingram, on what the U.S. can do, to stop the caravans?

Ms. Ingram: "This is an issue of concern for health. "We don't know what people have, that are coming here!"

Former ICE agent, David Ward: "They could be coming in with diseases like Small Pox, Leprosy, and TB, that are going to infect our people or the United States!" "It's just a fact, you're going to get a disease outbreak." During the 2016 Mid-term Elections, President Trump deploys 5,200 troops to the U.S. border, as the "caravan" approaches. This action led to an on-going campaign of racist and dehumanizing attitudes towards the families seeking asylum in the U.S.

Once at the border, children are separated from their parents and were initially kept in inhumane conditions at the border. At the border station in Clint, Texas, they were found with inadequate and insufficient food and water. Staff feed the warehoused children "uncooked frozen food, the children go for weeks without a taking a bath and had no access to sanitation. The teens and children were kept locked in cages, had no beds and only Mylar sheets to use as covers. In some instances, there were up to 300 teens and children being held in a cell. So, the disgrace that is this country's discrimination against the Mexican people, and other Latinos, continues up to the present, in the second decade of the 21st century. And as recently as this past September, another alarming story, first reported by LawandCrime.com, with the headline: "Like An Experiment Concentration Camp: Whistleblower Complaint Alleges Mass Hysterectomies at ICE Detention Center!"

Unnecessary gynecological procedures is more evidence of life changing, racial discrimination against immigrants. As told by The Guardian, the professor of history at the University of Michigan Alexan-

dra Minna Stern said: "Sterilization practices really started as an assault on people with perceived disabilities and Mental Health issues." "In the 20th century, given that this was when Jim Crow advanced with the intense anti-immigrant sentiment at the time, Xenophobia at the time was going on during the teens and 1920s." "Eugenics emerged, meant that these "disability frameworks" became the lenses through which racism and sexism played out. It led to States passing laws that allowed for involuntary sterilization. Under these laws, more than 60,000 people were sterilized."

Stern added: "It's no coincidence that under the Trump administration, which breathed new destructive breath to these government systems and detention centers [that allowed for these modern atrocities to occur.] Instead of uniting the United States, President Trump has served as a racist instigator, and his cult of followers can be counted on to do as he says. Any moral compass he might have had, failed President Trump a long time ago."

Much will have to change, for the United States to once again return to serve as a country that welcomes and appreciates the contributions of minorities and immigrant people and all people of color. It's ironic because these people are the new majority in the 21st century. We all must always stand for what is morally right.



Passings...

By Sue Reich

Richard George Nickum, age 82, Passed away October 24, 2020. He was an Argentine High school graduate, class of 1955.

Anthony (Tony) Villegas, age 80, Passed away October 18, 2020. He was the Human Rights Commissioner for 8 years, WyCo Ethics, Hispanic Media 15 years, Commissioner of KCK Housing Authority, El Centro 4 years. Board of Public Utilities, Knights of Columbus, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. Bishop Ward High school.

The Sterner\Larson family lost one of their family members to Covid 19 on October 25, 2020. She was the niece of Elizabeth Sterner Larson, our grandmother. Janice was 78 years old and attended Argentine High school. The last time I spoke with her was at our last AHS all class reunion. It was a shock that we lost a family member to the virus that has taken over a million people all over the world. Please pray for her offspring and siblings, friends and those who cared for her.



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