



Now Online at www.recordnews.com

Volume 127 November 18, 2021 Number 46

The Record

Governor Kelly Announces “Axe the Food Tax” Plan to Eliminate State Sales Tax on Food

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly announced that she will be introducing a bill in the Kansas Legislature to “Axe the Food Tax,” and eliminate the state sales tax on food in Kansas.

“I’m pleased to introduce a plan that will ‘Axe the Food Tax’ and end the state sales tax on food,” Governor Kelly said. “For too long, Kansans have been paying more for groceries than people in almost every other state. This legislation will save the average Kansas family \$500 dollars or more a year on their grocery bill; and thanks to the fiscally responsible decisions we made before and during the pandemic, we can cut the food sales tax and keep Kansas’ budget intact.

“This tax cut will put money back in Kansans’ pockets and create real savings for those who need it most.”

Kansas is one of seven states in the nation that fully taxes groceries. Kansas’ food sales tax rate is 6.5%, the second-highest rate in the country. Under Governor Kelly’s proposed bill, a Kansas family of 4 will save an average of \$500 or more on their grocery bill every year.

The bill is possible thanks to the Kelly administration’s commitment to fiscally re-

sponsible budget practices over the past three years, causing Kansas’ revenues to come in ahead of estimates, every month, for over a year.

“This bill will not only support our families, but also our many hardworking businesses by keeping Kansans from going across the border to buy their groceries,” Lieutenant Governor and Commerce Secretary David Toland said. “Under Governor Kelly’s leadership, Kansas is riding a record-breaking upward trajectory in economic development. This announcement will continue that momentum, building a stronger economy for Kansans now and into the future.”

“With record investment and an ever-strengthening economy, our state is in a prime position to create more opportunity for a better future for Kansas families,” Senate Democratic Leader Dinah Sykes said. “Without exception, this opportunity is hindered by the alarmingly high tax on food sales. Eliminating this regressive tax will reduce food insecurity and improve health outcomes for children, all while providing families further financial flexibility to save for a home, education, and emergencies. We have the means to provide

direct relief to all Kansans in every corner of the state, and Senate Democrats are prepared to fight alongside Governor Kelly to get this done, once and for all.”

“Taxing a family’s grocery bill is one of the most widespread and unfair things a state can ask of its residents – a fact that’s been recognized since the tax on food was first put in place in the 1930s. And yet it’s a tax that is paid by every person in Kansas,” House Democratic Leader Tom Sawyer said. “Over the years, the tax on food has been increased 10 times – from an initial 2 percent to 6.5 percent today. Throughout that time, there has been much talk about the unfairness of this tax, but until now, it’s been all talk. Thanks to Governor Kelly’s fiscal responsibility, the Kansas economy is booming, and Kansans will finally get the tax relief they deserve.”

The Governor’s bill will be introduced during the 2022 Legislative session. During Monday’s announcement, Governor Kelly called on lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to get a clean bill through the legislature and onto her desk as quickly as possible.

Infrastructure Week Is Real!

By Dr. Jim Haas

Congress has approved the most comprehensive infrastructure legislation since the Eisenhower Interstate System was approved in the 1950s, and President Biden signed it into law this week. We’ve been promised infrastructure action for years, but it’s been all talk and no action until Democrats in Congress did the hard work of writing the legislation with the President’s strong support. The Infrastructure and Jobs Act will invest \$1.2 trillion over five years and provide millions of good paying jobs, most in blue-collar occupations that will help the economy where it’s most needed.



The Act will build and rebuild roads while improving pedestrian and cyclist safety, repair and replace thousands of defective bridges, expand port facilities to help solve supply chain backups, replace lead drinking water pipes that serve tens of millions, update and build electricity transmission lines to handle greater future demands, install tens of thousands of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, replace many school and public busses with electric models and expand public transport, upgrade Amtrak equipment and improve rail lines to expand and improve service, improve airport infrastructure, extend high speed Internet to rural and other underserved areas, clean up hazardous-waste locations, and other projects.

The need is so clear that 278 Democrats voted for it along with 19 Senate and 13 House Republicans, though none from Kansas. The state’s only “yes” vote was from Democratic Representative Sharice Davids. She’ll be busy attending project ceremonies, and it will be interesting to see if those Republicans who voted “no” show up to take a share of the credit. Any bets?

Kansas will receive an estimated \$2.6 billion for roads, \$225 million for bridges plus the opportunity to compete for a share of \$12.5 billion for economically important bridges, and part of \$16 billion for projects that will contribute significant economic benefits to communities. Kansas is also projected to receive \$272 million to add public transport options across the state, \$40 million to expand the EV charging network with more possible if need can be shown, and at least \$100 million to provide broadband coverage statewide with 24% of Kansans eligible for aid toward Internet access.

And there’s more. Kansas will be allotted \$25 million for wildfire protection, \$14 million to counter cyberattacks, a share of a national fund of \$3.5 billion to weatherize homes to reduce energy costs, \$454 million to eliminate lead drinking water pipes, and \$109 million to improve airport infrastructure.

Representative Davids played an active role working with her colleagues and the President to help the Act pass the House. She cited an independent trade association study that identified in her 3rd Congressional District—largely Johnson and Wyandotte counties—732 bridges needing repairs, 34 of which are “structurally deficient” (six of them among the ten most heavily travelled in the state).

Help will soon be on the way to bring our infrastructure more up to date with special attention to the urgent need to protect the environment from the dangers of using fossil fuels. EV charging stations, a much more robust electrical grid, and expanded public transit will be huge steps in the right direction.

Another huge step is extending high-speed Internet nationwide. No more students having to park outside a fast-food restaurant to do their schoolwork. No more rural residents having to twiddle their thumbs waiting for their computer to move ahead.

The Infrastructure and Jobs Act is a long overdue historic achievement wanted by a large majority of citizens. Let’s hope the bipartisan vote signals a return to a collaborative, functional Congress.

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Sue's Sudsy Soapbox By: Sue Reich



I had a nice surprise tonight. A very sweet lady by the name of Theo called me and we got to talking about dogs. My favorite subject. I have been putting a little ad in The Record about wanting a small dog for my little terrier as a companion because his brother Bo and sister Lady had to be put down three weeks apart and little Moosie really misses them. She gave me some good advice and I am going to follow through. Since I have lost some friends and sisters, I get sort of lonely and my furbabies were really a lot of company and Moosie sticks to me like glue. I don't think there was a time in my life that I was without a dog.

Wasn't that incident at another high school in Wyandotte terrible? Why things like that happen, I don't know. When I was in high school, we had squabbles and things like that but there were never any knifings or shootings. That female was taking up for her brother, but really carried it a bit too far. Are we all getting the jitters because of the pandemic? I know I am and Mr. Ed sleeps a lot and I get bored. TV gets old, the daily newspaper has the same stuff in it every day and I probably think about certain things too much. I noticed about half of the public do not wear masks anymore. Some woman walked by me one day and made a comment about my mask. I had to ignore her. I don't want any trouble with anyone right now. I have too many concerns in my life without some stranger making snide remarks.

There is one thing that I think about a lot and that is the kid that was shot and killed in the laundromat on Maple Hill four years ago. Can't believe he would be 21 years old now. He was 17 when he was murdered and every time I email the

DA, he tells me they are still "working on it". Then he gets re-elected. That poor family, the momma was so sad that night a vigil was held in the shopping center on Maple Hill for her son.

I read a very interesting story about the First Baptist Church of Turner. It told how Turner got its name. But, there were two different ideas of how it did get named Turner. One was the Santa Fe RR that has been there for years and years, had a turnaround at the end of the bridge on 55th street and they called it the turner. "Just go to the turner and pick up another boxcar." (just an example). The other story said it was named after a family by the name of Partonnar and it was mispronounced and called it Parturner.

My opinion, I kind of think it was Santa Fe that started the Turner name. But I guess we will never know. I like the story about the First Baptist church. It was a mission for the Shawnee Indians. It was later called Mountain Grove Baptist church. It was then at Key Road and 55th street. It caught fire in 1929, it was then built at the location where it is now. The Methodists had it then and only had a basement and then the Baptist bought it.

From then on it went through changes and pastors and now it is called the First Baptist Church of Turner. I love history about Argentine and Turner.

Betty Gibson had tons of books about Argentine and Turner. I went over to help her one time and do a story on her and ended up going back and helping her go through her books about everything of Argentine and Turner. Wonder what happened to all those books she had?

Well sweet people, guess I will sign off now. You all take care and mind your p's and q's. Get your vaccinations, be kind, and one thing... please don't make snide remarks if you don't wear your mask, but others of us do. We all have our opinions. I know it has been a crazy year and a half. Right?

Ivya all. K? Sue

Apples of Gold: We can do anything we want if we stick to it long enough.



This is an old picture of Turner Baptist Church



Entertainer at WindmillKC



Two fellas trying to "get their act together" at WindmillKC

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

I got a call from my sister this morning. She had been watching the Veteran's Day observances and wondered how to find the Rosedale Memorial Arch. I knew where Rosedale Park was, but I'd only seen pictures of the Arch and had no idea if it was even in the park.

I put on my detective hat, fired up the computer and this is what I found: Rosedale Memorial Arch, inspired by France's Arc de Triomphe was designed by John Leroy Marshall, a Rosedale resident. It was dedicated in 1924 to pay tribute to the men of Rosedale

who served in WWI. His original plan called for the arch to serve as a gateway to an athletic field. But when the Rosedale High School athletic field was built in 1930, access to the arch was cut off. Thirty years later in 1962, a WWI Veteran brought attention to the overgrown and dilapidated condition of the area. A new road access was created which is still in use today. In the same year, the Rosedale Arch was rededicated to veterans of all wars. In 1972, a plaza with benches, lighting and walkways were added surrounding the Arch.

I checked out google maps and found the easiest route heading south is to take Rainbow Blvd to Booth to Park Drive adjacent to Rosedale Middle School. Time for a field trip!

The Agricultural Hall of Fame is holding its second annual drive-thru "Santa's Express in Lights" on December 3-5 and December 10-12 from 5:30 to 9:00. Kids can drop letters to Santa in the letter

box, see Santa & Mrs. Claus, all the farm animals, and enjoy the beautiful luminaries. This is a benefit for local food pantries. Canned food items can be dropped off at the entrance at 126th St. in the Harvester Food Barrels. Cost of admission is \$10 per car.

Pulitzer Prize winner Elizabeth Strout's newest novel is "Oh William!" If you read "My Name is Lucy Barton", this is a continuation of her story. In this novel Lucy reflects on her continuing relationship with her first husband William after the death of her second husband. Strout's Lucy muses about the mysteries of marriage and the secrets kept. As a couple she and William try to deal with where they have come from and what they left behind. We learn more about the forces that hold us together even after we've grown apart. As Lucy says, "This is the way of life, the many things we do not know until it's too late.

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

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The Record Publications

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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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LEGAL PUBLICATION

STATE OF KANSAS, ex rel. KANSAS HIGHWAY PATROL V. \$2,631.00 IN U.S. CURRENCY
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY, KANSAS
CIVIL DIVISION
STATE OF KANSAS, ex rel. KANSAS HIGHWAY PATROL, Plaintiff,

v.
Case No. 2021CV000441
\$2,631.00 IN U.S. CURRENCY, m/l

Defendants.

Pursuant to the Kansas Standard Asset Seizure and Forfeiture Act, K.S.A. 60-4101 et seq.

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Sarah E. Washburn #24687
Legal Counsel/ Special Assistant Attorney General
Kansas Highway Patrol
122 S.W. 7th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3847
(785) 296-6800
(785) 296-1790 Fax
Sarah.washburn@ks.gov
(First published 11-4-21)
3t-The Record-11-18-21

"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain." —Dolly Parton

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Guest Editorials

National Archives Rejects Request for Executive Privilege Request

By Tom Valverde

The National Archives said it would honor the subpoenas made by the House Select Committee that is investigating the January 6 riot at the US Capitol. The expected documents include drafts of speeches, White House call logs, and visitors. The calls made on January 6 and other communications from White House staff.

The filing by the National Archives revealed that these were the documents that the ex-president wished to protect by extending Executive privilege, a privilege he no longer has.

President Biden has pointed to the fact that it is he, who now can exert Executive privilege, not the ex-president.

These are precisely the documents that the Select Committee needs to fully understand January 6. After 11 months, it is still a mystery as to who was in on the attempt to overturn the election results in a way that could hold up in criminal court of law.

The Washington Post conducted its own investigation and in last week's Post wrote that, "Earlier in the day, while the Vice-president and his family and aides were hiding from rioters, White House lawyer, John Eastman sent emails to Pence's lawyer. Eastman blamed the violence at the Capitol on Vice-president Pence's refusal to block Biden's victory."

Regrettably, the FBI brushed aside any warnings it had received prior to January 6. It felt that many of the threatening statements were, "aspirational," and should not be pursued.

In the wake of September 11, a new network of multi-agency Intelligence Centers was established. These Intelligence Centers had, "Spotted a flood of January 6 warnings, but federal agencies displayed little or no interest in the Network's information." Source, The Washington Post.

Eastman is the lawyer who drew up a plan of action steps that would allow the ex-president to stage a coup and to remain in office.

So, despite the fact that there was a network developed to look out for signs of a terrorist attack, the calls by the network to federal intelligence agencies failed to put those agencies on alert for the possibility of domestic groups of terrorists planning an eminent attack.

Since January 6, the FBI, CIA, and the Department of Homeland Security all have now recognized far-right extremist groups as a great threat for domestic terrorism. These various groups are now labeled as Terrorist groups by these Federal security and Intelligence agencies.

January 6 was only one day, and its unraveling will provide Congress with the answers that the American people are waiting for.

Forget about Executive privilege here. We're talking about at minimum, Executive privilege is to aid presidential decision making, for presidential duties... No possible way that these records can remain shielded.

It's a tactic by the ex-president's lawyer, Justin Clark, to string the process along. Clark's main strategy is delay, he insisted to the judge, "You must look at every piece of evidence, one by one, in order to judge."

District Court Judge Tanya Chutkan for the District of Columbia pushed back, saying that there was no law that required that she do so. Are you kidding me? That could take years, so, she totally rebuffed Clark," said former US Attorney, Harry Litman on Deadline: White House MSNBC.

The National Archives was wise in turning down the request for Executive privilege.

Such records are vital to the investigation by the House Select Committee to best determine the possible role of all involved in the attempted Coup in its efforts to prevent future insurrections or coup attempts and to hold all persons involved, accountable for their actions.

Legislative Committee Looks ahead to 2022

By Murrel Bland

The Legislative Committee of the Kansas City, Kansas, Area Chamber of Commerce is looking ahead to the 2022 session of the Kansas Legislature in developing its Legislative Agenda.

About 25 members of the committee met Friday, Nov. 12 via ZOOM.

The Agenda will have many of the same issues as the Legislative Agenda for 2021 had according to Mike Smallwood, the Legislative Committee Chairman. Those issues include support for continuing STAR bonds—a financing mechanism which uses sales tax revenue for major developments such as the Legends Outlet; streamlining of the permit process at the Unified Government; equitable rates for storm water control; consistent property tax that would use a several-year valuation average; high-quality education that would provide the necessary work force; expanded Medicaid for the underserved population; expanded gaming

that would include sports wagering; lower the sales tax on food; and origin-based sales tax.

The Kansas Legislature, which is Republican-dominated, has petitioned the Democrat Governor Laura Kelly to call a special session of the Legislature, starting Monday, Nov. 22. The Republicans are alleging that President Joe Biden is overreaching his administration's authority in forcing Kansans to choose between their personal beliefs and their livelihoods.

The hope is that the session will pass two bills and be completed with its work before Thanksgiving which is Nov. 25. Two bills have been proposed. One would prohibit employers from questioning the sincerity of a worker's religious beliefs or medical needs; the other would provide unemployment compensation for workers who would be fired for refusing to get vaccinated.

State Representative Pam Horton Curtis, a Democrat from the East-

ern part of Wyandotte County, said she doesn't feel the special session is necessary.

It would appear that there may be a good chance that the sales tax on food could be removed. Republican and Democrat leaders say they would support the removal. A controlling factor is that the state has about a \$1.3 billion surplus. Estimates are that revenue is expected to be about \$10.96 billion as of July 1 with an ending balance of \$2.89 billion. The Governor said although there is enough money to take the tax off of food, there is not enough revenue to bundle it with other tax cuts.

One of the issues will be the redistricting of congressional and state districts. They hope that it can be done early in the legislative session so not to interfere with other legislative matters.

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



Passings...

By Sue Reich

Dean Stockwell, age 85, passed away on November 7, 2021. Actor in movies and most well-known for the TV show "Quantum Leap".

Sandra Ladd, age 72, passed away on November 4, 2021. Worked for Dr. Appl in Argentine 26 years.

Linda (Crank) Hall, age 75, passed away on November 5, 2021 Wyandotte High school graduate, 1964.

Frank Magana age 88, passed away on November 7, 2021. Teacher at Washington High school.

Jo-Carroll Dennison, age 97, passed away on October 18, 2021. She was the oldest surviving Miss America (1947).

LEGAL PUBLICATION

LEGAL PUBLICATION

INVITATION TO BID:

The Board of Education, Unified School District No. 500, Kansas City, KS will accept sealed bids for: IFB 21-016 Window Replacement at Whittier Elementary and North Central Office Early Childhood Center. Sealed bids should be addressed to: Purchasing Department, Board of Education, 2010 N. 59th Street, Room 370, Kansas City, KS 66104 - "IFB 21-016 - Window Replacement Whittier/NCOECC". Pre-Bid Conference: 2212 N. 59th St, Kansas City, KS 66104: 12/01/21 @ 10AM. Bids will be opened 12/10/21 @ 10:00 AM in the Purchasing Office. Bid Documents are available at the Purchasing Department Office, at the above-address between 8 AM and 5 PM, M-F. Bid Documents are posted at www.kckps.org/purchasing.

(First published 11-18-21)
1t-The Record-11-18-21

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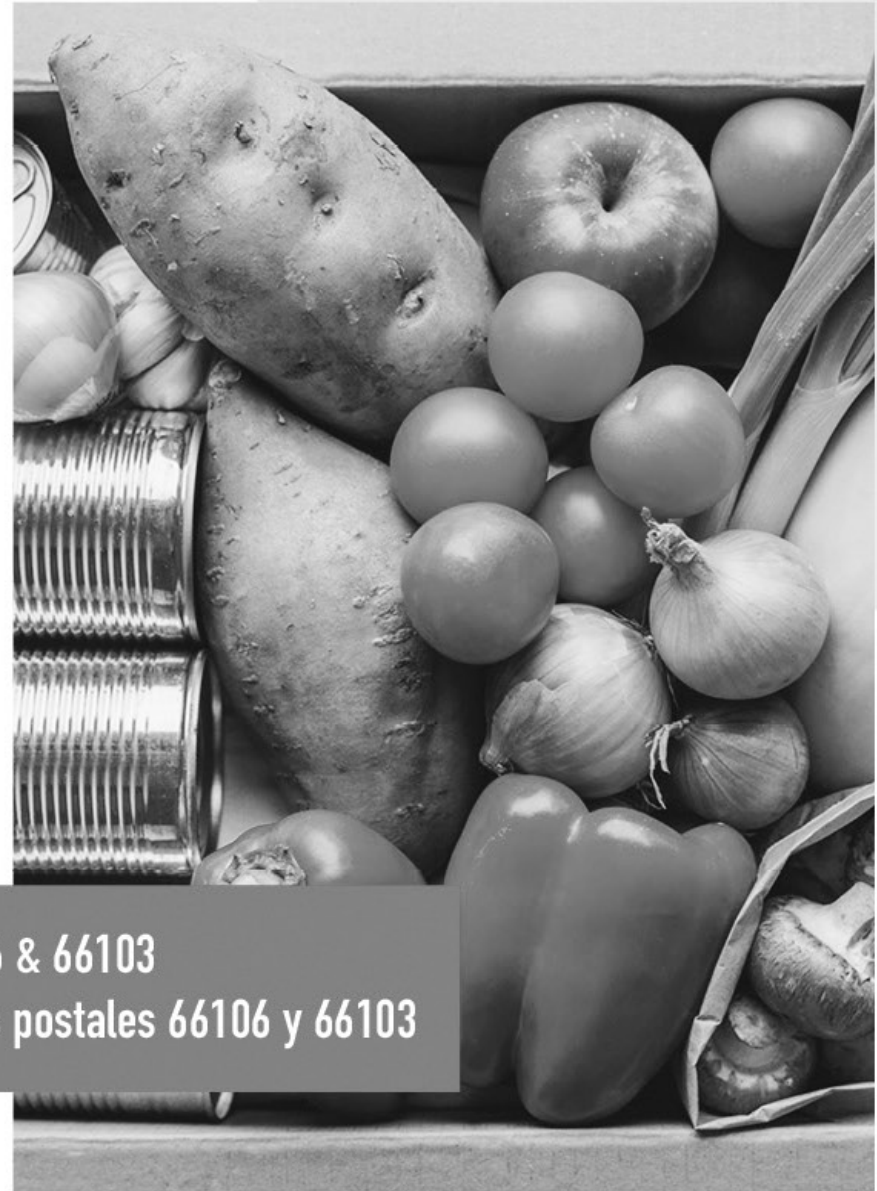
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