

KDHE Guidance for COVID-19 Safe Holiday

TOPEKA – The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) encourages Kansans to celebrate the upcoming holiday safely. Whether you are celebrating with family or friends, it is important to know what COVID-19 precautions you can take to protect yourself and others this holiday season.

“The end of the year is an extremely busy time for us all and it is important that we continue to make our health

and safety a priority,” Janet Stanek, Acting Secretary. “We encourage all Kansans to work together this holiday season and take the necessary steps to keep ourselves and others safe. We wish you a happy and healthy holiday.”

In order to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends taking the following precautions:

- Get vaccinated and boosted. Vaccines remain the best tool to protect people from COVID-19, slow transmission and reduce the likelihood of new variants emerging. The three authorized COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective in preventing serious illness, hospitalizations and death and scientists expect they will also prevent serious illness, hospitalizations and death in people infected with the Omicron variant. COVID-19 vaccines are now authorized for people ages 5 and over. The COVID-19 booster shots are authorized for people ages 16 and over.

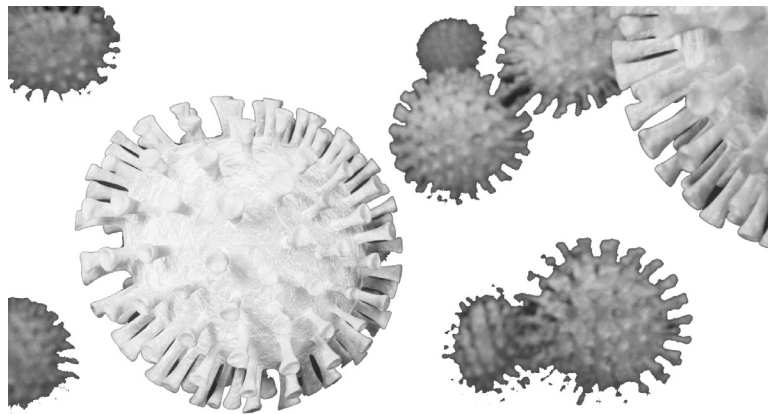
- Get tested. Even if someone is not showing symptoms, they can still spread the virus. Protect your loved ones by getting tested for COVID-19 before spending the holidays with friends and family.

- Wear a mask. It is recommended that you wear a well-fitting mask over your nose and mouth in public indoor settings, even if you are fully vaccinated. If you or someone you are celebrating with has a weakened immune system, is at an increased risk for severe disease or is unvaccinated, wear a mask while gathering as an added precaution.

- Take travel precautions. It is recommended to delay travel until you are fully vaccinated. Whether you are fully vaccinated or not, it is important to know the travel recommendations and restrictions before your trip. For information about domestic and international travel guidance for fully vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, visit the CDC’s Travel page.

Help keep our communities stay safe by getting tested regularly. To find a free testing location near you, visit knowbeforeyougoKS.com.

To learn more about the vaccines, who is eligible to get vaccinated (or receive a booster shot), and schedule a vaccination appointment, visit kansasvaccine.gov.



Unified Government Commissioners Vote to Lift COVID-19 Mask Mandate

Unified Government Commissioners voted to lift the COVID-19 mask mandate, which applied only to Kansas City, Kansas, and unincorporated portions of Wyandotte County, at a meeting on Thursday, December 16. The Commission’s 6-4 vote means the mask mandate ended as of 11:59 p.m. on December 16, 2021.

The Unified Government announced that Mayor Tyrone A. Garner added the vote as an agenda item to Thursday’s Commission meeting yesterday morning. Previously, the Commission had voted on November 30, 2021, to extend the mandate until January 6th.

UG Launches Resiliency Grant Program for KCK Small Businesses

Small businesses can apply for ARPA funds to address the pandemic impact on operations.

Kansas City, KS- The Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS is looking to assist local KCK businesses through the new KCK Small Business Resiliency Grant Program. The grant is adopted by the Unified Government (UG) Board of Commissioners and was funded by the Unified Government’s allocation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

The UG Resiliency Grant was created to help reduce the financial strain on local businesses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Grant funds can be used to help business continue to prepare for changes in the way consumers are doing business. This includes funding for upgrading websites for e-commerce, buildings, and physical plants remediation to comply with safety guidelines, software upgrades, professional service support (accounting, legal), etc.

The expenditure of these funds are subject to the eligibility requirements, rules and regulations set forth by the US Treasury Department and the US Office of Management of Budget (OMB). For more details go to: www.wycokck.org/ARPA

Program Overview

Local businesses wanting to apply for this grant are asked to submit the required documentation through the Economic Development’s online applicant registration form at KCK Small Business Resiliency Grant.

Grant applicants are eligible to apply for up to \$10,000 in funding, and if awarded are not required to accept the full amount of awarded funds. Priority will be given to businesses with fewer than 25 employees, but local businesses may have up to 100 employees. For a complete list of business, expense, and grant type eligibility requirements, please review the Small Business Grant Program Overview document.

All businesses who receive grant funds are required to complete a business intake and 2 hours of business technical assistance training to assist with resiliency, sustainability, and business planning.

Grant request applications will begin to be reviewed starting January 4, 2022. The grant application process will remain open until all funds are distributed.

“Small businesses are at the heart of our local economy,” said Unified Government Small Business Liaison Shaya Lockett. “These grants will provide much-needed assistance to help small businesses in KCK adopt new technology and tools to navigate the impacts of the pandemic on our economy.”

For questions, any application accommodations, including technical assistance about the Small Business Grant Program, please contact KCKGMSSupport@iParametricsDS.com or 1-913-386-7600. Phone hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm. For more information you may also visit Small Business.

Sue's Sudsy Soapbox By: Sue Reich



As I sit here at my computer, during a tornado watch and high winds blowing the lattice off my back porch and phone calls, I am trying to get my articles done. I realize I shouldn't be on my computer, or the phones when it is storming, but here I am doing it anyway. I tied the lattice up with some rope and wired the shed doors shut and brought in some outdoor chairs so they wouldn't blow away.

Had to get out today and buy some Christmas cards. My little outdoor birdies were out of seed so I had to do some shopping. They expect me to keep their feeder and birdbath filled. I feel guilty if they don't get their seed every day. Went to Dollar Tree at Wyandotte Plaza, to the Price Chopper over there and then dropped in at Big Lots. I usually don't shop in the North but I was over there anyway for an exam and made my trip worthwhile.

Guess what? A very nice lady that I know called me and asked me if we still had the pool table. Yay!!!

She brought her "team" over and it took them two times to come over and take it home. Her name is Melissa and she works at the Turner Veterinary place in Turner. She asked if a pick-up truck would work, nope, need a truck/truck like a U-Haul. Between Debra and Melissa, I got quite a bit done. Thanks ladies. slowly but surely, I am getting things "down-sized". Still need to take some things to Goodwill or Salvation Army, some clothes and doggie items to Turner First Baptist church.

When Mr. Ed and I got hitched, we didn't get rid of anything. Hence, the pool table and gobs of other things. John fixed the front door that wouldn't open anymore, fixed a kitchen cabinet door that was hanging, blew all the leaves off of the front sidewalk, but a light bulb in the garage ceiling that I couldn't reach, and Matilda set my cell phone up correctly. It is good to have great kids. Sure glad they come over and check on us.

Well, my dear friends, relatives and others, guess I will sign off and go upstairs and check to see if there is any damage. Was hoping that big Oak tree wouldn't fall on the house. Please wear your masks, be kind, mind your p's and q's. Ivya all, little ol' gal from Argentine.

Sue

Merry Christmas to everyone.

Argentine All Class Reunion

It is still kind of "iffy" about the Argentine all class reunion. With this pandemic still going on, it is still in the undecided stage. Do we or don't we? So many of the older classmates are afraid of the new virus that will probably be here in January. Mr. Ed and I have already declined. Even if you have had the virus, you can still be contagious. Please let Barbara Sue Thomas know what you decide to do. This really is an important matter. The Armory is supposedly closed. There are so many many factors to consider. I realize this is a confusing situation. With some of the remaining classmates that have to drive, fly or whatever, it depends on that also. Some have already passed away from the virus. Thank you.



An old fashion band that use to play everywhere a long time ago. Some of you might recognize them.



I was in a parade years ago. George Brett came down the sidewalk and said, "let me try that thing out."

Sober first - ring in the holidays responsibly

This year, as more people gather in homes, restaurants and bars, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is telling Kansas drivers: Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.

The 2021 campaign, in partnership with U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), is designed to keep drivers, passengers and other drivers/pedestrians safe from impaired driving crashes and fatalities. Impaired driving involves operating a vehicle while impaired by a substance like marijuana, other illicit drugs, some prescribed or over-the-counter medicines or alcohol.

"Don't let impaired driving jeopardize your life or the lives of others," said KDOT Secretary Julie Lorenz. "Plan ahead and make it a safe, sober holiday celebration. Coming home safe and alive to loved ones is the best holiday gift you can give others - and yourself."

The Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over awareness campaign runs from Dec. 15 through Jan. 1, 2022. But there is more involved than raising awareness. Law enforcement officials will be out in greater numbers during this time, making arrests that can lead to jail time.

"In 2019, there were a total of 2,138 alcohol-related crashes in Kansas," said KDOT Behavioral Safety Manager Gary Herman. "In fact, an alcohol-related crash occurs every four hours in Kansas."

Sadly, more than 1,000 Kansans lost their lives to alcohol-related crashes between 2010 and 2019. The "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign is funded by federal traffic safety funds administered by KDOT. For more information about traveling safety this holiday season, visit www.KTSRO.org.

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover



What a crazy week of weather to be working in the Turner Garden! Calvin and Jim started on Monday to remove the stumps that had been left when some of the old trees were cut down earlier this fall. With that accomplished, they spent all day Tuesday trenching for a water irrigation system to extend to the pollinator garden and the orchard. Wednesday's winds kept everyone indoors. Thursday was spent surveying the damage and planning the cleanup. The cherry tree in the vegetable garden took out the BPU power pole on

54th Terrace. One of the garden's neighbors said she was without power for about four hours. The cherry tree also tore down the chain link fencing. The wind knocked some shingles off one shed's roof, tipped over another and blew the trash barrels to kingdom come. We consider ourselves lucky considering the devastation that has befallen other communities. The order of repair is to clean up the cheery tree debris, repair the shed's roof, and then mend the fencing.

I have noticed within the

last year several property owners with large pieces of property in Turner are applying to change their zoning to Agricultural from Residential. Yesterday, I received a flyer from Cheri Miller of the Wyandotte County Conservation District that may be of interest to those thinking of starting a farm or perhaps already engaged in farming. K-State Research & Extension and the K-State Dept. of AG Economics is presenting a statewide 4 series program entitled "Risk Management

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The Record Publications

(913) 362-1988

Publishers of The Record

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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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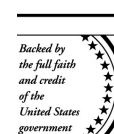
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Hoover...**...from page 3**

Skills for Kansas Agriculture Producers". The program is designed to teach the skills of: Determining the cost of production - January 12, 2022; Utilizing crop insurance - Jan 19, 2022; Crop Marketing plans- January 26, 2022, and Government farm programs - February 2, 2022. An optional #5 session: Beef Cow/calf - Marketing & Insurance options - February 23, 2022. There are two registrations options - Cost is \$50 for meals & class materials for 4 sessions. Session #5 is additional \$10 or \$15 alone. The closest location for our area is Leavenworth. To register call Leavenworth Extension Office (913 364-5700, M-F 8-5 or online www.AGManager.info (under events). The location for all 5 sessions is at the Leavenworth Riverfront Community Center, 123 South Esplanade, Leavenworth, Ks. Time: Dinner at 5:30 pm, session ends at 8:30pm. I hope this information will be valuable not only to residents of Turner but someone you might know living in our surrounding communities.

I want to add a few pictures so I will sign off.

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



Consumer Alert: Storm damage across Kansas could attract illegal contractors

TOPEKA - Following yesterday's wind and wildfire damage across large swaths of the state, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt is urging local residents to proceed with caution to avoid scams by fraudulent contractors.

"After storm damage, our instinct is to clean up and make repairs as quickly as possible," Schmidt said. "Unfortunately, fraudulent contractors often rush into storm-damaged areas to take advantage of local residents in their time of need. It's important to keep your guard up to avoid becoming victimized again by a scammer."

In particular, Schmidt reminded residents that, with few exceptions, roofing contractors operating in Kansas are required to register with the attorney general's office. The requirement to register with the attorney general's office is in addition to any other local requirements that may be imposed by cities or counties. The online directory of registrations is available at www.InYourCornerKansas.org.

The attorney general's office also recommends the following tips in dealing with any transient contractors, including roofers:

- Get recommendations and references.
- Get at least three written estimates from different contractors.
- Check contractor complaint records with the Better Business Bureau.
- Understand your payment options and right to cancel.
- Be sure your contractor is insured.

• Document all agreements in writing, including a written contract detailing the scope of work, the quality of materials that will be used, warranties, timetables, the names of any subcontractors, the total price of the job, and the schedule of payments.

Any Kansans who have problems with roofing contractors or other companies that follow storms may file a request for the attorney general's Consumer Protection Division to investigate at (800) 432-2310 or <http://www.inyourcornerkansas.org/>. The attorney general requests that Kansans promptly report any unregistered person or company attempting to sell roofing services.

Don't let burning logs become combustible clogs

Topeka, Kan. - Santa shouldn't be the only one sweeping up and down the chimney. Each winter, as temperatures begin to drop, the reported number of chimney fires rise. On average, annually, there is over \$250 million in property damage caused by chimney fires.

The best way to avoid a chimney fire is to have it professionally inspected and cleaned yearly. Along with a professional chimney sweep, homeowners can practice additional fire prevention measures:

The fireplace is not the place for leftover holiday gift wrap. Wrapping paper burns quickly

and often creates higher-than-normal flames within the fireplace. These higher flames are more

likely to ignite chemical buildups and cause a chimney fire. Burnt wrapping paper is also more prone to take flight and potentially ignite a chemical buildup as it floats up the chimney flue.

Santa may say "No No No" but capping the chimney deserves a jolly "Ho Ho Ho." Installing a chimney cap is one of the most effective ways to prevent falling leaves and other flammable debris from entering the chimney. Capping the top of the chimney can also prevent wayward critters from entering and building highly combustible nests within the chimney.

Tis the season(ed). Only burn wood that has spent at least six months stored outdoors, elevated off the ground, split into pieces, and covered from the elements (seasoned). Well-seasoned wood contains less moisture which produces more smoke and increases the buildup of combustible chemicals.

Trade out the yule log for a chimney sweeping log. A chimney sweeping log emits additives that can help breakdown the buildup responsible for causing chimney fires. This chemical breakdown can loosen buildup and assist in chimney sweeping efforts.

The old flexible flyer should not fuel the fire. That wooden sled sitting in the attic was most likely built with wood that has been "treated." Along with producing an assortment of unhealthy toxins, burning treated wood within a fireplace accelerates the buildup of combustible chemicals in the flue.

"When the need for heat increases during the winter months, the chilly holiday season can be a perfect time to review fire safety measures," said Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt. "Not only will Santa enjoy a clean suit, but you'll keep your loved ones safe."

Learn more ways to help keep the chimney clean and Santa's suit soot-free at epa.gov/burnwise.



Passings...

By Sue Reich

Beverly (Flies) Booe, age 78, passed away on December 6, 2021. Graduated Wyandotte High School, 1961. Her family and friends remember Beverly for her sunny personality and love of the outdoors. She will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, friend, grandmother and teacher to us all.

Sandra (Zahradnik) Bergman, age 74, passed away on December 11, 2021. She was a 1965 graduate of Bishop Ward High School.

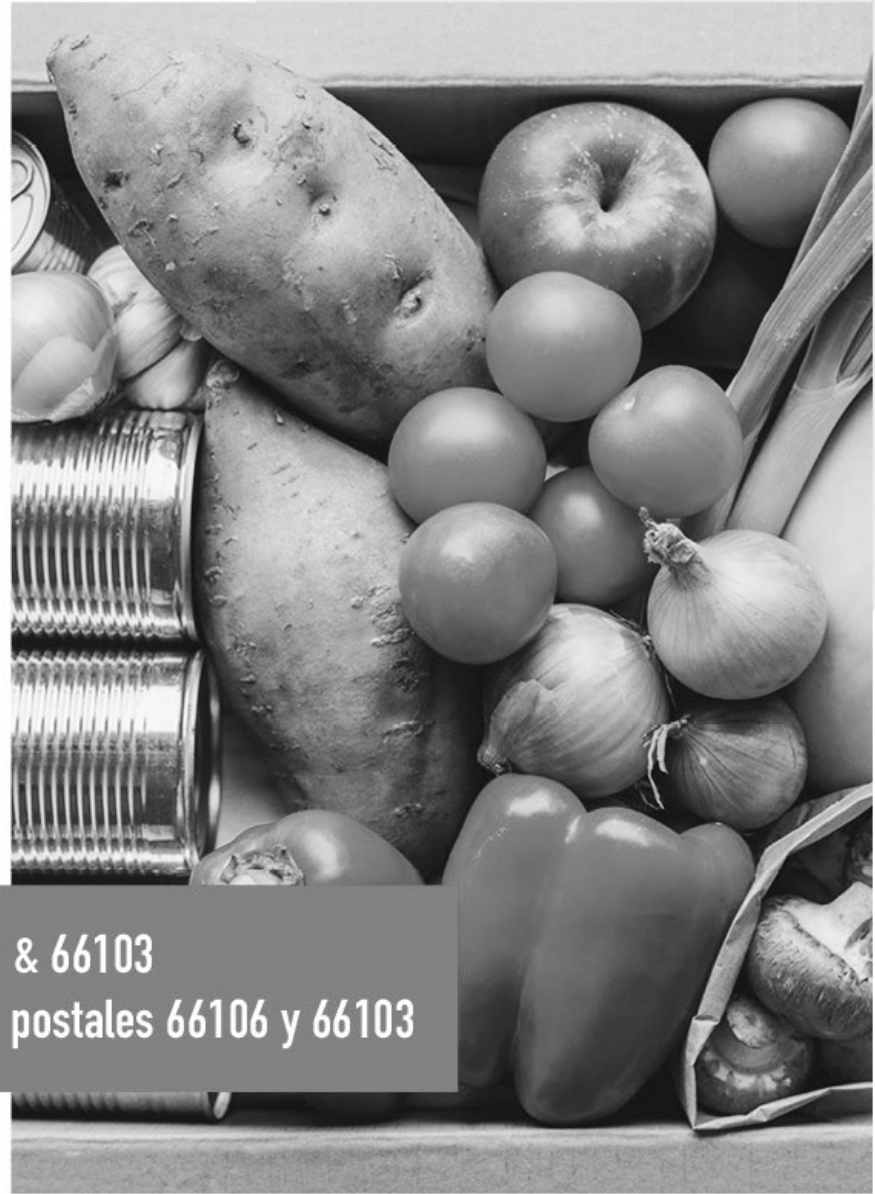
Roger Buford, age 89, passed away on December 11, 2021. He was a graduate of Wyandotte High School, and a Draftsman for Kansas City Kansas Structural Steel Plant in Argentine.

Ann Rice, age 80, passed away on December 11, 2021. She was most known as an Author of "Interview with the Vampire."

Senator Bob Dole, age 98, passed away on December 5, 2021. Dole served in Congress and the US Senate for a combined 36 years. He also ran for president and was defeated by Bill Clinton in 1996. He was a WWII veteran and suffered two combat wounds. Most recently, he developed stage-four lung cancer and passed away while residing in Washington, DC. A beautiful funeral was held as he received world-wide praise for all the wonderful things he did for our country and his service in the war.

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