



# The Record

## UG Public Health Department Prepares for COVID-19 Vaccines in Wyandotte County

*Awaiting Moderna vaccines; converting former Kmart facility into a vaccine site*

The Unified Government Public Health Department (UGPHD) announced today that they are preparing for COVID-19 vaccines to arrive next week from Moderna, pending Emergency Use Authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

This initial round of vaccines will be provided to health department workers and EMS, followed by additional healthcare-associated workers. The UGPHD has converted a portion of their COVID-19 testing site at 7836 State Avenue in Kansas City, Kansas (a former Kmart building location), for vaccine distribution.

“The arrival of the vaccine will provide a critical step in containing and ultimately defeating this pandemic, which has taken too many lives and significantly impacted our entire community. Until we have COVID-19 under control, we all must continue utilizing masks, maintain social distancing, and work to protect one another the best we can,” said Mayor/CEO David Alvey.

“It’s all hands on deck right now at the Health Department to ensure that we get the vaccination process

up and running as smoothly as possible, and prepare to start rolling this out to more members of our community as additional vaccine supplies become available,” said Juliann Van Liew, Director of the UGPHD. “We are excited to be finalizing the set-up on our first vaccine distribution location at 78th and State, in the former Kmart building. We will still provide COVID-19 testing at this site, as we have been doing since October. We now have a separate section of the building set up specifically for vaccinations. The Kmart site is a more central location for the county. In addition, we are exploring options for two additional vaccine sites on the west and east sides of Wyandotte County.”

First Phase (Phase 1A)

The first phase (Phase 1A) of the vaccination distribution follows directives outlined in the Kansas Department of Health and Environment’s (KDHE) COVID-19 Vaccination Plan (available for download at [coronavirus.kdheks.gov](http://coronavirus.kdheks.gov)). According to the directives from KDHE, the vaccine allotment provided to the UGPHD will be administered in the following order:

\* UGPHD and EMS staff (both public and private),

including not only frontline clinical staff, but additional staff in other roles where they may be exposed to COVID-19, such as administrative or housekeeping staff.

\* The broader health-care-associated workforce. This includes those serving patients with physical, mental/behavior needs and dental health care needs.

\* This also includes individuals within those settings who are not providing direct patient care but who are at risk given their job (such as registration desk staff, medical interpreters, housekeeping staff and other paraprofessionals).

As part of this initial phase, KDHE has notified the UGPHD that they will receive approximately 800 vaccines next week, pending an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the FDA for the Moderna vaccine. Additionally, local hospitals received Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines earlier this week to start providing vaccinations to the staff in their buildings. Long term healthcare facilities enrolled in and are being supported directly by the federal vaccine effort through

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## The Fauci Effect and Other Good News

By Dr. Jim Haas

An unexpected benefit of the pandemic has been a dramatic 18 percent rise in applications for medical schools, called by admissions officials the Fauci Effect and partly attributed to the example of Dr. Tony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Apparently, Fauci’s friendly and factual televised briefings and the news coverage of medical professionals working to save lives in the emergency has inspired young people to sign up for the common good.



And not a moment too soon. The U.S. faces a shortage of more than 100,000 physicians by 2030, and it’s already difficult to find a doctor in many small towns and rural areas (and there’s also a growing shortage of nurses). Mary Grace Kelley, 23, a Boston med applicant interviewed on NPR, said, “There’s definitely a call to arms thinking that, if there’s another pandemic, it’ll be up to us.” Dr. Fauci believes that applicants are thinking about social justice and that “you have responsibility not only to yourself but as an integral part of society.”

Dolly Parton went big for the good of society this year by giving \$1 million to Vanderbilt University for research that helped Moderna develop its vaccine. Parton has long been a generous supporter of good causes from the protection of bald eagles to literacy. Her Imagination Library mails a book a month to kids from birth to kindergarten in 1600 communities and has so far donated more than 100 million books. If other celebrities follow her lead, it could be called the Parton Effect.

MacKenzie Scott isn’t a celebrity but one of the world’s richest people and has vowed to give away half her wealth. In just the last four months, Scott, a novelist and former wife of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, has donated \$4.2 billion to 384 social and economic justice causes including dozens of colleges and community colleges. Unlike other rich donors who give to places like Harvard or Stanford in return for their name on a library or lab, Scott’s school donations were to those that successfully serve women or less privileged students, and all were no-strings-attached. A Scott Effect would be good.

For Kansas, good news from the *Star* is that while the annual wheat crop is worth \$1.4 billion and supports 3,200 jobs, wind energy now generates \$2 billion annually of electricity with 5,000 manufacturing jobs and has huge growth potential by supplying clean and affordable energy to cities like Chicago and Denver. The future of the Kansas economy is increasingly in technology, sustainability, and education that supports them. We’re less the “Wheat State” and more the “Clean Power” state.

An achievement worthy of celebrating this year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of PBS, our Public Broadcasting System. From *Sesame Street* to *Masterpiece Theatre*, documentaries by Ken Burns, *Antiques Roadshow*, and factually reliable news, PBS has become a national treasure. A nonprofit provider of programs to 350 member stations watched in 80 percent of homes, PBS is consistently ranked the most trusted national institution. Happy anniversary to PBS and to our local station KCPT.

Happy holidays to you and yours and to the doctors, nurses, and other medical staff that are risking their own health to save others. Also, to the teachers, parents, and students working long hours to keep the light of learning burning. Also, to the grocery clerks, postal workers, and so many others that we’ve long taken for granted but now know are essential. And, certainly, to the scientists and manufacturers who are making effective vaccines available in record time. All these people and more are engaged in public service for the good of all.

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## Sue's Sudsy Soapbox By: Sue Reich



It is getting hard to find events these days to take pictures of. So many things have been closed down, no Santa, no sports events, probably no Easter Bunny. Now with this new vaccine that is out, hopefully more things will be opening up again. Will be almost a year before it will come back 100%. I was thinking of all these sports teams that have names after Native Americans. I am Cherokee, my mom was, my Grandad was Cherokee, his mom was also and dressed in her Indian garb quite a bit as did her sisters. I have a picture of them in their native clothes. But what I am getting at is the hullabaloo, about the names of the teams. Take the football team, the CHIEFS. Just drop the C and put a T. Name them the THIEFS. Just a change of a letter here and there and problem solved. We all wear masks anyway, so what's the difference? Just joking, don't want to tick anybody off over a name. Let the professionals handle it.

I sure feel sorry for the people that own or manage restaurants. Some of them just opened up then close, then open, then close. Sure is a problem. Don't know where to go half the time to eat. I have a sign on my front door saying, "please wear a mask, we don't know where you have been." They don't know where we have been either. My son, the RN has to be checked twice a week now. So far, so good. He said he is used to it now. At first it was an irritant to his nasal passage and throat. I worry about the frontline workers and people in nursing homes and hospitals. Thousands and thousands of vaccines are being shipped everywhere. So very proud of those who stepped in for their first shots. Sure hope it works and there aren't

any long lasting after effects. When polio hit when I was a kid we didn't think anything of it. Just got our shots and trusted the people that administered them. Same with those typhoid shots. We didn't question it, just did it. Cousin Arla and I went to AHS for one of our shots, typhoid I think, and she walked away with the needle still hanging in her arm.

So sad about Phyllis Kraft passing away. She was pretty well liked at AHS. All the kids really adored her. I did a story on her a few years ago. Someone said she died of Covid but I don't think so. She was 91 and it was just her time. Nothing ever was said about the nursing home she was in about having Covid there. Never found out about Linda Cochran, other than she had cancer. That job she had was pretty stressful. Stress can do a number on a person. I know because I have been thru it.

So, people, don't let this pandemic get you down. I realize it is hard to put up with this quarantine and all and really gets boring. Anyway, you all take care mind your p's and q's. Lvy a all, really. Miss a lot of you too. Your little ol' gal from Argentine, Sue  
 "Friendship is to be purchased only by friendship."  
 "Adolescence is the age at which children stop asking questions because they know all the answers" from: *Apples of Gold*

## Old Argentine High School Pictures

By: Sue Reich

With this pandemic going on, there are a lot of events that aren't taking place and I was looking through an Argentine annual and thought it would be different to use a few of the pictures from it. A lot of students nowadays don't realize the things that went on in AHS and the classes has changed drastically. For instance, only boys took the auto mechanics class, the wood working class, and classes that were meant only for boys then. The girls took sewing class, cooking class and classes that were meant only for girls. Now I wonder if there are still mechanics,

welding and woodworking classes. I haven't heard of any cooking or sewing classes either. If there are such classes, they probably have both genders in them.

Someone asked what "kid and hobo" day was back in the 50's. The students would dress like little kids or hobos. The girls would carry dollies and the boys would dress

like hobos and darken their faces with burnt cork like a beard. The girls wore baby bonnets, had pacifiers, and the boys carried "knapsacks" and raggedy clothes. Times have really changed since then. No auto mechanics, no woodworking, no welding, no cooking or sewing I suppose. All these new electronics have taken the place of hands-on

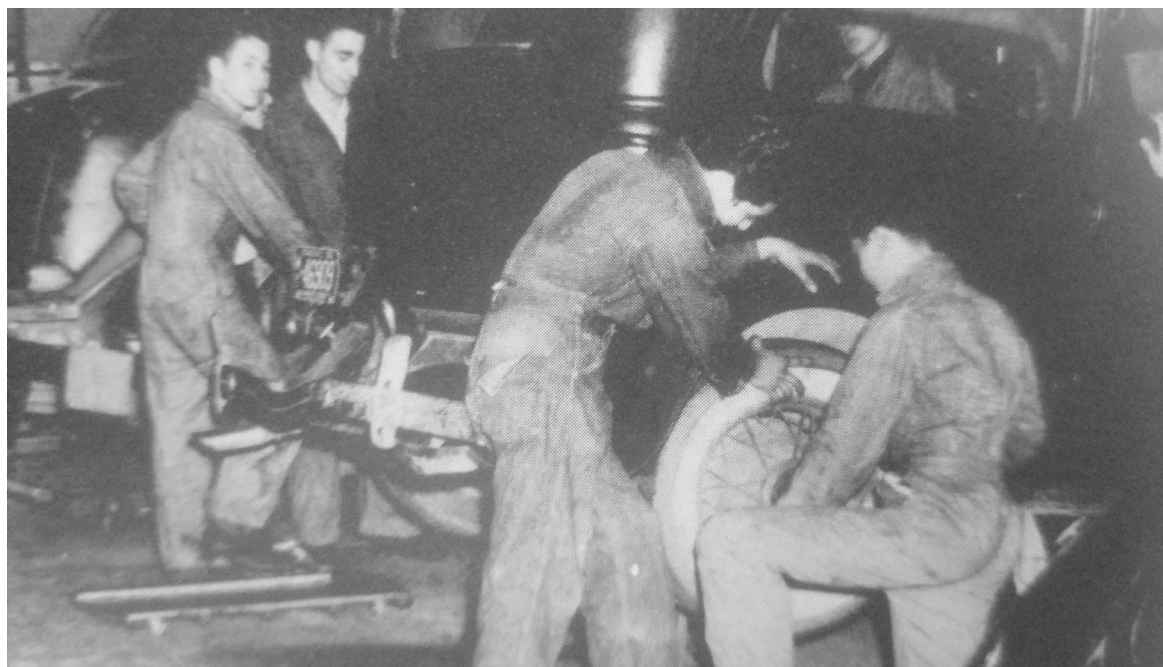
jobs and have been taken places by brain electronics. I took sewing, cooking and classes like that to prepare girls to become a wife. Now they can be anything they want to be such as an astronaut, a scientist, a president of a company or even the USA. It is nice now that each gender has a choice of what job or career they desire.



How about those outfits? Only girls took sewing back in the 50's.



Ladies doing their job in the cafeteria at Argentine High school in 1954.



Remember mechanics class in the old Argentine High school?

# Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

While flipping through the TV channels the other day, I ran across a show called "Mysteries of the Abandoned". I'd seen it before, and the subjects were about abandoned buildings or structures all over the world which was interesting but had no real meaning for me. This episode talked about several buildings located in Northwest Arkansas. Come to find out, the site was an old theme park, Dogpatch USA located in Marble Falls. It was based on the daily comic series by Al Capp called "Lil Abner". I grew up reading those comics, Lil Abner and the cast of characters never did age.

I vaguely remember seeing ads for the theme park, but we never did visit it. It was located 40 miles south of Silver Dollar City and originally did not have any coasters or thrill rides when it opened in 1968. It was meant to depict pioneer life in Arkansas. Some people objected to the park because they felt it would encourage negative hillbilly stereotypes. Authentic log cabins were relocated to the site. Artisans performed candle making, wood-carving and local crafts which were available to purchase. Park attractions included a railroad, surrey rides, trail rides, stable, an apiary, grist mill tour, petting zoo, trout fishing, and a mule swing (video on YouTube).

Hillbilly pop culture was in the forefront at that time with TV shows like Green Acres, Petticoat Junction, and The Beverly Hillbillies. Al Capp retired the comic strip in 1977 and the park lost a lot of its exposure. The TV shows were also not as popular as they had been. The park changed ownership several times and was expanded to include a ski resort, condos, and added thrill rides. Unfortunately, weather did not cooperate, it was too hot in both

the winter and summer. The energy crisis kept many tourists of the highways. By 1981, a lot of the acreage had been sold off and Dogpatch USA became mostly a music venue with stars such as Reba McIntire performing there. The cost of admission in 1968 was \$1.50 for adults and \$.75 for children. In 1981 it was still a bargain for a family of four for \$34 in comparison to Disney World at \$84. I think the competition from Silver Dollar City in Branson and the Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View, Arkansas led partly to its demise. In 1997, voters changed the name back to Marble Falls.

In April 2020, the property was sold for \$1.1 Million. Although not official, the new owner is reported to be Johnny Morris founder of Bass Pro who has developed the World of Wonders in Springfield, Big Cedar Lodge, Dogwood Canyon Nature Park, among others. He's a naturalist so it will be interesting to see what becomes of the former Dogpatch USA.

Until next time please be kind, wash your hands, practice social distancing, and wear a mask. Happy Holidays to everyone!

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## UG Vaccines... from page 1

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Upcoming phases

In the next phase of vaccines, some people who may be eligible include essential workers, people with preexisting conditions, and people age 65 and over. More details on the eligibility criteria for this phase and future phases are still being determined by state and federal authorities. These details will be impacted by the amount of vaccine supplies available early next year.

Wyandotte County residents can learn more about COVID-19 online at [wycokck.org/COVID-19](http://wycokck.org/COVID-19) or by calling 3-1-1. To learn more about the State of Kansas' COVID-19 Vaccination Plan, visit [coronavirus.kdheks.gov](http://coronavirus.kdheks.gov).

# Governor Laura Kelly Announces Kansas, FAA Sign Deal for Supersonic Flight Corridor

## Testing area for supersonic flight brings fresh innovation to Kansas

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly and Kansas Department of Transportation Secretary Julie Lorenz announced today that KDOT and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) have finalized an agreement to establish the Kansas Supersonic Transportation Corridor (SSTC) for use in testing non-military aircraft that fly faster than the speed of sound (“mach” speed).

“To be able to deliver this new opportunity for our country is yet another example of Kansas cementing its reputation as a national leader in the aviation industry,” Governor Kelly said. “This high-altitude flight corridor gives Kansas a

strategic advantage in attracting companies involved in the development of supersonic aircraft, and will play a significant role in our state’s ability to encourage economic development as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.”

KDOT Secretary Lorenz, who chairs the Aviation Committee for AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials), commended the collaborative efforts resulting in Kansas securing the SSTC. She acknowledged Kansas Senator Jerry Moran’s involvement in the process in coordination with the FAA, NASA, the Air Route Traffic Control Center and the National Institute of Aviation Research at Wichita State University.

Senator Moran said industry forecasts show a market for as many as 300 sophisticated supersonic aircraft over a 10-year period, representing as much as \$40 billion in revenue and requiring a “deep bench of skilled manufacturing talent.”

“This year marks 73 years since Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier, and with this supersonic flight corridor Kansas will have a unique role in the next generation of supersonic transportation,” Senator Moran said.

The Kansas SSTC is a

770-nautical-mile race-track-shaped corridor at or above an altitude of 39,000 feet. The FAA’s Kansas City Air Route Traffic Control Center assessed this route to protect the safety and efficiency of the National Airspace system. This corridor is entirely in federal airspace above Kansas, running the length of the state, just north of the Kansas-Oklahoma border. The route will support sustained flight up to Mach 3 and is within reach of numerous airports equipped to provide fuel, ground and technical support.

Bob Brock, KDOT Director of Aviation, said the SSTC gives innovators like Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Aerion, Spike and Boom Aerospace the airspace necessary to test aircraft designs that reduce the impact of sound on nearby communities. Brock said the Kansas supersonic corridor also offers logistical advantages by being the first and only such commercial supersonic flight test route in the nation’s interior.

Lowering the boom

“I’m really excited about quiet supersonic technology and its ability to be transformative for flight and our economy,” said Jim Bridenstine, Administrator of NASA.

Bridenstine said NASA is

working with industry to build supersonic aircraft with “low-boom” or “no boom” flight characteristics.

To provide safety margins for these operations, the KDOT Division of Aviation, FAA Central Region, Air Route Traffic Control Center and Lemasters Group Consulting wrote new procedures for operators. Aircraft will only enter the SSTC at specific points and will be required to clear flight routes prior to takeoff. The SSTC is located in generally low-volume airspace, which will minimize any effect on existing flight routes and airports.

KDOT has partnered with Wichita State University’s National Institute of Aviation Research (NIAR) to collect noise data and live telemetry from the aircraft that will be used by both the FAA and aircraft manufacturers to evaluate performance.

The FAA recently proposed a new rule that modernizes the procedure for requesting special flight authorizations to operate at supersonic speeds over the United States. Kansas state officials are hopeful data from the Kansas corridor will help policymakers and the FAA make informed rulings on issues that will drive the future of the aviation industry.

## Legislative Committee prepares for next session

By: Murrel Bland

The Kansas Legislature will open its 2021 session on Tuesday, Jan. 13. The Legislative Committee of the Kansas City, Kansas, Area Chamber of Commerce is focusing on major issues that are important to its members. The Committee is preparing its Legislative Agenda which includes issues similar to past years.

The Legislative Committee, which met last Friday morning, Dec. 11 via ZOOM, was briefed on what they might expect this session. One of the issues concerns property taxes. The Chamber has favored a law similar to the one that affects agriculture—property taxes are assessed on the basis of a 10-year floating average.

The Committee heard from Patrick Vogelsberg, a lobbyist for Kansas Gas Service. He said there is an effort in other states to exclude the use of natural gas as a source of energy. Vogelsberg said such a move could happen here and could substantially increase the cost of energy.

There will be a change in leadership in the Kansas Senate as its President, Susan Wagle, did not seek re-election. The new Senate President will be Ty Masterson of Andover near Wichita. He is a conservative Republican. Ron Ryckman of Olathe will be the Speaker of the House. He is also a conservative.

The Committee learned that the Legislature generally will be more conservative. That probably means a bill that would expand Medicaid to some 120,000 Kansans has little chance of passing during the next session. The Chamber’s Committee has favored expansion of Medicaid.

The Committee learned that Gov. Laura Kelly has appointed Lt. Gov. Lynn Rogers, a former state senator, as the new State Treasurer. The former State Treasurer, Jake LaTurner, has been elected U.S. Representative from the Second District of Kansas.

Speculation is that the new Lt. Governor may be David Toland who is Kansas Secretary of Commerce. If so, Toland would continue to serve as Commerce Secretary.

State Rep. Tom Burroughs (D-33rd Dist.) will speak to the Congressional Forum from noon to 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18 via ZOOM. The Forum is a committee of the Chamber. Rep. Burroughs is Chairman of the Wyandotte County Legislative Delegation and also a Unified Commission At-Large.

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

# Guest Editorial

## Trump Creates His Own Version Of Reality

By: Tom Valverde

Throughout his four years in office, President Trump has fired Cabinet, White House aides, and staff members any time their own version of what is true and correct, is in disagreement with his personal version of reality. Two weeks after the November 3 Election, it was Christopher Krebs who Trump fired because Krebs came out with a statement saying that the “2020 Election was the ‘Most Secure,’ in US history.” This, we all know by now, did not coincide with Trump’s concept of the Election outcome. Trump’s “solution” was to fire Krebs. Trump on Twitter: “The statement by Christopher Krebs on the security of the 2020 Election was highly inaccurate, in that there were

massive improprieties and fraud--- including dead people voting, Poll Watchers not allowed into polling locations and “glitches” in voting machines which changed Trump votes over to Biden votes ...To which Mr. Krebs posted on Twitter: “Honored to serve, we did it right. defend today, secure tomorrow #Protect2020.

President Trump aim is to win, not to serve to help the American people, now in the midst of both a financial crisis and the COVID-19 Pandemic. Just witness the total lack of Governance by Trump since the Election, now well over Six weeks ago. Trump spends more time being concerned about the outcome and playing golf, than he does showing how he is working to deal with the

crisis of the Tens of Millions of Unemployed Americans in the US, who can neither afford the basic necessities of daily life for themselves and their families. Trump has not provided leadership to the Congress to pass the COVID aid package that the Republicans have held up passing since May. It’s an Outrage that Trump continues with his Lies about the Election being “rigged.”

Trump’s ignorant rhetoric has led to new security for state Election workers, states Attorney Generals, and Governors now being required. They have all received threats of death, if they don’t help Trump win, which is illegal for them to do! Trump’s words have incited vi-

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## Happy Thoughts All About Christmas

By: Tom Valverde

“Christmas is not a time or a Season but a state of mind. To Cherish Peace and Goodwill, to be Plenteous in Mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.”

*President Calvin Coolidge 1923 - 1929*

“There’ll be much mistletoing and hearts will be glowing when loved ones are near. It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!”

*George Wyle, composer  
Eddie Pola, lyricist  
First released in 1963*

“Last Christmas, I gave you my heart but, the very next day, you gave it away. This year, to save me my tears, I’ll give it to someone special.”

*George Michael, 1985*

*He wrote, played, sang, produced, and recorded every last note, even used a synthesizer and rang the sleigh bells. All profits went to support the famine relief efforts in Ethiopia*

For so many of us, the year 2020 wasn’t the best or even that good. So now, at Christmas time, let the Magic that is Christmas, wrap itself around you!

Have a Merry Christmas and a Great New Year!

LEGAL PUBLICATION

LEGAL PUBLICATION

### ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS

The Board of Education, Unified School District No. 500, Kansas City, KS will accept sealed bids for: IFB 20-023 – Summer Roofing Projects – 2021. Sealed bids should be addressed to: Purchasing Department, Board of Education, 2010 N. 59th Street, Room 370, Kansas City, KS 66109 - “IFB No. 20-023 – Summer Roofing Projects - 2021”

Pre-Bid Conference/Site Visit 2220 N. 59th St, Ste. 229, Kansas City, KS 66104: 01/06/2021 @ 1PM

Proposals will be opened 01/20/2021 @ 1 PM in the Purchasing Office.

Solicitation Documents Available at: [www.kckps.org](http://www.kckps.org)

(First published 12-24-20)

1t-The Record 12-24-20

### Request for Proposal Advertisement

Turner Unified School District No. 202 is seeking Bid Proposals for the purchase of a Forklift and Racking System at Turner Middle School.

Documents pertaining to this Request for Proposal will be provided to any qualified contractor free of charge by email request sent to [crockettc@turnerusd202.org](mailto:crockettc@turnerusd202.org)

Turner USD 202 Facility Supervisor, Chris Crockett will host the blind bid opening on Wednesday January 6, 2021 at 12:30 pm. The location of the bid opening will be the Facility and Grounds Building located at 5800 Metropolitan, Kansas City, KS 66106. Turner USD 202 will announce the vendor that is awarded the bid January 20, 2021.

(First published 12-17-20)

3t-The Record-12-31-20

### Request for Proposal Advertisement

Turner Unified School District No. 202 is seeking Bid Proposals for Turner High School Exterior Building Repairs .

Documents pertaining to this Request for Proposal will be provided to any qualified contractor free of charge by email request sent to [crockettc@turnerusd202.org](mailto:crockettc@turnerusd202.org)

Turner USD 202 Facility Supervisor, Chris Crockett will host the blind bid opening on Wednesday January 13, 2021 at 1:00 pm. The location of the bid opening will be the Facility and Grounds Building located at 5800 Metropolitan, Kansas City, KS 66106. Turner USD 202 will announce the vendor that is awarded the bid January 20, 2021.

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## Guest Editorial ... ...from page 4

olence from his equally ignorant and misinformed cult followers. Trump has produced a continuous flood of baseless allegations about rampant voter fraud. All with the backing of the majority of Republicans in Congress Trump’s legal team has gone to court on his behalf, and all 59 Courts have rejected their cases. They went as far as the U.S. Supreme Court, which would not hear it as their case was “baseless.” The Supreme Court, in a one sentence order, rejected the lawsuit. A one sentence order is fitting, that’s about all this frivolous lawsuit deserved!

Mr. Krebs former agency, of which he served as its director, the Election Infrastructure Government Coordinating Council (GCC), released this statement: “The November 3rd Election was the most secure in American history. There is no evidence that any voting system deleted or lost votes, changed votes, or was in any way compromised.” Even Pennsylvania’s Attorney General, Josh Shapiro opined on Twitter: “The election is over. We must continue to stop this circus of “lawsuits” and move forward.” The irony of all the efforts by Trump’s legal team is they were all in vain to begin with. Even had they won any of their cases, it would not be sufficient to overturn enough votes in enough states to ever make a difference. Trump would still lose his bid for re-election. And both Trump’s hand-picked Attorney General and his Department of Homeland Security, each said that the Election had no evidence of systems malfunction, and that the 2020 Election “was the most Secure in American history.”

Attorney General Barr said, in an interview with the Associated Press, “The Justice Department had not seen ‘fraud on a scale that could have effected a different outcome in



## Passings...

By: Sue Reich

Russell C. Loomis, age 75, passed away December 12, 2020.

Phyllis Kraft age 91, passed away December 10, 2020. She was an instructor in the KCK school system. Taught at Frances Willard for 8 years. Guidance Director at Argentine High School for 15 years. KCK Teachers Association President among many other organizations.

the Election.” Of course, this causes a breach in Trump’s thinking that he won the election! One day after Barr spoke to the Associated Press, December 2nd, Trump released a speech where he rambles on for forty-six minutes. Here Trump goes on with his repeated unfounded claims that the Democrats have, “Somehow fraudulently engineered his defeat.” So then, on December 15, Barr announces his retirement from the Justice Department, with his final day on December 23rd. So, yet another who displeased Trump, goes through the revolving door of the West Wing, to better conform to the ideals of Trump’s misguided idea of reality.

What is of more concern now are the people who Trump has convinced that the election was rigged. Their threatening words on YouTube and their ideas of using guns to settle what Trump has brainwashed them all into believing, really will not serve the country well. The best that Trump can do now, is to finally concede his loss to prevent further violent acts and loss of life. The Electoral College has confirmed Joe Biden’s victory, with Biden receiving 306 Electoral votes and Trump with 232 Electoral votes. As The Associated Press remarked, “This is a repudiation of Trump’s refusal to concede.” Joseph R. Biden, Jr. will be the next president of the United States.

## Tom’s Tasty Treats

By: Tom Valverde

Laura Pryor was a very special person and friend to me at HALL’S Plaza, during the early 1980s. She was an excellent cook and Laura always had something she had just baked or made, and she’d always would bring into the store. There were times when she would have a big crockpot of Chili going in the Kitchen Works stock room, and since kitchens are supposed to smell like good food cooking, our great Store Manager, Ted Honig, would never put up a fuss- the wonderful aromas would bring people in to shop!!! Laura was in her early forties, and this week’s tasty treat is a recipe that was handed down to her from her mama. This week’s recipe must be 85 or 100 years old. It’s a real keeper, for sure. Treat everyone this Christmas to:

### Laura’s Sweet Potato Pie

Ingredients:

2 1/2 c Sweet Potatoes, peeled and cut up

3/4 c Sugar

1/4 c Brown Sugar

1/2 stick Butter, soft

1 T Flour

1/4 t Salt

2 t Baking Powder

1 can Evaporated milk

1 Lg. Egg + 1 yolk

2 t Vanilla

1 t Cinnamon

1/4 t Nutmeg

Small pinch Allspice and Ginger

Directions:

Set oven to 350°. Line a cookie sheet with foil.

Cook the sweet potatoes in water for 14-15 minutes. Drain and place them in a stand mixer along with the sugar and butter. Beat them until well blended. Add all the remaining ingredients and beat the mixture until smooth. Place the unbaked pie shell on the lined cookie and pour the filling into the pie shell. Bake 40-45 minutes on the lowest rack in the oven for 45 -45 minutes. Brush the crust with milk after 20 minutes, if desired.

For a “special” treat, Laura said to leave out the vanilla and 2t of the evaporated milk and flavor the sweet potatoes with 3t Bourbon. Great flavor and the alcohol will bake out. Laura always served the pie with whipped cream.

Customers would always compliment me on how well I placed Crown tissue into the HALLS box, and ribboned it. My secret was that Laura had taught me how to do it! And I recall always being insistent that all who worked in Men’s Clothing also master the proper way to tissue a box. Every new employee would receive instructions from me on the correct way to use tissue in a box. Afterwards, they would tease me and would refer to my instructions as the “Tom Valverde school of wrap!” It was such fun being at the HALLS Plaza store, I could hardly call it work. And I still have some friends from those times. Such as my good friend Merrie. We got along so well, I was like an older brother and she my younger sister. We laughed whenever we could, which was most of the time! And we still do!

My Laura is in Heaven with her mama, but her memory lives on in my heart, as do the wonderful memories of so many other special friends and family, and especially at Christmas time. Merry Christmas!!!



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