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The Record

Congresswoman favors 'common sense' approach to legislation

By Murrel Bland

U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids (D-Third Dist.) said she is part of a group of "common sense" Democrats in Congress who carefully spend taxpayers' dollars. This was a comment she made at a luncheon meeting of the Congressional Forum Friday, Dec. 10 at Children's Mercy Park.

Good roads and bridges are important to business and industry, Rep. Davids said. In a prepared news release, Rep. Davids said, "The Kansas Third is home to vital trucking and logistics and we are growing fast..." Good roads are important getting goods to market, she said.

Rep. Davids was the only member of the Kansas Congressional delegation to vote for the infrastructure



bill. Rep. Davids is the only Democrat member of the delegation. The infrastructure bill will fund improvements to the I-435 and State Avenue intersection. The State of Kansas will receive more than \$500 million in federal

funds for road and bridge repair.

The Unified Government hopes to receive federal aid to fund its storm water program. Storm water is a particularly acute problem in the Eastern areas of Wyandotte County.

Rep. Davids spoke in favor of President Joe Biden's Build Back Better bill which passed the U.S. House, but is stalled in the U.S. Senate. Rep. Davids said the child care provision of the bill would help lessen the shortage of workers.

Recently elected Mayor Tyrone Garner introduced his chief-of-staff. She is Dr. Mildred Edwards, a business consultant who received her doctorate in community psychology from Wichita State University. She is an adjunct faculty member at the Public Management Center of the University of Kansas.

The Congressional Forum is part of the Kansas City, Kansas, Area Chamber of Commerce. The next meeting of The Forum will be at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 21 at Children's Mercy Park.

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

UG announces new family leave policy

Kansas City, KS- On Thursday, December 16, 2021, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS (UG) announced the paid child-birth and parental leave policy for employees. This

two-part policy, providing up to ten weeks of paid family leave, will help address the Unified Government's focus of having a work/life balance for families. These

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Booming Economy

By Dr. Jim Haas

Money. We're spending it.

Even with clogged ports, crammed warehouses, and the pandemic still raging, the nation's economy is recovering the fastest of any major country. Demand for goods and services is so great that supply often can't keep up, and with labor scarce in many jobs, wages are rising around 4% a year enabling workers to spend more. Twenty-one states have recently raised the minimum wage, some to \$15, and four more soon will. The jobless rate was 6.2% last January but is now 4.2%.



The conservative but reliably factual *Wall Street Journal* says U.S. economic output is up 7% since October and forecasts 4% overall growth in 2022, both the highest in decades. (The EU economy is predicted to grow 2%.) A *Bloomberg* analyst writes that "America's economy improved more in Joe Biden's first 12 months than any president during the past 50 years..."

Consumer spending is the foundation of our economy, so wouldn't you think that every Congressperson would favor channeling money into the hands of consumers? Sadly, not all do. The American Rescue Plan that passed in March sent billions to consumers, but it passed Congress with no Republican votes. The Child Tax Credit sent monthly checks to 36 million families and reduced child poverty by half, but it expired this month and won't resume unless the President's stalled Build Back Better bill, passed by House Democrats, passes the Senate. While the media has blamed one Democratic Senator reluctant to approve it, the real problem is that not a single Republican intends to vote for it. None. Whose side are they on? Why are they not for the People?

In healthcare, a record high 13.6 million Americans enrolled in Obamacare this year, 4.6 million of them previously uninsured, thanks to lower premiums and expanded eligibility approved by the Democratic Congress. The Biden Administration quadrupled the number of advisors helping people enroll. Increases were highest in states where Republicans refused to expand Medicaid even with large numbers of uninsured. Unfortunately, lower premiums expire at the end of 2022 unless the Build Back Better bill passes the Senate. Again, no Republicans support it.

If you're sensing a theme here, it's that Democrats, despite squabbling among themselves about how to do it, are committed to building an economy that benefits ordinary Americans and reduces the wealth gap between the rich and the rest while Republicans remain committed to Reagan's claim that government doesn't help people, so the less government the better. Republicans also remain fixated on Reagan's notion that lower taxes on the rich would allow prosperity to "trickle down" to the rest of us. It didn't trickle then, and it hasn't trickled since.

While it's easy to blame the Administration for rising inflation, 6.8% in November, it's a global problem caused by adjusting to pandemic disruptions. The sharp rise in gasoline prices (which have dropped about 25 cents a gallon this month) reflected the rising price of oil on the global market and hurricane damage to refineries near the Gulf Coast; last week's explosion at a Texas refinery won't help. Too, the Western drought is reducing food production, which increases prices.

The new year will highlight our most dangerous challenges: controlling the pandemic with a higher rate of vaccinations, saving our democracy from those who won't accept free and fair election results, and minimizing climate change by shifting to green energy. It's been a great year for the U.S. economy, so we can welcome 2022 on a high note.

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at Kansas City, Kansas

Sue's Sudsy Soapbox By: Sue Reich



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

The end of the year is almost here and boy these last 2 or 3 years have really been the pits. We lost so many people, including friends, relatives and so many that we knew, that it is unbelievable. I have never been through such a situation in my life and believe me I have been through some doozies. But to make a long story short, the year of 2021 is almost over. Let's hope and pray that next year will be a bit better. Did you ever hear things happen in three's? Well, believe me, it does. Colin Powell, Robert Dole and Ed Asner all left us. My 2 sisters and a best friend did, 2 brothers in law and one of my clown friends did. Hopefully 2022 will have some normality if we can get through this new virus. What I would like to know, where do these viruses come from? Why all of a sudden we get rid of one and another one hits, then another?

I gave my neighbors a Christmas cactus plant and a Christmas card with their Record the other day. There are three of them that have been super helpful to us and bless their hearts, they deserve more than a plant and a card. The Bailes, the O'Neal's and Stuart's are one in a million. Thank you so much!!!! I like people. Really do. Course, there are some that would do anything to make another person miserable, which I have done to me. But that is not me. I have helped a lot of people by letting them live with me, help raise their kids, feed them, take them places, give them money, that is what good people are here for. The saying now is Be Kind. So please everyone, be kind to that person that only has 2

or 3 items at the checkout, or don't park in disabled places if you are not supposed to, if they drop something, pick it up for them. be a secret Santa, help them carry something if you see them struggle, just things like that. It will make you feel good, I know it does me. Don't pick on people that are disabled, can't see or hear or talk right. We all have feelings and those feelings get hurt. Let's all try to be good this coming year. There are too many killings, too many racists, too many guns, too many people out there that are getting nervous, bored of the monotony that we all have been going through. Don't we know that we are going through a pandemic and it causes a lot of tension and tears? Whoa, I am getting deep, but it is true, I have experienced it.

That's all for now. Guess I will sign off and just want all of you to know that I lvy a all. Really, I do. Take care, mind your p's and q's, be kind, K? Your little ol' gal from Argentine. Sue

Grandma Says, by Lena C. Venable "A Pleasant Face"

You owe it to your family, you owe it to your town, no one should be compelled to see that your face have on a frown.

And then---when you get older, your friends look at your face and see it in your character, they read your growth in grace.

Perhaps it isn't growth in grace that they are sure to read, but there's a story in your face this warning you must heed.

God gives most children faces and it is a joy to see. But you'll have one you helped to make when you are fifty three.

As sure as eyes are windows, through which the soul looks out, your face will tell strangers what you have been about.

Places in Rosedale to shop: Three Bees assortment of gifts, coffee, eat. Rosedale Bar B Q — good bar-b-q, order online or catering. Strasser hardware — Everything you need for indoors or outdoors. Chixen KC — only place in town to buy chick burgers. Muffin and Bob — Children's books and cards.



This is what happens after Christmas.

Remember when Caleb caught that big one? This is one that didn't get away!



Family Leave...

From Page 1

newly adopted policies will take effect starting January 1, 2022.

"Offering paid parental leave is the right thing to do for our employees and their families," said Commissioner Angela Markley, Chair of the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee, which reviewed and approved the policy at the December 6 Committee meeting. "Research clearly shows that employees who have access to family leave return to work healthier, happier and more productive, with better outcomes for parents and children," continued Commissioner Markley.

Mayor Tyrone Garner added, "The Unified Government aims to be an employer of choice in Wyandotte County. Providing paid family leave

will help us attract and retain talented employees and strengthen the bonds of family at a critical time in a new child's life."

Paid Childbirth Leave

Paid childbirth leave is available to employees who give birth to provide for recovery from childbirth. Full-time employees are eligible for up to six weeks (240 hours) of paid leave following delivery.

Paid Parental Leave

Paid parental leave is available to eligible employees, female, and male, to care for and bond with their child after birth, or after placement with the employee for adoption or foster care. Full-time employees are eligible for four weeks (160 hours) per qualifying event. Paid parental leave will be available on a continuous basis or, with the approval of the department head, on an intermittent or reduced schedule.

"The Unified Government is committed to the health and welfare of our over 2,200 employees. Paid parental leave will help our employees better navigate work-life balance, while improving the long-term health outcomes of parents and babies alike," said Assistant County Administrator Alan Howze. "Offering paid family leave will help us attract and retain great employees to serve the community."

For more detailed information regarding the paid childbirth and parental leave policies, including how to request leave, please visit HR Guide 5.13 – Paid Childbirth and Parental Leave.

To watch the UG Human Resources leave policy update presentation from Thursday, December 16, 2021 please visit, <https://youtu.be/5VR-jNjO-4PO?t=4436>

Governor Laura Kelly Announces Proposal to Provide \$250 Tax Rebate to Kansas Resident Taxpayers

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly today announced a new proposal for a one-time \$250 tax rebate to all Kansas residents who filed a tax return in the 2021 calendar year.

"Since 2019, my administration has carefully worked to get Kansas' budget back on track after years of mismanagement," Governor Kelly said. "Thanks to our fiscal responsibility and record economic development success, we can return money to taxpayers and give every Kansas resident who filed taxes in 2021 a \$250 rebate. These are significant savings for every family to be delivered by summer of 2022."

Governor Kelly is calling for a one-time rebate in the form of a non-taxable direct payment of \$250 for every Kansas resident tax filer. Resident tax filers who filed as married and filing jointly will be eligible for a \$500 direct payment. All other filing types will be eligible for a \$250 direct payment.

Under the Governor's plan, Kansas will return approximately \$445 million to over 1.2 million Kansas resident taxpayers. Additionally, as a one-time payment, this will have no impact on the state's ongoing ability to collect revenues that fund critical services. The proposal will be paid for with Kansas' current budget surplus and is intended to provide relief to tax filers who are Kansas residents.

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

Today is December 24, 2021, and the temperature is 73 degrees. Can you believe this weather? I know we broke a record. Last week at this time, people had been without power and were freezing for over 24 hours because of high wind damage. The weather can turn on a dime and often does. Therefore, I am going to go ahead and write what I had intended for this week.

This is for future reference only; several designated locations have been selected for warming centers for the 2021-2022 winter season. All branches of the Kansas City Kansas Public Library, Prov-

idence YMCA/ Ball Family Center, Crosslines Community Outreach, Willa Gill Center, Turner Recreation Commission, Bonner Springs/Edwardsville Public Library, Bonner Springs Community Center and WYCO Community Centers (Bethany, Kensington, Joe Amayo Argentine, Eisenhower, and Beatrice Lee) have been designated as daytime warming centers. In the evening when the temperature reaches 25 degrees and below, the WYCO Emergency Weather Shelter at 5th & State will open at 6:00 pm and close at 7:00 am. The decision to open the shelter will be made no later than 8:00 am on that day. It will be on a first come, first served basis. Hopefully, we won't experience any power outages because of bad weather.

I found an additional food distribution center. Swope Health West collaborating with Harvesters will hold distribute food at 4835 State Avenue on Saturday, January 22, 2022. I don't have a time yet but will pass it along as soon as I know.

I received the 2022 sched-

ule for the K-State Garden Hour, It will be on Zoom on the first Wednesday of each month from noon to 1:00 pm with January 5 being the first session. The topic will be Vegetable Varieties for a Bountiful Harvest. Each session is recorded and can be found on the K-state website. I try to watch each one because even though some of it is a review, I usually pick up new tips or old ones that I have forgotten.

I wish everyone has had a Merry Christmas and look forward to a happier New Year. This past year has brought more than a pandemic. It brought chaos and divisiveness in countries, among families, and friends, a lot of disruption. We've lost so many to covid and its lasting effects, frustration from isolationism, wildfires, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, and the one we should control, senseless shootings. I hope that each of us will think about his/her future before taking any action that could harm another being.

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

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Guest Editorial

Quotes To Ponder

By Tom Valverde

“For the unvaccinated, you’re looking at a winter of severe illness and death. For yourselves, your families, and the hospitals that you may soon overwhelm.”

Jeff Zients,
White House Coronavirus
Response
Coordinator

The Omicron variant is spreading rapidly here in the US. According to Dr. Anthony Fauci, who said, “Omicron has a doubling time of just 2-3 days, it’s going to take over,” as the main strain of Coronavirus.

In early December, New York City Mayor, Bill de Blasio said that the new Coronavirus variant was already, “In full force.”

New cases in New York City were at a new, one day record of more than 8,300. Two weeks ago, Missouri reported its first case of Omicron.

Experts warn that this variant is one to be prepared for by those people who still are unvaccinated. These people need to receive their initial vaccinations and followed by a booster, two weeks after.

Omicron symptoms are cold-like and include:

1. Runny nose
2. Headache
3. Fatigue
4. Sneezing
5. Sore throat

“Boosters are very protective and are a vital weapon against the Omicron variant,” said British symptom study Professor, Tim Spector, the

study’s lead scientist. Source: Reuters.

NIH Director, Dr. Anthony Fauci said that having a booster will provide for better protection against and milder cases of Omicron.

“I think people should not lose sight of the message that there is no doubt if you want to be optimally protected, you should get a booster,” Dr. Fauci said. Source, CNN.

It’s clear that the Biden Administration is pushing for all Americans to receive a booster shot. CNN’s Jake Tapper warned that, “Hospitalizations and death are especially hitting the unvaccinated.”

While appearing on Tapper’s program, Dr. Fauci said, “Those who are eligible should get a booster shot. This provides significantly higher protection against Omicron.” Those who still resist these urgent messages to be fully vaccinated, do so at their own personal peril.

Keep Your Pets Safe This Holiday Season

The Humane Society of Missouri’s Animal Medical Center of Mid-America shares important safety tips to keep pets healthy and happy this holiday season

The Humane Society of Missouri (HSMO) wishes you and your pets the warmest of wishes this holiday season. Below are a few tips from veterinarians at the HSMO’s Animal Medical Center of Mid-America (AMCMA) to help ensure all celebrations are safe and fun for your four-legged friends:

Be Careful with Festive Foods

Food and drinks are a highlight of the holiday season, but they can pose dangers to your pet.

- Avoid feeding your pet anything they are not used to eating. Otherwise, they could end up with an upset stomach.
- Fatty and spicy foods, chocolate, and other sweets, which can cause severe stomach issues, should be off-limits to pets.
- Don’t give turkey, chicken, or ham bones to your pet. Bones can easily break and splinter, causing mouth injuries and intestinal blockage.
- Move cocktails out of your pet’s reach. Even though the impact of alcohol is often mild, call your veterinarian if your pet gets a hold of an alcoholic beverage. Be on the lookout for warning signs such as lethargy, drooling, vomiting, or collapse.

Keep Seasonal Plants and Decorations Out of Reach

Ingesting any plant or decoration has the potential to cause vomiting, diarrhea, or gastrointestinal irritation. But some can be toxic to pets, so it is important to keep pets away from all decorations.

- Plants such as mistletoe, rosemary, and holly berries can result in severe gastrointestinal upset if eaten.
- Christmas trees and other festive decorations can be dangerous to pets. If your pet chews on the lights or cords, they could be electrocuted. If ingested, decorations and tinsel could cause gastrointestinal problems or obstruction. Glass ornaments could pose an additional danger if your pet knocks them off the tree and the ornaments shatter.
- Live Christmas trees come with even more concerns. The oils from trees and tree needles can cause gastrointestinal trouble, and if pets eat the needles, those needles could puncture their intestinal lining. But the most dangerous part of the live tree is the water in the tree’s base. The pine sap, preservatives, and fire retardant in the water are harmful to dogs and cats.

Travel Safely and Secure Your Pet

If your holiday plans include driving, whether across the country or just across town to visit the dog park, your pet should be properly secured in the vehicle at all times. If there were to be an accident and your pet isn’t secure, they could suffer severe or life-threatening injuries.

- Small pets should be placed in a pet carrier during car rides, and the carrier needs to be securely fastened.
- Dogs should use a pet travel safety harness that attaches to your car’s seat belt.
- Make sure your pet is always wearing their collar and identification tags, and if your pet is microchipped, verify that your contact information is current with the microchip company before you leave.

Tom’s Tasty Treats

By Tom Valverde

Cardamom has a great flavor and it’s taste is enhanced by the other ingredients in this week’s tasty treat. A simple, easily made cookie, its recipe makes 3 dozen cookies that will be enjoyed by everyone. Plan on baking a batch of:

TOM’S CARDAMOM COOKIES

Ingredients:

2 sticks Butter, at room temperature

1c Powdered Sugar, sift to remove clumps

1 Egg yolk

1/2 t Vanilla

2 drops Almond extract

2 c Flour

1/4 t Salt

1 t ground Cardamom

1/2 c sliced Almonds, coarsely chopped

Coating

1 c Powdered Sugar

Set oven to 350°. Line 2 cookie sheets with parchment paper. In a mixer, cream the butter and powdered sugar until smooth and creamy. Beat in the egg yolk. Add the Vanilla and the almond extract and mix in. In another bowl, combine and whisk together the flour, salt, and the Cardamom. Stir in the sliced and chopped almonds. Add the flour mixture in thirds to the butter mixture, beat on low speed just until combined.

Scoop 1” balls of dough and roll into one inch balls. Space 2” apart on the cookie sheets. Bake one sheet at a time at 350° for 15-16 minutes. The edges should appear golden

brown.

Place the powdered sugar in a bowl and roll each cookie while still warm. Set aside to cool. If desired, reroll each cookie in the powdered sugar. Store in an air-tight container at room temperature for up to 4 days or keep chilled for a week.

These are great with a hot cup of coffee or tea. A delicious cookie made to share with your family and friends.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year!

Enjoy!



Passings...

By Sue Reich

Laura Cynthia Josephine Montgomery Hall Matney (Jo Hall), age 99, passed away on November 29, 2021. She was a graduate of Turner High School, a long-time member of Turner Baptist Church. Family rumor has it that her potato salad recipe is locked away in a safe, probably along with her recipes for pot roast and red velvet cake.

Dan Ferguson, age 75, passed away on December 14, 2021. Dan worked for the Santa Fe Railroad for 24 years, and at the Wyandotte County Sheriff’s Department as a County Park Patrol.

Well Known People Who Passed Away in 2021

Robert Dole • Hank Aaron • Colin Powell • Cicely Tyson • Hal Holbrook • Ed Asner • Don Everly • Olympia Dukakis • Peter Scolari • Eric Carle • Siegfried Fischbacher • Markie Post • Cloris Leachman • Christopher Plummer • Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh • Michael Collins • Dean Stockwell • Ned Beatty • Charlie Watts • Dusty Hill • Charles Grodin • Larry King • Gavin McCloud • Norm McDonald • Willie Garson • Kevin Clark • Michael Williams • Rush Limbaugh • Jessica Walter • George Segal.

“So Long, it’s been good to know you.” I am sure there are many more that should be on this list, but this is all that I can remember at the moment.

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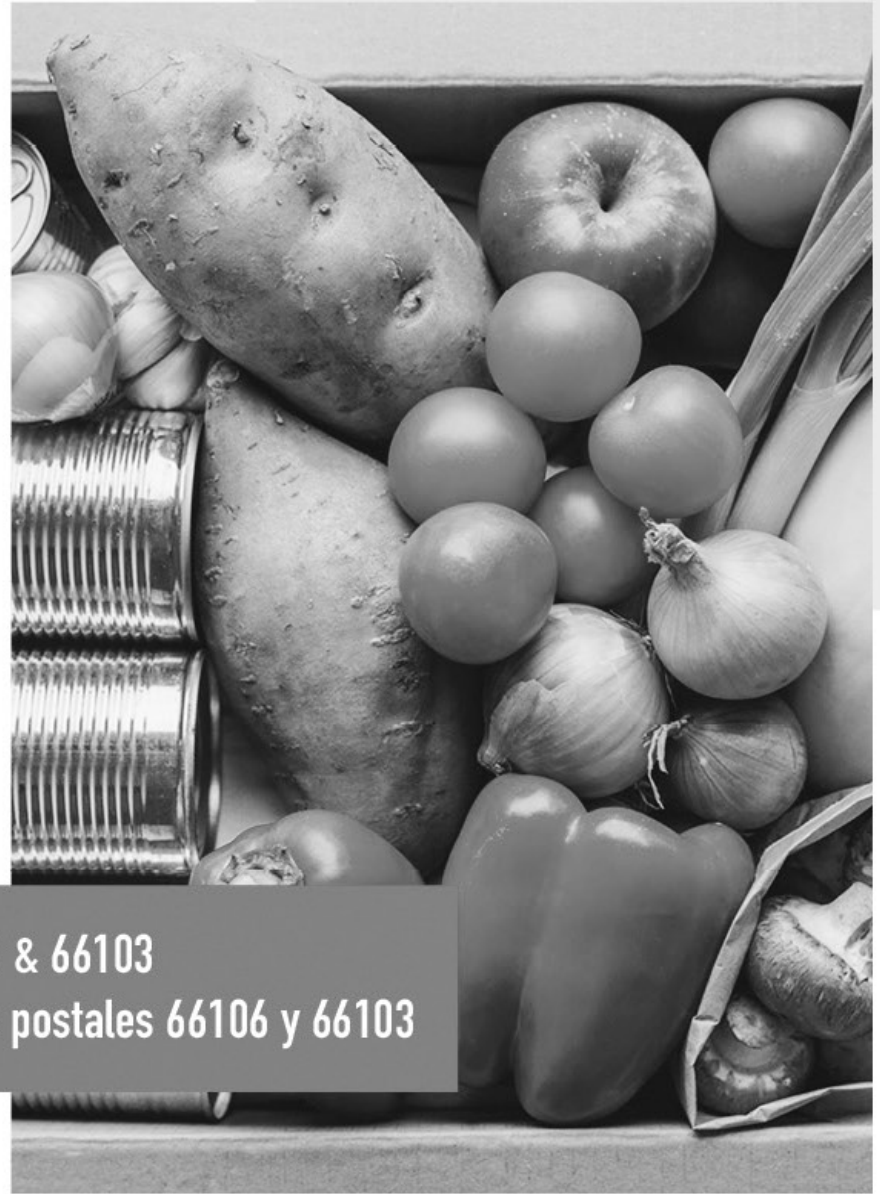
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