



The Record

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Number 21

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

Wednesday, the Elderbears held their monthly potluck dinner. The theme was Mexican Fiesta and featured a taco bar. We were joined by staff and family members of the University of Kansas Health System's Geriatric Department. They had volunteered to work in the garden and so we invited them to join us for our meal. After lunch, Calvin, Jim, and Alex escorted them to the garden for a tour. This year, the guys decided to try to increase the cucumber crop by installing arbor-like trellises so the cucumbers



could grow on them. Such was the project for our KU volunteers. After installing the trellises, they spread mulch under the arbors to keep the weeds down. The guys really appreciated the help as it would have taken them several days to complete the task by themselves. The group enjoyed working in the out of doors and said they would like to come back. We welcome all volunteers and share what we have available in

the garden. Jim was able to get some cucumber plants in the ground this morning before the rain started. See more pictures on Turner Community Garden's Facebook page.

WYCO Master Gardener's program for this month is "Cooking from the Garden" presented by WYCO Extension FACS Agent Lori Wuellner. She will share techniques and recipes that will make home-grown vegetables the stars of the dinner table. Join her Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 11:30 am at the Extension Office, 1216 N 79th. KCK.

The K-State Garden Hour's Zoom topic this month is "Drought Tolerant Lawns of Kansas – Warm Season Turfgrasses" presented by Dr. Ross Brown, Assistant professor of Turfgrass and Landscape Management". He will explain what it means to be in our "transitional climatic zone" with the option of growing both warm- and cool-season turfgrass species. Learn how to grow turfgrass species that are most tolerant to better serve our summer weather and conserve water. Join him on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, from 12pm -1pm. Register at K-State Garden Hour. If you miss any of the classes, all topics are recorded and available on YouTube the next day.

Until next time, stay safe and be kind to those around you. Continue to pray for the brave Ukrainians fighting for the right to remain free.



Governor Funds Schools for the Fifth Year in a Row

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly announced today that she has signed and line-item vetoed aspects of House Substitute for Senate Bill 113, the bill containing the budget for K-12 education. With her line-item vetoes, the bill fully funds K-12 education for the fifth consecutive year and protects funding for rural schools facing declining enrollment.

“Today, I am keeping my commitment to Kansas families by fully funding our public schools for the fifth year in a row,” said Governor Laura Kelly. “What’s more, I am proud to stand up for rural schools, the heart and economic engines of communities throughout the state, by rejecting efforts to cut the funding needed to keep them open and continuing to serve Kansas students.”

In addition to funding schools in accordance with the state

constitution, the version of SB 113 Governor Kelly signed also:

* **Improves School Safety:** The bill includes \$5 million so schools can purchase communication equipment to better coordinate with law enforcement and purchase naloxone to combat fentanyl poisoning, something Governor Kelly called for in her 2023 State of the State address.

* **Empowers Parents to Be Involved in their Children’s Education:** The bill includes \$9.4 million for Parents as Teachers, a program that provides parents with skills and knowledge about child health and development and connects them to community-based services to assist with their child’s education.

* **Supports the Teacher Workforce:** The bill includes \$1.8 million to support teacher professional development and \$1.3 million for a program that provides teachers early in their careers with mentors to support their professional growth.

* **Invests in Early Childhood Education and Literacy:** The bill includes \$23.7 million from the Children’s Initiative Fund for the Early Childhood Block Grant to support children’s programs with a focus on early childhood, health, mental health, and child welfare. It includes \$4.2 million for a Pre-K Pilot Program to explore ways more Kansas schools can prepare children for kindergarten,

as well as \$1.4 million for IT and data management in the early childhood space. It also includes \$1.5 million to expand the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, a program that gifts books to children from birth to five years old for free.

* **Gives Students the Technical Skills for a Modern Economy:** The bill includes \$1.5 million to transport students to career and technical education opportunities, \$1 million to ensure more students learn computer science, and \$40,000 for a pilot program expanding the ways students can receive career and technical education credentials.

While SB 113 includes a \$7.5 million increase in funding for special education, it does not include the \$72 million Governor Kelly has called for throughout the legislative session to put Kansas on the path to fully fund special education.

“Republicans and Democrats agree we must put Kansas on track to fully fund special education, something that would impact each and every student. When legislators return in 2024, they must correct their mistake and fulfill my plan to increase investments in special education,” said Governor Kelly.

Critically, Governor Kelly line-item vetoed appropriations in SB 113 that would have changed the school finance formula that determines the amount of funding annually appropriated by the state to public schools. The provision would have risked the state’s compliance with constitutional funding requirements and could have resulted in rural schools having to cut services or close buildings. The legislative debate on SB 113 recognized this bill contains items of appropriations of money, and the Governor has the constitutional power to line-item veto such appropriations.



YOU are invited

Anyone who believes in the mission of The League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC is eligible to join us. Being part of the conversation will bring us together with all of society.

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the largest and oldest Hispanic and Latino civil rights organization in the United States.[2] It was established on February 17, 1929, in Corpus Christi, Texas, largely by Hispanics returning from World War I who sought to end ethnic discrimination against Latinos in the United States. The goal of LULAC is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health, and civil rights of Hispanic people in the United States. LULAC uses nationwide councils and group community organizations to achieve all these goals. LULAC has about 132,000 members in the United States.

Council 11085 has LULAC members in the counties of Douglas, Johnson and Wyandotte (Kansas) – Clay and Jackson (Missouri).

Join us at the monthly Zoom meetings – the second Saturday of each month at 2 p.m.

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Governor Kelly Signs Omnibus Budget, Increases Funding for Higher Education, Infrastructure, Student Mental Health Programs

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly today signed Senate Bill 25, the Omnibus Budget, which passed with bipartisan support. The budget increases funding for higher education, invests in local infrastructure, expands mental health resources for students, and provides a pay increase for the state workforce.

“I am proud of this bipartisan, fiscally responsible budget that will bolster our state’s workforce, improve roads and expand high-speed internet, and provide essential mental health resources for our students,” Governor Laura Kelly said. “This funding will support my administration’s efforts to continue growing the economy and making every Kansas community an attractive place to live and raise a family.”

The budget:

Increases pay for state employees: These salary increases improve pay rates for state employees who are earning below the market rate for similar jobs in the Kansas private sector. This increased pay will help recruit, retain, and recognize the work of employees who deliver public safety, infrastructure projects, mental health resources, education, and services to businesses and families across the state.

Promotes STEM workforce training opportunities: These investments expand opportunities for students training in emerging technologies, science, engineering, math, science, and technical trades. These programs are instrumental in attracting students to Kansas and preparing them to participate

in our expanding economy and workforce.

Supports local infrastructure projects: The Build Kansas Matching Grant Fund will provide a mechanism to provide state matching dollars to Kansas communities for projects approved under the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL). These funds will enable Kansas communities to move forward with infrastructure projects, including improvements to water, transportation, energy, cybersecurity, and high-speed internet. A portion of these dollars will also be used by the Kansas Infrastructure Hub to provide resources and technical assistance to communities seeking to access BIL funding.

Expands mental health resources

for students: \$13.5 million will be invested in the Mental Health Intervention Pilot to further expand access to behavioral health services for students. With this funding, the Kelly administration has invested over \$46 million in this pilot, resulting in the program reaching 5,000 students and nearly 70 school districts annually.

Invests in services for elderly and disabled Kansans: The budget includes funding for services for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including funding for an early childhood program for children with blindness or visual impairments. It also increases funding for Senior Nutrition (Meals on Wheels) and expands the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly to additional counties.



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SENATE NEWS



By Sen. Pat Pettey

2023 LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS

The Legislature convened for its final day of session for the year on Friday, April 28th. Over this week, we addressed a number of the governor's vetoes, lingering conference committee reports, and the approval of Michael Venerdi's appointment as Adjutant General. We are now adjourned until January of 2024.

While the Legislature as a whole won't meet again until next year, I will continue to serve on my committees during the interim, and of course I remain available to you for constituent services. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at pat.pettesy@senate.ks.gov. I am also happy to set up a Zoom to discuss any questions or concerns.

GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY VETOES SUSTAINED

The Legislature attempted to override a number of the vetoes issued by Governor Laura Kelly. When the governor vetoes a bill, it returns to its chamber of origin for consideration for override. In the Senate, 27 YES votes are required to advance to the House to override the governor's veto. In the House, that number is 84.

The Senate sustained four of the governor's vetoes:

* Since we didn't learn from the first time the legislature messed around with income tax brackets, Republican lawmakers proposed a single, 5.15% flat income tax that would have largely benefited high income earners, with little to no benefit for low- or middle-income earners. On Wednesday, the Senate sustained the governor's veto of SB 169 by a vote of 26 to 13. On Thursday, after a day of arm-twisting, Senator Carolyn McGinn made a motion to reconsider the override. That motion failed by a vote of 25 to 14, killing the bill for the session. I voted to sustain the governor's veto.

* SB 26 would have required the Kansas Board of Healing Arts to revoke the license of physicians who have performed a childhood gender reassignment service, which is broadly defined in the bill to the point that it could include any gender affirming care, including social transition support and counseling. In addition to making lifesaving care inaccessible to vulnerable Kansas families, it would also result in the forced detransition of adult trans Kansans whose access to care would be eliminated. The Senate sustained the governor's veto on this bill by a vote of 26 to 14. I voted to sustain the governor's veto.

* Just six years ago, the Legislature nearly unanimously passed a three-day grace period for mail ballots to arrive at election offices. SB 209 would have removed that three-day grace period – which largely allows our military, elderly, disabled, and college students to participate in our elections. The Senate sustained the governor's veto on this bill by a vote of 25 to 15. I voted to sustain the governor's veto.

* HB 2325 prohibits abortion providers from purchasing liability insurance from the Health Care Stabilization Fund. Proponents of this legislation claim that this is necessary to prevent taxpayer funding of abortion. But taxpayers don't pay into the Fund – providers do. The House successfully overrode the governor's veto of this bill on a vote of 84 to 40, but the Senate sustained her veto by a vote of 25 to 15. I voted to sustain the governor's veto.

The House sustained three of the governor's vetoes:

* HB 2304 requires the State Board of Education to establish a firearm safety curriculum that is based on the National Rifle Association's Eddie Eagle program. In her veto message, Governor Kelly said, "This bill is yet again an act of legislative overreach, an attempt to override our locally elected leaders and insert partisan politics into our children's education." The House sustained the governor's veto on this bill by a vote of 83 to 41.

* HB 2344 loosens childcare regulations, making preschools

more dangerous for children whose families are able to access them. In her veto message, Governor Kelly said, "While I agree it's time to review our childcare policies, we must do it together – and in a way that improves, not harms, our state's ability to help families and keep kids safe." The House sustained the governor's veto on this bill by a vote of 81 to 42.

* HB 2236 capitalizes on national figures' attempts to manipulate parents by suggesting that our public schools – which are subject to strict oversight by the state – are hiding nefarious materials used to brainwash our children. In her veto message, Governor Kelly said, "Parents and teachers across Kansas want the same thing – for our kids to get the best education possible. This bill distracts from that goal, inserting partisan politics into the classroom at the expense of our students, parents, and teachers." The House sustained the governor's veto on this bill by a vote of 78 to 45.

VETO OVERRIDES – WHAT BECAME LAW

The Legislature initiated seven successful veto overrides, in addition to several override attempts of budget line item vetoes.

Attacks on Trans Kids

Though we sustained Governor Kelly's veto of legislation prohibiting gender affirming care, three other bills targeting trans Kansans will unfortunately become law.

To round out the attacks on transgender children, HB 2138 requires school districts to provide separate accommodations for students of each biological sex on overnight, school district-sponsored trips. While this is clearly an overreaction by Republicans obsessed with a small number of Kansans' gender identities, it ignores other factors that impact interpersonal dynamics, including sexual orientation. In tying the hands of school administrators, field trip supervisors, and parents, we are prohibiting them from using their knowledge of student interpersonal relationships to make responsible rooming arrangements, not those dictated by the legislature.

SB 180 defines females (and qualifies women, girls, and mothers as "females") as individuals whose biological reproductive system is developed to produce ova. It defines males (and therefore men, boys, and fathers) as individuals whose biological reproductive system is developed to fertilize the ova of a female. It defines intersex people as disabled. And it prohibits people who do not fit under this definition of "female" from using women's restrooms, locker rooms, and other gender-specific areas, including sexual assault and domestic violence shelters. SB 228 further codifies that by affirming that these definitions would also apply to jails and prisons.

SB 180 is widely considered one of the most sweeping and restrictive transgender bathroom bills in the United States, and even proponents have admitted that it lacks enforcement mechanisms and is ripe for litigation. It also puts federal funding for a multitude of federal programs in jeopardy, from Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Grants awarded through the Violence Against Women Act to family preservation and foster care funds available through the Administration of Children and Families.

59% of Kansans Voted NO. Republicans Don't Care.

Kansas was the first state to vote on abortion rights after Roe v. Wade was overturned in June 2022. The Republican supermajority hand wrote a misleading and extreme constitutional amendment asking Kansans to give more power to elected state representatives and state senators to restrict and prohibit abortion. Kansans of every political ideology overwhelmingly rejected that constitutional amendment.

Despite that, the Republican supermajority has spent the first legislative session since that vote undermining the will of the voters. HB 2313 and HB 2264 are both examples of how these extreme politicians are inserting themselves into Kansans' private decisions. Abortion is heavily regulated in our state, and doctors are required to follow the same standards of

Petty...**...from page 4**

care in cases of abortion as in other medical situations. This is why HB 2313 is unnecessary and will only lead to more heartbreak for families already facing tragic circumstances. It requires physicians to attempt to provide care for infants with fatal defects that have no chance of living outside their mother. Instead of a mother and baby being afforded a peaceful moment of love and closure, it will replace that with invasive treatment that has no chance of saving the terminally ill baby.

HB 2264 amends the Woman's-Right-to-Know Act – which already requires physicians to lie to their patients – to add a notification requirement about reversal of abortion operations. This is an attempt to sway a woman away from making the decision that the people of Kansas resoundingly said she has a right to make on her own. It is bad public policy to require physicians to lie to their patients because members of this body think they know better than them. We all want women to be empowered to make the best decision for themselves and their families. Lying to them does not empower them; it endangers them.

Finally, the Legislature successfully overrode the Governor's line-item veto of the \$2 million "Alternatives to Abortion" program included in the budget. This gives a single organization – likely Kansans for Life – a contract to give anti-abortion counseling centers taxpayer dollars to deceive women. While comprehensive reproductive health clinics have strict requirements regarding patient confidentiality, quality of medical care, and hygiene and safety practices, anti-abortion counseling centers are not held to any regulatory standards. This bill would require DCF to match money with federal and other public and private funding in coordination with the state treasurer. DCF would be required to divert federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds

away from low-income families and instead use taxpayer dollars to fund anti-abortion counseling centers. This money would be taken from families who use these funds for rent, food, and childcare, and instead direct it to centers to spend as they please as long as they state they are using it to prevent abortions. This includes funding to promote anti-abortion counseling centers through TV, radio, newspapers, and the internet advertisements.

This is another example of the government inserting themselves into the private decisions that belong solely to women, their families, their healthcare providers, and their faith leaders. It's asking Kansans to foot the bill for state-sponsored anti-abortion ideology, not care that considers the needs, values, and preferences of the woman seeking care.

Kicking the Poor While They're Down

In her veto message for HB 2094, Governor Kelly said, "Leaders from both parties should be looking for ways to help people afford the basics, not burdening our hardworking Kansans who are just trying to get by. With inflation causing the prices of goods and services to skyrocket, Kansans need relief, not further barriers." In addition to requiring SNAP recipients aged 50-59 without dependents to participate in an employment and training program, this bill also requires parents who do not have custody of one or more of their children to cooperate with Child Support Services or be disqualified from receiving food assistance. It would also disqualify non-custodial parents from food assistance for missing or only partially paying child support payments and for having arrearages.

This is a harsh, ineffective, and costly punishment that ultimately will make low-income families even less financially stable and increase the likelihood that children and parents cannot make ends meet. It's also not supported by a single Kansan or Kansas organization addressing food insecurity or poverty. In fact, 161 organizations – ranging from regional food banks to church-

based food pantries – signed a letter opposing this legislation. A Florida-based group whose mission is to eliminate social safety net programs such as food assistance was the sole proponent for this legislation. I trust the food banks and the people actually helping hungry Kansans, not opportunistic Floridians trying to make life harder for our neighbors.

ACTION ON THE FLOOR

When we weren't addressing veto overrides, the Senate spent the rest of the time on the floor this week considering Conference Committee Reports (CCRs). As a refresher, conference committees are formed when there are differences between the Senate and the House's versions of a bill. The committees are generally made up of the chair, vice-chair, and ranking minority member of the committee in which the bill was originally worked. In theory, these 6 legislators work out those differences and bring a compromise bill to their respective chambers for consideration. Once these CCRs come to the Senate floor, they are not subject to amendment. Below are a few CCRs of interest that passed this week:

*** GENESIS TAX BAILOUT:** This mega-tax bundle has a little bit of everything, from a sales tax exemption for telecommunications infrastructure to generous tax credits for contributions to anti-abortion counseling centers. It also includes a property tax exemption for companies with "government competition." This is a transparent deal for Rodney Steven, the owner of Genesis Gyms, who is delinquent on his property taxes in multiple counties and is trying to get out of paying the bill by claiming that he loses business to community centers. This bill passed by a vote of 26 to 13 in the Senate and 76 to 43 in the House, well short of veto-proof majorities.

*** CURBING DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS:** Amid a larger judiciary package that criminalizes battery against a health care provider and expands the Attorney General's prosecutorial authority,

SB 174 also achieves a longtime bipartisan goal: it decriminalizes test strips that detect GHB, ketamine, and fentanyl. Fentanyl test strips provide people who use drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin with important information about fentanyl in the illicit drug supply so they can take informed steps to reduce their risk of overdose. They are a proven harm-reduction measure that prevents opioid overdoses and deaths, and I'm glad that we came together to decriminalize them and make Kansans safer. Governor Laura Kelly signed this bill into law last week.

*** A GOOD HEALTHCARE PACKAGE:** SB 131 expands access to healthcare in three different ways: it allows pharmacy technicians with the appropriate training to administer vaccinations; it creates temporary and expedited licensures under the Behavioral Science Regulatory Board to increase the number of mental health providers in our state; and it includes my colleague Jeff Pittman's legislation that allows the issuance of a sports waiver for health care professionals traveling with a sports team. This is all good, commonsense policy, and I'm glad Governor Kelly signed it into law last week.

*** A BAD PUBLIC HEALTH PACKAGE:** ... But we also passed very harmful public health policy. HB 2285 restricts the authority of the Secretary of Health and local health officers from preventing the spread of infectious and contagious diseases, and would restrict the Secretary's authority to require childhood vaccinations. During debate on this CCR, Senator Mark Steffen stated that he believes professionals such as local health officers and nurses are uneducated, and know less about public health than politicians in Topeka. Just a few minutes later, Senator Mike Thompson says that individuals that believe diseases can be controlled (as they have been since the advent of vaccinations) "don't understand science." This package passed the Senate by a vote of 22 to 18 and passed the House by a vote of 63 to 56. I voted no, and I'm glad Governor Kelly vetoed it.

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Tom's Tasty Treats

By Tom Valverde

Before you know it, this year's crop of zucchini will be in at Farmer's Markets and grocery stores. Most people already have a favorite recipe for making zucchini bread so instead of a quick bread I've come up with a chocolate topped, Cocoa flavored zucchini squares. It's just as simple and quick to make as the traditional zucchini bread and enhanced with Cocoa. Hope you will try:

TOM'S COCOA ZUCCHINI SQUARES

Ingredients:
1 3/4 c Flour

1/4 c Cocoa powder
plus 2 T more
1/2 t Cinnamon
1/4 t Allspice
1 t Baking Soda
1/4 t Salt
1 c Sugar
1/2 c Brown Sugar
2 lg. Eggs
1/2 c Canola oil
1 T Butter, melted
1 t Vanilla
1 medium Zucchini
1/2 c chopped Pecans
Topping:
1/2 c Semisweet Chocolate chips
Set oven to 350°.

Butter a 10" square pan, bottom and sides. Coat with Cocoa powder. In a small bowl, place the pecans and top with 1 T Cocoa powder and stir until coated. Grate the zucchini and squeeze it with a kitchen towel to remove its liquid and leave it as dry as possible. In a mixing bowl combine and whisk together the flour, cocoa powder, cinnamon, allspice, baking soda and salt.

In a mixer combine the sugar, brown sugar and the eggs. Beat for 4 minutes at medium speed, then add the Canola oil, butter, and Vanilla. Beat for another minute.

Add the flour mixture and beat for 2 1/2 minutes. Expect a thick batter. Using a wooden spoon, fold in the zucchini and then the pecans.

Place the batter into the pan and spread out evenly. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes; do not overbake. Place pan on rack.

While still hot from the oven, top with the chocolate chips. Leave for a couple of minutes and once melted, spread over the cake. Let set up and cool completely then cut into squares.

For a party, place a pecan half in the center of each square. If you don't want to top with the chocolate chips, simply dust the top with powdered sugar placed in a fine sifter. To keep from drying, cover the pan with a sheet of foil or plastic wrap.

Really a Delicious treat.
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