

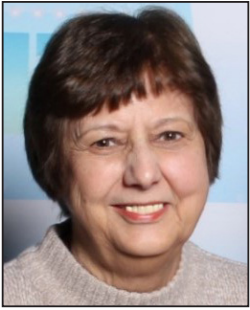


The Record

Volume 136

July 27, 2023

Number 30



Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

By Sharon Hoover

When you receive this, July will almost be over, and my two favorite gardening classes held the first Wednesday and Thursday of the month are on deck. The KSRE Garden Hour's topic is "Integrating Native Plants Into Your Home Landscape" presented on Zoom by Dr. Sharon Ashworth, KSRE Douglas County on Wednesday, August 2 at noon. Native plants grown in our area are more likely to survive in our crazy Kansas weather. If you miss the Zoom presentation, check out <http://ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour>.

On Wednesday, August 3, WYCO Master Gardener Don Crim will present "Harmful Snakes, Spiders, and Poisonous Plants" at 11:30am in the Sunflower Room at the Extension office, 1208 N. 79. There are 40 snakes in Kansas but only five are venomous. Don will explain the characteristics of each and how to identify them along with procedures to follow if bitten.

At the last Elderbears Potluck the guest speaker was a representative from Assisted Transportation (located behind the Dollar General on Metropolitan Ave). The student division of the company is hiring drivers and aides to provide transportation for Pre-K through the 12th grade for the coming school year. Drivers earn \$14-\$16/hour and aides \$12-\$14/hour. Drivers must be 23 years of age, aides at least 18m, must have a valid driver's license and good driving record and pass a physical exam, drug screen and criminal background check. Part-time and full-time hours available, off on weekends, holidays and summer, paid training, and weekly pay. Retirees welcome. If you or someone you know may be interested, positions are also open in Olathe, North and South Overland Park in Kansas/North Kansas City and Liberty in Missouri. To learn more, call (913)521-4955 or apply online at www.assistedtransportation.com.

The second Tuesday of every month, Turner Community Library's Share the Book Club meets at The Windmill KC from 1pm-2pm. When I went to the July meeting, I was impressed by the number of different authors presented but struck by the similarity of our interests. Many of the books discussed were not necessarily new editions but some of the old classics that deserve to be read again.

KCK Animal Services is looking for foster homes. While fostering a cat or dog, you will reduce the length of stay in a shelter, allow Animal Services to save more animals, help gain insight into an animal's personality and prepare them to live in a home. All supplies are provided, and all costs covered. Contact asu@kckpd.org. A list of animals available to foster on Facebook@friendsofkckAS.

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.



August 1 Primary Election Mainstream Coalition Candidate Ratings

By Dr. Jim Haas

The non-partisan Mainstream Coalition has released its ratings of Douglas, Johnson, and Wyandotte County candidates. Mainstream's purpose is "to save Kansas from extremists, outside agendas, and bad policies that would take our state backward." Ratings are from candidate surveys where 100% means broad alignment with Mainstream values (* = incumbent). Candidates who failed to return surveys are not shown.

Douglas County

Lawrence City Commission (At-Large): Amber Sellers* 100%; Brad Finkeidel* 85%.

Johnson County City Councils

Gardner: Jonathon B. Allee 80%; **Lenexa:** Courtney Elterich* (Ward 1) 100%; **Merriam,** Whitney M. Yadrich* (Ward 2) 100%; **Olathe:** Phillip Arbuckle (Ward 1) 100%; Chad Carroll (Ward 1) 100%; Matthew Schoonover (At-Large) 100%; **Overland Park:** Selamawit Gebre-Amlak (Ward 1) 100%; Holly Grummert* (Ward 1) 100%; **Prairie Village:** Bonnie Limbird* (Ward 3) 100%; Lori Sharp (Ward 3) 95%.

Olathe USD 233 School Board: Will Babbitt (Seat 7, At-Large) 100%; Troy Snider (Seat 7, At-Large) 100%.

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Governor Kelly to Welcome Dolly Parton to Kansas for Imagination Library of Kansas Statewide Celebration

TOPEKA — Governor Laura Kelly announced today that on Monday, August 14, 2023, American icon Dolly Parton will visit Kansas to celebrate the statewide success of her Imagination Library program at a closed event hosted by the Imagination Library of Kansas.

Starting today, every child in Kansas from birth to age five can receive free books every month from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. This is made possible through increased funding provided to the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund by Governor Laura Kelly and the Kansas Legislature. These funds supplement local and regional resources to ensure equitable opportunity across the state. The Imagination Library has gifted over 200 million books worldwide since its launch in 1995.

"I am pleased that we have reached this amazing milestone —

being able to provide the gift of reading for children and families across Kansas," said Governor Laura Kelly. "We know that a child's first five years are critical for health development and childhood literacy. By increasing access to the Imagination Library, we will be nurturing a love for reading and supporting the foundation of a child's social-emotional, physical, and cognitive future. I urge all eligible Kansas families to sign their children up for the Imagination Library of Kansas."

The early childhood period (birth to five years) is the most influential for a child's future, providing the foundation for a child to grow, learn,

and thrive. Leaders across Kansas have been focused on developing strategies to promote early literacy and support educators, parents, and families in fostering commitments to reading. Forming an Imagination Library of Kansas is a significant step towards actualizing these goals by placing books directly in the child's home.

Pratt, Kansas, has the distinction of starting the first Imagination Library site outside Tennessee in 2005. Today, Kansas is celebrating over 52,200 children enrolled and celebrating the milestone of gifting more than 3.8 million books to children since 2005.

Inspired by her father's inability

to read and write, Dolly Parton started her Imagination Library in 1995 to foster a love of reading for the children within her home county. Today, her program mails over 2 million high-quality, age-appropriate books directly to children's homes each month. Each child enrolled in the program receives one book per month until their fifth birthday - at no cost to families. The program's impact has been widely researched, and results suggest positive increases in key early childhood literacy metrics. Penguin Random House is the exclusive publisher of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. For more information, please visit imaginationlibrary.com.

Governor Kelly Highlights Kansas' Continued Success with 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

TOPEKA—Governor Laura Kelly announced today that since its launch in July 2022, the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline connects notably more Kansans to mental health resources in the Lifeline's first full year of operation. In its first year, 9-8-8 saw a 73% increase in contacts compared to the year before the implementation of the three-digit dialing code.

July 16 marked the official first anniversary of the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline number, which connects everyone in the U.S. to a national network of local and state-funded crisis centers available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide free and confidential support with trained crisis counselors.

"Investing in mental health resources like 9-8-8 is critical to saving the lives of Kansans in crisis," Governor Laura Kelly said. "These services make a positive impact by knocking down barriers and stigmas surrounding mental health and connecting people to necessary mental health care professionals and resources."

National usage is rising as 9-8-8 received more than 4 million contacts since its launch last July,

according to data from Vibrant Emotional Health, the organization appointed by the federal government to oversee the line. In Kansas, that number is approximately 24,000 through June this year — a 73% increase over the 10-digit hotline number that received 13,867 over the same period the previous year (July-June).

The Kelly administration's investment in 9-8-8 has improved in-state answer rates, making Kansas one of only 12 states nationally to maintain a rate of 90% or better consistently. According to data from Vibrant, 9-8-8 centers in Kansas have held an in-state call-answer rate of 88% to 92% month-over-month amid increased call volume. Just a few years ago, Kansas answered about 60% of National Suicide Prevention Line (NSPL) calls in-state, with many calls rolling over to national backup centers.

Kansas has also performed better than its national peers on average wait times (also known as speed to answer). That rate in Kansas is 21 seconds, outpacing the national average of 35 seconds.

"The efforts of our state lead-

ership and strategic community partners have led to the successful implementation of an exceptional mental health resource that is meeting the needs of thousands of Kansans trying to manage crisis in their daily lives," KDADS Secretary Laura Howard said. "I think the increase in the number of contacts we've seen in the last year bears that out, and we can proudly say that every call, text, or chat we receive has the potential to be life-changing or lifesaving."

Kansas Suicide Prevention Headquarters (KSPHQ) reports receiving an average of 1,230 calls each month from July 2022-June 2023. An average of 15 calls, or 1.2%, per month resulted in emergency dispatch (response by emergency services for imminent risk of harm generally — though not always — with the caller's permission). KSPHQ focuses on working collaboratively with callers to avoid emergency intervention and resolve crises during the initial contact and is equipped to connect callers to emergency service alternatives like mobile response teams and crisis-receiving facilities where available.



**The Record
Publications, LLC**

Publishers of *The Record*

(913) 362-1988

Jon A. Males
Owner/Publisher/Editor

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The Record (USPS No. 002269) is published weekly every Thursday by The Record Publications at 14690 Parallel Rd, Basehor KS 66007. 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, P.O. Box 6197, Kansas City, Kansas 66106-0197

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Consumer Connection: After the storm

Topeka, Kan. – Recent rounds of severe weather including hail and high winds have left many Kansans with damage to their homes, vehicles and property. As Kansans recover from storms, many homeowners may be filing a claim on their homeowners insurance. Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt encourages Kansans dealing with the aftermath of severe weather to consult the Department’s Homeowners Claim Settlement Checklist to help them navigate post-storm recovery.

“The Department has been in contact with local authorities across the state after the most recent storms to offer assistance,” said Schmidt. “Secure your home, contact your insurance agent, document the damage, and contact the Department if you have an insurance issue.”

If you have damage, here are some

helpful tips to remember when filing an insurance claim after a storm:

- Secure your property. First and foremost, you should immediately secure your property safely. Be mindful of broken glass, exposed nails or electrical wires, downed power lines, or any other potential hazard. If you have an electrical or other utility outage, contact your utility company right away.

- Report damage to your insurance agent or company. Contact your agent to start the process as soon as you are able and begin documenting all the damage for your claim. If you need to make emergency repairs to secure your property from further damage, be sure to take photos before doing any permanent fixes.

- Document and organize. Once your claim has been filed, the insurance company may have you provide

additional evidence to estimate the total loss of property and repair costs. Track any expenses associated with temporary repairs or additional costs incurred as a result of the damage, as you may be eligible for reimbursement. Keep any contact information and correspondence with your agent, adjuster, or contractor in an easily accessible place.

- Beware of fly-by-night contractors. Often severe weather can bring a host of contractors knocking on your door with offers to fix your damage, or even help you work with your insurance. Always be sure to get more than one bid and consult trusted sources to find a reputable contractor. Be very skeptical of a contractor who pressures you to sign over your assignment of benefits on your claim, as this gives them full authority to negotiate and make de-

isions with the insurance company without you!

Contact the Kansas Insurance Department’s Consumer Assistance Division toll-free at 1-800-432-2484, by email kid.webcomplaints@ks.gov or visit the Department online at insurance.kansas.gov for any claims-related questions or concerns.

The Kansas Legislature established the Kansas Insurance Department in 1871, currently led by Commissioner Vicki Schmidt. The mission of the Department is to regulate companies that sell policies in Kansas to ensure solvency and compliance with state law, educate consumers about all things insurance and securities, and advocate for a strong and competitive market to give Kansans choices when shopping for products that meet their needs.



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**Kansas City Kansas
Community College**



Mainstream...
...from page 1

Wyandotte County

Unified Government Board of Commissioners: Anna Cole (Dist. 2) 100%; Patrick Sumner (Dist. 2) 100%; Michael Aguirre (Dist. 2) 100%; Tina Medina (Dist. 3) 100%; Christian Ramirez* (Dist. 3) 95%; Brandie Armstrong (Dist. 4) 100%; Dr. Evelyn Hill (Dist. 4) 100%; Pamela Penn-Hicks (Dist. 4) 100%; Steve Neal (Dist. 6) 100%.

Register of Deeds: Cece Harlin 100%.

KCK Board of Public Utilities: Brett Parker (Dist. 3) 100%.

Edwardsville City Council: Michael Wheeler 100%.

KCK Community College Board of Trustees: Donald Ash* (At-Large) 85%.

The primary election matters because it determines our choices in the November election, and local offices matter because the work is important and because they provide experience in conducting the people's business for those who aspire to state and national offices. Democracy works when we work at it. Please vote.

Summertime activities that might affect people's tax return next year

For many people, summertime means change. Whether it's a life change like a marriage or a typical summer event – like sending the kids to camp – things people do in summer could affect their income taxes. Here are a few summertime activities and tips on how taxpayers should consider them during filing season.

Getting married

Wedding season is upon us and newlyweds can make tax filing easier by doing a few simple things. First, report any name change to the Social Security Administration. Next, notify the United States Postal Service, employers, and the IRS of any address change. To officially change their mailing address with the IRS, taxpayers must complete Form 8822, Change of Address, and mail it to the correct address for their area. See page 2 of the form for detailed instructions. Making these changes as soon as they happen will help make filing their tax return easier.

Sending kids to summer camp

If a taxpayer is sending a child to summer camp, the cost may count toward the Child and Dependent Care Credit.

Traveling for business

Kids may have the summer off, but parents generally don't. Business travel happens year-round. Tax deductions are available for certain people who travel away from their home or main place of work for business reasons. Whether a business traveler is away for a few nights or all summer long, it is important for them to remember the rules related to business travel.

Working part time

While summertime and part-time workers may not earn enough to owe federal income tax, they should file a tax return to get any refund they may be owed. Part-time and seasonal workers can visit IRS.gov to learn more about who should file a tax return. Some taxpayers earn summer income as a gig economy worker. These workers are encouraged to visit the Gig Economy Tax Center at IRS.gov to learn how participating in the gig economy can affect their taxes. If taxpayers are paid through payment apps and receive more than \$600, they may receive an IRS Form 1099-K reporting their earnings. For more information, go to www.irs.gov/1099k.

Home improvements

Nothing says summertime quite like a honey-do list of around-the-house projects. The IRS has information to help taxpayers take advantage of potential tax benefits for some home improvements. If taxpayers make qualified energy-efficient improvements to their home after Jan. 1, 2023, they may qualify for a tax credit up to \$3,200. They can claim the credit for improvements made through 2032. Taxpayers are encouraged to visit the Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit page of IRS.gov to learn more.

If taxpayers make energy improvements to their home, tax credits are available for a portion of qualifying expenses. The credit amounts and types of qualifying expenses were expanded by the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. These types of projects include Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit for things like water heaters, exterior windows and doors, and heating and air conditioning installations. Residential Clean Energy Credits are available for taxpayers who install solar, wind and geothermal power generation; solar water heaters; or fuel cells and battery storage.

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The person named below has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR, part 8 dated June 2, 1988).

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