



The Record

Volume 136

October 19, 2023

Number 42

Vote by November 7



By Dr. Jim Haas

Local elections matter. Mayors, councilpersons, school and community college board members, and other officials make decisions that directly affect our daily lives. Furthermore, successful local office holders often run for state or federal positions, so local elections tend to select those who will wield more power in the future. Democracy begins close to home.

Advance voting in person begins October 28 in Wyandotte County and October 30 in Johnson County. For hours and locations, visit www.wycovotes.org or www.jocoelection.org. Applications for mail-in ballots are also available on these sites. Election offices in other counties have similar sites.

The Mainstream Coalition, a respected non-partisan citizen group dedicated to moderate, responsible government, rates candidates based on their answers to a Mainstream survey. Ratings are online at www.mainstreamcoalition.org along with candidates' survey answers. Candidates who fail to return the survey are not shown. Mainstream's principles and priorities are under "About" on the website menu.

Let's make our voices heard in these important elections. Let's all vote!

Mother shares tragic story about loss to help put the brakes on fatalities

Two seconds of being unbuckled was all it took. In that time, 16-year-old Miranda Dunsworth lost control of the vehicle, which then flipped, broke her neck, threw her from the car and then landed on her. She died on June 21, 2012.

One of the two people who went to her parents' house to make the notification was Finney County Warrants Deputy Sam Darroch. Darroch has been a law enforcement officer for 23 years now, but still remembers the crash. He was the one who responded to the 911 call, and he was the first one on the scene.



16-year-old Miranda Dunsworth

It was such a tragedy, "but the thing that bothered me the most was at the time, I had a young teenage girl, and she would be driving within the next year or two," Darroch said.

It was a somber reminder that, "driving while trying to divide your attention could result in deadly consequences if you fail," he said.

The loss to her parents, other family members and friends was indescribable. "Miranda's passing was the worst thing that could have ever happened to my husband and I," said Miranda's mother, Angie Landon Dunsworth. "Miranda's funeral and images in my head of my baby lying on a cold slab, something that no parent should ever have to bear."

While it's difficult to think about, Angie is sharing her story as part of the annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day traffic safety blog series where eight other Kansans are also sharing personal stories. The series wraps up today, Oct. 10, which is Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day. Angie hopes by explaining what happened that others learn to always make traffic safety the priority when behind the wheel.

"If I can help just one person, it's worth it," Angie said.

To read Angie's story and the other featured in this year's traffic safety blog series, go to <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/search/label/PBFD%202023>.

Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day is a national safety campaign that started in Kansas in 2001. Whether you are in a vehicle, on a motorcycle or bicycle or even walking, the goal is for you to arrive safely.

The Kansas Department of Transportation and other organizations work together each year on activities, such as the blog series, to raise awareness on traffic safety – from using child safety seats, wearing seat belts and obeying traffic regulations to not driving distracted, not speeding, not driving intoxicated and more.



By Sharon Hoover

Be prepared for some sugar highs because I have several trick or treat events scheduled for the rest of the month for kids and their families.

October 27 – Turner Recreation Center’s Spooktacular 6pm - 8pm Trunk or Treat in the upper parking lot. Costume contest in the gym. 831 S. 55th St. KCK

October 28 - Ag Hall’s Jack O Lantern Jubilee 3pm - 6pm. Hayrides, story time, Halloween themed games, carved pumpkin contest,

Comin’ & Goin’ Turner Style

concessions, witch crackling contest, train rides, & more. \$10 per vehicle cost to cover fuel costs for hayrides and train rides. 630N 126th, Bonner Springs.

October 29 – Dynamic Life Baptist Ministries is hosting a Trunk or Treat event from 4pm-6:30pm. Free Event, Safe Environment, Candy, Food and Fun. 1916 Central Ave. KCK.

October 30 – Main Library Parking Lot Trunk or Treat Family Party. 6pm - 8pm. Costumes encouraged but not required. Join in Party Magic and excitement. 625 Minnesota

Ave. KCK

Non-Halloween events coming up.

October 26 - TRC Elderbearies Field Trip to Shatto Milk Company 9:30am - 2:00pm. The cost is \$20 with lunch included. 913 287-2111.

October 27 – Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas is holding a Hispanic Open House from 10am -12pm. Join the bilingual tour of KCK local Family Support Center and learn how they serve the Hispanic community with their programs and resources. Location - Hope Distribution Center, 1708 Steele Road.


KCK. Contact Kendra Dudasko at kdudasko@catholicaritiessks.org.

October 28 - Community Harvest Fest (sponsored by A Loving Space Foundation) 1pm - 4pm. Receive items for the family, haircuts, hair braiding, nonperishable items, a hot meal, school supplies, sporting goods, books, resources & much more. Headline Barber Academy, 4327 State Avenue KCK

November 2 - South Branch Library is holding a Celebration of Day of the Dead. 6pm -8pm. Open to all ages. Enjoy performances, activities and observe cultural displays. Multilingual event.

K-State Extension and KCKCC is sponsoring a Kitchen Restore Project. They are collecting new and gently used kitchen items for those with minimal or no resources for cooking simple meals. Call 913 299-9301 for the wish list. Monetary donations are also welcome. Deadline is November 3. 1216 N. 79 KCK Office hours 8am-4:30pm.

Until next time, stay safe and be kind to those around you. Troubles abound in every shape and form when you least expect them.



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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Guest Column from Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt

Earlier this year, I shared with Kansans that I had been diagnosed with breast cancer. I also shared that I expected to make a full recovery. Following surgery and several radiation treatments, I am thrilled to share that I am now cancer free. However, I must say I do not think I will ever fully recover from this experience. I think that is why they call them cancer survivors.

Sharing the news, I had cancer, was an experience in and of itself. Cancer is a difficult personal experience.

2024 Medicare Open Enrollment Begins October 15th

TOPEKA – More than 572,000 Kansas residents receive health coverage through Medicare, and the time to review benefits is only days away. The program’s Fall Open Enrollment period, when you can make changes that take effect January 1 of the following year, occurs each year from October 15 through December 7.

“It’s important that Medicare beneficiaries make sure their current providers are still participating in their plan for 2024 and that the cost of any medications they need hasn’t increased,” KDADS Director of Medicare Programs Emily Blanch said. “Medicare beneficiaries can make changes to several aspects of their coverage, so it’s important to look at all the options again before you lock yourself in for another year. We encourage people

to always take advantage of open enrollment because all of us have health care needs that change over time and Medicare plans change as well.”

By shopping available plans and comparing costs, beneficiaries may be able to find a Medicare health or drug plan with better coverage or a lower premium in 2024. Help is out there:

- The Medicare Plan Finder, an online tool that helps people compare pricing between Original Medicare, Medicare prescription drug plans, Medicare Advantage plans, and Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) policies, will be updated with 2024 information by October 1, 2023.

- 1-800-MEDICARE is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to provide help in English and

Spanish as well as more than 200 additional languages.

- Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas is a free program that offers Kansans unbiased assistance with questions about Medicare and other insurance issues. SHICK has counselors throughout the state to educate and assist the public in making informed decisions for each individual situation. This counseling services is free at 1-800-860-5260.

During open enrollment, those currently enrolled may:

- Switch from original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage plan, or vice versa
- Switch from one Medicare Advantage plan to another, or from one Medicare Part D prescription drug plan to another
- If you didn’t enroll in a Medi-

care Part D plan when you were first eligible, you can do so during open enrollment, although a late enrollment penalty may apply

If you want to enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan, you must meet some basic criteria:

- You must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B
- You must live in the plan’s service area

If you’re already enrolled in a Medicare Part D prescription plan or a Medicare Advantage Plan and you don’t want to make changes to your coverage for 2024, you don’t need to do anything during open enrollment, assuming your current plan will still be available in 2024. If your plan is being discontinued and isn’t eligible for renewal, you

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



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LEGAL PUBLICATION

Request for Proposal Advertisement

Turner Unified School District No. 202 is seeking Bid Proposals for Foodservice Equipment at various schools in Turner USD 202.

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

Turner USD 202 Facility Supervisor, Chris Crockett will host the blind bid opening, October 31, 2023 at 10:00 am. 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 Wednesday November 8, 2023.

(First published 10-19-23)
2t-The Record-10-26-23

Request for Proposal Advertisement

Turner Unified School District No. 202 is seeking Bid Proposals for Installation of Promethean Displays at Oak Grove Elementary.

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

Turner USD 202 Facility Supervisor, Chris Crockett will host the blind bid opening, October 31, 2023 at 10:30 am. 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 Wednesday November 8, 2023.

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Governor Kelly Announces Juneteenth to be Observed as a State Holiday Kansas Joins 28 Other States Including Texas, Missouri, and Nebraska

TOPEKA –Governor Laura Kelly announced that Kansas will designate Juneteenth as a state holiday, joining 28 other states and the District of Columbia.

“Juneteenth marks a significant point our nation’s history and has long been celebrated in Kansas and across the United States,” Governor Laura Kelly said. “Establishing Juneteenth as a state holiday pro-

vides Kansans an opportunity to celebrate our state’s diversity and honor the ongoing struggles for racial equality.”

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day the last enslaved Americans received word that President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation to abolish slavery more than 2 years after the end of the

Civil War. Governor Kelly has issued proclamations recognizing Juneteenth every year since 2020.

“I am thrilled that Juneteenth will be a state holiday,” said Stacey Knoell, Executive Director of the Kansas African American Affairs Commission. “This day is a perfect example of the importance of learning the full picture of history, not to cast blame but to find reasons for acknowledging resilience. I hope

this day can become one where Kansans can unite in celebration.”

In 2021, Juneteenth became the first federal holiday created in more than 40 years. Since then, Kansas’ neighboring states of Nebraska, Missouri, and Colorado have also established Juneteenth as a state holiday. The holiday will apply to Executive Branch employees under Governor Kelly’s jurisdiction.

Medicare Enrollment... ...from page 3

will receive a non-renewal notice from your carrier prior to open enrollment.

Each year, there’s a Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period from January 1 through March 31. During this time, if you’re in a Medicare Advantage plan and want to change your health plan, you can switch to a different Medicare Advantage Plan with or without drug coverage or go back to original Medicare and, if needed, also join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan.

Changes to be aware of for 2024 include:

- 21 Medicare prescription drug plans will be available with premiums varying from \$0.50 to \$106.70
- 77.81 percent of people with a stand-alone Medicare prescription drug plan have access to a plan with a lower premium than what they paid in 2023

- 92 Medicare Advantage plans are available in 2024, compared to 90 plans in 2023

- 100 percent of people with Medicare have access to a Medicare Advantage plan

- The average monthly Medicare Advantage plan premium changed from \$7.42 in 2023 to \$9.90 in 2024, representing a \$2.48 change in average premium

- Through the Inflation Reduction Act, people with Medicare prescription drug coverage who fall into the catastrophic phase of the prescription drug benefit won’t have to pay anything out of pocket

during that phase for covered Medicare prescription drugs

- There will be expanded eligibility for full benefits under the Extra Help program, meaning all Extra Help enrollees will pay no deductible, no premium, and benefit from fixed lower copayments for certain medications. Learn more about the Extra Help program, including eligibility criteria and how to apply

To help with Medicare costs, low-income seniors and adults with disabilities may qualify to receive financial assistance from a Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs). MSPs help millions of Americans access high-quality health care at a reduced cost, yet only about half of eligible people are enrolled. MSPs cover Medicare premiums and may also cover Medicare deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments if individuals meet the eligibility requirements in their state. Enrolling in an MSP offers relief from these Medicare costs, allowing people to spend money on other necessities like food, housing, or transportation.

The Low-Income Subsidy Program, also called Extra Help, is a Medicare program that helps qualifying individuals pay Part D premiums, deductibles, coinsurance, and other costs. Enrollees can save nearly \$300 per year on average according to estimates. Up to three million seniors and people with disabilities could benefit from the Extra Help program but aren’t currently enrolled. Individuals who enroll in MSPs automatically qualify for help affording prescription drugs through the Extra Help program.

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. 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. Rudy Padilla Email opkansas@swbell.net or Maria Cristina Herrera MariCriszap@gmail.com

Vicki Schmidt..

...from page 2

rience for everyone, and I was not completely comfortable with the idea of being the political gossip of the day. But I wanted something good to come from it. While reluctant, I shared it anyway. Once I saw it made national news, I knew sharing my story was the right thing to do for breast cancer awareness.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and I hope it will serve as a reminder to everyone to schedule their yearly mammogram. Mine was lifesaving. I would, once again, like to thank the University of Kansas Cancer Center for the world-class care I received. We are blessed to have such a wonderful facility here at home.

No one can accurately prepare you for a battle with cancer, though I was inspired by the stories people would share with me about their own battles. Kansans have long served as my extended family and during my battle they lived up to the kind, compassionate and supportive nature we are known for in the Midwest. I have never felt more loved. I have never been prouder to

be a Kansan. And I have never been more thankful to have my husband, Mike, by my side.

This journey has taught me a lot about the fight it takes it takes to navigate a serious health situation, the compassion needed to guide people through it and the headaches insurance can sometimes add to an already difficult situation.

I know I cannot fix everything, but as an elected official, it is my job to help in every way I can. If you or someone you know has an issue with any type of insurance, I hope you will contact me at the Kansas Insurance Department. Nothing gets me heated more than hearing about an issue I could have helped with, but no one reached out. Well, except the hot flashes.

Kansans have had my back and I have a renewed fight for the work done at the Kansas Insurance Department. It is an honor to work on your behalf and I thank you for your support during this journey.

Vicki Schmidt was elected Kansas Insurance Commissioner in 2018 and re-elected in 2022. She is the first pharmacist to serve as Kansas Insurance Commissioner and is one of only two pharmacists in America to hold a statewide office.



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