



The Record

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Norman Lear; Kennedy Center Honors

By Dr. Jim Haas

Few people have brought more joy to generations of TV fans than Norman Lear, who passed away December 5 at the age of 101. He wrote, produced, or developed more than a hundred shows and films and continued actively working right to the end. Lear was best known for his hugely popular situation comedies of the 1970s and 80s: *All in the Family*, *Maude*, *One Day at a Time*, *Sanford and Son*, *The Jeffersons*, and *Good Times*.

Lear's shows were both funny and thoughtful with political and social themes that were new, indeed revolutionary, to sitcoms. Most memorable, perhaps, was *All in the Family* whose central character, white, working-class Archie Bunker, resented the changes that had been taking place since his formative years in the 1930s and alluded to in the show's theme song, "Those Were the Days." Bunker was grumpy and quick to give his bigoted opinions about Blacks, gays, women, and anyone else who was different from men like him. *All in the Family* won several Emmys in its first year including Outstanding Comedy Series and was the highest-rated TV show for the next five years and in the top ten for several more.

Asked in an interview about Bunker's bigotry, Lear said it was a symptom of a larger issue: "Archie Bunker was a man afraid of tomorrow." Bigotry was his way of resisting a changing world he didn't understand; a world where people



like him were no longer in charge as they had been during the years celebrated in "Those Were the Days"; a world where all tomorrows would be different from Bunker's yesterdays.

Among Lear's many awards was the National Medal of Arts presented by President Clinton, who said, "Norman Lear has held up a mirror to American society and changed the way we look at it." Lear was also a 2017 Kennedy Center Honoree at age 95.

The annual Kennedy Center Honors are a highlight of the holiday TV season and will be broadcast December 27 on CBS. This year's Honors for lifetime achievements in the arts and culture are Billy Crystal, Renee Fleming, Barry Gibb, Queen Latifah, and Dionne

Warwick. Years ago, Crystal was on a talk show telling funny stories about his early career when the host asked if he had been the class clown in school. Crystal said he wasn't and explained that he is a comedian: "The class clown is the kid who drops his pants at a football game. A comedian is the guy who talks him into doing it."

Beyond his entertainment career, Norman Lear was a devoted patriot. During World War II, he flew 52 combat missions in B-17s, many over Germany that were among the most dangerous duties of the war. He was awarded the Air Medal.

In 1980, Lear founded the non-profit People for the American Way (PFAW), a progressive advocacy organization whose website *Right Wing Watch* is often quoted by leading media including *Forbes* and NPR. PFAW has produced TV specials and has a U-Tube channel. Lear, supported by former presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford, also conducted extensive voter registration programs enrolling more than four million voters.

In 2001, Lear and his wife bought for \$8.1 million one of 25 known copies of the Declaration of Independence printed by John Dunlap in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776. The Lears sent the Declaration on a four-year tour of the U.S., displaying it to the public at presidential libraries and nearly a hundred museums. Lear said he wanted Americans to have the opportunity to see the nation's "birth certificate." Thanks to him, millions did.



By Sharon Hoover

Some time ago, I think it was on Facebook, I saw some unique definitions of words. FAIL is the "First Attempt In Learning". END stands for "Effort Never Dies". NO means "Next Opportunity". I just thought you might enjoy turning a negative into a positive. Change of personal mindset.

Since the month of December is over halfway through, I thought I'd skip ahead to some events happening in January.

The Neighborhood Resource Center is holding a Blood Drive on January 4 from 11am-3pm in the Large Meeting Room at 4953 State Avenue. The American Red Cross is partnering with Livable Neighborhoods. Schedule an appointment today at 1 800-REDCROSS or visit redcrossblood.org and enter Livable Neighborhoods.

K-State's WYCO Research and Extension program for the month of January will be on the 4th at 11:30am -1:00 pm entitled "Good Bugs, Bad Bugs Found in Kansas Environments". The presenter is Don Crim, a WYCO Master Gardener since 2001. There are about 15,000+ insect species in Kansas but only about 5% are harmful in

some way. The rest are beneficial or neutral. Don will cover some of the most common beneficial and harmful insects and explain what characters make each insect good or bad. He will discuss how you can protect yourself from injury or damage that harmful insects cause. Spiders are not insects, but he will also discuss various spider species. The Extension Office is located at 1208 N 79th St KCK.

To better serve the transit riding community, the United Government is conducting a Transit Ridership Survey. Riders are invited to comment on present services they use, their needs, and improvements. To take the survey go to <https://www.surveymonkey/r/UGtransit>.

Deadline for comments is January 19, 2024.

The KCKPD has scheduled a Citizens Police Academy for Spanish Speakers starting January 10, 2024, for 8 weeks. This free course teaches the basics of law enforcement and the policies and procedures of the KCKPD. It is hopeful graduates will share their knowledge with neighbors to strengthen the relationship between the Hispanic Community and the KCKPD. The class will be taught by Captain Osvaldo Navarro who can be reached at 913-573-6277. Please pass this information to anyone who think may be interested.

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

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**Governor
Unveils
Middle-of-the-
Road Medicaid
Expansion
Legislation
Proposes Expanding
Medicaid at No
Additional Cost to
Kansas Taxpayers**

HOLTON – Today at Holton Hospital, Governor Laura Kelly unveiled the Cutting Healthcare Costs for All Kansans Act to expand Medicaid, a state and federal health insurance program, to an estimated 150,000 Kansans at no additional cost to state taxpayers. The commonsense legislative proposal builds on previous bipartisan Medicaid Expansion proposals to address Republican concerns, including by making the bill revenue-neutral.

The introduction of this legislation follows the months-long "Healthy Workers, Healthy Economy" tour in which the Governor rallied healthcare workers, farmers and ranchers, business leaders, faith leaders, and rural Kansans across the state in support of Medicaid Expansion. The bill would expand health

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DCF Opens Energy Bill Assistance Program Early

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program opens two weeks early this winter

TOPEKA—With temperatures dropping, the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) announced today that Kansans needing financial assistance to keep their heat on this winter can apply for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) earlier this year than in past years.

“Kansas winters can be brutal and no Kansas family should be cold,” said Laura Howard, DCF Secretary. “We are accepting LIEAP applications beginning Dec. 18, rather than the beginning of January as we have traditionally done.”

LIEAP helps Kansans restore or maintain energy services that heat their home. This includes electricity, natural gas, propane, and other home heating fuels.

“We understand that applying for benefits can be complicated,” Howard said. “Beginning Dec. 18 through the end of March, DCF and partnering energy companies will be available to help Kansans gather information and submit their LIEAP applications.”

To attend an in-person LIEAP application event near you, visit LIEAP one-on-one support page. Kansans should have with them their identification, proof of income for all adult household members and current utility bills. Partnering energy companies, Atmos Energy, Black Hills Energy, Evergy, Kansas Gas Services and Midwest Energy, will be in attendance at most events in the areas that they provide energy services to Kansans.

Applications are accepted on-line at www.dcf.ks.gov, click “Apply for Services,” until 5 p.m., March 29. To qualify, households must have an adult at the address that is responsible for the heating costs of the home. Applicants be at or below 150% of the federal poverty level.

2024 Income Eligibility Guidelines

Persons Living at the Address/
Maximum Gross Monthly Income

1	\$1,823
2	\$2,465
3	\$3,108
4	\$3,750
5	\$4,393
6	\$5,035
7	\$5,678
8	\$6,320
9	\$6,963
10	\$7,605
11	\$8,248
12	\$8,890

\$643 for each additional person

Discover more information about LIEAP in Kansas including frequently asked questions, other community resources, and the complete list of LIEAP application events scheduled. Funding for LIEAP is provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Service through the Federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

The Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) mission to protect children, strengthen families and promote adult self-sufficiency. DCF’s more than

35 service centers across the state offers a wide range of support services including food, utility, and child care assistance, child support services, and employment education and training. DCF also partners with grantees to provide foster care services to children including case planning, placement, life skills, and foster parent recruitment and training. DCF works in partnership with organizations, communities, and other agencies to support families, children and vulnerable adults connecting them with resources, supports and networks in their home communities.



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Middle-of-the-Road... ...from page 2

coverage to working Kansans who currently make too much money to qualify for Medicaid but don't receive health insurance through work or make too little to afford private health insurance.

"Each year I've been in office, I have introduced a bill to expand Medicaid with support from both sides of the aisle. The year, we're going a step further to meet Republicans in the middle, putting forward a plan that would cut healthcare costs, create jobs, and grow our economy – all at no additional cost for Kansas taxpayers," Governor Laura Kelly said. "We have taken such a bipartisan approach to incorporate what I've been hearing from Kansans during my tour and to reflect conversations we've had with Republican lawmakers. Now, there's no excuse – at this point, every legislator standing in the way of Medicaid expansion is going against a commonsense, fiscally responsible proposal that benefits their constituents.

"As Governor Kelly's 'Healthy Workers, Healthy Economy' tour highlighted, Medicaid expansion is an obvious solution to provide healthcare to hardworking Kansans and to support our hospitals," said Ed O'Malley, President and CEO of the Kansas Health Foundation. "We appreciate that, by putting forward this measured proposal, Governor Kelly is clearly working to bring Republicans to the table. That's what's needed to get Medicaid expanded in Kansas."

Addressing key Republican concerns, the Cutting Healthcare Costs for All Kansans Act:

Comes at no additional cost to Kansas taxpayers. The federal government pays for 90% of the costs to expand Medicaid, while states pay 10%. Under this proposal, the state's 10% share is completely covered by drug rebates, a hospital fee, savings from higher reimbursement rates for existing Medicaid recipients, and additional federal funding. This does not include expected additional revenue from

Kansas businesses boosted by a healthier workforce or reduced state expenditures on incarceration and state services because of a healthier population.

"My goal is to ensure Kansans' tax dollars never go to waste, which is why I support this approach to expanding Medicaid," said Kansas Senator Carolyn McGinn. "Right now, Kansans' federal tax dollars are going to support hospitals and jobs in states like New York, California and every state adjacent to us instead of being invested in the people of Kansas."

"It makes no sense to me that, while 40 other states have expanded Medicaid, we have not. Our tax dollars are going to every one of our neighboring states, while healthcare costs rise and hospitals close here in Kansas," said Kansas Representative Dave Younger. "By including a work requirement and making sure Kansas taxpayers won't pay for Medicaid expansion, this proposal addresses many of the concerns my Republican colleagues have had. Now, those in leadership positions need to let this topic be debated and voted on."

Grows the Kansas workforce. This compromise proposal goes a step further than Governor Kelly's other Medicaid Expansion proposals by including a work requirement for Medicaid enrollees to ensure Kansas' workforce remains strong. There will be exceptions to this requirement, including for full-time students, full-time caretakers, veterans, and Kansans with medical conditions.

The bill will also reduce uncompensated care costs – the costs healthcare providers take on when uninsured patients can't afford to pay a medical bill -- which will allow providers to compete for healthcare workers in an environment in which all the states surrounding Kansas have now expanded Medicaid.

"This proposal addresses a lot of the concerns I've heard from Republican colleagues by including a work requirement and multiple funding streams to ensure Kansas taxpayers won't foot the bill for Medicaid expansion," said Kan-

sas Senator John Doll. "I urge my Republican colleagues to join me in supporting this bill to ensure our rural hospitals stay open, to cut healthcare costs and lower taxes, and to get affordable healthcare to more working Kansans."

Improves public safety. For too long, prisons and jails have been shouldering the burden of providing medical care to uninsured inmates at their own expense. Governor Kelly worked with the law enforcement community to include this provision so that law enforcement can redirect those resources to focus on keeping Kansans safe. This would also reduce pressure on local governments to increase property taxes for correctional healthcare costs.

"This bill provides relief for county jails like the Sedgwick

County Jail, which have been burdened with covering the high costs of health care for uninsured inmates," said Sedgwick County Sheriff Jeffrey Easter. "If this part of the expansion proposal were to pass, it would cut down on expenses for local taxpayers and ease up resources so our law enforcement can focus on public safety."

"I support expanding Medicaid with this provision to include health coverage for recently admitted inmates," said Douglas County Sheriff Jay Armbrister. "We have seen benefits and cost savings in working with local providers for having health care rates that match Medicaid. Doing so takes the financial and administrative burden of providing that care off counties and keeps our attention focused on our top priority: public safety."

Attorney General Kobach refiles natural gas price gouging lawsuit

TOPEKA – (December 13, 2023) – Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach today refiled a price gouging lawsuit against Macquarie Energy. The federal suit seeks to recover money for Kansas consumers after Macquarie manipulated natural gas prices during Winter Storm Uri in February 2021 and overcharged Kansans.

"It's disgraceful that Macquarie would manipulate prices at a time when Kansans were already hurting from the storm," Kobach said. "We will do everything we can to recover what was taken from those Kansans."

The suit alleges that Macquarie, the nation's second-largest gas marketer, manipulated natural gas prices by overpaying for natural gas from the state's largest supplier. Macquarie passed the inflated costs on to Kansas consumers, forcing them to pay more than market forces would require. The AG's complaint alleges that Macquarie overcharged Kansans \$50 million and profited handsomely in the process.

"To put it simply... Macquarie's manipulation of the benchmark daily price materially benefited Macquarie while harming others depending on the gas distributed on the Southern Star pipeline, including many Kansans," the suit reads.

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 23-020 Summer Roofing Projects . Sealed bids should be addressed to: Purchasing Department, Board of Education, 2010 N. 59th Street, Room 370, Kansas City, KS 66109 - "IFB No. 23-020- "Summer Roofing Project")

Bids will be opened 01/04/24 @ 1:00 PM in the Purchasing Office.

Bid Documents are available at the Purchasing Department Office, at the above-address between 8 AM and 4 PM, M-F. Bid Documents are posted.

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