

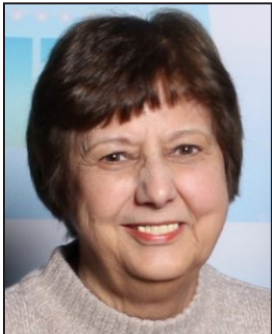
The Record

Volume 136

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Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

Hot! Hot! Hot! Cooling centers are now open in KCK. Go to ug-health.info/cool to find a center near you.

Providence YMCA/Ball Family Center is holding free swim lessons at the Parkwood Park

Pool on Sundays from July 7-July 28. Different classes will be held for infants through adults. You must enroll and complete an application before the program begins. Packets available at the Parkwood Park Pool.

In the June 20 edition of *The Record*, I wrote about a stormwater treatment facilities event at

Memorial Hall. Stormwater treatment facilities are for everyone. If you experience flooding or water pollution, you can take care of this in your own backyard by creating a rain garden, setting up a rain barrel, or growing native plants. The UG has a special program to set up a STF at your home or business. Funding is limited. Visit the Storm Quality Program webpage at wycokck.org/stormwater.

Wyandotte Conservation District and the UG are holding a free rain barrel workshop at Turner Community Garden, 55th & Klamm on July 18 from 6:00pm-7:00pm. Discover how easy it is to build a rain barrel of your very own. Learn about the savings and benefits that come from using rain barrels. Explore the ways of incorporating a rain barrel into your landscape. Show off your artistic skills by decorating your rain barrel or painting to match your house. See how to maintain your rain barrel extending its

life and value.

Join your neighbors for the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Presentation with MOCSA at the Main Library on July 11 from 3:30pm-4:30pm. CPTED is a tool to empower neighbors to improve their community by making positive changes to shared spaces. By promoting CPTED violence can be reduced and bring neighbors together. The Presentation will be in the second floor auditorium.

The Wyandotte Behavioral Network is now a 988 call center for individuals in crisis. Calls that originate in Wyandotte County will be routed to this call center. This is not just for suicide prevention but psychotic episodes, substance abuse disorders and panic attacks. Alternate methods of communication are also available such the Crisis Text Line or chat online 988lifeline.org/chat/. For more info online or receive their newsletter wyandotbhn.org or call 913 233-3300.

That's it for now. Until next time, stay safe and be kind to those around you.

Celebrate Safely This Independence Day with Tips from the Experts

TOPEKA—The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Office of the State Fire Marshal (KFSM) and Safe Kids Kansas would like to share some important safety tips to ensure that all Kansans have a safe and fun Independence Day this year.

In 2023, there were a total of 146 injuries

caused by fireworks in Kansas. The person igniting the firework was most likely to be injured, and the hands were the most common body part to be injured. Over half of the injuries that occurred from fireworks that happened on July Fourth were from burns. There was a 43 percent increase in reported injuries from 2022.

With the exception of two age groups all saw an increase. Injuries more than doubled for the 14-18 year old age group. The highest incidents of injuries were caused by mortars or artillery fireworks and other fireworks like parachutes, fountains and spinning items. This data was collected through voluntary reporting from Kansas hospitals and administered by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

“Sparklers are often thought to be safe for young children, but they account for roughly one-quarter of all emergency room visits related to fireworks,” Cherie Sage, director of Safe Kids Kansas, said. “Children should not light fireworks, including sparklers, which burn at

a temperature hot enough to melt glass. We encourage parents to let their little ones use glow sticks instead of sparklers and leave the rest to grownups.”

Grilling is another favorite part of many summertime gatherings. Make sure grills are used outdoors only, away from the home and deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. Keep children and pets away from the grill area and never leave your grill unattended. Clean your grill regularly to prevent grease fires.

“Enjoy a safe and happy July 4th,” Mark Engholm, State Fire Marshal, said. “Always follow firework safety guidelines: keep spectators at a safe distance, never relight malfunctioning fireworks, and have a fire extinguisher or water source ready. When grilling, ensure the grill is on a flat, stable surface away from structures and flammable materials. Let's celebrate respon-



Celebrate Safely...

...from page 2

sibly and protect our community. If possible, go to a public fireworks display.”

Here are some tips to keep your celebrations safe:

- Have adults supervise children and pets around grills and fireworks.
- Designate a child-free safety zone around grills and areas where fireworks are being lit.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Adults should only handle fireworks. Consider giving children glow sticks, which also help you see little ones after dark.
- Have a water supply ready, such as a bucket of water or garden hose.
- Dispose of used fireworks carefully, as they may reignite.
- Keep a first-aid kit available and nearby.
- Ignite fireworks outdoors on a flat surface.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Never stand over fireworks

when lighting or holding a firework in your hand when lighting the fuse and wear eye protection.

• Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.

• Never attempt to make your own fireworks.

Bottle rockets are illegal and M80 type of “fireworks” are considered explosives, and it is a felony in Kansas to possess, manufacture

or use, as well as being extremely dangerous. The use or sale of these banned fireworks and explosives is considered a crime under Kansas law. It is also illegal in Kansas to shoot fireworks on or under any vehicle, on any public roadway, within 50 feet of a fireworks stand or where fireworks are stored, and at gas stations or any place liquid gas—including propane—is stored.

Always refer to the local ordi-

nances as to whether fireworks are allowed in your area as well as what types. Some cities or counties have restricted dates/times or types of fireworks that may be sold or discharged.

In addition, out of respect for veterans when it comes to the individual discharge of fireworks, please keep in mind the noise and stress (PTSD) your activities may cause near VA facilities.

Social Security to Simplify Disability Evaluation Process

Agency to Reduce Work History Period to Five Years

When people become disabled under the statutory definition the Social Security Administration must follow, the agency helps them meet their basic needs and sustain a higher quality of life. Social Security administers disability benefits through two programs: the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program and the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. Under both programs, the agency follows a five-step process to determine if an adult has a qualifying disability.

In response to President Biden’s Executive Order on Transforming Federal Customer Experience and Service Delivery to Rebuild Trust in Government, the agency is proud to announce changes that will reduce administrative burdens for applicants and help more people with disabilities receive government benefits and services if they are eligible. On April 18, 2024, Social Security published a final rule, “Intermediate Improvement to the Disability Adjudication Process: Including How We Consider Past Work.”

The final rule announces updates that will improve the application process for disability benefits and reduce the time applicants wait for a decision. The new rule simplifies step four of the process, which assesses whether a person applying for disability benefits can perform any of their “past relevant work.”

“This new rule will lessen the burden and time our applicants face when filling out information about their work history and will make it easier for them to focus on the most current and relevant details about their past work,” said Martin O’Malley, Commissioner of Social Security. “It also improves the quality of the information our frontline workers receive to make decisions, improving customer service, and reducing case processing time and overall wait times.”

Under the final rule, beginning June 22, 2024, when determining past relevant work, the agency will review only five years of past work. The previous policy required people to provide detailed information about 15 years of work history, which was difficult for individuals to remember and often led to incomplete or inaccurate reporting. Also, the agency will no longer consider past work that started and stopped in fewer than 30 calendar days. The new rule makes it easier for people applying for benefits by focusing on their most recent relevant work activity while still providing enough information to continue making accurate determinations.

This final rule is one of several regulation updates Social Security is publishing to improve its disability program. The agency recently announced it will reduce barriers to access the SSI program by updating the definition of a public assistance household (See Social Security to Expand Access to SSI Program by Updating Definition of a Public Assistance Household). The agency also announced it will exclude the value of food from SSI benefit calculations (See Social Security to Remove Barriers to Accessing SSI Payments). Additionally, the agency announced it will expand its rental subsidy exception, currently only in place for SSI applicants and recipients residing in seven States, as a nationwide policy (See Social Security to Expand SSI Rental Subsidy Policy).

The agency continuously examines programmatic policy and makes regulatory and sub-regulatory changes as appropriate. For more information on the SSDI and SSI programs – including who is eligible, how to apply, and how Social Security makes a disability determination – visit Disability | SSA and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) | SSA.

To read the final rule, “Intermediate Improvement to the Disability Adjudication Process: Including How We Consider Past Work,” visit Federal Register :: Intermediate Improvement to the Disability Adjudication Process, Including How We Consider Past Work.



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AARP Awards \$15,000 Grant to the Unified Government as Part of Nationwide Program to Make Communities More Livable

KANSAS CITY, KS - Recently, AARP announced that the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS (UG) has received a 2024 Community Challenge grant as part of the largest group of grantees to date with \$3.8 million awarded among 343 organizations nationwide. The awarded funds of \$15,000 will be used to place benches at key public spaces across Kansas City, Kansas (KCK).

“AARP Kansas is committed to working with local leaders, advocates, and policymakers to make our communities better places to live for Kansans of all ages, especially those 50 and older,” said AARP Kansas State Director, Glenda DuBoise. “We are proud to collaborate with this year’s grantees as they make immediate improvements to address long-standing and emerging challenges across our communities.”

The intention of this grant program is to make communities more livable for all people, with a particular focus on those aged 50 years and older through an implementation project that can be quickly implemented.

“The AARP Community Challenge grant was a perfect opportunity to further implement Community for All Ages (CFAA) into the KCK community,” said UG Planning + Urban Design Long Range Planner, Alyssa Marcy. “As the UG moves towards our silver-level recognition through the regional CFAA program, this AARP grant award will allow us to provide public benches across the community that can be utilized by residents and visitors of all ages and abilities. It may seem like a small thing, but many of our public spaces – parks, bus stops, social service locations – do not have places for people to sit. With this grant award, the UG can continue to address this dearth and move a step closer towards becoming an accessible, equitable community.”

This year, AARP awarded three different grant opportunities, including flagship grants, capacity-building microgrants for

improving walkability, bikeability, and accessible home modifications, and demonstration grants that focus on equitable engagement to reconnect communities, housing choice design competitions and improving digital connections to endure disasters.

With funding support from Toyota Motor North America, the program is increasing its investment in pedestrian safety projects that will improve streets and sidewalks, create vibrant pedestrian infrastructure, engage community members and much more. AARP is also bolstering its investment in community resilience, rural communities, and addressing disparities.

The grant program is part of AARP’s nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods and rural areas to become great places to live for people of all ages. Since 2017, AARP has invested \$354,761 through 30 grants to nonprofit organizations and government entities across Kansas.

AARP Community Challenge grant projects will be funded in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. True to the program’s quick-action nature, projects must be completed by December 15, 2024.

View the full list of grantees and

their project descriptions at aarp.org/communitychallenge and learn more about AARP’s livable communities work at aarp.org/livable.

About AARP

AARP is the nation’s largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With a nationwide presence, AARP strengthens communities and advocates for what matters most to the more than 100 million Americans 50-plus and their families: health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also produces the nation’s largest circulation publications: AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit www.aarp.org/about-aarp/, www.aarp.org/español or follow @AARP, @AARPenEspañol and @AARPadvocates on social media.



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Wyandot BHN is Now a 988 Call Center

Randy Callstrom President & CEO

It has been nearly two years since the three-digit 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline launched. As more calls begin to come in to the Lifeline, I'm proud to announce that Wyandot BHN is now up and running as a 988 call center. This means that calls to 988 that originate from a Wyandotte County caller will now be routed to our call center, which puts us in a better position to connect callers with other crisis services and support. Individuals in crisis can also reach out to 988 by text or chatting online at 988lifeline.org/chat/.

This milestone is not only an important evolution for Wyandot BHN, but it is also meeting a critical need for our community. There are consistently more calls to 988 from Wyandotte County callers than from Johnson and Sedgwick counties combined. Now that those calls will be answered locally, we are able to dispatch a mobile crisis team when needed and connect callers with ongoing treatment as part of a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention. I want to thank the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services for providing the funding and ongoing support for our call center.

Now that the call center is up and

running, we must turn our attention to the next challenge: making sure people know that the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is available. According to a May 2023 survey from The Pew Charitable Trusts, only 13% of adults in the U.S. were aware of 988 and its purpose. The level of awareness was slightly higher (22%) among those with mental health challenges.

When someone is experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis or suicidal thoughts, it can be difficult to know where to look for help. Thanks to 988, help and hope are just three digits away. When you call 988, you will talk to a mental health professional

who can offer support, resources and crisis intervention. And when needed, a mobile crisis response team can be sent out to support the person in crisis where they are.

On July 16, we will mark two years since the nationwide launch of 988. In its first two years, the 988 Lifeline received more than 10 million calls, texts and chats from people needing support. I encourage you to take the time to learn about 988 and tell your family, friends and co-workers about it. And if you or someone you care about is ever in crisis, I hope that you will remember that live-saving support from 988 is just a phone call, text or chat away.

Kansas Medicaid Program Secures \$2.5 Million Grant to Enhance School-Based Health Services

TOPEKA – The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is proud to announce that the state Medicaid program, known as KanCare, has secured a \$2.5 million grant awarded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for the implementation of School-Based Services (SBS). This grant underscores KDHE's dedication to enhancing the health care services available in Kansas schools, including those related to mental health.

"We are grateful for CMS's support in our efforts to connect more children with the health care services they need right where they learn," KDHE Deputy Secretary for Agency Integration and Medicaid Director Christine Osterlund said. "This grant is a testament to our dedication to the health and well-being of our young citizens, who are the future of our state."

This funding will facilitate the integration of comprehensive health services within schools, ensuring students have better access to necessary care.

The grant will facilitate several key initiatives:

- Enrollment assistance to help eligible students and their families access Medicaid coverage.
- Provision of a broad array of Medicaid-covered health services directly within schools.
- Enhanced outreach and educational efforts to promote the health and wellness of students, reducing the need for emergency care and boosting educational outcomes.

This award reflects a robust partnership between federal and state governments and strengthens the State's commitment to not only meet educational needs but also the physical and mental health requirements of young Kansans.

KDHE extends its heartfelt thanks to David Jordan and the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund for their invaluable support in applying for this award.

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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