

The Record

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Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

Several weeks ago, Nancy Calkins and I were looking through some photos on our phones. I mentioned that I had wanted to change my column picture in *The Record* since right after covid, but I was no good at

selfies and I am not the least bit photogenic. Prior to our discussion one of our lunch group, Phyllis Ray passed. Her daughter Gina said that her mom had always wanted her family and friends to celebrate her life and hold a garden party with fancy hats and colorful clothes. On June 7, we gathered at the Turner Garden. The Sweet Adelines from Sedalia, Platte County, KCMO, Topeka, and Lawrence joined together and performed several songs. Phyllis would have been pleased, music was a big part of her



life, and she enjoyed being a Sweet Adeline. While there, Nancy took several pictures, one of me. Calvin said, "You should replace that old picture of you in *'The Record'*" and so I have.

I picked up a flyer at the Landon Center for residents of Wyandotte County who need a ride to a Medical Appointment. The Wyandotte/Leavenworth Area Agency on Aging has partnered with Assisted Transportation to

provide 2 roundtrips to medical appointments. Participation in this program is subject to the applicant meeting all state and federal eligibility requirements under the Older American Act. Funding for the program is provided by the Kansas Dept for Aging and Disability. For intake and assessment, contact Rik Van Dyke at 913-573-8566. Once qualified call at least 30 days in advance to schedule a ride.

Attend the Korean-Vietnam Conflict Memorial Re-Dedication Ceremony at Wyandotte County Lake Park on June 28 from 9am-10am. The memorial has been updated. The ceremony will recognize the service and sacrifice of those who fought in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The park is located at 91 & Leavenworth Rd.

KCKFD Mission Ready is holding Firefighter Fun & Family Day at the Legends Outlet Mall on June 28 from 12pm-2pm. This is a free event packed with exciting educational activities that honor our local heroes and teach valuable fire prevention skills.

The Turner Recreation Commission is celebrating Independence Day with fireworks at Pierson Park on June 30. The show starts at 9:45pm. Bring your blanket or chairs and enjoy the show.

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

Obituary - Ralph Brightwell

November 8, 1935 — June 10, 2025



Ralph Eugene Brightwell, born on November 8, 1935, in Kansas City, Ks, passed away peacefully on June 10, 2025, surrounded by family.

Ralph was a man of many talents and even

more interests. He spent his career shaping young minds as a high school teacher, coach, and guidance counselor. If you were lucky enough to be his student, you

knew that education was not just about books but also about how to live your best life. Ralph's classroom was wherever he happened to be at the moment.

A proud member of the National Education Association (NEA), Ralph served on both state and local boards. His dedication earned him accolades, including the Caw Valley Junior Chamber of Commerce Young Educator of the Year and the Kansas City Public Schools "Reason to Believe" award in 2004. Ralph also held a term as President of the Argentine Optimist Club, where he was known for his warmth and humor.

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Red Cross to offer new opportunity to help save lives in Greater Kansas City area

People wanting to make a lifesaving difference in the Greater Kansas City area now have the chance to donate blood and platelets at the new American Red Cross Blood Donation Center in Overland Park.

On Friday, June 27, the donation center will begin collecting blood and platelet donations for patients, such as those battling cancer, accident victims, transplant recipients and those living with sickle cell disease.

Red Cross Blood Donation Center
6301 W. 135th St., Ste. C Overland Park, KS 66223

Hours of Operation:

Tuesday & Wednesday: 10am-6pm

Friday & Saturday: 7am-3pm

This is the first time donors are able to give platelets with the Red Cross in the Greater Kansas City and Northwest Missouri area. Platelets are the clotting portion of blood and

are needed for many reasons, but they are primarily given to cancer patients. These tiny cells have a very short shelf life – just five days from the time they are donated – so there is a constant, often critical, need for new and current donors to give to keep up with hospital demand for platelets.

Having a readily available blood supply is vital for patients whose survival depends on transfusions. Donating blood is essential to community health, and volunteer donors are the only source of blood for those in need. By making an appointment to give blood or platelets at the Red Cross Blood Donation Center, donors can feel good knowing that they may be helping patients not only in their community, but also their family and friends across the nation.

“From mothers experiencing childbirth complications to those facing trauma situations in the emergency room, many of us may be connected to someone who has relied on lifesaving blood products,” said JoAnn Woody, Executive Director of the Greater Kansas City and Northwest Missouri Cross Region. “The Red Cross is pleased to offer donors this new opportunity to help provide hope, healing and access to treatment for patients in need.”

In addition to the Red Cross Blood Donation Center, individuals will

also continue to be able to give blood at Red Cross blood drives across the Greater Kansas City and Northwest Missouri community.

How to donate blood or platelets

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

Blood donation safety precau-

tions

To protect the health and safety of Red Cross staff and donors, individuals who do not feel well or who believe they may be ill with COVID-19 should postpone their donation.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including temperature checks, social distancing and face masks for donors and staff – have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.



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Brightwell Obit...

...from page 1

In addition to his professional life, Ralph had a wanderlust that took him on RV caravan trips across the US, Canada, and Mexico, as well as multiple Elderhostel tours abroad. His favorite vacation spots included the idyllic shores of Maui, Hawaii, and the serene beaches of the Outer Banks, North Carolina. When he wasn't traveling, Ralph could be found creating beautiful

stained glass artwork, which he shared with family and friends.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents, Victor and Hilda Brightwell, and his in-laws, Otis and Marguerette Irons. He is survived by his loving wife, Carole Brightwell, who was his partner in all adventures, big and small. His legacy continues through his children, Barry Brightwell (Patricia), Peggy Lynnes (Kevin), and Teri Rose (Mark). Ralph's grandchildren, Ashley Anderson (Sean), Megan Pemberton (Donald), Kenneth Lynnes (Elizabeth),

Tiffany Cook (John), Patrick Brightwell, and Amelia McCollum (Jeff), along with great-grandchildren Lucas, Ryan, Stella, John, Mac, Addison, Maggie, Caroline, and Sorin, will carry forward his spirit of curiosity and joy.

A celebration of Ralph's life was held on June 18 at Amos Family Funeral Home.

Ralph Eugene Brightwell lived a life full of adventure, laughter, and love. Though he may have left this world, his spirit will forever inspire those who knew him.

UnitedHealthcare Invests \$20,000 in Special Olympics Kansas Healthy Athletes® Program

Special Olympics Kansas announced today that UnitedHealthcare has provided a \$20,000 investment to support the organization's Healthy Athletes® program, which offers free health screenings and education to athletes with intellectual disabilities. The donation was celebrated with a check presentation at the Opening Ceremonies of the 2025 Special Olympics Kansas Summer Games at Maize High School.

UnitedHealthcare's support helps ensure that Special Olympics Kansas athletes have access to vital health resources, including vision, hearing, dental, fitness, and emotional well-being screenings, at no cost. The Healthy Athletes program aims to improve athletes' health outcomes and remove barriers to care for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

"We are deeply grateful to UnitedHealthcare for their commitment to the health and well-being of our athletes," said Ryan Warren, Director of Strategic Development of Special Olympics Kansas. "Their investment directly impacts the lives of hundreds of athletes who count on these services to compete, thrive, and live healthy lives."

Representatives from UnitedHealthcare joined Special Olympics Kansas leadership and athletes at the Summer Games for the ceremonial check presentation, reinforcing their shared mission to promote inclusion, health equity, and access to care.

For more information about the Healthy Athletes program or how to support Special Olympics Kansas, visit www.soks.org.

ABOUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS KANSAS

Special Olympics Kansas is dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports competitions, health and nutrition programs and leadership development. Offering year-round initiatives to children and adults with intellectual disabilities, Special Olympics Kansas is a platform for acceptance and inclusion as well as one of the largest advocates for healthy lifestyles in the state - regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, or cultural differences.

It is our belief that participation in sports enables challenges and opportunities to be introduced to the participants, teaching them teamwork, decision making, leadership, goal-setting, perseverance, commitment and sportsmanship, while developing self-confidence, self-esteem, character, and integrity.



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- ◆ Area Schools – sports, activities and issues that affect parents, students and the community.

Potential tax benefits for homeowners

Owning a home costs money, but there are tax benefits available to help homeowners save on some of common costs of homeownership. Homeowners should review the tax deductions, programs and housing allowances to see if they are eligible.

Deductible house-related expenses

Most home buyers take out a mortgage to buy their home and make monthly payments to the mortgage holder which may bundle other home-related costs.

Taxpayers must itemize their deductions to deduct homeownership expenses.

The costs the homeowner can deduct are:

- * State and local real estate taxes, subject to the \$10,000 limit.

- * Home mortgage interest, within the allowed limits.

Homeowners can't deduct any of the following items:

- * Insurance including fire and comprehensive coverage and title insurance.

- * The amount applied to reduce the principal of the mortgage.

- * Wages paid to domestic help.

- * Depreciation.

- * The cost of utilities, such as gas, electricity or water.

- * Most settlement or closing costs

- * Forfeited deposits, down payments or earnest money.

- * Internet or Wi-Fi system or service.

- * Homeowners' association fees, condominium association fees or common charges.

- * Home repairs.

Mortgage Interest Credit

The Mortgage Interest Credit helps people with lower income afford homeownership. Those who qualify can claim the credit each year for part of the home mortgage interest paid. A homeowner may be eligible for the credit if they were issued a qualified Mortgage Credit Certificate from their state or local government.

Ministers and military housing allowance

Ministers and members of the uniformed services who receive a nontaxable housing allowance can still deduct their real estate taxes and home mortgage interest. They don't have to reduce their deductions based on the allowance.

Don't fall for fake KDOT traffic ticket demands

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is warning about a new scam circulating via text message. The texts falsely claim to be from KDOT and demand payment for outstanding traffic tickets.

KDOT does not collect money for traffic tickets and will never request or collect payments through text messages. These messages are not legitimate.

Do not click or open any links within these scam texts. Clicking on these links could expose your personal and financial information to scammers. Never share sensitive personal or financial details via text message or by clicking unknown links.

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