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Photo credit: Kj1595

Touchdown State



By Dr. Jim Haas

On December 22, Governor Laura Kelly and Kansas City Chiefs chairman and CEO Clark Hunt announced that the Chiefs will build a new \$3 billion state-of-the-art domed stadium in Wyandotte County northwest of the intersection of I-70 and I-435 West. Scheduled to open in 2031, the project will include a mixed-use entertainment district near the stadium and a new team headquarters, training facility, and mixed-use development

at a site in Olathe.

Governor Kelly said that this project will be “creating thousands of jobs, bringing in tourists from around the world, attracting young people, and, most importantly, we’re continuing to make Kansas the best place in America to raise a family. [It’s] a signal to America and the world that our state’s future is very bright.” Kelly added that Kansas “is not a flyover state. It’s a touchdown state.”

According to Mr. Hunt, “The benefit

to the entire region will be monumental. A stadium of this caliber will put Kansas City in the running for Super Bowls, Final Fours, and other world-class events. A brand new training facility and headquarters will allow the Chiefs to continue to attract top talent. And the vision for a new mixed-use district will rival that of any sports-anchored development anywhere in the country.”

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By Sharon Hoover

Moving along (on a walker), I am finally getting some long postponed projects done. I guess staying at home is not so bad. I plan to be up and running (ha-ha) next week.

I haven't written about the Keeler Women's Center for some time. Located at 759 Vermont, Suite 100-B, they offer recurring programs for women in English and Spanish year round. They also offer new programs each month. Eli Garcia

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

from K-State Extension, will be presenting the "Creating Better Health" series on Mondays, January 26, February 9th, 16th, and 23rd from 1:00pm-2:30 pm. Brenda Mortell, ObSB, will be teaching Basic Spanish on Wednesdays, January 21st, 28th, and February 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th from 10:00 am-11:30 am. Brenda will also be teaching "How to Use Your Google Drive" on Thursday, January 29 from 10:00am -11:30 am. A couple of craft classes are also being offered- "Just Bead It! Beaded Jewelry Class" with Veronica Williams, Wednesdays, January 7th, and February 4th from 1:00pm-2:00pm and "Shadow Boxes" with Lisa Merry and Barbara Couffer, Tuesdays, February 10th from 1:00-3:00pm. To reserve a space call 913

689-9375 or visit them at www.keelerwomenscenter.org.

The Turner Community Library is offering four events during the week of January 19. On Tuesday, January 20, "Share the Love Book Club" meets at The Windmill KC at 1pm. Talk about your favorite author and get ideas for new authors to try. On Wednesday, January 21, make a "Meditative Mandala" with your one-of-a-kind painting at Turner Community Garden at 2pm. On Friday, January 23, from 1:00-1:45 the STEM: Mad Mixtures class will meet at Turner Community Garden using Chemistry to create bubbling beakers and colorful explosions. On Saturday, January 24, at 11am at the Library, the Graphic Novel Club's book is volume 1 of Naruto and his quest to

become the greatest ninja. Registration is required for all these events, call 913-295-8250 or kckpl.org.

On Friday January 23, at 1:00 pm, Turner Community Connection needs volunteers to help put together Rhyme Time packages at the Turner Community Garden, 667 S. 55th St. Rhyme Time (TUSD202) is an At-Home Learning Program for children ages 0-4 that engages children's rhymes and activities, is mailed to the home, involves singing dancing and play. For more information or to sign up your child or children, contact the Early Literacy Coordinator, Ashle Copple at 913-288-3611 or copplea@turnerusd202.org.

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

Wyandotte County Election Office Re-Launches "I Voted" Sticker Design Contest 2025 Winning Design Worn by over 30,000 Voters

The Wyandotte County Election Office is excited to officially announce the relaunch of the annual "I Voted" Sticker Design Contest for high school students and "Future Voter" Sticker Design Contest for elementary and middle school students.

Last year's inaugural contest was a tremendous success, with the winning student design proudly worn by more than 30,000 voters across Wyandotte County.

This year is especially meaningful as America celebrates its 250th birthday, giving students a unique opportunity to design a sticker that reflects our nation's history, democracy, and future.

"Last year's inaugural contest was a tremendous success, resulting in a distinctive sticker design that celebrated the spirit of voting in our community," said Wyandotte County Election Commissioner Michael Abbott. "With the success of the first annual I Voted sticker contest, we are eager to see the creativity and inspiration reflected in this year's submissions."

Students are encouraged to download the official rules packet and submit their designs for consideration before April 10th, 2026, at 5PM. Contest winners will be announced publicly in May.

Eligibility

- Future Voter Sticker Contest: Open to all Wyandotte County Middle School students

- I Voted Sticker Contest: Open to all Wyandotte County High School Students

- Immediate family members of the Wyandotte County Election Office or members of their household are not eligible to participate

How to Enter:

- Each entry must be submitted individually with a completed entry and parental consent form. There is no limit to the number of entries students or schools may submit.

- Submit artwork, completed entry form, and completed release form:

- In-person at the Wyandotte County Election Office, 850 State Ave., KCK

- By email to election@wycokck.org

Design Requirements

- Artwork must be two-dimensional, 6" round. Artwork must be submitted digitally as a high-resolution PDF or Illustrator file (.AI). Hand-drawn artwork will be accepted.

- Artwork must be nonpartisan, nonpolitical and not advocate for a party, candidate, or any issue. Artwork must not contain anything obscene or inappropriate for general audiences.

- Artwork must be original, contain no copywrite images or trademarks, and must not infringe upon the rights of privacy or other rights of any person. The artwork will remain the property of the Wyandotte County Election Office.

- The design must include the phrase "I Voted" or "I Voted in Wyandotte County" for the I Voted sticker and "Future Voter" or "Future Voter in Wyandotte County" for the Future Voter sticker and contain the theme of voting and elections in Wyandotte County.

All submissions will be judged for creativity, originality, appropriateness, and demonstration of the theme.


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Kansas's 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Reports Year-3 Data

TOPEKA – The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline has been in operation for a full three years and has seen successes with response to those in crisis. Today, the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) is sharing a report detailing actions taken by the Kansas 988 Coordinating Council in 2025 and highlighting data on the 988 Lifeline in the state. The report to the 2025 Kansas Legislature was created by the council with support from the Kansas Health Institute (KHI).

Throughout 2025, the 988 Coordinating Council convened six times, focusing on several topics, including evaluating key performance indicators such as call volumes, in-state answer rates, and response times, which are instrumental in assessing the impact of the 988 system.

"The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is a critical resource for Kansans in moments of distress,"

KDADS Deputy Secretary Andrew Brown said. "Whether someone is facing a mental health crisis, struggling with substance use, or simply needs someone to talk to, 988 provides immediate, confidential support anytime, anywhere in Kansas. The 988 Lifeline ensures that help is just a call or text away."

The most recent data indicate that overall, Kansas is maintaining the goals set in the original Kansas 988 Implementation Plan. Some highlights include:

- A steady increase in call volume, with the number of routed calls climbing from 2,751 in January 2025 to as high as 3,796 in October 2025.

- An in-state answer rate that remained around or above the state goal of 90 percent after March 2025, after starting the year below the goal.

In 2025, the council focused on strengthening coordination across Kansas's crisis response system

and evaluating future needs as 988 call volume and public awareness continued to grow. Discussions centered on improving mobile crisis response and dispatch technology, enhancing 988-911 interoperability, and expanding outreach to ensure statewide access to services. The council also reviewed trends in sustainable funding used by other states, assessing long-term budget capacity as demand increases.

In Kansas, the 988 call centers are independently operated and receive additional state funding and oversight from KDADS and the coordinating council. The report includes recommendations for legislators to consider.

The 988 Coordinating Council recommends that the legislature take action to ensure the long-term sustainability and growth of Kansas's 988 system by increasing available funding and maintaining coordinated oversight of crisis response services. Specifically, the

council recommends increasing the budget for 988 operations and related crisis services, either by:

- Raising the current \$10 million cap on the 988 Fund to \$13 million;
- Identifying alternative or supplemental revenue sources, such as allocating a percentage of state lottery proceeds or sports betting revenue to the 988 Fund;
- Revisiting the discussion of the telecommunications fee as an additional, stable funding stream to support ongoing 988 operations, technology, and workforce needs.

An additional recommendation from the council is to extend the 988 Coordinating Council beyond June 30, 2026, to provide continued oversight, coordination, and system development.

The launch of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988 Lifeline) in July 2022 represented a shift in how the U.S. addresses behavioral health

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Tom's Tasty Treats

By Tom Valverde

The holidays are over and we're in the new year, 2026! Unbelievable

but glad to still be here for it. Just because the holidays are over doesn't mean that good things to eat are no more. And this week's tasty treat is a delicious, flourless chocolate cake. Make this cake for your loved ones or for the end of a dinner party.

Your guests will appreciate it and thank you! Please give it a try:

FLOURLESS CHOCOLATE CAKE

Ingredients:

8 oz. Dark Chocolate, melted
1/2 c Butter at room temperature
4 Eggs, white separated
1/2 c Sugar
2 whole Eggs
1 T Baking powder
Zest of an Orange, finely grated
6 T Sugar
2 T Fr. Angelico orange liqueur or Rum
1 c Heavy Cream

2 t Powdered Sugar
Garnish:
1 Dark Chocolate bar
Set oven to 350°. Line a 9" round pan with parchment paper, bottom only. Beat the egg whites until foamy. Add the 1/2 c sugar, one teaspoon at a time. Beat them until firm and glossy, but not dry. In another bowl, melt the chocolate then add the butter, and stir until blended. Let cool. Stir in the orange zest, and the baking powder. Add the two whole eggs, the six tablespoons of sugar and stir in until well blended. Add the liquor, if using or add 1 1/2 t Vanilla.

With a large mixing spoon scoop out a spoonful of the egg whites and stir into the chocolate mixture. Then, fold all the remaining egg whites. Once combined, pour into the baking pan. Bake at 350° for 40-45 minutes. Place onto a "serving plate. When ready to serve, whip the cream with the powdered sugar. The cake will form a depression in the center once it is cooled. Pour all of the whipped cream on the top; fill

the depression. With a vegetable peeler, shave curls of the dark chocolate bar over the top of the cake. Cut wedges to serve.

This is a rich, tasty cake and it's gluten free. A beautiful lady gave

me the recipe. She's from England and is known by her first name. It's a must have for all chocolate lovers. People are sure to ask for the recipe.

Enjoy!

Suicide line...

...from page 3

crises. By simplifying access to support—replacing the longer National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number with the easy-to-remember 988—the goal was to provide an immediate, accessible resource for anyone in distress. 988 offers 24/7 access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing mental health-related distress, including thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crisis, and/or any other kind of emotional distress. 988 serves as a universal entry point, so that no matter where someone lives in the United States, they can reach a trained crisis counselor for help.

Learn more about the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in Kansas. If you or someone you know is in crisis,

call or text 988 for help.

For details about the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in Kansas or the 988 Coordinating Council, contact KDADS Communications Director Cara Sloan-Ramos at cara.sloanramos@ks.gov. For more information about the report, contact KHI Director of Strategic Communication and Engagement Theresa Freed at tfreed@khi.org or 316-305-5190.

The Kansas Health Institute supports effective policymaking through nonpartisan research, education, and engagement. KHI believes evidence-based information, objective analysis, and civil dialogue enable policy leaders to champion a healthier Kansas. Established in 1995 with a multiyear grant from the Kansas Health Foundation, KHI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organization based in Topeka. Learn more about KHI.

Touchdown State... *...from page 1*



Governor Laura Kelly



Clark Hunt

Coincidentally, the December 8 *New Yorker* included a feature article, "Only Fans: The stadium goes luxe" by John Seabrook, describing the evo-

lution from municipal stadiums prior to the 1970s to today's luxury buildings like SoFi (a financial services company) in greater Los Angeles. SoFi is the NFL's largest with a capacity of 100,000. It's privately-funded cost was at least \$5 billion, and SoFi pays around \$30 million a year for naming rights.

Houston's Astrodome, the world's only domed stadium when it opened in 1965, began the evolution of stadiums from community centers for ordinary fans to luxury experiences with cushioned seats, gourmet food, and leased private suites. Prices soared—a family of four now pays an average of about \$1300 to attend an NFL game—and the Astrodome's Skybox suites turned nosebleed seats from the cheapest to the most costly. It wasn't long before new stadiums moved luxury suites to lower levels.

Kansas City's Truman Sports Complex, opened in 1972, revolutionized the stadium concept by recognizing that football and baseball field geometries are incompatible. Arrowhead seats more than 76,000, the fourth largest in the NFL, and includes a several-story "apartment" with leased suites.

The Truman Complex made Kansas City the nation's sports-architecture talent center with several firms, including Populous, the largest stadium designer, headquartered here. Populous designed the Buffalo Bills new stadium opening this year. Gensler, the world's largest architecture firm, recently opened a Kansas City office.

Stadium design is challenging: the oval shape leads to odd angles and spacing for seating, so designers use computer programs to produce a range of options that can identify the most profitable

seating pattern from standard to premium to suites. Seabrook wrote that in stadiums, "every inch of the space, and every sight line—not only to the field but also to the sponsor's logos—is monetized. Stadiums may be the most rigorously monetized spaces on earth." And economic studies consistently show that "owners, not taxpayers, derive most of the financial benefits."

Will the new Chiefs stadium have more premium seating and amenities to cater to the wealthy, or will it buck the national trend and keep prices affordable for most fans? A director of Populous, Jonathan Mallie, says that any sports venue "should be something for everybody."

The Hunt family has a long record of being close to the community and has promised that cherished traditions like tailgating will be respected. Make it so.



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