

## Community Development News

By Christy Hopkins

This Friday night, Greeley County Schools welcomes the community to join them for Patriot Night, which will honor all veterans, first responders, and police and sheriff's personnel as we remember the attacks on the World Trade Center on 9/11/2001. All spectators are encouraged to dress patriotically and all honored guests are encouraged to join the team on the field at 6:45 p.m. to be a part of the player tunnel ahead of the 7 p.m. kick-off. Veterans, first responders, and police and sheriff's personnel are encouraged to RSVP their attendance to Christy Hopkins at (620) 376-2548 or via email at [clhopkins@fairpoint.net](mailto:clhopkins@fairpoint.net) to ensure their names are on the gate list for free admission to the game, which also includes the 5 p.m. volleyball game.

Greeley County Student Council Representatives

have challenged the student body to dress in themed clothing for the home football games this year. This week's home game against Eads will be patriotic-themed. Next weekend's homecoming match-up against Golden Plains-Rexford will be Hawaiian-themed. The community is encouraged to join in on the fun!

This Friday also features the Cram-The-Van event hosted by Wheatland Electric, and a friendly competition is in the works to see which school can gather the most weight in donations per student.

I've had a couple of questions about the Christmas Idea Fair, which usually happens the third weekend in October. In the past, it was hosted by the Rebekahs, which has disbanded. If your organization is interested in taking on this annual event, please let me know!

## Patriot Night at the football game this Friday

In recognition of this weekend's anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center, Greeley County Schools would like to honor all veterans, first responders, including fire fighters and emergency medical technicians, and police and sheriff's personnel at Patriot Night at this Friday night's high school football game.

The game begins at 7 pm, but all honored guests are encouraged to join the team

on the field at 6:45 pm to be a part of the player tunnel.

Please RSVP to Christy Hopkins by Thursday to ensure your name is on the list at the gate for free admission. You can reach her by phone at (620) 376-2548 or via email at [clhopkins@fairpoint.net](mailto:clhopkins@fairpoint.net).

The community appreciates your service to this great country and hope you will be able to attend!

## Sens. Marshall and Moran Announce Funding to Address Health Care Workforce Shortages in Kansas

(Washington, D.C., September 7, 2021) – U.S. Senators Roger Marshall, M.D. and Jerry Moran announced the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded over \$270,000 to the University of Kansas Medical Center to provide students with learning experiences that would grow their interest and knowledge about the health sciences, and in turn, build a robust health care workforce.

"The COVID-19 pandemic exposed many existing vulnerabilities within the health care industry and exacerbated shortages within our workforce," said Senator Marshall. "As a physician who served rural and underserved communities, I saw workforce shortages in Kansas firsthand. We need to build tomorrow's health care heroes today. Health and biomedical sciences can offer incredibly rewarding careers, but entering into those fields can be intimidating. KUMC's partnership will bring experiences and a more engaging approach that will encourage students to pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees in health care."

"Training and recruiting the next generation of health care workers is essential to providing Kansans access to high quality care in every corner of the state," said Sen. Moran. "Partnering with local educational programs will help recruit students to be future health care professionals while developing their appreciation for the communities where they receive their education. This grant will allow KUMC to further invest in providing adequate training for professionals to confidently care for their patients while encouraging them to stay and serve in Kansas."

Background: The project, funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences,

will establish a learning consortium of teachers, students and researchers committed to bringing relevant community-based health issues into the classroom. Specifically, KUMC will establish a Teachers and Students for Community Oriented Research and Education: Linking Industry, Faculty, and Teachers (TSCORE LIFT) program. The program builds on their existing project to create a community among five Kansas health systems, five Kansas universities, and five Kansas school districts to develop and test a series of three educational interventions along the Kansas Health and Biosciences Career Pathway. The project leaders will empower 25 teachers to deliver educational content and provide experiences in the health care industry for an estimated 1,400 students in the state of Kansas. The areas will include Hays, Topeka, Wichita, Lawrence, and Kansas City.

A recent report from the Kansas Hospital Association cited numerous staffing challenges and a shortage of skilled health care workers across the state. Challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic – turnover, vacancy, and retention – further attribute to the workforce shortages.

The project is intended to develop retention strategies across the state to maintain and increase the number of underrepresented and minority students pursuing careers in health sciences. In total, the KUMC received \$271,155 for this budget period. The project will run for five years. This is the second such award the KUMC team has received to serve Kansas teachers and students.

Federal funding for this award was made possible by the bipartisan Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

## Governor Kelly Calls on Federal Government to Pass Legislation Providing Affordable Health Care to 165,000 Kansans

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly sent a letter to Congressional leadership urging Congress to pass legislation that would create a Medicaid expansion work-around in non-expansion states.

"Kansas is one of twelve states that has failed to expand Medicaid, and this political obstruction has prevented 165,000 Kansans from accessing quality, affordable health care," said Governor Laura Kelly. "My administration will continue to fight for Medicaid expansion at the state level, but until then, this federal legislation will allow us to bypass the self-destructive politics pushed by the Republican leaders in the statehouse and bring resources, jobs, and life-saving health care to our state."

Passing H.R. 4595, the *Medicaid Saves Lives Act*, or including similar provisions in the pending budget and reconciliation process, would allow eligible residents of non-expansion states like Kansas to access full Medicaid coverage at no additional cost to states or the federal government. Additionally, this legislation would increase federal medical assistance percentages by ten percent for states that

expand Medicaid, providing states like Kansas ten years to access full funding if they choose to expand Medicaid at the state level.

Currently, Kansas is one of twelve states that has failed to expand Medicaid – despite overwhelming public approval and the predicted economic benefits, including:

Adding nearly 23,000 new jobs in the state of Kansas;

Creating \$17 billion in economic output through 2025;

Raising personal income by \$6.3 billion; and

Saving private-sector employers up to \$80.6 million.

Additionally, Medicaid expansion in Kansas would:

Provide affordable health care to 165,000 Kansans who currently fall into a health coverage gap - including 7,400 veterans and their spouses;

Support Kansas' rural hospitals and communities; and

Enhance services for mental health and substance use disorders.

"The *Medicaid Saves Lives Act* is the chance Kansans have been waiting for. It's the right thing to do to support our people, our communities, and our economy," said Governor Kelly.

## Governor Updates Drought Emergency, Warnings and Watches for Kansas Counties

*The Governor's Drought Team examines conditions; and recommends updates to the Governor*

Today, September 2, 2021, Governor Kelly approved the updated Drought Declarations for Kansas counties with Executive Order #21-26. The declaration includes 87 out of 105 counties either in a warning or watch status.

"Unfortunately, the majority of the state of Kansas has been considered in a drought or abnormally dry conditions for the past several weeks," said Governor Kelly. "While we are very fortunate to be in a better situation than many states north and west of us, it doesn't minimize our dry conditions. I encourage Kansans to be mindful of drought conditions, and work to minimize the threat of fires across the state."

The drought declaration placed 14 counties into a warning status and 73 into a watch status. This action was recommended by Connie Owen, Director of the Kansas Water Office and Chair of the Governor's Drought Response Team. Kansas has experienced a wide range of precipitation this year. Some areas have seen equal to or more than its normal rainfall while others, such as northwest, central and south-central counties have received less than 60, 70 or 80 percent of the area's normal precipitation.

"This year we have been in a better situation regarding drought than we were last summer, however it doesn't diminish the conditions being experienced throughout most of Kansas now," said Owen. "The Governor's Drought Response Team will continue to monitor the situation and make recommendations to the Governor as necessary, as future outlooks call for drought-like conditions to persist into the fall, especially for the northwestern counties."

This Executive Order shall remain in effect for

those counties so identified until rescinded by Executive Order or superseded by a subsequent Executive Order revising the drought stage status of the affected counties. Effective immediately:

· Declare a Drought Emergency, Warning or Drought Watch for the counties identified below;

· Authorize and direct all agencies under the jurisdiction of the Governor to implement the appropriate watch or warning level-drought response actions assigned in the Operations Plan of the Governor's Drought Response Team.

The Governor's Drought Response Team will continue to watch the situation closely and work to minimize the effects the drought has on Kansans.

For more detailed information about current conditions, see the Kansas Climate Summary and Drought Report on the Kansas Water Office website at: [www.kwo.ks.gov](http://www.kwo.ks.gov)

County Drought Stage Declarations:

Drought Watch: Atchison, Brown, Butler, Chase, Clark, Clay, Cloud, Comanche, Cowley, Decatur, Dickinson, Doniphan, Douglas, Edwards, Ellis, Finney, Ford, Geary, Gove, Graham, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Hamilton, Harvey, Haskell, Hodgeman, Jackson, Jefferson, Jewell, Johnson, Kearny, Kingman, Kiowa, Lane, Leavenworth, Logan, Lyon, Marion, Marshall, Meade, Morris, Morton, Nemaha, Ness, Norton, Ottawa, Pawnee, Phillips, Pottawatomie, Pratt, Reno, Republic, Riley, Rooks, Rush, Saline, Scott, Sedgwick, Seward, Shawnee, Sheridan, Smith, Stafford, Stanton, Stevens, Sumner, Trego, Wabaunsee, Wallace, Washington, Wichita, Wyandotte

*Drought Warning:* Barber, Barton, Cheyenne, Ellsworth, Harper, Lincoln, McPherson, Mitchell, Osborne, Rawlins, Rice, Russell, Sherman, Thomas

## Water Right Transition Assistance Program Public Meetings

MANHATTAN, Kansas – The Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Conservation will conduct public meetings in Leoti and Tribune on September 21, 2021, to review the agency's Water Right Transition Assistance Program (WTAP). The meetings will be held as follows:

- 10:00 a.m. (CDT) at the Wichita County Fairgrounds 4-H building, Leoti, Kansas

- 1:00 p.m. (MDT) at the Greeley County Fairgrounds 4-H building, Tribune Kansas

The purpose of the meetings is to inform the public of the possible economic and hydrologic impacts of the program and to discuss the upcoming WTAP fall 2021 enrollment period which will be available from October 1 to November 15, 2021.

WTAP is a voluntary, incentive-based program designed to manage aquifers and streams in critical need of restoration by compensating landowners for the permanent retirement

of irrigation water rights. Priority in the fall 2021 enrollment will be given to retiring water rights that have the greatest impact on the local aquifer system in 2-3-mile radius areas around the municipal water supplies of Leoti and Tribune.

WTAP is part of the regional Groundwater Recharge and Sustainability Project (GRASP) in Wichita and Greeley counties which will also be discussed at these meetings in advance of the WTAP presentations. GRASP is a coordinated effort between the Natural Resources Conservation Service and several state and local partners to provide enhanced financial incentives for implementing water conservation and playa restoration practices.

The meetings can also be accessed virtually; login information can be found at [www.agriculture.ks.gov/WTAP](http://www.agriculture.ks.gov/WTAP). Contact Steve.Frost@ks.gov at 785-564-6622 for additional information.

## 20 Year Memorial of 9/11

On 9/11/21  
from 12 to 2:00 p.m.  
at the  
Fire & EMS Station  
Food —  
Roast Beef Sandwiches,  
Chips and Hot Dogs

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