

Community Development News

By Christy Hopkins

“The cold never bothered me anyway.” – Elsa

Elsa and I have different ideas about winter this time around. Here’s hoping you and your family are staying warm and safe throughout this unbelievably cold streak. Thanks to all of you who are out working in it, tending livestock, cleaning streets and roads, serving others, and keeping the power on.

Last month, I posted a flyer on Facebook about a training that would be held at Greeley County’s University Center location. When a friend asked “We have a University Center?” I realized more explanation was in order.

Through a generous partnership with the Dodge City Ford County Development Corporation and the Rural Education Workforce Alliance, Greeley County now boasts a satellite technology room at Greeley County Health Services that enables local residents to access additional credited college coursework (the first program was an RN to BSN program that began last fall) as well as occasional one-time trainings running the gamut from a How-To series to sessions related to starting your own home childcare.

Two sessions are currently scheduled:

On Thursday, February 25, as part of the How-To Series, a How-To Interview training will take place from 5-7 p.m. MT. It will include information on etiquette, what to bring, common interview questions, follow-up, job offers, and top interviewing blunders. To attend this session, contact me at (620) 376-2548 or greeleyc@fairpoint.net.

On Thursday, February 25 a Building Better Leaders will take place from 10:30 – 12 noon MT. This session will describe how critical thinking and careful diagnosis are key skills for HR professionals to properly develop and communicate a leadership development strategy; discuss guidelines for identifying performance gaps in managers and leaders and techniques to remedy them; and develop the skills and ability to communicate the needs, design, process, and results, and how they align with corporate strategic initiatives to senior leadership. To register go to: <https://ksbdc.eccenterdirect.com/events/26330>

The second session can be accessed from your home computer, using Zoom technology. If you’d like to attend in the local University Center classroom, please contact me at (620) 376-2548.

Greeley County Health Department Update

Greeley County Health Department is excited to report over 240 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Greeley County. This is in addition to the doses given by Greeley County Health Services and without our number count for scheduled vaccines this week.

We have vaccine to give and are continuing to schedule blocks of time several times a week specifically for administration of the COVID-19 vaccine. We are working our way through the phases given. If you fall into the specific age group of 65+, healthcare worker, high contact worker, etc. you move to the top of the list. Workers who are employed in retail establishments, agriculture businesses, or food service establishments AND have frequent contact with the public are included in our phase 2 plans. At this point we have everyone scheduled for appointments that fall into the categories that we have listed previously. If you have decided to get your vaccine and you fall into one of these categories, give us a call and we will get you in as soon as possible.

After those categories, we move to people age 16 to 64 with high-risk illnesses. After these criteria, we are able to administer the vaccine to whomever would like to

receive their vaccine. We are giving priority to those who live in our county as well. We frequently consult with KDHE, our medical director and other staff at Greeley County Health Services as well as neighboring counties as far as recommendations for prioritizing vaccine distribution.

To date, we have held two, hundred dose clinics at the 4H Building. If you received your vaccine on January 29, 2021 at the 4H Building, we have set aside February 26, 2021 for your second dose. If you received it on February 5, 2021 at the 4H building, we have set aside March 5, 2021 for your second dose.

We have held multiple small clinics at our Health Department. If you received your COVID-19 vaccine at our office and are unsure of your return date, please give our office a call. We try to schedule appointments several days out but please know we are also trying to make sure every vaccine is used so late phone calls may arise.

No matter your age or occupation, please give our office a call at **620-376-4200** if you are interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine or if you would like further information.

— Melissa Miller, Greeley County Health Department

Sen. Marshall: It’s Time for Congress to Get Back to the Work of the American People

(Washington, D.C., February 13, 2021) – Today, U.S. Senator Roger Marshall M.D., issued the following statement after voting to acquit former President Donald J. Trump on the Article of Impeachment presented against him.

“This impeachment trial has kept us from doing the work we need to be focused on: getting the COVID-19 vaccine in to peoples’ arms, opening our economy back up, getting Americans back to work, as well as confirming an agriculture secretary to get the \$1.5 billion in CARES funding out to farmers, ranchers, and folks who need help putting food on the table.

“This trial has brought to light just how much was known about the planning of the riot prior to January 6th and questions now linger as to what was known by Nancy Pelosi and security officials in the Capitol and across federal agencies ahead of time. One question does not remain and that is: What was

the motivation of this trial? The motivation was political hatred and was simply a continuation of the four-year impeachment fixation on the part of the House Managers and the Democrat Party.

“Let me be clear, both sides of the aisle are guilty of heated rhetoric. But, equally guilty are the House Managers and the Democrats for their hypocrisy, and President Trump’s defense team painted that picture clearly.

“While I believe this entire trial was unconstitutional from the start, I hope that the failure to convict will put an end to the Democrat’s obsession and allow temperatures to finally settle and for us to work in a bipartisan fashion moving forward. It’s true, we face many challenges ahead as a nation. But, I remain confident there are brighter days ahead for Kansas and our entire country. It’s time for congress to get back to the work of the American people.”

Sen. Marshall Announces \$1.4 million to Kansas for Maternal and Child Health Block Grant

(Washington, D.C., February 12, 2021) – Today, U.S. Senator Roger Marshall, M.D. announced the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) received over \$1.4 million in block grant funding to improve maternal and child health.

“After working as an OBGYN in rural Kansas for nearly three decades, I know this federal-state partnership makes a positive impact on Kansas mothers and youth,” said Senator Marshall. “These programs support coordinated care for mothers before, during and after pregnancy as well as optimize infant health through feeding and sleeping best practices and providing physical and behavioral health services for children.”

Background: The Maternal and Child

Health Block Grant is a federal-state partnership that provides comprehensive access to care for almost 35,000 mothers, children, and their families annually across the state. Specifically, program funds are used to reduce infant mortality, reduce adolescent pregnancy, support screening and health assessments for children, prenatal and postnatal care, and more. KDHE’s first amount received is \$1,430,306.

This funding is provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. Each year, Dr. Marshall supports robust funding for this program and similar programs – Healthy Start, Safe Motherhood and Infant Health, and the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Units Network – that seek to improve maternal and child health.

Governor Kelly Announces ACA Marketplace Reopens for Kansans to Enroll in Health Insurance for 2021

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly today announced that the enrollment for 2021 health insurance has reopened.

Kansas residents have access to a Special Enrollment Period to sign up for Affordable Care Act (ACA) insurance plans between February 15, 2021 and May 15, 2021, in addition to Medicare and Medicaid benefits. The Special Enrollment Period was opened by a January executive order signed by President Joe Biden, opening the federal health insurance marketplace for three months starting today.

For all Kansans who are uninsured or underinsured, this is an excellent opportunity to secure coverage as Kansas fights through the pandemic. “This is an incredible and urgent opportunity for Kansans to ensure they have the health care they need. I strongly encourage every Kansan who can sign up for insurance,” Governor Kelly said. “I appreciate the Biden Administration’s efforts to expand access to coverage, particularly as Kansans potentially face long-lasting health complications caused by COVID-19.”

All U.S. citizens and nationals are eligible to enroll in health insurance through Marketplaces using the [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) platform. Plans of a variety of premiums, deductibles, and services are available. These plans are private

insurers made available to the public through the ACA. All Kansans may apply for personal health insurance, as well as for spouses and children. Individuals need a valid social security number or document certifying qualifying immigration status to apply.

Between February 15, 2021 and May 15, 2021, Kansans can apply through the [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) marketplace.

“One thing we’ve learned during the pandemic is that this virus spares no one,” said Wilson County Health Officer Dr. Jennifer McKenney. “This special open enrollment period is a much-needed step in the right direction for the physical and emotional well-being of the people of Kansas. Throughout the pandemic, we’ve seen health care costs go beyond the cost of getting tested or purchasing necessary medications. Without health care coverage, people have a more difficult time treating their chronic conditions and, thus, become more vulnerable to the effects of this virus.”

Many Kansans might also be eligible for subsidized coverage through the [Medicare](https://www.healthcare.gov) and [KanCare](https://www.healthcare.gov), Kansas’ Medicaid programs as well. All Kansans are encouraged to take advantage of either this Special Enrollment Period, [KanCare](https://www.healthcare.gov), and [Medicare](https://www.healthcare.gov) to gain access to affordable health coverage.

Western Kansas Community Foundation to Enter Next Season of Granting

Garden City, Kan. – As of February 1, 2021, the Western Kansas Community Foundation (WKCF) has resumed accepting applications for urgent needs grants in response to the continuing COVID-19 conditions in Southwest Kansas. Grants will be made to eligible nonprofits from the Urgent Needs Fund with the Foundation, which was established by local contributors in 2020 to address the increasing needs of nonprofits during the crisis. Urgent Needs grants will be made on a rolling basis and continue while funds last.

“In 2020, through contributions from generous donors, as well as partnerships with the Finnup Foundation and Finney County United Way, over \$97,000 in Urgent Needs funding was granted to area nonprofits,” says Stacie Hahn, WKCF’s Program & Marketing Director.

“Through additional funding, we are excited that the Foundation is able to continue providing relief grants in 2021, while the needs surrounding the virus are still evident in our community.”

Nonprofits are encouraged to submit their grant applications online through the WKCF website at [wkcf.org](https://www.wkcf.org). Guidelines for the Urgent Needs grants are similar to the guidelines that were originally established in 2020, with some minor adjustments, including how frequently applications will be reviewed and maximum funding limits for applying organizations. Those guidelines can be found on the WKCF website with the grant application.

Additionally, the WKCF is gearing up for a new year of regular cycle grant applications and boasts a new grant opportunity to add to their ranks. In 2020, the WKCF became the sole trustee for both the Ruth V. Gordanier and the Roy P. Mersereau trusts. Under the administration of prior trustees, the two trusts previously made grant awards at the end

of each year, and often to recurring grantees. With the Foundation, that process changes to a competitive grant process, with awards being made at the beginning of the year. Having reached maturity with the Foundation, those trusts will now begin to provide funding for certain operation-type expenses for the awarded applicants. The Gordanier and Mersereau Grant is the only grant process of the Foundation that currently funds operating expenses.

The Foundation is also currently accepting applications for the annual Women of Purpose grant award. The Women of Purpose fund provides grants for programs addressing women’s needs. The Women of Purpose have identified the importance of numerous issues that impact women as the grant focal point for the 2021 grant. This year’s grant focus is “Empowered Women Empower Women,” encouraging applications for any programs addressing women’s causes, including but not limited to those relating to women’s health, education, finances, or employment. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate collaboration among agencies to increase the scope and impact of the work, invest matching funds, provide a plan to sustain the program past the grant year, or support work in several communities and counties served by the Women of Purpose in their applications.

Because Urgent Needs grants will be reviewed on a rolling basis, Urgent Needs applications have no set application deadline. However, other grant applications with the Foundation have set application deadlines. Applications for the Gordanier & Mersereau grants, as well as the Women of Purpose grant are due no later than 5:00 pm on March 1st. Organizations wishing to apply to the other regular cycle grants have three opportunities each year to do so.



Tom & Jerry

Showings beginning February 26th
Rated: PG
Watch for times next week

Tribune Star Theater

Theater to begin shows February 26th

The Tribune Star Theater is scheduled to begin showing movies again the weekend of February 26th.

One of the most beloved rivalries in history is reignited when Jerry moves into New York City’s finest hotel on the eve of “the wedding of the century,” forcing the event’s desperate planner to hire Tom to get rid of him, in director Tim Story’s “Tom and Jerry.” The ensuing cat and mouse battle threatens to destroy her career, the

wedding and possibly the hotel itself. But soon, an even bigger problem arises: a diabolically ambitious staffer conspiring against all three of them.

This film is rated PG with a running time of 1 hour 41 minutes. February 26th is the national release date, and the movie will play in Tribune for two weeks.

Coming soon: Raya and the Last Dragon and Godzilla vs. Kong.

See you at the movies!!!

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