

## Community Development News

By Christy Hopkins

Thanks to all who participated in last Friday's Very Merry Market! It was great to see people out and about enjoying the day in Tribune and I'd be interested in your feedback about spreading out the event into different buildings. If you have thoughts – whether you liked or disliked that set-up – please let us know!

Tuesday, December 1 is honored as Giving Tuesday. It is described as a “global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world.” It’s an opportunity for individuals, companies, trusts, etc. to contribute to the causes and initiatives they hold dear. The Melven O. Kuder Senior Center held a fundraiser for outdoor fitness equipment to be installed at the park, and regionally, the Western Kansas Community

Foundation hosted a large Match Day event.

Whether or not you participated in Giving Tuesday, I would encourage you to think about your friends, neighbors, and fellow community members who might need a little additional cheer this holiday season. Perhaps it’s a hot meal or a bag of groceries, help with a utility bill or rent, some Greeley County Bucks, or just a phone call to say you care – let’s show our fellow community members that they’re cared for and valued.

Let’s make December a month of giving – of ourselves, of our concern, of our time. Ruth Carter Stapleton said “Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most.” I couldn’t agree more.

## Safety is the Secret Ingredient to Holiday Traditions

*KDHE and Safe Kids Kansas offers kitchen safety tips*

TOPEKA – With the arrival of the holidays there are many memories to be made and traditions to follow, and having children participate in those traditions is one of the best parts of the season. To ensure the safety of everyone, follow these tips for a safe and happy holiday!

Limit your travel and the size of gatherings to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It’s hard to be apart, but important to protect the ones you love.

“The kitchen can be a busy place with lots of multi-tasking during the holidays, so it’s important to be aware of potential hazards to prevent cuts, burns, poisoning and other injuries,” said Cherie Sage of Safe Kids Kansas.

When it comes to holiday meals, we want to keep lead off the menu. According to the CDC, no safe blood lead level in children has been identified. Even low levels of lead in blood have been shown to affect IQ, delay development, cause behavioral problems and cause other serious health effects.

Reduce your risk of lead poisoning by shopping locally and only buying domestically produced spices. Imported and non-domestically produced spices could contain lead.

Handmade pottery and dishes that have glazes or other painted decorations may contain lead. When

food or drinks are stored or prepared in these dishes lead can leach into them and be ingested causing lead poisoning.

Awareness of possible lead exposure and keeping kids safe from lead sources is the key to prevention. For more information on lead poisoning please visit [KDHE Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention](#).

When kids are in the kitchen, supervision is key. Whether children are helping prepare food or just hanging out and watching the action, they should be where you can see them at all times. If you will be busy with preparations, ask another adult or teenager to watch the children and help them join in with some age-appropriate tasks.

Some kid-friendly kitchen tasks include: tearing lettuce, rinsing fruits and vegetables under cold water, stirring ingredients in a bowl, using cookie cutters, measuring dry ingredients, using vegetable peelers or cutting soft fruits with a butter knife.

“You know your own children. Don’t give them knives or let them handle anything hot until you know they have the maturity and coordination to do it safely,” Sage said. “Some children mature faster than others, so it’s up to parents to use good judgment about each child’s capabilities.”

Tie up the electrical cords of small appliances. A toddler playing with a dangling cord can pull a toaster or microwave down from a countertop.

## Kansas Common Sense

November 30, 2020  
 Senator Jerry Moran  
**Recognizing This Season of Giving**

I hope you had a safe Thanksgiving with your family and were able to connect with your loved ones. I want to thank the many dedicated Americans who are serving our community, state and nation over the holiday season – from the medical personnel on the frontlines of our hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic to the men and women in our military protecting our country at home and overseas. Thank you for your dedication to serving others and for the sacrifices you make each day.

This year, we have faced many unexpected challenges, but there is still much to be thankful for throughout this season.

During this pandemic, I have seen many Kansans go the extra mile to help their neighbors. This week, I joined two of the many food distributions efforts across Kansas to help families in need during this holiday season.

### Volunteering with Operation Food Secure

On Tuesday, I joined Operation Food Secure (OFS) in Topeka at the Oakland United Methodist Church to distribute food boxes to families in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, the USDA was authorized by the CARES Act to distribute agricultural products to those in need through the Farmers to Families Food Box program. This program supplies boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy and meat products from local Kansas farms to families in need.

OFS has developed a distribution model to address hunger and food insecurity across eight northeast Kansas counties. They have successfully built a network of over 80 community and faith-based organizations to bring food “the last mile” into these areas of need and have distributed over 57,000 food boxes. Even as the “breadbasket of the world,” our state faces significant challenges related to food security, and I appreciate the efforts of everyone volunteering and working to help those in need during this pandemic.

A special thanks to Executive Director of Topeka Rescue Mission Ministries Barry Feaker and Director of Operation Food Secure Marissa Dake. Your willingness to serve those in your community facing hunger is commendable.

### Participating in the 14th Annual El Dorado Turkey Drive

On Wednesday, I visited the Butler County chapter of the The Salvation Army to help distribute donations from the 14th Annual El Dorado Turkey Drive before Thursday’s festivities. Organized by Graphic Concepts, Inc. and the Butler County Sheriff’s Office, this year’s drive collected 375 turkeys and non-perishable food items to provide Thanksgiving meals for local individuals and families in need.

Congratulations to Graphic Concepts President Sally Owens, Butler County Sheriff Kelly Herzet and their employees for successfully leading this community-wide effort. Thank you to Salvation Army Major Patricia Johnson and her team for organizing a smooth delivery of donated goods. It’s great to see Kansans doing their part to serve their neighbors in need. Special thanks to the citizens of Butler County who stepped forward to help create a special Thanksgiving meal.

### Assessing COVID-19 Spikes throughout Kansas Counties: Visiting Stormont Vail Health

I met with Stormont Vail Health CEO Dr. Robert Kenagy and Kansas Hospital

Association President Chad Austin in Topeka this week. We discussed the challenges they are facing due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in the region and the need for more nurses and medical staff. Our hospitals are making incredible efforts to care for COVID-19 patients while facing staffing difficulties due to the considerable community spread of the virus. As we head into winter, and with cases spiking, it is important for the federal government to provide stability through funding and reimbursement guidelines. I will continue working to ensure our health care providers have the federal support necessary to effectively fight this pandemic. Thank you to all Kansas health care personnel for your sacrifices and dedication to keeping our state safe.

Our hospitals are working hard to meet the needs of our communities, but they need each of us to take a personal responsibility to help stop the spread of COVID-19. I want to encourage all Kansans to take precautions to keep you and your families safe, including wearing a mask, practicing social distancing and frequently washing your hands.

### Kansas Agricultural Research Provides Global Benefits

This week, I joined Kansas State University agricultural scientists and the Farm Journal Foundation at Lund Farms for an important conversation regarding agricultural research and development.

I was pleased to see firsthand how their research and innovation is translating into improved crop yields, profitability and sustainability. These efforts are vital for our ability to address food insecurity, and I’m proud that Kansans continue to answer the call to feed the world. Thank you to Tyler and Eric Lund for hosting this informative event and to the ag scientists at K-State for their hard work and continued leadership in international development.

### Preserving Kansas with the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts

I met virtually with members of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) for their annual conference earlier this week. The association is committed to conserving Kansas’ natural resources, leading the charge in preserving Kansas’ natural resources and wildlife for the next generation. During the virtual meeting, I discussed water conservation efforts and how natural resource management is a key component to our economy.

## Governor Laura Kelly Appoints Melissa Taylor Standridge to the Kansas Supreme Court

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly today appointed Melissa Taylor Standridge to the Kansas Supreme Court. Standridge will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Justice Carol Beier.

“As governor, the process of appointing justices to the Kansas Supreme Court is one I take very seriously,” Governor Kelly said. “Not only must justices have knowledge of the law, but also a complex and nuanced understanding of the world and the people the law is intended to govern.”

“There’s no question that Melissa has gathered a wealth of legal expertise that makes her more than prepared to join the Supreme Court. But there’s more to her unique career trajectory and life experience that makes her a perfect fit for our state’s highest court.

“As a foster and adoptive parent, she has firsthand experience navigating the system both as a judge, and as a foster parent to numerous youngsters, doing her best to provide security, stability and love to kids who sorely needed it.

“The totality of her life and career experience makes her preeminently qualified to sit on the Kansas Supreme Court.”

Standridge has been a judge on the Kansas Court of Appeals since 2008, where she has heard thousands of cases and authored nearly one thousand opinions. Previously, from 1999 to 2008, she served as chambers counsel to U.S. District Magistrate Judge David Waxse. Before her tenure as chambers counsel to Judge Waxse, Standridge worked as an associate attorney for Shook, Hardy, and Bacon – one of the premier Kansas City firms – and was a founding member of the firm’s award-winning diversity and inclusion initiative.

Standridge received a bachelor’s degree in business

administration from the University of Kansas in 1984, going on to pursue her law degree at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. During her tenure at UMKC, she served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review and the student leader of the Moot Court program, graduating in 1993.

Standridge has received numerous awards for her performance, including the Outstanding Service Award from the Kansas Bar Association, the Sandra Day O’Connor Award for Professional Service from the American Inns of Court, and in 2006 she was selected as Kansas City Leader of the Year by “The Daily Record.”

Additionally, in 2007, her work enriching the lives of children earned her the Angel in Adoption award from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute.

“To serve on our state’s highest court is the honor of a lifetime – but I don’t view joining the Supreme Court as just a capstone to my career,” Standridge said. “The justices of our Supreme Court have difficult jobs. So I am keenly aware that my appointment is more than just moving my office from the second floor of the judicial center to the third floor.

“But I believe that my years as a judge on the Court of Appeals, my extensive experience working with judges and lawyers from across our state, and my broad life experiences outside the law have prepared me for this challenge.”

Kansas Supreme Court Justices are appointed through a merit-based nomination process. When there is a vacancy on the court, the Supreme Court Nominating Commission submits the names of three nominees to the Governor, and the Governor then has 60 days to make the appointment.

GL **KANSAS** KS

**The Treasurer’s office will be CLOSED**

**from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on December 9th, 2020, for State Training.**

**Diane Gentry**  
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