

Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services launches new programs to support Alzheimer’s and Dementia Caregivers

TOPEKA – The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) recognizes the significant emotional, physical, and financial toll that caring for someone with Alzheimer’s disease or related dementia can take on families. To provide much-needed support, KDADS is launching two new initiatives: the Kansas Respite for Alzheimer’s and Dementia Program (K-RAD) and the Kansas Dementia Roadmap: A Guide for People Impacted by Dementia.

In Kansas, more than 55,000 individuals are living with Alzheimer’s disease or related dementia, and more than 89,000 individuals are providing unpaid care. Families serve as the primary source of support for older adults and people with disabilities across the nation. According to the 2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers report developed by the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Act Family Caregiving Advisory Council and the Advisory Council to Support

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, gaps in the availability of and access to respite care can add to the stress and burden faced by unpaid caregivers. Respite care often comes with high costs and limited availability, leaving caregivers responsible for most expenses.

Kansas has allocated funding for a state-funded respite program to address these challenges. The K-RAD program offers relief to unpaid caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer’s or related dementia by providing temporary care services that replace the direct care given by the caregiver for short or intermittent periods.

“We are excited about the K-RAD program and the ability it provides our agency to help our caregivers with respite care for their loved ones,” Leslea Rockers, Executive Director for East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging, said.

Caregivers can apply for K-RAD funds to cover respite care costs. More information is available on the KDADS website, and applications can be obtained through local Area

Agencies on Aging or by contacting the Aging and Disability Resource Center at 1-855-200-2372.

Additionally, KDADS has introduced the Kansas Dementia Roadmap: A Guide for People Impacted by Dementia. This resource acknowledges that caring for someone with memory loss or dementia is a long and unpredictable journey. The Roadmap provides essential guidance, support, and information for families, helping them navigate the challenges of dementia care.

“This roadmap will help families navigate their dementia journey so that they won’t become lost in the diagnosis,” Jamie Gideon, Kansas Director of Public Policy for the Alzheimer’s Association, said.

Printed copies of the Kansas Dementia Roadmap are available at local Area Agency on Aging and Alzheimer’s Association offices. A downloadable version is also available at <https://www.kdads.ks.gov/services-programs/aging/alzheimer-s-disease-and-dementia/kansas-dementia-roadmap>.

NEWSLETTER - SENATOR RICK BILLINGER

This week, the Kansas Legislature reached “halftime,” the mid-point of the legislative session commonly referred to inside the Capitol as “Turnaround.” It is when most legislation needs to be passed out of one chamber in order to be “turned around” and considered in the other. This weekend, we are now on a brief four-day break to allow legislative staff time to process legislation.

Currently, if there is a vacancy from any of our state-wide elected officials, the governor has complete authority to fill the seat with anyone she wants. This anti-democratic process has the potential of instantly and radically shifting the balance of power, especially as it pertains to the United States Senate, where in recent years, the body has been divided 50-50. SB105 would amend the process of filling such vacancies

in the offices of U.S. Senator, State Treasurer, and Commissioner of Insurance. In most instances where a seat would become vacant, the bill would establish the Joint Committee on Vacancy Appointments, which would be made up of legislators from both parties in each chamber. The committee would recommend three names for the governor to pick from. If the legislature was in session, both chambers would vote on a resolution to send to the governor with said names and the governor would have to pick from among the names. If the legislature was not in session, the committee’s recommendations would go directly to the governor. The names on the resolution would have to be members of the vacating official’s political party for the last six years. With the terrible airplane crash of the passenger jet from Wichita to Washington DC this highlighted the fact that makes this legislation more urgent than ever. Our US Senators and Congressman travel frequently from Kansas to Washington D.C.

SB250 passed the Senate: New breakthroughs in medicine are happening every day and have the potential of helping Kansans who are suffering from life-threatening or debilitating diseases. To help provide hope, the Senate passed SB250, which would create the Right to Try for Individualized Treatments Act. The bill would authorize a manufacturer operating in an eligible facility to make available individualized investigative treatments and allow individuals with life-threatening or severely debilitating illnesses to request an individualized investigational drug, biologic product, or device from such manufacturers.

SB161 would prohibit state agencies from seeking or implementing any public assistance program waiver or other federal government authorization that expands eligibility for any public assistance program or would increase costs to the state. The bill would also prohibit making certain changes to services for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD) without approval from either the Legislature or the Legislative Coordinating Council. SB161 passed 30-10.

The Kansas Senate took a unanimous stand against prostitution and against sex trafficking by passing SB71, which would increase criminal penalties for buying sexual relations. It also would require certain offenders to complete an educational or treatment program regarding commercial sexual exploitation. Under current law, violation of buying sexual relations is a misdemeanor on a first offense and a felony on subsequent offenses. The bill would remove the crime’s misdemeanor classification and instead make all violations of buying sexual relations a severity level 9-person felony and increase the minimum fine amount from \$1,200 to \$2,000.

The Kansas Senate voted 28-12 to approve SB29, which protects Kansans’ First Amendment right to assemble by removing the ability of government to restrict or prohibit public gatherings. Under the bill, public health officials could still recommend against public gatherings but would not be able to prohibit them.

On Tuesday, the Kansas Senate voted 31-9 to override the governor’s veto of SB 63, the Help Not Harm Act. The House quickly followed, and the legislation is now law.

SB85 passed the Senate and will require the Secretary for Children and Families to enter into data-matching agreements with specified agencies to receive and review information from state and federal agencies for the purpose of verifying food assistance program eligibility and publish certain findings of noncompliance and fraud investigations on the Kansas Department for Children and Families’ website.

This is just a few of the bills passed by the Senate this last week. In my next newsletter I will address future bills.

I am honored and grateful to represent the 40th Senate District in Kansas. Please do not hesitate to contact me by email: rick.billinger@senate.ks.gov or call me with your concerns. My office number is 785 296-7399 or my cell number is 785 899-4700. If you are in Topeka stop by my office, room 545-S.

Planning for planting: Federal crop insurance sign-up deadline approaching

By Kelsey Willardson
Policy associate, Center for Rural Affairs

A farmer’s work is never done. Even in winter, farmers are planning for the next planting season. For many operations, planning ahead includes signing up for federal crop insurance.

The deadline to sign up for most types of coverage is March 15, 2025. As weather events become more unpredictable and severe and market fluctuations continue, federally-backed crop insurance is an essential risk management tool for many farmers.

A wide range of coverage is available for agriculture operations. Newer programs, such as Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) and its subprogram Micro Farm, serve small- to medium-sized, di-

versified, and organic operations particularly well. These programs are available throughout the U.S. regardless of county and fit all of an operation’s production under a single policy. The policies provide coverage based on an operation’s revenue history and protect against losses from natural causes, such as flooding, hail, and drought, as well as losses from market changes.

Other types of coverage, including multi-peril yield and revenue protection, also support operations in times of loss. It is important for a farmer to speak with an agent to learn what type of policy best suits their needs and operation.

Federal crop insurance is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Risk Management Agency and sold by private agents throughout the country. To look

for an agent, farmers can visit [rma.usda.gov/tools-reports/agent-locator](https://www.usda.gov/tools-reports/agent-locator). This resource now includes specific help for farmers interested in WFRP and Micro Farm.

The Center for Rural Affairs has developed several resources for farmers who are new to or have questions related to crop insurance. These can be found at [cfra.org/crop-insurance-resources](https://www.cfra.org/crop-insurance-resources). One-on-one support is also available, and producers are encouraged to contact Kelsey Willardson at kelseyw@cfra.org if interested.

Established in 1973, the Center for Rural Affairs is a private, nonprofit organization working to strengthen small businesses, family farms and ranches, and rural communities through action oriented programs addressing social, economic, and environmental issues.

CONSUMER CONNECTION

Break the ice with steps to combat winter weather

Topeka, Kan. – As Kansas faces yet another round of winter weather, it is a good time to remind yourself of some simple steps to help prevent damage to your home from the ice and snow. Homeowners and renters’ insurance policies could protect against common winter damage, so be sure to contact your agent to review your policy and ensure you are covered for potential winter related damages to your home or property.

“It is important to take precautionary steps and winterize your property to protect against freezing temperatures,” said Commissioner Vicki Schmidt. “If you are a victim of winter weather damage, contact your insurance agent right away.”

The Kansas Department of Insur-

ance recommends taking the following precautions to help prevent winter weather damages:

- Protect your pipes from freezing by detaching garden hoses and winterizing your irrigation systems. When temperatures drop drastically, have your faucet slightly drip and leave your under-sink cabinet doors open, especially with pipes near outer walls.
- Have your furnace inspected annually. Make sure to change out your HVAC filters as directed on its package.
- Seal potential leaks by insulating your home or apartment to keep winter chill outside. Check seal on attic, plumbing vents, and recessed lights.

If you or someone you know is having trouble with an insurance claim, please contact the Kansas Department of Insurance’s Consumer Assistance Division at 785-296-3071 or email KDOI.complaints@ks.gov.

The Kansas Department of Insurance was established in 1871, currently led by Commissioner Vicki Schmidt. The mission of the Department is to regulate companies that sell policies in Kansas to ensure solvency and compliance with state law, educate consumers about all things insurance and securities, and advocate for a strong and competitive market to give Kansans choices when shopping for products that meet their needs.

Legal Notice

(First Published in The Hill City Times on Wednesday, February 26, 2025)

Newspaper 24Newspaper 24

Annual Report of Nicodemus Township
Graham County, Kansas

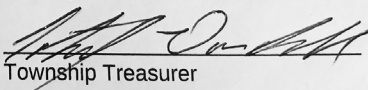
The undersigned treasurer and trustee of Nicodemus Township,
submit the following report for the year ending December 31, 2024.

FINANCIAL REPORT					
Fund	Cash Balance Jan. 1, 2024	Total Receipts	Total Expenditures	Cash Balance Dec. 31, 2024	Unpaid Bills Dec. 31, 2024
General	\$60,831.43	\$47,147.79	\$74,978.52	\$33,000.70	

*Detailed fund pages are available at the county clerk's office.
**Includes all money the township has including checking account, savings, and investments.

I certify that this financial report is a correct summary of all money received and expended as well as all unpaid bills for the township during the year ending December 31, 2024.

Date: 2-19-2025


Township Treasurer

Legal Notice

(First Published in The Hill City Times on Wednesday, February 26, 2025)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GRAHAM COUNTY, KANSAS
PROBATE DIVISION

In the Matter of the Estate of
ELLA ROSE ZERR, Deceased

Case No: GH-2024-PR-000028

NOTICE OF HEARING ON
PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in said court by Karen M. Berland and Lisa M. Hammersley, co-executors of the estate of Ella Rose Zerr, deceased, praying for a final settlement of said estate, approval of the acts, proceedings and accounts of the executors, allowance for the services of the executors and attorney's fees and expenses; and also praying that the court determine the heirs entitled to the estate and the proportion or part thereof to which each is entitled, and distribute and assign the same to them in accordance with the provisions of decedent's will; that the administration of the estate be closed; that the executors be discharged and released from further liability.

You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before **the 26th of March 2025, at 9:30 a.m.** of said day, in said court, in the city of Hill City, Graham County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard.

/s/ Karen M. Berland
Karen M. Berland, Co-Executor

/s/ Lisa A. Hammersley
Lisa A. Hammersley, Co-Executor

/S/ Steven W. Hirsch
Steven W. Hirsch #12789
HIRSCH & ABBOTT LAW OFFICE
104 So Penn, PO Box 296
Oberlin, KS 67749
PH: 785-475-2296
Attorney for Estate

We Appreciate Our Readers
& We Need Your Support!