



# The Record

## Coronavirus Compared to Spanish Flu

By Murrel Bland

More than 100 years ago, in the fall of 1918, Kansas and Wyandotte County, along with the rest of the world, faced a severe challenge because of the Spanish Influenza.

Front page stories in *The Kansas City Kansan*, told of the pandemic with such headlines as “ALL STATE CLOSED,” “FLU SPREADS FAST” and “A FLU DEATH HERE.”

The present coronavirus pandemic has caused a comparison to the influenza illness in 1918. Many historians who have studied that illness agree that it had its origin in hog pens in Haskell County near Dodge City, Kan., in early 2018. Young men from Southwest Kansas joined the U.S. Army and were sent to Camp Funston which is now Ft. Riley at Junction City, Kan.

Reports indicated that about 500 soldiers had the flu in early March of 2018 at Camp Funston. Many of these

soldiers were sent to Europe to fight in World War I. It didn't take long for the disease to spread across the globe. By the fall of 1918, the flu made its way back to Kansas.

Dr. Frederick Holmes, a Professor of Medicine Emeritus at the University of Kansas, has researched and written about the disease and the larger role of KU professors had in training and assisting in World War I. He was a featured speaker at a quarterly meeting of the Wyandotte County Historical Society marking the centennial of the end of World War I in the fall of 2018.

The University of Kansas at Lawrence was closed during October 2018. A front page story in the *University Daily Kansan* told students not to go to class, but were forbidden to leave Lawrence. Students suffering from the flu were ordered to report to the University Hospital. The KU varsity football schedule was cut from eight to four games.

A review of records of the Kansas State Board of Health from 1918 indicated that 2,639 died of influenza. Of those, 298 were from Wyandotte County. Estimates are that more than 646,000 Americans died of the flu—more than twice the number of United States personnel that were killed or wounded in World War I. As many as 30 million persons may have died of the flu worldwide.

Looking at the numbers from the coronavirus, we see that more than 60,000 deaths in the United States have been recorded so far with more than 226,000 deaths worldwide. As of late April 2020, there have been 55 deaths in Wyandotte County, mostly in nursing homes.

The fact that it was called the “Spanish Flu” was a misnomer. During World War I, Spain was neutral and therefore was not subject to censorship. It could report all the gory details of war. Its ruler, King Alfonso XIII, was afflicted with the flu. Some people in Spain to it as the “French Flu.”

Information for this article was taken from *history.com* and the files of The Wyandotte County Museum and the Kansas State Historical Society.

Murrel Bland is the former editor of *The Wyandotte West* and *The Piper Press*. He is the executive director of Business West.

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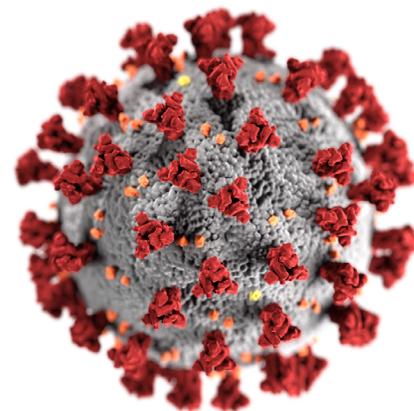
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## Virology for Dummies

By Dr. Jim Haas

You're not a dummy or you wouldn't be reading this, but it's good to have a catchy headline. Now that we're being reminded every day how important science and scientists are to our lives, let's revisit Virology 101 and consider what a virus is, how it works, and what it does inside us.



A virus, from the Latin for poison, is unusual in that it has components of life, but, because it can't reproduce and has no metabolism by itself, it isn't alive in the usual sense. Unlike bacteria, which are alive, viruses exist in a gray area between life and not-life. They can be thought of as undead, although, unlike fictional zombies, they were never alive.

There are trillions of different viruses, but only about 200 are known to cause disease in humans. All are truly tiny—a hundred million Covid-19 viruses could fit on the head of a pin—and typically shaped as rods or spheres. Even the largest are visible only with the most powerful electron microscopes.

Picture a virus like a tiny capsule with an outside shell made of protein that protects the capsule's contents of either DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) or RNA (ribonucleic acid) plus additional protein. The nucleic acid has a genetic code that differs for each kind of virus. If that were the whole story, viruses would just disappear, but they don't.

When viruses enter a suitable host—plant or animal, including us—they attach to the host's cells and penetrate them, becoming parasites using the cells' metabolism and energy to reproduce. It's a complex process that varies in different viruses, but the result is that the host cells can lose their ability to function properly and often die while the virus quickly multiplies and infects other cells.

When we are infected, our body's immune system goes into action producing antibodies that try to destroy the virus. This takes a few days with viruses like those that cause the common cold; with others, like Covid-19, the immune system can be overwhelmed and go into overdrive causing other problems including organ damage. Some viruses can go dormant for years only to return later, as shingles does from an earlier case of chickenpox.

The first virus to be specifically identified, by a Dutch botanist in 1898, was one that ruined tobacco plants, but human smallpox inoculations were performed in China as long ago as the tenth century. Today, vaccines are live, weak, or dead viruses; partial viruses; or DNA that resemble viruses. All produce antibodies that remain in the body and provide immunity to later exposure. We now have 25 vaccines for human viral diseases including yellow fever, polio, diphtheria, measles, mumps, rubella, and several flus. Vaccines are the surest protection, but thorough handwashing, not touching facial openings, and social distancing are effective.

Let's give a vote of thanks to Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis, the Hungarian obstetrician, who, in 1850, first realized the vital importance of handwashing to prevent infection, to Dr. Jonas Salk, who developed a polio vaccine in the 1950s, to Dr. Anthony Fauci, who gives us the facts almost daily about Covid-19, and to the countless thousands of researchers in universities, government agencies, and commercial labs around the world devoting their careers over the past century to studying viruses and developing vaccines and treatments. In public health, the heroes include the scientists, those who teach them, and the doctors, nurses, and other medical staff who bring the science to their patients. Bravo!

Jim's columns are online at <http://greatsociety2point0.blogspot.com>

# Sue's Soapbox

By: Sue Reich



What month is this? I have been in this place so long, I forget to change my calendar. I think it is May. Yes, that's it. May. Seems like we had Easter. That's right. I dyed four hard-boiled eggs. Didn't even get to go to church. Oh well, I wasn't going anyway. Seems like the churches are dwindling down and not as meaningful as they used to be. I still like to sing the hymns and watch some of it on TV. I remember the churches in Argentine used to have 6 at 6, at Eastertime. We would go to a different local church on Sunday evening and have a service. They would have refreshments down in their fellowship hall and sit and talk and enjoy each other's company. When I go to Argentine/Turner area now, it is like a ghost town. Seems like I am the only one on the street. Went down to east Argentine today and the church that burned down, St. John the Divine, is completely gone. I mean GONE. Don't get down there much, but it really looked strange to see that lot with not one iota, not one scrap, not one cinderblock, not one brick, not one pebble could be seen. Nada, nothing, absolutely bare. Sad, so sad that that once lively beautiful church is gone, But one good thing, it is in heaven now.

Just to bring up heaven, my sister Gayle is there too. But she is with our momma and other two sisters. Doesn't seem like a year already. Man, time sure does fly when we are quarantined.

Haha, No kidding, it is hard to keep track of time when you don't do much and all your appliances are falling apart. One good thing came out of all of this: I lost 10 pounds. For a 4'10" gal, every little pound really shows up. Now my "skinny jeans"

are actually getting baggy. By the time ya'll read this, I will be another year older. Never thought I would make it to this age. No, not gonna tell you. But I am full of P&V for an old gal. Miss all of you wonderful readers. [www.recordnews.com](http://www.recordnews.com) I love Turner and Argentine. After this stuff is over, Argentine is going to grow and grow again. I can feel it in my heart.

Please be kind, wash your hands, stay in as long as they want us to until all this garbage is over. K? I love all of you, miss you, can't wait to see you again.

Your buddy, your pal, your lonesome ol' gal. Sue.

"Love puts up with an awful lot" (Believe me I know). Treasures of Silver.

## Guess What Now?

By Sue Reich

We got our kitchen sink/garbage disposal fixed, and guess what happened now? Come on guess. First the vacuum sweeper, then the freezer, then the garbage disposal, and then, ta da!, I went to turn on the ceiling fan in the front room. No fan, no air. Dang, dangity dang dang. I told Mr. Ed I think this house is jinxed. I am soooo serious. Jinxed!

Someone has hexed this place and it doesn't matter what is fixed around here, something else goes haywire. How can a person keep the "stay at home order" is they have to call a serviceperson every few days to come and fix something? Oh well, that's life I guess.

See, I am a person that has a black cloud over her head. There is ALWAYS SOMETHING that has to go wrong. Oh yeah, eventually, it gets fixed but I get all excited to see what is going to happen next. Oh goody, goody, let me look around and see what is the next thing that can mess up. I forgot, the TV has been messing up too. One day all of them were out and we had to call our server to help us out. The only thing I can think of is this computer.

Oh no, not the computer. I love you dear computer, even more than my vacuum sweeper, the fan, the garbage disposal, the televisions, I want you, I need you, I love

you. Hmm, sounds like an Elvis song. Anyhoo, whomever put that jinx on me. That's ok. I am used to it.

## What's New in Rosedale

by Sue Reich/Erin Stryka

Fran Sharon is the President of the Rosedale Towers Tenant Association. She first got involved in 2010 and they did many things such as garden beds, fundraisers, dinners, and holiday celebrations. Easter was a big event for them too. They would fix sidewalks and make sure the people in wheelchairs and walkers would be able to get around like everyone else. Even during this time of

the pandemic, they are trying to keep everything sanitized, spraying things down with disinfectant and keeping their distance. They try to be kind to everyone and check on them to make sure they have everything they need.

## Wear Your Rosedale Pride

Erin Stryka/Sue Reich

Thanks to the design by Elizabeth Johnston of Lizardbrand, we are excited to offer a Rosedale T-shirt. The arch image is surrounded by greenery reflecting the beauty that Rosedale holds and the heart depicts the dedication and commitment of Rosedalians to create com-

munity. We are proud to promote this shirt as a reflection of Rosedale. The Rosedale T-shirt can be purchased at <https://www.bonfire.com/rosedale-development-association/> for \$20.

The Food Kitchen called and said they served 706 lunches that included 107 kids. Over 700 lunches were made and there were an extra 100 or so sandwiches. Two teams of cooks were in the kitchen. Maybe you can have too many cooks. No harm, no foul. We took extra sandwiches up and they were grateful for the extra food. Many thanks to all who contributed in anyway. We had a fantastic response to help feed the needy.

## Sacred Heart Preparing Lunches

Wearing proper attire, workers are getting ready to make 700 lunches at Sacred Heart Catholic church.



This is a relatively new station in the East end of Argentine. The clerk was shot in the face and taken to the hospital.

# Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

LEAVES OF THREE -Let them be! Recently one of my friends told me while cleaning her yard she got into poison ivy and was now on a third round of antibiotics. Coincidentally I received my weekly K-State Horticulture Newsletter (#17) which tells how to identify poison ivy and control it. I decided to pass the information along. Thanks to Ward Upham, Extension Associate.

“Learning to identify poison ivy is vital if you wish to avoid the rash that accompanies exposure. Unfortunately, poison ivy can make identification difficult because it occurs in three

forms: an erect woody shrub, a groundcover that creeps along the ground, and a woody vine that will climb trees.

When poison ivy climbs, it forms numerous aerial roots that give the vine the appearance of a fuzzy rope. The leaves of poison ivy also vary. Though the compound leaf always has three leaflets, the leaf margins may be toothed, incised, lobed or smooth. The size of the leaves also can vary, although usually the middle leaflet is larger than the other two. Also, the middle leaflet is the only one with a long stalk; the other two are closely attached to the petiole (leaf stem). The number of leaves gives rise to the saying: “Leaves of three, let it be!” Poison ivy is often confused with Virginia creeper or Woodbine. Each of these vines, however, has five leaflets rather than three.

There are three methods commonly used to eradicate poison ivy. These include pulling or grubbing out the plants by hand, cutting off the vine, and then treating the cut stump or the regrowth, and spraying the plants directly. The method used depends somewhat on the plant’s

growth form.

If the plant is growing as a groundcover, direct spray or grubbing the plant out is often used. If grubbing, wear gloves and a long-sleeved shirt. The soil must be moist for grubbing to work well. Wash the clothes and yourself immediately after you finish. It might also be a good idea to rinse the washing machine.

If the plant is in the shrub form, direct spray is the most common control method. If the plant is a woody vine that has climbed a tree, the preferred method is to cut the plant off at the base and treat the sprouts after they emerge. Some triclopyr herbicides also have instructions on treating a freshly cut stump directly. Triclopyr (Brush-B-Gon Poison Ivy Killer, Brush Killer Stump Killer) is most often used for poison ivy control. Other Herbicides that can be used include glyphosate (Roundup; Killzall Weed and Grass Killer; Nutgrass, Poison Ivy and Vine Killer) or dicamba. Poison ivy is tough. Repeat applications may be necessary.”

Happy Mother’s Day to all and until next time stay safe and be careful.

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## Treasury Accepting Title and Registration Work by Mail

Agencies throughout the Unified Government (UG) have made numerous changes in response to the evolving COVID-19 situation.

Although Public Buildings remain closed to in-person service at this time, the UG's Treasury Office has established a new process for accepting motor vehicle title work and registration during this period.

"As the COVID-19 situation in our region continues to evolve, the Treasury has sought new ways to provide residents with the services they rely on to complete normal business activities," explains Andrea Parra, Deputy Treasurer, "We are excited to announce title work and registration can now be completed by mail beginning Monday, May 4."

To assist customers in completing their title or registration work, an online questionnaire has been established to walk residents through the process to help ensure they submit all of the needed documentation. To get started, visit [wycokck.org/auto](http://wycokck.org/auto) and select "Click here to initiate a request to title your recently purchased vehicle: Request a ugdmv-title."

Once the amount due is determined, multiple payment options will be presented. Documentation may then be mailed to or dropped off at the Annex Office located at 8200 State Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66112.

The Treasury is also adding a process to acquire temporary tags through email. To start this process, please send an email to [ugdmv-temptag@wycokck.org](mailto:ugdmv-temptag@wycokck.org).

Residents with questions should contact 3-1-1 or visit [mywyco.wycokck.org](http://mywyco.wycokck.org).

## Tom's Tasty Treats!

I'm so pleased to share a recipe that my former HALLS coworker, and very good friend, JoAnn, just shared with me. She makes great treats, and I looked forward to tasting another good recipe from her kitchen.

We were on the phone, the other day, and she recited the ingredients, by memory. With paper and pen in hand, I asked her to please repeat, and the result is this week's tasty treat! Please try:

### Jo Ann's Cream Scones

Ingredients:

Scant 2 c Flour

1/4 c Sugar

1 T Baking Powder

1/8 t Salt

3/4 c Dried Fruit\*

1 1/4 c Whipping Cream

Set oven to 400°.

Line baking sheet with parchment paper

\*Jo Ann was using dried cranberries, but she said that the recipe would work with any dried fruits; Raisins, dark or golden, Plump dried Apricots, cut into small pieces. Dried Cherries work well also.

Place the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt into a mixing bowl. Stir to blend together. Add the dried fruit, and stir together. Form a well, and pour in the whipping cream. Stir just until blended together. Divide the dough into two equal portions. Form each into a flat, round, disc, 6" across. Place both on the baking sheet. Cut each disc into 8 wedges, and separate, leaving 1/3" space between each scone, and keeping in a round shape. Brush the tops with melted butter and sprinkle with Sparkling sugar or granulated sugar.

Bake at 400° for 12-15 minutes, until set and the edges have just turned a golden brown. With a large, flat, spatula transfer each to a wire cooling rack. Or place on a clean kitchen towel to cool.

So good served warm with some butter and some fruit preserves. These scones are so good, they are great on their own, with a hot cup of coffee! Store in an air-tight container, or zip-lock bag. Refresh scones by placing in the microwave for just 10 or 15 seconds.

Enjoy!

— Tom Valverde

## A Better Way to Operate

By Vicki Schmidt, Insurance Commissioner

COVID-19 has certainly disrupted the way we as Kansans do business. In my role as Insurance Commissioner, COVID-19 is not a reason to throw out all of the laws and regulations, it isn't a reason to find temporary solutions, but rather a gentle nudge to find a better way to operate.

In the beginning, that gentle nudge felt more like getting pushed off a cliff, but I am convinced now more than ever that the Insurance Department will be better and stronger, more efficient and effective post-COVID-19 than we were before. This is in large part due to the fabulous staff we have at the Department and their ability to problem solve, be creative and think outside-the-box.

Traditionally, government as a whole is adverse to change, but it shouldn't be. Last fall, I shook things up when I moved the Department from its home of 37 years to a new building better suited to fit the needs of our combined agency. During the move, we had to figure out how to continue operations while moving our entire office to a new building. So, I believe our Department was probably better prepared to take on the COVID-19 crisis than many others.

This situation has demanded rapid change and it is up to those of us in elected positions to ensure that change takes place in a way that positively serves the needs of the people of Kansas. For our part, we have transitioned our team to laptops, reallocated our

supplies, utilized our new website to share information, prioritized COVID-19 issues, efficiently distributed the workload to employees, safely scheduled employees in the office and most importantly remained accessible to the public via phone and email.

As your Insurance Commissioner, I will continue to lead in a way that inspires improvements in service rather than continues a history of stagnant procedures doomed to further complicate government.

As always, if there is something you think can work better or would help other Kansans have a better experience with insurance, please share it with me at [kid.commissioner@ks.gov](mailto:kid.commissioner@ks.gov). It is an honor to serve you and your family in the Kansas Insurance Department.

## Governor Kelly introduces plan to safely, re-open Kansas: "Ad Astra" plan increases local flexibility in COVID-19 response efforts

TOPEKA – In a televised address, Governor Laura Kelly today presented her detailed framework for gradually, safely re-opening the Kansas economy and getting Kansas back to work. Kelly's framework, "Ad Astra: A Plan to Reopen Kansas" comes five weeks after a statewide stay-home order became necessary to aggressively mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Phase One will take effect on Monday, May 4, 2020, via Executive Order 20-29, when the statewide stay-home order outlined in Executive Order 20-16 officially lifts.

"I am incredibly proud of how the people of Kansas met the moment and answered the call to hunker down," Kelly said. "It has been a difficult time that has taken a painful toll ... financially, emotionally, physically, spiritually and professionally on Kansans," Kelly said. "But because Kansans took this seriously, COVID-19 has inflicted far less devastation on Kansas than it did in other states."

The framework is structured to return more flexibility to local community response efforts, while still operating under a statewide, regulatory baseline. It allows local governments to impose additional restrictions beyond those outlined at the state level, if they deem it necessary to local COVID-19 response efforts. Local governments that choose not to impose additional restrictions are required to operate within the regulatory baseline established by the state. This approach will increase flexibility for local communities while also ensuring a gradual, safe transition statewide.

"My Ad Astra plan was developed in collaboration with my state health department, state emergency management team, business leaders and a diverse team of community leaders," Kelly said. "It aims to balance the needs and concerns identified throughout diverse regions of the state, and sectors of the Kansas economy, but without compromising public health and safety. Data must drive this process ... not dates."

The Governor will evaluate the state's disease spread, testing rates, death rates, hospitalizations, ability of state and local public health authorities to contain outbreaks and conduct contact tracing, and personal protective equipment availability when determining if the state should move to the next "Phase." Regardless of phase, the State Health Officer retains the authority to impose additional public health interventions in any area that contains an emergent and significant public health risk.

Throughout all these phases, Kansans should continue to adhere to hygiene and social distancing protocols, including:

- Washing hands frequently, while avoiding contact with one's face;
- Remaining home when sick or running a fever;
- Following isolation and quarantine orders issued by state or local health officers;
- Wearing a cloth face mask when in public;
- Working remotely, if possible.

These are basic public health guidelines that will slow the spread of this disease, regardless of which phase is in effect, and are essential to minimizing community transmission of COVID-19 in the absence of a vaccine.

"Even if Kansans do everything perfectly for the next couple of months, new outbreaks are almost inevitable until a COVID-19 vaccine is developed, manufactured and made widely available. It is essential that we make this transition slowly, gradually and cautiously," the Governor said.

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# Guest Editorial

## Post Office Distribution Center "Has Thousands" of Email Postage Stamp Orders to Fill!

By Tom Valverde

In response to President Trump's threat of no longer wishing to "Support" the US Postal service, the orders for stamps, "have been, rushing in!", according to a friend whose wife works there, in the Caves, in Kansas City, Missouri.

Seems there was a Twitter feed that encouraged everyone to order stamps online, and the response has been overwhelming. Overwhelming because, there had formally been three such Centers around the country, to process these orders, and because of governmental cuts, there is just this one in Kansas City.

Speaking with another man at a post office in Midtown, he told me that people are coming in to mail out packages, as if we were now at Christmas time!

People depend on the mail, and many Seniors receive their medications, via the mail. This is another hare brained "idea" of this out of control president.

Purchase stamps, greeting cards, mailing supplies, military care kits - under business supplies, stickers, and labels and more, online at: [www.usps.com/store](http://www.usps.com/store), or just ask Google how stamps how may be purchased online. Show your support for the US Postal service, and buy something online, or at your local Post office.

And yet another frontline postal worker described how our local US Senators and House members are very supportive of keeping the US Postal service, and will work to support and maintain this Essential business for now and into the future.

Amazon uses the post office for delivery of some of its items, Jeff Bezos owns Amazon, and Trump is doing this to get back at Bezos. The Washington Post also belongs to him. The Washington Post has published many truthful and unflattering stories about Trump and the members of the current administration. So what? It's a Free Country, and we still have a "Free Press."

Trump dislikes any bad or negative press, but his words and actions are so uncharacteristic of a leader; the president of the United States. The Press are simply doing their job of keeping the public informed. Please pass this news along, so that others will plan a visit to purchase stamps at the Post office.

## Quotes To Ponder

By Tom Valverde

"...I will remain here, as a rowdy activist, as I have to be and God willing, for as long as I have to be."

"Tonight, I am asking for your help. I call upon you to draw from the depths of your being, to prove that we are a human race. To prove that our love outweighs our need to hate. That our compassion is more compelling, than our need to blame. That our sensitivity to those in need is stronger than our greed. That our ability to reason overcomes our fear. And that at the end of our lives, we can look back and be proud that we have treated others with the kindness, dignity, and respect, that every human being deserves."

Elizabeth Taylor

On her acceptance of the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award, presented at the 65th Academy Awards, 1993. In acknowledgement of her tireless fight against AIDS.

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

Eleanor Roosevelt

Former First Lady, during World War II

Wonderful words to fill our hearts with hope for a much better tomorrow. For all people, both in the US, and our human family in countries abroad. We should be of help to one another, in these difficult times and the Covid-19 pandemic. Blame is of no use and should not be a consideration, if things are to change for the better, for everyone. Division, hate, and fear must all be rejected. As well as those people who use these to destroy our unity. These only bring bad and evil to humanity.

## US Debt Will Approach \$6,000,000,000,000, With More Legislation To Assist Americans Deal With The Covid-19 Crisis

By Tom Valverde

With more than 26 million persons filing for their unemployment benefits, in only the past five weeks, and the economy suffering the effects of the Coronavirus outbreak, this has led to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to provide its updated projections for the US economy. Astounding, is the fact that of those latest jobless numbers, 4.4 million claims were filed only last week.

Later this year, the CBO expects that the unemployment numbers will rise to 16%. They will very slowly descend to be at 9.5%, by the end of 2021.

The US economy will still be feeling the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic, with an estimated 6 million fewer workers to support it.

The agency forecasts the federal debt held by the public will be 101% of GDP, by the end of the fiscal year. It also called for the economy to have a "Sharp Contraction," persisting until the end of June of 2020.

The CBO made its economic projections for the 3rd quarter, based on a diminished Coronavirus outbreak, and states having workers being able to return to work. This remains to be seen, as most medical and disease experts warn of the dangers of workers returning to work without easily available, reliable, "wide testing," and without there being a preventative vaccine. Most have said that the US still is not ready to reopen for business.

Though trillions will be made available at this time, the US taking on this financial burden is seen by most economists as this being a good thing. According to a report in Politico, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) said, "The bleak new numbers shouldn't preclude Congress from fully responding to the Crisis." It warns that, "Inadequate action" because of worries about the deficit, will only make things worse.

A spokesperson for the CBPP added, "This means that debt and deficits will need to rise to improve the health and well-being of people and the economy and prevent a deeper, more protracted downturn, from taking hold."

The CBO has forecasted actual GDP to lower by 11.8% in

the 2nd quarter. And for the overall economy to shrink by 5.6% in this fiscal year.

The CBO announced, "The nation has long-run fiscal challenges, but does not have a debt crisis now while it does face immediate health, humanitarian, and economic crises that need to be addressed."

The New York Times report on the large deficit that is expected this year, also agreed, "These are more likely to leave the United States in a better fiscal situation for the year ahead, than the alternative in which the Government is more tightfisted but fails to prevent the widespread collapse of American businesses, or help workers in deep financial straits."

"Congress right now should be concerned about American workers," said Treasury Secretary, Steve Mnuchin. "In different times, we'll fix the deficit. This is not the time to worry about it."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Mnuchin have been the force behind the aid to small businesses and workers. Trump still does not speak to Pelosi, but she and Mnuchin have been able to bring the trillions needed in legislative help for the president to only have to sign to enact!

Trillions are discussed as if they appear by magic. But an explanation appeared in Axios: "First the US Treasury issues Bonds. And because the Congress suspended the "Debt Ceiling" for 2 years in 2019, this allows the US Government to go into as much debt as it wants.

"Then, the Bonds are sold to banks, and if banks lack sufficient funds to buy them, the Federal Reserve will lend them as much as they need. The banks turn around and sell the Bonds, at a small profit, to investors from all over the world." Bonds remain "attractive" to investors in uncertain times, and there is always a market for them."

The top five countries holding the largest number of US Bonds are:

China — \$1.244 Trillion  
Japan — \$1.147 Trillion  
The Cayman Islands — \$265 Billion  
Brazil — \$246 Billion  
The United Kingdom — \$227.6 Billion

With such a dynamic force as the Federal Reserve to service US debt, the country can work to get back to being productive and prosperous again, once the scourge of the Covid-19 Pandemic is over!

With heart-felt sympathy for all of the Kansas City families who have losses loved ones in the pandemic. And with many thanks again to the medical workers who risk their own health to take care of the sick and dying in Kansas City.

Many thanks to all the "Essential Workers" who also brave the Covid-19 virus to keep us all supplied with the food and medicine we need. Many thanks indeed!

You All are Very Special People!

## Help Wanted

Looking for a House Cleaner. One hour per week. Take out trash, minor chores, vacuum, dishes, laundry, etc. Please call Joyce at 913-287-0444.



## Passings...

By Sue Reich

Rose Turner, age 70, passed away on April 28, 2020. Rosedale High School. Graduated 1967.

Danny Messick, age 60, passed away on April 15, 2020. Turner High School. Graduated 1977.

Conrado Mendez Jr., age 54, passed away on April 15, 2020. Harmon High School. Graduated 1984.

Lois Ann (Larson) Southerland, age 92, passed away on April 18, 2020. Argentine High School. Graduated 1946.

Mike Curtis, age 77, passed away on April 20, 2020. Super Bowl linebacker for Colts.

Shirley Knight, age 83, passed away on April 22, 2020. She was born in Kansas. Actress in numerous movies.



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