

The Record

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Number 12

COVID + Putin's War = Inflation

By Dr. Jim Haas

Gas prices got you down? Bread prices going up? What's behind the worldwide inflation? When might it ease? What causes inflation anyway?

Inflation happens when demand for goods and services exceeds supply, driving up prices, so the cure is to increase the supply of what we want, reduce our demand, or both. The chief driver of inflation is the COVID pandemic that has closed factories and services around the world and severely interfered with global shipping, a vital link in supply chains. My wife and I ordered a new refrigerator last summer, but the factory never made it; last month, we finally took a different model.

Ports are still backed up even with dock facilities running 24/7, and dock labor is

hard to find as are merchant ship crews, 14% of whom are Russians or Ukrainians, many affected by the war. In addition, empty shipping containers are stranded at ports around the world, at least 40,000 in Russia where they will remain indefinitely.

And COVID is not finished with us. Thirty-seven million Chinese are currently under strict lockdown, most in major manufacturing and shipping centers, and several parts of Europe and the U.S. are seeing cases of a new Omicron variant increase. The U.S. alone has had nearly a million COVID-related deaths, many of them former workers in vital jobs. None of this is good for the supply of goods (or the health of citizens).

Simultaneously, the U.S. economy is booming with low unemployment, rising



wages, and a bullish stock market. All that money plus pent-up demand after two years of COVID has created a perfect storm for inflation: low supply *and* high demand. Auto sales are an important example with a shortage of computer chips slowing the production of new vehicles, driving prices up significantly while high demand has raised used car prices even more. Ford is offering some new cars without the chips that control rear-seat air conditioning; Ford will install them when they get them.

And what about gasoline? Price depends on the cost of crude oil on the global market which went down nearly 20 % last week then started rising again partly because of pressures to not buy Russian oil. Lower supply plus increased demand during the approaching summer season and the added refining costs of less polluting gas used during summers inflates the price at the pump—all this while oil company profits are sky high because they apparently believe in the 19th century rail barons' creed: charge "all the traffic can bear."

Food supplies have been affected by COVID in meat processing and other plants and by severe drought in the American West reducing the supply of vegetable and other



Argentine Federal Savings recently completed an all-staff training session(s) regarding regulatory compliance, cyber awareness, and safety & security. Pictured front row, left to right: Wendy, Jeannie, Kendra, Jon, Lisa, and Wendy. Pictured back row, left to right: Patty, Gary, Roger, Jack and Kolby.

Sue's Sudsy Soapbox



By Sue Reich

Takin' a
short
break...
Don't go
anywhere!
Hope to be
back soon!



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UG Public Health Department to Close Mass COVID Vaccination and Testing Site on March 30

(KANSAS CITY, KS) – The Unified Government Public Health Department (UGPHD) announced that it will be closing its COVID mass vaccination and testing site at the former Kmart building at 7836 State Avenue on March 30, 2022. The last day for COVID-19 testing at the site will be Wednesday, March 30. The last day for vaccinations at the site will be Friday, March 25.

“The first COVID vaccine dose was administered at the Kmart facility on December 23, 2020,” said Dr. Allen Greiner, Chief Medical Officer for the UGPHD. “When the Kmart facility first opened, it was one of the only places in the State of Kansas administering COVID vaccinations. Now, however, the vaccines are much more accessible, and Wyandotte County residents have many choices about where to go to get vaccinated or tested, throughout the community.”

Where to Get Vaccinated

There are several alternative ways in which Wyandotte county residents can get their free COVID vaccinations and COVID testing, including:

- COVID vaccines are available by appointment only for anyone five years and older at the UGPHD department at 619 Ann Avenue in KCK.
- Appointments are available Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (913) 573-8855 to make an appointment.
- Booster shots for those 12 and older are also available at the UGPHD.
- Vaccine hours at the UGPHD will be extended in April. More details will be announced later this month.
- Find other COVID vaccination sites at vaccines.gov.

Find additional information at WycoVaccines.org.

Where to Get Tested

- For COVID Testing locations please visit www.wycokck.org/covid-19 and click on “COVID-19 Test Info.”
- Additional testing locations can also be found by visiting <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/280/COVID-19-Testing>.

- Now residents can order two sets of 4 free COVID At-Home test by visiting COVIDTests.gov. Anyone who ordered their first set of tests before March 7, 2022, can now order a second set.

The UGPHD encourages Wyandotte County residents to watch social media for updates on pop-up vaccination and testing events throughout the community. They can do this by visiting the UGPHD Facebook and Twitter pages (@UGHealthDept) for the latest information.

It’s still important to get tested and vaccinated!

According to the CDC’s county-by-county online database, which evaluates several metrics to determine each county’s current COVID community level, Wyandotte County has a “HIGH” level of community COVID-19. The CDC recommends the following guidelines to help stop the spread of COVID in our community:

- Wear a mask indoors in public
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms
- Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness

The Importance of the Kmart Facility

The mass vaccination and testing facility at the former Kmart site has been an important tool for the UGPHD in combatting the spread of COVID-19 in Wyandotte County. Some statistics about the work done at the Kmart vaccination and testing site:

- As of March 10, 2022 there have been 90,477 doses administered at Kmart since it first opened in December 23, 2020.
- Across all of the UGPHD’s vaccination sites (which includes the Kmart facility, the Armory, the former Best Buy location in the Legends, the UGPHD site at 619 Ann Avenue and all vaccinations administered by the Mobile Vaccination Unit), there have been 148,020 doses administered and 70,380 people vaccinated, from December 23, 2020 to date.

For more information and latest statistics on the status of COVID-19 in Wyandotte County, visit WycoVaccines.org.



By Sharon Hoover

Correction for those interested in Turner Summer Day Camp: online address for Turner Recreation Commission is turnerrec@turnerusd202.org. Sorry about that, I need to proof-read better. Every week I try to list events that (I hope) are of interest to the community. My primary

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

sources are usually the Livable Neighborhoods newsletter and the UG newsletter, but I have others. To subscribe to the UG weekly newsletter, go to eNews at wycokck.org. I can't add all the events they list so there may be others you may have interested in.

HEADS UP!! The Annual Book & Bric-a-Brac Sale is coming **BACK!** I have been waiting for this for three years. This year it will be held on April 29, 2022, from 8am-4pm and April 30, 2022, from 8am-3pm at Grace Lutheran Church, 3333 Wood Ave. KCK. You may have something to donate such as books, household items, jewelry, home décor. Please No clothing or magazines. Donations will be accepted at the church beginning at 8am on April 28.

Call 913-281-8908 if you have questions or to schedule a pickup. Volunteers are needed to help sort and display items for the sale or work a few hours during the sale. Same phone number.

Have you gotten your covid vaccination or booster shot yet? It's still not too late but you need to know the former Kmart site will be closing on March 30, 2022. The last day to receive the vaccine is March 25, 2022. Since the site opened in December 23, 2020 through March 10 of this year, 90,477 doses have been administered. To find other vaccination sites available go to vaccines.gov or wycovaccines.org.

The Kansas City Police Department will be holding a Peace March on Saturday, March 26 at 11 am. Join Chief Oakman and

KCKPD Officers as they walk with the community to raise awareness for the new violence reduction initiatives for KCK. They will be walking from 5th & Washington Blvd to 5th & Parallel ending with a rally and free lunch.

Looking for a summer job? The KCKPD is looking for Police Outreach Cadets. The pay is \$15.00/hour, and the program runs from June 9, 2022, thru August 3, 2022. You must be between the ages of 16 to 19. Apply at wycokck.org/jobs or call 913-573-5660. I also noticed approximately 50 full and part-time job openings in the UG government on that site. Might be worth a look.

Until next time, stay safe, and be kind to those around you. Pray for the brave Ukrainians.



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SENATE NEWS



By Sen. Pat Pettey

Legislators stayed busy this week with committees meeting daily, with a virtual option on Thursday due to the latest band of snow hitting our area.

Wednesday, March 23rd, is the deadline for non-exempt bills to be passed out of their second chamber. As such, there should be an influx of work on the Senate floor next week. We plan to work every day, meeting at 2:30pm daily except for Friday, when we'll gavel in at 9:30am. You

can watch live on the Kansas Legislature YouTube Channel.

It is truly an honor to serve you in Topeka. If you have any questions, please contact me at 785-296-7375 OR pat.pettey@senate.ks.gov.

GENERAL ORDERS

The Senate convened on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this week to debate bills on general orders. We passed 19 bills, and one bill failed to reach the majority required for passage. We also approved two of Governor Kelly's appointments.

Governor Kelly appointed Janet Stanek as the new Secretary of Health and Environment last year, following the departure of Secretary Lee Norman. The Kansas Reflector

has great coverage on the Senate Public Health and Welfare committee's resistance to Stanek's nomination. While the committee moved her nomination forward without a recommendation, the chairman, Senator Richard Hilderbrand, spoke in her support on the Senate floor, and she was confirmed by a vote of 32 to 5.

Janet Stanek brings experience from three other states as well as over 20 years in Kansas in health care management. I am extremely glad to support her confirmation.

The Senate unanimously approved the nomination of Angela Coble to the Kansas Court of Appeals. Coble began her legal career in 2009 at Kennedy, Berkley, Yarnovich, and Williamson, a Salina law firm. Coble left private practice to become chambers counsel to two federal judges in the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas. She worked with U.S. Magistrate Judge Karen Humphreys until the judge's retirement in 2015. Since then, Coble has worked as legal counsel to U.S. Magistrate Judge Gwynne Birzer. To date, she has advised judges on courses of action in both civil and criminal matters and has drafted more than 300 judicial opinions.

The big debate this week was over SB 523, which transfers \$1 billion from the State General Fund to the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System Trust Fund and reduce the employer contribution rate by over 2% over two years. Honoring our state's commitment to paying our retirees has always been a priority to me – and it's one we can accomplish without this massive expenditure from our budget, outside of the budget process. KPERS will be 80% funded by next year, even with no extra payments, and reported savings for the State General Fund would decrease if the assumed rate of return is lowered this year. We have already committed more than \$250 million to KPERS to eliminate the layering payment. We owe it to Kansans to consider these facts in the broader context of our budget, and weigh them against other proposals that, for instance, deliver tax relief to all Kansans, like our plan to elim-

inate the food sales tax would. For these reasons, I voted NO. I offered an amendment for a 13th check that would go to all KPERS retirees. This is a one-time payment and the funding would come out of the \$1 billion going to the KPERS Trust Fund. KPERS retirees live all over our state and their spending helps to provide basic economic stability to their communities.

Two elections bills also hit the floor on Wednesday: SB 439 requires county elections offices to send a confirmation of address when there is no election-related activity for any four calendar year period. In its original form, non-response to the confirmation of address would have triggered the process for removing the voter in question from the rolls. An amendment offered by Senator Hilderbrand made it so that that process would only begin if the confirmation of address is returned to the office as undeliverable. That amendment was approved by the Senate, and I voted YES on the bill.

The other election bill, SB 418, prohibits the modification of election laws by agreement except as approved by the Legislative Coordinating Council. This is problematic for many reasons, but particularly because the Legislature has a nasty habit of passing terrible, unconstitutional, unenforceable election laws. Prohibiting the Governor and the Secretary of State from entering into consent decrees – and instead giving that power to the people who pushed the controversial legislation in the first place – will almost certainly force litigation where compromise is possible, ultimately leading to more taxpayer dollars wasted in service of defending indefensible voter suppression. I voted NO.

*** ATTACKS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY:** The Senate Utilities chairman's war on renewables has not gotten much support from his committee's members. Just a few weeks ago, he failed to get a second on moving one of his anti-renewable bills out of committee. But he's found a sympathetic ear in the Senate Assessment & Taxation committee

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Petty... ...from page 4

chair, who is holding a hearing on SB 374 on Tuesday. This bill would discontinue the property tax exemption for new developments of renewable energy resources. Global events highlight just how important it is for our country to become less reliant on fossil fuels from abroad. Now is not the time to disincentivize clean energy here at home.

* **BRINGING THE NRA TO A SCHOOL NEAR YOU:** SB 522 would require the State Board of Education to base this curriculum on the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe program offered by the National Rifle Association for grades K-5 and hunting education programs offered by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism for grades 6-12. A similar bill passed last year, but was vetoed by Governor Kelly. Curriculum is best addressed by the State Board of Education and local school boards, not legislators whose campaigns are influenced by the special interest group promoted by this legislation. This bill was scheduled to have a hearing in Senate Federal & State Affairs last week, but it was postponed until this coming Monday following the shooting at Olathe East High School.

* **MEDICAL MARIJUANA:** After an abrupt shift at the beginning of legislative session, medical marijuana is back on the docket for the Kansas Senate. Senate Federal & State Affairs will hold an informational hearing on the topic on Thursday and Friday of next week.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH REDISTRICTING?

It's been over a month since the Legislature successfully overrode Governor Kelly's veto of the Republican Ad Astra 2 congressional map. Since then, three lawsuits have been filed in state court. Democracy Docket has an excellent summary of the differences between each of the cases, and their statuses: two focus on political and racial gerrymandering, in addition to a violation of legislative guidelines;

the third focuses primarily on partisan gerrymandering. Partisan gerrymandering is permitted under federal law, but has not been challenged in Kansas courts yet. Racial gerrymandering is unconstitutional at both the state and federal level.

Attorney General Derek Schmidt filed suit in the Kansas Supreme Court in February asking it to block two of those suits. His petition was denied last week. We expect movement on these suits to begin by the end of the month, and I'll keep you apprised of their results.

In the meantime, the Legislature is moving on to legislative maps. Senate Republican leadership introduced its state senate map into Senate Ways & Means on Thursday. Senate Minority Leader Dinah Sykes introduced another map – and a map drawn by the League of Women Voters – into Senate Federal & State Affairs at the same time. We expect that the Republican map will be worked early next week and could come to a vote on the Senate floor by the end of the week. Individual testimony and feedback is strongly encouraged. Take a look at these maps, and submit testimony to the Senate Redistricting committee using the committee's conferee guidelines.

OTHER BILLS TO WATCH

A number of controversial bills made it out of committee this week. The Senate can take action on these pieces of legislation at any time. Here are a few to keep an eye on:

* **BULLYING CHILDREN:** A bill passed the Senate twice last session before being vetoed by Governor Kelly is back. The bill, which proponents have cruelly dubbed the Fairness in Women's Sports Act, would prohibit trans girls from kindergarten all the way up to college from playing school sports with their peers. This legislation demonstrates a deep misunderstanding of the lived experience of trans people, and it mandates their ostracization. We were able to uphold the governor's veto last session, and we're not giving up this year.

* **VOTING RIGHTS:** S Sub for HB 2056 is a behemoth voter

suppression bill undermining the integrity of our election offices. The bill limits counties to having one ballot box per county unless there are more than 30,000 registered voters; limits drop boxes to only be available during the operating hours of county election offices; requires that drop boxes be monitored by an election official or camera where you can see the voter's face; requires that drop boxes have all enclosed ballots back at the election office by 7pm; removes the 3-day grace period for ballots postmarked by Election Day; extends the advance voting period from 20 days prior to the election to 23 days prior to Election Day; and shortens the voter registration deadline from 24 days before Election Day to 21 days before Election Day.

* **FLIRTING WITH CENSORSHIP:** SB 496 capitalizes on national figures' successful manipulation of parents' anxieties around learning and growing by suggesting that our public schools – which are subject to strict oversight by the state – are hiding nefarious materials used to brainwash our children. This "Parents' Bill of Rights" co-opts civil rights language in order to undermine our public school teachers and districts that teach and care for Kansas kids. As a retired educator this bill sets up an adversarial relationship between family and teachers before the child enters the classroom. Every family wants their child to advance academically and every teacher wants to provide for the educational needs of each student. This is a partnership not a battle.

* **POLITICIZING THE JUDICIARY:** Two proposed constitutional amendments targeting the Kansas Supreme Court made it out of committee this week. The first, SCR 1621, would require Senate confirmation of gubernatorial appointments of Supreme Court justices, thereby eliminating the Supreme Court Nominating Commission. The second, SCR 1622, would provide for partisan, statewide elections of Supreme Court justices. Merit-based selection for our state supreme court justices has served our state well for decades,

and I do not support changes to our constitution like this that will weaken our democracy.

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Governor Laura Kelly announced this week that applications are currently being accepted for the Community Service Tax Credit Program (CSP). CSP provides an opportunity for private, non-profit organizations and public health care entities to improve their ability to undertake major capital campaigns for projects involving children and family services, non-governmental crime prevention, youth apprenticeship and youth technical training and health care.

To be considered for funding, newly licensed or established child care programs must maintain an active permanent license with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, whether they remain open or temporarily closed. Funds may be used for any normal operational expenses, additional expenses the child care program has due to meeting CDC guidance for mitigating the spread of COVID-19, and other activities necessary to maintain or resume the operation of programs.

Under this program, the state authorizes nonprofit organizations to offer tax credits to donors making contributions towards approved projects. Proposed projects should be unique or one-time in nature and create a lasting value for charitable organizations. For example, projects might include a capital campaign, major equipment purchase, major renovation, capacity building, etc.

Since 2019, CSP has earmarked \$1 million for childcare and early childhood development projects for services to those under the age of 5.

Applicants may request up to \$200,000 in tax credits. Applicant organizations in rural areas (less than 15,000 population) are eligible for a 70 percent credit. Applicant organizations in non-rural areas are eligible for a 50 percent credit. The application window is open through April 30, 2022 at kansascommerce.gov/csp.

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Governor Prioritizes Affordable Housing in Budget Amendments

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly announced an additional \$50 million for affordable housing through a Governor’s Budget Amendment.

“Kansas is seeing historic economic growth, and we have to ensure we have long-term, sustainable funding to provide affordable housing for our workforce,” Governor Laura Kelly said. “A shortage of quality, affordable housing is a barrier to economic growth and development throughout the state - and particularly in rural Kansas. To continue to attract business, and the workforce needed to fill jobs, we must develop more affordable housing opportunities throughout the state.”

The Kansas Housing Resources Corporation and the Office of Rural Prosperity in the Department of Commerce completed a comprehensive housing needs assessment in 2021. This was the first assessment done in nearly 30 years and addressed a shortage of data on existing housing resources, as well as current and projected needs. The Housing Needs Assessment indicated that the aging Kansas housing stock presents significant issues since the cost of renovation or new construction is higher than the market value.

The additional funding for affordable housing will establish the Rural Housing Revolving Loan Program to be administered by the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation; this housing trust fund will be the

Inflation...

...from page 1

farm products. Climate change will further lessen supply.

The Federal Reserve Bank has raised interest rates which will reduce borrowing and, therefore, spending. It’s one of the few tools we have to reduce consumer demand and resulting inflation. Other tools include making sure we’re vaccinated and boosted because COVID is the primary cause of inflation, using less gasoline or diesel and ditching passenger vehicles that average fewer than 30 mpg, and moving as quickly as possible to end the use of fossil fuels.

Putin’s war causes inflation, so if you own a serious weapon, have military training, and feel a need to defend democracy, consider taking your weapon to war by joining the Ukraine Foreign Legion. Thousands already have, including Americans. If shooting people isn’t your thing, Google “donate to Ukraine relief” for lists of responsible charities that aid victims of Putin’s aggression.

first of its kind in Kansas, and it is supported by a broad coalition of rural Kansas stakeholders who understand the need for additional tools to increase investment in areas where market rates underestimate the strength and potential of rural Kansas to innovate and grow.

Funding is also included to build on the Governor’s initial investments in law enforcement agencies by adding \$3.6 million for the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, including an increase to starting pay and current salaries to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of KBI employees, and in recognition of the rigorous vetting process that KBI officers, forensic scientists, and professional staff must go through in order to be hired.

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Tom’s Tasty Treats

By Tom Valverde

Spring time is finally here! It’s time to make tasty treats for your family and friends!*

This week’s tasty treat has so many good things in them, that just about anyone who likes chocolate and coconut will Love my special cookies:

TOM’S COCONUT AND CHOCOLATE CRISPS

Ingredients:

- 1 c Butter
 - 2/3 c Brown Sugar
 - 2 Lg. Eggs
 - 1 t Vanilla
 - 2 c Flour
 - 1 t Baking Soda
 - 1/2 t Salt
 - 2/3 c Sweetened Shredded Coconut
 - 1/2 c Mini Chocolate chips
- Topping:
- 1 1/2 c Semisweet Chocolate chips
 - 1/2 c Coconut

Cream the butter and brown sugar until well blended. Beat in the eggs and Vanilla and beat until smooth. In a large bowl, combine and whisk together the flour, baking soda and salt. Add the coconut and mini chocolate chips and stir until well distributed. Add half of the flour mixture to the butter mixture and beat on low speed. Scrape sides of the bowl as needed. Beat in remaining flour mixture. Making sure no flour is left in bowl. Divide in half, form each into a ball. Flatten each to form a disc and cover in plastic wrap.

Best if chilled overnight but for at least 6 hours. Set oven to 350°. Line and spray two cookie sheets. Work with one disc, roll out between 2 sheets of waxed paper until 1/4” thick. Cut into 2” rounds or squares or heart shapes. Place 2” apart on the cookie sheet. Bake at 350° for 8 or 9 minutes, until firm. Leave on cookie sheet for 5 minutes then transfer to cooling rack to cool completely. Chill and wrap any leftover dough. Repeat with the other disc. Once all the cookies have cooled, melt the semi-sweet chocolate chips; stir smooth. Place the coconut into a bowl. Dip each cookie halfway into the melted chocolate allowing the excess chocolate to drip back into the pan. Quickly, dip the cookie into the coconut and press to insure that the coconut adheres. Keep cookies at room temperature inside an air-tight container. They will keep up to 5 days or a week if kept chilled.

* It’s always good to remember your live alone neighbors, friends and family. These cookies are so good and for company serve with a bowl of the best Vanilla ice cream! So good.

Enjoy!

ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS

The Board of Education, Unified School District No. 500, Kansas City, KS will accept sealed bids for: IFB 22-008 Concrete Repairs Summer 2022 . Sealed bids should be addressed to: Purchasing Department, Board of Education, 2010 N. 59th Street, Room 370, Kansas City, KS 66109 - “IFB No. 22-008 – “Concrete Repairs Summer 2022 “

Bids will be opened 3/29/22 @ 10:00AM in the Purchasing Office.

Bid Documents are available at the Purchasing Department Office, at the above-address between 8 AM and 4 PM, M-F. Bid Documents are posted at <http://www.kckps.org/index.php/invitation-for-bids> .

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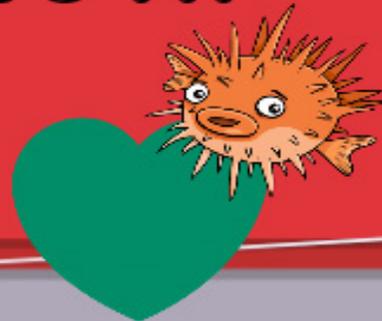


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