

The Record

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Number 02

Democracy Isn't Guaranteed



By Dr. Jim Haas

Democracy can vanish in a day or die slowly, one cherished tradition after another.

Historian Crane Brinton wrote, in his classic *The Anatomy of Revolution*, when the “silken threads of habit, tradition, legality” have been broken, “men must be held together in society by the ‘iron chains’ of dictatorship.” The violent mob that attacked the Capitol a year ago tried to break our tradition of a peaceful transfer of power in favor of a person who clearly has the instincts of a dictator. Our silken threads are badly frayed, and in Georgia, Kansas, and 17 other states where Republicans have altered election procedures to favor themselves, some threads have broken, and democracy is weakening.

We like to think of Kansas as America’s patriotic heartland, but during last year’s failed coup, Kansas Senator Roger Marshall voted to challenge the electoral vote and three Kansas House members—Ron Estes, Jake LaTurner, and Tracey Mann—also voted to overturn the votes of American citizens. Remember those names, and if

any are on your ballot in future elections, vote for someone else who will preserve our “silken threads of habit, tradition, legality.”

The Capitol mob included thugs, white supremacists, and assorted right-wing extremists, but many of them were ordinary people whose mistake was being gullible and believing the former president’s lies that the election was “stolen.” The fact is that 81 million Americans voted for Joe Biden in 2020, a majority of 7 million. It was the largest, most closely examined election in our history, and dozens of court challenges and recounts found no meaningful cheating in any state. Ironically, in two states with multiple recounts, Biden’s margin increased.

In a powerful speech last week, President Biden blamed the attack squarely on the former president’s “web of lies,” calling him one who values “power over principle,” whose “bruised ego matters more to him than our democracy,” who “can’t accept that he lost,” and who is “not only a former president, but a defeated former president.” Biden said, “you can’t love your country only when you win. You can’t obey the law only when it is convenient. You can’t be patriotic when you embrace and enable lies.”

The Justice Department has charged nearly 800 of the mob with crimes, including felonies, and is tracking down more, often helped by thousands of volunteer “Sedition Hunters” using facial recognition software applied to mob videos and other techniques.

Meanwhile, the House January 6th Select Committee has acquired 35,000 emails and other documents and heard sworn testimony relating to the former president scheming with supporters, including current members

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In Remembrance of A Fallen Hero

There will be a special ceremony for Michael “BO” Brazil, a forgotten veteran. He died in the Argentine community of Kansas City, Kansas, on December 14th, 2021. Michael was homeless for many years until recently when he was staying at a friend’s home in this area. He often lived outdoors during the blazing heat of the day, and the frigid cold of winter nights. He will always be remembered as a Navy veteran and profound and good person that he was. Please attend this ceremony for Michael, for we must never forget this American hero.

Date: January 15th, Saturday, 2022
Place: Emerson Park 2700 Strong Ave
Time: Ceremony at 3:00 p.m.

Kansas Legislature to focus on Congressional Redistricting

By Murrel Bland

The main issue that the Kansas Legislature will face when its members meet for the 2022 session next month will be Congressional Redistricting. Members of the Legislative Committee learned this when they met Friday, Dec. 10 via ZOOM. The Committee is part of the Kansas City, Kansas, Area Chamber of Commerce.

There is concern that Johnson and Wyandotte counties would be severely split. One proposal would put Wyandotte County in the same district as much of Western Kansas. Political leaders in Wyandotte County are opposed to such a plan.

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Sue's Sudsy Soapbox



By Sue Reich

Happy Valentine's Day

Well anyway, that's what all the stores are saying. A lot of them have their Valentine stuff out already and 2021 wasn't even over yet. See why we think we age so fast because they push one season right into another? I still haven't gotten my Christmas stuff down yet. Hurry hurry and hurry. I'm late, I'm late, I gotta important date, Christ-

mas was here, oh dear, oh dear, what? Valentine here already too.?

We had a quiet New Year's Eve. We watched the ball come down, some big boomers outside, I crashed and so did Mr. Ed. Didn't have our black eyed peas though. Think everyone bought up the black eyed peas.

Omgosh, Shawnee Plaza at 47th and Shawnee Dr. was so crowded we couldn't hardly get out and it was getting dark already. Talk about crowded, we went to the Legends to T-Mobil on Black Friday. It wasn't bad getting in, but getting out was awful. That was the way Shawnee Plaza was. I am so used to this quarantine that crowds really get to me. I feel a lot better, I suppose this is our "norm" now. A lot of people aren't wearing masks but a lot "of us" do. Wish someone would make up our minds, right?

Didn't deliver papers on Saturday. That darn sleet and snow, whatever it was, put the hiatus on everything.

The churches that were still open were closed so I delivered everything on Tuesday. We usually go to Pegah's Family Restaurant on Friday, but that was New Year's Eve. so we stayed home. It is hard to find places that have indoor dining.

Well, my dear readers, guess I'll sign off and get upstairs. Mr. Moosie is down here sleeping. He is so neat. Has to be everywhere I go. I put an old blanket down for him, he even goes bye bye with us on short jaunts. Sleeps in my bed with me too. He sure is a lovable little guy. My gpa Rube Larson had a Rat terrier and they are really a one person dog. Just love him. So anyway dear readers, please be careful, get your shots, be kind, mind your p's and q's. K? By the way, keep your furbabies out of

the terrible weather, keep them comfy, make sure they get water, food, warmth and shelter. They have feelings too. Love ya all, really, your ol gal from Argentine, Sue

"IF YOU WANT TO PUT THE WORLD RIGHT, START WITH YOURSELF" from: Treasures of Silver.

Dear Betty: So you spent your New Year's in heaven just a couple of weeks before your 100th birthday. Everyone was looking forward to your birthday, but instead you wished to spend it with your Golden girls. Wish you could have stayed here, but you had so much fun and laughter with Blanche, Sophia and Dorothy. I am sure they wanted you with them. Who could blame them? You wonderful gals spent so many seasons together that I suppose you couldn't be apart any more. I think it was great that your friends, fans and many many people put flowers on your Hollywood Star Walk Hall of Fame. See how much everyone loved you? Oh yeah, now you get to see your husband, Allen Ludden. Isn't that such a blessing? Yes, you were quite the star starting out so very young and even being in the Army. Bless your heart. And, on so many TV panel game shows. You just went on and

on and even on Jay Leno's show where they threw pies at you. Quite a character dear lady. Yes, you were a comedian, a lady, a funny, beautiful woman. Sure going to miss you Betty. Tell Rose, Sophia, and Dorothy hello from down here, Miss all of you, almost forgot, Allen too. Glad we have those reruns on TV to see you all. You four were the greatest team ever.

Love and miss you, your friends forever, Sue

Furbabies

From: Cheryl Gleason

Needed: Large Styrofoam coolers, about 2.5 inches thick. like Omaha Steaks of Kansas City Steaks come in. To Make outdoor cat shelters for the kitties who need protection from the winter cold. We fill them with straw to keep the feral kitties warm. If you have some large ones about 18 inches wide and long, and at least 12 inches tall, on the inside, please PM me. We're in the Turner area and can pick up. Sue Reich knows how to get in touch with me. There are a lot of people who volunteer in rescue make them for individuals. One lady makes them for the Ray of Hope. the outreach program of the Humane Society of Greater Kansas City, to deliver to people who need them, One lady has made over 100 of them.



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Mr. Ed and I were out today just missed this wreck at 55th and Metropolitan.



By Sharon Hoover

It only seems like yesterday that I wrote my first article for The Record. While going through some papers, I found in the fall of 2013 I began a journey which has evolved into my current column. It began as the Turner Community Garden News and as the garden

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

developed and grew so did my horizons. In the winter when the garden was not active, I had nothing to write about. But I still had something to say – upcoming community events, vacations, and my love for books. Fiona the hippo looks down on me every day from her perch on my computer desk. (She was named for the premature baby hippo born at the Cincinnati Zoo and will celebrate her fourth birthday this month and still is quite the zoo attraction.) So, this is where I am now. The reason for all this reminiscing is the new size and look of The Record. Without going into detail, I really like it.

The spike in covid-19 cases is a concern for us all. If you or anyone you know has been exposed to covid-19 or is experiencing symp-

toms and cannot find a test at their pharmacy, they should go to the former K-Mart store at 78th & State or the Armory at 100 S 18th. K-Mart has both the PCR saliva rinse and the nasal swab test. Their hours are Monday-Friday 9am-3pm. To take the PCR oral rinse, do not eat, drink, smoke, or chew gum (nothing by mouth) 30 minutes prior to the test. The Armory only has the PCR saliva test, and their hours are Monday-Friday 11:30am-8:00pm and Saturday 9am-3pm.

Looking ahead to warmer weather, it is not too early to make reservations for Wyandotte County Park shelters. It is on a first come, first serve basis. In the past, these shelters have gone fast. Reservations can be made online or in person at the Parks & Recre-

ation office, 5033 State Avenue. For more information, call 913 573-8327. The Wyandotte County Park office will remain closed until further notice.

While the weather has been so unsettled, I've managed to read several books, the latest being "Harlem Shuffle" by Colson Whitehead. He is famous for writing "The Underground Railroad" and "The Nickel Boys" both which I have read and enjoyed. This latest book covers five years (1959-1964) in the life of Raymond Carney, a furniture store owner, who walks a fine line between the legal and illegal world. I didn't understand some of the slang but got the general idea of what it was happening.

Until next time, stay safe, and be kind to those around you.



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Haas...**...from page 1**

of Congress, to overturn electoral college results in key states.

While investigating a range of possible crimes, two are especially serious: wire fraud by Republicans who, knowing Biden clearly won, nevertheless raised millions of dollars by claiming otherwise, and obstruction of Congress by the defeated president and supporters who tried to stop the formal electoral count on January 6. The committee is also investigating the former president's possible dereliction

of duty for watching the attack on TV but doing nothing to stop it for three hours despite pleas from Congress members, law enforcement, and even family.

The House committee is led by Democrat Bennie Thompson, chair, and Republican Liz Cheney, vice-chair, and its two lead attorneys are from different parties. Their goals are to find out exactly why and how the Capitol attack happened, inform us of the facts, and hold wrongdoers accountable. The committee will likely hold televised hearings by spring. The truth shall keep us free.

Redistricting...**...from page 1**

Kansas has four congressional districts with each district having 734,470 persons. Based on the 2020 Federal Census, Wyandotte County had 169,245 persons and Johnson County had 609, 863 persons. Add those together, you get 779,108. That is 44,638 too many persons for a Congressional District. One solution might be to put all of Wyandotte County in a district along with most of Johnson County. The rural and semi-rural parts of Johnson County could be put in another district.

Conservative Republicans want to dilute the Democratic vote, particularly in the Third Congressional District where U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids is the incumbent officeholder.

"There are leaders in the Kansas Legislature who have explicitly stated their motivation to gerrymander maps to their party's political advantage," she said. "I know people are tired of feeling like billionaires have more of a say than they do in our democracy, tired of having their

voices taken away by partisan gerrymandering."

Rep. Davids is encouraging the U.S. Senate to pass the Freedom to Vote Act that has, in part, passed the U.S. House. The bill would set national standards and end partisan gerrymandering, Rep. Davids said.

The Chamber's Legislative Committee is working on the final draft of its 2022 Legislative Agenda. Many of the items are similar to the Agenda for 2021. Historically, the Chamber has supported Star bonds—a state mechanism that allows sales tax money to pay for infrastructure of a major economic development project such as Legends Outlet. It also has supported reasonable rates for stormwater abatement. Concerning property taxes, the Chamber has favored a plan that would allow for a "phase-in" period of any property tax increases so business and residential taxpayers could have time to budget for payments.

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

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Total Tax Collections Surpass the Estimate by \$64.5 Million

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly announced that total tax collections for December were \$890.3 million. That is \$64.5 million, or 7.8%, more than the monthly estimate. That is also a 15.6%, or \$120.0 million, growth over December 2020.

"Over the past three years my administration has taken steps to restore the Kansas economy, and that fiscal responsibility has paved the way to provide direct tax relief to Kansas taxpayers," Governor Laura Kelly said. "That relief will come specifically through proposals like axing the food tax and offering a one-time \$250 tax rebate for Kansas families."

Individual income tax collections were \$355.2 million. That is \$35.2 million more than the estimate and \$48.5 million, or 15.8%, more than the previous December. Corporate income tax collections were \$132.0 million, which is \$22.0 million more than the estimate. That is 33.1%, or \$32.8 million, more than the same month of the previous year.

Retail sales tax collections were \$224.3 million for December. That is \$4.3 million, or 2.0%, more than the estimate and 11.1%, or \$22.4 million, more than December 2020.



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Tom's Tasty Treats

By Tom Valverde

Chocolate is always a good thing, and when baked into a butter cookie, it's ever better! Even better, these cookies are so easy to prepare! Make some to enjoy now, and before you know it, Valentine's day will arrive, and you'll have the perfect treat to pass on your favorite Valentines!

Please try:

TOM'S COCOA BUTTER COOKIES

Ingredients:

1 c Butter, soft
1/2 c Brown Sugar
3 T Sugar
2 c Flour
1 t Baking Powder
1/2 t Baking Soda
1/4 t Salt

Glaze:

1 c Powdered Sugar
2 T Cocoa
4 T Boiling water
1 t Vanilla

Candy Sprinkles or

Nonpareils to decorate the cookies

Set oven to 325°.

Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. In a mixer, cream the butter with the brown sugar and sugar until creamy and fluffy, at least 3 minutes.

Note: Cookies will turn out fine if made with all granulated sugar, use 3/4 cup. Sift in the cocoa and beat in, scraping the bowl.

In a medium bowl, combine and whisk together the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. For a crunchy cookie, add another 1/4 c of flour, these result in a soft and chewy cookie, add half of the flour mixture to the butter mixture and beat on low speed. When it's incorporated, add the other half. The dough is soft and sticky, so wear disposable plastic gloves and roll pieces of dough into walnut sized balls, place on the cookie sheet and space 2" apart. Tap down to slightly flatten each dough ball.

Bake cookies at 325° for 12 - 15 minutes.

Leave cookies on the cookie sheet on the counter for 10 minutes to let set. Then transfer to cooling rack. When cooled, prepare the glaze. Place all the glaze ingredients in a small saucepan and cook over low heat, stirring until the mixture is smooth.

Spoon glaze on tops and use the back of the tablespoon to spread the glaze. Top with the sprinkles before the glaze sets.

Store cookies in an air-tight container for up to 5 days. Cookies may be frozen for 2 months, then thawed at room temperature. Use wax paper between layers of cookies to prevent them sticking.

The cookies are great when just glazed. And are delicious with coffee or tea. Place them in the microwave for 6 seconds to serve warm. Also great with a scoop of Vanilla ice cream. So, now you're all set for this year's Valentine's day, and for any other day that a good Cocoa Cookie sounds like just what you need.

Enjoy!

Congresswoman favors 'common sense' approach to legislation

By Murrel Bland

U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids (D-Third Dist.) said she is part of a group of "common sense" Democrats in Congress who carefully spend taxpayers' dollars. This was a comment she made at a luncheon meeting of the Congressional Forum Friday, Dec. 10 at Children's Mercy Park.

Good roads and bridges are important to business and industry, Rep. Davids said. In a prepared news release, Rep. Davids said, "The Kansas Third is home to vital trucking and logistics and we are growing fast..." Good roads are important getting goods to market, she said.

Rep. Davids was the only member of the Kansas Congressional delegation to vote for the infrastructure bill. Rep. Davids is the only Democrat member of the delegation. The infrastructure bill will fund improvements to the I-435 and State Avenue intersection. The State of Kansas will receive more than \$500 million in federal funds for road and bridge repair.

The Unified Government hopes to receive federal aid to fund its storm water program. Storm water is a particularly acute problem in the Eastern areas of Wyandotte County.

Rep. Davids spoke in favor of President Joe Biden's Build Back Better bill which passed the U.S. House, but is stalled in the U.S. Senate. Rep. Davids said the child care provision of the bill would help lessen the shortage of workers.

Recently elected Mayor Tyrone Garner introduced his chief-of-staff. She is Dr. Mildred Edwards, a business consultant who received her doctorate in community psychology from Wichita State University. She is an adjunct faculty member at the Public Management Center of the University of Kansas.

The Congressional Forum is part of the Kansas City, Kansas, Area Chamber of Commerce. The next meeting of The Forum will be at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 21 at Children's Mercy Park.

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

January is Radon Action Month

TOPEKA – Governor Kelly proclaims January as Kansas Radon Action Month. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) encourages Kansans to protect their families by testing their homes for radon, an odorless and invisible gas. Unchecked radon in the home can lead to dangerous health effects like lung cancer. More than 200 lung cancer deaths per year in Kansas may be linked to indoor radon. EPA estimates that indoor radon contributes to 21,000 lung cancer deaths in the U.S. each year. Exposure causes no immediate symptoms and often goes unrecognized until serious health complications arise.

Elevated radon levels have been detected in each county — one out of every four radon tests conducted returned results above the EPA action level and individuals should act to reduce radon level to minimize long-term health risks. Inexpensive radon test kits, available at your Kansas county extension office or local hardware stores, can reveal the amount of radon in any building. High levels can usually be fixed with simple and affordable venting techniques. Homeowners should talk with a certified radon contractor if high levels are detected.

A list of certified radon contractors is available by calling the Kansas Radon Hotline at 800-693-KDHE (800-693-5343). Additional information about radon can be obtained at kansasradonprogram.org and epa.gov/radon.



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