

The Record

Volume 135

September 22, 2022

Number 38

Hats Off for the Queen

By Dr. Jim Haas

She wasn't meant to be queen.

Elizabeth was born in 1926 to the second son of King George V; George's first son, Edward, would inherit the crown and pass it on to his heir. Edward VIII became King in 1936 but abdicated later that year so he could marry "the woman I love," a twice-married American named Wallis Simpson. (A divorced commoner wasn't acceptable at the time.) Consequently, Elizabeth's father became King George VI and she, as eldest child, would succeed him.

Elizabeth turned 18 during World War II and promptly joined the women's branch of the British Army serving as auto mechanic and ambulance driver. She married Prince Philip in 1947 and became queen when George VI died in 1952. It was the beginning of a 70-year reign, the longest in England's long history that began with the Anglo-Saxon Æthelstan (Æ is Old English), the first king of a unified England from 927-939 CE.

Contrast the late Queen with Elizabeth I who ruled from 1558 to 1603, a period historians have called the Elizabethan Age, an era of peace at home, flourishing arts exemplified by Shakespeare's writing, and exploration abroad including Sir Francis Drake's voyages and his success capturing Spanish treasure ships and repelling the Spanish Armada's invasion attempt. Shortly after, England, Scotland, and Ireland united under King James I, eventually becoming Great Britain then the United Kingdom, and began to assemble what would become the world's largest colonial empire.



Elizabeth I is entombed in Westminster Abbey near where Elizabeth II's casket rested during this week's funeral service. Beneath the floor in front of the High Altar is the oldest burial in the Abbey, that of King Edward the Confessor, the next-to-last crowned Anglo-Saxon who ruled from 1042-1066. Edward built at Westminster a Romanesque Abbey that was pulled down in the 13th century when the present Abbey was erected on the site.

Elizabeth II presided over the decline of the empire. After World War II, colonialism—a scheme to transfer wealth from the colonies to what the British liked to call the "mother country"—had run its course and most colonies chose to become independent nations. Seeing advantage in political and trade ties with the

U.K., most joined the Commonwealth. A few, including Canada and Australia, still recognize the British monarch as head of state.

The Queen handled these changes with tact, respecting the colonies' right to independence. During a 1961 state visit, she danced with Ghana's first president Kwame Nkrumah, a sign of respect for his new country as well as a message to Britons that change was inevitable and acceptable.

Elizabeth's great strength was that she understood the government was not the state; Parliament was responsible for the first, she for the second. This allowed various rowdy or ineffective politicians to do their worst without damaging respect for the kingdom itself. It's a deep well of patriotism that the Queen wisely preserved through 15 Prime Ministers beginning with Winston Churchill.

Elizabeth II will be a tough act to follow. King Charles III may have to deal with Scotland and Northern Ireland considering leaving the United Kingdom. Having voted against BREXIT, both want to rejoin the European Union. Only England voted to leave the EU, just barely.

The Economist observed that "George Orwell, no establishment stooge, called [the monarchy] an 'escape valve for dangerous emotions,' drawing patriotism away from politics, where love of country can rot into bigotry. Decaying empires are dangerous. Britain's decline has been a lot less traumatic than it might have been." King Charles is fortunate that Elizabeth showed him how it's done.

Sue's Sudsy Soapbox



By Sue Reich

What in the world is happening to our communities? My gosh, where are all these guns coming from? Two or three local high schools have had problems with students shooting and some are getting killed.

I will change the subject. But, all I know is, our president, congress people, senators, police, mayor's, anyone that holds any kind of elective office better do something and make it quick. Quit worrying about stadiums, shopping centers, and crack down on these kids that have access to guns, AND the adults that supply them.

Long Live the King. I feel bad for the death of Queen Elizabeth. Bless her heart. Can you imagine USA having a president for 70 years? I have been watching the funeral activities on TV. They all looked so tired and sad. The entourage that followed her sure walked a long way. King Charles. Going to be different having a King. I am glad that a lot of us get to see history in the making. In fact, we have seen a lot of history in the making. Some good, some bad.

I joined the JC Harmon group as a past staff member. That's pretty cool. I think Margie Rameriz started it. Pretty neat idea.

Hey everyone, guess I'll sign off. Mind your p's and q's. Miss you all. One more thing, remember those hard working guys down on 55th Street in Turner. They can use some \$\$\$ and muscle. Bye for now.

Your friend, Sue

UG Commission Approves 2023 Budget

Kansas City, KS – Thursday night, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS Commission adopted the proposed 2023 budget. Following an extensive public process, this budget is just one step in moving UG Forward, an initiative to reimagine the Unified Government for the next 25 years through a comprehensive assessment and reevaluation of our operations. The \$432 Million budget will address four priorities: invest in our streets; provide tax relief; foster innovation and resiliency; and invest in our parks.

"Change is hard and it takes time," said Interim County Administrator Cheryl Harrison-Lee. "The Unified Government is at a crossroads and the 2023 Budget represents a new day. While every issue cannot be solved within a single budget cycle, this budget process has taught us what it will take to protect the financial integrity of our organization."

Twenty-five years ago, in April 1997, the people of Kansas City, KS and Wyandotte County, KS voted to unify their local government with the promise of better coordination of operations and more efficient service delivery for our residents and businesses, all while achieving cost savings. To an extent, this goal has been realized—more than 20 mills have been cut from tax bills for Kansas City, KS residents since unification and Wyandotte County continues to have one of the lowest county mill rates in the state.

With new leadership and emphasis on fiscal and organizational accountability and improvement, UG Forward is our initiative to structurally reimagine our orga-

nization for greater efficiency and better customer service. Following extensive community outreach and engagement, the following priorities were identified for the upcoming budget year, starting January 1, 2023:

1. Invest in our streets: With 72% of the community ranking streets as the most important community service across all eight commission districts, a recurring theme in the biannual community survey. The 2023 budget includes an increase in the street preservation budget of 25% to a total allocation of \$8.5M with a target of improving the Pavement Condition Index to a rating of 65 by 2038.

2. Provide tax relief: The county will benefit from a 2 mill reduction in the 2023 budget, the first county-side mill reduction since 2009. This will be a relatively nominal reduction for all county taxpayers, whether they live in Bonner Springs, Edwardsville, or Kansas City, KS, as the Unified Government only accounts for 46% the tax bill with other jurisdictions (community college, schools, state, etc.) making up the rest of the cost to taxpayers. This reduction will give taxpayers a savings of \$41/year for residential properties valued at \$150K and \$267/year savings for commercial properties valued at \$500K.

3. Foster innovation and resiliency: Through UG Forward, the Unified Government will continue its focus on tackling the challenges of working together as an organization with the goal of building organization-wide strategies to transform the way we operate. We will invest in capacity-building

among our staff through better training, provide cost of living increases for union and non-union staff, look to increase our competitiveness as an employer, and foster a culture of excellence. To help the Unified Government stabilize its financial future, we must grow as a community. A consultant will soon be selected to develop an economic development strategic plan to help define an equitable path forward in our growth. The 2023 budget sets aside \$7 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for future grant matches, enabling us to pursue more competitive federal funding to support our shared vision and goals.

4. Invest in our parks: A shift of a 1/4 mill from the County General Fund to the Parks General Fund will enable the Unified Government to increase recreation programming, extend the hours of our community centers, and launch a city beautification pilot initiative. Throughout the budget process, the community expressed the desire to have better access to walking and biking trails, park equipment, and youth, adult and senior services while addressing blight.

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**The Record
Publications, LLC**

Publishers of *The Record*

(913) 362-1988

Jon A. Males
Owner/Publisher/Editor

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The Record (USPS No. 002269) is published weekly every Thursday by The Record Publications at 14690 Parallel Rd, Basehor KS 66007. Newsstand price, single copy, 35 cents; subscription price per year, \$16.13. For editorial, display, and classified advertising information call 362-1988. Periodical postage paid at Kansas City, Kansas 66110. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Record, P.O. Box 6197, Kansas City, Kansas 66106-0197

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Dan and Ana Gilyeat

By Sue Reich

This is a short note about Dan and Ana Gilyeat. Dan used to go to Argentine Middle school where I worked and he happened to be in the Reading class where I served as Ms. Armstrong's aide. Some reason (I don't know why), he was a pretty good student. But time went on, he was in the service, lost a leg, married. A house was built for him and their family off of Parallel and I did a story. on them. He invited my sister Gayle and I to some political function. I would run into him occasionally. Later, they moved to Florida. This goes to show you students still keep in touch.



By Sharon Hoover

Thanks for the memories! Calvin has mentioned several times in the past of a man who would come down his street once a week and sell tamales from a metal cart when he was a kid in Armourdale. He said he liked them and bought them all the time. He thinks it is the same man Rudy Padilla was

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

writing about because this guy's name was Jim. Thanks for sharing.

Turner Recreation's 50+ Club held their second potluck dinner this past week. The Potluck is open to all persons over 50 who want to get together with other community members. Covid put a damper on so many senior activities, it is like starting all over again. The schedule for the rest of the year: October 19-Chili cookoff; November 16-Thanksgiving Feast; and December 14-Xmas Holiday. The luncheon is held in the Bear's Den at noon. Hope to see you there.

Turner Days is also coming up in October, the 8th to be exact. The Parade starts at 10 am from the Turner High School, travels northward up 55th Street to Inland Drive. Booths and festivities will behind Turner

Middle School 1312 S. 55th St. until 6pm. The theme this year is "One Turner, One Family, One Future". If you are interested in being a vendor, contact TurnerDaysKCK.com. The Garden has already signed up to be a vendor.

Turner Days Car, Truck & Bike Show will also be located at the Middle School. Registration from 8am-12pm. Judging will begin at noon. Awards will be given at 3pm. First place will be awarded to all 24 auto and bike classes. Pre-registration is \$15 or \$20 on the day of show. TurnerDaysKCK.com.

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a firefighter or police officer. The following may be of help.

KCK Fire Dept is looking for the positions of Firefighter/EMT,

Firefighter/Pending Paramedic, and Firefighter/Paramedic. Benefits include paid vacation, holidays & Kelly days, full benefits on day one, Tuition Reimbursement, and Incentive Pay. For more information contact www.wycokck.org/careers or www.kckfd.org.

KCK Police Department is seeking patrol officers. Beginning on Saturday, November 5 at 8am at the KCK Police Academy, 7340 State Avenue, KCK Community College Campus. Application, testing and interviewing to be held on that Saturday. Bring a Valid Driver's License.

Until next time stay safe and be kind to those around you. Please pray for those who have lost loved ones and continue to pray for the brave Ukrainians fighting for the right to remain free.



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Kelly Administration's Emphasis on Safety Saves Kansas Taxpayers Nearly \$1 Million

Department of Transportation Safety Division Has Reduced Work-Related Injury Costs Since 2019

TOPEKA – Governor Kelly announced that her Administration has substantially reduced work-related injury costs by nearly \$1 million at the Kansas Department of Transportation.

In 2019, Transportation Secretary Julie Lorenz created a new Division of Safety. Since then, KDOT has seen a steady reduction in costs resulting from decreased injury-related incidents. Numbers from Fiscal Year 2022, which concluded on June 30, show more than \$968,000

in total savings across three years.

“These savings show that our work to improve on-the-job safety is benefiting both workers and taxpayers,” said Governor Laura Kelly. “By prioritizing the wellbeing of our highway workers and emergency responders, we haven’t just reduced injury costs – we’ve also decreased the number of work hours lost and the severity of injuries themselves. These workers do so much for us – we must do everything we can to protect them.”

In 2006, while serving as a state senator, Governor Kelly supported and advanced passage of Senate Bill 411, which became the Kansas Move Over Law. The law requires drivers to move over for an emergency response vehicle on four-lane roads and highways.

KDOT work-related injury costs, including workman’s comp, have seen steady improvement since the Division of Safety was formed:

FY 2019 = \$1,453,885

FY 2020 = \$1,240,039

FY 2021 = \$534,113

FY 2022 = \$485,861

“A safe work environment helps build employees’ trust in their work

unit and organization,” KDOT Director of Safety Troy Whitworth said. “It’s important for our workers, because at the end of the day, they just want to go home safely to their families and friends.”

New policies the Division of Safety has implemented include “tailgate safety briefings,” in which field crews briefly gather at the beginning of a task to create situational awareness and identify possible hazards throughout the project. New safety procedures for department employees also include pre-meeting safety messages, in-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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YOU are invited

Anyone who believes in the mission of The League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC is eligible to join us. Being part of the conversation will bring us together with all of society.

Wikipedia:

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the largest and oldest Hispanic and Latino civil rights organization in the United States.[2] It was established on February 17, 1929, in Corpus Christi, Texas, largely by Hispanics returning from World War I who sought to end ethnic discrimination against Latinos in the United States. The goal of LULAC is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health, and civil rights of Hispanic people in the United States. LULAC uses nationwide councils and group community organizations to achieve all these goals. LULAC has about 132,000 members in the United States.

Council 11085 has LULAC members in the counties of Douglas, Johnson and Wyandotte (Kansas) – Clay and Jackson (Missouri).

Join us in monthly Zoom meetings – the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

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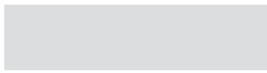
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Saving Taxpayers ...from page 4

house safety videos, and bi-weekly email reminders.

Added emphasis is placed on safety training for new employees. Data shows employees with less than five years of experience are more likely to be involved in incidents involving injury.

Whitworth said KDOT's work-related injury numbers are trending consistently downward in the midst of uniquely challenging times, including a pandemic and crews which are often short-handed. Of particular note, the reduction in accidents was accomplished while KDOT increased construction lettings by 300%.

Secretary Lorenz said it is important to protect and respect those who have a hands-on role in maintaining the state's highway system.

"Field employees, especially Equipment Operators, are the heart and soul of KDOT," said Secretary Lorenz. "The Division of Safety's ongoing mission is to find innovative methods to increase employee safety, with the resulting savings in money being an added benefit to taxpayers."

Arrest of Former Detective

From Mayor/CEO
Tyrone A. Garner

"Today's arrest may bring comfort in the short-term, but this is not the end. I stand by my commitment to support and welcome any independent outside investigations into any allegations of criminal misconduct by anyone within the Unified Government. While we never comment on ongoing investigations to protect the integrity of these efforts, I maintain my commitment to bring greater transparency and accountability to all aspects of local government, including public safety. As a former police officer and resident, I will continue to champion improvements in police-community relations to restore trust, particularly among our most vulnerable."

UG Budget ...from page 2

Working Toward Operational Resiliency

While the 2023 budget process may be wrapping up, this is the first of many future steps forward. The City General Fund, for example, has a structural deficit, expenditures exceed revenue, so additional strategic financial planning is needed to establish long-term sustainability.

"We are charting a path forward that focuses on our residents first and embraces proven best practices by implementing a structural reimagining of the Unified Government," said Ms. Harrison-Lee. "One thing is clear to me from my time as Interim County Administrator – Wyandotte County residents are uniquely 'Dotte,' with an irreplicable hometown pride, and there are no challenges we cannot overcome."

Ms. Harrison-Lee outlined several action items as next steps to continue

laying the foundation during this transition period. Mayor Tyrone Garner has convened a community search committee as part of the process to hire a permanent county administrator. Over the next several months, work will continue on the organizational assessment and realignment, implementing several "low hanging fruit" recommendations from the consultant teams, training and collaborating with staff and community for continuous improvement.

Guest Editorial

Quotes to Ponder

By Tom Valverde

Last year, I signed into law a once in a generation investment in our Nation's roads, highways, bridges, railroads, ports, water systems, high-speed Internet, et cetera. It's called the Bi-partisan Infrastructure Law and it's the most significant -- this is in fact -- the most significant investment since President Eisenhower's Interstate Highway System. And your members of Congress got it done!

President Joe Biden
Remarks at Boston's
Logan Airport,
September 12, 2022

A partial listing of the Biden Administration's accomplishments from his first year and a half as president:

1. The Bi-partisan Infrastructure Law
2. The Inflation Reduction act
3. The PACT Act to provide the necessary health care for all veterans for treatment for exposure to harmful toxins and to expand their health care coverage.
4. Signed into law the first major Gun Safety legislation in decades. It provides for new background checks for gun purchases for persons under 21 years old.
5. President Biden along with his Military forces from the Pentagon took out the leader of al Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri with the use of a special drone that produced

no civilian casualties.

6. Biden's American Rescue Act, led to the fastest jobs recovery in US history with unprecedented job growth.

7. President Biden worked with NATO partner countries to form a Coalition to support Ukraine's fight against Russia. Through Biden's efforts he expanded NATO alliance member countries.

8. President Biden went to disaster areas and brought support to help families and business lost in floods and wild fires.

9. President Biden made lowering the cost of gasoline a top priority and prices have dropped to just over three dollars a gallon.

10. The president appointed a new Supreme Court Justice, Ketanji Brown Jackson and confirmed her to the court.

12. The CHIPS Act gives funding to US Companies to produce Semi-conductors that are needed by US auto manufacturers and other companies. Investments in research and development of improved technologies on Semi-conductors are also allocated.

13. Over \$31 Billion in Student loan debt forgiveness was passed, with \$10,000 for each student with student loans from the government.

14. Research and development resources for new types of Clean energy

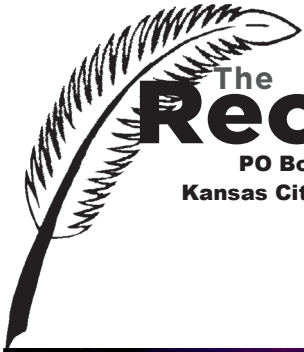
15. Expanded Health Care coverage by allowing Medicare to

negotiate lower prescription drug prices for Seniors and others.

16. President Biden signed an Executive order to create a Woman's health task force to expand access for Women's access to reproductive care. The task force is also charged with "insuring every part of Health and Human Services and the Federal government, does its part in this critical moment where woman's health and lives are on the line and uncertainty, enhanced, because of the Supreme Court's decision on Roe v. Wade." President Biden

17. President Biden called the Ports in California to break up the Shipping Bottlenecks and asked that they move to a 24/7 operation which they agreed to. He also worked with UPS and FedEx to expand their overnight shipments which they agreed to as well. Because of Biden's actions, the 2021 Christmas Retail season Broke Sales records by getting the holiday merchandise to department store and other retailers in time to sell. As is easily seen, this President works to get things done for the benefit of the American people. We are proud to support the Biden Administration as it has wasted no time or effort for all of these accomplishments and others to come in the future. America works best when it's United as President Biden has so often said.

The United States has grown stronger and has renewed our partnerships with our allies for the common good. And these plans are paid for with new taxes on the wealthiest people and Corporations as common sense would have it be so.



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