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The Record

First Lady Jill Biden's Trip To KCK Highlights Meaningful Conversation With Hispanic Americans

First Lady Jill Biden visited Kansas City, Kansas to listen and discuss the concerns of Hispanic Americans. Dr. Biden was joined by Representative Sharice Davids and U.S. Small Business Administrator Isabella Garcias Guzman for a "charla," as a part of Hispanic Heritage Month.

During the event, Dr. Biden also discussed how the Biden Administration has supported Latinos during the grueling COVID-19 pandemic, and how the administration protects the needs of Latino businesses and families.

Biden marked Hispanic Heritage Month with Isbella Guzman, administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration. They had a conversation, or charla, that touched on stories of people striving to overcome educational, social and economic barriers to build on sacrifices of their parents and previous generations. It was part of a daylong trip that also took President Joe Biden's wife to Pennsylvania and Illinois.

"During the campaign, I talked to a lot of young Hispanic youth and they told

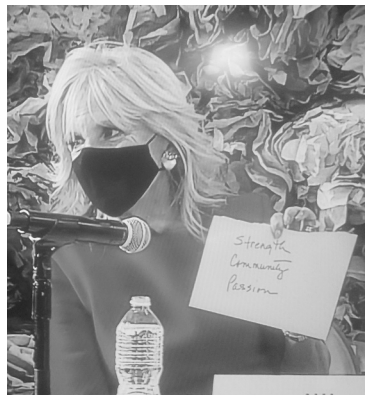


Photo by Sue Reich

me, 'I don't know that we're being heard.' So I started some

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Photo courtesy of Argentine Federal Savings



Photo courtesy of Argentine Federal Savings

Building Back Better

By Dr. Jim Haas

There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune. Omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries.

Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*

Congress is now riding a flood tide that can improve the fortunes of most Americans. President Biden's Build Back Better Act is a major bill whose individual parts are popular with up to 74 percent of Democratic voters and as many as 59 percent of Republican. The Act would go a long way toward rebuilding the Middle Class and would significantly narrow the dangerous wealth gap between most Americans and the very rich.



The Build Back Better Act intends to strengthen *human* infrastructure—the education, good health, childcare, paid leave, and other support that will allow people the time and resources to do America's work. So-called "hard infrastructure"—roads, bridges, and the like—is in a separate bill that has already passed the Senate (including with several Republican votes) and is now being refined in the House. Key provisions of the ten-year Build Back Better Act include:

- Universal pre-K for all 3- and 4-year-olds (as several states already have) to help ensure students enter elementary school prepared to succeed as well as to allow parents the freedom to work; also, childcare/eldercare assistance.
- Child tax credits of \$250-\$300/month for low- and middle-income parents (up to \$150,000 per couple) extended to 2025 (currently expires in December).
- Reduced prescription drug prices (currently double or more those of other countries) partly by allowing Medicare to negotiate prices, and adding dental, vision, and hearing to Medicare.
- Family and medical leave paying at least two-thirds of earnings up to \$4000/month for 12 weeks. The U.S. is one of only three nations that fail to provide this.
- Two years of free community college plus increased funding of Pell Grants for college students.
- A possible carbon tax on polluting industries and other means of combatting climate change, and better funding of forest management and wildfire control.

Costs would be covered by raising taxes on incomes more than \$400,000, on capital gains so that wealth would be taxed as much as work, on corporations (some currently pay little or no taxes), and by funding the IRS to pursue widespread tax cheating by the wealthy. All these are favored by 62 to 69 percent of likely voters.

It's rare for major legislation to be so popular with a large majority of citizens, but despite its popularity, no Senate Republicans seem ready to vote for it. They don't agree with the first and greatest Republican president, Abraham Lincoln, who wrote, "The legitimate object of government, is to do for a community of people, whatever they need to have done, but can not do, at all, or can not do, so *well do*, for themselves—in their separate, and individual capacities."

Lincoln's belief in activist government led to the sale of Western lands to homesteaders at low prices, to the first transcontinental railroad, to state land-grant colleges, including Kansas State, and to the federal protection of public land in what became Yosemite National Park. Lincoln's goal was to serve the common good.

Every part of Biden's Build Back Better Act serves that same goal and would be paid for by those who can most easily afford it. Contact our Senators Jerry Moran at 202-224-6521 and Roger Marshall at 202-224-4774 to encourage them to vote for the common good.

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Sue's Sudsy Soapbox By: Sue Reich



nuts down past St. John's church that were carrying signs, anti-something or another. They acted disappointed that they didn't get on TV or Jill Biden didn't see their anti-something signs. I really enjoyed that day.

The people I talked to on the corner were really neat. Most of them were from Argentine and we talked about the '51 flood, the way Argentine used to be, when Eisenhower came through after the '51 flood, Randall Jessee from channel 4 TV came through in a motorboat and went to Armourdale and Argentine. So, we were blessed that we were still around and could reminisce to see all the changes that we have. Know what? Those dear people were even glad that they met me. How about that?

Well, guess we are still planning on our All Class of Old Argentine next year, that is if something else weird doesn't happen. Sue Thomas called me, and we talked over a few things. Some of our old classmates have passed away so it probably won't be a very big crowd this time. I lost an Aunt, the last of the ten on my dad's side, his baby sister, Darlene (Larson) Lovich. Guy King, my cousin, lost his wife too. That is two relatives that I have lost this year. If you know of anyone that should be contacted, that went to AHS in the olden days, have them get in touch with someone that is involved with the reunion.

Well, guess I will sign off and get myself upstairs and get ready for beddie-bye. You all take care, please be careful, be kind, mind your p's and q's, k? lvy a all, really do. Sue "Once in a while you will find a friend who will be a friend forever. "This is my own conclusion -- Just don't say anything that will tick them off or they will drop you like hotcakes. lol.

What a day, what a day. Mr. Ed and I loaded up *The Record* to do the Tuesday delivering and we usually do our other chores while we are out. Omgosh, we have to hurry and get it finished because we were going to have company in our quaint little town of Argentine. So, we got the papers out and went to CVS and headed back down to the post office to top off the papers that I deliver there. Made it just in time. Down Strong Avenue, there were red lights flashing, police cars were starting to come in here and there, State Troopers in their big hats (nice fellas), were parking everywhere, a helicopter was circling around, the K-9 Cops with their dogs, a small tank looking vehicle, Secret Service men in black suits, twenty motorcycle policemen (KCK-PD), Mayor Alvey, fire trucks, etc. It was truly amazing. All for the visit to El Centro of Jill Biden, the First Lady. Mr. Ed stayed in the van in the library parking lot. He was pooped out. Hung the blue tag on the mirror and I took off down the corner. There were already a few people there, news people were starting to interview, John Mahoney, a newsman had to move his car. About 1:30 p.m. a few limos came up from the south and straight to the El Centro building. The troopers made us move up by old Wolfies parking lot. There were a few



In spite of the pandemic, the car show drew a nice crowd.



Some old, some new, some hopped up but still quite a few.



Kids still had fun at the Turner Days Fair.



CAN'T PEOPLE READ?



Dr. Jill Biden had a meeting with Latino residents of Argentine.

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover



Pastor Steve Neal posted some beautiful pictures of the pollinator garden on the Car-ing Connection Collaborative Facebook page last week. The credit for the beautiful pollinator garden goes to Wy-andotte County Master Gar-deners who have chosen the pollinator garden as a project for the past several years. If you have an opportunity to visit the Turner Community Garden, please do so before the frost ruins their showy display. I have included a few pictures Calvin took earlier in this month.

I had the opportunity this week to finish a few of the

novels piling up on my desk. They couldn't have been more different. The first was "The Noise" by James Patterson & J.D. Barker and I admit I had to put it down about a hundred pages in. I did finish it but not until I read the second book first. For one thing it was 421 pages long, had a ton of characters who were from many disciplines from geology to agriculture to medicine plus several branches of the military. It was a little spooky and a lot of sci-fi. Like I said I finished it but I'm still not sure what it was all about except the noise was manmade. I don't have a great imagination so

may be that's my problem.

The second novel was Nicholas Sparks latest, "The Wish" and it was a tearjerker. I knew from almost the beginning how it would end and still I sat with tears running down my face as I neared the end. A woman is dying from cancer, a young man enters her life, and she tells him the story of her first true love. Nicholas Sparks has done this to me since he wrote "The Notebook".

Louise Penny, whose lat-est novel is "The Madness of Crowds", has teamed up with Hillary Rodham Clinton for the political thriller "State Of

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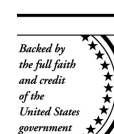
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Hoover

... from page 3

Terror". Two guesses who it's about. A clue, the new president must clean up a mess left by a prior administration. I hope its better than the one Bill Clinton wrote with James Patterson "The President is Missing".

Wyandotte County is holding its first citywide "Dumpster Days" on October 22 & 23 in the old Kmart building

parking lot 7836 State Avenue from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. Recycle electronic waste and dispose of unwanted bulky items – electronics, mattresses, furniture, appliances, fixtures refrigerators – all items are free to dump except for a \$35 charge (Cash only) for TVs & CRTs, TVs / monitors. For more information call (913) 573-5311 or wycokck.org/dumpsterdays.

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



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Passings

By: Sue Reich

Sandy Beach, age 73, passed away September 24, 2020. Washington high school class of 1965. KCKCC.

Rose Lee VanMol, age 98, passed away October 7, 2021. Lived in Argentine after married, attended Sacred Heart Church.

Robert Charles Pelsor, age 90, passed away October 5, 2021. Argentine High School class of 1949 Union Pacific and TWA Mechanic.

Graciela Yarbough, age 65, passed away October 5, 2021. Harmon High School.

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Dr. Jill Biden... from page 1

charlas,” Biden said. “I can’t wait to go back and tell him all your stories and how inspiring you all are.”

“I think a lot of times people don’t have a really positive image of the government and what the government does, so I think it’s important we get out the message,” Biden said, adding that “I hope that people of Kansas see that government can be good and can do good things and does help people.”

Biden and Guzman touted the COVID Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, a disaster relief loan aimed at helping struggling small businesses. SBA has made changes to the program this year designed to increase its availability and effectiveness, including raising the cap on loans to \$2 million and offering businesses up to 24 months of payment deferment. About \$2.6 million in EIDL loans have been made in Kansas.

The First Lady said she talked to a lot of young Latino voters during her husband’s campaign for U.S. president. “They told me I don’t know that we’re being heard,” Biden said.

Biden came to El Centro Academy with Small Business Administration director Isabella Guzman, touting the administration’s Build Back Better agenda and their use of coronavirus relief measures to support Latino-owned businesses.

Biden went around the table asking each individual to share their story. Medina explained that he’s a second-generation American of Panamanian and Puerto Rican descent, and ended up in Kansas after moving around a lot.

“I think it’s important to share our stories,” he [Medina] said. “I’m glad she made space for us.”

Biden spoke with several small business owners in the Latino community at El Centro Academy.

Biden said she hopes Tuesday’s charla will show the people of Kansas that government can do good things and help people.

“I know that that’s one of the things that my husband does believe in so strongly,” Biden said.

Rep. Davids said she was excited not only to be able to host the First Lady in KCK but also SBA Administrator Guzman.

Bank Account Monitoring Proposal Draws Opposition

By: Murrel Bland

The Kansas City, Kansas, Area Chamber of Commerce is preparing its annual Legislative Agenda—something that traditionally takes a few months. (Its Legislative Committee met Friday, Oct. 8 via ZOOM.) But a proposal that would let the IRS monitor the inflow and outflow of money from bank accounts has caused the Chamber to move much more quickly. The issue is the proposal that would allow the IRS the power to monitor individual and business accounts with transactions of \$600 or more.

Craig Gaffney, a former Chamber of Commerce Chairman of the Board and a senior officer with Country Club Bank, urged to Chamber to oppose the IRS proposal. The Chamber’s Board of Directors would need to approve any such issue.

Gaffney said the proposal would force financial institutions to hire additional employees.

Gaffney cited an editorial published Oct. 4 in The Wall Street Journal. The editorial said the proposal is part of President Joe Biden’s \$3.5 trillion spending bill. Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen says the proposal will help catch tax cheats; yet there is little or no evidence that the plan will work.

There is also concern that the proposal is a very serious invasion of privacy. Critics say the reporting would be a dragnet on regular taxpayers, not a target on the rich according to an article in marketwatch.com.

Trade associations including the American Bankers Association, the Kansas Bankers Association and the Community Bankers Association of Kansas have opposed the IRS proposal.

Once the Chamber has prepared its resolution, it will be forwarded to U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids (D-Third Dist.)

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

Dia De Los Muertos A Day To Celebrate Our Departed Loved Ones

By Tom Valverde

Holiday traditions have always changed and evolved with the passage of time. And El Dia de Los Muertos, is now celebrated here in the United States, in areas of the country where many people of Mexican and Latin American decent live. Although there are plenty of skeletons and even decorated sugar skulls, this holiday is not about anything that is supposed to scare, nothing spooky or macabre. The pre-Spanish Aztecs of Mexico set aside two days to welcome back the spirits of their dead. The first was for children and the following day was for the departed adults. When the Spanish explorers found and conquered Mexico, the celebration was changed to blend and use holy days of the Catholic faith, as they kept their own ways to observe and celebrate these days vibrant and meaningful for their families. All Saints day that is observed on November 1st and All Souls day on November 2nd were brought to the Aztecs by the Spaniards as they were converted to Christianity.

The centerpiece of all Dia de los Muertos celebrations is the setting up of the Altar. These are called Ofrendas, or offerings, for the spirits or souls of their deceased loved ones, as they believed they returned again, on these two nights. In homes, a shelf or a table may be used, and a much lower one, close to the ground, was meant for souls of the departed children to use. All Altares had items that served to represent the 4 elements: Water, Earth, Fire, and Wind. Earth was represented by food, Fire by lit candles and Wind by the colorful, tissue- paper, cut-out banners called Papel Picado. As the souls had travelled far from the Underworld, they would be thirsty, so a glass or pitcher of water was on the altar for their use. Sometimes, even a bottle of Tequila was left for an adult soul. Plates filled with their favorite foods were set out, and family members also enjoyed the special meals. Bittersweet were these Days of the Dead observances. The living recognized and recalled how when they were alive, how the departed now in the Underworld, had helped to form the lives of others. Special stories are told to memorialize

the deceased, happy memories shared of the dead. For many, these days of remembering were ones that were anticipated as with any other days of celebrating. Especially as they thought of death as just another part of the journey of Life; nothing to be feared. These days of making offerings to their dead were seen as times of a brief reunion with them.

In Mexico, there are certain cities and towns where people spend the evenings in cemeteries. They clean and spruce up the graves and bring the traditional flowers of El Dia de los Muertos, marigolds. The graves are decorated with the blossoms and petals laid on the ground, as a way to guide the spirits back to their homes when they were alive. Decorated sugar skulls are an emblematic item found everywhere at this time. These will have names written on the tops and friends exchange them with one another. Frosting in bright colors, small pieces of colorful foil, and symbols of crosses and flowers, decorate the sugar skulls. Names of the dead are never placed on the sugar skulls. The air is fragrant with the scent of Copal an aromatic tree resin that is burned to cleanse homes of any evil spirits. This must be done or else the returning souls cannot enter without danger.

Besides the water, there are many other beverages that may be put out on the Altar. Fruit drinks, wine, beer, Horchata, or Coke. Any favorite drinks enjoyed by the spirits, when they were alive. Hot cocoa and a hot drink made of oats, water, milk, sugar, and Cinnamon sticks, which is called Atole. A bowl containing Salt is placed on the Ofrenda, for the purification of souls. More than 3,000 years ago, the Aztecs held month-long, summer celebrations to commemorate the lives of their ancestors. They developed a hairless dog which they called, Xoloitzcuintli. Even these dogs were part of the celebration. They were responsible for guiding the souls back to the underworld at the end of the month-long celebration. A very prized addition to El Dia de los Muertos, is the figure of a female skeleton wearing an over-sized hat and a Victorian, fancy dress, as worn by the upper-class. Her image can

be seen all throughout Mexico and she is known as, La Catrina. She thought to stem from the Aztec death goddess, Mictecacihuat. She served the same purpose as La Catrina, does today. She holds that death does not discriminate against anyone, regardless of class, wealth, or social standing. The rose festooned hat mocks the extremely wealthy of the ruling class, the only ones who wore hats as they were very expensive. The Aztec goddess was the Keeper of the bones, in the underworld, she was known as the Lady of the dead. La Catrina typifies joy in life, in face of its inevitable end.

In stark contrast to the politically correct mind set in the U.S., La Catrina pokes fun at death, class, and the powers that be - with no concern that someone might be offended. Her image comes from an etching made in 1910 by Jose Guadalupe Posada. Posada created her as a satire of upper-class Mexicans who chose to emulate European culture instead of their own. In the U.S., Halloween has adopted some of the Mexican customs and now they are enjoyed here. Just as El Dia de los Muertos, is a joyful celebration of life, Halloween has the fun and joyfulness of children dressing up to go out trick or treating. Major retailers now sell a big variety of items all based on traditional Dia de los Muertos celebrations--decorated skulls, La Catrina figures, and dress up costumes that depict La Catrina. A characteristic of the Mexican people is a willingness to accept death as part of the journey of Life and to laugh at death. The construction of Ofrendas, the special food and drinks, the gathering of friends and family, with a good time of sharing memories of the dead loved ones, now is gone out of the Mexican community into U.S. society at large.

If you want to learn more about the customs and traditions of celebrating El Dia de los Muertos go to GOOGLE, SFGATE and Wikipedia. For children, there is a wonderful, animated movie by Disney that is as informative as it is fun to watch. The film was released in November 2017, its Coco, is another great movie for the entire family to enjoy, by PIX-AR. Look for it, you won’t be disappointed.

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