

Almost Half of Kansans Avoid Posting About Politics on Social Media for Fear of Being Ostracized, Survey Finds

• Almost 3/4 want all their social media posts automatically erased when they die.

• 38% say they used their spare time during the course of the pandemic to clear their accounts of any embarrassing post.

If it seems like social media platforms are a hotbed for hatred and hostility, it's because (at least one) appears to have been designed in this way. Indeed, a leaked memo from Facebook a couple of years ago stated: "Our algorithms exploit the human brain's attraction to divisiveness." This was further followed in October, when a whistleblower explained how the company seeks to sow division between users, which is why those who utilize social media platforms would do well to steer clear of posting contentious topics...

Religion and politics are notoriously divisive topics. And nowadays, when people post controversial viewpoints on social media, they're more likely to blow up on the internet given that the algorithms are designed to do precisely that. Moreover, given how divided our nation is politically, a simple post can bait thousands of other users to comment. Redact.dev, a unique

software that allows you to scan your social media history and automatically remove any contentious posts, conducted a survey of 5,444 social media users across the U.S. This discovered that almost half (45%) of Kansans avoid posting about politics on their social media accounts for fear of being ostracized by the online community. It appears women are slightly more concerned about these fears than men.

The survey also discovered that many want their online legacies removed entirely once they're no longer around to manage their social media profiles. 71% of social media users in Kansas think their entire post history should be completely erased in the event of their death. Perhaps this is because more than 1 in 10 (13%) users are concerned about existing social media content posted in the past, that might now be considered contentious... Some platforms, like Facebook, allow users to appoint a legacy contact, who will have certain rights to the account when the original users die. Google also allows users to plan their post-mortem account management by sharing certain data with a trusted contact via the Inactive Account Manager.

As our knowledge and worldview expands, oftentimes our thoughts and opinions evolve alongside. This may explain why almost half (46%) of users say they've gone back through their social media history and found their old posts, which are totally different to the opinions they currently hold today. This might also explain why 25% say they've set their social media accounts to 'private' when job hunting...

Lockdown presented many with an opportunity to complete tasks that may have been of lower priority before the pandemic, but still needed to be done sometime. More than a third (38%) of social media users say they used their spare time during the course of the pandemic to clear their accounts of any embarrassing posts.

"If you're concerned about your social media history bearing a negative effect on your future, such as job prospects or your post-mortem legacy, it could be worthwhile for your own peace of mind to go through your accounts and start afresh," says a spokesperson from Redact.dev. "This will allow you to alleviate stress about any content you may have posted in the past, which differs from your current thoughts and opinions."

Build Back Better Bill

By Dr. Jim Haas

The House of Representatives passed the President's Build Back Better bill on November 19th with no Republican votes, sending it to the Senate to negotiate differences. This "human infrastructure" bill follows the "hard infrastructure" act (roads, bridges, rail, broadband, etc.) signed into law last month and is intended to support families, improve education and healthcare, and expand efforts to control climate change—all essential to a healthy economy, healthy people, and a healthy planet.



What's in the bill, what will it cost, and how will it be paid for? Here's what the bill provides.

- universal pre-kindergarten for all three- and four-year-olds to help ensure all children are ready to succeed in elementary school; cost: \$400 billion to fund state programs
- child tax credits now in effect as part of pandemic relief legislation to be extended a year and made permanent for families earning less than the minimum required to file taxes; cost: \$200 billion
- four weeks of paid family and medical leave beginning in 2024; cost: \$200 billion (The U.S. is one of only three U.N. countries that don't guarantee paid parental leave. EU nations provide 14 weeks.)
- lower Obamacare premiums, Medicare expanded to cover hearing loss, and price limits on some Medicare drugs, including insulin limited to \$35/month beginning in 2023; cost: \$165 billion
- Medicaid home healthcare increased; cost: \$150 billion
- climate initiatives including tax credits for solar panels, electric cars, and efficient energy in buildings; incentives to produce green-energy technology; and a Civilian Climate Corps with 300,000 jobs in reforestation and wetlands preservation; cost: \$555 billion
- construction of a million affordable new homes to sell or rent; cost: \$150 billion
- an increase in the maximum deduction for state and local taxes until 2030 (likely to be revised by the Senate to prevent a windfall for wealthy taxpayers)

Total cost is \$1.7 trillion over 10 years paid for by \$830 billion in corporate taxes, including a minimum 15% tax on foreign and domestic revenues (corporate share of federal tax revenue has dropped from 32% in 1952 to 7% today), and \$640 billion in taxes on wealthy individuals with a 5% surtax on incomes over \$10 million and 8% over \$25 million. The bill also increases IRS funding to catch the many wealthy tax cheaters who have complicated returns hard to audit. The administration estimates that the bill will result in a revenue surplus of \$133 billion over ten years, thus reducing the federal deficit.

Is \$1.7 trillion is a lot of money? Yes, but because it's a ten-year program, the ten-year price is always used. For comparison, consider that the price of the Defense Department is always stated for only one year because it's funded annually. This year's price is \$7.1 billion giving a ten-year price of \$7.1 trillion (and likely to rise over ten years). Compared to that, the Build Back Better bill is a bargain.

Here's another comparison: The last time Republicans controlled government their big achievement was a \$2.3 trillion tax cut in 2017, almost all of it for the rich and all of it adding to the national debt. Since Democrats gained control this year, they have passed the American Rescue Plan and Paycheck Protection Plan (both pandemic relief), the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and will likely enact most of the what's listed above to help families, workers, children, and the climate. One party is devoted to government "for the people." The other party isn't.

Sue's Sudsy Soapbox By: Sue Reich



Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Have to tell you about our wonderful neighbors. Mr. Ed and I was discussing what to do for that thankful day. Get something from HyVee, cook here from scratch, frozen TV dinners, find a restaurant that might be open. Shortly after our discussion, our neighbor behind us called. "What are you doing for Thanksgiving?"

I told her we were just talking about it. She said, "I will bring dinner to you and to the two ladies on the corner." Just the day before she sent down chili to us. Talk about Angels. They are. All our neighbors are really nice. They gave me a surprise birthday party on my day. I have had our driveway shoveled when it snowed, doorknobs fixed, our lawn mowed and even given us eggs.

Looking for a handyman (or handy woman). If anyone knows a reputable one, with references, I would appreciate it. We have some things that need done here. I have been trying to do as much as I can, but can't do it all.

We got our booster shot at the former K-Mart store at 78th & State. Now later will get the pneumonia shot. Still wear our masks too. Just don't want to take chances.

Well dear ones of our little towns, take care. Mind your p's and q's. Be kind please get your vaccines where your masks. Lvy a all, from your little ol' gal from Argentine. Sue

HOPE YOU HAD A SAFE and HAPPY Thanksgiving



This is where the Wyandotte Echo used to be. Don't know where it is now, but this company deals in carpet and different type of floor coverings. It is next to Argentine Federal Savings and Loan.



Third time is a charm. Anyway that is what the saying goes. Wolfies was always a fave in Argentine and since it closed others have tried to make a go of it there. Let's give it a try.



This beautiful pink horse with the Breast Cancer ribbon on its hip has been there for many years. Maybe after this pandemic is over a gathering can start again. The Nigro's are a great family & business owners.

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. I am still stuffed from all the food I ate but the best part was seeing all my family and extended family members for the first time in two years. The little ones have grown so much, two years really makes a difference between being two years old and four. I met my grandson's new girlfriend and a surprise visit from a niece I hadn't seen in over three years.

Last week, I stopped by the library to pick up a couple of

two books I had requested and was told the November new editions had just arrived. Instead of two books under my arm, I went home with a bag of five. I picked authors I had never read before, and I will be introducing them as soon as I get the books read.

Nicci French is the pseudonym of English wife-and-husband team Nicci Gerrard and Sean French. They have written at least fourteen psychological suspense novels including the Frieda Klein novels. I am not familiar with that series but the book I picked up was "The Unheard" about a single mother's concern that her child has witnessed a crime because of her peculiar behavior. It is among novels I haven't been able to put down. I made a list of their other novels and as soon as I finish this group of books intend to check out some of their others.

I am in the middle of another novel that takes place in 1928

thru 1929 about the eugenics movement in England and the United States. I have read and seen documentaries on the subject before. However, the author's notes contain a concise history of the movement from the late 1890's. You would be surprised who was involved in the beginnings of this pseudoscience. It is all rather disturbing to say the least.

In case you haven't been by the garden lately, the Community Gardens building is getting a redo and air handling units are being installed. Ductwork and electrical work continues. The guys have been shredding leaves and tilling the soil in various areas of the garden. Next week, they will be adding sulfur and fertilizing. The garden is still accepting leaves and will use them in the spring and summer as mulch.

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

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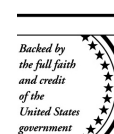
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Guest Editorials

Provisions of the \$1.75 Trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Package

By Tom Valverde

\$110 Billion allocated for Roads and Bridges	\$65 Billion allocated for Passenger and Freight railroads	\$55 Billion allocated for Improved Clean Drinking Water
\$65 Billion allocated for Electric power grid improvements	\$65 Billion allocated for Broadband to provide for Expanded Internet service	\$50 Billion allocated for Climate Change Protection
		\$42 Billion allocated for Airports and Sea Ports
		\$39 Billion allocated for Public Transit
		\$21 Billion allocated for Environmental Clean up
		\$15 Billion allocated for Electric Vehicle power stations
		\$11 Billion allocated for

Tom's Tasty Treats

By Tom Valverde

With the hustle and bustle of Christmas time, this week's tasty treat are a snap to make. And the dough also freezes well, so you will always be prepared for anyone who might visit.

Once chilled, the dough is easy to scoop into one inch balls. And if you have any "little helpers," they can help to shape the dough into round shapes.

They're a Christmas classic and good to enjoy anytime. Plan to make a batch of, NOEL SNOWBALLS

Ingredients:

1/2 c Powdered Sugar

3T Sugar

2 sticks Butter, at room temperature

2 t Vanilla

2 c Flour

1/4 t Baking Powder

1/4 t Salt, only if using unsalted butter

1/2 t Cinnamon, Optional ingredient

1 c Pecans, chopped and toasted in 350° oven for 5 to 6 minutes.

Topping:

2 c Powdered Sugar

*Note: The recipe may be halved. This makes 4 dozen cookies. If you decide to make half, there's no need to use a mixer, just place all the ingredients into a bowl and with a gloved hand, work together for about one minute, and the dough is ready to be chilled.

Cream the butter and the powdered sugar and sugar until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Beat in the Vanilla. In another bowl, mix together the flour, baking powder and the cinnamon and salt, if using. Set mixer speed to low. Add the flour mixture and beat just until combined. Form the dough into a flat round and wrap in plastic wrap. Chill for 30 minutes.

Set the oven to 350° and line 2 cookie sheets with parchment paper. With a 1" scoop, form each cookie, then roll into a round. Place them on the cookie sheet, spacing 1" apart. Bake at 350° for 15 minutes. They won't take on much color, but the bottoms will be a light golden brown. Leave the cookies to cool for 4 minutes, then place, one at a time into a bowl of powdered sugar. Roll to lightly coat each snowball. When all have been coated, let cool completely, then, give each, a second coating of the powdered sugar.

Store in an air-tight container.

Noel snowballs make a great, tasty, and very thoughtful gift. Place a dozen into cellphone bags that are decorated for Christmas and tie them shut with a shiny cord or colorful ribbon. Sparkling pipe cleaners cut in half are so easy to use, just twist.

Variations:

Use sliced almonds and a drop or two of almond extract instead of the Vanilla and pecans. Use nutmeg instead of cinnamon. Prepare a thin, Powdered Sugar glaze to roll the cookies in and then into Shredded Coconut. If you like the sweetness of the powdered sugar, place the sugar in a strainer and give the Coconut Snowballs a light dusting while the glaze is still wet. Baking traditional Noel Snowballs will help to make your Christmas holiday one that your friends and family are sure to remember.

Enjoy!

\$55 Billion allocated for Improved Clean Drinking Water

\$50 Billion allocated for Climate Change Protection

\$42 Billion allocated for Airports and Sea Ports

\$39 Billion allocated for Public Transit

\$21 Billion allocated for Environmental Clean up

\$15 Billion allocated for Electric Vehicle power stations

\$11 Billion allocated for

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Hope for a brighter future for everyone now is grounded in reality by the passage of his hard-fought-for, Bi-partisan, legislation.

President Biden sought to bring the country together again, this is his vision made real.

Quotes to Ponder

By Tom Valverde

"This is a confusing moment, and it seems to me, that my job as President of the United States is to try to figure out what is needed to put people at ease. And to let them know that there is a way through these times."

The world has never been here before. That sounds like hyperbole, but think about it. This truly is one of those inflection points in history. All of the pieces on the board are moving at the same time. In terms of relationships among and within Nations, as well as what employment people may have in the future. And so, this is a confusing time. But, I promise, I promise that I have but one focus... How do we get you to the point where we remove the pressure off you, so you can begin to get back to a degree of normality, as we move forward to a different place."

— **US President Joe Biden**

These were his comments on the day that the House of Representatives passed his landmark Infrastructure Bill, November 6, 2021.

President Biden was on hand to answer several questions from reporters. He then ended the press briefing by thanking the Vice-president Kamala Harris, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and all the persons who provided input to this Bi-partisan and historic legislation.

Now, major repairs can finally be made to the country's badly deteriorating highways and bridges, city water systems replacing lead pipes used to deliver safe drinking water, provide a network of electric charging stations as the US moves away from fossil fuels and turns to electric vehicles as one part of helping to reverse climate change.

An improved power grid, one that is better secured against threats from terrorist hackers and provide cleaner energy for the US.

With all that this Bill will provide, it sets a new course for the country and steers it into the future of the 21st Century.

The President signed the Bill into law in the White House rose garden, surrounded by those who delivered it to the American people, November 15, 2021.

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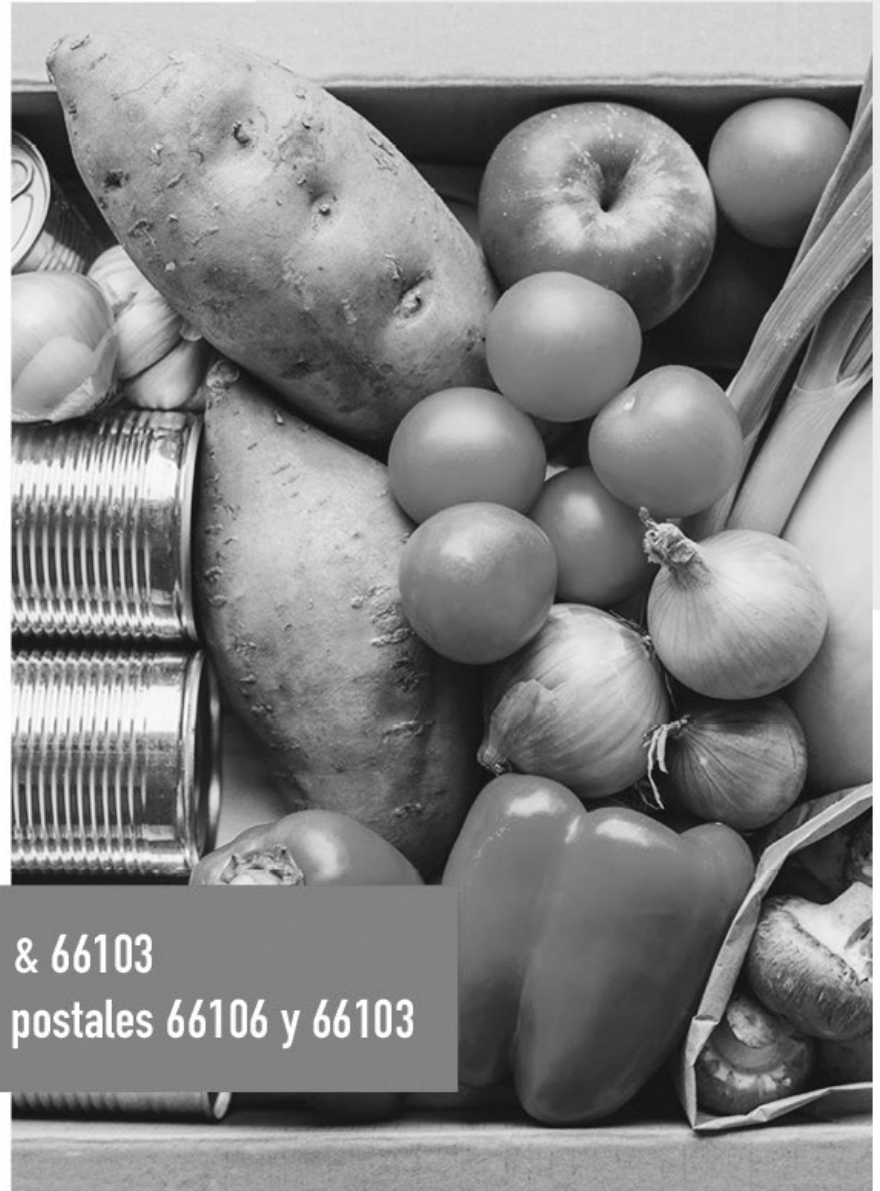
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