

The Record

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Hear Ye, Hear Ye



By Dr. Jim Haas

Court is now in session.

The Supreme Court, that is, and it's in trouble. The Court's legitimacy is in question for several reasons, one being Senator Mitch McConnell's refusal to honor President Obama's nomination to fill the seat vacated by the sudden death of Justice Scalia in January 2016. McConnell, a Republican, controlled the Senate agenda and claimed that with an election coming in nine months, voters deserved an opportunity to elect a new president to fill the seat. When a Republican won, Obama's nomination expired, and the new president nominated Neil Gorsuch, who was promptly confirmed by the Senate GOP majority. Obama's right to have his nominee considered was canceled.

When Justice Ginsberg died in September 2020, six weeks before an election with McConnell still in charge and with a GOP president who looked likely to lose, McConnell suddenly did an about face: voters did *not* deserve an

opportunity to elect a new president to fill the seat. The president's nominee, Amy Coney Barrett, was hustled through the Senate and confirmed in October.

Nothing about these sorry episodes was illegal but were examples of partisanship at its ugliest and most dangerous. Ugly because McConnell and his party failed to do the right thing by treating Court nominees equally regardless of any political leanings. Dangerous because a party that openly chooses wrong over right can't be trusted with other decisions and because their actions have damaged the Court's credibility upon which our laws ultimately depend.

And that's only one of the Court's problems. We've learned that Justice Thomas didn't recuse himself from January 6th insurrection cases even though his wife, Ginni, an influential GOP activist, may have been directly involved. Thomas has also taken private jet trips and luxury vacations worth millions with a billionaire GOP backer named Harlan Crow, who also bought

Thomas's mother's house for a good price and for years paid the \$6,000 monthly private school costs for Thomas's grandnephew (who was in Thomas's custody). Such gifts need to be reported, but Thomas failed to do so. Crow has had interests before the Court.

We learned two weeks ago that another powerful conservative activist, Leonard Leo, arranged, in 2012, to funnel \$25,000 from a dark money source called the Judicial Education Project to Ginni Thomas, noting that paperwork should have "No mention of Ginni, of course." Soon after, the Project filed a Court brief arguing for dismantlement of the Voting Rights Act. The Court did so, voting 5-4 with Thomas in the majority.

We've also learned that Chief Justice Roberts's wife has made millions recruiting attorneys for law firms having business before the Court.

The stench of corruption is in the air, partly because the Supreme Court is the only federal court without a binding code of ethics. For other courts, judges should "avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all activities" and discourage "frequent transactions or continuing business relationships with lawyers or other persons likely to come before the court." The Supremes are supposed to police themselves. Some are failing.

And the Court is too politicized. One way to lessen that is to do as many other democracies have done, including France and Germany, and create a Constitutional Court to handle cases involving interpretation of the Constitution (as in voting rights, women's reproductive choice, firearms regulation, etc.). Congress can do this by statute, perhaps with lower court judges chosen by a bipartisan commission and rotating for fixed terms. The goal would be to have the most important cases decided with less taint of ideology by a court more responsive to the public.

Historically, the Supreme Court has usually been more protective of property rights and the privileged few than of the people's rights and the common good. That needs to change.



By Sharon Hoover

This spring Junction elementary 4th graders selected Turner Community Garden as their Community Service Project. Two groups of about 25 each spent two hours in the past two weeks. Master Gardener Janet Winkler taught plant needs and tool safety. The first group thinned the hoop house lettuce plants and radishes which they took home to share with their family. They planted and labeled carrot seeds and onion sets in the

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style


youth beds. The second group finished harvesting the lettuce and radishes to make way for tomatoes to be planted. They broke into three groups. One group divided up a chrysanthemum, planted some of it in the sedum berm, and potted a piece to take home. The second group planted flowers from En-right's into the three tree planters the Girl Scouts had just repainted. The third group planted sugar snap peas, transplanted 3 different cherry tomato plants and 3 types of snack pepper plants in the youth beds. The kids said they enjoyed their garden experience and would definitely come back. More photos of the kids

at [usd#202facebook](https://www.facebook.com/usd#202).

I have been sidelined the past few weeks and able to read a couple of very interesting books. Some background – several years ago I was intrigued by a TV series about Ernest Shackleton's expedition to reach the South Pole. Several weeks back on 60 Minutes, author David Grann was interviewed about his newest book "The Wager", a tale of shipwreck, mutiny, and murder. I had read one of his earlier books "Killers of the Flower Moon" about the Osage murders and the rise of the FBI. During the interview, he mentioned his book "The White

Darkness", about Henry Worsley, a man obsessed with Shackleton's expedition, who attempts to recreate it and later attempts to cross Antarctica on foot. Not only did I learn about Worsley journeys I revisited Shackleton's story. "The Wager" takes place during the 1740's as Britain and Spain are warring. Sometimes it pays to get out of your comfort zone (reading fiction). I thoroughly enjoyed both books and recommend them for the adventurous.

Until next time, stay safe and be kind to those around you. Continue to pray for the brave Ukrainians fighting for the right to remain free.

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10 Ways To Protect Your Personal Information

Identity theft affects millions of people each year and can cause serious harm. Protect yourself by securing your personal information, understanding the threat of identity theft, and exercising caution.

Here are 10 things you can start doing now to protect yourself and your loved ones from identity theft:

1. Protect your Social Security number by keeping your Social Security card in a safe place at home. Don't carry it with you or provide your number unnecessarily.
2. Be careful when you speak with unknown callers. Scammers may mislead you by using legitimate phone numbers or the real names of officials. If they threaten

you or make you feel uneasy, hang up.

3. Create strong, unique passwords so others can't easily access your accounts. Use different passwords for different accounts so if a hacker compromises one account, they can't access other accounts.
4. Never give your personal or financial information in response to an unsolicited call or message, and never post it on social media.
5. Shred paper documents that contain personal information, like your name, birth date, and Social Security number.
6. Protect your mobile device from unauthorized access by securing it with a PIN, adding a fingerprinting feature, or

using facial recognition. You can also add a password and adjust the time before your screen automatically locks.

7. Regularly check your financial accounts for suspicious transactions.
8. Avoid internet threats by installing and maintaining strong anti-virus software on all your devices—including your mobile device and personal computer. Use a virtual private network (VPN) to stay safe on public Wi-Fi. Do not perform certain activities that involve sensitive data, like online shopping and banking, on public Wi-Fi networks.
9. Protect yourself on social media by customizing your security settings and deleting accounts you no longer use. Also, double-check suspicious

messages from your contacts, as hackers may create fake accounts of people you know.

10. Never click on any link sent via unsolicited email or text message—type in the web address yourself. Only provide information on secure websites.

We encourage you to create your own personal my Social Security account to track your earnings record. For more information, please read our publication, Protecting Personal Information, at oig.ssa.gov/files/21-540_Protecting_Personal_Information.pdf. Contact us if you see suspicious work activity on your record—you could be a victim of identity theft.

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Cases of Active Tuberculosis (TB) Identified in Wyandotte County

TOPEKA – The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Unified Government Public Health Department (UGPHD) have identified a small number of confirmed cases, fewer than 10 patients at this time, of Active Tuberculosis (TB) in Wyandotte County, Kansas.

KDHE and UGPHD are working to ensure that patients are receiving appropriate treatment and to prevent additional cases from occurring. Additionally, the agencies are working with and following the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for this investigation. There is minimal

risk to the general public while this investigation takes place.

As is standard practice in these types of investigations, UGPHD is working with each patient to identify possible close contacts and conduct TB testing of those individuals. Those who have been in close contact with known identified cases will be notified by the local health department and provided a test at no cost.

About Tuberculosis

TB is an infectious disease that is caused by mycobacterium tuberculosis and is most commonly found in the lungs. In most cases, TB spreads through prolonged contact

and is treatable.

TB is spread through the air, similar to the way that cold and flu viruses are spread. Whenever someone with Active TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, speaks, or sings, the bacteria are released into the air. People nearby may breathe in these droplets containing TB bacteria and may become infected if the bacteria settle in the lungs and begin to grow. From there, TB bacteria can spread to other parts of the body, such as the kidney, spine and brain.

TB is not spread by kissing, shaking hands, sharing food, drink or toothbrushes, or by touching objects like bed linens or toilet seats.

Even if someone is infected with TB bacteria, it does not mean the person will develop active TB disease.

Most people who become infected do not develop Active TB. Instead, they are considered to have “latent TB infection” (LTBI) because their body’s defenses can protect them. Latent TB infection means TB germs are in your body, but it is like the germs are “sleeping.”

The general symptoms of Active TB disease include feelings of sickness or weakness, fever, night sweats, coughing, chest pain or coughing up blood. Only people with symptoms of Active TB disease can spread the disease to others. This usually impacts those that the patient spends the most time with every day, like family members, friends, coworkers, or schoolmates. Anyone experiencing these symptoms should contact their primary care physician.

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The person named below has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR, part 8 dated June 2, 1988).

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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.

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 at the monthly Zoom meetings – the second Saturday of each month at 2 p.m.

Rudy Padilla Email opkansas@swbell.net

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Guest Editorial

Quotes To Ponder

By Tom Valverde

The Biden Administration is the most corrupt Administration in American history. Hunter Biden is a criminal and nothing happened to him, nothing happened.

Donald Trump said at a Rally

Republican officials' politically motivated, partisan attacks on President Biden and his family are rooted in absurd and non-existent conspiracy theories. They do nothing to address the real issues Americans care about.

Ian Sams, White House Communications Consultant

First of all, my son has done nothing wrong. I trust him; I have faith in him. It impacts my Presidency by making me feel proud of him.

President Biden

Trump acts as if no one is aware of the number of Criminal Court cases he is facing or the 48+ civil cases that are in his immediate future. Trump ignores the fact that unlike all of his adult children, Hunter Biden is not a member of President Biden's Administration. Both Trump and his family made hundreds of millions while working as federal employees. Another lapse of his memory.

Meanwhile, President Biden steadfastly goes forward and works to bring solutions to the issues that are more pertinent to the vast majority of Americans.

POLITICO reported two weeks ago about the obsession the Republicans have with Hunter Biden with all sorts of claims that continue to flourish in conservative media. And far right sources maintain that the 2020 attacks on Hunter Biden would have "landed harder" had the Press corps not been instinctively skeptical of the provenance of Hunter's laptop.

POLITICO has not authenticated the hard disk files that underpinned the New York Post story about Hunter Biden's laptop.

Why bother to check on the validity of a good smear story? Repeat the unfounded claims to a gullible public on far right sources and soon it's taken as fact!

During a Capitol Hill press conference, held in November of 2022, Rep. Jim Jordan promised to investigate Political activity and report it to the DOJ, with a nothing burger to show for his investigation. This is where the new Republican House chair, Rep. James Comer (KY) first outlined the republican investigation into Hunter Biden and President Biden's alleged involvement in "questionable" business deals with foreign countries.

Lacking real leadership Republicans rely on creating unworthiness of the Biden family. They were sent to Washington to legislate but they have no real plans or agenda to advance the US for the future. It's so much easier to make false allegations! The American people truly deserve so much better than the former president to run again for the GOP. Slander is a poor excuse for leadership as he and the Republicans have shown us time and again.

Eligibility For Spouse's Benefits

Social Security helps you secure today and tomorrow with financial benefits, information, and tools that support you throughout life's journey. If you don't have enough Social Security credits to qualify for benefits on your own record, you may be able to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

To qualify for spouse's benefits, you must be one of the following:

- 62 years of age or older.
- Any age and have in your care a child who is younger than age 16 or who has a disability and is entitled to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

If you wait until you reach full retirement age, your full spouse's benefit could be up to one-half the amount your spouse is entitled to receive at their full retirement age. If you choose to receive your spouse's benefits before you reach full retirement age, you will get a permanently reduced benefit. You'll also get a full spouse's benefit before full retirement age if you care for a child who is entitled to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

If you're eligible to receive retirement benefits on your own record, we will pay that amount first. If your benefits as a spouse are higher than your own retirement benefits, you will get a combination of benefits that equal the higher spouse benefit. For example, Sandy qualifies for a retirement benefit of \$1,000 and a spouse's benefit of \$1,250. At her full retirement age, she will receive her own \$1,000 retirement benefit. We will add \$250 from her spouse's benefit, for a total of \$1,250.

Want to apply for either your or your spouse's benefits? Are you at least 61 years and nine months old? If you answered yes to both, visit www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement to get started today.

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