

The Record

Volume 136

June 15, 2023

Number 24

Jobs Well Done



By Dr. Jim Haas

Several years ago, we hired a local landscape company to build small timber retaining walls around a sloping flowerbed. I made a drawing of what we wanted, and it was important that the proportions and angles be attractive because of its prominent location. When two very young men arrived to do the work, I wondered if they had the artistic eye to build it just right, but we discussed the drawing and I let them get on with it, saying “good luck.” One of them smiled and said, “We don’t need luck. We’ve got skill.” Good answer. And he was right. They did a good

job and even improved the angles of my design. They were artists with wood and had the confidence that only skill can bring. It’s always a pleasure to find competent people in any line of work. Good job.

Not long after, we hired a mason to repair cracks in a nearby brick wall. He suggested also removing the ugly cracked cement on top of the wall and replacing it with dressed stone panels intended for fireplace hearths, an attractive improvement that also prevents water from getting into the bricks. Another good job by a skilled craftsman.

Public employees sometimes get a bad rap from those who seem to believe that government workers aren’t worth the taxes we pay to employ them. People

criticize the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), but that’s not been my experience. When I renewed our car tags last month, I mailed a check for both cars to the Johnson County DMV and soon got an envelope with the registration for only one. Both usually come together, so I called their office and talked with a helpful and efficient woman who promptly had the missing registration re-sent. It arrived in two days. A small job but a good job. Thank you, Johnson County DMV.

In 2011, I got a letter from the IRS dis-

allowing a Form 1040 income reduction, claiming I owed more tax and explaining what to do if I disagreed. Following their clear directions, I sent a letter explaining that the income I deducted fell under a little-used provision in the 1040 instructions regarding a limited one-time income source. A few weeks later, I was pleased to read the IRS response, which agreed with my calculations and advised me to keep the letter as proof in case I was later audited. A good job by an IRS employee and by others who wrote clear tax form instructions.

Public sector jobs typically pay less, often around 10 percent less, than comparable private sector jobs, but in my long experience in the public sector, I’ve found public employees to be as motivated and hard working as anyone else and justly proud of their accomplishments. Whether in the DMV, the IRS, the Post Office, school or university classrooms, or other public agencies, those who work for the common good deserve our respect and gratitude.

Excellence in any work is admirable. In his 1961 book *Excellence: Can We Be Equal and Excellent Too?* Carnegie Corporation President John W. Gardner wrote, “The society which scorns excellence in plumbing as a humble activity and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because it is an exalted activity will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy: neither its pipes nor its theories will hold water.” Gardner went on to public employment as LBJ’s Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare.

President Theodore Roosevelt said, “Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.” Exactly.



By Sharon Hoover

There is a time for planting and a time for harvesting and never the twain shall meet. Not true. Those in the garden this week did a little of both. Our BPU summer work crew started on Monday and on Wednesday, our first visit from the TRC Summer Camp Kids took place. The TRC kids planted flowers by the building's sidewalk, planted onions in the vegetable garden and coleus in the Pollinator Shade Garden. Jim gave instructions to

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

the Summer Work crew on how to harvest garlic. After removing the old mulch, they harvested the garlic, separated them into bunches of six and stored them in the basement to dry for a couple of weeks. They then tilled and planted sweet potato slips where the garlic had been and covered them with new mulch.

I see that City Park now has a new 18-hole Disc Golf Course. It was dedicated on June 2 and made possible through a Community Development Block Grant. Partners in the project include UG staff, KC Disc Golf Club and Dynamic Discs who volunteered 600 hours for this project. It is unique in that it has bilingual

language signage. To encourage community involvement, disc golf materials will be distributed to the surrounding neighborhood. City Park is located at 2601 Park. I remember as a teen going sock hops there a loooooong time ago.

A new Short Term Rental ordinance went into effect on June 1. It is estimated that there are around 150 STRs in KCK. A short term rental is defined as a full or partial swelling unit for rent for a period of less than 30 days. Enforcement is to begin shortly. This ordinance creates a fully separate process for owner-occupied and non-owner occupied rentals. Anyone interested should probably call the UG

for information on the application process.

Do you have a Commercial Driver's License or are interested in obtaining one? A CDL summit is being held on June 23, 2023, from 8 AM- 4PM at Donnelly College, 608 N18th St, KCK. A full day of workshops about getting and maintaining your CDL is on the schedule along with onsite entry level driver training. This may be a career opportunity as I understand the pay is pretty good once you have completed your training.

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.



The Record Publications, LLC

Publishers of *The Record*

(913) 362-1988

Jon A. Males
Owner/Publisher/Editor

Policy On Opinion

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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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Governor Kelly Announces Kansas Receives More than \$3.6M for Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention

Governor Kelly announced that the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) is receiving more than \$3.6 million as part of a five-year federal grant to implement youth suicide prevention and early intervention strategies. The funding will help reduce suicides and suicidal ideation in Kansans aged 10-24 years.

“Improving mental health in every community, including among our youngest Kansans, is essential to creating a healthy, thriving Kansas,” Governor Laura Kelly said. “This funding will further our efforts to reduce suicide rates by providing support and resources for Kansans in crisis.”

The funding for the Garrett Lee Smith State/Tribal Suicide Prevention Program Grant comes from

the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). It will support KDADS in reaching young Kansans through schools, educational institutions, juvenile justice systems, substance use programs, mental health programs, and the foster care system.

“This grant funding tells young people across Kansas that ‘we hear you asking for support and help, and your voices are being heard,’” KDADS Secretary Laura Howard said. “This federal funding allows us to implement effective programs at the local level where we can reach our younger population who are struggling with their mental health and guide them to the resources they need in their community.”

The award will focus on strategies and initiatives for youth and young adults residing in Wyandotte County and the 12-county southeast region of Kansas (Allen, Bourbon, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Crawford, Elk, Greenwood, Labette, Montgomery, Neosho, Wilson, and Woodson).

“Mental health is health, and it’s critical we treat it as such,” Representative Sharice Davids, KS-03, said. “Through this new programming, we can help reach kids who are struggling and ensure they are supported and cared for. I’m proud to have helped bring these much-needed resources home to create healthy, resilient communities in Wyandotte County and across Kansas.”

With this funding, KDADS will

focus on addressing strategic directions identified by the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention and the recommendations created by the Kansas Governor’s Mental Health Task Force (2017) and the Special Committee on Mental Health Modernization and Reform (2021-2022).

Through this award, KDADS aims to:

- * Strengthen and broaden public communication efforts about risk and protective factors for suicide;
- * Improve suicide risk recognition among youth organizations and professionals by increasing connections to culturally sensitive, consumer-responsive treatment services;

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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Suicide Prevention ...from page 3

* Evaluate, develop, and implement evidence-based suicide screenings at behavioral health care and educational sites;

* Implement and enhance safety net support, including the creation

of safety plans and referrals to treatment;

* Expand access to suicide post-intervention counseling by providing training;

* Improve statewide capacity to collect and analyze data related to suicide prevention efforts, and suicide morbidity/mortality.

“The award of Garrett Lee

Smith funding to support suicide prevention in Kansas is recognition of the incredible work done to this point and the exciting potential for collaboration across sectors to reduce suicidality and deaths of despair in our youth,” Bailey Blair, Kansas Suicide Prevention Coalition president, said. “The influx of resources

combined with the infrastructure created by suicide prevention advocates and allied professionals across the state will allow for novel and responsive solutions to issues facing youth in Kansas and support the integration of suicide prevention practices across the lifespan.”

Insurance Commissioner Schmidt reduces Securities Act fees by \$8.25 million

Topeka, Kan. – Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt, today, announced that the assessment of fees for securities will be reduced by \$8.25 million beginning in fiscal year 2024, which starts on July 1.

“For two years the Department has not collected securities fees in an effort to right-size operations and better align fees with the costs of regulating the securities industry,” Schmidt said. “I am proud to lead the Department’s efforts to ensure that as the cost of

everything rises, doing business in Kansas will not.”

For fiscal years 2022 and 2023, the Department, implemented a moratorium for the majority of fees payable under the Kansas Uniform Securities Act (KUSA). These include the registration fees of broker dealer firms, broker dealer agents, investment adviser firms, investment adviser representatives, and other entities. During these years, the Department funded its operations out of a surplus creat-

ed by the repeal of a statute that required any funds remaining at year-end to be transferred to the State General Fund. Over \$32 million in fees were eliminated as a result of the moratorium.

“Securities staff worked diligently to evaluate necessary industry regulation and securities services to propose a fee structure that best fits the industry needs,” Securities Commissioner Dan Klucas said. “These efficiencies will further our mission of protecting

Kansas investors while fostering a strong environment for capital growth.”

For any questions about securities fees, please contact kid.commissioner@ks.gov.

The Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner, a division of the Kansas Insurance Department, regulates investment sales in Kansas—the birthplace of “Blue Sky Laws.” In 2017, the Office was merged with the Kansas Insurance Department.

Kansas City PBS Unveils Renovated Headquarters with Grand Opening Celebration

Kansas City, MO, June 5, 2023 - After more than half a century of dedicated service to the community, Kansas City PBS is thrilled to announce the grand opening of its newly renovated station located in the heart of Midtown Kansas City. The station’s transformation is the culmination of the Picture This capital campaign, a seven-year fundraising initiative focused on modernizing the building and technology, as well as growing the people and products to better serve valued listeners, readers, and viewers. To celebrate this momentous occasion, the community is invited to join staff on Saturday, June 24, from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., for Picture This: Welcome Home.

“At Kansas City PBS, we are committed to serving our audiences with valuable programming, educational resources, and through the convening of important conver-

sation,” says Kliff Kuehl, President & CEO of Kansas City PBS. “This renovation will support our staff to allow for even more excellent programming, journalism and music to be served to our audiences. It also provides state-of-the-art spaces to bring the community in for meaningful engagement.”

The renovation includes the addition of two new community spaces, which will be the setting for many future events and community conversations. The new Sandra A.J. Lawrence Plaza, an outdoor space with plenty of seating and greenery, connects to an indoor event space, the Francis Family Foundation Living Room. We can’t wait to invite the community into these new spaces.

The public celebration promises a day of excitement and entertainment, with food trucks, delicious desserts, refreshing beverages, engaging activities, live performances,

interactive kids’ stations, and more! But that’s not all! We are delighted to announce that the beloved animated character, Daniel Tiger from Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood, will be making a special appearance, spreading joy with high fives and photo opportunities.

Don’t miss this opportunity to be part of a truly momentous occasion in the history of Kansas City PBS. Join us as we celebrate our new space and future of exceptional programming, community engagement, and local storytelling.

Located in the heart of Kansas City, MO, Kansas City PBS is a non-profit multimedia organization that has been serving the community since 1961. The PBS member station airs diverse content focused on civic affairs, science, food, drink, arts and culture on four television channels, including Channel 19.1, 19.2, 19.3 (Create) and 19.4, the 24-

hour PBS KIDS channel. Channel 19.1 and 19.4 are also available to livestream online, with programming available on-demand in the PBS Video App and Kansas City PBS Passport, a member-benefit streaming service. Kansas City PBS serves students, caregivers and the local education community through free, online resources, workshops for parents and teachers, and annual conferences and events. It also owns and operates the local NPR music station, 90.9 The Bridge, providing nonprofit radio in a AAA format to listeners over the air and online streaming. Kansas City PBS’ nonprofit source for local journalism, Flatland (flatlandkc.org) produces multimedia reporting focused on civic affairs, arts and culture, food and drink, and education. For more information on Kansas City PBS or its wide variety of local and national content, visit kansascitypbs.org.



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Guest Editorial

Quotes To Ponder

By Tom Valverde

Former Chief of Staff, Mark Meadows has agreed to plead, "guilty" to several, lesser crimes in exchange for his testimony, under a limited grant of immunity.

Now, let me talk you into the Trump inner circle - they are shocked, a source close to Trump tells us just a minute ago that there's been too much happy talk about an indictment. Trump wasn't expecting this; he didn't think that it would come

this week. He knew that his lawyers met on Monday at the Department of Justice. But, based on our reporting, when Trump's legal team went into that meeting, the Special Counsel Jack Smith showed up himself and he was so stone faced. He heard out the Trump's team legal complaints about how all of this business had been done and how witnesses had been questioned. And this is an unusual case it brings up attorney/client privilege. In short, Trump lawyers turned over his own voice memos and notes. They now have a notebook in the hands of the prosecutors. So, the Trump people are on edge - everything that

has happened behind the scenes, is now on the table."

Robert Costa, CBS News Chief Election and Campaign Corr.

This fishing net by the Special Counsel is so large and sweeping, it is not just the inner circle, the janitor at Mar a Lago, the low level press staff, Secret Service agents - they all have been brought in, one by one, in a silent process by the Special Counsel. To ask, Did Trump tell you move documents from the basement to his office?

How did he handle it when the Subpoena came in?

Was he exploring several legal options?

And "Did Trump want to follow the rule of law?" said Robert Costa.

This night, it's Mark Meadows, Trump's former Chief of Staff that is down. Because to understand this case, you must understand that Mark Meadows and Donald Trump, in January of 2021 were furious with the DOJ and the National security establishment. They decided that Trump should take some documents home, without going through the

proper process for classified materials. Because of that illegal decision behind the scenes in the final days, days after an attack on the Capitol, now Trump is facing something historic - A Federal Indictment for obstructing a Federal investigation, retaining classified materials; all because Trump believed he had the privilege to have these documents. This unique case, the Trump trial could go all the way to the Supreme Court.

Robert Costa

Trump's Indictment lists 37 felony charges, 1 count of Conspiracy to Obstruct Justice. Willful retention of National Defense information. 31 counts of willful retention of classified documents. 1 count of withholding a document or record. The former president is the first president to be Federally indicted. His arraignment is set for this Tuesday in Miami. Special Counsel, Jack Smith is also overseeing the investigation into Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election results. Trump could spend the rest of his life in prison for these crimes.

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TURNER RECREATION COMMISSION NOTICE TO BIDDERS: REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR TRC PAINT PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Executive Director of Turner Recreation Commission, Kansas City, Kansas until 1 pm on June 23 at Turner Recreation Commission Center, 831 S. 55th St. Kansas City, Kansas 66106, for work vehicles. Bids shall be identified on the exterior of the sealed envelope with all the information required by law, including the name of the project and the bidder's name and address. No bids will be received or accepted after the above specified time for the opening of bids. Bids submitted after the designated hour will be deemed invalid and returned unopened to the bidder. The Turner Recreation Commission reserves the right to waive any irregularities or reject any or all bids, as well as the right to place orders based on the Commission's needs and budget constraints; therefore, the Commission may not order every item listed in the bid document. Copies of the bid document may be obtained at Turner Recreation Commission Center located at 831 S. 55th St., Kansas City, KS 66106. The Turner Recreation Commission complies with all statutes and regulations as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and as amended, and the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (P.I.100.259).

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(First published 6-15-23)
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