

The Record

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School Assignment: Summer Vacation

By Dr. Jim Haas

When I was in grade school, an oral report to the class about “what I did on summer vacation” was a standard assignment when school resumed in the fall. Our neighborhood wasn’t prosperous, so most kids didn’t travel anywhere. We had no organized sports in the early 1950s, so what we did on our summer vacation was play baseball in the street with bricks for first and second bases, a storm sewer for third, and a flat slab of rock for home. One boy had custody of the neighborhood bat and another of the old ball, green with grass stains and scarred from grounders on the brick street. We also visited friends to trade baseball cards and play board games, and explored a nearby wooded park.

During the summer before third grade, we did none of these for two months because a polio epidemic kept everyone inside while the Salk vaccine was in its test stage. I spent that time reading and building model airplanes. It was a different era.

My Wife the English Teacher and I are now more prosperous and able to travel for vacation, although we’ve skipped the past three years because of COVID 19. Last month,

we packed our bags, went through KCI’s beautiful new terminal—more efficient and with more food choices than the old one—and took off into a sky distinctly brown from wildfire smoke. We landed in Albuquerque to take the New Mexico Rail Runner Express train north 60 miles to Santa Fe for five days.

The Rail Runner is a public service of the state and a regional transit authority on tracks bought from BNSF with an extension to Santa Fe built partly in the I-25 median. The roadrunner is the state bird, so the locomotives and coaches are painted in a roadrunner motif, and the door-closing warning is the cartoon Roadrunner’s “beep-beep, beep-beep.” Clever!

While Kay explored Santa Fe’s many intriguing shops, I relaxed and read a book. She may have bought more than I know because she’s hinted about turning our guest bedroom into the Southwestern Room. We both visited some historic sites including an obscure little office behind some shops where all the World War II Manhattan Project scientists reported on their way to the secret atomic bomb laboratories in the nearby mountains at Los Alamos.

We rented a car and drove two hours

north to Antonito, Colorado, to experience train travel as it was a century ago on the narrow gauge Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad, a steam-powered road originally part of the Denver and Rio Grande Western system and now jointly owned by Colorado and New Mexico as a tourist and historic attraction. The track winds along the states’ border from a high desert to deep Toltec Gorge to a 10,000-foot summit at Cumbres Pass. It was a windy day as we rounded a curve at 15 mph and suddenly stopped so the engine crew could remove a tree limb from the track, prompting a passenger to quip, “I guess we’re on a branch line.”

We stayed overnight in a funky little Antonito hotel built in 1911 as a bank with the original vault now a feature off the dining room. It looked like a place Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid might rob. Going outside after dark, I found the owner and his family on the roof looking at Venus and Mars with a powerful telescope. We chatted about planets, and I learned that the area is popular with stargazers because of the absence of light pollution.

And that is what we did on summer vacation. Class dismissed.





By Sharon Hoover

The KCK Fire Department is accepting applications for Firefighter/EMT, Firefighter/Paramedic, and Firefighter Trainer. Competitive pay, excellent benefits, paid holidays, vacation, and sick leave. Apply at www.kckfd.org or www.wycokck.org/careers.

Enjoy light refreshments at Turner Community Connection's quarterly community meeting at 6pm on July 17 at Bristol Hill Methodist Church, 4826 County Line Road. Meet the new County Administrator

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

David Johnson and hear his hopes for KCK. A panel discussion follows moderated by Senator Pat Pettey consisting of our local government and elected officials.

The Wyandotte County Fair located at 13700 Polfer Road is being held from Tuesday through Saturday, July 11 to July 15. Hours are Tues/Wed-5pm-11pm, Thurs/Fri-2pm until midnight. Admission for ages 13 & older is \$5 for Tuesday & Wednesday and \$10 for Thursday through Saturday. Carnival bracelets are \$30. Free parking.

The Neighborhood Resource Center at 4953 State Ave is hosting a Community Pet Forum on July 18 from 5:30-7:30 for Kansas City Kansas Pet owners. If you have questions about your beloved pets

or community animals, this is an opportunity to gather insight and seek expert advice. This is a people event only, please leave your pet at home. Questions? hero@greatplainsspca.org.

Reminder: The next Hazardous Waste Day is July 15. The address is 2443 S. 88th St. I still haven't got rid of those old paint cans yet. Maybe this time.

Every once in a while, I run across an author that I haven't read in a while. Until I see it recommended by someone else do I decide to give it a try. Such is Andre Dubus III. His newest novel is "Such Kindness" is told through the eyes of a man who has lost everything: his livelihood, identity, and pride. He had overextended himself financially,

was injured at his business, became drug dependent, and got caught in the subprime debacle. His wife left him for another man. He only has bad luck, some of his own making. He dreams of the past but wakes up to the present. He makes a few friends – some of them not so good either. One fellow is nice to him but then he passes away. At the funeral someone touches his heart, soon he reaches out to others- "a mix of stranger and neighbors who will never know the role they are playing in changing a life." Kind of sad, kind of poignant, a change of pace for me and maybe you too.

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.

Helping gig economy workers with tax responsibilities

The gig economy - also called sharing economy or access economy - is a popular way for people to earn income by providing on-demand work, goods or services. Some people take up gig work on a part-time basis, and for others the job is done full-time. Income from gig work – such as driving a car for booked rides, selling goods online, renting out property or providing other on-demand work – is taxable and must be reported as income on the worker's tax return.

Gig work is taxable

- Earnings from gig economy work are taxable regardless of whether an individual receives information returns. Due to reporting requirements, PDF, gig economy workers may get a Form 1099-K if their income exceeds \$600.

- Earnings from gig work include payments by credit card, cash, property, goods or virtual currency.

- Gig workers may be required to make quarterly estimated tax payments.

- If gig workers are self-employed, they must pay all Social Security and Medicare taxes on their income from the gig activity. Proper worker classification

It's important that the taxpayer is correctly classified while they provide gig economy services. Gig workers may be classified as independent contractors by digital platforms that match workers' ser-

vices with customer needs.

- This means the business, or the platform, must determine whether the individual providing the services

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U.S. Coast Guard recovers evidence from TITAN submersible

WASHINGTON – The Coast Guard received debris and evidence recovered from the seafloor at the site of the TITAN submersible when the M/V HORIZON ARCTIC arrived in St. John's Newfoundland, June 28, 2023.

After consultation with international partner investigative agencies, the Marine Board of Investigation (MBI) intends to transport the evidence aboard a U.S. Coast Guard cutter to a port in the United States where the MBI will be able to facilitate further analysis and testing.

United States medical professionals will conduct a formal analysis of presumed human remains that have been carefully recovered within the wreckage at the site of the incident.

"I am grateful for the coordinated international and interagency support to recover and preserve this vital evidence at extreme offshore distances and depths," stated MBI Chair Captain Jason Neubauer. "The evidence will provide investigators from several international jurisdictions with critical insights into the cause of this tragedy. There is still a substantial amount of work to be done to understand the factors that led to the catastrophic loss of the TITAN and help ensure a similar tragedy does not occur again."

The MBI will continue evidence collection and witness interviews to inform a public hearing regarding this tragedy.

Governor Kelly Announces Nearly \$43.6M in Grant Funding, Creation of Over 4,200 New Child Care Slots

Child Care Capacity Accelerator Grant Funding awarded to 52 Kansas Community Organizations

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly and the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund announced funding awards to 52 statewide organizations for the purpose of creating new, sustainable, high-quality licensed child care slots across the state and accelerating capacity-building in support of families, businesses, and economic development. These grants are part of the Child Care Capacity Accelerator grant program, which was designed to advance the rapid development of additional child care slots statewide. The program will provide \$43,593,294 in grant funding, which will create 4,211 new child care slots across the state.

“We must also harness the eco-

nommic potential of these investments by ensuring that families and communities have the support needed to fully participate in our growing economy,” Governor Kelly said. “By providing this critical funding, communities across the state are receiving the much-needed support to open or expand child care facilities that will increase access to care for families and support the healthy development of our youngest Kansans.”

The Child Care Capacity Accelerator grant program braids together funding from four sources: \$20 million in SPARK funding from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund in the American Rescue Plan approved by the SPARK Executive Committee and State

Finance Council, \$20 million in federal Child Care Development Block Grant ARPA Discretionary funds provided by the Department for Children and Families, \$1 million from the federal Preschool Development Birth—5 planning grant funds (PDG B-5), and a gift of \$2.5 million provided in collaboration with the Patterson Family Foundation.

The Child Care Capacity Accelerator represents a significant investment in child care and early learning to support economic development, create new jobs with better compensation for early educators, and support workforce participation for families with young children. Unique to this program is the ability to use SPARK funds

to support new construction and facility improvements—which is generally not allowed under other federal funding support for child care. The gift from the Patterson Family Foundation will allow us to add construction to further expand capacity. The funds will support major start-up operational needs such as expanded staffing, training, furniture, and equipment.

The grants were awarded based upon a competitive request for proposal process that yielded 105 applications totaling over \$117 million. Grantees were required to identify at least 25% matching funds from other sources. The grant period begins July 1, 2023, and extends through September 2026.



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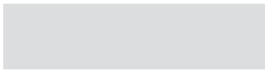
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Gig Economy

...from page 2

is an employee or independent contractor.

- Taxpayers should review the worker classification information on IRS.gov to see how they should be classified.

- Independent contractors may be able to deduct business expenses depending on tax limits and rules. It's important for taxpayers to keep records of their business expenses.

Paying the right amount of taxes throughout the year

- Good recordkeeping is important to navigate tax rules successful-

ly and avoid mistakes when doing gig work.

- An employer typically withholds income taxes from their employees' pay to help cover income taxes their employees owe.

- Gig economy workers who aren't considered employees have two ways to cover their income taxes:

- If they have another job as an employee, submit a new Form W-4 to their employer to have more income taxes withheld from their paycheck.

- Make quarterly estimated tax payments to help pay their income taxes throughout the year, including self-employment tax.

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.

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Guest Editorial

Quotes To Ponder

By Tom Valverde

18 U.S. Code § 1519 “Whoever knowingly alters, destroys, mutilates, conceals, covers up, falsifies, or makes a false entry in any document, record, with the intent to impede, obstruct, or influence the investigation or proper administration of any matter within the jurisdiction of any Department or Agency of the United States or case filed with Title II, to or in relation of any such matter, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both.”

DOJ prosecutors have formally informed attorneys for the former president that he is the target of a criminal investigation examining Trump's keeping* of Top Secret documents found at Mar a Lago.

Because Trump would not return them or cooperate with the National Archives Trump may likely be charged with obstruction of justice. Charges involving the Espionage Act may also be forthcoming.

Hugo Lowell, June '23
The Guardian

** For more than a year and a half the National Archives had tried to get Trump to return the documents.*

Now, it's been revealed via a taped conversation at Trump's club in New Jersey, that he knew all along of his illegal possession of Pentagon's proposed plans for a US attack on Iran. Special Counsel, Jack Smith has been more than thorough in his probe into Trump's illegal possession of Government documents and Trump's involvement in the January 6 attack on the US Capitol.

As usual, Trump denied any wrong doing. But, evidence and testimony indicate otherwise. Misuse of re-election campaign funds in which 10% of campaign contributions were diverted to Trump's Legal Defense Fund. This constitutes wire fraud as well. So, the former president's legal problems grow by the day. Trump is the first US former US president to be indicted for his mishandling of 100's of classified documents. This is Trump's second indictment after being found guilty of sexual abuse in the E. Jean Carroll case. Carroll was awarded \$5 million for defamation of character.



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