



The Record

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Marching Backward

By Dr. Jim Haas

The U.S. Supreme Court seems to be revolting against the future. Court conservatives appear to suffer from nostalgia for some imagined Golden Age of the past, perhaps the mid-twentieth century, when racial and gender minorities were marginalized, women's opportunities were limited, and white men had nearly all the power.

Having grown up a straight white male in the 1950s, I can testify that it was not a Golden Age for everyone, not for my Black classmates who hadn't the social and educational opportunities I took for granted (if I had the money), not for my still-in-the-closet gay classmates who were the butt of cruel homophobic jokes, and not for my female classmates, including those destined for college, who were expected to ultimately become mothers and homemakers. Anti-Semitism was common as was—depending on the locale—discrimination against Irish or Polish or Chinese or ... you get the picture, and it was not pretty.

One road to progress has been affirmative action in college admissions encouraging

universities to recruit student bodies that reflect America's population by leveling the field for racial and ethnic minorities often denied admission in the past. The Court has now disallowed this policy on the grounds that the Constitution is "colorblind." The reality, though, is that many people are not, and neutering the Constitution regarding race preserves a historically unequal society. Universities should work around this by continuing affirmative action using other systemic criteria such as economic status and parent education levels.

In another case, the Court favored a Colorado website designer who claimed her religious beliefs should allow her to refuse designing wedding invitations for gay couples despite a state law requiring businesses dealing with the public to serve all people regardless of "race, creed, disability, sexual orientation" or other traits. Because the Court has now made discrimination legal, perhaps the state should pass a law requiring businesses that do so to post notices on their door, website, and other advertising saying, "We discriminate against (fill in the blank)." Those appalled by discrimination can take

our business elsewhere.

The Court also ruled that the Department of Education lacks authority to forgive up to \$20,000 of student higher education debt under the 2003 HEROES Act invoked during the Covid 19 emergency. The Act gives an administration power to "waive or modify loan terms," but Chief Justice Roberts called forgiving debt too much of a "stretch." Roberts seems to have a unique definition of "waive" or "modify." The Biden Administration is now pursuing debt forgiveness under the 1965 Higher Education Act that allows it to "compromise, waive, or release any right, title, claim, lien or demand" Of course, it would hardly be an issue if we would do as nearly all other rich nations do and offer free or very low-cost public higher education to all.

The decisions cited above reflect long standing GOP positions, suggesting that the Court majority is playing a political role well beyond what the Constitution intends and is acting as an unelected political body overruling elected legislators and presidents as well as government agencies and other courts (as it did last year when conservatives ignored fifty years of Court precedence by overturning *Roe v. Wade*). It's time to term-limit or otherwise bring the justices closer to the people they are supposed to serve.

It's notable that five of the six conservative justices were appointed by Republican presidents who lost the popular vote. That, together with the Republican refusal to even consider President Obama's Court nominee in 2016 because it was an election year but rushing through a GOP president's nominee in the next election year, has the Court's legitimacy on shaky ground. The growing ethics scandals of three conservative justices does so, as well. Under these circumstances, the arrogance of the Roberts Court is somewhere between unwise and breathtaking.



By Sharon Hoover

August 1st is fast approaching. Mark your calendars because this is a happening day. First off, be sure to vote. There are several candidates running for positions in the city, BPU and KCK Community College Board. Let your voice be heard.

After you vote, join the Turner Community Library at The Windmill KC from 10am-12pm to "Painting Like the Greats". This is a guided painting/art class. Learn to

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

paint like the great artists. No prior experience in painting is required. The class has 12 spots open as of this writing. Enroll online or call the Library at 913 295 8250 X4 for more information. This class will be scheduled for the first Tuesday of every month. If you miss one you can catch the next.

OR, attend a Public Hearing hosted by the Wyandotte/ Leavenworth Area Agency on Aging and Disability Services from 10am-12pm at Victory Hills Baptist Church, 2010 N. 66th Terrace to learn about programs and/or give feedback regarding senior services our area. To register call 913 573-8531. Join them for a hot meal following the

meeting.

When it's time for dinner, stop by the KCKCC Fieldhouse for hot dogs and chips and celebrate "National Night Out Against Crime". Be prepared to have fun and relationship building with law enforcement to promote safe neighborhoods. Visit with the many community organizations. The first 150 people will receive a free t-shirt. Free hot dogs and chips to the first 500 attending. Stay for a chance to win amazing box prizes or a TV. The address is 7250 State Ave, KCK.

Rosedale Development Association is holding a four day baseball camp for those who have finished K-5 grade. The camp is being

held on July 24 – July 27 from 5pm-8pm and conducted by RDA employee Alejandro Rodriguez. As of this writing only 15 spots were available. Call 914 677-5097 for additional info.

Thanks to UG's Parks and Recreation Department for creating a new playground at Hope Park at Crest Drive and South 47th. The ribbon cutting was July 7, the video can be seen at wycokck.org.

We finally are getting some rain right now, but my electric lights are flickering, so I'm cutting this short.

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.

McCownGordon Selected as CMAR for KCKCC Downtown Project

The Kansas City Kansas Community Education, Health and Wellness Center Association, which includes Kansas City Kansas Community College (KCKCC), Swope Health and CommunityAmerica Credit Union (CACU) has chosen McCownGordon as the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) for the new 100,000 square-foot, KCK Community Education, Health and Wellness Center to be located in downtown Kansas City, Kan. KCKCC, Swope Health and CommunityAmerica Credit Union (CACU) have partnered to build a comprehensive center that meets the holistic needs of those living in downtown Kansas City, Kan. providing access to educational programs, health services, financial literacy and more.

"This center is a national model for nonprofit collaboration across the country," said KCKCC President Dr. Greg Mosier. "It will offer programs and services desperately needed to create a self-sustaining economic solution for the downtown KCK community that will help end many social and economic inequities that have prevailed for decades. The college looks forward

to returning downtown, just two blocks from where the college began a century ago."

Other key partners include KCK Public Schools and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County (UG). The Unified Government is providing land owned by the UG as well as the UG Land Bank for the project. KCK Public Schools has partnered with KCKCC for programs that will be offered to both high school students as well as traditional age and adult college students at the new site. Groundbreaking for the new center is planned for September with completion anticipated June 2025.

McCownGordon was selected as the construction manager at risk/general contractor for the project after a competitive process. According to Dr. Mosier, the company was chosen based on their vast construction experience in the Kansas City region, their direct experience building educational, health care and banking facilities, as well as their proven success as a construction manager at risk, which ensures the project is completed on time and on budget.

"The downtown Community

Education, Health and Wellness Center will provide immeasurable benefit to the Kansas City, Kan. community for generations to come, and McCownGordon Construction is thrilled to be a partner on this transformational project," said Pat Contreras, vice president for business development at McCownGordon.

As envisioned, the "partner building" building will have four floors. The first floor will be home to CACU for a community access center as well as a KCKCC welcome center, art gallery space, community meeting rooms and a shared public lobby.

CACU will be creating a community access center which will offer financial literacy support as well as access to financial services including financial coaching, job assistance and financial education courses. This will be the first community access center in Kansas with CACU.

"This project was a great fit for CommunityAmerica and our mission to deliver financial peace of mind to all of Kansas City," said

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Kansas Leadership Center to Host Series of Conversations Across Kansas on Immigration and Demographic Change

Wichita, Kan. – The Kansas Leadership Center (KLC), a Wichita-based nonprofit, and its civic issues magazine, The Journal, are bringing back Journal Talks and hosting a series of conversations about immigration and demographic change across Kansas with “Journal Talks: Bringing Together Our Changing Communities” that kicks off August 17.

Journal Talks are the organization’s statewide effort in which alumni of KLC leadership development programs convene conversations on tough civic issues with their communities. The initiative launched in 2017 and a series focused on immigration began in February 2020. Both

were interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

“We resumed hosting Journal Talks in 2021, and now we are excited to foster healthy civic dialogue around the state by revisiting this immigration series. ‘Our Changing Communities’ is a partnership between the Kansas Leadership Center and the network of community leadership programs in Kansas that helped inspire the creation of KLC before 2007. While we’re fulfilling our original goal of hosting lots of conversations with Kansas communities, we’re also encouraging others around the state to do the same thing,” said Chris Green, executive editor of The Journal.

The dialogue will kick-off on

August 17 with a conversation at the Kansas Leadership Center. In the weeks that follow, community leadership programs across the state will convene similar discussions in 10-15 communities across Kansas with the goal of gathering consensus on a variety of questions that will be shared in an upcoming issue of The Journal.

“We’re asking residents of these communities to not just talk but take on an assignment, one that’s small but significant. Our hope is that each community will put some stakes in the ground and tell the rest of Kansas what they decided from their conversation,” said Green.

Over the next few months, communities will convene group

discussions lasting 60 to 90 minutes to answer the following questions:

* How are the demographics of your community changing and what does it mean for you?

* How might immigration affect the future of your community?

* What values do you think should bind us together as Americans?

* What should our community do to navigate changes and thrive?

The public is invited to attend the first Journal Talk at the Kansas Leadership Center from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 17. Admittance is free and participants can join in person or virtually.



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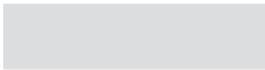
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McCownGordon... ...from page 2

Lisa Ginter, CEO of CommunityAmerica. “Our collaboration with KCKCC and Swope Health will improve access to higher education, workforce development – and with our full commitment, access to a full suite of financial resources for local students and businesses alike.”

Remaining space on the first, second and third floors will be dedicated educational classrooms and labs, offices and public meeting spaces for KCKCC. KCKCC plans to offer admissions/financial aid support spaces, general edu-

cation and science courses, GED and ESL, biomanufacturing, art programming, commercial construction technology, Automated Engineering Technology and administrative office professional programs at the site.

The fourth floor will be dedicated to Swope Health as a health and wellness space.

“Swope Health is honored to work in such strong collaboration with KCKCC, CommunityAmerica Credit Union, PGAV Architects and McCownGordon Construction,” said Jeron Ravin, J.D., president and CEO of Swope Health. “As we reflect on this partnership and our role in it, providing a new medical and dental clinic in downtown KCK

and offering education and internships that will connect students to meaningful careers in community health, we believe the Kansas City, Kansas Community Education, Health and Wellness Center will fill service gaps in our community and become a national model for achieving collective impact.”

In March 2023 PGAV was selected as the project architect after a competitive selection process. PGAV has partnered with KCKCC and Swope Health on previous projects and was selected due to their extensive experience working with colleges and universities, health agencies and banking institutions.

“PGAV has enjoyed working with the college, Swope Health and CommunityAmerica on this uplifting project. The combining of education, physical and mental health as well as financial support

into one location is a great way to build community. This project will have the ability to meet individuals where they are at in their life’s journey and provide solutions in three critical ways to improve their lives,” said Steve Troester, principal at PGAV Architects. “At its core, a building becomes a tool for those that use it. Buildings are often a tool that allows people to work, learn, play, heal, gather, and transact. This groundbreaking project will serve many of these essential roles to improve the lives of others. PGAV is thrilled to be part of it.”

Design is underway and demolition will begin in early fall. Construction will commence this winter with the target of June 2025 for completion of the KCK Community Education, Health and Wellness Center.

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Donors Needed in July to Prevent a Blood Shortage

The American Red Cross continues to see a concerning trend – blood donations are being sent to hospitals faster than they are coming in. The Red Cross has collected about 50,000 fewer blood donations than needed over the last two months. Donors are asked to make an appointment to give blood now to avoid a looming blood shortage.

To help head off a more serious situation, the Red Cross is teaming up with Warner Bros. Discovery for the 35th anniversary of Shark Week and the theatrical release of Meg 2: The Trench. The public is encouraged to celebrate a summer of sharks and help shore up the national blood supply by giving in July.

In thanks for helping, the Red Cross is offering several incentives to donors who come out to give blood or platelets in the coming weeks. Additionally, in response to the great need for blood, those who hurry in to help by coming to give July 1-16 will receive a limited-time bonus \$15 gift card by email to a merchant of their choice.

* July 12-Aug 12: Those who come to give will be automatically entered for a chance to win a three-night New York getaway for two with a private shark dive adventure at Long Island Aquarium. Details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/Shark.

* July 17-31: Presenting donors will receive an officially licensed Shark Week T-shirt, while supplies last. Donors will also be automatically entered for a chance to win a three-night New York getaway for two with a private shark dive adventure at Long Island Aquarium. Details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/Shark.

By scheduling and keeping appointments in July, donors can help provide for those in immediate need of lifesaving care. To schedule an appointment to donate, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities July 11-31:

Shawnee

7/26/2023: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Mill Valley High School, 5900 Monticello Rd Leavenworth

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