



# The Record

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## Teachers

By Dr. Jim Haas

With schools back in session, it's a good time to consider teachers. Most of us remember teachers who helped shape our lives, sometimes dramatically, and while I had many good teachers, three had out-sized impacts, and one of them changed my future with nine words.

The first was my fifth-grade teacher Florence Hill, whose passion was U.S. history. It was the 1950s, a time when ambitious women had few career choices, so many of the brightest chose teaching and had solid college backgrounds in the liberal arts, including history. Miss Hill (no Ms. In those days) devoted an hour every day to America's story, making it so interesting that I began reading books about past people and events.

Nine years later found me at Akron University in a required Western Civilization course taught by master teacher Dr. Henry Vyverberg. In a packed lecture hall, he introduced us to the glories of Greek and Roman architecture and literature before strolling with us through the European Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Age of Reason, the Enlightenment, Romanticism, and on to modern times. He paced to and fro in front of projected images of temples, palaces, and paintings (pictured, Raphael's *The School of Athens* with Plato and his student Aristotle), occasionally slapping the screen with a long pointer while telling a story with wit and wonder, weaving intellectual and artistic elements into a tapestry of history. It was a revelation.

Vyverberg spoke of ideas and how people responded to them to shape the evolution of civilization. His tests were essays—he wanted to know what we thought and why based on primary



sources. He wanted us to interpret history using the available facts, and I realized that history is not so much a record of what happened as of what historians *think* happened based on evidence, and what it meant in the long run. Big difference. Interpreting history made it much more interesting and challenging, and the work of historians much more important. I signed up for courses in Eastern Civilization and for Dr. Vyverberg's course in Modern Germany.

Being a music major at the time, my goal was to play trumpet in jazz and classical orchestras, but that changed after several friends and I spent an evening discussing our college classes with Ron Snider, our former high school history teacher. Talk drifted to the Western Civ course we were all taking and to why I was the only one among my friends who was enjoying it (The others were either science or business majors, which may explain it.).

As we were leaving, Snider stopped me at the door and asked if I ever thought

about changing my major from music to history. Then he said the fateful nine words: "Do you really think the world needs more entertainers?" The question literally stopped me in my tracks. It was the early sixties, the world was troubled, and the answer, clearly, was "No."

I reevaluated my future. A musical career had many negatives. Teaching history, on the other hand, offered positives: a subject so important it was required of all students, a subject I had gone from being keenly interested in to being passionate about, and a subject I had seen taught masterfully and understood at least some of what great teaching required. Most of all, teaching history seemed a way to help make the world better. I answered the call, changed my major to history education, and have never regretted it.

More than a century ago, historian and descendent of two presidents Henry Adams wrote, "A teacher affects eternity. He can never tell where his influence stops." Truly.



By Sharon Hoover

Last week, I wrote about the “Imprinting The West” exhibit at Wyandotte West Library. In addition to the previous speaker, on September 24 at 6:00 pm, Chief Judith Manthe of the Wyandot Nation of Kansas will present a program on Wyandot history and her experience growing up in Wyandot in Kansas. The exhibit runs from September 1 through October 20.

I learned a few weeks ago that the Farm Tales program is a monthly

# Comin’ & Goin’ Turner Style

event at the National Agricultural Center. I’ve written about it sporadically when I saw the brochures. Anyhow, this month the topic is applesauce. This program is free for kids ages 3-8 and those who may be home schooled. The featured book is “Applesauce Day” by Lisa Amstutz. Kids will discover the different kinds of apples grown around Kansas City, experiment with apple boats, create an apple book, make some tasty applesauce to try, and meet a local farmer who grows apples. The fun starts on September 14 at 10:30 am. You must preregister to reserve your spot(s). Email [info@aghalloffame.com](mailto:info@aghalloffame.com) or phone 913-721-1075.

F.L. Schlagle Library is celebrating its 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Monarch Butterfly Festival Tagging on September 16 from 10am-3pm There will be story time, face painting, butterfly walk, scavenger hunt, seed

bomb assembly, and the butterfly release tent. The winners of the insect photography contest will be announced. Those photos had to be submitted in August and I missed reporting that deadline.

The “Share the Book” Group meets the second Tuesday of each month at The Windmill at noon. Each of us recommends an author and book or two that we have particularly enjoyed either in the past or the previous month. Kind of what I do in my column every so often. Please feel free to join us. I am curious by nature (nosy would be

a good word). Several months past I read a book that was nominated for a Pulitzer last year called “The Dutch House” by Ann Patchett. I enjoyed it and it was not a murder mystery novel. I recently finished her latest “Tom Lake”, also not a mystery novel but one with a twist. It’s about family, love and growing up. It’s slow getting started but worth the read.

Until next time, stay safe and be kind to those around you. Help our Lahaina friends and continue to pray for the brave Ukrainians fighting for the right to remain free.

## Bucks to Drivers Who Buckle Up

This year, from August 25 through September 10, a safety belt awareness campaign called “Bucks for Buckles” is being held in 39 cities across Kansas. Local volunteers distribute dollar bills to drivers with all occupants buckled up securely in their vehicle. Those riding unrestrained will receive educational materials about the effectiveness of seat belts and child safety seats in saving lives and reducing injuries.

According to the 2022 KDOT Seat Belt Survey, 87 percent of Kansans surveyed wore seat belts. This compares to the national average of 90 percent based on the most recent NHTSA National Occupant Protection Use Survey in 2021. Kansas ranked 38 in belt use in 2021 among 50 states and the District of Columbia. Seat belts save more than 15,000 lives yearly and are the best defense against drunk, aggressive and distracted drivers.



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# Governor Celebrates Fully Funding Schools for the Fifth Year in a Row



of schools being chronically underfunded under the previous administration.

“This year, we fully funded public schools for the fifth year in a row and made historic investments in our K-12 system,” Governor Laura Kelly said. “Now,

for five years running, schools have been much better positioned to offer after-school activities, to provide critical intervention services to students who need additional support, and to pay teachers much closer to what they deserve. But our work isn’t done. When the legislators return in 2024, we must work

together to put Kansas on the path to fully fund special education.”

Governor Kelly’s visit to Indian Valley Elementary began with a brief tour of the school led by 5th grade students.

“We know that our most important asset in Blue Valley is our amazing staff,” said Dr. Tonya Merrigan, Superintendent of Blue Valley Schools. “Fully funding schools allowed us to provide a significant raise for this group who works so hard for our students.”

In May, Kelly also line-item vetoed aspects of SB 113 to protect funding for rural schools facing declining enrollment. While the bill includes a \$7.5 million increase in funding for special education, it does not include the \$72 million Governor Kelly called for throughout the legislative session. More information

about the bill’s historic investments can be found [HERE](#).

“We appreciate Governor Kelly’s strong commitment to public education and her efforts to fully fund public education as the Kansas Constitution requires,” said Patty Logan, chair of parent group Stand Up Blue Valley: Families for Our Schools. “We want to remind Blue Valley voters that the Kansas legislature’s failure to fully fund excess special education costs causes Blue Valley Schools to redirect millions of dollars from critical general education needs to special education – negatively impacting ALL students in our district. We call on the legislature to do the right thing and vote to fully fund excess special education costs, especially legislators from Blue Valley who claim to support our schools.”

To celebrate Kansas students going back to school, Governor Laura Kelly joined Blue Valley School District leaders, teachers, and students in Overland Park today, where she ceremonially signed House Substitute for Senate Bill 113. This legislation fully funds K-12 education for the fifth consecutive year after nearly a decade



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# Guest Editorial

## Quotes To Ponder

By Tom Valverde

Trump has been indicted on 78 felony charges in 2 Federal cases and 1 State case. He is under investigation elsewhere. So these indictments break down as follows:

34 Felony charges in the hush money payments made to Stormy

Daniels. 40 Felony charges in the mishandling of classified documents and illegal retention of them case. RICO charges against Trump and 18 other co-defendants for their scheme to steal the election win from Joe Biden. New York State's investigation into the Trump organization's business practices of manipulating property valuations to get tax breaks and better terms on loans and insur-

ance rates.

The Washington Post

Horrible District Attorney from just a little while ago. From essentially Atlanta, which is Fulton county. She said basically, I don't have the right to challenge an election. The District Attorney Fani, Fani Willis in Atlanta -- she's getting killed.

Donald Trump

I think I'd like to step back and talk about the complicity of certain parts of the media. In New York, the

Alvin Bragg case is really about the confluence of the National Enquirer and Trump in terms of keeping information from the public. The Dominion voting machines case, where they won their suit, was about FOX News being complicit in order to increase their share of clicks and viewers with Trump and his allies. To comment on what Trump said, well, it is not true. It is factually false and it's the kind of thing that should be challenged by somebody who is actually a member of the news media, as opposed to some kind of public figure who isn't a journalist. [Trump was interviewed by former FOX personality, Tucker Carlson.]

That is a real problem in terms of going out to Republicans, this idea that Donald Trump is being prosecuted simply because he challenged an election. Well, as you know, he challenged the election in over 60 Courts. He had his day in court, repeatedly and he lost all of those suits. [All for lack of evidence.] So, no one is denying Trump his right to challenge the election. But, that he took the law into his own hands! That is what he is being charged with. And, he will also have his day in court as a criminal defendant to challenge the Government's proof on those issues, like any other defendant.

Andrew Weissman  
Former Chief Counsel at the DOJ and Former New York Prosecutor

Last Thursday, Trump surrendered at the Fulton county jail to be booked. Trump is the first former president to have a mugshot taken of him. All of the felonies were of his own doing and now he is a criminal defendant in a RICO case in Georgia, another first for a former president.

Andrew Weissman's remarks reveal just how little push back Trump has ever received from the far right news outlets. Unfortunately, many of his supporters have seemingly lost the ability to think critically and take his lies as being the truth. Once a lie is repeatedly told it, over time, is then regarded as factual. And when Republican politicians continue to say that they would vote for Donald



# Biscuits & Gravy Fundraiser

## Saturday, September 23, 2023

### 8am to 11am Victory Hills Baptist Church

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gravy, eggs,**

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

# Quotes to Ponder... ...from page 6

Trump it gives the impression that there is nothing to suspect as to any of his malfeasance while he was president. Trump babbles on about the investigations being a "Witch hunt," so his allies believe this and ignore the true facts. Even worse, these people are impossible to reach by any means of persuasion. And there is very little in the way of governing being done by the Republicans in DC. It's all about retribution and obstruction.

In spite of the lack of cooperation President Biden has an impressive track record with many significant

pieces of legislation passed to benefit the country and the American people. Trump is expected to go through his multiple Criminal Court trials and campaign for president. It will have to be seen whether he has the stamina to go through it all. Trump's troubles increase as now, his wife, Melania says that she would file for divorce if Trump uses their son, Baron for anything involving his campaign.

One thing is certain, this State trial in Georgia has restored the sense of equal justice for all. The District Attorney, Fani Willis has set a trial start date of October 23, 2023. Justice must prevail in order for the US to return to being a country of law and order.

# Manifest Destiny, Real and Imagined on September 1

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – Throughout the nineteenth century as Americans pushed west toward the Pacific, they were fascinated by westward expansion in North America. Printed imagery—lithographs and engravings—played an important role in the dissemination of knowledge and

understanding about the West and its inhabitants. Now visitors to Kansas City, Kansas Public Library's new exhibition, Imprinting the West: Manifest Destiny, Real and Imagined, opening September 1, will see 48 hand-colored engravings and lithographs that explore these depictions and the influence the artists had on the perception of the wild west. To learn more, visit [kckplprograms.org/imprintingthewest](http://kckplprograms.org/imprintingthewest)

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson purchased the expansive territory, known as Louisiana from Napoleon, King of France. This transaction extended the young country's boundaries by 828,000 square miles, including all of present-day Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and parts of Colorado, Louisiana, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming. The Louisiana Purchase set the stage for exploration, migration and settlement, in addition to struggle and conflict. Convinced that God wanted the country to extend to the Pacific Coast—the idea called "Manifest Destiny"—scores of Americans, including painters and printmakers, moved west.

The westward expansion in the nineteenth century was closely intertwined with the experiences of the native peoples. The exhibition's artists, including George Catlin and Frederic Remington, sought to document the indigenous people of the west along with migration to the west. Artists often accompanied governmental geographical surveys and created images to illustrate official publications. Others sold engravings to popular periodicals, such as Harper's Weekly, or to the mass market. Whether real or imagined, these lithographs and engravings informed the rest of America and the world about Native Americans and America's western landscapes and its natural resources.

The library is hosting an opening reception on September 7 featuring Dr. Eric Anderson, Ph.D., Professor of History at Haskell University, who will speak about the exhibit and this time in history. Other programs include a presentation by Chief Judith Manthe on September 14 about growing up Wyandot in Kansas, and a book club series focuses on Native American identity and experience.

## LEGAL PUBLICATION

## LEGAL PUBLICATION

### Notice of Hearing 2023-2024 Budget

The governing body of Unified School District 500 will meet on the 12th day of September 2023 at 5:05 PM at 2010 N 50th Street, Kansas City, KS 66104 for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied. Detailed budget information, including budget profile, building needs assessment and Board state assessments review is available at Central Office on the district website and will be available at this hearing.

The Amount of 2023 Tax to be Levied and Expenditures (published below) establish the maximum limits of the 2023-2024 Budget. The 'Est. Tax Rate' (column 7), shown for comparative purposes, is subject to slight change depending on final assessed valuation.

Code 99 Line	2021-2022 Actual		2022-2023 Actual		2023-2024 Proposed Budget		
	Actual Expenditures (1)	Actual Tax Rate* (2)	Actual Expenditures (3)	Actual Tax Rate* (4)	Budgeted Expenditures (5)	Amount of 2023 Tax to be Levied (6)	Est. Tax Rate* (7)
<b>OPERATING</b>							
General	06 176,146,202	20.000	179,202,824	20.000	188,818,951	19,361,954	20.000
Supplemental General (LOB)	08 57,231,844	12.634	58,461,433	12.635	62,526,814	14,443,115	12.635
<b>SPECIAL REVENUE</b>							
Federal Funds	07 52,342,046		62,485,481		65,473,263		
Adult Education	10 0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Preschool-Age At-Risk	11 1,258,878		2,088,595		2,927,488		
Adult Supplemental Education	12 0		0		0		
At Risk (K-12)	13 52,476,413		56,726,775		63,665,375		
Bilingual Education	14 7,580,540		7,163,061		7,210,424		
Virtual Education	15 1,241,956		1,109,646		1,167,170		
Capital Outlay	16 9,511,468	8.000	15,998,831	7.996	23,998,351	9,155,588	8.000
Driver Training	18 0		0		0		
Declining Enrollment	19 0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Extracurricular School Program	22 0		0		0		
Food Service	24 16,951,125		16,369,277		30,974,125		
Professional Development	25 94,999,969		0		544,410		
Parent Education Program	26 1,306,180		1,180,491		1,402,035		
Summer School	29 0		0		0		
Special Education	30 26,651,331		24,854,753		27,542,728		
Cost of Living	33 0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Career and Postsecondary Education	34 2,788,058		2,888,219		3,782,667		
Gifts and Grants	35 7,607,345		9,251,763		27,124,658		
Special Liability Expense Fund	42 0	0.000	0	0.000	4,920,209	0	0.000
School Retirement	44 6,834	0.000	758	0.000	0	0	0.000
Extracurricular Growth Facilities	45 0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Special Reserve Fund	47 1,657,720		1,621,069		0		
KPERS Special Retirement Contribution	51 27,445,307		28,533,678		31,387,264		
Contingency Reserve	53 3,496,000		3,322,000		0		
Textbook & Student Material Revolving	55 85,263		143,605		0		
Activity Fund	56 67,680		178,404		0		
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>							
Bond and Interest #1	62 15,724,984	9.022	14,950,959	9.023	15,239,784	10,313,440	9.022
Bond and Interest #2	63 0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
No-Fund Warrant	66 0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Special Assessment	67 0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Temporary Note	68 0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
<b>COOPERATIVES</b>							
Special Education	78 27,396,420		25,275,607		27,397,178		
<b>TOTAL USD EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>100 462,955,223</b>	<b>49.656</b>	<b>512,107,653</b>	<b>49.654</b>	<b>586,609,620</b>	<b>53,274,097</b>	<b>49.657</b>
Less Transfers	105 94,999,969		95,104,677		107,284,349		
<b>NET USD EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>110 367,955,254</b>		<b>416,992,976</b>		<b>479,325,271</b>		
<b>TOTAL USD TAXES LEVIED</b>	<b>115 43,587,089</b>		<b>46,084,931</b>		<b>53,274,097</b>		

\* Tax Rates are expressed in Mills

Code 99 Line	2021-2022 Actual		2022-2023 Actual		2023-2024 Proposed Budget		
	Actual Expenditures (1)	Actual Tax Rate* (2)	Actual Expenditures (3)	Actual Tax Rate* (4)	Budgeted Expenditures (5)	Amount of 2023 Tax to be Levied (6)	Est. Tax Rate* (7)
<b>OTHER</b>							
Historical Museum	80 0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Public Library Board	82 9,892,058	9.833	6,614,400	9.834	40,501,164	11,241,677	9.834
Public Library Board Employee Benefits	83 1,113,455	1.336	1,221,497	1.338	3,006,681	1,529,954	1.338
Recreation Commission	84 0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Rec Comm Emp Benefits & Spec Lab	85 0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>	<b>120 11,005,513</b>	<b>11.171</b>	<b>7,835,897</b>	<b>11.172</b>	<b>43,507,845</b>	<b>12,771,631</b>	<b>11.172</b>
<b>TOTAL TAXES LEVIED</b>	<b>125 55,592,602</b>		<b>53,918,828</b>		<b>96,782,942</b>		
Assessed Valuation - General Fund	128 \$828,534,435		\$846,276,688		\$968,097,690		
Assessed Valuation - All Other Funds	129 \$312,106,973		\$1,010,520,854		\$1,143,100,628		
Assessed Valuation - Capital Outlay	129 \$869,899,565		\$971,593,349		\$1,144,440,542		
<b>Outstanding Indebtedness, July 1</b>							
General Obligation Bonds	135 268,910,000		272,460,000		265,280,000		
Capital Outlay Bonds	140 0		0		0		
Temporary Note	145 0		0		0		
No-Fund Warrant	150 0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	153 20,590,000		20,590,000		20,590,000		
<b>TOTAL USD DEBT</b>	<b>155 289,500,000</b>		<b>293,050,000</b>		<b>285,870,000</b>		

Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Tax Rate for the 2023-2024 School Year  
The governing body of Unified School District 500 will meet on the 12th day of September 2023 at 5:00 PM at 2010 N 50th Street, Kansas City, KS 66104 for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied. Detailed budget information, including budget profile, is available at Central Office and will be available at this hearing.

	2022-2023		2023-2024	
	Actual Tax Levied	Actual Tax Rate	Neutral Tax Rate	Estimated Tax Levied
General	\$16,373,648	20.000	17.478	\$19,361,954
Capital Outlay	\$7,669,934	7.996	6.887	\$9,155,588
Bond and Interest #2	\$0	0.000	\$0	\$0
Supplemental General (LOB)	\$12,419,868	12.635	\$14,443,115	\$14,443,115
Adult Education	\$0	0.000	\$0	\$0
Cost of Living	\$0	0.000	\$0	\$0
Special Liability Expense Fund	\$0	0.000	\$0	\$0
Extracurricular Growth Facilities	\$0	0.000	\$0	\$0
Bond and Interest #1	\$8,869,596	9.023	\$10,313,440	\$10,313,440
No-Fund Warrant	\$0	0.000	\$0	\$0
Special Assessment	\$0	0.000	\$0	\$0
Temporary Note	\$0	0.000	\$0	\$0
Historical Museum	\$0	0.000	\$0	\$0
Public Library Board	\$9,667,030	9.834	\$11,241,677	\$11,241,677
Public Library Board Employee Benefits	\$1,315,897	1.338	\$1,529,954	\$1,529,954
<b>Sub Total - All Other Funds</b>	<b>\$32,272,301</b>	<b>32.830</b>	<b>28,262</b>	<b>\$37,528,166</b>

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