



# The Record

Volume 136

September 14, 2023

Number 37

## Schools and Democracy

By Dr. Jim Haas

With school board elections approaching, it's time to consider what schools do to nourish democracy. First, though, here's some good news about what some students are doing. Two teachers in an area high school told me last week about a noticeable shift in many students' behavior: carrying a book they're reading instead of constantly checking their phones. A few days later, *The New York Times* reported on the spread of Luddite Clubs formed by students rejecting social media in favor of flip phones and books. (Luddites were 18<sup>th</sup> century English textile workers who rioted against industrialization.) It seems these students are tired of chasing likes and would rather have a life. Good for them.

Now to schools, which have three basic purposes: preparing students for work, for citizenship, and for a fulfilling personal life. Fortunately, these purposes often overlap.

Learning for earning begins in the early grades with literacy and numeracy, learning to work well with others, and developing a positive attitude about hard work. In later grades, students learn about the many ways they can participate in the economy and contribute to the common good so that by graduation, they can identify appealing career opportunities and know what further education or training is necessary.

In a democracy, public schools, at least, have an obligation to offer a first-class education to every student. There are no second-class citizens, so there can be no second-class schooling; no mere training for worker-bees, but a well-rounded liberal education for all including literature and the arts, history, government, and the sciences through graduation.

The late president of the Carnegie Corporation, Vartan Gregorian, said that "the soul of democracy is liberal education that prepares [students] to appreciate the difference between making a living and actually living; to cultivate more than a passing familiarity with ethics,



history, science, and culture; and to perceive the tragic chasm between the world as it is and the world as it could and ought to be." Making the world more like it ought to be, one student at a time, is a cherished function of any school.

Learning good citizenship in our age of misinformation is much more than learning about how government functions. Helping students learn how to distinguish truth from falsehood, how to judge the credibility of sources, how to reason rigorously, how to make ethical choices, and how to deal with the ambiguities that are part of life is vital to their success and to our success as a nation. Not surprisingly, these same abilities are needed—and much valued—by employers.

Especially valued where work and citizenship overlap are graduates with solid backgrounds in math and the sciences. STEM careers typically pay well, and a grasp of scientific principles is essential to being an

informed citizen. Public policies regarding sustainable energy, AI and communications technologies, gene editing, and many others demand scientifically literate voters. Uninformed and misinformed voters lead to poor or even dangerous policies.

Equally necessary is for graduates to be at home in the wider world; to be acquainted with the breadth and diversity of human history; to be aware of the literature, arts, and values of other cultures. In our interconnected world where people anywhere are just a mouse click away, global citizenship is a priceless advantage.

To learn is to change, which can be uncomfortable. Schools are in the change business by acquainting students with the wide range of human experiences and values and teaching them how to think, not what to think (book bans do the opposite), so they can shape lives that suit them best. It's called freedom, and schools are in that business, too.



By Sharon Hoover

Most of us have heard of Dumpster Days when you get rid of stuff you can no longer need or use. On September 23, you can get donations for nonprofits such as clothing, furniture, household items & more. Free paper shredding and tire disposal. Undumpster Day is to be held at 4th & Minnesota from 8am-12pm. To find out more email [rachel@reusefull.org](mailto:rachel@reusefull.org). Sponsors of the event are Community Capital Fund, the U.G.,



AARP Kansas City, and Reusefull. Give stuff, get stuff.

The Wyandotte Behavioral Health Network is holding a 5K race "Recovery Starts Now" at Wyandotte County Park in Bonner Springs from 8am-12pm on September 30. \$35 registration gets you a t-shirt & swag bag. For more info call 913 233-3300.

TRC's Elderbearies (50+ Club) Potluck will be held in The Bear's Den on September 20 at 12:30 pm (note the new time). Bring your favorite dish. The September Elderbearies field trip will be to the Overland Park Arboretum & Botanical Gardens on September 28th. We will leave TRC at 10:30am. The cost is \$10 which includes lunch and transportation.

It's back! The Main Library & Huron Park is holding "Library in the Park" from 11am-3pm. This is a great opportunity to buy lots of books and a reminder that those of us who participated in the Summer Reading program have those \$5 coupons to use. In addition to the books, there will be live music, lawn games, and fun activities for the family. You can also meet Chris Miggs author of "Go, Chiefs, Go".

It's been a while since I mentioned The Keeler Women's Center whose mission is to empower women in the urban core through education, advocacy, personal and spiritual development. Located at 759 Vermont Suite 100B KCK. All

# Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

programs are free and offered in person, by phone call or via zoom. Open Monday -Thursday from 9am-4pm and closed on Friday. They offer a variety of programs from crafts to nutrition programs to immigrant assistance. Visit them at [www.keelerwomenscenter.org](http://www.keelerwomenscenter.org) or call 913-689-9375. Para Espanol llamenos al 913-708-0286. Email at [kwc@mountosb.org](mailto:kwc@mountosb.org). Truly a great organization for women.

Another organization that has been serving the community since 1963 is Cross-Lines in Armourdale, 736 Shawnee Ave, KCK, providing

dignity, hope, and help to people in need. (Income guidelines apply and documentation required). Outreach Services offered are Community Kitchen, Community Market, Medicine Cabinet, Commodities Program, and Emergency Rent/Utility Assistance ([www.cross-lines.org](http://www.cross-lines.org)/get help). For detailed information on each of these programs (dates, times, and location for each) call 913 281-3388.

Until next time, stay safe and be kind to those around you. Troubles abound in every shape and form when you least expect them.

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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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The Record  
Publications, LLC

Publishers of *The Record*

(913) 362-1988

Jon A. Males  
Owner/Publisher/Editor

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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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# Unified Government Breaks Ground on New CSI Lab

Kansas City, Kan. —Earlier today officials with the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kan. (UG) hosted an official groundbreaking ceremony for the new home of the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department (KCKPD) Crime Scene Investigation Unit and a new Sewer Maintenance Control Facility located at 49th and Armstrong Avenue.

Upon completion in the fall of 2024, the 37-acre site will serve as a step forward in the revitalization of the midtown area of the City.

“These projects are a direct example of departments working together to maximize assets and opportunities that we have within the Unified Government,” said County Administrator, David

Johnston. “It is extremely important that we provide high quality state-of-the-art facilities for our staff, that will in turn benefit our community members. I believe our new KCKPD CSI lab and Sewer Maintenance facility will be a great regional draw. I am confident that both projects will put Wyandotte County and KCK on the map within the KC region, proving that we take the steps necessary to meet the needs and concerns of the public.”

- 13,000 square feet
- 12 individualized work stations
- 2 large evidence processing rooms
- Indoor parking for CSI vans & storage for supplies
- 6 indoor vehicle processing



bays

- Vehicle holding space for up to 90 vehicles

“This CSI is going to help us continue our pursuit to make this one of the safest communities in the metro,” Karl Oakman, Chief

of Police, KCKPD. “We have done outstanding work with what we have now, but we expect to do even better work once this facility is completed. It is an exciting step forward for our department and the community.”



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# Biscuits & Gravy Fundraiser



**Saturday,  
September 23,  
2023**

**8am to 11am**

**Victory Hills Baptist Church**

**2010 N. 66th Terr., KCKs**

**\$8.00—includes biscuits with  
gravy, eggs,**

**sausage, juice & coffee**

Tickets available at the door, or they can be purchased from any Shepherd's Center board member! Shepherd's Center of KCK is an interfaith, multicultural nonprofit that promotes and supports successful aging.

**Call 913-281-8908 for more information**

## Governor Kelly Announces Kansas Awarded \$40M to Build Community Multi-Purpose Facilities, Expand Access to Child Care

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly and the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund announced today that Kansas has been awarded \$40 million from the U.S. Department of Treasury for a new program, the Capital Projects Fund Accelerator (CPF Accelerator). The program will provide local communities with funding to build or renovate multi-purpose facilities that create new licensed child care slots and provide Kansans access to high-speed internet for digital work, health, and education supports.

“The Capital Projects Fund Accelerator Grant program is another example of how my administration is finding new ways to expand access to affordable, quality child care and other essential community services,” Governor Laura Kelly said. “This grant opportunity will enable more communities to work with local businesses to meet a pressing need for Kansas families.”

In June 2023, the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund’s Child Care Capacity Accelerator

awarded more than \$43 million to 52 organizations and partnerships across Kansas. The new CPF Accelerator grant opportunity builds on that momentum by providing prospective grantees a new funding source for the construction, renovation, or rehabilitation of community facilities and other capital improvement for community-driven projects and programs. This funding is the latest effort to support the state’s rapidly growing work in early childhood and boost communities in scaling up their facilities to serve families and children.

“The Capital Projects Fund Accelerator is another exciting chance to invest in the infrastructure needed to increase access to affordable, high-quality childcare as well as a full range of programs and services to help families meet basic needs,” said Melissa Rooker, Executive Director of the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund. “The Kansas Children’s Cabinet is proud to continue our work to champion community-driven

solutions to the multi-faceted challenges facing families with young children today.”

The RFP is available here, with two submission deadline options. The first-round application deadline is Oct. 2, 2023, and the second-round deadline is Dec. 18, 2023. The Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund encourages applicants to decide which deadline is appropriate for their project as there is no advantage or consequence in applying by either deadline. Applications will be submitted online via the Kansas CommonApp portal.

Kansas was previously awarded

\$83.5 million from the Capital Projects Fund to build reliable broadband infrastructure and extend high-speed internet to more than 24,500 homes, businesses, schools, health care facilities, and other public institutions in underserved counties across the state. A portion of Kansas’ \$40 million award for the CPF Accelerator will be used to assist in the administration of the program. Combined with the Child Care Capacity Accelerator Grant programs, these two funding opportunities will infuse more than \$83 million into Kansas’ early childhood care and education sector.

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To better serve you, we have prioritized our online customer experience. Our website SSA.gov makes it easier for you to find what you need. More than 180 million people visit our website every year. Whether providing service in person or online, our goal is help you understand what you may qualify for and transition you to an application process.

We have also worked to make sure our programs, particularly Supplemental Security Income (SSI), remains accessible to the people who need it most. Last year, we launched an online tool that allows you or your representative to request an appointment to file for SSI and protect your filing date. A Social Security employee will then schedule a full interview. Find more information about SSI at [www.ssa.gov/ssi/](http://www.ssa.gov/ssi/).

We remain committed to helping maintain the well-being and protection of the people we serve. We strive to ensure that every person who is eligible for or receives benefits gets them timely and accurately. That is how we help you secure today and tomorrow.

Please share this information with your friends and loved ones who may need it.

## Tom’s Tasty Treats

By Tom Valverde

This week’s tasty treat is a variation on a good, no-bake, drop cookie. These are made with a few additional ingredients and will be cut into bars, once set. These are quick to make and are a New tasty treat for you and your family!

### TOM’S EZ CHOCOLATE BARS

Ingredients:

1 c Sugar  
 3/4 c Brown Sugar  
 1/2 Butter  
 1/2 c Milk  
 3 T Cocoa  
 1 t Espresso powder  
 1/4 t Salt  
 1/2 c Peanut butter  
 2 1/2 c Quick Oats  
 1/2 c Roasted Peanuts, chopped  
 1/2 c Peanut butter  
 1 t Vanilla

Spray or line a half sheet cookie sheet.

In a saucepan combine the sugar, brown sugar, butter, milk, cocoa powder, espresso powder and the salt. Place over medium heat, stir and cook mixture until it comes to a rapid boil. Let boil, stirring and cook for two and a half minutes more. Remove from the heat and stir in the peanut butter. Add the oats, peanuts, and Vanilla. Pour mixture into the cookie sheet and spread evenly. Let cool to room temperature.

Cut into bars and store in an airtight container, in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks, or at room temperature for 1 week.

These bars are rich so bars need not be large. For a special dessert, place in a bowl and heat a few seconds in a microwave. Top with a scoop of Vanilla ice cream and pour either, chocolate syrup or caramel syrup all over. Sprinkle with peanuts, if desired. Recipe can also be made as drop cookies. Everyone will love this new treat.

Enjoy!



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