

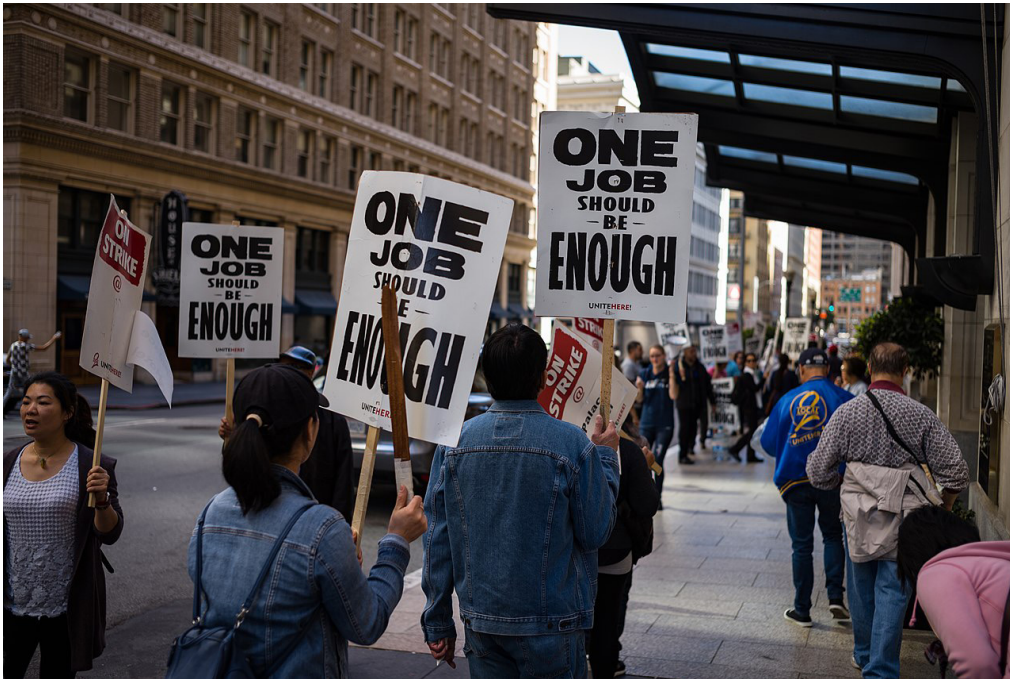
The Record

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Number 41

Fixing Capitalism



By Dr. Jim Haas

The growing number of strikes—recent, current, and potential—by union auto workers, TV and screen writers, actors, UPS employees, healthcare staff, various food and beverage service workers, and others are a long overdue correction to forty years of extreme capitalism. How extreme? In the 1970s, corporate CEOs typically earned about 40 times more than their average worker; today they earn about 350 times more. CBS News has a more precise calculation: From 1978 to 2021, average worker pay increased 18.1% while CEO pay increased 1,460%. Other private-sector executives have also enjoyed huge pay increases.

General Motors CEO Mary Barra makes about \$30 million a year, up 34% in the past four years while worker pay has increased 6%. She told CNN that 92% of her compensation is tied to GM's profit margin, saying "When the company does well, everyone does well."

Maybe, but some, if I may invent a word, do a lot better than others, and Barra failed to mention that keeping worker pay low helps keep profit margins high.

These are challenging times for auto executives as the economy is in a profound transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Managing the shift to electric vehicles demands creative leaders with foresight and commitment to a goal more important than any company. Able leaders deserve rewards for their success, but so do the workers who make their success possible. Thirty million a year is a lot of money. Does anyone deserve that much? A fair question.

After World War II, unions represented about a third of U.S. workers, and their success in increasing wages and benefits—along with millions of G.I. Bill college graduates who increased America's intellectual capital—built a large and prosperous Middle Class. Union membership then declined to 20% of

the workforce by 1985 and to 10.3% in 2020. That decline mirrors the shift in wealth from workers to managers and was made more extreme by tax cuts mostly benefitting corporations and the rich. The result is a wealth gap where the richest 10% of households now have 69% of our wealth while 50% of families have only 2.4% (Federal Reserve data). Say it with me: "Outrageous."

My first experience of labor-management relations was losing a part-time salesclerk job while a student. My job was secure until I went to a Retail Clerks Union meeting with thirty or so others. Mine was a temporary job, so I didn't think any more about the union until I wasn't scheduled to work the next week. Or ever. Neither were the others who went to the meeting.

I mentioned this to my dad, who wasn't surprised and patiently explained the harsh reality that merchants feared that unions would cut into their profits and that some even thought them "communist," still a hot topic in 1960, years after Senator Joseph McCarthy's rabid anti-communist crusade was exposed as a fraud. Dad was a member of the Carpenters and Joiners Union, and many relatives and others I knew were union members. That unions were bad, much less "communist," never crossed my mind. The episode taught me that management power needs a counterweight.

Unions are a counterweight, and their membership is now growing. The National Labor Relations Board, established in 1935 to remedy unfair labor practices, is a counterweight when a majority of its five members are pro-labor (President Biden recently appointed two with union backgrounds.). But neither has the power to reverse inflated incomes at the top or reduce the unhealthy and even dangerous wealth gap anytime soon. However, raising taxes significantly on high incomes would address the gap immediately and put extreme wealth to work for the common good. Call it a golden opportunity.



By Sharon Hoover

Something scary this way walks! South Branch Library is hosting Becky Roy, author of "KC Hauntings, History and Mystery of the Paris of the Plains" and her team on October 16 at 6:30 -7:30pm. They will present information on Beginning Paranormal Research and share information about the equipment they use and what to look for at locations suspected of paranormal activity. This program is for adults, and you must register.



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Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

Contact Jacob Bond at South Branch for more info. jbond@kckpl.org or 913 295 8250.

South Branch Library also has something for children and teens. On October 19, a Halloween Glow Party is scheduled between 7:00 -8:30pm in Conference room A. Enjoy games, crafts, and Glow in the Dark Bubbles.

Turner Rec Elderbearies Potluck luncheon will feature Chili this month. Join in on October 19 at noon in the Bear's Den. Bring your favorite dish to share.

It's starting to get cold, and furnaces and heaters will be in use shortly. Do you need a working smoke detector? The Red Cross is installing smoke alarms in the Armourdale, Argentine, Rosedale, and Turner areas on October 20 from 9:00am-5:30 pm. Call 913-573-5971 or text(only) 913 911-7002 with your name, address, phone no, and morning or afternoon. Calls answered from 8:30-4:30. If you would like to volunteer to Sound the Alarm volunteer@redcross.org and add KCK on emails.

TRC is again offering the Beginning Sign Language class October 19-November 16 on Thursdays at 5:30 pm. The cost is \$25. Register

Young KCK Artist Futures Competition

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas (UG) is excited to announce a submission deadline extension for PlanKCK Young KCK Artist Futures Competition to Sunday, October 15, 2023, at 11:59 PM. This competition encourages Kansas City, Kansas youth up to age 21 to submit original artwork that showcases their aspirations and vision for the future of KCK.

Projects may be submitted individually or as a group. Each group submission should identify the name of the group (e.g., class, school, club, etc.) and age range.

online or call the office 913 287-2111.

Purses with a Purpose, an annual charity fund raising dinner sponsored by the Women's Chamber of Commerce, will be held at the KCKCC Tech Center, 6565 State Avenue on October 19 from 5:30-8:00pm. The emcee will be Sarah Plake, channel 41 news reporter. Cost is \$40. Hors d'oeuvres will be prepared and served by the chefs from the KCKCC Culinary program.

Volunteers are needed for a Rozarks Trail workday at Fisher

Park on October 21 from 9am-11am. Hope you can help. Call 913 677-5097 for more information.

I just got this one. A Meet & Greet the Candidates is being held on October 14 at the Beatrice Lee Community Center, 1310 N 10th St. Doors open at 1:30pm. The event lasts from 2:00pm-4:00pm. Sponsors are Unity with a Purpose, Kansas City, Kansas NAACP, and Connie Brown Voters Rights.

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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Carla Schubert, Section 504 Coordinator
Young Management Corporation 22602 State Line Road
Bucyrus, KS. 66013
913-947-3131 - TTY: 711

Unified Government Names Dr. Elisha Caldwell as New Wyandotte County Health Department Director



for the Wyandotte County Health Department. Following a nationwide recruitment effort, Dr. Caldwell begins work with the Unified Government today, October 5, 2023.

Dr. Caldwell comes to the Health Department most recently from North Carolina, where he previously served as Health Director for the Scotland County Health Department during a portion of the COVID epidemic. He also brings international public health experience, having led a consortium of international non-governmental and civil society organizations in the U.S., Liberia, Tanzania, and Malawi, as well as working

in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and South Sudan.

Dr. Caldwell has taught graduate courses in public health at Campbell University and Southern Illinois University. He brings a wealth of varied experiences and a commitment to collaborative leadership.

“We are extremely excited to have Dr. Caldwell come on board to serve as Director of the Wyandotte County Health Department,” said County Administrator David Johnston. “Dr. Caldwell’s vast experience, passion and leadership skills is exactly what we need to help continue and move forward the great and impactful work our Health Department staff has

already done thus far.”

“Public health service is a collective effort and shares decision making because disease has no borders,” said Wyandotte County Public Health Department Director, Dr. Elisha Caldwell. “I am excited to hit the ground running to fully understand and address the health needs of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas.

As Dr. Caldwell becomes acclimated to his new role and the Wyandotte County community, be on the lookout for opportunities at the upcoming Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) engagement sessions and other community events to meet and greet with him.

Kansas City, KS – The Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas (UG) is pleased to announce the hiring of Dr. Elisha Caldwell as the permanent Director



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to K.S.A. 72-3126, of a public hearing to be held on the 17th day of October, 2023, at 6:15pm at the Turner Administrative Service Center regarding the Turner Unified School District No. 202, Wyandotte County, Kansas proposed policy to determine the number of nonresident students that the school district has the capacity to accept in each grade level for each school of the school district pursuant to K.S.A. 72-3123, and amendments thereto, including clearly specifying the reasons that the board may use to deny continued enrollment of a nonresident student who is not in good standing.

A representative of the board shall present the board's proposal for the policy, and the board shall hear testimony regarding the proposed policy.

(First published 10-5-23)
2t-The Record-10-12-23

Guest Editorial

Quotes To Ponder

By Tom Valverde

We first started from scratch, and we asked ourselves whether just one metric would be sufficient to capture all the multifaceted ways in which the Latino community powers the US economy.

Jose Jurado Vadillo,
Research economist
Seidman Research
Institute

The annual GDP produced by the US Latino community surpasses that of the entire countries of India, United Kingdom, France, Canada and Italy. Latinos significantly bolstered the US economy because of:

- High growth in population
- Latinos' high degree of work-force productivity and
- Their educational attainment which produced enhanced opportunities for careers.

Russell Contreras, Author
AXOIS LATINO

The US Latino GDP Report not only underscores the incontestable Economic prowess of the US Latino community but also foretells the future trajectory of our nation.

Michael M. Crow,
President, Arizona State University

Latinos generated in excess of \$3.2 Trillion in GDP overall. This

figure is 20% of all US GDP growth. The Trillions Latinos contribute to the US GDP is about two and a half times that of non-Latinos.

Sol Trujillo, Co-founder and Chair Latino Donor Collaborative, LDC

During an interview on "Morning Joe," Trujillo discussed the 2023 LDC, US Latino GDP Report, edition #6. He spoke from the L 'ATTITUDE conference in Miami, Fl. during the last week of September. The L 'ATTITUDE conference brings together top US business leaders to share their views on "The New Mainstream Economy," generated by the fast-growing Latino community.

They hear about economic trends and opportunities, updates on Latino economic impact in the US GDP. The annual conference is a showcase of US Latinos in business, media, politics, science, education, science, and technology. Trujillo spoke about the "Great economic impact of Latinos," and how their influence will only increase as the Latino population is so very concentrated with 18-20 year olds.

He added, "Each year, 1 million US Latinos turn 18." Now at 65 million, the US Latino population is expected to grow to 100 million in less than 30 years, or by 2050. Additional findings from the US Latino GDP Report:

- The purchasing power of US Latinos has grown to \$3.4 Trillion,

a 14% increase, year on year.

- Income growth rate for Latinos was measured at 4.7% compared to 1.9% for non-Latinos.

- US Latinos have the highest income of any other group in the US.

Economic power will ultimately lead to Political power.

- US Latinos are youthful with a common age of 10-14 years compared to 60-64 years among non-Latinos.

- The majority of US Latinos are under 25 years old.

- The fertility rate among US Latinos is very high with an increase of 24.1% in their population compared to only a 4.3% rise among other non-Latinos.

The annual report reveals a par-

adigm shift from the old way of thinking about what the US Latino community represents to the US. We bring much to the table; much more than the US Latino community is rarely given credit for. This progress is strong because of the work accomplished and the vision of Many community and business leaders from the past. They set the example for new generations of Latinos in the US to follow. It was because of the deep devotion to the family and for the Latino community at large that has led to the significant progress that the Report shows. We thank our hard-working parents and family, our leaders and visionaries that set Latinos in the US on the path of success!

Kansas Book Festival funds to provide needed support to libraries across the state

TOPEKA – The State Library of Kansas Board held its regular meeting at the Statehouse last week. Several grant applications were among the key items discussed. The board unanimously approved funding for one Statewide Courier Grant and three Talking Books Service Outreach Grants.

The Statewide Courier Grant in the amount of \$190,000 was awarded to the Northeast Kansas Library System to subsidize costs associated with administering the courier services that provide cost-effective and convenient delivery of shared resources between participating libraries across the state.

Outreach Grants to promote Kansas Talking Books services were provided to the Central, Northwest, and Southeast Kansas Library Systems, each in the amount of \$14,043. These funds are used by each system to increase awareness of Talking Books programming for Kansans with print disabilities in each regional system's service area. Activities funded by this grant include patron assistance and participation in community events such as health fair booths, relevant regional meetings, and visits to service providers, including schools and assisted living facilities. Networking and community participation ensure that every qualifying entity across Kansas is made aware of the resources available through the Talking Book program through personal and professional connection to a quality library service.

These decisions underscore the Board's commitment to improving statewide library services and ensuring efficient resource access for all Kansas residents. For more information about the Board, see kslib.info/board.

About the State Library of Kansas: The State Library of Kansas serves as the central library agency for the state, providing a wide range of support and resources to libraries across Kansas. Its mission is to promote, develop, and support library and information services to ensure the availability of knowledge and cultural resources for all Kansans. Visit kslib.info/discover for general information about library services, or contact library staff at kslib.info/ask. Talking Books resources and information can be found at kslib.info/talking.

LEGAL PUBLICATION

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ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS

The Board of Education, Unified School District No. 500, Kansas City, KS will accept sealed bids for: IFB 23-018 Produce Vendor for 2nd Semester 2023-2024 . Sealed bids should be addressed to: Purchasing Department, Board of Education, 2010 N. 59th Street, Room 370, Kansas City, KS 66109 - "IFB No. 23-018- "Produce Vendor for 2nd Semester 2023-2024"

Bids will be opened 10/24/23 @ 2:00 PM in the Purchasing Office. Bid Documents are available at the Purchasing Department Office, at the above-address between 8 AM and 4 PM, M-F. Bid Documents are posted

(First published 10-12-23)
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