# Record

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# **Our Hispanic Heritage**

By Dr. Jim Haas

n June 28, 1776, in Philadelphia,
Thomas Jefferson finished writing a
Declaration of Independence of 13
American colonies from Great Britain. The
next day, 3,000 miles west, a party of Spaniards led by Juan Bautista de Anza (pictured)
founded a mission and a presidio (royal fort) on
a scenic bay on the coast of Nuevo California.
Shortly after, they built a town and port and
named the community San Francisco.

Our school history books highlight Jefferson—his was a founding document of the United States—but not de Anza even though New Spain, as North America's Spanish territory was called, included more than half of what eventually became the United States. De Anza, who left from New Spain's capitol, Mexico City, also founded missions and presidios in San Diego and Monterey, opening California to settlement and blocking potential Russian expeditions from Alaska.

Spanish achievements in North America are largely absent from school texts, which mention Columbus, Balboa planting Spain's flag on the Central American coast in 1513 and claiming all lands washed by the Pacific, Ponce de Leon's 1513 landing in Florida as the first European to set foot on North America since the Viking's brief visit 500 years before, DeSoto's exploration of the Southeast and Coronado's expedition from Mexico as far as Kansas. Many histories mention Spaniards founding St. Augustine in 1565 as the first permanent European settlement in the U.S. and Santa Fe in 1607 as the oldest capitol city.

We don't learn about our Hispanic heritage again until the Mexican-American War of 1846-48 and that only as a U.S. victory. Missing are Spanish voyages up the East Coast to Nova Scotia and up the West Coast to Oregon, a party who walked from Florida to California 267 years before Lewis and Clark, Spain's significant financial support of the American



Revolution, the Mexican War of Independence that ended Spanish rule in North America in 1821, Manuel Lisa's opening of the Oregon Trail from Kansas, and much else.

Also usually ignored is that New Spain's gold and silver shipped home on treasure galleons supercharged Europe's economy and helped finance the global reach of all the colonial powers. School histories often do mention that Spain brought the horse to North America, the most significant transport innovation until the railroad and a boon to farmers before the tractor.

The British colonies dominate our early history because they were thriving permanent, and largely Protestant, settlements while Spain, focused on the precious metals of Mexico and Peru and on spreading the Catholic faith, didn't seriously populate the American Southwest until after 1776. When the U.S. became independent, Britain's language, law, and religious traditions were foundations of the new nation as were its schools

and colleges which followed British models. Therefore, the teaching—and especially the writing—of America's history by American historians has been naturally slanted to favor the British heritage.

By the 19th century, Spain, after 300 years as a global power, had lost too many expensive wars, most of its empire, and much wealth. Britain became the world's dominant power. Nevertheless, America's Hispanic heritage continued to grow as experienced Mexican miners followed the Gold Rush to California, Cubans and Puerto Ricans (the latter having full U.S. citizenship) came here after the Spanish-American War of 1898, and Latinos left the poverty and dictatorships of Central and South America.

From labor organizer and civil rights activist Cesar Chavez to Broadway genius Lin-Manuel Miranda, Hispanics have continued to write a bright chapter in America's history. That chapter should have a larger place in our classrooms.

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By Sharon Hoover

ave you started your Christmas shopping already? On ■Saturday, November 11, Lake Quivira is holding its annual Holiday Bazaar at the clubhouse starting at 9:00am. You might find some gifts to put under the tree.

If you want to learn about someone who led an unusual life, check out Wyandotte West Library. On Tuesday, November 14, at 6:00pm, a program entitled "Goats, Miracle Cures & Mass Media: The John R Brinkley Story". He was a snake-oil

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salesman, goat-gland doctor, radio personality, and ran for governor of Kansas in the 1920-1930's. Bryan Whitehead, Professor of Media at KCKCC will discuss this Kansas huckster's strange and compelling story. Reservations required. I had to look up Brinkley online. Wikipedia had several pages devoted to him.

On Wednesday, November 15, 6:00pm-8:30, Wyandotte West Library continues their series "Mad for the Movies: So Bad its Good" with a vintage (1988) movie entitled "Mac & Me". This is a movie that aspired to greatness but failed miserably. It is about an alien escaping from NASA and is befriended by a boy who uses a wheelchair.

er High School is the location for the Turner Band Booster's Annual Craft Fair. Doors open at 9:00am.

On Sunday, November 19, Turner Recreation Commission is hosting their annual Community Thanksgiving Meal from 4:00pm-6:00pm in the gym, walk-ins welcome or drive-thru available.

Now that the leaves are falling the Unified Government has some recommendations on Responsible Leaf and Yard Waste Disposal. 1. Composting leaves is a great way to create fertilizer for the spring growing season. 2. Mulching leaves in your yard will provide protection for your lawn in the winter months. 3. Mulching leaves for your garden On Saturday, November 18, Turn- is a great way to provide nutrients

and weed protection for the growing season. 4. Keeping leaves out of the storm drainage system improves water quality in our streams and lakes. 5. Sweeping extra fertilizer and grass clippings into your lawn. Hopes this helps.

I just finished reading "Vanderbilts: The Rise and Fall of a Family Dynasty" By Anderson Cooper. Anderson's mother was Gloria Vanderbilt. This book is not only a history of the family but a history of the founding of New Amsterdam (New York City), the Dutch settlement, how Wall St got its name, high society, and mini biographies of those who ran in those circles. "Conspicuous Consumption " is also the name of the game.

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 Kansas **Cold Weather** Rule takes effect

The Cold Weather Rule, designed to help Kansans who are behind on their utility payments avoid disconnection during the winter months, will begin on Wednesday, November 1 and remain in effect through March 31.

While the Cold Weather Rule is in effect, utility companies cannot disconnect a customer's service when the local temperatures are forecast to drop below 35 degrees within the following 48-hour period. The Kansas Corporation Commission, the agency that regulates public utilities in the state, implemented the rule in 1983 to prevent utility companies from disconnecting a customer's natural gas or electric service during periods of extreme

The Cold Weather Rule also requires utility companies to offer a 12-month payment plan to allow consumers to maintain or re-establish service. Any residential customer with a past due balance

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#### Kansas Children Entering Foster Care at Lowest Point Since '06

Governor Kelly announced that for the first time since 2006, the Kansas Department for Children and Families had fewer than 3,000 children enter foster care during the 2023 year, which runs from July to June. This achievement underscores the agency's commitment to prevention-focused innovations.

"Since I became governor, DCF has been laser-focused on repairing our state's child welfare system and keeping families together," Governor Laura Kelly said. "This milestone shows the progress we've made, but it's clear that there is still much more work to do. That is why I will continue to work with the legislature to invest in providing greater health, educational, and housing resources for families in need."

DCF's data shows that since 2019, there has been a 28% drop in youth entering foster care. This is largely due to programs and services that were started during the Kelly Administration, including:

Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) - Kansas was one of the first states in the nation to adopt the FFPSA, which connects families to evidence-based community programs, including mental health and substance use services, with the goal of preventing the need for placing a child outside their family. To date, nearly 89% of children and youth who have reached 12 months from the time of referral have remained home without the need for foster care. Governor Kelly and the Kansas legislature provided additional state general funds in the state budget to expand statewide Family First programs like Multisystemic Therapy and substance use disorder services.

Team Decision Making – As part of DCF's Kansas Practice Model,

Team Decision Making allows child welfare practitioners to use their skills to engage with families prior to removing a child into care to assist with needed services to support safety and well-being.

Expanded mental health services – DCF partnered with Carelon to establish the Family Crisis Response Helpline across the state. The agency is now able to better serve families and caregivers who have children experiencing emotional crises or other behavioral health symptoms, including substance use disorder. The service provides a centralized behavioral health crisis helpline 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for screening and stabilization services.

Thriving Families, Safer Children

– This innovative approach aims to support families before there is a need for formal contact with DCF.

The agency is working with and

supporting communities to recognize existing services or create additional services to assist families. The agency wants to switch the thinking for educators, health care workers, and the community at large from a mindset of being a mandated reporter to being a mandated supporter. DCF awarded \$1.7 million in grants in January 2023 to create 10 new Family Resource Centers across the state. The centers serve as a community hub to provide easier access to programs and services, including job skills training, early childhood programs, and nutrition services.

"As an agency, we know how important it is that we narrow the front door to the child welfare system," said DCF Secretary Laura Howard. "We will continue to seek and develop groundbreaking programs that connect Kansas families with needed resources and services."



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National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800\*273\*8255

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#### Online safety tips:National **Cybersecurity Awareness Month**

WASHINGTON-As National Cybersecurity Awareness Month wraps up and tax season approaches, the Internal Revenue Service and the Security Summit partners today reminded taxpayers, including families with children, to remain vigilant against potential online threats.

Without proper online safety, thieves can potentially steal personal information. The IRS and its Security Summit partners encourage everyone to review resources available to them as October's National Cybersecurity Awareness Month concludes.

Members of the Security Summit partner with the IRS to protect taxpayers from tax-related identity theft. The Summit includes members from the nation's private sector tax industry, including state tax administrators, software companies, tax professionals, the IRS and others who work together to safeguard taxpayers year-round.

The IRS urges families to be aware of a variety of security vulnerabilities found via the web. Whether people are shopping online or browsing various social media sites, those less familiar with online security might put their personal information at risk from criminals.

Online safety tips

In recognition of October's National Cybersecurity Awareness focus, here are some practices to help protect against cybersecurity attacks:

- \* Recognize scams and report phishing. It's important to remember that the IRS does not use unsolicited email and social media to discuss personal tax issues, such as those involving tax refunds, payments or tax bills.
- \* Protect personal information. Refrain from revealing too much personal information online. Birthdates, addresses, age and financial information, such as bank accounts and Social Security numbers, are among things that should not be shared freely. Encrypt sensitive files such as tax records stored on computers.
- \* Use strong passwords. Consider using a password manager to store passwords.
- \* Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) Use this for extra security on online accounts.
- \* Update computer and phone software. Enable automatic updates to install critical security updates.
  - \* Use security software. Such as anti-virus and firewall protections.
- \* Use a VPN. Criminals can intercept personal information on insecure public Wi-Fi networks. Individuals are encouraged to always use a virtual private network when connecting to public Wi-Fi.

#### Cold Weather ...

...from page 2

will qualify for payment arrangements; however, it is the customer's responsibility to contact their gas or electric company to make those arrangements.

Payment plan terms to maintain or restore service require that customers agree to pay 1/12th of the total amount owed, 1/12th of the current bill, the full amount of any disconnection or reconnection fee, plus any applicable deposit to the utility. The remaining balance must be paid in equal payments over the

next 11 months, in addition to the current monthly bill.

The Cold Weather Rule applies only to residential customers of electric and natural gas utility companies under the KCC's jurisdiction, however many municipal utilities and cooperatives have similar winter weather policies.

Information about the Cold Weather Rule is available on the Commission's website. Kansans may also contact their local utility company or the KCC's Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection at (800) 662-0027 or 785-271-3140.

#### 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. LU-LAC 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.

Rudy Padilla Email opkansas@swbell.net Maria Cristina Herrera MariCriszap@gmail.com

### Tom's Tasty Treats By Tom Valverde

An old fashioned Bundt cake is always a good and tasty treat. This is one from more than twenty years ago and it comes together very easily and quickly. It has a chocolate swirl and is nice to take to a neighbor's or for a school or church gathering. Please give it a try!

#### TOM'S PISTACHIO BUNDT CAKE

Ingredients:

1 pkg. Yellow cake mix

1 pkg. Pistachio Instant Pudding

1/2 c Canola oil

1 t Vanilla

3 lg. Eggs or 4 small eggs

1/2 c Orange juice

1/2 c Milk

1/4 c Hershey's Chocolate Syrup

Set oven to 350°. Spray or grease the Bundt pan. Combine all the ingredients except for the Hershey's syrup. Beat with a mixer for five minutes until smooth. Remove 1/4 c of the batter and mix with the Hershey's syrup. Pour the batter into the Bundt pan, then pour the Chocolate mixture over the batter. Do not stir.

Bake at 350° for 45 to 55 minutes. Leave out of oven for 10 minutes. then place on a plate. When completely cool, dust cake with powdered sugar or frost if desired.

This cake is moist and delicious! Store cake well wrapped or covered. A special cake

Enjoy!

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