

The Record

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Holiday Gift Book Ideas

By Dr. Jim Haas

Give the gift of reading. Books inform and entertain, are conveniently portable and affordable, and, with a little care, last indefinitely. And books are easy to wrap. Here are suggestions in popular categories. All are also available as eBooks.

Politics. *Profiles in Ignorance: How America's Politicians Got Dumb and Dumber*, by Andy Borowitz (Avid Reader Press, 2022). Borowitz is a popular humorist, so this book has its share of laughs to balance the depressingly dumb things that many recent presidents, senators, candidates, and others of both parties have said and believed. Full of frightening facts and quotes from often incompetent leaders, Borowitz sees three stages of ignorance—ridicule, acceptance, celebration—and writes, “Over the past fifty years, what some of our most prominent politicians didn’t know could fill a book. This is that book.”

Jobs. *Uncommon Carriers*, by John McPhee (Farrar, Straus and Giroux; 2006). Tales of the people and machines that move freight, witnessed by McPhee as he rode coast to coast in an eighteen-wheeler, rode in locomotive cabs of coal trains from Wyoming to Kansas, attended a school for captains of tankers and other heavy ships where they practiced by handling realistic 16-ton models on a Swiss lake (\$15,000 a week tuition), explored the sorting process at UPS Air’s Louisville hub, and other adventures. It’s work that few of us ever see up close, but that all of us depend upon. McPhee is a wonderful writer—literally. Nearly every page reveals a wonder that we usually take for granted.

Historical Fiction. *The Last Kingdom* by Bernard Cornwell (Harper, 2005) is a *New York Times* bestseller. *Game of Thrones* fans will find similar court intrigues, heroes and



villains, and to-the-death battles in a medieval setting. The difference is that Cornwell’s story is based on real events in ninth-century Britain when King Alfred of Wessex defeated, barely, the Great Heathen Army of Viking invaders and laid the foundation of a unified England. The story centers on a warrior, Uhtred, who was born to a powerful Saxon family but was captured when a boy by a Viking warlord who raised him as a son, teaching him swordcraft and how to survive in a dangerous time. Ironically, Uhtred went on to fight for Alfred and the English cause. Be warned: this and the following 12 books in the series describe in gory detail the horrible violence that was a feature of medieval war. While all major events are documented history, each book concludes with an explanation of which parts are fiction needed to provide a coherent story.

Banned Books. Any book that someone wants banned likely has an important point. George Orwell’s classic *1984* is the frightening story published in 1949 of a society

where facts are manipulated by a repressive government through a personality cult revering Big Brother. Freedom is smothered by fear. An opposing classic, equally frightening, is Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World* where people are laboratory-bred for their roles in life and coerced to accept their fates through pleasure, not fear, by using drugs and state-sponsored entertainment. Years are numbered A.F.—“After Ford”—in a technology-driven society. In Ray Bradbury’s 1953 *Fahrenheit 451*, books are outlawed in the U.S. and burned by “firemen” who search for and seize them. The title refers to the temperature at which books ignite.

Memoir. In *My Name Is Barbra* (Penguin, 2023), Barbra Streisand tells the story of her life, loves, and career. Gifted with a clear and powerful singing voice, she graduated high school at 16 and within a decade was a major recording artist and movie star. Her book, like her voice, is quirky, entrancing, and clear. It’s also 992 pages long. She’s worth it.



By Sharon Hoover

Thanksgiving Greetings! If you receive this article after the holiday, you are either shopping on Black Friday, watching a football game or just resting up after that big meal. I intend to curl up with a new book. Before I give a recommendation there are a few upcoming events.

Returning this year is the Holiday Light and Magic mile long drive-thru display sponsored by the United Government and Parks

and Recreation at WYCO Park in Bonner. It is completely different with 60 huge character scenes. The display runs through the end of the year. Time slots are available on the Parks & Recreation Dept on the WYCO government website.

Four Pickle ball courts have been installed at Wyandotte County Lake Park. If you are into that, you should try them out before the snow flies.

Want to learn more about the Sheriff's Department and meet the deputies? Check out the Connect Café at 756 Armstrong on Friday, December 1, 2023, from 7am-9am or Saturday December 2, 2023, at Ten & Two Coffee, 611 W 2nd St., Bonner Springs from 9am-11am. I recently heard Sherriff Soptic speak


and learned a lot about how the Sheriff's Office serves our community.

During the 1930's, a lending library program in rural America began under the auspices of the WPA. "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson tells the story of one such young woman who rode her donkey into the hills of Kentucky. But she was different, she had inherited a gene that made her skin look blue. (Her body did not oxygenate, and her blood was a dark red which in turn caused the blue color.) For this reason, she was discriminated against. The story illustrated the lengths the book women went through in delivering the books, the harsh conditions that they and

others suffered, the poverty, and the deaths- some from starvation, childbirth, black lung disease. The story of the girl's condition is based on fact. There is a family that lives in Kentucky that suffers from this ailment. In the sixties a remedy was found to temporarily change the skin color but there were side effects.

If you get a chance to see the movie "The Killers of the Flower Moon" do so. If not, read the book by David Grann. I read it several years ago and found it informative but disturbing. The Osage Indians forced to locate to the poorest land surface in Oklahoma found oil on the property. Soon they were taken advantage of by a group of white men who wanted their money and would do anything including murder to get it. This is a story of GREED. As for the definition of flower moon, during May in the Oklahoma hills, blooming flowers die when taller plants crowd them out, so the Osage refer to that month as the time of flower-moon.

Until next time, stay safe and be kind to those around you.



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KFL Applauds Injunction of Woman's Right to Know

Attorney General Kris Kobach will be asking the Kansas Court of Appeals to reverse a district court judge's temporary injunction blocking important informed consent provisions of the Woman's Right to Know Act.

"We commend the Attorney General for standing against this unprecedented attack on a woman's right to information and her freedom from being pressured into an abortion," said Danielle Underwood, Communications Director of Kansans for Life. "The abortion industry's profits are not more important than a woman's informed consent."

Woman's Right to Know safeguards blocked from enforcement by the injunction include:

Kelly and Parson Participate in Disagree Better Initiative

TOPEKA — Governor Laura Kelly joined Missouri Governor Mike Parson to announce their participation in the National Governors Association’s (NGA) Disagree Better initiative. Both Governors recently sat down at Q39 Midtown for some Kansas City BBQ to discuss areas of common ground as well as how to disagree better.

“Getting things done doesn’t just require working across state lines — it also requires working across party lines. That’s how Governor Parson and I have together grown the economy of the entire Kansas City region,” Governor Laura Kelly said. “We’ve joined the Disagree Better initiative because we both agree — now is the time to turn down the volume on our national political conversation. Finding productive ways to overcome

differences is the only way we can make progress as two states and as a country.”

“It’s important to us to work together with our peers in Kansas to support the growth of the entire Kansas City Region,” said Governor Mike Parson. “In 2019, we came together to end the Kansas City Border War and to support the relocation of two key USDA agencies to Kansas City. In 2021, we collaborated on the National Security Crossroads initiative. While there are plenty of things we do agree on, we understand that there are plenty that we don’t too. As the 2024 election cycle heats up, we want to show the people of Missouri and Kansas that even when we disagree, we can disagree better.”

Governors Kelly and Parson

encourage Americans to find common ground where possible and agree to disagree better. They are also encouraged to follow the #DisagreeBetter hashtag on social media to learn more about the initiative.

Disagree Better Initiative

Launched in July, Disagree Better is a yearlong initiative to help Americans learn the skills of healthy conflict. The effort aims to change the political behavior of both voters and elected officials, showing that the right kind of conflict often leads to better policy, can be more successful politically than negative campaigning, and is the pathway to restoring trust in our political institutions.



National Governors Association
 Founded in 1908, the National Governors Association (NGA) is the voice of the nation’s governors and one of the most respected public policy organizations in the country. The association’s members are the governors of the 55 states, territories and commonwealths. Members come to the association from across the political spectrum, but NGA itself is bipartisan.



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KFL Applauds...
...from page 2

- Policies that ensure a woman is informed she has the right to change her mind and withdraw her consent to the abortion.
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- Information about abortion

alternatives, medical risks and complications

- Gestational age of the preborn child at the time the abortion is to be performed
- Disclosure regarding whether the abortion provider has received any disciplinary actions by the state board of healing arts

KFL is awaiting information regarding when action will take place on the appeal of the injunction.

Guest Editorial

Quotes To Ponder

By Tom Valverde

Trump lacks any shred of human decency, humility, or caring. He is morally bankrupt, breathtakingly dishonest, lethally incompetent, and stunningly ignorant of virtually anything related to governing; history, geography, human events, or world affairs. He is a traitor and a malignancy in our nation and he represents a “clear and present” danger to our Democracy and the rule of law.

Anonymous quote to Johnathan Karl, ABC News, Chief Washington correspondent, for fear and concern of any retribution to himself and his family. This person worked for and with the former president in the West Wing and knows him very well.

My objective is to sow chaos, discord, and division in the West. Trump is the best puppet I have ever had.

Vladimir Putin

Donald Trump in 2023 is not the same man that stepped into the White House. He is more divorced from reality; undeterred to do whatever is on his mind. All the guardrails are gone. When he came into the White House, there were people who came with him who felt it was their duty to try to protect him from carrying out his destructive impulses. Those people are gone. Regarding the pullout from Afghanistan, Trump had his “body man,”* forge the document for him! The president of the United States couldn’t get the people he appointed to carry-out his policies because Trump couldn’t be bothered to learn how to implement them. Of course, there was no input from his National Security advisors or from anyone from the Pentagon. Johnny Mackintee used to carry Trump’s body bag for him prior to Trump placing him in his new position. Mackintee didn’t know how to prepare the documents to end the Afghanistan war. He literally tried to figure out how to do it by going onto Google! Later, he was told to “just go to the file cabinet, get out an old Executive order, and to look at the format and try to copy the format.”

“This wasn’t just used to withdraw troops from Afghanistan but, also Germany and the Middle East. The order caused chaos over at the Pentagon over the course of several days.”

Johnathan Karl, ABC News Chief Washington correspondent. Karl has just written a new book about the Trump time at the White House: “Tired of Winning”. Karl was interviewed as he spoke at length about what he found out from Trump aides and close advisors.

Knowledge and ego are directly related. The less knowledge, the greater the ego.

Albert Einstein

LEGAL PUBLICATION

LEGAL PUBLICATION

PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING REGARDING ENROLLMENT OF NONRESIDENTS’ POLICY PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to K.S.A 72-3126, of a public hearing to be held on the 12th day of December 2023, at 9:00 am, at Carl B. Bruce Middle School Auditorium, 2100 N. 18th Street, KCK 66104 regarding the Unified School District No.500, (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.

Dated this 17th day of November 2023

Leslie Smith

Clerk of the Board

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 2t-The Record-11-30-23

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. LULAC 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.

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