



The Record

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Impressive

By Dr. Jim Haas

A day and a half after the Baltimore bridge disaster, Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg (pictured) gave a press conference at the White House describing the accident in detail, the immediate and long-term effects on Baltimore's busy port and its employees and area residents, on America's imports and exports, and on plans for reopening the shipping channel and rebuilding the Interstate bridge. It was an impressive display of how much Buttigieg had learned in a day and a half.

He described the 990-foot-long container ship, the *Dali*, and noted that it was fully loaded with nearly 4,700 containers giving the ship a weight of more than 100,000 tons—a floating mass heavier than the largest aircraft carriers. With the aid of a video that showed the ship approaching the bridge at night, Buttigieg pointed out that the ship's lights had gone out, briefly came back on, then gone out again, indicating a main power failure followed by the emergency generator kicking in than another failure. Without power, the ship couldn't be steered and crashed into a critical support pier at about 9 mph causing the steel structure to collapse.

The wreckage blocked the port's navigable channel, and Buttigieg explained that 8,000+ jobs will be affected directly and thousands more indirectly until the port is reopened. He said that \$100 million of cargo goes through Baltimore's port every day. Unless other East Coast ports can handle some of the trade, the supply chains of bulk cargo, cars and

farm machinery, and other manufactured and agricultural goods will be disrupted nationwide. Congestion on area roads will increase because of the loss of a major commuter route.

After serious supply disruptions during the pandemic, the recent Jobs and Infrastructure Act created a new freight office in the Transportation Department to coordinate the movement of goods. Buttigieg explained that ocean shipping isn't centrally controlled like air traffic, so "having these tools allows us to create coordination that just didn't exist before."

Buttigieg said that the bridge was built in the 1970s and the *Dali* is "orders of magnitude bigger than cargo ships in service at the time [typically four times heavier]." He confirmed that the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) will conduct an independent investigation, and if they "determine anything that should be considered in the regulation, inspection, design, or funding of bridges in the future, we will be ready to apply those findings."

Meanwhile, Buttigieg said, the federal government was already working with city, county, and state officials, Maryland congresspersons, and the Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineers to quickly open the port, remove bridge wreckage, and remove the ship whose bow was pinned to the shallow riverbed by the weight of a bridge section that fell on it.

Buttigieg confirmed that to expedite recovery, President Biden said that the federal government will pay for the project, including the cost of replacing the bridge. Buttigieg also said "rebuilding



will not be quick or easy or cheap, but we will get it done." Asked by a reporter if he would "go after the shipping company," the Secretary said, "Any private party that is found responsible and liable will be held accountable."

Meanwhile, government agencies were wasting no time. The day after the press conference, the largest floating crane on the East Coast arrived from New York soon followed by others. The next day, ironworkers began cutting the bridge wreckage into manageable pieces while divers took sonar scans of the underwater debris in the channel.


Secretary Buttigieg glanced at his notes once or twice, but mostly spoke eloquently while looking at his audience. His was an impressive example of how to inform the public during an emergency. Good job.



By Sharon Hoover

It's such a beautiful day, it's a shame to stay inside so I plan to make this short. Looking for a job, the WYCO Workforce Center at 626 Minnesota Ave is holding a Spring Job Fair on Thursday, April 18 from 11 am-3 pm. For more information call 913-279-2600.

Join the KCKPD's Annual Peace Walk, Saturday April 20, 2024. Gather at 5th and Washington Blvd. at 10:45 am, then walk to 5th and Parallel Parkway for a free hotdog



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Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

lunch and rally. Equipment and vehicles will be on display. See Police K-9, Wheel & Special Operations Units, recruitment information, safety demos and more. Photo Ops for the kids with Leo the Lion, and an appearance by Hailey, KCKPD Comfort Dog. Free shuttle between Locations.

The Farm School on Gibbs Road is holding a Plant Sale & Jumble Swap (Clothing/Goods) event on Saturday, April 20 to celebrate Earth Day, from 9 am-2 pm. Clean out your closets. Bring things you no longer need and take what you do. The swap is free.

The items left will be donated to local organizations. Park at Common Grounds 2443 S. 42nd.

Cathedral Cleanup On Saturday, April 20 from 10 am -11:30 am. Meet at Urban Station 401 N. 14th St. Trash bags will be provided. Bring your own gloves. Coffee, water, and donuts will be available for all volunteers.

The KCK Public Library and the Association of Financial Educators are holding a Zoom meeting on Financial Literacy on Monday, April 22, at noon. Ryan Hayden and Mathew Bishop of AFE will discuss

the basics of investing. To register for the Zoom presentation, go to the www.kckpl.org website and check the calendar.

"The Haberdasher Prince", an opera for families, will be presented on Monday, April 22, at 6 pm at the Victory Hills Baptist Church, 2010 N. 66th Terrace. Free to the Community. Based on "The Haberdasher Prince" by Dina Gregory, an audio original.

Tickets for the Johnson County Garden Tour on May 17 & 18 are now available. Prices are \$25; after May 1, \$30. They always have a variety of gardens to visit. Tickets online <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/menmz6q>. For more info, call 913 715-7000.

On Tuesday, April 23 from 10am-noon, the WYCO/Leavenworth Area Agency on Aging & Disability Services will hold a Public Hearing. Learn about programs & services available in Wyandotte County. Attendees will be given the opportunity to give feedback regarding senior services. Armourdale Community Center 730 Osage Ave. KCK, 66105.

That's all for now. Until next time, stay safe and be kind to those around you.

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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).

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

April is Safe Digging Month

Governor Laura Kelly has issued a proclamation declaring April as Kansas Safe Digging Month. The proclamation, in concurrence with National Safe Digging Month, reminds Kansans to call 811 before starting any outdoor digging projects.

The Kansas Corporation Commission, Kansas 811, Kansas utilities and Governor Kelly are encouraging excavators and homeowners to call 811 before they begin digging projects to prevent injuries, property damage, and inconvenient outages. Nationwide, 25 percent of damages reported are caused by the failure of the professional excavator or homeowner to call 811 before digging according to the Common Ground

SENATE NEWS



By Sen. Pat Pettey

Senate Nearing First Adjournment

Legislators worked all day on the floor Monday through Wednesday of last week to meet the deadline for non-exempt bills to be passed out of their second chamber. Conference committees will begin meeting this week. All of this is in preparation for the upcoming first adjournment, scheduled for April 5th.

After this date, most bills that haven't passed both chambers can no longer be debated. That said, certain bills, particularly those concerning appropriations, are exempt from this deadline. Following a break in April, legislators will return for the veto session. At that time, exempt bills, conference committee reports, and any vetoes by the governor will be considered.

I encourage you to contact me with any concerns or questions you have about bills or committee meetings. As you know, I serve on Education, Public Health and Welfare, and Ways and Means. You can reach me at 785-296-7375 or pat.pettey@senate.ks.gov.

As a teacher, it is always heartwarming to be recognized by a former student, so I was so happy and proud to see my former 1st grade student, Matt Payne, now a lieutenant in the Kansas Highway Patrol. He was on the Senate floor on Thursday, supporting SB493, a bill concerning ignition interlock devices.

Action on the Floor

The Senate-as-a-whole considered over 50 bills this week. Below, I've highlighted a few of the major debates that took place on the Senate floor. A full list of bills, along with my vote on them, is at the end of this newsletter.

Senate Democrats Lead with Bills Protecting Kansans' Rights

*Protecting IVF access: Directly after Senate Republicans passed

legislation expanding medically unnecessary and burdensome abortion reporting requirements on Tuesday, Senate Democrats led a floor effort to pass Senate Bill 554, legislation to protect access to in vitro fertilization in Kansas. We offered Kansas Republicans the opportunity to say once and for all that IVF should be protected in our state, and they voted against it 12-27. We will never stop fighting to do the right thing and protect IVF access for Kansans.

* Safe Storage: On Wednesday, Senate Democrats led a floor effort to pass Senate Bill 551, secure gun storage legislation that holds gun owners accountable when children can or do access an unsecured gun. Research shows secure storage practices play a vital role in reduc-

ing the risk of gun violence. Storing firearms securely protects children and adults by preventing unintentional shootings, gun suicides, and gun theft. Yet Republicans defeated the measure 9-28. We will continue listening to the needs of Kansans and introducing legislation to help keep our kids and our communities safe.

Dangerous Abortion Bills Pass the Senate

In August 2022 Kansas voters spoke loud and clear that they did not want politicians in their exam rooms. And still, extremist politicians are dead set on interfering in Kansans' private medical decisions.

The Senate considered two bills this week that restrict reproductive

freedom. The first, HB 2749, expands medically unnecessary and burdensome abortion reporting requirements. This is a further attempt to stigmatize people seeking essential abortion care and is a direct intrusion on the provider-patient relationship. I voted no, but the measure was passed 27-13.

The second, HB 2436, would create the felony crime of "coercion to obtain an abortion." This bill purports to protect Kansas women, but in reality it will prevent doctors from having an honest conversation with their patients about their pregnancy or birth control options. I voted no, but the measure was passed 27-11.

These bills are clear attempts by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



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Petty

...from page 3

Republican politicians to interfere with Kansans' personal medical decisions. It's simple: women should be the ones making decisions about their healthcare, not politicians. Bills like HB 2436 and HB 2749 ignore the will of Kansans and take our state in the wrong direction.

Legislation Targeting Trans Kids Wednesday was a dark day in the Legislature for the LGBTQ+ community and Kansas. Republican Senators pushed through legislation that blocks gender-affirming care.

I want to thank the hundreds of students, families, and allies who wrote to me and my colleagues about this legislation. Even though this bill passed out of the Senate, my Democratic colleagues and I heard you and are fighting for you every day.

Throughout the debate, Senate Democrats shared testimony from parents worried about their kids being denied care, and Republicans were squarely focused on playing political games with people's lives.

This fight is not over, and we will continue to stand up against hate every day.

Other Controversial Legislation These bills also prompted significant debate in the Senate this week:

* Plastic Bag Ban: House Bill 2446 blocks local bans on plastic bags. I support local control and the right of communities to enact their own policies. I voted against this bill because it takes away the right of local officials to protect their environment and moves our state in the wrong direction. The bill passed the Senate 24-16.

* Targeting Families in Need: Senate Bill 488 wastes taxpayer dollars by funding positions and giving more power to the Inspector General to do a job that is already being done by the Department for Children and Families. This bill also perpetuates the idea that a poor Kansas mother who needs cash or food assistance is committing fraud. 1 in 7 Kansas children face hunger every day and

291,430 Kansans are facing hunger daily. I voted against this bill because increasing bureaucracy within Kansas's food assistance programs for families in need is wrong. The bill passed the Senate 22-18.

* Social Security: Our seniors have worked hard their entire lives. Senate Bill 110 would help ensure that their next chapter isn't spent worrying if they can afford medications or groceries by eliminating all taxes on social security income. This proposal shouldn't be controversial, but Senate Republicans voted 19-16 to defeat a motion to advance legislation to eliminate taxes on social security income. Once again, Republican leadership is holding popular, bipartisan tax relief for Kansas families hostage.

Legislation Passed this Week

The Senate passed over 50 pieces of legislation this week. There will be a lot of work in conference committees next week to get more legislation headed to the Governor's desk. You can monitor conference committee meeting schedules here.

Below is a full accounting of what we voted on this week.

HB 2577 (Passed 38-2): Allows the State Treasurer to determine the amount of unclaimed property receipts available for long-term investment and to liquidate such investments by the Pooled Money Investment Board (PMIB) for necessary payments to owners of unclaimed property. I voted YES.

HB 2560 (Passed 39-1): Providing when applications under the state banking code are considered abandoned or expired and allowing an originating trustee to have such trustee's principal place of business outside of Kansas. I voted YES.

HB 2663 (Passed 40-0): Allowing title insurance agents to submit escrow, settlement or closing funds through certain real-time or instant payment systems. I voted YES.

SB 524 (Passed 40-0): Specifying when boards of directors for irrigation districts of 35,000 or more acres may conduct board member elections by mail ballot and establishing the terms for such members. I voted YES.

LEGAL PUBLICATION

LEGAL PUBLICATION

MBE / WBE INVITATION TO BID

JE Dunn Construction Company is bidding the Maryville R-II – Eugene Field Elementary and Maryville High School project and request your bid proposal for applicable material and/or labor. In particular, we are soliciting M/WBE Subcontractor/Supplier Bid Proposals for the following scope(s) of work including, but not limited to:

01.74.02 – Final Cleaning	09.50.00 – Acoustical Ceilings and Wall Treatments
02.40.00 – Site, Structure, and Selective Demolition	09.65.00 – Resilient Flooring and Carpet
03.00.00 – Building and Site Concrete, Structural Excavation	09.67.00 – Resinous Flooring and Terrazzo
04.20.00 – Masonry	09.90.00 – Painting and Wall-covering
05.00.00 – Structural Steel and Misc. Steel	10.14.00 – Signage
06.15.00 – Rough and Finish Carpentry and Specialties	12.20.00 – Window Treatment
07.50.00 – Roofing and Sheet Metal	14.20.00 – Elevators
07.90.00 – Joint Sealants, Firestopping, and Expansion Joints	21.00.00 – Fire Protection
08.10.00 – Doors, Frames, and Hardware (Supply/Install)	22.00.00 – Plumbing
08.33.00 – Overhead Coiling Doors	23.00.00 – HVAC
08.40.00 – Glass and Glazing	26.00.00 – Electrical
09.20.00 – Drywall and EIFS	27.00.00 – Communications
09.30.00 – Ceramic Tile and Stone	31.20.00 – Earthwork
	31.63.00 – Pier Drilling and Helical Piers
	32.12.00 – Asphalt Paving
	32.90.00 – Landscaping and Irrigation
	33.00.00 – Site Utilities

Bidding Documents may be viewed and/or obtained electronically at www.buildingconnected.com. Contact Louis Armstrong (Louis.Armstrong@jedunn.com) to receive an invite to this project via BuildingConnected. Bids must be submitted electronically through BuildingConnected by 2:00 p.m. on 04-25-24.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE – A Pre-Bid Conference will be held in the Cafeteria at Eugene Field Elementary School, 418 E. Second St., Maryville, MO 64468 at 1:00 p.m. on 4-15-24, for the purpose of answering any questions regarding the above scopes of work on the project.

JE Dunn invites M/WBE subcontractors to call if any assistance is required or questions arise concerning work segmentation, work and contract requirements, or the form of proposal requested. Questions should be directed to Glen Stach, Project Manager, by phone at (816) 564-5707, or by email at glen.stach@jedunn.com.

EOE, Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran/Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity



100 YEARS

(First published 4-11-24)
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Guest Editorial

Quotes To Ponder

By Tom Valverde

When companies come in and dump their products in the United States, they should pay automatically, let's say a 10% tax. I'm a big believer in tariffs; I fully believe in them economically. I would say to China I will put a 50% tariff on your cars made in Mexico. Regarding tariffs, I say, well you have to do it.

Donald Trump

With everyone thinking about inflation and its effect on their money, it's really unbelievable that former president Trump would have as his central economic agenda, tariffs on all imported goods. He doesn't mind if they cost American people more, for almost everything they need. Nor does Trump even care if they do. Trump will extend his IRS savings to his billionaire friends in order to help them out!

But, students will still go without the free lunch program. Social

security and Medicare are also on Trump's chopping block. These two programs are essential to Seniors, but that's of no concern to Trump.

And he rails against the laws in the United States Constitution while pretending to be a Christian man and offers Holy Bibles for sale and he began on the Holy week of Lent to sell them. Here he is a defender of the Constitution and has a copy printed in the front of his Bible!

We all who need or depend on Social Security and Medicare need to be sure to be registered to vote. And speak to your friends and family members about the importance

of voting this November.

It's time to take action and be able to vote. Our very way of life depends on Trump not being re-elected. Trump has hit a new low. On Saturday, he was encouraging his MAGA people to display an image of President Biden, with a gag and tied up as if he'd been kidnapped. This is beyond the pale!

The FBI would have any of us in custody with such a graphic image or even talking about it on social media. It's totally disgusting and promoting the use of violence for all occasions is what can be expected if Trump is reelected. He really wants to be a dictator instead of president!

Trump's tariffs would cost the typical American household an additional \$1,500 each year!

Democratic Alliance for American Progress

Safe Digging...

...from page 2

Alliance's most recent damage information reporting tool (DIRT).

Dialing 811 connects callers to Kansas 811, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of the intent to dig. Calls are taken 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Locate requests can also be made online at www.kansas811.com. Excavators and homeowners are required to make a request at least two working days prior to beginning a digging project. Professional locators are sent to the digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags or spray paint. Once lines have been accurately marked, digging can begin.

Every digging project, no matter how large or small, requires a call to 811. There is no charge to have utility lines marked. The depth of utility lines vary and there may be multiple lines in a common area. Some utility lines are buried only a few inches below the surface, making them easy to strike during shallow digging projects. Installing a mailbox, landscaping, putting in a fence, and building a deck are all examples of digging projects that necessitate a call to 811.

A.H.S. 2024 REUNION RESERVATION FORM

Please RETURN YOUR CHECK and this registration form to:

AHS 2024 REUNION COMMITTEE

P. O. Box 16076

Shawnee, KS 66203

By May 15, 2024

Early registrations are encouraged by March 1, 2024

Name: _____

First Name, Maiden Last Name, Last Name Class Member Grad Year _____
Super Senior (please check) _____

Name: _____

Guest(s) or Spouse (Maiden Name if AHS) Class Member Grad Year _____

Name: _____

First Name, Maiden (Maiden Name), Last Name AHS Student/Non-Grad Year _____

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My Email Address is: _____ My phone number is: _____

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Donations accepted, please specify amount \$ _____

Dietary Restrictions (please list if any) _____



**ARGENTINE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI
2024 REUNION**



INVITEES: CLASSES 1946 – 1973

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2024

TIME: 11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
MEAL SERVED at 12:00

LOCATION: SHAWNEE CIVIC CENTRE
13817 JOHNSON DRIVE
SHAWNEE, KS 66216

BUFFET: Fried & Oven Roasted Chicken, Shredded BBQ Brisket, 4 sides, roll, dessert & beverages (iced tea, coffee & water). **(ABSOLUTELY No Food or Beverages can be brought into the Reunion Event!)**

COST: TICKET PRICE: \$40.00 PER PERSON
Super Seniors – Ages 89-95 will be our guests at no cost. Please checkmark the Registration Form on page 2 if attending. Super Senior Guests, unless a Super Senior themselves, are required to pay.

DRESS: CASUAL (JEANS AND SHORTS ACCEPTABLE)

Due to the large attendance expected, early registrations are encouraged by March 1, 2024. Reservations will be accepted no later than May 15, 2024.
NO 'DAY OF' REGISTRATIONS ARE POSSIBLE FOR THIS EVENT.

TO REGISTER: COMPLETE THE FORM ON PAGE 7 AND MAIL BOTH THE FORM AND CHECK TO THE ADDRESS LISTED BELOW. NO ONLINE REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE THIS YEAR!

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: AHS 2024 REUNION

**AHS 2024 REUNION COMMITTEE
P. O. Box 16076
Shawnee, KS 66203**