



The Record

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D-Day Eighty Years Ago

By Dr. Jim Haas

In the early hours of June 6, 1944, Allied land, sea, and air forces crossed the English Channel and attacked Nazi defenders along 50 miles of the Normandy coast of occupied France. Code-named Operation Neptune, 160,000 mostly American, British, and Canadian soldiers waded ashore from hundreds of landing craft on five beaches labeled, east to west, Sword, Juno, Gold, Omaha, and Utah. In 1066, William the Conqueror had crossed the Channel in the opposite direction from the Normandy coast and invaded England with fewer than 9,000 men.

The Allied attack began before dawn with a thousand bombers hitting enemy troop positions, roads, and railroads while 24,000 paratroopers dropped behind enemy lines. Meanwhile, dozens of American and British warships preceded by minesweepers approached the coast. At 5:30 am, battleships—including the U.S.S. *Texas* now a museum ship in Galveston—and cruisers began firing at hardened targets which couldn't be destroyed by bombs while smaller warships moved inshore to provide covering fire for the soldiers. The first troops hit the beaches at 7:30 am. In the photo "Into the Jaws of Death," a U.S. Army photographer captured the view from a landing ship as soldiers disembarked to meet their destinies.

The coast was part of what Hitler called the "Atlantic Wall" fortified with concrete bunkers for heavy guns, machine guns, and mortars; barbed wire; underwater tank traps; and thousands of land mines on the beaches and ship mines in the approaches. Against such a fortified coast, the landings had been carefully planned for more than a year and surprise was essential, both in timing and location.

Deceptions were deployed to convince the Germans that the expected attack would be near Calais 150 miles east of Normandy where the Channel is narrowest. An elaborate fake army was created in southeast England across from Calais with wooden tanks, jeeps, and other equipment that enemy spy planes would



photograph. Fake radio traffic simulated what a real army would generate, trainees and others were stationed there to simulate combat troops, and General George Patton was present as commander. The Germans knew that and concluded that an "army" with Patton in charge must be the real threat. As a final touch, in the dark of D-Day morning, planes dropped dummy "paratroopers" in the Calais area.

Surprise was achieved. German commander of the Atlantic Wall area was legendary Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, who expected the attack to be in Normandy. Other generals and Hitler, whose motto could have been "Only I know best," favored the Calais area, so most of the best troops were based there while Rommel's defenders were undermanned and poorly equipped. U.S. General Dwight Eisenhower was overall Allied commander with ground troops under British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery.

German resistance was fierce but by D-Day's end, some Allied troops were seven miles in-

land and the beachheads were secured. By late August, more than two million Allied troops were in France advancing toward the German border and Paris had been liberated. Total Allied casualties in Normandy were more than 225,000 including 44,000 killed.

Just before D-Day, General Eisenhower wrote this letter which was read to all Allied forces:

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Mission accomplished.



By Sharon Hoover

A couple of weeks ago, I mentioned the “World on the Move” exhibit at the Main Library. This past week, Calvin and I went to this interactive and informative exhibition. I have been interested in genealogy since I sent my DNA to Ancestry and found that on my father’s side my little old Italian grandma and grandpa passed down French to my dad and I had hardly any Italian. It all has to do with migration whether forced

Comin’ & Goin’ Turner Style

because of climate or enslavement or voluntary, looking for a better or different life.

I also attended the Zoom presentation on May 25. Eric Middel explained the differences between nationality and ethnicity. This program was recorded and is available on the Library Facebook page for the next few months. Eric will also be hosting a program on June 22 on using U.S. Federal Census records to discover familial information. Mr. Middel is a very interesting person who helps adopted people find their biological parents. He was adopted and spent many years searching for his biological parents which led him to this profession. In addition, the Main Library has a Genealogy Drop-in Session on

Tuesdays at 10 am but you need to register.

While I was at the library, I picked up my Adult Summer Reading Card. It’s going to be easy for me this year because I chose to read 175 pages (6 times instead of six books). I don’t know the top prize, but I can get a tumbler and \$5 coupon.

If you are a follower of Chris Bohjalian, you might try his latest “The Princess of Las Vegas”. It is about “a Princess Diana impersonator and her estranged sister finding themselves drawn in a dangerous game of money and murder in a twisting tale of organized crime, cryptocurrency, and family secrets on the Las Vegas strip.” I can definitely attest to the twists and turns this novel takes which held

my interest.

A novel I just finished was “Toxic Prey” by John Sandford. The main characters are Lucas and Letty Davenport, the latest in one of Sandford’s Davenport series. A medical doctor believing the earth was going to wear out its natural resources unless the population was reduced, creates a vaccine to wipe out a major portion of the world. The Davenports plus federal, state, local, and international agencies try to stop him before he releases the vaccine. The novel was okay, but I felt parts of the events that happened were too convenient. Nice to read on a rainy day.

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

Governor Kelly Ceremonially Signs Enhanced Kansas Workers Compensation Act

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly ceremonially signed Senate Bill 430, bipartisan legislation making comprehensive reforms to the state’s workers compensation system. Governor Kelly was joined by the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL), the Kansas National Guard, key negotiators, business groups, and labor organizations from across Kansas to celebrate the improvements.

“Senate Bill 430 is a win for our workforce, our businesses, and organized labor,” Governor Laura Kelly said. “The changes to the Kansas Workers Compensation Act will keep employers’ costs down while ensuring injured workers receive treatment in a timely manner.”

Senate Bill 430 provides coverage for members of the Kansas National Guard and streamlines the workers compensation process. The legislation also increases the maximum benefits for injured workers and adds a cost-of-living adjustment to those caps starting in 2027.

Some key components of the compromise, which will go into effect on July 1, 2024, include:




- A reduction in the Social Security offset,
- A limit on the use of independent medical exams,
- A requirement for parties to exchange medical records prior to a preliminary hearing,
- Introduction of medical reports without taking depositions, and
- The ability to settle by written agreement rather than through a hearing.

“The bill’s language is the result

of countless hours of effort by representatives of injured workers, industry, and the State to craft much-needed and meaningful updates to the Kansas Workers Compensation Act,” said Anton C. Andersen, Defense Attorney and Director for the Kansas Self Insurer’s Association. “Those negotiations resulted in SB 430 preserving the equitable changes adopted in 2011 while at

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KTAG to work with Colorado toll roads Starting in June

WICHITA, Kan.— Seamless regional travel will soon expand. Starting June 2, the Kansas Turnpike Authority’s electronic toll collection device, known as KTAG, will work on most toll roads in Colorado, and vice versa.

“It’s an exciting time for KTA and

for regional travelers,” said Steve Hewitt, KTA’s CEO. “Compatibility with Colorado comes just prior to the Kansas Turnpike’s conversion to cashless tolling on July 1. Both changes will help make travel easier for customers.”

KTAGs will be recognized as a valid transponder on most Colorado’s toll roads in the Denver metro area including E-470 and Express Lanes. Northwest Parkway, a nine-mile, private toll road in the northwestern part of Denver, is not included yet.

In return, Colorado’s Express-Toll transponder joins the list of electronic toll devices accepted on the Kansas Turnpike:

- KTAG (Kansas)

- BancPass powered by KTAG (multiple states)
- Pikepass (Oklahoma)
- NATIONALPASS (multiple states)
- EZ TAG (Texas)
- TxTAG (Texas)
- TollTag (Texas)
- SunPass, including SunPass Mini and SunPass Pro (Florida)
- ExpressToll (Colorado)
- BestPass (commercial transponder)
- PrePass (commercial transponder)

“With Colorado joining our compatibility efforts, regional travel is easier,” said Bruce Meisch, KTA’s Director of Technology. “Plus, using a compatible electronic transponder is the most efficient and cost-effective way to pay a toll.”

“About KTA:

For over 65 years, the Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA) maintains 236 miles of user-fee supported roadway from the Oklahoma border to Kansas City. KTA doesn’t receive state or federal tax funds. Instead, toll revenue pays for preservation and modernization of the Turnpike system. KTA’s Strategic Plan supports organizational goals with four strategic initiatives, including a transition to cashless tolling in 2024. KTA’s mission is to move Kansas forward by operating a safe, reliable and customer-valued turnpike system in a fiscally responsible, businesslike manner.

Storm season insurance claims cost \$442 million in 2023

Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt, released data on the amount paid by insurance companies for Kansas storm damage claims in 2023.

“The Kansas Department of Insurance collects this data yearly to better understand the impact of storm events across Kansas,” said Schmidt. “This data is important to help the Department monitor trends in the marketplace.”

In 2023, storm claims totaled 147,710 and the amount paid out on those claims by insurance companies was \$442,822,099.11.

The Department collected the data from all companies writing property and casualty insurance in Kansas. This data includes the number of total claims as well as the amount paid for those claims across several types of storm losses including hail, wind, water damage, and other weather-related claim losses for homeowner and automobile policies.

Johnson County saw the highest amount while Greeley County saw the lowest. A county-by-county breakdown of the data can be found on the Department’s website at insurance.ks.gov/documents/department/publications/Storm-Claim-Losses-by-County.pdf.

If you or someone you know is having trouble with an insurance claim, please contact the Kansas Department of Insurance’s Consumer Assistance Division toll-free at 1-800-432-2484, by email at kdoi.complaints@ks.gov or online at insurance.kansas.gov for any claims-related questions or concerns.



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Guest Editorial

Quotes To Ponder

By Tom Valverde

Donald Trump convicted of 34 felony charges after New York jury convened for only a few hours. Trump was found guilty of conspiracy to influence the 2016 election by paying an adult film star

to keep her from talking about their short The crime was his hiding the payments in his financial ledgers and posting them as legal expenses.

Trump is the first US president in history, to be criminally indicted and found guilty by a jury of his peers.

He is a convicted felon and will be running for a return to the White

Social Security

...from page 2

the same time addressing some of the most pressing issues facing injured workers and employers in workers compensation matters. SB 430 will return stability to Kansas' workers compensation system as well as improve the processes and procedures by which benefits are awarded and paid."

"The 2024 amendments to the Kansas Workers Compensation Act provide substantial help for Kansans who are injured at work," said Jan Fisher, attorney at McCullough Wareheim & LaBunker, P.A. "The most important aspect of the new law is the long-overdue increase in compensation maximums for both temporary and permanent disability payments. In addition,

the reduction to 50% for the social security offset is beneficial to working seniors who are injured on the job. The Kansas AFL-CIO and the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association thank Governor Kelly and the Kansas Legislature for their support of these reforms."

This compromise was a collaboration between business and labor. Both sides were committed to safeguarding a workplace culture that prioritizes the well-being of employees while maintaining business efficiency and growth.

"This legislation is a significant step in achieving a balance between the needs of workers and the realities of the business world," Kansas Department of Labor Secretary Amber Shultz said. "We are proud to play a part in the creation of a more fair and equitable system."

Governor Kelly Announces Special Session of the Kansas Legislature



TOPEKA — Governor Laura Kelly announced that she will use her constitutional power under Article 1, Section 5 of the Kansas Constitution to reconvene the Kansas Legislature for a special session on Tuesday, June 18, 2024.

"I am committed to working with the Legislature to deliver responsible, sustainable tax cuts for all Kansans," Governor Laura Kelly said. "A special session provides the opportunity for bipartisan collaboration on comprehensive tax relief that does not threaten Kansas' solid fiscal foundation. By working to-

gether, we can swiftly come to a compromise to put more money back into Kansans' pockets."

House as a felon. Despite all of the overwhelming evidence that supports the jury's verdict, Trump still says that he's done nothing wrong.

MSNBC News

Judge Juan Merchan asked the jury foreman, "What say you on counts 1-34?" The foreman replied, "Guilty, for each of the 34 counts."

There were audible gasps in the court room when the foreman announced the guilty Verdict. You could see Judge Merchan put his head in his hand, for a second as if weighing the gravity of what had just happened in his court room. The judge then thanked me members of the jury for their attention and said, "You understood what was at stake here." Their duty to judge the first US president and hear all of the evidence and convict him for what he did in order to help him win the 2016 election.

The government presented a very compelling case... and the jury understood it .

Lisa Rubin, Legal analyst
MSNBC News

There is something when every jury is polled that is sort of magical and fundamental to this country, when the jurors each stands up and count as citizens. And you know that these people live everyday lives. They didn't ask to be here. And that moment where this country stands for this is what the rule of law is all about .And jurors take it so seriously. This is a testament that we have joined so many other countries in the international democracies who have held their political leaders to account.

Andrew Weissman, former FBI
Lead Counsel

Today, a jury found Donald J. Trump, guilty on all 34 felony counts.

Alvin Bragg, Manhattan
District Attorney

Despite all his efforts to distract, delay and deny, Justice arrived for Donald J. Trump, all the same.

Representative Adam Schiff
(Dem. CA)

It's an indictment of how polarized and divided the country is that it does not seemingly disqualify a presidential nominee, when he's convicted of 34 felony counts.

BBC News

Former president Trump held a press conference soon after he became the first US president to be convicted of 34 felony counts. This is some of what he said to reporters:

It was a rigged trial by a corrupt judge, a rigged disgraceful trial. Our whole country has been rigged right now. This was done by the Biden administration, in order to wound or hurt a political opponent. This is a rigged decision - right from day one.

None of Trump's remarks are true. Pure fantasy and misinformation. Judge Merchan said that he would sentence Trump on July 11, 2024. This date is just days before the GOP meets to announce its nominee for president.

It was a somber and sad day for America that we now have seen a former president be convicted on 34 counts. And you could see that on all of the faces of the Manhattan district attorney's office.

Lisa Rubin, Legal analyst
MSNBC News

It's generally thought that Judge Merchan will not be sending Trump to prison. Instead, it's more likely that he will be sentenced to home confinement and be made to wear an electronic monitor on his ankle. This means that he will have to run his campaign from home.

This is a look into the tawdry life of Donald Trump. He is devious and cunning, but his lifelong set of illegalities are now being held to account. Even if only in some small measure, his trial of falsifying business records finally has made him understand that his trying to "get away" with whatever and avoid being caught are now over. He has been revealed to be unfit for the office of the presidency.

And who would want a convicted felon as president? No one with a mind to think logically!

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NO 'DAY OF' REGISTRATIONS ARE POSSIBLE FOR THIS EVENT.

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