

# The Record

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## Crime and Punishment

By Dr. Jim Haas

It's said that "There is nothing new under the Sun," but that's not true. Our United States of America has, for the first time, a convicted felon running for president, a man found guilty by a unanimous jury of citizens of falsifying 34 of his business records to cover up payments to porn star Stormy Daniels to buy her silence about a sexual encounter that could have hurt his 2016 election chances. Sentencing will be in September.

White-collar crime seldom gets news coverage because it isn't violent, but it still has victims. His wife was surely hurt by his infidelity, his personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, pleaded guilty to campaign-finance violations done at his employer's direction "for the principal purpose of influencing" the 2016 election and spent three years in federal prison, and Ms. Daniels, after testifying, has had graphic death threats, family pets injured, her mailbox destroyed, and her teen-age daughter threatened.

Beyond these individual sufferings,

154.6 million American voters were denied important information about the candidate's behavior, morals, and honesty because of the cover-up. It was his first, but not his last, attack on fair elections. It's hard to vote wisely if a candidate purposely conceals facts about his character and his policies. Or lies.

Which brings us to the recent presidential debate. Most media attention has focused on President Biden's poor performance but has largely ignored the convicted former president's firehose of lies, at least fifty by some counts. Here are a few samples:

"We had the safest border in the history of our country" isn't true. In 2019, there were about 860,000 illegal border crossings, far more than any year of the Obama administration.

"I'd love to ask [Biden] ... why he's allowed millions of people to come in from prisons, jails and mental institutions to come into our country and destroy our country." There is no evidence this has happened.

"[Biden] caused the inflation." Economists agree inflation was caused by the pandemic's

economic disruptions and affected nearly every country.

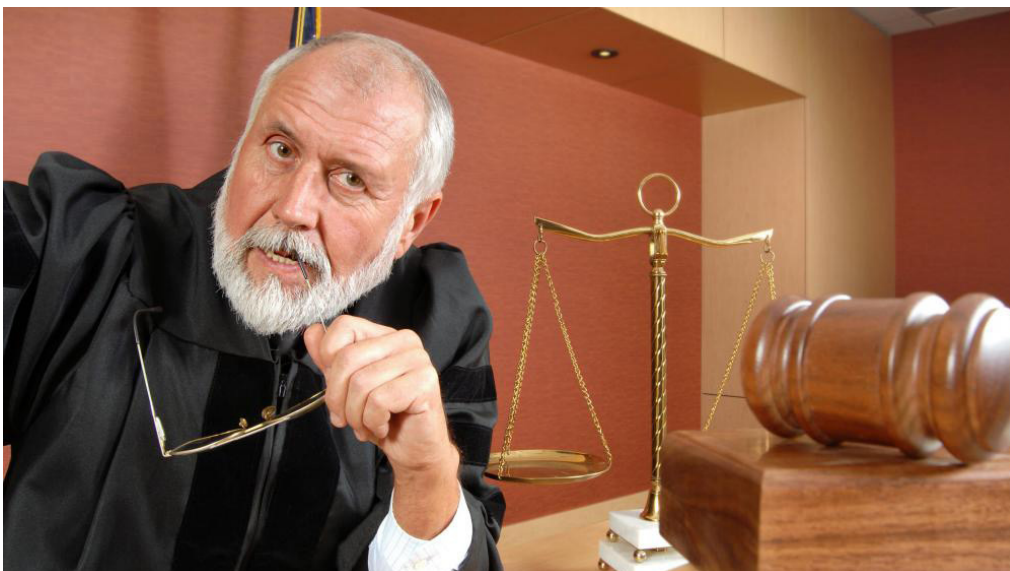
"I had the best environmental numbers ever" isn't true. Carbon emissions had been falling for years before he took office, and during his four years, other developed countries cut emissions at a much faster rate (and he failed to answer most of the climate question).

"Nobody ever cut taxes like us. [Biden] wants to raise your taxes by four times. He wants to raise everybody's taxes by four times. He wants the Trump tax cuts to expire." None of this is true. Biden's tax plan has no tax increases on incomes less than \$400,000 and keeps the Trump cuts except on very high incomes and on corporations.

The day after the debate, President Biden pointedly told reporters, "I tell the truth, I know right from wrong, and I get things done."

Obedying laws is not the former president's habit. He has been fined or ordered to pay restitution of more than half a billion dollars for tax fraud, bank fraud, defaming another woman whom he raped, and defrauding students at his Trump University. He is currently charged with 37 federal felonies involving classified documents, conspiring to steal the 2020 election (Georgia case), and four federal felonies for election subversion.

Before his untimely death in 1996, Carl Sagan, astrophysicist, NASA advisor, and popular author, wrote, "One of the saddest lessons of history is this: If we've been bamboozled long enough, we tend to reject any evidence of the bamboozle. We're no longer interested in finding out the truth. The bamboozle has captured us. It's simply too painful to acknowledge, even to ourselves, that we've been taken. Once you give a charlatan power over you, you almost never get it back."





By Sharon Hoover

Well, the rain sure put a damper on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Who ever said climate change was a joke is a fool. In all my years I have never seen this much heat and rain in June. It used to be hot for Memorial Day and then turn cool in June just when the swimming pools opened. July 4<sup>th</sup> was always hotter than a firecracker.

July has been designated Parks & Recreation Month. The UG's Parks & Rec department will be announc-

# Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

ing various events highlighting this year's theme of "Where You Belong". You can download a copy of #Explore WYCO Parks brochure to learn all about locations, events and facilities available.

Shepherd Center of KC is hosting a Potluck this month at their Adventures in Learning series. The event takes place at Grace Lutheran/Mason Memorial 3333 Wood Ave. on Friday, July 19, 2024, starting at 10 am with health checks and fellowship. At 11am, Deasiray Bush, Director of United Government Transit. The Center is providing hotdogs so bring a dish to share. Lunch at noon. The noon presentation will be by Jon Harding, Director, Kansas State School for the Blind. RSVP 913 281-8908

or online [melisab@sckck.org](mailto:melisab@sckck.org).

Can you believe it? This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year for "Christmas in July" at WYCO County Lake Park Marina. Join your friends on July 20, 2024 for food, music, prizes, fireworks and fun. The event starts at 5pm with the fishing derby. From 6m-8pm will be the boat judging. At 8:30pm the Glow Party starts with fireworks to follow. Everything wraps up at 9pm. The address of the marina is 3488 West Drive.

The National Agricultural Hall of Fame is hosting a "Show-N-Shine Car Show and Potato Festival" on July 27, 2024. That sounds like an unusual combination. This is an all day affair. The schedule is as follows: 8am-3pm Genuine Chevy/

GMC Truck Club (Show-N-Shine Car Show), 8am-12pm Registration \$20 per car (816-560-1229 or 816-835-8035). At 10am the Potato Festival opens with registration for the Tater Trot at \$5 per trotter-everyone receives a medal and enjoys a special tater trot stop. (This is a fundraiser for the museum.) At 10:30am the .1K Tater Trot begins. From 11am-2pm SPUDTACULAR FAMILY GAMES AND RACES. Visit the tater patch-dig your own to take home. The address is 530 N 126<sup>th</sup> St Bonner Springs, Ks. For more information call 919 721-1075 -info@aghalloffame.com.

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

## Kansas Launches National Campaign to Attract and Retain Talent

TOPEKA—Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland, alongside leaders from across the state, unveiled Love, Kansas, a dynamic talent attraction campaign aimed at boosting Kansas' population by inviting past residents to choose the Sunflower State as their future home. This national marketing initiative will highlight Kansas as an exceptional place to live, work and raise a family, with a special emphasis on "boomerangs" — individuals with previous ties to the state.

The campaign was launched at the Flint Hills Discovery Center in Manhattan, where Lieutenant Governor Toland shared his personal journey back to Kansas that was inspired by a heartfelt phone call from a family friend about a job opportunity in his hometown of Iola.

"It's simple: We need more humans in Kansas to keep up with the phenomenal economic growth our state is experiencing," Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland said. "The best way to do that is to first approach Kansans who left the state for economic opportunities elsewhere and

invite them to build a life in a place they know and have connections to, whether in their hometown or elsewhere in the state. And with the Love, Kansas campaign, we aren't just extending an invitation to those who once called Kansas home to come back — we're also inviting families from around the country to build their lives in the Sunflower State."

Love, Kansas will focus on the state's abundant job opportunities, high quality of life, excellent education system and affordable communities. The campaign will be driven at the local level but will strategically target key markets across the U.S., with a strong focus on digital and social media platforms. Influencer and journalist engagement, as well as targeted in-person events both within and outside of Kansas, will play a crucial role in reaching potential boomerangs.

During the launch event, it was announced that the first 50 communities to partner with Love, Kansas will be eligible for a \$5,000 grant to assist in their efforts in attracting new residents to their community. Nineteen pilot communities and

seven universities already have joined the initiative and are planning events that are aligned with the campaign's theme. A primary goal is for communities across the state to do direct outreach to past residents they have a personal connection with, inviting them to return home.

"The collaboration already on display between so many partners underscores the enthusiasm for this campaign," Tourism Director Bridgette Jobe said. "There are so many amazing things happening in Kansas right now; Love, Kansas gives us the chance to let people throughout the country know about them."

The Love, Kansas campaign is being spearheaded by the Kansas Department of Commerce.

For more information about the campaign, view this video (here) or visit the Love, Kansas website here.

About Kansas Tourism:

The mission of Kansas Tourism is to inspire travel to and throughout Kansas to maximize the positive impacts that tourism has on our state and local communities. Kansas

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# IRS warns of new scam targeting clean energy tax credit

WASHINGTON – The Internal Revenue Service today warned taxpayers not to fall victim to a new emerging scam involving buying clean energy tax credits.

In this latest scam, the IRS is seeing instances where unscrupulous tax return preparers are misrepresenting the rules for claiming clean energy tax credits under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

The transferability provisions

## June Total Tax Collections at 2.4% Above the Estimate

June's total tax collections were \$1.03 billion. That is \$24.1 million, or 2.4%, more than the estimate. Total tax collections are up 3.9% from June 2023.

"While the tax revenue collected for June is encouraging, we must remain committed to fiscal responsibility," Governor Laura Kelly said. "By continuing our work to put our state on solid fiscal ground, we can ensure Kansans have the services and quality of life they deserve."

Individual income tax collections were \$452.4 million. That is \$82.4 million, or 22.3% more than the estimate, and up 19.4% from June 2023. Corporate income tax collections were \$193.1 million. That is \$53.9 million, or 21.8% less than the estimate, and down 14.6% from June 2023.

"Individual income tax receipts exceeded the June estimate because of higher-than-expected withholding tax and individual estimated payments and the fact that fewer refunds were paid than in June 2023," said Secretary of Revenue Mark Burghart. "Withholding tax receipts are 17.0% greater than in June 2023, and that source continues to be the State's most reliable revenue stream."

Combined retail sales and compensating use tax receipts were \$292.1 million. That is \$2.2 million, or 0.7% more than the estimate, but down \$11.4 million, or 3.8%, from 2023.

of the IRA enable the purchase of eligible federal income tax credits from investments in clean energy to offset a buyer's tax liability. The IRS has seen taxpayers file returns using unscrupulous return preparers who are claiming purchased clean energy credits that the taxpayer is ultimately unable to benefit from.

The scam is generally targeting individuals who file Form 1040. The preparers file returns that have individuals improperly claiming IRA credits that offset income tax from sources such as wages, Social Security and retirement account withdrawals.

Individuals purchasing tax credits under the IRA are subject to the passive activity rules for any purchased

credits. Generally, this means they can only use purchased credits to offset income tax from a passive activity. Most taxpayers do not have passive income and a passive income tax liability. Most investment activities are not considered passive.

"This is another example where scammers are trying to use the complexity of the tax law to entice people into claiming credits they're not entitled to," said IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel. Taxpayers should be wary of promoters pushing dubious credits like this and others. The IRS is watching out for this scam, and we urge people to use a reputable tax professional before claiming complex credits like clean energy."

The IRS noted individual taxpay-

ers claiming inappropriate credits risk future compliance action by the IRS and are responsible for repaying the inflated credit, plus interest and possible penalties.

Individual taxpayers considering purchasing clean energy credits under the IRA should consult a trusted tax professional for advice on whether they are eligible to purchase credits and claim the tax benefits. They should also understand how the limitations under the passive activity rules, and other portions of the tax code, may apply to their particular tax situation.

More information about clean energy can be found on the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 page on IRS.gov.



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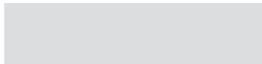
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# KTA Starts Cashless Tolling Conversion

## On-Road Toll Payments No Longer Accepted On Kansas Turnpike

WICHITA, Kan.—The Kansas Turnpike was converted to a cashless toll system early today setting off a series of activities that will ultimately improve safety, customer convenience and operational efficiencies while keeping electronic toll rates as some of the lowest of any cashless system in the country.

“We’re pleased with how quickly the task of converting the roadway occurred,” said Bruce Meisch, KTA’s Cashless Tolling Project Manager and Director of Technology. “As planned, converting our back-office and preparing the new toll payment system, DriveKS and its accompanying mobile app, will take just a bit more time.”

KTA’s three customer service centers are closed and related websites and mobile app are unavailable until July 8. During this time, June billing will be finalized in the old system and data will be migrated to the new DriveKS system. Additional conversion details are available online.

Activities to decommission toll booths have already begun. Contracts for toll plaza demolition and lane configuration begin at the end of July and will take about 18 months. Drivers are encouraged to stay alert and watch for crews as they use these interchanges.

“Removing toll booths and reconfiguring traffic at KTA’s interchanges is a key factor behind KTA’s cashless tolling decision,” said David Jacobson, Director of Engineering. “Not having vehicles stopped at a toll booth, creating a potential collision point, makes for a safer road and better customer experience.”

Midnight on July 1, 2024, was the end of an era for the Kansas Turnpike with manual toll collection ceasing after nearly 68 years.

“We thank all KTA toll collectors over the years. They not only collected tolls but were a friendly face for many customers,” said Steve Hewitt, KTA CEO. “Their legacy of kindness and outstanding service will live on in many ways here at KTA.”

## Retain Talent...

...from page 2

Tourism works hand in hand with other Commerce community programs to elevate and promote Kansas as a tourist destination. Kansas Tourism oversees all tourism marketing and PR for the state, produces travel publications and advertising, manages state Travel Information Centers, manages both the Kansas By-ways program and the Kansas Agritourism program, approves tourist signage applications, produces the KANSAS! Magazine, and provides financial and educational support to the tourism industry in Kansas through grants, education, and support.

About the Kansas Department of Commerce:

As the state’s lead economic development agency, the Kansas Department of Commerce strives to empower individuals, businesses and communities to achieve prosperity in Kansas. Commerce accomplishes its mission by developing relationships with corporations, site location consultants and stakeholders in Kansas, the nation and world. Our strong partnerships allow us to help create an environment for existing Kansas businesses to grow and foster an innovative, competitive landscape for new businesses. Through Commerce’s project successes, Kansas was awarded Area Development Magazine’s prestigious Gold Shovel award in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024, and was awarded the 2021 and 2022 Governor’s Cup by Site Selection Magazine.

## Political signs not allowed on highway right of way

TOPEKA - It’s a sign of the season – political campaigning and the posting of campaign signs. The Kansas Department of Transportation reminds the public that all political campaign signs or billboards are prohibited from being placed on state highway right of way.

By law, all right of way on state highways is exclusively for public highway purposes. Only regulatory, guide signs and warning signs placed by KDOT are allowed on the 9,500-mile state highway system. KDOT has jurisdiction over all interstate, Kansas and U.S. routes.

When KDOT maintenance crews find political signs on state highway right of way, the signs will be removed immediately and without notice. All such signs will then be taken to the closest KDOT Subarea office. Political campaign signs not retrieved from the Subarea offices will be disposed of after the election.

Political campaign advertising is allowed on private property bordering state right of way. However, people placing or erecting signs on private property must first obtain permission from the property owner. A state law passed in 2015 related to placement of campaign signs on city- or county-owned right of way does not apply to state highway right of way.

## 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.

Rudy Padilla Email [opkansas@swbell.net](mailto:opkansas@swbell.net)

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