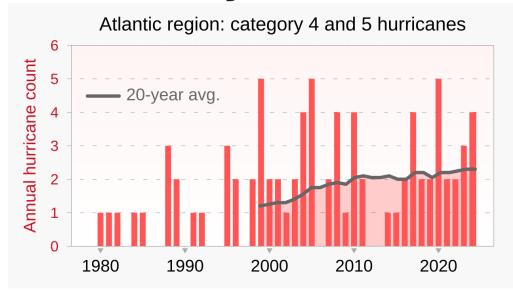
# Record

Volume 136 November 6, 2025 Number 45

## **Stormy Weather**



By Dr. Jim Haas s I write this, Hurricane Melissa is pounding Jamaica with sustained 180 mph winds with gusts to 220. Melissa is the most violent Atlantic Basin storm in recorded history and was fueled partly by record warm water in the Caribbean Sea—2.5 degrees F warmer than usual (86 degrees F at 200 feet below the surface). More heat equals more energy as well as increasing the storm's ability to hold moisture, resulting in more than 40 inches of rain in western Jamaica in two days.

Hurricane Melissa's death toll is at least 25 so far; damages in Jamaica are at least \$52 billion, and Haiti, Cuba, and the Bahamas will be tens of billions more—high prices to pay for the increasingly violent weather that is just one result of global warming caused by greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels. The consequence is global climate change, and the only solution is to shift to sustainable energy sources.

On the other side of our planet, China, the world's largest emitter, is making dramatic

progress toward sustainable energy. Fifteen solar parks—huge areas covered with solar panels—are producing electricity with more under construction. Talatan Solar Park, the largest, covers 162 square miles of the Tibetan Plateau at an elevation of nearly 10,000 feet where the sun is brighter and the air cooler, important for nearby AI data centers because their thousands of computers require little air conditioning. Talatan has a capacity of 15,000 megawatts, enough to power a large city. The U.S. has 16 solar parks, mostly in the Southwest. The largest, in Nevada, has a capacity of 966 megawatts.

At a September UN climate summit, China's President Xi Jinping (pictured), a trained chemical engineer, pledged to increase China's clean energy output by 600 percent in the next few years using solar, wind, hydro, and nuclear sources. China already produces more clean energy than any other country, and the goal is to wean the country off coal, oil, and natural gas as soon as possible. China dominates

the world's solar, wind, battery, and electric vehicle (EV) production, and has built, or is building, 31 nuclear power plants, nearly as many as the rest of the world combined.

Solar power is attractive because it's about 41 percent cheaper than fossil fuels, partly because solar, like wind, hydro, and nuclear, needs no costly transportation. No coal trains, no pipelines, no huge tankers sailing the seas. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said recently that last year renewables more than doubled the investment in fossil fuels and generated a third of all the world's electricity. "We have passed the point of no return...just follow the money," he said, adding that countries who fail to create a clean-energy economy are "missing the greatest economic opportunity of the 21st century."

Ten years ago, 195 nations signed the Paris Accords agreeing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible to keep our atmosphere's temperature increase since preindustrial times to no more than 1.5 degrees C (2.7 degrees F). Last year was the first year the average global temperature exceeded this rise.

To reach the Paris Accords goal, emissions need to be cut 50 percent by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050, at which point warming will slowly reverse. The U.S., the second-largest emitter after China, withdrew from the Accords in 2020, rejoined in 2021, and withdrew again in 2025. The Trump Administration, alone in the world, still acts as if climate change is a hoax.

Violent storms set record after record, glaciers and ice caps are rapidly melting, sea levels are rising while corals and other sea life are dying, and record droughts threaten food supplies, driving millions to seek more habitable lands. Fossil fuels are the past. Clean energy is the future. China knows that.

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By Sharon Hoover

oday is Halloween and I am on my third bag of Halloween candy. I knew I couldn't resist the call of the Sweet. I have a few more bags around for the trick or treaters. Lately we haven't seen many of them so I may have to freeze them. Ha! Ha!

I am a classic but I'm not old enough to be around for the premiere of the original "The Wizard of Oz" movie. That didn't keep my mother from putting those awful braids in



Jon A. Males

Owner/Publisher/Editor

### **Policy On Opinion**

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The Record (USPS No. 002269) is published weekly every Thursday by The Record Publications at 14690 Parallel Rd, Basehor KS 66007. Newsstand price, single copy, 35 cents; subscription price per year, \$16.13. For editorial, display, and classified advertising information call 362-1988. Periodical postage paid at Kansas City, Kansas 66110. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Record, P.O. Box 6197, Kansas City, Kansas 66106-0197

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### Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



my hair when I was a kid. I can't believe that anyone has missed seeing this movie. It's run on TV every year for the sixty years. Why am I going on about this? It's because Turner Community Library is hosting "L. Frank Baum: The Wizard behind Oz" on November 12 at 5pm in the Turner Recreation Commission's Bear's Den. Chris Glasgow will delve into the world of the first truly American fairy tale and its influence on our culture from language to music to media. He pulls back the curtain on Baum, the wizard behind Oz. Teens, Adults. Registration Required. kckpl.org

Since many of the food programs have shut down, the Turner Community Garden harvested most of the produce for the season. We have green tomatoes and peppers currently in the Turner Neighborhood Center, 667 S. 55<sup>th</sup> St. If not there, they have been moved to the bin at the First Baptist Church in Turner across from the center.

KC Farm School is still having their Wednesday Market until November 19 so you may be able to get fresh produce there. They open at 3pm. Another source of reasonably priced food is the Dotte Mobile Grocer that is in the parking lot of TRC from 10am-12pm every Thursday. The KCTV5 app also contains the list of food pantries throughout the metropolitan area.

For all of those who survived the 1951 flood you need to see the 1951 Flood Mural by Jose Faus in Armourdale. It is on the side of LA True Value Hardware, 631 Kansas Ave. He hadn't finished it when I was there, but I still took a picture of it.

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

### **Even When Things Feel Heavy, You're Not Alone**

Summer has been doing its best to stick around, but colder, shorter days are coming. Fewer daylight hours can affect our energy and mood. And the upcoming holiday season draws mixed emotions. For some, it's a very joyful time. While for others, it can cause stress, feelings of loneliness and remind us of those who aren't here to celebrate with us.

If you or someone you care about tends to struggle in these final months of the year, I want to remind you that you don't have to navigate this season alone. The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is always available when you need support. Trained counselors are ready to listen any time, day or night. And you don't have to be in crisis to call. Sometimes, just having someone to listen without judgment is enough to help you feel seen, supported and not alone.

I also find myself thinking a lot about how this time of year can affect our young people. Growing up today isn't easy. There's a lot of pressure — from school, friends, social media, and the world around them. And for some, that weight can start to feel like too much. That's why it's so important that they know help is out there. With the 988 Lifeline, they don't have to talk on the phone if that's not comfortable for them. They can text or chat online at 988lifeline.org with someone who's ready to listen and help.

If you have a teen or young adult in your life, take a moment to share the 988 Lifeline with them. Encourage them to save the number in their phone or bookmark the website. Let them know it's okay to reach out for themselves or for a friend. Young people may not always tell the adults in their life the full story of what they're dealing with. But the 988 Lifeline gives them one more place where they can turn for support.

-Wyandot Behavioral Health Network

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# Red Cross asks you to TEST your smoke alarms Working smoke alarms cut risk of home fire deaths in half

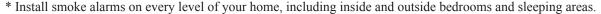
Daylight saving time ended on Sunday, November 2 and the American Red Cross encourages everyone to test their smoke alarms as they turn their clocks back to make sure the devices are working.

"Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half as you only have about two minutes to safely get out," said JoAnn Woody, Executive Director, Red Cross of Greater Kansas City and Northwest Missouri. "Every second counts when there's a home fire and the sooner an alarm alerts you to a fire, the sooner you can get to a safer place. When daylight saving time ends, test your smoke alarms to help prevent a tragedy in your home."

Over the past 9 months, local Red Cross volunteers responded to help 1,685 people in Greater Kansas City, Northwest Missouri and select counties in Kansas served by our chapter affected by 441 home fires, which account for most of the about 65,000 disasters that the Red Cross responds to annually across the country.

SMOKE ALARMS When turning your clocks back this weekend, test your smoke alarms and replace the batteries if needed. Visit redcross.org/fire for more information, including

an escape plan to create and practice with your family, or download the free Red Cross Emergency app by searching "American Red Cross" in app stores.



- \* Replace smoke alarms that are 10 years or older. Components such as sensors can become less sensitive over time. Follow your alarm's manufacturer instructions.
- \* Practice your two-minute home fire escape plan. Make sure everyone in your household can get out in less than two minutes the amount of time you may have to escape a burning home before it's too late.
- \* Include at least two ways to get out of every room and select a meeting spot at a safe distance away from your home, such as your neighbor's home or landmark like a specific tree in your front yard, where everyone can meet.

IF YOU NEED HELP If you cannot afford to purchase smoke alarms or are physically unable to install one, the Red Cross may be able to help. Contact your local Red Cross for help.





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EL CENTRO ACADEMY FOR CHILDREN Ages 2 1/2 to Preschool - all day 1330 S 30th, Kansas City KS 913.677.1115

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Partnership for Drug-Free Kids 855\*378\*4373

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800\*273\*8255

KC Care Health Center

Senior-focused Health Care, Partners in Primary Care Medicare-Advantage Care Center 7527 State Ave.

913\*355\*6986

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## Give Food. Give Time. Give Money.

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- Area Schools sports, activities and issues that affect parents, students and the community.

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# Tom's Tasty Treats

By Tom Valverde

For a wonderful, tasty treat that can be done in an hour, try this week's tasty treat. Add some sliced pecans to the frosting or cinnamon sugar as they come out of the oven. These are better than the ones you have from a coffee shop and most of the ingredients are staples that you have on hand. Please try:

### SCONES WITH GOLDEN RAISINS

Ingredients:

1 c Golden Raisins

2 1/2 c Flour

3/4 c Sugar

1 1/2 t Cinnamon

2 t Baking Powder

1/2 t Baking soda

1/2 t Salt

1 c Butter, cold

3/4 c Buttermilk Frosting:

1 1/2 Powdered sugar

2 T Butter at room temperature

2 T Milk

1/2 t Vanilla

Set oven to 400°. Line the cookie sheet with foil or parchment paper. If raisins are hard, soak them in hot water for ten minutes.

Drain the water and dry the raisins on paper towels. Chop in half. In a large bowl, combine and whisk together the flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Cut in the butter with a pastry cutter and continue until coarse crumbs are formed.

Make a well in the center of the dough. Add the raisins and pour the buttermilk all at once. Stir until just combined. Lightly flour the counter by turning and folding 8-10 times. The dough should be almost smooth.

Cut the dough in half. Roll into an 8" round and cut into 8 wedges. Place scones 2" apart on the cookie sheet. Bake at 400° for 12-14 minutes until they're golden brown. Cool on a wire rack. Coat in cinnamon sugar or frost them. Add some sliced almonds, if you like. Serve at once with clotted cream or with butter.

They're great with tea or coffee! Enjoy!

# 2026 Overview of the Kansas Health Insurance Market

Topeka, Kan. – Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt, today, released the annual "Overview of the Health Insurance Market in Kansas." This report details the 2026 Kansas Health Insurance Market (Marketplace). The report can be found here.

Open enrollment is an opportunity for Kansans to make decisions about their health insurance coverage. They can stay on their current policy, if available, or enroll in a different policy from the same company or a different company.

"It is important for Kansans to make informed decisions when deciding which coverage is best for them and their families," Schmidt said. "Open enrollment is the time to evaluate your coverage and chose a plan that is best for you and your family's healthcare needs."

The open enrollment period for Kansans will be from November 1 until January 15. Kansans who would like to start their health insurance coverage effective January 1 must enroll by December 15. Health insurance purchased on the Marketplace between

December 16 and January 15 will not begin coverage until February 1. Rates listed in the report reflect the non-renewal of the enhanced subsidies by Congress after December 31, 2025.

### **Free Food Pantry**

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