

The Record

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Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

Artificial Intelligence is a tool I have yet to use because I don't know how to use it. Several of the authors I read have included AI in their books. For all I know they may have used it to even write their stories. James Pat-

terson comes to mind because he co-authors so many books and has several new novels out at the same time. Here are the latest examples of AI appearing in a novel I recently read.

Harlan Coben & Reese Witherspoon's "Gone Before Goodbye" – Disgraced female plastic surgeon talks to a grief-bot of her deceased

husband killed on a humanitarian mission. Her sister, a computer whiz took all his correspondence, life history, and his image to create this bot who interacts with her. They carry on conversations just like you do on Facetime. This is only a small part of the novel that involves a Russian oligarch, secret service- a lot of foreign intrigue.

Michael Connelly's "The Proving Ground" – Lincoln Lawyer Micky Haller has gone from defending criminals to civil litigation. He represents a mother whose teenage daughter was killed by her ex-boyfriend. The suit is against the Tech Company that created an AI bot named Claire that the sixteen age boy considered his best friend. Claire encouraged him to get rid of anyone who hurt him and he murdered the girl. This story shows the lengths one big business goes to win a case to absolve themselves of any responsibility and the need

for guardrails in the tech industry especially for impressionable youth.

Patricia Cornwell's "Sharp Force".- The Ghost Slasher sends out a hologram of a ghostly apparition before he murders someone. Dr. Scarpetta, the chief medical examiner, is on the case with her investigator, FBI consultant husband, and Special Forces niece who is a computer whiz, helicopter pilot, but troubled young woman. She has created an AI bot based on her deceased wife Janet who can converse with all the above characters. This bot can also retrieve internet information that these characters ask of her. Of course they solve the crime.

This is where I get confused, can they really do all this stuff? Or am I a victim of someone's imagination? I know the bot business is only one part of AI, but I wish there was a class that would address the various ways that an old fogey like me can understand. Anyway, have a Happy New Year!

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

Obituary — Beverly Irene Lange



Beverly Irene (Beals) Lange, affectionately known to friends and family as Aunt Bev, Bev, Mom, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on December 16, 2025, in Overland Park, Kansas, at the age of 85. Born on

July 12, 1940, in Independence, Missouri, Bev's life was a testament to warmth, kindness, and enduring strength. Bev never met a stranger and would open her home to anyone who needed a friend or a taco. Bev loved to grow her own ingredients in her very impressive garden to make her famous taco sauce that was loved by

anyone who tried it. It was really good!!!

Bev was a devoted follower of Jesus Christ and loved to share God's grace and his plan of salvation with others.

A devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Bev was preceded in death by her beloved parents, her two brothers, her husband James Lange, and her oldest daughter Kathleen Fain. She leaves behind an enduring legacy through her surviving family and friends, including her daughters Teresa Torrence (Warren) and Jamie Males (Jon), her son Jim Lange (Sandy), as well as her grandchildren Tom Hilgardner (Cher), Teryn Tyson (Jarrod), Marc Males (Kinsey), Ethan Males, Josh Lange, Alex Lange, Gavin Lange, Johnny Torrence, and Amanda Jordan. Bev was also blessed with many great-grandchildren, who will carry her memory forward.

In her professional life, Bev found fulfillment working for the Kansas City Star, where she

contributed her talents and dedication. Outside of work, she cherished time spent playing guitar and piano, singing and playing guitar in gospel groups, fishing, and tending to her garden. These interests brought her joy and serenity throughout her lifetime.

Beverly faced life's challenges with grace and resilience, even as she and her family dealt with dementia in her final years. She remained surrounded by the love of her family, who will forever hold her in their hearts.

She never lost her warmth, kindness or that spectacular smile while battling dementia.

She will be missed by so many.

Services to honor and celebrate Bev's life were Monday, December 22, 2025, at the Amos Family Funeral Home, located at 10901 Johnson Dr, Shawnee, KS 66203. A graveside service took place at Fall Creek Cemetery, Jarbalo, Kansas. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

Stock Market Insights

Why a US Naval Blockade of Venezuelan Oil Isn't Driving Crude Higher

Dr. Richard Baker, AIF®, is the CEO and executive wealth advisor at Fervent Wealth Management

Since my kids first got their driver's licenses, we have had a family rule: no car can go below a quarter of a tank of gas. I sold them on this so well that it caused a lot of anxiety in my teenagers, who thought running out of gas was the worst thing in the world. This may be the same anxiety that the Venezuelan government is feeling.

Crude Oil is having a rough year. It is down almost 24% since last January, after steady selling pressure for the past several months. Crude Oil recently closed at its lowest level in nearly five years, which is bad news for oil investors but good news for consumers. This was before news of President Trump's blockade of sanctioned oil tankers in Venezuela.

The US Navy has now blocked access to all Venezuelan ports. This is the first US blockade since 1962, when President Kennedy enacted a blockade around Cuba in the Soviet missile crisis.

This is a partial blockade because it appears to exclude Chevron, which is exempt from US sanctions. This comes just days after US forces seized an oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela on December 10. In the week since the seizing of the tanker, the number of ships waiting to call at Venezuelan ports has dropped from 45 to about a dozen, according to marine traffic data.

Seizing the tanker was hurtful, but the blockage is devastating to the Venezuelan economy.

Right now, Venezuela exports between 750,000 and 950,000 barrels per day. Of that, 150,000 barrels per day come from Chevron, which will continue to flow. So that leaves Venezuela with 500,000 to 800,000 barrels per day that won't be sold. What is important about those barrels is not just the number, but where they were supposed to be sold. More than 80% of those exports were intended for China, which buys sanctioned oil at a heavy discount, making this a broader geopolitical confrontation. China can buy oil somewhere else, but it won't be as cheap as the oil that it gets from Venezuela.

This blockade will severely damage the Venezuelan economy since the country is so dependent on oil revenues. It is estimated that oil accounts for almost 90% of Venezuela's economy. The timing is even worse because its economy is again facing a period of hyperinflation.

Oil prices so far are mostly unaffected by the blockade. The day after the blockage was announced, crude oil was up less than a dollar a barrel, or 2%. Years ago, this would've been a \$5-\$10-per-barrel increase, but because we are in a period of surplus in the oil market, prices are down. This blockade

might cause a short-term disruption in the oil market, but it won't affect long-term supplies because other producing countries will offset any global supply losses.

Another factor investors should keep in mind is the China factor. After the Venezuelans themselves, the most negative impact will be to China, which has been enjoying discounted oil. This disruption in cheap oil could complicate or derail ongoing US/China tariff negotiations.

Though this blockade is historic, it will not be highly harmful to US businesses or the stock market. The global oil surplus and the current low price per barrel will soften any short-term negative effects. Still, investors should be watchful for how it will affect global political tensions and the overall surplus of global crude oil.

A few days ago, my daughter borrowed my truck to go to a Kansas City Chiefs game. Even though she is married and moved out, nothing has changed. When I got in her car, its gas gauge was right at a quarter of a tank, so I filled it up for her. At least gas is cheap these days.

Have a blessed week!

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KCKFD's Canine "Zoom" Marks 100th Call for Action

The Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department (KCKFD) is proud to announce that Live-Find Canine Zoom, a 9-year-old yellow Labrador retriever, has officially completed his 100th call for action, a remarkable milestone in his distinguished career serving the community and the nation.

"Zoom joined the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department in March

2019, as our Rescue K9, after many deployments, including Hurricane Helene in North Carolina and the flooding in central Kentucky earlier this year. On December 11, 2025, Zoom, along with his handler, Urban Search and Rescue Fire Captain Mike Searcy, responded to Zoom's 100th rescue activation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

KCKFD's Zoom... ...from page 2

This response was for a patient in distress in the wooded area around Wyandotte Lake. Zoom is an incredible lifesaving asset for the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department", said KCKFD Chief Dennis L. Rubin.

Zoom joined the department in December 2018 and entered service in March 2019 after passing his first certification test. He is currently a FEMA Type I Live-Find Canine, the highest certification level attainable, and one held by only about 300 dogs nationwide. Zoom serves as a deployable asset with Missouri Task Force 1, responding to natural and manmade disasters across the country.

Throughout his career, Zoom has been deployed to Hurricanes Dorian, Beryl, and Helene, as well as flood incidents in Kentucky and Kansas City, Kansas. He is regularly called upon for missing person searches

throughout the Kansas City Metro, assisting law enforcement and fire departments alike.

Zoom's first call came in March 2019, assisting in the search for a missing child in Independence, Missouri. Since then, he has continued to serve with unmatched dedication, helping bring closure to countless families and communities.

Beyond emergency response, Zoom has a familiar and beloved presence in the community, visiting schools and public events to educate the public about search and rescue work. His service and spirit earned him national recognition in 2021. He was also voted one of the Top 15 Working Dogs in the United States in the Aftermath K9 Grant program, selected from more than 600 nominees nationwide.

Zoom's handler, Captain Mike Searcy has been partnered with him since 2018. The two share a rare and powerful bond, one built on trust, teamwork, and shared purpose.

"Being a firefighter is the best job in the world, but getting to do

it alongside a K9 like Zoom has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. He's not just my partner, he's family," said Captain Searcy.

At home, Zoom is very much a member of the Searcy family and is extremely close to Mike's kids. When off duty, Zoom sleeps with Mike's son every night and is the undefeated hide-and-seek champion of the house, something

Mike's daughter insists is unfair to everyone else who plays.

Zoom is scheduled to retire in December 2026, but his impact will continue to be felt long after. Whether on deployment, in the classroom, or at home, Zoom embodies the dedication, loyalty, and heart of the fire service.

To learn more about Zoom and the KCKFD, please visit: Kansas City Kansas Fire Department



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Tom's Tasty Treats

By Tom Valverde

This week's tasty treat is a really good twist on the fun favorite, S'more treats. This is baked in a 9x9" cake pan and then cut into bars. I really enjoyed them and was surprised because I don't like graham crackers, but these were on another level, they're that good. Angelica Navarro's son, Timmy made them as I baked my cookies for our annual Christmas cookie exchange. You must give them a try:

S'MORES COOKIE BARS

Ingredients:	1 lg. Egg
1/2 c Brown sugar	Package of:
1/3 c Sugar	Graham crackers,
1 1/4 c Flour	Large Marshmallows
1/4 t Salt	1 pkg Semisweet
1/2 T Baking soda	Chocolate chips,
Wet ingredients:	2 Milk Chocolate bars
1t Vanilla	Set oven to 360°.
1/2 c Butter, melted	

In a large bowl combine and whisk together all of the dry ingredients. Fold in the chocolate chips. In another bowl whisk the egg, then add the Vanilla and the cooled melted butter. Add the wet ingredients to the dry and stir just until combined. This forms the dough that will be spread onto the cookie bar. Spray the pan with nonstick spray. Line the pan with graham crackers. Top with a layer of the dough. Cover dough with the large marshmallows. Top with the milk chocolate bar. Spread the remaining dough on top, top with another layer marshmallows and milk chocolate bars. Add extra dough on top. Bake at 360° for 12-15 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool for 15 minutes. Then, cut into bars.

Timmy is in Junior high school and he made these delicious bars in no time! You will want to make a second batch to share them during the holidays. Enjoy!

LEGAL PUBLICATION

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ADVERTISEMENT

Turner Unified School District No. 202 is seeking Bid Proposals for a lighting controller at Oak Grove Elementary.

Documents pertaining to this Request for Proposal will be provided to any qualified contractor free of charge by email request sent to crockettc@turnerUSD202.org

Turner USD 202 Facility Supervisor, Chris Crockett will host the blind bid opening, January 5, 2026, at 1:30 pm. The location of the bid opening will be the Facility and Grounds Building located at 5800 Metropolitan, Kansas City, KS 66106. Turner USD 202 will announce the vendor that is awarded the bid Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

(First published 12-25-25)

2t-The Record-1-1-26

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ADVERTISEMENT

Turner Unified School District No. 202 is seeking Bid Proposals for Concrete Projects throughout the district.

Documents pertaining to this Request for Proposal will be provided to any qualified contractor free of charge by email request sent to crockettc@turnerUSD202.org

Turner USD 202 Facility Supervisor, Chris Crockett will host the blind bid opening, January 28, 2026, at 1:00 pm. The location of the bid opening will be the Facility and Grounds Building located at 5800 Metropolitan, Kansas City, KS 66106. Turner USD 202 will announce the vendor that is awarded the bid Wednesday, February 4, 2026.

(First published 12-25-25)

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ADVERTISEMENT

Turner Unified School District No. 202 is seeking Bid Proposals for Fence Projects throughout the district.

Documents pertaining to this Request for Proposal will be provided to any qualified contractor free of charge by email request sent to crockettc@turnerUSD202.org

Turner USD 202 Facility Supervisor, Chris Crockett will host the blind bid opening, January 28, 2026, at 1:30 pm. The location of the bid opening will be the Facility and Grounds Building located at 5800 Metropolitan, Kansas City, KS 66106. Turner USD 202 will announce the vendor that is awarded the bid Wednesday, February 4, 2026.

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