

The Record

Volume 136

January 29, 2026

Number 05

Not My America

By Dr. Jim Haas

I was two years old when World War II ended in 1945. Since then, I have lived in an increasingly prosperous world with no world wars thanks to the farsighted post-war policies of America and other Allied nations. The United Nations and other international organizations created a global system of rules encouraging democratic governments, free trade, stable economies, guaranteed human rights, and more. A few years later, eight European nations plus the United States and Canada formed NATO to protect themselves from possible Soviet aggression. NATO now has 32 members (see map). For most of my life, America was the acknowledged leader of the “free world,” and I was proud to be a part of that.

Now comes an American president who criticizes the U.N., its International Court of Justice (a primary source of international law), and other foundations of the rules-based world order that has been successful for more than 75 years—so successful that it led to the collapse of the Soviet Union and its breakup into Ukraine and other independent states. Why would any president try to weaken the time-tested rules-based order? That’s not my America.

Likewise for NATO. A president who says “NATO has done nothing for us” has forgotten that after terrorists attacked the U.S., including his hometown, on 9/11/2001, NATO nations promptly sent troops and equipment to fight for us in Afghanistan and Iraq. Denmark fought alongside us until 2021, losing more soldiers *per capita* than we did. A president who doesn’t cherish NATO? That’s not my America.

And what about threatening to seize the

Danish state of Greenland “one way or another”? Or killing shipwrecked Venezuelan sailors on the high seas in defiance of international law? Or failing to do everything possible to help defend Ukraine against Russian aggression? That’s not my America.

Closer to home, masked ICE agents have been conducting a reign of terror in Minnesota, killing two American citizens, yanking others from their cars, tear-gassing protesters, and even using a five-year-old boy as a lure to seize his father who is here legally. Last Friday, hundreds of businesses and tens of thousands of residents protested with a general strike. Living in fear of aggressive, masked, armed storm-troopers is not my America.

When six congresspersons, all military or intelligence veterans, released a short video reminding active military members of their duty, under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, to not obey unlawful orders, the current president called them traitors who should be hanged. Secretary of Defense Hegseth has said that Arizona Senator Mark Kelly, a retired Navy Captain and astronaut, will have his retirement rank and pay reduced. Kelly is suing, as he should because he simply spoke the truth. This is not my America.

Fearing that Republicans will lose their House majority in the coming midterm elections, the current president schemed with the Republican Texas legislature and governor to gerrymander congressional



districts halfway through the ten-year census redistricting in hopes of gaining a few new House seats. Fortunately, Californians, who are heavily Democratic, voted to do the same to offset any Texas gains. Governor Gavin Newsome was not pleased to cheat like that, but said the Texas cheating could not go unanswered. Again, not my America.

All this activity from the White House distracts from Mr. Trump’s falling poll numbers, many of which are the lowest since Nixon’s. Voters dislike his policies on immigration; the economy; healthcare; the cost of living; foreign relations, including Ukraine and Israel-Gaza; and the Epstein files.

A court ordered the Epstein sex-trafficking files to be released in December, but only a small fraction have been. What are they hiding? The Justice Department is breaking the law, which is their job to uphold. My father’s Greatest Generation would not approve. This is not the America they fought to save for me and for you.



By Sharon Hoover

I believe winter has finally arrived for good. Life goes on and after the icy driving conditions have abated, it's time to get up and go. Wyandotte Master Gardeners Advanced Training this month is "Victory Gardens at Home". These gardens were a reality that captured the entire nation and upon which the government, our military, and those at home depended while we fought two world wars. This program should appeal to both gardeners and

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

historians. Join us on February 5 at 11:30 am in the Sunflower Room at the Wyandotte Extension & Research Office, 1209 N. 79th St. \$10 fee at the door.

It's about time to put on your dancing shoes, bring your sweetie and cut a rug at the "Someone Special Dance" at the Joe Amayo Community Center. This has become an annual event. This year it is on Friday, February 6, from 6pm-8pm. Enjoy light refreshments, photo ops, listen to the DJ or step on the huge dance floor to party all night. 2810 Metropolitan Ave. Cost \$3 per person.

If you are in the Phase 2 Trash & Recycling Carts Pilot Program and have missed the previous informative meetings, the last one is on February 12 at South Branch

Library, 3104 Strong, from 5:30pm-6:00pm.

South Branch Library is holding a CPR certification class on February 5 from 5:30-8:00pm in Conference Room A. The class size is limited to 10 participants and may only be registered for one session per year. Enrollment should be on the partner enrollment website. Contact Info: Missy Bailey at 816 607 1554 or missybailey.bts@gmail.com

Turner Community Library children's craft classes the first week of February: Puppy Lamp on February 4 from 1pm-2pm at the Turner Community Garden. Shine a light in the night with a creative puppy lamp. Registration required: kckpl.org

STEM: The Human Body, also at the garden on February 6 at 1:00pm.

Travel through the body and learn about bones, muscles, the circulatory system and the digestive system. Registration required: kckpl.org

Take your Child to the Library Day is February 7. You can also register for DIY Demon Hunters. Two classes, Session A at 11:00 and Session B at 12:00 in the Turner library. Kckpl.org

For the Adults: "Turner Easy Eats: Instant Pot Gumbo" just in time for Mardi-Gras. It's on February 9 from 4pm-5pm at the Garden. Packed with sausage, chicken & veggies. No shrimp because of food allergies. Register kckpl.org

It's time to snuggle up with a cup of hot chocolate and a good book. Keep warm.

Until next time, stay safe and be kind to those around you.

Stock Market Insights

Stock Market Broadening in 2026: Is the Rally Moving Beyond Big Tech?

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

I went to an awesome car show in Southern California last weekend. They had some amazing supercars with a few having tires nearly as wide as Formula 1 cars. Wide tires are cool but not nearly as cool as a wide traction stock market.

As the new market year begins, one theme is already developing, and that is the dispersion and broadening out of the stock market. After several years where a handful of mega-cap technology stocks dominated S&P500 performance, the first two weeks of 2026 have looked unexpectedly different. Early on, the so-called Magnificent Seven is negative for the year, while the small-cap heavy Russell 2000 Index is outperforming the tech-heavy Nasdaq 100 Index consistently.

Part of this shift seems to be driven by the belief that the econ-



omy is becoming a "Goldilocks economy" where inflation is not too hot (overheating) or too cold (recession) and conditions are just right for the companies we invest in to be profitable. If this is the case, the rest of the S&P500 (the normal 493), excluding the Mag7 and smaller companies, will have a tailwind this year.

There are additional factors

that could be contributing to the market's broadening. Investors have their fingers crossed that the Fed will become more cooperative after Chairman Powell's term ends in May. There is also speculation that lower-income consumers may get some stimulus money in the form of a "Tariff

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The Record Publications, LLC

Publishers of *The Record*

(913) 362-1988

Jon A. Males

Owner/Publisher/Editor

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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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Everyone Deserves to be Remembered

"Everyone deserves the dignity to be recognized and remembered."



more than two dozen houseless clients who passed away over the last two years.

Cierra Nixon, Senior Director of Housing & Homeless Services, placed an angel on a new memorial wall in memory of each client as their name was read aloud. In all, 25 angels were placed on the wall. Clients and staff took time to share stories and pay tribute to those who have passed.

For many of the individuals remembered that day, Frank Williams Outreach Center and Cross-Lines were places of safety, stability, and human connection. They were spaces where they were known by name, welcomed without judgment, and treated with compassion—instead of being defined by their housing status.

This memorial was not just about loss. It was about honoring lives and affirming a shared belief that every person deserves to be seen, known,

and remembered. It was a powerful reminder of why this work matters and why dignity must always be at the center of how we serve.

The memory of these individuals, and our responsibility to do better for others in similar circumstances, is what continues to drive this work. It's why we are actively partnering with Mayor Christal Watson and the Unified Government on short-

term solutions, including plans for a shelter in Wyandotte County, and longer-term strategies to address homelessness in our community. These conversations have been thoughtful and encouraging, and I am optimistic about what we can accomplish together.

Randy Callstrom
Wyandot Behavioral
Health Network

That was the sentiment behind a memorial service held at Frank Williams Outreach Center earlier this month. Staff from Kim Wilson Housing & Cross-Lines Community Outreach gathered with clients and other community members to remember

Consumer Connection: Get your property ready for winter storms

As the first severe winter weather system of 2026 arrives in Kansas, now is the time to take simple steps to prevent damage to your home from snow and ice. Be sure to review your homeowners and renters' insurance policies to know what protections you may have against common winter damage

and contact your agent to review your policy and ensure you are covered for potential winter-related damages to your home or property.

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Market Insightsfrom page 2

Rebate”, which would drive up retail sales in the US. There is also hope that this year AI will dramatically improve productivity gains, which will add earnings across the market.

It might be a little too early to celebrate. Early trends in any new year should be approached with some caution. This is because there is a lot of repositioning going on, whether employees are changing their allocations in their 401(k) or institutional managers are doing some tactical jockeying. Often, the themes that work right out of the gate give back some of their gains as the initial burst of activity settles down. In most years, it is not until mid-February or early March that we really see sustainable trends start to show themselves.

The first test of this trend will be on January 28th, when, during the heart of earnings season, Microsoft (MSFT), Meta (META),

and Tesla (TSLA) all report earnings. That could be the first test to see if there truly is a rotation away from the tech megacaps. If the market continues to push up smaller companies even after the mega caps report, then there is a strong chance we will actually see a significant broadening in the market.

While the early signs of broadening are exciting and show great potential, we must remember that January is known for false starts and sharp rotations that don't always last. It will be worth watching over the next few weeks to see if this is the beginning of a new market regime or simply another January market tease. For now, it's wise to stay flexible and watch to see how the market responds to the major tech companies' earnings reports.

Those wide traction wheels are fine for doing burn outs in California but here in the Midwest we know they are difficult in snow and icy conditions like many of us are experiencing. Good all-terrain tires are good for this time of

year and only time will tell which “market tires” work out the best in 2026.

Have a blessed week!

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All index data from FactSet.

Fervent Wealth Management is a financial management and services entity in Springfield, Missouri.

Winter Storms... ...from page 3

prevent winter weather damages:

- Protect your pipes from freezing by detaching garden hoses and winterizing your irrigation systems.
- Have your furnace inspected annually. Make sure to change out your HVAC filters as directed on its package.
- Seal potential leaks by insulating your home or apartment to keep winter chill outside. Check seal on attic, plumbing vents, and recessed lights.

“Every Kansan should take precautionary steps this winter to protect their property from freezing temperatures and winter weather,” said Commissioner Vicki Schmidt.

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

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