



# The Record

Volume 136

February 5, 2026

Number 06

## Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

Church on Wednesday was very informative. In addition we received handouts and a refrigerator magnet listing the holidays they do not operate. We had never received a letter with our account id last year and requested one. We received it in by email today.

Turner Recreation Commission is holding a Valentine's Candle Making Social on Saturday,

First off, I need to make a correction on the time Waste Management is holding the Cart Pilot Program at South Branch Library on February 12. The program starts at 5pm. The meeting at Bristol Hill Methodist

February 7 from 12:30-2:30pm. The registration deadline is February 6; the fee is \$25 and for ages 12 and above. Come create your very own custom Valentine's Day Candle while enjoying a fun and meaningful afternoon. Learn the basics of candle making, enjoy refreshments and snacks, snap pictures, play games and take home prizes. Call 913-287-2111 for information.

Turner Community Library's Graphic Novel Club is meeting at 11am on Saturday, February 14 at the library. This month's novel is Miles Morales Spider-Man: Shock Waves. Read aloud and act out this graphic novel together. As a bonus, you get to keep the novel you read. Ages 10 and up. Registration required – kckpl.org

Throughout the month of February, you can check out a "Cozy Surprise Bundle" from Turner Community Library. A bundle consists of a gift wrapped book, a 3D printed bookmark, a packet of hot chocolate, and a packet of apple cider. When you check out the book, the staff

can either tell you the name of the book or you can be surprised when you open the package. It's like a late Christmas gift.

Shepherd's Center Adventures in Learning meeting and luncheon will be on Friday, February 20 at the Grace Lutheran/Mason Memorial Church, 3333 Wood. Activities start at 10am with health checks, snacks and fellowship. At 11am, Anna Newby with the University of Kansas Health System will present on heart health, stroke prevention and diabetes. The noon luncheon is sponsored by Ebenezer Ministries. At noon, Jessica Krauss with the KCK Fire Department will teach hands-on CPR. Call 281-8908 or [melissab@sckck.org](mailto:melissab@sckck.org). As a reminder, if the KCK schools are canceled, Shepherd's Center Adventures in Learning will also be cancelled.

Shepherd's Center is sponsoring a new card making class on Tuesdays, - February 10, 17, 24, and March 3 from 10am-12pm at the First Southern Baptist Church, 8127 Ella. The cost is \$20 per student. Call 913-281-8908 to enroll.

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

### Stock Market Insights

## The Dollar's Decline: Fed Signals, Trump's Stance, and What Investors Should Watch

**Dr. Richard Baker, AIF®, is the CEO and executive wealth advisor at Fer- vent Wealth Management**

It snowed several inches in our area this past weekend, and I thought today about how much I enjoyed seeing where kids had been sledding during my drive. Some found big hills, and others were sliding down some dinky hills. The US dollar as a currency must have found one doozy of a hill because it has slid a lot.

The US dollar is steady after sliding on January 27th in its biggest one-day decline since April's global tariff shock and has been falling since Donald Trump took office a year ago. It fell throughout 2015 but has fallen sharply since the beginning of this year, and it's now at a four-year low against the world's major currencies.

The dollar is already down over 10% this year from its 2015 high point, and most analysts say it is due to macro headwinds (external economic stuff). These external sources of friction for the dollar include the world's central banks' diversification away from the dollar, worsening US deficits, and concerns about the Fed's independence. Additionally, there are significant geopolitical issues, including Venezuela, Greenland, and new tariff threats against Canada and Korea. These geopolitical headlines might just be talk, but they are all potentially destabilizing.

President Trump, who spoke in Iowa on January 27th, downplayed concerns over dollar weakness, saying he was comfortable letting the dollar "seek its own level" in the marketplace. The markets view

this as a sign that the Trump Administration prefers a weaker dollar, as it could boost US manufacturing and exports.

The dollar is still strong. For instance, with the exception of 1985, the dollar is currently stronger against the British Pound than at any time in the last fifty years; it's just that the dollar is expected to be even stronger as the world's tentative reserve currency. Although the dollar has fallen, it remains comparatively strong historically. There are positives to a weaker dollar. As the Trump Administration often says, a weaker dollar can stimulate the economy. That is because it makes our US exports more attractive to overseas buyers, who pay less for the

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## Market Insights... ...from page 2

goods. Many American companies earn substantial profits abroad, and when the dollar weakens, those profits rise and boost earnings, which is great for stocks.

It is very unusual for a president or even a treasury secretary to speak about their desires for the dollar as a currency. For decades, the policy of both Democrats and Republicans in office was to maintain a strong dollar and never comment on it. Of course, these are unusual times.

The Federal Reserve met today and held rates steady after three consecutive cuts. The Fed is expected to resume cutting rates later this year, which plays into the dollar's weakness by making it slightly less attractive to hold. The upcoming Fed speakers and the released notes from the January 28th Fed meeting could serve as a pivotal crossroad for the dollar's long-term trend. Any hawkish (tough) language in the Fed's

commentary could strengthen the dollar and calm the investors. On the contrary, a dovish (weaker) tone could further weaken the dollar. This needs to be watched.

In the accounts I manage, I have leaned into some foreign currency holdings as a diversifying hedge against the dollar, and I am glad I did. I still feel good about the market this year but feel like it will take some tactical massaging to win in these unique times.

As a youngster, I was a crazy sledder. There was no hill I wouldn't sled, no tree I didn't

think I could miss, and no road that wouldn't magically be clear of cars when I flew across it. I just hope those making our fiscal decisions have more sense with the dollar than I did with a sled.

Have a blessed week!

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The economic forecast outlined in this material may not develop as predicted & there can be no guarantee that strategies promoted will be successful.

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

## Celebrating Kansas Day

Happy Kansas Day! 165 years ago, January 29th, our great state joined the Union. Introduced in 1860, H.R. 23, a Bill for the Admission of Kansas into the Union, was ultimately approved by Congress in January 1861. President James Buchanan signed the bill into law on January 29, 1861. Check out some important Kansas statehood documents here.

Kansas's path to statehood was a tumultuous one. Initially Kansas burst onto the political scene with the polemical Kansas-Nebraska Act, which ruptured the tenuous truce bestowed by the Missouri Compromise. During the next several years (the Bleeding Kansas period), Kansas saw slavery and anti-slavery forces violently marshaled against one another to determine the state's destiny. The LeCompton and Wyandotte Constitutions dueled. And John Brown, both hero and outlaw and the subject of the Tragic Prelude mural in the state capitol, sprung from this period. No wonder our state motto is *ad astra per aspera*.

Though different from the troubles accompanying our state's birth, we still face challenges. To be sure, a republican government demands constant attention, equanimity, open-mindedness, foresight, compromise, and virtue. It demands—from every citizen—an awareness of the past and conscious activity in the present so that the form of our government can endure into the distant future; indeed, that it may never perish from the earth.

At this key moment in our history, United Kansas is gathering men and women, young and old to solve real problems with resolve and pluck. It is inviting Kansas to break through the old mold of a Republican/Democrat duality to embrace a new paradigm with solutions untainted by tattered ideologies. It is providing a way forward through our zeitgeist of political turmoil, unease, and disenchantment. It is building a coalition that loves their state and the lofty principles of liberty above those of punditry and political expediency.

On this Kansas Day, let hopeful rays brighten our outlooks and stimulate our actions to preserve the great heritage bequeathed us. What can you do to further the cause?

- Follow United Kansas on Facebook and Instagram.
- Change your party affiliation to United Kansas.
- Consider a donation, large or small, to United Kansas's cause.
- United Kansas's challenge to the state's ban on anti-fusion is ongoing. The case is currently at the Kansas Court of Appeals and it is set for oral argument on February 24, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Kansas Judicial Center (301 W. 10th Street, Topeka, Kansas). Please come and offer your moral support at this important event.

Together, we can live the full measure of our exceptional inheritance and steward it to the stars!

## Blood Donations Needed After Winter Storm Impacts Blood Drives

The American Red Cross continues to experience a severe blood shortage as winter weather further impacts the ability to rebuild the blood supply. Individuals who may be eligible are urged to give blood and platelets as soon as it is safe for them to travel to help ensure lifesaving medical procedures are not delayed.

The national blood supply remains at critically low levels. The recent storm impacting half the U.S. population has canceled blood drives in nearly every state where the Red Cross collects blood. As a result, approximately 450 blood drives have been canceled, and more than 10,000 blood and platelet donations have gone uncollected in

just the last three days, from Jan. 23-26, with more cancellations expected due to freezing temperatures throughout much of the country. In the Missouri and Arkansas Region alone, about 40 blood drives have been canceled, resulting in upwards of 1,000 uncollected donations.

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# SENATE NEWS



By Sen. Pat Pettey

The Legislature convened on Monday, January 12 to begin the 2026 legislative session. As we begin a new session, I would like to take a moment to reintroduce myself. I'm Pat Pettey and I am proud to represent you in the Kansas Senate. I represent Senate District 6, which includes Kansas City (KS) and Merriam.

I was first elected to the Kansas Senate in 2012. I am an advocate for public education and early childhood services and I am proud to be a champion in the Legislature for access to healthcare, respect for personal rights, and fair taxation.

I hope we can stay connected throughout this session. You can always reach me at [pat.pettey@senate.ks.gov](mailto:pat.pettey@senate.ks.gov), (785)-296-7375, or by following me on my social media

at [patpettey.org](http://patpettey.org). If you are ever in Topeka, feel free to stop by and see me in my office, 215-E. Learning more about what is important to you, your family, and your community is my job, so do not hesitate to reach out!

Committees began this week with reviews of proposed legislation and presentations from various state agencies. Republicans in both chambers are already speeding through the legislative process with several key committees having hearings on highly controversial bills, often without adequate notice to the public. This year, I am serving on the following committees:

Education - Member  
Local Government, Transparency and Ethics - Member  
Public Health and Welfare - Member

Ways and Means - Ranking Minority

Daily calendars, committee and district information, and full text and summaries of bills are all available online at [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org). You can hear legislative proceedings

in the Senate by clicking "Senate" under Audio/Video Broadcast on the home page. To watch the Senate and select committees, click [here](#).

**Governor Kelly Announces \$135M to Replace Central Avenue Bridges in Wyandotte County**

Governor Kelly has announced plans to replace the Central Avenue Bridges, and we could not be happier. Rep Pam Curtis has been a leader in the push for the funding for this project and we could not have done this without her. With this investment in our infrastructure, we are excited to restore connectivity and ease of travel in KCK. I only wish that we could wave a magic wand and have this project complete by the 2028 World Cup!

## Celebrating Dr. King's Legacy

I was honored to attend the Kansas African American Affairs Commission's Annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on Thursday, where Governor Laura Kelly read the proclamation. It is our

duty to fight for Dr. King's dream of social, racial, and economic justice, now more than ever.

## Governor Kelly Delivers Her State of the State

On Tuesday evening, Governor Kelly delivered her final State of the State address. She highlighted the many bipartisan wins that we have accomplished over the past seven years, while maintaining that there is much work to still be done.

She laid out several opportunities for the Legislature to better the lives of Kansans today and ensure a bright future for the Kansans of tomorrow. You can watch her remarks [here](#).

- Water: To protect the future of our state, we must permanently address our water crisis. Last session we took a crucial step in the right direction by establishing the Water Program Task Force, but this year we must designate a permanent funding source.

- Civility: We have seen the

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**



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# Pettye...

**...from page 3**

detrimental effects of polarization and partisanship on our country. I join Governor Kelly in her call for increased civility in our Statehouse, and I ask each of my colleagues – on both sides of the aisle – to join me as we recommit ourselves to leading with integrity, compassion, and humanity.

- Free school meals: Last session, Governor Kelly and Senate Democrats fought to provide free school meals to any child who qualifies for reduced-price school meals. However, our Republican colleagues did not join us and it was left out of the budget. This year, we are once again demanding that free school meals for children on reduced-price school meals – more than 35,000 Kansas kids – be included in the budget. No child in Kansas should ever have to worry about not having enough to eat.

- Bell-to-bell cell phone bans: Phones and social media have no place in our children's classrooms. When our kids are in school, they should be focused on learning, not the most recent trend on TikTok. That is why a bipartisan group of legislators have introduced a bill to ban cell phones in Kansas schools during instructional time. Removing phones from the classroom has been proven to increase test scores, better students' mental health, and improve relationship-building skills.

As the Governor said, we must live up to our state's motto of *Ad Astra per Aspera* by putting the needs of Kansans ahead of what may be politically easy. To improve the quality of life for generations to come, we must put partisanship aside and put Kansans first.

**Recognizing Christal Watson, Mayor/CEO of KCK**

I was pleased to see Mayor/CEO Christal Watson recognized during the Governor's address and wish her luck as she fulfills her role for the people of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/KCK!

**WEEK 1 IN THE CAPITOL**  
Labor Day

On Wednesday, labor voices from AFL-CIO, Tri County Labor, Pipefitters Local 533, and more visited the Capitol to meet with legislators. Their voices provide the knowledge, experience, and expertise that legislators need to craft policies that best support working Kansans and their families. I was excited to hear discussions of increasing the minimum wage and strengthening workplace safety regulations. Thank you to everyone who attended!

## Human Needs are Human Rights Rally

Also on Wednesday, hundreds of Kansans came out to attend the Human Needs are Human Rights rally organized by a wide coalition of organizations including Kansas Interfaith Action, the ACLU of Kansas, and the Climate & Energy Project. These Kansans made their voices heard, demanding that legislators prioritize policies that put Kansans first. I was honored to attend and meet with members from my community about issues most important to them.

## Kansas Historical Museum Renovation

Legislators were invited to the newly renovated Kansas Historical Museum, and I really encourage you to come! I learned two new facts: Argentine High School was the first school in Kansas to allow integration into our schools (it was a Latino boy) and the first polio shot ever was administered in Protection, Kansas.

## Week 2 at the Statehouse

The Legislature was closed on Monday to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

I encourage you to submit testimony (written or in-person) on legislation that is of interest to you. Testimony is due at least 24 hours before the hearing, and you can visit the Kansas Legislature website for information on when hearings are being held and how to submit your testimony.

Some additional legislation to keep an eye on:

Reckless tax experiments are

back: The Senate Tax committee passed out SCR 1616 this week, a reckless attempt to address rising property taxes. Kansans need a real solution, not one that will bankrupt the state in a few years' time. Reach out to your friends and family across the state to ask them to urge their Senators to vote NO on SCR 1616.

Private and home schools are once again in the spotlight: Senate Education committee has had several bills regarding private and home schools introduced. This week, Senate Education held a hearing on SB 338 which would redefine home schools as a type of private school. Our home school families were quite divided on the issue, with many fearful of the potential for increased government oversight of operations and curriculum.

House Republicans have introduced a slew of bad election bills that aim to restrict voter registration, politicize our local elections, and put an end to voting by mail all together. Bills like this run contrary to our duties as legislators. Allegations that our elections are not safe or secure have been continuously disproven. Instead of spending time putting up barriers for Kansans who want to make their voices heard at the ballot box, we should be passing policies that improve the lives of Kansans, including through increased housing protections and protecting school funding.

While Republican politicians use their supermajority to attempt to distract us with political power plays that fail to address the real needs of Kansans, I am excited to highlight a bill introduced by my colleague, Senator Dinah Sykes:

Extending the sunset on the school funding formula: The Kansas Supreme Court decisions on *Gannon v. the State* required that the Kansas Legislature "adequately" and "equitably" fund Kansas public schools. The current funding formula that has enabled the Legislature to fully fund Kansas public schools for the past seven years is set to expire in 2027. A new funding formula is not ready, and – without an extension – our schools won't be able to plan for the next school year. Please reach out to Senator Renee Erickson, Chair of the

Senate Education committee, and demand that she schedule a hearing for SB 342 so we can ensure our schools remain fully funded.

## WEEK 2 IN THE CAPITOL

### Equality Day

On Tuesday, Kansans came together for Equality Day – dedicated to celebrating and advocating for LGBTQ+ Kansans. Kansas should be a welcoming state for all, and the Senate Democratic Caucus is dedicated to defeating any legislation that takes aim at communities based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

## Literacy Day

Also on Tuesday, educators, parents, and advocates came together to fight for strong literacy education for all Kansas students. Two years ago, the Legislature passed funding for the Blueprint for Literacy program – an educational program aimed at increasing literacy rates among Kansas children. In the Senate Education committee on Tuesday, they were given an update on the Blueprint program and student test scores.

## A Special Letter from a Young Constituent

I wanted to say a big thank you to Sophie, an 8th grader, for her very kind and compassionate letter to my office. I am always happy to see young leaders taking an interest in government. Best wishes to Sophie and her family!

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Know Your Rights cards are an effective way to distribute information about the rights we all have – regardless of immigration status – when interacting with law enforcement officers. You can download these cards to print out and share with your friends and neighbors here. Cards are available in more than 50 different languages.

## FOLLOW OUR WORK

Let's stay connected throughout the session! You can follow our caucus on Facebook and Instagram to receive legislative updates and information about how to get involved.

## Tom's Tasty Treats

By Tom Valverde

Make this year's Valentine's day a special one that your friends and family will remember. Bake a batch of this week's tasty treat cookies:

### CREAM CHEESE COOKIES

Ingredients:

1 c Butter  
4 oz. Cream Cheese  
1 1/2 c Sugar  
1/4 t Salt  
1 lg. Egg at room temperature  
1 1/2 t Vanilla  
2 3/4 c Flour

### FROSTING:

3 c Powdered Sugar  
1/2 c Butter  
1 1/2 t Vanilla  
1 drop Red food coloring  
to make pink frosting  
2-3 T Milk

Cream together the butter and cream cheese. Add the sugar and the salt and beat until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg and the Vanilla. Set the mixer speed to medium and add the flour gradually to form dough. Place the dough in a bowl and cover

it with plastic wrap. Chill for 2 hours or until firm enough to roll.

Set oven to 365° and line 2 cookie sheets with parchment paper. Lightly flour the counter. Divide the dough in half and place one half on the counter and keep the other half chilled. Roll out dough to 1/2" in thickness. Cut out cookies with a heart-shaped cookie cutter. Space 1" apart on the cookie sheet. Bake one sheet at a time, for 8-9 minutes, or until the edges are a light, golden brown. Leave on the cookie sheet for 2 minutes then, transfer to a wire rack to finish cooking. Prepare the frosting by combining the ingredients and beating until smooth. If you like, take a small portion of the frosting and tint it red. Pipe a name or write a greeting for your various Valentines. These keep well, just place them in an airtight container, of course let the frosting set. I remember the delicious and beautiful cookies that the PTA moms baked for all the children of Emerson school. Take them to work when it's Valentine's day and you are sure to be asked for the recipe. Have fun celebrating Valentine's day with these delicious and attractive treats.

Enjoy!

LEGAL PUBLICATION

LEGAL PUBLICATION

## SEEKING PROPOSALS

The Board of Education of Unified School District No. 500, Kansas City, Kansas, seeks sealed qualification proposals for RFQ 26-004: Construction Manager At-Risk - New Main Library. Proposals must be labeled "RFQ 26-004 CMAR - Main Library" and submitted to: Purchasing Department, Board of Education, 2010 N. 59th Street, Room 370, Kansas City, KS 66104. A Pre-Submittal Conference will take place at KCKPL Main Library, 625 Minnesota Avenue (3rd Floor Conference Room), Kansas City, KS 66101, on February 5, 2026, at 10 AM (CST). Proposals will be publicly opened on February 24, 2026, at 2 PM (CST) in the Purchasing Office, where submitters' names will be announced. Solicitation documents and further information are available on BidNet: <https://www.bidnetdirect.com/kansas>.

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1t-The Record-2-5-26

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ADVERTISEMENT

Turner Unified School District No. 202 is seeking Bid Proposals for Roofing Restoration at Elementary.

Documents pertaining to this Request for Proposal will be provided to any qualified contractor free of charge by email request sent to [crockett@turnerusd202.org](mailto:crockett@turnerusd202.org)

Turner USD 202 Facility Supervisor, Chris Crockett will host the blind bid opening, February 24, 2026, at 10:00 am. 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, March 4, 2026.

(First published 2-5-26)  
2t-The Record-2-12-26

## Free Food Pantry

For people who live or work in zip codes 66106 & 66103

Tuesdays: 9am-12pm • 2nd Saturdays: 10am-2pm

For questions or more information,  
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## Blood Drive...

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There's no time to wait. Book an appointment now to give blood by using the Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). The Red Cross encourages everyone to be safe, and to make an appointment to donate as soon as it is safe to travel. Those not impacted by the storm are urged to donate.

### KATIE SCOTT MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE

The Red Cross will host the 9th annual Katie Scott Memorial Blood Drive on Friday, Feb. 6, honoring the legacy of Katie Scott, who relied on blood transfusions throughout her treatment for Ewing Sarcoma. The drive will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Overland Park Sheraton, 6100 College Blvd., in Overland Park (sponsor code: KATIESCOTT)

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