



The Record

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Leader of the Free World

By Dr. Jim Haas

The annual World Economic Forum (WEF) met in Davos, Switzerland, last month. The non-profit WEF was founded in 1971 by a University of Geneva professor to spread good management practices among European businesses and was so successful that it soon expanded with offices around the world and has observer status as a non-government organization in the U.N. The 2026 Forum invited 3,000 of the most influential government, business, and academic leaders from 110 countries to consider solutions to the world's most pressing problems such as climate change, international cooperation and trade, geopolitical stability, unregulated capitalism, taxation and wealth gaps, public health, and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (AI and other advanced technologies).

The highlight of this year's Forum was a speech by Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, who said that erratic changes in U.S. economic and foreign policies during the past year have "ruptured" the stable and largely predictable relations that have prevailed for nearly 80 years among most nations. He called the rupture in the world order "the end of a nice story and the beginning of a brutal reality where geopolitics among the great powers is not subject to any restraints."

With the U.S. now an unreliable ally and largely responsible for the rupture, he asked "middle powers" and smaller countries to unite when the great powers use "tariffs as leverage, financial infrastructure as coercion, [and] supply chains as vulnerabilities to be exploited." Carney said that "middle powers must act together because if we're not at the table, we're on the menu," and reminded his audience that "other countries, like Canada, are not powerless. They have the capacity to build a new order that embodies our values, like respect for human rights, sustainable

development, solidarity, sovereignty and the territorial integrity of states."

Carney closed by saying, "The powerful have their power. But we have something too—the capacity to stop pretending, to name reality, to build our strength at home and to act together. That is Canada's path. We choose it openly and confidently. And it is a path wide open to any country willing to take it with us."

Then something very rare happened: a standing ovation. UK former PM Tony Blair's communications director called the speech "real leadership" and one of the "most important of recent times." The Treasurer of Australia described the speech as "stunning... thoughtful, and certainly widely shared and discussed in our government and undoubtedly around the globe." California Governor Gavin Newsom, leader of the world's fourth largest economy, said that "numerous leaders from the United States privately sent me the transcript of the speech... and praised Carney for his courage and conviction."

Clearly, Mark Carney is a man we should get

to know. A Harvard graduate with a doctorate in economics from Oxford, Carney rose to a senior position at Goldman Sachs and then served five years as Governor of the Bank of Canada where he oversaw the country's response to the 2008 global financial crisis. His policies were so successful that he was appointed Governor of the Bank of England from 2013 to 2020, the first non-Briton in the Bank's 332-year history. After that, he was UN special envoy for climate action and finance.

In March 2025, Carney ran in his first election and became leader of Canada's Liberal Party with 86 percent of the Party vote, making him prime minister. As PM, he has struck trade deals with Indonesia, the UAE, China, and others; has criticized global and U.S. wealth gaps between the rich and the rest; has increased the defense budget; and has favored green energy with incentives while keeping an additional tax on large industrial emitters. He announced Canada's formal recognition of a Palestinian state. We need an able, trusted, visionary Leader of the Free World. Mark Carney is such a person.



Photo: World Economic Forum



By Sharon Hoover

Everyone is talking about the World Soccer Cup coming to Kansas City in June. If you are planning an event, you may be interested in contacting Visit Kansas City Kansas. They have created a form on 2026 events related to the World Cup or America 250, or any large or special events happening between June 1 – July 19, 2026. Is your business or community organization hosting an activity? Visit Kansas City Kansas is interested

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in promoting it. Please reach out to Rebekah Bryer at rebekah@visitkansascitykansas.com for more information.

South Branch Library is hosting "Repair Cafe and Clothing Swap" on Saturday, February 14, 2026, from 11am-3pm. You can have your broken items repaired instead of tossing them. They'll be doing FREE fixes for items such as bikes, clothing/textiles, computers (virus/malware removal, file transfers, other basic repairs, small electronics, jewelry, lamps, small appliances (e.g., replacing cords on hand mixers, toasters, irons,) and toys. LIMIT of 1 item per turn and 3 items total. Stay for additional turns if volunteers are available to help. If have questions, want to volunteer, or donate tools, email hello@reusefull.org.

WYLV Area Agency on Aging is holding its next session of their Senior Impact Series on February 19 at 12pm. 849 N 47th, Suite B, KCK. This month's topic will be about KUMC Heart Health and DCCA Medication Safety. The Senior Impact Series addresses issues that impact the lives of the 60+ population that matter and impact their daily lives. Seating is limited. Please reserve your seat by calling 913-573-8531 or by email at 60plus@wycokck.org.

Bethel SDA Church 6910 Riverview Rd. KCK is holding a Food Giveaway on February 22, 2026, from 2pm - 4pm. Free food is available for individuals and families. All are welcome. Distribution while supplies last.

Humanities Kansas will be presenting "Learning from Gordon

Parks" with Ann Deann in the Bear's Den at Turner Recreation Center (831 S 55th ST) on February 19 at 6pm. Sponsored by Turner Community Library, photographer Dean will discuss the impact and inspiration found in Park's Books. Reserve a space at kckpl.org or call 913-295-8250 ext. 4.

Turner Community Library is holding "Literary Loteria" for children and teens (ages 6 to 18+) on February 21, from 11am-2pm in the Bear's Den at TRC. Complete one bingo to win a literary prize. This multilingual event is easy, but when you think you got the hang of it, they will switch the winning pattern to keep the excitement going. Prizes are kid-oriented, but everyone can join in the fun. Register at kckpl.org.

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

Stock Market Insights

Don't Panic: How Investors Should Handle the Selloff

Joe Shearrer, CPFA® is Vice President and Wealth Advisor at Fervent Wealth Management.

If you've checked your retirement portfolio lately, you've likely noticed some unsettling red numbers in your technology holdings. Software stocks are experiencing significant selling pressure, with the S&P North American Technology Software Index down roughly 18% this year. For many retirees and near-retirees who hold tech-heavy index funds, this volatility can feel unnerving. But before you reach for the sell button, let's talk about why staying the course is likely your best move.

Understanding What's Happening

The current tech selloff isn't random market chaos, it's driven by a specific concern. Investors worry that artificial intelligence (AI) tools could disrupt traditional software companies' business models. The fear is that companies might use AI to build their own software solutions rather than purchasing from established providers. This represents a

fundamental shift in how software might be consumed, and markets are pricing in that uncertainty.

However, it's worth remembering that technology disruption is nothing new. We've seen similar concerns during the shift from desktop to cloud computing, from on-premise to software-as-a-service, and numerous other transitions. The companies that adapted survived and thrived. Markets often overreact to uncertainty before the reality becomes clear.

Why Market Timing Rarely Works

For retirees, the instinct to sell during market downturns is understandable but historically costly. Study after study shows that individual investors who try to time the market typically underperform those who stay invested. The problem is simple: you have to be right twice, once when you sell and again when you buy back in. Missing just a few of the market's best days can significantly impact your long-term returns, and those best days often come immediately

after the worst ones.

Additionally, if you're holding these stocks in a taxable account, selling now locks in losses for tax purposes but also means you'll miss any recovery. In tax-advantaged retirement accounts, selling means you're converting a temporary paper loss into a permanent realized one.

What You Should Do Instead

First, review your overall asset allocation. If you're within five years of retirement or already retired, conventional wisdom suggests you should have 40-60% in bonds, alternatives, and cash equivalents. If a 20% tech stock decline is causing you significant stress, it may signal that your portfolio is too aggressive for your risk tolerance or time horizon.

Second, consider this an opportunity to rebalance. If tech stocks now represent a smaller percentage of your portfolio than your target allocation, this could be a good time to buy more, not sell. This is the

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SENATE NEWS



By Sen. Pat Pettey

This week, instead of addressing rising costs and property taxes, the Republican super-majority decided to take aim at our most vulnerable Kansans and passed Senate Bill 254 and Senate Bill 244. When our state needs our help, House and Senate Republicans continue to vie for approval from President Trump and ignore the concerns of common-sense Kansans.

This Week at the Statehouse

The 2026 Kansas Teacher of the Year and the Kansas Regional Teachers of the Year were honored by senators representing their home districts. Senators Schmidt and Haley were honored to speak on behalf of two of the teachers being honored. You can watch their speeches, and all the others, here.

The teachers were also recognized during a Joint Education Committee meeting. You can watch their speeches here.

These educators work tirelessly to support our students, schools, and communities. Their dedication, passion, and expertise are a key aspect of our state. It was an honor to celebrate them in the Senate chamber!

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:

* The KIRK Act: The Senate President has introduced the KIRK Act, which seems to be an advocate of First Amendment rights but could become a vehicle for infringements on individuals' ability to exercise their First Amendment rights.

Senate Democrats stand in strong support of the First Amendment, and that is why we are keeping an eye on this bill – to ensure it supports individuals' First Amendment rights, regardless of what beliefs they are supporting. SB 419 has a hearing on Wednesday, February 4, for more information on how to provide testimony visit the Kansas Legislature website.

* Even more attempts at voter suppression: Apparently, House Republicans' attempts to restrict Kansans' ability to vote wasn't enough so some Senate Republicans had to introduce some legislation too. SB 394 aims to get rid of voting by mail all together. We know that people vote by mail for a variety of reasons – attending college, transportation difficulties, wanting to research the candidates while voting, etc. We also know that voting by mail is safe and secure. So why are Republicans so set on disenfranchising thousands of voters? SB 394 has a hearing on Monday, February 2, with testi-

mony due on Friday, January 30 at 10:30 a.m.

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 two bills introduced by my colleagues, Senator Ethan Corson and Senator Dinah Sykes, that have hearings next week:

* Ensuring price transparency from landlords on rental properties: Skyrocketing housing prices are not just impacting our homeowners, they are also affecting our renters through higher prices and hidden fees. That is why Senator Sykes introduced SB 369 which will require landlords to disclose all costs and fees related to the property before a tenant signs their lease. This bill will also ensure a grace period for renters who need a few extra days to pay their rent without fears of eviction or exorbitant fees.

* Providing a tax credit to mit-

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Petty...

...from page 3

igate increasing property taxes on vehicles: As our property taxes on our homes have increased, so have the taxes on our vehicles – this is why Senator Corson introduced SB 378. Senator Corson's legislation would provide Kansans with a \$250 non-refundable tax credit on property taxes and registration fees paid on their vehicle. Kansans are looking for relief against rising property taxes and overall costs of living, that is why SB 378 was introduced – to responsibly address these rising costs without putting the State's budget at risk. Senator Corson's bill will have a hearing in Senate Assessment and Taxation on Wednesday, February 4, visit the Kansas Legislature website if you are interested in submitting testimony.

On the Senate Floor

This week, we debated legislation on the Senate floor for the first time this session. Much of our time was spent debating headline-grabbing, emotional issues instead of legislation that would help Kansans afford their groceries, their first home, or their education. I was sent here by my constituents to address these real issues, not debate who can use a bathroom or what Kansas kids deserve in-state tuition.

The Senate debated and passed four bills and one resolution. My votes on these pieces of legislation was as follows:

* Amending the dry cleaning response act: SB 184 was introduced to ensure the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has the adequate resources to respond if a spillage at a dry cleaning facility were to occur. I voted YES.

* Prohibiting certain Kansas students from receiving in-state tuition: SB 254 sought to overturn a decades-long practice that allowed all students who graduated from Kansas high schools and were admitted to Kansas universities to receive in-state tuition, regardless of immigration status. Denying these students in-state tuition only harms Kansas universities,

the Kansas economy, and Kansas communities by instilling more barriers to higher education and reducing the number of skilled graduates entering the workforce. I voted NO.

* Honoring the life of Charlie Kirk: While the assassination of Charlie Kirk was an unspeakable tragedy and I strongly support the First Amendment, I do not believe that this resolution that aimed to honor his life with the creation of Charlie Kirk Freedom of Speech Day is what is best for our state. Charlie Kirk is on the record saying hateful, divisive things that stood in direct opposition to the values that we should be upholding or celebrating in our state. I voted NO.

* Mandating disclosures from local elected and appointed officials: Substitute for SB 66 mandates verbal disclosures from locally elected officials regarding any substantial interests they may have in real estate developments, zoning changes, or permits. On the floor, this bill was amended to explicitly include school boards and school superintendents. I believe that transparency from all our governmental officers is vital to a healthy democracy. I voted NO.

* Making the government so small it fits in your bathroom: Once again Republican leadership has prioritized anti-trans issues over addressing the affordability crisis. This year, Republicans forced through – on an extremely expedited timeline – Substitute for SB 244 that bans transgender Kansans

from using the correct bathroom at any government-owned building. This ban includes the Statehouse, public schools, the DMV, and more. This bill also prohibits these buildings from having multi-stall unisex bathrooms, restricts to what age parents can bring their child into a restroom with them, and more. While I will continue to fight for our LGBTQ Kansans, it is exhausting having to debate these culture war issues because some Republicans cannot wrap their hands around the idea of allowing certain Kansans to use the restroom in peace. I voted NO.

Senate Democrats are updated on

Chiefs news from the Lt. Governor.

On Tuesday, the Senate Democrats met with Lt. Gov. David Toland to discuss the Chiefs coming to Kansas. We had many questions about how this move would impact our communities, and Lt. Gov. Toland provided us with answers to many of our questions. The location for the Chief's stadium has been announced at 126th and State Avenue and the Unified Government is holding a listening session to hear from the community and address their concerns on Tuesday, 2/3 at City Hall. You can watch this meeting on the U.G.'s YouTube page.

On Thursday, our beautiful state marked its 165th birthday! In the Statehouse, we celebrated with an event featuring Governor Laura Kelly, Oscar-winning Director Kevin Willmott, and Kansas Congresswoman Sharice Davids. We also continued our tradition of singing "Home on the Range" on the Senate floor. I hope you were able to spend your Kansas Day appreciating our beautiful state and all that it has to offer.

Congratulations to the 2026 Kansas Teacher of the Year Rachel Marlow from Olathe USD 233 and the regional finalists Tracie Betz of Quinter USD 293, Jason Peters of Hesston USD 460, Susan Rogers of Derby USD 260, Lauren Sage of Kansas City USD 500, Julie Smith of Santa Fe Trail USD 434, Troy St. Clair of Topeka USD 501, and Tranda Strnad of Republic County USD 109!

Archdiocesan of KCK High School Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Bishop Ward Mathematics teacher Kevin Walterbach for being named the Archdiocesan of KCK High School Teacher of the Year! Teachers like Mr. Walterbach go above and beyond to ensure students are learning the things that will prepare them for success in their future careers, relationships, and more.

Cross-Lines Retirement Center

Thank you to board members Cory, Tom, Barb, Mary Jean, and Pat, as well as staff members from Young Management Jason and Linda.

The Cross-Lines Retirement Center welcomed the U.G.'s Mayor Christal Watson to see the total remodel of the Phase 1 building. I serve as the chair of the Cross-Lines Retirement Board.

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.

WEATHER INSURANCE CLAIM INFORMATION

Having trouble filing an insurance claim after a winter storm? Contact the Kansas Department of Insurance—consumer assistance representatives are always standing by to help! The Department will review your complaint and contact the appropriate parties. File a complaint or seek assistance online at <https://www.insurance.kansas.gov/consumers/file-a-complaint>, by phone at 785-296-3071, or by email at KDOI.Complaints@ks.gov.

Explore Academic and Professional Learning Resources from the State Library of Kansas, library.ks.gov

Learning Express Library is an easy-to-use learning resource that allows students to study at their own pace and place, library.ks.gov/LearningExpress. Learners advance through individual modules, which include grade and skill appropriate practice tests for elementary and middle school students. The High School Students module adds technological practice, along with videos and eBooks. All practice exams include instant scoring and full answer explanations, so the feedback is immediate.

Tom's Tasty Treats

By Tom Valverde

"As easy as pie," but even easier is this week's tasty treat. You are in for a very special treat if you make this week's tasty treat. It is full of fresh fruit and the refrigerated pie crust only adds to its tastiness. It's really worth a try, so bake one soon:

BLUEBERRY GALLET

Crust:

1 Refrigerator

Pie crust

1 T Flour

Filling:

2 pints fresh

Blueberries

1/4 c Sugar

1 Lemon rind, finely grated and its juice

2 1/2 T Flour

1 t Cinnamon

1 Egg, well beaten with

1 T Water

Line a cookie sheet with a sheet of parchment paper. Leave the refrigerator pie crust out on the counter for 15 minutes at room temperature. Place 1 T flour on a sheet of wax paper and

put it on the pie crust dough. Roll out the dough to 11" round. Brush excess flour from the crust and lay it on the cookie sheet. Cover it with plastic wrap. Chill for 20 - 30 minutes.

Afterwards set the oven to 400°. Prepare the filling by putting the blueberries, sugar, flour and cinnamon in a bowl. Toss the berries to coat them. Remove the pie crust from the refrigerator. With an 8" cake pan create an indent in the dough. This will show where the blueberries are to be placed leaving a 2" border all around. Spoon the filling on the pie dough, using the spoon to spread it out. Fold the dough over the filling, working with 4" sections at a time. Prepare the egg wash and brush it on the exposed pie crust. Sprinkle it with sugar and the lemon rind. Bake at 400° for 30-40 minutes.

The gallet is wonderful, served warm with a scoop or two of Vanilla ice cream. Try using different fruits or canned pie filling, like cherry pie filling. You are sure to be making these fruit pies, over and over again. When Summer is here and fresh fruit is in season, please keep the recipe to inspire you to make gallets for your family and friends. Enjoy!

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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:crockettc@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.

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Market Insightsfrom page 2

essence of "buy low, sell high"—though it feels counterintuitive in the moment.

Third, ensure you're properly diversified. If you're heavily concentrated in a few technology stocks, this selloff highlights why diversification matters. A well-balanced portfolio should include domestic and international stocks, bonds, real estate, and other asset classes that don't all move in lockstep.

The Bottom Line

Market volatility is the price of admission for long-term investment returns. While a 20% decline in any sector is never pleasant, it's not unprecedented, and it doesn't necessarily signal the end of technology's role in the economy. For retirees, the key is ensuring your portfolio matches your risk tolerance and time horizon, maintaining adequate diversification, and resisting the urge to make emotional decisions during market turbulence. If this downturn is causing you sleepless nights, that's a signal worth heeding. Rather than selling in a panic, use it as a prompt to work with your

financial advisor to adjust your allocation until you can rest easy, no matter what tomorrow's market brings.

Have a blessed week!

Joe Shearrer

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