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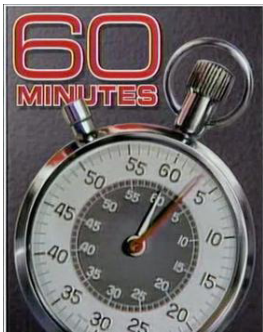
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CBS News: Facts or Ideology?

By Dr. Jim Haas



Before TV, was radio, and CBS built a reputation for high quality news due partly to Edward R. Murrow's reports from London during the 1940 Blitz.

Murrow set a high standard of thorough research and accuracy that lives today through the Murrow Awards, prestigious recognitions for radio news excellence.

With the advent of TV news in the 1950s, CBS continued its high standard with respected anchors including Kansas City native Walter Cronkite (pictured) from 1962-1981. Hired by Murrow, Cronkite expanded evening news from 15 to 30 minutes. Willing to spend more on news than its competitors, CBS overtook NBC as the top rated newscast. A poll called Cronkite "the most trusted man in America."

CBS launched *60 Minutes* in 1968 as a Sunday evening "news magazine," and by 1976, it was the top-rated Sunday prime-time program in the country and highly profitable as well. Fifty years later, it still is. It's also the longest-running TV program in U.S. history.

Now, *60 Minutes* finds itself at the center of controversy. Trump has disliked the program for years, calling it "a dishonest political operative disguised as news." When the program ran an interview with Kamala Harris before the 2024 election, he sued CBS News and its

owner, Paramount, claiming it was edited unfairly to him. Paramount was eager to have Trump's FCC approve a potentially profitable merger that would give control of CBS to billionaire and Trump ally David Ellison. Paramount settled the suit for \$16 million, caving in to Trump as several universities had done to save their federal research grants. Both the *60 Minutes* executive producer and the CBS news chief editor soon resigned and were replaced by people with limited experience in TV news but who clearly planned changes likely to please the new owner and Trump.

The lesson had not yet been learned that the way to deal with a bully is to stand up to him. Sure enough, when talk-show host Stephen Colbert called the settlement "a big fat bribe," CBS canceled his program, which was the most popular of the late night talk-shows. Five months later, the new chief news editor pulled a *60 Minutes* segment partly about Trump's policies affecting Venezuelan migrants on the day it was scheduled to air.

The experienced reporter of the segment objected, calling the pulling a political move. Two other long-time reporters also objected to the new management's disrespect for the freedom of the press to go where the facts lead regardless of political pressures. All three were fired. Former U.S. secretary of labor and political economist Robert Reich wrote that "the most successful television news broadcast in U.S. history is being dismantled because Trump doesn't want America to know the truth." And which trusted news source may fall next? David Ellison is in the process of acquiring CNN.

Distinguished *New Yorker* editor David Remnick wrote about editorial independence in the June 8 issue: "If the contemporary media scene has proved anything of late, it is that a reliably supportive proprietor is as rare as a cool breeze in August. The political and financial costs of backing journalism that challenges the honesty or the competence of the powerful can be . . . distinctly inconvenient. Some owners show their mettle for a spell, then find adequate reason to knuckle under; others have no intention of even pretending to do what is hard or what is right."

Writing to a friend in 1816, Thomas Jefferson concluded that "Where the press is free, and every man able to read, all is safe." Reading is no longer the only way to be truthfully informed. All media must be free to inform us of the facts without fear or favor.



Courtesy of Library of Congress



By Sharon Hoover

Since everything is Soccer for now, let's dive into a few events being viewed in Wyandotte County. Kick It for KCK Soccer Watch Parties are scheduled at Memorial Hall, 600 N. 7th on the following days June 22, Argentina vs Austria 12pm; June 23, England vs. Ghana 3pm; and June 24, Czech vs Mexico 7pm.

Wyandotte County Historical Museum is hosting the Smithsonian Exhibition "Americans" on the nation's 250th anniversary until July 5,

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

2026. The museum, located at 631 M 126th, Bonner Springs, is open Monday-Saturday from 9am-4pm. For more info, call 913-573-5002 or www.wycohm.org.

The Third Friday Art Walk in downtown KCK is June 19th. The event runs on the third Friday of each month from May through October from 5pm-9pm. The walk starts at 609 N 7th.

The Health Department is calling all Wyandotte County artists of all ages for a Calendar Art Contest. Winning artwork will be featured in the 2027 WyCo Public Health Department Calendar. Each winner will receive a \$100 gift card. The health-themed contest officially opened June 1, 2026 and will accept all entries through July 31. To learn

more, visit Health Department Launches Calendar Contest for June 1- July 2026.

Join Christal Clear Conversations with Mayor Watson on June 26 at Joe Amayo Community Center in Argentine on June 26 at 5:30pm. She will answer and address any questions or concerns that community members may have. If you are looking for an opportunity to connect with the Mayor and elected officials, please attend this town hall.

Create a "Rainbow Ribbon Headband/Diadema de Cintas Arcoiris at Turner Community Library on Jun 3 27 beginning at 11am. Inspired by the traditional Mexican Lele rag dolls that are known for their bright ribbons and cheerful charm. Just

a little braiding, lots of glue and colorful ribbons will make a fun accessory. They will be using hot glue. This program will be presented in English and Spanish. Register at kckpl.org.

Juneteenth celebrations. I found that most of the celebrations took place on June 13 in nearby Kansas communities. Juneteenth is a federal holiday, and most government offices will be closed on June 19. In Kansas City, MO, the 15th Annual Heritage Festival celebrating Juneteenth is June 19 & 20 in the Historic 18th & Vine District. Last year over 25,000 attended this two-day event. Check out juneteenthKC.com for details of all programs and activities.

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

Stock Market Insights

History's Biggest AI Spending Boom: Opportunity or Overhype?

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

This morning started differently than I expected. My daughter has been dealing with a virus for several days, and after a virtual visit with her doctor, we learned she may have chicken pox. As any parent knows, moments like that come with a lot of uncertainty. Are you sure it's chicken pox? How severe will it be? How long will recovery take? Will anyone else in the house get sick? You don't have all the answers immediately, but you still have to make decisions and move forward.

Interestingly, I was already planning to write about the massive investment in artificial intelligence. While the topics couldn't seem more different, they share something in common: uncertainty.

A Gold Rush for the Digital Age

A gold rush is unfolding right before our eyes. Only this time, the prospectors aren't heading west with pickaxes and wagons. They're building data centers, buying computer chips, and spending unprecedented

sums on AI. Companies like Microsoft, Amazon, Alphabet, and Meta are investing hundreds of billions of dollars into AI-related infrastructure. The scale of spending is unlike anything we've seen since the early days of the internet.

The excitement is understandable. AI has the potential to transform how businesses operate, how consumers interact with technology, and how work gets done across nearly every industry. But before investors assume AI is a guaranteed path to profits, history offers an important reminder: revolutionary technologies don't always produce revolutionary investment returns.

We've Seen This Story Before

Every generation experiences a breakthrough that promises to change the world. Railroads connected the country. Electricity transformed daily life. The internet reshaped communication, commerce, and entertainment. After all, technology enabled us to have a virtual visit with my daughter's doctor without having to take her to the clinic.

In each case, the technology ulti-

mately delivered on its promise. Yet many investors who rushed into those trends failed to achieve the returns they expected. Innovation and investment success aren't always the same thing. The challenge is that some of history's greatest innovations created enormous economic value, but not necessarily for every investor who rushed to participate.

The Multi-Billion Dollar Question

Today's AI boom presents a similar challenge. The debate is no longer whether AI will matter. It already does. The real question is whether the enormous investments being made today will generate enough future profits to justify current expectations.

Technology companies are engaged in an arms race to build AI capabilities faster than their competitors. New data centers are being constructed at a record pace. Demand for advanced semiconductor chips continues to surge. The spending is massive because the opportunity is massive. However, investors should remember that every boom looks

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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Market Insights...

...from page 2

obvious while it's happening. The difficult part is determining whether expectations have become too optimistic.

The Real Winners May Surprise You

One lesson from previous technological revolutions is that the biggest winners aren't always the companies making the loudest headlines. During the California Gold Rush, many prospectors spent years chasing fortunes they never found. Meanwhile, businesses selling picks, shovels, and supplies often generated more reliable profits.

The same dynamic may be unfolding today. While investors focus on AI software and chatbots, the infrastructure supporting the AI revolution may prove just as important. Semiconductor manufacturers, data center operators, cloud providers, utilities, and power generation companies all stand to benefit from the enormous buildout occurring behind the scenes.

What This Means for Investors

For many investors, the rapid rise of AI creates a familiar fear: "What if I miss out?" It's a reasonable question. AI may become one of the most important technological developments of our lifetime and the opportunities are enormous. However, history teaches us that technological revolutions often create both tremendous wealth and tremendous speculation. The challenge isn't determining whether AI will change the world. The challenge is distinguishing between genuine opportunity and excessive enthusiasm.

As a parent, I would love a crystal ball that could tell me exactly how the next week with potential chicken pox is going to unfold. Unfortunately, that isn't how life works. Investing is no different. We don't know exactly how the AI revolution will play out, which companies will ultimately benefit the most, or whether today's expectations are too high or too low. What we can do is prepare for a range of outcomes rather than bet everything on a single prediction.

Have a blessed week!

Joe Shearrer

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Quotes To Ponder

By Tom Valverde

"No, Mr. President, the 2020 election was not 'rigged' or 'dirty.' Handing out \$1.776 billion to violent insurrectionists is not a 'good idea,' and reporters who ask questions about your bogus claims are not 'crooked.'"

"You are a president, not a dictator. 'Act like it.'"

Senator Bernie Sanders
Independent, Vermont

Senator Sanders was reacting to the upsetting interview of President Trump on Meet the Press on June 7, 2026.

The interview ended prematurely after Kristen Welker, the show's moderator, repeatedly stated that there was no evidence showing anything illegal in the 2020 presidential election. The President seems to have forgotten all the post-election investigations and court cases that found no evidence that the election was rigged. Simply saying something does not make it true.

The President then moved on to the so-called "rigged" elections in California. He seemed to believe that the slow counting of ballots was proof that the election was rigged. He was on a tirade about the election being rigged, but he had no real answer when asked to give evidence of wrongful actions in the election.

Welker tried to ask about Attorney General Todd Blanche, but Trump continued to talk over her and never answered the question.

Instead, Trump said, "You're crooked, the press is crooked and Meet the Press is crooked."

Welker responded, "To be fair, I am not crooked."

Trump replied, "Really? When you people play right into their hands. You're either crooked or you're stupid. People like you, the fake press, you are crooked. CBS and NBC and CNN are one-sided networks."

Suddenly, Trump got up from his chair and said, "Let's call it quits because I've had enough."

Welker then said that the President had agreed to an interview

at a later date. She introduced a roundtable guest, Ashley Etienne, former communications director for Vice President Harris and Speaker Pelosi.

When asked for her thoughts on what the President had said, Etienne responded that the President was disconnected from the reality of what people are going through in this country.

She said, "He promised an America First agenda, and now you can see the frustration bubbling over, with the President's main concern being his own political retribution rather than the economy and the pain of the American people."

She continued, "You have a President who is asleep in the Oval Office, who says that he doesn't consider the state of the American people when he is considering these things."

The reality is that the President does not have answers for the economy.

The President does not have a way out of the war in Iran, and he has not buckled down to work on the economy, which he promised to fix while campaigning for his second term.

He boasts about the record stock market, but he fails to comprehend, or care about, how bad the economy is for many people in the United States.

Billionaires may be happy with what the President has done for them, but these actions do not help

the average American.

Farmers and many people who voted for him are disappointed with his economy. President Trump continues with his economy-damaging tariffs and with the war in Iran. Inflation continues to add to the worries of everyday Americans.

The President seems to have no clue how to fix the economy, and his agenda is anything but helpful. The renovation of the White House that was never approved by Congress, the setting up of a fighter cage on the White House lawn and plans for a "triumphant arch" all ignore the plight of the American people, who are already dealing with high inflation and growing concerns.

There is a "revolving door" at the West Wing of the White House, with officials placed into the Cabinet on an "acting" basis.

And instead of seeking the best candidates for his Cabinet, Trump has surrounded himself with nincompoops who are totally unfit to serve in the President's Cabinet.

He does not want the best. He wants people who are loyal and who have little or no expertise. They will do what he wants without thinking.

In conversations I have heard, people say, "We just have two and a half years of this mess in Washington," "I have my Champagne on ice for when Trump is out," and "I can hardly wait until he's out."

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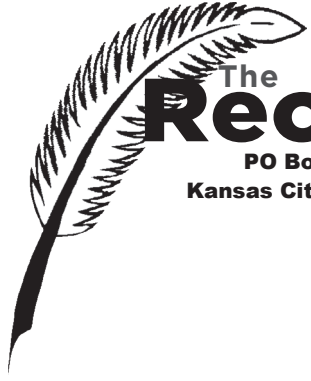
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