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By Dr. Jim Haas

When we think of patriotism, as we do every Fourth of July including this 250th anniversary of independence, it's usually about the flag, the national anthem, the Founding Fathers, and the like. All well and good, but these are symbols of patriotism, while genuine patriotism is a love of country that comes from deep in the heart.

Writing in the June 1 *New Yorker*, Arthur Krystal related a tale of genuine patriotism: Ten days after the 9/11 attacks in 2001, the New York Mets played a home game with the Atlanta Braves. After the national anthem, players and coaches from both teams met near home plate with handshakes and hugs, certainly not the norm in professional baseball. Atlanta infielder Mark DeRosa later said, "It was the only game I ever played in from the time I was nine years old I didn't mind losing." Krystal concluded, "That, my friends, is patriotism."

My own experience with heartfelt patriotism was on November 23, 1963, the day after President Kennedy's assassination. I was doing my part-time college job in a big city hospital when I took a seldom-used stairwell

and, glancing out a window as I reached the top, saw the American flag outside at half-staff. I'm not a crier, but I leaned against a wall and cried, partly out of sorrow for Kennedy's family but mostly because America had lost a leader whose policies promised to make it "a more perfect union."

As it turned out, Lyndon Johnson and a willing Congress got the job done, giving my country and yours Medicare/Medicaid, the Voting Rights Act, two Civil Rights Acts, the Higher Education Act creating federally-insured student loans, and other provisions that made the country I loved even more lovable. I was proud to be an American. (Later, Richard Nixon's lies, cover-ups, and "enemies list" seriously dented my pride, but the system worked, and Nixon resigned before he could be impeached.)

George Orwell wrote that patriotism is "devotion to a particular place and a particular way of life, which one believes to be the best in the world but has no wish to force it on other people." A downside of patriotism is that it can cross the line into its ugly cousin nationalism, where an outsized sense of superiority can easily lead to a wish to indeed

force itself on others—especially dangerous in a large, powerful country with the means to do so. More than 250 years ago, Voltaire concluded that "to be a good patriot one must often become the enemy of the rest of mankind."

Rather than go down the dark road of nationalism, American patriots can work to make our country even better with universal healthcare like every other rich country, with strong unions negotiating good wages, with excellent schools for every child, with enough affordable housing for everyone, with a more equitable distribution of wealth, and with a guaranteed right to easy and convenient voting for every citizen. Each of these improvements will benefit the common good. What could be more patriotic?

In 1940, songwriter Woodie Guthrie (pictured in 1943) penned the lyrics for what many believe is the most patriotic folk song in American music. You know the tune, so sing it with me.

*This land is your land,
this land is my land,
From California to
the New York island,
From the redwood forest
to the Gulf Stream waters,
This land was made for you and me.*

Voting is the foundation of our freedom to choose. Be informed of the issues and candidates, be a patriot, and vote for who you think will most advance the common good.



Photo credit: David Maior



By Sharon Hoover

As June turns into July, I have decided it's time to take a break from writing for the summer. This will be my last article for a while. While I enjoy reporting the weekly comings and goings of the community, I need to do a little more coming and going myself. Have a great summer and I'll be back in the fall. Here's what is coming up.

Every Monday in July the Turner Community is holding children and teen events in or outside the Turner

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

Recreation Gym at 2pm. No registration is required. On July 6, Exotics R' Us showcases animals such as porcupine, hedgehog chinchilla, wallaby, prairie dog or tortoise. On July 13, join Reggie Reg the Magic Man Show, as he amazes and mystifies you with his spellbinding

artistry. Wear your swimwear to a Foam Party on July 20 outside the building near the playground area. On July 27, dance to Rockin' Rob's Interactive Kids Concert.

WY/LV Area Agency on Aging's Senior Impacts Series is July 16 at 12pm (849 N 47th, Suite B). Speakers are from the K-state WYCO Extension Office, Lauren Woody and Dylan Parsley. The

topic is "Using Food as Medicine". Seating is limited. Reserve your seat and lunch. Call 913 573-8531 or 60plus@wycokck.org.

Get your glad rags on and join Argentine Betterment Corporation

or call 913-481-7030.

Shepherd's Center's Adventures in Learning will be July 17 celebrating America's 250th Anniversary Birthday. You will hear a Declaration Conversation with Kayla Roehler. Bring your favorite dish to share and Shepherd's Center will provide a meat dish. Grace

Lutheran/Mason Memorial Church, 3333 Wood. Reserve your spot, 913-281-8908.

Join Mayor Watson in her town hall series "Crystal Clear Conversations at Turner Recreation Center on July 10 at 6pm. Bring your concerns. This is an opportunity to connect with the Mayor and elected officials.

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

Taking a Summer Break

Stock Market Insights

What Kevin Warsh's New Fed Means for Interest Rates, Inflation, and Investors

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

As kids, our favorite town cop let us play wiffle ball and tennis in the streets late at night after the offices closed. All was good until there was a new cop who made us stay on the sidewalks and obey laws we thought weren't for us. I have a feeling that's how Federal Reserve employees feel about their new sheriff: less fun and publicity... more work.

The June Federal Reserve meeting, which wrapped up a few days ago, was led by the new Fed Chairman, Kevin Warsh. Warsh began his meeting at the same time the announcement was made that longtime Fed Chair Alan Greenspan had passed. This was interesting because Warsh is trying to usher the Fed back to acting as it did during the Greenspan era.

Warsh pointed out that the policymakers would keep their focus on inflation and restated the Fed's 2% inflation target. This led investors to

interpret it as a hawkish (higher rates) shift. This shouldn't surprise anyone who was paying attention to his recent Senate confirmation, where he said, "Once you let inflation take hold in the economy, it's more expensive and harder to bring it down." Warsh is on record saying it was a "fatal policy error" when the Fed was too slow to raise rates, and that the U.S. economy is still struggling. Warsh pointed out that the Fed would utilize both of its monetary policy tools, the Fed Funds interest rate (overnight rate between banks) and the Fed's Balance Sheet, to reach the inflation rate goal and lead the economy to a high level of employment.

Warsh used his first press conference as chairman of the Fed to lay out his plan to usher in reforms by year-end. Most analysts agree with him that the Fed has failed to manage inflation post-COVID.

Possible Federal Reserve Reforms Under Chairman Warsh

To change this course and enact the needed reforms, Warsh announced five new task forces to examine the

organization's communication, balance sheet, reliance on existing data sources, productivity and jobs, and inflation frameworks.

1. Warsh believes the Fed communications need to take a backseat to data. He would prefer that investors react to data rather than to Fed speakers discussing what policymakers might or might not do. He proved this by not providing a Fed projection Dot Plot, as Greenspan did. It seems that the new Fed chairman does not want to be a Fed Chair celebrity.

2. The chairman believes the Fed's Balance Sheet Policy needs to be shrunk. It's crazy to think that its balance sheet is still at \$6 trillion compared to less than \$1 trillion before the Global Financial Crisis and \$4 billion before Covid. The Fed's tools are like a shotgun with a chamber full of its old shells; to be useful, it must be emptied so it can be loaded again for the next crisis. Warsh intends to shrink the Fed's Balance Sheet and be ready for the

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Market Insights...

...from page 2

economy's next crisis.

3. Warsh wants the Fed's data sources to be modernized. He feels the current method of data collection is outdated and that the government agencies that produce it have not properly adapted to the ever-changing U.S. economy.

4. He is challenging the Fed operations to do a better job of measuring productivity and jobs. The current methods have not changed in decades, even though the economy has experienced a technological revolution.

5. Warsh wants to re-examine the Fed's inflation processes. He means to push the Fed to reevaluate how it measures inflation and diagnose its underlying causes.

Analysts don't expect Warsh to quickly raise or cut the Fed Funds. He is known as a patient and thoughtful leader who will wait for solid data and a sound solution before acting. As in the Greenspan era, we won't see him in many interviews, and the Fed will be more behind the scenes. A Fed with fewer newsmakers and more humble public servants. I wouldn't be surprised by a small rate increase by the end of the Fed's September meeting, but I don't think it will be a monumental event as in the past. I think this new guy might work out fine.

Our favorite town cop would sit in his truck watching us play and even let us climb on top of the library and bank to retrieve an errant ball from time to time. It was great fun, but looking back as an adult, I wonder what would have happened if we had damaged something on those buildings. Maybe a little more supervision back in the day would have been good, and might be good now for the Fed.

Have a blessed week.

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Letters to the Editor:

Letter to the Editor:

Supporters of Senate Concurrent Resolution 1611 (SCR 1611) argue that Kansas's current system for selecting Supreme Court justices is broken. The evidence suggests otherwise.

Critics of the current process often focus on three questions: whether the court's decisions are legally sound, whether the court is ideologically biased, and whether voters have meaningful oversight.

On legal performance, the Kansas Supreme Court compares favorably to courts nationwide. Since 1966, about 67% of Kansas cases reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court have been reversed—roughly 10% lower than the national average. That record suggests the Kansas Supreme Court is functioning at a high level.

Claims of ideological bias are also baseless. Over the last decade, the court has issued rulings that pleased and frustrated people across the political spectrum. The same court that protected constitutional rights related to school funding, abortion, and voter registration has also approved additional abortion restrictions, upheld ballot-collection limits, and ended its oversight of school finance. That is not the record of a consistently biased court. It is the record of an ideologically neutral court.

Finally, Kansas already has voter accountability. Newly appointed justices must stand in a statewide retention election after one year, and every six years thereafter. These elections are non-partisan, and campaign dollars are prohibited, ensuring justices solely answer to Kansans—not political groups or wealthy donors.

SCR 1611 is a solution in search of a nonexistent problem. Vote NO on SCR 1611 in the August 2026 primary election.

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Finding Common Ground in Mental Health

Wyandot Behavioral Health

May marked the fourth anniversary of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) model in Kansas. Today, 25 CCBHCs serve all 105 counties across the state, helping more Kansans access the mental health and substance use services they need. Wyandot Behavioral Health Network was proud to be one of the first six organizations selected to implement this innovative model.

To say that CCBHCs have transformed the delivery of mental health and substance use services would be an understatement.

Since becoming a CCBHC in 2022, Wyandot BHN has expanded access to care through enhanced care coordination, mobile crisis response, and stronger partnerships with healthcare and community organizations. Through our care coordination efforts, we connected more than 1,500 clients to a primary care provider in less than two years and completed 829 referrals to more than 150 community partners last year alone.

Our mobile crisis teams have also helped bring care directly to people when and where they need it most. In the past eight months, they responded to nearly 450 individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis in the community, at home, or in schools. Seventy-six percent of those crises were resolved in the community, potentially preventing more than 320 people from ending up in an emergency department, psychiatric hospital, or jail.

The CCBHC model has strengthened our workforce as well. By moving to a cost-based reimbursement system, we were able to increase salaries and reduce employee turnover from 50% in 2021 to 18% in 2025. For those we serve, that means greater continuity of care and stronger relationships with their providers.

These results matter because the need for behavioral health services continues to grow. An April 2026 survey of Kansas voters found that 92% believe access to quality mental health and addiction care is important, while many remain concerned about the availability of services in their communities.

The survey also found strong support for expanding CCBHCs across political lines, with nearly two-thirds of Trump voters, 80% of swing voters, and 94% of Harris voters supporting increased funding for the model.

At a time when many issues divide us, Kansans agree on this: access to quality behavioral health care matters. The success of CCBHCs shows what is possible when communities invest in proven solutions.

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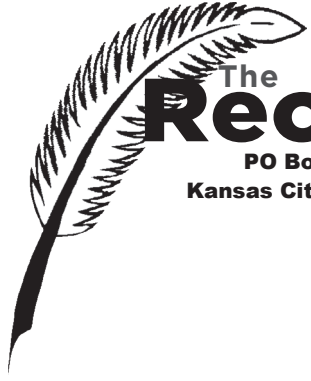
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