



THE WEEKLY REVIEW



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CURRENT EVENTS

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"Peace, in fact, is not only a silence of weapons and absence of war," Francis said. "It is a climate of benevolence, trust and love that can mature in a society based on caring relationships, in which individualism, distraction and indifference give way to the ability to pay attention to others, to listen to their needs, to heal their wounds, to be instruments of compassion and healing."

— Pope Francis

This weekly news aggregate is created by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation for SCL Sisters & Associates along with any other interested audiences.

Questions/Comments/Concerns?

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KS Legislative Session 2024



Kansas might soon create more oversight of foster care and abuse cases with child advocate office

(KS Reflector, 4/19/2024)

"Under the bill, which passed 117-3 in the House and 36-3 in the Senate, no governmental agency could exercise control or supervision over the office or the person selected to be the state's child advocate. Kelly is likely to approve the measure. The child advocate would be appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate, and would be chosen "without regard to political affiliation and on the basis of integrity and capacity for effectively carrying out the duties of the OCA."

Kansas lawmakers dangle \$36 million for public universities to secure anti-

DEI commitments

(KS Reflector, 4/18/2024)

"Haskins, a Topeka Democrat and a professor at Baker University in Baldwin City, said he was offended a majority in the Kansas Legislature was so threatened by campus diversity initiatives that they voted to approve budget provisions slashing university funding unless Gov. Laura Kelly signed House Bill 2105 banning DEI in Kansas public higher education. The bill would authorize Attorney General Kris Kobach to file lawsuits for adherence to DEI and seek \$10,000 fines for every instance diversity, equity and inclusion programs were linked to faculty hiring or student enrollment."

Want more young Kansans to run for office? A coming pay raise in the Statehouse might help

(KCUR 3/26/2024)

"Extra travel and time away from family are just a couple of the challenges that come with being a Kansas lawmaker, and they're some of the motives behind a recent push to give legislators a substantial pay raise. Currently, rank-and-file Kansas legislators make about \$30,000 per year. That includes both a salary and a per diem, which covers daily expenses. Starting next year, that will nearly double to \$58,000 - at the suggestion of an independent commission on lawmaker pay."

Care of Creation

These coral reefs suffered major damage. Watch how restoration efforts helped bring them back

(PBS News, 4/19/2024)

"Corals are a foundation species akin to trees in a forest, University of Miami marine research associate Joe Unsworth told the NewsHour. He said that the goal of bringing them back to barren reefs is to restore an entire ecosystem that will allow other organisms to thrive, too.

Unsworth, who was not involved in the study, noted that corals grow very slowly and that it can take decades for restored reefs to fully resemble healthy ones. Carbonate budgets don't capture the full picture of reef health, he said, but they do offer an important snapshot."



Seek contact with nature to change polluting lifestyles, pope says

(Earthbeat, 4/15/2024)

"Humanity must have more direct contact with nature to counter the modern lifestyles that are destroying the planet, Pope Francis said.

Respecting and loving the earth as well as seeking direct contact with nature "are values that we need so much today as we discover ourselves increasingly powerless before the consequences of irresponsible and short-sighted exploitation of the planet," he told members of the Italian Catholic Movement of Adult Scouts."

Panel at St. Mary's College in Indiana considers how to fight food waste

(Earthbeat, 4/17/2024)

"We see," she said, "that 40% of all food grown around the world for human consumption is wasted. In the developed world, the majority of this waste occurs at the point of retail and in the home. In fact, most households in the U.S. waste between 15 and 20% of the food that they take home from the grocery store, consequently losing thousands of dollars each year."

"This high level of food waste is occurring alongside high levels of food insecurity," she added. "In 2022, nearly 13% of people living in the U.S. were suffering from food insecurity and more than 7 million children were living in food insecure households. Unfortunately, these troubles are exacerbated for communities of color."

Events

- Apr. 23, 1:00 pm (CST)-
CWR Academy: How
Narrative Drives Change

Human Trafficking

April, 2024 Monthly Reflection:

What We Can Learn from Child Abuse Prevention Month

(Alliance to end Human Trafficking, 4/1/202)

"So, in the vein of the pursuit of active hope, what are some things we can do to build strong resilience within children?"

What can we do as individuals?

- Educate ourselves about child abuse and neglect, understanding its prevalence and impact in our own communities and identifying root causes.
- Join coalitions, NGOs or organizations that are working to address child abuse prevention and neglect.
- Engage in an existing child abuse and neglect prevention campaign with a national or local organization.
- Volunteer to be a youth mentor.
- Volunteer to be a parent mentor.
- Volunteer at a local agency that supports survivors.
- Become educated in bystander training (learning how to safely intervene in a situation moving toward a violent outcome).
- Start a community movement for child abuse and neglect prevention.
- Advocate for public policies at the local, state and national level that seek to mitigate and prevent child abuse and neglect, as well as human trafficking."





New census data hints at an urban population revival, assisted by immigration

(Brookings Institute, 4/15/2024)

"This analysis examines how recent urban growth patterns have shifted from the peak pandemic period and now signal a trend toward demographic revival. This includes reduced out-migration and smaller population losses in major metropolitan areas such as New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago, as well as shifts from sharp losses to gains in urban core areas such as San Francisco and Washington, D.C. While natural increase (the excess of births minus deaths) has improved almost everywhere, changing domestic migration patterns and especially a rise in international migration served to benefit population change in large metropolitan areas and their urban core counties."

Afghan Evacuees' Resettlement in Chicago Offers Lessons for Caring for Future Humanitarian Arrivals: Report

(WTTW News, 4/18/2024)

"The report determined best practices in supporting Afghan evacuees, such as bridging the cultural and information gap between evacuees and the broader community, and creating government-convened collaborations with organizations to help expedite processes and cut through red tape."

Texas among the top states whose residents are signing up to sponsor refugees

(KERA News, 4/12/2024)

"Sponsors are coming together to do things like securing housing, enroll children in school and just navigate the day-to-day activities we take for granted like paying their bills, navigating the DART..." Nolte-Henning said. "But I think what's always stood out most to me is beyond these basics, sponsorship always allows newcomers to immediately gain social capital."

Seeking Racial Justice

Kansas Board of Education agrees to expand indigenous education outreach

(KS Reflector, 4/10/2024)

"In 2022, the council recommended that the BOE prioritize persuading local school officials to abandon culturally offensive branding.

More than 20 Kansas schools still have American Indian themed mascots, and many tribes have expressed opposition to these mascots due to concerns they damage the perception of indigenous people and encourage stereotypes that represent American Indians as "exotic, warlike people who are stuck in the past," according to a council memorandum."



States botched more executions of Black prisoners. Experts think they know why

(NPR, 4/18/2024)

"Studies of the death penalty have previously shown racial discrimination is prevalent throughout many steps of administering capital punishment – from jury selection to the sentencing and appeals process. A 2020 report from the nonprofit Death Penalty Information Center showed that people of color have been overrepresented on death rows in the U.S., and that killers of Black people were less likely to face the death penalty than those who kill white people."

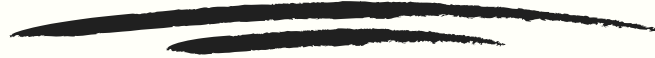
U.S. court rejects a request by tribes to block \$10 billion energy transmission project in Arizona

(PBS News, 4/17/2024)

"The lawsuit called the valley "one of the most intact, prehistoric and historical ... landscapes in southern Arizona," and asked the court to issue restraining orders or permanent injunctions to halt construction.

In denying the motions, Judge Jennifer Zippis said the plaintiffs were years too late in bringing their claims and that the Bureau of Land Management had fulfilled its obligations to identify historic sites and prepare an inventory of cultural resources."

Advocacy & Action



Alliance for a Healthy Kansas:

CONNECT WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR PERSONALLY

“During this April break, your legislators will likely schedule town halls, coffee meetings, forums, or other ways to connect with his/her constituent. Find out when your legislator is meeting with constituents and attend the event. Encourage your friends to attend the event too.

We’ve included a list of questions you can use to ask your legislators about Medicaid expansion.

If your legislator is not having a townhall or meeting during this break, reach out and see if they’ll talk with you one-on-one or in a small group.

See a list of 2024 April break Legislator Meetings”