



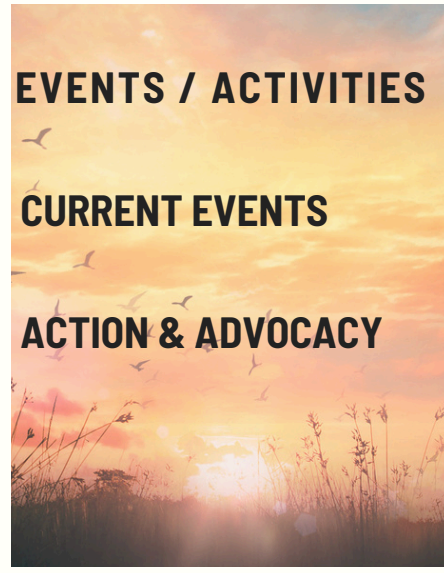
# THE WEEKLY REVIEW



*"All things share the same breath - the beast, the tree, the man. The air shares its spirit with all the life it supports."*

—Chief Seattle

**IN THIS ISSUE:**



*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?  
Email: JPIC@scls.org*



# KS Legislative Session 2024



## **Kansas has a new anti-DEI law, but Gov. Kelly has vetoed bills on abortion and even police dogs**

*(PBS News, 4/19/2024)*

"Kelly's action on the bill dealing with diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives stood out because it broke with her vetoes last year of anti-DEI measure from the current state budget. The new law, taking effect July 1, prohibits state universities, community colleges and technical schools from requiring prospective students or applicants for jobs or promotions to make statements on their views about diversity, equity and inclusion programs. Kelly let it become law only two days after the state's higher education board adopted its own, narrower ban on the same practices."

## **Kansas Appleseed Update: Legislative Wins & Ongoing Advocacy**

*(KS Appleseed, 4/26/2024)*

"Over the last few weeks, we have celebrated many great moments at Kansas Appleseed. We've seen several bills signed into law by Governor Kelly and we celebrated the settlement of our Progeny v. City of Wichita lawsuit over the Wichita Police Department's use of a gang database. Whether it is in the Statehouse or in the courts, the Kansas Appleseed team's commitment to creating a thriving, inclusive, and just Kansas is strong! The Kansas Legislature has returned from their adjournment and will have some busy days ahead of them. Here's what we've been paying attention to:"

# Care of Creation

## New EPA emissions rules could hasten retirement of coal-fired power plants

*(PBS News, 4/25/2024)*

"Fossil fuel power plants account for more than one quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. The Biden administration is trying to crack down on the worst polluters, and that's the remaining coal-powered plants, which emit the most carbon dioxide. The new EPA rules require coal plants to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 90 percent by 2039, or close.

There are about 200 coal-burning power plants and operations in the U.S. And, last year, coal-fired plants generated a little over 16 percent of the nation's electricity."



## Happy Arbor Day! These 20 books will change the way you think about trees

*(NPR, 4/26/2024)*

"Trees communicate. They migrate. They protect. They heal. This year for Arbor Day this year we climbed into the NPR archives to find our favorite arboreal fiction, nonfiction and kids' books.

Scroll down to find excerpts from interviews and reviews, plus recommendations from Books We Love – NPR's annual, year-end books guide."

## How clean water and faith go hand in hand

*(Earthbeat, 4/24/2024)*

"So many problems in health care can be traced to unsafe water, a leading preventable cause of early childhood malnutrition, cognitive stunting and death. For women and girls in the most marginalized parts of the world, it's a lifelong issue. A girl will often drop out of school when she hits puberty because she has no sanitation facilities to meet her needs. In many cultures it is the job of women to wake each day before dawn to collect water, knowing that it may bring illness to their families.

Most crucially, lack of access to sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene – WASH – is a fundamental problem in tens of thousands of health clinics and hospitals all around the world."

# Events

# Human Trafficking

## Human Trafficking Indicators

*(Alliance to end Human Trafficking, 4/25/2024)*

"Victims of trafficking are usually reluctant to come forward due to a sense of shame or stigma associated with forced prostitution or an inability to recognize that he or she is a victim. We need to be aware of behavioral indicators of trafficking victims which may include, but are not limited to:

- an inability to attend school on a regular basis and/or unexplained absences
- frequently running away from home
- references made to frequent travel to other cities
- bruises or other signs of physical trauma, withdrawn behavior, depression, anxiety, or fear
- lack of control over a personal schedule and/or identification or travel documents
- hunger, malnourishment, or inappropriate dress (based on weather conditions or surroundings) . . ."





## **Senate committee adds anti-immigration sanctions targeting Kansas City to Missouri budget**

*(Missouri Independent, 4/25/2024)*

"The last item added to the state budget Wednesday during deliberations of the Senate Appropriations Committee was language that cuts all state funding for cities that become sanctuaries for immigrants. It also requires any money already received by those cities to be paid back with interest.

The provision, added to the budget at the urging of Republican state Sen. Tony Luetkemeyer of Parkville, came in response to statements Lucas made, first to Bloomberg News and later to local media and on social media, that he is in talks with mayors in New York and Denver to help them with large numbers of recently arrived migrants."

## **Despite a fortified border, migrants will keep coming, analysts agree.**

**Here's why.**

*(NPR, 4/22/2024)*

"The expected surge can be attributed not only to seasonal migration patterns, but an increase of people displaced by war, poverty, and climate factors in all continents."

## **How migrant workers have contributed to strong U.S. job growth**

*(PBS News, 4/12/2024)*

"How has the economy managed to prosper, adding hundreds of thousands of jobs, month after month, at a time when the Federal Reserve has aggressively raised interest rates to fight inflation – normally a recipe for a recession?

Increasingly, the answer appears to be immigrants – whether living in the United States legally or not. The influx of foreign-born adults vastly raised the supply of available workers after a U.S. labor shortage had left many companies unable to fill jobs."

# Seeking Racial Justice

## Eyewitness to kidnapping of Emmett Till hasn't closed his eyes to quest for racial justice

*(Kansas Reflector, 4/25/2024)*

"Parker said the intersection of art and history, including the river marker with 10 bullet wounds, offered insight into the plague of racism in America.

"Bullet holes in a sign tell a story," the minister said. "It speaks volumes. It reminds you of where you're at. How much work we have to do."

He said the world of 1955 no longer existed, because law enforcement officers, juries, judges and prosecutors as well as the broader public had less tolerance for racially motivated crime."



## Answer to untangling racial injustice is love, says symposium speaker

*(National Catholic Reporter, 4/22/2024)*

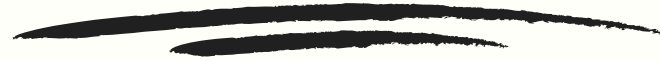
"Even if we just take the time to say 'I'm sorry,' ... that could help with healing," she said. "When we decide to love with all our hearts, with all our being, that can bring healing not only to other people but to ourselves."

## Black Elk, White Buffalo Woman and the mystery of the red heifer ceremony

*(Earthbeat, 4/26/2024)*

"The general thrust of White Buffalo Woman's teachings matches that of the Mosaic covenant: a moral covenant of right relationship that bestows the power to live and flourish on the land (i.e. "that you may live and prosper, and may have long life in the land" [[Deuteronomy 5:33](#)]). Interestingly, there is an important strand in Jewish tradition that portrays Moses with the horns of a wild ox, a kind of "buffalo man."

# Advocacy & Action



Alliance for a Healthy Kansas:

## The Medicaid expansion vote on SB 355 fails

"Today the Senate voted on the motion to pull SB 355, the Medicaid expansion bill, out of committee. Unfortunately this vote failed, with 18 'Yes' votes to 17 'Nay' votes. We needed at least 24 'Yes' votes to pass the bill out of committee.

We would be grateful if you send an email thanking the Senators who voted yes today. Many of them endured significant pressure for their vote and we want them to know how much it was appreciated. The names and email addresses of supportive senators are listed below."

### 'Yes' votes on today's SB 355 action:

Sen. Rick Billinger, [Rick.Billinger@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Rick.Billinger@senate.ks.gov)

Sen. Elaine Bowers, [Elaine.Bowers@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Elaine.Bowers@senate.ks.gov)

Sen. Ethan Corson, [Ethan.Corson@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Ethan.Corson@senate.ks.gov)

Sen. Brenda Dietrich, [Brenda.Dietrich@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Brenda.Dietrich@senate.ks.gov)

Sen. John Doll, [John.Doll@senate.ks.gov](mailto:John.Doll@senate.ks.gov)

Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau, [Oletha.Faust-Goudeau@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Oletha.Faust-Goudeau@senate.ks.gov)

Sen. Marci Francisco, [Marci.Francisco@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Marci.Francisco@senate.ks.gov)

Sen. Tom Holland, [Tom.Holland@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Tom.Holland@senate.ks.gov)

Sen. Cindy Holscher, [Cindy.Holscher@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Cindy.Holscher@senate.ks.gov)

Sen. Jeff Longbine, [Jeff.Longbine@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Jeff.Longbine@senate.ks.gov)

Sen. Carolyn McGinn, [Carolyn.McGinn@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Carolyn.McGinn@senate.ks.gov)

Sen. Rob Olson, [Rob.Olson@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Rob.Olson@senate.ks.gov)

Sen. Kristen O'Shea, [Kristen.OShea@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Kristen.OShea@senate.ks.gov)

Sen. Pat Pettey, [Pat.Pettey@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Pat.Pettey@senate.ks.gov)

Sen. Jeff Pittman, [Jeff.Pittman@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Jeff.Pittman@senate.ks.gov)

Sen. Usha Reddi, [Usha.Reddi@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Usha.Reddi@senate.ks.gov)

Sen. Dinah Sykes, [Dinah.Sykes@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Dinah.Sykes@senate.ks.gov)

Sen. Mary Ware, [Mary.Ware@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Mary.Ware@senate.ks.gov)