

The Kentucky CITIZEN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

Vol. XXIV No. 4

July/August 2016

We must pray: Our state, nation need God!

The Franklin Graham Rally and National Day of Prayer set the tone for change in Kentucky – more events are planned.

“Talking about prayer is not enough. We must pray for our state and nation in this season of confusion and deception,” said Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation. “If ever there was a need for wisdom and a time for prayer, it is now.”

This Fall Kentucky citizens will be making decisions not only for the President, a U.S. Senator and six U.S. Congressmen, but also the State Senate and the State House of Representatives, as well as many other local officials and judges.

This “season of prayer” was begun on May 4 and 5. On the 4th Franklin Graham came to Frankfort to challenge Kentucky Christians to be the difference and to make the difference in the Commonwealth. His “Decision America Tour 2016” drew 5800 Kentuckians to the Capitol Steps to pray.

“Our nation is in trouble, and the answer doesn’t rest in our politicians and political parties,” said Graham. “As Christians, we know the Answer and His Name is Jesus Christ. We have a responsibility as the church to be salt and light in this world. We are called to speak the truth of God’s Word to a society whose spiritual and moral foundation is crumbling at an alarming rate. We must pray, seek His face, and stand firm on His Word.”

The next day, Thursday, May 5 was the National Day of Prayer, which was observed in cities all over Kentucky and throughout the nation. Gov. Bevin

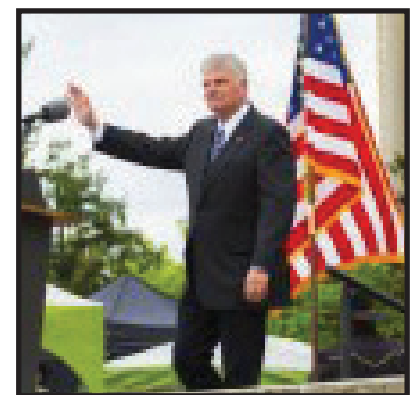


Photo courtesy of BGEA

Some 5800 citizens prayed with Franklin Graham at his Decision America Rally on May 4. Others joined Gov. Bevin on May 5 at the National Day of Prayer.

“Here’s the bottom line: If God does not answer prayer, it’s stupid to pray, But if God does answer prayer, it’s stupid not to!”

– Kent Ostrander



joined prayer leaders from across the state at noon for an hour of prayer for the Commonwealth on the same Capitol Steps occupied by the Graham Rally the day before. In addition, he issued an official Proclamation by the Governor of Kentucky declaring a Day of Prayer. (See page 2)

With significant state and national elections approaching this Fall, this is the right time for Christians to cry out to God for mercy and wisdom and for His Presence to move across the state and nation. Most would agree that there would be more courage in Frankfort and Washington if a revival or awakening took place that impacted both everyday citizens and political leaders.

“As I talk with people across the country, there’s a hunger for a spiritual revival in

Continued on page 2 with news of major prayer initiatives

Prayer initiatives *continued from page 1*

America. It begins when we, as Christians, commit to prayer, standing firm on God's Word and living out our faith in every aspect of life," said Graham. He also encouraged everyone to vote God's wisdom later this Fall.

"Here's the bottom line: If God does not answer prayer, it's stupid to pray," said Ostrander. "But if God does answer prayer, it's stupid not to!"

A major prayer event, planned by Kathryn Hendershot, is set for Sunday, Oct. 16 in Rupp Arena. *(See box on right)*

Also, there are numerous prayer networks actively serving the state. Here is a list of some of the key groups:

- National Day of Prayer, Kentucky Chapter
- Kentucky Prayer Caucus Network
- Heartland Apostolic Prayer Network
- Reformation Prayer Network

- Kentucky Prayer Focus
- Eagles Wings
- Aglow International
- Circle of Love Ministry
- White Horse Brigade
- Great Oaks Ministries

Many of the prayer leaders from these groups have come together to form the Kentucky Prayer Coalition and are planning prayer activities in every county and every Area Development District, as well as orchestrating "40 Days of Prayer and Worship" immediately

before the Nov. 8 elections. Howard and Aprile Hunt from Danville are serving as coordinators for these events. *(See contact info on left)*

Kentucky Prayer Coalition

To get involved,
call or email
Aprile Hunt:

aprile.hunt@outlook.com

859-583-7268



This is a MULTI-GENERATIONAL gathering to pray for our nation. It is a physical manifestation of UNITY in PRAYER. We will invite the Presence of God to forgive, heal and restore our land.

What you can expect: 12 Pastors from 12 DIFFERENT denominations leading in prayer • No names (of pastors or churches) • A Prayer Meeting, not a church service (no sermon, no offering) • We will humble ourselves before God in prayer

In September, \$28,884.03 will be given to PCCs

Once again, the official CHOOSE LIFE license plates raise funding and awareness for Kentucky's Pregnancy Care Centers.

This year has yielded another generous endowment from Kentucky car and truck owners who selected the official Kentucky CHOOSE LIFE license plate for their vehicles. This year the total reached \$28,884.03.

The program was made possible through a legislative effort by former State Senator Jack Westwood (R-Erlanger). Westwood had worked for several years to secure the CHOOSE LIFE license plate for the Commonwealth but had been thwarted each year by pro-choice Democrats in the House of Representatives. In 2006, he worked out a compromise with a Democrat bill sponsor and the funds began to flow. Now the total, including funds anticipated this year, is over one third of a million dollars.

This is the 11th year that donated CHOOSE LIFE license plate dollars have supported pregnancy care centers that serve the women of Kentucky. But the big winners in

the CHOOSE LIFE license plate project have always been the Kentucky women who are caught in an unplanned pregnancy and who do not feel that they have life-giving options. Since 100 percent of the money generated by the plates goes to the local pregnancy care centers that dot the state, it is the women in need that experience the most meaningful impact from the funds given.

Currently there are 51 pregnancy care centers whose budgets vary significantly, yet each is committed to the well-being of the mother in need and the health of her child. Anyone can sign up for an official Kentucky CHOOSE LIFE license plate and give a \$10 donation (the maximum gift allowed) when they go to renew their plate. The donated money is delivered annually to The Family Foundation by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, and then 100 percent of it is distributed to state pregnancy care centers.

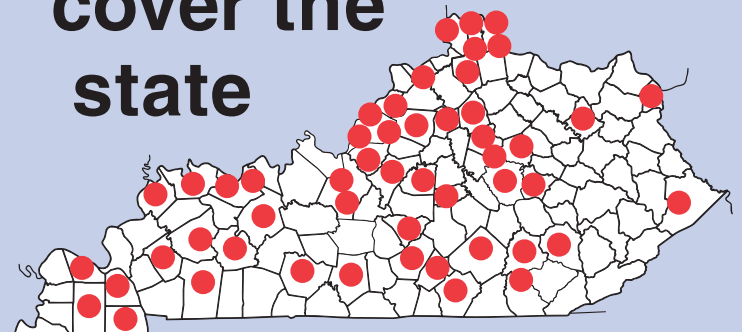
Go ahead, get one for your car and drive with the CHOOSE LIFE encouragement all over town.

You'll be making a stand for life and for compassionate, life-saving intervention because pregnancy care centers will receive 100% of the money that you donate above the actual cost of your license plate.

THIS is Unbridled SPIRIT in Kentucky!



Care Centers cover the state



There is a major **PROBLEM** in Frankfort!

If a court system can have “obstruction of justice,” then a legislature can have “obstruction of the will of the people.”

The problem in Frankfort is very simple: For some reason, the General Assembly does not pass many of the bills that Kentucky citizens want them to pass. In fact, many of those bills and those issues are not even allowed on the House Floor for a debate and a vote. That is the problem!

How could that be? This is America and we have a system of government where the people send their representatives to the State Capitol to do their business.

In essence, our American republic form of democracy is broken in Kentucky. The question then becomes not “How could this be?” but why is it broken, and specifically, WHO has broken it?

At Issue: Leadership of the House

Let’s first examine the structure of the General Assembly. The Senate has a ratio of 27 Republicans to 11 Democrats elected to serve. Each Party has three senators elected to “Senate Leadership” and then the entire Chamber votes for the Senate President and the Senate President Pro-Tempore. Clearly, these will be Republicans because of the Chamber’s overall majority. All of this makes the Senate “controlled by Republicans.”

The House Leadership process is similar: There are 53 Democrats and 47 Republicans, the Parties elect a similar slate of Leaders, and then the Chamber elects the Speaker of the House and the Speaker Pro-Tempore. The House, then, is controlled by Democrats because they vote as a block for one of their own.

This type of organization is common to most, if not all of the state legislatures across the nation. There is one key difference in Frankfort: Speaker of the House Greg Stumbo.

Speaker Stumbo is perhaps the most knowledgeable and capable politician in Frankfort. And that actually may be the reason for the problem – he “knows” what everyone should do and he helps them do what he “knows” they should. That scenario, whether intentional or not, creates a top-down style of leadership that is antithetical to the bottom-up design for the Chamber – legislators are the people’s representative to the Capitol, not the Capitol’s representative to the people.

The Result

The result is that legislation that should come to the House Floor for debate ends up being intentionally killed in committee at Stumbo and “House Leadership’s” direction. This “protects” the members of Stumbo’s Party from having to take a vote on tough topics, but it sets them up to be questioned at election time by their constituents as to why “they did not pass this” or “vote for that.”

Likely, this style of leadership will be Stumbo’s undoing. At some point, the citizenry

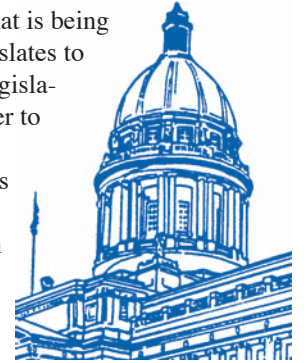


Speaker of the House
Greg Stumbo

of Kentucky will awaken and discover that it’s not their will that is being done, but the politically charged will of the Speaker. This translates to the Speaker actually having a kind of “veto power” over the legislative process that is equal to the Governor’s constitutional power to veto legislation.

Here is how that works: Constitutionally, the Governor has the power to veto any legislation (other than a constitutional amendment) within 10 days of its passage. The legislature can then override his veto if it chooses to. But, with the General Assembly having to pass *ALL* bills through both Chambers, if the Speaker is unwilling to allow something to come to the House Floor, he has essentially vetoed the legislation before it could even get a hearing. And there is no override for a “Speaker’s veto.”

This centralized power or control scheme negates the power of representative government, rendering the legislative body emasculated. In some sense, it is like the Judicial Branch that allows the crime of obstruction of justice. In this case, it’s the Legislative Branch allowing “obstruction of the will of the people.”



Control: By the Numbers

It is all about control and numbers that make control possible.

One of the subtle strategies that Speaker Stumbo employs effectively is the manipulation of the committee system by controlling *ALL* committees with slanted partisan ratios and, in particular, certain key committees with overwhelming numbers.

Consider that the House has a ratio of 53 Democrats to 47 Republicans. With 100 members, it’s an obvious and close 53 percent to 47 percent. However, the makeup of all the House Standing Committees in the House *in toto* is 237 Democrat to 163 Republican – almost 60 percent to 40 percent. Not the close 53-47 percent it should be. (A Standing Committee is a permanent committee with a special focus, like health or education. These committees review all bills. There are 19 Standing Committees in the House and 15 in the Senate.)

Compare the House Committee makeup to that of the Senate. In the entire Senate Chamber, Republicans have the majority with 27 members and the Democrats have 11. That’s 71 percent to 29 percent. That is right in line with the ratio of all the members in the Senate Standing Committees, which is 73 percent to 27 percent.

But even more important are the key committees that operate each Chamber – the Committee on Committees and the Rules Committee. These are the “Command and Control” centers of each Chamber, assigning each bill to its committee.

In the House, the Committee on Committees has six members, only one of which is Republican (83 percent Democrat). To make matters worse, all five Democrats are those in House Leadership positions. Similarly, the Rules Committee is made up of 13 Democrats and 7 Republicans, with *Speaker Stumbo* as the Chairman. (It, therefore, is 65

percent Democrat.) Altogether, the two committees are 69.2 percent Democrat. In a Chamber that is 53 percent Democrat, it is easy to see the deliberate bias.

Compare these numbers with the Senate’s Committee on Committees and the Rules Committee: Each of these Committees have eight members with three Democrats on each, that’s 62.5 percent Republican and 37.5 percent Democrat. That’s *much more power* to the Minority Party than the 71 percent to 29 percent makeup of the Chamber would suggest.

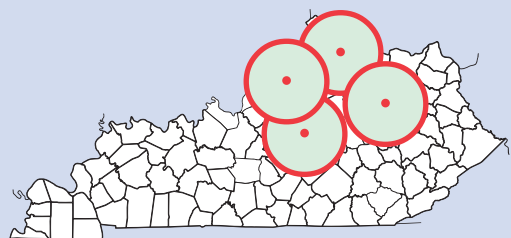
One last point about the makeup of Committees. Speaker Stumbo keeps his Speaker’s post secure by making sure that he caters to the liberal wing of his Party and Caucus.

Given that fact, certain committees are more likely to handle socially conservative bills. With pro-life bills, it’s the Health and Welfare Committee. With Student Free Speech and Religious Liberty bills, it’s the Education Committee. Similarly, it’s the Education Committee for the hot-button “bathroom” issue – “Should biological sexes be mixed in bathrooms, locker rooms, shower rooms and overnight sleeping arrangements on trips?”

Consider that the Health and Welfare Committee has 15 members, 9 are Democrats (60 percent) and most of them are radically pro-choice (and from Lexington and Louisville). The Education Committee has 33 members, of which 21 are Democrat (63.6 percent) and only 12 Republican (36.4 percent).

Are principles of democracy and fairness leading the House or is it the desire for political control? You decide.

5 to 1
53% to 43%
70% to 30%
21 to 12
69.2%



The Kentucky Marriage Movement



Greg Williams,
Director

Bagdad, Sept. 23-24

Relationships R 4 Real Conference - Greg Williams
Leesburg Christian Church
3083 Cedarmore Rd., Bagdad, KY 40003

Burlington, Sept. 30-Oct. 2

Art of Marriage video presentation - FamilyLife
First Church of Christ (Burlington Campus)
6080 Ernst Camp Rd., Burlington, KY 41005

Nicholasville, Oct. 21-22

Love and Respect Conference - Eggerichs
New Hope Fellowship
1451 South Main St., Nicholasville, KY 40356

Salt Lick, Oct. 28-29

Art of Marriage video presentation - FamilyLife
KY Church of God Couples Retreat
3169 Mud Lick Rd., Salt Lick, KY 40371

For more information, call **(859)255-5400** or go to **www.kentuckymarriage.org**

UPDATE: Bevin's two abortion clinic court cases

After eight years of a very pro-choice Governor, Kentucky's abortion clinics were in for a surprise.

Six months have passed since Gov. Matt Bevin declared that his "administration will have no tolerance for the type of brazen disregard" which abortion providers had "shown for both the safety of women and the rule of law." He went on to promise he would hold them "accountable for knowingly endangering their patients by providing illegal abortions at a facility that was not properly licensed nor prepared to handle an emergency."

On Feb. 18, Kentucky filed a lawsuit alleging that Planned Parenthood performed 23 illegal abortions at their Louisville clinic between Dec. 3 and

Jan. 28. The Bevin administration argued that fines in the maximum amount should be required to punish such "callous and knowing violations of law and to deter it and others from such violations in the future."

A Jefferson Circuit Court judge tossed out the lawsuit on July 1, but the Bevin administration appealed the decision on July 27 as part of its effort to "enforce the clear laws of Kentucky." In the meantime, Planned Parenthood may not perform abortions without first obtaining a license from the Bevin administration's Cabinet for Health and

"... to allow an unlicensed abortion facility ... to continue operating ignores the rule of law in favor of result-oriented political correctness."

– J. William Graves, former KY Supreme Court Justice (as quoted in Herald-Leader)

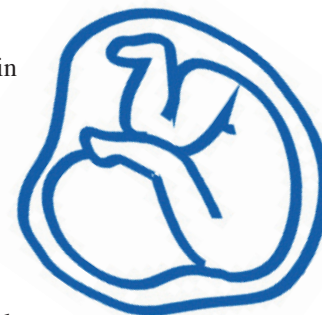


Family Services. Planned Parenthood suffered a setback in that process after KentuckyOne Health backed out of an agreement to provide hospital care in the event of an emergency, an agreement required as part of the licensing process.

As this legal battle plays out, we would be wise to listen to the words of The Honorable J. William Graves, who served on the Kentucky Supreme Court and the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure. He wrote in the *Herald-Leader* that "to allow an unlicensed abortion facility ... to continue operating ignores the rule of law in favor of result-oriented political correctness."

On March 2, Kentucky filed a second lawsuit, this one against the EMW Women's Clinic in Lexington. Upon inspection by the Bevin administration, the clinic's first in at least 8 years, they found violations of state law. The lawsuit alleges that the clinic lacked the required license, maintained expired medication, and was not kept clean.

On June 15, the Kentucky Court of Appeals ordered that the clinic be closed until it receives a license or until the final judgment is handed down in the case. The three-judge panel, consisting of all women, held on that "this case is not about a woman's right to an abortion," but that it was about the "right to regulate the manner in which abortions are performed in this commonwealth." EMW Women's Clinic appealed the case to the Kentucky Supreme Court on June 22.



The Fall election cycle has begun: It is **B-I-G!**

The nation is in need and Kentucky could play a key role in getting us back on track. Vote . . . and vote wisely!!!

There are three massive decisions that will be made on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8, along with the hundreds of other smaller decisions that will be determined. One of those three key decisions will be made exclusively by Kentucky citizens, while the other two will be made in part by Kentuckians.

Control of the State House of Representatives is the first major decision, and it will be made by Kentucky citizens only. With the current ratio of Democrats to Republicans at 53 to 47, the narrowest margin in decades, all expect a spirited battle. Some Kentuckians like the strong leadership offered by Speaker Greg Stumbo, while others see him as controlling. Because of his strong style in that

legacy will be more about how he or she adds to the Supreme Court than about anything else that they do or don't do as President.

The third major decision involves who will control the U.S. Senate: Will incumbent Sen. Rand Paul hold the seat or will Lexington Mayor Jim Gray unseat him? If Gray wins, he will be the first Kentuckian elected in a state-wide election who is openly gay.

And then there are *ALL* the other hundreds of decisions that Kentuckians will make in "lesser" races. What is clear is that it is vital that *ALL* get out and vote!

Currently, Kentucky has . . .

53 Democrats and 47 Republicans in the State House of Representatives.

27 Republicans and 11 Democrats in the State Senate.

Five Republicans and one Democrat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Two Republicans in the U.S. Senate.

One Democrat in the White House - President

Chamber, his will, in essence, dominates the entire Legislative Branch since all bills must successfully pass both the Senate and the House. It is simple: any bill he does not want does not make it to the House Floor for a debate and a vote.

The second major decision where Kentuckians, obviously, will only play a part is regarding the next President of the United States. Kentucky has been trending Republican in recent years, but Bill Clinton won the state in 1992 and 1996 . . . and his wife is now running.

At issue in the race for president is the question of who will shape the U.S. Supreme Court for the next 30 years. Generally speaking, the two major candidates are at opposite ends of the spectrum -- one will go liberal, the other will go conservative. Likely the next president's

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Kentucky Candidate Information Survey

To get info about the Nov. 8 General Election candidates *in their own words*, and/or . . .

To print off the **Survey** on races that you can copy and give to others (**after Sept. 26**), go to:

www.votekentucky.us

*The **Survey** has been produced with IRS standards and is therefore suitable for churches and nonprofit organizations.*

IMPORTANT! The **Survey** will only be electronically distributed this year. If you do not have access to the Internet, contact us for a mailed copy:

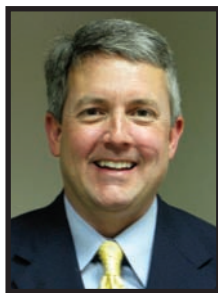
859-255-5400

kent@kentuckyfamily.org

Court decides that a cartoon is a horse race

There are two kinds of “historical racing machines” in use in Kentucky; Stan Cave focused the Court on one of them.

It has now been over six years since Stan Cave, The Family Foundation’s attorney, petitioned Franklin Circuit Court Judge Thomas Wingate for permission to intervene in the Instant Racing case proceedings. At that time, no one anticipated a six-year court battle. But, the battle may be coming to a close because on June 10 Cave filed for summary judgment on the Encore machines, one of the two historical racing machines used in Kentucky. The hearing on his motion was held on July 25 and Judge Wingate released his decision on Friday, July 29, stating that a video graphic of a horse race (not a video *replay* of a horse race), was still a horse race. That decision was a surprise!



**Attorney
Stan Cave**

Cave focused on the fact that the Encore machines do not offer a video of a horse race, only a “graphic portrayal” of a horse race. A close-up analysis reveals that it is just a cartoon – a simulation. (See related story on page 8)

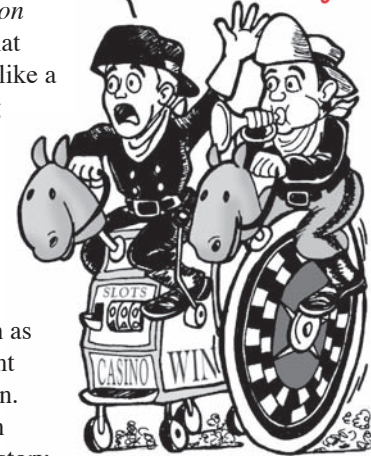
In his argument before the court, Cave pointed out that the Kentucky Supreme Court, through an earlier appeals process in the case, ruled that a video of a horse race is a horse race, *but the Court did not rule* that a simulation of a horse race is a horse race.

The Encore machine, like the other historical racing machine used in Kentucky – the “Instant Racing machine” – has all kinds of reels and bells and whistles like a normal slot machine. One of the differences between the two machines is that the Encore machine shows a few seconds of a horse race in a cartoon format and an Instant Racing machine shows a three-second clip of a previously run horse race.

Though members of the media in Kentucky have not covered the six-year court case with much detail, it is worth noting that Tim Kelly, former publisher of the *Lexington Herald-Leader*, wrote an opinion piece published in that paper on May 13, stating, “I walked into what looked like a regular casino (the Keeneland-Red Mile instant racing parlor) with what looked like regular slot machines.” Kelly continued, “The racing commission, the tracks and the state contend that winners are determined by the results of previously run horse races and not by random number generators, and therefore are not slot machines. Seems like a stretch.”

“It’s sad that the media in Kentucky have not been as frank about this case as the former publisher,” said Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation. “When the first Instant Racing betting parlor opened in Simpson County, the media flocked there to cover the story. Privately, individual members of the media confided in me that the new machines were nothing more than slot machines – but that perspective was never stated in their writing or radio/television reports.”

“This really is a horse race . . . Really.”



**To see analyzed video clips
of the two machines, go to:
kentuckyfamily.org**

Cabinet Secretary Hal Heiner hits his stride

Former gubernatorial candidate and rival of his boss Gov. Bevin, Hal Heiner is engaged and making a difference.

“Education has been my greatest civic passion,” said Hal Heiner. “We have a governor who was willing to move boldly to push initiatives that would improve the lives of others. I just couldn’t pass it up.” Heiner is the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Secretary and former opponent to his boss, Gov. Mat Bevin, whom he praises.

So committed is Heiner to serving the Commonwealth with his passion for education that when he was chosen to serve as Cabinet Secretary, he accepted but declined to receive a salary, a sacrifice easily valued at well over \$100,000 annually.

“The decision was a deeply personal one,” Heiner said. “I believe that this position – and the opportunity it affords to affect progress – is much more than a job. Sometimes in life, another person’s critical need overrides all other considerations, and only a volunteer response can yield the highest personal satisfaction.”

Heiner has labored for Charter Schools in Kentucky for years as the founding chairman of Kentuckians Advocating for Reform in Education and of Kentucky Charter Schools Association. A number of Louisville pastors jumped on board his initiatives with the hope of revitalized education for inner-city Louisville, which struggles to reach even mediocre goals for its students, many of whom come from poverty-stricken neighborhoods.

Thus far, philosophical differences in the Republican view of parent-led education, represented by the Kentucky Senate, and the Democrat view represented by the Kentucky House, have stalled all opportunities of moving forward with the new innovations of Charter Schools in the Commonwealth.

The interesting thing about Heiner’s refusal to receive a salary is that Kristen Lowry, reporter for *Kentucky Today* (Frankfort Bureau) broke the story and secured the interview that revealed Heiner’s thoughts. It was *not* Heiner’s doing or the Bevin Administration’s doing. Lowry was simply doing research when she discovered



Cabinet Secretary Hal Heiner meets with Kentucky school children.

the anomaly – a state worker who declines his wages and works solely for the people of Kentucky.

The TRUTH about marriage in a novel

A Family Court judge who has “seen it all” has something to say about marriage.

Much has been written about marriage in the last few years, particularly as one looks at the debate and court case about same-sex marriage. But little has been written that touches the topic of quick marriage dissolution – “instant divorce.” Now a new novel – *Judge Z: Irretrievably Broken* – not only addresses the no-fault divorce culture, but also wrestles with the very meaning of marriage.

The author, Tim Philpot, is a family court judge in Lexington. From that vantage point, he has seen the demise of many marriages and has heard innumerable circumstances surrounding failed marriages. This book is his effort to get people focused on what marriage is and what marriage can be.

Judge Philpot has been a state senator, a trial lawyer and is the son of the late Kentucky evangelist, Rev. Ford Philpot. He himself has served in ministry as president of CBMC International, a team of business and professional men and women in 90 countries whose mission it is to see the global marketplace transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“I wanted to write a secular book, but literally discovered that I could not,” said Judge Philpot. “Marriage is spiritual. To discuss it solely in any other context is absurd.”

The book involves family court scenes, law school classes discussing marriage, and a country Methodist church where a young pastor preaches sermons on marriage. The story is told through its key characters, but primarily through Judge Z — Atticus Zenas is a 50-year-old judge in family court. His personal metamorphosis from a lawyer/judge, who

routinely divorces people with little or no thought, into a person of faith whose life is radically transformed by a new love relationship with God is the primary plot. His new perspective causes him to become a proponent for

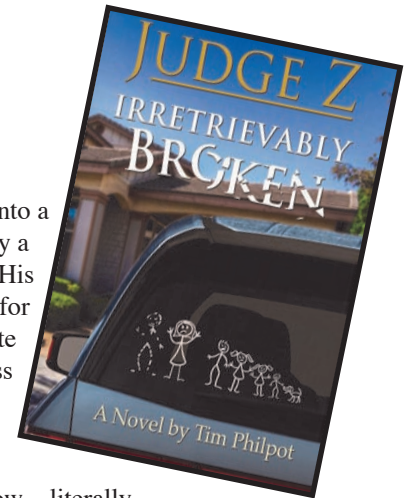
marriage and an advocate for a slower legal process for divorce, which provides plenty of tension in the book.

“Every family I know – literally – has been impacted by negative family issues. The culture is bombarding us with the ideas that divorce is normal, children outside of marriage is normal, and fatherless homes are okay,” said

“Every family I know – literally – has been impacted by negative family issues. The culture is bombarding us with the ideas that divorce is normal, children outside of marriage is normal, and fatherless homes are okay.”

– Judge Tim Philpot

Judge Philpot. “My 12+ years in family court, plus listening to Dr. Dennis Kinlaw, Dr. John Oswalt, and other godly people, not to mention studying the Bible itself, have uniquely positioned me to speak on the most debated issue of the day — marriage.”



Judge Z: Irretrievably Broken

To order a single copy, email:
judgezbook@gmail.com

To order multiple copies, go to:
www.judgezbook.com

First Priority sets Sept. 28 “See You at the Pole”

“See You at the Pole” has been serving American teenage students since 1990. Tim Bargo is giving it a boost in Kentucky.

Tim Bargo, director of a student ministry called First Priority, has grabbed a “tiger by the tail” by connecting with Gov. Matt Bevin and securing a “Day of Prayer Over Students” Proclamation authorized from the Governor’s Office. “We didn’t want to ‘re-invent the wheel,’ so we chose the annual ‘See You at the Pole’ event, set this year for Sept. 28, to have the Governor proclaim as Kentucky’s ‘Day of Prayer Over Students,’” said Bargo. “And, we wanted to include all the ministries that are reaching students in Kentucky. They can exercise their faith through prayer with us.”

Bargo first contacted Gov. Bevin’s office on May 5 – The National Day of Prayer – asking if he would affirm the work of the state’s student ministries by signing a proclamation authorizing a day of prayer for students across the Commonwealth. Bevin’s office was willing so Gov. Bevin signed the proclamation. “It’s all been a promotion of ‘See You at the Pole’ ever since,” said Bargo.

“See You at the Pole” is a national effort designed to strengthen Christian students and help them be about their Father’s business even when in school. It began when a small group of teenagers in Burleson, Texas, came together in early 1990 to make plans. Several months later, at 7:00 a.m. on Sept. 12, 1990, more than 45,000 teenagers met at school flagpoles in four different states to pray before the start of school.

A few months later, a group of youth ministers from all over the country gathered for a national conference in Colorado. Many of them reported that their students had heard about the prayer movement in Texas and were equally burdened for their schools. At that point it was clear that students across the country would be creating their own national day of prayer – for students.

The following year, on Sept. 11, 1991, at 7:00 a.m., an estimated one million students gathered at school flagpoles across the country. From Boston, Massachusetts to

“We didn’t want to ‘re-invent the wheel,’ so we chose the annual ‘See You at the Pole’ event . . . to have the Governor proclaim as Kentucky’s ‘Day of Prayer Over Students.’

– Tim Bargo, First Priority



Los Angeles, California, from North Dakota to the tip of Texas, students came together to pray.

Bargo was involved with First Priority, a national organization, as a youth pastor in southeast Ken-

tucky for over 10 years, and then became a staff member. After a year of service, he started the “First Priority Tri-County” group, which is based in southeastern Kentucky and now includes Clay, Knox, Laurel and Whitley Counties.

The vision of First Priority is “The hope of Christ for every student.” Through club meetings on school campuses during non-school hours, the ministry shares the gospel and encourages believing students in their walk with Christ. At this time, FP Tri-County has 30 local schools with most clubs meeting before school starts.

Call **First Priority** to help
with “See You at the Pole”:

606-521-6007



OPINION: The case has all been about the distortion of words.

Historical Racing Slot Machines

The “Historical Racing” case involving The Family Foundation on one side and the Kentucky Racing Commission and a collection of horse racing tracks on the other has had more twists and turns than Louisville’s Kennedy Interchange. The case, which made its way up to the Kentucky Supreme Court only to be remanded back to the original trial court in Frankfort, is still making its way through motions at the lower court level. It will likely end up back before the state’s high court at some point.

The two things at issue are whether the videos played on the machines are actual horse races and whether the

kind of gambling involved in the machines is pari-mutuel.

The case originally involved only Instant Racing machines, which play a video of a previously run horse race, many of which were filmed so long ago that the horses that ran are no longer alive. The Department of Revenue Cabinets regulations governed only “live horse races.” The Family Foundation questioned whether a live horse race could involve horses that are dead.

The courts, in their infinite ability to re-interpret words, ruled that a video replay counted as an actual horse race.

But as the case proceeded another kind



Martin Cothran is the senior policy analyst for The Family Foundation

of machine entered the picture. The machines were made by a company called

“Encore.”

These machines were even less like an actual horse race, involving a cartoon of a horse race.

Could a

cartoon of a horse race constitute an actual horse race? According to the Frankfort judge, it does.

The Family Foundation’s attorney, Stan Cave, pointed out that the racing industry’s own expert witness had refused to acknowledge that the animated video on the machines now being used at tracks could be considered a live horse race. But none of this seemed to weigh in the judge’s decision.

If the case had not already entered the Alice in Wonderland phase before the most recent ruling, it has now. Words have no meaning, reality is turned upside down, and cartoons of horse races constitute live horse racing.

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Kentucky, and the entire nation, in fact, are fast approaching a tipping point. But, The Family Foundation intends to continue to stand. We have some projects for your county involving the sanctity of life, religious freedom and privacy in bathrooms & locker rooms. *We could use some help!*

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The possibilities here are infinite. Why bother, for example, with all the partying and questionable hats, when we could just make an animated version of the Kentucky Derby and all watch it on Saturday morning with the other cartoons? And if anyone complained that it wasn’t the same thing, we could just point them to the decision of a Kentucky judge who says otherwise.

The second redefinition of words involve the definition of “pari-mutuel.” In order for betting to be pari-mutuel, what bettors bet on and how much they bet determines the odds. This is why, when you’re watching the Kentucky Derby, you see the odds changing all the way up until the race starts. Bettors are still betting, and which horse they bet on and how much they bet on them changes the odds.

It’s the same with other kinds of sports betting: The odds are constantly changing up until the event starts.

But this does not happen with either Instant Racing or Encore machines. The

betting hardly affects the odds.

But the most disturbing thing about the case is what it suggests about how big money can affect the integrity of the law.

. . . the courts have tipped the scales of justice toward a rich, predatory industry, accepting their arguments at face value, and distorting the very meaning of words to do it.

rich, predatory industry, accepting their arguments at face value, and distorting the very meaning of words to do it.

Even if you’re not against gambling, this has to disturb you.

Consistently throughout the case, the courts have tipped the scales of justice toward a