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Opinion

Say prayers for our president as the world looks to the USA for guidance on peace

We find ourselves in the same boat with Hillary Clinton ... at least on this one. So, let's smooth the choppy waters:

"If President Trump can get the wars stropped in Gaza and Ukraine, I will personally nominate him for the Nobel Peace Prize."

Even those who disagree with Trump, as we often do, add our prayers of support as he pushes leaders in the Mideast toward peace.

The peace agreements of 2025 probably won't look pretty, as everyone knows who views the awful scenes on the streets of Gaza and along the beautiful avenues of Kiev.

There is so much fixing that needs done, both in stopping the killing and mending the

If we can't waste Kansas taxpayers money on redisticting. What can we waste it on?

broken fences of humanity in that region. Bad as it gets in the U.S.A., we never get a glimpse of such murderous regimes as those that spew fire, missiles, armed drones and gunfire in the direction of neighbors.

We can only cheer for peace, from this side of the ocean. We know it will not happen without setbacks, and probably more human casualties, but the push for ceasefires and peace surely must get nods of approval from Americans.

God's children speak with united voices when we salute the peacemakers.

— Rudy Taylor, publisher

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Life's Little Lifesavers

By Kathy Taylor

... planning your Halloween costume ... building a scarecrow for your fall yard decorations . . . remembering when people used to rake their leaves in big piles and then burn them . . . when mama cooks a delicious meal and the rest of the family cleans up the kitchen for her . . . the cuteness of baby's first steps . . . pray not for things, but for wisdom and courage . . . when you accept a task, finish it ...kindness goes a long way — share it ... "A cheerful look brings joy to the heart; and good news gives health to the bones." (Proverbs 15: 30)

Word of the Week

Take time to contemplate this word, use in your conversations, discuss the word with your children or grandchildren and exercise its meaning either internally or externally. The word this week is:

CHEERFUL

Noticeably happy and optimistic; causing happiness by its nature or appearance.

Pick-A-Litz/2/21K-A-Litz/e

By Jenny Diveley - Prairie Star

The sounds of a small high school band may be what we need for unity

In a world where we are constantly inundated with videos from news companies, social media, comedy clubs, churches, and even family and friends who overshare, one video almost slipped past me this week. It was tucked in a crevice of Facebook, but the screenshot of a small area band drew the attention of this former band member and forever band booster.

What I saw was simply

beautiful. You see, the schools in the western counties of our readership, Cedar Vale and Dexter, created a co-op where the two schools operate separately, but they combine for sports and extracurricular activities. I know when this idea first came to fruition it caused some ruffled feathers, because change is hard, but the end result has been one of success and ambition to

thrive. But after that co-op, each school continued to play their own school fight songs for 17 years, even with the unified teams on the field. The newly founded Spartan Booster Club last year made it a top priority to create a unified fight song, and the Cedar Vale band director, Chris Shockley, was just the person for the new composition.

Shockley blended elements from the fight songs of both schools, with the addition of inspiration from his alma mater fight song at Pittsburg State University (also the alma mater of the writer of this column). Students input their ideas to create the final version, and the Spartan Pride Band unveiled, "Here Come the Spartans!" under the Friday night lights

The band is small, and the video is one taken on a cell phone, likely from a parent or school leader. But the fast paced, tight notes, and peppy sound is exactly what was needed to continue to build pride in those small towns. My own son is in one of those massive bands that sees national TV time about once a year, and their sound will knock you right off the bleacher seats, and while this video may not have had that same sound, it was powerful and inspiring.

Our national leaders need to take a cue from the local booster clubs that create such goals that may ruffle a few feathers, but eventually blend the wants, desires, and familiarity to create unity.

Goodness, that is missing amongst all of those news videos that seem to cloud our



They need to take note of how one band director, with the support of his students and community members, was able to blend the sounds of what has been heard for generations, mix in a little bit of his own musical pride, and the end result was just pretty darn incredible.

Just remember that often our best leaders are found right here among us. They are behind the council desks, at the local coffee shop for board meetings, gathering supplies for fall festivals teaching our children, and leading not only a small band in southeast Kansas, but the people who make up those communities, in how to be unified, even amongst the challenges.

"S-P-A-R-T-A-N-S! Fight, Fight, Black & Gold!"

MANDER

Leaves, Bad Bunny and getting baptized

We note that Bad Bun-there. But nothing ny will headline the half- beats that backtime show for the Super yard gig, sitting with Bowl in February.

people in our family, claim leaves find me. he's pretty good. Me? I'll try to stay

awake, watch and listen. baptism into Christ But I had to Google his on Jan. 22, 1958. It name when the announcement was made.

I do that a lot.

There's a very narrow window for enjoying my favorite thing — sitting in the backyard on an autumn day around.

my bald head.

And, if I listen closely, I be baptized. can hear them.

in the yard, along the fence yelps from fellow believers. or along window ledges.

Next week, Kathy and I will make our annual trek to Branson, and we'll love every picturesque moment tized believers at an Oswego

drowsy eyes, hoping Kathy, and all the young a few yellow and red

> I remember my was so special, but back in those days, we didn't do much shouting or celebrat-

the water.

Not so today.

and watching the leaves fall family gathered near the front cred action takes place. of our church sanctuary, an-Sometimes they fall on ticipating the moment when a old man who uttered "amen" young family member would

A standing ovation en-But mostly they just find sued, along with the wiping and victorious Sunday in special little places to land away of joyful tears and a few

But that was just in our

I also saw on Facebook a group of eight newly bap-



Rudy Taylor

"I'm Made t-shirts. Another family, in another area church, gathered around a young obviously wet, who wore a t-shirt that shouted "Born Again."

church, all wear-

'Off the Cuff' All churches

take their own ing when we came up out of pathways with how to take the precious step of baptism. It looks and feels different, Last Sunday, I witnessed a in whichever church the Sa-

> But whether it was one in 1958, or the shouts and celebrations that end up on Facebook after a joyous 2025 — it's sure nice to see that friends, church members and family members still take this step that Jesus Christ exemplified more than 2,000 years ago.

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