

National Columns

Winners' Wisdom

By Jim Stovall



Stay in the Moment

We spend far too much time focused on what we should have done earlier or on what we intend to do later while we overlook what should be our prime focus, which is what's going on right here and right now. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "What lies behind us, and what lies before us, are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

Events from our past should only impact us as we learn from our mistakes or seek to repeat our victories. Events in the future should only come into play as they impact our activities in the current moment.

We've all seen sad individuals who live in the past. They dwell on their success when they were athletes or students in their youth. They are obsessed with long-ago friendships or relationships and think of how things used to be as they lament all they have lost.

I believe part of mental health and a winning mindset involves accepting that the best days of our lives, personally and professionally, lie in the future.

The only thing that may be more sad than those who live in the past are those who live in the future with no sense of today's reality. They talk about all the things they will be, do, and have from a future harvest for which they have never planted seeds.

Sports are a great microcosm of life and a roadmap to success. Great athletes can forget about the fumble on the last play, the interception they just threw, or the home run they gave up to the last batter. They focus on the next play and the immediate moment. They don't think about who's in the on-deck circle that will come up to bat next or what play they might run on third down if they don't score on the second down.

A successful life results from living out a long succession of triumphant moments, and they are unfolding here and now.

As you go through your day today, leave the past behind and let the future take care of itself as you focus on this moment.

Today's the day!

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Social Security Matters

By Russell Gloor



Ask Rusty –Social Security Questions Asked Over Coffee

Dear Rusty –My coffee conversations among a group of friends have resulted in several questions about Social Security:

1. What happens to the Social Security account of someone who dies before retirement age. What happens to that money and where does it end up?

2. How does the decreased birth rate of the USA affect future Social Security benefits?

3. Is a person who has never contributed to the Social Security System entitled to any benefits from the Social Security Administration?

4. Is there a central location online that a person can access that explains the history and current status of the Social Security System, that explains all of it in simple terms. I would like to be able to give this location to people I talk with about Social Security.

Most of the articles we read are like slogging through mud! I enjoy AMAC articles and am college educated, but the average reading level in the US is less than 6th grade. Thank you for considering these questions. **Signed: Curious Reader**

Dear Curious: Thank you for your readership, and I'll be happy to tackle your "over coffee" questions about Social Security:

1. Social Security is a "pay as you go" program, where all money collected from workers is used to pay benefits for all those who are currently receiving Social Security. In other words, all money contributed is used to pay benefits to others already receiving benefits. It is not put into a separate account for each person, and that is a good thing. Most people get more from Social Security than they ever contributed, but benefits are paid for life, regardless of how long one lives. The specific answer to your question is that if someone dies before retirement age, the money contributed has already been used to pay benefits to others. Keep in mind though, that a surviving spouse or minor or disabled adult child may also collect benefits on a deceased person's Social Security record.

2. The decreasing birth rate in the US hurts Social Security. That's because fewer babies mean fewer future workers contributing to the Social Security program. FYI, in 1950 there were about 15 workers contributing to SS for every one person collecting benefits, but today there are less than 3 workers for each SS beneficiary. That problem is exacerbated by the steadily increasing U.S. life expectancy. Beneficiaries are now often collecting SS benefits for decades from a program designed to pay benefits for only a few years.

3. Only those who have worked and contributed to Social Security through payroll taxes for about 10 years (40 quarters of SS credit) are eligible to collect SS Retirement benefits. However, some dependent spouses and/or dependent minor or dependent disabled children who have never worked might also be eligible for benefits from the worker's Social Security record. Along with each U.S. state, the SSA also administers another program, known as Supplement Security Income (SSI), on behalf of the federal government. However, federal "SSI" benefits are not paid with Social Security funds. "SSI" is a separate government benefit program, with federal benefits paid from the general U.S. Treasury.

4. There are lots of places to get information about Social Security, but I suggest you start at our AMAC Foundation Social Security information website, which can be found at www.socialsecurityreport.org. Here you will find numerous articles about Social Security, retirement, Medicare, etc., as well as all the Ask Rusty articles I have published weekly over the last 8 years. You can also find excellent Social Security information on our AMAC Foundation main website, www.amacfoundation.org. And, of course, you can always ask any questions you have via email to SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org. Or, if you prefer, you can just call us on 1.888.750.2622 if you have questions about Social Security or about Medicare enrollment.

Oh Christian, Have You Been Born Again?

Speaking Truth by Clint Decker



Even though I was a pastor's son and had been in church since I was three, for the first time in my life I was seeking God on my own. One morning as I was praying, suddenly it felt like a flash of light that beamed through my soul. Something had happened to me. I sensed instant

peace, joy and love like I had never known. Then while at work I started weeping as the presence of God came over me. Soon I started listening to preachers on the radio, bought study books to help me better understand the Bible and began talking with others about Jesus, along with many other changes.

I had become born again.

This idea came from Jesus out of a conversation He had with a man named, Nicodemus. He was a gifted and well-known religious leader in Israel. He heard Jesus teach and became curious, so Nicodemus sought out Jesus saying to Him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." (John 3:2) Jesus responded, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." (Jn. 3:3).

Jesus was aware that Nicodemus, nor His own disciples, had heard Him speak of this before, so like any of us would have done, Nicodemus asked a very logical question, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" (Jn. 3:4)

Jesus explained how He was using the birth of a child as an illustration, "...unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (Jn. 3:5-6) Jesus was communicating how there is human birth (flesh) and there is spiritual birth (Spirit), and for someone to enter the kingdom of God, they must go through a spiritual birth.

What does born again mean? First, it is an illustration of life. All of us were born under the curse of sin, which means we were born spiritually dead. Therefore, to enter the kingdom of heaven we need to come alive. We need the supernatural life of Jesus to come dwell within us. Second, being born again, means that since we have been re-born, we also have become a new person. The new life Jesus has created in us has given a new way of thinking and living. Our values, choices and beliefs have all changed. Third, being born again means we have been re-born by the Spirit, not the flesh. Being re-born is something only God can do. Going to church, getting baptized, taking the eucharist, going through catechism – all those are good things, but they are done by you. You cannot be born again through those efforts, but only by the power of God. Jesus addressed this with Nicodemus, "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." (Jn. 3:7-8)

How can you become born again? Jesus told Nicodemus "...so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." (Jn. 3:14-15) Jesus said that He will be lifted up on a cross to die and rise again for all people, and it will be done to provide a way for all who are dead in their sin, to be re-born. And when they turn from their sin and trust in Christ with all their heart, they will be made alive!

A prayer for you – Lord God, I pray for spiritual leaders like Nicodemus and those who regularly attend church. May they humble themselves to examine their hearts if they have been born again, and if they have not, may they call upon you and be changed today. Help them to turn from religion and to Christ. In His name. Amen.

Clint Decker is President of Great Awakenings. Please share your comment at cdecker@greatawakenings.org and follow his blog at clintdecker.blogspot.com.

Living with Children

By John Rosemond



Q: I hear so much about how kids grow up so fast, how we need to enjoy them when they are young, how they need more one-on-one time, etc. I agree that they grow up fast and that it is important to spend some time with them but I also have house

work and cooking and laundry to do as well as college school work. I feel so much pressure that I should spend all my time with the kids and forget about my other responsibilities but I don't think that's right. How do I balance it all? What amount of attention is good and what amount is bad?

A: Hello! Thank you for your question. It's so true, kids do grow up fast and parents should absolutely enjoy their children. Consider shifting your mindset to enjoying your children at all ages, as each year brings its own unique joy!

While reviewing previous questions and coaching advice, it appears as though you have two children under the age of two. As mentioned by previous coaches, continue to employ Alpha Speech, focus on shifting to Season Two, and don't add additional stress into your life by comparing yourself to other mothers.

One-on-one time with kids can look different ways, and can vary from day to day. While trying to balance your responsibilities to your coursework and your household, consider enlisting your children's help and using that time as a teachable moments. After all, preparing healthy meals, completing housework, and having study time are all life lessons that are valuable to pass along to your children, and more than qualifies as quality one-on-one time. In addition, re-organizing your responsibilities might be helpful as well. For example, prepare multiple meals at once on a day you have less coursework and either freeze or refrigerate the rest to use on days when you are more strapped for time. Allow your kids, within reason, to assist with the meal preparation. For example, teaching them to stir ingredients, rinse dishes, or even peel oranges is not only great for their dexterity, but it also provides quality time together. I would also recommend this for cleaning, laundry folding, and a multitude of other household chores. Children typically love to help with adult tasks, and providing appropriate ways to involve them in household responsibilities and chores fall into that "sooner the better" category and provide excellent role-modeling opportunities for self-sustaining life tasks.

Moreover, mentally schedule your college coursework to be completed during nap time. Non-negotiable nap/quiet time should be consistent, giving you daily opportunities to devote to schoolwork. Moreover, clear, concise, and consistent messaging will provide more household structure, including a pretty early bedtime for children their ages. During wake time, providing safe places for children to engage in a sustained amount of play time (without you) would also be advised. For times when coursework requires your attention beyond nap time, giving the children books may be helpful. They'll see you with books, and can have their own book time alongside you, etc.

It's important to give yourself grace, don't attempt to always multi-task, and don't set expectations based on other families. Enjoy every stage of your children. Take time for yourself, go outside with your kids, and go for walks/engage in physical activity as a family. Being your own person will be far more intriguing to your kids than focusing all of your attention on them. Be proud of your independence and aspire to instill that calm, driven, and hard-working attitude in them too. Building independence now will directly impact their resiliency going forward.

Remember, there is no award for having the cleanest baseboards in town! You got this!

All the best,

Lisa Stilwell, Certified Leadership Parenting Coach, www.vintageparenting.com, lisa.vintageparenting@gmail.com

Legal Notice

(Published in the Belle Plaine News / Oxford Register on Thursday June 19, 2025)

RESOLUTION # 2025- 14

A RESOLUTION ALLOWING A CONDITIONAL USE ON CERTAIN LANDS LOCATED IN SUMNER COUNTY, KANSAS. WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of Sumner County, Kansas, held a public hearing on May 28, 2025, following due notice to the public as required by K.S.A. 12-757 et seq; and WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has provided to the Governing Body of Sumner County, Kansas, a written summary of the hearing thereon together with their recommendation of denial; and WHEREAS, the Governing Body of Sumner County, Kansas, however, finds it advisable to approve the Short Form Plat subject to the provisions of the zoning classification of Sumner County, Kansas. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SUMNER COUNTY, KANSAS, THAT:**

SECTION 1 : The Short Form Plat meeting the conditions prescribed in K.S.A. 12-757 et seq., and all requirements set out herein, is hereby approved as follows:

APPLICATION BY: Golden Tri State Land & Investments; Owner AGENT: Todd Hornbaker CASE NUMBER: 07PC-25

REQUEST: Short Form Plat PURPOSE: Short Form Plat of four (4) Rural District tracts for a Sub-division to be known as Turtle Creek Estates

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: A portion of the Southwest Quarter of Section 11, Township 30 South, Range 2 West of the 6 th Principal Meridian, Sumner County, Kansas, more particularly described by Daniel E. Graber, Profession Surveyor #683, on November 15, 2025 as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of Section 11, Township 30 South, Range 2 West of the 6 th Principal Meridian; Thence with a bearing of North 88°37'21" East (basis of bearings in NAD 83 Kansas South Zone) along the North line of said Southwest Quarter a distance of 2,683.53 feet to the Northeast corner of said Southwest Quarter; Thence South 01°32'44" East along the East line of said Southwest Quarter a distance of 2,031.52 feet; Thence South 88°20'35" West a distance of 83.24 feet (832.76 feet per Record); Thence South 20°19'46" East a distance of 630.87 feet (631.00 feet per Record) to the South line of said Southwest Quarter; Thence South 88°21'09" distance of 475.00 feet; Thence South 88°21'35" West a distance of 668.04 feet; Thence North 01°38'45" West a distance of 767.91 feet (767.68 feet per Record); Thence South 88°21'11" West a distance of 1,011.55 feet (1011.60 feet per Record) to the West line of said Southwest Quarter; Thence North 01°37'12" West along the West line of said Southwest Quarter a distance of 1,398.93 feet to the point of beginning.

LOCATION : 1300 block of N Clearwater Rd, KS, East Side of roadway

PARENT TRACT CONTAINS : 114.2 +/- net acres

SUBDIVISION CONTAINS : 116.07 +/- gross acres

SECTION 2: REQUIREMENTS:

1. The filing of the plat of record at the Office of the Sumner County Register of Deeds shall be within a ninety (90) day period from the date of approval by the Governing Body. If the final plat is not filed within the ninety (90) day period from date of approval, the plat shall become null and void.

2. Notification to Planning Office of any development and proper permits obtained.

3. Comply with State & County Environmental, Zoning, and Subdivision Regulations.

4. As provided by K.S.A. 12-760, within 30 days any person aggrieved thereby may maintain an action in District Court to determine the reasonableness of this decision.

5. A protective overlay for the area lying East of Turtle Creek on lot 3, that no residential structures can be built in that area, unless proper permitting is obtained for crossing over Turtle Creek.

SECTION 3: THEREFORE, this Resolution shall take effect upon publication one (1) time in the Official County Newspaper.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 17th day of June 2025.

Commissioners present and voting are:

Steve Warner Yes

Jim D. Newell Yes

John Cooney Yes

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SUMNER COUNTY, KANSAS

/s/ JIM D. NEWELL Third District Chairman

/s/ STEVE WARNER First District Commissioner

/s/ JOHN COONEY Second District Commissioner

ATTEST: (Seal)

/s/ DEBRA A. NORRIS County Clerk

Legal Notice

(Published in the Belle Plaine News / Oxford Register on Thursday June 19, 2025)

RESOLUTION # 2025- 13

A RESOLUTION ALLOWING A CONDITIONAL USE ON CERTAIN LANDS LOCATED IN SUMNER COUNTY, KANSAS.

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of Sumner County, Kansas, held a public hearing on May 28, 2025, following due notice to the public as required by K.S.A. 12-757 et seq; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has provided to the Governing Body of Sumner County, Kansas, a written summary of the hearing thereon together with their recommendation of approval; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of Sumner County, Kansas, finds it advisable to approve the Conditional Use subject to the provisions of the zoning classification of Sumner County, Kansas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SUMNER COUNTY, KANSAS, THAT:

The Conditional Use as recommended by the Planning Commission, upon meeting the conditions prescribed in K.S.A. 12-757 et seq., and all requirements set out herein, is hereby approved as follows:

CASE NUMBER: 06PC-25

APPLICATION BY: American Warrior Farms Inc; Owner

AGENT: Patrick Erwin

REQUEST: Install a cell tower

PURPOSE: Construction of a guyed cell tower. Tower height: approximately 440'. Acres to be utilized: approximately .13 +/- acres

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The South Half (S ½) of the Southeast Quarter (SE ¼) of Section Thirteen (13), Township Thirty-Two (32) South, Range Three (3) West of the 6 th P.M., Sumner County, Kansas, Except tract deed to railroad and Except tract condemned for highway purposes and Except for a .63 acre tract conveyed by Warranty Deed dated September 4, 1929 given by Mary E Wade, a single woman to Ryan Township as filed December 14, 1938 in Book 166 at Page 405. LESS a tract described as follows: Being a 100 foot strip of land parallel and adjacent to the South BNSF Railway Co. Right-of-Way line in the South Half of the Southeast Quarter (S1/2 SE1/4) of Section Thirteen (13), Township Thirty-Two (32) South, Range Three (3) West of the 6 th P.M., and a part of the land conveyed to Crossroads Agriculture 2 LLC, said strip beginning at the intersection of the South Right-of-Way and the North-South Quarter line of Section Thirteen (13) and continuing in an Easterly direction 2640 feet to the East line of Section Thirteen (13) containing 6.06 acres of land, more or less.

Parent tract contains: 69 +/- acres

Location: 700 block W 20 th St S, North Side, Milan, KS 67105

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Notification to Planning Office of any development with proper permits obtained.

2. Comply with State and County Environmental, Zoning, Conditional Uses, and Supplementary Regulations.

3. As provided by K.S.A. 12-760, within 30 days any person aggrieved thereby may maintain an action in District Court to determine the reasonableness of this decision.

4. Provide space for a single antenna & mounting at the top of the tower, with 1 ¼ feed line & mounting from antenna to ground, at no cost to Sumner County for the purpose of future emergency communications projects.

THEREFORE, this Resolution shall take effect upon publication one (1) time in the Official County Newspaper.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 17th Day of June, 2025.

Commissioners present and voting are:

Steve Warner Yes

Jim D. Newell Yes

John Cooney Yes

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SUMNER COUNTY, KANSAS

/s/ JIM D. NEWELL Second District Chairman

/s/ STEVE WARNER First District Commissioner

/s/ JOHN COONEY Third District Commissioner

ATTEST: (Seal)

/s/ DEBRA A. NORRIS County Clerk