



**August 2016**

# **The Banner**

**Newsletter of the Presbytery of Arkansas**

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## **A Little Good News**

By Rev. Stewart Smith, General Presbyter

Unfortunately, there have been several times during these weeks of summer that I have remembered a song from the 1980's titled "A Little Good News". Anne Murray sang it and it was a number 1 hit for several weeks back in 1983. The song names the despair over the violence and suffering that one reads about or hears about from the news outlets. The song states how wonderful it would be if news reporters and anchors had nothing to report because nothing bad had happened. And so the end of the refrain states: "I sure could use a little good news today." And so with all that we have experienced this summer I thought I would share some good news of people and churches around the presbytery.



#1 - First Presbyterian Church in Morrilton was highlighted in the "River Valley and Ozark Edition" of the Arkansas Democrat Gazette. They host a free breakfast for the community on Monday through Friday during the summer months and no one is turned away. The article cited statistics through July 22, that 2,024 children had been served, 579 volunteers and 1,106 "non-program" adults for a total of 3,709 people. The program still had several meals to serve as it continued through August 12, so those numbers rose during that time period. There were several heart-warming stories shared in the article of how the breakfast program had touched peoples' lives. Volunteers from several churches help serve and it is an example of a congregation reaching out and making a difference in its community. Stephen Frazier serves as pastor of the Morrilton church.

#2 - During a weekend visit to my mother, I went to the farmers market on the Bentonville Square and was surprised to see a booth from the First Presbyterian Church in Bentonville. Hunter and Virginia Breshears were staffing the booth that day with a cup of cold water available to the shoppers. They had brochures and information available to share about the church. The farmers market has become a very popular gathering place for the community on Saturday mornings. The church had an idea to purchase a space and set up a tent to be a presence and visit with people about the church. Hunter and Virginia were not out "strong arming" people to stop but said that many people will stop and visit and the conversation can then turn to the church and they can issue an invitation to join them. This was a wonderful idea of a way to be a visible presence where the people are gathered in the community. Katie Cummings serves as pastor and Georgia Senor serves as Associate Pastor.

#3 - I failed to mention in a hastily written article last month of Claire Rhodes' attendance and contributions to the 222nd General Assembly meeting in Portland. I apologize to Claire again and want you to know that Claire served on the nominating

committee that searched for the next stated clerk of the General Assembly after Gradye Parsons announced his retirement. After many meetings, phone calls, e-mail exchanges and interviews of candidates, the committee brought the name of J. Herbert Nelson before the Assembly. The committee members were present during the week and each had the opportunity to share with the Assembly their impressions of J. Herbert and why he or she felt he was the best candidate to lead the denomination at this time. The committee members also hosted a couple of "meet and greet" sessions during the week. Claire represented us very well and was a visible presence at the General Assembly meeting. Claire serves with her husband Kenneth as Commissioned Ruling Elders at West End Presbyterian in Arkadelphia.

Of course, these are only 3 stories out of many that could be shared. While we live and serve in these challenging times, people need to hear the "good news" that Jesus Christ offers the world. I am thankful for the opportunity to join with each of you as together we bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in this beautiful part of God's creation.

*Stewart*

#### General Presbyter Out of Office Commitments

August 25-26	Executive Presbyter Forum - Synod of the Sun	Dallas, TX
August 28	Tracy Julian Installation Service	Bay City, TX
August 31	Coordinating Team Meeting Room	Presbytery Conf.
September 3	CLD Meeting	Ferncliff
September 6	CCM Meeting	Conway
September 8	University of Ozarks - Leadership Luncheon	Clarksville

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## **Church Employment Opportunities in our Presbytery**

**Pastor -- Huntsville First Presbyterian Church --First Presbyterian Church**

(Huntsville) seeks a half-time pastor to help lead their congregation. Full details are available through the CLC portal through [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org). Inquiries can be directed via email to Jason Holt at [jholtmd@gmail.com](mailto:jholtmd@gmail.com). The website for the church is: <http://fphar.church>.

**Director of Music Ministries -- First Presbyterian Church (Benton) --** First Presbyterian Church in Benton is seeking a Director of Music Ministries to lead weekly choir rehearsals and to play organ or piano for services. For more details and a full job description, [click here](#), or contact the church at 501-315-7737 or [fpcos@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fpcos@sbcglobal.net).

**All Souls' Church -- Scott, AR --** Two positions are open at All Souls' Church in Scott, Arkansas. A job description for the **Minister to Youth** can be found [here](#). The job description for **Minister to Preschool and Children** can be found [here](#). The contact person for these jobs is Rev. Ward Rudolph (PCUSA) solo pastor (email: [wardly62@gmail.com](mailto:wardly62@gmail.com), phone: 479-466-9975).

**Presbyterian Village (Little Rock) -- Activity Assistant --** Presbyterian Village is searching for a highly motivated candidate that must be creative, detail oriented, organized and skilled in Microsoft Office and have a clean driving record.

The candidate will plan, organize, set-up and coordinate all activities, events and social outings for Independent Living residents and coordinate the volunteer program. The ideal candidate will be a highly relational individual who is very friendly with an outgoing personality, greets people easily, is a good public speaker and would be a good organization representative.

This full-time position requires a willingness to work nights and weekends occasionally. Experience working with the senior population would be a plus.

Qualified applicants should apply in person or send your resume to:  
500 Brookside Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72205  
Email: [hr@presbyvillage.com](mailto:hr@presbyvillage.com)  
Fax: 501-225-0849

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**People and Church News**

## News of Our People

--**Heather Rey** has resigned as Director of Youth Ministries at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock effective July 5.

--Certified Christian Educator **NiAnn Thompson** of Hot Springs retired as part-time Director of Christian Education at First, Malvern effective July 10, having served 28 years in C.E. at churches in Hot Springs, Arkadelphia, Jonesboro and finally Malvern. She continues to work in the presbytery office in Little Rock in her 17th year as part-time Presbytery Resourcing Director.

--Congratulations to **Susie and Curtis Wright** of Hot Springs on the birth of their sixth grandchild, a girl Coralie Thomas Wright, daughter of J. Tom and Meghan Wright of Towanda, KS. Susie is a Certified Christian Educator and administrator at Westminster, Hot Springs and with Curtis has led the presbytery's last 10 mission trips.

--Congratulations to CCE **NiAnn Thompson** on the birth of her sixth great grandchild, a boy Jensen Scott Thompson, in Melbourne, Australia on July 8. Parents are Justin and Ashley Scott Thompson.

--**David Mills** is the new interim youth director at Second Presbyterian, Little Rock, effective August 8. A member of Second and their summer youth intern in 2012, Mills has also served as youth director at First, Bentonville and First, Fort Smith.

--Congratulations on **Rev. Lacy and Darlene Sellars** on the birth of their first grandchild, a girl, Sophie Grace Lieber, on August 3 in Austin, Texas. Her proud parents are the Sellars' daughter and son-in-law, Caroline and Bryan Lieber. Sellars is pastor of First, Hot Springs and moderator of the presbytery this year.

--Christian sympathy to the family of Ruling Elder **Wes Shaver** of Wynne who died on Aug. 9. He was a former treasurer of the presbytery.

--Certified Christian Educator **Kristi Button** has added a 15-hour-week job to her 25-hour-week work as DCE at First United, Fayetteville. She is now simultaneously serving as the Director of Community Engagement at United Campus Ministry, the Presbyterian presence on the UofA campus, in a Lilly-funded position for fundraising, staff support and ministry development.

## News of Our Congregations

--**First, Fort Smith** offers summer fellowship, drinks and snacks on the lawn between their two morning worship services.

--**First, Mountain Home** delivered personal care items and fans to the Ozark Center of Hope and held a cereal drive to benefit those in need during the summer months.

--**Holiday Island Presbyterian** hosts young opera singers in the summer and hosted an ice cream social on July 17.

--**Spring River Presbyterian, Hardy** is making digital recorded interviews with church members of what church was like 20 or 30 years ago.

--**First, Batesville** offers college scholarships to be awarded after August 15.

--**First, Malvern** has had a summer sermon series on spiritual practices.

--**Central Presbyterian, Pine Bluff** shared a fellowship luncheon on July 17 after worship and a program on Blue Moon Sunday, July 31.

--**Central Presbyterian, Russellville** hosts quilters on Friday mornings.

--**First, Bentonville** hosted a fellowship evening at The Amazeum next door to the church on August 7 and welcomed church members and guests.

--**Westover Hills Presbyterian, Little Rock**, begun by the Men's Bible Class at Second

Presbyterian, Little Rock, celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

--**Graham Memorial Presbyterian, Forrest City** hosted a basketball tournament and junior high basketball practice in their Christian Activities Building on an on-going basis.

--**First, Hot Springs** is working to repair the carillon in their bell tower.

--**Vaughn Presbyterian, Bentonville** provided a hot dog supper, roasted corn, lemonade, ice cream with arts and crafts to children and adults of New Beginnings Children's Home on July 15.

--**Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals** held an ice cream social on July 16 to help fund missions of the Presbyterian Women and Men.

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### **Resource Center News**

by [NiAnn Thompson](#), Resourcing Director  
Phone 501.663.2424, ext. 104  
Monday & Wednesday, 7:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.



### **PRESBYTERY FACEBOOK PAGE**

If you have events that you want the people of the Presbytery to know about, post them to our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/PresbyteryOfArkansas](http://www.facebook.com/PresbyteryOfArkansas). Rev. Anne Russ at First, North Little Rock (Argenta) at 501.374.7677 or email [revruss@gmail.com](mailto:revruss@gmail.com) will be glad to answer your questions.

Three copies of the **2016-2017 PRESBYTERIAN PLANNING CALENDARS** are still available at the discounted price of \$14 per copy. Start fall with a fresh calendar!

With the start of school comes the regular schedule of most congregations. Promotion Sunday or "Rally Day" signals a return to or renewed, formal learning for all ages. Presbyterians pride themselves on being life-long learners. Following are some suggested resources, grouped by ages, from YOUR Resource Center:

### **FOR CHILDREN**

VeggieTales has developed Sunday School Lessons for 3 to 8-year-olds based on Christian traits with video clips from their popular Bible study DVDs, a teacher guide, CD with coloring pages, and 4 Sunday School lessons on the trait. One DVD kit could cover a month of SS for young children.

**"Thankfulness"** (help kids practice gratitude) (Acc. #DVD9866) includes Madame Blueberry clips.

**"Faith in God"** (help kids depend on God) (Acc. #DVD9867) includes Dave and the Giant Pickle video clips

**"Courage"** (help kids be brave) (Acc. #DVD9868) includes Esther, the girl who became queen video clips

Rachel Hackenberg presents **"Kids and Prayer"** (Acc. #DVD9870) with discussion guide in four sessions, each asking a basic question: what is prayer?, why do we pray?, how do we pray?, where do we pray? with interviews with kids, onscreen storyboard Bible teaching and field trips to look at each question.

FOR ADULTS

**"The History of Christian Theology"** (Acc.#DVD9873) contains 36 lectures/30 minutes per lecture and course guidebook.

**"John: The Gospel of Light and Life"** (Acc. #DVD9876) 6-week study kit by Adam Hamilton includes DVD of six 10-15 minute videos, hardback book, leader guide, and children's leader guide so that the entire congregation can study the gospel at the same time.

Reminder: I am in the Resource Center on Monday and Wednesday and available by phone (cell 501.337.2360) or email other days.

(Your Resource Center receives funding from the presbytery's Mission of the Church ministry area.)

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### **Report from The P.L.A.C.E.!!**

The third annual P.L.A.C.E. event took place at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock on August 6th. We are so grateful to Second Presbyterian for hosting this event. A great location with the right space for this event. We started the day with a very relevant and appreciated message from our general presbyter, Stewart Smith.

18 workshops were offered and all were well received.

We had 72 participants, which included 14 wonderful workshop leaders, some whom led two and even three workshops.

29 of the Presbytery's churches were represented with participants.

It was a wonderful day of shared leadership and learning.

### **LEADERS for 2017 P.L.A.C.E. are needed**

This event has become an annual opportunity, which people around the Presbytery have come to look forward to and enjoy.

If you have really enjoyed this event and maybe even have thoughts of how you could take it to the next-level, please contact the Church and Its Mission Committee. We are looking for one or two coordinators of the event for early August 2017. The earlier we can locate a leader or co-leaders, the more time you have to observe how the 2016 event comes together.

(The P.L.A.C.E. receives funding from the presbytery's Mission Ministry area.)

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## **Presbytery of Arkansas Youth News**

**Summer Trips Are a Huge Success!!**

We have a tremendous group of young Presbyterians in this state! In July, Presbytery-wide groups traveled to three Presbyterian youth conferences: Jr. High Jubilee at Mo Ranch, Presbyterian Youth Triennium, and Montreat Youth Conference. Young people from 15 different churches participated in these amazing weeks, which were packed with incredible worship, small groups, recreation, friendship-building, and faith-exploration. What amazing experiences these conferences were for both the youth and adults who attended! Special thanks to DC Adams, Kelley Drebes, Andrew Fraser, and Mary Shaw for serving as Adult Advisors to Mo Ranch; Greg Adams, Kim Brooks, Brianne Christiansen, Sarang Kang, Bill Seitz, Marsha Taylor, and Britton Varn for serving as Adult Advisors to Triennium; and Dacia Boehmler, Robert Lowry, Loretta Mansell, and Leslie Roper for serving as Adult Advisors to Montreat.

These trips are sponsored and organized by the Presbytery's Youth Advisory Team.

For more pictures and updates about youth summer trips, check out the Facebook page "Presbytery of Arkansas Youth Ministry."





Jr. High Jubilee



Presbyterian Youth Triennium



## Montreat Youth Conference

Want to stay updated about Youth Ministry happenings in the Presbytery?

**"Like" us on Facebook!**

Search

**PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry**

on Facebook,

or go to

[www.facebook.com/PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry](http://www.facebook.com/PresbyteryofArkansasYouthMinistry)

This page is for anyone wishing to stay updated about Youth Ministry happenings in the Presbytery -- Youth Workers, parents, youth, Educators, Pastors.

(Presbytery's Youth Ministry receives funding from Presbytery's new Ministries with Youth, Campus, and Young Adults.)

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## Presbyterian Women Synod Gathering

On July 21st through the 23rd, the triannual Synod gathering of Presbyterian Women was held in Ft. Worth, TX. Thirteen women from the Presbytery of Arkansas took part with 200 other women from Synod of the Sun in worship, workshops, mission work and more. Back packs were assembled from gifts brought by the women for the Border Ministry, blankets made for a homeless shelter along with a stained glass cross, gift packs were assembled for women rescued from trafficking, throws were knitted for a shelter, boxes of food were packed for an area food bank. Dr. Cynthia Rigby was the keynote speaker with liturgist Dr. Debra Freeman. The Bible study for fall, "Who is Jesus?" was presented in an overview by author Dr. Judy Yates Siker.



Left to right: Karene Jones (North Little Rock), Jean Lybrand (Norman), Frances Bateman (Hot Springs), Nancy Irving Smith (Little Rock), Kathy White (Hot Springs), Judy Crawford (Hot Springs), Marian Murthy (Hot Springs), Mary Beth Lysobey (Norman), Jeanne Lloyd (Little Rock), Betty Jean Moore (Little Rock), Mary Ann Sweeney (Bella Vista), Ila Blackketter-Wolfe (Bentonville), and Cathy Rogers (Bentonville).

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## Two Workshops Offered at Second Presbyterian Church (Little Rock)

Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock is offering two workshops for all who are interested:

**--Enneagram Conference (Oct. 28-29):** Ian Cron and Suzanne Stabile present a workshop based on their book:

The Road Back to You: An Enneagram Journey to Self-Discovery, which will be released in early October. The conference will be held October 28th (6:30pm-9:30pm) and October 29th (8:30am-4:30pm). Cost: \$99 per person, \$159 per married couple. For a brochure with more details, [click here](#).

**--Caregiver's Expo (Nov. 10):** Speakers and vendors will present education and resources for caregivers who are caring for loved ones. Highlights of this conference will be Keynote Speaker Donna Terrell (Fox 16 News Anchor), a panel of professionals to respond to audience questions, and 30+ vendors with products and services available for caregivers. The event will be Thursday, Nov. 10th from 9:30am-1:00pm. There is no cost for participants to attend this event. For a brochure with more details, [click here](#).

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## Board of Pensions Retirement Seminars (October 4-6, Germantown, TN)

**October 4-5, 2016**

**Growing into Tomorrow ....Today**

This free (meal cost is \$15.00 per day and participants are responsible for their lodging) two-day seminar is for members and guests who are planning for retirement within the next 15 years. Look beyond finances to inform, educate, and inspire a journey toward wholeness in retirement living. During this seminar participants will:

Identify key issues for discernment

Asses your finances

Discuss healthcare and housing options

Create next steps in life balance, relationships, housing, health and finances.

**October 6, 2016  
Post Retirement Seminar**

This free (meal cost is \$15.00 per day and participants are responsible for their lodging) seminar is for plan retirees, survivors and their guests.

An informative update on the state of the Pension Plan and other resources, it's designed for those receiving a pension check from the Board. Covered topics include:

One's vocation in retirement  
Pension plan and Medicare update  
Post-employment financial management  
Housing allowance and retirement  
Assessing your estate plan.

Registration for either seminar is open until September 2. You can register online at [www.pensions.org/seminars](http://www.pensions.org/seminars) or by phone at 1-800-773-7752.

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## **One Great Hour of Sharing Offerings and PDA Do Good for Mayflower & Vilonia**

*Your* One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offerings came home to Arkansas in 2014. And the people of Mayflower and Vilonia reaped the benefits.

After an EF4 tornado slammed into Mayflower and Vilonia on April 27, 2014, the Presbytery of AR received a \$7,500 grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) to supplement the work of recovery in those damaged towns. OGHS offerings are the primary source of that grant money. We are grateful to Presbyterians from Arkansas and across the country, who made our \$7,500 possible.

Your presbytery Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee was charged with deciding how to use the \$7,500. The money was divided two ways:

- \* February 2015, \$2,500 to the AR District Pentecostal Church of God for infrastructure improvements to their campground so they could offer a host site for volunteer work teams. Apostolic Christian World Relief (ACWR) used the campground as home base for 3 months. ACWR averaged 50 volunteers per week and in 3 months built 7 houses and did major repairs on 7 more! PDA grant money helped ACWR do amazing work on our behalf.
- \* March 2016, the remaining \$5,000 was paid to Interfaith and Partners Alliance (IFPA) of Mayflower, which IFPA applied toward remaining cases. All donations were pooled together, then distributed based on a case management process which tended to the neediest cases first.

**Summary of damage, repairs, and donations (Mayflower and Vilonia):**

- \* 16 people died.
- \* Total number of homes affected: 825
- \* Destroyed: 337
- \* Uninsured: 335 dwellings (about 40.61% of the total)
- \* 34 new homes built
- \* 27 major home repairs
- \* Donations nearing \$2 million

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## **Arkansas Pilgrimage to be held October 12-16, 2016**

Are you looking for a boost in your faith journey? Consider attending the Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage to be held at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center from October 12 through 16, 2016. The pilgrimage weekend will begin at 5:30 pm on Thursday, and will end about 5 pm on Sunday. There will be plenty of worship, prayer, food, study, fellowship, and much more. The cost to attend the weekend is \$200.

Scholarships are available if you need financial aid from our Scholarship and Endowment Fund. Also, if anyone is interested in contributing to the Scholarship and Endowment Fund, information is available at the website below.

Applications are available on the Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage website [www.pilgrimage-arkansas.org](http://www.pilgrimage-arkansas.org).

You may also pick up participant applications from the Presbytery Office in Little Rock. If you have any questions, you may contact the Registrar at [ARPC.registrar@gmail.com](mailto:ARPC.registrar@gmail.com)

The deadline for applications is October 3, 2016.

(Pilgrimage receives funding from Presbytery's new Church and Its Mission Area.)

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## **Wellspring Renewal Center Sponsors Fall Clergy Support Groups**

Wellspring has scheduled its fall Clergy Support Groups. The groups meet monthly on Friday from 2-4 p.m., are confidential, and can be filed on your insurance. You are also welcome to use your free

sessions that are provided through the Presbytery for group. Groups are facilitated by Rev. Rebecca Spooner, a teaching elder in this Presbytery and a licensed psychotherapist. This group is a safe place to vent, increase coping and help manage stress.

To sign up, simply call Wellspring Renewal Center at 501-265-0046 or e-mail Rev. Rebecca Spooner. The tentative group dates for the fall are 8/19, 9/23, 10/21, 11/18 and 12/9. We will formalize the dates for future groups at our first session in August. For more information about Wellspring Renewal Center check out our website: [www.WellspringRenewalCenter.com](http://www.WellspringRenewalCenter.com)

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### **Mark Your Calendar Now For Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering Dates**

Cluster 1 Fall Gathering -- Friday, August 26, Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista  
Cluster 2 Fall Gathering -- Date TBA, First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville  
Cluster 3 Fall Gathering -- Friday, September 16, Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village  
Cluster 4 Fall Gathering -- Saturday, September 24, First Presbyterian Church, Jonesboro  
Cluster 5 Fall Gathering -- Saturday, September 10, Allison Memorial Presbyterian Church, Little Rock

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**Prayer List for Congregations -- 2016** can be found [here](#).

(Note: some web browsers may require you to press and hold the "Ctrl" key while you click the link to reach the linked website).

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[Presbytery Calendar](#)

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PRESBYTERY STAFF:

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Stated Clerk [ROBERT LOWRY](#)

Resourcing Director [NIANN THOMPSON](#)

Director of Mission Support [KENNETH RICH](#)

Staff Resource for Youth [BRITTON VARN](#)  
Staff Resource for Congregational Care & Development [MICHAEL VINSON](#)  
Treasurer [BOB BOEHMLER](#)  
Moderator of Presbytery [LACY SELLARS](#)  
Moderator of the Coordinating Team [ED WILKINSON](#)  
Vice Moderator of Presbytery [RUTH HAMILTON](#)

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The Presbytery of Arkansas is a council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which is part of the Reformed family of churches within the universal Church of Jesus Christ. Our vision is *to make visible the body of Christ* (Acts II).

We are composed of over 14,000 Presbyterians gathered in 87 active churches, a new church development and one ministry located in various towns and cities in the northern two-thirds of the State of Arkansas.

Phone 501.663.2424 Fax 501.224.2429 <http://www.presbyteryofarkansas.org>

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