

# Need we depend on the law?

In 1952, William O. Douglas, the longest serving justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, famously stated, "We are a religious people whose institutions presuppose a Supreme Being." There is no institution where the belief in a supreme being is more obvious and vital than our criminal justice system. Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz explains the connection:

"Western society has insisted that it is better for ten guilty defendants to go free than for one innocent defendant to be wrongly convicted. This daunting standard finds its roots in the biblical story of Abraham's argument with God about the sinners of Sodom.... Abraham admonishes God for planning to sweep away the innocent along with the guilty and asks Him whether it would be right to condemn the sinners of Sodom if there were 10 or more righteous people among them. God agrees and reassures Abraham that he would spare the city if there were 10 righteous. From this compelling account, the legal standard has emerged.

"That is why a criminal trial is not a search for truth. Scientists search for truth. Philosophers search for morality. A criminal trial searches for only one result: proof beyond a reasonable doubt."

Alan Dershowitz is an atheist. Yet he understands and correctly states the biblical foundation for this basic principle of our criminal system of justice. But what Dershowitz does not explain is how a society can live with letting so many criminals go free.

Historically, our underlying belief in "a supreme being" allowed us to live with the fact that some escape human justice. You see, the



**Mark Carlton**

• From the Pulpit

same passage Dershowitz cites also teaches us that God is the "judge of all the earth" and that "He will do right." So, though some may be able to evade the "long arm of the law," they will not escape justice. Earlier generations understood this and comforted themselves in the knowledge that though the wheels of divine justice grind slow they grind sure.

I considered this as I observed the reaction to the Casey Anthony verdict, especially when I heard a number of people say there was "no justice for Calee." I wanted to say, "Pardon me, but aren't you leaving God out of the equation? Isn't God is perfectly capable of handing Casey Anthony?"

The Bible is a very realistic book. It teaches us that the world is broken. Because of this, because we live in a sin-cursed world, chaotic evils such as that which took the life of little Calee Anthony occur. Sadly, all around the world today, children just as innocent as Calee Anthony, will become victims of the evil that still marines this broken world. But that does not mean there will be no justice for them. Jesus explained it this way:

"Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man [or woman]

through whom the stumbling block comes! If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire. If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out.... It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell. See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 18:7-10, New American Standard).

Jesus' statement that "it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come," is worth pondering. But so also is his statement about despising "little ones," which is a reference to little children like Calee Anthony. As are his warnings that it would be better to mutilate ourselves than to put a stumbling block in front of them.

These sorts of assurances used to be enough to allow us to bear up under the inevitable imperfection of a criminal justice system weighed in favor of the accused. But as our society increasingly loses its faith we see a frightening phenomena - men and women angrily demanding infallible justice of a fallible justice system.

This leads me to yet another point worth pondering. If William O. Douglas was correct in saying that our institutions presuppose a supreme being, can institutions survive if we stop believing in a supreme being?

Mark Carlton is pastor of the Colby Berean Church. You can reach him at pastormark@colbyberean.com or 462-2763.

**Deaths**

**Dean B. Shoemaker**

Dean B. Shoemaker, 91, Oakley, retired Oakley-Monument school superintendent, died Thursday, Aug. 11, 2011, at his home.

He was born Sept. 29, 1919, in Adams, the son of Alva and Alice (Lee) Shoemaker.

During World War II, he served in the Army.

On June 22, 1946, he married Mary Anderson in Cincinnati, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by his wife in 2011 and his parents.

Survivors include a son, David Shoemaker, Topeka; two daughters

Cathy Lee, Wichita; and Lori Shoemaker, Lawrence; a brother, H. Gene Shoemaker, Colby, a sister, Melba Holladay, Winona Lake, Ind.; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 15, 2011, at the Oakley United Methodist Church, with private inurnment at a future date.

No visitation. The family suggests memorials to Hospice Services, in care of Kennedy-Koster Funeral Home, Box 221, Oakley, Kan., 67748.

## Marathon bridge seeks new members for season

By Christina Beringer  
Colby Free Press  
colby.society@nwkansas.com

The local chapter of American Association of University Women is encouraging new participants to join their annual Marathon Bridge Tournament.

For over thirty years the group has played bridge to provide scholarships for young women of Thomas County, raising more than \$23,000.

"This year, we have selected Logan Wark, of Colby, as the scholarship recipient," said Naomi Ward. "She will get \$500 for this school year and \$500 for next year as well."

Ward said each team plays bridge once a month from September to May.

"To make it most convenient for

players, we don't designate a particular day that teams have to play bridge," said Ward. "We assign teams, then members of the team get to choose a time, date and location for their bridge game."

Ward said most games take place at one of the team member's homes and scores are sent to her following the game.

"We hope to get more teams started this year to help with scholarships," she said. "And it is expected that participants who have played before will play again, unless they've notified us otherwise."

Interested bridge players should find a partner and contact Ward at (785) 462-7840 or Sandra Harper at (785) 462-3759 by Tuesday, Aug. 30. It costs \$20 per person to play.

## Family reunion draws 100-plus to July gathering

The reunion of the Peter and Margaret Stephens family was Saturday, Aug. 6, at the Oakley Country Club. The day began with registration, followed with Mass by great-grandson Father Tony Stephens. A noon meal was served to approximately 100 guests.

Mementos from the grandparents' lives were shared, including Margaret Stephen's gardening clothes and diary of her last years of life, handmade doilies, the clock that sat on the buffet and farm records.

Stella Stephens Kruse was honored as the surviving child and the oldest attendee. Mildred Blum Stephens, Alfreda Kruse Stephens and Carol Mowry Stephens, who were of that generation, were also recognized.

Marcia Stephens Zierlein of New Braunfels, Texas, traveled the furthest; and Ava Judith, daughter of Dominic and Erica Stephens of Colby, was the youngest at 12 days.

Margaret Kruse was present with her computer to update family records.

Those attending are listed by family.

Helene Stephens Baalman family: Dave and Maria Zimmerman, Grinnell; Dave and Paulette Ostmeyer, Oakley; Paul Ostmeyer, Oakley; Lesley Ostmeyer, Topeka; Murray and Millie Baalman, Grinnell; Lisa Schamberger, Hoxie; Timothy and Jenn Baalman, Trent, Lauren, Grant, and Katie, Oakley.

Alice Stephens Ostmeyer family: Don and Marilyn Ostmeyer, Colby; Lori Ostmeyer, Oakley.

Carl Stephens family: Mildred Stephens, Menlo; Dee Hovda, Colby; Marcia Zierlein, New Braunfels, Texas; Chuck Stephens, Menlo; Patsy Niblack, Colby; Lori Roberts, Devin and Dalton, Manhattan; Amie Stephens, Denver; Lindsey Stephens, Wichita; Colin Stephens, Menlo; Kent and Luann Stephens and Connor, Colby.

Stella Stephens Kruse family (all of Littleton, Colo.): Stella Kruse; Carl and Debbie Kruse; Brian and Chris Tippett and Campbell; Stephanie Kruse; Greg and Ann Kruse; Margaret

Kruse; Robert and Patricia Kruse, Charles, Henry and Elizabeth; and Mary Ann Kruse.

Harold Stephens family: Freida Stephens, Grinnell; Tony Stephens, Auburn, Ky.; Tim and Leah Coffey, James, Maureen, Emma and Katie, Omaha, Neb.; Dominic and Erica Stephens and Ava, Grinnell; Mary Stephens, Omaha, Neb.; Bridget and Monica Stephens, Grinnell; Linda Grote, Hutchinson; Curtis Grote, Kansas City; Kelsey Erb, Overland Park; Stephanie Grote, Emporia; Denice Stephens Morris, El Dorado; Michael and Patti Stephens, Maggie and Kyle, Oakley; Trent Stephens, Grinnell; Matt Stephens, Grinnell; Loren and Teresa Stephens, Harrison Stephens and Brady Hapke, Grinnell; Devan and Brianna Weiser and Alexia, Englewood, Colo.; and Landon Stephens,

Grinnell.

Andrew Stephens family: Bryce and Linda Stephens, Jennings; Rosalin Lee, Jayden and Jackson, Fort Riley; Crystal Stephens, Wichita; Demetria Stephens, Jennings; Greg Stephens, Salina; Paul Stephens and Aubrette, Colby; Tom and Dawn Stephens, Reed, Jill and Grant, Colby;

Joe Stephens family: Carol Behrends, Topeka; Chris and Judy Stephens, Manhattan; and Ashley Steinlage, Cary, N.C.

Margie Stephens Koster family: Pat Koster, Grinnell; Luther and Donna Augustine, Colby; Melissa Augustine, Colby; and Megan Augustine, Colby.

Don Stephens family: Carol Stephens, Hoxie.

Cousins present were Florene Messamore and Gene Cooper, both of Colby.

**Markets**

Quotes as of close of previous business day  
**Hi-Plains Co-op**

Wheat (bushel)	\$7.38
Corn (bushel)	\$7.17
Milo (hundredweight)	\$12.09
Soybeans (bushel)	\$12.24

**Corrections**

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

**Don & Evelyn Wooster**

Would like to invite you to celebrate their recent marriage.

**A reception will be held Friday, August 19, 2011 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

City Limits Convention Center

Please join us for an evening of music & refreshments.

Your presence is the only gift required.

**sidewalk sale**

Tuesday, August 16th - Friday, August 19th  
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. • Saturday 9 a.m. - Noon

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Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.

**Services Directory**

**Schedule of church services**

**GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP**, 2nd and Sunrise, Oakley. Pastor James Bloom, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church 10:15 a.m., Wednesday evening Bible Study and Intercessory Prayer 6:30 p.m. 785-671-4020.

**COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH**, 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee's building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 785-460-0313, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

**ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL**, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 785-462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday, Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May, Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May.

**COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**, 245 W. College Dr., Colby. Pastor Steve Todd. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Worship 10:15 a.m. Kid's Church for Kindergarten-5th grade during Worship Service. Nursery available for kids birth - 5 yrs old. Wednesday night: Family night September - May. Meal served 6 - 6:30 p.m. CD Kidz for kids birth - 5th grade, Youth Group for 6th - 12th graders and Adult Bible Study at 7 p.m. 785-462-8234. cdag@st-tel.net.

**BEREAN CHURCH**, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyberean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. and Saturday, 5:30 p.m.. Pastor Mark Carlton, Senior Pastor and Pastor Jason Purdy, Youth Pastor. Middle School Group Wednesday 7 p.m. at the Attic and High School Youth Group Sunday 6 p.m. at the Attic. AWANA Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the church.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Rev. Craig Crossman, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; RC Club 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2 p.m.

**COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH** (Affiliated with Southern Baptist), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 785-460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m. Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday's. Contemporary Evening Service at 4 p.m. through the semester.

**PLEASANT HOME CHURCH**, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-728-7380, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (MST)

**WINONA METHODIST CHURCH**, 501 Bellview Ave. Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)

**MINGO BIBLE CHURCH**, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Tom Peyton. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Worship Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Evenings 6:30. 3rd Sunday informal fellowship - bring a snack to share! First Sunday of month - carry-in dinner following morning worship.

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC**, 785-462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 785-462-6342, Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Podcasts of the worship services are available at the church website colbypres.org.

**WESLEYAN CHURCH**, 320 W. Pine - 785-462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**, 1145 S. Franklin - 785-460-6605, President Andy Rose, 785-460-6807. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 785-462-3571.

**REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC.**, 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 9 a.m., Sunday worship, 10 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 6p.m. Shop online at: www.rlmregionalchurch.com.

**COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 785-460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**, Minister, Jarrod Spencer. 510 E. 4th. Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m. www.colbychurch.com

**OASIS WORSHIP CENTER**, Colby, Pastor J. Curry, 785-462-0913. Sunday Service at 2 p.m.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Lyle Knebel, 385 W. 3rd - 785-460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church at 10:00 a.m.

**OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Rev. Robert Alexander. East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:00 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com.

**LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 205 1st St., Pastor Charles Taff, 785-586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

**BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

**THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD**, Joan Dingworth, Director, 785-687-2565.

**REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 785-687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

**BREWSTER METHODIST CHURCH**, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 785-694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Tue. 5:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.

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