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REALITY CHECK

Weeklong fast aims to support ousted IHOPKC founder

BY JUDY L. THOMAS jthomas@kstar.com

A house church that formed in Grandview after the International House of Prayer-Kansas City ousted founder Mike Bickle over a sex abuse scandal is calling for a worldwide week of prayer and fasting for his "heaven-ordained destiny."



Mike Bickle

7 day fast specifically targeted upon Mike Bickle — to push back the press of darkness and agree with Heaven's narrative over his life to come forth," said an email sent over the weekend to Bickle supporters.

The fast is to go from May 1

through May 7, which is IHOPKC's 27th anniversary. The action has infuriated sex abuse survivors and former supporters of the 24-7 global prayer ministry and renewed concerns that the fallen charismatic leader is trying to orchestrate a comeback. IHOPKC announced in December 2023 that it was "permanently" separating from Bickle after allegations were

made public that fall that he used prophecies to groom, sexually abuse and manipulate women over multiple decades. "Sadly, he and those whom he has deceived are more concerned with his 50-year legacy, that's actually tainted the entire time with pedophilia and manipulative sexual predation, than they are with the health of his soul," said Tammy Woods, who alleged in 2024 that Bickle sex-

ually abused her starting in the 1980s when she was 14. "They are more concerned with restoring his voice to a platform than restoring him back to God," Woods said in a statement to The Star. "And referring to those of us, his victims, who have spoken the truth and brought light to his darkness, as 'the press of darkness' against Mike is deplorable." A document describing the fast says the first day is for "Divine Protection for Mike Bickle." Other days, it says, include fasting "For the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Mike Bickle in revelation and power" and "For the fulfillment of all the prophetic promises over Mike Bickle's life."

SEE IHOPKC, 3A



Courtesy The Naismith House

The 19th-century home in Lawrence, Kansas, where the inventor of basketball, James Naismith, spent the last few months of his life, is up for sale.

House for sale in Lawrence has history: Naismith lived there

BY LISA GUTIERREZ lgutierrez@kstar.com

As a proud graduate of the University of Kansas and avid KU basketball fan, Jan-Eric Anderson knew he stood in a special place nearly 10 years

ago when he and his wife, Amy, stepped inside the house at 1515 University Drive near the Lawrence campus. It was the last house James Naismith, the father of basketball, called home before he died there in 1939, just months after moving in with his new

bride. The house was for sale. Built in the popular late Victorian Italianate architecture of its day, the two-story, five-bedroom, three-bathroom house was built in 1872. The Andersons bought it, becoming one of the handful of families

to call it home. They spent a decade sharing the house and the story of its historical ties to Lawrence and KU, graciously hosting parties for friends, friends of friends and people associated with the

SEE SALE, 4A

KU Med staffer admits halt in disinfection fueled infection

BY JUDY L. THOMAS jthomas@kstar.com

The University of Kansas Hospital staffer in charge of the open-heart surgery devices that have been linked to a brutal and sometimes deadly infection was in the hot seat in a Kansas City, Kansas, courtroom on Friday. David Gross, an attorney for LivaNova USA Inc. — the med-tech company that manufactured the devices — said Jamie Newberry, KU Med's chief perfusionist, stopped disinfecting the heater-cooler units even though the hospital had been warned that they could be contaminated. The Food and Drug Administration, Gross said, told Newberry that there was a risk of death if the devices weren't disinfected. "For whatever reason," he said, raising his voice at Newberry, "you didn't do that." The testimony came on day five of a trial in Wyandotte County District Court over the allegation that a contaminated heater-cooler device used during a Raytown man's surgery led to the infection that claimed his life. Stephen Nolte underwent an aortic valve replacement at The University of Kansas Hospital on March 6, 2019, and died of Mycobacterium chimaera, or M. chimaera, on July 8, 2020. He was 71.

SEE INFECTION, 3A

Prairie Village residents protest company with ICE ties

BY TAYLOR O'CONNOR toconnor@kstar.com

When Jamie Greason learned that a Prairie Village-based industrial development company reportedly sold property to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to be used for an immigration detention facility, it was the tipping point for her to do something. "I think it's easy for people in our community not to take action because we're all very busy and a lot of times we don't see the effects in our mostly white

and wealthy community," Greason said of Prairie Village. "We don't see the effects of a lot of policies for a while." In a city that's seen tense political debates play out among more conservative community groups and nonprofits, Greason said she's been toying with the idea of taking action locally for a while. Now, the lifelong Prairie Village resident is one of four co-founders of People for Prairie Village, a new community group that encourages its residents to participate in peaceful protest, advocate for inclusive policies

and "spread messages of hope, love and justice." "Our slogan is 'Get with the Action,'" Greason said. "Our whole purpose is to just increase engagement and to normalize things like protests in our community, to just demonstrate the interconnectedness between life and politics." FLINT DEVELOPMENT PROTESTS Greason spoke with a Star reporter on a windy Monday afternoon along 75th Street in

SEE PROTEST, 4A



TAYLOR O'CONNOR

People for Prairie Village is a new community organization that formed after city-based development company Flint Development reportedly sold property to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for an immigration detention center.



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