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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Several people missed physician Bill Culbert's talk on healthcare reform to the League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge in early January, so he gave an updated talk in his home.

PROVIDED BY CAROLYN KRAUSE

## Healthcare reform should make primary care more accessible

**Carolyn Krause**  
Special to The Oak Ridger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Among 38 rich nations around the world, the United States has the most expensive healthcare system. Yet based on 70 performance measures assessed by the Commonwealth Fund, the U.S. system overall is among the worst.

"Even though it has pockets of great care like topflight cancer research and

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Eat this, avoid that for better health. **2A**

treatment for the well-insured, it is the only rich country that doesn't provide universal or near universal insurance coverage, leaving more than 27 million Americans uninsured and 78 million under insured," William "Bill" Culbert, a retired primary care physician and Oak

Ridge resident, said during a recent talk to the League of Women Voters of Oak Ridge.

"Because of the 'Big Beautiful Bill' that became law, the number of uninsured is expected to increase to 41 million by 2034," he said.

Culbert, who is also a frequent guest columnist for The Oak Ridger, noted that the United States leads the world in

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## Roane State offers free STEM summer program for students

The Oak Ridger  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Roane State Community College's flagship campus in Harriman will host a free STEM Achievers program this summer in partnership with the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship.

STEM Achievers, formerly the Verizon Innovative Learning Program, aims to empower middle school students in under-resourced communities to explore STEM subjects, learn problem-solving skills, and gain exposure to career opportunities in technology fields. Roane State campuses have hosted multiple sessions of the camp over the last several years, according to a news release from the local college.

Participating students will receive mentorship, access to next-gen technology, and hands-on training connected to real-world challenges. The initiative provides engaging programming where sixth-eighth grade students can learn design thinking, 3D printing, augmented reality, and social entrepreneurship.



Roane State is offering a free STEM program for students at its Harriman campus this summer. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ROANE STATE

No prior knowledge or experience is required.

The program is scheduled June 1-12, 2026, on weekdays from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Eastern. Activities will be held on the main Roane County Campus located

at 276 Patton Lane in Harriman. Lunch will be provided and there is no cost to participate. Registration is limited to 65 students.

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**Historically Speaking**  
D. Ray Smith  
Guest columnist

## Holocaust survivor's legacy inspires professor, Oak Ridge High grad

Steve Reddick is a retired Oak Ridge social studies teacher who has worked as a Holocaust educator at the Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning and as a teacher fellow for the Tennessee Holocaust Commission and "Facing History and Ourselves." He is also a member of the Mira Kimmelman Legacy Committee. Tess Lefmann was a student in his eighth grade American history class in the late 1990s. The following article is based on a 2022 email Tess wrote to Kimmelman's sons, Benno and Gene, and an email interview with her former teacher.

You will learn from Steve's interview with the Tess, daughter of our well-known friends, Sheila and Jim Michel. I am proud to know them and count them as friends and volunteers in many endeavors in Oak Ridge.

\*\*\*

Simply put, Oak Ridge Holocaust survivor Mira Kimmelman's testimony is still changing lives.

Just ask Tess Lefmann, associate professor of social work at the University of Mississippi.

Tess, the eldest daughter of Oak Ridge residents Sheila and Jim Michel, is a 2002 graduate of Oak Ridge High School. As a sixth-grade student in Martha Deaderick's social studies class at Jefferson Middle School, she sat spellbound in the darkened school auditorium as Mrs. Kimmelman described in detail her experiences surviving the grueling conditions in the deadly Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp and her liberation from the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in April 1945.

"This is not a happy or nice story, but it is the truth and it must be told," Kimmelman began.

"I was paralyzed in my seat listening as she spoke," Tess writes, "and after that day, my life changed. As a 12-year-old, I simply could not understand

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