

The

Thielensian



Charges Dropped Against Greenville Pastor

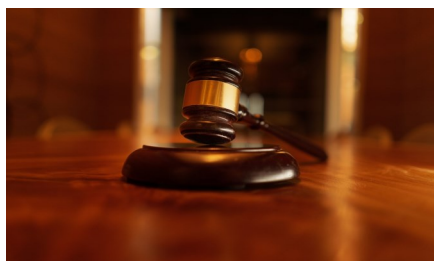
By: Christina Newman

March 2024: Charges against Mercer County pastor David Cox were dropped due to concerns about the evidence and the victim in the case.

In September of 2022, local pastor David Cox was arrested. Cox faced several charges including corruption of minors, criminal solicitation, indecent assault involving a minor, unlawful contact with a minor, and tampering with physical evidence. Out of the four charges, three of these charges are felonies. Cox was arraigned on September 9th, 2022, and was released on an unsecured bond of \$50,000.

According to police reports, the child was in the Parish at Cox's former church, First Baptist Church in Greenville, Pa. Since leaving the First Baptist Church, Cox started his own church in the garage of his home, Solomon's Porch.

Greenville Police began investigating after the victim's mother found notes in her daughter's bible. According to reports, while Cox was a pastor at the



First Baptist Church, he held 'therapy sessions' with the woman's daughter. These sessions were held from when the girl was fourteen until she was sixteen. It was also reported that some of these sessions would be held at Cox's business, Greenville Tire. The teen said that during one of those sessions, Cox asked for a kiss, and the teen refused.

There was a transcript of one of the notes that Cox allegedly wrote, which reads as follows:

"It is 2:30 AM and I'm looking forward to seeing you and your expressions and of course your hug. The truth is I would love to sit and hold you for a long time not just a moment. When I talked about cuddling up on the couch it was with you to watch a movie. I would love to spend time with you, but I know that would be hard. When this whole thing opens up and we have another prayer retreat maybe we can figure a way to meet up would that be good with you?"

When asked about the letters by the police, Cox said he was unsure, but that he probably did write the letters. It was also reported that the two would allegedly exchange texts and phone calls over the course of the two years and that Cox would ask the teen to

delete the messages from her phone.

Cox was offered many plea bargains, but refused them stating "Knowing we were innocent, we declined every single one and trusted in the Lord."

On the day of Cox's trial, he learned that the charges were dropped, and the case was closed. According to District Attorney Pete Acker, the charges were dropped due to concerns regarding the evidence and the victim's ability to be forthcoming in the case. He said that if evidence is made unavailable in a case, the jury may then assume that other pieces of evidence would have been found unfavorable.

Despite struggling to run his business due to losing customers, Cox and his wife continued to run their business and the church. "We knew from day one and were confident in the Lord that this would work out. Little did we know, it would take two years."

When learning about the charges being dropped, Cox commented "I was exonerated, and I'm so thankful for my people, our church, our customers, the Lord and my family. I'm so totally grateful and thankful for the people that have stood by us."

Cox continues to run his business, Greenville Tire, as well as his church, Solomon's Porch.

Sports

Caitlin Clark Becomes NCAA All-Time Leading Scorer

By: Jacob Walsh

March 3rd, 2024: After shattering the NCAA’s women’s scoring record back in February, Caitlin Clark stared down college basketball immortality when the #2 Buckeyes and #6 Hawkeyes tipped off in Clark’s final regular season game.

Clark went into the matchup versus Ohio State only needing 18 points to pass all-time leading scorer ‘pistol’ Pete Maravich, whose NCAA Division-I record (3,667pts) stood for 54 years. Clark tallied her 3,668-career point on a technical free throw at the end of the second quarter.

Caitlin finished the game against the #2 ranked Buckeyes with 35 points. She went 10/26 on field goals, 6/17 on 3-point shots, and 9/10 on free throws. Clark started the game against OSU a bit slow, missing a few of her first at-

tempts. However, Clark played more of a quarterback role for the Hawkeyes, stringing passes down the court to assist her teammates on baskets while she was pressured. Clark began to heat up in the 2nd and the point countdown to the record dwindled quickly.

After the conclusion of the second quarter, Clark was asked if she knew that was the shot to break the record, Clark stated: "Not really. When they announced it and everybody screamed, that's when I knew."

Caitlin Clark grew up in Des Moines, Iowa, and played in boys’ basketball leagues at a young age due to the lack of girl’s leagues. As she got older, Clark joined and played on higher age group AAU girls’ teams. While playing AAU as a teenager she also played for Dowling Catholic High School.

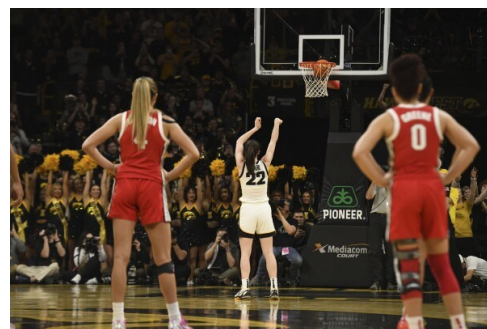


Image credits to Cliffe Jette

Clark then finished with the fourth most points and sixth most three-pointers in Iowa's five-on-five basketball history. At the end of her High School career, Clark was awarded Iowa Miss Basketball and Iowa Gatorade Player of the Year.

In 2019, Clark announced she would be staying in her home state and playing basketball for the University of Iowa.

Caitlin Clark holds a multitude of collegiate honors and awards; in 2023...

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Games to Watch

Lacrosse @ HOME:

Womens vs. KEUKA—WEDS., 3/6—4p.m.

Volleyball @ HOME:

Mens vs. GROVE CITY—WEDS., 3/6—6:30p.m.

Mens vs. ST VINCENT—Fri., 3/8—6:00p.m.

Sports

Caitlin Clark Becomes NCAA All-Time Leading Scorer

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...she was named AP Player of the Year and awarded Naismith College Player of the Year. Also in 2023, Clark broke Iowa's scoring record on November 12th. She then became the BIG 10 Conference's all-time women's scorer on January 31, 2024. Clark passed Missouri State's Jackie Stiles (3,393) and Ohio State's Kelsey Mitchell (3,402) by scoring 35 points for a career total of 3,424 that night.

Clark is the only Division-I player to score 3,000 points along with 1,000 assists in a career. On February 15, 2024, Clark broke the NCCA Division -I Women's all-time scoring record against Michigan. Clark finished her regular season career at Iowa with 3,685 points in 130 games.

Prior to the game versus Ohio State, Caitlin Clark announced she would forego her COVID-eligible fifth year and enter the 2024 WNBA draft. The

Indiana Fever hold the first pick currently. As for Iowa, they rank #3 in the nation, going into the BIG 10 conference post-season tournament and NCAA's National Championship tournament.



Current Events

Germany's Vote to Legalize Weed Smokes Out Opposition

By: Colin Schroyer

Feb. 23rd, 2024: On Feb. 23, Germany voted to legalize cannabis use for limited recreational purposes. This decision arrived despite opposition from political and medical authorities.

Germany's lower house of parliament, the Bundestag, voted to legalize the limited use, possession, and production of cannabis. The cannabis control bill, the Cannabisgesetz, will allow adults to possess small quantities for personal use, but the drug remains banned for those under the age of 18. Starting on April 1, the law will allow

adults to possess 25 grams in public and 50 grams at home for personal consumption. Additionally, adults will also be allowed to cultivate up to three plants for private use. Beginning on July 1, nonprofit "cannabis clubs" — which may have no more than 500 members who are all adults — would be permitted to provide the substance exclusively to its members.

At the start of a fiery debate, Health Minister Karl Lauterbach said, "We have two goals: to crack down on the black market and improved protection of children and young people." This



Image credits to Lisi Niesner

debate saw those opposed to the bill accusing him of promoting drug use in a controversial back-and-forth examining the pros and cons of permitting easier access to cannabis.

As some individuals may still prefer to purchase their cannabis ...

Current Events

Germany's Vote to Legalize Weed Smokes Out Opposition

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...cannabis as opposed to growing it or joining a club, legislators wonder how effective the bill would be in cracking down on dealing. An estimated 4.5 million Germans will use cannabis, as noted in the discussion of the law and its ramifications, so the idea that black market dealings will continue appears plausible.

Regarding the concern for children, the government clarified that the drug would continue to be illegal for minors and — even for young adults who can legally possess the substance — it would be restricted.

Lauterbach said, “Child and youth protection is at the heart of what this law is meant to achieve.” It was added in the debate that consuming drugs

near schools, playgrounds, and other such public areas would be illegal.

This law makes Germany the ninth country worldwide and the third country in Europe — after Malta and Luxembourg — to legalize recreational cannabis consumption. When considering sub-national jurisdictions of countries like the United States and Australia permitting the use of this drug, as well as the many countries that permit it for medical use as a pain killer, it reveals a trend toward generalized legal marijuana use.

As it currently stands, the police in some parts of Germany already turned a blind eye to smoking cannabis in public, though it remained illegal. Despite the laws in place, weed use has been skyrocketing, especially among

young people.

In the vote on the new regulation, 407 lawmakers voted in favor, 226 voted against, and four abstained.

The government wants to assess the ramifications this law has — that is if the law even lasts that long. Conservatives who oppose the act plan to essentially undo the law, should they get into government; given how tumultuous the debate was, the law’s protection appears rocky at best. But should the act withstand opposition, the government may introduce licensed sales of the substance.

“Nobody should misunderstand this law: cannabis consumption is being legalized, but that doesn’t mean it isn’t dangerous,” Germany’s health minister said.

Comedy World Mourns the Loss of Iconic Comedian Richard Lewis

By: Carol Birdy
March 3, 2024

The world of comedy is in mourning following the death of legendary comedian Richard Lewis at the age of 76. With his distinctive wit, comedic charm, and unique style of observational humor, Lewis captivated audiences for decades, leaving an incom-

parable mark on the comedy landscape.

Lewis's career spanned over five decades, during which he became known as one of the pioneers of modern stand-up comedy. With his trademark black attire and candid storytelling, he earned a devoted following and cemented his status as a comedic icon.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Lewis began his comedy career in the 1970s, honing his craft in the vibrant comedy clubs of Greenwich Village. His candid and introspective style, often drawing from his own experiences and struggles with anxiety, resonated with audiences, and...

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Current Events

Comedy World Mourns the Loss of Iconic Comedian Richard Lewis



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...and set him apart from his peers.

Lewis's breakthrough came with his frequent appearances on "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" in the 1980s, where he showcased his rapid-fire delivery and sharp wit to a national audience. He went on to become a fixture on the stand-up circuit and a beloved presence on television and film. In addition to his stand-up comedy, Lewis was known for his memora-

ble roles on television shows such as "Curb Your Enthusiasm," where he played a fictionalized version of himself alongside Larry David. His improvisational skills and comedic timing made him a fan favorite on the acclaimed HBO series.

Lewis's influence extended beyond the realm of comedy, with his candid discussions about mental health and addiction helping to destigmatize these issues and spark important conversations.

News of Lewis's death has sparked an outpouring of tributes from fellow comedians, actors, and fans, who have taken to social media to share their memories and express their condolences to his family.

Lewis's death marks the end of an era

in comedy, but his legacy will endure through his timeless humor and unforgettable performances. He leaves behind a body of work that will continue to entertain and inspire audiences for generations to come.

Details regarding memorial services and tributes for Richard Lewis are to be determined. In the meantime, fans are encouraged to celebrate his life and legacy by revisiting his classic comedy routines and television appearances.

Richard Lewis's contributions to comedy will be remembered with fondness and gratitude, ensuring that his laughter-filled legacy lives on in the hearts and minds of comedy lovers everywhere.

Texas Suffers Panhandle Fires

By: Hannah Stoughton

Feb.-March 2024: The Texas Panhandle has suffered its largest wildfire in state history after 1.1 million acres of crops, livestock, and structures, as well as two deaths, in a fire that is still burning as of March 5th, 2024.

The Smokehouse Creek Fire began on Feb. 26th fueled by high temperatures and dry winds throughout the week. . It is one of five wildfires burning in the Texas Panhandle currently and is the most destructive of the five, making history as the largest wildfire. While the source of the

fire is not confirmed, multiple investigations led to the conclusion that...

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Current Events

Texas Suffers Panhandle Fires

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...downed utility poles from Xcel Energy, a utility company, may have started the fire. Governor Greg Abbott released a statement, saying that they are still investigating the cause and assessing the damage caused by the fire.

Early assessments have estimated that between 400 and 500 structures have been destroyed, with nothing but ash left behind. The lack of moisture in Texas currently allows for almost anything to be incinerated immediately. 65 counties have initiated burn bans with hefty consequences. Texas's 4.1 million beef cattle will be devastated by this wildfire, as 85% live in the Panhandle. In addition to the short-

term shortages that will be caused by the widespread deaths of livestock, herds will struggle to survive. Traumatized cows will fail to reproduce, and herds will die out. The cattle business is the most profitable agricultural commodity in Texas, with the business being worth an estimated \$15.5 billion. Local economies and farms will be devastated by the effects of the fire. In addition to the loss of profit via livestock, farmers and ranchers have lost thousands of dollars in hay, fencing, structures, and grass. Consumers will not see a price reflection across the country; the number of livestock within the entirety of the United States is bountiful enough to recover the losses from Texas.

There have also been two deaths as a result of this fire: Joyce Blankenship, 83, and Cindy Owens, who is believed to be in her 40s. Both were overcome by the fire.

As of March 5th, 2024, the fire was only 15% contained and expected to spread. It will continue to devastate the Panhandle until the temperatures drop enough for the fires to be contained, or moisture returns to the area.



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Want to Guest Write? Contact Hannah or Jacob!