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Muslims...

(Continued From Page 4)

are expected to keep pace with population growth

"The world's population is projected to increase by 29% between 2020 and 2070, Pew said. Of the religious groups it analyzed, Muslims and Christians are the only ones expected to keep pace, with Christians growing by 30% and Muslims by 80%.

"By 2070, Pew said, more than half of the world's Christians will live in sub-Saharan Africa, and Congo will surpass the United States as the country with the most Christians, with their ranks increasing more than threefold to 299 million.

"The populations of other major regions are expected to grow more modestly, or even decline.

"In the U.S., Pew projects that the number of Christians will decline from about 217 million in 2020 to about 174 million in 2070.

"Several mainline Protestant denominations in the U.S. have faced declining membership over many years. However, Jeffrey Brodd, a religious studies professor at California State-Sacramento, suggested a rebound was possible following congressional election victories this month by several Democrats active in these moderate-to-liberal denominations.

Fertility Rates Are A Driving Factor

"By Pew's estimates, Muslim women gave birth to more babies than women in any other religion during 2020-2025. About 252 million babies were born to Muslim mothers, compared with 208 million born to Christian mothers.

"Muslims are the only major religious group expected to have growing numbers of births in the decades ahead. The other groups are projected either to have steady numbers of births or to experience gradual decline.

"If recent trends continue, according to Pew, Pakistan will have the largest Muslim population by 2070, followed by India, Nigeria and Indonesia — which currently has the most Muslims.

'"Gina Zurlo, a senior researcher at Harvard Divinity School specializing in religious demographics, said Christian-Muslim relations are "extremely important" in light of the evolving trends.

'"The 'clash of civilization' theory still looms large in some religious communities and there is a lot of misunderstanding of both religions from both sides," she said via email. "Many Christians are not happy to see that Islam will be the world's largest religion and it's causing even more angst."

'"I hope people seek opportunities for greater interreligious education," she added. "Personal contact is important — when people have personal relationships across religious differences, it 'humanizes' the 'other' in fruitful ways."

'"Alan Cooperman, Pew's director of religion research, noted that most of the projected proliferation of Muslims and Christians was occurring in countries where they already are the majority — with conversion playing only a minor role.

'"I don't think this is a situation in which the growth of Muslims is coming at the expense of Christians," he added. "I do worry about mischief being made with headlines or narratives that take this finding and portray it as sort of a clash where Christians are losing to Muslims."

The 'Nones' Are Growing In Some Areas

"Many countries have seen a steady proliferation of the "nones" — people who are atheist, agnostic or religiously unaffiliated.

'"Excluding China, which has a high proportion of "nones" but faces a sharp decline in overall population, the ranks of "nones" elsewhere will grow by more than 180 million by 2070, Pew said.

'"The "nones" already account for a majority of the population in 10 countries, including the Czech Republic, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Uruguay and Vietnam, according to Pew. South Korea, France and the United Kingdom are forecast to join this group by 2070."

Rocks ...

(Continued From Page 2)

All down through the Bible, rocks were a key component in many Bible stories. Just as they are for many of us Appalachian mountain folks.

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Jo Ann Butts
606-738-9839

Laws ...

(Continued From Page 2)

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Public Notices

NOTICE OF SALE
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
ELLIOTT CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 22-CI-00069

MID SOUTH CAPITAL PARTNERS, LP, PLAINTIFF
VS.
UNKNOWN HEIRS, LEGATEES AND DEVISEES OF JAMES K. HOWARD; MARIE HOWARD; UNKNOWN SPOUSE, IF ANY, OF MARIE HOWARD; COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, COUNTY OF ELLIOTT; UNKNOWN SPOUSES OF THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, LEGATEES AND DEVISEES OF JAMES K. HOWARD; DELLA CONNER; UNKNOWN SPOUSE, IF ANY, OF DELLA CONNER; MAVIS HOWARD; UNKNOWN SPOUSE, IF ANY, OF MAVIS HOWARD; LUCY GREER; UNKNOWN SPOUSE, IF ANY, OF LUCY GREER, DEFENDANTS

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Elliott Circuit Court, entered on October 13, 2026, I shall offer for sale the property described herein at public auction on the Courthouse steps of the Elliott County Courthouse in Sandy Hook, Kentucky, on the 2nd day of December, 2026 at or near the hour of 12:30 p.m., to the highest bidder on the following terms:

The aforementioned real estate shall be sold as a whole. The real estate shall be sold on a credit of thirty (30) days, with the privilege of the purchaser to pay for bid in cash in full, and if not paid in full then the purchaser shall make a cash down payment of at least ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to cover the costs of the judicial sale; and the purchaser shall execute a bond for the remainder of the purchase price, with good surety thereon, to be approved by the Master Commissioner of this Court, and bearing interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of the sale, until paid; additionally, a lien shall be retained upon the real estate to be sold herein, to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days of the date of sale upon which execution may be\ levied by the Master Commissioner of this Court.

Description of the Property: Hwy. 7, Sandy Hook, Kentucky. (For Legal Description see LSOT: Deed Book 92, Page 133, Elliott County Clerk's Office.)

Map/Parcel ID Number: 037-00-00-024.04.

NOTE: Only delinquent ad valorem taxes shall be paid from the sale proceeds. The Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of the taxes for the current year and thereafter.

Hon. John P. Thompson,
Master Commissioner
Elliott County, Ky.
E-13-3t
Pub. Nov. 13, 20, 27

NOTICE OF SALE
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
ELLIOTT CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 21-CI-00077

MID SOUTH CAPITAL PARTNERS, LP, PLAINTIFF
VS.
SHANNON ISON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE, IF ANY, OF SHANNON ISON; COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, COUNTY OF ELLIOTT, DEFENDANTS

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Elliott Circuit Court, entered on October 13, 2026, I shall offer for sale the property described herein at public auction on the Courthouse steps of the Elliott County Courthouse in Sandy Hook, Kentucky, on the 2nd day of December, 2026 at or near the hour of 12:35 p.m., to the highest bidder on the following terms:

The aforementioned real estate shall be sold as a whole. The real estate shall be sold on a credit of thirty (30) days, with the privilege of the purchaser to pay for bid in cash in full, and if not paid in full then the purchaser shall make a cash down payment of at least ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to cover the costs of the judicial sale; and the purchaser shall execute a bond for the remainder of the purchase price, with good surety thereon, to be approved by the Master Commissioner of this Court, and bearing interest at the rate of 12% per annum from the date of the sale, until paid; additionally, a lien shall be retained upon the real estate to be sold herein, to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days of the date of sale upon which execution may be levied by the Master Commissioner of this Court.

Description of the Property: 5090 KY 409, Sandy Hook, KY. (For Legal Description see LSOT: Deed Book 104, Page 739, Elliott County Clerk's Office.)

Map/Parcel ID Number: 051-00-00-024.02.

NOTE: Only delinquent ad valorem taxes shall be paid from the sale proceeds. The Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of the taxes for the current year and thereafter.

Hon. John P. Thompson,
Master Commissioner
Elliott County, Ky.
E-13-3t
Pub. Nov. 13, 20, 27

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