

Music Event Slated For Riverside Park

Come join us for an evening of fun music! "One Way Up" Christian music and good times, Sunday, July 14, at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at Yankton's Riverside Park amphitheater. Free will donation for the concert.

There will be \$1 rootbeer floats. If there is inclement weather, it will be held at First United Methodist Church, 11th & Cedar St. For more information, contact Barb Hirsch at 605-760-5852.

St. John's Ice Cream Social July 17

St. John's Lutheran Church of Yankton is having an ice cream social on Wednesday, July 17, running from 4-7 p.m. The church will be serving pies, cakes, ice cream, rootbeer floats and taverns. Proceeds go to St. John's Christian Education with supplemental funds up to \$500 by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Kingsway Hosting Vacation Bible School

Kingsway Christian Church, located at 708 E. 19th Street (corner of 19th and Burleigh) in Yankton, will be holding its Vacation Bible School July 21-25.

At this year's vacation Bible school, kids will take a journey to ancient Athens where they will meet Paul and hear his passion for God, his dangerous adventures in sharing about God, and his troubled past. Kids find that God's life-changing love is ever-present, provides all we need, and is worth sharing with the world.

Every day kids will talk with Paul, sing, craft hand-made projects and play Greek games.

This adventure is open to children 4 years old through grade 5 and runs from Sunday, July 21, through Thursday, July 25, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. each night.

Come at 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 21, or pre-register online. There is no charge to attend.

Pre-registration is appreciated. Visit www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/hl/yanktonkingsway to pre-register or call 660-7537 or 661-0938.

Kingsway Christian Church is located at the corner of 19th St. and Burleigh in Yankton.

VBS Slated For St. John's Lutheran

It's time for Vacation Bible School at St. John's Lutheran in Yankton. Join us for "TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN" Where Jesus Christ is Lord! The Bible school runs from July 28-31.

You'll enjoy fun crafts, great music, thrilling Bible stories, tasty snacks and meeting new friends! At St. John's, we provide a Vacation Bible School ministry that is a Christ-centered approach to teaching the faith. We encourage building relationships with people of all ages in Jesus Christ.

Call St. John's at 665-7337 to register. We would like to invite parents and families to join us for our "Closing Music Celebration" on Wednesday night, July 31, at 8:40 p.m.

Egyptians Divided Amid Ramadan

BY EDMUND SANDERS
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CAIRO — They called it Egypt's largest-ever Iftar table. Tens of thousands of supporters of ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi sat on patchwork of blue tarps and carpets Wednesday evening, stretching block after block for nearly half a mile on the streets of Cairo's Rabaa district. After they fasted throughout the day in a sweltering tent encampment, anticipation built as dusk approached on Egypt's first day of Ramadan and crowds prepared to share Iftar, the traditional evening meal when Muslims break their daily fast.

Colorful streamers were hastily draped from tent to tent. Trucks distributed free food, including bags filled with cumin-spiced meat, dates, rice, tomatoes and beans for the moment when the fast was declared over.

A burst of fireworks signaled the time for prayer, and for a moment people in the crowd — who have been holding boisterous protests for more than a week to demand Morsi's reinstatement — were lost in religious meditation.

But within seconds after the prayer concluded, the chanting resumed. "Morsi! Morsi! We give the power to God," they shouted, lifting pictures of the detained president.

Only then did most families sit down to eat. Egypt entered its annual Ramadan sea-

son Wednesday with overwhelming sense of national disunity. But if some were expecting that the month-long period of fasting and reflection would provide some breathing space, Wednesday's mass Iftar meal in Rabaa suggested that divisions might only heighten during the holiday.

Many, including the military that toppled Morsi last week, would like to see Ramadan sap the momentum from his Muslim Brotherhood supporters, who might find it hard to sustain protests while refraining from food and water from dawn to dusk. In most Muslim countries, daily life slows noticeably during Ramadan as people prefer to sleep during the day and spend the nights with family members and friends.

And with the political turmoil, many Egyptians say they're not feeling particularly in a holiday mood this year. But if anything, the holiday so far seems to be energizing Morsi's supporters, who vow to keep their sit-in alive even as they fast in temperatures that are expected to hit 100 degrees in the coming days.

"This feels like a holy pilgrimage" said Eneyat El Shenway, 38, a teacher and mother of five from the city of Mansoura.

Muslim Brotherhood officials said they were doing their best to create a holiday spirit in the encampment, decorating tents, laying carpets on the asphalt and planning nighttime soccer matches.

"If anything, Ramadan is going to give strength to our cause," said Muslim Brotherhood cleric Gamal Abdel Sattar, a religious scholar at Al Azhar University.

Still because Ramadan is seen as a time of brotherhood, charity and equality, ardent Muslims might find it difficult to reconcile the holiday with anti-military protests or calls for vengeance. Harming or killing other Muslims is especially taboo.

By the same token, the military might find itself more restrained during the holiday. Launching a crackdown against the protesters, such as the one Monday that killed at least 51 people, could trigger a public backlash.

During Ramadan, it's not uncommon for violence and crime to drop, partly because people are physically weaker and more focused on religion.

Other research, however, suggests that fasting and giving up vices such as cigarettes can make people more irritable and intolerant.

Most Muslim Brotherhood leaders have publicly called upon supporters to remain peaceful. But signs of militancy are evident in Rabaa. The neighborhood has been barricaded with brick walls where volunteer security guards stand at every entrance.

Outside the camp, the growing polarization has put a damper on Egypt's usual vibrant Ramadan celebrations.

Raed Mohamed, manager of El Basha supermarket, near the Rabaa sit-in, complained that his store is usually packed during the last 10 days before Ramadan. This year customers stayed away.

"It just doesn't feel like Ramadan this year," he said.

Judge Rejects Claim That Yoga Is Religious Instruction

BY TONY PERRY
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SAN DIEGO — A San Diego Superior Court judge Monday rejected a claim by parents in the Encinitas elementary school system that teaching yoga in the schools is an improper attempt at religious indoctrination.

The ruling by Judge John Meyer, who heard the case without a jury, means that the Encinitas Union School District can continue to teach yoga as part of its health and exercise program.

Dean Broyles, attorney for the Escondido, Calif.-based National Center for Law and Policy, had filed a lawsuit on

behalf of an Encinitas family with two children in the school system seeking to have the program ousted as a violation of state law prohibiting the teaching of religion in public schools.

Broyles said having yoga in the schools "represents a serious breach of the public trust" and is a violation of state law that prohibits religious instruction in public schools.

But Meyer said that he agreed with the school district's explanation that it has taken out any references to Hinduism or Sanskrit from the program. Yoga, the judge said, is similar to other exercise programs like dodgeball.

Students receive two 30-minute yoga sessions each week. The yoga program is supported by a \$533,000 grant from a local studio that teaches Ashtanga yoga.

Encinitas Union School District Superintendent Tim Baird has said that the program is worthwhile in teaching healthy exercise habits and stress reduction. The district hopes that teaching yoga to students will decrease instances of bullying, he said.

"We are not instructing anyone in religious dogma," Baird said. "Yoga is very mainstream."

Yoga boosters noted that it is used at the San Diego

Naval Medical Center to help military personnel wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan to recover from their injuries and regain their self-confidence.

But Broyles said he "strongly disagrees with the judge's ruling on the facts and the law."

"This case is not about whether yoga has health benefits, whether individuals may personally practice yoga or whether individuals like or enjoy yoga," he said. "This case is simply about whether public schools may ... use the state's coercive powers to promote a particular religious orthodoxy or religious agenda to young and impressionable school children."

CHURCH SCHEDULES

Table containing church schedules for various denominations including Abundant Life, Bible Church, Catholic, Lutheran, United Methodist, Alliance of Renewal Churches, Baptist, and Presbyterian.

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