

# Opinion & Comments

## Kylee Jordan finds success as a jockey (Concluded from page 1B)

like outside of the family business. Jordan graduated from Sumner-Fredericksburg High School in 2020, and as part of the COVID-19 pandemic she was able to graduate early. She had been taking online college classes and thought about being an accountant, but when she left high school she ventured off to different race tracks across the country.

"After senior year, my sister and I went to Nebraska and I was galloping horses there. We packed up and went to Houston and worked in various tracks and got on some nice horses. I really worked on my form and tried to perfect myself as a rider," Jordan stated. "Dad wanted to go to Claremore, Okla., so we packed up from Houston to help Dad out. I worked horses there at Will Rogers for Francisco Bravo. Everything just fell into place to get my jockey license."

Becoming a jockey was never in her sights but it turned into a spur-of-the-moment decision. She made the choice to pursue jockeying in March 2021 and it has been a whirlwind ever since. It happened so quickly Jordan didn't have the right attire to begin her work, so she had to make a mad dash to see what she could scrape together. Now, over one year later, Jordan has found a lot of success on the track.

"My first race was last year in May. I had rode the horse in the morning, but that doesn't always happen. Sometimes I will ride a horse during the races that I have never even seen. You just have to try to find a connection as soon as you get on the horse. The trainer/owner of the horse chooses who they want to ride the horse, so they have the choice to put me on or someone else," Jordan recalled. "It has never been a dream of mine because I always thought I'd be too big, and I never even thought about being a jockey, it just never crossed my mind."

Jordan now has almost 1,000 career starts as a jockey and is the leading racer at Prairie Meadows with 402 starts, 81 wins, 69 second-place finishes and 65 third-place finishes. She is the most winning female jockey in North America.

Jordan's most memorable race so far in her career has been the Breeder's Cup, which she said was like the "Super Bowl" of horse racing with the best of the best competing. She was set to ride Tyler's Tribe, a 2-year-old Iowa-bred gelding named after Tyler Juhl, 8, who was diagnosed with leukemia.

"Tyler's Tribe went to Kentucky a month before the race to train and get used to the track. He had been training really well and was more than ready. He ended up bleeding in the race, meaning his lungs filled up with blood. He was then taken care of and was given time to rest in the pasture. He is back in training and scheduled to run, and he's doing really well," she explained. "I rode and continue to ride a lot of horses for the trainer of Tyler's Tribe. Tim Martin has been a super loyal guy to

me and has always been there to give me a chance. He told my agent that he had a pretty nice 2-year-old. I started working Tyler in the morning, and rode him in the afternoon, and the trainer and owner gave me the opportunity to ride him in the Breeder's Cup."

Jordan became the youngest woman to ride in the Breeder's Cup, which she said is crazy to think about, but she has always been on a horse so she feels like she is mature on a horse.

"I am super grateful for all of the opportunities that everyone has given me, honestly can't be anymore thankful. I couldn't do it without the help of trainers, owners, my agent and family, but most importantly the horses," expressed Jordan.

Being a jockey has its ups and downs, but her favorite part of the experience is being able to work with horses every day. "I can't even call it a job. It's crazy to think this is my life. I loved horses for as long as I can remember, and to think I get to do this every day? That's amazing," she added.

Jordan is extremely grateful to be supported by her family every step of the way. Her parents traveled to Oklahoma for her first race and her sister was there to lead her to the gate, which was a complete surprise and was a great experience.

"I don't even know where to begin when it comes to my family. I really couldn't do it without them. My sister is always with me, she came to Kentucky with me and she is really just always there for anything I need," Jordan stated. "My mom and dad continue to

support me through everything and are always there to help me when I need it. For the rest of my family, when they get the chance to come watch the races they do and if they can't then they are there for moral support. I wouldn't be where I am without them."

As for the future, Jordan explained she is preparing for more races and taking everything day by day. Racing is a dangerous sport, and she hopes to continue to stay safe, healthy and

successful.

"I love having so much support from home and knowing there are people there cheering me on. I am super thankful for it, and what I love more is opening others' eyes to the sport. A lot of people from home didn't even know what horse racing was, and now they do. That is such a good feeling," she commented. "I love what I'm doing and I'm having an amazing time doing it. After all, it's just a ride."



Kylee Jordan (left) and her sister Taelyn grew up around horses and on their first horseback rides when they were only days old. (Photo submitted)



Kylee Jordan (above) is quickly moving her way up to becoming one of the best jockeys in the country with over 130 wins in 2022. She has been a jockey since the spring of 2021 and has been having a great time on the track. (Below) The Jordan family, including Taelyn (left), Kylee, Todd and Christa, have been owning, racing and training horses for over 20 years and now Kylee is finding success as a professional jockey. (Photos submitted)



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## CAPITOL CORNER

From the desk of Rep. Sandy Salmon . . .

### 2022 Almost Over!

I can hardly believe 2022 is almost over! Our year has certainly been full. The first half of the year was filled with the legislative session. We came home to jump into the campaign for the Iowa Senate and also to find a house to move to in order to locate into the new Senate district. Miracle of miracles – we found the house we needed in the new Senate district and moved our household goods in time to meet the deadline for having to establish a residence in the new district! We had help from a great many people and if you were one of those, thank you so much! We moved and settled in all the while conducting the campaign in which we got out and met many more new people! Doing both at the same time is not ideal but God gave us the grace for it! Writing newsletters has had to take a back seat to all of this, so I'm working to get back to it!

### (Dis) Respect for Marriage Act

I've heard from a number of people over the past few weeks about what I believe is aptly called the (Dis)-Respect for Marriage Act going through Congress. This was a harmful and dangerous bill for those of us who value religious liberty and who believe in the Christian view of marriage as between one man and one woman.

The bill requires that states recognize what any other state would recognize as a marriage. It was claimed to be needed to make sure states would recognize interracial and same sex marriages. However, there was no danger or complaint about states not doing that, so the bill was unnecessary.

While the bill does not expressly grant federal recognition to same sex marriages, it does so indirectly by requiring states to recognize any marriage recognized by another state. It's simply an implied recognition in federal law of the decision in the Obergefell case in 2015 that legalized same sex marriage. Cementing in federal law a policy that is harmful and damaging to society is simply a bad idea and shouldn't have been done.

Marriage is an institution established by God long before government came along and government had no right to change it. Marriage is established not just to serve the needs of adults but more importantly to provide a stable, secure, nurturing environment in which to raise children. A man and a woman complement each other and care for children from their unique perspectives and a child needs both and ideally should be able to nurtured by both. We can pretend that gender does not matter in marriage but that does not reflect reality from the child's standpoint. The government, which has a goal of preserving a stable society, has an interest in promoting the best marriage arrangement in which children should be raised and one man-one woman marriage is that model and is the only one government should recognize.

This belief is held by many Christians as part of our Christian faith, as well as adherents of other faiths and cultures. We should therefore be able to enjoy the protection of the 1st Amendment against government intrusion on our free exercise of religion.

Supporters of the bill claim that there are good protections for religious liberty in it, that is for those of us who believe in the Christian view of marriage. But many groups, ones who actually defend religious liberty cases in court and who know and understand the law, are saying that the "protections" are weak. More robust protections are needed to ensure that people who hold to Christian views are not subjected to discriminatory and adverse action against them by the government. They were proposed but did not pass because LGBT groups did not want them.

With this law in place, we likely will see even more attacks than we have already seen since Obergefell. There is expected to be a further increase in harassment, investigations and lawsuits against businesses, schools and agencies that do business with the federal government if they hold to the Christian view of marriage and sexuality. Foster care and adoption agencies, Christian schools and colleges, and small businesses that offer wedding services would be the most targeted. The new law also lays the legal groundwork for the IRS for the removal of tax-exempt status and for courts to rule in future cases seeking to eradicate "discrimination" against same sex marriages.

I was very disappointed with Sen. Ernst's and Rep. Hinson's vote on that bill. In talking with them they were very set in their position and would not budge. They believe it keeps the law as is and has enough religious liberty protections. I told them I did not think so and thought it was a bad bill to support.

The task now before us on the state level is to see what can be done to blunt the effect of this law and put more protections in place for religious liberty and those who hold to the Christian view of marriage. In the meantime, undoubtedly there will be lawsuits and we can hope some court somewhere declares it unconstitutional.

### Carbon Capture Pipeline

With pipeline routes now planned for every county in the Iowa Senate district I represent, I have been hearing about and am very sympathetic to the situation faced by many landowners and farmers having to deal with a large company wanting the use of the land and wondering how far they will be allowed to go to be successful.

I co-sponsored a bill to limit the use of eminent domain on private companies last session and plan to fight on this issue again this coming session.

Eminent domain should not be used for private use projects or economic development. Iowa law only allows it for public use, such as for highways or public utilities. This carbon capture pipeline is strictly a private use project. To allow eminent domain to be used in this case, I believe is a violation of our private property rights. Our federal and state constitutions require a respect for private property rights and provide a defense for landowners against those who are more powerful. The situation landowners in Iowa are in right now is the exact situation in which our constitutions are intended to provide protection. It must be taken into consideration that the individual farmer and landowner have plans for their property and not just the "plans" of the private company.

We wouldn't even be in the position of having to fight this if it wasn't for the federal government incentivizing private companies to take such action through carbon tax credits. To add insult to injury, these private companies are using our own taxpayer money to potentially injure Iowa landowners for their own profit!

In addition, this is all based on the highly debatable ideology of man-made climate change and the Green New Deal. Public policy should not be adopted when the underlying science is not fully known or understood. A better action would be for agricultural states to stand up against those states that threaten our ethanol industry and against the federal administration which is accommodating them.

There is also the very real and valid concern about the disruption and damage done to carefully installed patterned drainage tiling systems on farmland. Promises to return soil to its original condition have not always been kept and thus threaten the proper soil conditions necessary for optimal growth of agricultural crops.

Also to consider: we would be taking a known harmless substance, CO<sub>2</sub>, which all plants need and is an extremely small percentage of the earth's atmosphere, and turning it into something deadly. There is the possibility of health risks should a rupture occur, as was demonstrated by the rupture incident that occurred almost 3 years ago in Mississippi. The federal agency, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has said its current safety guidelines for carbon capture pipelines are inadequate and they want to write new safety regulations. As a minimum there should be a delay in these pipeline projects until safety regulations are updated.

(Continued on page 7B)

## Office Closed:

The Sumner Gazette, Fredericksburg Review & Tripoli Leader office will be closed Monday, Jan. 2, so employees may spend time with their families.

Early deadline for Jan. 5 issues is Friday, Dec. 30, at noon.



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