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GARY'S FALL FEST

Page 15



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Pg. 17

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House of the Lord Church

See Inside Back Cover!

New Family Park opens on west side



A new "family park" has finally opened in Southwest Topeka. Family Park, near 21st and Urish Road, is the first park in Shawnee County in 50 years.

The park offers lots of amenities, including 16 pickleball courts, slides, swings, a jungle gym, a rope net tower, and a merry-go-round. There's also a fitness loop, with a shelter to be added later

However, Shawnee County Commissioners and Parks and Rec officials say it's only 'Phase One' of the park's master plan.



Hope for Surviving A World in Crisis

Hardly a week goes by without some national or worldwide crisis leading the news headlines. And too often fear and anxiousness grip our hearts as we watch the news or are directly affected by the events ourselves.

Near the end of Jesus' ministry, His disciples asked some questions about the future. In response, Jesus spoke of troubling conditions that would descend upon the world.

However, He wove into His message words of assurance, saying, "See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet." (Matthew 24:6)

Jesus' prediction of the future included disturbing events like wars, famines, persecution, increased crime, disease, natural disasters, as well as the degradation of the hearts of men and women, becoming more calloused and ruth-

less toward one another.

Jesus knew times like these would cause people to be greatly disturbed, to the point of being captured by worry and fear. Therefore, in a spirit of wisdom He sought to prepare them for what was coming. He also knew that when future events will unfold, it will appear chaotic, giving the appearance that evil is triumphing,

■ Please see WORLD IN CRISIS page 2

Ward-Meade Mansion Celebrates 150 years



Shawnee County Parks + Recreation has announced plans to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Ward-Meade Mansion at Old Prairie Town with a weekend of special events on Friday, September 13, and Saturday, September 14, 2024. The celebration will honor the rich history of the mansion and its significance in our community. The address of Ward-Meade is 124 NW Filmore Street in Topeka.

Event Schedule:

Friday, September 13th

• 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.: The historic Potwin Drug Store will be open for visitors to explore and experience its nostalgic charm.

• 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.: A special presentation

■ Please see 150 YEARS page 3

Let's Help completes transition to new location on MacVicar

Let's Help has completed the process of moving from their previous building to their new home. Staff has been busy moving furniture, food, clothes, and other items from its previous location on Kansas Avenue to its new location at 245 SW MacVicar Ave.

"The days are long and they go really fast but we're loving it," said Patrick Yancey, executive director

of Let's Help.

Let's Help was displaced from their previous location due to the Polk Quincy viaduct reconstruction.

"A lot of folks that we served at the old location are now finding us at the new location," said Yancey.

"We are committed to not los-

■ Please see LET'S HELP page 3



Kansas Book Festival will feature authors from Topeka and nationwide



The 13th annual Kansas Book Festival will occur Saturday, September 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., hosted by Washburn University Library in Topeka. The Festival welcomes prominent authors from all genres including nonfiction, fiction, picture books, young adult novels, and poetry. Attendees can enjoy panel presentations, music performances, food trucks, children's activities, and exhibitor tents with publishers from around the region.

The headliner for 2024 is Sara Paretsky. Raised in Lawrence, Kansas, Paretsky is the acclaimed author of 30 books, including the NYT Bestselling crime series featuring female detective V.I. Warshawski. The newest novel in

that series, *Pay Dirt*, is set in Lawrence, Kansas, where a young woman goes missing while Warshawski is on holiday watching Jayhawk basketball.

Several presenters have roots in



Topeka as well, including popular children's author Angela Cervantes with a new middle-grade novel *The*

Cursed Moon, which follows an imaginative boy who loves telling scary stories but is hiding anxieties about his mother being released from prison. Alex Grecian, also from Topeka, will speak about his speculative western horror novel, *Red Rabbit*. And former PBS Newshour anchor Elizabeth Farnsworth will share from a new WWII novel set in a Kansas prison-of-war camp for captured Germans.

The festival features authors who come from as far as Maine and California. Other notables include the Grammy Winning musician and writer Elijah Wald with his nonfiction book *Jelly Roll Blues*, about the censored "Dirty" Blues of the past. The sports writing duo Dodd and Dent will share from their new book *Kingdom Quarterback*, which focuses on Super Bowl champion Patrick Mahomes, the Chiefs football team, and the revitalization of Kansas City. Performance poet Matt Mason, current Poet Laureate of Nebraska, will entertain from his collection *Rock Stars*, and Daniel Wildcat, from Haskell Indian Nations University, will speak about his new

nonfiction book *On Indigenuity*.

of their resurrected Lord.

Let us not be filled with alarm at the troubling events swarming around us. Rather, read God's Word and see how times like these were predicted to come. Respond by being vigilant to protect yourself from deception. Pray at all times. Take up the gospel and share it with someone who is trapped in sin. Love one another. Do not be anxious. Flee from immorality. Persevere. Keep pressing forward. And lastly, be filled with optimism and hope, by placing your full faith in Jesus, who is the King of kings and overseeing it all.

A prayer for you - Lord God, I pray that people will not be alarmed when seeing what is happening in the world. Instead, bring them to turn from fear and worry and place their trust in you alone. Lift their eyes above the chaos to see you high and lifted up above it all. In Jesus' name. Amen.

-Clint Decker is President of Great Awakenings. Please share your comment at cdecker@greatawakenings.org and follow his blog at clintdecker.blogspot.com.



nonfiction book *On Indigenuity*.

Parents and youth can expect entertainment too. Two prolific picture book authors will discuss "First Readers and Their Feelings." And a children's tent will feature fun activities organized by the Kansas Children's Discovery Center, the Mulvane Art-Lab, and Friends of the Lawrence Public Library. At designated times, Kyler Carpenter, from the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, will

emcee youth performers on the main Festival stage. Also, teens can participate in a High School Open Mic at 1:00 PM, and at 2 PM the Kansas Authors Club will present their annual Youth Writing Awards.

The Kansas Book Festival is free and open to guests of all ages. Refer to the official Festival website for announcements of attending authors and other important details: <https://www.kansasbookfestival.com>.

WORLD IN CRISIS

continued from page 1

while God is seemingly nowhere to be found. His teachings were to assure people that God is present and in charge, so their hearts can abound with peace. For Jesus not only predicted what will be taking place, but that He will be working in the midst of it all to achieve His purposes.

We live in a chaotic world where sometimes there is the sense of organized chaos, where godless influencers plot evil together at national and international levels. Daily the truth is attacked and lies rewarded. Immorality is glorified. Wars and rumors of wars persist. It is easy to be disturbed at all we see and wonder where the world is headed, becoming worried for ourselves, our children and grandchildren. Jesus knows the evil one will take advantage of such times. He will attempt to deceive people in the church, within families and throughout society. Jesus keenly understood this was a spiritual

battle between good and evil. For the Scripture says, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 6:12)

He told His disciples how the light of the gospel will bring hope into the world in such times and push back against the forces of darkness. He taught how the good news will be proclaimed throughout all the earth and rescue the souls of men and women who are enslaved by the deceptive promises of their generation.

The disciples were told they will need to endure to the end, during this time of global trial. He did not say they will escape from it but will need to persevere through it. And how could they do that when the pressure will be so immense? The Scripture says, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord of hosts." (Zechariah 4:6) They will do it, not in their strength, but through the power



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Dyn-o-mite! Good Times coming to Topeka

Cosmos Court and TopCity Comedy are bringing to Topeka the one and only Jimmie "JJ" Walker from the hit 70's television series "Good Times." He will be appearing with the Godfather of Comedy, Artie Fletcher, for the "Living Legends of Comedy Tour" on October 10, 11th and 12th at Cosmos Court, 909 S. Kansas Avenue.

With over 70 film and television credits between the two of them, Downtown Topeka will be abuzz with energy and excitement by taking an iconic trip



back to the past.

The comedy duo will be randomly appearing all over Topeka to celebrate Good Times during their 4-day stay. Their antics and

appearances will be shared on the Cosmos Court Facebook page as they happen.

This event signifies the official blast-off celebration for Topeka's newest downtown entertainment venue on the Kansas Avenue Entertainment Strip.

Tickets are on sale now for four performances at Cosmos Court from the Cosmos Court Box Office and on CosmosCourt.com. General Admission Tickets start at \$27 and a VIP meet and greet upgrade event is available.

C5 meeting to showcase the new facilities for Let's Help

The September C5Alive POWER Luncheon will be held on the 12th at the new location for Let's Help, 245 SW MacVicar.

Executive Director Pat Yancey will speak to the group and give a tour of the new facility. The Let's Help staff will provide the meal.

The staff at Let's Help just completed the move to the new location in late August.

The cost to attend the luncheon is free, and a free will donation may be made, RSVPs and inquiries can be sent to info@C5Alive.org.

"POWER" luncheons are held on the second Thursday of each month and are open to the public. C5Alive is dedicated to creating Christian culture in the Capital City, by developing and uniting Christian Leadership in community businesses, non-profits and churches.

Upcoming luncheon dates are Oc-

tober 10, November 14 and December 12.

C5 also hosts other periodic events, including EASTERFEST, the annual Topeka Easter Parade and Fun Fair, held on N. Kansas Avenue and at Great Overland Station on the day before Easter.

C5 members may also sponsor luncheons and other events as a way to promote their organizations.

C5 is currently holding a membership drive with special incentives for new members.

Lower-priced memberships for small and home-based businesses are now available. Individuals without a business to promote may also join for \$20. A list of current members is available on the website.

For more information about C5Alive, go to www.C5Alive.org, www.facebook.com/C5Alive, or call 785-640-6399.



Yancey

LET'S HELP

continued from page 1

ing the connections of the people we served down there who maybe walk when they come to us. We're not quite sure how that's going to work just yet, but we're looking at how can we maintain that connection and still provide those services," said Yancey.

Founded in 1969, Let's Help is a not-for-profit organization committed to helping people achieve self-sufficiency and break the cycle of poverty. Their programs reach tens of thousands of people each year and involve hundreds of volunteers.

They work closely with other agencies in Shawnee County and



screened to ensure there is no unnecessary duplication of services among agencies. They remain committed to their mission of building a better community by inspiring hope, promoting self-sufficiency and breaking the cycle of poverty one person at a time.

For more information contact the staff at 785-234-6208 or info@letshelpinc.org, or visit the website at www.letshelpinc.org.

provide referrals when needed. Applicants for services are carefully

visit the website at www.letshelpinc.org.

150 YEARS

continued from page 1

on Anthony A. Ward by Barbara Le Clair, in collaboration with the Topeka Genealogical Society. This event will provide fascinating insights into the life and legacy of one of Topeka's early settlers.

• 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.: Fireside stories will be shared between the Ward Cabin and Church, offering guests a chance to hear captivating tales of days gone by.

• 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.: Tour 1 of the Ward-Meade Mansion will commence, offering an intimate look into the mansion's history and architecture.

• 9:15 – 10:15 p.m.: Tour 2 will follow, providing another opportunity for

guests to explore the mansion by night.

Saturday, September 14th:

• 10:00 a.m.: Ward-Meade Mansion opens to the public for a full day of historical exploration and activities.

• 11:00 a.m.: A presentation by Chris Meinhardt of Free-State Constitution Hall titled "Free-State Topeka" will offer a deep dive into Topeka's role in the Free-State movement.

• 11:30 a.m.: "Which Hat Are You Wearing Today?" A book reading at the schoolhouse, sure to engage visitors of all ages.

• 1:00 p.m.: Lisa Sandmeyer will present on the history of the Topeka Cemetery and the Ward family plot, providing a unique look at local heritage.

• 1:30 p.m.: A tea party on the porch of the Ward-Meade Mansion, where guests can enjoy refreshments and the ambiance of the historic setting.

• 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.: Fireside stories will return between the Ward Cabin and Church, offering a cozy and atmospheric experience.

• 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.: "Ward-Meade in the Dark" – A special evening event where participants can explore the buildings at night by lantern or flashlight, experiencing the mansion and surrounding buildings in a completely new light.

The weekend promises to be a memorable celebration of Topeka's history and the enduring legacy of the Ward-Meade Mansion.

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Topeka Ponders Solutions to Homelessness

By Lorraine Jessepe / Metro Voice

City Council members were briefed last month on a plan touted to end homelessness in Topeka. Housing Services Division Director for the City of Topeka, Carrie Higgins, told the council at the August 13 meeting about “Built for Zero,” a framework to end homelessness rather than manage it.

Four key elements of Built for Zero are: a single, integrated team with weekly case conferencing; a shared measurable aim; real time, by-name quality data, and targeted resources. The City of Topeka-Housing Services will focus on data quality.

Built for Zero is an initiative of Community Solutions, a New York-based non-profit that works to achieve a lasting end to homelessness. According to the Community Solutions website, 105 commu-

nities across the country are participating in BFZ, resulting in 176,000 individuals being housed since 2015 and 14 communities functionally ending homelessness for a population.

Achieving “functional zero” homelessness is a milestone that must be sus-

tained, indicating that a community has measurably solved homelessness for a population. Once functional zero is

dividual behind it. According to BFZ methodology, homelessness changes every night. “To keep up with it,” the website states, “we need a clear video. By-name lists is person-specific data, which is updated regularly, to provide communities with more actionable information on homelessness.”

The most recent point-in-time homeless count in Topeka, conducted in July, indicated 216 unsheltered individuals not living in an emergency shelter or transitional housing.

The Built for Zero Timeline includes a half-day, virtual event in October, the first statewide BFZ Learning Session tentatively set for April 2025, and a multi-sector

coalition launch to implement the Sylver Consulting Homeless Innovation recommendations within the BFZ framework.

Sylver Consulting is the group hired by city officials in February 2023 for \$76,080 to study possible solutions to homelessness in Topeka. Local homeless advocates appear supportive to at least three of Sylver’s recommendations.

Earlier this summer, former executive director of the Topeka Rescue Mission, Barry Feaker, addressed homelessness at a meeting of the Christian business group, C5Alive, July 11 at Harley Davidson in Topeka. Feaker specifically cited Sylver’s recommendations to establish a one-stop homeless resource center, building tiny home villages and a “low-barrier” shelter, as viable plans to mitigate homelessness in Topeka.

According to the Homeless and Housing Resource Center, low-barrier shelter models vary widely. But they have fewer requirements to stay versus traditional shelter models that may, for exam-

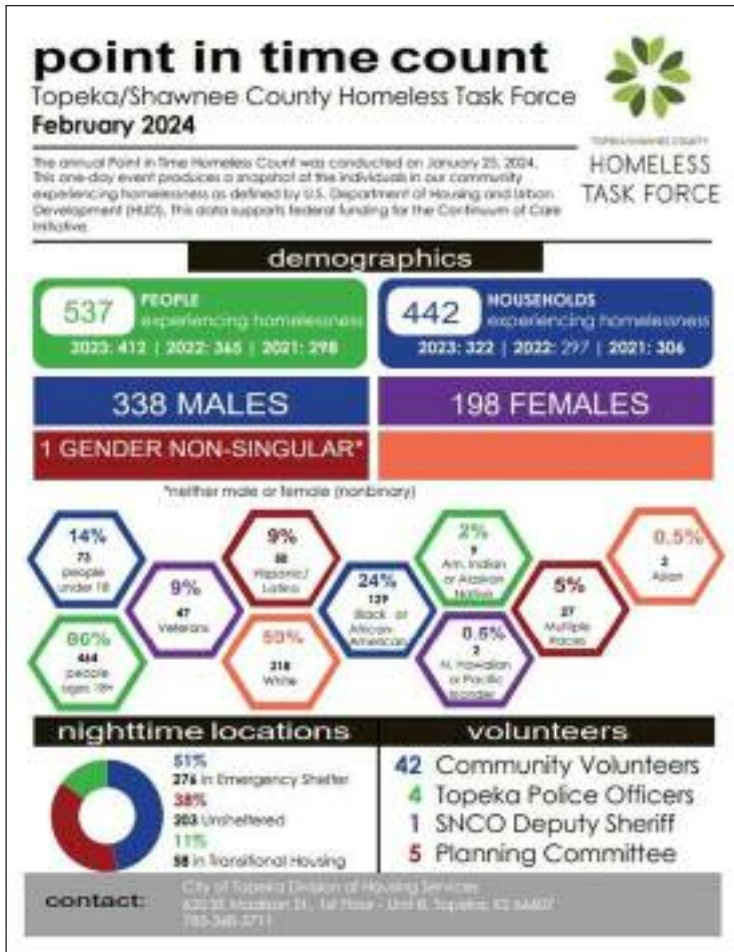
ple, prohibit pets, set curfews, require class attendance, and require sobriety from drugs and alcohol.

Feaker used the game of football as a metaphor for winning the battle against homelessness. To get across the goal line, he told the C5Alive group, “You have to find out where you are to begin with. You have to have a play, a strategy, and you’ve got to have the right people.”

He cited mental health, addiction, political willingness, and NIMBY as the opposition to reaching the goal line. NIMBY is an acronym that stands for “not in my backyard.” It is a term often negatively used to describe local organized opposition to certain kinds of development in a community.

Feaker said that the problem of homelessness in Topeka can be solved, but the willingness to solve it remains a question.

To Learn More, See:
Topeka JUMP Website: www.topeka-jump.com
Compassion Strategies: www.compassionstrategies.org
City of Topeka Homeless FAQ: www.topeka.org/housing-services/homeless-faq



achieved, homelessness is rare and brief.

A pillar of BFZ methodology is “by-name data.” By-name data differs from point-in-time homeless counts, which are estimates from a moment in time without names, i.e., without current, detailed information about a homeless in-

dividual behind it. According to BFZ methodology, homelessness changes every night. “To keep up with it,” the website states, “we need a clear video. By-name lists is person-specific data, which is updated regularly, to provide communities with more actionable information on homelessness.”

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Affordable housing in God's backyard: repurposing church property

As housing becomes a premium across the country, congregations are reimagining their church space to find bible-based solutions.

Faced with declining membership, aging buildings and large, underutilized properties, many U.S. houses of worship have closed their doors in recent years. Presbyterian minister Eileen Linder has argued that 100,000 churches may close in the next few decades.

But some congregations are using their land in new ways that reflect their

faith – a focus of my urban planning research. Some are repurposing their property to provide affordable housing, as the housing crisis intensifies across the country.

Take Arlington Presbyterian Church in Arlington, Virginia. In 2016, the church sold its historic stone building to the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing to construct a 6-story complex with 173 apartments, known as “Gilliam Place.”

The building still houses space for the

congregation, as well as La Cocina, a bilingual culinary job training facility and cafe. In Austin, Texas, St. Austin Catholic Parish is partnering with a developer to build a 29-story tower providing 200 beds of affordable student housing, in addition to new spaces for ministry.

Other churches are pursuing similar projects today.

Same mission, new projects

Faith-based organizations have been building housing for many years, but generally by purchasing additional property. In recent years, however, more houses of worship are building affordable housing on the same property as the sanctuary.

This can be done in a variety of ways. Some congregations adapt the existing sanctuary and other faith-owned buildings, while others demolish existing buildings to construct a new development, which may or may not have space for the congregation. Another option is to build on excess property, like a parking lot.

Depending on how a development deal is structured, a faith-based organization may receive proceeds from the sale of its land, or from leasing their property to a developer – funds which they can then spend on ministry or on a new space for worship. If a new development includes space for the congregation, sometimes they rent out those spaces when the space is not being used for worship, which can also financially benefit the congregation.

Faith-based organizations often see these projects as a way to do “God’s work.” In some instances, they include community services beyond the housing itself.

Near Los Angeles, the Episcopal Church of the Blessed Sacrament in Placentia partnered with a nonprofit affordable housing developer – National Community Renaissance, also called National CORE – to develop 65 units for older people. The complex also includes a 1,500 square foot (140 square meter) community center. The city’s diocese has a goal of building affordable housing on 25% of its 133 properties.

In Washington, D.C., Emory United Methodist Church redeveloped its property and constructed The Beacon Center – which has 99 affordable housing units, community spaces, and a commercial kitchen that provides job training for recently incarcerated people – while preserving the sanctuary. In Seattle, the Nehemiah Initiative is working with



Black churches in the Central District, a historically African American neighborhood, to redevelop its properties into affordable housing to keep residents from being displaced.

Potential to evolve

Churches have also experimented with different housing models.

In St. Paul, Minnesota, the Mosaic Christian Community, which is affiliated with the Church of the Nazarene, partnered with an organization called Settled to construct tiny homes on church property, including a bed, loft, kitchen and small closet. Peace Presbyterian Church in Eugene, Oregon, sold its property to the affordable housing nonprofit SquareOne Villages to develop Peace Village, a 70-unit development.

Peace Village uses a hybrid ownership structure that combines a limited-equity cooperative with a community land trust, and separates the cost of land from the cost of housing. SquareOne owns the land, but leases the land to the cooperative and then leases or sells housing to its members, who also manage the land – a partnership meant to keep the land affordable.

As states and cities struggle to provide affordable housing, studies have been conducted from Nashville to New York City on the amount of land faith organizations own, and their potential as housing partners.

In the D.C. metro area, for example, the Urban Institute found almost 800 vacant parcels owned by religious organizations. In California, a report from the Turner Center at University of California, Berkeley found approximately 170,000 “potentially developable” acres of land owned by religious organizations and nonprofit colleges and universities.

Legal reforms

Houses of worship trying to build housing can run into a number of challenges, including zoning. Some congregations face difficulties changing zoning

codes to a new land use, minimizing parking requirements, or increasing housing density.

In response, many states and municipalities have reformed laws and ordinances. Washington State legislators approved a bill in April 2019 that gives religious organizations a density bonus for building 100% affordable housing on faith property – which permits an increase in the allowable number of units constructed. The same year, San Diego reduced or in some instances removed parking requirements for organizations building affordable housing in areas near public transportation hubs.

In October 2023, California lawmakers passed a bill to permit religious organizations and higher education institutions to bypass local permitting processes in order to build affordable housing on their property.

In March 2024, at the federal level, Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio introduced the “Yes, in God’s Backyard Act.” His “YIGBY” proposal would provide technical assistance to faith organizations interested in building affordable housing.

YIGBY vs. NIMBY

Another challenge facing houses of worship that want to develop affordable housing is community opposition.

In addition to being spiritual centers, houses of worship can be important neighborhood anchors that provide social services and space for community events. They can be aesthetically pleasing and sometimes historically significant.

In New York City, for example, West Park Presbyterian Church has been battling the community for almost a decade over its desire to redevelop the property. The historic church is a designated historic landmark, and requires millions of dollars in repairs, which the congregation says it cannot provide.

Instead, the congregation would like to build a mixed-use facility that would include housing, as well as space for the

■ Continued on page 19

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SHOULD WE TAKE CREDIT CARDS?

Dear Dave,

My husband and I own a small business. We've been open for 12 years, and fortunately we've been very successful. We made the decision when we first opened to run the business debt-free. Along with that, we only accept cash, checks and debit cards for payment. Recently, we've had a client become very insistent that we start accepting credit cards. Our relationship with this client is becoming a little contentious over the issue. How should we address the situation?

Debra

Debra,

Like we, as entrepreneurs, don't have enough things to worry about every, single day, right?

As you might imagine, I have a bunch of people who are mad at me all the time because I don't accept credit cards.

But in my case, it's not just a business decision. I teach people all the time not to use credit cards, and why they shouldn't. So, I can't very well go around encouraging folks to just swipe their credit cards when they buy from my company. For starters, that client is way out of bounds. It's not their place to tell you how to run your business. But you're lucky to only have one person getting pushy about the whole credit card deal. Everything about the credit industry today is out of control. But even though your case is a little different than mine, you have every right to not accept credit cards—especially if you have a moral or values-related issue with the product.

As time goes by, you'll probably have a few other people turn up their noses at the idea of not being able to pay with a credit card, but if you consistently offer great services or products at great prices, those experiences will only be a bump in the road. You don't want to be argumentative when things like this happen, so maybe you can just smile, and let them know you always appreciate input from your clients.

I'm sure you and your husband work hard to make your business the best it can be. The fact that you're still around over a decade after opening up shop is proof of that. You've probably realized, too, that being in business for yourself isn't all sunshine and rainbows every day. Regardless, no one has the right to get in your face over how your business

is structured or try to push you into doing things differently. Listening to, and evaluating, suggestions from clients only makes sense. It's a smart thing for any business owner to do. But this one client is saying you should change a long-standing operating principle based on a whim—their whim.

And that's not okay.

—Dave

WAIT...WHAT?

Dear Dave,

We've been following your Baby Steps plan, and we paid off two car loans a few months ago. That freed up almost \$800 a month. We have two kids, and we love to go on family camping trips. We've been trying to decide on a destination for the next one, but to do this we would need a vehicle with more room. Luckily, we found a used van at a reasonable price, and we think we could have it paid off in no more than 12 months. Would this be okay, since we would still have more money left than before?

Sara

Dear Sara,

Okay, you're telling me you just got out from under \$800 worth of car payments each month, and you want to dive right back in by financing another one? I think you've missed the point of my plan. The point is to get out of debt, not just move it around or try to juggle smaller portions.

What you're actually saying is you're thinking about putting your family's financial future in jeopardy, because you want to go on camping trips in a roomier car. That's a bad plan! For you guys, something like this right now would be a luxury item. Did you know I went without a vacation for four years trying to get my life back together after I went broke? Four years! I'm not suggesting you live with this attitude for the rest of your life, but I'm pretty sure there are other ways to make family camping trips happen.

Long story short, you don't need a different vehicle to go camping. And you definitely don't need to go back into car debt to go camping. Buy a couple of tents, throw them in the back of the car and head for the woods. If your cars are really just too small to handle everything, then rent a bigger car for the weekend. I'd rather you spend a few bucks doing something like that once in a while than picking up another car payment.

Your mindset on this worries me, Sara. The reason for getting out of debt is to live a better life. Live like no one else, so that later, you can live like no one else. Please, don't do it.

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How to Pass Along a Tradition of Giving to Your Children

By Jim Hanna

As an advisor, I often receive questions from my clients who want to help pass along a tradition of giving. If you're looking to impart financial values to your children, here are some ideas on how you can open their eyes to the gift of giving.



Hanna

Talk about why you give. Help your child understand the importance of giving to others in need. Talk early and often about why sharing your knowledge, abilities, possessions or wealth matters to you. Instilling a culture of giving in your family is a process, not a one-time event. Remember to embrace the joy of giving, doing your best not to make giving back feel like a homework assignment or chore.

Find causes your child cares about. Your child is more likely to develop a habit of giving back when he or she is passionate about the cause. Start by brainstorming the possibilities of who your child can help, such as their classmates, animals, the environment or individuals experiencing hunger – and encourage them to think about ways they can be of assistance. Do they love to bake or meet new people? Do they enjoy music or caring for animals? Next, help your child choose one or two charities whose missions reflect their interests. Involve

older children in the search and vetting process, teaching them how to have confidence that a charity is doing its best to help the cause.

Give and volunteer together. When your children see you volunteering your time, talent and treasure, they see your values at work. Find ways to involve your children in your own giving. With the holiday season in full swing, consider volunteering or purchasing gifts for another family together. Your children will learn first-hand how rewarding giving to others can feel, and you'll have the bonus of creating family memories to cherish, too.

Encourage disciplined saving. Kids need to learn how to manage their own money in order to become responsible givers as they grow older. When your children get an allowance, or otherwise receive money, they can practice making responsible choices. Introduce the idea of “save, share and spend” — setting aside a portion of their money for the future, a portion to help others and a portion for fun spending.

Create a family foundation. Consider establishing a foundation to fund causes you care about. Formalizing your giving in this way can create ongoing opportunities for you and your children to make a lasting impact on the community. Talk to your financial advisor for advice re-

garding establishing a foundation and leaving a legacy of service to the next generation.

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Ms. Wheelchair Kansas Selected As Ms. Wheelchair America 2025

Ms. Wheelchair Kansas, Inc. (MWKS) has announced that the 2024 Ms. Wheelchair Kansas, Tamara Blackwell, was selected as Ms. Wheelchair America 2025. Tamara (pronounced Ta-muh-ruh) recently attended the Ms. Wheelchair America event where she competed for the national title and won. She joined with 21 other women vying for the opportunity to represent women who are wheelchair mobile in the United States. This annual

event was hosted in Grand Rapids, Michigan and was held August 19-25 at the Amway Grand Plaza. After an intense week of competition, networking, and empowerment, Tamara came away with the amazing honor of being announced as Ms. Wheelchair America 2025. With this honor, Tamara will travel the country advocating for the 64 million Americans with disabilities, serving as a role model, and spreading her message of accessibility to 1000's of

people.

Tamara is the 20th woman to represent the state of Kansas at the national competition since the creation of the Ms. Wheelchair Kansas organization in 2004. She is the first to ever be selected as the national titleholder. While in Grand Rapids, Tamara participated in two personal interview sessions where she was scored based on her accomplishments, self-perception, communication, and projection skills. She also gave a speech on her chosen platform, "Am I Going to Fit? Navigating Accessibility Through Personal Ex-

perience," and heard from speakers on a variety of topics related to leadership and advocacy. Tamara was able to enjoy some fun activities as well. All 22 titleholders enjoyed a fun day where they had a scavenger hunt and got to tour the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. They also enjoyed themed evenings, including Dancing Through the Decades, Disney Night, and Under the Sea. The week culminated in the crowning ceremony, which was held Saturday, August 24, where Tamara was named Ms. Wheelchair America



2025.

Tamara, of Bel Aire, was crowned Ms. Wheelchair Kansas in March of 2024. Since receiving her title, she has worked to fulfill the MWKS mission, which is to educate, advocate, and empower all people on a state level. Tamara has been traveling to different areas meeting Kansans of all ages, speaking to different groups, and participating in local events. Tamara will now spread her platform and message of accessibility with people of all ages across the entire United States! She will embark on an amazing year full of exciting opportunities and moments to make a difference for people with disabilities.

Tamara is available for speaking engagements and appearances. For more information, contact Carrie Greenwood, MWKS President/CEO, at (785) 633-7255 or via email at mwheelchairkansas@yahoo.com. More information can also be found on the Ms. Wheelchair Kansas web site at www.mwheelchairkansas.org and the Ms. Wheelchair America web site at www.mwheelchairamerica.org.

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Here's the scoop: Former Blue Bell CEO puts God above ice cream



Although Ben & Jerry's ice cream often supports progressive causes and promotes divestment from Israel, Blue Bell is promoting the work of the church. In his new book, "One Scoop at a Time," former CEO Ricky Dickson wants people to know that he loves ice cream but that he loves God more.

"When discerning God's direction in my life on when to step away from Blue Bell, thoughts came into my mind on what a fun story it would be to tell how God used me through the journey," he said.

For Dickson, that journey started with attending Baylor University, where he followed his high school sweetheart, thinking she would be his wife, which didn't happen. Still, his time at Baylor would lead him to be a part of the Blue Bell company from 1981 to 2024. For 43 years, Dickson would call his time at Blue Bell all about people over profit and even ice cream.

"I look past the ice cream, and I gravitate to the people, the people that I worked with collectively and the investment of their lives into the product was not the result — making a product that would also have, in turn, a beautiful effect on people's lives," he said. "I don't mean to cut anybody down, but usually, people don't fall in love with green beans or toothpaste, but for some reason, people fall in love with ice cream. The mantra I've used is our job is to meet the expectation that drives the passion consistently, the commitment must come from the top."

Before Dickson became CEO, Blue Bell was taken off the shelves because of a listeria issue that would result in criminal charges being brought against the company's former leaders. However, Dickson knew he had a mission that needed to be accomplished to get the ice cream back on the shelves. Dickson remembers returning to the company's core beliefs and foundation. He also knew that to get customers to trust them again; the company had to live up to the

brand that customers were loyal to.

"Profits are great, but the loyalty of those waiting to get Blue Bell back into the market and to get Blue Bell back into their homes and freezers was the focal point and the right thing to do," he said. "There were three

things that I focused on: go humble, keep your head down and pray hard. I mean, that's all that you can do, and if we run out of money, then we run out, but at least we did those things."

Dickson knew that the journey back would be difficult for the company, but he also knew that God was calling him to the task.

"I tried to embrace the long journey and not the short one," he said. "I wanted to look back 50 years from now, if God willing and I'm still here, and remember that we took one step at a time and to not just try to be big for

the sake of being big. Let's do the right things for the right reasons, and the two will work together, especially if

God ordains it. If you put your best foot forward and do the right things, then God will bless that."

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Almost Half of Bus Riders Don't Pay: An Explanation

By Dennis Prager

This is the headline of an article published Aug. 26 in The New York Times: "Fare Evasion Surges on N.Y.C. Buses, Where 48% of Riders Fail to Pay."

The article begins: "Every weekday in New York City, close to one million bus riders — roughly one out of every two passengers — board without paying.

"Fare evasion has led to startling financial losses for the M.T.A. (Metropolitan Transit Authority), the state agency that runs the city transit system. In 2022, the authority lost \$315 million because of bus fare evasion and \$285 million as a result of subway fare beaters, according to a 2023 report commissioned by the M.T.A."

This report encapsulates the foolishness — and therefore the destructiveness — of progressive ideas.

To understand why, let's go back five years.

On April 13, 2019, the Times ran this headline: "1 in 5 Bus Riders in New York City Evades the Fare, Far Worse Than Elsewhere."

In just five years, the percentage of New Yorkers who avoid paying their bus fare — in other words, steal — increased from 20% to 50%, a two-and-a-half times increase.

And why might that be? The answer is the same answer that explains virtually every awful development in American cities: moronic progressive ideas and the Democratic Party, the party that governs all our big cities.

As reported in the 2019 article, "Fare evasion was widespread and the reasons varied. Riders did not have exact change. They knew they would not get in trouble ..."

Let's deal with these reasons.

"Riders did not have exact change."

Are we to believe that two and a half times more New Yorkers lacked exact change in 2024 than in 2019? The "no exact change" excuse is typical of people who break laws — they

don't blame themselves; in fact, they regard themselves as perfectly innocent. This is precisely what almost all people who engage in criminal behavior — from fare evasion to murder — do: justify their behavior to themselves.

"They knew they would not get in trouble."

That's the real reason. And as we shall see, progressives ensure that fare evaders will not get in trouble.

If people believe they will get away with it, many, maybe even most, people will do bad things.

There are three reasons people desist from doing bad things:

Reason 1: They will be punished.

Progressives have done away with this crime prevention tool. In California, for example, progressives decided to make theft of up to \$950 a misdemeanor. As a result, there is more theft of retail stores than at any time in modern California history.

The threat of punishment is why there is less fare evasion in London or Paris than in New York. As the 2019 Times article reported, "In London, where riders face fines as high as \$1,300, the fare evasion rate on buses is only 1.5 percent." And in Paris, "the fare evasion rate for buses is 11 percent. ... The Paris transit system has 1,200 staff members dedicated to the problem and hands out about one million fines each year."

In December 2018, The Washington Post reported:

"The D.C. Council gave final approval this week to a measure decriminalizing Metro fare evasion. ... Council members and activists (said) decriminalization was an important step toward addressing disproportionate policing of African Americans who use the transit system. ... Proponents of the bill, the Metro Fare Evasion Decriminalization Amendment Act of 2018, pointed to a recent report from the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs that found between January 2016 and February 2018, 91 percent of Metro Transit Po-



lice citations and summons for fare evasion were issued to African Americans."

Thanks to progressives and D.C. Democrats, the amount of fare evasion increased exponentially in the nation's capital. And so, a few months ago, D.C. did what New York City is now doing. As reported earlier this year by NBC News in D.C.:

"Enhanced enforcement against Metro fare evasion began in D.C. on Monday, March 18. The new policies are part of the anti-crime legislation approved by the D.C. Council and signed by Mayor Muriel Bowser earlier this month."

Reason 2: People's conscience prevents them from doing something bad.

This is true among a minority of people. But for a vast number of people, the conscience is largely useless. The fact that Stalin, Hitler, Mao and the many people who murdered and tortured on their behalf slept well at night should prove how utterly malleable the conscience is. In most people, the conscience is as strong as putty.

Reason 3: People believe God commands them not to engage in certain immoral behaviors.

People who believe in the Ten Commandments — and, importantly, that God is their author — are less likely to steal. This is the case either because they believe they must

not steal just because God commands them not to or because they believe God will punish them.

But, of course, progressives have gotten rid of the Ten Commandments. Simply requiring school classrooms to display the Ten Commandments — as Oklahoma and Kentucky are attempting to do — has set off a left-wing panic.

In a nutshell, the Times headline encapsulates one other aspect of modern life: The civil war in America and in the West is not just between the Left and the Right. It is between the Left and civilization.

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How two men turned America into a bureaucratic nightmare

By Richard C. Lyons

Franklin Roosevelt and Felix Frankfurter aimed to centralize government power in the administrative state. Now, the Supreme Court is finally taking steps to limit these unenumerated powers.

When you read the Constitution, three dominant ideas stand out starting with the first line of our governing document: Article I, Section 1, which states, “All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.”

The rest of the document deliberately outlines the separation of powers among three branches of government: the legislative, the executive, and the judiciary. It details the office of the presidency and the judicial power of the Supreme Court in addition to Congress. The purpose of this separation was to heed Montesquieu’s warning in “The Spirit of the Laws”: “When the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person, or in the same body of magistrates, there can be no liberty ... lest the same monarch or senate should enact tyrannical laws, to execute them in a tyrannical manner.”

To establish a separation of powers in our Constitution properly, James Madi-

son noted in Federalist 45: “The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the Federal Government are few and defined.”

A further guarantee of the separation of powers was written into the 10th Amendment: “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

The other idea which dominates the work is the definition of defenses each citizen has from the arbitrary will of the government, it goes back to the Magna Carta, that there must be a trial before one’s peers.

These ideas held in our country for 150 years, owing to the bulwark of constitutional defenses afforded by our Supreme Court.

Yet, there came a time in our history when constitutional definitions became undefined. About 90 years ago, two remarkable men led our country who were of one mind: Franklin D. Roosevelt and his close adviser Felix Frankfurter wanted to concentrate government power in Washington, D.C., in one institution — the unenumerated administrative state.

Roosevelt sent legislation to a Democratic-dominated Congress aiming to



take control of the American economy. However, the Supreme Court blocked his efforts, prompting Roosevelt to launch a relentless attack on the court. He threatened to expand the number of justices to 15, referring to the court as the “nine old men” in the “mausoleum of injustice.” Under this pressure, the court shifted its stance, moving away from its original role as the defender of the Constitution. Instead, it became an active branch of the left, focused on changing how America is governed.

The first pivotal case in this change was *NRLB v. Jones & Laughlin Steel* in 1937, which became known as “the switch in time that saved nine.” The de-

cision opened the floodgates to the expansion of administrative agency power.

FDR appointed Frankfurter to the high court in 1939. Frankfurter ensured that everyone who clerked for the court, in preparation for high judicial office, came from the same schools and shared the same philosophy of an activist judiciary dedicated to administrative governance under the executive branch. From that point in time, the court decided in favor of the unenumerated power of the administrative state for decades.

The problem with agency authority is that they have the power to legislate, execute the laws they create, and judge those who violate their rules, combining the

three powers our Constitution explicitly designed to keep separate.

One might argue that the administrative state has little power compared to Congress, but consider this: In 2023, Congress passed 27 laws based on the Constitution. Meanwhile, the federal registry ended the year with 90,402 pages of rules that have the force of law. These rules were written by unelected bureaucrats who not only establish the rules but also enforce them and determine the penalties for violations.

Consider the case of Andy Johnson, a rancher in Wyoming who dug a pond on his property to provide water for his chickens. The EPA determined that he had violated one of its rules, stemming from its expansion of the Clean Water Act. The agency decided to fine Johnson \$37,500 per day that his pond remained in existence and an additional \$37,500 per day for defying its orders. This is textbook tyranny.

The good news is that the Supreme Court has begun to defend the Constitution again with two recent rulings. In *Loper Bright v. Raimondo*, the justices struck down its 1984 ruling in *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council*, opening agency rules to judicial review. In *SEC v. Jarkesy*, the court determined

Should Pastors Speak on Social Issues?



CLINT DECKER

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

Speaking Truth

Abortion. Homosexuality. Gay marriage. Transgenderism. Sex before marriage. Regardless of one’s position on these, they are all hot topics and often labeled as social, cultural or political issues.

What is the role of the church with these, and should pastors address them? Some respond by telling church leaders to “stay out of politics and keep their eyes on Jesus,” or “Keep the main thing, the main thing,” while others strongly advise “Do not get sidetracked from the gospel.”

Many church leaders are affected

by these deep sentiments. According to one religious study, over 50% of pastors surveyed admitted they were hesitant to speak on moral issues, because of how it may offend some in their congregation.

Clearly, this is a very complex and sensitive topic.

So where do we go for guidance? The Bible. And specifically, John the Baptist.

John lived in Israel during the rule of King Herod, who was appointed to that role by the occupying Roman Empire. When John began his ministry, he quickly became the most influential religious figure throughout Israel. His phenomenal ministry rocketed upward. Herod had taken interest in John’s rising popularity, and conversely, John had taken notice of Herod’s immoral choices. In particular, John was deeply troubled by Herod’s recent marriage. For John boldly stepped into a cultural issue and took on adultery, divorce and remarriage, in the personal life of

King Herod.

When Herod was previously married, he went to visit his brother and had an affair with his sister-in-law (who was also his niece). Consequently, she divorced his brother and Herod’s wife divorced him. Then Herod and his sister-in-law married, and none of this was done in secret. The whole nation, including all the religious leaders, knew what happened. Yet, because Herod was a ruthless leader -- punishing, even killing, anyone who opposed him; no one spoke up. That is, except for one man. John.

On occasions, as John preached to the people of the nation, he addressed Herod’s moral failure. He pointed out how it was lawless, having violated God’s standard. Herod and his wife became aware of the influential preacher publicly condemning their immoral behavior. This especially angered Herod’s wife, which led her to conspire for John’s eventual arrest, imprisonment and execution.

Why did John speak up when he could have kept silent? Because he had to. He was driven by God and His Word, which denounced what Herod did. John knew that unless Herod submitted to God’s ways, he would come under divine judgment. He addressed the issue out of love for God, love for Herod and love of the people of his nation, who were influenced by the King. John felt he had no choice but to speak up. The Word of God burned in his bones with great conviction.

However, when he addressed the issue, he understood the potential consequences. John was aware of Herod’s brutality, but even so, he knew he had to do what was right. John understood he was ultimately accountable to only One. And what did his Lord say about him? Jesus said, “I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John.” (Luke 7:28)

The Scripture says, “...try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.” (Ephesians 5:10-11) This is exactly what John did. Whether you

are a pastor or parent, young or old, you must not be silent in the face of sin. When we choose silence because of fear, apathy or busyness, we unknowingly become a partner in the advancement of evil. Let us never be guilty of such a thing! With wisdom, love and humility, courageously speak up. Follow in the footsteps of Jesus, John the Baptist and other great Christian leaders in church history. Dare to be different. Do what is right, not what is safe and comfortable.

A prayer for you - Lord God, raise up men and women like John the Baptist, people that have your Word burning in their bones. Bring them to speak your truth no matter the consequences. Let them speak for an audience of one and for the love of their neighbor. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

—Clint Decker is President of Great Awakenings. Share your comment at cdecker@greatawakenings.org and follow his blog at clintdecker.blogspot.com.



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North Topeka has Arts-tember, NOTO Live, Holy Smokin'

Arts-tember is the season to embrace the beauty of nature with the vibrancy of fall colors, and it's also a time to embrace the arts with an array of activities featuring live art performances. NOTO Art Cakes is a unique pancake art making fundraiser for the NOTO Arts & Entertainment District and Topeka Rescue Mission. This fun event, held September 14 in Redbud Park from 8-11am, features a pancake breakfast, celebrity pancake art competitions on stage, and a public pancake art creation station. Tickets will need to be purchased for this event at: <https://noto.betterworld.org/events/noto-art-cakes-pancake-fundraise-2> Kids age 5 and under eat for FREE!

NOTO Live is Sep. 20-21, a weekend celebration packed full with performance artists, live music, buskers and talent of all kinds! This family friendly extravaganza features performers sprinkled throughout the entire district, including special performance acts at Redbud Park, Breezeway



Park, Compass Point, Great Overland Station and a grand finale by Last Carnival Act. A Vendor Market is part of the fun on Saturday.

The NOTO Summer Concert series is a celebration of music that strives to offer culturally rich experiences for the community through a diverse variety of genres and performers. Sep. 15 features Ernest James Zydago in Redbud Park at 7pm.

HOLY SMOKIN JAMBOREE is Sep. 7-8 at Mother Teresa Catholic Church, 2014 NW 46th St. It's a family-friendly event with great food, drinks, car show, bingo, cake walk, crafts, raffles, silent auction, and live music by THE BASH Sat-

urday night. There's a 5K run/walk and poker run and a whole lot more on Saturday, with outdoor Mass and live auction on Sunday. Wristbands will be available for all-day kid games & inflatables! Register at www.holysmokinjamboree.org!

First Friday Art Walk hours are 10 am to 9 pm. First Friday Art Walk & Market is the first Friday of every month. The North Topeka Arts District has become an attraction to Art Lovers and History Buffs alike with beautiful scenes of art and history. Entertainment can also be found on First Fridays, at various venues during the artwalk up and down N. Kansas Avenue, as well as streetside vendors. The restaurants, locally owned shops, art galleries, antiques and studios have become a favorite art walk destination.

You can also visit 3rd Friday's NOTO Night Out! Many Merchants are also open longer hours on Second Saturdays.

For more event information visit explorenoto.org/.

More North Topeka events:

HAYSTAK LIVE – Aug. 31, 9pm, Woodshed Event Ctr., 1901 N. Kansas Ave. Doors open at 8pm

AMANDA FISH – Sep. 29, 5-9pm, Compass Point. American blues singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist.

FIRST FRIDAY FREE FLICKS – Sep. 6, 6pm, Kansas Ave. United Methodist Church, 1029 N. Kansas Ave. "No Vacancy" starring Sean Young, T.C. Stallings & Dean Cain. Light dinner will be served. All are welcome.

OLD-FASHIONED HYMN SING AND ICE-CREAM SOCIAL – Sep. 14, 6pm, Kansas Ave. United Methodist Church, 1029 N. Kansas Ave. Weather-permitting, this event will be held outside. In case of extreme heat or inclement weather, the program will be indoors.

JAMMIN' FOR THE OLDIES – Sep. 13, 6-9pm, Woodshed Event Center. Fundraiser for Papan's Landing Senior Center. Barefoot Karaoke with Darcy Childs, raffles, auction. Tickets \$20. Ages 12-15 \$10, under 12 free.

KANSAS NOTIONS CLASSES – Sep. 7, 10, 14 & 17, 6pm, 2550 NE 31st St. Dr. Wichman will teach a class on how to make teas, medicines, and other basic herbal products. 785-207-1189, tracy@kansasnotions.com.

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Topeka, KS 66608

The Area's Most Complete Guide to the Family-Friendly Events You Want to See!

the events calendar

FREE LISTINGS! E-mail your events to: Voice@cox.net; mail to Metro Voice, P.O. 5724, Topeka, KS 66605; fax to 785-235-3340 or enter online at metrovoiceneeds.com
Get your event **Highlighted in Blue** in print, our online calendar and promoted in social media for only \$29!

CONCERTS

KANSAS PRAIRIE PICKERS – Fourth Sun. ea. Month, 1pm, Auburn Community Center. Foot-stomping, hand-clapping tunes. Concessions available

GRAND OTTAWA OPRY – 2nd & 4th Saturday, 5:30PM- pre-show, 6PM showtime, Ottawa Memorial Auditorium, 301 S Hickory, Ottawa. Tickets are \$15 and only at the door. Ph. 785-241-6762, email grandootpry@gmail.com. GrandOttawaOpry.com

PICKIN' ON THE PRAIRIE BLUEGRASS JAM, every Sunday 1-3:00, Potwin Drug Store, Old Prairie Town, 785-215-6997 for info.

EATS AND BEATS – Aug. 29, 6pm, Everygy Plaza. Nate in the Evening, then Switch in Time

TRIBUTE QUARTET CONCERT – Aug. 30, 7pm, Wanamaker Woods Church, 3501 SW Wanamaker Road. Doors open at 6pm. Free-will offering. Contact 785-273-2248, office@wwnaz.org, wwnaz.org

HAYSTAK LIVE – Aug. 31, 9pm, Woodshed Event Ctr., 1901 N. Kansas Ave. Doors open at 8pm

LIVE AT LUNCH – Sep. 4, 11-1, Everygy Plaza. Matthew Mulnix

EATS AND BEATS – Sep. 5, 6pm, Everygy Plaza. The Mix, then Wilder Horses

LIVE AT LUNCH – Sep. 11, 11-1, Everygy Plaza. Orlando "OZ" Zuniga

EATS AND BEATS – Sep. 12, 6pm, Everygy Plaza. Blazing Mojo, then Mark and the Sharks

NEHEMIAH FEST – Sep. 13-15, Smithville, MO. 50 bands, 4 stages, free admission. www.nehemiahfest.com

HALFWAY TO ST PADDYS DAY WITH SLOPPY BUT LUCKY – Sep. 14, 8-11pm, Celtic Fox

NOTO 3rd FRIDAY CONCERT SERIES – Sep 15, 7-10pm, Redbud Park. Ernest James Zydago

LIVE AT LUNCH – Sep. 18, 11-1, Everygy Plaza. R & J Productions

EATS AND BEATS – Sep. 19, 6pm, Everygy Plaza. Delta Haze, then Paradise Band

SUMMERTIME BLUES – Sep. 20, 7pm, Gage Park Amphitheatre. Mark & the Sharks

LIVE AT LUNCH – Sep. 25, 11-1, Everygy Plaza. Simple Pieces

EATS AND BEATS – Sep. 26, 6pm, Everygy Plaza. Big Harry Blues Band, then The Jack Wagoneers

AMANDA FISH – Sep 29, 5-9pm, Compass Point. American blues singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist.

THE KRAMERS CONCERT – Oct. 25, 7pm, Wanamaker Woods Church, 3501 SW Wanamaker Road. Doors open at 6pm. Free-will offering. Contact 785-273-2248, office@wwnaz.org, wwnaz.org

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

HARVESTER'S PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS – every second Sat., takes place at Christian Lord Ministries, 2421 SE California. Call 266-4979.

HOPE HOUSE FREE COMMUNITY CLOTHING BANK – Wed. 6-8pm and Sat. 12-3pm, Oakland Church of the Nazarene, 939 NE Oakland

HARVESTER FREE MOBILE FOOD DISTRIBUTION – 2nd Saturday each month, 1:30-3pm, Oakland Church of the Nazarene, 939 NE Oakland

FIRST SATURDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET – 7:30 AM – 10:00 AM, Shawnee Heights UMC, 6020 SE 44th

INSIDE OUT FELLOWSHIP CHURCH – Every Sunday 12pm service; Every Tuesday 7:30pm service. Location: 2409 NE Division St. For info: 785-380-7031 or io@insideoutinc.net or www.insideoutinc.net

KIDS for JESUS! – Wednesday's 7 – 8pm, Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Bring your friends, family, neighbors, enemies! For info: 785-266-3247, FB: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene, Email: LakeNaz@aol.com

MID-WEEK PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY – Wednesday's, 7-8pm, Lakeview Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. You are invited! Contact info: (785)266-3247, FB: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene

LOL "LADIES OF LAKEVIEW" – Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Monthly Women's Ministry Events! (Cooking, Crafts, Outreach, Bible Study, Fellowship!) Call the church office for info: (785) 266-3247, Facebook: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene Email: LakeNaz@aol.com

ROOTED CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL CO-OP; Colosians 2:6-7. Monday's 12-4pm. Cooking class for 4th graders & older at noon. Call the Church Office for more information. Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Church: (785) 266-3247. Facebook: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene. LakeNaz@aol.com

FIRST FRIDAY FREE FLICKS – Sep. 6, 6pm, Kansas Ave. United Methodist Church, 1029 N. Kansas Ave. "No Vacancy" starring Sean Young, T.C. Stallings & Dean Cain. Light dinner will be served. All welcome.

OLD-FASHIONED HYMN SING AND ICE-CREAM SOCIAL – Sep. 14, 6pm, Kansas Ave. United Methodist Church, 1029 N. Kansas Ave. Weather-permitting, this event will be held outside. In case of extreme heat or inclement weather, the program will be indoors.

THIRD THURSDAY FAMILY NIGHT PROGRAMS – Sep. 18, 5:30pm, Kansas Ave. United Methodist Church, 1029 N. Kansas Ave. The program will feature a "lite" dinner from 5:30 to 6pm followed by children's and youth activities and an adult Bible study 6 to 7pm.

NIGHT OF PRAISE FUNDRAISER – Sep. 22, 6pm, Fellowship Bible Church. Fundraiser for TRM Ministries featuring three worship bands from Fellowship Bible Church, Topeka Bible Church, and River of Life Family Worship Center. With a special guest appearance from artist SJ Hazim. Free Entry, Please consider bringing a Non-Perishable food item, Diapers or Baby Food.

FREE HYGIENE GIVEAWAY - HANDS FULL OF PURPOSE – Sep. 28, 10-11am, Faith Temple, 1162 SW Lincoln

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

SENIORS NUTRITIONAL LUNCH – Weekdays, except holidays, at noon at Auburn Civic Center, 1020 N. Washington Street. Minimal cost per person. Reservations/cancellations required 24 hours in advance by calling Meals on Wheels of Jefferson & Shawnee Co. at 295-3980. Each meal includes 1% milk & sugar-free items for diabetics. 215- 0064.

MEDICARE MONDAYS – First Mon. ea. month, 1-3pm. Topeka/Sh. Co. Public Library, 1515 SW 10th. Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging offers Senior health insurance counseling. For info: 580-4545 or rhoni@tscpt.org

COUNTRY AND BALLROOM DANCING - Thursdays 6-

9pm. Croco Hall. Info: Edwina 379-9538, 478-4760.

FIRST FRIDAY ART MARKET – Downtown and NOTO arts district. Arts, antiques, fine crafts, flea market items, snacks, beverages, entertainment and more.

TOPEKA ACAPELLA UNLIMITED AUDITIONS –Topeka Acappella Unlimited is looking for female singers who would like to sing four-part acappella harmonies. Topeka Acappella Unlimited is a Chapter of Sweet Adelines, International. Cindy Patton: 785-640-7403

HARVESTERS MOBILE FOOD PANTRY, 1st & 3rd Sat, 2-3pm, Shawnee Heights UMC parking lot.

FREE MOBILE FOOD DISTRIBUTION – 4th Tue. thru Nov., 9am, 1231 NW Eugene St. Randel Ministries, Inc., in partnership with Harvesters and Family of God Church will have its monthly food distribution. No ID or proof of income required, first come first served. Distributing fresh produce and other items to families in need. 785-234-1111. RandelMinistries.com

TOPEKA PUBLIC LIBRARY PLAY BUS – 9:30am-noon, Lakeview Nazarene Church, 2835 Croco. Every Tuesday, enjoy story time, play opportunities, books for check-out & take & make art. 785-266-3247.

OPEN INDOOR COURT PICKLEBALL – Sundays at 4pm, Berryton United Methodist Church (7010 SE Berryton Rd. All ages and abilities welcome.

SENIORS PITCH CLUB – Every Tuesday 1 pm at Garfield Community Center. First visit free then a dollar per visit for coffee and replacement cards .

LAWRENCE FARMERS MARKET – Sat. 7:30-11:30, 924 New Hampshire Street.

BREAD BASKET FARMERS MARKET – Every Saturday in the West Ridge Mall parking lot, south end.

WOODSHED MARKET – Sun. 10-3, 1901 N. Kansas Ave.

DOWNTOWN TOPEKA FARMERS MARKET – Saturday's thru Oct 26, 7:30am-noon, 6th & Harrison. Fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, arts & crafts, food trucks

MONDAY FARMERS MARKET – Mondays 7:30-11:30am, thru Oct. 7, Topeka & Sh. Co. Library, 10th & Washburn. (closed Memorial Day & Labor Day)

CHRISTIAN WRITERS GROUP OF TOPEKA – 1st & third Mondays, 7pm at the Hughes Room 205 of the Topeka Library. Workshop for aspiring writers. Each participant is asked to bring five copies of a two page type written sample of a work in progress. After reading

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the pages aloud each participant is allowed an equal number of positive and negative comments offered in a spirit of helpfulness. If you would like to read something email Charles at jccw@gmail.com

FAMILY NIGHT AT COSMOS COURT — Tuesdays, 5pm, Cosmos Court, 909 S. Kansas Ave. Pizza, salads, hot dogs, nachos, soup and more! Get a 16" Pizza, 2 side salads, and 4 cups of ice cream for only \$30! Also table games, etc.

SPLASH PAD FOUNTAINS — Every Plaza, Sun. 12-5, and 11-1 & 4-8 on most weekdays.

SPLASH PAD YOGA AT EVERGY PLAZA — Tues. 7pm.

FOOD TRUCK NIGHT — Aug. 31, 4-8pm, HHHS, 5720 SW 29. Featuring Delta Haze and food trucks. Helps homeless animals.

CSSA PARADE — Aug. 31, 9:30am, Downtown Topeka on Kansas Avenue. Central States Shrine Association parade. Shriners from six states will participate.

GAGE PARK FOUNDERS FEST — Aug. 31, 9am to 5pm. This family-friendly event will be packed with free activities, entertainment, and educational opportunities for all ages. Free train rides & carousel rides, rec & roll van, food trucks and more

KANSAS CITY RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL — Sat. & Sun., Aug. 31 - Oct 13, 10am - 7pm PLUS Mondays, Sep. 2, 10am - 7pm and Oct. 14, 10am - 5pm. www.kcrenfest.com. FB @KansasCityRenFest 913-721-2110 (email voice@cox.net to see how to get free tickets from Metro Voice!)

ING NETWORKING GROUP — Sep. 4, 11:00am at Bradley's Café.

GARAGE SALE — Sep. 6, 8-4am, and Sep. 7, 8:15-3:15, Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Church: (785) 266-3247. Facebook: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene. LakeNaz@aol.com

HUFF 'N PUFF HOT AIR BALLOON RALLY — Sep. 6-8, Mount Hope Balloon Field, 17th & Fairlawn.

HOLY SMOKIN JAMBOREE — Sep. 7-8, Mother Teresa Catholic Church, 2014 NW 46th St. family-friendly event with great food, drinks, car show, bingo, cake walk, crafts, raffles, silent auction, and live music by THE BASH Saturday night. 5K run/walk and poker run and cornhole tourney on Saturday. Outdoor Mass and live auction on Sunday. Wristbands for all-day kid games & inflatables! Register at www.holysmokin-jamboree.org!

TOUCH A TRUCK — Sep. 7, 9:30-1:30, Every Plaza

KANSAS NOTIONS CLASSES — Sep. 7, 10, 14 & 17, 6pm, 2550 NE 31st St. Dr. Wichman will teach a class on how to make teas, medicines, and other basic herbal products. The events will educate and teach a hands-on approach for addressing your current or future health needs. This class will be for a make and take your own general antibiotic. \$40 per person, due at the time of class. All classes start at 6pm at the store. 785-207-1189, tracy@kansanotions.com, www.KansasNotions.com

CSAive "POWER" LUNCHEON — Sep. 12, 11:30-1, Let's Help, 245 SW MacVicar. Free lunch & tour of the new facility with Ex. Dir. Pat Yancey. Free admission. Free will donation for food. Please RSVP to info@CSAive.org so we know how many to expect. Open to the public - bring a friend!

SAVE THE DATE: C5 POWER Luncheon, Oct. 10, 11:30-1.

JAMMIN' FOR THE OLDIES — Sep. 13, 6-9pm, Woodshed Event Center. Fundraiser for Papan's Landing Senior Center. Barefoot Karaoke with Darcy Childs, raffles, auction. Tickets \$20. Ages 12-15 \$10, under 12 free.

FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS — Sep. 13, "UP" movie starts at 8pm at Every Plaza

VBP VETTES ANNUAL CAR SHOW — Sep. 14, 8-3:30, Furniture Mall of Kansas at West Ridge.

CRUISE IN TO COOLNESS — Sep. 14, 4-8:30pm, Cedar Lawn Farm, 12741 SW K4 Hwy. Classic car show. 785-559-8451, eventsatcedarlawn@gmail.com.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ABORTED CHILDREN PRAYER GATHERING — Sep. 14, 1pm, Heart of America Memorial Wall for the Unborn, 1216 SE Republican. Christians for Life invites you to a prolife prayer gathering for all prolife people. All faiths are welcome. Bring a lawn chair. Questions? Call 785-267-5777 or bakerbarb54130@gmail.com

FIRE TRUCK PULL — Sep. 14, 9am, Comat Air Museum. Food, music, face painting, vendor booths and more. Proceeds will benefit the Combat Air Museum and Be Filled of South Topeka's food & clothing panty

PERRY PRIDE FALL FESTIVAL — Sep. 14, Perry, KS. Car Show 9-4, Tractor Pull, train rides, vendors, inflatables, petting zoo, cake walk, seed spitting contest. Buck Creek 11:30am-1pm; Cleveland Blue 1:30-2:30pm. 2pm: cornhole tourney.

SUICIDE PREVENTION 5K WALK/RUN — Sep. 14, 8:30am, Crestview Center. https://register.chrono-track.com/r/78690

ARTSTEMBER ARTCAKES — Sep. 14, 8-11am, Redbud Park in NOTO. Pancakes and sausage, pancake art making station, celebrity pancake throwdown competition and fun! \$10 adults, \$5 kids 5-12, under 5 free.

TIBA GOLF TOURNAMENT — Sep. 20, Noon Shotgun at Cypress Ridge. Registration at 11am. Lunch provided by The Tee Box. Topeka Independent Business Association (TIBA) tournament benefits EMPOWERED (formerly known as Youth Entrepreneurs of Kansas). Visit TopekaTIBA.org/golf-tournament for details. Sponsorship opportunities available.

NOTO LIVE — Sep. 20-21, NOTO Arts District. Performance artists, live music, buskers and talent of all kinds sprinkled throughout the entire district. Vendor fair and food trucks too - Sat. 9-4!

CIDER DAYS FALL MARKET — Sep. 21-22, Exhibition Hall - Stormont Vail Events Center. Explore over 250 makers, creators, artisans and pickers.

TONGIE DAYS — Sep. 21, 8am-10pm, Tongonoxie, Main St. and Gallagher Park. Kids games, pony rides, vendors, food trucks. Live music: Blast Monkeys, Back 4T, Ronnie Ward Band

HILLSBORO ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR — Sep. 21, 9am-4pm. Over 300 vendors from across the nation, bake sale, German food & Kaffeehaus, Midwestern Creative Art Market. Hillsboroartsandcraftsfair.org.

YOUTH FOR CHRIST GOLF CLASSIC — Sep. 23, 9:00 reg.; 10:00 shotgun start, Lake Shawnee. Several sponsorship levels available. Lots of prizes! 785-232-8296 or topekayfc.org

GARY'S PUMPKIN PATCH & FALL FESTIVAL — Sep. 27-Oct 27, Fri. - Sat. - Sun., 5991 17th St. Grantville, KS. 8 Acre Corn Maze, Pig Races, Corn Pit, 2 Jumping Pillows, Giant Slides, Animals, and more. Home

Made Curly Fries, Hamburgers, Brats, Turkey Legs, Apple Cider Slushy and Fireworks every Friday at 9pm! garysberries.com, garysfarmfest.com; 785-246-0800

INDIA MELA BOLLYWOOD MOVIE NIGHT — Sep. 27, 6:30-9:30pm, Every Plaza. Indian food, henna, jewelry, clothing. Movie at 7pm. Free, bring lawn chairs.

KANSAS BOOK FESTIVAL — Sep. 28, 9-4, Maybee Library, Washburn University. Hear 50+ authors discuss their fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and children's books, including winners of major U.S. writing awards. Purchase a signed copy. Browse at outdoor vendor booths. Donate a used or new book to improve libraries at Kansas jails. Grab a chili dog or tropical treat from the food trucks, then sit and listen to live music. Free. www.kansasbookfestival.com

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE — Oct. 4, 9-3, Christ Lutheran Church, 3509 SW Burlingame. To make your life-saving appointment call 800-RED-CROSS or visit www.redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: TopekaCLC). Bring a photo ID, drink plenty of water and eat prior to your appointment. Save time at your appointment by completing RapidPass - pre-reading and questions - the DAY OF your appointment via the blood donor app or visit www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass.

TOPEKA OKTOBERFEST — Oct. 5, 10-6, Downtown.

TOPEKA MODEL RAILROADERS TRAIN SHOW — Oct. 5, 9-5, West Ridge Mall. Over 12 Layouts (O, HO, N, and Z), over 60 vendor tables, clinics and a model contest. Children 12 and under free with paid adult

GOOD TIMES IN TOPEKA COMEDY SHOW — Oct. 10, 11 & 12. Cosmos Court, 909 S. Kansas Ave. Dym-O-MITE Jimmie JJ Walker and Artie Fletcher Living Legends Tour. Tickets at www.cosmoscourt.com

VFW CHRISTMAS PARTY — Dec. 23, 5-10:30pm, Big Gage Shelter House. With live band and dinner, free for soldiers: Marines, Army, Navy & Air Force. BBQ brisket, grilled hamburgers, chicken legs & wings, collard greens, home-made combread, potato salad, pie, cake, ice cream.

MEETINGS & CLASSES

CHRISTIAN WRITERS GROUP OF TOPEKA - 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7pm at the Hughes Room 205 of the Topeka Library. Workshop for aspiring writers. Each participant is asked to bring five copies of a two page type written sample of a work in progress. After reading the pages aloud each participant is allowed an equal number of positive and negative comments offered in a spirit of helpfulness. If you would like to read something email Charles at jccw@gmail.com

CRAFTY, SKILLED OR CREATIVE VOLUNTEERS

NEEDED to develop outdoor lighted displays at Ward Meade Park events. Contact Elsie, 785-256-2920.

CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA MEETING - Join other concerned people to pray and unite in action for Shawnee Co. and our Nation. For info about monthly meetings: 785-260-5659 or ks.cwfa.org.

THE HEAT — FREE fitness classes for the community. Located at Florence Crittenton Services Center for Integrative Health, 5423 SW 7th. www.flocritkansas.org

DEAF WORSHIP SERVICE — 3rd Sun., 3pm, Faith Lutheran Church, 17th & Gage. Also, every Sun. 9:30am service is interpreted.

TAI CHI FOR HEALTH — Mon. 10-11 at Lowman United Methodist Church and Thu. 9:30-10:30 at Topeka Zoo. No training needed, just watch & follow. Contact Madon Daily at 505-424-8989 or madondaily@gmail.com. To Join from Home via Zoom, contact Madon for the Zoom link.

PICKLEBALL — Mon. & Wed, 1-3pm, First Baptist Church, 3033 SW MacVicar Ave. Park on West Side, where the gym is located. Contact Dave Mathias, davenmathias@sbcglobal.net, or Betsy Thompson, betsyjthompson@gmail.com.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER BOOK CLUB - 1st & 3rd Mon. 2-4pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1275 SW Boswell Ave. Call: 785-249-3258 or email shepherdstopeka@yahoo.com for the book of study.

SMS - STRENGTH, MOBILITY, STABILITY EXERCISE GROUP (SMS) Mon. 9-9:30am, Arbor Court, 4200 SW Drury Lane. Tue. & Thu, 9-9:30am, Rosehill Place, 3600 SW Gage Blvd # 97. Tue & Thu, 10-10:45, Grace UMC, 2627 SW Western Ave. Call Anne Crawford at 785-273-4527 or email anne.crawford@cox.net.

SENIOR FIT & FUN PROGRAM - every Mon., Wed., & Fri., 1:30pm, Rolling Hills Christian Church, 4530 NW Hiawatha Place (US Hwy 75 & NW 46th St.) 785-286-0601 or office@rhctopeka.org

TOPEKA LIONS CLUB — 1st Mondays at Noon - 1 pm at The Capper Foundation, 3500 SW 10th Ave. Park on the North side. RSVP by Fri. for lunch/pay at the meeting. Visitors welcome. TopekaLions.org/contact-us to make reservations. WE SERVE!

BOY'S TRAIL LIFE & AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS TROUPS - Every Mon. 6pm, Cornerstone Comm. Ch., 7620 SW 21st. Faith-based scouting programs, age 5-18. Register: cornerstonetopeka.com. 478-2929.

TOPEKA NEEDLEWORK GUILD - Every Mon. (except holidays) 9a-11a in the Menninger Room of the Topeka Public Library. Bring a project to work on as we share our needleworking skills and ideas. All are welcome



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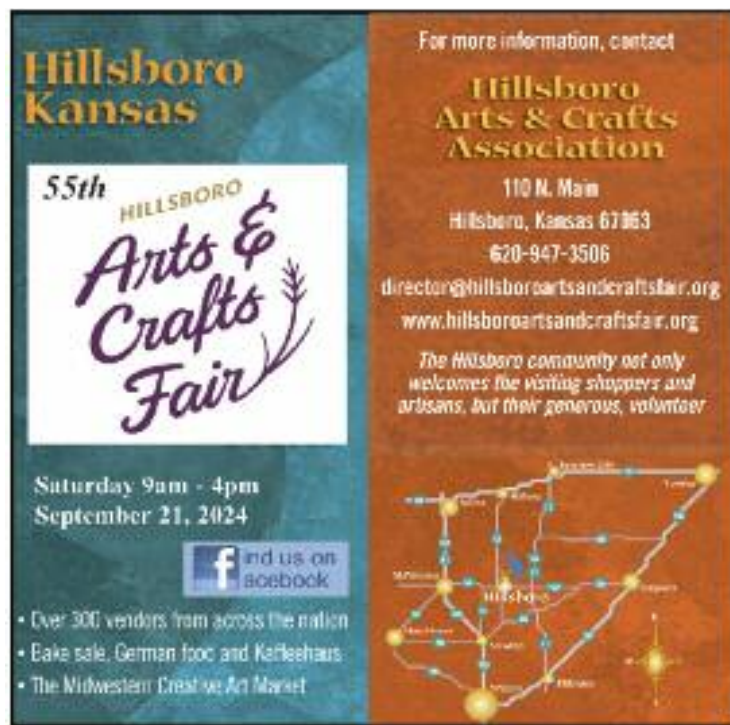
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For more information, contact
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Hillsboro, Kansas 67863
620-947-3506
director@hillsboroartsandcraftsfair.org
www.hillsboroartsandcraftsfair.org

The Hillsboro community not only welcomes the visiting shoppers and artisans, but their generous volunteer

CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL CO-OP - Monday's, 1-4pm, Lakeview Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Contact info: (785)266-3247, FB: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene

SENIOR ADULT EXERCISE CLASS - Tuesday's 10am, Lakeview Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. All exercises will be done from a chair, will help you get up out of a chair, & climb stairs safely! Contact info: (785)266-3247, FB: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene

TOPEKA LINCOLN CLUB - 1st Mondays at Noon - 1 pm at The Capper Foundation, 3500 SW 10th Ave. Park on the North side. RSVP for lunch/pay at the meeting. Visitors welcome. Topekaliions.org/contact-us to make reservations. WE SERVE!

SUNRISE OPTIMIST CLUB - Every Tue., 6:30am, Sunrise Optimist Complex, 720 NW 50th St. 246-1291.

NARVE (Nat'l Assn of Railroad Veteran Employee) - 2nd Tuesday each month at Grace Episcopal Church, 701 SW 8th Ave - 9:30AM. Enter on NW corner.

MENNINGER BIBLE CLASSES - Tuesdays 11am-12:30. Amerus Room, YWCA, 225 West 12th. A new study group for Year One of Flo Menninger's course on Four Years through the Bible. Read and discuss Genesis through First Kings. Nominal charge for materials. For info call the YWCA at 233-1750 or Clara Gamache at 785-408-5433. (The Bible study is also taught on Sat. mornings on 101.5 FM radio.)

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES Aerie 4319: 1st & 3rd Tue. 7pm; Auxiliary: 1st & 4th Tue. 6pm, 2941 SE Fremont Street. An international non-profit organization

uniting fraternally in the spirit of liberty, truth, justice, and equality, to make human life more desirable by lessening its ills and promoting peace, prosperity, gladness and hope. www.foe.com 785-266-7307

DUPLICATE BRIDGE - Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30PM at The Woman's Club of Topeka, 5221 SW West Dr. Bill Gates and Warren Buffett play duplicate bridge! It is great for your brain health. For additional information email janescola@hotmail.com.

O.W.L.S. (Older Wise Loving Saints) - meets the second Tuesday of the month. Location varies and can be found at www.faithfamilylife.com

MAP GROUP (MEMOIRS, ANCESTRY, PHOTOS) - VIA ZOOM - 4th Wed. 10-11:30am. Contact Rich McReynolds at rim4017@gmail.com. Via Zoom link

FAMILY HISTORY WRITING GROUP - 2nd Wed. 10-11:30am, Lowman United Methodist Church, room 12. Do you have great family stories to tell and want to pass them down to the next generation but don't know where to start? shepherdstopeka@yahoo.com

S.W.A.G. (Spiritual Warriors Anointed by God) youth group - Wed at 7:00 p.m. 3710 NW Topeka Blvd.

AWANA - Every Wed., 6-8pm, First Southern Baptist Church, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Bible based program for children & youth ages 3-HS. For info: 272-0443.

AWANA - Every Wed., 6:30pm, Bethel Baptist Church, 4011 N. Kansas Ave. Bible based program for children & youth ages 3-HS. For info: 286-0467.

AWANA - Every Wed., 6:30-8pm, Auburn Christian Church. Bible based program for children & youth ages 3-HS. For info: 256-2515.

VIP LUNCHEON FOR SENIORS - Every Wed., 10:45 Bible Study and meal at Noon, Topeka Church of the Brethren, 3201 NW Rochester Rd. (1 mile north of Dillon's North). FREE lunch with Christian fellowship, devotions & entertainment provided by Topeka North Outreach. Free will donations accepted. For info: 785-224-8803 or vip@topekanorthoutreach.org.

STUDENT IMPACT - Every Wed., 6-8pm, First Southern Baptist, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Youth games, teaching, worship, small groups. For info: 272-0443.

CHRISTIAN CHALLENGE - Every Thurs. 7-9pm, First Southern Baptist, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Worship for college students.

TOPEKA TWILIGHT LIONS BRANCH CLUB - 3rd Thursdays at 7pm at Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco. Social gathering, guests welcome. Topekaliions.org

TOPEKA COSMOPOLITAN CLUB: The Club that fights Diabetes -- Meetings: first three Thursdays of every month, 12 noon, at the Topeka Country Club.

INTENTIONAL MOM - 1st & 3rd Thurs., 9-11:30am, Topeka Bible Church Auditorium, 1135 SW College. For all moms, helping to be intentional! 234-5545.

OPERATION BACKPACK - 1st Thurs., 6pm, Indian Creek Elementary School, 4303 NE Indian Creek Rd. Volunteers assemble Weekend Snack Sacks for low-income students. No assembly in August. Sponsored by Topeka North Outreach: 286-1370.

LINE DANCING - 2nd & 4th Thu. 1:30-3:30 at First Baptist Church, 3033 SW MacVicar Ave. Contact Karen Botkin at 785-945-6785 or Jim Baer at 785-256-2432 or jimbaer73@gmail.com to register.

BRIDGE GROUP - 1st & 3rd Thu. 1- 3:30pm, at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th St. To play, arrangements must be made by Mon. 5pm with Joan Arterburn at 408-5174.

TOPEKA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - 4th Thurs., 7pm, Topeka Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th St. No program in Nov. or Dec. Promotes & stimulates the education, knowledge & interest of the membership & the public in family history, genealogical records & research. 233-5762 or tgstopeka.org.

KINGDOM ADVISORS TOPEKA AREA STUDY GROUP - 3rd Thu., 11:30am-1pm via Zoom. Christian financial professionals: financial planners, accountants,

attorney's & insurance agents invited. For info: kingdomadvisors.org or [Jim Hanna, james.c.hanna@ampf.com](mailto:Jim.Hanna@ampf.com) or 785.357.6278 x19.

TOPEKA (Downtown) OPTIMIST CLUB - Every Fri., noon. Serving the youth of Topeka. Anyone welcome. For info: 272-1099 or fostern60@yahoo.com.

A GOOD YARN CLUB - 2nd & 4th Sat. 9-11am, Wanamaker Rd Baptist Church, 2700 SW Wanamaker. Doing Good for Others: Knitting & Crocheting for Local Charities, free yarn, needles, hooks & patterns. All are welcome. Info: Anne, 785-272-9249 or kittens812@sbcglobal.net

TOPEKA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY - 4th Fridays, 7:15pm, 1st Congressional Church, 1701 SW Collins.

BIBLE QUIZZING - 1st Sat. Learn God's Word & have fun with area Christian youth age 9-19. YFC/YEA style quizzing & rules. 913-593-6427 or biblequizzing.org.

MONTHLY SCORE MEETING - 1st Sat., 8-9:30am, Washburn Tech, 5724 SW Huntoon (enter east doors facing Huntoon). No RSVP or fee is required. Small business owners are invited to a Breakfast Roundtable discussion with members of SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives). Info: 234-3049.

TOPEKA GREAT LIGHT AGLOW - For info contact Vickie Lynch at greatlighttopeka@gmail.com.

SUPPORT GROUPS

HOPE AND HEALING ACADEMY harnesses the power of horses to transform the human spirit. For info: 785-224-4232 or www.hopeandhealingacademy.com.

OVERCOMER'S OUTREACH ANONYMOUS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP - Mondays 6:30-7:30pm, at Be Filled Of South Topeka, 200 Airport Rd, Bldg. 818 Suite 1. Led by Pastor Bill Ritchey. 785-817-2802

BINDING UP THE BROKEN HEARTED - Sessions offered for women who suffer from the after-effects of abortion. All the women who lead these sessions have had an abortion and have received healing from God's Word. For info, contact local Healing Hearts representative Shelly Brush, First Southern Baptist Church at shelly.b@healinghearts.org. All communication is confidential and secure.

MIDLAND CARE GRIEF SUPPORT Groups: Building A, 200 SW Frazier Circle; Every Mon., 4-5pm: 12 Week Adult Group for Recent Loss 1st and 3rd Thu., 10:30am & 5:30pm - Ongoing Adult Group 1st and 3rd Thu., 5:30pm: Ongoing Young Adult Group (4-18 years of age) For All Groups: Call for start dates and

info packet. Group and individual grief support available upon request. Info: 785-232-2044 ext.341

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS - Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging provides an opportunity for caregivers to get together and share their ideas and feelings. 2nd Monday, 3:30pm, Topeka public library, Anton Rm. 3rd Friday, 12 noon, Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, 2910 SW Topeka

ABORTION RECOVERY SUPPORT - Providing services for women & men who suffer from Post-Abortion Syndrome. Kay Lyn at KLCarlson20@cox.net.

AL-ANON is a support group for families and friends of alcoholics. For information on meetings in the Topeka area email ais-topeka@kansas-al-anon.org or 785-215-1045. All correspondence confidential

PURSUIT FOR SEXUAL PURITY - Men struggling with pornography & sexual addiction. This bible study/ accountability group uses the Pure Desire book by Ted Roberts. For info: 249-9509. All inquiries confidential.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUPS - Monthly support group meetings for caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. All of our programs have moved from in-person to virtual.

Caregiver support group via Skype 9:30am every other Wednesday. Email Hayley Young at hdyoung@alz.org or call 785.379.3067 for the meeting link and other info.

Caregiver Support Group via Google Hangouts, 4:30pm every other Wednesday. Email Hayley Young at hdyoung@alz.org or call 785.379.3067 for the meeting link and other info.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS/BEREAVED PARENTS GROUP - 4th Mon. in Formation classroom at Most Pure Heart of Mary, 17th & Stone. Discussion starts 7pm; fellowship & refreshments 8:30. 785-272-4895

CAREGIVERS GROUP - Caring Hearts of Hope meet 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 5:30-6:30pm at Highland Heights Christian Church. Encouragement in God's word and prayer as well as conversation and sharing, open to all those who care for others with illnesses such as Alzheimers, dementia, cancer or other debilitating illnesses or injuries. For info: "Weekly Class List" at www.highlandheightsscc.com or call 785-379-5642.

FIBROMYALGIA & CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME SUPPORT GROUP - 2nd Tue., 7-9pm. First Congregational Church, 17th and Collins. For info: Randy at 785-969-4038 or TopekaCFS@outlook.com.

GRANDPARENT/RELATIVE CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP - 3rd Tue., 6:30-8pm, 2nd floor meeting room, St. Francis Hosp, 1700 SW 7th. For info: Sharla, 286-2329; Jennie (English/Spanish) 231-0763.

GRIEF SUPPORT - Sponsored by Heartland Hospice for those dealing with death or major loss: 1st Mon., 5:30-7:30pm, Individual appointments; other times are available. Call Terry at (785)230-6730. 3rd Thurs., 11am, Lunch After Loss, Paisano's Ristorante, Fleming Place, SW 10th & Gage Blvd. For reservations or info: 785-271-6500.

HEALING AFTER LOSS TO SUICIDE (HeALS) - Topeka support group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8, at 1st Congregational Church, 17th and Collins. For info: Topeka.heals@gmail.com or 785-380-9309.

PRISON OUTREACH MINISTRY - Every Tue., 7-9pm, Topeka Women's Prison, 815 Rice Rd. Reaching out to those who can't come in, finding freedom behind bars, inspiring inmates to seek salvation during a difficult time. Providing support & guidance through the Holy Spirit to offer strength. Director: Don Garner, 286-0489 or faithfamilylifeministries@gmail.com.

BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE - NE Kansas Chapter (B.A.C.A.) 3rd Sun., 4 pm American Legion, 3800 SE Michigan. Open to the public. For info: 817-5801.

DIVORCECARE PROGRAMS - (For updates check www.divorcecare.org) locations and times:

WED. - 6:30pm, Topeka Bible Church, 1101 SW Mulvane. Cost: \$15. Child care provided. For info: 379-0505 or www.divorcecare.org.

Send your calendar events to voice@cox.net See complete calendar at metrovoiceneeds.com



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“So far, amazing,” actor Tim Allen says of reading through the Bible

“The Forge” finishes fifth at box office in opening weekend

“The Forge,” the latest faith-based movie from the Kendrick brothers, ranked No. 5 at the box office in its opening weekend. Spurred by pre-opening sales and churches, the movie earned \$6.6 million despite playing in only 1,818 theaters compared with more than 3,000 theaters for the four films ranked above it.

Made for only \$5 million, “The Forge” beat the new \$50 million movie “The Crow,” which grossed \$4.6 million and finished No. 8, according to estimates. The \$3,630 per-theater average for The Forge was No. 3 among all movies.

It’s unknown if the Kendrick film will manage to stay in the top five this weekend as the highly-anticipated “Reagan” opens to high acclaim on Friday, Aug. 30. Starring Dennis Quaid, the film follows the life of Ronald Reagan, covering the 40th president’s chaotic childhood, his faith and commitment to family, and key moments in American foreign policy under his leadership.

Meanwhile, the “The Forge’s” A+ CinemaScore grade made director Alex Kendrick only the fourth director in film history to earn a perfect score, joining fellow faith-based filmmaker Jon Erwin, who also has four movies with A+ CinemaScores. The other Kendrick movies



that scored an A+ were “Overcomer” (2019), “War Room” (2015) and “Courageous” (2011).

A spin-off to War Room, it stars Cameron Arnett, Priscilla Shirer, Aspen Kennedy, Karen Abercrombie, T.C. Stallings, BJ Arnett, Ken Bevel, Benjamin Watson, Jonathan Evans, Jerry Shirer, and Tommy Woodard. The movie tells the story of an irresponsible young man who transforms into a responsible individual under the mentorship of a wise older mentor. Stephen Kendrick, the producer of “The Forge,” said he and his brother judge a film’s success not on box office numbers but on its impact on souls.

“The world has their box office numbers, and if that represents souls and lives, then yes and amen to reaching as many people as possible with the gospel,” he told media outlets. “For us, one of the issues is: Did we obey what God told us to do? And did we leave it all in the field and give him a worthy offering?”

“Big picture, though, we’re hoping and praying that the church will be strengthened, the lost will be saved, the gospel will go forth. It’s hard to kind of calculate and measure that, but when you hear from people around the world sharing how the movies have changed their lives, it gives us a little foretaste of maybe what’s to come.”

Documentary on Father Flanagan of Boys Town set for October

Spencer Tracy brought the story of Father Edward J. Flanagan to life in the 1938 Oscar-winning movie “Boys Town.” A new documentary, “Heart of a Servant: The Father Flanagan Story,” will take a deeper look at his work when it is shown in theaters for one night only on October 8.

The movie documents Flanagan’s unwavering commitment to caring for abandoned and orphaned youth, starting from the Great Depression to after World War II, all while defying racist laws to serve the most vulnerable and give them hope for a future. As of 2024, the legacy of Flanagan includes serving more than half a million children nationwide in nine sites. See the full impact [HERE](#).

The film covers a range of topics, from Flanagan’s health issues to his immigrating to the United States to his



founding of Boys Town, Neb.

The feature-length documentary was produced by Spirit Juice Studios in partnership with the Father Flanagan League and filmed on location in Ireland, Germany, Austria, Japan and throughout the United States. It also includes expert commentary from Steve Wolf, vice postulator for the cause of Flanagan’s beatification and canonization, as well as Deacon Omar E.A. Gutierrez, Father Ryan Lewis and

Ed Flanagan, the great-nephew of Flanagan, among others. The film is narrated by popular Catholic actor Jonathan Roumie, known for his role as Jesus Christ in “The Chosen.”

Producer Vicoria McEachern said that although man of the bigger topics of Flanagan’s life are very well known, it was the “smaller moments” that she learned while making the film that really stood out to her and gives the documentary more depth.

“For me, it was those little, quiet moments,” she told the Catholic News Reporter. “Father Flanagan was this big personality who was incredibly well known and he was also a very quiet, holy, giving, generous man.”

She added that there also is a lot that people can continue to learn from Flanagan, especially when it comes to injustices we face in society today.



Popular actor and comedian Tim Allen is reading through the Bible – and he is impressed by what it has to say.

“Never took the time in all my years to ever read and really read the Bible,” he posted on X. “Currently almost through the Jerusalem Bible Old Testament and almost done with the prophets. Next up to New Testament. So far, amazing and not at all what I was expecting.”

His post generated has generated a number of positive responses. “Can’t wait for you to read the gospels!” Babylon Bee managing editor Joel Berry said. “Good for you, sir,” David Limbaugh posted.

Allen has discussed his relationship with Christianity before. He says he struggled with faith when, at the age of 11, his father was killed by a drunk driver. “I’ve had a curious relationship with God since my father died,” he said in an 2017 interview on ABC. It set him on a destructive path which culminated in a 1979 cocaine bust and a two-year prison sentence. He was also arrested as a young man for drunk driving. “By the grace of God I didn’t hurt anybody,” he said. He got sober and never touched alcohol again. He says that, and other experiences made him a survivor and that humor was his ally.

In 2022, he spoke about keeping Christ at the center of his “Santa Clauses” series on Disney+.

“It originally had a lot of otherworldly characters and ghosts and goblins,” he said. “I said, ‘no, this is Christ-mas. It’s Christ-mas. It literally is a religious holiday.’ We don’t have to blow trumpets, but I do want you to acknowledge it. That’s what this is about. If you want to get into Santa Claus, you’re gonna have to go back to history, and it’s all about religion.”

In 2011, Allen opened up about his

struggle with faith following his father’s death after being struck by a drunk driver. The actor was 11 years old at the time of the accident. “For years, I just did not like this idea of God, church,” he said at the time. “I was still a churchgoer but constantly a cynic.”

He said he eventually started referring to God as “the builder.”

“I always do ask the builder, what did you want me to do?” Allen said. “And I do ask it. But you’ve got to be prepared for the answer. Whoever built me, this is too much, too weird that it happened by accident. It didn’t happen by accident.”

Allen is returning to television with a new sitcom called “Shifting Gears.” The “Home Improvement” star will appear as a “stubborn, widowed owner of a classic car restoration shop,” according to Variety. The plot entails his estranged daughter and her three children moving in with him and focuses on comedy, as well as the restoration of their relationship.

“Whoever built me, this is too much, too weird that it happened by accident,” he has stated. “It didn’t happen by accident.”

The show will air on ABC though no release date has been set.

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Tough times inspire country singer to appreciate life as he releases new album

From being kicked out of high school to becoming a father at age 17, Christian country singer Rhett Walker admits his journey through life has not always been easy. However, his faith carried him through as he is releasing his newest album, "Days That We Dreamed Of."

The pastor's kid formed the Rhett Walker Band in 2011 when he moved to Nashville. His first success came with "When Mercy Found Me."

In interviews, he's shared his musical and faith journey including the ups and downs. "My biggest thing, since I was a kid, has been authenticity. I think you can write a song that means something to just you, and that, most of the time, will end up relating to most people. They might not have lived that story, but they can relate it to something in their own life," he said in a podcast with Nashville Christian Songwriters.

"My first record came out in 2012, and that was my testimony, from teenage pregnancy to trying to figure out my senior year of high school to getting a job, all of these things," Walker told "The Christian Post." "I was looking at this new record and thinking about me and her, we've been married for 20 years this past July 3, and I was like, 'Man, this, this



has been a journey for the past 20 years.' Just all the things that God's brought us through, all these potholes that you've driven through in life, and you're like, 'Man, every time, he's been faithful and brought me through these things.'"

He described his latest release as the culmination of two decades of "life experiences and lessons learned" and inspired by a realization during a conversation with his wife.

"We were sitting on the back porch, and April said, 'We're living in the days that we dreamed of,'" he recounted. "I was like, 'Yeah, like, we really are.' I don't think for anybody that it's just a smooth ride. Life can be hell to walk

through, and some go there and back many times. But if you really are looking at your life and what God has set up, man, these are the days that we've dreamed of."

Walker's experiences have taught him not to take simple things for granted.

"It's not about what your house looks like, the car that you drive, the money in your bank account," he said. "If you have a family that loves each other and is excited to see mama come home from work and daddy come home, and you're living life with each other all while looking at Jesus and trying to push forward and going, 'God, whatever you have for us, that's a beautiful life.'"



'The Firing Squad' praised by Christian leaders

Christian leaders are praising the new faith-based movie "The Firing Squad."

Former Gov. Mike Huckabee, during his recent interview with the film's stars, expressed his admiration, saying, "When people see it, they'll be totally blown away by the story and the message."

Actor Kevin Sorbo agreed. "I think right now, more than anything in our hate-filled, divisive, crazy world," he said. "I think people are looking for hope."

The film's portrayal of faith emerging in an Indonesian death row prison is a powerful testament to God's ability to reach and transform lives, no matter the circumstances. Huckabee also called to action those who value faith-based films, saying, "If people don't go out and see and support this movie, shame on them."

Emmy Award winner David Sams, who is credited with launching "Wheel of Fortune" and "Oprah" for King World and now serves as CEO of KeepTheFaith, also praised the movie.

"This movie, 'The Firing Squad,' is a true jailhouse redemption story about courage, resilience and the transformative power of salvation when faced with cer-

tain death as in death row," he said.

"Many conservatives now are aware that we can't just let Hollywood go by the wayside; we have to fight for it," said Jennifer Horn of The Morning Answer with Jen and Grant on AM 870 The Answer in Los Angeles. "What's important is to create really good quality films, really good quality art, so people consume it and maybe you change a heart, maybe you inspire a mind. You never know what's going to happen by taking a friend to a show like this."

Written and directed by Tim Chey, "The Firing Squad" is based on a powerful true story sharing the harrowing journey of three men who find themselves on the brink of execution. As the countdown to their deaths begins, a remarkable sequence of events unfolds, revealing the transformative power of faith and the hope that transcends earthly trials. The men's journey of redemption doesn't stop at personal salvation; it ignites a spiritual revolution within the prison camp, guiding the souls of the most hardened criminals toward the loving embrace of Christ.

Yes, another "God's Not Dead" movie is coming out

"God's Not Dead" earned a surprising \$60 million when it was released in 2014. The low-grade flick was made on a budget of just \$1.5 million and a decade later, producers are preparing to release the fifth installment of the franchise.

"God's Not Dead: In God We Trust," which hits theaters nationwide on September 12, "explores the intersection of faith, politics and our civic duty." The release date is about six weeks before the November elections. Coming at a time of cultural chaos, when people fear cancellation and other social ills, "God's Not Dead: In God We Trust" tackles the importance of standing up for one's beliefs and taking action to have a positive impact, according to producers.



Cain, Scott Baio and others. White reprises his role as the Rev. David Hill, the preacher facing yet another moral — and this time, legislative — battle as an elected official. "Now more than ever, Christians must realize that we are being called to deliver hope to a country

that's feeling hopeless," Hill proclaims from the pulpit in the movie's trailer. "Faith begins where your comfort zone ends. We need to step out into that faith."

It seems that Hill will be the one whose faith once again is put to the test in this new "God's Not Dead" adventure. For more on the film, stay tuned to the movie's official website, God's Not Dead: In God We Trust Coming Soon (godsnotdead.com).

"Set in a time of political and spiritual upheaval, 'God's Not Dead: In God We Trust' follows the Rev. David Hill as he runs for Congress following the sudden death of an incumbent," a synopsis said. "Facing a powerful adversary intent on removing religion from governance, the film emphasizes the significance of religious values in shaping policy and governance."

The movie stars David A.R. White, Isaiah Washington, Dean

'Reagan' Will Be Your Favorite Biopic

The new faith-filled movie Reagan (PG-13) tells the story of America's 40th president, Ronald Reagan. Here are four reasons fans of Reagan will enjoy it.

It Covers His Backstory

Most of the film involves Reagan as an adult, but the story begins in Dixon, Ill., where the future president rode his bicycle through the small town streets and attended the Disciples of Christ with his mother.

It's Told through the Eyes of a Spy

The film smartly tells Reagan's story through the eyes of a former communist spy, Viktor Petrovich (Jon Voight), who confides that he spied on Reagan and other opponents of communism but quickly realized that Reagan stood out.

"He was not afraid to take us on," Petrovich says.

Dennis Quaid's Stunning Performance

Quaid is as exceptional as Ronald Rea-

gan, capturing his mannerisms, his distinctive speech patterns, and his charismatic presence. It's easy to forget it's an actor and not the 40th president himself on screen. Quaid says he worked on the role for more than a year.

"I didn't want to do an impersonation of him," Quaid told Crosswalk. "Getting past that was the hard part."

It's Filled with Faith

Reagan's faith is a pillar of the film, rooted in the beliefs his mother instilled in him from a young age.

His presidency is portrayed as divinely ordained, highlighted in a powerful scene where Reverend George Otis prophesies to then-Gov. Reagan, as part of a prayer circle: "If you continue to walk uprightly before Me, you will dwell at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue." Singer Pat Boone portrays Otis on the screen.



5 Home Updates to Provide Peace of Mind for Your Family

Home improvement projects often focus on updating the aesthetic of your house, but upgrades that make your living space more secure and comfortable for you and your family are sometimes even more important.

From your front door to the interior of your home and more, these ideas from the experts at Masonite, a global industry leader in interior and exterior doors, can help provide greater peace of mind – ensuring what matters most is always protected.

Ensure Your Home is Well-Lit

A well-lit home exterior makes it easier to spot potential threats and may even deter people and animals that don't belong on your property. Automatic outdoor lighting, either set to a timer or triggered by motion or light sensors, can help you see what's going on outside. Ensure fixtures on your

porch, patio and garage are in good working order and replace burned out bulbs or lights that no longer function. Adding landscape lighting can also aid in security while boosting curb appeal.

Protect Your Home with a Secure Front Door

Upgrading your front door can do much more than just improve the look of your home – it's also an important part of providing enhanced security for you and your family. With four times more impact resistance than a standard deadbolt lock, the M-Protect Multi-Point Security Lock offers homeowners unmatched protection to keep what matters most safe. The lock works like a standard deadbolt, but with more points of contact, and it is compatible with a wide array of handle sets and hardware, including electronic dead-



bolts. It can be added to any Masonite Performance Door System – an innovative solution that provides superior energy efficiency, performance and comfort – which is available in a diverse range of finishes, colors and glass styles to fit any home design.

Reduce Fire Hazards

Many elements of a home like furnaces, chimneys, hot water heaters and other gas appliances provide value to homeowners through comfort and convenience but can pose risks without proper maintenance. Hiring a professional to check your heating and air conditioning system annually can help you avoid costly repairs while also protecting your loved ones. Keeping the chimney clean of debris, creosote and soot helps lower fire risk and ensures smoke, carbon dioxide and other gases are safely carried out of the home.

Control Home Systems On the Go

Installing security systems, doorbells, lighting and other systems that can be controlled from a smartphone app, like the Masonite M-Pwr Smart Door, can provide added convenience and peace of mind. You can remotely turn lights on and off, unlock doors, change the temperature, open or close garage doors and check camera feeds while away.

Replace Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

A simple project to make your home safer, it's essential to check your smoke detectors regularly and replace the batteries every six months. If you discover the date of manufacture on the back of your smoke detectors is more than 10 years ago, replacement is recommended by the National Fire Protection Association. While checking your smoke detectors, test or install carbon monoxide alarms to ensure you have a way to detect the invisible, odorless gas

that can cause serious health problems if left unchecked.

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sports

“I’m rooted in Christ,” says quarterback C.J. Stroud



Rookie quarterback C.J. Stroud of the Houston Texans dazzled fans last season by passing for 4,108 yards and 23 touchdowns on the way to a divisional championship, Pro Bowl appearance and multiple records for a rookie. Fans recognized Stroud for something else, too: his strong faith, which he often referenced during postgame interviews.

Although he grew up in a Christian home. He didn't get serious about his faith until he was in college when two Ohio State teammates, Kamryn Babb and Xavier Johnson, invited him to church. During the first few minutes of praise and worship, he said he fell to his knees, crying, deeply convicted that he was not on the right path with Christ.

“That was a moment I was like, man, I need to get back on track,” Stroud said, according to “Cross-

walk. “And that was when I started to really try to find Christ for who he was in my life.”

He kept attending church and met “great brothers in Christ,” who encouraged him in his Christian walk. “Without Jesus, man, I don't really know if I would be here right now, to be honest with you,” he said.

Stroud finished third in the Heisman voting as a senior while leading Ohio State to the College Football Playoffs. He was the second pick overall in the 2023 NFL draft.

“My identity isn't just quarterback, it isn't just Houston Texans, it isn't just football,” he said. “First of all, I'm rooted in Christ and who he thinks I am. Second of all, in who my family thinks I am. My identity is through Christ, so how can I serve every day to be more like him and to help one of those around me?”

Stroud expressed amazement at Christ's grace and mercy.

“I'm not perfect,” he said. “I try to do my best, and I'm working on things every day. His grace is so sufficient. His mercy is amazing. We don't deserve it. But, you know, he died on the cross for our sins. And I'm just really appreciative of that, because that holds a lot of weight.”

Bible lessons from childhood still motivate Tony Dungy

Tony Dungy is highly acclaimed as a Super Bowl-winning coach, broadcaster, author and former assistant coach for the Kansas City Chiefs. Despite his success, however, he has never forgotten the life lessons he learned from his mother.

Her favorite Bible verse was Matthew 16:26, “What would it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?” From the time he was a young child, he was taught faith and family over everything else. His mother taught Sunday school class and would practice her lessons on Dungy and his siblings. When he had questions, his mother would listen and show him what the Bible said.

“The Bible became my focal point, and I wanted to grow and learn from it,” he said on the Influencers Podcast. “Even through coaching, I would tell Bible stories and parables to our team.”

Dungy recalls a time when his team was coaching a game in Tampa and was missing many key players, so to encourage them he shared about Gideon's army. He told his team how Gideon didn't have many men for battle but still went out and fought the Midianites despite being outnumbered. At the end of his motivating words, one of the players raised his hand and asked, “So what happened in the story?”

“It never even occurred to me that they may not have known the story,” Dungy said. “So, I said they slaughtered them with just 300 people. They responded to the Bible.”

Through the years, Dungy has



coached talented players within a diverse range of individuals. The challenge is pulling them together, teaching them to

set aside their individual ways and performance, and focus as a team. This is what makes a championship team.

For Dungy, the fine art of bringing unity to a diverse team is to not lose individual goals, but to filter them through the team goal so everyone goes farther together. He believes a strong team leader can do this in sports, business and family — put personal goals behind the good of the group.

“A leader has to try to channel everybody's drive into that,” he said. “I saw it work, and it was awesome.”

FUNNY

continued from page 17

congregation to continue providing arts programs and community activities. Under the city's landmark regulations, however, a designated property cannot be demolished or altered.

Even when a redevelopment project faces no legal barriers, finding the needed skills or funding can be difficult. Nonprofit housing intermediaries such as Enterprise and the Local Initiative Support Corporation have formed technical assistance programs for organizations that want to create affordable housing, including houses of worship. Other nonprofit groups like Bricks and Mortals, Partners for Sacred Places and the Faith Leadership Campus, which is sponsored by Trinity Church Wall Street,

also provide advice on the development process.

Despite the challenges, many houses of worship are constructing housing and changing the way people think about faith-based organizations' role in their communities.

When thinking about the redevelop-

ment process, Arlington Presbyterian member Jon Etherton told me, “the call from God to create, do something about affordable housing was bigger than the building itself.”

—Nadia A. Mian | Senior Program Director and Lecturer, Rutgers University

50+ Lifestyles

A Guide to Enjoying Life in the Best Years

Five Scientifically Proven Ways to Live Longer & Healthier

People born in the US today can expect to live an average of 79 years. A century ago, that age was closer to 54. We've learned a lot about what will help us reach 70, 80, 90 and even 100. Don't smoke, alcohol in moderation, eat healthy and exercise – that advice always seems too broad. But we found five very specific science-backed things you can do today, that will add a decade or more to your life.

Don't do this ... limit this ... and do a lot of this — we've all heard these are keys to living a long life. But there's more!

No — you don't have to do more steps — instead a new study out of Tulane University found taking at least 50 steps up the stairs each day could slash your risk of heart disease by 20 percent.

Lu Qi, MD, PhD, Dir., Obesity Research Center at Tulane University says, "You don't need to go to gym. You can do this every day."

As for your diet, a study analyzing almost a half million people found that those who switched from soda and processed meats to whole grains, nuts, fruits, veggies and fish added an extra 10 years on average to their life.

Skip the salt. For the first time, salt intake has been linked to a higher risk of developing Type 2 diabetes.

Doctor Qi says, "Adding salt to food is a behavior variable, it is an eating behavior."

Researchers believe salt encourages people to eat larger portions, increasing their risks of obesity and inflammation.

Also, find ways to manage your stress. That will reduce your risk of early death by 22 percent. Other ways to combat stress: keep a daily routine, limit screen time, and stay connected with others. And get a good night's sleep. The key word — good. That's means seven to nine hours without interruption. With ways to live a longer, healthier life.

How much do your genes play a role in how long you live? The New England Centenarian study found that genes account for less than one-third of your chances of surviving to age 85. The rest is dependent on your lifestyle choices.

HEALTHY DIET: A UK study followed almost a half of a million people since 2006 and it found that those who made a drastic change to

a healthy diet, like the one found in the UK's National Health Services Eatwell Guide, added 10 years to their life expectancy. Those who are already eating an averagely healthy diet or made the change later in life had smaller gains in their life expectancy. The Eatwell Guide goes as follows: One should have five portions of a variety of fruits and vegetables a day, and these can be consumed from any source (frozen, canned, fresh, etc.). Over a third of one's diet should be starchy foods, specifically foods that are high in fiber or multigrain. For protein, people should be eating two portions of fish a week, one of those times being an oily fish like salmon or mackerel. Beans and legumes are also a good source of protein, and for meats people should be choosing lean cuts instead of red or processed. The smallest part of the Eatwell Guide is dairy, and people should be looking for low-fat and low-sugar options. Finally, foods that are high in fat, sugar, and salt should be at a minimum.

GOOD SLEEP: Good sleep is counted as an uninterrupted seven to eight hours a night achieved without any medications. It is also important not to have trouble falling asleep more than twice a week and to wake up feeling rested five times a week. Identifying a sleep disorder can help increase longevity as well, so the correct steps can be taken to help sooner. Building good sleep hygiene can help rectify problems of a sleep deficit, going to bed at the same time every night and getting up at the same time every morning can improve sleep quality. Sleep environments should be cold, dark, and quiet, and people should be avoiding alcohol before bed as the ending of the metabolizing of alcohol can wake someone up. Finally, start a sleep routine avoiding



blue light and other distractions an hour before bedtime.

GENETICS: While genetics only account for less than a third of why someone could live to 85, genetics play a big role in people who live past 95. There is no one single gene

that causes the ability to get to older ages, but scientists believe it is the combination of hundreds of genes working together. Genes work their best when they are paired with a healthy lifestyle, like exercising and a healthy diet, to increase longevity.

—Ivanhoe Newswire



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Embracing a Healthy Lifestyle Powered by Protein



Protein is an essential part of a healthy diet. It works to build and repair muscles, is needed to carry oxygen to different parts of your body to give you energy, supports your immune system, and helps you feel full for longer. Here's how to get enough of this important macronutrient so you can embrace a healthy lifestyle.

• **Mix it up:** According to registered di-

etitian and culinary nutritionist, Laura Ali, eating protein from different sources helps ensure you get a variety of essential vitamins and minerals like iron, zinc, potassium, calcium, selenium, B vitamins and healthy fats. Getting some variety in your diet also makes life much more interesting so that healthy habits are easier to follow. Choose from lean proteins like lean beef, chicken, pork and of course seafood. And don't forget to include proteins like beans, nuts, seeds, eggs and dairy products.

• **Time it right:** When you eat protein also matters. A protein-filled snack shortly after a workout aids muscle repair and recovery, says Ali, who also

advises including some protein with each meal. Spacing protein consumption throughout the day gives you the constant supply needed to repair tissue, build hormones and carry oxygen.

• **Make it easy:** When it comes to healthy habits, convenience can help keep you on track, so look for sources of protein that can be prepared quickly or taken on-the-go. Committed to supporting consumers' health and well-being, StarKist makes it easier than ever to get your daily protein intake. Known for its tuna, StarKist is becoming a leading protein provider with a lineup of convenient, ready-to-eat products that also includes salmon, chicken, and most recently, beef. Each fully cooked, ready-to-eat protein product provides 8-17 grams of protein per serving and comes in a convenient, portable pouch—ideal for busy, on-the-go lifestyles. With over 30 flavors, including Buffalo Style, Thai Chili and Lemon Pepper, it's easy to add high-quality, delicious protein to any meal, anywhere.

• **Celebrate your wins:** Helping fuel everyday goals, protein-rich diets and success go hand-in-hand, and celebrating your wins as they come can keep the momentum going. Whether your goals include running a marathon, getting your daily walk in, or simply spending quality time with family, one way to highlight your personal victories and the strength you derive from your life and work is through the new #FlexWithStarKist campaign. Using the #FlexWithStarKistSweepstakes hashtag on Instagram, fans can enter for a chance to win the grand prize of \$2,500 cash and other cash prizes and StarKist goodies. See official rules at www.FlexWithStarKist.com.

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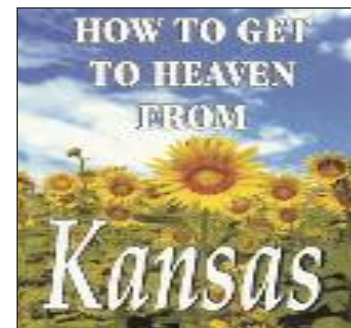
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1. Realize you are a sinner. Everyone starts the same place spiritually. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23). Sin's penalty keeps you out of Heaven and condemns you to Hell, separating you from God. Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death." Sin brings both physical & spiritual death. "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." (Rev. 20:14).

2. Realize Jesus paid the penalty. Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection provided a way for you to go to heaven and restore your relationship with God. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8). Since Jesus, God's Son, was the only One who could pay for our sin, He is the only Way to Heaven.

3. Repent of your sin and receive Jesus as your Savior. In order to go to Heaven from KANSAS, or anywhere else, you must accept Christ by calling on Him in prayer. He tells us in Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Use the following prayer, or one similar to it, to receive Him now:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I believe that you died and rose again for me. Please forgive me of my sin, become Lord of my life, and take me to heaven when I die. I am trusting you completely, and in nothing I can do. Thank you Jesus! Amen.

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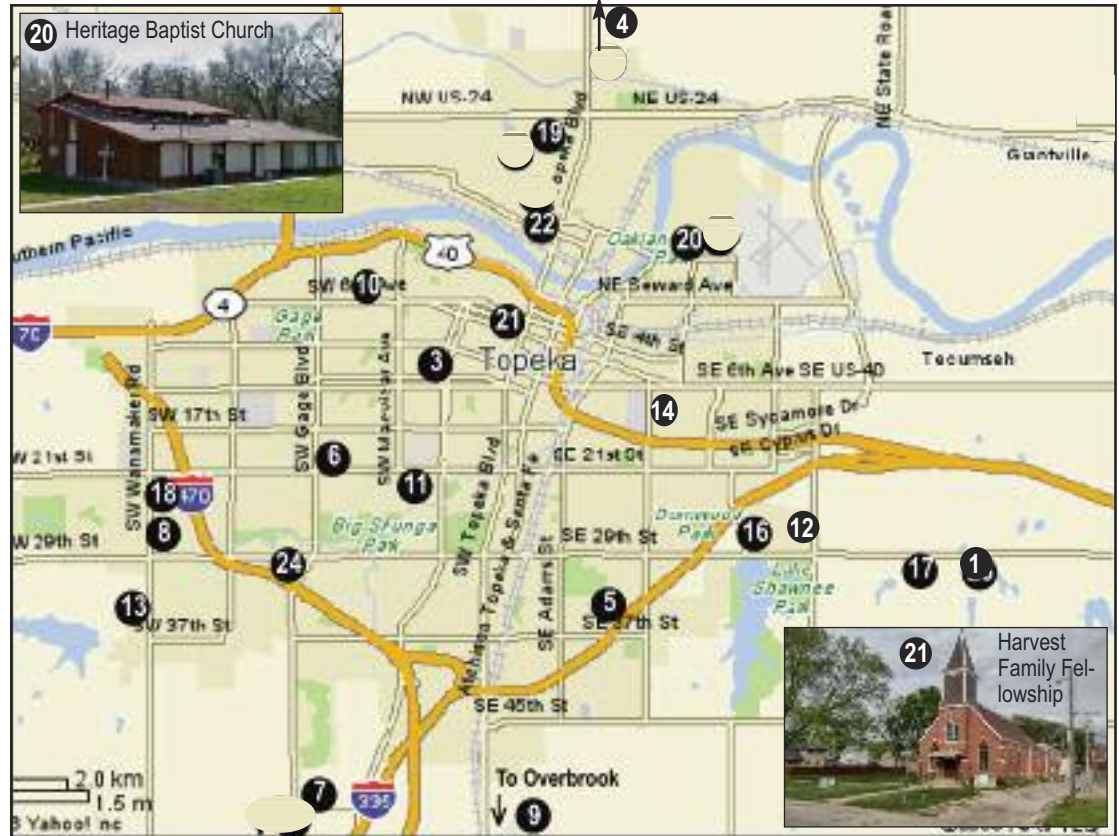
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News Briefs From Around the World: Taylor Swift terrorists, Ford drops DEI, 6-second kiss



News Briefs you may have missed over the last couple of weeks:

CIA: Terrorists planned to kill thousands of Taylor Swift fans

The Islamic-linked terrorist in the foiled plot to attack Taylor Swift concerts in Vienna sought to kill “tens of thousands” of fans before the CIA discovered intelligence and warned Austrian authorities, according to the AP. The CIA says the terror plot included links to ISIS. Investigators unearthed a stockpile of chemicals, explosive devices, detonators and 21,000 euros in counterfeit cash at the home of the main suspect. The intelligence and subsequent arrests, which included Iraqi and Turkish men, ultimately led to the cancellation of three sold-out Eras Tour shows. CIA Deputy Director David Cohen addressed the plot, saying “They were plotting to kill a huge number — tens of thousands of people at this concert, including I am sure many Americans — and were quite advanced in this.”

Ford latest company to drop DEI efforts

The Ford Motor Company announced Wednesday will scale back, and in some cases, end, DEI initiatives and ditch involvement in an LGBTQ-backed “corporate equality index” — according to a statement from Ford CEO Jim Farley. It joins other high-profile companies doing the same this week including Home Harley-Davidson, John Deere & Co, Home Depot, Lowes, Tractor Supply and others. In a letter to employees, Farley said they would “stop participating in external culture surveys such as the Human Rights Campaign’s Corporate Equality Index” as well as “various ‘best places to work’ lists.” General Motors is under pressure to do the same. According to the NYPost, the company “doled out at least \$110 million to DEI and other woke initiatives since 2020, according to their own public documents.” Extensive research has found that DEI practices actually harm the workplace environment and create more division among employees with diverse backgrounds.

Nine Islamist terrorists killed in Samaria

Israel in late August launched a military operation in Samaria killing nine known Islamist terrorists. The operation focused on the city of Jenin, near the ancient site of Joshua’s Altar. Israel has been working since the Hamas attack on Oct. 7 to eliminate Hamas and other terrorist groups operating in the biblical heartland of Samaria and Judea, which the media refers to as the “occupied West Bank.” Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an Israeli military spokesman, said all nine were terrorists and that the operation included two other cities. It is the first stage of an even larger operation aimed at preventing attacks on Israelis, reports the AP.

Most Americans will have already voted by Nov. 5

Republicans have joined Democrats in encouraging their supporters to vote early. The GOP move comes in an effort to avoid ballots being counted after the Nov. 5 election day. According to Fox News, Americans are already choosing to avoid election day lines. “If Americans vote like they did in the last two election cycles, most of them will have already cast a ballot before the big day,” Fox reports. In 2020, a Fox News Voter Analysis found that 71% of voters cast their ballots before Election Day, with 30% voting early in-person and 41% voting by mail. Early voting remained popular in the midterms, with 57% of voters casting a ballot before Election Day. According to US News, in the Nov. 2022 midterms, Democrats cast 55% of early ballots compared to 34.5% early ballots by GOP voters and 10.4% for unaffiliated voters.

Government again slashes job growth numbers

The U.S. Labor Department has admitted it overcounted job growth by 818,000 from April 2023 through March this year reports the Associated Press. The now says job growth averaged just 174,000 a month in the year that ended in March — a drop of a 68,000 a month from the 242,000 that were initially re-

ported and which received favorable news coverage at the time. The Harris campaign this week continued to tout the incorrect numbers as evidence of an economic recovery. Economists had initially questioned the numbers as the Biden administration has regularly revised numbers down. These numbers were scheduled to be released after the election but news reports say they were leaked. The AP reports the “final” numbers will now be released in February of 2025.

California to “rebuild” journalism with \$250 million

California will pay \$250 million to fund journalism driven by artificial intelligence. It “becomes first state to direct millions of dollars from taxpayer money and tech companies to help pay for journalism and AI research,” the AP reports. In a partnership that has been questioned for its integrity, the state will be aided by Big Tech to pay roughly \$250 million over five years and is “set to kick in in 2025 with \$100 million the first year, and the majority of the money would go to news organizations, said Democratic Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, who brokered the deal.” Gov. Gavin Newsom said the aim is to “rebuild” journalism.

Jews forced to meet in secret at the Democrat Convention

The Jerusalem Post reports that a Holocaust survivor and former Anti-defamation League national director Abraham Foxman said Jews had to meet in secret at the Democrat National Convention. He made the shocking statement after a Jewish DNC event on rising antisemitism was disrupted by anti-Israel activists.

Ukraine launches massive drone attack on Moscow

In late August, Moscow came under one of the largest attacks yet by Ukrainian drones since Russia invaded in 2022. At least 45 drones flew towards the Russian capitol with 11 making it to the region authorities reported Wednesday. The drone attacks come as Ukrainian forces are continuing to push into Russia’s western Kursk region. “This was one of the biggest attempts of all time to attack Moscow using drones,” Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyenin said on his Telegram channel. Russia claims it shot down all drones and Russian social media showed

explosions setting off car alarms, reports the AP. Ukraine recently took control of at least 400 square miles of Russian territory forcing Vladimir Putin to evacuate over 200,000 people. Ukraine is pressing the Biden administration to allow it to use American weapons inside Russia as NATO members are now doing.

World’s oldest person dies

Maria Branyas Morera died in August in Spain at the age of 117, her family announced on social media. She passed peacefully at the nursing home in Catalonia, Spain, where she resided for the past two decades. “She has gone the way she wanted: in her sleep, at peace, and without pain,” reads a Facebook post from her family. In an interview in 2023, she credited her long life to “order, tranquility, good connection with family and friends, contact with nature, emotional stability, no worries, no regrets, lots of positivity, and staying away from toxic people.”

Bodies of six murdered hostages recovered in Gaza

Israel has recovered the bodies of six more hostages murdered by Hamas in Gaza. It is believed that Hamas still holds 110 hostages but intel reveals that as few as 20 to 30 may still be alive. U.S. Secretary of

State Antony Blinken is in Egypt today participating in ceasefire talks.

Dennis Quaid says “Reagan” film censored on Facebook

Actor Dennis Quaid says Facebook is censoring his new movie “Reagan.” During the latest episode of “The Joe Rogan Experience,” the actor said “Just the act of banning or censoring that material — as you were talking about — is an attempt to sway an election.” In a statement, Facebook alleged their “automated systems mistakenly determined that content about President Reagan required prior authorization in accordance with our policies.”

Six-second kiss good for couples

After studying more than 3,000 couples over 30 years, a daily intimacy exercise has been pioneered by couples therapists and clinical psychologists John and Julie Gottman. It finds that six seconds of intentional intimacy is enough to trigger the release of oxytocin. It’s the same hormone that’s widely believed to be responsible for bonding a baby with its mother; the Gottmans say it builds

trust in a relationship by calming down the fear center of the brain, according to the Associated Press.

Home Depot sales down over recession fears

Home Depot, long a gauge of the strength of the economy, is mirroring concerns of a recession. The home improvement giant lowered its sales expectations for the year. “It said customers were spending less on home improvement projects, pressured by higher interest rates and concerns that the economy is getting worse,” reports CNN.

Afghanistan celebrates US withdrawal with parade of US military equipment

Afghanistan held a military parade celebrating the ouster of American troops under the Biden administration. Taliban rulers celebrated “their homemade bombs used in war, fighter aircraft and goose-stepping security forces,” according to the BBC. The parade featured some of the billions of dollars worth of military equipment left by the Biden administration. T

Navy ship production at lowest level since 1990s

Military experts have long said America’s next major war will be with China. Now, a disturbing new report says Navy shipbuilding has had its “worst production in 25 years, putting the U.S. behind rival China in production pace,” according to news reports.

Iranian woman paralyzed by bullet for not covering head

The BBC reports an Iranian mother of two is now a paraplegic after being shot by police for not covering her head with a hijab.

Real estate commission changes begin

Realtors this week get an overhaul in how they get paid. The changes are part of a \$418 million settlement announced in March by the National Association of Realtors. Gone are the old informal commissions that put home sellers “on the hook to pay a 5% or 6% commission, usually split between their agent and the agent representing their home seller.” Now, realtors cannot include compensation on multiple listing services. The second change requires buyers’ agents to discuss their compensation upfront and sign a written buyer agreement before touring a property. It is designed to inform buyers that they are responsible for paying their own Realtors fee if a seller chooses not to cover the cost. Industry analysts have called it biggest change in America’s real estate market in a century.

