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The Area's Most Complete Event Guide



JIMMY NEEDHAM AT GCC | Page 13

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metro VOICE



HUMAN AGAIN
The good, the bad, and the ugly on the new live movie version of Beauty and the Beast
SEE PAGE 16

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NEW RESIDENT churchguide



Wanamaker Road Baptist Church

See inside back cover!

The Tabernacle Experience returns to KC

“Emotional” interaction brings many to tears



Building on the successful 2016 stop in the area, The Tabernacle Experience returns to Kansas City April 21 through April 30 at Oakwood Baptist Church on the border of Kansas City and Lee's Summit. It is being hosted by Oakwood and manned by volunteers from both Oakwood and Country Meadows Baptist Churches.

It is rare that the popular interactive experience would come to the same city within eight months but the overwhelming response of the public to last fall's exhibit in Eastern Jackson County proves why this is one of the most anticipated traveling exhibits currently touring North America.

Developed by Jeanne Whittaker, a California woman who got the idea while praying on a trip to Israel some twenty years ago, her vision quickly grew into reality with the help of her own church. The Tabernacle Experience is now a detailed and historically accurate full-scale replica of

■ Please see **TABERNACLE** page 3

EASTER'S COMING!

Over 30 years ago, I heard popular Christian speaker Tony Campolo preach a sermon during a convention on the campus of Ozark Christian College. The title of the message was, “It's Friday, but Sunday's Comin'!” He explained that he first heard this message delivered in Philadelphia by African American preacher S. M. Lockridge. He was so impressed by the message that he began preaching it himself, became well known for his presentation, and even wrote a book by that title.

It was a stirring message that began quietly and built into a climactic crescendo. Each idea began with an event on the Friday of Jesus' crucifixion with an explanation, then concluded with “but Sunday's Comin'!” As the discouraging, disappointing, and even apparently defeating events of Friday were recounted, they always concluded with the victorious Sunday resurrection event. I have heard many wonderful sermons from many outstanding preachers, but this was and still is one of the most memorable. After 30 plus years I still remember the excitement and thrill of the promise that regardless of the trauma of the Friday crucifixion, Sunday was still on the horizon with the glorious resurrection victory.

We all have experienced trauma and tragedy. We all have experienced disappointment and disillusionment. We all have experienced insult and injury. But one confidence we will always have is the knowledge that “Sunday's comin'!”

How is it that Christians can have joy even when the unthinkable occurs? How is it that Christians can have joy when it seems that God is not looking? How is it that Christians can have joy when evil appears to triumph? Because we have the knowledge of reassurance that Sunday's comin'!

For the past several weeks I have been encouraging everyone to “Find One” this year for Jesus. “Find One” person to whom you can witness your faith, whom you can invite to church, and to whom you can expose Jesus. “Find One” whom you can invite to Easter worship, and Easter breakfast with you. “Find One” to whom you can explain your joy of faith, your hope when in harm, your confidence that “Sunday's comin'!”

Easter is Christianity's annual celebration of Jesus' resurrection and its accompanying promise of our resurrection. The perseverance of faith will be rewarded when we arrive in the presence of the Father.

Sunday's comin'!” The hope of heaven is comin'! The gladness of glory is comin'! The joy of the returning Jesus is comin'! “Find One” and tell that one that Easter's comin'!

— Steve Seehorn, pastor at Rolling Hills Christian Church in North Topeka.

It's Friday... But Sunday's Coming

Easter Guide continues - Pg 7

EasterFest highlights April celebrations



It is the time of year to celebrate, and with the arrival of Spring and Easter, what better way than the annual EasterFest?

Preparations have been made, eggs have been filled, food trucks have been invited, and parade floats are being readied for the fourth annual EasterFest - the Topeka Easter Parade & Family Fun Fair - and organizers say it's going to be bigger and better than ever. They say the interest in being involved in the parade has increased, and over 80 vendor booths are planned. Several thousand people are expected to make their way to Garfield Park the day of the event, as dozens of churches, businesses and non-profit groups take part in the parade and fun fair.

The expansion this year to Garfield Park in North Topeka, with the parade taking place on North Kansas Avenue, allows for increased space for more vendors - both in the park and inside the Garfield Shelterhouse and Gym - as well as more convenient setup for entertain-

■ Please see **EASTERFEST** page 7

Get the kids ready for summer!

Stephanie Boothe | Metro Voice

There's more to summer than insect repellent and sunscreen - though those items are a staple for families preparing to send their children to camp this summer.

Summer camp is a tradition for children that has been passed down for generations, and there are several camps in the area that help keep that

tradition alive. From theater camps to 4-H camps, there's a little something for everyone.

Nicolette Unruh, sales director for Rock Springs in Junction City, Kan., said summer camps provide an opportunity for campers to truly connect to one another.

“You can unplug and truly enjoy connecting with each other through

■ Please see **CAMP** page 9



National Day of Prayer observances to be held locally and Nationwide



In addition to a capitol event, there is a local observance of the National Day of Prayer each year in Topeka. In 2015, 24 "elders" in the city (pastors and chaplains) prayed for one continuous hour at Wanamaker Woods Church of the Nazarene.

Christians in Kansas will observe the 66th annual National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 4, by gathering in churches, courthouses, and in the statehouse to pray. The national theme this year blends 2 Chronicles 7:14 with Daniel's prayer in Chapter 9:19, "...For Your Great Name's Sake! ... hear us... forgive us... heal us."

The observance at the state level will be held at noon in the capitol rotunda. Governor Brownback and other officials

will be speaking, and we will be gathering to pray for our communities, our state and our country

Churches in the city of Topeka will

gather at Avondale East NET Center, 455 SE Golf Park Blvd., at 6:30 p.m. This location was chosen because it houses a significant outreach of the Topeka Rescue Mission and partnering churches. The ministry is NETReach, and Topeka National Day of Prayer participants will have the opportunity to learn more about NETReach and pray for its success. The initiative was launched in an attempt to reduce homelessness and poverty, by helping to initiate and sustain transformation in one of Topeka's more challenged and impoverished neighborhoods.

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All of us can agree that our nation needs healing. And God promises to do so, but on the condition that we pray humbly, seek His face, and turn from our own sin. Will America be healed? We won't know until we join together and pray.

Anne Graham Lotz, the daughter of Billy Graham, serves as the Chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force. Through the efforts of her team, more than 40,000 prayer gatherings are conducted by tens of thousands of volunteers across the country. Several million people participate every year in this call to prayer for our nation, its leaders and citizens.

Since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, the call to prayer has continued through our history, including President Lincoln's proclamation of a day of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer" in 1863. In 1952, a joint resolution by Congress, signed by President Truman, declared an annual national day of prayer. In 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May.

For more information about the capitol event contact Dr. Dave DePue at 785-249-7604, or dave.depue@capitolcom.org.

For more information about the event at Avondale East NET Center, contact David Epps at 785-221-2788 or deppe@billygraham.org.

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TRM to open Boutique on the Boulevard



Topeka Rescue Mission Ministries has announced the ribbon-cutting and Grand Opening of the TRM Boutique on the Boulevard, 3400 SW Topeka Blvd. The Boutique will be an upscale resale shop with something for everyone, a spokesperson said. The ribbon cutting with the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce will take place April 21st at 4 p.m., followed by an Open House until 7 p.m. Saturday, April 22nd will be the Grand Opening, with shopping from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Normal hours for the Boutique will be Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Boutique will have quality used clothing, furniture, and miscellaneous household items at affordable prices. Antiques and unique treasures are also part of the charm, and will be priced at market value. All sales from the Boutique support TRM Ministries.

As shoppers stroll through the Boutique they will have the opportunity

to read about the unique history of the building. Also, the showroom floor is a work of art, showing that "Thrifty" can look excellent.

TRM Boutique on the Boulevard will also be a job training/Intern site for several TRM ministries. These areas include Hi-Crest NET, Servants In Training and Career Readiness Education. Individuals working with these ministry areas will learn job skills and get training that will help them as they look for jobs in the community.

All items donated help TRM Ministries care for and provide services to people in need within the community and surrounding area. Donations can be taken to the Distribution Center at 401 NW Norris, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to Noon on Saturdays.

For more information go to www.trmonline.org.



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KS legislator unhappy with donations

Kansas Planned Parenthood supporters, who have been donating money to the organization in the name of Kansas State Senator Steve Fitzgerald got some push back recently when the senator used some strong language.



Fitzgerald

The Kansas City Star reported that Fitzgerald was outraged after the donations were made in his name.

"I figured, I don't want my name

associated as a donation to Planned Parenthood, in my name, to go on undenounced by me," he said in an interview, arguing that the donations in his name are "harassment."

"What I'm saying is, they're both exterminating innocent human life."

Bonyen Lee-Gilmore, spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood Great Plains, said that even more pro-abortion individuals are now donating money to the group in Fitzgerald's name.

"It's this kind of inflammatory language that adds to the shame and stigma of safe legal abortion," Lee-Gilmore said. "The state of Kansas has much bigger issues to be dealing with, and this is just an unacceptable attack on women's

right to choose."

Planned Parenthood recently clashed with President Donald Trump's administration, declaring that abortion is "vital to our mission" in response to a rumored offer that would have allowed it to maintain its hundreds of millions of dollars in annual federal funding.

Trump's offer, which has not formally been issued, apparently would provide Planned Parenthood with federal assistance, if the organization decides to put an end to the 300,000 annual abortions it carries out.

Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the pro-life Susan B. Anthony List, said that she would not have a problem with Trump's offer, if it was made, since her issue with Planned Parenthood is that the organization performs abortions.

For the love of horses

Because of her love for horses, and because of a rescue horse named Tony, B&C Equine Rescue was founded in 2007 by Brenda and Cecil Grimmert. They believe "every horse deserves a chance" to live their life full of love and hope, perhaps for the first time.

Brenda and Cecil personally take care of 29 horses, mules and donkeys with a baby horse to be born soon. They also have 7 large dogs, many cats and several birds, all of which are rescues. Many of their horses end up at the Rescue because of being starved and neglected. Many come with life-threatening injuries. The horses must be nursed back to health with the help of a Veterinarian, Equine Dentist, Equine Chiropractor, Farrier, and the help of many volunteers.

The Grimmerts like to share their horses with the community. B&C Equine Rescue attends many events throughout the year in the area. They bring 3-4 horses and give horse rides to children and adults for donations. One of those horses is named Ted. Everyone wants to ride Ted. He is a gentle giant, a horse that you can trust with your children and grandchildren. Ted is quite a hit at the Rescue. Ted is a big beautiful Belgian Draft that is so tall you can't see over his back and he weighs over a ton!

B&C also holds events at the Rescue, including Valentines Fun Day, ASPCA Help A Horse Day in April and private birthday parties. Many people come from all over to meet and greet all the animals, have a ride on a horse or participate in the Cake Walk. There are many smiles and so much laughter. A day of memories are made for everyone that



joins in the fun especially for grandparents bringing their grandchildren.

Upcoming fundraising events include an April 3 dinner at Margarita's Jalisco North from 5 to 8 p.m. and Karaoke Night at the Celtic Fox April 7, from 8 to 11 p.m. horse rides for donations will be available at these events: April 8 - HHS Paws in the Park, 10 a.m. to -2 p.m.; April 15 - EasterFest in North Topeka, with horses in the parade at 10 a.m., and horse rides afterwards at Garfield Park til 3p.m.; April 23 - ASPCA Help a Horse Day at the Rescue 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Birthday parties are also available, and a Work Day at the Rescue is April 22, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Horses need brushed and cleanup to be done, etc. Volunteers will be delighted to see how much the horses appreciate the attention.

B&C Equine Rescue is located at 740 W 125th St, Carbondale, KS. For more information contact Brenda at 785-633-3318.

TABERNACLE

continued from page 1

Moses' shrine that was carried by the Israelites across the Sinai Desert after they were freed from Egypt, as told in the book of Exodus. To date, over 220,000 people across the United States and Canada have traveled back 2,500 years ago when two million Israelites, set free from Egypt, banded together on the promise of a new land they could call their own with a promise to follow the one true God.

That trip back in time, and the effect it has on a person, is one of the motivating factors in bringing it back. Russ Taylor, pastor of Oakwood Baptist Church says seeing it last fall in Lone Jack, Mo. was an experience he will never forget.

"It was a tremendously moving experience," says Taylor, reflecting on when he and members of his congregation saw it. "Seeing all the requirements that a Holy God demands to dwell among a holy people."

For many the benefit isn't just educational. Taylor says he was even caught up in the moment—and it surprised him. "I saw a number of people who were moved to tears, as I was," he says, "they left in very hushed tones. It clearly had touched them and very deeply."

The Oakwood congregation will certainly be prepared with new knowledge when they see it this year. The church has been going through a Sunday morning series on the Tabernacle taught by Taylor. Having started in February, the pastor says that a number of members have said they finally understand the sacrificial elements of the Old Covenant and the New Covenant and how they are intertwined.

For the pastor, though, it isn't a recent interest, "Seeing it in a three-dimensional way, through the Tabernacle Experience, reignited my passion to share it with our congregation and others," he told Metro Voice.

Pastor Taylor says that as they've been working through the series, this period of Moses is the first time, since the fall, that God expressed His desire to dwell among His people.

"All humanity is hot-wired to know God. The Tabernacle Experience does a great job of explaining that wiring and it exposes people to the opportunity to know God through Jesus Christ. One leaves being reminded of it, as Christians, or being exposed to it for the first time."

The exhibit features historically accu-



rate, artistically crafted biblical replicas of the Brazen Altar, the Table of Showbread and finally, the Ark of the Covenant. State-of-the-art interactive displays take what a visitor sees to a new level that's understandable to young and old alike, whether they be seasoned Christians or just curious individuals who haven't attended church in a while but are drawn to the ancient worship practices.

While the exhibit is mostly self-guided, volunteers direct worshippers through the various aspects of the tabernacle tent. With the help of audio, they journey through the sanctuary with a 55-minute narration in which they interact at each of nine stations. Jesus Christ is revealed in each aspect of the tabernacle.

The Experience may be the most unique traveling exhibit in the nation. But why does a tent, fabric walls and an altar set up in parking lots, fields and churchyards across the nation capture the imagination and spiritual aspirations of so many people?

Pastor Taylor observes that we live in a more visual and experiential age and it gives people the opportunity to really see what they're reading in their Bibles. "This allows us to see how people experienced God 2,500 years ago, in a way that reading alone is difficult to convey."

"The most beautiful aspect," Taylor says, "is how different parts of the experience point to the Christ to come."

Holsten shares a story about a priest who visited, but had run out of time to wait his turn. She says she could sense his angst when he came

to her and said he had to leave in 15 minutes. Was there any part of it he could experience before he had to go? She quickly grabbed a headset, took him straight back to the stations inside the tent, and told him to listen as long as he could, then to just bring the headset out when he had to leave.

"When he came out a short time later, the tears were flowing and he was too caught up to even speak to us," Hosten says.

The Tabernacle Experience will take place Friday, April 21 from 11 a.m. through Sunday, April 30 at 8 p.m., rain or shine. Oakwood Baptist Church is located at 7600 Lee's Summit Road, Kansas City, Mo. (North of Lakewood Medical Center).

Cost is \$6 pp/\$20 per family. Walk-ins wait for those with reservations. You are encouraged to go on line and reserve your time to attend, though donations/payments can only be taken at the door.

For info, and to signup, visit www.obckc.com or call (816) 373-4733 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. More info at www.tabernacleexperience.com.

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Brownback touts successes, gets emotional

Gov. Sam Brownback spoke at the C5Alive luncheon, held March 9 at the Governor's Row House, ticking off changes in item after item of interest to Kansans, then got emotional at the end.



Brownback

The Governor first talked about going to Ashland, Ks, after the luncheon to survey the fire damage, which he called "extreme." He mentioned how parts of 21 counties became a "tinderbox" of dried, dead grass amid 6% humidity. He bemoaned the loss of life (one fatality) and livestock in the hundreds, with many fatally wounded animals having to be shot.

Brownback then touted improvements in the Kansas economy...and how "we're just now coming out of this" bad economic situation, with commodity prices going down, and that now is not the time to raise taxes. He said we have a good pro-growth business policy now, with a shift to consumption taxes.

He talked about job growth being up, with the biggest monthly job gains since 2012 - 5500 private sector jobs - and unemployment being down to 4 percent, lower than the pre-recession rate. Wages are also up, and State revenues are above projections the last four months.

Brownback shared Secretary of State registration numbers showing an increase in business formations every year for the last six years.

"When you don't tax them to death, you get more of them," Brownback said, noting that we are also "winning the battle for Kansas City" job-wise.

Brownback also ticked off some other

accomplishments not often reported on:

- Education funding has gone up almost every year, up 10% overall, and KPERS has also been rescued from near-bankruptcy.

- Kansas highways are ranked 3rd best overall in the nation, 3rd best in urban highways, and tied for first in best rural highways.

- Welfare numbers are down because "people are going back to work," and we have "tripled the number of people getting out of poverty." He also touted the increase in mentoring, and the decrease in the recidivism rate.

- The number of Kansans served by KanCare has increased from 329,129 in 2010 to over 440 thousand in 2016, even without Medicaid expansion.

In wrapping up, Brownback said Kansas "is a wonderful place...don't listen to all the bad..." and mentioned signing 17 pro-life bills.

"You need to know where your values are...What are we as a nation? In God we trust? Are we post-Christian?"

"This state was founded on the fight against slavery...it's in our gene pool...we'll fight for something."

But typically, he said, only about 20% of the public get into the fight.

Then the Governor got emotional as he finished speaking, leaving those in the audience with a challenge:

"When we face our Lord, and He asks 'What did you do with what I gave you? I put you in a good place, in a fertile place, in Kansas...I put you in the good soil...now what did you do with it?'"

National Bible Bee Game Show to feature local kids

Watch the National Bible Bee Game Show Tues at 8/7pm CDT premieres April 4 on Facebook Live ChristianCinema.tv

The National Bible Bee Game Show, hosted by Kirk Cameron, premieres April 4th at 8pm/7pm Central on Facebook Live. Seventy-two young people ranging from 7 to 18 years of age compete for \$270,000 in prize money.

The seventy-two National Bible Bee Game Show contestants are chosen from the annual National Bible Bee grouped as Primary (ages 7-10), Junior (ages 11-14) and Seniors (ages 15-18). From each age division, the top 3 percent of contestants compete in the bracket-style Scripture-knowledge tourney. In preparation, young people commit to memory up to 840 passages from the Bible.

Dan Pentimone, a former Topekan who now lives in the KC area, has announced that three of his seven children will be featured as contestants on the show. They are: Ellia, 9; David, 14; and Carissa, 17.

Produced by Enthuse Entertainment, the National Bible Bee Game Show has reached 80 million homes in the previous season on three TV networks and was broadcast globally on NRB Network, CTN and UPLIFT TV. But for this season's 30 one-hour episodes, the show is being broadcast on Facebook Live beginning April 4th.

Since the National Bible Bee's first contest in 2009, more than 40,000 young people have participated.



Competition begins locally and online where the top 360 local participants advance to the National Bible Bee Competition.

Hannah Leary, former National Bible Bee Game Show winner, joins this season's panel of co-hosts for the National Bible Bee Game Show: Co-hosts also include Emeal Zwayne, president of Living Waters Publications, and identical twins Jason and David Benham, former professional baseball

players, best-selling authors and serial entrepreneurs.

The National Bible Bee Game Show will premiere on Facebook Live at ChristianCinema.tv beginning April 4th and on ChristianCinema.com's Digital HD platform for purchase. ChristianCinema.com is the largest selection of faith-affirming and family-approved films on the Internet offering DVDs and video streaming on demand.

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Prayer Breakfast speaker shares her faith and leadership style



Major General Julie A. Bentz and Mitch Miller of Topeka Fellowship, Inc., the group that organizes the Kansas Prayer Breakfast every year.

The featured speaker at the 56th Annual Kansas Prayer Breakfast, Major General Julie A. Bentz, arrived in Topeka a day early to avoid traveling in bad weather. At the breakfast, held at the Downtown Ramada on March 15, she talked about how her "greatest privilege is standing in front of my king and my God, carrying every member of my organization to his throne and asking for his protection, his mercy, his love on each of them and their families and whatever are their concerns and burdens of the day. That is what I

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FINANCIAL PLANNING

Run From That Guy

Dear Dave,

My husband was recently laid off, and he has \$229,000 in a 401(k). He has been told that he should roll it into a hybrid annuity. Is this a good idea?
Durnae

Dear Durnae,

Absolutely not! It sounds to me like he's been talking to an insurance agent instead of an investment advisor. There's no reason to put a 401(k) into an annuity. Annuities are there to protect money, as it grows, from taxes. Well, guess what? The 401(k) is already protecting it from taxes.

I would roll it into a traditional IRA in a series of growth stock mutual funds. You'll have half the fees, the advisor won't make anywhere near the commission he'd make on an annuity, and you'll get much better results in the end.

Yeah, I definitely wouldn't go the annuity route. I don't have a single annuity, and I've got a lot of investments. One of the reasons so many "advisors" push annuities is because they wind up with bigger commissions. Annuities aren't evil or anything, but they're definitely not the proper product for you in this situation.

Get away from the guy who gave you this advice, and find a good financial advisor — not an insurance guy — with the heart of a teacher. You need to talk to someone who's interested in helping you two plan for your future,

not theirs!
—Dave

Jobs from home?

Dear Dave,

I'm 37 years old, married with two great kids, and I was just diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. I'm trying to plan for the future, and I was wondering if you have any suggestions for work at home or self-employment ideas for people with disabilities.
Chris

Dear Chris,

I'm really sorry to hear you're facing this. You're a smart, brave young woman to be looking ahead and making plans for the coming years.

I suggest you read a book by Dan Miller called 48 Days to Creative Income. Dan is a friend of mine, and he also wrote a popular book titled 48 Days to the Work You Love. The issue you're talking about is very close to his heart, and I think his books will be a great help to you.

There's also a book by Richard Bolles. It's called Job Hunting for the So-Called Handicapped or People Who Have Disabilities, and it's full of ideas to help you work around the issues you'll be facing.

There are lots of people out there — well-known, highly successful folks — who have disabilities and still make good money and have rewarding lives using the principles found in these books. Another great piece of news is it sounds like you have a wonderful sup-



DAVE RAMSEY
Financial author, radio host, television personality, and motivational speaker

davesays

port system around you.

God bless you all, Chris. I'm praying for you.
—Dave

You're using it wrong

Dear Dave,

I take classes online at a public university that is several hours from my home. I tried to pay for my classes the other day, and my Visa debit card was not accepted. I got a message saying credit cards and cash were the only payment

options. How can I take care of this without wasting an entire day driving to campus to pay with cash?
Amy

Dear Amy,

Don't worry, there's no need for you to drive all the way to campus and back just to pay for your

classes. You can run a debit card like it's a credit card, and they will accept it. The machines don't recognize the difference, whether you type in a credit card number or a debit card number.

Just select "credit" when it asks for payment method. It's just like when you step up to pay for something at the store and they ask the old credit or debit question. You say credit, so you don't have to enter your PIN (personal identification number), and it all stays in the Visa system.

You're just using it wrong, and that's why you're having trouble. Just remember this in the future, and best of luck with your classes!

Consider the house?

Dear Dave,

My husband and I have been debt-free, except for our mortgage, for a few years now. Recently, we've been thinking about moving back to our home state to be closer to family. We've found a home we're interested in, but it has a large utility tower on the property not far from the house. Should we still consider this home?
Denise

Dear Denise,

The downsides are simple. One, you've got to look at the stupid thing every time you're sitting on your patio. Two, when you get ready to sell it, everyone who looks at the house is going to have the same concerns you have. It's not going to appreciate in value, and you're going to have trouble selling it when the time comes.

If you're willing to put up with those two things, you might get a steal of a deal on this place because no one else may want this house. And when I say a steal, I'm talking around 40 percent off the appraisal. To me personally, it would be enough of an eyesore that I probably wouldn't buy. Again, that's just a personal opinion.

Keep in mind that if you go through with this, when you get ready to sell it you're going to lose out on any money you gained in the buy. Someone is going to do the same thing to you. I'm not completely killing the deal, but I definitely wouldn't buy it to live in. As a rental? Maybe, if I were going to keep it forever. Because people will always rent. But honestly, I wouldn't want to put up with the hassle in either scenario.
—Dave

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Stronger Security Filters and Tax Refund Processing

By Peggy Beasterfield

Owner, Peggy's Tax and Accounting Service

With so many millennials moving back home with mom and dad, the question of whether or not adult children living with their parents can be claimed as dependents is a hot topic.



On the other side of the generational divide, and affecting at least as many people, is the question of whether or not parents can be claimed as dependents on their children's returns.

"If you are assuming the day-to-day care and financial support of a parent and that parent qualifies as a dependent, you may be eligible to claim additional tax benefits," said John Dundon, EA, an enrolled agent tax expert in Englewood, CO. "In fact, your parents can live in their own home or in a retirement community and still be legally claimed as dependents — so long as they meet IRS's requirements for a dependent."

Dundon lists the following criteria that must be met before parents can be claimed as dependents.

- He or she must be legally recognized as your parent, either biologically or by adoption.

- For 2016, all dependent relatives must have less than \$4,050 in gross taxable income to qualify.

- He or she must receive more than 50 percent of all financial support from

you.

- Your parent must be a U.S. citizen or a resident of Canada or Mexico.

- He or she must not be required to file a federal income tax return. If your parent is under 65 and filing Single, they must file a return if their income is at least \$10,350; filing Single and over 65, at least \$11,900; Married Filing Jointly and under 65, at least \$20,700; Married Filing Jointly and over 65, at least \$21,950. He or she can't file a joint return with a spouse for any purpose other than to receive a tax refund.

Note that if you wish to claim both parents, they must both meet the criteria listed above.

If you paid for your parent's medical care, you may be able to deduct those expenses as itemized deductions. Even if your parent doesn't meet the income requirement for dependents, medical expenses may still be claimed if you provide 50 percent of their support.

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Christians must contribute to culture, not just complain about it



ERIC
METAXAS

Host of the "Eric Metaxas Show," "Breakpoint" co-host and author

myopinion

When it comes to culture, do you consider yourself a foot soldier or a gardener? Okay, that's a bit cryptic. But let me explain.

When was the last time you participated in a boycott? Or shared a Facebook post alerting your friends to a dangerous cultural trend?

Good stuff. Now, let me ask you this: When was the last time you went to an art museum? Or bought tickets to the theater? Or listened to a great piece of music? Or wrote a poem and shared it with friends?

I ask because I believe even more important for Christians than being on the front lines of the culture war is participating in the culture—and better yet, helping to create and nurture it. If the main contribution that Christians make to culture is complaining about it, we're doing something wrong.

That's what my friend Makoto Fujimura says in his new book, "Culture Care: Reconnecting with Beauty for Our Common Life." You may have heard me interview Fujimura before. He's a brilliant artist and writer who has thought long and hard about the relationship between faith and the arts. "Culture," he argues, "is not a territory to be won or lost but a



resource we are called to steward with care. Culture is a garden to be cultivated."

In other words, Fujimura wants us to shift our thinking away from the "culture wars" model, in which we think of culture as a battleground. Of course we need to have convictions about culture, and to stand by them. But Fujimura wants to offer a better way for us to influence culture for good. His image of a garden is just one of many he draws from nature, to show how we can carefully and patiently help to cultivate that cultural environment and make good things grow in it.

So, how do we do this? Fujimura suggests that both Christians and the arts community start by learning to look at each other as potential allies, even friends,

instead of as sworn enemies. He asks us to consider investing in cultural works, as we're able to afford it. (As an example, he mentions customers who have purchased his own paintings by giving him a little money every month until they were fully paid for.) He suggests that leaders in the church, the arts community, and the business community form partnerships to help support each other and nurture the culture around them. He cites the example of singer Mahalia Jackson, who encouraged Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to "tell 'em about the dream," spurring him to make his most famous speech. Such encouragement can flow in both directions.

This isn't always easy work, but it's

extremely valuable and worthwhile. It requires thoughtful engagement instead of blanket condemnation, and it may call for us to broaden our understanding and deal with ideas that seem unfamiliar and uncomfortable. But from such efforts come moments that he calls "generative," or "life-giving." Christians who enjoy and support art and culture, who make it a priority in their lives, and who reach out to those in the arts instead of reflexively pushing them away, can help bring the culture toward a renewed appreciation of goodness, truth, and beauty. And that is good for everyone.

Fujimura acknowledges that Christians in the arts, or even just Christians who love the arts, can feel caught between two worlds. But he argues that this is not a bad thing. The person in this position may in fact be playing "a role of cultural leadership in a new mode, serving functions including empathy, memory, warning, guidance, mediation, and reconciliation."

One of the best things about "Culture Care" is Fujimura's optimism about our future—especially if you're feeling a bit weary and battle-scarred from the culture wars. He firmly believes that, as tough as this cultural moment is, we can turn it into a "genesis moment" by learning to nurture and care for our culture and those who create it. If you want to be part of that effort, I can't think of a better way to start than by picking up this excellent book.

—Eric Metaxas is the host of the "Eric Metaxas Show," a co-host of "BreakPoint" radio and a New York Times #1 best-selling author whose works have been translated into more than twenty languages.

WHO IS THE WORLD'S MOST POLARIZING FIGURE?



CLINT
DECKER

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

hopefortoday

I have had the privilege of being guest chaplain at the U.S. Senate and House of Representative as well as the Kansas Senate and House of Representatives. I took these opportunities, not to religiously grandstand, but to genuinely pray for the legislators before me and for my state and country. Only one time did I ever experience push-back. After reviewing my prayer, the chaplain sent it back and suggested some changes. I did my best to honor him, but after the fourth revision, with great respect I finally said, "I understand the position you are in, but I must close my prayer with 'In the name of Jesus.'"

Reluctantly, he permitted it.

The chaplain was a good Christian, but concerned over the fallout he would receive. He knew that some legislators, because of their religious position, would be offended at the use of Jesus' name.

David Limbaugh, who wrote the book *Persecution*, summed it up when he stated "Jesus is offensive." And Jesus Himself explained "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before... you" (John 15:18).

From the moment of his birth to the present, Jesus has consistently topped the Who's Who List for the world's most polarizing figure. On

the one hand, every Sunday millions gather to worship and adore him as savior and Lord. And on the other, over 60 nations are imprisoning,

legislators, killing or culturally ostracizing followers of Jesus.

What is so offensive? It is his name.

Jesus, means savior. He is a savior from sin, and since no one can forgive sins but God, He is also deity. These two truths inflame His adversaries and cause his followers to worship

Him.

The deeper reason for the offensiveness of Jesus is the sinfulness found in human hearts. Whether it is an individual, government or a reli-

gion, we all want to do life our way. We want to be in control, make our own choices and pursue our own path. That is sin. And if the affects of our sin rise to unbearable levels we mask it with work, addictions or trying to be a good person. Yes, we may acknowledge Jesus was a good teacher and person, but stop short of changing our ways for Him. In a sense, when he comes knocking we hold up a sign in our hearts that says "Resist!"

One day, love him or hate him, he will bring the whole world to its knees. The Scripture says, "God has highly exalted him... so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord..." (Philippians 2:9,10,11). Instead of raising up your defenses towards Jesus, consider humbling yourself and discovering His joy and peace.

—Clint Decker is President & Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc. cdecker@greatawakenings.org



EASTERFEST

continued from page 1

ment and food trucks on site.

Bubble soccer was a big hit last year, and other new activities planned for this year include mobile laser tag and an archery course. The Easter Egg Hunt, which will immediately follow the



parade, has been enlarged and will include even more eggs this year. The fun fair will once again include many free kid's activities, and pony rides and inflat-

ables will be part of the fun this year as well.

This year's event will take place on Saturday, April 15. The Easter Parade itself will start at 10:00 a.m., while the Fun Fair will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Staging for the parade will start at 8 a.m. in the parking lot directly east of NOTO Arts District. The Parade will move through NOTO and north to Garfield Park.

Many of the floats in last year's parade had a definite Easter flavor, featuring

"Food trucks will be on hand again this year"

crosses, empty tombs and Biblical characters, fulfilling the purpose of reminding observers of the true meaning of the holiday. Others featured more of a fun-loving, lighthearted theme, including classic



cars, big trucks and other types of motorized and walking entries.

Live performers will be on hand all day, including musical acts, dancers, bands, fitness & gymnastics demonstrations, martial arts and more, performing both inside and outside.

The event is coordinated by C5Alive. For more information, email info@C5Alive.org or call 785-640-6399. Updated details about the 2017 event can be found at www.C5Alive.org, TopekaEasterParade.com or on Facebook: Topeka Easter Parade and Family Fun Fair.

SPEAKER

continued from page 4

have come to believe is the essence of leadership."

Bentz is Vice Director of the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Organization (JIDO) responsible for providing quick reaction capabilities to counter improvised explosive devices and other threats encountered by our warfighters in Iraq and Afghanistan. Prior to her current assignment, Bentz served as the director, Strategic Capabilities Policy on the National Security Council under President Obama and as the director, Nuclear Defense Policy on the Homeland

Security Council under President Bush. Bentz has also served in a variety of active, reserve and National Guard assignments in nuclear defense, homeland security, health physics, environmental science, and as a traditional nuclear, biological and chemical officer. She holds a PhD in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Columbia, Missouri.

Bentz said her current position is her "best job yet." She is responsible for helping keep U.S. soldiers safe and to "make sure our troops have the ability to adapt."

Bentz grew up in a Catholic family in a small town in Oregon. The youngest of five children, she said she accepted Christ after two of her older siblings "came back saved" from a Catholic school retreat, and

within a few months, the whole family had accepted Christ. She said they "talked a lot about Jesus" and wondered "is that really Catholic?"

Bentz now describes herself as a "charismatic Catholic."

By the age of 35, she had achieved her three goals as a youngster: to be a soldier, a missionary and a scientist.

"This is what I'll say about God: When he calls you, he enables you," she said. "His timing and his methods are flawless. And as I look at what I'm doing today, I reflect on how I was prepared for these duties."

"Seek God's purpose," Bentz urged, "keeping your eyes on the hand of the Lord, because if God doesn't build the house, we labor in vain."

Bentz prays for her troops, so she should be fired?



US Army Maj. Gen. Julie Bentz, vice director of the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Organization, was recently the keynote speaker of the 56th annual Kansas Prayer Breakfast, at which she mentioned that her "greatest privilege" was praying for her troops and their families.

For that, Michael "Mikey" Weinstein, founder and president of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, wants her fired.

Weinstein is calling for an investigation and said Bentz should be removed from her position.

Weinstein and Topeka attorney Pedro L. Irigonegaray, who is on the MRFF advisory board, said Bentz violated the U.S. Constitution's "religious test" clause in Article VI.

How did Gen. Bentz violate the Constitution? Weinstein quotes Bentz [emphasis his]:

"My greatest privilege is standing in

front of my king and my God, carrying every member of my organization to his throne and asking for his protection, his mercy, his love on each of them and their families and whatever are their concerns and burdens of the day. That is what I have come to believe is the essence of leadership."

Gen. Bentz prays for her troops. Is that now unconstitutional?

By Friday morning, Weinstein had found at least three other instances dating to 2011 in which Bentz said she relied on faith as a leader.

Obviously, every Christian relies on their faith, whether as a leader, follower, or anything in between. That Gen. Bentz should say so is unsurprising, but Weinstein says it's unconstitutional.

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But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream. - Amos 5:24

EASTER EVENT SCHEDULE

LENTEN DINNER - Meatless Italian - Mar. 31, 6-8:30pm, Mother Teresa Catholic Church, 2014 NW 46th St. Free-will offering. 785-286-2128

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Mar. 31, Apr. 7, 5:30-6pm. Mother Teresa Catholic Church, 2014 NW 46th St. 785-286-2128

LENTEN DINNER - Tuna Casserole - Apr. 7, 6-8:30, Mother Teresa Catholic Church, 2014 NW 46th St. Free-will offering. 785-286-2128

"THE ROAD TO CALVARY" EASTER DRAMA - Apr. 7, 7pm & Apr. 8, 4 and 7pm; and Apr. 9, 4 and 7pm. Victory City Church, 2622 S.E. 6th

EASTER CELEBRATION - Apr. 8, 2-3:30pm, Highland Park United Methodist Church, 2914 SE Michigan. Egg hunt, story time, games and prizes. Free hot dogs & lemonade

GOVERNOR'S EASTER EGG HUNT - Apr. 8, 10am. Shuttles to the Governor's Mansion are provided from Fairlawn Church of the Nazarene, 730 SW Fairlawn, starting at 8:30am. For info: 2963636

EASTER EGG HUNT - Apr. 8, 10am, Grantville United Methodist Church, 3724 South St. Fun, games and refreshments. For ages preschool - 5th grade. 785-246-3621. <http://grantvilleksumc.org> grantvillechurch@grantvilleumc.com

FLASHLIGHT EASTER EGG HUNT - Apr. 8, 8-9. Lowman United Church, 4101 SW 15th St. Flashlight provided.

EASTER EGG HUNT AND COOKIE DECORATING - Apr. 8, 10am. Calvary Lutheran Church, 4211 NW Topeka Blvd. Free. For info: calvarytopeka.org

EASTER EGG HUNT - Apr. 9, 4:30-6pm, Fellowship Bible Church, 10th & Urish.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES - Faith Lutheran, 17th & Gage
Apr. 13 - Maundy Thursday worship at noon & 7:30pm
Apr. 14 - Good Friday services at noon & 7:30pm
Apr. 16 - Easter Sunday services at 6:30, 8:15, 9:30 & 11am
Easter breakfast at 7am

HOLY WEEK SERVICES - First Lutheran Church, 1234 S.W. Fairlawn.
Apr. 13 - Maundy Thursday worship at 7pm.
Apr. 14 - Good Friday services at noon & 7pm.
Apr. 15 - Easter communion service at 5 p.m.
Apr. 16 - Easter Sunday services at 8:15am. & 11am.
Easter brunch and Easter egg hunt at 9:30 a.m.

4th ANNUAL EASTERFEST: TOPEKA EASTER PARADE & FUN FAIR - Apr. 15, 10am-3pm, North Kansas Avenue & Garfield Park. Topeka's fourth annual Easter parade will begin at 10am at the tracks in NOTO and proceed north on Kansas Avenue to Garfield Park. Egg Hunt begins right after the parade at the playground in Garfield Park. Food Trucks will be on hand and the Family Fun Fair will be 10-3 at Garfield Park, in the Shelter House & in the Gym will include vendor booths, children's games, food, facepainting, and more. Bands and other entertainment will perform nearby. For info: info@C5Alive.org or 640-6399.

EASTER SERVICES - Apr. 15, 3:15 & 5pm; Apr. 16, 9:15 & 11am, Gracepoint Church, 5400 SW Huntoon St. 785-273-4200 office@gptopeka.org

EASTER SERVICE - Apr. 16, 10:30am, Seaman Community Church, 2036 NW Taylor. 785-354-8777

EASTER BREAKFAST & WORSHIP - Apr. 16, 8:30am; worship at 10am, Rolling Hills Christian Church, 4530 NW Hiawatha Pl. (Hwy 75 & NW 46th St). 286-0601 www.rhcctopeka.org

EASTER SERVICES - Apr 16, Topeka Bible Church, in Mulvane building at 8a, 9a & 11a. Sunday school for all kids will be in College Building.



How to benefit the most from summer camp

by **Children's Ministry Magazine**

Plan now to make your kids' summer camp experience life-changing — before and after the fun

Every summer churches everywhere send kids off to camp for life-altering experiences. Kids meet friends, mentors, and most important, God. But when camp is just one more thing in a long list of summer programming events, its potential as an awe-inspiring God experience may dwindle like the dying embers of a campfire.

A recent survey of churches participating in camp and asked them to identify best practices for making camp a truly unforgettable, faith-filled experience for kids.

What we learned is that by planning far ahead and being intentional in how you approach camp before and after, your kids will get an experience far more valuable than the cost of a camp reservation. Let's unpack these great ideas and our timeline.

PREPARE RESOURCES

Camp creeps up on you exactly when a million other things are vying for your attention. Before you realize it, dates aren't on the calendar and money isn't saved. Plan and prepare today to build support and foster a focus on experiences-not logistics.

- People are relationship resources. Plan to attend camp with your kids, and recruit enough people from your church who'll go so the connections kids make and confidences they gain don't get lost when they come back home. Our survey found that

one of the most effective ways to keep the camp experience alive is for campers to bring a piece of it home—in the form of their counselors!

- Money makes it happen. Finances should never prevent a child from attending camp. Camp is something that can change kids' lives—so promote it and do whatever's necessary to get kids there. Here's how some churches do it.

Offer savings options. One children's pastor encourages parents to open a "savings account" through the church in January. Parents put \$5 (or another small amount) per week in the account, so by the time kids sign up for camp the financial burden is gone or greatly lessened. This option is especially helpful for families with multiple campers and those facing financial hardship.

- Award scholarships. If people in your

church are willing to send kids to camp, ask them to consider funding a camp scholarship account. Offer the option to donate in a lump sum or on a weekly basis. Estimate the number of kids who'll need financial help using the number of kids needing help the previous year and multiplying it by 20 percent. You may wish to pad this amount to purchase needed camp supplies for kids who are financially challenged as well. Then create a poster to chart the total donations weekly and hang it in a central location.

- Time: Keep it on your side. Communicate early with your church families. Give them as much information up front as possible—camp details, schedules, cost, special requirements, and so on. Emphasize the dates so parents can arrange vacations and schedules accordingly.

PREPARE CAMPERS

Experienced camp counselors know most kids aren't freely willing to jump into camp services or programs on the first day of camp. Most kids need to warm up to the idea of camp itself and the array of new faces. But you can prepare kids' hearts by gradually "warming them up" long before they arrive at camp.

- Awaken kids' desire for God. Intentionally prepare kids spiritually for their camp experience, say leaders who are committed to camp. Build kids' anticipation by training them to think about what God has planned for their lives. Pump them up for the camp's theme. Encourage kids to talk about their hopes and dreams. Use lessons that focus on God's plan for us and on unforgettable Bible heroes who did amazing things and that tie into the camp's theme. Invite guest speakers whose lives have been changed because of camp experiences.

- Prep kids' suitcases. Before you meet kids' spiritual needs, it may be necessary to meet their physical needs. Practically speaking, if kids aren't prepared with the appropriate supplies for camp, they'll be miserable, embarrassed, frustrated, and inhibited in their openness when it comes to God experiences. Don't stop at providing a recommended supplies list, check with all parents—especially those struggling with the financial costs of camp—to ensure their kids will have everything they need. Help those who need it.

- Get spirit. Many camps have a theme and are team-oriented. Stoke your campers' excitement about the fun to come by encouraging them to dress in their team colors on certain days and by advertising the camp's theme in your ministry. Play team-oriented games and encourage kids to cheer for each other.

- Prepare kids for worship. Kids will most likely have many hands-on experiences, which lead to experiential learning and worship. If the camp your kids attend has prolonged times of worship and prayer, prepare your kids to engage in worship and prayer so they won't be disoriented or disengaged.

Participation-Gradually lengthen and emphasize worship and prayer times in your children's services as camp approaches. Talk to kids in sermons or small group lessons about what worship looks, sounds, and feels like.

P.B.J.S.—One pastor says he did a series on "P.B.J.S." to help his kids prepare for camp. The spiritual focus was to remind kids to have daily "Prayer, Bible reading, Journaling, and Solitude with God." He used this approach to stir kids' hearts for what God would do at camp. During each installment of the series, the pastor had kids eat a peanut-butter-and-jelly sand-

■ Continued on next page

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wich as a physical reminder of what they committed to do spiritually.

KEEP THE FIRES BURNING

Eric Jensen, author of *Teaching With the Brain in Mind*, says that for the brain to truly comprehend new information, kids must have “settling time.” This means kids get an opportunity to process what they’ve learned and experienced at camp, without being immediately inundated with new material or lessons upon their return. Settling time is so valuable for kids to absorb camp experiences that churches should optimally plan on giving kids this “space”—at least a one-week period with no new lessons or topics—as a part of the follow-up camp experience. Here are more ways to maximize camp once kids come home.

- Bring camp home. While campers are away changing their perspective on life, things at home haven’t changed. Coach campers to keep their zeal for God alive. Remind them that their openness to worship and prayer and their determination to stand up for what’s right doesn’t have to stop just because they’re back home. It’s normal for their initial excitement to wane; what’s important is that they keep the experiences close to their heart.

- Share the change. Have kids share with someone important in their lives the changes they made with God. If the camper kept a journal, challenge the camper to share parts of it with someone trustworthy who’ll be excited about what he or she experienced.

- Find a friend. Have campers find a friend from camp who’ll help them be

accountable to the choices and commitments they made.

- Keep the connection. One counselor got a camper’s address and sent him a card once a month for the following year. The camper couldn’t remember the special speaker at camp, but he did remember the year that his counselor prayed for and believed in him.

- Partner with parents. Inform parents by sharing what kids experienced individually. It’s easier to follow through on what God has done in a child’s life if parents have an idea what happened.

Give parents a “talk sheet” with questions to ask their kids to extend faith growth. And don’t forget to post kids’ camp photos on your Web site while they’re at camp so parents can see what their kids are doing.

- Build on what kids learned. If campers learned how important it is to regularly read their Bibles and pray, give kids opportunities to do these things in your ministry. Create an accountability program that involves parents.

- Let kids share their stories. Many churches we talked to said they didn’t place great importance on small group time—even if they slotted time specifically for these relational interactions. Provide opportunities for campers to share stories with others in small groups—this style of growth is beneficial and very important.

- Make time for play. What helps



the kids bond with their camp counselors? A common quote among the children’s pastors I hang with is, “If you play with them, you earn the right to pray with them.” Fun and play breaks down barriers at camp—and it works at home, too.

- Integrate new ideas. If your kids really enjoyed a certain style of teaching or tool for learning at camp, try to fit it into your ministry and incorporate it into weekly services or lessons. Seeing how others do ministry—and learning from kids’ reac-

tions is a huge part of any children’s minister’s education.

- Partner with your church. If you want your congregation to back camp financially or to support it as a meaningful experience, have campers share stories of how God changed their

lives. Show video. Share scholarship information (numbers, not names). You’ll highlight the benefits of camp and give campers an opportunity to solidify their experiences.

STOKE THE FIRES

To prepare kids for camp, take steps to make it an experience—not just an event.

- Assemble a team. The best approach to anything worthwhile in ministry is a team approach. Find trustworthy people

to do what you can’t. Recruit “influencers” who can create a marketing timeline and generate growing excitement.

- Review curriculum. Evaluate your curriculum to determine whether it supports your goals for the skills kids will walk away with from camp. Pay particular attention to the calendar just before and after camp. Look for connections between what kids will experience and everyday life transformation.

- Recruit early. Which leaders or parents should you talk to now about going to camp, so they can arrange their schedules? Talk to your current leaders to start with, since they already have a relationship with campers and will be engaged in their lives after camp is over. Choose people who are relational rather than task-oriented. Those who are relationally gifted will enhance campers’ relationships with God and others.

- Aim high. Make efforts early on to get your pastor, board members, or other known influencers to commit to visiting camp. These individuals can become some of your most vocal advocates for the camp experience.

CAMP

continued from page 1

hands-on activities and one on and on interactions,” Unruh said. “An essential component of 21st century youth development is offering young people experiences where they have the freedom to learn by doing, grow from failure, express their ideas and use their influence to drive positive outcomes.”

Rock Springs offers a 4-H camp coordinated by the Kansas State University Extension office. It also offers a family camp, that allows fam-

ilies to understand the experience children will have at summer camp.

Building relationships is a common theme among most camps in the area - whether it is relationships with other campers or to strengthen relationships with God. And while Rock Springs isn’t a faith-based camp, Unruh said there is an element of spirituality.

“We do have an indoor chapel and two formal outdoor chapels,” Unruh said. “However, connecting to nature happens all over the grounds, and I believe allows people to feel a closeness to their faith and spirituality.”

YMCA Summer Day Camp
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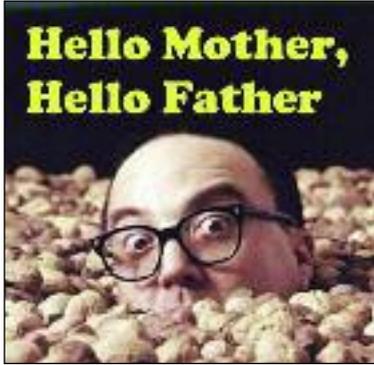
Grandson Michael Phillips
 4 months, December 2014

Celebrating victories in life.

“Hello, Muddah”: Still worth the bumps, mosquitoes & rain

Why send your kids to Christian summer camps?

Editor's note: The 1963 Grammy Award-winning song "Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh" by Allan Sherman, tells of the trials of a summer camp plagued by disease, bugs and rain until, in the end, the sun comes out and the camper retracts his plea to return home. It's a funny recollection that many can empathize with. But today, summer camps remain one of the most popular activities for kids during the summer.



learning how to swim, but there are other reasons to send your kids to a Christian summer camp.

Since God created it, evidence of Him can be found all throughout nature. City dwellers and suburbanites don't get to experience much more than grackles and the occasional squirrel, so the opportunity to spend a week in the woods or beside a lake can be an important spiritual experience. Witnessing true wilderness is becoming more rare every day

There are many horror stories of snakebites, bullies, and bad food, but not all camp experiences are so awful. Many adults look back to an early summer with grand appreciation, noting it as one of the most important points of their development. For some, camp just means overcoming homesickness and

with modern development, so kids should get to see it while they still can.

Youth group is only once or twice a week, and the atmosphere of school and sports teams is hardly focused on God, so the majority of your children's community is secular. It's a reality of life, but it can be complimented with a few summer weeks among fellow Christians. Learning about God with a hundred peers can be an encouraging and instilling time of faith, and it's an opportunity for growth that very few get to have.

If you've been taking your son or daughter to church since they were born, it's easy for them to think of it as just something their parents believe. Most youngsters don't make such a statement until high school or college, but it remains a "family faith" rather than a personal one. Summer camp can be one of

the first opportunities for kids to make belief their own—when God exists in daily talks and conversation but no authority forces them to believe. Not every kid will come to such a critical development in

their faith, but camp at least affords them the opportunity for it. And if they do so, they'll certainly think back to that summer as one of the most important periods of their life.

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NOW IS THE TIME TO PLAN YOUR GETAWAY!

Spring and summer are just around the corner so now is the time to plan your getaway weekend or vacation. And, what better way to relax, have fun and enjoy God's great creation than a leisurely canoe float down a pristine Ozark river. Living Waters Christian Canoe Ministry partners with two church camps to make a great weekend getaway or vacation for your family, church group or Scout troop at family-friendly prices that can't be beat. Check-out our website - www.John738.com - and see for yourself.

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Prepare Outdoor Spaces for Warm Weather Use

(Family Features) Before you can fully enjoy your outdoor living spaces this spring, chances are high you'll need to wash away a layer of winter grime. Thoroughly cleaning and sprucing up these outdoor areas can get you well on your way to a season filled with outdoor entertainment.

Take yourself one step closer to backyard barbecues, leisurely evenings around the fire pit and generally reveling in all the season has to offer with these tips for updating your outdoor living environment.

Make functional repairs. Start with a careful scan of your yard, giving close attention to items that may have sustained damage during

months of disuse. Look for cracks in planters and other items. Inspect wooden furniture and accessories for splintering and rough patches. Check the bolts and hardware securing furniture, especially moving pieces like swinging benches or rocking chairs that are prone to loosening over time. Where needed, make repairs, apply fresh stain or paint and generally ensure each item is in good working condition.

Turn attention to aesthetics. Once everything is ready functionally, you can turn your attention to appearances. In most cases, a vigorous washing is all you need to bring fresh life to windows, siding, decking, sidewalks and other



concrete or stone surfaces. An electric pressure washer can make short work of the task, and each of Briggs & Stratton's models offers a variety of maximum pressure and flow rates to fit homeowners' unique outdoor cleaning needs. These units feature an onboard detergent tank to easily store and dispense cleaning detergents. Some pressure washers offer additional versatility, such as the POWERflow+ model that has a high pressure mode – ideal for cleaning tough grime – and a high flow mode, which is particularly useful for extended reach, power soaping, power rinsing and delicate surfaces.

For best results when using a pressure washer – whether you're power washing the patio, cleaning outdoor furniture, washing outdoor windows, rinsing out the grill or scrubbing messy garbage bins – aim the spray nozzle perpendicular to the surface you're cleaning. Use a steady motion because inconsistent pressure leads to stripping. Be sure to "feather" your strokes, overlapping each previous sweep with half the height of the new sweep. Also, allow the detergent soak into difficult stains for 3-5 minutes before rinsing so it has time to latch onto the stain and pull it from the surface.

Focus on details. An outdoor space can evolve from a practical area for outside activities into a true extension of your home with just a few simple touches. Plush cushions make it more comfortable to spend extended time outdoors and accents like rugs and decorative accessories lend a sense of character and charm. Convenience features like end tables make it easy to rest a refreshing beverage

nearby. Also consider elements like fans and shades to manage the climate as temperatures climb, and don't overlook the importance of lighting so your enjoyment can continue after the sun fades from the sky.

Find more tips to get your outdoor living space ready for spring at briggsandstratton.com



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Don't be an April Fool!
Stay away from Parking Lot Plants!

Annette's tip: Recent rains have prepared gardens for early season planting. So, get potatoes, onions, rhubarb, asparagus, bare-root berries and fruit trees, peas, radishes, and the cole crops in the ground right away. The rains also have brought forth chickweed, henbit and dandelions in your lawn. Ferti-lome Weed Free Zone is the best product to kill these weed pests quickly so they don't go to seed to mess up next year's lawn.

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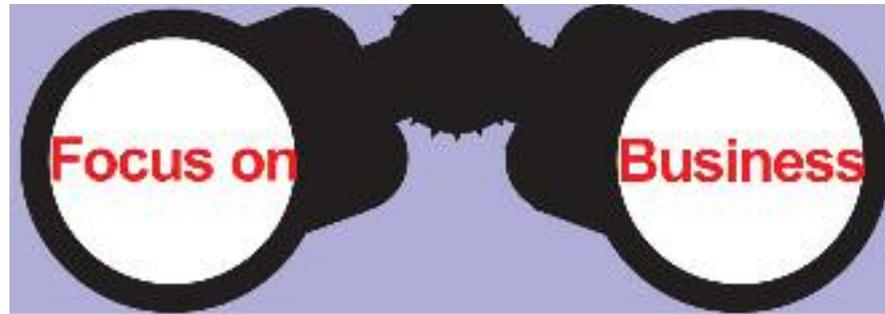
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Sometimes you can get more for your money with locally-owned businesses by having a local person to deal with when you have problems later.

Jim Driggers, owner of The Computer Store, says he offers quick turn-around time on your computer repairs and the most experienced technicians in Topeka. Most big-box stores send your computer out of town for repairs, and you never even get a chance to talk directly to the technician doing the work on your computer.



"It's the difference between getting

your computer back in a few days by us or a few weeks!" Driggers said.

If you need a new computer, The Computer Store will build one for you, with a warranty, and it will be serviced locally in the store if ever necessary. They have used computers and laptops for sale also.

The Computer Store now also repairs all mobile devices like cell phones, tablets and iPads, including damaged screens. Driggers said the new service is available at a very reasonable price, and has been very well received.

The Computer Store has been in business since 1999, and is located at 21st and Gage in Seabrook Center. You



can reach them by phone at 785-267-3223, or visit their website online at www.thecomputerstoreks.com.

The Computer Store is a member of the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, the Capital City Christian Chamber of Commerce and the Topeka Independent Business Association.

Kansas Adds Jobs; Unemployment Drops; State Revenues Up

(The Sentinel | SentinelKsMo.org)

Unemployment edged even lower and Kansas added thousands of jobs in February, the Kansas Department of Labor reported in late March.

Kansas added 4,200 non-farm jobs in February, marking the biggest monthly job gains since 2012. The Department of Labor estimates the state gained 5,500 private sector jobs.

The unemployment rate dropped to 4 percent. The rate is lower than Kansas' pre-recession rate of 4.2 percent.

Michael Austin, an economist at the Kansas Department of Revenue, called the report good news.

"At the same time, we're seeing a growth in wages," Austin said.

The growth in wages coupled with job gains paint a positive picture for Kansas' fiscal health, he said. With consumer confidence at a 16-year high



nationwide, the business climate looks very good in the Sunflower State.

State Revenues

State revenues beat expectations last month. Kansas collected about \$36.9 million more in February than anticipated. Austin said much of those revenues are income tax withholdings.

"When you think about withholdings, that's really driven by people find-

ing work or people seeing growth in their wages," Austin said. "This February report shows growth in wages and growth in jobs, so withholdings are up. Jobs are up."

"Preliminary estimates for February show a notable increase in private sector jobs compared to last month," labor department senior economist Tyler Tenbrink said. "The health care and construction industries each added more jobs than expected."

"What you can take from this report is that there's a continued low unemployment rate in the state of Kansas, which shows continuing improvement in the fiscal health of Kansas," Austin said. "I'm hopeful that this good news will continue in both the labor market and in its relationship to our tax revenues as well."

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the events calendar

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CONCERTS

TOPEKA ACOUSTIC MUSIC JAM - First Sat. of ea. month, 3-5pm, Potwin Presbyterian Church (enter south door), 400 S.W. Washburn. Information: 286-0227 or hagen1525@gmail.com.

THE BERRYTON PICKERS - First Sat. of ea. month, 7-9pm, Berryton Baptist Church. Bring snacks, have fun!

MUSIC... JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED - Apr. 2, 3pm, First United Methodist Church, 600 SW Topeka Blvd. No admission charge. A free will offering will benefit low-income uninsured residents of Shawnee County.

MICHAEL W. SMITH: THE REVOLUTION TOUR - Apr. 2, 7pm, Lied Center of Kansas. <http://lied.ku.edu/?event=michael-w-smith>

PETER WHITEBIRD - Apr. 7, 7pm, Covenant Baptist Church, 5440 SW 37th St. Dessert afterward. 273-2811

BRAIN FREE AND ASSURANCE IN CONCERT - Apr. 7, 3 & 7pm, Berryton UMC, 7010 S.E. Berryton Rd. Love offering
CHRIS TOMLIN'S WORSHIP NIGHT IN AMERICA - Apr. 8, 7:30pm, Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Blvd., KCMO. 888-929-7849.

THE NEW DOVE BROTHERS IN CONCERT - Apr. 22, 7pm - 8:30pm, Lakeview Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Southern Gospel Concert open to all. Free will offering. 785-266-3247.

BLACKWOOD BROTHERS IN CONCERT - Apr. 22, 3 & 7pm, Berryton UMC, 7010 S.E. Berryton Rd Love offering

AN EVENING OF WORSHIP WITH JIMMY NEEDHAM - Apr. 30, 6:30pm, Grace Community Church, 310 E. 8th St, Overbrook. 785-665-7117. www.jimmyneedham.com.

CELTIC WOMAN - May 2, 7pm, TPAC. Multi-platinum international music sensation Celtic Woman presents VOICES OF ANGELS. Tickets at TPAC Box Office, & Ticketmaster

MITCH MCVICKER IN CONCERT - May 6, 7pm, Topeka Free Methodist, 3450 SE Indiana. Free will offering. Please bring a suggested donation of 1 package of new socks or underwear for clothing exchange ministry if possible. 785-266-6610, topekafmc.org

CAPITAL CITY CHORUS ANNUAL SHOW - May 6, Topeka West High School. This will be the Capital City Men's Barbershop Chorus' 71st annual show. Special guest quartet is Boomtown. For tickets call 273-9514 or 286-0618

THE WRIGHTS - May 12, 8-11pm, Classic Bean, acoustic classics. 289-8905. thewrightsmministries.com

JERROD NIEMANN CONCERT AT HEARTLAND NATIONALS - May 20, 8pm, Heartland Park Topeka. 785-861-7899 <http://www.heartlandpark.com/> info@heartlandpark.com

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

HARVESTER'S PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS - every

second Sat., takes place at Christian Lord Ministries, 2421 SE California. Call 266-4979.

FIRST SATURDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET - First Saturday of every month, 7:30-10am. Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church. Free will offering.

FREE WEEKLY COMMUNITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST - Sundays at 10am sharp, at Oakland Church of the Nazarene: 900 block of NE Oakland, followed by church services at 10:45am with Pastor John Menkveld - which is in turn followed at noon by The Hope House FREE Community Food & Clothing Banks.

BINGO AT FAIRLAWN HEIGHTS ASSISTED LIVING - 3pm, 1st Sat. of ea. month. Facilitator: Pastor Carole

SPIRITUAL PAUSE - Every Wed., 12-12:30pm, Carole Chapel at Washburn Univ. Informal worship service. 785-233-1844

LIFEFEEST - First Thu. of the month, 10am-12:30pm, Covenant Baptist Church, 5440 SW 37th St. Seniors ministering to seniors - celebrating with fellowship, fun, food, learning & entertainment. Potluck lunch at noon. If transportation is needed, call 354-4994 or 478-1729

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@rhctoepka.org

COMMUNITY MEAL & SILENT AUCTION - Mar. 30, 5-7pm. Berryton UMC, 7010 S.E. Berryton Road. chicken-and-noodle dinner, mashed potatoes, green beans, gelatin salad, tossed salad, rolls, desserts and beverages for a free will offering. Also a sweet shop and silent auction.

TOPEKA CHURCHES SINGING CONVENTION - Apr. 1, 7pm, Mount Olive Primitive Baptist Church, 701 N.W. Gordon; and Apr. 2, 3:30pm, St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church, 2222 S.E. Madison. The Rev. McCoy Caraway Sr. will preach and the convention choirs will sing.

LADY LASSITER DAY - Apr. 2, 4 pm, 1162 SW Lincoln. Annual event honoring Co-Pastor, Lady Sandra K. Lassiter, Sr. For info: 235-1834

COMMUNITY DINNER - Apr. 5, 5-6:30pm. Tecumseh UMC. Ham, cheesy potatoes, veggie, dessert and more for free-will donation. Meals-to-go available.

OUTPOUR - 2017 HOLY GHOST REVIVAL - Apr. 5-8, Faith Temple Church. 1162 SW Lincoln. For info: 969-4090 or 213-7111

POTATO DROP - Apr. 8, 9am-noon, Susanna Wesley United Methodist Church, 7433 SW 29th St. 40,000 pounds of potatoes will be available to hunger relief organizations in the area. 785-478-3697 swumc@swumc.org

REVIVAL WITH JOSH RADFORD - Apr. 9-10, Sun. at 6pm & Mon. at 7pm, Family of God Church, 1231 NW Eugene. For info: 234-1111.

TRM BOUTIQUE OPEN HOUSE - Apr. 21, 4-7pm, 3400

SW Topeka Blvd. The Boutique is an upscale resale shop with something for everyone! ribbon cutting at 4pm, with an open house to follow until 7pm. Grand Opening on Saturday 10am-5pm.

PANCAKE FEED - Apr. - 22, 8am -12. Covenant Baptist Church of Topeka, 273-2811

PRICILLA SHIRER SIMULCAST - Apr. 22, 9am-4:30pm. Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. \$15 through Apr. 3. \$20 beginning Apr. 4. Cost includes a lunch. Cash coffee bar also available. Info: 286-1204

SPRING DINNER - Apr. 22, 4pm, Grantville United Methodist Church, 3724 South Street, Grantville. Chicken Casserole or Pork Loin, Vegetables, Salads, Dinner Rolls, Pies and Drinks. Meal served 4-7pm (Free will offering); Bazaar 3-7pm: Quilt/Crafts/Bake Sale/Cake Walk. 785-246-3621 <http://grantvilleksumc.org/> grantvillechurch@grantvilleumc.com

SPECIAL SPEAKER - Apr. 23, 10:30am, Cultivate Community Church, Eskridge. Pastor Dwight Vozier will speak at the 10:30am service.

COMMUNITY MEAL - Apr. 26, 5-7pm. Berryton United Methodist Church. Baked potato bar with fixings, dessert and drink. Free will offering.

SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

MEDICARE MONDAYS - First Mon. of ea. month, 1-3pm. Topeka/Sh. Co. Public Library (Menninger Rm 206), 1515 SW 10th. Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging and Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas offers

Senior health insurance counseling. For info: 580-4545 or nholn@tsopl.org

MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR - Apr. 11, 2pm. Learn the basics of Medicare and all its options. Seminars are designed for those becoming eligible for Medicare and those considering making a change. Seminar will be held at the Heart Center at 929 SW Mulvane. For info or to sign up: 233-1816 or info@century-health.com. Snacks & beverages provided.

MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR - Apr. 25, 6:30pm. Learn the basics of Medicare and all its options. Seminars are designed for those becoming eligible for Medicare and those considering making a change. Seminar will be held at Cotton O'Neil North at 4505 NW Fielding. For info or to sign up: 233-1816 or info@century-health.com. Snacks & beverages provided.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

SHEPHERDS CENTER PICKLEBALL GROUP - plays Mondays & Wednesdays. Mondays at Countryside UMC, 32nd & Burlingame, from 3-5. Park on the NORTH side & use the furthest WEST door. Follow the hallway to gym. On Wednesdays at First Baptist, 30th & MacVicar, from 1-3. Park on the WEST side. Gym is right inside the doors. Group Coordinator is Judy Hartegan.

SAFE STREETS COALITION MEETING - First Wed. of the month, 11:45am-1pm. Great Overland Station. For info: 266-4606 or jwilson@safeststreets.org

SHAWNEE SWINGERS SQUARE DANCE LESSONS -

Wednesday's, 7pm, Croco Hall, 6115 SE Highway 40, Tecumseh. Call Don at 785-966-2765

COUNTRY AND BALLROOM DANCING - Thursdays 6-9pm. Croco Hall. Info: Edwina 379-9538 or 478-4760.

SHEPHERDS CENTER LINE DANCING GROUP - meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 2-4 at First UMC, 6th & Topeka. Park on the WEST side & use the WEST door. Immediately inside, turn left & walk the ramp to the library, then left to the elevator. Push [B] for the fellowship hall.

SHEPHERDS CENTER HHHS WALKING GROUP - meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 9:30-11 at HHHS, 21st & Belle. Parking & entrance for walkers is on the WEST side. Walking is done on an inside track. People who would like to walk a shelter dog must have completed an animal handling class that is given periodically at HHHS - for arrangements call Kelsey Scrinopskie, 233-7325.

NOTO MARKET ON FIRST FRIDAYS - NOTO arts district. Arts, antiques, fine crafts, flea market items.

SAVING DEATH ROW DOGS ADOPTION BOOTH - Every Sat., 11am - 2pm, Petco, 1930 SW Wanamaker. Some Sat. adoption booths are held at PetSmart, 2020 SW Westport Dr. Updates at savingdeathrowdogs.com

TOPEKA FOLK DANCERS CLASSES - Sundays, 2-4pm, 2637 SE 41st St. Dances from 20 countries. No partners or experience necessary. No fee. 215-0968.

YOUNG CHRISTIAN'S WEEKEND - Mar. 31-Apr. 2. Silver Dollar City, Branson, MO. Groups include: Lauren Daigle, The Museum, Building 429 and 7eventh Time Down. The Ultimate 3-day youth event including live bands, power-

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Apr. 13, 11:30-1 - "POWER Luncheon" at Northland Christian Ch., 3102 NW Topeka Blvd.
Featured: Bob Hanson & others with a leadership challenge.
RSVP to info@C5Alive.org or 785-640-6399

EASTERFEST Apr. 15 - 10am-3pm - Easter Parade on N. Kansas Ave; Fun Fair at Garfield Park!

Save the Dates!
• May 11, 11:30-1, Power Luncheon, Details TBA

Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/C5Alive](https://www.facebook.com/C5Alive)
For info: www.C5Alive.org or info@C5Alive.org

Grace Community Church presents
AN EVENING OF WORSHIP
WITH *Jimmy Needham*

Sunday, April 30 | 6:30 PM
\$10 General Admission
Tickets are available through the church office by calling 785.665.7117
or online at www.gccinoverbrook.com.

Grace Community Church
310 E 8th St. | Overbrook, KS

ful workshops, national speakers and some of the world's greatest thrill rides. silverdollarcity.com.

MIDWEST MX CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES PRACTICE/RACE - Apr. 1, Heartland Park Topeka. Motorcross Practice Saturday. Gates open at 8 am. Practice 10 am to 3 pm. Fan Appreciation Event - Spectators are free on Saturday. Rider Practice Card \$25. Sunday Race Day - Gates open at 7 am. Practice at 9 am - Race at 10:30. Rider Race Fee \$40 per class. Gate fee \$10.00 - 6 & under free.

TLS PANCAKE FEED - Apr. 1, 8-10am, Topeka Lutheran School, 701 SW Roosevelt St. \$5 will get you all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, coffee & juice!

ANNUAL PANCAKE FEED - Apr. 1, 6-11am. North Topeka Sunrise Optimists. \$5.

ANNUAL TULIP TIME FESTIVAL - Apr. 1-16. Over 100,000 tulips & daffodils in bloom at four locations: Old Prairie Town at Historic Ward-Meade Site, 124 NW Fillmore; Ted Enslay Gardens at Lake Shawnee, SE 37th and West Edge Rd; Doran Rock Garden at Gage Park, 601 SW Gage Blvd; and Downtown Topeka. For group tours & other info: 234-1030

JOURNEY FOR SIGHT 5K WALK/RUN & 10K RUN - Apr. 1, 8am start, Combat Air Museum, Forbes Field. Funds raised support Lion's Club Eyeglass Procurement Programs. Register at active.com or topekaliions.org, or in person at Gary Gribbles Running Sports.

TOPEKA NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE EXPO - Apr. 1, 9-1, Big Gage Shelter. Learn more about Topeka community services. Visit 10 of 50 booths and gain free entry to the Topeka Zoo!

TOPEKA FUN FEST - Apr. 1, 4-6. Light of the World Christian Center. Carnival games, food, prizes. Free.

SPRING BRIDAL ELITE - Apr. 4, 6-8pm, Rose Wood Event Venue, 3216 SW 29th St. Topeka Wedding Guild invites the public. Free. First 50 Brides will receive a FREE swag bag FULL of cool gifts!!! Meet and mingle with dozens of Wedding Professionals.

SESAME STREET LIVE: ELMO MAKES MUSIC - Apr. 5, Kansas Expocentre.

ADVENTURE'S IN LEARNING- SPRING SESSION - Apr. 7, 14, 21 & 28, 9am-11:30, Lowman United Methodist Church, 4101 SW 15th St. Shepherd's Center of

Topeka's program for those over 55. Participants choose from four different classes on health, religion, news & current events, people & places, community, the arts, and library wisdom, offered at 9am. At 9:50 brunch is served. At 10:40, second class begins. For info: 249-3258 or shepherdscenertopeka.org

GRAND OPENING - Apr. 7, 11:30am-1pm, 1320 SE 6th Ave. Salvation Army of Topeka celebrates opening of its new community center

SMOKE IN THE SPRING-TASTE OF OSAGE CITY - Apr. 7 & 8. BBQ 4/7; BBQ competition 4/8. Car show 4/8.

TULIPS AT TWILIGHT - Apr. 7, 8, 14, 15, 6-10pm. Old Prairie Town at Ward-Meade Historic Site, 124 NW Fillmore. See the Botanical Garden as never before with more than 40,000 multi-colored tulips illuminated by candle light. Stroll along candlelit pathways; enjoy a warm drink by the fire side; tour the historic buildings by the light of a lantern. Live music will enhance the evening's experience. Doors open at 6pm with music, light food and sweets served until 10pm. \$5. Children under 6 are free. For info: 251-2989

FATHER-DAUGHTER DATE NIGHT - Apr. 8, 6-8:30. Topeka Bible Church. The perfect opportunity to show young women ages five and up how they should be honored, respected and valued. \$40 covers dinner, dancing, and photos. Register by April 3. For info: dougstanley1@gmail.com

PAWS IN THE PARK - Apr. 8, 10am-2pm at 21st & Belle, Topeka West Soccer Field. Helping Hands Humane Society is celebrating 20 years of Paws in the Park. Register at the HHHS gift shop or call Justin Brokar at (785) 233-7325.

9TH ANNUAL HERITAGE CHRISTIAN 5K RUN/WALK AND PANCAKE FEED - Apr. 8. To register: 286-0427

NEED 4 SPEED - Apr. 9, 11-2. Topeka Quarter Midget Association, 112 SW University Blvd. Experience the thrill of driving a Quarter Midget. We will provide the cars and safety equipment. For kids 5-16. \$15/10 laps.

TULIP TIME FESTIVAL DAY - Apr. 9, 10-3, Ted Enslay Gardens, SE 37th and West Edge Rd. Over 50,000 blooms, car show, food trucks, entertainment, and more. \$5 suggested donation per person over age 5, vendors will charge. 9-11 a.m.: All-you-can-eat Chris Cakes Pancake Breakfast.

4th ANNUAL EASTERFEST: TOPEKA EASTER PARADE & FUN FAIR - Apr. 15, 10am-3pm, North Kansas Avenue & Garfield Park. Topeka's fourth annual Easter parade will begin at 10am at the tracks in NOTO and proceed north on Kansas Avenue to Garfield Park. Egg Hunt begins right after the parade at the playground in Garfield Park. Food Trucks will be on hand and the Family Fun Fair will be 10-3 at Garfield Park, in the Shelter House & in the Gym will include vendor booths, children's games, food, facepainting, and more. Bands and other entertainment will perform nearby. For info: info@C5Alive.org or 640-6399.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND SILENT AUCTION - Apr. 15, 7-11am, First Christian Ch., 1880 SW Gage. Proceeds used for Vision Screening small children, and purchasing eye examinations and eye glasses in the Topeka community.

HY-VEE SIMPLE FIX - Apr. 20, 5-7pm. Register by Apr. 16. For only \$115 and one hour of your time, you can have SEVEN meals ready to serve your family any night of the week. Save time & money because there's no shopping & no cleaning! Each meal serves 4. Choose 5 meals for \$85, 6 meals for \$100, or 7 meals for \$115.

THE HEIR APPARENT - Apr. 20-22, 7pm, Topeka West high school, 2001 SW Fairlawn Rd. Spring comedy: The Heir Apparent by David Ives! Tickets \$5 and may be purchased at the door or from any cast member. 785-438-4102. facebook.com/topekawesttheatre/ rmc-coy@tps501.org

A FULL REPLICA OF THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES - Apr. 21-30. Mon-Fri, 11am-8pm. Sat 9am-8pm. Sun 1-8:00 pm. Oakwood Baptist Church, 7600 Lee's Summit Rd, KCMO. \$6. 816-373-4733.

OVERBROOK CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES - April 22:

5TH ANNUAL BRIDGE2BRIDGE 5K RUN/WALK - Apr. 22, 9am, Downtown Topeka. Traverse sidewalks, streets, bridges in this urban experience. Course is USAIT certified. 8 age categories. All ages welcome. See Bridge 2 Bridge 5K Run & Walk facebook page

WALK MS TOPEKA - Apr. 22, 9 am, Lake Shawnee Shelterhouse #1 & 2. Look for facebook event page.

GARAGE SALE - Apr. 22, 7am-12noon, First Christian Ch., 1880 SW Gage, (enter from 19th and Stone Lot). Something for everyone; no clothes. Proceeds used for community and youth activities.

BALLET MIDWEST'S SWAN LAKE - April 22, 8pm & 23, 3pm at TPAC. Two performances featuring talented, local dancers. Tickets available at Barbara's Conservatory of Dance, TPAC Box Office, Ticketmaster.

SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR - Apr. 22, 10-2, Fairlawn Plaza Mall. Meet with professionals to learn about senior living options and care choices. Register to win gift cards. Free.

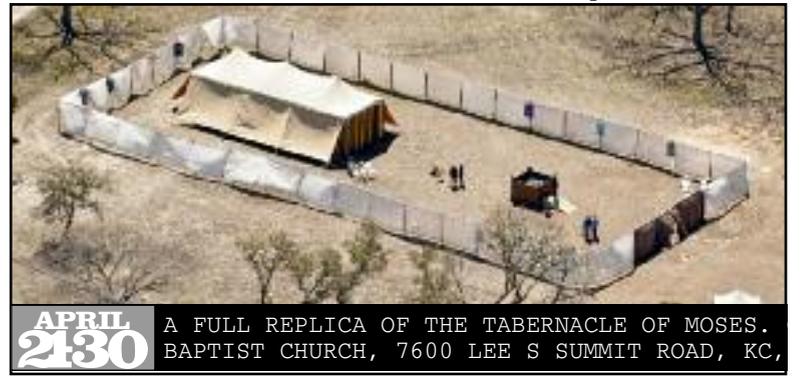
NIA FAMILY FUN & HEALTH DAY - Apr. 29, 2-4pm, 123 NW Gordon.

DESIGNERS' SHOWHOUSE - Apr. 29-May 21, 3143 SW Shadow Ln. Open for public tours Tue - Fri 11am-5pm, Sat-Sun 10-5. \$10/person. Benefits Child Care Aware. east.ks.childcareaware.org or 357-5171

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM BLINTZE BRUNCH - Apr. 30, 9am-1:30. 4200 Munson. \$12 in advance at the temple and at Einstein's Outdoor Outfitters, \$15 at the door. Traditional Jewish food & music, silent auction, bake sale, and prize drawings. For info: 272-6040 or office@tbstopeka.org

YOUTH FOR CHRIST GOLF CLASSIC - May 1, 11:30 reg.; 12:30 shotgun start. Lake Shawnee. Several sponsorship levels available. Lots of prizes! 232-8296 or topekaifc.org

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER - May 4, Local Observances at Noon in the Capitol Rotunda, (For info: Dave DePue 785-249-7604, or dave.depue@capitol.com.org); and at 6:30 pm at Avondale East NET



APRIL 21-30 A FULL REPLICA OF THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES. BAPTIST CHURCH, 7600 LEE S SUMMIT ROAD, KC,

Center (For info: David Epps at 785-221-2788 or depps@billygraham.org)

SHAREFEST - May 6. Churches working together, reaching out to the community. Register at sharefest-topeka.com

KANSAS KIDSFEST + FOOD TRUCKS - May 6th Event Time 10am - 6pm, West Ridge Mall. Variety of activity stations, live performances, interactive exhibitors, laser tag, bubble soccer, special appearances, inflatables, contests/door prizes, face-painting, balloon art, food trucks, & more. General adm. is free. Buy \$10 unlimited play wristbands at www.kansaskidsfest.com and the Street Corner store in West Ridge Mall. Info: 785-560-4386, kidsfest@carnivalguy.com

RMHC CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC - May 22, 8:30am shotgun, Lake Shawnee Golf Course. 4-person scramble; \$440 per team and includes cart, green fees, muliguns, long-drive hole, food (after golf), goody bags, prizes & silent auction. Deadline is May 1. 785-235-6852 http://www.rmhcneks.org/event/rmhc-golf-tournament/ mindee@rmhcneks.org

MEETINGS & CLASSES

C5ALive "POWER" LUNCHEON - Apr. 13, 11:30-1, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. Featured: Bob Hanson and others with a leadership talk & challenge.

- Cost: \$10 for C5 members & first-time guests who RSVP, \$12 at the door
- \$15 for non-members & repeat guests.
- Please RSVP to info@C5Alive.org, so we know how much food is needed!

Open to the public - Put POWER in your life with great food, great speakers and great company! Invite a friend to join you!

SAVE THE DATE: May 11, 11:30-1, C5ALive "POWER" Luncheon. Details to be announced.

TOPEKA WOMEN'S CONNECTION "SPRING STYLE SHOW" LUNCHEON - Apr. 13, 11am, T&SC Public Library, 1515 SW 10th Ave. Prepaid luncheon reservations are \$14 and are due by Apr. 10, by calling (785) 554-3617. No charge to attend the program only. Tina Price, Abilene, will share "Happily Ever After, a story of Forgiveness and Freedom." Music: Jessica Matheis. Spring Style Show by Christopher & Banks and CJ Banks displaying the latest spring fashions.

WOMEN'S DINNER CONNECTION "SPRING FASHION SHOW" - Apr. 13, 6:30-8pm, T&SC Public Library, 1515 SW 10th Ave. \$14 for lunch, no charge for program. Open to all women. RSVPs by Apr. 8 to Arlene, 233-0701 or Leidaccloud@cox.net. Spring Fashions by "Findables," an upscale resale store benefiting Midland Care Hospice. Music: Stephanie Teagarden, vocalist, & Joel Davidson, guitarist. Speaker: Tina Price, Abilene, shares "Happily Ever After..." A story of Forgiveness & Freedom!

DADDY'S GIRLS EMPOWERMENT MEETINGS - Do you

want MORE... Come Join us for our More Luncheons where Real Women get together: share, learn and grow to return to our homes, families workplace, churches & other places of influence restored and rejuvenated to pursue God's MORE...at Topeka Public Library, 12 noon, every 3rd Wednesday. Sponsored by Daddy's Girls Inc. Please to RSVP make lunch reservations: daddysgirlsincc@gmail.com or 785-969-0491

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES Aerie 4319: First & Third Tue. 7pm; Auxiliary: Third & Fourth Tue. month 6pm, 2941 SE Fremont Street. The Fraternal Order of Eagles is 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

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL EDUCATION EVENTS - Blue Moose Bar & Grill, 11:30 AM on the third Thu & Fri each month. Free, but RSVP required. On Thu Brian discusses family wealth strategies. On Fri. Amy discusses wealth strategies that apply to women. 785-271-2536 Jennifer.Ward@wellsfargoadvisors.com

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

THE HEAT - Free fitness classes; learn and build healthy social & eating habits. Held at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 4746 SW 21st St. Sun. - 4-5pm Yoga; Mon. - 12-12:45pm Zumba; 5:30-6:15pm Kickboxing; 6:15-7pm Pilates Fusion; Tue. - 12-12:45pm Yoga; 5:30-6:15pm Zumba; 6:15-7pm Cardio Interval; Wed. - 12-12:45pm Kickboxing; Thu. - 12-12:45pm Pilates; 5:30-6:15pm Cardio Interval - Low intensity; 6:15-7:00pm Cardio Interval - Moderate intensity; Fri. - 12-12:45pm Kickboxing; Sat. - 8-8:45am Kickboxing

TOPEKA TREASURE HUNTERS CLUB - 3rd Sun. of each month, 7pm, Papan's Landing Senior Center, 618 NW Paramore St. Family Memberships include children & grandchildren up to 18 yrs. A place to meet friends to discuss all aspects of Metal Detecting, club business, plus socializing & entertainment.

STEP UP - BUILDING THE SMART STEP-FAMILY - Every Sun. 11am, Northland Christian Church, Room 4, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. Focusing on the challenges facing step-families and blended families. Contact Thomas Munker at 249-3054 for info.

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

INNOVATIVE NETWORKING GROUP OF TOPEKA - every other Wed. 11:20am - 12:30pm. www.INGtopeka.com - go to Event page to see times, locations & register



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Postcards	12 pt. full color, two sided, 5.5x4.25	500-999	\$0.15 each
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JOIN US AT THIS YEAR'S



KANSAS Kids Fest

MAY 6TH | 10a-6p
WEST RIDGE MALL

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

FAMILY EXPERIENCE (FX) – Every Sun., 6:01pm, Fairlawn Church of Nazarene, 730 Fairlawn Rd. A time of high intensity, action packed, skit mania, worship music all centered around the word of God for 45 minutes. A free family worship event. For info: Emily Moore, 272-6322 or fxthelawn@gmail.com.

LADIES' SMALL GROUP – Every Sun., 6pm, Bethel Baptist Church, 4011 N. Kansas Ave. Studying the book of Esther, using the DVD series "It's Tough Being a Woman" by Beth Moore. All welcome. 286-0467.

THE FIRST PLACE 4 HEALTH PROGRAM – Mon., 6:30pm or Sat., 8am, Topeka First Assembly, 500 SW 27th St. This program points members to God's strength & creates a compassionate support group that helps members stay accountable in a positive environment & delivers faith-based health & weight management instruction. To join or start a new group, contact Jan Norris, 972-0582 or norris.jan@sbcglobal.net or visit firstplace4health.com.

THE FORCE (Students Taking Action) – 1st Mon. & 3rd Tue., 6:30-8pm, Safe Streets, 2209 SW 29th St. Committed to being alcohol & drug free. Associate with like-minded peers, plan activities & get involved in the community. Youth 12-18 invited. 266-4606.

HEARTLAND HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS – 2nd Mon., 11:45am-1pm. Promoting neighborhood well-being by mobilizing people, ideas & resources. 233-1365.

TOPEKA LINCOLN CLUB – 1st Tue. of month, 7pm, Topeka Public Library. Discussing our greatest President, Abraham Lincoln, and his times. The public is welcome. For info, contact Kirk Nystrom 235-6977.

KC TRAUMA AND PTSD SUPPORT GROUP - Every Tue. 10am and Thu. 6:30pm. Call Denise at 816-885-9530.

OUR LADY OF THE FAITHFUL – Every 1st Tues., 6:30pm Mass followed by Dinner, Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church. A Catholic group for those in their 20-30s. For info: Michelle Ann 580-3071 or ourladyofthefairful@gmail.com. Facebook: "OurLadyoftheFaithful."

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

MENNINGER BIBLE CLASSES - Tuesdays Noon -1pm. 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.

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

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.

MACHINE EMBROIDERY CLUB – 1st Wed., 9am-3pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th Street (east door). Anyone with an Embroidery machine is invited to attend, there are no dues or formal meeting agenda. Lunch is on your own. Teach each other, enjoy fellowship & complete projects. Call 379-5159.

SAFE STREETS MEETING – 1st Wed., 11:45am, Golf Park Blvd, 2 blocks west of Adams. 266-4606.

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.

FULL GOSPEL BUSINESSMEN'S FELLOWSHIP – 3rd Thurs., 6pm meal, 7pm meeting, Coyote Canyon, Huntoon & Wanamaker. Kirk Nystrom, 235-6977.

I'MOM – 1st & 3rd Thurs., 9-11:30am, Topeka Bible Church Fellowship Hall, 1135 SW College. For all moms, helping them to be intentional! Info: 234-5545.

LIFE FEST – 1st Thurs., 10am-12:30pm, Covenant Baptist Church, 5440 SW 37th St. Celebrate Senior Life. For info: 273-2811.

OPERATION BACKPACK – 1st Thurs., 6pm, Lyman Learning Center, Lyman and N. Kansas Ave. Volunteers gather to assemble Weekend Snack Sacks for low-income students. Sponsored by Topeka North Outreach. For info: 286-1370.

SINGLES BIBLE STUDY – 2nd & 4th Thurs., 7pm, Heartland Worship Center Church of God, 1401 NW Harrison. For info: 232-5503.

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. For info: 233-5762 or tgstopeka.org.

KINGDOM ADVISORS TOPEKA AREA STUDY GROUP – 3rd Thu., 11:30am, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. Christian financial professionals: financial planners, accountants, attorney's & insurance agents invited. For info: kingdomadvisors.org or Jim Hanna, james.c.hanna@ampf.com or 357-6278 x19.

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

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) – Every Fri. 8:30 to 10:00 am at 3221 SW Burlingame Road. 800-932-8677. Support for your weight loss journey. tops.org

VIP LUNCHEON FOR SENIORS – Every Fri., Noon, North Topeka Baptist Church, 123 NW Gordon. FREE lunch with Christian fellowship, devotions & entertainment provided by Topeka North Outreach. Free blood pressure checks the last Friday of every month, and birthday celebrations the 4th Friday. For Info: 286-1370.

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, 272-9249 or kittens812@att.net

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 LOVE AGLOW – Once a month on Sat. morning. A time of worship, prayer and encountering God. Call Tawny Barton at 785-409-0232 or Linda Williams at 785-267-0600 for details.

FREE ENGLISH CLASSES – Every Sat. 9-10:30am, Central Congregational Church, 1248 SW Buchanan. For info: 235-2376.

RUSSIAN HOUSE OF PRAYER – Every Sat., 4pm, Williamstown Assembly of God, 1225 Oak St., Perry/Williamstown. For info: 597-5228.

SINGLES PLAY CARDS SR. – 1st Sat., 6-9pm, St. Peter's UMC, NW 35th & Hwy 75

SAVING DEATH ROW DOGS ADOPTION & EDUCATION - Every Sat. 11am-2pm, Petco, 1930 SW Wanamaker.

UPPER ROOM COMMUNITY – second Sat., 10 am, Capitol Building

SUPPORT GROUPS

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. For info: 785-232-2044 ext.341

ABORTION RECOVERY SUPPORT – Providing services for women & men who suffer from Post-Abortion Syndrome...we can help mend a broken heart! For info: Kay Lyn at KLCarlson20@cox.net

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS – for friends & families of alcoholics. For info: 785-409-3072 or topekaanon.org

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. For info: Alzheimer's Association, Heart of America Chapter, 271-1844 or email cindy.miller@alz.org.

"HEALING HEARTS" support group/Bible study – For women whose husbands struggle with pornography addictions or have had affairs. Videos & workbook will give you hope for your marriage & emotional healing. For info: Jane Goble, 249-0983.

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.

FRIENDS WITH M.S. – 3rd Mon., 6:30pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th St. (Enter East door). A Multiple Sclerosis support group. Donna, 266-7383.

BOUNCE BACK SELF-HELP – 3rd Mon., 6:30pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th St. For those living with multiple sclerosis. For info: 273-0799.

INCARCERATED PERSONS & FAMILIES – 1st Mon., 6:30-7:30pm, YMCA, 421 Van Buren. 286-2329.

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

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 Frizzell at (785)230-6730.

3rd Thurs., 11am, Lunch After Loss, Paisano's Ristorante, Fleming Place, SW 10th & Gage Blvd. Dutch treat luncheon to meet new friends who have sat where you are sitting. For reservations or info: 785-271-6500.

OVEREATERS / UNDEREATERS ANONYMOUS: MON., 7pm – Westminster Presbyterian, south door, upstairs in Library; 233-6724.

WED., 7pm – St. Francis Hospital meeting room 6, 2nd floor; 234-8020.

SAT. - 9am – St. Francis Hospital meeting room 8, 2nd floor; 862-2326.

For info: 357-8774; sunflowerintergroup.ia.org.

NAMI TOPEKA – Every 2nd Tue., 6:45pm, lower level of Valeo, 330 SW Oakley. If door is locked, call 608-1317 to get in. The 1st hour is often a discussion of an important topic or video. The 2nd hour is usually a support talk time, w/ separate consumer & family groups. 608-1317.

EMOTIONS ANONYMOUS: a 12 step program for those suffering with emotional instability such as depression, anxiety, grief, etc. Meets at Grace Episcopal Cathedral, weekly, Tuesdays, Noon-1:00. NVC. For more information contact Sharon at 785-633-7764

OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP - First Tue. each month at St. Francis Health, 1700 SW 7th St, Meeting Room, 2nd floor, 6-7:30pm. Anyone with an ostomy may attend. The goal is to provide education and ongoing support for individuals with an ostomy. Contact Teresa Kellerman at 785-295-5555 for info.

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.

THE GREATER TOPEKA MULTIPLE MYELOMA – 3rd Tue., 7-8:30pm, Faith Lutheran Church, 17th St. & Gage Blvd. Open to Multiple Myeloma patients, their family members & friends. Share support, information, & friendship. For info: Donna, 903-918-9553.

"HEALING AFTER THE SUICIDE OF A LOVED ONE" ("HEAL") – or Survivors of Suicide" (SOS). 1st & 3rd Tue., 7-8:30pm, Pozez Education Center of Stormont Vail Hospital, 1505 SW 8th St. Serving anyone who has lost a loved one by suicide.

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 faithfamilyfeministries@gmail.com.

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS – Every Wed, 7pm, St. Francis Hospital, meeting room #8.

JAYHAWK AREA AGENCY ON AGING – 4th Wed., 1pm, Rosehill Place Clubhouse. Monthly support group for caregivers of seniors. For info: 235-1367 ext.30.

MOMS-IN-TOUCH PRAYER GROUP – Every Wed., 2:30-3:30pm, Library at Cair Paravel-Latin School. Experience God's power through prayer as we lift our students, teachers, staff, administrators & board up to the Lord. For info: 357-0369.

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.

WED. – 6:45 – 8:45pm, Walnut View Christian Church, 3634 SE 37th St. (just east of 37th & Croco). Cost: \$10 registration (scholarships available). The video seminar series featuring some of the nation's foremost experts on divorce and recovery topics, combined with support group discussion of the materials. Complimentary child care children up to the fifth grade. Info: 266-7550 or walnutviewcc@att.net. Contact: Pastor Thornton.

WED. – 6:30pm, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. No Cost. 286-1204, www.northland.cc

NAMI WASHBURN – 4th Thurs., 6-8pm, Spirit Building Room, University United Methodist Church, 1621 SW College Ave. NAMI is a student-run, student-led organization that provides mental health support, education, & advocacy in the Washburn Univ. setting. A support group is also available during this time.

PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP – 1st Thurs., 7pm, Saint Francis Hospital 2nd floor conf. room of the cancer unit. For info: 266-9533.

NICOTINE ANONYMOUS – Every Fri., 6:30pm, Town & Country Christian Church Renaissance Room, 4925 SW 29th St., use west door cross red foot bridge. A fellowship of men & women helping each other to live free of nicotine. No fees. 402-321-486; Laboomaha@att.net.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY – Every Fri., 6pm, 1912 Gage Blvd. A Christ-centered program, based on 8 principles found in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Applying these Biblical principles, become free from addictive & dysfunctional behaviors. 220-0017 or crtopeka.org.

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The Good, Bad and Ugly with Beauty and the Beast

entertainment

As her name suggests, Belle is indeed lovely. She's also sweet, kind, gentle and as bright as the stars on a moonless night. She adores her father. And she simply loves to read good books and dreams of being part of the adventures those printed pages depict.

There's only one problem: Belle's long list of terrific character qualities make her something of a misfit in her little provincial town. In fact, the townspeople see her as flat-out peculiar. Why would anyone bother with all that reading and dreaming and the like, they say, when she could just settle down and be happy? Or at least make some guy happy?

Like Gaston, for instance.

Gaston is a lantern-jawed brute who's regularly fawned over by all the other young women in town. And in his mind, deservedly so. Why, just look at his smile, those muscles, those twinkling eyes. Even Gaston's old army companion, LeFou, can't help but sing Gaston's praises. And he's a guy.

Of course, the most handsome and desirable man in town naturally gravitates toward the most beautiful and desirable woman. And that would be Belle. Gaston is determined to take her as his wife. And once they're married, well, he'll cure Belle



of her passion for reading and dreaming and all that silly stuff. Belle, however, isn't interested. She'd rather care for her loving Papa, the town's clocksmith, and wait to see what possibilities the future might hold for her rather than take up with an empty-headed lug like Gaston.

But none of that matters much, it would seem, in light of recent events. While her father was off trying to sell his mechanical devices in the nearest city, some wickedness must have befallen him: His horse returned without him.

In a panic, Belle goads Papa's old-but-smart horse to take her to her father, wherever he may be. And the animal carries her to the gates of a gloomy, obviously forgotten castle. What could have happened to this overgrown old place? And why doesn't anyone in the village even know it's there?

Inside the strange, crumbling fortress

she finds a cell. And inside that cell she finds her father. "Go away, Belle!" the old gent cries. "Forget about me. I'm lost to you." But Belle could never just walk away from her beloved Papa. "Everything I am is because of you," she tells him.

Besides, it's too late.

The surly owner of this enchanted castle has heard the commotion and storms into the shadow-cloaked dungeon. With bared teeth and an angry roar, he makes the facts clear: Papa has trespassed and unwisely tried to pluck a rose from his property, and a price must be paid. If Belle wants to take his place, so be it. But someone will be the lifelong prisoner of ... the Beast!

The Beast, it turns out, is a cursed prince who must find someone to love him in his current monster-like form in order to break the spell condemning him to that state. Of course, Belle doesn't know any of

that. She simply shows great love and bravery in her willingness to take her father's place. She is willing to set all her dreams aside to ensure her father's well-being and freedom. (And her father is willing to do the same for his daughter.)

This live-action rejuvenation of Disney's classic 1991 animated musical is in many respects a thing of sumptuous beauty. In fact, some of the scenes in this new Beauty and the Beast—such as the famous welcome-to-the-feast number, "Be Our Guest"—are nothing short of magical. On top of that, this fairy tale fantasy's encouragements to choose kindness and compassion, and to look beyond surface beauty, all ring as clear and true.

That's the good news here.

But then there's all that other stuff that we have to deal with as well. What are we to make of director Bill Condon's claims that his Beauty and the Beast features Disney's first "gay moment" (as described above)?

Adults will likely notice the film's obvious homosexual innuendos and recognize them for what they are. But will kids? In a different, more innocent time, I wonder if these scenes would have been viewed by youngsters as little more than silliness. Alas, however, we live in this activist age. A day when actors and directors and studios feel it necessary to insert such things in an attempt to normalize and elevate certain sexual choices. And, unfortunately, they've



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
STARRING: Emma Watson, Dan Stevens, Luke Evans, Josh Gad, Kevin Kline, Hattie Morahan
DIRECTOR: Bill Condon
RATED: PG

chosen to do so this time in a movie aimed at children.

Both director Bill Condon and actor Josh Gad seem to be trying to walk back their comments about this deliberate, pro-homosexual agenda—perhaps in light of calls from some prominent Christians to boycott it. Gad told USA Today, "Too much has probably been made of this entire thing. At a certain point what I want to be talking about is how wonderful, how entertaining, how amazing this movie is for all audiences." Likewise, Condon told screencrush.com, "It's all been overblown," and then added, "Why is it a big deal?"

But the fact that Condon doesn't understand why this could be such a big deal to many who don't believe homosexuality is normative is telling indeed. The result? Families that don't embrace Beauty and the Beast's pro-gay moments will be forced to grapple with how best to respond to them. And for those who were looking forward to revisiting this beloved tale as old as time with a younger generation, that's a disappointing and difficult decision to have to make.

Some Parents Say Christians Should Watch Disney's Beauty and the Beast

When Disney announced it would feature an "exclusively gay moment" in its new "Beauty and the Beast" remake, Christians everywhere vowed to boycott the movie. Despite the backlash, some Christians say parents should think twice about prohibiting their children from seeing the film.

One of those parents is Sarah Wallace, a blogger for The Gospel Centered Mom, and mother of four. She says the movie gives parents the opportunity to teach their children

how to interact with a world that loves sin.

"This is the culture God has appointed for us to raise our children in. We need to know how to live in it and interact with it," she says. Instead of ignoring a culture that celebrates homosexuality, Wallace argues that Christians should send their children out into the world with strong knowledge of what the Bible says.

"We must raise alien children - children who are not surprised by or

afraid of this culture, but know how to impact it for the gospel," Wallace argues.

Christian Blogger and writer Luke Aylen agrees and argues that some parent's reactions could even hurt their Christian witness.

"Boycotting this film suggests Christians are offended by the existence of gay people - even if that's not how the boycotter intends it," Aylen writes.

Aylen is a fierce defender of tradi-

tional marriage, but he is open about his life-long struggle with same-sex attraction. He recalls the painful experience of having Christian friends who cut him off after finding out about his struggle with homosexuality. He says most of these children had parents who refused to even talk to them about the reality of homosexuality in their culture.

"It wasn't the theology that hurt me. It was the way of reacting and treating me as a gay person - a reaction built upon seeing her parent's boycotting of gay people on TV," he says.

Aylen doesn't believe Christians should compromise on their biblical convictions about homosexuality, but should be prepared to engage a culture that widely accepts it.

"The fact is that our children are growing up in a society where gay relationships are a given," he says. "If we hold to a traditional biblical view of sexuality then we need to prepare our children for the real world of competing views about sexuality now, rather than try to pretend that LGBT issues don't exist, either in Disney films or in real life."

Three faith-based shows premier on prime-time TV this spring

by **CHARITY GIBSON**

Three faith-based TV pilots will go head to head with others for a chance to get picked up for the 2017-18 television season premiere.

If primetime television decides to take a page out of Hollywood's faith-based films success, we might be seeing a lot more Christian content on the small screen.

Now that spring is under way, scripts have been pitched to ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox and The CW for a chance among hundreds to move forward in a bid to find the next breakout TV shows.

Discovered in the listings of

pilots up for grabs were three faith-based television shows that a Christian audience might consider watching.

1. "The Gospel of Kevin"

Those behind ABC's Marvel drama "Agent Carter" returned to the network with a pilot for "The Gospel of Kevin."

According to the Hollywood Reporter, the Disney-owned American Broadcasting Company network recruited Jason Ritter to play the lead role in the



Alonzo

"Light" ABC drama.

"The Gospel of Kevin" will follow a man "down-on-his-luck who's tasked by God with a mission to save the world." The series will also feature Cristela Alonzo, JoAnna Garcia Swisher and J. August Richards.

The project stems from a deal inked a few years ago with ABC Studios between longtime writing partners Fazekas and Butters.

Fazekas and Butters are known for their work on "Agent Carter" as well as "Resurrection," both of which ran for two seasons apiece. "The Gospel of Kevin" reportedly marks ABC Studios' leading eighth pilot order of the season.

2. "Living Biblically"

This CBS comedy stars Ian Gomez as a "modern man who, at a crossroads in his life, decides to live life according to the Bible."



Gomez

The pilot is based on the best-selling book *The Year of Living Biblically: One Man's Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible* by A.J. Jacobs. Although the description reads as a faith-based series, it is difficult to judge for certain since the author described himself as an "agnostic Jew" to *Christianity Today*.

However, the book did receive positive reaction from Christian media.

3. "For God and Country"

Lastly, "For God and Country" stars the actor from the "The Case for Christ," Mike Vogel. This NBC dramatic series was filmed in Morocco and is a "heart-pounding look into the complex world of the country's bravest military heroes who make personal sacrifices while executing the most challenging and dangerous missions behind enemy lines."



Vogel

GOODBYES AND NEW BEGINNINGS

Wow, this is my last music column for Metro Voice, and I'm at a loss. Not something I usually struggle with, as I'm probably more free with my thoughts and opinions than may be considered appropriate, but this is tough. I started writing for the paper in 2010, as I was getting ready to graduate from Park University. Since then, I have been given the opportunity to interview some pretty big names in the music industry, including Building 429, Jim Brickman, Tenth Avenue North, and Brandon Heath, as well as some amazing local talent including Lori Harris, Dre T, and Grandeur.

I have had the unique opportunity to share my experiences going to Sierra Leone, both as a missionary and a father, and what our family has gone through to finally bring our children home from the orphanage there. We are in the last months before welcoming Ibrahim and Isha into the Jeanes Clan, and we are excited and grateful to God for His divine guidance and grace!



D.C. Jeanes

Metro Voice
Music Critic

musicscene

However, these final stages of the adoption are also a part of the reason I am stepping down from my position here. I will miss the monthly research and learning about new artists before writing about them.

It has been a powerful experience, and I want to give a huge shout-out to our publisher Dwight Widaman for the chance to be part of a great paper and ministry. I hope to meet you in person someday, brother, but our phone conversations these last seven years have been great, too. Haha!

Okay, now to the music news!



Award-winning rockers Building 429 is headlining the "Worship in the Round" Tour, with Josh Wilson and Chris August. The tour will be coming to Word of Life Church in Saint Joseph on Saturday, April 29! Word of Life Church is located at 3902 N. Riverside Road, St. Joseph, MO 64505, and the doors open at 7pm. More information and tickets are avail-

able on iTickets.com. Recently, Building 429 received RIAA®-Gold certification for their single "Where I Belong," while the single sales surpassed 1 million in 2015. Josh Wilson has achieved over 200,000 career album sales and over 500,000 career track sales to date, as well as being awarded the 2012 ASCAP Christian Songwriter of the Year.

Multi-platinum selling and GRAMMY winning Casting Crowns will also be stopping by in May. Performing at The Silverstein Eye Centers Arena on May 4, Casting Crowns will be continuing on their The Very Next Thing Tour, joined by K-LOVE Radio's Male Artist of the Year Danny Gokey and special guests Unspoken. The tour supports their newest album of the same name; their fifteenth in their career. This is a great opportunity to see some incredible Christian artists for a good price and at a fun location.

Lastly, singer, author, and speaker Kathy Troccoli is also coming, May 5, to Tiffany Fellowship, on her popular Comfort By Candlelight tour. Described as "inspiring...breathtaking...reviving...healing," the Candlelight tour is presented for anyone and everyone who could use an evening of worship and comfort. Located at 7315 NW Barry Rd, Kansas City, MO, Tiffany Fellowship will open its doors at 6pm with the performance slated to start at 7.

DVDS WORTH RENTING

Drama gives voice to trafficking victims

Caged No More tells the story of Aggie (Loretta Devine), an elderly woman looking for two teenage girls she cared for as children. She discovers the girls have been sold into slavery by their own reprobate father (Kevin Sorbo). He sets up his youngest to meet the man who will trick her into a most unfortunate fate by promising her money for modeling.

Aggie learns both youngsters have been taken overseas to be sold into the sex trade. Determined to rescue them, she enlists the help of the girls' uncle and his son, a former special-forces commando.

At the end of this taut action film, we learn another person becomes a victim of human trafficking every 30 seconds.



Loretta Devine stars as a housekeeper on a mission to find the child she cared for who was sold into slavery by the girl's father, played by Kevin Sorbo.

Caged No More shows the heroes gallantly fighting the evildoers. Though some characters have a happy ending, the film will leave you feeling uneasy, not triumphant.

Caged No More has good production values and an absorbing story. It's a pleasure to see a woman of faith have a positive effect on the lives of others, but it's a sad reality that men and women in this world traffic other human beings to make money or to satisfy some kind of twisted desire. Whatever the reason, the industry is thriving.

The film is available on DVD from Word Distributors. It doesn't have objectionable language or exploitive sexuality, but it receives a PG-13 rating mainly for the subject matter.

—Michael Foust

Movies with language that is not just clean, but good

Nowadays, theaters are over-

loaded with films composed of CGI effects, bathroom humor, and gore galore. But throughout the years, the best moviemakers have found the truest special effect is dialogue.

Two films from Britain, both produced in the 1990s, mesmerize viewers with their use of language. The Winslow Boy, from 1999, is based on a true story about a successful banker who risks his fortune and the family's good name to defend his son from an accusation of theft. After being dismissed from a prestigious prep school, a disgrace that could cause early 1900s British society to shun the entire family, the boy proclaims his innocence despite the evidence.

The family's subsequent stand takes them to court. The patriarch makes personal and financial sacrifices to hire the best lawyer, or, as the British say, solicitor.

Renowned playwright and director David Mamet, who is recognized normally for salty dialogue in his works, has sensitively adapted Terence Rattigan's play. This genteel look at a father's determination to see jus-

tice done—and to see his son vindicated—offers filmgoers a superb screenplay, proving that a story can be told without bombarding the viewer with profane and offensive material. It's rated G, and stars Nigel Hawthorne and Rebecca Pidgeon.

Next, the Academy Award-winner for best picture in 1995, Sense and Sensibility, stars Emma Thompson, the late Alan Rickman, Kate Winslet, and Hugh Grant. Thompson also wrote the screenplay for this film adapted from the Jane Austen novel about two sisters discovering the joys and tribulations of young love. Sense and Sensibility is rated PG. Set in prim and proper 18th-century Britain, the beautifully photographed and splendidly acted melodrama is full of humor, wit, and passion. There's no profanity, no sexual situations, no violence—just great storytelling.

[Editor's Note: Sadly, while Sense and Sensibility is available for rent on Amazon, none of the movies are available for free on Netflix or AmazonPrime]

—by Phil Boatwright



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CARING FOR PARENTS WHO DIDN'T CARE FOR YOU

BY CAROL BRADLEY BURSACK

Last week, a journalist (we'll call her Nancy) wanted to interview me about some caregiving issues. We chatted a bit about the article she was writing and she got some quotes. During the talk, we bonded.

As Nancy talked, she described the turmoil she is facing as her parents age. I was able to assure her that she is not alone in her feelings. She grew up with an abusive mother. The abuse was physical as well as emotional. Her father was gone much of the time, doing what most men of that generation did. He was making a living for his family and that was his role as he saw it. He wasn't around much and didn't "interfere" with the raising of the children.

Now her parents are getting frail. Nancy had been through a lot of therapy so she could learn to cope with her childhood issues. She's come to terms with the fact that her father did what he thought he was supposed to do. She rightly felt, as a child, that he should recognize and stop the abuse her mother was doling out. Through therapy, she has learned to forgive her father for his lack of involvement and the fact that he didn't stop the abuse.

She's learned that he likely didn't know about a lot of it. She's also learned that he probably was in denial about what he did suspect, because he really didn't know what to do. He was wrong, but she's managed to forgive him for what he didn't know, and for what he didn't do about what he did know. Part of this is that her father

recognizes where he failed. As he ages – and he's the one who is showing the need for care at this point – she feels she is capable of caring for him, in some "hands-on" capacity.

Nancy's even formed a bond with him, and though a bit envious about the fact that he's become a terrific grandfather to her children (the dad she didn't have), she is also happy that the bond is there for all of their sakes.

The issue remains that her mother will not admit to having been abusive. Nancy is willing to work on the issue with her mother and a counselor, but her mother totally denies any abuse. Whether this denial is conscious or "selective memory" doesn't matter to Nancy. She was abused as a child and she wants her mother to admit it and work on it. She wants to see the cycle broken.

Breaking the cycle of abuse is what Nancy is doing on her own, as she is totally aware of her background and is determined not to make her children victims of such a childhood. So, that isn't the issue here. The issue is what does she do when her mother needs help? How does she care for a parent who didn't do the right thing for her? How does she "get over" her feelings, or around them or through them?

Counseling can only go so far and Nancy feels she's done as much as she can, unless her mother is willing to join in the process. But she is frightened about the future. She feels that she won't be able to give her mother hands-on care and she isn't even sure

she wants to be involved with her mother's care at all. Nancy does have a sibling who, for whatever reason, wasn't abused, and therefore Nancy knows this sibling will handle some of what the aging mother will need.

As a columnist, I receive many letters from adults who were raised by abusive, addicted and/or neglectful parents. They are in a quandary, because they know society thinks they should care for their parents. Some of them have religious issues about "honoring their parents," no matter what. However, many feel that they just cannot give the emotional and physical care their aging parents need.

They want to know if they are terrible people. They want to know if there are options. Some, like Nancy, have had considerable counseling. Others haven't tried outside help.

It's especially hard for these people when they read stories of families gathering together to care for an elder. They imagine that these families have nothing but fond memories of their childhoods, and they see this perfect circle of care. This, of course, makes them feel left out, just like the abuse did when they were young. The perception that everyone else comes from an intact family is salt in the wound.

Of course, most families have never been totally "functional." Most families have had their share of "secrets" and bad behavior. But most families don't qualify for the pain these truly abusive environments like Nancy's left, either.

How to Arrange Elderly Care When You Don't Want To

I can't fix things for these people who ask. They know that. They just want to talk. But I do assure them that they aren't bad people for having these negative feelings. I do suggest they consider a few things:

1. If they haven't tried it, get some counseling. Talking out your past with a trained counselor can be helpful. It can get some people over the hump of resentment, and they are more able to have some kind of active role in caring for their elders.

2. I suggest Dr. Ira Byock's book "The Four Things That Matter Most: A Book About Living." Dr. Byock is a hospice physician. He has witnessed many deaths. And he has seen the healing that can happen when emotionally destroyed families find a way to forgive. I've reviewed the book on my blog at www.mindingoureldersblogs.com, for those interested in reading more about this book.

3. I suggest that if they cannot give hands-on care, they may be able to find peace for themselves by hiring a geriatric care manager to handle the day-to-day needs of the elders. These people know how to get the elders' needs met. They know who to call. Geriatric care managers are expensive, but for some people (not only those who aren't close to their loved one) they can be very useful. Unfortunately, not every area of the country has geriatric care managers, and also they are not uniformly regulated. However, AgingCare's directory of Geriatric Care Managers is a good place to start. Please be careful with Geriatric Care

Managers. I've noticed on-line "credentials" popping up – and I don't mean real on-line distance learning. I mean the kind you can buy for a few bucks. This is going to be an area open for abuse until there is some true oversight. That time will come, but it's not here yet. If you don't have someone in your area that can be recommended by a site or an agency you know, then I'd make sure the person you select is licensed as a social worker, nurse or some elder related credentials. Always ask for references.

4. The other option for families where things are truly an emotional mess is to get a legal guardian appointed. Many areas have agencies that specialize in this. You should be able to find out where to look by calling your county adult services. If you find you need to hire an outsider to handle the nuts and bolts of caregiving, don't beat yourself up. You have done what needs to be done to make you feel like a decent human being. Life is not always neat. You know that already. So, do what you need to do and then let it go.

5. There's some chance that, during the process of lining up help, you may find a way to heal enough to forgive your elders and be with them, at least to some degree. Try to be aware that your parents were raised by imperfect parents. They often did all they knew how to do. That doesn't make abuse right. It doesn't make any of it okay. But, understanding that they are human beings with flawed pasts – they were likely abused as children, themselves – may help you reach their bedside while you still have time to say goodbye.

3 Ways Seniors Can Get More from their Smartphones

(StatePoint)

With the rapid pace of new developments in smartphone technology, it can be hard to keep up with all the changes, especially if you grew up in an era when phones were attached to a cord.

Phones these days aren't what they used to be -- but that's for the best, as smartphone technology can actually improve your life. Here are three easy ways that seniors can get more from smartphones:

1. "Read" audiobooks.

Whether your hands are tied up gardening or cooking, or you simply want to give your eyes a rest, consider listening to books on your smartphone. You can purchase audiobooks a la carte or opt for a subscription plan, which offers deals, such as unlimited selections for a flat monthly fee.

Features like bookmarks and back buttons make it easy to "flip through" a digital audiobook.

2. Use health apps to manage conditions.

Well-designed health apps can help patients manage their conditions. For example, ArthritisPower, a free app for patients with arthritis, allows users to track symptoms and treatment

outcomes, and share the information with their doctors.

Created by CreakyJoints, a go-to resource for arthritis patients and their families, in collaboration with the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the app is also a data-gathering tool for researchers. Via informed consent, user data is helping researchers better understand how different treatments work for different people.

"One out of every five U.S. adults of all ages lives with doctor-diagnosed arthritis and it's important that patients actively engage in managing their own treatment plan," says Seth Ginsberg, President and Co-Founder of CreakyJoints and Principal Investigator of ArthritisPower.

To download the free app or learn

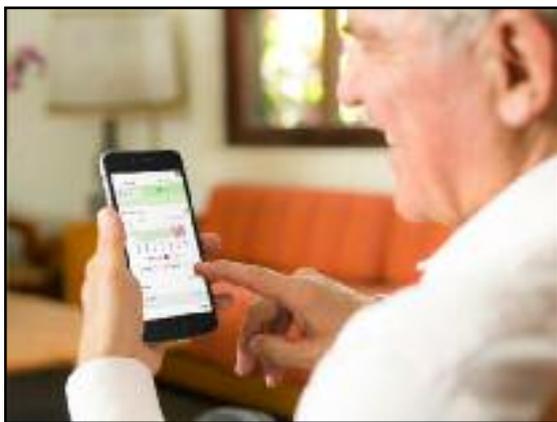
more, visit arthritispower.org.

3. Video chat with loved ones.

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SOCIAL SECURITY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How do I apply for a new or replacement Social Security number card?

You can get an original Social Security card or a replacement card if yours is lost or stolen. There is no charge for a Social Security card. This service is free.

You can use a my Social Security account to request a replacement Social Security card online if you:

Are a U.S. citizen age 18 years or older with a U.S. mailing address;

Are not requesting a name change or any other change to your card; and

Have a driver's license or a state-issued identification card from one of the states listed.

If you cannot apply for a card online, you will need to show the required documents. We need to see different documents depending on your citizenship and the type of card you are requesting. Fill out and print an Application for a Social Security Card; and take or mail your application and documents to your local Social Security office.



How do I change or correct my name on my Social Security number card?

If you legally change your name because of marriage, divorce, court order or any other reason, you must tell Social Security so you can get a corrected card. You cannot apply for a card online. There is no charge for a Social Security card. This service is free.

To get a corrected Social Security card, you will need to:

Show the required documents. You will need proof of your identity. Sometimes you also may need to prove your current U.S. citizenship or lawful noncitizen status. Fill out and print an Application for a Social Security Card; and

Take or mail your application and

documents to your local Social Security office.

How do I get a replacement Medicare card?

Your Medicare card is proof of your Medicare insurance. If your Medicare card was lost, stolen, or destroyed, you can ask for a replacement by using your online my Social Security account.

If don't already have an account, you can create one online. Go to Sign In or Create an Account.

Once you are logged in to your account, select the "Replacement Documents" tab. Then select "Mail my replacement Medicare Card."

Your Medicare card will arrive in the mail in about 30 days at the address on file with Social Security.

What happens if I work and get Social Security retirement benefits?

You can get Social Security retirement benefits and work at the same time. However, if you are younger than full retirement age and make more than the yearly earnings limit, we will reduce your benefit. Starting with the month you reach full retirement age, we will not reduce your benefits no matter how much you earn.

We use the following earnings lim-

its to reduce your benefits: If you are under full retirement age for the entire year, we deduct \$1 from your benefit payments for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit.

For 2017 that limit is \$16,920.

In the year you reach full retirement age, we deduct \$1 in benefits for every \$3 you earn above a different limit, but we only count earnings before the month you reach your full retirement age.

If you will reach full retirement age in 2017, the limit on your earnings for the months before full retirement age is \$44,880.

Starting with the month you reach full retirement age, you can get your benefits with no limit on your earnings.

Use our Retirement Age Calculator to find your full retirement age based on your date of birth.

Use our Retirement Earnings Test Calculator to find out how much your benefits will be reduced.

What counts as earnings:

When we figure out how much to deduct from your benefits, we count only the wages you make from your job or your net earnings if you're self-employed. We include bonuses, commissions, and vacation pay. We don't count pensions, annuities, investment income, interest, veterans, or other government or military retirement benefits.

Your benefits may increase when

you work:

As long as you continue to work, even if you are receiving benefits, you will continue to pay Social Security taxes on your earnings. However, we will check your record every year to see whether the additional earnings you had will increase your monthly benefit. If there is an increase, we will send you a letter telling you of your new benefit amount.

When you're ready to apply for retirement benefits, use our online retirement application, the quickest, easiest, and most convenient way to apply.

If you need to report a change in your earnings after you begin receiving benefits:

If you receive benefits and are under full retirement age and you think your earnings will be different than what you originally told us, let us know right away.

For more information, Contact your local Social Security office (www.socialsecurity.gov/locator). In Topeka, it is at 600 SW Commerce Pl., Topeka, KS 66615. The local office phone number is 1-888-327-1271.

senior news/events briefs

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

VIP LUNCHEON FOR SENIORS - Every Fri., Noon, North Topeka Baptist Church, 123 NW Gordon. FREE lunch with Christian fellowship, devotions & entertainment provided by Topeka North Outreach. For Info: 286-1370.

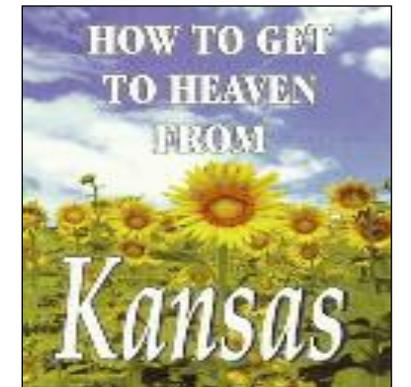
MEDICARE MONDAYS - First Monday of every month, 1-3pm. Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library (Menninger Room 206), 1515 SW 10th. Senior health insurance counseling. For info: 580-4545 or nhonl@tsclpl.org

LIFEFEEST - First Thu. of the month, 10am-12:30pm, Covenant Baptist Church, 5440 SW 37th St. Notice: Seniors ministering to seniors - celebrating with fellowship, fun, food, learning & entertainment. Potluck lunch at noon. If transportation is needed, call 354-4994 or 478-1729

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@rhcc.topeka.org

SHEPHERDS CENTER LINE DANCING GROUP - meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 2-4:00 at First United Methodist, 6th & Topeka. Park on the WEST side and use the WEST door. Immediately inside, turn left and walk the ramp to the library, then left to the elevator. Push [B] to go to the fellowship hall

SHEPHERDS CENTER HHHS WALKING GROUP - meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 9:30-11 at HHHS, 21st & Belle. Parking & entrance for walkers is on the WEST side. Walking is done on an inside track. People who would like to walk a shelter dog must have completed an animal handling class that is given periodically at HHHS—for arrangements call Kelsey Scrinopskie, 233-7325.



More important than living in KANSAS is where you will live forever. Just as you would look at a map of KANSAS to find your way, so you must look at the Bible to find your way to heaven. The Bible says, "Narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:14). Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (Jn. 14:6). Jesus is the only way to Heaven and He gave these directions on getting there.

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.

sports

HOW CHRISTIANS DO MARCH MADNESS

By Chad Carlson | Christianity Today

A few years ago, an ESPN poll ranked the biggest rivalries in college basketball. Of course, Duke University and the University of North Carolina topped the list. Then came the University of Tennessee and the University of Connecticut women's teams, then the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville.

At No. 4: Calvin College and Hope College.

The two Division III Christian schools never make it into the big-time March



Madness brackets like the Division I schools listed above. In fact, they rarely get covered on TV and don't have much name recognition outside of the Midwest or certain church circles.

But even without national prominence, the Knights and the Flying Dutchman are in many ways the quintessential adversaries—demonstrating exactly what makes sports rivalries so exciting. As Christian colleges, they also force us to consider the theological implications of competition in the body of Christ.

Hope versus Calvin fills every criterion for what makes any rivalry great—close regional proximity (like Michigan vs. Michigan State), ongoing league and national success (like Duke vs. North Carolina), similar size and academic mission (like Army vs. Navy). But the Hope versus Calvin rivalry adds one more element that other high-profile rivalries don't, an element that should bind but has over the years divided. It's ironic really, for it is religion that adds to the zealous nature of the rivalry for all who play and watch.

The two schools stem from a schism among Dutch Reformed settlers in West Michigan. A group split from the North American branch of the Dutch Reformed Church, the Reformed Church in America (RCA), to start a new denomination in 1857. The newly formed Christian Reformed Church of North America (CRCNA) was still very Dutch and very Calvinist, but disagreed with the RCA over language and hymns during worship as well as public or Christian schooling. Leaders of the RCA founded Hope College in Holland, Michigan, in 1866. A decade later, the CRCNA founded Calvin College in Grand Rapids—a mere 35 miles away.

One of the reasons that rivalries tug on our hearts—and make us debate, shout, paint our faces, bumper-sticker our cars—is because of the ongoing narrative of struggle. Hope and Calvin have steadily maintained their back-and-forth one-upmanship throughout nearly a century of athletic competition.

In men's basketball, their teams have squared off 196 times since 1920, with Hope winning 101 and Calvin winning 95. Since Calvin joined the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association in 1953, both schools have won the league 31 times, and at least one of the two has won the league or shared the title in 60 of the 64 seasons since then. Calvin has won two NCAA Division III national championships; Hope has finished as national runner-up twice. Its last matchup, in February, drew fans at 80-plus viewing parties across the country.

Listen to Quick to Listen discuss what Lebron James teaches us about redemption in the sports world.

Yet while Calvin-Hope is a rivalry par excellence—its fan bases follow the action of both teams fiendishly and its participants stake their competitive credentials each season on the outcome of the rivalry games—the schools are also neighbors. Historically, many of the players and fans grew up together, went to school together, played basketball

FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by Rob Mooney

I've been doing a lot of reflecting of myself lately, particularly where my kids are concerned. Like many parents, I've let them play various sports. Wrestling, football, basketball and baseball were all commonplace with my kids, especially the older ones. I even coached many years of their lives. I don't think that I ever put pressure on them while they were playing. I don't think that I ever pushed them hard.

Sure, they weren't allowed to quit after they started, but that's more than a sport thing. I know that there are a lot of parents that feel the same way I do. Through my years of coaching and officiating, I also realize that there are parents that are the complete opposite. I don't understand.

Let's take a look at LaVar Ball for a minute. He's the dad of UCLA standout freshman Lonzo Ball, who will probably be a top 5 pick in this year's NBA draft. He also has two younger sons that will both play in high school and will both attend

UCLA as well. I'm sure that you've heard his name before and seen him on TV.

He's the guy that wants a billion dollar shoe deal for his three kids before Lonzo goes to the NBA. He's the guy that trademarked his own brand, Triple B's, Big Baller Brand. Sure he pushes his kids, but how he does it is just insane.

You see, Ball is a talker. He seems to like to hear himself talk because some of the things he says are just so off the wall, you can't believe that someone would actually say them. For instance, Ball said that his son Lonzo was already better than Steph Curry. Yeah, that Steph Curry. You know, the guy who plays for the Golden State Warriors and is considered one of the best pure shooters in the game. MVP Steph Curry.

Ball also said that Lonzo would win more NBA titles than Michael Jordan, who won six during his career. Maybe Ball will be a good player, but he'll find out like

with and against each other in their youth, and even went to church together. Hope and Calvin are neighbors, sharing the same geographic region. The schools are also "neighbors" in that they share a presence in the larger body of Christ's followers

In fact, rivalry began as a neighborly endeavor. Long before modern sports, rivalry referred to those who shared a common stream, a resource worth squabbling over when the term came about in the late 16th century.

As a coach, I had to ask myself: Can we love our neighbors as ourselves while also fueling the rivalry? Is it good for the body of Christ to compete and try to outdo each other?

Like most rivalries, certain behavior at Calvin-Hope games (and trash talk outside it) has done little to glorify God's kingdom or show love to our collegiate neighbors. The Calvin student section shouts, "There's No Hope!" Hope students have responded with

"Calvin Sucks" T-shirts and posters declaring "Calvin (K)nights Are Boring."

Further, the behavior of players and coaches shows similar antipathy. A 2002 game included a punch being thrown in the midst of a player fracas. A 2015 game ended with students rushing the court and trampling over losing players. Each of these characteristics also reminds us of what draws us back to the arena for each rivalry game—the opportunity for redemption. Good competition includes each side giving their best shot and, regardless of the outcome, agreeing to play again. One of the attractions to rivalries is the history—that which implies that both sides have agreed over and over again to continue playing and developing the storyline.

The opportunity for redemption, for renewal, for another chance is also one of the more overlooked biblical parallels to sport. Through the sacrament of baptism, we are made new in Christ. The stream of the living

Jordan did that one player won't win a championship.

Kind of crazy, huh? It gets better. He stated that if Charles Barkley would have thought like him, he would have won a championship. Not sure about that one, but hey, we're talking about LaVar Ball here.

He said that his son would only play for the Lakers and that all three of his sons were going to be one and done players at UCLA. Ok, that last one is more believable than the others, but his 2nd son, LiAngelo, is currently a 3 star recruit and is ranked 269. I wonder if his dad would disown him if he ended up playing in Europe.

My personal favorite is Ball saying that in his heyday, he would have beat Michael Jordan in basketball. That's quite funny to me. Ball's heyday was averaging 2 points a game in one year at Washington State. That same year, Jordan averaged 37 points a game for the Chicago Bulls.

I know that by writing this article I've been suckered in to Ball's plan and purpose. He wants his name in the papers and on TV. It's not so much about his kids but about him. Good luck man because I just don't see too many people lining up to buy one of those 3B's t-shirts!

water continually washes away our sins and gives us new opportunities to live again in rightness with God.

Redemption gives us hope that we can do better tomorrow, hope that things can change, and hope that we will grow. Jesus' death on the Cross means that hope springs eternal, offering us access to God's love and favor at all times.

Rivalries become such because of the unpredictability of the games. That provides hope. And after each game, while the winning side savors its victory knowing that its claim to the title may be only short lived, the losing side leaves the arena with the assurance that there will be another chance for redemption.

This is what makes the Calvin and Hope rivalry so special. Anything can happen on the court, and we care deeply about what does. After the game we shake hands, offer to play again next time, and look forward to seeing each other at church the next day.

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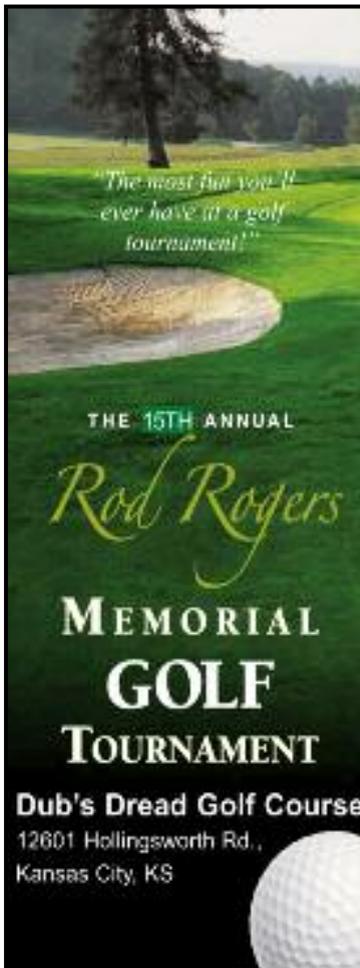
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GreatLife Golf to put new focus on Junior Golf

GreatLife Golf of Topeka is putting forth a new vision for Junior Golf in Topeka, according to owners and Rick & Linda Farrant.

The company announced that giving back to the community is their focus, and perpetuating Junior Golf and making it affordable, accessible and fun for all Junior Golfers is the goal of the program.

The program is a comprehensive structured endeavor for Juniors ages eight through seventeen. It includes Instruction, seven Jr. Events, a Play EVERYDAY schedule, an Adult/Child Tournament, and includes range



balls and Miniature Golf.

The company says the reasons to be involved are to build character, make friends, learn values, and get exercise while playing golf, swimming, practicing and playing miniature golf.

The program is designed by John Rawdon, PGA Certified Professional and Life Member. He has led over 35 programs and has a strong desire to give back to the sport that has given so much to him. He often says Golf is Life...Life is Golf.

Wilson Golf will also be involved with the 2017 GreatLIFE Junior Series.

The cost for the program is \$150 per student, and includes: entry fees for 8 events/awards, all instruction days, adult / child event, tee gifts for everyone, special range packages, miniature golf packages, play days all summer and swimming days.

Instruction dates will be held in June and early July. Events will be held in June, July and August at GreatLife courses as well as at Firekeeper Golf Course. The program runs May 25 through September 3.

Scholarships are available as well. To apply or for other information, contact GreatLife at Topeka North on Highway 24 by calling 785-357-0026 or 660-646-6900, or by emailing John Rawdon at John.g.rawdon@gmail.com.



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"The most rewarding things you do in life are often the ones that look like they cannot be done."

— Arnold Palmer



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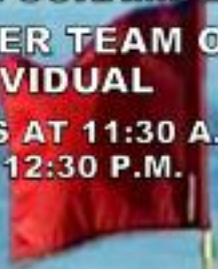
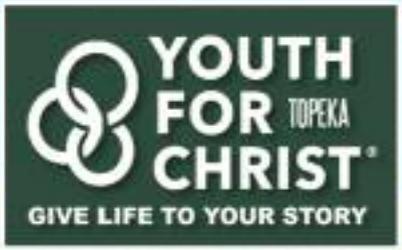
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House of the Lord Church

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- 1. The Great I AM Church**
Breaking Traditions
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Pastor Cordell Fischer
2523 SE Indiana
(785) 861-0422
www.greatIAMchurch.com
- 2. CHRISTIAN CAVALRY MINISTRIES INT.**
Pastor Beaux Bryant
c/o Seaman Baptist Church
2015 NW Buchanan, Topeka Ks 66608
785-224-5419 • www.church4bikers.org
Sun. School 9:30 am
Sun. Service 10:45 am
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study 7pm
- 3. TOPEKA BIBLE CHURCH**
1101 SW Mulvane St., Topeka
785-234-5545
Worship: 8:00 - 9:30 & 11am
Sunday School & Bible Studies:
9:30 & 11am
www.discovertbc.com
- 4. NORTHLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
3102 NW Topeka Blvd., Topeka
286-1204
Worship Sun. 8:00, 9:30 & 11am
www.northland.cc
- 5. FAIRLAWN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**
730 SW Fairlawn Rd., Topeka, KS
(785) 272-6322 • www.FairlawnNaz.org
Sunday Worship: 10:40 am
Adult, Youth & Children's Sun. School 9:15

- 6. FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST**
1912 SW Gage, Topeka, KS
272-0443 www.fsbctopeka.org
Sunday Services:
8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:45 AM Bible study--all ages
11 AM Contemporary Worship
- 7. TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH**
"Finding NEW LIFE in CHRIST"
Sunday Worship 9:30 & 10:45am, 5pm
~ Sunday School for all ages ~
4500 SW Gage Blvd., Topeka
785-862-0988
www.topekabaptist.org
- 8. WANAMAKER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH**
"Being and making disciples of Jesus Christ by the power of the Gospel, to the glory of God"
2700 SW Wanamaker Rd., Topeka
(785) 272-9323 www.wrbctopeka.com
Traditional Sunday Worship 10:30am & 6pm
Sunday School 9am • Wed. Prayer 7pm
- 9. GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH**
310 E 8th St (E. US 56 Hwy)
Overbrook, KS; 785-665-7117
Elvin Dillard, Senior Pastor
Sunday School 9 am; Worship 10 am
www.gccinoverbrook.com
office@gccinoverbrook.com
- 10. LORD'S HOUSE CHURCH**
300 SW Roosevelt, Topeka KS 66606
Pastor Marilyn Hahn McGinnis
10 a.m. Sunday (Non-traditional Service)
See "About Us" at our website
www.kawriverkeruv.com
Questions? kawriverlordshouse@att.net
- 11. COMMUNITY CHURCH**
1819 SW 21st St., Topeka
233-3537 www.CommunityChurchKS.com

- Sun. 9:30am - Sunday School for all ages
Sun. 10:30am - Worship & Word, Children
Wed. 6:30pm - Children, Youth, Adult
~ Nursery care for all services ~
- 12. BUCK CREEK COUNTRY CHURCH**
Meeting at Buck Creek School House
5 mi. east of Perry on Hwy 24, 13th & Phillips Rd.
Childrens Sunday School - 8:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 9:00 a.m.
Contacts: Logan Barnett 785-597-5498,
Scott Bond 423-0406, Jack Snavelly 760-3513
 - 13. WANAMAKER WOODS NAZARENE**
Serving Christ - Loving People
3501 SW Wanamaker Rd • 273-2248
Dr. L.D. Holmes, Sr. Pastor
www.wwnaz.org
Sun. Worship: 9am (Hymns) & 11 am
Children's Worship 9 & 11 am
Sunday School 10 am, all ages
Sun. Evening Various Children's Programs
6 pm Life Groups; 6:30 pm Teen Service
Wed. 6:30 pm Adult & Teen Life Groups
Wed. 6:30 pm Kids University
~ Nursery care at all services ~
 - 15. OAKLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
801 NE Chester, Topeka, KS 66616
235-1010 • oumc@att.net
Shawn O'Trimble, Pastor
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Children's worship time 10:30am
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 - 16. HOUSE OF THE LORD CHURCH**
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- 17. EAST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**
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- 18. CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH**
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Sunday 7:30, 9, 11am, 6pm
www.cktopeka.org
Fr. Matthew Schifflbein, Pastor
Fr. Jaime Zarse, Associate Pastor
- 19. SEAMAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**
Independent Christ-Centered Bible Church
2036 NW Taylor, Topeka, KS
354-8777 • www.seamanchurch.com
Adult Sunday School - Sun. 9:30am
Sunday Worship: 10:30am
Children's Sunday School: 10:30am
Youth group 1st & 3rd Sundays 4-6pm
- 20. HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH**
1937 NE Madison St,
Topeka, KS 66616 • 785-506-4594
Pastor Dale Stockburger
Sunday Worship: 10 am and 6pm
Junior Church for kids: Sun 10am
Wed. Evening Worship: 7pm
- 21. HARVEST FAMILY FELLOWSHIP**
Meets at 522 SW Polk
785-220-5418
Pastor Rey Rodriguez
Sun. Worship 10 am
www.topekaharvest.vpweb.com
- 22. NEW CITY LIFE CHURCH**
5221 SW West Drive
Topeka, Kansas 66606
Sunday Services - 10:00 am
Pastor Kathy Crofford
- 23. HIGHLAND HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH** 785-379-5642
Sunday Services: 8:30 and 10:00 AM
Jars of Clay Children's Center now open
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Tecumseh, Kansas 66542

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PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND SILENT AUCTION - The Sunflower Lions Club will hold their next semi-annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction at First Christian Ch. 1880 SW Gage, on Saturday April 15th beginning at 7:00am until 11:00am. Proceeds are used for Vision creening small children, and purchasing eye examinations and eye glasses in the Topeka community.

GARAGE SALE - The next semi-annual Seekers Garage Sale will be Saturday April 22nd at First Christian Ch., 1880 SW Gage, (enter from 19th and Stone Lot) beginning at 7:00am closing at Noon. Something for everyone; no clothes. Proceeds are used for community and youth activities at First Christian Ch.

FULL-TIME PASTOR - The Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, Topeka, is prayerfully seeking a full-time Pastor, called by God who will serve as the spiritual leader of the congregation. Please go to www.mountcarmeltopeka.org to view the full announcement, application and position description. All interested and qualified applicants must submit the required materials by the closing date of March 8, 2017.

TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION'S CHILDREN'S

PALACE - needs qualified ministry staff to minister to homeless children and their families. Must be ministry-minded with a strong passion for Jesus and children, and have previous experience working in the field of early childhood education. For a list of positions & qualifications needed, visit tmonline.org. Resumes and/or inquires can be sent to jhosman@tmonline.org or directed to 785-730-8802.

WANTED: VOLUNTEER WRITERS - Metro Voice needs volunteer writers or interns who can serve as area correspondents for church and community news around the metro area. Call

235-3340 or email voice@cox.net. Some perks.

WANTED: DELIVERY PERSON - Metro Voice needs someone to help distribute papers to churches and other locations in Topeka for gas money and some other perks involved. Call 235-3340 or email voice@cox.net.

WANTED: EMPORIA DELIVERY PERSON - Metro Voice needs someone to take 2 bundles of papers to Emporia each month. If you're going that way, we'll give you \$20 for gas and your trouble. Baldwin City and Ottawa also possible. email Voice@cox.net or call 235-3340.

Every child deserves a loving, caring home. A family they can call their own. A place where they belong. With people who will be there for them always.



Adopt Kansas Kids

www.adoptKSkids.org • 877-457-5430

Adopt Kansas Kids works to connect foster and approved adoptive families with children throughout Kansas who need adoption. This service is provided by the Kansas Children's Service League through a contract with the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF).

TOPEKA BIBLE CHURCH
1101 SW Mulvane, Topeka, KS 66604
1135 SW College Ave., Topeka, KS 66604
234-5545 www.discovertbc.com



Leading People to Life in Christ

First Service: 8:00 - 9:10am
Second Service & Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:40am
Third Service & Sunday School: 11am - 12:10pm
Senior Pastor: Jim Congdon

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NOW HIRING

Focus Workforces is currently seeking to interview candidates for warehouse positions in Topeka, KS.

Shifts: 1st / 2nd / 3rd
Pay = up to \$9.00/hr.

Job Duties: Production work, pack items, hand stack, general housekeeping and warehouse duties.

Apply online at www.workatfocus.com, or call 785-228-1555.

Welcome...

TO NORTH TOPEKA!



North 75 Barbershop
 1904 N Central Avenue
Ron & Lacy
 Tue-Fri 8-5:30
 Sat 8-1
 233-4281

THE PAD RESTAURANT
 Every Monday, 3 pm - closing:
35% OFF Burgers!
 234-3596
 1730 N. Topeka Blvd.

Local Christian Radio
KFGB 97.7 FM
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 Proud Member of **MIDWEST Barter Exchange**

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 Phone 234-0900
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 MTWF 9am - 6pm
 Th 9am - 12pm
 HEALTH CARE FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

Topeka Rescue Mission
 "Faith with its sleeves Rolled Up"
 Main: 785-354-1744
 Non-cash Donations: 785-357-4285
 Volunteers, Tours: 785-354-1744 ext. 393
 Finances: 785-354-1744 ext. 316
 Policies, Speakers: 785-354-1744 ext. 315
 Thrift Store (1312 N. Kansas): 785-235-9094
 www.trmonline.org
 600 N. Kansas Ave.
 Topeka, KS 66608
 P.O. Box 8350
 Topeka, KS 66608

PHONE: (785) 286-2390
 TOLL FREE: (800) 894-2390
 MOBIL: (785) 224-6298
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Biker Sunday...Every Sunday!
Christian Cavalry Ministries Int.
 c/o Seaman Baptist Church
 2015 NW Buchanan, Topeka, KS 66608
 785-224-5419
 www.church4bikers.org
 Sunday School 9:30 AM
 Sunday Service 10:45 AM
 Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 7:00 PM
 All are welcome, casual dress ok!

EasterFest comes to North Topeka

EasterFest comes to North Topeka in 2017, with a parade on N. Kansas Avenue and a fun fair in Garfield Park. It all takes place on April 15, beginning at 10 a.m. when the parade begins in NOTO Arts District and proceeds to Garfield Park, where the fun fair will continue until 3pm.

Food Trucks will be on hand along with various other vendors offering snacks, food and baked goods.

Of course there will be a big Egg Hunt, beginning right after the parade at the playground in Garfield Park.

The fun fair in the Park, in the Shelter House & in the Gym will include vendor booths, children's games, food, facepainting, bands and other entertainment. For info: info@C5Alive.org or 640-6399

More N. Topeka Happenings

Vintage Vibe, 833 N Kansas Avenue, is having a Groovy Garden Party April 7th, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., featuring a free photo booth, prizes for the best 1960's outfit — dressing up is encouraged, surprise appearance by Dorothy Thomas School of Dance & Theatre Arts and more. Plenty of 1960's items and garden essentials will be on hand in stock. Looking for a great photographer? Jena Sais Quoi Photography will be the featured artist this month. Our famous



'Vintage Brew', Low Salt Savory Cracker Mix and brownies will be served from 5-9 p.m.

It's all part of First Friday, which is quite the celebration in North Topeka these days, bringing people to the area in record numbers. Besides the Art Walk in NOTO, other North Topeka businesses have begun joining in and coordinating complementary events. Many are making plans to make 2017 better than ever in NOTO and the entire North Topeka area.

Entertainment can also be found on First Fridays, at various venues during the artwalk up and down the Avenue.

The restaurants, locally owned shops, art galleries and studios have also become favorite art walk destinations.

Here are a few more scheduled events in the North Topeka area:

SUNRISE OPTIMIST CLUB – Meets every Tue., 6:30am, Sunrise Optimist Complex, 720 NW 50th St. For info: Gary, 246-1291.

ANNUAL PANCAKE FEED - Apr. 1, 6-11am. North Topeka Sunrise Optimists. \$5.

SENIOR FIT & FUN PROGRAM - every Mon., Wed., & Fri., 1:30pm, Rolling Hills Christian Church, 4530 NW Hiawatha Place 785-286-060

C5Alive "POWER" LUNCHEON – Apr. 13, 11:30-1, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. Featured: Bob Hanson and others with a leadership talk & challenge. Cost: \$10 for C5 members & first-time guests who RSVP, \$12 at the door; \$15 for non-members. RSVP to info@C5Alive.org,

PRICILLA SHIRER SIMULCAST - Apr. 22, 9am-4:30pm. Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. \$15 through Apr. 3, \$20 beginning Apr. 4. Cost includes a lunch. Cash coffee bar also available. For info: 286-1204

TOPEKA CHURCHES SINGING CONVENTION – Apr. 1, 7pm, Mount Olive Primitive Baptist Church, 701 N.W. Gordon; and Apr. 2, 3:30pm, St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church, 2222 S.E. Madison. The Rev. McCoy Caraway Sr. will preach and the convention choirs will sing.

NOTO
 NORTH TOPEKA ARTS DISTRICT
 NOTO Community Arts Center
 935 N Kansas Ave, Topeka, KS
 Register for classes at notoartsdistrict.com
 For information: 785.608.6738 or email
 NOTOartscenter@gmail.com

Parade starts at 10:00!
 Egg Hunt follows parade!
 Entertainment 11am-3pm
 Free to the public!



Food Trucks will be there 10-3!
 Antique vehicles
 Firetrucks
 Police vehicles



Sat., Apr. 15,
10 am - 3 pm, N. Kansas
Avenue & Garfield Park



Fun Fair open 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at Garfield Park! • **Bands** at Garfield Park 11:00 am - 3:00 pm!

Parade starts at 10:00 am! (From NOTO to Garfield Park) • **Food Trucks** on site at Garfield 10:00 am - 3:00 pm!

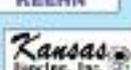
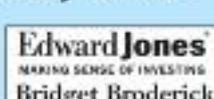
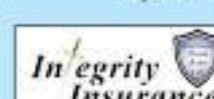
Easter Egg Hunt following parade at Garfield Park playground! • **Vendor Market** open 10:00 am - 3:00 pm!

Dance troupes, martial arts, gymnastics & more! Craft stations, Facepainting, Easter Photos, Games & more!



For booth, volunteer and parade entry information:
info@C5Alive.org • 785-640-6399 • TopekaEasterParade.com

"Like" us on Facebook
 Topeka Easter Parade & Family Fun Fair



To be a sponsor contact:
info@C5Alive.org or 785-640-6399

