

metro kansas city
EDITION

PHIL & PAM
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*Christmas
Memories*

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VOICE

THE MYSTERY OF
CHRISTMAS

ANNIVERSARY
20
YEARS
ANNIVERSARY

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The screen's
the thing



Parents and kids can't
turn off the TV or phone

By **Lynde Langdon**


(WNS)--When it comes to screen time, many parents are ignoring pediatricians' recommendations, a study released by Common Sense Media found.

The survey looked at media use habits among children ages 0-8 and found several alarming statistics:

- Nearly half (49 percent) of all children ages 8 and under sometimes or often use screen media in the hour before bedtime, something the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) warns against, because screen exposure can affect melatonin levels and delay or disrupt sleep.
- Studies have linked background television (when the TV is on but no

■ See **SURVEY** page 23

KANSAS CITY SERVES



As season of giving arrives, ministries ramp up service

By **Dwight Widaman**

For almost 30 years, Metro Voice has worked with area ministries to share the tremendous need for volunteers and resources during the holiday season. November and December are crucial times each year. It is during this period that ministries are stretched both in terms of the need for volunteers and and financial help as at-risk families seek assistance. But it is also a

special time when people's hearts are naturally turned toward God. City Union Mission Director Dan Doty has reminded us that Thanksgiving and especially Christmas are those special holidays that most of us long to keep centered on thankfulness and that most special of gifts—the Christ Child.

“Yet,” says Doty, “so many of us get overly caught up in the gift-giving and receiving side of

Christmas that we crowd out that baby born to bring salvation and eternal life to the world.”

Metro Voice has annually used our November edition to connect area believers with ministries that serve the homeless and at-risk families in our communities. Through this story we publish the needs and volunteer opportunities of these organizations

■ See **GIVING SEASON** page 23

Meet the kids who need families now!

Part 2 of
Adoption
and Foster
Guide

PAGE 6



KANSAS SCHOOLS RESIST
PRESSURE TO CARRY
TRANSGENDER BOOKS

The Wichita School District in Kansas has said it will allow individual school librarians to choose whether they want to carry a controversial book about a fourth-grade transgender student.

Gail Becker, supervisor of library media for the Wichita School District, explained that the novel in question, George, is only being carried by four of

■ See **BOOKS** page 21

Metro Voice
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Local church uses funnels to help feed those less fortunate

One local church has found a unique and quick way to help feed thousands of people struggling with food insecurity. How did they do it? They used funnels.

“This is a feed the funnel party,” Shannon Horn with North Heartland Community Church said.

On a Sunday afternoon recently, volunteers packed 30,000 meals using funnels for families across the metro dealing with food insecurity.

The church is teamed up with Something To Eat, a local organization in

Kansas City, Kan. that coordinates the event. According to the organization, one in five children struggles with food insecurity here in Kansas City.

"A lot of people think that food insecurity means that they have no food, and that's not the case. They have access to foods but not the healthiest choices," Something To Eat Director David Lisauer said.

Lissauer said a healthy meal can make a difference in the classroom.

“When I taught, I could always tell the kids who had breakfast or kids who

are struggling with hunger, they were struggling with attention, they often had behavior issues,” he said. “But when I did provide them with a snack, they’d be a totally different person.”

The bags were packed with nutrients and vitamins and will soon be handed out to families, schools and local food pantries.

"This stuff is good, it's healthy, it's the nutrients that people need," Horn said. "I'm glad that we can do it. It's the little thing we can do to make a difference in Kansas City."



Josh Hawley tosses his hat in the ring to run for the U.S. Senate in 2018

By **Dwight Widaman**

State Attorney General Josh Hawley (R) announced in October he is a candidate for Missouri U.S. Senate. The committed Christian won a landslide election to become the state's attorney general in 2016.

Hawley has received high marks from all quarters of the Republican party and the backing of the GOP establishment and is now the leading candidate to take on entrenched incumbent Democratic Senator Claire McCaskill. Her favorability ratings have been falling in recent years, though no strong Democrat opposition has risen to unseat her in pri-

**HAWLEY**

McCASKILL

many elections.

According to Columbia College Political Science Professor Terry Smith, the race will likely be determined by the standing of President Trump when November 2018 rolls around.

"If the Trump administration prospers, then I think the Trump coattails will continue to be strong, like they were in 2016."

On closer look, Hawley may not need

any help to win. A conservative news outlet has given out abundant praise to Hawley while naming its preferred candidates for next year's election.

Breitbart News wrote, “While GOP establishment forces may try to sell it as though they like Missouri’s Attorney General Josh Hawley in the primary there, it’s conservatives who are more fired up about Hawley’s campaign with many top grassroots leaders telling Breitbart News privately in the past few days that the likely guy to face off against Sen. Claire McCaskill in November 2018 is a hardcore conservative who will not go along to get along like McConnell wants in Washington.”

Hawley is enjoying support from both sides of the Republican split, having also received lavish praise from establishment heavyweight John Danforth. The former Missouri Senator urged Hawley to run against McCaskill early on.

With a nod to McCaskill's weakness, Jennifer E. Duffy with the Cook Political Report has moved the Missouri contest

to the toss-up category after Hawley announced an exploratory committee in early August. It's one of only five Senate elections that Cook Political has determined to be so competitive.

Mathematically, pundits have said it is very unlikely Democrats could take back control of the Senate. Currently, President Trump's approval rating is five times as high as Congress.'

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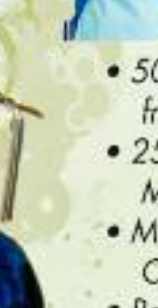

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Lawmaker wants review of stadium tax breaks

Missouri State Representative Nate Walker is calling for a review of all public funds used in the construction and maintenance of NFL facilities.

The Kirksville Republican thinks the league is disrespecting the U.S. flag, the country and the state by allowing recent protests during the national anthem. Walker says the state tax dollar investment in NFL stadiums and facilities is substantial.

"Since 1991, the Missouri tax payers have spent more than \$150 million on facilities for Missouri NFL teams," said Walker. "That includes the St. Louis Rams, who are no longer in St. Louis, and also training facilities for the Kansas



City Chiefs."

WDAF-TV reports the Sports Complex Authority claims \$3 million from the state are for both the Kansas City Chiefs and the Royals.

The authority declined to comment on Walker's statements.

The state of Missouri still owes an astounding \$43 million for the St. Louis stadium vacated by the Rams, who left for Los Angeles last year.

Walker thinks public funding is at risk of being misused when player demonstrations are permitted at games. Attendance and television audiences is down dramatically this season as fans realize they can live without football.

"The NFL has an obligation to sort through and make sure that they conduct themselves, and their players conduct themselves in a way that's honoring our flag, honoring our country. Certainly, people have First Amendment rights, but those rights have to be tem-

pered a little differently when you go into the workplace."

"If the NFL is a big business, we want to make sure that if we invest in something in the state of Missouri with taxpayer money, we have to look toward the impact on our own local and state economy," Walker says he wants to de-

bate if taxpayer dollars should continue to support the NFL and their billion dollar owners.

Fans are also speaking with their wallets. The Rams are playing to a stadium crowd estimated at only 25 percent of capacity while the Chiefs are down as well.

newsbriefs

Beautiful plant spirals flummox scientists

(WNS)—A Swiss botanist recently conducted an intensive study of why so many plants sport flowers or leaves with beautiful spiral patterns that conform to the golden ratio, also known as the divine ratio. The golden ratio, approximately 1.618, has fascinated scientists, mathematicians, architectural designers, and artists for centuries because it appears abundantly in nature. The ratio occurs when the sum of two numbers divided by the larger number produces the same answer as the larger number divided by the smaller number. A multitude of psychological studies show people seem pre-programmed to find the ratio aesthetically appealing. It appears throughout creation in things such as plants, seashells, spiral galaxies, hurricanes, human faces, fingerprints, animal bodies, bird flight patterns, and DNA molecules. But sci-



ence cannot explain its purpose or allure. Perhaps a better starting point for understanding is to acknowledge the God who designed it.

Sex change regret studies silenced

(WNS)—As rates of sex change surgeries skyrocket, one of the world's leading genital reconstruction surgeons is speaking out about an issue not being addressed: gender change regret. In an interview with The Telegraph of London, professor Miroslav Djordjevic lamented the lack of research on transgender people changing their minds and undergoing surgery reversal. Djordjevic, an acclaimed surgeon and researcher who performs about 100 sex change surgeries every year, recounted in the interview a discussion he had with U.K. graduate student James Caspian in 2014. Djordjevic told Caspian he was seeing a growing number of patients expressing regret about their gender reassignment and wanted to "detransition." Caspian decided to research the trend of sex change regret for his master's degree at Bath University in Bath, England. The university rejected his proposal telling him they were afraid of online criticism about a "politically incorrect" topic.

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Boy Scouts' big move to allow girls into some programs

Even the Girl Scouts say it is a terrible idea

By **Kiley Crossland**

(WNS)--The Boy Scouts of America on Oct. 11 announced it would allow girls into some of its programs starting in 2018.

The move wasn't a surprise: In August, the president of the Girl Scouts of the USA released a letter accusing the Boy Scouts of plotting to steal girl members. The Boy Scouts admitted they were considering programs for girls but said no decision had been made.

Recently, the Boy Scouts board of directors voted unanimously to include girls.

Supporters of the move say scouting should be a coed endeavor, open to any child who is interested. Some parents like the fact that the Boy Scouts conveniently will offer programs for all their children.

But others—the Girl Scouts for one—argue that ignoring innate differ-

ences between boys and girls and not providing places for gender-specific activity does both sexes a disservice.

"The single-gender environment we offer at Girl Scouts creates an inclusive, safe space where girls are free to explore their potential and take the lead without the distractions or pressures that can be found in a coed environment," said Becky Burton, CEO of the Girl Scouts of Texas-Oklahoma Plains Council.

The Girl Scouts say they are sticking to their guns.

"We're the best leadership organization in the world for girls, and no one can do what we do," read tweet from the Girl Scouts.

Despite the fact that Cub Scout "dens" will remain either all-boys or all-girls, the program will be the same for both.

That's a mistake, according to Mark Hancock, CEO of Trail Life USA, a Christian alternative to the Boy Scouts formed in 2014.



"As gender blurring only increases, it is more important than ever that someone provide a safe environment where boys can be boys, and where their natural talents and tendencies can be affirmed, encouraged and developed by men who can offer a positive role model," he said, adding that Trail Life has no intention of following in the footsteps of the Boy Scouts.

The shift follows numerous changes

to membership requirements in Scouting in recent years. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts now allow openly homosexual scouts and leaders.

In 2015, the Girl Scouts opened their ranks to transgender children who identify as girls on a case-by-case basis. The Boy Scouts followed suit this past January, deciding to accept all self-identifying male applicants regardless of the gender on a child's birth certificate.

President Trump asks Americans to sign 'Stand for the National Anthem' petition



President Donald Trump's petition supports standing for the National Anthem.

By **Craig Bannister**

As he joins millions of Americans in condemnation of National Football League (NFL) players refusing to stand in respect when the national anthem is played at games, President Donald Trump is also calling on Americans to sign a petition supporting respect for the anthem.

NFL players have persisted in their protests by this season by sitting, kneeling or otherwise displaying disrespect when the anthem is played before games, and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has voiced support for their behavior.

President Trump posed a petition in support of standing for the Anthem – and asked Americans to "show your patriotism" by signing it.

The petition reads:

"The President has asked for a list of supporters who stand for the National Anthem. Add your name below to show your patriotism and support."

The petition is at <https://gop.com/stand-for-anthem-petition/>

newsbriefs

Leading News Outlet Bans Use of "Girl", "Boy" in Stories

(WNS)--The Associated Press (AP) recently updated its stylebook entry on gender and sex.

The AP now encourages writers to avoid phrases like "both genders" or "opposite sexes" to include people who say they are neither male nor female. The updated stylebook also recommends describing surgeries that are part of a transgender person's transition as "gender confirmation" surgeries instead of the previously used "gender reassignment" surgeries. AP also tells writers to avoid any reference to a transgender person being born a boy or girl. For example, "Jack, who identifies as a boy, but was born as a girl," is considered incorrect.

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Ministries

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John was mentored personally by David Wilkerson for 3 years.

An author and speaker, John was raised in an impoverished Bronx Ghetto and grew up hating his dad because of his disregard of his family. John eventually found acceptance in new "family" of witches, and warlocks. For 25 years he served his then master Satan with total devotion. He became a follower of Santeria, and Palo Mayombe, a Palero high priest Tata and warlock. He plunged deeply into the occult and was taught how to hate and cast spells even over regions.

God then saved him and called him into the ministry. John is now traveling over America and internationally preaching the Gospel. John has appeared on many TV networks such as the 700 Club, TBN, Church Channel, and Word Channel.

He has written several books including "Out of the Devil's Caldron" and "Unmasking the Devil". His books, DVDs and CDs will be available at the convention.

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UNEXPECTED FOOTPRINTS DEAL BLOW TO EVOLUTION

CRETE (WNS) — Researchers just discovered ancient human footprints on the Greek island of Crete that undermine the Darwinian theory of the descent of humans.

Per Ahlberg, one of the study authors, admitted in a statement, “This discovery challenges the established narrative of early human evolution head-on and is likely to generate a lot of debate.”

The new discovery presents difficulties for evolutionary theory in two ways.

First, evolutionary scientists believe human beings originated in Africa and remained isolated there for a long time before they migrated to Europe and Asia. But the footprints could indicate humans trekked on the Greek island long before evolutionists thought they migrated out of Africa.

In light of creationists’ differing viewpoints about the age of the Earth and



the creation of human beings, it’s not clear exactly what the study proves about early humans. But it serves to disprove Darwinian assumptions about where humans originated and how they spread out.

Second, the appearance of the footprints doesn’t make sense within an evolutionary framework. The unique structure of the human foot — with a long sole, five short, forward-pointing toes, no claws, and a big toe larger than

the other toes—does not appear in any other animal, including apes.

Evolutionary theory would expect human feet to appear later in the fossil record than other fossils without human feet. But the footprints on Crete are older than many fossils of animals that evolutionists consider the ancestors of modern humans.

Günter Bechly of the Discovery Institute noted this finding shows “that the well-established scenarios of human evolution must be false, not only con-

cerning their geographical location and timing, but also concerning the pattern of character origins and the alleged lineage.”

At the very least, studies like this highlight that paleoanthropologists should humble themselves and admit they know far less than they thought and far less than educators and science media often lead students and the general public to believe, Bechly wrote on the organization’s blog.

newsbriefs

ACLU sues for abortion pills in pharmacies

(WNS)—Four states so far have filed suit against the federal government over rollbacks to the Obamacare mandate that forced insurance companies to provide cost-free birth control, including abortifacients. The states filing suit are Massachusetts, California, Washington, and Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro said on Oct. 11 the government “broke the law and undermined the health and economic independence of American women.”

The new rule allows religious universities, organizations, for-profits, and individuals—in addition to churches—to claim an exemption from the mandate.



Churches, synagogues join FEMA fight

(WNS)—Houston-area Catholic and Jewish congregations have filed legal briefs in support of three churches suing the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for denying disaster relief funds because of their religious identity. The churches—two non-denominational and one Assemblies of God—are united in their fight against religious discrimination that could spell financial ruin for congregations across the storm-ravaged United States. During and after the hurricanes that have plagued the country and its territories since August, first responders included congregants from churches and synagogues. Their damaged houses of worship served as FEMA command stations. And while happy to take advantage of those congregations’ hospitality, FEMA policy since 1998 forbids the agency from providing grants to repair their buildings.

Religious minorities running out of time

By **Evan Wilt**

(WNS)—Even with the new policies of President Trump that are empowering the U.S. military to bring a decisive end to ISIS, religious minorities in Iraq and Syria could become a distant memory soon if the United States doesn’t take significant steps to help them, advocates told lawmakers recently.

Christians, Yazidis, and other religious minorities are victims of genocide at the hands of Islamic State (ISIS) in Iraq and Syria, according to the U.S. State Department. Although ISIS no longer retains control of much of its former territory, its victims still suffer from the aftermath. Thousands of displaced religious minorities have no home to return to.

“I am sad to say that if bold action is not taken by the end of the year, I believe a tipping point will be reached and we will see the end of Christianity in Iraq,” Frank Wolf, senior fellow at the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative, told a congressional panel. “In other words, ISIS will have been victorious in their genocidal rampage.”

The U.S. State Department twice declared ISIS responsible for genocide. Despite this, government bureaucrats still have not allocated a single dollar of federal money to support victims in the region. In the final appropriations bill at the end of the last fiscal year, Congress required the executive branch to fund assistance efforts.

“But career staff at the State Department and USAID have ignored the law and thwarted the will of the president, the Congress, and the people we represent,” Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., chairman of the House panel on Global Human Rights, said Tuesday. “These bureaucrats have refused to direct assistance to religious and ethnic minority communities, even to enable them to survive genocide.”

Smith worked with Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Calif., to draft H.R. 390 in the House. The bill would cut some of the red tape at the State Department and direct millions of desperately needed aid dollars to the survivors.

H.R. 390 passed a voice vote in the House in June but remained dormant in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee until it passed unanimously Sept. 19. The Senate still has not scheduled a full vote, and the money Congress appropriated last year has already expired.

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How adoption will change your life forever

By **Paul Batura**

Since receiving the privilege of adopting our three sons, my wife, Julie, and I have allowed ourselves to ponder the “What ifs?” surrounding their lives and adoptions. What if their birth mothers had not chosen to courageously carry them to term? What if they had chosen someone else to adopt them? What if they had decided not to make an adoption plan at all?

All of these questions, some admittedly haunting ones at that, led me to start pondering the “What ifs?” of other well-known adoptees.

For example, what if John Hancock had become a pastor instead of a politician? What if Nelson Mandela’s adoptive father didn’t have deft leadership skills that rubbed off on his son? What if Steve Jobs had been adopted by a couple in Florida instead of one in Silicon Valley?



With these “what ifs” in mind, I tried to investigate the circumstances surrounding the providential adoptions of men and women who grew up to change the world. Unfortunately, most of the information about their adoptions was limited to a single sentence in their biographies.

But there had to be more. How could such an emotional, monumental, and transformational moment be reduced to a passing reference? Was their

adoption a mere factual footnote in their lives, like their birth date or hometown, or was it one of the driving forces behind the stories of their successes?

This is what led me to write *Chosen For Greatness: How Adoption Changes the World*. In it, you’ll see that every single one of the individuals profiled didn’t succeed in spite of being adopted or intimately cared for by someone other than their biological parent; they rose to their level of accomplishment in no

small part because of their adoption and relationship with their new parent or parents.

In fact, their adoption didn’t just change the course of their lives and the families who embraced and loved them. Instead, you’ll see their adoption has changed—and is changing—the course of your life and mine.

You’ll also see, I hope, that adoption, like life itself, is a gritty and an often imperfect process. It’s nothing like you see

in the movies, watch on television, or even read in a bestselling novel.

Indeed, it’s far more dramatic—because the stories you’re about to read are true and involve real people who made and are making a significant difference in the world.

—Paul Batura’s *Chosen For Greatness: How Adoption Changes the World* is in bookstores now.

God helped our family grow overnight

In 2003 I married my best friend. We tried to get pregnant, but it never happened. We went to several doctors who said we couldn’t get pregnant due to infertility issues I was having.

Finally in 2012, we listened to what we felt God was telling us we needed to do: Foster care. I called KCSL and asked how we could become foster parents. We were looking to adopt from foster care and prayed it wouldn’t take long. We had a few kids placed with us who were able to return to their family and then finally November



14, 2012, we received a phone call asking us to take in two sisters. Of course

we said yes. Over the next three years we cared for and loved these two precious girls as if they were our own. Finally in the beginning of July 2015 we were approved to adopt Sumaya and Sanaa. Two weeks later we found out I was pregnant. The adoption was finalized November 21, 2015, and we gave birth to our son March 4, 2016. Our family practically grew over night, but we couldn’t be happier. This is our first family photo taken July 2016.

—Ronmel, Heather, Sumaya, Sanaa, & Jay-Shaun Gilbert

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These Kansas kids need forever homes

Do you know what aged-out means? It's when a child turns 18 and enters adulthood still in foster care, never having found a forever family. While many young couples choose to adopt infants, there are hundreds of children who are older but have never known a loving home. Metro Voice seeks to assist these children find a forever family before they enter adulthood. Here are the kids who just may be a perfect addition to YOUR family. These children are from Kansas.

For information on any of these great kids, call 1-877-457-5430.

Sheila

Sheila is 16 and is a delightful girl with a beautiful smile! She enjoys playing with animals, listening to music and going for walks. She is a great singer and is most proud of her writing. Sheila's favorite class in school is baking and pastry. She enjoys interacting with people who have a sense of humor and is happy to just hang out and talk. Sheila needs a family who can keep her smiling and meet her needs now and in the future. Case number CH-5241



Deacon

Sixteen-year-old sports fan Deacon is a smart and resilient teen who enjoys staying active. Football, basketball and baseball are among Deacon's favorite sports. Football is his favorite sport to participate in, but Deacon believes he's best at playing basketball. When he's not participating in sports Deacon enjoys going to the YMCA. Deacon's fa-



vorite class in school is his math class. After high school he would like to attend college to study genetics. Deacon is a great kid who deserves a family that will love and care for him unconditionally. Case number 101440

Juan

Juan is 15 and loves when others read to him! Juan enjoys anything that makes music or sounds; his Elmo toy that sings and dances is his favorite. Juan is most happy when he is around other people; he shows that he is happy by smiling. Juan is home schooled and has a very special relationship with his teacher. He is learning to communicate his needs and wants by using "eye gazes". He is also learning to stamp on paper. Juan has skilled nurses that care for him around the clock. Juan needs a family that can physically commit to caring for Juan's multiple needs for many years to come. He deserves a family that can provide unconditional love, patience, and help support him throughout his life. He needs a forever family that will advocate for him and that is knowledgeable about medical services in their community. Only families in Kansas will be considered for Juan at this time. Case number 101453.



Shawn and Dorothy

Shawn, 12, and Dorothy, 11, would like a forever family to call their own. Shawn loves trains, cars and anything that has to do with Thomas the Tank Engine. He prefers to play with younger children instead of same aged peers. Shawn gets extremely anxious during times of transition. He will need to have an adjustment period to get settled in. Shawn will need a lot of one-on-one attention to guide him through those transitions and in the



classroom. Shawn continues to work on how to better manage his behaviors in the classroom. Shawn does better when things are structured and a solid routine is in place.

Dorothy is a loving child that enjoys coloring, dancing and having tea parties! She likes going on evening walks to help burn off some energy. Her favorite time at school is art and she likes being able to share her art projects with others. Dorothy continues to make improvements in school. She will need school professionals that are willing to work with Dorothy and understand her special needs. Dorothy continues to work on improving her interactions with her peers and expressing herself through words instead of actions. Like her brother, she does better with a strict routine in place. Dorothy will need to have her own room in her forever home. At this time, only families living in Kansas will be considered for these children. Case number CH-5852

Ryan

Fresh air, sunshine, and wide-open spaces bring a smile to Ryan's face. Ryan is 15 and has a huge love for the outdoors! He enjoys fishing, riding four wheelers, camping, and taking care of horses. He states that "being outside helps keep me calm." Ryan enjoys staying active both outside and inside. He also enjoys football, soccer, and wrestling.



When asked what Ryan's favorite class is at school he answers, "PE for the exercise" and science class because he enjoys the experiments, stating, "it's fun to learn about new things and see what happens during the experiment." Ryan currently has educational supports in place and is attending an online school where he is doing very well.

Ryan is overcoming past trauma, but is making great strides in his progress. Ryan's social worker states that he is "kind and cares about others." Ryan would benefit from a patient, supportive fam-

ily that will encourage and guide him as he continues to grow. Family that will always stick by his side and continue to help him grow and thrive. When asked what kind of a family Ryan would like to have, he answers, "I would like to have a mother and father." Case number CH-5068

Megan

Megan is 9 and is a happy and friendly young lady. She is very good at games and enjoys playing games with her friends, and also playing with her dolls. Her favorite class in school is music class because she gets to sing and dance, both of which she loves doing. She likes to laugh, and Disney movies are the best at making her laugh. She wants to be a Disney princess when she grows up. Megan works hard at picking up toys and following the rules. Megan is friendly and funny and looks forward to finding a forever family who can help her grow and thrive. Only families living in Kansas will be considered at this time. Case number CH-6114



Nicholas's Siblings

Energetic, sporty and super smart describes these three siblings! They all agree that they love country living, pets, and each other. They would enjoy an active family who would keep them involved in school, sports and art. Nicholas is the big brother. He excels in art and in sports and he's a valuable asset to his high school football team. Nicholas enjoys joking around with friends, playing video games and he has a close bond with his younger sisters. The middle sibling, Demetria loves to be the center of attention! Like her older brother, she loves sports, especially soccer and softball. She



■ See KANSAS page 10

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"Trustworthy: able to be relied on to do or provide what is needed or right, dependable, reliable." For 35 years CFS has been

that trustworthy resource for both birth and adoptive families. Adoption is a life-changing event and often a frightening prospect when not much is known about it. Expectant parents are always treated in a non-pressured, warm and supportive manner that respects the tough decisions they are facing and honors their commitment to make a good plan for their baby. If adoption is the choice they believe is best, they can choose and meet the adoptive parents and decide what type of ongoing rela-

tionship they want. Caring support to birthparents doesn't end at placement but continues long after if desired.



To adopt a child also requires much consideration. Fears are normal but with education and support and reminders that God is ultimately the designer of their family, adoptive parents can safely navigate their journey to parenthood as well.

CFS received Hague accreditation in 2012, and this allows us to provide home studies and post-placement supervision for international adoptions as well. Many families have listened to the call to care for the orphan and have seen God enrich their families with children from the United

States but also all over the world.

What is God calling your heart to do? We strive to keep our fees low and rely on the generosity of Christians to keep our ministry funded.

We have tax credits available to Missouri taxpayers and all donations are tax deductible. Your donation blesses our ministry and allows us to be the hands and feet of Jesus as we strive to show His love to those in need.

Our annual fundraising dinner is November 2nd at 6 p.m. at the Double Tree Hotel in Overland Park. Please RSVP to Shelley@cfskc.org or call 913-383-3337. Donations can be mailed to 8249 W. 95th St., Ste 107, Overland Park, KS 66212.

Saint Francis partners with churches to pray for kids

Kevin, 13, would like to become a professional chef when he grows up and has been apprenticing at a local soul food restaurant. He also likes to play guitar, swim, watch movies, ride his bike, and visit the library. Eager and enthusiastic, Kevin makes friends easily and performs well in school – although he sometimes gets in trouble for talking

too much. Friendly and polite, with a beautiful smile and an easy sense of humor, he gets along with just about everybody.

Several of his siblings have already been adopted, and Kevin would like a forever family of his own. He needs a loving family that understands his unique situation and parents to guide

and support him.

Kevin is just one of the hundreds of children awaiting adoption in Kansas. He's also one of the children featured in Saint Francis Community Services' Fostering in Faith program. As a ministry, Saint Francis believes that one of the most powerful acts we can perform on

■ See Saint FRANCIS page 11

How do you really feel about a woman who has had an abortion?



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Missouri kids looking for their forever homes

Just like in Kansas, many Missouri children turn 18 and enter adulthood having grown up in foster care. While many young couples choose to adopt infants, there are hundreds of children who are older but have never known a loving home. Metro Voice seeks to assist these children find a forever family before they enter adulthood. Here are the kids who just may be a perfect addition to YOUR family. These children are from Missouri.

For info on any of these great kids, email moheartgallery@adoptex.org

James S.

Activity is the name of the game for James. Swimming, basketball, being outdoors, you name it, he loves it! When he gets to choose his meal at the end of the day, pizza or hamburgers are definitely on the menu. James is a resilient and kind teen who interacts positively with others.

This honor roll student is currently in the eighth grade.

A Christian family is preferred; however, his caseworker will consider all family types. James would like to maintain a relationship with his sibling following placement. Financial assistance may be provided for adoption-related services.

Shaniah and Shanae

Shaniah and Shanae have talents to share with the world, and are ready to sing and dance right into your heart!

Anything and everything to do with dancing is

right up Shaniah's alley! When not dancing, she loves to channel her energy into cheerleading. Though Shaniah can be described as shy, she is also a very positive and upbeat person. Her favorite food is fried chicken and best-loved color is green. Shaniah does very well in school as a seventh grader and currently receives A's and B's. She looks forward to going away to college in the future and becoming a scientist.

Shanae's favorite hobby is singing, and she would love to be a famous singer some day! She does great with younger children and is very nurturing. If Shanae is planning dinner, fried chicken will definitely grace the menu. This great girl's favorite color is pink, and dancing is a big part of her life. As a seventh grader, Shanae gets along with a variety of people and makes friends easily.

A two-parent Christian family is preferred for Shaniah and Shanae; however, their caseworker will consider all family types. Shanae has expressed that she would like older parents, as she feels that they are more nurturing. Shaniah and Shanae would benefit from being able to have their own bedrooms. They would like to maintain contact with their aunt following placement. We only accept inquiries on the sibling pair, who will be placed together. Financial assistance may be available for adoption-related services.

Chase B.

Chase is a 10-year-old boy that is quick to attach and gets along well with others. He is determined, witty and has a great sense of humor. Chase has made great strides at school academically and interacts positively with his peers. He enjoys reading,

playing cards and board games. He is an accomplished gamer and would enjoy being in a family that can match his competitive nature. Chase wouldn't mind being a big or little brother. He would do best in a structured home with adults that can model top notch resolution skills.

Raquelle and Darius S.

Raquelle and Darius are packed with personality!

Raquelle is a bubbly, talkative, and smiley girl. She describes herself as a picky eater who would be aghast to find a pickle on her cheeseburger, but she absolutely loves sweets. Raquelle adores music, so be prepared if you ask about her favorite artist, as her list of "favorites" includes at least a dozen! Hobbies that top her list are cheerleading, playing outside, and reading. Black, white, silver, and gold are Raquelle's best-loved colors. As a fifth grader, she takes pride in her academics and enjoys science class and experiments. Raquelle receives above average grades and reads at an eighth-grade level. She aspires to become a college professor when she grows up.

Get to know gregarious Darius, whose favorite color isn't just blue, but specifically royal blue! Darius loves helping others and it isn't unusual for him to be the first to jump in and help with chores. He is a bright third grader who is friendly to others. Darius has high hopes for his future and is considering a profession as a police officer.

Their caseworker prefers a family in an urban

■ See MISSOURI page 10



Parkville Women's Clinic exists to provide hope to expectant moms

Sarah came to Parkville Women's Clinic for a pregnancy test and information about abortion. Sarah's pregnancy test was positive. The nurse discussed options with Sarah and offered her an ultrasound. During the ultrasound the nurse pointed out a 7 week and 5 day baby with a strong heartbeat. Sarah was tearful at seeing this new life. After the ultrasound the nurse asked Sarah what was keeping her from continuing with her pregnancy. Sarah told her she was no longer with the father of the baby and has not told him about the pregnancy. When discussing abortion information, Sarah was extremely tearful and could not look the nurse in the eye. Sarah states she does not know what to do but does not think she can have this baby or carry it and give it up for adoption. The nurse offered Sarah ultrasound pictures but she did not want to take them. The nurse let her know that if she changed her mind they would be at the clinic. A few days later the nurse followed up with Sarah. Sarah stated she is "doing much better and that I have decided to keep it. I couldn't have it any other way. Thank you so much for your support in a time when I was so confused and felt hopeless. Can I swing by and get those ultrasound pictures?"

At Parkville Women's Clinic we are here to provide support and give hope to those facing an unplanned pregnancy. Our mission is to empower and equip individuals to make healthy life choices. We want to see a world where every child is valued and mothers and fathers are equipped to build strong families that positively impact our community through all our services. We offer pregnancy tests, life affirming ultrasounds, adoption information, prenatal vitamins, Smart Steps parenting and mentoring classes, Fatherhood programs and community referrals. All our services are free.



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- Development of statewide advancement strategies
- Development of collaborative partnerships to benefit our affiliates

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- Coordination of a prayer network
- Compiling of affiliate data to raise awareness of the ministries impact through annual report
- Research of new ministry work opportunities
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KANSAS

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is a hard worker who expresses pride in being on the honor roll at her school. She does especially well in math and science classes because they are her favorite and will help her achieve her dream of becoming a doctor. She gets along well with others and truly enjoys giggling at her younger sister, Kylie. Kylie is a Straight A student who says

she loves all of her classes so much that she couldn't pick just one favorite. She likes to play soccer and softball and is also quite a gymnast. She is witty and smart and has a great sense of humor. She enjoys making her older siblings laugh but says she cracks up the most when her older brother tickles her. They need a family who enjoys attending sporting events, helping with homework and has the energy to keep up with this fun loving bunch! Case number CH-6068

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THE PATHWAY

The Missouri Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission and *The Pathway*, the official newspaper of the Convention, are proud to work side-by-side other Missourians in the effort to promote adoption and foster parenting.

MISSOURI

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location, with pets in the home, in which Darius can be the youngest child; however, all family types will be considered. These children would love to be part of a family with a dad. Raquelle and Darius would benefit from remaining in contact with their grandmother and foster mother following placement. Financial assistance may be available for adoption-related services.

Alluriana

Alluriana, age 10, understands that knowledge unlocks the door to many opportunities and is always looking for ways to learn new things! Educational activities are important to this wise soul. Alluriana loves to read everything and anything about Harry Potter! Alluriana is a gifted student who takes pride in earning good grades. She truly enjoys learning and aspires to become an editor or author someday.



Haylee R.

Haylee, age 12, is a wonderful and caring young woman who loves to make others smile. She has a knack for design and enjoys shopping and decorating her surroundings. Haylee enjoys being around other kids at school and at home. This honor roll student loves school and is looking forward to her bright future. Haylee talks about attending college or becoming involved in the military. Haylee looks forward to her life with her forever family.



Keith W.

Keith, age 11, prefers to be called K.C. He is an outgoing humorous young man who likes to not only hear jokes, but tell them, too. K.C.'s sense of humor and bright personality is evident by the light in his eyes and his smile. K.C. enjoys reading, going to the pool, riding bikes, and playing with friends. At home, he cares daily for the family pet. K.C. is extremely interested in playing sports, especially baseball, and looks forward to playing catch with his forever family.



Marissa D.

Marissa, age 5, is a sweet, loving and fun little girl. She is a happy and curious child that loves to laugh. Marissa is able to express her likes and dislikes and reaches for things she wants. Marissa is working on building her vowel and consonant sounds as well as her sign language vocabulary. Marissa can be slow to warm up to unfamiliar faces, but once she gets used to someone, she will smile and sometimes vocalize her happiness! An adoptive family for Marissa will need to be available to ensure Marissa's medical and developmental needs are met. Marissa's beautiful smile and spunky attitude is sure to melt the heart of her future forever family!



Markayla N.

Markayla, age 15, is an active young woman with a mega-watt smile and sparkling eyes. She can be very shy at times and at other times outspoken. Markayla loves writing in her journal, drawing, and listening to music. Markayla takes great pride in her personal appearance and she is interested in

fashion and likes to look her best. She hopes to have a career in the fashion industry when she gets older. Markayla would like to be adopted by a family that would allow her to have ongoing contact with her biological family members. She would thrive in a structured, consistent home with a family who has a positive outlook where she is the youngest or only child.



Ragain R.

Ragain, age 13, is a huge science fiction fan and he will happily update you on the latest trends in science fiction films! He is passionate about building things and may be a future architect. Ragain is a child of many passions. A bridge straight to his heart is through anything Star Wars related. Ragain likes to go fishing or exploring around the pond. He is social and enjoys being with other children, but he also enjoys solitary time where he can let his imagination take him to other worlds. Ragain loves reading, and he enjoys going to the library and reading about the vast world available to him through books - especially super heroes!



Dominique and Aiden B.

Dominique and Aiden are siblings who enjoy being on the go, whether it be with dancing or sports. Dominique, age 10, has a laidback and bubbly personality. She loves to dance and enjoys being active in Girl Scouts. She also loves coloring pictures and listening to her favorite music, especially Taylor Swift.



Aiden, age 9, has a sweet disposition.

■ See MISSOURI page 11

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We see a lot of women for pregnancy tests at Rachel House. In fact, we expect to see 3,500 women this year! Some of these women we only see once and it's difficult to tell what impact we have had on their decisions and their lives. Some we are fortunate enough to serve through our education program. These women we get know better – we get to hear their stories.

We come to understand their fears, their unique challenges, and their hopes for the future. And we get to tell them about Jesus, who is the one who gives a hope for the future to those who love Him.

Recently, we received an email from one of these women. "Ruth" wanted to

share with us a little of her journey. She said, "Rachel House helped me so much!... I learned things I never knew I didn't know." Ruth struggled early in her pregnancy with the father of her baby showing no interest in her or her baby, and she had conflict with her parents over her pregnancy.

She tells us, "Rachel House supported me when my family didn't. My parents eventually accepted and supported me. But Rachel House was there for me the entire time."

Our focus at Rachel House is to protect the unborn and provide spiritual



guidance in a Christ-centered" environment. We believe this makes all the difference in the way we serve our clients and, many times, in the way our clients respond. "...Honestly my son is the greatest thing that's happened to me," Ruth says.

"I can't imagine my life without him. I can't thank all the girls at Rachel House enough, for helping me through my journey, supporting me, and shaping me into the best mom I can be." Partners and Friends, Rachel House can't thank you enough for helping us through our journey and supporting us. Because of you, we can continue to support women like Ruth and her baby, Chase.

MISSOURI

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tion and is loving, caring and eager to please. Aiden loves playing sports, especially flag football and swimming. Aiden is also quite the gamer on his Nintendo DS. Dominique and Aiden are looking for a

home that is structured, loving, and can keep up with their active lifestyle.

Brandon H.

Brandon is an adorable, loving, 9 year old who likes to smile and giggle. He loves to play games, and LEGO sets are his favorite toy. Brandon also

loves to run outside, climb and jump! He is learning to snuggle, give and provide hugs. Just give him a little time and he will warm up. Brandon is a very sweet child who is looking for a stable family who can offer him commitment and patience.



SAINT FRANCIS

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behalf of children is to hold them in our prayers. In our own families, we pray for our children all the time - but sadly, many children have no family and no one to pray for them.

Fostering in Faith arose from that realization. We know that most congregations and religious organizations have within their fellowship groups of people to whom God has given a spirit of in-

tercessory prayer. Fostering in Faith ensures that children desperate for "forever families" are remembered and held in prayer by our faith communities.

Each month, Saint Francis sends participating congregations a photo and brief biography of a child who needs faithful, caring people to pray for him or her.

The biography includes a prayer composed specifically for that child to help guide you in prayer. Congregations typically include the material in their

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Your prayers can transform the lives of these beloved children of God and bless the lives of the families who adopt them.

To learn more, visit www.fosteringin-faith.org.

To meet Saint Francis children in need of a permanent, loving family, visit www.st-francis.org/adoption.

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The number one food to avoid over 50

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One recent study found that Oreo cookies, of all things, were actually MORE addictive than both cocaine and heroin.

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Just a little bit of sugar can completely short circuit your efforts to lose weight. That's because sugar spikes your insulin levels. Insulin is the hormone that tells your body to store fat.

"In the presence of insulin, you cannot burn fat," says Dr. Eric Berg. "All of the fat-burning hormones are nullified when you have just a little bit of sugar."

Even worse, sugar that isn't immediately converted to energy is converted into fat.

This fat is known as "adipose tissue," and it's very difficult to lose.



Fun fitness facts

- It is estimated that only 22% of American adults participate in regular, sustained physical activity for at least 30 minutes, 5 times a week
- On average, it takes about 12 weeks after beginning to exercise to see measurable changes in your body.
- Approximately 25% of American adults are sedentary
- No matter how poor your current level of fitness, you can start an exercise routine and become fitter and healthier at anytime.
- Walking at a fast pace burns almost as many calories as jogging for the same distance.
- The word "gymnasium" comes from the Greek word "gymnazein", which literally means "to exercise naked."
- It is scientifically suggested that walking at a fast pace for 3 hours or more at least one time a week can reduce your risk for heart disease by up to 65%.

Sugar Is in Everything - Even So-Called "Health Foods"

Many people who think they are being healthy with their food choices

■ See **HEALTH AFTER 50** page 21

Misconceptions about caregiver stress

thecaregiver

Sometimes caregivers have misconceptions that increase their stress and get in the way of good self-care. Here are some of the most commonly expressed:

- I am responsible for my parent's health.
- If I don't do it, no one will.
- If I do it right, I will get the love, attention, and respect I deserve.
- Our family always takes care of their own.
- I promised my father I would always take care of my mother.

"I never do anything right," or "There's no way I could find the time to exercise" are examples of negative self-talk, another possible barrier that can cause unnecessary anxiety. Instead, try positive statements: "I'm good at giving John a bath." "I can exercise for 15 minutes a day." Remember, your mind tends to believe what you tell it.

Because we base our behavior on our thoughts and beliefs, attitudes and misconceptions like those noted above can cause caregivers to continually attempt to do what cannot be done,

to control what cannot be controlled. The result is feelings of failure and frustration and, often, an inclination to ignore your own needs. Ask yourself what might be getting in your way and keeping you from taking care of yourself.

How we perceive and respond to an event is a significant factor in how we adjust and cope with it. The stress you feel is not only the result of your caregiving situation but also the result of your perception of it—whether you see the glass as half-full or half-empty. It is important to remember that you are not alone in your experiences.

Your level of stress is influenced by many factors, including the following:

- Whether your caregiving is voluntary. If you feel you had

■ See **CAREGIVER** on page 21



Social Security and the ticking time bomb

moneymatters

Life expectancy in the United States is the longest ever—approaching 79 years. With very few exceptions, our life expectancy has continued to increase in our nation's history.

During my lifetime, life expectancy has increased from 70 to almost 79. In 1960, when life expectancy was 70, full retirement age for Social Security was 65. Therefore, on average, it was necessary for Social Security benefits to be able to fund five years of retirement. Now, as life expectancy approaches 79, full retirement age has increased to 67. Hence, on average, it will now be necessary for Social Security benefits to fund 12 years of retirement.

Social Security has been labeled

the "third rail of American politics." This label, going back to (at least) the Reagan era, predicts that politicians who are so bold as to propose changes in these benefits are committing political suicide. The increase in retirement age (that continues to grow from age 65 to age 67) was enacted in 1983 and signed into law by President Reagan. His landslide reelection in the following year suggests that changes to Social Security might not be as suicidal as the phrase suggests.

Many young adults expect the system to implode long before they retire. This is unacceptable. It would be extremely selfish of our generation to bankrupt this system without finding some long-term solution.

Apart from the Social Security

angle, the reality is that over the last decade, pension and retirement benefits have collapsed or have been drastically cut for many Americans. Those who carefully planned and managed their expected retirement position often had to make life-changing adjustments in order to regain that position.

It is unreasonable to expect our youth to fund 12 years of retirement. It is time to revisit this issue and undergo serious bipartisan work to make it better. The longer life expectancy must be considered as we plan for the future stability of retirement benefits—the future financial stability of our children and grandchildren.

—Dr. Gary L. Welton is assistant dean for institutional assessment, professor of psychology at Grove City



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PLEASE NOTE: Your item must be in by the 3rd Wednesday of each month for following month's issue.

Family Events, Christian Concerts, Theatre, Youth Events, Meetings, Clubs, Bible Studies, Family Fun, Speakers and More!



NOV.
4

THE HOPPERS IN CONCERT. 6:00 P.M. AT THE KANSAS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE'S COWEN MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM, 7401 METCALF AVE., OVERLAND PARK, KS 66204. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 913-722-0272.

CONCERTS

PHIL AND PAM MORGAN. November 2, 1:00 pm. St. Matthews Lutheran, 700 NE Chipman Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. 816-524-7068.

PIC & BOW. November 3. Homer's Coffee House, 7126 W. 80th St., Overland Park, KS 66204. 913-381-6022

CHONDA PIERCE. Nov. 3, 7 p.m. Word of Life Church. St. Joe, MO. 800-965-9324.

HOPPERS CONCERT. November 4, 6:00 pm. Kansas Christian College's Cowen Memorial Auditorium, 7401 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS 66204. 913-722-0272.

THE BURCHFIELD BROTHERS. November 5, 4:00 pm. College Church of the Nazarene, 2020 East Sheridan, Olathe, KS. 913-764-4575.

POSITIVE HITS TOUR. November 9, 7:00 pm. Silverstein Eye Centers Arena, 19100 E. Valley View Parkway, Independence, MO 64055. Special guests include: Skillet, Britt Nicole, Colton Dixon,

and more.

TIM HAWKINS LIVE. November 12, 7:00 pm. Abundant Life, 304 Southwest Persels Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64081. Cost \$25-\$75. 888-780-1116.

CLAYTON JENNINGS AND BLAKE WHITELEY. November 15, 7:00 pm. Reardon Convention Center, 520 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, KS 66101.

LET'S JUST PRAISE HIM. November 18, 6:00 pm. Bethel Family Worship Center, 10801 Ruskin Way, Kansas City, MO, 64134. Free Gospel Concert. 816-399-5025

CHRISTMAS IS COMING TOUR. December 1, 7:00 pm. Parkade Baptist Church, 2102 N. Garth Ave., Columbia, MO 65202. Featuring: Jason Gray,

Chris August, and Hannah Kerr. 618-780-7870.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH THE COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY. December 10, 6:00 pm. College Church of the Nazarene, 2020 E. Sheridan, Olathe, KS 66061. The choir and orchestra of College Church of the Nazarene will join the Collingsworth Family. The concert is free ... an offering will be taken. 913-764-4575.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES WITH PHIL AND PAM MORGAN. December 16, 6:30 pm. Susquehanna Baptist Church, 17800 Susquehanna Ridge, Independence, MO; www.PhilandPamMorgan.com

ERNIE HAASE & SIGNATURE SOUND. January 27, 7:30 pm. Missouri Theater, 715 Edmond St., St. Joseph, MO 64501. 816-271-4717.

SOUTHERN GOSPEL (Call for groups)

SWEET SPIRIT & FRIENDS. Will not be having music outreach for November and December, see you in January 2018.

ALPHA OMEGA CHRISTIAN MUSIC ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING, PRAYER, DEVOTION, POTLUCK AND JAM. FIRST FRIDAY, 7pm.

10035 E. Westport Rd., Indep., MO 64052.

MO-KAN GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION POTLUCK AND JAM. FOURTH FRIDAY (except for Nov. & Dec. when we meet on the 3rd Fri.). Northland Christian Church, 6120 NE 48th St., KCMO. 913-432-0359.

LIVE CHRISTIAN MUSIC VENUE. THIRD FRIDAY, 7:00 pm. Bent Knee Cowboy, 13415 S. 142nd St., Bonner Springs, KS. 913-927-4567.

PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE CHURCH. SECOND SATURDAY, 6pm. 341 S. 72nd St., Kansas City, KS 66111. Praise and Worship songs of Zion. 913-334-1009.

CGMA NW MO CHAPTER MEETING, GOSPEL MUSIC AND POTLUCK. SECOND SATURDAY. Faith Assembly of God Church, South 13 Hwy, Polo, MO. Travel North on I-35 North, go North of Liberty to the Polo/Lathrop Exit. Turn right onto 116 Hwy. Go 12 miles to 13 Hwy. Turn left and go ¼ mile. pegcla@msn.com.

RADIANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD. LAST SUNDAY, 6:30 p.m. Hwy. 33, Kearney, MO. Open mike. Gospel sing.

PARADISE BAPTIST CHURCH. SECOND SUN-

■ calendar continued on next page

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES WITH
Phil & Pam Morgan
Dec. 16 • 6:30pm
Susquehanna Baptist Church
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DAY, 6 p.m. Pot luck dinner at 5 p.m. Paradise Missouri. 816-591-1020.

CLASSES, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES

HER CHOICE TO HEAL CLASS AND RECONCILIATION WEEKEND. Are you struggling emotionally and spiritually after having an abortion? If Not For Grace Ministries is here to help. We offer a grace-filled journey for healing and restoration. For more information contact Jama at jedlund@infgr.org.

SKILLBUILDERS EDUCATION & SUPPORT FOR WIDOWS, WIDOWERS AND CARE-

GIVERS. Tuesdays, through November 14, 9:30 am-9:45 am (coffee, meet, greet, support) 9:45 am-11:30 am (program). The Palmer Center, Craft Room, 218A North Pleasant, Independence, MO 64050. No charge. Various practical classes, see ad for examples.

SKILLBUILDERS EDUCATION & SUPPORT FOR WIDOWS, WIDOWERS AND CARE-

GIVERS. Thursdays through November 16, 9:45 am-10:00 am (coffee, meet, greet, support) 10:00 am-11:50 am (program). Tomahawk Ridge Community Center, 11902 Lowell Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66213. No Charge. Various practical topics - see ad for example. 913-383-2519.

SKILLBUILDERS EDUCATION & SUPPORT

FOR WIDOWS, WIDOWERS, AND CARE-

GIVERS. Fridays through November 17, 10:00 am-10:15 (coffee, meet, greet, support) 10:15 am-11:50 am (program). Platte County Resource Center, Board Room, 11724 NW Plaza Circle, Kansas City, MO 64153. No charge. Various practical classes, see ad for example.

"AVOID PROBATE" SEMINARS. November 2, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

GIRLFRIENDS' CAFÉ. November 2, 6:30 pm. Nashua Baptist Church, Hwy. 169 North/Cookingham. No cost. Guest speaker/coffee and desserts. 816-734-4046.

GOOD NEWS CLUB TEAM ORIENTATION

TRAINING. November 4, 8:30 am-4:00 pm. Southside Christian Church, 7304 Cleveland, Kansas City, MO. Cost \$6 pay at door. Lunch is provided, and materials are available for purchase. 816-358-1138.

A CITY WIDE FAITH COMMUNITY CONFERENCE. November 4, 9:00 am. Calvary Temple Baptist Church, 2940 Holmes, Kansas City, MO 64109. \$15 per person. A City Wide Faith Community Conference that will include morning Round-table Dialogue Sessions; Luncheon Plenary Sessions & Afternoon Breakout Sessions. 816-497-4886



NOV. 11

CARE GIVERS SEMINAR. 9:00 .PM. COLLEGE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE, 2020 E. SHERIDAN, OLATHE, KS 66061. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 913-764-4575.

STATEWIDE MRL LEADERSHIP MEETING. November 11, 10:00 am. Immaculate Conception Parish, Pleus Hall, Jefferson City, MO. MRL General Counsel Jim Cole will speak on our system of choosing Judges and how important it is to have pro-life Governor and President, and other speakers. 573-635-5110.

CARE GIVERS SEMINAR. November 11, 9:00 pm. College Church of the Nazarene, 2020 E. Sheridan, Olathe, KS 66061. 3 hour seminar for Care Givers of Spouses or Parents. Small support groups will be made available. 913-764-4575.

DIVORCECARE-SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS.

November 11, 9:30 am. GateWay of Hope, 801 N. MurLen, Olathe, KS. 66212. Registration: \$40 in advance; \$45 at the door. You will learn how to deal with the emotions the holidays bring, tips for social events, ways to give your kids a good holiday experience and how to discover hope for the future. 913-393-4283.

MARRIED LIFE DATE NIGHT WITH DOUG

FIELDS. November 12, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. WFC Lenexa, 8500 Woodsonia Drive, Lenexa, KS 66227. Refresh your marriage. Dinner and child-care available with early reg. 913-422-8257.

"AVOID PROBATE" SEMINARS. November 14, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

FALL CHERISH GATHERING. November 17, 6:30 pm. The Rock KC, 12750 N. Winan Ave., Kansas City, MO 64163. Special guest speaker, Dr. Caroline Leaf. Creating an atmosphere that will revive and strengthen your soul. 816-243-1400.

JOHN RAMIREZ CONVENTION. November 18 & 20, 7:00 pm. November 19, 11:00 am. First Love Ministries, 4747 Hadley St., Overland Park, KS. Free. 913-403-9644.

GOOD NEWS CLUB TEAM ORIENTATION

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NOV. 11 PANCAKE BREAKFAST BENEFITING SHEPHERD'S WAY MINISTRIES. 9 - 11 A.M. CORNERSTONE CHURCH, 301 SE AA HIGHWAY, BLUE SPRINGS, MO. 816-525-2932.

TRAINING. December 2, 8:30 am-4:00 pm. HOPE Church, 2648 N. 18th Street, Kansas City, KS. Cost \$6 pay at door. Lunch is provided, and materials are available for purchase. 816-358-1138.

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

40 DAYS FOR LIFE/OVERLAND PARK.

Through November 5. Center for Women's Health Abortion Facility, 4840 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS. 40 Days for Life is a global, peaceful prayer movement with 375 prayer vigils happening simultaneously across the U.S., Canada and in 124 countries around the world. Our local prayer vigil will take place on the public sidewalk outside the Center for Women's Health abortion facility 7:00 am-7:00 pm daily. 816-977-1750

CELEBRATION DINNER. November 2, 6 p.m. Doubletree Hotel, 10100 College Blvd Overland Park, KS. Help us honor past employees, board members, foster parents, and individuals who were adopted through our agency. Benefits Christian Family Services. 913-383-3337

MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER. November 2, 6:00 pm. Adam's Mark Hotel, & Conference Center, 9103 E. 39th Street, KCMO 64133. Speaker: Melissa Ohden, she is a survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion in 1977. Reception: 6:00 pm. Banquet: 7:00 pm.

RACHEL HOUSE'S DINNER AND A SHOW. November 3, 6:00 pm Dinner & 7:00 pm Performance. Connection Point Church, 10500 E. 350 Highway, Raytown, MO. Dramatic Truth performs. 816-921-5050.

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH. November 4, 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:00 pm). Mandarin House Banquet Hall, 8008 Olive, University City, MO. Sponsored by Dillon International. Emmy Award Winning Artist/Composer & Dillon Dad, Michael Silverman, will perform, along with

effort for middle East. Sat7usa.org/week-of-prayer.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE CLOSING RALLY. Nov 5, 3:00 pm. On the public sidewalk outside the Center for Women's Health abortion facility, 4840 College Blvd. Overland Park, KS. 40daysfor-lifecc@gmail.com

MISSOURI SPECIAL ELECTIONS FOR HOUSE DISTRICTS 23, 151 AND SENATE DISTRICT 8. November 7. www.missourilifepac.org

FOOD PANTRY. November 7, 3:30 pm-6:00 pm. Faith Baptist Church, 1460 Langsford Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64063.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST BENEFITING SHEPHERD'S WAY MINISTRIES. Nov. 11, 9 - 11 a.m. Cornerstone Church, 301 SE AA Highway, Blue Springs, MO 816-525-2932.

FALL HOLIDAY BAZAAR. Nov. 11, 9 a.m. Northland Cathedral, 101 NW 99th St. KCMO. 90 Vendors. Concessions. 816-455-2555.

ORPHAN SUNDAY/STAND SUNDAY. Nov. 12. Stand across American for kids in foster care. www.cafo.org.

MARRIEDLIFE DATE-NIGHT WITH DOUG FIELDS-REFRESH YOUR MARRIAGE. November 12, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. Westside Family Church, 8500 Woodsonia Dr., Lenexa, KS 66227. Cost \$30/couple (includes: Speaker, Dinner, and Childcare). Catered dinner, kids-free date night that will bless, equip and encourage you and

Grammy Artist and Renowned Saxophonist, Eric Marienthal. www.dillonadopt.com/jazz

CELEBRATION OF HOPE GALA. November 4, 6:00 pm (cocktail hour) & 7:00 pm (dinner and program). Muehlebach Hotel, 1215 Wyandotte, Kansas City, MO. Sponsored by Catholic Charities. Honoring Women Religious who have served our diocese with the St. Teresa Kolkata Award.

GRUB RUN 5K. November 4, 8:30 am-11:00 pm. Kansas City Church, 7700 N. Church Rd., Kansas City, MO 64158. \$25. Help us stomp out hunger and raise money for our food pantry. 816-781-7559.

WEEK OF PRAYER. November 5-12. SAT7 Prayer

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VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION. November 16, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm. Crown Pointe Church, 5950 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, MO 64064. God has called If Not For Grace Ministries to bring His message of hope and healing to the abortion wounded. vgregg@infgr.org

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE. Nov. 22, 7 p.m. Northland Cathedral, 101 NW 99th St. KCMO. Communion served. 816-455-2555.

FREE THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER. November 23, 12:00 pm. Saint Marks United Methodist Church, 6422 Santa Fe Dr., Overland Park, KS 66202. Free dinner at Noon. Please register by calling 913-722-2310 by November 19, space is limited. 913-722-2310.

REZOUND HANDBELL ENSEMBLE CHRISTMAS CONCERT. December 1, 7:00 pm. Avondale United Methodist Church, 3101 NE Winn Road, Kansas City, MO 64117. Free Concert.

THE CHRISTMAS DREAM TEAM PARADE. December 3, 10:10 am. Fort Osage Church of Nazarene, 19333 E. 24 Hwy., Independence, MO 64056. 816-796-5879.

A KANSAS CITY CHRISTMAS. Dec. 9, 1 & 5 P.M.; Dec. 10, 5 p.m. Lenexa Baptist, 15320 W 87th St. Parkway, Lenexa, KS. A festive Christmas event. Featuring LBC's full worship choir and orchestra. Lenexabaptist.com

THE LONGEST NIGHT. December 21, 6:00 pm. Leawood Baptist Church, 8200 State Line Rd, Leawood, KS. A service of hope for families of murder victims in the KC area. 913-649-0100.

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LEAWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE. December 24, 5:00 pm. Leawood Baptist Church, 8200 State Line Road, Leawood, KS 66206. 913-649-0100.

CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE AND LORD'S SUP-

PER. Dec. 24, 10 p.m. Red Bridge Baptist Church, 4901 E. Red Bridge Road, KCMO. 816-761-1194.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE. December 24, 6:00 pm. Fort Osage Church of the

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Nazarene, 19333 E. 24 Hwy., Independence, MO 64056. 816-796-5879.

NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE CONVENTION. June 28 - 30. Kansas/Mo area. 202-626-8800.

MIDWEST COLLEGE AND K-12 EDUCATION EXPO. Feb. 24. Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall, KCMO. 50 colleges, 20 local k-12, workshops. 816-524-4522.

FINE ARTS

WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED: THE STUDENT SIT-INS OF 1960. TORGANIST. Sundays in November, 2:30 pm. 1000 E. Walnut, Independence, MO. Free Concert Sunday afternoons for only 30 minutes, 20 professional organists play the 6,000 pipe organ.

DRIVING MISS DAISY. Through November 26.

New Theatre Restaurant, 9229 Foster, Overland Park, KS 66212. 913-649-7469.

THROUGH THE EYES OF PICASSO. Through April 8. The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 4525 Oak St., Kansas City, MO 64111. 816-751-1278.

MY FATHER'S DRAGON. November 1, 10:00 am & 1:00 pm. Carlsen Center, 12345 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS. Story of a compassionate and courageous young boy and his unlikely friendship with a splendid yellow-and-blue-striped dragon. 913-469-4445.

THE LEGEND OF POCAHONTAS. November 2-November 5. Bell Cultural Events Center Mid-America Nazarene University, 2030 E. College Way, KS 66062. Sponsored by CYTKC. 913-681-3318.

ELF JR. November 9-November 12. Bell Cultural Events Center Mid-America Nazarene University,

K'hee-lah M'shee-kheet Or Ha-Olam קהילה משיחית אור העולם

Or HaOlam Messianic Congregation

[Or HaOlam is Hebrew for "Light of the World," which is the term the Messiah used to describe Himself, and us.]

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Or HaOlam is part of a world-wide movement of Messianic congregations of Jews and people from all ethnic groups, who worship Yeshua (Jesus) as the Messiah in the context of Jewish lifestyle and identity. This is in accordance with the ancient promise of the Psalms [147:2-3] that "Adonai is rebuilding Yerushalayim, gathering the dispersed of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." Come join us, and share in God's rich nourishment of His own special "tree of Life," Romans 11:17.



2030 E. College Way, KS 66062. Sponsored by CYTKC. 913-681-3318.

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN. November 4, 11, 18; 7:30 pm. November 5, 12, 19; 2:00 pm. November 9, 16; 7:30 pm. JCC, White Theater, 5801 W. 115th St., Overland Park, KS 66211. Rated PG 13. 913-327-8000.

RODGERS & HAMMONSTEIN'S CINDERELLA! November 9, 10, 11; 7:00 pm. MCA North Gym, 1500 W. 63rd St., Shawnee, KS 66216.

ELIJAH. November 10, 7:30 pm. Blue River Bible Church, 15608 Fairchild Dr., Kansas City, MO 64147. Ticket costs adult: \$10, \$7 for Seniors 65+/Students, children 4 and under are Free. Presented by "The Calvary Masterworks". www.calvary.edu

ST. CECILIA MUSIC FESTIVAL. November 12, 3:00 pm. Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 416 W. 12th St., Kansas City, MO 64105. 816-842-0416.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL. November 17-December 24. Kansas City Repertory Theatre, 4949 Cherry St., Kansas City, MO 64110. kcrep.org 816-235-2700

WIZARD OF OZ. November 24 & 25. Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd., Independence, MO 64052. www.hazelle.org 816-833-9777.

THE SARAH PLAY. December 2, 7:30 pm & December 3, 2:00 pm. Jewish Community Center, White Theater, 5801 W. 115 St., Overland Park, KS 66211. 913-327-8000.

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROL CONCERT. December 7, 7:00 pm. Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 416 W. 12th St., Kansas City, MO 64105. 816-842-0416.

THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS. December 15-17. Goppert Theater, Avila University, 11901 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, MO. Presented by Dramatic Truth Ballet Theatre. dramatictruth.org

CHRISTMAS CONCERT BY THE JACOMO CHORALE. Dec 15, 7:00 PM. Mission Woods Community of Christ, 2800 NW Duncan Rd, Blue Springs, MO. (816) 560-9148

CHRISTMAS CONCERT BY THE JACOMO CHORALE. Dec 16, 7:00 PM. 27507 Colbern Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. (816) 560-9148

FAMILY OUTINGS

COMMEMORATE VETERANS' DAY WITH A VETERANS BREAKFAST. November 9. Matt Ross Community Center, 8101 Marty St., Overland Park, KS. Reservations are required by November 3 call 913-642-6410. All veterans eat free! Entertainment will feature The Kansas City Lyric Opera's Veteran's Chorus. 913-826-3030.

For full list of events visit
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From behind the counter to on the bookstore shelves

authors

by **Jeanette Gardner Littleton**

Sometimes life takes us to interesting places. Jon Hopkins, a member of Heart of America Christian Writers Network (www.HACWN.org) and author of a novel series, as well as a contributor to other books and magazines, tells about an interesting twist in his life journey.

You have a teaching and youth ministry background. How did you end up in a bookstore?

I was between youth ministry jobs. I thought, where would I like to work? I got a job at Border's bookstore and before the year was up, became an inventory supervisor there. I then moved to Tonganoxie, Kan., where I served as a youth pastor for seven years. It was seven years ago that I got a job at another bookstore in Lawrence, Kan., (Signs of Life Bookstore) to supplement my "ministry wage." I love the bookstore as it has a coffee shop and a great atmosphere with plenty of students there from KU studying. I tell people I get paid in coffee and friendships.

What was the most surprising thing you learned working on the other side of the bookstore counter?

That most Christians read secular fiction rather than Christian fiction. I have heard the word "fluff" when referring to Christian fiction several times.

I also learned that a bookstore is a place where people in need and hurt come for counsel, whether it is for a book recommendation, or a talk with the employee behind the counter. Such things as a loved one died and they need a book on grief. One lady asked, "My husband committed adultery and I don't believe in divorce. Is there a book that will help me deal with this?"

What is something that people usually don't realize about bookstores?

Customers seem to think we know the name and author of every book written. One person asked me to find a book and they didn't know the author

or the title. But they remembered it had a purple cover.

Many download e-books. Those are not found in the bookstore. Bookstores are a dying breed and there is not much profit in selling books even though most people like the smell of a book and the feel of holding one in their hands as they read. That is why most stores sell gift items to stay in business.



Is there any reason to visit a local bookstore instead of one of the box retailers? How about Amazon?

Supporting the local mom-and-pop store supports the mom and pop and all the workers. Every bookstore, big or small, gets books from the same place. Big box stores can carry more items and turn the inventory over quickly. They can also afford more to discount books.

However, local bookstores offer a relationship with the customers that you

■ See DORSEY on page 18

MOVIES, STREAMING, BOOKS, MUSIC, INTERVIEWS & MORE!

streaming



Mike Vogel plays Lee Strobel in the Case for Christ. Faye Dunaway also stars in this well-made film adaptation of the book.

The Case for Christ tops Nov. Streaming

By Michael Foust

Lee is a journalist who wants to prove that there is no God, and he's going to use his award-winning reporter skills to do it.

Sure, it sounds difficult, but if he examines the evidence and interviews enough experts, the case will solve itself. Right? At least, that's how he's cracked criminal cases his entire career.

"Facts are our greatest weapon against superstition, against ignorance and ignorance tyranny," he says.

His war against God started at a restaurant, where his young daughter nearly died while choking on food but was saved by a stranger sitting at a nearby table. That stranger, a middle-aged woman, tells Lee that she nearly didn't come to the restaurant that night. The implication: If she hadn't changed her mind, the girl might be dead.

"It wasn't luck. It was Jesus," the woman says.

The event transformed Lee's wife from skeptic to Christian, but he isn't convinced. Soon, he's traveling the country to save his wife from this "myth" – and perhaps even to change the course of history.

The Case For Christ (PG) starts streaming on Netflix Nov. 21, recounting the incredible tale of Lee Strobel's journey in the early 1980s from radical atheist to sold-out Christian apologist.

It stars Mike Vogel (Cloverfield, The Help) as Strobel; Erika Christensen (Parenthood) as his wife, Leslie; Mike Pniewski (Madam Secretary, Blue Bloods, Killing Reagan) as Lee's Christian coworker, Kenny; and Academy Award winner Faye Dunaway as scholar Roberta Waters.

The Case For Christ is one of the best

■ See STREAMING page 18

New this month: Netflix



The Boss Baby (PG, 2017) - A 7-year-old boy gets a baby brother who just happens to be able to talk. He's also a sassy brat, and soon, the two are in a selfish fight for their parents' attention. This one ends with a positive message, but the sibling rivalry - which comprises most of the film - made me uncomfortable. Rated PG for some mild rude humor. Nov. 22.



42 (PG-13, 2013) - A man named Jackie Robinson becomes the first black player in Major League Baseball. Of course, we've read about him in the history books, but it's just different to watch the racial ugliness and baseball heroics unfold on the big screen. Caution: This one has lots of n-words and about five instances of GD. Rated PG-13 for thematic elements including language. Nov. 1.

Hulu

D3: The Mighty Ducks (PG, 1996) - The third and final installment in Disney's Mighty Ducks franchise.



chise spotlights the hockey kids' transition into their high school years. Contains some mild language and romantic angles. Rated PG for hockey rough-housing and mild language. Nov. 1.



Treasure Planet (PG, 2002) - A science fiction adaptation of the popular novel and movie Treasure Island, Treasure Planet takes the adventure into space, as young Jim Hawkins embarks on a galactic treasure hunt. Rated PG for adventure action and peril. Nov. 1.

Editor's note: Amazon's November titles not available at press time.

New Christmas album releases announced

musicscene

Am I the only one who begins singing or humming Christmas tunes somewhere around October and November? When anyone asks me what my favorite holiday is, I always answer with Christmas. Christmas reminds me of family time, good food and of course celebrating our saviors birth. Although its just November, I wanted to give you all an early start on your Christmas listening pleasures. Go ahead and get through Thanksgiving while listening to Christmas tunes like me.



Cedric Austin

The First Ten Years - Fervent Records - Word

Dee 1 - Slingshot David - Independent

Skillet - Unleashed Beyond - Atlantic Records - New Day

Jeremy Riddle - More - Bethel Music - New Day

Nelons - The Americana Sessions - Daywind - New Day

Sara Groves - Abide With Me - Fair-Trade Services - Provident

Alexis Slifer - Famous For EP - Bema Media

Kutless - Alpha Omega - BEC Recordings - New Day

Tye Tribbett and The Bloody Win

With one listen to Grammy Award-winning gospel artist Tye Tribbett, it's



obvious God has blessed him with many gifts. The New Jersey native is a songwriter of considerable depth and insight as well as a spirit-filled vocalist who knows how to get worshippers on their feet rejoicing. Over the years, God has opened doors for Tribbett to spread the gospel

through a variety of different avenues. He's toured with numerous artists including Faith Hill, Tim McGraw and Don Henley and has sung on recordings for Justin Timberlake, Missy Elliott, Sting and many others. His music has graced radio airwaves, television shows and movie soundtracks. Tribbett is a well-respected and



■ See MUSIC page 20

November New Releases

The Walls Group - The Other Side - RCA Inspiration - Provident

Francesca Battistelli - Greatest Hits:



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THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS FOR MAKING THIS SPECIAL PAGE POSSIBLE. CHECK BACK EACH MONTH FOR NEW REVIEWS.

DORSEY

continued from page 17

normally don't find in a place that has six registers and a long wait in line. I know many customers by name and try to engage every person that walks in the door with kindness and interaction. They are often more than a bookstore. They are a ministry.

One day we will all work for Amazon, right? Unfortunately, Amazon can give a book to someone cheaper (unless you must pay for shipping). Amazon also has quick ready access to rare and hard-to-find books.

We have become a society that believes social interaction is a "like" on Facebook. That is a shame. We need connection. I guarantee there are no hugs from Amazon when you "connect" with the digital bookseller. Come

to my bookstore and you'll find plenty of hugs for free.

How has working in a bookstore affected you as an author?

Every day I see the books that people enjoy and buy. I hear about the authors they are passionate about. I also see their

faces when they pick up a book and it is just like the last one they read.

People nowadays want real things. Hard things. Deep things that move them. Even if they want escape, they want to REALLY escape. Perhaps that is why many Christians read secular fiction books.

Even non-fiction book choices of our customers are the hard-hitting stuff.

There is a big swing to Puritan, C.S. Lewis, and Christian classics.

Therefore, seeing what people want to read, I can direct my writing to those things that will hopefully reach the reader of today. I encourage other writers to write about the dark things be-

cause when the customer asks for a book regarding a child's suicide... who do you think wrote that book? Someone who went through that and with God's help came out the other side.

Tell us about the book series you're working on with your twin brother.

Our current historical fiction series takes place in the first century Celtic Britain and Rome. It is a story of two young twin boys who grow up underneath a power-hungry abusive father. They try to survive until one of the boys' stumbles into his father's secrets. The boy has decisions to make because lives are at stake. So, he decides to kill his father—even if it takes the whole Roman army to do so. The story appeals to young adults yet can be enjoyed by any age from middle school to old age.

Everyone feels trauma in some way in their life. Whether it is the loss of a loved one or the betrayal by a friend. The story deals with trauma in a unique way and during a unique time in history. It deals with dark issues of domestic violence, child abuse, and bullying. It shows how



My twin brother is a medical doctor and I have worked with families in crisis for over 40 years. Much of the plot ideas come from our personal trauma or from watching it first hand in the lives of those we have worked with. It is our hope that it will touch the heart of those who read it, and be a tool God can use to lead others to healing of their own personal trauma story.

The Princes of Albion: Book one in The Long-Aimed Blow series by Jon Hopkins and Thomas Hopkins. Published by Wheatmark Publishers. Available at your friendly neighborhood local bookstore and uh... Amazon.

trauma affects people and more importantly, how they heal.

Each book in the series has a Biblical walk on character to thread the gospel into the story.

STREAMING

continued from page 17

films of 2017 and perhaps the most inspiring. It masterfully weaves a spoonful of apologetics into an engaging plot that parents, teens and older children can enjoy together. It contains no sexuality, language or violence, although there are a few scenes that might be too much for little kids: Strobel gets drunk at home, and he and his wife then have an intense argument. He shouts at his father and says a few things he later regrets. A family member also dies.

The movie shines in its presentation of apologetics – no easy feat in a drama. It succeeds partially because filmmakers limited Strobel's on-screen interviews with scholars to about five (instead of the real-life 12), and because the interactions are mostly brief. It seems natural, and not clunky or academic.

The apologetics angle also works because it doesn't dominate the film. The movie has at least three other angles: his struggling marriage, his rocky relationship with his father, and his big-city newspaper day job.

The film demonstrates how the testimony and action of just a handful of people can impact someone for Christ. The stranger-turned-friend leads Leslie Strobel to Christ, and she in turn starts her husband on a path that changes his life forever.

"She's different," an unbelieving Strobel tells a friend.

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Precious Lord by Dorsey CHRISTMAS "MYSTERY" CELEBRATES 20TH SEASON

hymnhistory

by **Cedric Austin**

On July 1, 1899, little notice was taken of a baby boy of color, born in Villa Rica, Ga., a small town some 40 miles west of Atlanta. He, one of seven brothers and sisters, was around the church most of his early life. His dad was a devout Baptist preacher, and his mother was an organist. She started young Thomas on the piano when he was 7 years old. In his late teens, he decided to embark on a career as a blues musician, billed as Georgia Tom. This took him through the night clubs of Atlanta to the jazz houses on the south side of Chicago. Because of his heritage, he very shortly tired of that kind of life and gravitated toward Christian music.

At age 21, he joined the Pilgrim Baptist Church in Chicago where he directed choirs and wrote more than 300 songs. In a taped interview in 1977, Thomas A. Dorsey told this writer the following story, which happened 45 years earlier. "My wife, Nettie, was about to bear our first child. I was called to St. Louis to sing in a revival. I wondered if I should go because of my wife's condition. She persuaded me that I should go ahead, so I, alone in my Model A, drove to St. Louis."

"During the first night of the meetings, a lad brought a telegram to me while I was still on the platform. It was horrible news. It was a message that my wife had died giving birth to our son."

"I rushed to a phone while the people were still singing and found that the message was true. Mr. Gus Evans drove me back to Chicago that night."

"When I arrived I found that the wonderful baby boy was seemingly fine, and yet, that night he also died. I buried my wife and little son in the same casket." "I became very despondent and filled with grief. A few days later I visited with my good friend, Professor Frye. We walked around the campus of Annie Malone's Poro College for awhile and then went into one of the music rooms."

"I sat down at a piano and began to improvise on the keyboard. Suddenly, I found myself playing a particular melody that I hadn't played before that time. (It was an adaptation of George N. Allen's melody used with the old hymn, Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone?) As I played I began to say, 'Blessed Lord, blessed Lord, blessed Lord.' My friend walked over to me and said, 'Why don't you make that precious Lord?' I then began to sing, 'Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand.'



"When I finished the song, we began to use it and it has been going ever since. I have gotten letters from people all over the world. It was a great tragedy, but we got the message to the world."

This year marks the 20th season of The Mystery of Christmas (MOC), December 15,16,17. This original version of the Christmas classic, The Nutcracker ballet, had its debut in Kansas City and is continuing the hi-tech, family oriented production in the beautiful Gopert Theater at Avila University. This 20 year event will be performed by Dramatic Truth Ballet Theatre, South Kansas City's premiere ballet company. As television and cinema continue to push traditional family boundaries, it can be a challenge finding entertain-

ment that will be appropriate and enjoyable for parents and their kids. The Mystery of Christmas was created to appeal to families looking for spiritually significant events to build positive holiday memories.

As in The Nutcracker, the MOC production includes the classical music of Tsychoovsky's Nutcracker and central figure Clara has a magical dream. However she doesn't dream about the Sugarplum

■ See MYSTERY page 21

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HEALTH AFTER 50

continued from page 12

are shocked when they discover how much sugar they're actually consuming every day. This is because sugar is added to just about everything.

Pick up any loaf of bread at the grocery store, and chances are you'll find sugar, honey, corn syrup, or brown rice syrup in the first five ingredients.

But bread isn't the only food product that has added sugar. You'll find it in crackers, cereals, yogurt, tomato sauce, even salad dressings and chips.

Cut Out Sugar - Lose the Weight

The message is clear: Sugar causes the body to store fat. And losing

weight becomes a whole lot easier once you cut out sugar.

In fact, the media is chock full of stories about popular celebrities cutting out sugar and losing weight these days. One of the most impressive success stories is Fergie, the Duchess of York, who lost 50 pounds in just five months... at the age of 54! Such an achievement would be impressive for a 30-year-old. But to lose 50 pounds so quickly at 54 is, quite simply, amazing.

If it worked for her, perhaps a similar no-sugar diet could help you achieve your weight loss goals, too.

There are currently several reduced or no-sugar diets that are popular today. All are available online.

MYSTERY

continued from page 19

Fairy or snowflakes, but rather she travels back in time to Bethlehem. She witnesses angels, shepherds, and kings converging on a humble stable where she discovers The Mystery of Christmas. And in honor of our 20th anniversary, all former cast members will be invited to the stage at intermission for a 20-year reunion bow.

Playing the role of God for his 16th season is Marc Wayne (Underground Railroad). Guest choreographer, Tobin James (Martha Graham Dance Company), has added her contemporary expertise to dance representing "Africa". The MOC has numerous talented performers from all over the metro as well

as dancers that have relocated in KC to be a member of Dramatic Truth Ballet Theatre. The most recent addition to the company is Marris Richardson, from the Charlotte (North Carolina) Ballet, is featured as the Holy Spirit in the Grand Pas de deux. Other members of the company relocating to KC are Monica Berghout from London, England, Caitlin Gregorczyk from West Virginia, Kimberly Watson from Ottawa, Canada, Amanda Moder and Audra Wilson from Minnesota.

The production's birth was in Nashville, Tenn. in 1987. Artistic Director Liz Dimmel was driving to the Tennessee Performing Arts Theater to see her daughter perform in The Nutcracker, with the Nashville Ballet. Liz casually mentioned to her husband Doug,

"Wouldn't it be great if there was a version of Tsychofsky's Nutcracker that actually told the Christmas story?" By the time they arrived home that evening the vision for The Mystery of Christmas became a reality.

Performances are:

Friday, December 15

9:30 am - School Day Show (\$7 seating is limited so call today)

6 pm - Dinner Event, 7:30 pm - Show

7:30 pm - Show Only

Saturday, December 16

2pm - Matinee | 7:00 pm - Evening

Sunday, December 17

2:00 pm - Matinee

Tickets: \$25 Door /\$20 advanced /\$15

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Tickets: www.dramatictruth.org or

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BOOK

continued from page 1

Wichita's 57 elementary or K-8 schools, along with two middle schools and one high school.

"We haven't denied access to the book," Becker said in an article in The Wichita Eagle. "I just left it up to librarians who know their buildings, who know the communities they're serving ... to make that decision."

George tells the story of a transgender girl and is aimed at children aged 8 to 12. But according to Becker, a number of passages in the book are too mature for their intended audience.

One passage, for instance, talks about sex reassignment surgery, where George is asked: "So, like, do you want to" — he made a gesture with two fingers like a pair of scissors — "go all the way?"

Becker explained: "When I approached this book, I tried to read it from the point of view of a child and not from an adult who's seen some of these words before."

Alex Gino, the book's self-described genderqueer author, accused school districts that decide not to carry his book of being afraid to show children

"reality."

"They're either afraid that the book is going to turn them trans — I promise you that doesn't happen — or they're afraid of uncomfortable conversations. ... People are afraid of talking about what they don't know how to talk about," the author argued.

Officials with other Wichita-area school districts also agreed that George should not be forced into elementary school library collections, however.

"Librarians felt that the grade level and reviews of the language — not necessarily the topic — was not best suited for our elementary libraries," said Cory Gibson, Valley Center's superintendent.

Beverly Buller, chairwoman of the selection committee for the William Allen White Awards, based at Emporia State University, said that some members are in favor of making George required to be carried, as there are children in elementary schools who are transgender.

Still, she backed parents who did not want such material forced upon their children.

"If they say, 'You know what? You're only in fourth grade, and I don't want you to read about a transgender



fourth-grader,' that's between them," Buller said. "We don't want to be parents."

Transgender books have sparked much controversy in several public schools across the United States. California's Rocklin Academy Gateway's school board recently voted in favor of teaching from books that talk about transgenderism at its elementary schools, with parents not allowed to opt their children out from such les-

sons.

Greg Burt of the California Family Council slammed the decision, and pointed out that it has led to 40 families and 71 children leaving Rocklin Academy Schools.

"A lot of parents were holding out to see what the school board would do, hoping that they would respond positively," Burt said. "Now that they haven't ... I think you're going to have a much bigger reaction. But we'll see."

CAREGIVER

continued from page 12

no choice in taking on the responsibilities, the chances are greater that you will experience strain, distress, and resentment.

■ Your relationship with the care recipient. Sometimes people care for another with the hope of healing a relationship. If healing does not occur, you may feel regret and discouragement.

■ Your coping abilities. How you coped with stress in the past predicts how you will cope now. Identify your current coping strengths so that you can build on them.

■ Your caregiving situation. Some caregiving situations are more stressful than others. For example, caring for a person with dementia is often more stressful than caring for someone with a physical limitation.

■ Whether support is available.

Once you've started to identify any personal barriers to good self-care, you can begin to change your behavior, moving forward one small step at a time.

FOR PART TWO, look for tips to reduce stress in the Dec. issue.

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The case in favor of Thanksgiving

viewpoint

By **Creation Research Institute**

Perhaps no other custom reveals our nation's original character as clearly as the celebration of Thanksgiving Day. Other countries have adopted similar observances, but America was the first to nationally recognize its dependence on God with a special day set aside for thanksgiving for His wondrous provision and deliverance.

Although the exact date of the first American Thanksgiving observance may be uncertain, there is no question that this treasured custom sprang from our deep Judeo-Christian heritage. From early Spanish expeditions in the late 1500s, to a small band of settlers in Maine in 1607, each group held services to give public thanks to God. Twelve years later, settlers in Virginia set aside a day of thanksgiving for their survival on the shores of this vast and uncharted land. And in 1623, Governor William Bradford created the most famous of all such observances at Plymouth Colony when a bounteous harvest prompted him to proclaim a special day to "render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings."¹

In 1777, during the War of Independence from England, the U. S. Continental Congress set aside a day for thanksgiving and praise for the decisive victory at Saratoga, marking the first time that all American colonies took part in such an event on the same day. The following year at Valley Forge,



George Washington declared a special day of thanksgiving upon receiving news that France had agreed to provide aid. And later, as the fledgling nation's first president, he responded to a congressional petition by declaring Thursday, November 26, 1789, as the first Thanksgiving Day of the United States of America.

Since that first Thanksgiving declaration, many state and national days of thanksgiving have been proclaimed for a variety of reasons. But it was the tireless crusade of one woman, Sarah Josepha Hale, that finally led to the establishment of this beautiful observance as a national holiday. Her moving editorials so touched the heart of Abraham Lincoln that in 1863—even in the midst of the Civil War—he enjoined his countrymen to be mindful of their many blessings, cautioning them not "to for-

get the source from which they come," that they are "the gracious gifts of the Most High God" who ought to be thanked "with one heart and one voice, by the whole American People."²

We declare our gratitude to God for the many blessings He has showered upon our ministry, our lands, and our people. And in this season of Thanksgiving, we are most grateful for our abundant harvests and the productivity of our industries; for the discoveries of our laboratories through the work of our researchers, scientists, and scholars; for the achievements of our writers, clergy, and teachers, physicians, businessmen, and public servants, farmers, mechanics, and workers of every kind whose honorable toil of body and mind rewards them and their families and enriches our lands. Let us then thank God

■ See **THANKSGIVING** on page 23

readerview

No longer a Turk supporter

I am addressing an issue that I never thought would be necessary. I have supported Jacob Turk ever since he first ran for public office. He ran on the same issues that were important to me. My support for him must now end. Let me explain.

Senator Will Kraus resigned from the Missouri State Senate in July. The process to elect his replacement is clearly spelled out in state law when a vacancy such as this occurs. The candidate for each party is selected by its local county committee whose members have been elected by the party members in their townships/wards. One of the most important responsibilities a committeeman or committeewoman has is choosing its party's candidate in a special election.

In State Senate District 8 in eastern Jackson County the DULY ELECTED county committees of BOTH parties met, as required by state law, to choose its candidate. The eighteen members of the Republican Committee, chose Mike Cierpiot as their candidate with 13 of the 18 votes. The eighteen members of the Democrat Committee chose Hillary Shields as their candidate. Jacob solicited the members of the Republican committee, just as Mike Cierpiot and one other individual did to gain the support of the mem-

■ See **JACOB TURK** on page 23

THE SPORTS OBSESSION



CLINT DECKER

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

hopefortoday

Clay Center, Kansas – The ancient people of Israel escaped their Egyptian slave masters for freedom. As they exited Egypt, Moses their leader often spent time with God seeking Him for guidance in governing the people. One time, he was alone with God for 40 days. As the time passed, the people began to doubt if Moses would return, so they looked to Aaron, Moses' brother. He became their new leader and they sought his help in finding a new god. He led them to craft what became a golden calf and the people said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of

Egypt!" (Exodus 32:4).

The people of Israel replaced the Lord God with a golden calf, because of their impatience. What they once looked to God for, they now sought through their own creation.

The story illustrates the human condition. All of us are like Israel. We are constantly looking to replace God, without realizing it, by instinctively looking to other things to satisfy our needs.

As an example, sometimes sports can become one of those replacements when it evolves from a casual interest to an obsession. It is a multi-billion-dollar worldwide industry that is a deep part of the fabric of our culture. However, it goes too far when it consumes the family checkbook and calendar to the neglect of more important things. When it pushes parents to yell at referees or berate their child's effort. When it drives big business to deceptively entice our young people with fame and fortune that leads them down the path of disillusionment and bankruptcy.



The promises of sports are grandiose—but empty. After a loss, injury or even the next morning following a stunning victory, it offers nothing.

Only true and lasting joy, peace, relationships, purpose and worth can come from God through Jesus. He came to suffer, die and rise again to show us where real life is found. He is the way. Every other way is a fake, cheap replacement, no matter if it is sports or something else. Today, experience the forgiveness of all you have ever done wrong and discover what you have always been searching for – Jesus.

A prayer for you...

Lord God, I pray that you will examine the heart of each reader, showing them if they have a misplaced priority of sports in their life. May they seek you for forgiveness if they do and may Jesus become their consuming passion. Whether their teams win or lose or their child excels or not, may their eyes always be fixed on you. In Jesus name, amen.

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

GIVING SEASON

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and how you can help them meet the growing needs facing many Kansas City area citizens. We focus on several of the larger organizations and what they are doing to meet the needs of the holiday season, starting with Thanksgiving and running to Christmas.

We hope through these efforts, our readers and the broader community will find a place to “plug in” and serve our less fortunate neighbors.

Metro Lutheran Ministries

Since 1971 Metro Lutheran Ministry (MLM) provides critical help to the poorest of the poor in greater Kansas City. They distribute millions of pounds of food, hot breakfast each Saturday at two locations and assist with employment and GED assistance. Volunteers with MLM are crucial in making Thanksgiving and Christmas possible for thousands of area families. Working throughout the year, money is raised through special events to purchase gifts through corporate and individual donations.

A Thanksgiving packing party is planned for the first half of November. Volunteers of ALL ages are needed. Help MLM pack Thanksgiving baskets for needy families!

The Christmas store will be open Dec. 6 through 9 and volunteers are needed to fill slots. The store will be located at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1700 Westport Rd., Kansas City.

For information, call 816-931-0027 or info@mlmkc.org.

City Union Mission

City Union Mission director Dan Doty says that many of those they serve each day at the mission come from increasingly secular homes. “They’ve had limited exposure, if any, to genuine Christianity and come with either no knowledge, limited knowledge or a distorted understanding of the Good News of Christmas,” he states.

“We begin early to emphasize to our special guests why we celebrate Christmas. We intentionally plan each event and dinner so as not to secularize it or

cause our guests to be overwhelmed, but to stay focused on “the Reason for the Season.”

The mission needs your help to provide the items to prepare a Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner for less-fortunate families, senior citizens and lonely shut-ins. Here’s how you can help.

For the Thanksgiving meal, your donations from the list below will be boxed with a turkey in containers provided by All Packaging and delivered to as many as 200 income-qualified households in time for Thanksgiving Day. Please deliver your items by November 16 to the Mission Food Warehouse/Distribution Center at 1020 E. 10th Street, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Items needed include canned green beans and corn, coffee (ground/instant), fruit juice and toilet paper.

For Christmas, families who shop at their Christmas store will also receive a turkey and food bag with items to provide a Christmas dinner for a family of four. In addition, City Union served 200 nursing home residents, 1,000 Jackson County inmates, 610 families and was helped by 1,500 volunteers! Donations are accepted beginning November 1st at their Christmas Store, 1700 E. 8th St., Kansas City, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The bags will be delivered the day before Christmas, along with the gifts the family has chosen from the store. You can shop for the items below and place them in a heavy paper bag. Last year CUM served 20

City Union Mission needs 600 bags in all to ensure every family receives one.

Items include one 16-oz. box instant potatoes, two boxes stuffing mix, two

packets gravy mix, two 15-oz. cans yams, one small bag marshmallows, one box pie crust mix, two 14-oz. cans green beans, one can cranberry sauce, one 15-oz. can pie filling and one package Crystal Light drink mix, plus a prayer card for the family.

Family Promise of the Northland

There’s a misconception that the Northland is affluent with very little need. But the reality is much starker. The mission of Family Promise of the Northland is to assist families in crises due to homelessness. They provide food, shelter, training and other assistance for families. Families are home-based in their day center where they have personal storage space, a personal bathroom with a shower, and a shared computer room, shared kitchenette, shared laundry facilities, and family room space. Each evening families are transported by van to a host church in the Northland where church people provide meals and food for the next day, as well as sleeping space.

Families are transported back to the center each morning early enough to go to school and work or to seek employment and housing. Each Sunday, the hosting church changes and their families stay at a different church for the next week. They are limited to serving no more than 14 persons at a time because of space in the van. Families receive a lot of attention from Family Promise volunteers and receive professional training classes in budgeting and life skills in the church two nights of the week.

Churches have a wonderful opportunity of doing mission right in their own building.

We begin early to emphasize to our special guests why we celebrate Christmas. We intentionally plan each event and dinner so as not to secularize or cause our guests to be overwhelmed but to be focussed on the ‘Reason for the Season.’

THANKSGIVING

continued from page 22

for our families, friends, and neighbors, and for the joy of this heritage of thanksgiving that we celebrate in His name.

Let every house of worship, every home, and every heart be filled with the spirit of praise and gratitude and love for our Great Provider on this Thanksgiving Day. As the psalmist sang, "Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare" (Psalm 75:1). In this vein, won't you prayerfully join with ICR to see that His wondrous works are declared throughout the land?

1. Governor William Bradford's Thanksgiving Proclamation, Plymouth Plantation, 1623.
2. Proclamation of Thanksgiving, Abraham Lincoln, 1863.

JACOB TURK

continued from page 22

bers of the committee. The members of the Republican Committee chose Mike Cierpiot.

However, after losing his effort to be chosen as the Republican candidate by the Republican committee for the special election on Nov. 7, Turk found he could run as an independent candidate if he could get enough signatures on a petition. He collected signatures and got his place on the ballot-as an Independent.

The entry of a third party in this election could result in electing the Democrat who has been endorsed by every left-wing group in Missouri including the National Abortion Rights Action League. Jacob Turk has run as a Republican in 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 and yet again in 2016. He has never been elected so he doesn't have a voting record but he has run on the values of the

Republican Party Platforms for over ten years. With that in mind, one would assume Turk's votes would come close to matching those recorded votes that Rep. Mike Cierpiot has made in his seven years in the Missouri House. Why would Jacob Turk jeopardize the pro-life, pro-family values of the Republican Party running as an Independent? If it's about the issues, Turk should be campaigning for the Republican Candidate Mike Cierpiot. Every vote that Jacob Turk gets will take away from pro-life Candidate Mike Cierpiot.

I would strongly urge every pro-life, pro-family, conservative voter in State Senate District 8 to vote for Mike Cierpiot on Tuesday, Nov. 7 and not allow Jacob Turk to become the Ross Perot of 2017.

BEV EHLEN
Missouri State Director for Concerned Women for America
Title used for identification purposes only.

Family Promise offers many opportunities for those who would like to provide food, work as a host or hostess in their own church, and provide support through sleeping in their own church during the nights. The organization prefers to work through churches. Would your church be able to provide hosting space and support for one week about four times per year? Training is required for all volunteers. Financial assistance for this program is always needed. Gifts of meals, volunteers, CDL van drivers, linens and towels for their families is also needed.

To understand this program better or if you or your church are interested in helping with Family Promise of the Northland, please contact Marilyn Gardner or Bridget Mendoza at (816-888-7070). For more information visit their website at familypromisenorthland.org.

Kansas City Rescue Mission

Kansas City Rescue Mission (KCRM) wants to make it easy for you to reach out to our neighbors in need. In November, KCRM and partnering churches will continue the tradition of providing feasts for the homeless through their onsite nine-day Celebration of Thanks.

Volunteers will also deliver over 550 hot, single-serving, turkey dinners to poverty-stricken families, elderly and injured on Thanksgiving Day. Three different volunteer units will help cook the meals, assemble and deliver them throughout Kansas City to families who need a reason to give thanks. Don't have time to volunteer? Donate food or cash to help them purchase food.

Another component of the outreach will provide multi-meal food baskets to families in need all over the city. In all, the Mission anticipates feeding 3,000 needy people this Thanksgiving.

For a list of things needed or to volunteer contact thanksgiving@kcrm.org or call 816-421-7643.

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army's 2017 Red Kettle Campaign in Kansas City kicks off Friday, Nov. 6, and continues through Christmas Eve, every day except

Thanksgiving Day and Sundays. This year, volunteers will be ringing bells at more than 250 locations in the metropolitan area.

2017 brings a new opportunity for Kansas City to donate to the issues and causes that they care most about. The Red Kettle Gift Catalog is now available and online at www.RedKettleGifts.org.

“By giving life-changing gifts from this catalog in honor of your loved ones, you can be the good that lifts up a neighbor who has fallen.” said Major Evie Diaz, divisional commander of The Salvation Army in Kansas City.” These donations will help us provide food, clothing and shelter to people in need in their own community throughout the year and during the Christmas season.”

The money collected during the Red Kettle Campaign supports a number of Salvation Army programs in the area including emergency rent and utility assistance, homeless services, youth and senior programs, substance abuse services and disaster response.

“Every cent dropped into a Red Kettle allows us to meet the on-going and ever-increasing demand for the services we provide,” Diaz said.

The Salvation Army is also seeking volunteers for other programs including the annual Christmas dinner on Sunday, December 25 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 101 W. Linwood, Kansas City.

Help is needed in providing a traditional Christmas meal to our community on Christmas Day.

We need drivers to deliver meals, kitchen helpers, dishwashers, set-up helpers, pie cutters, silverware wrappers, drink makers, volunteers at sign-in tables and phones, greeters, gift table helpers, beverage servers, table servers, pie servers, table cleaners, trash pullers, dining room clean up help and kitchen clean up help.

You can volunteer for these programs by calling 816-968-0396.

Join Metro Voice in encouraging your family and friends to get involved this year. For more info on other worthy organizations visit us online at www.metrovoicenews.com.

SURVEY

continued from page 1

television (when the TV is on but nobody is watching) to shorter attention spans and lower cognitive performance in children. But 42 percent of parents surveyed said they kept the TV in their house on always or most of the time.

- The AAP also recommends no screen exposure for children younger than 18 months because it disrupts necessary interactions with caregivers that digital entertainment cannot duplicate. Despite that, children under 2 spend an average of 42 minutes a day using screen media, the study found, and 34 percent of them watch TV every day.

- Children from lower-income homes get an average of one hour and 39 minutes more screen time per day than kids in middle- and higher-income homes—a ratio of three hours and 29 minutes to one hour and 50 minutes.

Dr. Jenny Radesky wrote the policy paper that laid out the AAP's revised screen time guidelines for children in 2016.

“While our 2016 media guidelines were designed to be more family-centered and action-oriented, the Zero to Eight findings tell us that these messages are not reaching the majority of parents, especially the families facing more stress and adversity,” Radesky wrote in a report of the survey's key findings.

The survey had a few bright spots in its results: Children's average screen time has stayed roughly the same since 2011 at two hours and 19 minutes per day, though time spent on mobile devices now has a much bigger piece of the pie. Also, children still overwhelmingly prefer reading books to reading on digital devices. Of the 29 minutes on average kids spend reading each day, only about three minutes is spent looking at a screen.



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