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**August 2020**

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**NEW RESIDENT churchguide**



East Side Baptist Church

*See inside back cover!*

## Does Your Church Vote?

## Findables Resale Store to close after 16 years



### Our Church Votes initiative seeks participation in elections

A nonpartisan initiative called Our Church Votes hopes to motivate evangelical Christians to vote in this year's elections.

"We are trying to reach every church," CEO Jason Yates stated. "We are trying to call every church in America that follows Christ, that believes the Bible is true. We're asking each and every church to engage their congregation and to hold at least one voter registration drive before the elections to encourage and equip the atten-

dees, the members of their church, to be a part of this process."

Our Church Votes, which is an initiative of My Faith Votes, a non-partisan movement that encourages Christians in America to vote in every election, says that in 2016, more than 25 million Christians chose not to vote. By focusing on their faith in 2020, Yates wants all these inactive Christians, along with active ones, to exercise their right to vote with the principles of Jesus in mind.

"We recognize that as Christians, God gives us passions and pursuits that may lead people one way or the other, but what we are calling people to do is to vote not right/left, donkey/elephant, but the lamb and to think about what Jesus' principles are," he said.

The Our Church Votes initiative was created specifically for pastors and other church leaders to help them engage with their congregations about

■ Please see VOTES page 2

## Polls: most parents want schools open this fall

As the coronavirus lockdown loosens in many states, most parents of school-age children want to reopen schools this fall and say it will be bad for students if they do not.

A new Rasmussen Reports national telephone and online survey finds that 57% of American Adults who have children of elementary or secondary school age believe schools in their community should reopen in the fall. Thirty-two percent (32%) disagree, while 11% are undecided.

The survey of 1,000 American Adults was conducted July 19-20, 2020 by Rasmussen Reports. The margin of

sampling error is +/- 3 percentage points with a 95% level of confidence.

According to another new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs, 68% want to reopen schools with in-person instruction, with at least some adjustments such as masks or social distancing.

The AP-NORC poll also finds about half of parents saying they are at least somewhat concerned about their child losing services like school lunches or counseling because of the pandemic.

Even more say they are worried about their child falling behind aca-

■ Please see SCHOOLS page 3



A custodian wipes down a hallway doorway at the Mildred Avenue K-8 School building in Boston. Photo by David L. Ryan/The Boston Globe

## 'Beach revival' under way in Southern California



It may be hard at first to think about Easter in August, but celebrating late is better than not at all.

"Christians celebrate the Resurrection in a small way every Sunday, so August is as good a time as any to have our big annual celebration," a spokesperson said.

So, the seventh annual EasterFest, the Topeka Easter Parade & Fun Fair, will return to North Topeka on Saturday, August 29, 10am to 3pm.

Over three thousand people attended last year to watch the parade, visit the Fun Fair, listen to live music, visit over 70 vendor & food trucks, attend the Health Fair and take part in the big egg hunt or other activities.

Every year, dozens of churches, businesses and non-profit organi-

■ Please see REVIVAL page 2



Midland Care has announced the upcoming closing of Findables, its Upscale Resale store. Midland Care took over the store 16 years ago from the American Cancer Society, previously known as "The Discovery Shop."

The community support for Findables has made it a great success over the years, as each purchase went to support the free care Midland Care provides to the community each year.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the difficulty in processing donations, the need to sanitize constantly, reduced capacity, not knowing when they might be able to open safely, and just the general fear people have about being out, led to this decision.

Nancy Harms, Priscilla McCabe and the team of volunteers have not only sold clothes and other items over the years, they have been ambassadors for Midland and the community.

Items at the store will now be available for purchase at a 50% discount. The store will officially close once all inventories have been sold. No additional donations will be accepted.

Findables, located at 1112 SW 6th Avenue, will be open for their Final Farewell Sale beginning Saturday, August 1, 2020. Hours for shopping will be Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Masks and temperature checks will be required for shoppers upon entry.

## TPAC makes national news with safe opening



A crowd of more than 700 attended the Topeka PAC's first event since mid-March. (Courtesy Topeka Performing Arts Center)

Topeka and the Topeka Performing Arts Center made international news recently with an article on re-opening the facility in a safe way. TPAC was featured in an article in *Venues Now*, a B2B trade publication. The article focused on an event where students from the Radiant Dance Studio took the stage at the TPAC on July 2.

The event was among the few ticketed live events that had taken place in an indoor venue since the arrival of COVID-19 shut down arenas, theaters and clubs across the nation.

As the article stated, Larry Gawronski, TPAC's executive director, stood before the audience full of dancers' families and friends, "and I said, 'You will be happy to know that you are our first live audience since March 12, so give yourselves a hand, because live entertainment is back,' and they were just like, 'Woo-hoo!'"

After being postponed from the spring, the dance recital sold 765 tickets and grossed about \$5,000.

The article went on to state:

*Gawronski runs the building for VenuWorks, which lists 11 theaters among the more than 40 venues it operates, many of them in the Midwest. He said that only four of those buildings are open and that the show in the Topeka was the first post-shutdown ticketed event for a VenuWorks facility, followed closely by a pair of back-to-back junior livestock competitions that began Wednesday at the Swiftel Center in Brookings, S.D.*

*VenuWorks gives its venues guidance on operating in COVID-19 times, Gawronski said, but lets its people on the ground adapt to the particular state and local requirements that they face.*

*Preparation included "the signage, the sanitation, all the protocols," he said. New electrostatic sprayers, which disinfect everything from walls, seats and carpet to aluminum and chrome, helped the get the theater ready.*

*"We didn't have to do temperature*

*checks and we still don't have to," Gawronski said, "but we've got thermometers just in case that happens."*

*Because gatherings of up to 45 people are allowed, the venue and the county worked to create a plan with clusters of 45 seats, separated from other clusters by at least 6 feet. The seating was general admission, so venue workers "put crepe paper, white crepe streamers" to mark closed seats and rows, Gawronski said. Masks were highly recommended.*

*He said patrons worked within the rules to keep themselves and others healthy. "People were fine," he said. "They don't want to give it or get it."*

There's been plenty to learn along the way, Gawronski said, but the biggest takeaway was the excitement he felt from that first crowd, who were thrilled just to get out of the house and attend a live event.

"We can attest, with a live audience, that people are starving for live entertainment," he said.

## Conservative Baptist Network formed to counter perceived drift in Southern Baptist Convention

The Conservative Baptist Network was launched last week to emphasize evangelism and the sufficiency of scripture within the Southern Baptist Convention. Those involved in the network's formation said their efforts are needed because the direction and perceived future of the convention that many devout Southern Baptists find troubling.

The network is not a new denomination, a blog or a social media page that exists solely to air grievances or a competitor with other like-minded ministries, organizers said.

"We are concerned about the current road our Southern Baptist family is trav-

eling," said Brad Jurkovich, network spokesman and pastor of First Baptist Church in Bossier City, La. "It is a road that is twisting what God's word is saying about things like human sexuality, biblical racial reconciliation and social justice."

Every church and pastor has three choices, he said: Remain in the Southern Baptist Convention, say nothing and watch it drift into obscurity; walk away entirely, cognizant of what they are leaving behind; or remain within the denomination and contend for the restoration of what has been lost in recent years.

"Are the apparent theological, ethical and social compromises simply indicative



Brad Jurkovich, network spokesman and pastor of First Baptist Church in Bossier City, La.

of Southern Baptists succumbing to the apostasy of the Laodicean Age?" Jurkovich said. "Are we doomed to the fate of an unrepentant church or will we open the door to let Christ in, overcome our present malaise and experience another spiritual renaissance?"

Rod Martin, who serves on the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention and the state board of missions for the Florida Baptist Convention, said the most important thing for the new network to achieve is to offer hope to "countless" Southern Baptists, who need to know they are not alone. "There is an enormous media push in the direction of the left," he said, noting that the push is both theological and political.

## VOTES

continued from page 1

the political process and reflect on how they can bring their faith to bear on it in a non-partisan way.

### "Apathy does not define a loving church. Together, we can empower Christians to take action and vote."

"Elections are happening," Yates said. "It's on everyone's mind. They hear about it, so how can we help church leadership engage their congregations and encourage them and do it in a way that points to Jesus and nothing else?"

This election cycle, Yates wants Christians to think of their political participation as adding salt and light to the process.

"We're called to be an influence in our culture, in our society," he said. "I often talk about the verse Galatians 6:10 that says as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, especially those in the faith, and I describe our opportunity to vote is an opportunity to do good. It's not the good that the world necessarily knows or believes, but it's a good of who we serve."

The initiative has the support of many well-known Christian leaders.

"We need God to make his way back to our nation. Let's bring him

back through our spiritual commitment to him and through voting based on biblical principles," said Dr. David Jeremiah, Senior Pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church and the Founder of Turning Point.

Jentezen Franklin, Senior Pastor of Free Chapel, said of the initiative: "Our vote is essential for keeping faith in the heart of a free America."



Jeremiah



Franklin



Evans

"These are incredible tools to inform and equip all of us to vote responsibly. Use them," said Samuel Rodriguez, Lead Pastor, New Season, and National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference President. "Tell all your friends and family."

"By staying silent, believers are allowing non-believers to decide who will run our government and create our public policies," said Tony Evans, Founder, Urban Alternatives.

Our Church Votes has the resources you need to engage, educate, and equip Christians to take their faith and convictions from the pew to the public

square.

For more information about the initiative and resources, visit [www.ourchurchvotes.org](http://www.ourchurchvotes.org).

## REVIVAL

continued from page 1

zations take part in the parade, and dozens more set up vendor booths and kids' games as part of the family fun fair. There have been lots of floats with a variety of themes, and all shapes and sizes of other vehicles, as well as walking entries such as schools, military groups, marching bands and more.

The event is coordinated by C5Alive, a Christian leadership offshoot of the Capital City Christian Chamber of Commerce (C5).

Again this year the Easter Parade will be on North Kansas Avenue, from NOTO Arts District to Garfield Park, followed by the Big Egg Hunt in the Garfield Park playground area. From 10am to 3pm, vendor booths, food trucks and kid's activities will be happening all over Garfield Park, inside the shelterhouse and inside the gym. This year, even more churches, non-profit organizations, schools and local businesses are expected to enter floats and marching bands, etc., in the parade, as well as set up activity booths at the fun fair.

The Family Fun Fair will consist of activities geared toward children and families, as well as health & wellness vendor booths, vendor exhibits, and

more. Live performers will be on hand all day, such as jazz bands, dance troupes, praise bands, solo artists, street entertainers, fitness demonstrators and more.

Back this year at EasterFest is Bingo at the Vendor Market, with great prizes valued at over \$20 donated by the vendors and sponsors. The Ball Toss will be back, with a chance to win a bicycle, and the ever-popular cake walk returns as well. The Easter Bunny will be back to take pictures with the kids this year too! Facepainting, pony rides, petting zoo and food trucks are always among the most popular attractions, as well as archery, bubble soccer and of course the free entertainment.

There is still room for more EasterFest sponsors and participants for the Vendor Market, Entertainment Stage, Food Court and Health Fair. Volunteers are also needed to help with the entire event.

Major sponsors for EasterFest 2020 include Integrity Insurance, Peggy Beasterfeld Tax & Accounting, Metro Voice News, Carnival Guy, Solid Rock Sound Machine, rezit designs, Health & Wellness Magazine, The Pad Restaurant, Golden Eagle Casino and First Southern Baptist Church.

For more information, visit [www.TopekaEasterParade.com](http://www.TopekaEasterParade.com), email [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org) or call 785-640-6399.

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# CDC now strongly favors schools reopening in fall

As polls show an overwhelming majority of both Democrats and Republicans believe schools should reopen, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says the science now backs it up. The nation's top health department issued new guidelines for schools that strongly favors a return to the classroom this fall.

The updated guidelines notes the "importance of reopening America's schools this fall," and includes checklists for parents and caregivers to help them determine whether to send their children back to school to resume in-person learning.

It comes after President Donald Trump criticized the agency's previous guidance for being too strict as he pushes for schools to be reopened. The president has made opening schools a key priority as he looks to restart the economy.

"It is critically important for our public health to open schools this fall," CDC Director Dr. Robert R. Redfield said in a statement. "The CDC resources released today will help parents, teachers and administrators make practical, safety-focused decisions as this school year begins."

"School closures have disrupted normal ways of life for children and parents, and they have had negative health consequences on our youth," he added. "CDC is prepared to work with K-12 schools to safely reopen while protecting the most vulnerable."

The CDC said that based on the "best available evidence," the coronavirus poses relatively low risks to school-aged children.

"Children appear to be at lower risk for contracting COVID-19 compared to adults," the guidelines state. In fact, out of millions of person-to-person transmissions, only a handful have been from children to adult.



Citing its own figures, the agency said that as of July 17, children and adolescents under 18 years old in the United States account for less than 0.1 percent of COVID-19-related deaths. The vast majority of those deaths were of children with serious underlying health issues such as cancer or other immune deficiency issues. Healthy children, it seems, are virtually immune from morbidity as a result of contracting the disease, if they contract it at all.

Further, the CDC said, there are few reports of children being the "primary drivers" of the spread of COVID-19—the disease caused by the virus—in schools, or in the community.

"No studies are conclusive, but the available evidence provides reason to believe that in-person schooling is in the best interest of students, particularly in the context of appropriate mitigation measures similar to those implemented at essential workplaces," the CDC said.

The updated guidelines emphasize the importance of in-person learning, and the detrimental effects extended school closures can have on children.

"It can lead to severe learning loss, and the need for in-person instruction is particularly important for students with heightened behavioral needs," the agency said.

It urged school leaders to work with local officials to make decisions about the fall, taking into account the virus's rate of transmission in the area. It laid out a range of measures depending on the level of spread. If there's minimal or moderate spread, it recommends social distancing, masks, and increased sanitation.

But in areas with substantive and uncontrolled spread, it says, school closure is an "important consideration."

"Plans for virtual learning should be in place in the event of a school closure," the CDC said.

Some of the nation's largest districts have already rejected the idea of a full reopening. The Los Angeles and San Diego districts plan to keep classes online this fall, while New York City's schools plan to offer a mix of online and in-person instruction.

"The best available evidence from countries that have opened schools indicates that COVID-19 poses low risk to school-aged children," the CDC said. "Reopening schools creates opportunity to invest in the education, well-being, and future of one of America's greatest assets—our children—while taking every precaution to protect students, teachers, staff and all their families."

—EPTimes, The Washington Times and wire services

## SCHOOLS

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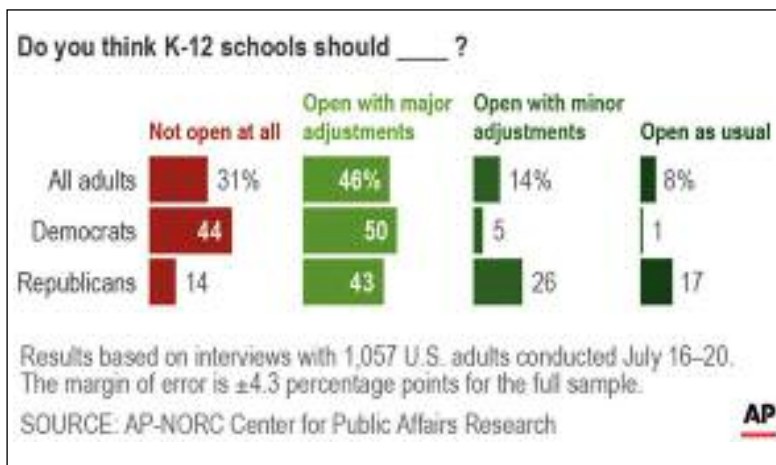
demically: 55% are very concerned, with another 21% somewhat concerned.

A majority of parents, 65%, are at least somewhat concerned about

students and anger taxpayers.

"They have to keep the momentum, they have to keep people used to going to school," he said. "I don't think you can stop school forever."

President Donald Trump agrees with the polls and thinks communities should reopen schools.



their own ability to juggle responsibilities.

Jimmy La Londe of Hiawassee, Georgia, thinks schools should reopen with safety measures that local officials think are necessary. La Londe said keeping schools closed will only hurt

"I would like to see the schools open," he told reporters.

The Trump administration also has argued that it's not just about academics. Students need access to meal programs and mental health services, it says.

## Southeast Topeka church offers variety of service options

Lakeview Church of the Nazarene resumed having indoor services in July, after having drive-in services for many weeks since the pandemic shut their doors.

Pastor Rob Self says they are having services inside at 11am each Sunday morning (CDC guidelines followed, such as social distancing, hand sanitizer & masks), and for those who are worried about COVID-19, they live stream services on Facebook. Also, people who would like to park in the parking lot can tune their car radios to 91.3 to listen to services. Services are taped and are posted online afterwards.

## Auburn UMC church closes after 166 years

The congregation of Auburn United Methodist Church has passed a resolution to close. The church was founded in 1854, and Sunday, July 12 was the final worship service. The building will no longer be used until the Conference determines what to do with it.

## "POWER" Luncheon to be held at NOTO Arts Center

The August C5Alive "POWER" Luncheon will be held August 13, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at NOTO Arts Center, 935 N. Kansas Avenue.

Thomas Underwood, Executive Director of NOTO Arts District, will be the featured speaker at the luncheon. He will have an update of new additions and renovations in the NOTO Arts District.

The cost to attend the luncheon is \$10 for C5Alive members and first-time guests who RSVP, and \$12 at the door. Non-members and other guests pay \$15. C5 luncheons are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend, organizers said. RSVPs and inquiries can be sent to info@C5Alive.org.

"POWER" luncheons are held on the second Thursday of each month.

### EASTERFEST

C5Alive's big annual event, EasterFest, will take place on August 29 this year, having been postponed from the day before Easter as is usual. The Easter Parade will take place on N. Kansas Avenue from NOTO to

Garfield Park, and the Fun Fair will be held again in Garfield Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thousands attend this event every year. Dozens of churches, businesses and non-profits take part in the parade, and dozens more set up vendor booths and kids' games in the park as part of the family fun fair.

For more details stay tuned to the C5Alive facebook page and website: www.C5Alive.org.

C5Alive is an organization founded in 2009, dedicated to developing and uniting Christian Leadership in the community, involving businesses, non-profits and churches.

In addition to monthly "POWER" luncheons held on the second Thursday of each month, C5 also hosts periodic business fairs and other events.

C5 members may also sponsor luncheons and other events as a way to promote their organizations. For more information about C5, go to C5Alive.org, facebook.com/C5Alive, or call 785-640-6399.



Underwood



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# Kansas News Briefs from around the state

## Kansas Child Welfare Agency Declines to Release Records Related to 3-Year-Old Girl Who Died in KCK

BELLE PLAINE, Kan. (AP/KPR) - The state's child welfare agency has so far refused to release records about 3-year-old Olivia Ann Jansen. The Kansas City, Kansas, toddler's battered body was found earlier this month, covered in bruises. An autopsy indicates she died from bleeding in her brain. The Kansas Department for Children and Families is refusing to release records about the child despite a 2018 law aimed at making such documents more transparent. That law says the agency's documents are public records in the event child abuse or neglect results in a child fatality or near fatality. The Associated Press requested records related to the girl but the agency declined to release them, saying it's still investigating the girl's death. Olivia's remains were found in a shallow grave on July 10. The girl's father and his girlfriend are charged with murder. The girl's grandparents say they reported suspected abuse to the state. Investigators say the toddler's body was covered in bruises and that she died of a brain bleed. Her remains were discovered after her father, Howard Jansen III, reported her missing. The 29-year-old father and his girlfriend have since been charged with felony murder and other crimes.

## Searchers Find Body of Teenager Swept

## Away by Water in Kansas City Creek

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Searchers have found the body of a teenager who was swept away in the current of a Kansas City creek. The Kansas City Star reports that search crews found the body of 19-year-old Trevion McAfee Monday afternoon near a spot where he went under the water of Indian Creek. Investigators say McAfee had been with friends in the creek Sunday evening when he was caught by the creek's swift current, went under the water and didn't resurface. One of the friends with him told police they tried to help McAfee, but couldn't reach him. McAfee's family has said he couldn't swim.

## Topeka Man Charged in Fatal June Motorcycle Crash

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A 51-year-old Topeka man has been charged with unintentional but reckless second-degree murder and other counts for a June crash that killed a motorcyclist. The Capital-Journal reports that Tommy Lynn Sherrill Sr. was charged Tuesday in the June 30 crash that led to the death of 26-year-old motorcyclist Dylan Jay Hernandez. Hernandez died July 11 of complications from massive head trauma suffered when his motorcycle collided with a building at Topeka's municipal airport. Prosecutors say an investigation showed a truck was involved in causing the crash and that Sherrill had been driving the truck.

Sherrill was arrested July 22 and is being held in lieu of \$1 million bond.

## KSHSAA Won't Delay Fall Sports & Activities in Kansas

TOPEKA, Kan. (KNS) - The governing body of Kansas high school sports has decided against delaying fall sports and activities. The Kansas State High School Activities Association's staff recommended delaying football, soccer and volleyball and other sports until after Labor Day. But the association's board voted 5-4 Tuesday to instead start all practices and games on August 17th. Six states have decided not to hold any football this fall.

## Latest Round of Testing Reveals Zero COVID-19 Cases for KU Athletes, Coaches

LAWRENCE, Kan. (KPR) - There is some good news on the coronavirus front. The University of Kansas reports that there have been zero positive cases in its latest round of COVID-19 testing of student athletes. Tuesday night, Kansas Athletics released results from its most recent round of testing, which yielded zero positives in 156 tests of student athletes and coaches.

## Murder Suspect Arrested in Kansas City Through New Federal Law Enforcement Program

Mahomes was once a baseball prospect and was drafted by the Detroit Tigers in 2014. He says he loves the people of Kansas City and is excited to deepen his roots in the community. Mahomes's decision to focus on football certainly worked out for him, but his baseball ties run deep. His father Pat pitched in more than 300 big league games, mostly as a reliever.

## More Kansans Voting Early or by Mail Amid Virus Outbreak

TOPEKA, Kan. (KNS) - As of Tuesday afternoon, Kansas election officials had mailed out more than 300,000 mail-in ballots. That's more than six times as many in 2016. The ballots must be post-marked by August 4, primary election day. And Shawnee County assistant election officer Mark Stock says that makes it more likely election night results will change days later as counties receive those ballots in the mail. Kansas is one of 30 states that don't require citizens to have a reason to vote absentee.

—kansapublicradio.org

## IRS announces rollover relief for RMDs that were waived under the CARES Act

By Peggy Beasterfield  
Owner, Peggy's Tax and Accounting Service

The Internal Revenue Service announced that anyone who already took a required minimum distribution (RMD) in 2020 from certain retirement accounts now has the opportunity to roll those funds back into a retirement account following the CARES Act RMD waiver for 2020.



The 60-day rollover period for any RMDs already taken this year has been extended to Aug. 31, 2020, to give taxpayers time to take advantage of this opportunity.

The IRS described this change in Notice 2020-51, released 6-23-2020. The Notice also answers questions regarding the waiver of RMDs for 2020 under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, known as the

CARES Act.

The CARES Act enabled any taxpayer with an RMD due in 2020 from a defined-contribution retirement plan, including a 401(k) or 403(b) plan, or an IRA, to skip those RMDs this year. This includes anyone who turned age 70 1/2 in 2019 and would have had to take the first RMD by April 1, 2020. This waiver does not apply to defined-benefit plans.

In addition to the rollover opportunity, an IRA owner or beneficiary who has already received a distribution from an IRA of an amount that would have been an RMD in 2020 can repay the distribution to the IRA by Aug. 31, 2020. The notice provides that this repayment is not subject to the one rollover per 12-month period limitation and the restriction on rollovers for inherited IRAs.

The notice provides two sample amendments that employers may adopt to give plan participants and beneficiaries whose RMDs are waived a choice as to whether or not to receive the waived RMD.

## EasterFest on Track for New August Date

### Social distancing, COVID protocols to be observed

You may have noticed all the Hallmark Christmas movies showing in July, and if so, it may not be so hard to think about Easter in August. Therefore, the seventh annual EasterFest, the Topeka Easter Parade & Fun Fair, returning to North Topeka on Saturday, August 29, may be just what you need. Especially for all the kids who didn't get many Easter eggs in April.

After all, celebrating late is better than not at all!

"Christians celebrate the Resurrection in a small way every Sunday, so August is as good a time as any to have our big annual celebration," a spokesperson said.

Over three thousand people attended last year to watch the parade, visit the Fun Fair, listen to live music, visit over 70 vendor & food trucks, attend the Health Fair and take part in the big egg hunt or other activities.

Every year, dozens of churches, businesses and non-profit organizations take part in the parade, and dozens more set up vendor booths and kids' games as part of the family fun fair. There have been lots of floats with a variety of themes, and all shapes and sizes of other vehicles, as well as walking entries such as schools, military groups, marching bands and more.

One big difference this year will be Covid-19 protocols, including social distancing, hand sanitizer and masks as appropriate. People with symptoms are asked to stay home.

The event, which takes place from 10am to 3pm, is coordinated by C5Alive, a Christian leadership offshoot of the Capital City Christian Chamber of Commerce (C5).

Again this year the Easter Parade will be on North Kansas Avenue, from NOTO



Arts District to Garfield Park, followed by the Big Egg Hunt in the Garfield Park playground area. The Egg Hunt will be done a bit differently this year, with children going from booth to booth to get eggs from the vendors, instead of the mad rush in a concentrated area.

From 10am to 3pm, vendor booths, food trucks and kid's activities will be happening all over Garfield Park, inside the shelterhouse and inside the gym. This year, even more churches, non-profit organizations, schools and local businesses are expected to enter floats and marching bands, etc., in the parade, as well as set up activity booths at the fun fair.

The Family Fun Fair will consist of activities geared toward children and families, as well as health & wellness vendor booths, vendor exhibits, and more. Live performers will be on hand all day, such as jazz bands, dance troupes, praise bands, solo artists, street entertainers, fitness demonstrators and more.

Back this year at EasterFest is Bingo at the Vendor Market, with great prizes val-

ued at over \$20 donated by the vendors and sponsors. The Ball Toss will be back, with a chance to win a bicycle, and the ever-popular cake walk returns as well. The Easter Bunny will be back to take pictures with the kids this year too! Facepainting, pony rides, petting zoo and food trucks are always among the most popular attractions, as well as archery, bubble soccer and of course the free entertainment.

There is still room for more EasterFest sponsors and participants for the Vendor Market, Entertainment Stage, Food Court and Health Fair. Volunteers are also needed to help with the entire event.

Major sponsors for EasterFest 2020 include Integrity Insurance, Peggy Beasterfield Tax & Accounting, Metro Voice News, Carnival Guy, Solid Rock Sound Machine, rezit designs, Health & Wellness Magazine, The Pad Restaurant, Golden Eagle Casino and First Southern Baptist Church.

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# FINANCIAL PLANNING

## Teachable moments valuable at any age

Dear Dave,

A good friend of mine passed away recently. In his will, he left me a couple of items and some money, and I'd like to share the money with my son. He is 25, and a good kid, but he is still impulsive with his finances. Do you have any advice for handling this in a way that will do him the most good?

Frank

Dear Frank,

To be honest, I don't like the idea of just handing him money when you already know he's impulsive. I learned a long time ago that handing money to someone who's financially irresponsible is not a good idea. Lots of people think other folks would be fine, and all their problems would be solved, if they just had more money. That's not generally the case. You need to ask yourself if giving this young man a bunch of cash would really, truly help him. More than likely, the answer is no.

You obviously love this kid, and you've got a generous heart.

But under the circumstances, it might be a good idea to attach a few strings to any cash. Don't make him jump through a bunch of hoops for no reason, though. I'm talking about teachable moment-type things that will help train and educate him to handle his finances in a more responsible and productive way. There are lots of paths you could take. You might require that he start living on a written, monthly budget, that the two of you go over together for the first few months. Sitting down with a good financial coach—one with the heart of a teacher—is something you might consider throwing out there, as well.

In my mind, this approach is fair to everyone involved. It allows you to help him help himself, instead of just handing him something that may or may not be a blessing.

—Dave

### Combine finances?

Dear Dave,

Is it okay to combine finances



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

**davesays**

with someone and start working on a budget before you marry them? I just got engaged, and we've been talking about the idea of getting a head start on our finances together.

Autumn

Dear Autumn,

First, congratulations! I hope you two will have long and happy lives together. Now comes the hard part.

No, it's not a good idea to combine finances with anyone you're not married to. Don't get me wrong, I'm glad you two are thinking about your finances and your future—and I'd never wish anything bad for you—but all kinds of things can happen before you become husband and wife. What if you spend time paying off his debt, or vice versa, then the relationship doesn't work out?

However, this doesn't mean you can't begin working together on budgets for the future, and planning and dreaming about the goals you have together. The thing to keep in mind is you'll both need to be operating in full transparency mode to make it happen. He should know all about your income and debts, and you should know all about his. Along the way, you two need to have serious, regular discussions about saving, spending, and debt to ensure you're completely on the same page with your finances before the big day. There you go. My advice is both of you should pay only your own bills until after you're married. And remember, once that happens there's no yours and his anymore—it all becomes ours.

—Dave

### Self-insure?

Dear Dave,

I've been researching long-term care policies. Can you reach a point financially where you can self-insure long-term care needs, and not buy a long-term care insurance policy?

Paul

Dear Paul,

It's possible, mathematically speaking, if you have the

resources available to pay for the care you'd receive in a nursing home or similar facility for about 20 years. Not many folks have that kind of money, though. I think it's a large enough bill that it makes sense to transfer the risk to a long-term care insurance policy.

Keep in mind, too, if you're married you have to think about

your spouse, and make sure they have enough to live on comfortably at the same time. That's a lot of money. And that's why I advise virtually everyone to put good, long-term care coverage in place at age 59 or 60. It can mean the difference between living with dignity, or having to depend on the government!

—Dave

## Who's Gonna Pay for the 'Free' Lunch?

By Ryan Shumaker

Smartvestor Pro at The Retirement Team

The saying "there's no such thing as a free lunch" has been attributed to many people over the years. Someone must produce and someone



must pay for what we consume. There has to be food in order for there to be a lunch and once that food is consumed it is not available for anyone else to consume. While this seems like a fairly basic economic concept, it is one that seemingly continues to get relearned the hard way throughout history.

Recent economic data is showing an alarming disparity between supply and demand. Even with a huge drop in March and April, retail sales are actually 1.1% higher than they were a year ago after the equally huge rebound in May and June. In comparison production is still down nearly 11% from a year ago. How can we be buying more while making less? Simple: debt, much of it government debt. Debt that we will be repaying for decades.

During the worst of things in April and May, government transfer payments to individuals accounted for over 25% of all personal income. 25%! This increase from the 17% average we've seen over the previous 5 year is concerning. Prior to 2008 the average was only 14%. Most of the increase this go around was from stimulus payments and unemployment benefits. The increase in these two things has been so large they've actually more than offset the decline in wages and salaries thus far. While the \$600/week bonus unemployment ended last month, another round of stimulus checks look highly likely and some sort of other compromise to either extend the unemployment bonus and/or give back to work bonuses seems likely.

Typically whenever spending grows, but production does not it is not a great sign. Venezuela is a classic example of this where production dove and then money was printed to pay for 'lunch'. The only way you can spend more while making less is by producing more money from a printing press. This then reduces the value of the money we all use. This is the cost of the 'free' lunch.

So why aren't we seeing increasing inflation yet? After all, prices right now are on average only 0.6% higher than a year ago, well below the historical average for inflation. The personal savings rate is why. People so far are saving like never before. In March and April when government transfer payments accounted for over 25% of all income, the personal savings rate (the share of after-tax income that isn't spent on consumer goods and services) hit its all time highest level ever at 32.2%. Last year that num-

ber was only 7.9%. The next highest level ever was just over 17% in May of 1975, still significantly lower than what we've seen here recently. With people saving 4 times more than last year it has helped keep inflation in check as that money is not being spent. If you print a lot of money, but it's just sitting in a bank going uncirculated it's the same as if it didn't exist. At some point in time it's not going to continue to just sit there and that's where problems could start to arise.

The other thing helping (temporarily) keep inflation down is inventory reduction. You can spend more than you make if you have inventories to deplete. Just like the pantry at home, though, once depleted you must resupply if you want to continue having lunches. This is where we are at right now. Don't expect hyperinflation like Venezuela, but do expect inflation to pick up steam.

Inflation and future tax hikes are going to be how we pay for the 'free lunch' the government is handing out through all of the Coronavirus related stimulus packages. Both of these things need to be accounted for in any investment or retirement plan. Being too conservative can backfire just like being too aggressive if what you're making after taxes is already less than inflation (which historically has averaged 2.9%). Insult will be added to injury when taxes inevitably increase further reducing what you make. Every investment has some sort of risk and the big risk to being too conservative is inflation.

A good retirement and investment plan shouldn't be too cold (conservative) or too hot (aggressive), but rather just right. Going too extreme might help eliminate one risk, but create a monster out of another. It is important to keep this in mind and not let emotion rule your financial decision making at a time it is rather easy to. If you're interested in finding out what might be the 'just right' combination for your situation our firm is scheduling new client meetings via phone, video conferencing, or in person.

Material discussed is meant for general/informational purposes and is not intended to be used as the sole basis for any financial decisions, nor be construed as advice to meet your particular needs. Please consult a financial professional for further information.

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# opinion

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## Will Believers Continue to Sit Back and Just Take This Cultural Upheaval?

"There are bound to be tens of millions of Americans watching these atrocities, watching their country being seized from them by anarchists, racists, children of the professional class and their cowardly, self-hating parents," writes Rod Dreher in *The American Conservative*.

"They're watching while cities burn, and the police stand down. They are watching their fathers—the fathers of their country—spat on by the mobs of demons. They are not going to sit back and take this forever. Something is coming."

Founded on the principle of self-evidence, the truth of the latter assertion quite literally goes without saying. It is reflected in Sir Isaac Newton's third law of motion, formulated in his work *Principia Mathematica Philosophiæ Naturalis* of 1687, that for every action [force] in nature there is an equal and opposite reaction.

Something bigger than George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks and Abraham Lincoln is going on in America, made plain by the defacing of the Lincoln Memorial last week, a monument built in honor of a president who fought to free 19th-century blacks from the sin of racism. It was none other than Abraham Lincoln himself who "issued the Emancipation Proclamation, and [then] fought for the constitutional amendments that codified freedom for African Americans [into law]."

It would be most revealing to find out what a random sampling of everyday African American moms and pops thinks of the mindless malcontents, radical

racists and ne'er-do-well nihilists destroying and defacing the nation. Contrary to what the mass media would lead us to expect, these coordinated incidents nationwide, backed by massive funding, which includes pallets of bricks dropped the night before on protest routes, may well drive African American voters in November back to the party of Lincoln ...

Proverbs 2:12-15 offers a recipe for dealing with the infernal insurrection targeting American cities. Solomon advised that spiritual wisdom, biblical knowledge, discernment and good sense will "deliver you from the way of the evil man, from the man who speaks perverse things, from those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness; who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the perversity of the wicked; whose ways are crooked, and who are devious in their paths."

Jewish Hebrew scholar Michael V. Fox adds that "the wicked not only do evil for the sake of its supposed rewards, they positively enjoy it." Presenting a psychological insight into the proclivities of the wicked currently fanned out across America's cities, Proverbs 4:16 reads: "For they do not sleep unless they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away unless they cause some to fall."

"The wicked," stresses Dr. Fox, "have a need to cause harm; their 'peace of mind' depends upon it."

There is the danger of becoming so accustomed to living with vice, even regarding it as legitimate or virtuous, that we forget how perniciously malignant it is.



As to the seductiveness of sin, Alexander Pope [1688-1744], England's foremost poet of the early 18th century and second only to Shakespeare as the most quoted writer in the English language, explains how easily man is drawn to it: "Vice is a monster of so frightful mien, As to be hated needs but to be seen; Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face, We must first endure, then pity, then embrace."

So what do we do? Tucker Carlson reached his conclusion here:

"Our Republican leaders don't believe they have the authority [to confront the mob], they don't believe they're legitimate. They don't see the threat, they don't want to see the threat because they know that they can't face the mob."

"They know that they're too weak. And so they offer trinkets and hope that the mob will go away. But it won't. Mobs can't be sated."

"We thought Republicans understood that; that's why we supported them. But

crisis has revealed the truth, now we know who they are, it could not be clearer, and now it's time to find new leaders."

We would take Tucker Carlson's counsel one step further.

The fleeing from the showdown with those violating and defiling our country by Chief Justice John Roberts and newly minted Justice Neil Gorsuch has exposed a chasm of immeasurable depth between current Republican milquetoast leaders and Republican social movement conservatives.

Daniel Horowitz, senior editor of *Conservative Review*, cuts to the chase: "It is impossible to comprehend how much damage the Supreme Court has done to our values, society, sovereignty, rule of law and self-governance since the Warren Era. Now hold that thought and consider that 20 of 28 justices since 1952 were nominated by GOP presidents."

What's being described in political

■ Please see CULTURE page 7

## DOES OBEDIENCE TO GOD MATTER?



**CLINT DECKER**

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

**hopefortoday**

Often I engage with people in conversations about God and the Bible. Many times I do not know where they stand with God until we begin talking. More often than not, I hear "I believe in God," "I pray," "I've asked for forgiveness," "I've been baptized," or even "Jesus is my Savior and Lord." Yet, in the midst of these religious professions I have noticed a glaring problem. There is a wide chasm between their profession and daily lifestyle. The two do not line up. When I observe this and ask a question like, "It's wonderful you state that Jesus is your Savior and Lord. Do you obey Him?" Then I hear the sound of crickets. Somehow, somehow, they have been exposed to a teaching that tells them obedience to God does not matter. They have been taught that if they get all the right religious professions down and throw in a few important religious duties along with that, then God's grace will cover them and their home in heaven is certain. Is this true?

Within days of Jesus' death and resurrection, He was spending time with His disciples teaching them, preparing them for what was to come. He stressed the importance of obedience to Him saying four times, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments . . ."; "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me," "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word . . ."; "Whoever does not love me does not keep my words" (John 14:15,21,23,24).

Jesus, the Master Teacher, was emphasizing an absolutely essential truth in the Christian life – obedience to God matters. Notice the kind of obedience Jesus talked about was not mere rule keeping. It was an obedience that springs from a heart of love for Christ. Not a romantic love that is just feeling, but a love that is rational, deliberate, sacrificing and willing to lay down its life in suffering and death for Him if necessary, just like Jesus modeled through the cross. In addition to the obedience question, a good follow up is, "Again you said Jesus is your Savior and Lord . . ., but do you love Him?"

Our worship music sings about the love of God, exempt from a life of obedience to Him. Our evangelism proclaims the love of God in Christ inviting people to pray and make professions, rather than calling them to take up their cross and obey the gospel's challenging call of repentance from sin. Our churches teach the love of God through biblical principles, keys and steps to be



followed in order to live a better life, rather than biblical commands to be obeyed in order to live a holy life.

The church has created a whole generation of followers of Christ that elevate professions and feelings above the way of the cross, which is rooted in a sacrificial love that is demonstrated in daily obedience to the Word of God and the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

What I am writing about is so important. Eternal souls are at stake. Everyone one of us is heading toward an appointment with God our Creator. Judgement Day. This should instill a healthy fear of God, and sense of accountability within each of us. As the Lord Jesus will one day examine us, are we just going to be offering profession after profession? Jesus predicts this will actually happen though. He once said people will come to Him on that day and say, "Lord, Lord" and he will reply, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord' and not do what I tell you?" (Luke 6:46)

Obedience is non-negotiable. It is a must! It is an expression of saving faith and love toward Christ, who obeyed His own Father and gave all for Him. Let us follow the example of Jesus. And let us begin by obeying the call to repentance, to turn from what we know is wrong and to God with all our heart.

A prayer for you - "Lord God, help us as pastors, evangelists, missionaries and all believers to take your call to obedience seriously. Help us to go beyond teaching professions and principles to teaching obedience to the King of Kings. And may all believers everywhere humble themselves before your Word no matter the cost. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Clint Decker is President of Great Awakenings. Hope for Today is a nationally syndicated column.

If God used one of Clint's columns to impact your life, share your story at [cdecker@greatawakenings.org](mailto:cdecker@greatawakenings.org).

# The Facts and the Timeline of the Covid-19 “pandemic”

By George Ismael Feliu

Fear grips the masses. Thanks to the misinformation spread by the Media, the bureaucrats of the CDC, and politicians, a majority of people don't know what the truth is about what is going on. I began my research on the Covid-19 late February and found countless cases of misinformation and now outright lying. I was shocked to find whole websites scrubbed of previous information that was readily available and replaced with what can only be called propaganda.

The following is a brief summary. The actual amount of truth could fill several volumes of books. I hope this timeline informs you and helps you combat the ignorance and the lies and perhaps free people from the prison of fear.

*“Truth crushed to earth shall rise again.”* William Cullen Bryant.

1. Covid viruses have existed for as long as viruses have existed. You could say that they are as “common as the cold.”

2. China was doing research on Covid-19 in the Wuhan district.

3. There was a Covid-19 outbreak in November 2019 in Wuhan. While it is believed that the citizens of Wuhan caught the virus by eating raw bats, it is possible that the virus may have been released on the general population by the lab and therefore the Chinese Government.

4. Covid-19 is called such because it was the prevalent Covid virus of 2019. There are that many Covid viruses all around the world.

5. China silences the news of the virus outbreak.

6. The WHO (the World Health Organization) parroted Chinese propaganda concerning the virus.

7. December 2019 is the probable time (there may be evidence as early as November) that Covid-19 hit American shores on the West Coast and began its spread throughout the continent. No American is afraid of the Covid-19 virus yet.

8. December 2019 - January 2020: California is hit with a mystery virus that does not test as the flu which affects the respiratory system. It is now believed this was Covid-19. It all spreads through much of the Midwest with little fanfare. Meanwhile the House votes to impeach Trump in December but fails to complete impeachment in political grandstanding of the highest order until mid-January.

9. January 2020: Trump tries to ban all



travel to and from China due to Covid-19. Media and Democrat Party paint Trump as a racist for these actions as well as accuse him of trying to deflect America's attention from his impeachment. Dr. Fauci comes out and states that the Covid-19 virus is less deadly than the flu. Also first known case of an American with Covid-19 which has a two week dormant period before acting.

10. Trump reelection likely due to no President ever losing reelection with such a roaring economy. Impeachment was Left's final hope.

11. February 2020: impeachment fails in Senate due to lack of evidence and even proof of a crime although the House wanted the Senate to do its job. Within 2 weeks after Trump acquittal, Covid-19 becomes the headline. Models, anonymously from Great Britain, come out predicting massive death. We now know the creator of the models is the same man who created a model predicting the swine flu to be 600 times more deadly than it actually was. Media begins 24/7 campaign of fearmongering, despite only 20% of those infected feeling symptoms and less than 1% suffering from severe to deadly.

12. Feb 2020: Asian country states that Hydroxychloroquine, a cure for malaria and treatment for lupus, combats Covid-19 successfully.

13. Feb-March 2020: CDC accepts models as accurate despite their own numbers that they publish on their websites and John Hopkins University disagreeing with the model numbers. The numbers state that Covid-19 is half as deadly as the flu while CDC proclaims Covid-19 to be 10 times more deadly. Trump blocks travel to Europe and is attacked as being a racist. Democrat Politicians encourage people to ignore President and party. Dr. Fauci and CDC reiterate what studies have shown for over a decade including one in 2020 that wear-

ing a mask if not ill is dangerous to your health and encourage people not to wear masks.

14. March 2020: Governor Kelly of Kansas suspends school for the rest of school year. Soon other governors follow despite the statistics showing that children are least affected by Covid-19.

15. Mid-March 2020: Trump touts that Hydroxychloroquine successfully combats Covid-19. The Media, the Democrats, and Dr. Fauci are quick to put down that idea mainly because Trump said it despite growing evidence that it does work, thus condemning many to die. One Democrat in Michigan does take treatment, lives, and praises Trump for his tout.

16. March-April 2020: Governor Cuomo as well as several other Democrat governors force infected elderly into nursing homes escalating the death toll numbers exponentially. Social Distancing (something the scientific community mocked as pseudoscience up until March of 2020) rules are put in place after Trump declares a pandemic. Many churches shut down voluntarily while others are forced to shut down by mayors and in some cases governors despite the Constitution stating it illegal “prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” NYC Mayor also targets synagogues. Economy is put on pause by state and local government imposing socialism by deciding which businesses are essential and nonessential sending many to the unemployment lines.

17. March-April 2020: NYC hit hardest due to Cuomo decreasing public transportation, forcing more people to cram into less vehicles. Cuomo says his hospitals are overrun despite them being just full. Hospital tents are set, Javits' Center is converted, and a ship is sent to deal with overflow and are barely used. Cuomo demands more respirators, despite the

fact that being placed on a respirator is practically a death sentence and Cuomo sold most of the state respirators earlier because he felt they did not need them. Hospitals all across America are encouraged to mark each death as a Covid death by the CDC, and by a financial payout for each Covid death. Models proven wrong.

18. Early April: the Covid-19 fatalities peak, despite, for several weeks more, Fauci and the CDC promising that the peek will happen within the next two weeks. Millions are pushed into poverty which has a higher mortality rate, 4-7%, than the proclaimed 2% mortality of Covid-19 by the CDC and Dr. Fauci with addition of deaths by depression and child abuse. New models are still wrong as Covid-19 mortality rate is shown to be 10 times less deadly than Flu at 0.02%. Economy has been tanked by state and local government.

19. Mid-April: Protest begin for reopening. No massive increase of infections occur despite a majority of Americans not wearing masks nor were there riots.

20. Late April-Early May: Fauci and the CDC do a 180 on masks, proclaiming that they have been lying about wearing a mask for over a decade so that doctors would not run out of masks. They suggest all Americans wear mask now to prevent the spread of Covid-19 despite the FDA warnings on the masks packages that say it will not prevent the spread of viruses only bacteria. Websites are purged of all information proclaiming the dangers of wearing masks such as but not limited to hypoxia and hypoxemia. States begin to open. No new big breakouts of the virus happen.

21. May-June 2020: Economy begins rapid recovery. Testing for Covid-19 increases exponentially. Media tries to create new mass hysteria over murder hornets but fail. Democrats try to clamp down in their cities and states but more people disobey tyrannical orders. May 25, George Floyd was murdered by a former co-worker which everyone agreed upon was wrong, but the left (specifically BLM, the Media, and politicians) capitalized on it causing riots across the nation and the destruction of private parties and deaths of many police officers as well as black lives at the hands of Antifa and BLM. Medical Media personalities approve protest and say not to worry about social distancing nor wearing masks. The protest were more important.

22. June 2020: The WHO announces

that asymptomatic people (over 80% of infected) rarely if at all transmit the disease. This is damaging to the push for wearing masks as well as much of the draconian measures enacted and promoted by the CDC and WHO, so the WHO retracts statement without explanation a day later. Data from countries and states who did not shut down show that their numbers are comparable to countries and states that did shut down if not lower (ex. Sweden, Japan, South Dakota, Oklahoma, etc.) Mexico has a breakout of Covid-19. Many illegals travel north to the Border States. Testing increases.

23. June-July 2020: States begin enforcing statewide masks mandates although BLM protesters are exempt. End of June sees record positive tests for Covid-19. Media fails to mention the possibility of BLM protests spreading it, the infected illegal aliens in the Border States, the increase in testing, and that many of the positive tests are derived from those testing positive with antibodies (people who have had Covid-19 and were either asymptomatic or recovered from the virus as well as the common cold because Covid-19 is a strain of the cold virus), tainted testing, and falsifying positive tests (ex. Many testing sites, if they had one positive test in a group of fifteen, would say that all fifteen tested positive.)

24. July 2020: The Major Box stores capitalize on the false number and new panic to institute mandatory mask wearing with the intent of getting more of their customers to order online and decrease labor costs.

25. There are no major scientific studies that prove that mask wearing prevents the spread of any virus let alone Covid-19. In fact, the opposite is true. The media silences anyone who contradicts the narratives and politicians pursue legal means to silence any medical professional who openly speaks against the wearing of masks due to its danger. Wearing masks decreases the oxygen intake which kills brain cells and slows down the thought processes making people more malleable to control. The CDC has models. Models are easily fabricated, ex. no model has been right about the Covid-19 spread and fatality.

26. July 2020: Dr. Fauci praises Cuomo's handling of Covid-19 revealing that the pretense of being apolitical is a farce. Fauci's call for more totalitarian measures show not only that he is part of the deep state, but that he is in fact a major player.

## CULTURE

continued from page 6

parlance is the faintly visible footprint in the culture of American Christendom over the last 100 years. “Politicians are actors performing a script that is written by the audience.” In these words the American political theorist, moralist and the father of American conservatism, Russell Amos Kirk [1918-1994] outlined the political reality of modern Christendom in being vanquished from the public square and culture.

The audience controls the stage and Christians are nowhere to be found.

In short, there are very real consequences to having allowed secularists—

those in rebellion against God—to imbue the minds of America's youth with their profane propaganda for the last 75 years. Their devotees and descendants now control every cultural lever of power and influence in the nation, as well as making up the majority of secularized, indoctrinated U.S. Supreme Court Justices and Courts of Appeals judges.

The best and brightest of the Federalist Society—that is, the “conservative list” assembled for the president to review for future judicial picks—has left the movement conservatives in the lurch. As fully befitting the word “conservative,” the “list” ought to give preference to judges who have served as law clerks to Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas or Sam

Alito.

Contemporary Christendom's emphasis on butts, budgets and buildings, while the culture falls apart, has all the appearances of “having a form of godliness but denying its power.” Jesus' ekklesia must be moved out of the building into the marketplace if America is to survive.

Christians have to take their game to the next level. Preaching, orating and lecturing are not denominations of political currency, in contrast to how many votes can be brought to the table. In addition, prayer should be restored.

Still, it's not too late for Gideons and Rahabs to start entering the public square.

—David Lane is the founder of the American Renewal Project.

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## Oldest church bell in Kansas rings again over downtown Lawrence

One of the oldest church bells in Kansas will ring-out over downtown Lawrence once again.

The bell, a 150-year-old ringer as old as the Lawrence United Methodist congregation itself, was taken down for restoration nearly a year ago.

"We had planned a big block party," Marc Ridenour said as the 1,500 pounds of brass was hoisted to its resting place.

It wasn't quite the celebration they'd hoped for. The pandemic meant only a handful of members could watch the ascension.

"COVID hit and it took everything back. So we're excited to be here," Deb Rukes said.

It took a crew of specialists from Kentucky to make sure it went smoothly.

Restoring the bell is part of a larger renovation project at the church. They've also been fixing up the stonework on the towers and remodeling the sanctuary during the pandemic.

"Before it had been held together by baling wire and mending strap," Ridenour said.

The church, designed by John G. Haskell and constructed in 1889, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Haskell also designed the

Douglas County Courthouse, which was built with limestone from the same quarry, and the English Lutheran Church at 1040 New Hampshire St.

The bell was shipped to the Verdin Company in Cincinnati for refurbishing. The roof on the two towers was replaced with Vermont slate. Along with repainting the original stone, the iron railings around one tower were rebuilt.



"We are doing a historically accurate restoration and hopefully making it last for the next 100 years," Ridenour said.

The "A flat" bell is rung, by a long rope, at 10:20 a.m. every Sunday and can be heard throughout the neighborhood.

"It has a wonderful tone," Yelin said.

A tone to echo through town for perhaps another century.

## Author of beloved hymn 'Amazing Grace' overcame racist past

You've likely heard the famous hymn "Amazing Grace." People the world over love the song. It's been sung at countless memorial services, civil rights events, and churches. Recently, people in 50 different coronavirus-affected nations sang it together in an inspiring video: "Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see."

The writer of these words helped to abolish the slave trade, but were you aware of his racist past? I thought for a long time that I knew his real story, but I didn't. It holds valuable lessons for today's racial turmoil.

### Surprising twists

John Newton was an 18th-century British slave trader who had a dramatic faith experience during a storm at sea. He eventually left the slave trade, became a pastor, and wrote hymns, but there are some surprising twists: Newton only became a slave ship captain after finding faith in Jesus. And he left slave trading not for spiritual reasons but for health. Consider the rest of the story.

A self-described "free-thinking" rationalist, Newton negotiated with African chiefs to obtain slaves and even raped female slaves. He called himself a terrible "blasphemer" and embraced his self-identification as one who rejected God completely. But then, as Forrest Gump might say, God showed up.

A violent storm flooded his ship with water. Fearing for his life, he soon "began to think of ... Jesus whom I had so often derided ... of His life and of His death ... for sins not His own, but for those who in their distress should put their trust in Him."

In the coming days, he became convinced that Jesus's message was true. "I was no longer an atheist," he wrote. "I was sincerely touched with a sense of undeserved mercy in being brought safe through so many dangers. ... I was a new man."

### Blind spots

Yet Newton saw no immediate conflict between slavery and his new beliefs. As a slave ship captain, he even held onboard Sunday worship services for his crew. Newton was still a work in progress.

Slavery was generally accepted as a pillar of the British economy, and for many years, few spoke against it. Newton biographer Jonathan Aitken observes that in 1751, Newton's spiritual con-



science "was at least 20 years away from waking up to the realization that the Christian gospel and human slavery were irreconcilable."

A mysterious illness eventually ended his seafaring career. He then became a pastor and significantly influenced a young member of Parliament, who would go on help rescue an exploited people and a nation's moral conscience. That man was William Wilberforce.

### Abolishing the slave trade

A rising political star, Wilberforce considered leaving Parliament for the ministry. In 1785, he sought counsel from Newton, who advised Wilberforce to remain in Parliament and became his mentor. An arduous 20-year effort to abolish the slave trade ensued.

In 1788, Newton declared in his widely circulated pamphlet, *Thoughts Upon the African Slave Trade*, "I hope it will always be a subject of humiliating reflection to me that I was once an active instrument in a business at which my heart now shudders." Abolitionists sent copies to all members of Parliament.

Newton testified before important parliamentary committees describing chains, overcrowded quarters, separated families, sexual exploitation, flogging, beating, and butchering. The slaver, once

blind to his own moral hypocrisy, now could see. Aitken says of it all, "Newton's testimony was of vital importance in converting public opinion to the abolitionist cause."

### Heading home

In early 1807, Britain outlawed the slave trade. Following Newton's death on December 21 of that year, his gravestone bore his self-written epitaph: "John Newton: Once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa was by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ preserved, restored, pardoned and appointed to preach the faith he had long laboured to destroy."

As for today's racial struggles, the implications of Newton's life are numerous: Racist laws and practices can be changed; faith, properly applied, can help significantly; moral maturation takes time; people have blind spots; humility helps.

Lessons for today's struggles? Racist laws and practices can be changed. Faith, properly applied, can help significantly. Moral maturation can take time. People have blind spots. Humility helps.

Ultimately, we are all works in progress.

—Rusty Wright is an author and lecturer who has spoken on six continents. His film reviews and columns have been published by newspapers across the country and used by more than 2,000 websites.

## New website becomes Online Farmer's Market for Kansans

In 2020, life has changed for both the farmer and the consumer. KSGrown.com was developed earlier this year out of a need to help both producers and consumers, to facilitate a direct Farm to Table experience. KSGrown.com has now become USAfarmtotable.com. The website features products that are raised and produced locally in the USA: beef, bison/buffalo, dairy, fruits & vegetables, lamb, pork, poultry & eggs, specialty meats, honey and more.

USAfarmtotable.com functions like an online farmer's market. The purpose of the website is to connect consumers with farmers/producers. The design of the website makes it simple to use to find the meat, produce and other specialty products that are made or grown right here in Kansas. By connecting the consumer directly to the farmer/producer, KSGrown.com has shortened the supply chain and gives the consumer better nutritious options and is helping to keep the prices reasonable for the family's food budget.



On USAfarmtotable.com, you can find what you are looking for by using the searchable database. Use your zip code to find the farms nearest your home to shop for all the usual farmers market goods, plus specialty items like gluten-free wheat, goat soap, live animals and more.

The new online farmers market was developed when two farm friends decided to do something about helping connect the dots directly between farm and table: Dr. Jeff Van Petten, a veterinarian at Meriden Animal Hospital in Meriden, KS, and Scott Perkins, the pastor of Heritage Country Cowboy Church in Scranton, KS. Both were raised on a farm and have a heart for the Kansas producer/farmer.

If you are in the market to buy or sell locally grown and produced products, visit the website for more information.

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# Shawnee County accepts ownership of Great Overland Station

Shawnee County Commissioners voted this week to accept a transfer of ownership of the Great Overland Station from Railroad Heritage, Inc.(RHI), to Shawnee County for the sum of \$1. Great Overland Station, a building valued at more than \$5 million, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Union Pacific Railroad Passenger Depot. Built in 1927 as the Union Pacific Railroad Station, Great Overland Station now serves as a museum celebrating Topeka's rich history as well as a special event and meeting venue. The venue will be operated by Shawnee County Parks + Recreation (SCP+R).



"We'll take a look at Great Overland Station with a fresh set of eyes," said Tim Laurent, SCP+R director. "We'll look at what has worked well in the past as well as

venue option.

Railroad Heritage, Inc. has owned, restored and operated Great Overland Station, the All Veterans Memorial/Corridor of Flags/BSNF Plaza, the Railroad Park, parking lots, office/warehouse building, permanent exhibits and artifacts owned by RHI since 1998 and has invested \$7 million in capital funding for restoration/preservation of the properties. The Great Overland Station Museum had its grand opening in 2004. Designed by noted architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood, the station has hosted myriad celebrations while showcasing railroad heritage and other significant community history through exhibits, programs and tours.

Bob St. John, chairman of the Board of Trustees of Railroad Heritage, Inc., said, "Railroad Heritage believes that donation of this property provides an ideal opportunity for the County to acquire a historic community asset valued at more than \$5 million, and will also enhance the opportunity for the County to

exploring new opportunities to serve the community."

Laurent noted that SCP+R already has a number of wedding



riverfront park, it was natural for Great Overland Station to be operated by Shawnee County Parks + Recreation," said Commissioner, Bill Riphahn. "We would like to continue and enhance our business relationships with the NOTO Arts District on Kansas Ave."

Visitors to the museum can learn about area railroads including the Santa Fe/BNSF, Union Pacific, Rock Island, Missouri Pacific and Missouri-Kansas-Texas railroad. They can learn about the history of the site from the Oregon Trail, Pappan's Ferry crossing, and the birthplace of U.S. Vice President Charles Curtis. The BNSF Plaza includes the Corridor of Flags and All Veterans Memorial honoring our nation's veterans and active military.



reception, event venues and rental facilities, now Great Overland Station will provide yet another

develop plans created by the National Park Service for an Oregon Trail themed Riverfront Park."

Beth Fager of RHI added, "RHI has been pleased to make this investment to enrich our community. This transfer of ownership ensures the continued preservation and operation of Great Overland Station." She adds that RHI is also gratified to see the Great Overland Station serve as a catalyst to the development of the NOTO Arts District, Topeka's dynamic core, and the National Park Service Oregon Trail Park plans.



# Public input is sought on the design of Family Park

Shawnee County Parks + Recreation has contracted with HTK Architects to develop concepts for a plan for Family Park. The proposed new park would reside in the green space between Midwest Health Aquatic Center and Cypress Ridge Golf Course along Urish Road south of SW 21st Street.

Step one is asking the public to complete an online survey. There will also be "pop up" public engagement opportunities. The first is set for 2-4 p.m. Aug. 5 at the entrance of Midwest Health Aquatic Center, 2201 SW Urish Rd.

"While we work to maintain the park and recreation assets we presently manage, we must also provide recreational opportunities to the growing areas of our community," said Tim Laurent, SCP+R director, adding, "Growth in parks and recreation has not kept pace with the growth in western Shawnee County."

HTK Architects has partnered with Cook, Flatt and Strobel engineers and Landworks Studio of Olathe on the project. The team will take public input, develop concepts and present them to the public for additional input, refine the concepts and then present final design con-

cepts by the end of the year.

"A critical component of the planning process is gathering public and stakeholder input concerning potential passive and active recreational opportunities in Family Park," said Zach Snethen, principal of HTK Architects.

The survey will seek input on the types of amenities and features the public would like to see in the park. The design team also plans to present to the SCP+R Advisory Board to gain the board's input. A second survey in October will seek feedback on the plan under development and will help guide the team's development of concept options for development of the park. A final plan, project budget and implementation strategies will be considered in early December.

Initial plans called for Family Park to include 20 new pickleball courts, trails, picnic tables, playground equipment, restrooms, lockers and a building featuring meeting rooms. Other ideas have included a two-story rec center and clubhouse with a basketball gym, driving range and more.

The survey can be accessed online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/familypark>.



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# Chinese police break in, arrest Christians, then destroy homes

Chinese Christians are not safe worshipping in their own homes as Communist officials begin brutal campaign to destroy their dwellings.

International Christian Concern (ICC) reported this week that local Communist authorities descended on Xingguang Church in China's Xiamen city in Fujian province for further demolition of Christian homes in conjunction to the church.

A month after local authorities brought in more than 100 officers from four different agencies to demolish Xingguang Church on June 11, dozens of security guards and officers from the local Ethnic and Religious Bureau returned to demolish the remaining homes within the residential building, where the church also once stood.

In a series of terrifying videos shared by preacher Yang Xibo from another highly persecuted church, Xunsiding Church, dozens of chengguan, or Urban Management Law Enforcement officials, were seen marching toward the remaining homes that were not taken down dur-



ing the June operation.

In Yang's Facebook post, he mentioned that the developer initially sold these units with the selling point that the six-meter tall loft could be divided into two floors, which also received local government's approval.

"Yet the government and dirty [cops] are barbaric to bypass all the regular administrative law enforcement procedure and forcibly demolish [the homes]. The main reason behind their action is to

prevent anybody from gathering here again (although since the last demolition, no one has gathered here)," he continued.

Without proper documentation or notification, the Chinese authorities broke into a Christian's home despite the resident's resistance. The 67-year-old woman was soon shuffled off by dozens of uniformed chengguan, some equipped with anti-riot shields.

Other Christians at the scene who were trying to intervene were blocked at the

stairs and prevented from moving further. When they questioned the authorities why they illegally entered private property and demolished people's residence, they were met with silence.

Police brought in gasoline generators to power sledge hammers. So violent was the demolition that the floor was destroyed, caving in to the demolished apartment below. The entire episode was captured on videos available on the pastor's Facebook page.

The demolition team then destroyed the flooring between the two floors, before removing personal items from the home. A policeman who was called in by the Christians prohibited anyone from recording, claiming that his job was to make sure the demolition proceeded smoothly.

Xingguang Church and homes were first raided on April 19 by government staffers from five different departments, followed by a violent raid on May 3, where many members were injured and some were briefly detained. The church's preacher, Titus Yu, recently filed a com-

plaint pursuant to China's Supervision Law against three officials for their abuse of power and illegal intrusion of personal property. No response has been given.

China Aid also reports that on July 7, lawyer Li Guisheng was treated poorly by the Jimei District authorities when he submitted relevant evidence for this case. He had no way of knowing whether or not this case would be accepted or when he can expect a response.

Gina Goh, ICC's Regional Manager for Southeast Asia, said, "For the Chinese government to frantically persecute Christians even after their churches were shut down shows how Beijing has no interest in respecting religious freedom. What the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) does not understand is that Christianity will not be wiped out just because the buildings no longer stand. The more the government erodes the rights of Chinese citizens, the more enemies it creates within its territories. One day, this pressure cooker will explode, threatening the CCP regime, the exact endgame it is fearful of."

## Genocide in Nigeria: Calling it what it is, calling for it to end

In terms of lives lost, families separated, people imprisoned, and churches shut down, the 21st century has, so far, been the worst period of persecution against Christians in recorded history. Among the hottest of persecution hot-spots is Nigeria. According to religious freedom watchdog Open Doors USA, Nigeria ranks at #12 worldwide for persecution of Christians. It's heading towards genocide.

Islamic terrorist organization Boko Haram is the known villain in Nigeria, and justifiably so. They are among the most brutal Islamist radical terror groups in the world. Just last week, attacks in northeastern Nigeria by a Boko Haram splinter-group left dozens of soldiers and civilians dead. Back in January, the group beheaded Nigerian pastor Lawan Andimi. Kidnapped from his village and forced to negotiate for his release with the government, Andimi wouldn't break.

Still, as bad as Boko Haram is, much of the recent bloodshed in Nigeria has been perpetrated by militant Hausa-Fulani herdsmen. This largely Muslim ethnic group specializes in night raids on Christian villages in Nigeria's Middle Belt. In a statement last June, Nigerian Christian leaders claimed that "over 6,000 persons—mostly children, women and the aged—[have been] maimed and killed in night raids by armed Fulani herdsmen." They also described the "continuous abduction of under-aged Christian girls by Muslim youths" for forced marriages.

According to Open Doors, these attacks are essentially "religious cleansing," attempts "to eradicate

Christianity" from the region. According to Nigerian Christians the more appropriate word is genocide.

The term fits. As I pointed out last March, genocide has been carefully defined by the International Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide, and the word should not be tossed around carelessly. Genocide is action intended to destroy in whole or in part "a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group."

Clearly, genocide is what Boko Haram and the Fulani herdsmen are after in Nigeria. Nigerian president Muhammadu Buhari, however, denies this. In a recently issued statement, he insisted that "false allegations of persecution of Christians" are "a most misleading campaign." President Buhari, by the way, is the son of a Fulani chief.

Thankfully, there are international voices taking the plight of Nigerian Christians and the growing genocide seriously. The U.K. Parliament released a report putting the G-word front and center. Entitled, "Nigeria: Unfolding Genocide?" the report issues a stirring call to Britain and the world "to speak out on behalf of all the survivors and victims of violence," and "to highlight the seriousness of the situation and the level of injustice that Nigerian Christians face."

Describing the report in Forbes (and by the way, good for Forbes for covering this story), one human rights activist called for "comprehensive investigations and prosecutions" by bodies like the International Criminal Court. But, she insisted, the first step has to be

that the world admits "the nature and severity of the atrocities. The crimes must be recognized for what they are and 'a most misleading campaign' is not that name."

The U.S. must lead the way. Earlier this month, an executive order by President Trump made religious freedom a foreign policy and national security priority. It's

now time to make act on those words. Nigerian Christians can't afford to wait.

Besides calling this crisis what it is, a genocide, the U.S. could ease the process for asylum-seekers and immigrants from Nigeria. Nigeria was among the six countries President Trump added to the travel and immigration ban in

February and, currently, Nigerian refugees hoping to flee to the United States must prove their need by submitting an exhaustive stack of paperwork. Those in danger should not have to go to so much trouble to demonstrate what the world should already know.

—Breakpoint

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# China kidnapping Christian children, threatening parents with forced labor

China is now kidnapping children from Christian parents. The actions are part of an increased campaign of terror waged on China's Christian minority. Human rights activists and church members say parents are told the children will be sent to forced labor camps unless they renounce their faith.

The news comes as the Trump administration ramps up pressure on China to stop the persecution campaign against Christians and the minority Muslim Uyghur population.

In a video released last week as part of a new report by International Christian Concern, Liao Qiang, a member of Early Rain Covenant Church in Chengdu, said that despite shuttering the church and jailing Pastor Wang Yi in December of 2018, the Chinese Communist Party continues to harass its members.

Qiang said in the video accompanying ICC's new report on Religious Suppression in China that his family was forced to leave China and flee to Democratic Taiwan with his extended family "because the Chinese Communist Party is limitless in its persecution."

"They not only threatened us, normal adult, normal church members, but they threatened our children," Qiang said. "Some of our members have adopted children, and CPC forcibly sent the adoptive children back to the original family. That is the main reason why we fled China. Because we can't guarantee our adopted child would not be taken away by them."

Communist officials removed four children from one ERCC family, returned them to their biological parents and eventually dispersed them among other



homes, Qiang said.

"This is a living tragedy," Qiang said. "Their constant oppression made me feel we must flee China, because our children are most important to us."

An earlier report from ICC documented authorities' forced removal of children from the home of church members Pei Wenju and Jing Jianan. CCP officials told them their adoption papers were no longer valid because their children were "trapped by an evil religion."

In addition to seizing children from their Christian parents, the CCP also threatened to send Christian children to government re-education camps and ordered parents to refrain from enrolling their children in church schools, Qiang said.

Qiang called on U.S. media to report on the oppression of religious minorities occurring across China. Transparency, he said, is one of the communist regime's greatest threats.

"The biggest help is to report the persecution. Report it fairly. We aren't saying the U.S. government should put pressure on the Chinese government. This isn't what we hope for," Qiang said. "What CPC is most afraid of is being exposed. They are afraid of transparency. We don't want the government or the public to pressure CPC. Because under such circumstances, CPC will definitely intensify religious persecution. The worse China-U.S. relations get, the more CPC persecutes Christians."

According to Qiang, China continues to persecute Christians to gain leverage in future diplomatic relations with the U.S. He added that the CCP "makes you think that they are willing to compromise, because they know Americans care about freedom of religion. If China makes a concession in religious freedom, then U.S. should compromise in trade."

"It's CPC who politicizes religious freedom, not Christians," he stressed.

Gina Goh, ICC's regional manager for Southeast Asia and the author of the report, explained that Christians like Qiang are hesitant to ask the U.S. for intervention because doing so would likely invite further governmental persecution.

"Even receiving interviews in Taiwan, [Qiang's] family was harassed by the government," she said, according to Baptist Press. "You can imagine if they stand out and say, 'We want the U.S. government to do something for us,' that would probably invite more persecution. But I don't think that contradicts with other people's efforts to try to do things on behalf of them."

"I think that's all the more reason for us to actually speak on behalf of them, because they are not in a position to openly condemn or actually invite sanctions or punishment upon their government."

The ICC report documents how the CCP routinely targets Christians through its legal framework, Sinicization, closure or demolition of churches or places of worship, arresting of Christians, and social pressure.

Such persecution is part of Chinese President Xi Jinping's efforts to stamp out religion and enforce greater control over people's lives.

"With the intensified crackdown against churches, both state-sanctioned and underground, there is no longer a safe place to be a Christian in China," Goh wrote in the report.

Every province in China seeing persecution

She said that while "almost every province in China has seen Christian persecution on the rise" Henan and Anhui provinces in particular "have a high percentage of Christians," and have seen

active "cross demolition campaigns."

"Thousands of crosses have been removed since 2018, with some churches leveled to the ground," Goh wrote. "Deteriorating Sino-U.S. relations could further encourage crackdown against churches in 2020."

On Thursday, Save the Persecuted Christians, a leading international human rights advocacy group, delivered an open letter to U.S. Attorney General William Barr asking him to designate the Communist Party of China as a "transnational criminal organization," which the FBI defines as posing "a significant and growing threat to national and international security with dire implications for public safety, public health, democratic institutions, and economic stability across the globe."

"For far too long, the world blindly ignored the menacing criminality of the Chinese Communist Party," said Liz Yore, founder of YoreChildren and partner of Save the Persecuted Christians.

"The Trump Administration is rightly taking a tough stance against the unrelenting corruption and repression of the CCP. It is time that we speak the truth and call out the CCP in all its brutality. The CCP is a transnational criminal organization, and the Trump Administration needs to designate it as such, so that the full prosecutorial power of the federal government can outlaw these global gangsters. As Secretary of State Mike Pompeo promised, 'we won't stay still while Communist China tries to crush the world's freedoms.'"

Open Doors USA ranks China at No. 23 on its 2020 World Watch List of the 50 most dangerous countries for Christians.

## Pompeo, Brownback focus on China and 'decades-long war on faith'

Religious persecution in China has intensified over the past year as the regime continues with its "decades-long war on faith," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on June 10 while presenting his department's annual assessment on the religious freedom record around the world.

"The Chinese Communist Party is now ordering religious organizations to obey CCP leadership and infuse communist dogma into their teachings and practice of their faith," Pompeo, a Christian, said in the press briefing.

"The mass detentions of Uyghurs in Xinjiang continues. So does the repression of Tibetans and Buddhists and Falun Gong and Christians," he continued.

The State Department has labeled China a "country of particular concern" since 1999 for its freedom violations.

The atheist regime has exercised tight control over religious activities, allowing five state-sanctioned religious organizations to operate under its control with exclusive rights to hold worship service. Believers outside of state-approved organizations frequently face arrests, harassment, and torture. The regime has also initiated a religious "sinicization" drive in an effort to make the religious doctrines conform with the Chinese Communist Party line, such as requiring churches to recite the national anthem before singing Christian hymns, the report noted. The Communist regime has also re-written the Bible.

While individuals in "many places of the

world" have "become more familiar with religious oppression than they are with religious freedom," it's particularly so in communist countries, Sam Brownback, the U.S. ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom, said in a separate press briefing.

"Communism seems to have difficulty abiding alongside religious and freely operating religious entities. It's atheistic by nature and its organization just can't seem to really tolerate the free expression of faith," he said.

Unveiled on June 10, marking the 21st year since Beijing created its gestapo-like security apparatus—the 610 office—the extensive report on China's record dedicated a notable portion to the persecution of Christians, Muslims and the spiritual group Falun Gong.

Over the past two years, hundreds of churches have been bulldozed and dozens of Christian pastors and church staff arrested. In some cities, churches that seat upwards of 6,000 worshippers have been destroyed as being "illegal," meaning they did not have a communist permit to operate.

As for the the Falun Gong movement, they have come under severe treatment, including forced organ removal and torture.

Police arrested around 6,100 and harassed nearly 3,600 adherents in 2019, while at least 96 died as a result of the persecution, the report said, citing Minghui, a U.S.-based website tracking the CCP's per-

secution of the practice.

Guo Zhenxiang, 82, was arrested for handing out information pamphlets at a bus stop in eastern Shandong Province and died hours later; Li Yanjie from northeastern Heilongjiang Province fell to her death while trying to escape from police who were forcing their way into her apartment.

The religious freedom report also made a special note about the growing list of evidence alleging that the Chinese regime is murdering prisoners of conscience and extracting their organs for sale.

A February 2019 study published in the medical journal BMJ found 440 of 445 Chinese studies failing to report whether organ donors for the research had given their consent. Another study, published in BMC Medical Ethics in 2019, concluded that Beijing likely falsified its organ donation data, with data that "conforms almost precisely to a mathematical formula."

Minghui has documented anecdotal evidence supporting the claim. He Lifang, a 45-year-old Falun Gong practitioner from Qingdao in Shandong province, who died less than two months after his arrest, had a sewn-up incision on his chest and an open incision on the back.

Brownback also warned that the Chinese regime seems to be pioneering a future of oppression with its use of high-tech surveillance.

For the estimated 1 million Muslim minorities incarcerated in concentration camps, a "virtual police state" involving

cameras, identification, and social credit systems is likely awaiting them once they get out of detention, Brownback said, relaying concerns of such heavy-handed suppression spreading beyond the region.

When asked which countries are lagging behind in protecting their people's religious freedom, Brownback named China as one of the key countries marred with religious freedom abuse.

"Maybe it sounds like a broken record, but China is just such a big player in this space in such a negative way that it's hard to overlook, and they're an exporter of their ways and their technology," he said.

Even if they didn't export this technology and just did it to their own people, "that's one you just can't really take your eyes off of," he said of the Chinese regime.

—Epoch Times news service

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# August brings new art, EasterFest to North Topeka

As North Topeka businesses begin to reopen, at least in a limited fashion and with safety precautions, event promoters are beginning to reschedule events.

The 7th Annual EasterFest, the Easter Parade and Family Fun Fair, held every year at Garfield Park, will celebrate on Aug. 29.

NOTO Arts Center is open and has new artists on display, as well as offering classes. Aug. 6-29 will feature the art of Azyz Sharafy, known for creating conceptual artworks based on spirituality and socio-political ideas exploring new media, materials, software, hardware and technology. For information on classes call 785-408-8996; now open Thursday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It also stays open late on 1st & 3rd Fridays.

NOTO Live will be held Sep. 16, 11am-

8pm, a day-long celebration of performance art, live music, busking, and talent of all kinds!

And of course, North Topeka hosts First Friday like no other place in Topeka! Topeka Arts District has become an attraction to Art Lovers and History Buffs alike with beautiful scenes of art and history. The restaurants, locally owned shops, art galleries and studios have become a favorite art walk destination.

Entertainment can also be found on First Fridays, at various venues during the artwalk up and down N. Kansas Avenue, as well as streetside vendors. The restaurants, locally owned shops, art galleries and studios have also become favorite art walk destinations.



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

**More North Topeka events:**

MOTHER TERESA'S FARMERS MARKET – Saturdays, 8:30-11:30am, 2014 NW 46th St.

C5Alive "POWER" LUNCHEON - Aug. 13, 11:30-1, C5Alive Power Luncheon at NOTO Arts Center; Ex. Dir. Tom Underwood will speak about coming changes to NOTO Arts District.


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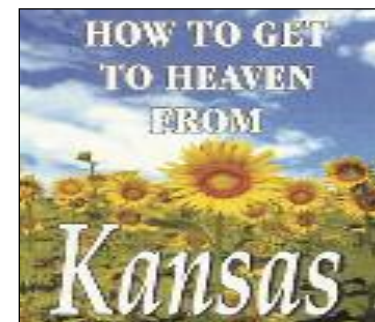
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More important than living in KANSAS is where you will live forever. Just as you would look at a map of KANSAS to find your way, so you must look at the Bible to find your way to heaven. The Bible says, "Narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life,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

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

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

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

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

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

# the events calendar

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

## CONCERTS

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

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

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

**GRAND O' PRY** - 2nd & 4th Saturday, 6:30PM-pre-show, 7PM showtime, Ottawa Memorial Auditorium, 301 S Hickory, Ottawa. Tickets are \$10 and only at the door. Ph. 785-214-0013, email grandopry@gmail.com.

**BROWNBAG CONCERT** – Wednesdays, 11am-1pm, July 8 - Aug. 26. Downtown Topeka on Kansas Ave. Various artists perform live.

**THE CHURCH LADIES UNSUPERVISED** – Aug. 14, 7:30-10:30pm, Classic Bean, Fairlawn Plaza. Bluegrass, gospel, country and folk music. 785-271-5005

**WOOD VALLEY PICKERS** – Aug. 28, 7:30-10:30pm, Classic Bean, Fairlawn Plaza. Down-home, family-friendly entertainment with smiles all around! 785-271-5005

**CASTING CROWNS** – Oct. 23, 7pm, Stormont Vail Event Center. Special guest will be Matthew West. For info: [castingcrowns.com](http://castingcrowns.com)

**CHICAGO IN CONCERT** – Nov. 8, 8pm, TPAC

## SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

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

**SENIOR SOLO'S** – Every 3rd Tuesday from 3 to 6 p.m. at First Assembly Church, 500 SW 27th St, downstairs Fellowship Hall. Games & Fellowship, lots of Laughter & Fun. 785-817-3071.

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

**FREE WEEKLY COMMUNITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST** – Sundays at 10am sharp, at Oakland Church of the Nazarene: 900 block of NE Oakland, followed by church services at 10:45am - followed at noon by The Hope House FREE Community Food & Clothing Banks.

**FIRST WEDNESDAY WESLEY CAFE** – First Wed., 6:15pm, Susanna Wesley UMC, 7433 SW 29th. A worship service will follow at 7:00. 785-478-3697 or [www.swumc.org/wesley-cafe-sign-up.html](http://www.swumc.org/wesley-cafe-sign-up.html).

**FIRST SATURDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET** – 7:30 AM -

10:00 AM, Shawnee Heights UMC, 6020 SE 44th

**INSIDE OUT FELLOWSHIP** – Every Saturday, 6:30pm. Faith Temple Church, 1162 SW Lincoln. For info: 785-380-7031 or rhagertyjr@hotmail.com

**FREE MOVIE NIGHT** – Aug. 15, 6pm, Highland Heights Christian Church, 2930 S.E. Tecumseh Rd. "OVERCOMER." Life changes overnight for Coach John Harrison when his high school basketball team and state championship dreams are crushed under the weight of unexpected news. Inspired by the words and prayers of a new-found friend, John becomes the least likely coach helping the least likely runner attempt the impossible in the biggest race of the year. Children can view a VeggieTales movie. Doors open at 5:30. Free Movie Snacks Provided. Masks & Social Distancing will be in place. For info: 785-379-5642.

## SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

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

## FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

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

**DOWNTOWN TOPEKA LIONS CLUB** - 2nd & 4th Mondays at Noon, Madison Street Diner inside the Ramada Downtown, Guests are welcome.

**MONDAY FARMERS MARKET** – Mondays 7:30-11:30am, Topeka & Sh. Co. Library, Through Oct. 5

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

**TOPEKA SWING DANCE** - Tuesdays, 7-8pm, Swing Dance Lessons, no partner required, Jayhawk Theatre, 720 SW Jackson. [www.topekasingdance.com](http://www.topekasingdance.com).

**SAFE STREETS COALITION MEETING** – First Wed. of the month, 11:45am-1pm. Great Overland Station. For info: 266-4606 or [jjwilson@safestreets.org](mailto:jjwilson@safestreets.org)

**CARBONDALE FARMERS MARKET** - every Wed. 4-6pm in Carbondale City Park. Vendor-grower or vendor-produced. For vendor info, contact Mary at 836-7887.

**TOPEKA TWILIGHT LIONS BRANCH CLUB** - 2nd

Wednesdays, 6:30 pm, Madison Street Diner, inside Ramada Downtown. Guests are welcome

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

**SHEPHERDS CENTER LINE DANCING GROUP** - meets 2nd & 4th Thur, 2-4 at First UMC, 6th & Topeka. Park on the west side & use west door. Immediately inside, turn left & walk the ramp to the library, then left to elevator. Push [B] for fellowship hall 785-249-3258.

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

**TOPEKA ACAPPELLA UNLIMITED AUDITIONS** – Topeka Acapella Unlimited is looking for female singers who would like to sing four part acapella harmonies. Come be our guest via Zoom at our guest nights to meet the Director and learn more about our chorus. Topeka Acapella Unlimited is a Chapter of Sweet Adelines International. Call Cindy Patton at 785-640-7403 for information on how to receive a Zoom invitation

**SQUARE DANCING** - Shawnee Swingers has monthly dances and sponsors lessons in the Fall. Call or text 785-845-2357; [shawneeswingers@gmail.com](mailto:shawneeswingers@gmail.com). On Facebook: Shawnee Swingers Square Dance Club. [wesquairedance.com](http://wesquairedance.com)

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

**DOWNTOWN TOPEKA FARMERS MARKET** - Saturday's April 11 through Nov. 7, 7:30am-noon, 12th & Harrison. The open-air market is full of fresh fruits and vegetables, herbs, arts & crafts, flower, home-baked goods and more.

**FREE MOBILE FOOD DISTRIBUTION** – Fourth Tuesday through November, 9am, 1231 NW Eugene St. Randel Ministries, Inc., in partnership with Harvesters and Family of God Church will be conducting its monthly food distribution. No ID or proof of income required, first come first served. Distributing several tons of fresh produce and other items to families in need. (785) 234-1111 [www.RandelMinistries.com](http://www.RandelMinistries.com)

**AUG. CYCLING EVENTS** – Various cycle rides are offered by Kansas Cyclist. [www.kansascyclist.com/](http://www.kansascyclist.com/)

**AUG. OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES** – Outdoor events and activities. [www.getoutdoorskansan.com/calendar](http://www.getoutdoorskansan.com/calendar)

**TERRITORIAL CAPITAL MUSEUM** – Now Open, 640 E Woodson, LeCompton. (785) 887-6148 [www.lecomptonkansan.com](http://www.lecomptonkansan.com) [historiclecompton@gmail.com](mailto:historiclecompton@gmail.com)

**CRUISIN' THE CAPITOL** – Aug. 8, 6-9pm. Are you car-ismatic? Then you don't want to miss the eighth annual Cruisin' the Capitol Car Show - one of Downtown Topeka's signature events. This car show is unique for many reasons, including that it is open to all makes, models, years and styles. In fact, it isn't unusual to spy multiple variations of classic muscle cars, souped-up rides, vintage roadsters and more!

**JOURNEY TO THE HEADWATERS** – Aug. 8, 2:30pm, Dirty Girl Adventures. Paddle the Mighty Kaw from Junction City to Ogden. <https://dirtygirladventures.net/event/journey-to-the-headwaters/>

**PIZZA FOR PAWS** – Aug. 9, 11am-9pm, LaRocca's Pizza. Fundraiser 20% of proceeds from Dine-in, Carryout, and Curbside will go back to help the animals at HHHS.

**STRENGTHENING POLICE & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS** – Aug. 12, 6-7pm and Aug. 13, 12-1pm, Holiday Building, 1st floor Conference Room, 620 SE Madison St. A forum & community discussion to identify issues and solve problems. Email [spcc@topeka.org](mailto:spcc@topeka.org) for info.

**C5Alive "POWER" LUNCHEON** – Aug. 13, 11:30-1, NOTO Arts Center. Executive Director Thomas Underwood will be the featured speaker and will talk about changes in the NOTO

• Cost: \$10 for C5 members & first-time guests who RSVP, \$12 at the door

• \$15 for non-members & repeat guests.

• Please RSVP to [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org), so we know how much food is needed!

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

SAVE THE DATE: C5Alive Power Luncheon, Sep. 10, 11:30-1

**CIRQUE ITALIA WATER CIRCUS** – Aug. 13-23, 1:30pm, Heartland Park. An exhilarating expedition in search of a pirate's booty! You will see swashbucklers balancing upside down on a rum barrel, juggling knives, having a run-in with a mermaid, and Wheel of Death performances. (941) 704-8572; <https://cirqueitalia.com/Water>

Circus-Silver; [ticketoffice@cirqueitalia.com](mailto:ticketoffice@cirqueitalia.com)

**GOLF CLASSIC AND AUCTION** - The Washburn Athletics Golf Classic and Auction is rescheduled for Aug. 20-21. The four-person Scramble is sold out. Spots still remain for the Shamble

**KAW RIVER ROOTS FESTIVAL** – Aug. 28, 4pm, & Aug. 29, Abe's Landing, 8 E. 6th St., Lawrence. The Travelin' McCourys, Split Lip Rayfield, The Kitchen Dwellers, Fireside Collective, Opal Agafia, Julian Davis s All Stars, Kelly Hunt, Circus No. 9, Sky Smeed, One Way Traffic, Short Round String Band, Chain Station, Unfit Wives, Xaris Waltman + Julian Davis, Dewayn Brothers, Spencer & Rains, Lily B Moonflower, Sally & The Hurts, Weda Skirts, Old Fangled, Cowtown Country Club, and artists-at-large Kyle Tuttle and Max Paley.

**AN EVENING AS A CHILD** – Aug. 29, Stormont Vail Events Center. A special event that gives adults a chance to reflect on their childhood and an opportunity to revel in those activities that made growing-up so special, and to raise funds for people with disabilities. Includes: Dinner, Games & Activities, Wine Board, Craft Beer Board, Silent & Live Auctions. 785.272.4060 or [abilities@capper.org](mailto:abilities@capper.org)

**KC DRIFT** – Aug. 29, 8am-5pm, Heartland Motorsports Park. \$10. This event will be accompanied with an area for donuts, as it is the same day as the Twizzled Individualz Street King Event. 785-861-7899

**BEGINNERS PADDLE ON THE KAW** – Aug. 29, 8am, Friends of the Kaw - Kansas Riverkeeper. 866-748-5337. [riverkeeper@kansariver.org](mailto:riverkeeper@kansariver.org)

**7th ANNUAL EASTERFEST: TOPEKA EASTER PARADE & FUN FAIR** – Aug. 29, 10am-3pm, North Kansas Avenue & Garfield Park. Topeka's annual Easter Parade will begin at 10am at the tracks in NOTO and proceed north on Kansas Avenue past Garfield Park. Egg Hunt begins right after the parade at the playground in Garfield Park. Food Trucks will be on hand and the Family Fun Fair, Vendor Market with Bingo, and Health Fair will be 10-3 in Garfield Park, in the Shelter House & in the Gym, including vendor booths, children's games, food, facepainting, pony rides, laser tag, bubble soccer, cake

walk and more. Bands, gymnastics, ballet and other entertainment will be on hand. For info: [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org) or 640-6399

**HARVEY HOUSE LUNCHEON** – Sep. 3, 11-2pm. Uniquely elegant luncheons served by costumed Harvey Girls who enjoy sharing their knowledge of Fred Harvey and the historical Harvey Houses. Tour of Great Overland Station to follow. RSVP by Aug. 26: 785-232-5533

**SNEAKERS AND SMILES GOLF TOURNAMENT** – Sep. 4, Cypress Ridge Golf Course. 1 pm shotgun. \$360/team includes cart, lunch, drinks, prizes. Silent Auction. 50/50 raffle. Chance to win Chief's helmet! Putting contest, \$500 hole-in-one. Benefits at risk youth. Jerry Hudgins – 785-338-2965. [www.solereason.golfgenius.com](http://www.solereason.golfgenius.com).

**KANSAS CITY RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL** – Sep. 5 - Oct. 18, 10am-7pm; Weekends only plus Columbus Day and Labor Day. 628 N 126th St., Bonner Springs, KS. [www.KCrenFest.com](http://www.KCrenFest.com). 913-721-2110.

**HEARTLAND MILITARY DAY** – Sep. 5, 125 Airport Dr., Forbes Field. A day of free vintage and current military equipment displays, battle reenactments and Civil War Artillery demonstrations, band concerts, and museum activities. Also a Pancake Feed 7 to 10am.

**GRAPE ESCAPE** – Sep. 11, 6pm, TPAC. Annual Fundraiser with food & beverage tastings. 785-234-2787, [info@topekaperformingarts.org](mailto:info@topekaperformingarts.org)


**TOUCH A TRUCK** - September 12. Downtown Topeka Touch-A-Truck is a local Topeka event that brings the construction industry to life! This is a great event that will provide your children with hands-on learning opportunities on top of a truck-load of fun!

**NOTO Live** – Sep. 16, 11am-8pm, NOTO Arts and Entertainment District. A day-long celebration of performance art, live music, busking, and talent of all kinds, including the NOTO's Got Talent Finals. To apply to be a performer, busker or vendor visit: [explorenoto.org/noto-live/](http://explorenoto.org/noto-live/)

**TRUST JAZZ AND FOOD TRUCKS** - September 26. Foodies and Jazz aficionados rejoice! Topeka's Downtown Jazz & Food Truck Festival is Saturday,

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C5Alive POWER Luncheons are held 2nd Thur. each mo.

Aug. 13 "POWER" Luncheon at NOTO Arts Center. Executive Director Thomas Underwood will be the featured speaker and will talk about changes in the NOTO district.

EASTERFEST will be celebrated on Aug. 29!  
See page 24 for details!

- Sep. 10, 2020 - POWER Luncheon: Details to be announced
- Oct. 8, 2020 - POWER Luncheon: Details to be announced
- Nov. 12, 2020 - POWER Luncheon: Details to be announced

Save the Dates!

For info: [www.C5Alive.org](http://www.C5Alive.org) or [Facebook.com/C5Alive](https://Facebook.com/C5Alive)



**AUG 29 TOPEKA EASTER PARADE & FUN FAIR, AUG. 29, N. KANSAS AVE. & GARFIELD PARK**

September 19. Both local and national musical talent will take the stage at the Evergy Plaza and a wide variety of food trucks and vendors will be along the avenue ready to serve concert goers. Enjoy the musical stylings of the Relatively Brass Band and the Brian Baggett Trio.

**24TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION WALK** - Sep 25, 6pm. Free children's activities, live music and release butterflies in memory of loved ones. Luminaries will be placed on the grounds and can be purchased for \$10.00 in memory of anyone you would like to remember. [midlandcareconnection.org](http://midlandcareconnection.org) or 785-232-2044

**BEATLES VS. STONES - A MUSICAL SHOWDOWN** - Sep. 26, TPAC. Renowned tribute bands Abbey Road and Satisfaction - The International Rolling Stones Show engage in a musical showdown of the hits. 785-234-2787, [info@topekaperformingarts.org](mailto:info@topekaperformingarts.org)

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENTS** - Oct. 10. National Night Out events throughout Topeka and Shawnee County. For info call Judy at Safe Streets, 266.4606 or email [jwilson@safestreeets.org](mailto:jwilson@safestreeets.org).

**MEETINGS & CLASSES**

**CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA MEETING** - Join

other concerned individuals to pray and unite in action for Shawnee Co. and our Nation. For info about monthly meetings: 785-260-5659 or [ks.cwfa.org](http://ks.cwfa.org).

**HEAT UP TOPEKA** - Free fitness classes; learn and build healthy social & eating habits. Held at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 4746 SW 21st St. Florence Crittenton: 785-233-0516 [www.flocrittkansas.org](http://www.flocrittkansas.org)

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

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

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

**BOY'S TRAIL LIFE & AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS TROUPTS** - Every Mon. 6pm, Cornerstone Comm. Ch.,

7620 SW 21st. Faith-based scouting programs, age 5-18. Register at [cornerstonetopeka.com](http://cornerstonetopeka.com). 478-2929.

**TOPEKA MANKIND PROJECT** - Mondays, 6:30pm, 2112 SW Morningside Rd. Supports men in becoming their best selves, including physical, mental & emotional health & wellness. Open to any man. Brian Thomas: [brian.thomas01@gmail.com](mailto:brian.thomas01@gmail.com) or 785-727-9439

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

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

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

**OUR LADY OF THE FAITHFUL** - 1st Tues., 6:30pm Mass followed by Dinner, Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church. A Catholic group for those in their 20-30s. Michelle Ann 580-3071 or [ourladyofthefaithful@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyofthefaithful@gmail.com). Facebook: "OurLadyoftheFaithful."

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

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

**FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES Aerie 4319**: First & Third Tue. 7pm; Auxiliary: Third & Fourth Tue. month 6pm, 2941 SE Fremont Street. The Fraternal Order of Eagles is an international non-profit organization uniting fraternally in the spirit of liberty, truth, justice, and equality, to make human life more desirable by lessening its ills and promoting peace, prosperity, gladness

and hope. [www.foe.com](http://www.foe.com) 785-266-7307

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

**DADDY'S GIRLS EMPOWERMENT MEETINGS - Do you want MORE...** Come Join us for our More Luncheons where Real Women get together: share, learn and grow to return to our homes, families workplace, churches & other places of influence restored and rejuvenated to pursue God's MORE...at Topeka Public Library, 12 noon, every 3rd Wednesday. Sponsored by Daddy's Girls Inc. Please to RSVP make lunch reservations: [daddys girlsinc@gmail.com](mailto:daddysgirlsinc@gmail.com) or 785-969-0491

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

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

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

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

**TOPEKA PRAYER GROUP** - Every Wed., 6:30pm, 409 SW Buchanan St. Do you believe that God hears and answers prayers? Do you believe Jesus wants to lead His people by His Holy Spirit? Come join us in prayer as we seek His face for answers and direction. 785-845-1948; [holmie2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:holmie2@sbcglobal.net)

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

**SAFE STREETS MEETING** - 1st Wed., 11:45am, Great Overland Station 266-4606.

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

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

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

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

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

**KINGDOM ADVISORS TOPEKA AREA STUDY GROUP** - 3rd Thu., 11:30am, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. Christian financial professionals: financial planners, accountants, attorney's & insurance agents invited. [kingdomadvisors.org](http://kingdomadvisors.org) or [jim.hanna@ampf.com](mailto:jim.hanna@ampf.com) or 357-6278 x19.

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

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

**VIP LUNCHEON FOR SENIORS** - Every Fri., Noon, Topeka Church of the Brethren, 3201 NW Rochester Rd. (1 mile north of Dillon's North). FREE lunch with Christian fellowship, devotions & entertainment provided by Topeka North Outreach. Free will donations accepted. Free blood pressure checks the last Friday of every month, and birthday celebrations the 4th Friday. For Info: 785-224-8803.

**A GOOD YARN CLUB** - 2nd & 4th Sat., 9-11am, Wanamaker Rd Baptist Church, 2700 SW Wanamaker. Doing

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

**MIDLAND CARE GRIEF SUPPORT** Groups: Building A, 200 SW Frazier Circle; Every Mon., 4-5pm: 12 Week Adult Group for Recent Loss – 1st and 3rd Thu., 10:30am & 5:30pm—Ongoing Adult Group – 1st and 3rd Thu., 5:30pm; Ongoing Young Adult Group (4-18 years of age) For All Groups: Call for start dates and info packet. Group and individual grief support available upon request. Info: 785-232-2044 ext.341

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

noon, Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, 2910 SW Topeka **ABORTION RECOVERY SUPPORT** – Providing services for women & men who suffer from Post-Abortion Syndrome. Kay Lyn at KLCarlson20@cox.net.

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

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

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

**Starting April 8** - Caregiver support group via Skype 9:30am every other Wednesday. Email Hayley Young at hdyoung@alz.org or call 785.379.3067 for the meeting link and other info.

**Starting April 15** - Caregiver Support Group via Google Hangouts, 4:30pm every other Wednesday. Email Hayley Young at hdyoung@alz.org or call 785.379.3067 for the meeting link and other info.

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

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY** - Every Mon. 7-9pm at Topeka First Church, 500 SW 27th, Bldg 'B'. Healing our hurts, habits, and hangups. Learning to grow in a Christ-like maturity.

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

**GRIEF SUPPORT** – First Monday each month, 3:30-4:30pm, 400 SW Oakley. Call Donna Park for info: 783-7527 or valeotopeka.org. Open to public. Free.

**GRIEF SUPPORT** – Sponsored by Heartland Hospice for those dealing with death or major loss:

1st Mon., 5:30-7:30pm. Individual appointments; other times are available. Call Terry at (785)230-6730.

3rd Thurs., 11am, Lunch After Loss, Paisano's Ristorante, Fleming Place, SW 10th & Gage Blvd., For reservations or info: 785-271-6500.

**EMOTIONS ANONYMOUS:** a 12-step program for those suffering with emotional instability such as depression, anxiety, grief, etc. Meets every Tues. at Grace Episcopal Cathedral, Noon-1pm. For info: Sharon 785-633-7764

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY** – Every Fri., 6pm, 1912 Gage

Blvd. A Christ-centered program, based on 8 principles found in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Applying these Biblical principles, become free from addictive & dysfunctional behaviors. crtopekaks.org.

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

**TOPEKA NAR-ANON FAMILY GROUP** – For families & friends who are affected by someone else's narcotic addiction. Every Sat., noon-1:15 pm, rm. A, 1st Baptist Church, 3033 SW MacVicar, enter on S. side, door A. www.naranonmidwest.org

**COVENANT KEEPERS** – 3rd Sat. Group for people who want to see their marriage saved when their spouse wants out. For info: 816-453-0884 or 816-966-0927.



**STRENGTHENING POLICE & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**  
**Forum & Community Discussion**  
 AUGUST 12 • 6:00P-7:00P & AUGUST 13 • 12:00PM-1:00PM  
 HOLLIDAY BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
 620 SE MADISON ST.


**WHAT IS SPCP?**  
 Strengthening Police and Community Partnerships (SPCP) is a program created by the Department of Justice that engages local law enforcement professionals and community leaders in a dialogue to identify issues and solve problems collaboratively. The SPCP program came to Topeka in June 2018.

**COME JOIN THE CONVERSATION!**  
 TOPICS  
 • Accreditation  
 • Defunding and Demilitarization of Police  
 • Training  
 • Strengthening Police and Community Partnerships  
 • Q&A with TPD/SPCP Council

Limited to 30 in-person attendees per session due to COVID-19 restrictions. First come, first serve basis. Masks are required, please bring your own as we will not provide them.

This meeting will be streamed live on Cox Channel 4 and on the City of Topeka Government Facebook Page.

For further information or to send in questions for the Q&A in advance, please email [spcp@topeka.org](mailto:spcp@topeka.org).



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 Monday - Saturday 11am - 10 pm  
 Sundays 11am - 6pm



**BEATLES VS STONES**  
**MUSICAL SHOWDOWN**

Two of the greatest bands of all time face off in a high-energy, adrenaline-pumping musical showdown. THE BEATLES, represented by tribute ABBEY ROAD will engage in a barrage of hits against premier ROLLING STONES tribute SATISFACTION. *It's a face-off you won't want to miss!*

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 | 7:30PM | ALL AGES** TOPEKA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER • 214 SE 8th Ave, Topeka, KS  
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COVID Protocols and socially distanced seating in place

# entertainment

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

## Tom Hanks portrays man of faith in 'Greyhound'

After a long drought of new movies during the pandemic, Tom Hanks is bringing an inspirational story to life in "Greyhound."

His character, Ernie Krause is a man guided by his Christian faith amid the horrors of war, something director Aaron Schneider acknowledges makes the World War II drama all the more compelling.

"As soon as you bring a man of faith into a story as a hero, you're almost immediately confronting everything that a man of faith holds dear," Schneider said. "When thrust into war, a man of faith is going to inevitably confront the basic tenets of his own faith: The sanctity of life and thou shalt not kill; faith in his mission and himself; and holding to unbroken faith for yet another day. That's what storytelling is about; you take a hero's principles and everything he or she holds dear, and you throw the biggest possible thematic opposites at them." Bottom of Form

"Greyhound" follows Krause, captain of a U.S. warship leading a convoy of 37 merchant and troop ships across the North Atlantic in February 1942. During the five-day voyage, the convoy must pass through a treacherous area of the ocean riddled with Nazi U-boats. Without air support, Krause is forced to navigate life-and-death situations and close encounters as he works to lead his crew to safety.

The movie establishes Krause as a man of faith almost instantly. He's shown praying both on his knees and silently before every meal. Scripture is used throughout



the movie: Hebrews 13:8 is referenced on several occasions, and as the Greyhound pursues a German U-Boat, Krause whispers under his breath Proverbs 3:6: "Acknowledge him, and he will direct thy path."

Although the film follows a story that took place many decades ago, Schneider pointed out that the events of World War II in many ways parallel 21st-century challenges, especially the coronavirus pandemic.

"Movies tend to take on different personalities at different times, and 'Greyhound' found itself exploring some ideas that do resonate with what we're all going through right now," he said. "We think of WWII as a very defined period in time: The beginning, middle and end. But when it was going on it was so enormous and so uncertain that nobody knew what their future was going to be, let alone who was going to win. There was this sense of

hunkering down, protecting each other and just looking to tomorrow."

The movie's character is in sharp contrast to online rumors which Hanks has been battling.

The "Tootsie" actor has recently been the subject of online speculation concerning his connections with convicted rapist and sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein and a trafficking ring spanning the globe.

The allegations have not been proven and Hanks name was not identified on the few flight logs that have been released. Names that do appear on the flight logs of the "Lolita Express" to Epstein's sex island include that of former President Bill Clinton and Kevin Spacey plus dozens of other A-list Hollywood names. Bill Gates is listed on a flight manifest having flown on Epstein's plane to Florida.

In a surprise announcement, Hanks and his wife Rita Wilson were granted Greek citizenship this recently.



## 'Hamilton' leads this month's streaming lineup, but it's not kid-friendly

By Michael Foust

His name is Alexander Hamilton, and he's one of the smartest people in Colonial America you'll ever meet.

He's also confident (even cocky), determined (perhaps a workaholic) and ahead of his time (he opposed slavery).

The rest of the world knows him best as man on the \$10 bill, but in the musical *Hamilton* -- now on Disney Plus -- viewers get to know the man who served as George Washington's aide in the Revolutionary War, supported passage of the Constitution by co-authoring the Federalist Papers, and transformed the nation's economy as our first Secretary of the Treasury.

The musical, which won 11 Tony Awards, is a combination of R&B, pop and traditional Broadway tunes. It's also one of the most creative, entertaining and educational Broadway productions you'll ever experience. (That is, if you can overlook the PG-13 content -- more on that in a moment.)

You get to watch Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson -- political enemies -- engage in a "rap battle" over U.S. involvement in European affairs.

You get to see Hamilton and Aaron Burr sing a duet about their desire to be better fathers.

You also get to watch our Founding Fathers dance across the stage as they take part in low-down political shenanigans that makes you realize: American politics has long been dirty.

Lin-Manuel Miranda, who wrote *Hamilton* and stars in the lead role, calls it the "story about America then, told by America now." This means you have a diverse cast, including black actors playing white characters, such as Jefferson.

"We want to eliminate any distance between a contemporary audience and this story," Miranda told *The Atlantic* in 2015.

It's a strategy that works, partially because the plot follows real historical events. Author Ron Chernow's biography of Hamilton served as Miranda's inspiration.

*Hamilton* is an uplifting tale that includes life lessons about hard work (Hamilton was born out of wedlock, and his father later abandoned him), the benefits of compromise (Hamilton learns not to be so stubborn), and family

(Hamilton wanted to raise his children in a better environment than he had).

It also includes warnings about anger and ego (he died in a duel with Burr) and lust (an affair ruined his political career).

Alas, *Hamilton* isn't kid-friendly. It includes more than 40 coarse words (all sung or rapped) and a couple of sexually suggestive scenes. (Clothes stay on, but the on-stage antics and the lyrics tell us what happened.)

It's rated PG-13 for language and some suggestive material.

Also streaming this month:

### Adults/teens

*Schindler's List* (Netflix) -- A German businessman learns of Hitler's horrors and works to save as many Jews as possible. It won seven Oscars. Rated R for language, some sexuality and actuality violence. July 1.

*Pride & Prejudice* (Netflix) -- It's the 2005 version of Jane Austen's famous novel, which follows the story of five sisters who are trying to save their estate after their father dies. Rated PG for some mild thematic elements. July 16.

*March of the Penguins* (Hulu) -- This 2005 award-winning documentary about emperor penguins is kid-friendly -- but is so good that mom and dad should watch, too. Morgan Freeman narrates. Rated G. July 1.

### Children

*Charlotte's Web* (Netflix) -- This 2006 live-action film follows the unlikely friendship between a spider named Charlotte and a young pig she's trying to save. It's a classic tale about friendship and sacrifice. Rated G. July 1.

*Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie* (Netflix) -- Three lazy pirates -- Elliot, Sedgewick and George -- get transported back to the 1600s and learn about hard work. Rated G. July 30.

*Megamind* (Prime) -- An evil villain (Megamind) learns that being bad isn't as fulfilling as he envisioned. It's an animated film with parallels to *Despicable Me*. Rated PG for action and some language. July 1.

*Michael Foust is the father of an amazing wife, Julie, and the father of four small children. He has covered the intersection of faith and entertainment more than 15 years.*

## Beatles vs. Stones show to perform at TPAC

The debate between the Beatles and the Rolling Stones has been going on ever since they first crossed paths on the charts 54 years ago. The argument at the time, and one that still persists, was that the Beatles were a pop group and the Stones were a rock band: the boys next door vs. the bad boys of rock. So who's better? These two legendary bands will engage in an on-stage, throw down - a musical 'showdown' if you will - at the Topeka Performing Arts Center on Saturday, September 26 courtesy of tribute bands Abbey Road and Satisfaction - The International Rolling Stones Show.

Taking the side of the Fab Four is Abbey Road, one of the county's top Beatles tribute bands. With brilliant musicianship and authentic costumes and gear, Abbey Road plays beloved songs spanning the Beatles' career. They face off against renowned Stones tribute band Satisfaction - The International Rolling Stones Show, who offer a faithful rendition of the music and style of Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and the bad boys of the British Invasion.

Where did the idea for the show



come from?

"Music fans never had a chance to see the Beatles and the Rolling Stones perform on the same marquee," said Chris Legrand, who plays "Mick Jagger" in the show.

"Now, music aficionados can watch this debate play out on stage."

The Topeka show is part of a 110 stop tour of the U.S., Australia and Canada and has been touring since 2011. The show also performs long term residencies for a number of the Harrah's Casino properties. The production includes some of the more popular songs from the two rock pioneers and covers the scope of their musical careers, although the set list for Satisfaction usually includes Rolling Stones songs up



to the 1980s.

"They certainly have more pop songs but we're a really great live show. The fans are in for an incredible night of music!" says LeGrand.

During the two-hour show, the bands perform three sets each, trading places in quick set changes and ending the night with an all-out encore involving both bands. The band members have their outfits custom-made, since avid fans know exactly what the Beatles and Stones wore onstage during different time periods in their careers. There's a lot of good-natured jabbing between the bands as well.

"Without Beatlemania, the Stones might still be a cover band in London," said Chris Overall, who plays "Paul."





## Peacock streaming service leads this month's family-friendly lineup

By Michael Foust

America's one millionth streaming service launched in July, but this one has a unique element that makes it stand out from the rest: It's free. Sort of.

Of course, NBC's new Peacock TV streaming platform (at PeacockTV.com) really isn't the nation's one millionth service, but it sure seems that way with multiple companies -- Apple (Apple TV), Disney (Disney Plus) and MGM (Epix), among them -- launching platforms just within the last year.

Peacock, though, stands out from the rest thanks to an ad-supported free tier and a not-too-expensive premium tier that costs \$4.99 a month. (NBC offers a seven-day free trial, too.)

I spent a couple hours perusing the platform and was impressed with what I found.

Let's start with the free stuff.

For families with children, Peacock offers several original programs, including *Where's Waldo?* and new episodes of *Curious George*. It also has 3-2-1 *Penguins* and *American Ninja Warrior Junior*.

If you enjoy watching old-time television, then try *Johnny Carson*, *Unsolved Mysteries*, *Leave it to Beaver*, *Murder She Wrote* or *Columbo*.

For fans of classic Hitchcock films, there's *Rear Window*, *Vertigo* and *The Birds*.

If reality programming contests are your thing, then try *America's Got Talent* and *American Ninja Warrior*.

The free side also has documentaries (*1968* and *I Am Ali*), popular movies (the first *Jurassic Park* trilogy and *The Sting*) and sports (documentaries and current-day sports news).

The pay side has several titles worth a look, including *Everybody Loves Raymond* and *Law and Order*.

Peacock is a platform that has something for every member of the family.

Unfortunately, it's not yet available on Roku or Amazon Fire. For now, the best option is to hook a laptop up to a television, or just stick with tablets and smartphones.

Also worth watching this month:

**'The Red Sea Miracle II'** (various platforms -- all ages) -- It's the latest "Patterns of Evidence" documentary from filmmaker and adventurer Tim Mahoney. In *Red Sea Miracle II*, he explores various theories for the Hebrews' crossing of the Red Sea. (Don't worry: He always sides with Scripture.) It's an excellent movie that builds your faith while giving you a crash course on archaeology, biblical studies and theology. Visit [PatternsofEvidence.com](http://PatternsofEvidence.com) to learn how to watch it.

**'Anne Frank: Parallel Stories'** (Netflix -- teens and adults) -- This excellent documentary entered the Netflix platform in July and tells the story of the Holocaust through the eyes of Anne Frank and five survivors. Frank, who died in 1945, penned diary entries that were later published. All five survivors are interviewed; one saw Frank in a camp. Rated TV-14, it includes Holocaust images and one coarse word (s--t).

**'Greyhound'** (Apple TV -- teens and adults) -- It's one of the most faith-centric mainstream movies ever made. *Greyhound* follows the story of Captain Ernest Krause (Tom Hanks) and the sailors of the warship *Keeling* as they hunt for German submarines during World War II. Krause's strong Christian faith is a major theme. Alas, the film has one f-bomb (timestamp is 21:46 if you need to skip it), but only 3-4 other coarse words and no misuses of God's name. That's minimal for a PG-13 war film. It also doesn't include any gore or excessive violence.

**'Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum'** (PBS -- all ages) -- Launched by PBS in 2019, this children's animated series follows three kids (Xavier, Yadina and Brad) as they travel back in time to meet well-known people of history (the Wright Brothers and Abigail Adams, among them). Parents, though, may want to monitor the content. (I have found only one episode -- about anthropologist Mary Leakey -- I didn't like.) TV-G.

*Michael Foust has covered the intersection of faith and entertainment more than 15 years. He is the husband of a wife, Julie, and the father of four small children.*

## 'American Underdog' movie shares testimony of QB Kurt Warner

People often consider the success of Christian quarterback Kurt Warner to be a made-in-Hollywood story. Soon, it will be.

"American Underdog: The Kurt Warner Story" will be directed by Jon and Andrew Erwin and released by Lionsgate. The Erwins also directed *I Still Believe*, *I Can Only Imagine* and *Woodlawn*.

Warner was working at an Iowa Hy-Vee grocery store in the 1990s when he won a job as quarterback for an Arena Football League team, the Iowa Barnstormers. He was so impressive that he eventually was signed by the St. Louis Rams, which he guided to two Super Bowls, winning it in 2000.

Zachary Levi, known for *Chuck*, *Tangled*, and DC superhero action movies, will play Warner.

"Kurt's story is one of relentless faith -- in his own abilities but even more so in a higher power," Levi said. "When I read Kurt's story, I identified with the quiet strength he found to persevere -- that's something I think anybody can recognize in their own lives. This is the kind of underdog story that sports movies are all about, and the fact that it's true makes it even more special. I'm thrilled to be part of bringing his story to audiences."



Jon Erwin called the story "incredible."

"It's one of the greatest underdog stories I've ever heard," Erwin said. "And the story behind the story -- the story that people don't know -- is even stronger. Kurt and Brenda are amazing friends. They're amazing partners. That movie is going to be extraordinary. It's like Jerry Maguire meets *Rocky* -- from the supermarket to the Super Bowl."

Warner played college football at Northern Iowa and completed his senior season in 1993.

"He was out of football for several years, playing arena on the weekends and stocking shelves," Andrew Erwin said.

"He married a single mom who had two kids -- one with special needs. He got one last shot [in the NFL] to fight for his family and made it all the way to the Super Bowl."

Warner was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2017.

In addition to *American Underdog*, Levi is also set to star in the superhero sequel *Shazam 2* and the music-driven family comedy *Undercover*, about a down-on-his-luck ex-rocker, Jack, who joins a group of young musicians in a wedding cover band led by an outcast named Ben (Riverdale's Cole Sprouse).

Production on *American Underdog: The Kurt Warner Story* is expected to

## Actor plans to launch Hollywood studio to produce conservative projects

Instead of complaining about Christians and conservative ideals being ignored by Hollywood, Antonio Sabato Jr. is doing something about it.

Sabato, who's best known for starring in "General Hospital" and dozens of other television shows over the last 30 years, announced that he's "putting together a plan to create a conservative movie studio for all patriots to do projects that Hollywood would never do. No more blacklisting and no more injustice from the socialist elites."

He invited "all conservative producers who want to make a change" to "get in touch with me, and be part of our team. Right now, we are in pre-production with 'Trail Blazers,' our first in line for many more and first to start our studio."

The "Trail Blazers" project was co-written and directed by Sabato and fea-



tures many other well-known and outspoken conservative and Christian entertainers, including Kevin Sorbo, Stacey Dash, Scott Baio, Kaya Jones, Kristy Swanson and Dean Cain. The movie will chronicle "the ultimate battle between

good and evil, between darkness and light, between God and Satan himself," as IMDb described it. "We're going to make movies that are uplifting and where God is the center of attention," Sabato said.

The actor said he experienced enormous professional consequences after speaking out in support of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump in 2016. "All my representatives left me, from agents to managers to commercial agents," he said. "I literally had to move, find a new job to survive and take care of my kids."

In his interview with Fox Business, Sabato acknowledged that he lost everything because of his support for the president. But he added, "God has put me through this for a reason," he said, "and it's only building me up to be stronger for what I have to do next."

## Denzel Washington shares memories of being filled with the Holy Spirit

Being filled with the Holy Spirit made a dramatic impact on the life of Academy Award-winning actor Denzel Washington. The actor talked about his faith in discussion with the pastor of Christian Cultural Center in Brooklyn, N.Y.

"I was filled with the Holy Ghost, and it scared me," Washington said. "I said, 'Wait a minute, I didn't want to go this deep, I want to party.'"

The moment happened at Bishop Charles E. Blake's West Angeles Church of God in Christ in the 1980s.

"I went to church with Robert Townsend, and when it came time to come down to the altar, I said, 'You know this time, I'm just going to go down there and give it up and see what happens,'" he said. "I went in the prayer room and gave it up and let go

and experienced something I've never experienced in my life I remember calling my mother afterwards and asking her, I said, 'Well, you know it felt like I was going up in the air, and my cheeks were filled' and she said, 'Oh no, that's the devil you're purging.'"

"It was a supernatural, once in this lifetime experience that I couldn't completely understand at the time."

Washington explained that his experience with the Holy Spirit kept him throughout all the years of his fame and success.

"It kept me grounded in spite of myself; I mean, I accepted it, I definitely experienced it, but I wasn't ready to

live it," he said. "I don't know how old I was then but I wasn't ready to live it then. I'm sure I'm not the only one who's gone through that kind of experience."

The actor also wanted people to know that having a moment with God like his doesn't mean that life would now go his way.

"You have that moment ... But it doesn't mean that the rest of your life is going to go the way it should," he said. "It's not like 'Oh, I had this moment, I'm filled

with the Holy Spirit and now everything's going to be pretty, not going to be perfect. The next day I'm ready to save everybody. I'm in charge of saving people."



# 50+ Lifestyles A Guide to Enjoying Life in the Best Years

## Preventing Frailty and Living Longer

Frailty is a term that many people hear, but very few understand. It's the slow loss of the body's strength and energy over time leading to weakness, tiredness and loss of balance. It can also have a huge impact on your survival outcomes after an injury. Learn steps you can take now to limit your chances of becoming frail later.

Seventy-four-year-old Vince Cusomato loves spending time in his garden. But as he gets older, he fears not being able to enjoy the great outdoors.

"I don't want to spend time in a bed. Reaching a point where I couldn't do all the things that I wanted to do," shared Cusomato.

Cathy Maxwell, PhD, RN, FAAN,

Assistant Professor of Nursing at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, is an expert in geriatric trauma and believes that being frail has many poor outcomes.

"Mortality, functional decline, readmissions to the hospital," stated Maxwell.

Maxwell followed 200 adults over the age of 65 with a recent injury. She found after one year about six out of ten non-frail adults returned to their pre-injury status and three out of ten developed problems like the inability to walk upstairs or kneel. But in frail patients ...

"At the end of one year, four out of ten die within one year, another four out of ten decline," said Maxwell.

And only two made it back to pre-injury status. But what can you do now to prevent or delay becoming frail?

"The biggest, of course, is physical activity," Maxwell shared.

Safety is also very important.

Maxwell continued, "Awareness of



things that can lead to injuries. Maybe not climbing up on ladders anymore."

Also eating healthy. Experts found those who eat a Mediterranean diet were 74 percent less likely to become frail. And staying socially connected can help as well. People with low levels of social connections are three to

five times more likely to die early. So, make sure your body is not running on empty!

Risk of frailty increases with age. One in 25 people between the ages of 65 and 74 are considered frail. That number jumps to one in four after the age of 84.

-Ivanhoe Newswire



## Midland Care Connection Recognized for Growth of PACE Program

The National PACE Association (NPA) has recognized Midland Care for their growth of the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). PACE growth means a higher quality of life and care, with fewer hospitalizations, emergency room visits and nursing home stays for seniors in the community.

PACE allows Participants to remain independent, while connecting them to

a circle of care that includes social interaction, meal support, transportation to doctors' appointments, home support, medical supplies and more.

"Our goal for PACE Participants is to help them keep living independently in their homes for as long as possible," said Dr. David Wensel, Chief Medical Officer for Midland Care. "Through PACE, each person is an active participant in the care they receive and simpli-

fies access to health care."

Midland Care was recognized in the Emerging Light category for an achieved net enrollment of 10 or more participants in at least one month of the 3rd quarter of 2019, compared to a national average of a rate of three participants a month.

"We are thankful for our community partnerships. Their referrals are a key reason Midland Care's PACE Program has been able to achieve the Emerging Light category," said Dr. Wensel.

For more information about Midland Care PACE visit [www.midlandcare.org/pace](http://www.midlandcare.org/pace).



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## Practical Tips for Caregivers Facing a Pandemic

Whether your role as a caregiver has you looking out for an elderly relative, children or both, chances are good that you've worried about how the COVID-19 pandemic may continue to affect your ability to provide necessary care.

Following the most up to date guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is the first step for caregivers who are looking after loved ones. As caregivers continue to adjust during the pandemic, keep these considerations in mind:

- Contact health care providers to obtain extra necessary medications and stock up on over-the-counter drugs.

- Monitor needed medical supplies related to a loved one's condition or treatments (oxygen, incontinence, dialysis, wound care, etc.) and common supplies such as tissues and cough syrup.

- Those with a loved one in a long-term care facility should inquire about any positive COVID-19 cases in the facility, testing procedures for the residents and staff members and be aware of the facility's protocol if there is an outbreak or positive tests among residents and staff.

These additional tips can help caregivers reduce the pandemic's impact:



**Make backup plans.** Most caregivers have plans in place for temporary assistance when things go awry, but COVID-19 is putting many of those short-term solutions to the test. It's a good time to pull in additional resources so you have extra help waiting if someone you're counting on falls ill or can't fill in as planned. A meal delivery service may be a good option if grocery shopping and meal preparation continue to be affected.

**Reduce exposure.** Those who take care of loved ones in their homes or are regular care providers to family members and friends have concerns about

exposing this vulnerable group to the virus. Many long-term care facilities have changed their visitation policies. You might be able to visit a loved one through a window, via a balcony or through video chat. It's also important to minimize time spent out in the community where you could unknowingly contract the virus and pass it to a vulnerable loved one.

**Shop smart.** Because supermarkets and stores with goods identified as "essential" are still bustling with people, it's important to minimize extra trips and wear a mask when in public. If possible, drop groceries and essentials at the door or arrange for delivery. In addition, some major pharmacies, where AARP members get special benefits on health, wellness and beauty purchases, have introduced special shopping hours for seniors and drive-thru shopping options to minimize person-to-person contact.

**Reschedule wellness appointments.** Not only are doctor's offices short on resources, a waiting room can be filled with germs that may cause illness. Try to arrange for telephone or video-based appointments when possible and cancel any appointments that aren't urgently necessary.

**Keep germs away.** Thorough hand-washing with soap and water is critical. In addition to washing hands after eating and using the restroom, anyone entering and leaving the house should wash his or her hands. Also wipe down high-touch surfaces like doorknobs, remotes and phone keypads.

**Combat boredom.** Despite the good intentions of staying away, social isolation can be a real concern for seniors. Practicing social distancing is important for their health, but you can help keep them engaged by increasing phone, video and online interaction, and encouraging family and friends to do the same. If your loved one doesn't already have a cell phone, contract-free plans are available with free activation and special rates for senior users. Many long-term care facilities also offer social distancing activities for residents.

Find more resources for caregivers at [aarp.org/save](http://aarp.org/save).

—Family Features

## Funeral Planning for Seniors and Caregivers

Planning a funeral for a family member can be emotional, complicated and costly. Creating a funeral plan well in advance can minimize stress and confusion for surviving family members, ensure a late loved one's preferences are respected, and help keep the memorial services within budget. Here are a few tips to help you navigate the tricky world of funeral preparations.

### Tips for Making Funeral Arrangements

#### 1. Plan in advance, but think carefully about paying in advance.

Older adults are often advised to pre-plan their funerals to prevent their loved ones from having to deal with the process after they've died. While pre-planning is sound advice, paying in advance may not be.

The traditional method involves pre-paying a specific funeral home for services to be rendered in the future, but there are other ways seniors can plan ahead to fund their funeral services. For example, a senior can set up a bank account to be "payable on death" to a trustworthy individual who will be responsible for carrying out their funeral. This type of account is free to set up at a bank, the senior retains ownership of this money and the named beneficiary doesn't get access to the funds until the senior passes away. This way, the money remains in the hands of the family and is less likely to get lost or stolen if the funeral home goes bankrupt or closes. Additionally, prepaid funeral arrangements can't always be transferred to a different funeral home. If there is a possibility that an elder will relocate in later years, prepaid funds could be lost if funeral services are decided to be held in a new location.

#### 2. Compare prices.

Funeral home prices can vary widely, even within a small geographic area. It pays to shop around and find the funeral home with the services you want at prices you can afford. If your loved one is ill, you may want to consider starting this process as soon as possible. You don't want to be price shopping while mourning the loss of a loved one.

#### 3. Bring a friend to the funeral home.

Consider bringing a friend who was not close with the deceased to your consultation with the funeral home. Even if your loved one carefully specified their preferences, grief can make it difficult to avoid overspending on funeral goods and services out of feelings of loss and guilt. Embarking on this process with a more objective companion can help you make sound decisions regarding your loved one's final arrangements by acting as a sounding board.

#### 4. Choose personalization over funeral packages.

Many funeral homes offer package deals, which often include goods and services that you do not want or need. If you're offered a package deal, make sure to ask the funeral home for an itemized list of everything that is included in the bundle. This will help you select only the services that you want.

#### 5. Make or buy your own casket.

Consumers are not limited to purchasing one of the caskets on display at

the funeral home your loved one has chosen. Caskets are one of the more expensive elements of a funeral, but the law prohibits funeral homes from forcing shoppers to buy a casket directly from them. Therefore, you may choose to buy, rent or even make your own to save money and personalize a loved one's funeral. In addition to online casket wholesalers and outlets (like Costco and Walmart), there are also websites that sell kits and plans that allow handy-men and do-it-yourselfers to make a personalized casket.

#### 6. Set a budget.

Limiting funeral expenses doesn't mean that you're shortchanging your deceased family member. The things you cut out don't have to affect the quality or beauty of the funeral. In fact, focusing on the factors that are most important to your loved one and your family may even enhance the memorial. For example, some people may choose to bury a loved one in an inexpensive wooden casket made out of pine or pressboard so that family members can decorate it with designs, messages and memories that honor the deceased.

#### 7. Be wary of "protective" caskets.

Rubber gaskets and other gimmicks that claim to be able prevent decomposition or protect a body from the elements are a myth. There is no product or service that can stop a body from decaying, so there's no sense in wasting time and money on anything that claims to do so.

#### 8. Research benefits for veterans.

If your loved one is a veteran who received a discharge other than dishonorable from the military, then they may be eligible for burial in one of the 139 national cemeteries maintained by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). While the VA won't make funeral arrangements or handle cremation for veterans, they can provide funeral goods, such as a grave, a memorial item (e.g. a headstone, grave marker, niche cover or medallion), a burial flag and a Presidential Memorial Certificate all free of charge. They also pledge to open, close and maintain veterans' graves. You can visit the VA's burial benefits webpage for more information on this and other burial benefits that veterans and some surviving family members may qualify for.

#### 9. Read up on laws governing the sales of funeral goods and services.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has put forth a set of guidelines aptly named "The Funeral Rule" to protect consumers who are planning a funeral in advance and those who are making final arrangements at the time of need. Some of the rule's mandates include upholding a person's right to:

- Buy only the goods and services they want (not a package deal)
- Obtain price details on funeral goods and services over the phone
- Be presented with an itemized price list when they visit a funeral home
- Make funeral arrangements without embalming

Learn about the Rule at [FTC.gov](http://FTC.gov).

—agingcare.com

# sports

## Dustin Colquitt speaks out against abortion



Former Kansas City Chiefs punter and Super Bowl champion Dustin Colquitt recently spoke out against abortion in a Live Action video.

In the video, the longest-tenured Chiefs player in history urges his state — and our nation — to end abortion and defend our most vulnerable American children.



"I'm raising my voice on behalf of the voiceless, and I invite you to do the same," Colquitt said. "It's insane abortion is legal."

The video can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/liveaction/videos/212177300045117/>

This is not the first time Colquitt got a chance to share about his faith.

"I think God put me in this position as a punter and in sports — professional football — because I think He wants something out of me to be able to share with other people," Colquitt said in a 2015 video for Fellowship of Christian Athletes, along with then-teammates Ryan Succop and Thomas

Gafford. "As a Christian, I think God has given me that platform to say, 'Hey, I've allowed you to do a lot of things, and I need you to speak My Name.' He always finds a way to put people, His people, in situations where He can spread His Word and spread His Kingdom."

Colquitt is married with five children. He comes from a family with a distinguished lineage of punters, including his father Craig, who played for the Pittsburgh Steelers from 1978 to 1984. His younger brother Britton, who currently plays for the Minnesota Vikings, also played for Tennessee, as did his uncle Jimmy. After winning Super Bowl LIV, Colquitt became the third member of his family to win a Super Bowl (Craig won XIII and XIV, Britton won 50 with the Broncos).

Colquitt is a co-founder of TeamSmile, an organization that offers free dental care to underserved children. Colquitt was picked to be the Chiefs nominee for the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award in 2009 and 2018.

Colquitt set a franchise record in his 15th year with the Chiefs for most games played with 238.

# FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

By Rob Mooney

Covid-19 continues to grip the nation and affect the sports world in ways that I never thought was possible. Leagues are starting back up while scrambling to get their seasons completed, all the while taking precautions along the way. Unfortunately, there is no play book to direct them as we are literally in uncharted waters. Here's a rundown of some of the leagues and what they're doing.

**Major League Baseball:** We'll start here because baseball is my favorite. The season began the last weekend of July and within 1 week, the Florida Marlins had 12 players and 2 coaches test positive for Covid. The last I heard, they were still stranded in Philadelphia after opening against the Phillies. Their season was put on hold due to the situation.

Each team will play their division and the other conferences parallel division. For example, The Kansas City Royals will only play Central Division teams from both conferences. This will keep teams

from having to travel across the country.

**National Basketball Association:** The entire league is down in Orlando preparing to put the final touches on their season. (They resume play on July 31st.) I believe that most teams will play around 8 games before the playoffs begin. They have very strict guidelines for the bubble that they're in. So far, they have been able to keep things under control, however, they haven't started playing games yet, so the jury is still out.

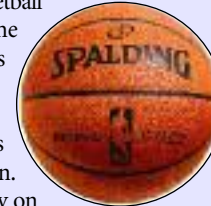
**National Hockey League:** The NHL is going straight to the playoffs with a 24 team playoff schedule which is scheduled to begin on August 1st. They'll be using round robin and best-of-five series to crown a champion by October 1st. They'll play their games in two Hub Cities, Toronto hosting the Eastern Conference

and Edmonton hosting the Western Conference. The Stanley Cup will be played in Edmonton.

**Major League Soccer:** On July 8th, the MLS is Back Tournament began with 24 teams at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in the Walt Disney Resort in Florida. Nashville and Dallas had to withdraw because of positive Covid tests. The Tournament champion will qualify for the 2021 CONCACAF Champions League and they'll resume play of the 2020 season after the tournament is completed on August 11th.

**National Football League:** The NFL has cut down the preseason to one game and many players are beginning to opt out of the entire season. They're expecting the league to begin on time but there are several in the upper echelon of the sport that doubt that they'll be able to complete the entire season.

Of course, these games will be played without fans in the stands, however, the NFL is hopeful that they'll be able to allow a certain number of fans in to watch. It's rather funny to see baseball being played without fans but at least we're getting to watch live sports again, for the time being!



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## Upgrade Your Home, Downgrade Energy Usage

The best home upgrades not only make spaces more livable and energy-efficient but are also cost-effective. Making energy-efficient improvements is a savvy way to save money on utility bills, curb energy usage and add to the house's value.

Consider a variety of home improvement projects, both big and small, that can reduce the financial burden of maintaining your home throughout the year and improve energy efficiency.

### Add Insulation

A cost-effective way to save on heating and cooling bills is adding a layer of insulation in the attic where heat loss is typically greatest due to hot air rising. While many newer homes are adequately insulated, those that are several decades old (or older) may benefit from an upgrade in not only the attic but other common problem areas where air can escape such as basements, crawl spaces, fireplaces and ductwork.

### Seal Doors and Windows

Windows and doors are common culprits for energy loss. While a complete replacement of doors and windows can be pricey, adding exterior

caulk and weather stripping to fill in gaps where air can escape around these openings can make a noticeable difference for a fraction of the cost and make it cheaper to heat and cool your home.

### Install Skylights

Skylights are a cost-effective option for transforming any room in the home with natural light while also delivering energy-saving benefits. For example, Sun Tunnel Skylights from Velux can be installed in as little as 90 minutes and funnel natural light from the roof through the attic and into the room below with an aesthetic that resembles recessed lighting. Customizable with six diffuser film styles to complement interior design, the skylights can make a home more energy-efficient by reducing reliance on artificial lighting. An optional daylight controller makes it easy for homeowners to adjust natural light entering a room, and a solar nightlight provides a moon-like guiding light at night. Installed with the solar nightlight, the skylights qualify for a 26% federal tax



credit on solar property.

### Add Reflective Window Film

When the sun shines through windows, it can heat up the home's interior quickly and trigger the air conditioner to turn on. Window coverings, such as blackout curtains, can help, but adding low-e reflective window film to your windowpanes, particularly southern-facing ones, can provide an additional shield from the sun's hot rays and reduce energy costs.

### Install a Programmable Thermostat

A programmable thermostat is an efficient way to control the climate inside your home, and those with smart technology take programming to a whole new level. Today's smart thermostats not only let homeowners control temperatures from their smart devices while on-the-go but can also learn daily habits and adjust the temperature accordingly with no other manual adjustments necessary. In addition, some utility companies offer incentives like money back at the end of the year for installing a smart thermostat because the energy savings are so substantial.

### Replace Appliances

Because appliances like refrigerators and ovens, among others, are major energy users, investing in more efficient models provides both cost and energy savings. Additionally, homes more than 15 years old could benefit from updates to the air conditioner or heater as systems 15-20 years old or older may be candidates for replacement as they're inefficient by today's standards.

### Add Ceiling Fans

In comparison to running your air conditioner consistently, the cost of running a ceiling fan (or several) is significantly less. Particularly on days that may not require cooling the entire house completely, fans can provide a gentle breeze and circulate air in the spaces you use most often. Simply adjust the switch to the counterclockwise position to ensure it's pushing air downward during warmer months.

For more information and home improvement ideas, visit [whyskylights.com/livellighter](http://whyskylights.com/livellighter).

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 2930 SE Tecumseh Road  
 Tecumseh, Kansas 66542  
[www.highlandheightsccc.com](http://www.highlandheightsccc.com)  
 Jars of Clay Children's Ctr 785-379-9098

## 2. CHRISTIAN CAVALRY MINISTRIES INT.

Pastor Beaux Bryant  
 c/o Seaman Baptist Church  
 2015 NW Buchanan, Topeka Ks 66608  
 785-224-5419 • [www.church4bikers.org](http://www.church4bikers.org)  
 Sun. School 9:30 am  
 Sun. Service 10:45 am  
 Wed. Prayer & Bible Study 7pm

## 3. TOPEKA BIBLE CHURCH

1101 SW Mulvane St., Topeka  
 785-234-5545  
 Worship: 8:00 - 9:30 & 11am  
 Sunday School & Bible Studies:  
 9:30 & 11am  
[www.discovertbc.com](http://www.discovertbc.com)

## 4. NORTHLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH

3102 NW Topeka Blvd., Topeka  
 286-1204  
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[www.northland.cc](http://www.northland.cc)

## 5. INDIANA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 3510 SE Indiana Ave., Topeka, Ks. 66605  
 785-266-7788, [www.Indianaavecofc.org](http://www.Indianaavecofc.org)  
 Bible University - Sunday - 9:30 a.m.  
 Classes for all ages.

Morning Worship - Sunday - 10:45 a.m.  
 Midweek Bible University - Wed. - 7pm

## 6. FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST

1912 SW Gage, Topeka, KS  
 272-0443 [www.fsbctopeka.org](http://www.fsbctopeka.org)  
 Sunday Services:  
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 11 AM Contemporary Worship

## 7. TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH

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## 11. COMMUNITY CHURCH

1819 SW 21st St., Topeka  
 233-3537 [www.CommunityChurchKS.com](http://www.CommunityChurchKS.com)  
 Sun. 9:30am - Sunday School for all ages  
 Sun. 10:30am - Worship & Word, Children  
 Wed. 6:30pm - Children, Youth, Adult  
 ~ Nursery care for all services ~

## 12. BUCK CREEK COUNTRY CHURCH

Meeting at Buck Creek School House  
 5 mi. east of Perry on Hwy 24, 13th & Phillips Rd.  
 Childrens Sunday School - 8:30 a.m.  
 Worship Service - 9:00 a.m.  
 Contacts: Logan Barnett 785-597-5498,  
 or Scott Bond 423-0406

## 13. WANAMAKER WOODS NAZARENE

Serving Christ - Loving People  
 3501 SW Wanamaker Rd • 273-2248  
 Dr. L.D. Holmes, Sr. Pastor  
[www.wwnaz.org](http://www.wwnaz.org)  
 Sun. Worship: 9am (Hymns) & 11 am  
 Children's Worship 9 & 11 am  
 Sunday School 10 am, all ages  
 Sun. Evening Various Children's Programs  
 6 pm Life Groups; 6:30 pm Teen Service  
 Wed. 6:30 pm Adult & Teen Life Groups  
 Wed. 6:30 pm Kids University  
 ~ Nursery care at all services ~

## 14. GRACE LIFE CONNECTION

Living grace inside-out  
 in an upside-down world  
 Saturdays @ 5:00 PM  
 Bible Study Thursdays @ 6:00 PM  
 Meeting at Highland Park Baptist  
 29th & Pennsylvania, Topeka, KS  
 Pastor Pete Whitebird

## 15. OAKLAND UNITED METHODIST

801 NE Chester, Topeka, KS 66616  
 235-1010 • [ourmc@att.net](mailto:ourmc@att.net)  
 Shawn O'Trimble, Pastor  
 Sunday School 9:15am, Worship 10:30am  
 Children's worship time 10:30am  
 Hear us on WREN Radio Sun. 10-11am  
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## 16. HOUSE OF THE LORD CHURCH

A Spirit-filled, Word-centered church  
 2531 SE Wittenberg Rd., Topeka  
 Sunday Worship 11am & 6pm



Wed. Prayer & Praise 7pm  
 785-266-LOVE (5683)  
 J. Michael Borjon, Pastor

## 17. EAST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

4425 S.E. 29th St., 379-9933  
 Sunday Worship 10:45am & 6:00pm  
 AWANA Sunday at 5:45 p.m.  
 See our website for info on our  
 Student Ministries & Kid City  
[www.esbcks.org](http://www.esbcks.org)

## 19. SEAMAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Independent Christ-Centered Bible Church  
 2036 NW Taylor, Topeka, KS  
 354-8777 • [www.seamanchurch.com](http://www.seamanchurch.com)  
 Adult Sunday School - Sun. 9:30am  
 Sunday Worship: 10:30am  
 Children's Sunday School: 10:30am

Youth group 1st & 3rd Sundays 4-6pm

## 20. HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH

1937 NE Madison St,  
 Topeka, KS 66616 • 785-506-4594  
 Pastor Dale Stockburger  
 Sunday Worship: 10 am and 6pm  
 Junior Church for kids: Sun 10am  
 Wed. Evening Worship: 7pm

## 21. HARVEST FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

Meets at 522 SW Polk  
 785-220-5418  
 Pastor Rey Rodriguez  
 Sun. Worship 10:30 am  
[www.topekaharvest.vpweb.com](http://www.topekaharvest.vpweb.com)

## 22. FAMILY OF GOD CHURCH

1231 NW Eugene St.  
 Topeka, KS 66608

Pastor Roger Randel  
 Sunday Worship 10:30am & 6pm  
 Wednesday Bible Study 7pm  
 234-1111 • [FOGchurch.com](http://FOGchurch.com)

## 24. TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

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 Version and the 1689 London Baptist  
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 Pastor Bob Spagnuolo 785-273-3506  
 meeting in our home:  
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[www.TrinityReformedBaptist.org](http://www.TrinityReformedBaptist.org)

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 785.331.6452. Email: [montemace2000@yahoo.com](mailto:montemace2000@yahoo.com)

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### WANTED:

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1101 SW Mulvane, Topeka, KS 66604  
 1135 SW College Ave., Topeka, KS 66604  
 234-5545 [www.discovertbc.com](http://www.discovertbc.com)

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

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## Is China preparing to invade Democratic Taiwan?

Editor's Note: Religious communities are under attack in China. Now, the Communists leaders of the world's most populous nation are illegally taking over Hong Kong in a breach of a Treaty China signed with Great Britain in 1997. China's latest actions have broad implications for the religious freedom of countless Hong Kong believers. Now, China appears to be practicing an invasion of Taiwan – the Island state that pro-Democracy leaders fled to when Communists took over China in 1949. The military buildup by China has been lost in headlines consumed by protests, Covid and the U.S. presidential elections. Below is a “behind the scenes” look at what is happening.

### China Threatening Taiwan

China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) is currently staging a military exercise across from the Taiwan Strait that looks as if it plans to culminate in an amphibious assault on an island in the South China Sea. Taiwan's military — evidently fearing, with good reason, that the exercise may be a cover for an actual Chinese plan to seize another island in the region, Pratas (Dongsha), claimed by both the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Taiwan — has declared a state of emergency. The PLA exercise also looks as if it is preparing China's air, naval and marine assets required for an invasion of Taiwan.

In 1996, China initiated a similar crisis in the Taiwan Strait by staging an amphibious assault military exercise. After President Bill Clinton deployed two powerful US aircraft carrier-led battle groups, China discontinued its aggressive posture toward Taiwan. Strategic analysts judged that the Chinese decision was the fruit of a realistic assessment that it could not overcome the US ability to defend Taiwan.

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP), under current Chairman Xi Jinping, appears to be threatening war in a renewed effort to bring Taiwan under Communist Chinese control. The CCP considers Taiwan to be a Chinese province, an integral part of the mainland that ultimately must rejoin it, and the only remaining part of China yet to be returned after the Communists defeated the Nationalists in 1949. For China, it is unfinished business from 70 years ago. China has isolated Taiwan by requiring that all countries who want to have normal diplomatic ties with China must have no state-to-state links with Taiwan. Although the US consents to this diplomatic requirement, it also continues to provide Taiwan with weapon systems, enabling the island to defend itself against any Chinese invasion. US President Donald J. Trump recently authorized the latest sale of US weapons — including advanced heavy torpedoes — to Taiwan. Trump, earlier in his tenure, also approved the sale of anti-aircraft Stinger missiles, Abrams tanks, and F-16 fighter jets.

Many foreign specialists on China seem to discount the possibility that the Chinese are willing to risk war with the West to subdue Taiwan. Serious consideration should nevertheless be given to the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) determination to incorporate the “secessionist” province despite the danger of a conflict, especially if China considers the US distracted by the fallout of the Wuhan coro-



navirus that China unleashed on the world, and American voter squeamishness before a presidential election in four months.

The CCP views Taiwan as an existential threat to continued Communist rule in China. Taiwan's vibrant democracy is the alternate model to the CCP's totalitarian rule. Despite China's efforts to cut Taiwan off from the world, the country remains an economically successful and politically free society, less than 90 miles from the Chinese coast.

Millions of mainland Chinese have visited Taiwan, a practice which could stimulate pressure by Chinese citizens on the Communist regime for liberalizing political reforms. If China assesses that its growing military power could quickly reduce Taiwan's ability to defend itself or that the West has lost the will to defend the island, CCP Chairman Xi might direct the PLA to launch an invasion.

China also doubtless took stock of the free world's obliging passivity the past few weeks as Beijing seized Hong Kong. Not one country lifted a finger to stop them. The move was in explicit violation of China's 1997 Joint Declaration with the United Kingdom to maintain “one country, two systems” until 2047.

Presently, China seems to be assessing the West's resolve to defend Taiwan, while simultaneously attempting to instill fear in the administration of Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen. China initiated this latest aggressive posture toward Taiwan shortly after President Tsai's May 2016 election, possibly anticipating that Taiwan could declare formal independence from China. In recent months, the PLA's deployment of air and naval assets near Taiwan have been violating the island's airspace and territorial waters. China's aggressive moves have included its deployment of Air Force H-6 bombers and SU-30 and J-11 fighter jets. China's ongoing 79-day military exercise (May 14 – July 31) opposite Taiwan is being orchestrated by the PLA's Southern Theater of Command, headquartered in Nanning, the capital city of China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in

the south. The exercise features the dual deployment of the Chinese Navy's two aircraft carriers, the Shandong and the Liaoning, just across the narrow Taiwan Strait in China's Bohai Sea. The exercise is utilizing air-cushioned boats, amphibious assault vehicles, landing barges, and ground attack helicopters. Reportedly, the ongoing PLA military exercise will conclude with an amphibious assault by Chinese Marines upon Woody Island (Yongxing) in the Philippine Sea, south of Taiwan. Woody Island is occupied by Chinese troops is also claimed by Taiwan and Vietnam (which calls the island Phu Lam).

In response to China's threatening exercise, Major General Lin Wen-Huang, Chief of Taiwan's Joint Operations, asserted that Taiwan's military had plans and preparations in place. General Lin, perhaps fearing that the actual target of the PLA amphibious assault is the Taiwan-occupied island of Pratas (Dongsha), 548 kilometers southwest of Taiwan, reinforced the island's small Coast Guard contingent with hundreds of Taiwanese Marines from the 99th Brigade.

Taiwan's armed forces maintain close communication with the US military. In a “cross-strait” confrontation between Taiwan and China, American air and naval assets would be granted complete access to Taiwanese airfields and ports. The Trump Administration, signaling China not to assume dominance in the South and East China Seas, has conducted seven such “Freedom of Navigation” missions through the Taiwan Strait in 2020, and the US Navy has already deployed three aircraft carrier battle groups in the South China Sea.

China's Communist leaders should not miscalculate that the US is too immersed in domestic distractions to defend Taiwan militarily against any possible plans to threaten the island's sovereignty.

—Dr. Lawrence A. Franklin was the Iran Desk Officer for Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld. He also served on active duty with the U.S. Army and as a Colonel in the Air Force Reserve. Reprinted from the *Gatestone Institute*.



### In My Hands: Stories of the Land and Animals I Love but Can't See

Reyna Bradford, blind since the age of 15 months, shares how she finds joy raising dairy goats and training her beloved dogs in the Kansas Flint Hills. Available on Amazon and wherever books are sold.

[www.FlintHillsPublishing.com](http://www.FlintHillsPublishing.com)

## New Facilitator announced for 'Forgiven and Set Free' Post-Abortion Bible Study

Christians for Life, Inc., has announced a new Forgiven and Set Free Post Abortion Bible Study Facilitator, Carmen Metzger. Forgiven and Set Free, written by Linda Cochrane, is a post abortion Bible study for women.

No matter what drives someone to end a pregnancy, there are side effects that they may not have anticipated. Feelings of guilt, shame, and grief become a heavy burden and many women feel they will never be free, that no one understands that “God will never forgive” them. There is hope for those who may feel this way.

Carmen will lead participants through the study with great care and understanding. With an understanding spirit and a gentle hand, she will show how “God can heal your hurts and bring you out of the dark past and into His holy light. It is in the scriptures where you will find help with issues such as relief, anger, forgiveness, depression, letting go and acceptance.”



If you are yearning for the peace of God's forgiveness, this study can be the first step to healing and wholeness. To contact Carmen, call Christians for Life, Inc., at 785-267-5777.



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7TH ANNUAL TOPEKA



# EASTER FEST

EASTER PARADE + FAMILY FUN FAIR!



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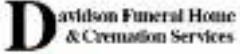
**Fun Fair** open 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at Garfield Park! **Live music** at Garfield Park 10:45 am - 3:00 pm!  
**Parade** starts at 10:00 am! (From NOTO to Garfield Park) • **Food Trucks** in Garfield Park 9 am - 3 pm!  
**Easter Egg Hunt** (socially distanced) following parade at Garfield Park! • **Vendor Market** 10 am - 3 pm!  
Dance troupes, martial arts, gymnastics, ballet, demonstrations & more at the **Health Fair** 10am-3pm!  
Craft stations, Facepainting, Easter Bunny photos, Pony rides, Petting zoo, Inflatables, Games & kid's activities! **Bingo** at the Vendor Market! • **Win a Bicycle** at the Ball Toss! • **Win Cupcakes** at the Cake Walk!

**Volunteers needed! Contact:**  
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**For booth, sponsor & parade entry information:**  
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