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NEW RESIDENT churchguide



Community Church

See inside back cover!

Hope for Prisoners founder Jon Ponder gets Trump pardon at RNC



President Donald Trump is flanked by Jon Ponder and his wife Jamie as he presents a full pardon to the former bank robber.

Former bank robber and now Christian ministry founder Jon Ponder was pardoned by President Donald Trump on the second night of the Republican National Convention. The emotional moment came as the President and Ponder stood with the FBI agent who apprehended him.

"Jon's life is a beautiful testament to the power of redemption," Trump announced in a video as he granted

Ponder a full pardon, which covers the removal of a federal bank robbery charge from Ponder's record.

Ponder, a former three-time convicted felon, was arrested for bank robbery in 2004 in Nevada by FBI agent Richard Beasley. He later became an advocate for criminal justice reform, and founded the Las Vegas nonprofit Hope for Prisoners to help fellow ex-offenders overcome barriers to reentering society

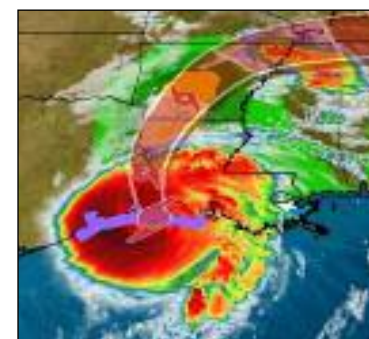
and finding employment.

"In the last 10 years since Jon was released, he has created one of the most successful reentry programs, Hope for Prisoners in Las Vegas," Trump said in a prerecorded message at the White House.

"Hope for Prisoners is a movement that began as a dream in a tiny prison cell and is now making a difference in

■ Please see PARDON page 2

Skyscrapers shredded by Laura



Lake Charles, Louisiana was shredded by hurricane Laura as she roared ashore along the Gulf Coast on Wednesday night, August 26. The storm pounded residents who remained with a life-threatening sea surge, wind and historic rain. The city's skyscrapers were severely damaged by ferocious winds, blowing out windows as glass and debris flew to the ground.

Thursday morning revealed that damage was devastating along the coast. Many roads remained impassable from trees and debris or high water.

"There are some people still in town and people are calling ... but there ain't no way to get to them," Tony Guillory, president of the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, said early Thursday morning over the phone as he hunkered down in a Lake Charles government building that

■ Please see LAURA page 3

Youth Court provides options, experience to young offenders



September is National Youth Court Month, and Topeka Youth Project had to make adjustments to how Youth Court is run this year because of COVID-19, the 16th year of providing Youth Court to Topeka/Shawnee County youth. Court Cases will now be run through Zoom until it is safe to return to the courtroom.

This program is youth-led and youth-driven by 13- to 18-year-old students. The judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, jurors, bailiff, court clerk and defendants are all teenagers. They hear cases of first-time traffic offenders with misdemeanor charges.

As a juror, the youth decide the sanctions to be imposed upon the offender. Sanctions can range from community service, written or oral apologies, essays related to the offense and/or improving grades. Participants serve as a juror in 2 future cases.

■ Please see YOUTH COURT page 2

Embattled Jerry Falwell Jr. resigns as president of Liberty University

Jerry Falwell Jr. has resigned as president of the university founded by his father. After conflicting media reports, he announced on Tuesday afternoon that he no longer is president of Liberty University.

The move came after a series of troubling events, including a bombshell report published by Reuters detailing an alleged years-long tryst involving Falwell's wife, Becki, and a Miami-based pool assistant, Giancarlo Granda. The report stated that Falwell Jr. made the decision to leave the university "effective immediately."

On Sunday night, Falwell released a 1,200-word statement disclosing an affair

that Becki Falwell entered into with Granda, though he suggested the romance, which began in 2012, was short-lived, adding he and his wife reconciled quickly. Falwell went on to accuse Granda of attempting to extort his family by threatening to disclose details of the relationship.

Granda pushed back against Jerry Falwell's recounting of the affair. Rather, Granda, now 29, said the salacious relationship lasted for several years and involved both Becki and Jerry Falwell. In addition to his comments, Granda also provided Reuters with an audio

■ Please see FALWELL page 3



Jerry Falwell, Jr and his wife are embroiled in a controversy with Giancarlo Granda.

Upper Room Radio Celebrates 5th Anniversary



L to R, Ang (Rock The Flock Friday), Frank (Frank At Night), Roger (The Ride With Roger Show), Rick (The Drive), Cheri (Out My Window).

Roger Randel, 48-year-old pastor of Family of God Church, 1231 N.W. Eugene in North Topeka, is celebrating the 5th anniversary of Upper Room Radio, which is also based at the church.

The Fifth Anniversary celebration will feature the TACO TUESDAY GIVEAWAY: The station will give away free tacos every Tuesday during the month of September. The Taco Tuesday Giveaway will happen every hour during the live DJ shows: The Ride With Roger Show, The Drive With Rick, and The Frank At Night Show. When listeners hear the "Taco Tuesday Sounder" and are the first caller, they will win a certificate for tacos.

"I would like to thank all the many wonderful volunteers who have made these five years possible," Randel said, "including my wife and family who have been my rock."

Randel grew up around radio, as his father, the late Roger Randel Sr., was program director at KTOP-AM 1490 years ago.

"My dad was in radio for many years," Randel said. "As a kid, I used to run around the studio, and it got into my blood."

After taking over as pastor of Family of God Church in 2011, he began thinking about radio again.

He began working on a project to start a low-power FM station that would play Christian rock oldies and feature local ministers.

After years of work and expense, KFGB-FM 97.7 was born, and went on the air Sept. 15, 2015.

The 100-watt station can be heard mainly on the city's north side, but Randal is hoping to be approved for a power increase soon to cover the entire



nationally known ministers such as Pastor Rod Parsley, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, Billye Brim, Keith Moore, Joyce Meyer and Chad MacDonald.

Several local ministers, including Rey Rodriguez, Cheri Havens and Sarah Griggs, come on the air for Bible studies during the week. Programs from the Rev. Max Manning and Scott Perkins, "The Country Parson," also are featured on the station.

Randel himself is on the air with a drive-time program from 7 to 9 a.m. called "Ride With Roger."

Frank at Night is on 9 to midnight Monday through Thursday, and The Drive with Rick is on Monday through Friday 4-7 p.m.

Family of God Church's Sunday service is broadcast live at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday.

The rest of the time, the station's computer is programmed to play Christian oldies on a continuous basis.

For more information or to listen to Upper Room Radio, visit www.familyofgodchurch.com/UpperRoomRadio.

city and beyond.

With internet technology Upper Room Radio can be heard online around the world, streaming 24/7 at UpperRoomRadioOnline.com.

Listeners will hear mostly Christian artists of the 70s, 80s and 90s such as Steven Curtis Chapman, Jaci Velasquez, Sweet Comfort Band, Stryper, Newsboys, Russ Taff, Amy Grant, Petra, Keith Green, dcTalk, Bryan Duncan and Randy Stonehill.

In addition to classic Christian rock, Upper Room Radio also features radio

2020 Garden Glow to replace Apple Festival

A new event, the Ward-Meade Garden Glow, will replace Apple Festival for 2020 at Old Prairie Town/Ward-Meade Botanical Garden. Patterned after the popular Tulips at Twilight event which was canceled this year due to COVID-19, Garden Glow will feature lighted displays and larger than life illuminated flowers. Garden Glow is set for Oct. 2-11 from 7-10 p.m. nightly. Admission is a \$5 donation. Children age five and under are free. "Apple Festival is a very interactive event with a lot of question and answer education, close contact and touching of vendor goods," said John Bell, recreation supervisor for Old Prairie Town. "With Garden Glow, we are still able to offer a great event to the community with appropriate safety guidelines in place."

While Garden Glow will feature some of the same displays seen at Tulips at Twilight, it will also feature some never before seen displays as well.

PARDON

continued from page 1

the lives of thousands, truly bringing hope that there is an opportunity and a community that is waiting and willing

"My hope for America is that all people regardless of race, color, class, or background will take advantage of the fact that we live in a nation of second chances."

to offer them a second chance," Trump added.

"I will continue to give all Americans, including former inmates, the best chance to build a new life and achieve their own American dream, and a great American dream it is."

Ponder expressed hope in remarks at the Republican convention.

"I am so grateful to be here. Not so long ago, my life was running from the police, fearing the police, and avoiding the police," he said. "I had allowed animosity to grow inside of me, making me believe that they were my enemy."

"My hope for America is that all people regardless of race, color, class, or background will take advantage of the fact that we live in a nation of second chances," he added. "My greatest failure led to my greatest success. My hope for America is that we can all look at our failures and use them to work together for a future of successes."

Ponder said that he is "filled with

hope" and that he has been given a second chance.

"My transformation began in a prison cell. I gave my life to Jesus," he said. "First person to help me was actually the FBI agent who arrested me, Rich Beasley. He is now a dear friend."

Beasley, who is now retired, also spoke at the convention.

"When I met Jon 15 years ago, he was angry, scared, and facing years in prison. On the drive to jail, we had a long talk and began to understand each other," Beasley recounted. "Five years later, when he got out of prison, Jon and I met for lunch. He was a different man."

"I'm grateful for President Trump's commitment to criminal justice reform," Beasley said, recounting how Trump spoke as a guest at the Hope for Prisoners graduation 6 months prior.

"The most important man in the free world was shaking hands and pledging his administration's support to ex-offenders," he said.

"I also appreciate President Trump's support for law enforcement. He knows the overwhelming percentage of law enforcement officers are good, smart people who are doing their jobs well. And they can change the world, working with people like Jon."

YOUTH COURT

continued from page 1

Youth Court provides young adults with education on the legal and judicial system, which many times causes youth to rethink their views on delinquent behaviors. This often leads youth to adopt more pro-social attitudes. This outcome ultimately has the ability to enhance safety in our community.

Any youth that would like to be a court officer, or has their first ticket, may call 273-4141 for more information. Youth

Court is held the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Topeka Youth Project is a 501(c)3 grassroots organization and has been in operation since 1983 serving more than 5,800 young adults in the Jobs for Young Adults Program, and the Youth Council/Youth Court has provided more than 75,000 hours of community service to Topeka/Shawnee County.

Topeka Youth Project's new HQ is at Avondale East, 455 SE Golf Park Blvd. For more information, you can visit topekayouthproject.com, email director@topekayouthproject.com, or call 785-273-4141.

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New thrift store opens in Topeka on the Boulevard



The Giving Tree is a new faith-based non-profit donation store opening in Topeka September 1st.

Every quarter a different local non-profit who applies and meets their criteria will receive the stores' net profits as a donation.

The Giving Tree offers clothing, furniture, home decor, tools, toys and appliances for sale at affordable prices. The store accepts donations to sell, including clothing, kitchen/dinningware, toys, fur-

niture, working appliances, tools, home décor, fabric and craft supplies.

The new store is located at 3343 SW Topeka Blvd. For more information visit <http://givingtree-topeka.org/> or call (785) 251-3721.



FALWELL

continued from page 1

recording in which both Falwells allegedly allude to the sexual nature of their since-ended relationship with Granda.

The pool assistant claimed there were numerous sexual liaisons over the course of seven years. He said they took place in Miami, New York and at the Falwell family's home in central Virginia, near Liberty's sprawling campus.

All of this comes not long after Jerry Falwell Jr. was placed on an indefinite leave of absence after he posted a questionable photo of himself and a young woman, later revealed to be Becki Falwell's assistant, to his Instagram

account. He has since deleted that post.

The Rev. Johnnie Moore, a commissioner for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom and founder of the KAIROS Company, released the following statement late Tuesday afternoon:

"Liberty would not exist but for the Falwells, yet the brilliance of its original mission and vision was transcended long ago by the scope of education and service that the university has delivered to its students and community. Liberty is an institution designed to thrive for the cause of Christ today and for generations. I am sure members of the community — past and present — will pray and will work together to ensure that Liberty's best days are ahead."

LAURA

continued from page 1

was shaking from the storm.

With more than 290,000 homes and businesses without power in Louisiana and Texas, near-constant lightning provided the only light for some.

The National Hurricane Center said Laura intensified rapidly before plowing into land with sustained winds of 150 mph (241 kph) at 1 a.m. CDT as a Category 4 hurricane near Cameron, a 400-person community about 30 miles (48 kilometers) east of the Texas border.

Nearly five hours after landfall, Laura was downgraded to a Category 2 hurricane, with maximum sustained winds of 110 mph (175 kph).

More than 580,000 coastal residents were under orders to flee in the largest evacuation since the coronavirus pandemic began and many did, filling

hotels and sleeping in cars since officials didn't want to open mass shelters and worsen the spread of COVID-19.

But in Cameron Parish, where Laura came ashore, officials said at least 150 people refused pleas to leave and planned to weather the storm in everything from elevated homes to recreational vehicles.

"It's a very sad situation," said Ashley Buller, assistant director of emergency preparedness. "We did everything we could to encourage them to leave."

Laura hit the U.S. after killing nearly two dozen people on the island of Hispaniola, including 20 in Haiti and three in the Dominican Republic, where it knocked out power and caused intense flooding.

Laura was the seventh named storm to strike the U.S. this year, setting a new record for U.S. landfalls by the end of August.

Starlite Skate Center closes permanently



Starlite Skate Center at 301 SE 45th street has closed permanently after being shut down since March when the COVID-19 pandemic began.

"We are sad to close our doors, it was a difficult decision," said Melissa Kershner, spokesperson for Starlite Skate. "Starlite has been a place for families and friends to enjoy their time together; many of us grew up skating here and have fond memories of Starlite."

The Starlite Skate Center property has been sold to a local buyer who will be opening a business at the address after renovations occur.

"We are thankful to have found a buyer that will be opening another locally owned establishment on the south side of town," said Kershner.

While Starlite Skate Center is closing, they hope residents of Topeka continue to skate.

"We hope that you continue skating and support Sk8away located at 815 SW Fairlawn Road," said Kershner.

Sk8away is currently open to the public and is working hard to be in compliance with all KDHE requirements regarding COVID-19. You can find their hours and pricing online at www.sk8away.net.

Starlite Skate Center has been owned by Loretta Long since 1991. Long plans to enjoy her retirement.

Luncheon to Feature Scott Perkins

Scott Perkins will be the featured speaker at the September C5 Luncheon, to be held September 10, 11:30am to 1pm at the The Peak, 1920 SW Gage Blvd.

Perkins is known as The Country Parson from his local TV and radio programs. He also pastors Heritage Country Cowboy Church.

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.

items donated by C5 members.

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

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, including EASTERFEST, the annual Topeka Easter Parade and Family Fun Fest, held on N. Kansas Avenue and in Garfield Park on the day before Easter.

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.



Perkins

Pastors Luncheon

The Annual C5 Pastor's Appreciation luncheon will be held October 8, with a special speaker and catered meal.

Members and guests are invited to invite or bring their pastors. All pastors are invited and welcome and will be prayed over, as well as treated to lunch and a gift bag of



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Kansas News Briefs from around the state

Kansas to Seek to Provide Extra Benefits to Jobless Workers

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Gov. Laura Kelly says Kansas will apply to participate in a federal program that provides additional benefits to workers who've lost their jobs because of the coronavirus pandemic. Her announcement Thursday came less than two weeks after she questioned its legality and suggested it could be difficult to administer. Kelly's office said the state would use a portion of its \$1.25 billion in federal coronavirus relief funds to cover part of the additional benefits. President Donald Trump issued an executive order earlier this month offering an additional \$300 a week in benefits to jobless workers and \$400 a week if states chipped in the additional \$100.

Court Panel Allows Federal Execution of Kansas Girl's Killer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A panel of federal appeals court judges is letting the U.S. government proceed with the planned execution of a man who kidnapped, raped and killed a 10-year-old Kansas girl. The three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit this (THUR) evening acted to let the execution of Keith Dwayne Nelson go forward Friday afternoon as scheduled. The court acted less than 24 hours after a lower court judge had halted his execution, saying the law requires the government to get a prescription for the drug it plans to use.

Washington University Saliva Test Approved by FDA for Detecting Virus

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A Washington University saliva test for the coronavirus has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Missouri Governor Mike Parson announced FDA approval for the test Wednesday. The St. Louis-area university partnered with biotechnology company Fluidigm to make the test. People can collect their own testing samples by spitting into tubes, sparing health care workers from the need to swab deep in people's noses. Meanwhile, Missouri's state health director says he won't follow new guidance from U.S. health officials against testing people who have been in close contact with infected people.

Washburn University Removed Jefferson, Franklin Statues

LIBERTY, Mo. (AP) — Washburn University officials have removed statues of Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin from the school's campus in Topeka. School spokesman Patrick Early said Thursday that university officials were concerned the statues would be vandalized or become an embarrassment for their donors. He says the family of the statues' donor asked for their return. Statues of Jefferson and other historical figures have been targeted this year because they honor slaveholders. Early says students had questioned the propriety of the statues in the past but that their removal wasn't in response to a protest or student request.

Ex-Girlfriend: Kansas House Candidate Was Abusive Last Year

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A former girlfriend says she was slapped and choked in late December by a 19-year-old Kansas House candidate who has admitted to abusive online behavior toward girls when

he was younger. Taylor Passow told The Kansas City Star and The Topeka Capital-Journal that she stopped seeing Aaron Coleman in January, before he launched his campaign for the Democratic nomination in a Kansas City, Kansas, district. Coleman narrowly won the Aug. 4 primary. Coleman has admitted on Facebook that allegations of revenge porn and online harassment targeting several middle-school girls were true but said his actions were that of a troubled 14-year-old. Passow said Coleman was abusive to her last year.

Party Disavows Kansas Candidate Who Admitted to Spreading Revenge Porn

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — The Kansas Democratic Party has declared that the 19-year-old nominee for a state House seat is "unfit" for office because of "alarming behavior" that includes admitting to circulating revenge porn. Candidate Aaron Coleman says his online fundraising account has been disabled. State party spokeswoman Reeves Oyster said it is working with Kansas House Democratic Leader Tom Sawyer to find an alternative to nominee Coleman in a normally safe Democratic district in Kansas City, Kansas. Coleman defeated seven-term state Rep. Stan Frownfelter in the August 4 primary by 14 votes. Frownfelter has launched a write-in campaign and Sawyer said Democratic lawmakers are backing it.

Agency Head Says Foster Care System in Kansas Is Improving

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A Kansas official says the state has improved the foster care system in response to a scathing federal report and the settlement of class-action lawsuits. Laura Howard, secretary of the Kansas Department for Children and Families, testified this week in the first of a series of hearings state lawmakers are holding to discuss the foster care system. A federal report last month found, among other things, that the DCF didn't comply with safety standards in 24 of the state's 31 group homes. The state also settled a lawsuit from three nonprofits to end a 2018 federal suit that demanded better care of foster kids.

Former Kansas Insurance Department Building Goes on Auction Block

TOPEKA, Kan. (KPR) — An historic building in downtown Topeka is going up for auction next week. The state is selling the former Kansas Insurance Department building. It was constructed in 1924 as the Topeka Woman's Club. It later housed the Insurance Department until that agency moved to a different location last year. The old building includes many stained glass windows, chandeliers, and lots of office space. Auctioneers say the building would be a perfect spot for a law firm, or any business with employees who need to interact with lawmakers. Marty Higgenbotham, Auctioneer, said, "There's no buildings being built like it today, period. They just don't come like this, you just don't see the character being built today that this building exudes. Fabulous oak floors throughout the building as an example. I went all the way to the top, it's concrete and steel, I mean this building is built to take on the weather." The property has an appraised value of \$1,464,900, according to the Shawnee County Appraiser's Office. Higgenbotham Auctioneers announced on its website

that the auction will take place both live and online at 11 am Wednesday, September 2.

Kansas Man Sentenced for Yelling Slurs, Kicking Black Child

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — A Kansas man who kicked a Black child and yelled racial slurs in a Wichita grocery store will be sent to prison after failing at rehabilitation efforts. Trace Riff was sentenced Thursday to two years and four months in prison. Prosecutors say he kicked the 1-year-old boy in December 2018 while the child was in a store with his pregnant mother and an older sibling. He pleaded no contest in May 2019 to attempted aggravated battery, disorderly conduct and drug charges. Sedgwick County District Attorney Marc Bennett said rehabilitation efforts for Riff had failed. Riff's family and attorney say he suffers from mental health issues and a drug addiction.

New Effort Begins to Name Kansas City Street After King

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A new effort has begun to rename a street in Kansas City after Martin Luther King Jr. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater Kansas City on Tuesday proposed to the city parks board that it rename three major streets that connect with each other. The streets are Swope Parkway, Volker Drive and part of Blue Parkway. The proposal comes after voters last year reversed the city's decision to name The Paseo Boulevard after King. The park board will gather input from residents and hold two public hearings before making a decision.

Invenergy to Expand Available Wind Power in Kansas, Missouri

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — A company planning a high-voltage power line carrying wind energy across the Midwest says it plans to distribute more electricity in Kansas and Missouri. Invenergy Transmission had previously announced that 500 of its planned 4,000 megawatts of power would go to Missouri. The rest was expected to be carried to a power grid connection in Indiana that serves eastern states. On Tuesday, Invenergy said it will instead set aside up to 2,500 megawatts of wind power for Missouri and Kansas. That comes as the company still is awaiting regulatory approval for the portion of its power line that would pass through Illinois.

Police Launch Investigation After Body Found in Kansas Donation Bin

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (KC Star) — Police are investigating the death of a man found inside a Kansas City, Kansas, donation bin Tuesday morning. Tom Tomasic, a spokesman for the KCK Police Department, said in an email that officers were called just after 10:35 am to West 47th Avenue after someone was found dead in the area. Police found the body of a man in his 60s inside a public donation receptacle. Police believe the man may have been sleeping in the bin from time to time, Tomasic said. There were no immediate signs of foul play at the scene, he added. A death investigation is underway. Anyone with information about the death is asked to call the TIPS Hotline at (816) 474-8477.

Kansas City to Get \$50 Million to

Extend Streetcar

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Federal officials say Kansas City will receive nearly \$51 million to extend its streetcar from downtown to the Country Club Plaza. The Federal Transit Administration said Wednesday the \$50.8 million in grants will allow the project to enter its final planning stage. City officials have been planning for years to extend the line from

Union Station in central Kansas City to the Plaza, adding about 3.5 miles of track. The project is expected to cost \$351 million. Work on water and sewer lines is projected to begin this fall, with the opening of the streetcar expansion expected in 2025.

—kansapublicradio.org

Unemployment compensation is taxable: Have tax withheld now

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

With millions of Americans now receiving taxable unemployment compensation, many of them for the



first time, the Internal Revenue Service is reminding people receiving unemployment compensation that they can have tax withheld from their benefits now to help avoid owing taxes on this income when they file their federal income tax return next year.

By law, unemployment compensation is taxable and must be reported on a 2020 federal income tax return. Taxable benefits include any of the special unemployment compensation authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, enacted this spring.

Withholding is voluntary. Federal law allows any recipient to choose to have a flat 10% withheld from their benefits to cover part or all of their tax liability. To do that, fill out Form W-4V, Voluntary Withholding Request (PDF), and give it to the agency paying the benefits. Don't send it to the IRS. If the payor has its own withholding request form, use it instead.

If a recipient doesn't choose withholding, or if withholding is not enough, they can make quarterly estimated tax payments instead. The payment for the first two quarters of 2020 was due on July 15. Third and fourth quarter payments are due on Sept. 15, 2020, and Jan. 15, 2021, respectively. For

more information, including some helpful worksheets, see Form 1040-ES and Publication 505, available on IRS.gov.

Here are some types of payments taxpayers should check their withholding on:

- Unemployment compensation includes: Benefits paid by a state from the Federal Unemployment Trust Fund
- Railroad unemployment compensation benefits
- Disability benefits paid as a substitute for unemployment compensation
- Unemployment assistance under the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974, and
- Unemployment assistance under the Airline Deregulation Act of 1978 Program

Recipients who return to work before the end of the year can use the IRS Tax Withholding Estimator to make sure they are having enough tax taken out of their pay. Available only on IRS.gov, this online tool can help any worker or pension recipient avoid or lessen their year-end tax bill or estimate the refund they want.

In January 2021, unemployment benefit recipients should receive a Form 1099-G, Certain Government Payments (PDF) from the agency paying the benefits. The form will show the amount of unemployment compensation they received during 2020 in Box 1, and any federal income tax withheld in Box 4. Taxpayers report this information, along with their W-2 income, on their 2020 federal tax return. For more information on unemployment, see Unemployment Benefits in Publication 525.



- Multiple Year Tax Returns
- Tax Problem Solutions
- IRS letters



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FINANCIAL PLANNING

Many benefits to budgeting

Dear Dave,

Some friends recently introduced me to your ideas for handling money. I've got to admit a lot of it makes sense, but I'm not sure why you're so adamant about budgeting. Can't you get a good idea of your finances by checking your accounts and balances online regularly? Parker

Dear Parker,

This is a great topic, especially for those who are new to the idea of getting serious about their finances and gaining control of their money. A lot of folks wonder why I'm so intense about budgeting on paper, on purpose, every month. Part of the reason is they don't understand all the benefits—financial

and otherwise—that come with giving every dollar a name.

The financial benefit is a no-brainer, so it's the perfect place to start. I've been teaching people to live on a budget for many years. The reason? It never fails. People who make, and live by, a zero-based budget every month are much more likely to win with money over time. It's not always easy when you're first getting started, but it's worth it.

There's also an emotional benefit to consider. I can't think of many things more stressful than running out of money before the end of the month. If you don't keep a detailed accounting of every dollar that comes in, and where it goes, you're inviting an incredible amount of fear and uncertainty into



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

davesays

your life.

Another benefit is where relationships are concerned. Money problems and fights over money are the leading causes of divorce in America. I've seen how proper budgeting principles can bring a sense of healing, hope, and restoration to families. During budget meetings, couples learn to talk to each other like never before. They open up, share their dreams and fears, learn how to draw boundaries, and plan for the future. And this benefit isn't just for the married crowd. Folks who are single can develop more personal discipline, and find accountability, that has an impact on their relationships, too.

It's tempting to think the idea of "on paper, on purpose" is nothing but a catchphrase. But it's so much more. Budgeting is absolutely the key to gaining control of your finances!

—Dave

Don't put your home on the line!

Dear Dave,

We'd like to start preparing for the future, but our debt is preventing us from investing for retirement. Would it be okay to use a home equity line of credit to start investing? We were thinking the eventual returns might justify doing this.

Nick

Dear Nick,

No! Never put something as important and meaningful as your home on the line just for the sake of investing. Do not borrow against your home!

I'm guessing you're new to my way of doing things, so let's start from the beginning. First, follow the Baby Steps. Getting \$1,000 in the bank as a starter emergency fund is Baby Step 1. Next, pay off all your debts from smallest to largest—except for your home—using the debt snowball method. That's Baby Step 2. It's time then to revisit your emergency fund, and bulk it up to a full three to six months of expenses in Baby Step 3.

Now, it's time to really start thinking about your future and retirement. In

Baby Step 4, take 15 percent of your gross household income and start investing it for retirement. Start with your company's 401(k) plan, up to the full employer match. Then, invest the rest into Roth IRAs. One for you,

and one for your spouse, if you're married.

Here's the thing, Nick. Investing becomes easy at this point, because

you've freed up your income. And that's the most important wealth-building tool you have!

—Dave

Who Believes in the Rally?

By Ryan Shumaker
Smartvestor Pro at The Retirement Team

Last month the S&P 500 reached a new all time high. Crazy this has come at the same time that retail investors have been piling out of mutual funds and ETFs at a record rate. The week the S&P 500 finally made it back to where it was in February of this year there was over \$20 billion that left these retail investment products. There was actually more that left than this as this is net outflows and also accounts for new money coming back in. It is crazy to believe that in a week where there is so much flowing out of retail investments that the S&P 500 hit a new all time high.



that loser is the retail investor and winner an institution. We know this from the data as the S&P 500 has on average made about 50% more per year than the average retail investor, according to Dalbar a company that tracks investor behavior. As much as the average retail investor has underperformed, someone else (mainly institutions) have outperformed.

A shocking 70% of this underperformance in the last 35 years can be attributed to just 10 key periods where investors withdrew their investments during times of market crisis. In only 1 of those 10 periods would an investor have had been better off or had more money a year later if they sold. 1. Market drops, regardless of the reason or quickness, are scary. Losing money stinks there is no doubt about that, but allowing emotion and fear to drive investment decisions

Skeptical of Equities Back At All-Time Highs? You Aren't Alone.



Source: ICI, Bloomberg, Redwood. Data as of 8/14/2020.

What's crazier is that this is not new. You can see in the chart that there have been few months where there has been more buying than selling (inflows or positive bars) since the start of 2018 with most months seeing fairly large outflows. Since the start of this trend there has been nearly \$500 billion (nearly half a trillion) leave retail mutual funds and ETFs that buy stocks, yet over that time period the S&P 500 is up 33%!

It makes sense why retail investors over the last 2 1/3 years are running for the exits. In the 2 two years we've had the 2 largest selloffs in over a decade. Had a magic genie showed up in 2018 and said we're going to have the 2 largest drops since 2008 and one of them is going to be record breaking in how fast it is you'd probably want to stash everything in a mattress. The problem in doing that is that what you put in your mattress could have grown by nearly 1/3. So, if you had \$1 million you decided to stash you would have missed out on \$300,000 worth of gains. Not bad especially considering we've experienced the worst pandemic in a century during that time.

Just because retail investors are scared and selling, doesn't mean the market can't and won't go up. Retail investors aren't the only ones investing. In fact, institutional investors like pensions, university endowments, banks, insurance companies, etc. own over 2/3rds of publicly traded stocks. For every winner in the stock market there is an equal and opposite loser. If someone sells a stock and it goes down the person that bought it lost and the person that sold won. The opposite happens if it goes up. Typically

and letting panic rule is far and away the most damaging thing you can do.

The key to avoiding this problem is to have a plan. A plan for what you're going to do not if, but when markets fall. Unless you have a really short retirement, they're going to fall many times once you're done working so not planning for that contingency is reckless. Having a plan (especially one that ensures if you're retired that you're still going to have the income you desire regardless of what happens with the economy or markets) ahead of time eliminates destructive emotionally driven choices. Thus far this year we have had zero clients sell all of their investments. Zero. Why? Because they have a plan that helps allow them to avoid making emotionally driven decisions.

If living a more worry free retirement is something that interests you, The Retirement Team is here to help.

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opinion

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SD Gov. Kristi Noem: Americans Are Addicted to Being Offended, but God Can Heal Our Land

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem is speaking out to CBN News about her bold conservatism in an interview ahead of her speech tonight at the Republican National Convention.

The Mount Rushmore State's Republican governor has proven herself as a renegade, allowing mass gatherings like the Sturgis Bike Rally amid the coronavirus pandemic. She told CBN News she doesn't believe she has the authority to shut down South Dakota's economy.

"I know that when you have a leader overstep their authority in a time of crisis, that's really when you lose this country, and I didn't want to be guilty of doing that," she explained. "So I never issued a shelter in place, I never closed a business. I didn't even define an essential business, what would be essential and what wouldn't be because I don't have the authority to do that. And the interesting thing is, David is that I, I talked

with governors on conference calls all over this country about that. And they had some of the same information that I had yet made completely different decisions."

CBN News Chief Political Analyst David Brody asked the governor if she was implying that governors in Democrat-run states have been playing politics with the pandemic. Noem says absolutely.

"Oh, definitely. It is today," Noem replied. "At the beginning of this crisis back in March and April, I don't think it was really politically motivated because these same Democrat governors that are on TV, tearing apart the president today, months ago, were singing his praises. I sat on conference calls where they were thanking him for all he was doing to help them to respond to their people. What I am saying, though, is that what I heard on those conference calls was fear. I was shocked and amazed by how fear controlled people, and how emotional that



they were."

The South Dakota governor said she believes we live in a country that is addicted to being offended but believes that God will find a way to bring Americans together.

"But what I found in our culture today is people love being offended. And that that is wreaking

havoc on our culture and our way of life in people's hearts," Noem explained. "So I am hopeful that, while we are seeing some challenges, while we're seeing things happening in America that break our hearts every day that God will find a way to reveal a healing

■ Please see CULTURE page 7

CAN BAPTISM FORGIVE YOUR SINS?



CLINT DECKER

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

hopefortoday

I walked in the hospital room and Terry was lying on her bed. Her physical condition was deteriorating, and she was not ready to face her Creator. I got down on my knees and shared with her the good news of Christ, realizing her time was short. Afterwards as I prayed, she cried out for God to save her. It was an incredible moment. Weeks later Terry was home laying in her bed surrounded by family. She wanted to be baptized, so with a Styrofoam cup and towel I conducted her baptism. What a blessing! Then hours later Terry died, going to her heavenly home.

What prepared her for an eternal dwelling with Christ? Was it her conversation to Jesus at the hospital or her baptism at home?

I have been at the bedside of the dying many times and I am greatly concerned over the misunderstanding about baptism. If someone is near death and has never been baptized in their life, a minister may feel the need to go and baptize him. If an individual

knows their time is short and realizes she has never been baptized, she may request a clergyperson to come and administer it.

Baptism is a part of our American religious culture. Millions of followers in Catholic and protestant churches have experienced the sacrament. From infants, to youth and adults, men and women have been baptized during memorable religious ceremonies filled with family and friends. Sometimes it is a quiet, solemn, reverent event. Other times it is filled with hoots and hollers. The occasion is looked upon as an important religious milestone in a person's spiritual life.

Why does someone get baptized? Simple. It is a command given by God in the Bible, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins . ." (Acts 2:38)

If you attended a baptism ceremony, here is the meaning of it. As a person stands dry, ready to be baptized, they are a picture of their old self, standing dead in their sin, just as Jesus hung dead upon His cross. Then as Jesus was buried, so they are buried. Their old self gets buried in the waters of baptism. The water is an image of the Holy Spirit washing them of all their sin while being immersed into the life of Christ and His church. Then as Jesus rose from His grave with a resurrected body, so the one being baptized rises up out of the water, a new creation. The old is



gone. The new has come. It is a powerful thing to watch, an honor to administer, but most of all, it is life-changing to personally experience, as I have. The mighty grace of God is almost palpable in those moments.

What is the singular most important focus in baptism? Jesus. It is not the water. It is not the Pastor or Priest. It is Jesus. Baptism is foremost a picture of Christ's work on the cross. His suffering, death, burial and resurrection from the dead.

Sometimes we can elevate the pomp and circumstance of a baptism ceremony above Christ. We can elevate the water itself above Him, believing it becomes holy or takes on some type of mystical form. We can also elevate the sacrament itself above Christ, thinking that through it we can secure the eternal salvation of our soul.

Let me be as blunt and truthful as I can. Unless you have turned from your sins and to Christ, and unless you have

placed your full trust in Christ alone; your baptism is meaningless and of no spiritual value whatsoever. Do not believe anyone who says otherwise. Your baptism is not enough to forgive your sins. It is just mere water. Only the blood of Jesus, which was shed from His cross, can save you. Thankfully, Terry understood this when she cried out to Jesus in her hospital bed. I pray you will do the same.

A prayer for you - "Lord God, if there is someone reading this that has been deceived, believing the waters of baptism are greater than the atoning blood of Jesus, open their eyes to see the truth. Bring them to turn from trusting in a ceremony, and to repent of their sin and trust in Christ alone for their salvation. 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.

Why Trump?

By George Ismael Felio

Five years ago, if I was told that Donald Trump was going to be President, I would not have believed you. He won and now is up for reelection. How did we get here?

Why Trump?

The Republican Party failed the American people. George Bush raised taxes and pushed a New World Order. George W. Bush introduced Compassionate Conservatism which was basically a Democrat in every way except they are pro-life and strong on military. The party followed W's lead as they spent money and plunged our country into deeper and deeper debt following the example of scores of years of Democrat spending. Despite what pundits say, this was the birth of the Tea Party movement. They lost both Houses because of it. They only turned on W on amnesty. By that time, it was too late.

Why Trump?

The Democrat Party turned their back on America. Since the sixties, the Democrats have been on Russia's side. It can be traced back to FDR and his love affair with socialism. Bill Clinton sold our military secrets to the Chi-Coms for money for his library and his charity which pays him and his wife 90% of their income. After 9/11, the Democrats sided with the terrorist nations. They also always chose those that are illegally here over those who are citizens and legally here on visas. They too also lavished themselves and their business cronies with taxpayer dollars which included a private jet for the then and current Speaker of the House (Nancy Pelosi). Under Obama, things got worse. He rose taxes, recreated a racial divide that we near gone, aided our enemies while attacking our allies, made America the biggest funder of terrorism by lifting Iranian sanctions and giving them billions of dollars, sent our nation into a what he claimed was "the new normal" recession, involved us in more pointless wars, and weakened our Nation in the eyes of the world in every way including financially as we got downgraded by the World Bank. He even began the failed silent coup against the next president.

Why Trump?

For years, the Democrats have praised him and told him he should run for President. The Black Community loved him for what he did for them. The media made him a reality TV star. Despite all his faults, he genuinely loved America.

Why Trump?



In 2016, Ben Carson is a paragon of virtue. Ted Cruz is a Constitutional savant. Marco Rubio is a shining example of the American Dream. Trump lost in these categories. Fox shredded him. He had one thing for him, he fought back. True Ted Cruz had a reputation for fighting back but because of Trump's wealth, he was independent of all political money and seen as an outsider. Perhaps because he spent so much time with Democrats, he verbally assaulted those he ran against cutting away what little leg the media left them to stand on. The Media believed Trump had no chance to beat Hillary. Those who watched soon were convinced otherwise.

Trump was uncouth. Trump was a typical New Yorker. He played by NYC rules. "You come after me; then I come after you." He went after "Crooked Hillary" one of the most corrupt politicians in American history. Hillary stopped campaigning. Whether it was from health or that each sighting hurt her cause, I cannot say. Despite the odds against him, Trump won.

On the morning after winning, the media swore they would do whatever it took to get rid of him as president. The Deep State did everything it could to oust the President. Leftist threw out life after lie only for it to backfire.

They only succeeded in slowing him down. The wall is still being built. The Impeachment failed. The economy is rebounding again.

Why Trump?

The Democrat Party is the party of racism. They are the party of the Trail of Tears. They are the party of slavery. They are the party of Jim Crow. They are party of George Wallace.

They are the party of Karl Marx. They are the party of Abortions on Demand. They are the party of criminals.

They are the party of covetousness. They are the party of greed. They are the

party of anger. They are the party of hate.

They are the party of rioters. They are the party of looters. They are the party of burning the flag. They are the party of taking a knee.

They are the party of Gun Control (repeal the 2nd Amendment). They are the party of defund the police. They are the party of Antifa (a group of fascist). They are the party of BLM (a movement that is anti-church, anti-family, and anti-American).

They are the party against Israel (which is the polite way of saying they hate Jews). They are the party of high taxation. They are the party of amnesty.

They are the party that protects rapist. They are the party that shields pedophile. They are the party of human trafficking that an open border makes easy.

They are the party that shuts down churches. They are the party that dictates churches can't sing. They are the party which censors church services on the internet. They are the anti-Bible party.

They are the party that silences those who disagree with their stances such as the Frontline Doctors. They are the party of death. They are the party that looks at our bill of rights as negative rights because it limits their power. They are the anti-Constitution party. They are the party of activist judges that overrule the will of the people and the Constitution.

They are the party of Elitists. They are the anti-American Party. They are our National Socialist Party. They are also the Communist Party. They are the party of tyrants.

Why Trump?

America stands at a precipice. Our nations stands on wobbly knees ready to fall over a cliff. He may be the last candidate that represents our country as it was meant to be. He may be the last candidate to call Christ, Lord. Despite his faults, he may be the only hope for America to remain free.

What will you do when the mob shows up at your door?



Over the weekend, so-called protesters in Seattle, Washington, descended on the suburbs, demanding that local residents give up their private property. As the mob continues its efforts to defund the police and violence continues, with a member of Congress even calling for more unrest in the streets, America is clearly in a low-grade civil war.

Or, as Attorney General Bill Barr said recently, far-left groups like Antifa and Black Lives Matter are engaging in urban guerrilla warfare.

Moving out of large cities like New York, Chicago, Portland, Seattle, Minneapolis, Atlanta, St. Louis and Baltimore, radicals are terrorizing peace-loving Americans in the residential neighborhoods of suburbs and smaller cities and towns like Austin, Colorado Springs, Ft. Collins, Nevada City and even Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

The worst is yet to come as law enforcement officers are further demoralized — while politicians are often even taking the side of the criminals — and media elites and Democrat leaders ignore, downplay or lie about the violence.

While some remain skeptical

about the threat, each news cycle brings more shocking stories of mayhem and murder like that of a 24-year-old Indiana mother shot dead for telling protesters that all lives matter. Or New York worshippers verbally and physically assaulted after a violent mob surrounded their church. Or a 14-year-old girl in Harlem beaten in broad daylight while police could only stand by and watch after the mob prevented their intervention. Or a Virginia woman told by dispatchers to call City Hall because police weren't authorized to help when she and her child were trapped in their car by protesters.

So what are law-abiding citizens to do when caught in the mob's crosshairs — or our homes and businesses are looted and destroyed by protesters who are also rioters? And what can we do to defend ourselves, our families, neighborhoods and the nation we love?

To begin, we should admit that we are under attack and this is an emergency situation. And that there are forces among us using fascistic and revolutionary tactics to destabilize America and force onto us their revolutionary ideology.

By Rick Green

CULTURE

continued from page 6

process that really will bring us together and help us make more progress towards loving each other and seeking after God again than we've seen in decades."

When asked about the "cancel culture" mentality, she said while the rest of the country is tearing down monuments, we're going to be putting them up.

"We are going to put four monuments statues on our Capitol dome of the four men that are on Mount

Rushmore to recognize that these were incredible leaders for our country, flawed individuals for sure, but they met the challenges and led and based their decisions on God's Word and direction," she replied.

On the subject of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ability of churches to hold in-person worship services, Brody asked, "Do you believe people of faith are under attack around the country? There are a lot of over-the-top policies by liberal government officials, what we're seeing in

California, I mean, is something nefarious going on here?"

"Absolutely. Absolutely. It is, yeah, they are attacking our religious freedoms," Noem responded. "And so we need to use every tool that we have to make sure that we still have the ability to practice our faith and to gather as we see fit. And we have directly seen in many of these states, where they have allowed other gatherings yet restricted those who want to go to church and worship together."

—David Brody | CBN News

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Anniversary factoids: What you may not know about Nagasaki and Hiroshima



the Pacific campaigns of World War II. (Photo by Kingendai Photo Library/AFLO)

There was a considerable amount of swapping of flight crews and airplanes within the squadron and there was even a little jealousy within the bomb groups. Crews flying bombing runs over Japan were a little miffed that Colonel Tibbets' crew got the best planes, but never flew missions. As we know now, there were three aircraft of note: Colonel Tibbets' Enola Gay (named after his mother), Bock's Car, and The Great Artiste.

Most people know that Colonel Tibbets dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, and they know that Major Bock flew the second atomic bomb, the Fat Man plutonium bomb, over Nagasaki. Few know that we almost lost the aircraft. Owing to a faulty fuel transfer pump, Bock's Car had to divert to Okinawa, as it could not access all the fuel in its tanks. The Great Artiste was the only aircraft to fly both missions, carrying the machinery to measure and record the explosions.

As usual, we only read part of the

history. The Enola Gay is in the Air and Space Museum in Washington DC and Bock's Car is in the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio. The Great Artiste was actually lost in a crash in Alaska, but if you want to see what it looked like, there is a B-29 painted with all the Great Artiste's war paint at the main gate at Whiteman Air Force Base just east of Kansas City, Mo. in Knob Noster.

—Bob White is a Kansas City-area resident and history writer for Metro Voice.

With this being the 75th anniversary of the use of the first atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, on August 6 and 9, 1945, events we note as bringing an end to World War II, there are many perceptions about the events which are not true.

There are those that think we should never have dropped the bombs, that they represented such a drastic attack, that it makes America inhuman and wrong. But others ask, if not the bombs, what then?

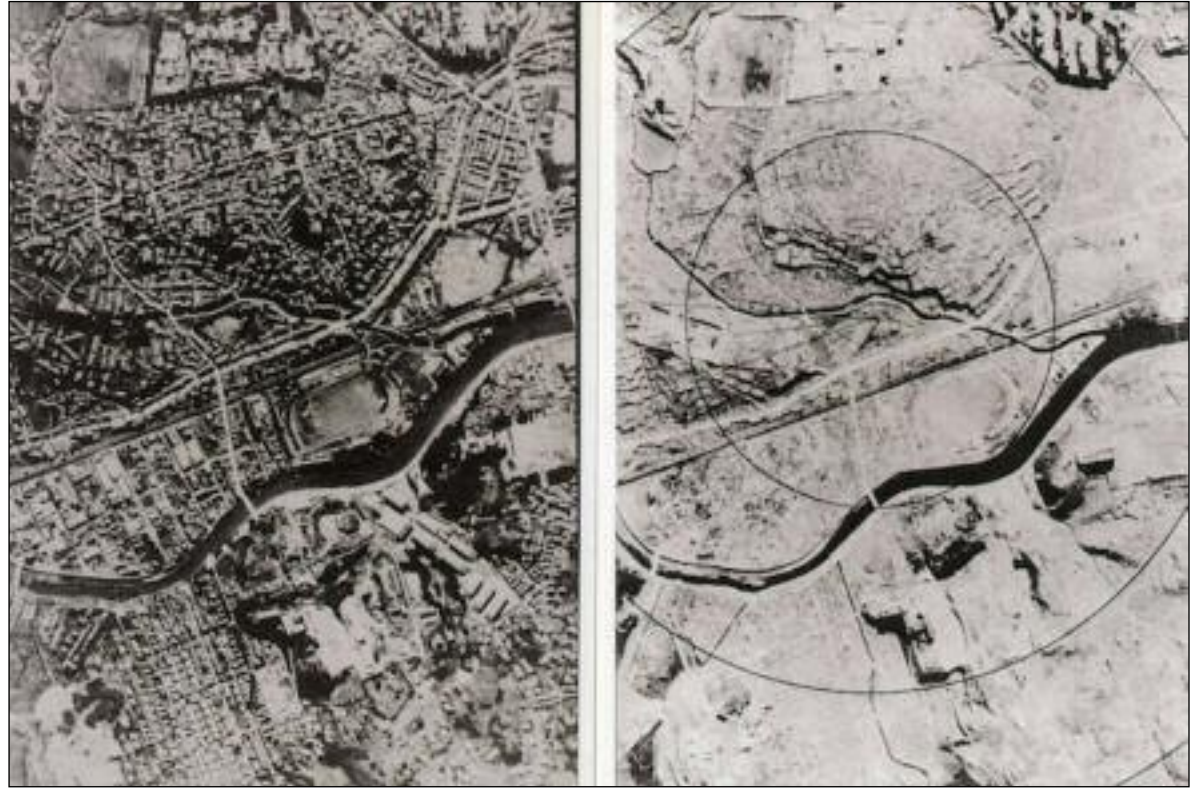
The first misperception is that the attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the deadliest of the war. In short, they were not. The 40,000 Japanese killed in Nagasaki paled in comparison to the firebombing of Tokyo on March 10, 1945 when more than 90,000, and possibly over 100,000 civilians were killed in a single raid of 279 B-29 Heavy bombers. Over a million were left homeless. The US lost 14 aircraft and their crews.

The second misperception was the cost of the Manhattan Project in terms of life and money. The development of the aircraft that dropped

the bomb cost more money and lives than was spent on the development of the bomb itself. That includes both bombs, the uranium bomb and the plutonium bomb. It was not that the bombs were easy. They were not. However, nobody had ever built an aircraft designed to be flown at 30,000 feet, with the speed of pressurized Japanese fighter planes. This meant the machine gunners just could not hang out the windows.

The number of test pilots and others that lost their lives when something went wrong made the B-29 one of the most expensive aircraft ever built, and in many cases, there were no prototypes. Colonel Paul Tibbets, the pilot of the Enola Gay, which dropped the first atomic bomb, was charged with fixing the B-29. The plane had already killed Boeing's best test pilots. Recalled from Europe, it was his job to get the airplane to fly before he ever commanded the atomic bomb squadron.

August, 1945 : Nagasaki, Japan – Aerial photo of before and after of atomic bombing of Nagasaki during



August, 1945 : Nagasaki, Japan – Aerial photo of before and after of atomic bombing of Nagasaki during the Pacific campaigns of World War II. (Photo by Kingendai Photo Library/AFLO)

Businesses begin fleeing Portland as riots continue

After months of protests and riots in Portland, businesses in the city are opting to move out completely or relocate outside its central district, according to a report this week.

Greg Goodman, the co-president of the Downtown Development Group, said in a letter to Mayor Ted Wheeler and members of the Portland City Council that the exodus of companies and local businesses has “everything to do with the lawlessness you are endorsing downtown.” His statement said many of the businesses still support the Black Lives Matter movement.

“The number is like nothing I have seen in 42 years of doing business in downtown,” he wrote, according to Portland's KOIN.

Businesses fleeing

Goodman said companies include Daimler Trucks North America, Airbnb, Banana Republic, Microsoft, Saucebox, and Google, which he claimed: “leased 90,000 square feet in the Macy's building [and] has stopped construction of their



improvements.”

“The list goes on and on. If you know a retail or office broker, give them a call and ask them how many clients they have are trying to leave,” he continued.

Goodman encouraged city leaders to “walk around downtown Portland in the morning,” adding that he would personally give them a tour.

“You aren't sweeping the streets, needles are all over the place, garbage cans are broken and left

open, glass from car windows that have been broken out is all over the streets, parks are strewn with litter,” he wrote. “You are willfully neglecting your duties as elected officials to keep our city safe and clean.”

One protester told the station that he also understood the frustration stemming from the ongoing violence, and questioned if demonstrators could “do a different form of protest besides burning down something?” Videos have shown that most

protesters are white individuals. Portland has a very small black population.

Police have argued that the protests are making it difficult for them to respond to other calls because their resources are tied up. On Saturday, police said 30 officers

were available to manage the crowd that numbered several hundred.

Authorities added how the bureau “had to be judicious with our limited resources” because many officers worked during the previous night's demonstrations, according to The Oregonian.

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Historic bombshell: Behind the Trump brokered Israel-UAE peace accord

The Israel-UAE peace accord is a game changer for peace in the Middle East. This is full diplomatic relations with an important Arab nation. The most significant advancement for peace in the Middle East since the 1994 peace deal with Jordan. This is Iran's worst nightmare. And it is part of the Trump Peace Plan.

"Today we usher in a new era of peace with the Arab world. I just came from a historic virtual conference between myself, President Donald Trump, and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed of the United Arab Emirates. We announced the establishment of a full and formal peace between Israel and the UAE. It includes the mutual opening of Embassies, direct flights, and many, many other bilateral agreements." "This is the greatest advancement towards peace between Israel and the Arab world in the last 26 years." – Israel Prime Minister Netanyahu

Mike Evans, an evangelical leader close with President Trump who has been involved in meetings with the Arab leaders, said in an interview on August 13, 2020, with I24 Israel news; "This is part of the Trump Peace Plan designed by Jared Kushner that has been in the works for over two years. . . And Netanyahu has been working on this for over 10 years." He also stated, "The Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia is in agreement with the UAE and we will be shocked at how many Arab nations follow and normalize diplomatic relations with Israel."

Prime Minister Netanyahu has been meeting with Sudan, Saudi Arabia, and other significant Middle Eastern Muslim nations. These Arab nations are Sunni and all are threatened by Iran. They also are wise enough to see the technological, medical, environmental partnership advantages of a relationship with Israel.

Getting the Sunni states who are the bankers of the Palestinians to align with Israel puts a "checkmate on the Palestinians," taking away their negotiating power. No longer can the Palestinians threaten war or an overall Arab uprising when the most powerful Sunni Arab nations are aligned with Israel!

Timing is Significant –

It is also important to note that August 13, 2020, is the 15th Anniversary of uprooting the Jewish Residents of Gaza and turning it over to the Palestinians. This was known as the "Disengagement Plan" and was supposed to be a "Land for Peace" deal with Palestinians. Twenty two Jewish settlements in Gaza were forcibly evacuated removing every Jewish family. As we know, the newly Palestinian occu-



President Trump, surrounded by American Diplomatic corp, announces the peace agreement between Israel and UAE.

ried and ruled Gaza elected a terror group Hamas as their leadership and terror attacks have been constant since.

Over 80 terror balloons with small bombs attached were launched into Israel in the 48 hours before this historic announcement, lighting Israel farms ablaze. Israel's defense forces did retaliate. The terror attacks from Gaza by Iranian backed Hamas and Islamic Jihad are daily and have burned thousands of acres of Israeli farmland in the last recent years and endangered communities.

Who is the UAE and why this is a game-changer in the Middle East –

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is the financial powerhouse of the Middle East. The capital of the UAE is Abu Dhabi and the largest city Dubai is a global financial capital.

The United Arab Emirates is a group of six of seven emirates consisting of – Abu Dhabi (which serves as the capital), Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah, Sharjah, and Umm Al Quwain. It's capital Abu Dhabi accounts for 6 percent of the world's oil reserves. They have a significant space program and have a Mars mission well underway. The population is over 9 million and controls a significant wealth of the Arab world.

The UAE is recognized as a regional and world power. It is a member of the United Nations, the Arab League, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, OPEC, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The Most Powerful Leader in the Arab World

Crown Prince Shiek Mohammed bin Zayed, 58, worked with President Trump who brokered the deal between Israel and the UAE. Prince Mohammed is the crown prince of Abu Dhabi and ruler of the United Arab Emirates. The New York

Times recently called Prince Muhammed "arguably the most powerful leader in the Arab world."

UAE has been an important military partner with the United States since 1994. UAE has a significant air force and military. Their special forces are active in Yemen, Libya, Somalia, and Egypt's North Sinai and are also very influential in Saudi Arabia.

The United Arab Emirates began allowing American forces to operate from bases inside the country during the Persian Gulf war of 1991. They have assisted American forces in Kosovo, Somalia, Afghanistan and Libya, and against the Islamic State. As a military partner, UAE has acquired from the US 80 F-16 fighters, 30 Apache combat helicopters. They also get upgrades for their F-15's from Israel and share other technology.

Shared enemies

Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood are the Prince's declared enemies. Another reason for the importance of this peace accord. The shared enemy of Iran was not the primary reason for solidified diplomatic relations. Shared technology, science, and economic interests were the primary factor. Sudan and Oman are expected to soon follow in normalizing ties with Israel.

This alignment with the military power of the UAE should also completely change the dynamic of the threat by Hezbollah on Israel's northern border as well as the power the Palestinians think they have. Tensions have been high as Iran, via Syria, has built up over 250,000 missiles on Israel's northern border and armed terrorists in Gaza and in the West Bank (Judea and Samaria). This alignment with a Middle East military powerhouse in UAE will be a substantial advantage to Israel facing Hezbollah's threat and Iranian threats in Syria.

Netanyahu Thanked President Trump –

"for his critical help in brokering this historic accord. I want to thank him for his revolutionary vision for peace, which is the most realistic and important formula for peace in the region. President Trump's Middle East plan served as a basis for this historic peace announcement.

Israel and the UAE are two of the most advanced countries in the world. Together we will transform the region and forge an even better future for our people. A future of peace, a future of security, and a future of prosperity. I have always believed we could find peace with the Arab world and I have been working towards that lofty goal for decades."

In recent years Israel has made advancement with Sudan, Oman, bargain, and other nations. Netanyahu said he is confident that after this announcement, many more Arab nations will follow and join the region's "circle of peace."

Christians and Jews free in UAE

Unlike Saudi Arabia and other strict nations, the United Arab Emirates under Prince Muhammed's leadership allows Christian churches and Hindu or Sikh temples, has an accepted Jewish community and a third of the cabinet ministers are women.

Christians account for 13 percent of the total population of the United Arab Emirates, according to census data. The government recognizes various Christian denominations and Christians are free to worship. In September of 2019, the UAE made a historic declaration by announcing a new UAE landmark, which will feature a church, mosque, and synagogue built in the same location in Abu Dhabi.

A new Jewish community was formed in November 2019 –



The terrorist organization Hamas runs Gaza. Trump hopes a plan for prosperity will help Palestinians choose a life of prosperity over terrorism.

–by Robin Rowan | Church for Israel. Rowan is a recipient of the 'Secretary of Defense Medal for the Global War on Terrorism.' After many years in government oversight for U.S. Inspectors General, Ms. Rowan conducts extensive research and mandates truth over politics. She is a political activist for the US- Israel relationship, serving as lay lobbying leader and six years on the National Council of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). (Views expressed do not reflect views of AIPAC.) An ordained minister, she speaks to Churches of all denominations on Israel and the importance of the Christian advocacy and engagement in politics. Webinars and a weekly podcast are in development. Sponsorship of this work is encouraged. Robin can be contacted at Church4Israel@gmail.com.

The Palestinians Are Shocked – "CheckMate"

Previously, the peace deals with Arab Countries were in 1979 with Egypt, 1994 with Jordan, and today with the United Arab Emirates. Prime minister Netanyahu also said strongly that while there will be a pause in applying sovereignty to the Jewish settlements in the West Bank (Judea and Samaria) there is no change in

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National Association of Evangelicals kicks off Bless Your Pastor campaign

Being a pastor is challenging at any time but especially so during the current pandemic. Nine of 10 pastors in the United States are under financial pressure, and six of 10 churches face giving declines, according to the National Association of Evangelicals. The organization is kicking off its second annual Bless Your Pastor campaign.

Last year, thousands of protestant and Catholic churches received free grant-funded materials to help them participate in the first national campaign. The goal this year is to create an even bigger wave of sharing and caring for pastors, church staff and their families, according to



campaign spokesperson Brian Kluth. Funded by a multimillion-dollar grant from a well-known endowment, Bless Your Pastor aims

to ignite generosity and equip congregations to show and share God's love for their pastors in creative and practical ways

Participating churches will share a list of "50 Creative Ways to Bless Your Pastor" with their congregation, take up an appreciation offering for their pastor and receive a free \$250 Amazon gift card from the NAE for their senior pastor.

"Often under great stress, our pastors and churches have quickly changed course this year, learning how to live-stream services and develop creative opportunities to minister virtually," Kluth said. "Pastors and church staff have been working tirelessly to bless others during this difficult time. Now it's time to bless them."

"Even before this crisis, the majority of pastors and their fami-

lies were walking a financial tightrope — teetering on the edge of serious debt and wondering how they could pay essential bills."

According to NAE's research, half of America's pastors earn less than \$50,000 per year and work between 50 and 70 hours per week, with 90 percent admitting they feel financial stress.

The "50 Creative Ways to Bless Your Pastor" list inspires people to bless their pastor and church staff with their time, talents and treasures. Examples include doing car repairs, sharing a vacation home, giving gift card, or even providing free professional services, such as dental care.

Mike Huckabee praises launch of National Association of Christian Legislators

A new association of Christian elected officials has gained the support of Mike Huckabee, former Arkansas governor and presidential candidate.

The National Association of Christian Lawmakers (NACL), which was founded by Arkansas state Sen. Jason Rapert, held its

charter meeting earlier this month in Destin, Fla., with legislators representing 23 states in attendance. Huckabee attended the inaugural event and received the NACL's American Patriot Award for Christian honor and courage.

Huckabee, who is on the group's board of advisers, this week explained what he believed made the NACL distinct compared to other conservative Christian groups. "The primary difference is that it is actually comprised of elected officials in a legislative capacity," he said. "So this isn't just a group of activists, they certainly proba-

bly see themselves in that role, but they've been elected. "These are folks who have suited up for the battle, they've gone out into the arena and have come off that field, blood on their jerseys and grass stains all over their face. So they better understand that this is not a philosophical

Lifetime Christian Leadership Award, gave the keynote speech on the first evening. "This is the nation that maintains hope and

opportunity for the rest of the world," he said, adding that that "truth overcomes error."

Other speakers included Janet

Folger, founder and president of Faith2Action, and Timothy Barton, president of Wallbuilders.



engagement, it's a tactical engagement." Huckabee expects good things to come out the new organization. "NACL is a great opportunity to bring Christian legislators from around the country together for the purpose not only of camaraderie, fellowship and encouragement but also to develop policy ideas that would help their own constituencies better represent issues like religious liberty, sanctity of life, things that truly matter to believers," he said.

Former Congressman Bob McEwen of Ohio, who received the NACL's George Washington

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Pandemic closures and abuse take toll on children

Child abuse prevention advocates are concerned that the longer businesses, schools, and communities are shut down or limited, more children will become victims of violence and neglect.

Hotlines are busy taking calls.

"Children are calling in themselves, although they aren't giving a lot of information," says Patricia E. Barrett, a counselor at Emerge Counseling Services in Akron, Ohio. "They just want help."

With schools shut down or operating only virtually in the fall, and social services agencies laying off workers, many of the customary safeguards in spotting signs of abuse have disappeared during the pandemic.

Statistically, nationwide reported child abuse has plummeted. But anecdotally, watchdogs are certain incidents are mounting. The quarantine, loss of employment, and financial anxiety all play a role.

"When stress and poverty increases, child abuse increases," says Donna Washburn, 44, director of the Center for Compassion at Evangel University in Springfield, Mo. "Both of those variables have increased in the past five months." As director of the Center for Compassion, Washburn's role has included partnering with community organizations in an effort to prevent or reduce instances of child abuse.

Myriad factors are involved as to why an adult hits a child, but usually the problem is one that escalates. A frustrated parent may start by yelling, then move to punitive measures, and ultimately to inappropriate physical discipline. That might be manifested by pushing a child into a heavy object, slapping the child across the face, or locking the child outdoors.

"Routines become disrupted for parents not accustomed to having their child 24/7," says Barrett. "Many parents who have been furloughed from their jobs do not have the ability, resources, or patience to deal with children who are home because schools have shut down. Children have no outlet for their energy and parents need quiet when they work."



Christians aren't immune from acting on such pressures, according to Washburn, a member of the Missouri State Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board which monthly investigates cases. She says a majority of child abuse allegations involve self-described Christians, many of whom claim to be following biblical principles of child rearing. "Spare the rod, spoil the child" (Proverbs 13:24) is a favorite refrain of those facing charges.

"A child who doesn't see parents turning to the Lord for patience and peace won't see God as a readily available source," says Barrett, who earned her doctorate in clinical psychology. "Or, if the family goes to church three times a week, but the parents are arguing more than ever during this time, that affects the child's trust and faith walk."

Fully two-thirds of abuse calls usually are connected to neglect, and Washburn believes neglect has become a bigger problem during the COVID-19 era. With child-care centers closed, more kids are left home alone unsupervised as parents go to work. Some aren't receiving adequate nutrition because school feeding programs are unavailable.

According to the American Society for the Positive Care of Children, 61 percent of abuse involves neglect, 11 percent physical abuse, 7 percent sexual abuse, and 2 percent psychological maltreatment. Almost 92 percent of the victims are mistreated by one or both parents. Annually, 1,770 children die from abuse and neglect

in the U.S.

LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

A sign reminds Navajo Nation members to stay safe during the pandemic. Photo: Video still.

Since the pandemic began, there has been a steep decline in the number of reported cases of suspected child abuse. That's because the usual discoverers of abuse aren't seeing children during the quarantine. Fully half of the cases normally are detected by someone from the child's school, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

"The quarantine has caused children to be cut off from the support of teachers, guidance counselors, coaches, and friends," says Nicole Braddock Bromley, founder of OneVOICE, a Columbus, Ohio-based organization that fights sexual abuse and trafficking.

In addition, social service agencies are on hiatus in some areas, child protective custody workers aren't making home visits, and outlets for children to visit such as Boys & Girls Clubs or YMCA are shut down.

"This doesn't mean child abuse isn't happening," says Sandra Hogue, whose husband Stephen, is an Assemblies of God U.S. missionary; both work with COMPACT Family Services. "It's just not being reported."

Bromley, who works with the national sexual assault hotline, says those calls have

skyrocketed during the pandemic as minors are phoning like never before, reporting their own abuse occurring at home.

Besides the short-term physical pain inflicted, child abuse can leave long-term scars in a variety of ways.

"Abuse can cause emotional trauma, which can include literal damage to the brain," Sandra Hogue says. "The effects can cause learning disabilities, developmental delays, trust issues, relationship issues, and problems with attachment and connection."

Because a child's brain is still forming, the fallout from pandemic remembrances will cause traumatic memories that continue for years, says Barrett, the mother of two adult sons. That includes a kid left alone at home for days on end.

"If a child remembers no one was available when they were really scared, they will feel the same way as an adult," Barrett cautions.

CHURCH SOLUTIONS

Stephen Hogue, 46, says congregations can try to prevent child abuse by alleviating some of the pressures families are experiencing during the pandemic. That may involve helping to provide food or paying utility bills for strapped households.

"The Church needs to emerge out of this pandemic looking more like a family than a corporation," Hogue says. "When we are family, we are able to develop closer relationships, to find out things we never would have known just sitting next to someone in a pew on Sunday morning."

Washburn agrees that this is a time when churches can provide needed resources to overwhelmed parents.

"Alleviating stress and poverty goes a long way toward helping alleviate child abuse," Washburn says.

Barrett also believes this is a prime opportunity for congregations to provide resources for strained parents. For instance, prayer hotlines can help talk an adult down from a crisis situation. She encourages youth pastors to be checking up on teens in their groups to ensure they

are doing OK. In some regions, churches have opened limited summer day camps just so a child can be in an environment other than the home for a couple of hours a day.

Church program workers — Sunday School teachers, nursery helpers, youth ministry leaders, Royal Rangers directors, Girls Ministries advisers — are mandated child abuse reporters.

"Every church should have a detailed and formal reporting policy," Washburn says.

"A Sunday School teacher can be a voice for an abused child who has no other voice," says Bromley, 40.

Signs of abuse often are visible, such as a facial bruise. But a child expressing feelings of hunger may be a plea for help, Sandra Hogue says.

"We are not allowed to overlook it or write it off," she says. "It's our mandate to call it in."

A worker doesn't need to ask a child any questions or seek a second opinion if abuse or neglect is suspected, Hogue explains.

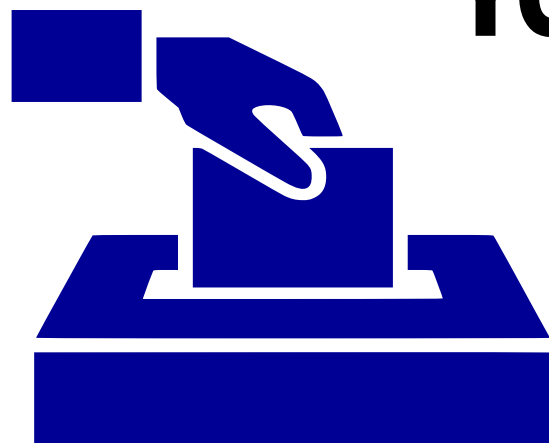
"It's up to the child welfare agency to do the investigation," she says. All states have social services hotlines, but there is an around-the-clock national hotline: 1-800-4-A-CHILD.

While sexual abuse victims may not exhibit physical signs, the mistreatment becomes apparent in conversations, Bromley says.

Even as some churches remain shuttered, they still are offering drive-through grocery giveaways. Stephen Hogue urges adherents to be attentive to the family in the vehicle. Does the driver look impaired? Are there bruises visible on the child riding in the back seat?

Silence has persisted for too long, Bromley maintains, with many people preferring to ignore and cover up abuse. It's getting worse during the pandemic.

"For a long time, Christians have wanted to pretend that abuse is not happening in the Church," Bromley says. "But the Church can be a beacon if we're willing to address the issue. Silence and secrecy only perpetuate abuse."



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North Topeka businesses are beginning to reopen, at least in a limited fashion, and with safety precautions.

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.

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.

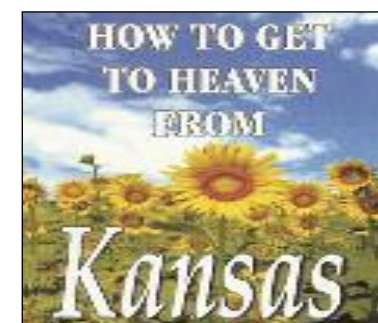
You can also visit 3rd Friday's NOTO Night Out! Many Merchants are also open longer hours on Second Saturdays.



More North Topeka events:

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

CHRISTAFARI – Sep. 23, 7pm, Family of God Church, 1231 NE Eugene St. National Recording Artists celebrate KFGB 97.7 FM Upper Room Radio's 5th Anniversary.



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.

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CONCERTS

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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' OPRY – 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.

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

NEHEMIAH FEST – Sep. 18-20, Smithville, MO. Christian music and camping festival, 50 Bands, 4 Stages, Free admission, Music, Food, Disc golf tournament, Vendors, Petting Zoo, Camping.

CHRISTAFARI – Sep. 23, 7pm, Family of God Church, 1231 NE Eugene St. National Recording Artists celebrate KFGB 97.7 FM Upper Room Radio's 5th Anniversary.

JOE CARTWRIGHT AND FRIENDS – Oct. 9, 7:30pm, TPAC. Topeka Jazz Concert tickets \$15.

CASTING CROWNS – Oct. 23, 7pm, Stormont Vail Event Center. Special guest will be Matthew West. For info: castingcrowns.com

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@rhccpepeka.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-up1.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 rhaggertyjr@hotmail.com

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 nhonl@tscl.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.

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

CARBONDALE FARMERS MARKET – every Wed. 4-6pm in Carbondale City Park. Vendor-grown 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. On Facebook: Shawnee Swingers Square Dance Club. wesquaredance.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

TERRITORIAL CAPITAL MUSEUM – Now Open, 640 E Woodson, Lecompton. (785) 887-6148 www.lecomptonkans.com historiclecompton@gmail.com

SEP. CYCLING EVENTS – Various cycle rides are offered by Kansas Cyclist. www.kansascyclist.com/

SEP. OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES – Outdoor events and activities. www.getoutdoorskans.com/calendar

GROWERS POP-UP MARKET – Wednesdays 5:30-7pm, 29th & Wanamaker @ Happy Basset. Local produce. www.topekagrowersgroup.com.

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

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 Twisted Individualz Street King Event. 785-861-789

BEGINNERS PADDLE ON THE KAW – Aug. 29, 8am, Friends of the Kaw - Kansas Riverkeeper. 866-748-5337. riverkeeper@kansariver.org

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.

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.

C5Alive "POWER" LUNCHEON – Sep. 10, 11:30-1, at The Peak, 1920 SW Gage. Featured Speaker is Scot Perkins, The Country Parson.

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

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

• Please RSVP to info@C5Alive.org, so we know how much food is needed!

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

SAVE THE DATE: C5Alive Pastors Appreciation Luncheon, Oct. 8, 11:30-1.

TOUCH A TRUCK – Sep. 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!

JAZZ AND FOOD TRUCKS – September 26. Foodies and Jazz aficionados rejoice! Topeka's Downtown Jazz & Food Truck Festival is Saturday, September 19. Both local and national musical talent will take the stage at the Everygy 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.

BEATLES VS. STONES – A MUSICAL SHOWDOWN – Sep. 26, TPAC. Renowned tribute bands Abbey Road and Satisfaction - The International Rolling Stones Show

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

Sep. 10 **"POWER" Luncheon** at The Peak, 1920 SW Gage, will feature Scot Perkins, The Country Parson

PASTOR APPRECIATION

- Oct. 8, 2020 - Pastor Appreciation Luncheon: Details to follow. Invite your pastor!
- Nov. 12 - POWER Luncheon: Details to be announced
- Dec. 10 - Christmas Luncheon: Details to follow

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

engage in a musical showdown of the hits. 785-234-2787, info@topekaperformingarts.org

VIRTUAL WALK FOR APRAXIA – Sep. 26. See Topeka Walk for Apraxia on facebook

YOUTH FOR CHRIST GOLF CLASSIC – Oct. 2, 11:30 reg.; 12:30 shotgun start, Lake Shawnee. Several sponsorship levels available. Lots of prizes! 232-8296 or topekayfc.org

WARD-MEADE GARDEN GLOW – Oct. 2-11, 7-10pm, Old Prairie Town/Ward-Meade Botanical Garden. Patterned after the popular Tulips at Twilight featuring lighted displays. Adm. \$5; age five & under free

NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR WALK/5K RUN – Oct. 4, 2pm, Lake Shawnee Shelterhouse 1&2. Registration 1pm. Fundraiser for Doorstep. www.DoorstepTopeka.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@safestreets.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.

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.flocritkansas.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.

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

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 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 ourladyofthefairful@gmail.com. Facebook: "OurLadyoftheFaithful."

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

MENNINGER BIBLE CLASSES – Tuesdays 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 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

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

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

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 tgstoepka.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 or Jim

Hanna, james.c.hanna@ampf.com or 357-6278 x19.

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

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

VIP LUNCHEON FOR SENIORS – Every Fri., Noon, 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 Good for Others: Knitting & Crocheting for Local Charities, free yarn, needles, hooks & patterns. All are welcome. Anne, 272-9249 or kittens812@sbcglobal.net

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

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

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

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 topekaalanon.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

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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.

White House coronavirus expert Dr. Birx says let churches meet and people vote in person

Churches in California and elsewhere that want to meet indoors have an ally in Dr. Deborah Birx, the White House Coronavirus Task Force coordinator. Birx told cable channel CBN News that she doesn't see why churches can't meet indoors, although they should abide by proper safety and health precautions.

In California, health officials are taking some churches to court for refusing the state's requirement that church be held outdoors only.

"If you go into Starbucks in the middle of Texas and Alabama and Mississippi that have very high case rates, then I can't say that it would be different waiting in line in the polls."

"I've met with many people inside," Birx said. "What I always do is wear a mask... that's what we need to do in the churches. Churches are filled with people who are compassionate and passionate for each other. Let's show that compassion for each other and the humility to really say now we know masks work."

When asked specifically about California officials, who are telling churches they can only meet outdoors, Birx said, "Well, if the same officials are



having meetings because they have to discuss what to do with the virus, if people are meeting and socially distancing in federal or state buildings, then you can bring that same safety to any American but you need to really be rigid about wearing a mask and socially distancing."

Beyond churches, when it comes to the upcoming election, Birx doesn't see a problem with going to the polls in person in November. She came to this conclusion after visiting dozens of Starbucks across the country in high-risk states. "If you go into Starbucks in the middle of Texas and

Alabama and Mississippi that have very high case rates, then I can't say that it would be different waiting in line in the polls."

She also talked about when a vaccine might be ready and who should get it.

"Certainly, we would want to vaccinate those that we know are at the highest risk; individuals in nursing homes, those with multiple comorbidities, having both hypertension, diabetes and a weight issue," she said. "Those are individuals independent of age that we would like to see vaccinated."

Billy Graham statue will be added to Statuary Hall

Christians finally have some good news about statues of religious figures. A life-sized statue of Billy Graham will replace one of a white supremacist in the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall next year. The news comes as churches and statues of Jesus, the Virgin Mary and many religious figures are destroyed around the country.

The collection features 100 statues of outstanding US citizens. Each state can place two statues in the collection. A native of North Carolina, Graham was born on a farm near Charlotte. He died in 2018. His statue will stand in the place of a statue of Charles Aycock (1859-1912), a former governor of the Tarheel State. The new statue will portray Graham as he appeared in the 1960s, preaching and holding a



Bible in one hand.

The idea of putting a statue of Graham in the Statuary Hall collection is nothing

new. Five years ago, former North Carolina state Sen. Dan Soucek had pushed the idea while the evangelist was still living.

"From a Christian religious point of view, Billy Graham is an undeniable worldwide icon," Soucek said. He cited the six decades Graham placed among the top 10 in Gallup Poll's list of most-admired people.

Graham's boyhood home and library, dedicated to his life and ministry, are still one of Charlotte's biggest tourist attractions. In addition, two state highways are named for him.

Graham's son Franklin, president and CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Samaritan's Purse, told Religion News Service that his father would have wanted God to get the glory. "My father would be very pleased that people thought of him in this way," he said. "But he would want people to give God the glory and not himself."

Partnering with the state, the association is raising the estimated \$650,000 for the statue and its installation. No state funding will be used. Once the 10-foot, 10-inch clay statue is completed it will be review by a congressional committee before being cast in bronze.

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entertainment

New "Queen Esther" will be streamed live by Sight & Sound Theatres

"Queen Esther," the latest show from Sight & Sound Theatres, will finally make its debut. The show, which was scheduled to premiere live in March, instead will be shown by pay-per-view on the company's new streaming channel, Sight & Sound TV. Branson is home to one of the company's two theaters.

"The thrill of live theater is watching the show unfold right before your eyes," Chief Creative Officer Josh Enck said. "We're so excited to bring that same experience to living rooms all across the world."

With cameras covering the theater from every angle, including on stage and behind the curtain, audiences will experience a live Sight & Sound show like never before, giving them the best seat in the house for every spectacular moment. The live event will include a 30-minute preshow and a 20-minute intermission, with exclusive behind-the-scenes interviews and a sneak peek at how the production was created.

"Esther's story is one of courageous faith in the midst of chaos," Enck said.



"This show is truly meant for such a time as this."

Esther's ordinary life changed forever when she was taken through the palace doors, entering a new world of royalty and risk. With a crown on her head and a secret in her heart, can she find the courage to trust in God's plan and believe that she was made for such a time as this?

The show will be performed live at 6 p.m. on Sept. 4 at www.sight-sound.tv,

with two encore showings later that weekend.

Sight & Sound is a ministry on a mission to bring the Bible to life through live theater, television and film. What started over 40 years ago as a traveling multimedia show has today become a destination for over 25 million people. With two state-of-the-art theaters, more than one million people walk through their doors each year from around the world.

Tim Allen and Richard Karn Reunite for New Show

Americans love watching shows about people learning, making and competing. Whether it's following along as people purchase storage units sight unseen, flip a wreck of a house or race against the clock to bake up something delicious, there's a show for it and a hungry audience.

"Pawn Stars," "Forged in Fire" and "American Pickers" tend to appeal to the more mechanically minded viewers, and now their ranks are being joined by a new contender: "Assembly Required."

While the show itself is new, the stars are not. For decades, Tim Allen and Richard Karn have been known for their handyman ways thanks to "Home Improvement," and now they'll be returning to the screen for a different format of show on a similar topic.

"Assembly Required" will follow the style of "Forged in Fire" but focus on contestants who are participating in the mechanical building challenges from their own shops. Karn will host and Allen will star in the show.

"Let's face it, we're living in a throw-away society," Allen said in a statement Tuesday, according to Variety. "We buy, break, replace... rinse and repeat. Whatever happened to repair and rebuild?!"

"There are some people who unfriend, unfollow and dispose of anything that



offends, annoys or breaks — so I've created a show to remind people of the satisfaction and pride that comes from rebuilding something on their own.

"And who better to join me than my buddy from the old Tool Time days — Richard Karn! Now we're talking More Power! Albert Einstein once said, 'I'm not a genius, I'm just passionately curious.'"

"Well, let's get curious! Even a chimpanzee would at least show interest, right? Wait — I think I just came up with another idea for the show! R-R-R!"

The series is set to air on History.

"Our history is defined by the innovations of ordinary dreamers creating

extraordinary things, from Thomas Edison's light bulb to the Wright brothers' first flight," said Eli Lehrer, executive vice president and general manager of History.

"We look forward to partnering with Tim and Richard, America's beloved duo, as they challenge a new wave of skilled individuals to think out-of-the-box to build upon the innovations of those before them.

"We hope this series will inspire viewers to think twice about throwing out that old item, roll up their sleeves and rebuild it better."

Rob Sharenow, president of programming at A+E Networks, said during a Deadline-moderated panel that some of the popular shows they've seen may need to be replaced and that adding new shows would help with "contemporizing the voice of history."

"I think we've had so many highly successful formats that we've grown a little fat on them and some of them could be sidled out and we need to replace some of those heavy hitters with new formats and that's a big priority for us," Sharenow said.

The show is expected to air sometime next year.

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



Netflix's mind-blowing 'Speed Cubers' leads this month's streaming lineup

By Michael Foust

A new Netflix documentary spotlights a unique group of talented people who can solve a Rubik's Cube in not hours, or minutes, but seconds.

Called *The Speed Cubers* (TV-PG), the 40-minute film will make you question everything you assumed about the Rubik's Cube and even the human brain. Consider: The current world record for solving a basic Rubik's Cube (which cubers call a "3x3") is 3.47 seconds -- roughly the time it will take you to read a couple of sentences. Of note: A Rubik's Cube has 43 quintillion combinations. That's crazy, yes, but it's even crazier to watch it.

The film focuses on Australia's Feliks Zemdegs and the United States' Max Park, two of the best cubers in the world. Zemdegs mastered the cube as a child and gained worldwide fame for setting multiple world records. Park, who is autistic, is the younger of the two and admired Zemdegs while growing up.

Park first gained worldwide attention thanks to a YouTube video showing him solving a 4x4 cube, one-handed, in 47 seconds.

Speed Cubers is mind-blowing but also inspiring. That's partially because cubers are performing feats no one in the 1980s thought possible. (The world championship time in 1982 was 22 seconds -- 18 seconds slower than today.)

Mostly, though, the film is inspiring because of its focus on the friendship between Zemdegs and Park -- two very-different men who have bonded because of their common hobby. Cubing made Zemdegs world famous and opened multiple doors, yet he remains humble. Each time Park sets a new record, Zemdegs contacts him to offer congratulations. For Park, cubing offered a much-needed outlet to improve his social skills, his parents say.

"Without a doubt, Feliks is going to be Max's hero forever," Park's father says.

It's rated TV-PG for minor language (p---ed, h-ll and OMG).

Also streaming this month:

Adults/teens

Les Misérables (Netflix) -- It's the 2012 musical about a former inmate who turns his life around after a Catholic priest shows him grace and mercy. The story is filled with Christian themes, although it also has some sensual content. (ClearPlay offers a filtered version.) Rated PG-13 for suggestive and sexual material, violence and thematic elements. Aug. 16.

Tiny Creatures (Netflix) -- Squirrels, mice, hamsters and other small creatures of the wild are followed in this Netflix

original documentary series, which takes place in eight distinct American ecosystems. It's a fascinating look at some of the often-overlooked parts of God's creation. Rated TV-PG (for fear). Aug. 7.

E.T. The Extra Terrestrial (Peacock TV) -- A young boy befriends an alien and then helps him return home in this classic Steven Spielberg film about friendship and the wonders of childhood. (ClearPlay and VidAngel each offer filtered versions.) Rated PG for language and mild thematic elements. Aug. 1.

Jurassic Park trilogy (Netflix) -- These ground-breaking films from 1993, 1997 and 2001 raised an interesting question: What would happen if dinosaurs were reintroduced in the modern world? After watching them, you'll hope it never happens. (ClearPlay and VidAngel each offer filtered versions.) All are rated PG-13 for science fiction terror, violence and language. Aug. 1.

The Greatest Showman (Disney Plus) -- P.T. Barnum brings together society's outcast for a never-before-seen troupe show at the circus. This popular musical includes great lessons for the church about family, friendship and reaching out to the downtrodden. (ClearPlay offers a filtered version.) Rated PG for thematic elements including a brawl. Aug. 14.

Children

The Magic School Bus Rides Again Kids In Space (Netflix) -- Ms. Frizzle and her class visit the International Space Station to learn about space. They also get chased by a giant tardigrade. Aug. 7.

The One and Only Ivan (Disney Plus) -- A gorilla named Ivan befriends a baby elephant, Stella. Together, they try to escape. This film, based on a popular book, was scheduled to release in theaters but went straight to Disney Plus due to the pandemic. Rated PG for mild thematic elements. Aug. 14.

Mr. Peabody & Sherman (Netflix) -- A time-traveling anthropomorphic dog, Mr. Peabody, adopts and raises a young boy, Sherman. It's an animated film filled with adoption themes. Rated PG for some mild action and brief rude humor. Aug. 11.

Also of note for children: *The Peanut Movie* (Disney Plus, Aug. 7), *Dora and the Lost City of Gold* (Prime and Hulu, Aug. 3), *Dolphin Tale* (Peacock TV, Aug. 1), *Beauty and the Beast* (Disney Plus, Aug. 21).

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.



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ClearPlay Netflix filter leads this month's family-friendly lineup

By Michael Foust

For fans of family-friendly movies, this summer included some bad news and some great news, all in the span of a few days.

First, the bad news: Vudu's streaming service, which changed ownership when Fandango bought it from Walmart, removed the Family Play option in July from its platform, which meant parents no longer had the option on Vudu to skip the violence, language and sexuality in mainstream movies. It was the only reason I used Vudu.

Fortunately, the good news was just around the corner. Within days of Vudu's announcement, the filtering company ClearPlay launched an expanded service that included not just Amazon Prime movies and television shows (which it already was filtering) but also Netflix titles. With Netflix in about 50 percent of streaming households, ClearPlay's announcement was welcome news for American families.

This means there are now two options for parents who want to watch filtered titles on Netflix: ClearPlay and VidAngel. Each has its advantages, and, of course, each requires not only a Netflix subscription but also a subscription to their own respective service. But if you want to watch mainstream movies with your kids, it's worth it.

Here are the details: ClearPlay's service works only with the Google Chrome browser on computers or laptops and can be easily transferred to your television through an HDMI cord or a mirroring technology (such as Chromecast, Apple AirPlay or a third-party service).

You can skip all the violence, language and sexuality in a title, or -- if you wish -- you can filter only certain words and scenes. (The ClearPlay filters are customizable.)

As of now, ClearPlay's library includes about 100 Netflix titles (and 800-plus Prime titles), although the list is growing weekly.

I tested it recently by watching a filtered version of *Back to the Future* with my children. ClearPlay didn't let anything bad slip through.

Visit ClearPlay.com to learn more. To learn more about VidAngel, visit VidAngel.com.

Finally, if you enjoyed the Vudu Family Play feature and wish to send feedback to Vudu, then consider signing a Change.org petition. (Keywords: Vudu Family Play.) It was started by Lamar Holley, a fan of family-friendly movies who -- like you and me -- wants to watch films without the junk.

Also worth watching this month: **'Chasing American Legends'** (VidAngel, Prime) -- Speaker and author Rick Green leads his family on an expedition to study mysteries of American history. In each episode they visit a historical location to study the answer to a specific question. (Such as: Was George Washington sovereignly protected during the French and Indian War?) For fans of history, it's a must-watch.

'The American Bible Challenge' (Netflix) -- Host Jeff Foxworthy hosted this series from 2012-2014, testing America's knowledge. It's a fun and entertaining way to expand your knowledge of Scripture. (Can you name Rehoboam's father?) The first two seasons are on Netflix. TV-G.

'Queen Esther' (Sight-Sound.TV) -- Sight & Sound's new Broadway-style musical about the Old Testament Jewish queen makes its streaming debut. On Sept. 4, the musical will be streamed live from Sight & Sound's Lancaster, Pa., theater, while on Sept. 5-6, fans can watch an encore performance. Everything Sight & Sound produces is excellent. Visit [Sight & Sound's](http://Sight-Sound.TV) new free streaming service, Sight-Sound.TV.

'A Rush of Hope' (Harvest.org) -- Greg Laurie hosts this "cinematic crusade" on Labor Day weekend featuring films from the Erwin Brothers and music from For King & Country, MercyMe and Jeremy Camp. It will, according to a news release, answer "life's biggest questions." The filmmakers behind *I Can Only Imagine* and *I Still Believe* are producing it. Visit Harvest.org for more information.

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.

51st Annual Dove Award Nominees Include For King & Country, Zach Williams, Lauren Daigle, Kanye West

The Gospel Music Association announced the nominations for the 51st Dove Awards which includes several first-time nominees.

Zach Williams and For King & Country bring in five nominations for Artist of the Year. Hillsong Worship, Kirk Franklin, Lauren Daigle, and Jonathan McReynolds received four nominations.

Kanye West was nominated for three awards, including rap/hip-hop album of the year for "Jesus Is King," which came in at number one on the Billboard 200 last November.

The former queen of disco, Gloria Gaynor was another first-time nominee.

There are 13 songs that were nominated for in the Song of the Year category, including "Dead Man Walking," "See a Victory," and "Way Maker."

"The GMA is honored to continue its legacy of celebrating our diverse creative community and the music that moves us and ministers to us all, especially during these trying times," said GMA President Jackie Patillo.

She added, "We believe this year, especially, our community and our world need to show love to one another and, above all, recognize and worship our



faithful Creator."

The announcement with all the nominees can be seen on the GMA Dove Awards Facebook page.

Dove Awards are presented to individuals representing modern Rock, Rap/Hip Hop, Pop/Contemporary, Inspirational, Southern Gospel, Urban,

Bluegrass, Country, and many more.

Voting for the final winners will run from Aug. 20 - 27 and they will be announced on Oct. 30 on Trinity Broadcast Network (TBN).

Artist performances and acceptance speeches were pre-recorded due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Joy to the World: Dolly Parton Releasing First Christmas Album in 30 Years

It's been a tough year for everyone, so why not kick off the holidays a little early this year?

Country music legend Dolly Parton announced this week she will be releasing a new Christmas album on Oct. 2. It will be her first holiday offering in three decades and will feature collaborations with her goddaughter Miley Cyrus, big band crooner Michael Bublé, late-night comedian Jimmy Fallon, and entertainment icon Willie Nelson, among others.

The 74-year-old Parton told *People* she wanted the album, "A Holly Dolly Christmas," to be "cute and clever," noting the title was inspired by the famous Burl Ives classic, "A Holly Jolly Christmas."

"He used to be on all of my Christmas specials through the years," Parton told the magazine of Ives. "I think of him as 'Mr. Christmas.' I thought, 'Why don't I call it something cute and clever like that, or 'Deck the Halls with Boughs of Dolly' -- something corny like that."

The first track on the upcoming record will be "Cuddle Up, Cozy Down Christmas" -- a duet between Parton and Bublé. I

She's also teaming up with Fallon for a special rendition of Mariah Carey's holiday staple, "All I Want for Christmas Is You." Parton and Fallon decided to record the collaboration after she appeared on his late-night show a couple of years ago when the comedian asked her to sing Carey's hit Christmas classic. At the time, Parton recalled, she (somehow) didn't know the song.

"I thought, 'What other songs are really hot?' And I thought, 'All I Want for Christmas Is You,'" Parton said. "Jimmy Fallon, a couple of years ago, I was on his show around Christmas and he asked me to sing that, and I didn't know it, and I felt so bad."

"So," she continued, "I went and I



learned it and I was just going to put it on my album and then I went, 'I'll ask Jimmy Fallon to sing it with me!' And he said yes, so I'm really excited about that."

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Parton said the parts for each of her collaborations were recorded separately. Some of the tracks were done before the pandemic, "but then we went in and started doing our vocals."

"We've been very smart, very careful because we're trying to protect ourselves and I'm an older person," she explained.

What Else?

In mid-July, country singer Carrie Underwood also announced she'd be releasing her first-ever Christmas album, "My Gift."

The 37-year-old entertainer said the record will debut Sept. 25.

"This year, it was just kind of on my heart to do a Christmas album," Underwood said in a teaser for the soon-to-be-released album. "I just felt like this was such a fitting time, kind of feel like it's

a more perfect time than ever to record an album like this."

Underwood also opened up about the role her Christian faith played in naming the Christmas album, which she said was inspired by her favorite holiday song, "Little Drummer Boy," a classic ballad about a child who offered what he had -- his talents as a drummer -- to baby Jesus.

"I love music, I love singing -- that is my personal gift that I have that I get to do, that I'm so blessed to do," she said. "And I wanna use that gift, and I wanna give it back to Jesus. That's kind of why I landed on 'My Gift' as an album title."

With the ongoing pandemic and national unrest, Underwood said people need to focus "on what Christmas is about."

"Even though it has been a tough year, sometimes I feel like the greatest realizations can come in the worst times or in the most stressful times," the singer said. "And it makes you more thankful for the things that you do have."



Finding Your Path Later In Life

Teenagers are often told that they don't have enough direction, energy, or foresight to be smart enough to plan their future. Yet, every single teenager and young adult out there is a ball of potential waiting to be unleashed on the world. These young people have to take the initiative to MAKE their lives have a direction, but what do you do when you find yourself starting again at 50?

Life can change in an instant. Who could have imagined a pandemic to turn the world upside down? Just as devastating can be a divorce or job loss.

Parents help direct their children, but who helps adults later in life when they are faced with catastrophic changes and potential roadblocks?

What do you do when you've been thrust into a new environment or out of a comfortable relationship after years of support? It's scary.

You could learn how to read tarot cards and see what your future holds, but there are no guarantees.

If you are at a crossroads of where to go next, here are tips to help you find your path once again in life.

1. Get Over "Overthinking"

It is very easy to get in your own way when it comes to carving out a path for your future, especially if you have recently lost your job. You probably go back and forth in your thoughts on decisions to make. You might doubt your choices and wrestle with what you want to happen next. All of this leads to our overthinking everything.

It's hard to see as the cliché goes "the forest for the trees" when you are close to it. So sometimes it might be better for you simply to rely on your instincts.

If there is one thing that is common among seasoned adults, it's an understanding of the risks of change. Perhaps, this is the time to really trust your instincts and stop over analyzing every single decision that you make as you plan your future. You might not be able to stare into a crystal ball and know what your future will be, but you can still make the right decisions for yourself.

2. Do Something – Anything

Action is so much better than sitting around and doing nothing. A

big life change later in life is a shock, but you have to do something about it.

Want to make a career change? Dedicate a specific amount of time every day to research the possibilities and what skills you need for the job.

Unhappy with where you live? Get on the computer and start researching places that will make you happy. Feeling like you are out of shape from staying at home for months? Check out online exercise classes or just get out and walk or ride a bicycle TODAY.

Sure, the hardest part is getting started. However, once you start making a point of doing something about what you want from life, you will feel so much better about it.

3. Believe Your Inner Voice

There is a voice inside you that is telling you that you CAN make this next step count and do whatever you want to do. Sometimes, your inner voice is going to try to trip you up, but there will always be another, louder voice telling you what steps to take to get what you want from life.



You need to dig deep and believe that you can do the thing you want to do. Now is the time to follow that passion.

4. Make a Plan

Make a concise plan of action for your future to achieve your goals. It's never too late to retrain yourself for a new career or passion. Where will your next passage take you?

Start with your goals. What have you dreamed of doing next? Museum CEO? Dog walking service provider? Bed and breakfast owner? Photographer? Personal trainer? Tour operator?

What training do you need to

make the move? Your life experience has already prepared you in many ways. Taking specialty courses may be the tweak you need to launch your new career.

Next, list the steps you need to follow to achieve your goal. Include a realistic timeline for each step. Add these steps to your calendar and stick to the plan.

It can take time to find your feet for what comes next for your life. There is no one right answer to what is the best thing for your future. Take small steps, keep your eye on the goal, and go for it.

Don't wait for tomorrow. Take the first step today.

Brain Age: 70 is the New 30

The U.S. population is aging rapidly. Nearly one in seven, or almost 15 percent, of Americans are 65 or older. While aging is inevitable, it doesn't mean your

mind has to slow down. In fact, 70 could be the new 30 when it comes to your brain.

50 is the new 30 when it comes to bodies ... and now 70 is the

new 30 when it comes to our brains! New research shows that there are a lot of misconceptions about what happens to our brains as we age!

The first: aging means cognitive decline. It's true: your brain may slow down and shrink a bit, which could affect your ability to retrieve certain information quickly, but abstract thinking, which triggers math ability, language, and problem solving improves with age. Another myth: older people can't learn new things. Your brain is capable of changing at any age. Fallacy number three: older people forget things more often than younger people. The difference between a short-term memory lapse in a 70-year-old and one in a 20-year-old isn't what you think. It's just that when a younger person walks into a room and forgets why, they don't worry about it. When a 70-year-old forgets where they left their keys, they automatically think they're losing their mind. And our last myth: there's nothing you can do to protect your brain. Exercise,



a healthy diet, getting enough sleep, and being socially active have all shown to boost brain power.

The Seattle Longitudinal study, which tracked the cognitive abili-

formed better on tests of verbal abilities, spatial reasoning, math, and abstract reasoning in middle age than they did when they were young adults.

-Ivanhoe Newswire

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Elderly Exercise: Losing Weight Safely As We Age

Weight loss can be a tricky topic. While obesity poses serious health risks, slimming down may also lead to muscle and bone loss. See how researchers found adding a piece of fashion helped the elderly lose weight safely!

Joyce Jackson admits working out used to be a foreign idea to her.

"I knew that I needed to exercise but never took the time to do it," Jackson said.

That was until the 78-year-old joined a study on exercise and weight loss at Wake Forest University.

"Thinking about exercise as a countermeasure to muscle and bone loss as an older adult loses weight, I think is very important," shared Kristen Beavers, PhD, Assistant Professor in Health & Exercise Science at Wake Forest University.

Beavers studies the risks and benefits of weight loss in older adults.

"That's because when people want to lose weight what they want to lose is fat, but some of what you lose is muscle and bone," explained Beavers.

That can lead to fractures. But shedding fat also means improve-



ments in function.

"They're going to get out of this chair a little faster, they're going to walk a little faster," continued Beavers.

So, Beavers and her team came up with a clever way to incorporate resistance training into the study in the form of a weighted vest!

"These little slats right here you can actually put little weights in here," stated Beavers.

They asked 40 seniors in the pilot study to wear the vest up to ten hours a day.

"They would just get up in the

morning and put it on, wear it during their most active part of the day and then take it off," said Beavers.

The results were pretty dramatic!

"People who wore this vest during this pilot study actually did preserve their bone especially at their hip," Beavers told Ivanhoe.

Bob Spontak wasn't part of the pilot study or the INVEST study but did join one where he exercised three times a week and lost 48 pounds.

"I'm more than amazed, I'm very pleased," smiled Spontak.

Jackson worked her way up to 60 minutes on the bike three times a week!

"Start off with a little bit and you'll see the difference," said Jackson.

In addition to performing weight bearing exercises at least three days per week, Beavers also recommends a high-protein diet with calcium and vitamin D to minimize muscle and bone loss. Wake Forest University received a 2.9-million-dollar grant from the National Institute on Aging to expand the INVEST study. Researchers are enrolling people ages 60 to 85 years of age now. The weighted vest is available on Amazon for about \$200 which Beavers points out is more cost-effective than a gym membership.

-Ivanhoe Newswire



3 Ways to Make Your Yard a Safe Haven for Beautiful Birds

Without a few measures in place, your home and garden could be hazardous to birds. Here are some great ways to create a safe haven for beautiful flying visitors.

- Garden organically: Conventional pesticides can be toxic to birds, so ditch the dangerous chemicals. Did you know that there are essential oils that you can use instead that will do the job of warding off pests without harming birds -- or people for that matter? Protecting birds is not only the right thing to do, but their health and safety helps ensure their ability to feed on the very pests you're trying to eliminate.

- Make windows visible: Your beautiful view can be a safety hazard to birds. Each year, millions of wild birds are killed in the U.S. alone by striking windows. Fortunately, there's an easy action you can take to prevent this from happening, and it is to apply decals that reflect ultraviolet sunlight to your home's windows, particularly those windows that are highly reflective of open sky. Doing so has been proven to substantially reduce the likelihood of bird strikes. Those from WindowAlert feature patterns that give the appearance of slightly frosted translucent glass, but glow

like a stoplight for birds. The brand also makes WindowAlert UV Liquid, a high-tech liquid that offers even greater protection when applied between decals. To learn more about it, visit WindowAlert.com.

- Introduce birdfeeders, mindfully: Birdfeeders attract birds to your yard and give them a place to rest and refuel. However, it's important not to unintentionally create a safety hazard with this addition. Because feeding birds are easily frightened and apt to take wild, evasive flight, the risk of birds striking windows can be elevated near birdfeeders. By using window decals, as well as by positioning feeders closer than three feet or farther than 30 feet from windows, you can create a safer space. Already have birdfeeders? Take a look at their current placement and make changes as needed.

"This season, becoming a better environmental steward starts right in your own backyard. By making a few small updates to your home and garden, you can protect the lives of wild birds," says Spencer Schock, founder of WindowAlert.

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Herschel Walker criticizes double standard



If people can protest, they also should be allowed to attend church, according to Herschel Walker, former NFL and Heisman Trophy-winning running back.

"We keep hearing the importance of freedom of speech... but let's not forget we have freedom of religion," he wrote in a tweet accompanying a 32-second video. "Never give up our right to worship! If we can protest, we can get back to church!"

The 58-year-old weighed in on what some consider a First Amendment double standard. "While many state and local governments have enacted restrictions on worship gatherings during the pandemic, some officeholders have supported and even joined ongoing protests and marches after the death of African American George Floyd in police custody on Memorial Day.

"I just saw that the First Amendment — freedom of speech — and people are protesting. You know, peaceful or not peaceful. But I also saw that we have the freedom of religion. Why are we not going to church? Why are we not fighting to go to church? You know, we can do peaceful church

outside. Think about it."

Over the past several months, as the United States has endured unprecedented economic lockdowns and racial unrest, Walker has established himself as a strong supporter of President Donald Trump and a harsh critic of the coronavirus lockdowns and "cancel culture."

On May 23, the former University of Georgia standout tweeted that "it's time for us to reform this lockdown. I'd rather go down standing up trying to save my company, than be on my knees begging the government for a handout.

Walker appeared as a contestant on Trump's former reality TV show, "The Celebrity Apprentice," and the two have a friendship that goes back decades.

"Oh yeah, we're still close," Walker said. "We always talk. He appointed me a little position there in Washington with the president's council with Health and Human Services. So, we've still got a very, very good relationship. I've changed a little bit of how that council's run and trying to get us more involved, so we can change some things in Washington."

FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

By Rob Mooney

It's amazing to me how the Covid pandemic has affected people differently. I don't mean the folks who test positive but rather the decision-making process of those in charge of the different sports leagues and conferences, particularly the NCAA.

The Big Ten and the Pac-12 conferences canceled their football seasons and I truly believe that they thought the three remaining Power 5 conferences would follow suit. However, the ACC, Big 12 and the SEC have all tweaked their schedules a bit but all three plan on playing football this fall.

Originally, the Pac-12 and Big Ten were going to play football in the spring, but now, after severe criticism, the Big Ten has been discussing the possibility of playing during the winter in domed stadiums. Of course, that would require athletes to stay on campus when the main

student body will be home for most of it. Many other conferences canceled their seasons as well and are eyeing spring seasons. I just don't know about the possibility of playing basically 2 seasons in 1 year. How many players will opt out as they forward to the NFL draft?

The NCAA did come out and grant an additional season to all college athletes who are missing their seasons this year. It appears as though the NCAA doesn't have much input, if any, into Division I college football, the engine that drives the athletic departments' budgets. Maybe that's why they're always trying to force their will on the basketball programs.

The college conferences need to get together and create their own entity. They need to govern themselves and make decisions for the whole. This every conference for themselves nonsense isn't good for

anyone!

There are a lot of things I don't agree with concerning professional sports, and kneeling during the National Anthem is one of them. I've always believed that there are better ways to protest and get your point across. I also believe that players have the right to kneel if they so desire. Our constitutional freedoms apply to everyone, whether or not we agree with them. They can't make me kneel just as I can't make them stand.

I also don't agree with all of the violent protests that have been occurring and I believe that the majority of police officers are good, just like I think that the majority of protesters are good. I will ask this question though; what in the world can anyone do, regardless of skin color, that would require someone to shoot them 7 times in the back? It's what sparked the Milwaukee Bucks to boycott their playoff game, which in turn led to the NBA postponing several games, which led to other leagues doing the same.

The great thing about America is the fact that we all have different opinions and we're all able to express those opinions. Until we start respecting each other, there are going to be problems!

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5 Home Remodeling Tips from the Pros

With the extra time many Americans have spent at home over the past few months, there have been plenty of opportunities to think about how that living space could be improved.

While this may not be the ideal time to tackle a full gut and renovate project, it may still be possible to do some smaller scale remodeling projects that update and improve your home. For example, simple cosmetic repairs like painting and replacing vanities can make a noticeable difference with minimal work or investment. Or if you're hesitant about bringing contractors into the house, outdoor projects like replacing fencing, adding paver stones or constructing outdoor living spaces may be a benefit for your family.

Before you take on a project, consider these tips from Robi Kirsic, MCKBR, UDCP, chairman of the board of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry and co-CEO of TimeLine Renovation & Design.

Define the Purpose

The first consideration whether you're making changes for yourself or for future resale is the purpose of your project. This determines everything from the budget to the materials you select. Remember projects in the kitchen and bathroom typically bring the greatest return on investment.

It's also a good idea to plan how you'll use the renovated area. When possible, incorporate elements of universal design that don't change how the space looks but will change how it works. For example, in the bathroom, install a curbless shower, taller toilet and block in walls to allow future installation of grab bars.

Stick to a Budget

Another early decision is your budg-



et. It's fruitless to spend time looking at materials and making design decisions based on products that exceed your budget or, conversely, fall below the quality level you prefer. Having a professional involved can help keep you from overspending and identify areas you may want to splurge or pull back.

Select a Remodeler

Friends and family can be great resources when it comes to choosing a remodeling contractor since they're likely to give detailed and candid opinions about their experiences. When you begin interviewing companies yourself, verify they're licensed and insured, and ask what they offer above those minimum requirements. Are they certified or accredited? Do they specialize in the type of work you're considering? Also be sure to request and check references and search online for reviews.

Conduct Virtual Meetings

While some projects may require an in-person assessment, many planning sessions can be conducted virtually. You can even shop products to be used in your project virtually since online catalogs typically show a variety of colors and finishes along with prices. For items you need to see or feel to choose, like flooring, request samples to test in your home. To make your virtual meetings most productive, prepare by providing a detailed scope of work and be ready to provide measurements and show the space cleared of clutter.

Keep it Safe

For some families, sticking to outdoor projects may be more comfortable in the short term. For those who are ready to bring contractors inside, there are numerous steps you can take to create a safer working environment. Examples include asking everyone involved to wear face masks and gloves and using plastic at doorways to keep the work area separate from the living area. Regular disinfecting and a thorough cleaning at the end of the project are also important preventive steps.

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www.highlandheightsccc.com
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 Sun. Service 10:45 am
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www.discovertbc.com

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

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 11 AM Contemporary Worship

7. TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH

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office@gccinoverbrook.com

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11. COMMUNITY CHURCH

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 233-3537 www.CommunityChurchKS.com
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How School Will Look in the Age of Covid

by Carolyn Cogswell

Before Covid, the question of the relative value of digital versus face-to-face instruction in a school setting never came up. Children were learning face-to-face while still spending a certain amount of time online every week, using educational software.

All this changed when Coronavirus arrived and closed schools in March. Suddenly, children, teachers and parents faced previously unimaginable decisions.

Teachers suddenly began redesigning their lessons to deliver instruction digitally. Many met their students on Zoom, the popular meeting software that has been booming since Covid moved in.

Now it is time for school to start, and concerns about the virus have created the need for both logistical and instructional changes.

So, since we are somewhat stuck with these changes until the virus runs its course or until a vaccine becomes available, how do we navigate this new frontier?

LOGISTICAL DIFFERENCES

Some major CDC recommendations that staff and students will follow are: temperatures taken upon arrival, wearing masks or face shields all or most of the day, washing hands at least every hour, desks placed six feet apart, only one child per seat on the bus, unless they are siblings, and only half of the normal number of students in the building each day. There will be other similar changes in the normal school routine.

CHANGES FACING STUDENTS, STAFF AND PARENTS

Many school systems are going to “hybrid” instructional models, consisting of some days using digital methods and some days face-to-face. This presents serious problems for some. Many families are forced to decide between going to work or staying home with their kids. Some will



Mrs. Spangler's room at Tecumseh North Elementary School

home-school.

FACE TO FACE IS THE FAVORITE

Under normal circumstances, face-to-face learning is across the board the favorite of teachers, students and parents. After this last semester of being quarantined, I heard children saying, “I want to come back to school.” “I miss my friends.” “I miss recess.”

Teachers said, “I miss my kids.” There is no question how important relationships are to them.

Advantages to face-to-face learning include socialization, the opportunity for emotional support from teachers, physical activity and even nutrition for many children today. But this year teachers will teach digitally at least half the time, and some must go 100 percent digital.

ADVANTAGES OF DIGITAL LEARNING

Locally, in most cases, schools are employing a “hybrid” model which is a combination of digital and face-to-face learning. This model may include Microsoft Teams, a Zoom-like meeting program and software that allows students to digitally submit assignments.

If you research online the advantages and disadvantages of digital and face-to-face learning, you will find similar advantages as you see listed in this article from “Ryan” in a 2019 blog, <https://www.idtech.com/blog/face-to-face-vs-online-learning>. He summed

up online learning advantages this way: Online learning:

- gives the learner more control over when they can learn
- allows learners to progress at their own pace
- doesn't subject learners to distractions from others

Online learning is not precisely what is happening here, but these same advantages apply, as teachers redesign their curricula to conform to digital delivery via the meeting and homework software.

Teachers have always dealt with a variety of extra duties even before Covid. In addition to lesson preparation and classroom teaching, they always had record-keeping, student behavior issues, parent contact, paperwork of every description, professional development requirements and many other demands. But the workload just doubled.

Since Covid, while students may choose digital or face-to-face learning, teachers are required to teach face-to-face and manage digital software learning simultaneously, in addition to making regular contact with parents and submitting to the state auditors official evidence of students' participation in learning while they are at home.

But regardless of all the changes, schools are opening, and teachers are preparing to meet their students.

LOCAL TEACHER SHARES THE JOY

Jodelle Spangler is a third-grade teacher at Tecumseh North Elementary School in the Shawnee Heights School District. She recently posted a picture of her classroom and made these comments. I conclude with them.

“... Desks are spaced apart and so many items have been carried out or packed away. While it feels great to be in my happy place, the logistics and balancing of hybrid teaching are truly overwhelming.

“Trying to navigate this new journey feels like I am swimming with 50-pound weights tied to me. Trust me – I am chanting, ‘Just keep swimming.’

Still, she ended on a positive note. “... This learning space right here will STILL positively impact the little people who enter. There will be laughter and there will be tears (most likely from me) and we will just keep swimming together – staff, students and families.”

Smartphones get an ‘F’ for lowering student grades



It's never been easier for the average student to find the answer to a tough question using a smartphone. Across the nation, teachers regularly battle the distraction smartphones provide. From social media to messaging, technology seems to be hindering education rather than helping it and more students than ever have smartphones.

But is access to the devices and the instant answers they provide students worth the distraction? Based on test scores and a slew of studies, the answer is a resounding “no.”

Rutgers University recently completed an exhaustive study that finds internet access through smartphones is harming students' ability to retain information. Not just short term, but long term. And it's a problem occurring around the globe in developed as well as undeveloped nations. Across the board, the impact is showing itself in a continuing decline in grades.

Homework most affected

Researchers note that students who usually receive high marks on homework assignments, but lower test grades (a half to full letter grade lower), are much more likely to use the internet for answers while completing their homework.

With these findings in mind, the study's authors are questioning the validity of homework as a useful learning tool in 2020.

“When a student does homework by looking up the answers, they usually find the correct answer, resulting in a high score on the assignment,” says lead study author Arnold Glass, a professor of psychology at Rutgers-New Brunswick's School of Arts and Sciences, in a release. “However, when students do that, they rapidly forget both the question and answer. Consequently, they transform homework from what has been, until now, a useful exercise into a meaningless ritual that does not help in preparing for exams.”

Grades on tests vs. homework shift dramatically

In all, 2,433 Rutgers-New Brunswick students took part in this study over an 11-year period (11 different classes). A comparison of homework and test scores in 2008 and 2017 show just how much things have changed. In 2008, only 14% of students scored lower on tests than homework assignments. Fast forward to 2017, and that percentage jumps up to an astonishing 55%. According to professor Glass, home-

work questions are supposed to be answered without the help of outside sources. Students should read the question, think about it, and answer to the best of their ability.

“If the student does this first and then finds the correct answer online, the student is likely to remember the answer, which will have a significant long-term effect on subsequent exam performance,” he concludes.

France and its nationwide ban

The problem is so bad that France has joined a long list of nations, and many U.S. school districts, that are banning the devices in the school setting.

French lawmakers in 2018 passed a law banning schoolchildren from having smartphones and other internet-enabled devices at schools.

The ban applies to smartphones, tablets, smartwatches and other connected devices, which must be turned off or left at home.

The only exceptions are for extra-curricular activities and disabled students. The law generally prohibits smartphones in all premises and during school activities outside the school building.

The new rules apply to pupils from three to 15 years old, but allows high schools administrators to apply a partial or total ban.

In 2010 France banned smartphone use during class time.

The Rutgers study isn't the first and won't be the last.

MSNBC reported that one study published by the London School of Economics traced the impact of banning mobile phones at schools on exam scores. Researchers found that students in schools with phone bans earned higher test scores and that low-performing students benefited the most. “Restricting mobile phone use can be a low-cost policy to reduce educational inequalities,” concludes the study.

“Another study published in the Journal of Communication Education,” reports the news site, “found that students without mobile phones performed better in several different areas. They wrote down 62 percent more information in their notes, were able to recall more detailed information from class and scored a full letter grade-and-a-half higher on a multiple choice test than those who were actively using their mobile phones.

The study is published in Educational Psychology.



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