

CIDER DAYS

FALL FAMILY MARKET

CIDER DAYS

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Ray Bolger on God's Provision
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NEW RESIDENT churchguide



See inside back cover!

Entrepreneur Starts Pro-Life Bank



An entrepreneur and evangelist plans to launch "ProLife Bank" — a financial institution that will serve as an alternative to mainstream commercial banks, most of which donate heavily to Planned Parenthood.

Vujicic — an Australian-American born without his four limbs due to a rare genetic condition — believes that he is in a unique position to speak on issues related to abortion, adoption, and foster care.

"Most banks — 90%, in fact — give philanthropically toward abortion," Vujicic told The Christian Post, noting that an unthinkable amount of "God's money" has been leveraged to fund the murder of preborn children.

For instance, Bank of America's charitable foundation gave over \$50,000 to Planned Parenthood affiliates across the United States in 2017. Morgan Stanley, American Express, and other financial institutions match employees' donations to the organization and give grants to support "volun-

■ Please see BANK page 2

Making America Better



The Best Thing You Can Do to Make America Better

By Dennis Prager

Some think tank or polling organization should ask 1,000 Americans: What is the best thing most Americans can do to make the country better?

Presumably, those most influenced by their schooling and by the media would answer something along the lines of: "fight racism" or "work to reduce inequality." Whatever the specific answer, most young people — and those older who lean left — would most likely

respond by citing some form of activism.

Since the early 1960s and '70s, a moral life has been defined as engaging in activism. One improves America — indeed, one becomes a good person — by fighting for a cause. That cause may be feminism, environmentalism, socialism, material equality, racial equality, LGBTQ+ liberation or the welfare state — free health care, free college tuition, free preschool, free day care, free school breakfasts and lunches, even free income.

This is a massive break with the American past. While there were always causes to champion — the abolition of slavery being the greatest and costliest — most Americans did not think the best thing they could do with their lives was to become a social activist. Indeed, the very term "social activist" is largely a creation of the second half of the 20th century.

Throughout American history until the post-World War II era, had you asked almost any American what

■ Please see AMERICA page 3

City of Topeka to Gauge Citizen Satisfaction



The City of Topeka will be conducting its 2021 Citizen Survey from August 15th through September 30th. The survey will be administered digitally through the nationally recognized ETC Institute via phone, mail and the Internet.

ETC will mail the survey and a City-approved project description letter to a random sample of households. Residents will be provided two convenient opportunities to respond: an online link that will be included in the letter and a postage-paid return envelope.

Seven to 10 days after the surveys are mailed, ETC will follow-up with households that received the survey via e-mail and/or phone; the firm's goal is to achieve a minimum of 400 completed surveys. A sample of 400 will provide the City results that have a margin of error of +/-4.9 per-

■ Please see SURVEY page 2

Topeka Bible Church Plans Events for Lead Pastor Transition

Topeka Bible Church (TBC) announced recently that Lead Pastor Jim Congdon is transitioning to a different role at the church. In May, TBC Student Ministry Pastor Connor Kraus was approved by the congregation as the next lead pastor. He will start in that new role on September 18. This transition marks the end of a two-year search for the next man to shepherd the central Topeka flock of nearly 900.

TBC is hosting events to mark the transition. On Sunday, September 12, Congdon will deliver his final Sunday sermon as lead pastor at its 9 and 10:30 AM services. A video will feature stories from long-time church staff. A display in the lobby will include 14 "Lost Artifacts of

TBC" — objects and photos that commemorate the past four decades under Congdon's leadership. TBC will also share these items and their stories on social media in the two weeks leading up to the 12th.

On Saturday, September 18, TBC invites the public to a "Church on the Lawn and Fall Festival" celebration from 4-7 PM. An outdoor church service featuring Congdon and Kraus will begin at 4 PM on the church grounds at 11th and College. Then, from 5-7 PM, guests can enjoy chili and corn dogs in the "root beer garden" and fall festival-type activities like a straw climbing castle, axe throwing, dunk-a-pastor, inflatables, yard games,

■ Please see TRANSITION page 2



Topeka Native Crowned at National Summit Celebrating Women with Disabilities

From July 29th to August 2, 2021, over 300 girls and women with disabilities gathered together from across 36 different states in Nashville, Tennessee for the 2020 National Miss Amazing Summit.

Miss Amazing is a non-profit organization that works to empower girls and women with disabilities by providing opportunities to build self-confidence and public speaking skills. With this opportunity the participants shined as they built relationships, showcased their passions, embraced who they are in every aspect of life, and advocated by amplifying their voices, resulting in a diverse and rich atmosphere centered in love and acceptance. At the Closing Ceremony an individual in each age division was chosen to represent the organization on a national level as they were crowned "National Miss Amazing."

One such lady is Kirstianna Guerrero from Topeka, Kansas, now the National Miss Amazing Teen 2020. With this new extension of this opportunity, she looks back on everything that led up to this moment, starting with the state event on March 7, 2020.

"I had no idea the journey that lay ahead of me, but looking back it was this exact path that God used to equip me for this plan he has. What I thought would be a fun weekend full of building relationships and growing experiences turned into 2 years of my life and isn't over yet. When I was first crowned I was stunned as I never expected it, but I also couldn't

wait to experience what it meant by getting out into the world and sharing it."

She immediately started creating speaking engagements and made appearances in her sash and crown in the week that followed. And then everything suddenly changed...

"...Everything started getting canceled. At first I was heartbroken, I was so excited for this role and it felt like in an instant it all fell apart. But instead of giving up or pushing it all back until I could do it in the way I originally planned. I looked for every opportunity to make an impact in a new way."

And find those opportunities she did, such as zoom interviews, outreach through social media, and more. She totaled 761 service hours from August 2019 to July 2021 leading up to the national event.

"In finding every opportunity to choose joy through these times, I was not only impacting others directly through the ways I found to reach out, but also became a role model in inspiring them to keep going one step at a time in loving themselves and loving others."

Her biggest passion that she shared in the time on this platform was self-love: reminding everyone that you are loved, encouraging you to love yourself today and empowering you with everyday ways to live it out.

"After giving my life to Jesus and seeing



myself through his eyes, I truly came alive. When I was able to love myself completely and see how he used everything, that is when my love for others and my relationship with him became even more authentic and beautiful, and I knew I wanted to share that with others so they could experience it too."

As time went on her health started to decline from what can only be put into a long and complicated story, resulting in going into a coma, coming out paralyzed, and finally moving forward one step at a time in regaining strength, endurance, and movement in and out of hospitals for 10 months. She has reached independence in daily life through a wheelchair

and even though she doesn't know what to expect each day, she knows what God calls her to do.

"So much has changed about my life in these past two years, but what never changes is God's love for me and what he is calling me to, which is to 'always be joyful, never stop praying, and be thankful in all circumstances.' That truth can be found in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, and it is his calling for you too. What it looks like and how you live it out may change but it is always that simple."

She goes on to explain that in rising above the challenges in this role through the pandemic, she was equipped with everything she needed to move forward in her new mobility and how God's timing was visible through it all.

"The time that nationals was originally scheduled was the same week I went into my coma. Had it not been postponed I would have never had this opportunity that I have now. Even when your circumstances are not perfect, God's plan always is."

To inquire about speaking engagements or other opportunities, contact Kirstianna at NMATeen2020@gmail.com.

To find out more about Miss Amazing or to get involved as a volunteer or participant, visit [@kansasmissamazing](https://www.facebook.com/kansasmissamazing) on Facebook or [missamazing.org](https://www.missamazing.org).

The survey will compile resident feedback on a wide variety of City programs and services and gather respondent information.

"The City of Topeka Satisfaction Survey is a great tool to help staff identify what we are doing well, along with identifying opportunity for improvement and helping the city to identify budget priorities," said City Manager Brent Trout. "Citizen engagement is incredibly important and

has previously helped the city to strategically invest in our city and improve our quality of life."

Survey findings will be presented to the Governing Body in November and posted on the City of Topeka website.

Established in 1982, ETC Institute is a Kansas-based company that has administered surveys in more than 700 cities and counties nationwide throughout the previous five years. The firm is a national leader

in market research for local governmental organizations and, since its founding,

SURVEY

continued from page 1

cent at the 95 percent level of confidence. ETC consultants will monitor the distribution of the sample to ensure that it reasonably reflects the demographic composition of the City with regard to age, geographic dispersion, gender, race/ethnicity and other factors.

TRANSITION

continued from page 1

and live music. All food and activities are free. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and/or blankets.

Although Kraus has given the Sunday message several times at TBC, his first sermon as lead pastor will be September 26.

In 1975 Congdon, a student at Dallas

Theological Seminary, came to TBC as an intern in the student ministry. In 1976 he was hired as the student ministry pastor. When the church's lead pastor left suddenly in May 1977, Congdon, the only other pastor on staff, was asked to step in until the position was filled. By December of that year, no other suitable candidate had been found, and Congdon was offered the job. At the age of 26, Congdon

began his 44-year term as lead pastor.

Kraus, a Topeka native, grew up in TBC's student ministry program during high school. He graduated from Kansas State University in 2016 with a B.S. in Family Studies with a minor in conflict analysis and trauma studies. He completed his Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Fort Worth, Texas) in 2020 as he finished his first year as TBC's student ministry pastor.

Congdon is still working with church leadership to define his role in the future. He has a passion for teaching and developing teachers. Congdon also has a heart for missions. He looks forward to devoting his time to those pursuits. He said he also enjoys spending Saturdays with his wife, Melody, rather than cramming to finish a sermon for Sunday.

Topeka Bible Church is a non-denominational, evangelical Christian church whose mission is leading people to life in Christ. Services are at 9 and 10:30 AM Sundays in the church's two facilities—the Mulvane Building at 1101 SW Mulvane St., and the College Avenue Building at 1135 SW College Ave. A livestream of Sunday services is available on the Topeka Bible Church Facebook and YouTube platforms and the church website, [discovertbc.com](https://www.discovertbc.com).



BANK

continued from page 1

teer" efforts.

The Christian Post continues:

It was this sobering reality that prompted Vujicic to partner with Betsy Gray, his "spiritual mother" and the executive director of Network Medical Women's Center, a primary care medical clinic in Santa Barbara, California, to found ProLife Bank.

ProLife Bank, Vujicic said, is not a for-profit bank — it's a for-giving bank. The bank will give "50% net profits to Judeo-Christian-aligned-nonprofit organizations to further the Kingdom of God," he explained.

ProLife Bank's website explains:

Having no limbs and not given the coddling to play the "victim card," young Nick started vacuuming the floor for an allowance at age 6. He'd buy his own toys and gave money to missionaries. His father Boris pushed him to accelerate in something Nick could do, mathematics. He became a numbers man at a young age, bringing him to the world of financial literacy at age 17. He started trading options and stocks as a teenager and purchased his first home as an investment at 19 years old. He obtained a Bachelor of Commerce with a double major in Financial Planning and Investments & Accounting and graduated at age 21.

Vujicic noted that up to half of abortions in the United States are carried out by professing Christians — a reality that requires Americans to "rattle the cages of the Church."

—The Daily Wire

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Expert encourages parents who fear failure as they begin homeschooling

Students are not the only ones feeling nervous as schools reopen. Many parents also may question themselves as they try homeschooling for the first time.

Sam Sorbo offers encouraging words in an episode of "School's Out" titled "Fear of Failure." "You can do this, even if you lack the 'credentials,'" she says.

She said that standing out from the crowd should not be feared, it should be admired, saying that the lack of forgiving our cancel culture has embraced is wrong and dangerous. "We want our kids to excel, do we not? Yet we enroll them in a system that reinforces compliance and conformity."

Sorbo, who is married to actor Kevin Sorbo, encourages parents to acknowledge the sense of adventure in standing away from the crowd. She points out that homeschooling participation has more than doubled in the past year, meaning that parents really are not so alone after all.

She encourages parents to ask themselves, "What are you truly afraid of? Is that fear justified? Do you have the ability to read, write, reason? Do you have any



accomplishments to your name? Did you believe the lie that you are incompetent because the teacher said so? Will you admit that you personally have something to offer, or are you designed to be superfluous?"

"This entire miracle of a country was founded by homeschooled individuals, self-taught individuals, intellectual giants who still by today's standards were

absolute geniuses," Sorbo said. "For them, the Bible, history and common-sense were all they needed."

Sorbo ended by telling parents to pursue what they want for their children without being hindered by fear. "Everything carries risk, but life is meant to be an adventure," she said. "Aren't you tired of being told not to try out of fear of failure? Quiet that voice in your head."

teachers (who rely on their own foolish hearts), they knew how flawed human nature is, and therefore knew that character development meant a lifelong struggle with oneself. No longer. Character development now means struggle with a deeply flawed America, not a deeply flawed self.

No. 2. Getting married and making a good family.

That is the single best thing the vast majority of people can do to make a better world. Most college graduates and essentially the entire intellectual elite mock this idea. If a female college student announced on a social medium or in class that her greatest desire was to find a good man and make a family, she would be considered pathetic, brainwashed by "the patriarchy." If, on the other hand, she announced she would devote her life to a feminist cause or to fighting racial injustice, she would receive almost universal approbation.

Yet, what could be possibly better for society than the great majority of its people marrying and attempting to raise decent people?

No. 3. Taking care of one's family, especially one's parents.

This is another traditional definition of leading a good life. However, this has been subverted by three developments:

first, the unprecedented number of Americans who have not made a family (i.e., a married couple with children); second, by the state taking care of more and more people — individual citizens, their children and their parents; and third, the unspoken pandemic of adult children who not only do not take care of their parents, but they have also removed them from their lives for personal or political reasons.

No. 4. Going to church.

For the highly educated who believe that religion is irrelevant to character, I have always asked two questions: First, if religion is irrelevant to moral behavior, why are almost no violent criminals regular churchgoers? Second, if you were traveling in a strange city, it was midnight, you were lost, and you saw a group of young men walking toward you, would you or would you not be relieved to learn that they just had attended a Bible class?

No. 5. Joining a service organization.

Almost every American who had the time and joined some group that did good in his or her community. Men joined service organizations. Women volunteered in a whole host of charities such as hospitals, schools and churches. There is less volunteering today than at any time in American history.

It's much more exciting to join a demonstration than to do any of the five things listed. And it comes with the added bonus of thinking well of oneself — without having had to do any of the tough work on one's own character.

That, in a nutshell, is the genesis of our present existential crisis. People don't understand that the best thing they can do for this society is to lead an individually good life and raise honorable children, not join a protest movement.

This column was originally posted on Townhall.com.

Thornton Place to host September C5 luncheon

The September C5Alive "POWER" Luncheon will be held September 9, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Thornton Place, 2901 SW

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.



Gawdun

Armstrong. The featured speaker will be Jeanne Gawdun, Director of Government Relations at Kansans For Life.

The cost to attend a C5 luncheon is \$10 for C5Alive members and first-time guests who RSVP, and \$12 at the door. Non-members and repeat 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.

C5Alive "POWER" luncheons are held on the second Thursday of each month. The next monthly C5Alive "POWER Luncheon" will be held October 14, and will feature State Senator Kristen O'Shea.

For more details on these and other events, stay tuned to the

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 (cancelled for 2021).

The group is also planning a Fall Fest this year on October 9 at The Vinewood venue.

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.

AMERICA

continued from page 1

constitutes living a good life, he or she would have offered any or all of these five responses:

No. 1: Developing one's moral character.

No. 2: Getting married and making a good family.

No. 3: Taking care of one's family, especially one's parents.

No. 4: Going to church.

No. 5: Taking care of the poor in one's community, usually by joining a service organization such as a church charity, a Kiwanis, Lions or Rotary Club.

My suspicion is that if one were to ask young people today, and certainly anyone on the left, you would not receive any of those five responses.

Let's take them in order:

No. 1. Developing one's moral character.

With the macro-ization of morality, the definition of moral character has changed. It is no longer working on oneself, conquering one's demons, controlling one's appetites — in short, fighting one's flawed nature. When people looked to the Bible for wisdom rather than to their foolish hearts and their foolish



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FINANCIAL PLANNING

A calling or a job?

Dear Dave,

When it comes to your career and profession, how can you tell if you've truly found your calling in life?

Tony

Dear Tony,

I don't think it's common for most folks to feel like they've experienced some kind of grand revelation, and suddenly they know what they're supposed to do with their lives. Personally, I believe this kind of thing usually starts out as an activity or idea connected to something they enjoy and want others to experience. Often, that can grow into a job, and then maybe into a career—or even a business.

I think it takes a lot of time, reflection, insight, and self-evaluation before anything can be termed a calling. I know this is true in some cases, because that's how it happened with me. I can't honestly tell you that when I first started on radio, or began formally teaching and writing I knew it was God's plan for my life. I knew early on I was drawn to it, and felt there was a need for it, but it took a while for me to understand and accept that it was what I was really meant to do.

I hope this helps a little bit, Tony. Just be honest with yourself, think about it, and pray about it a lot, too. God wants what's best for you, so make sure you include Him in everything. It worked for me. I've been doing what I do for nearly three decades now, and I still love it. I'm convinced that it is God's calling on my life.

—Dave

More than any amount of money

Dear Dave,

My husband and I are both 29, and



**DAVE
RAMSEY**

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

davesays

we have good jobs that allow us to bring home \$100,000 a year combined. Recently, we began talking about starting a family. We live on a budget, but we still have about \$15,000 in credit card debt and student loans we're working hard to pay off. Do you think couples should wait until they are debt-free to have children?

Missy

Dear Missy,

You and your husband are chipping away at your debt, and that's a good thing. It sounds like you two are determined to get it paid off and take control of your finances. You're also making pretty good money, so keep up the good work!

Ok, so the truth is kids can be expensive. From medical costs and diapers, to childcare and beyond, it costs money to raise a family. But here's the thing: If you let money alone, or the perfect financial situation, determine whether you have kids or not, you may never have them. Now, would it be easier from a financial standpoint only to wait on having kids until you're debt-free and there's a huge pile of cash in the bank? Sure, it would. But children are worth more than any amount of money. If you love each other and want to be parents, and you're mature adults in every other area, don't let this debt stop you.

A child isn't going to derail your journey to financial peace. Having kids might cause you to press pause for a while on some financial matters, or slow your pace a little bit, but as long as

you both stay focused and determined to manage your money wisely, chances are things will work out fine.

Just don't make the mistake lots of parents do—especially first-time parents. Many of them think they have to run out and buy a new, "safer" car, spend a fortune on a fancy crib, or buy all things baby from some overpriced boutique. Do you get what I'm saying, Missy? Why buy a brand-new, \$400 stroller, when a friend or relative has a perfectly good, barely used one they're willing to give you?

It's easy to get carried away spending

for a baby. But children will be just fine as long as they have food, clothing, shelter—and most importantly—loving, caring parents. God bless you two!
—Dave

You're in good shape either way

Dear Dave,

I can't decide whether to sell or keep a rental property. Except for the property in question I'm debt-free, and I make \$90,000 a year. I owe \$20,000 on the property, and it is worth \$65,000. What do you think?

George

Dear George,

You're in pretty good shape finan-

cially, and you could probably pay off the rental property in a year or two. So really, it's a matter of personal preference. I will say this; there's nothing worse than being a landlord if you don't want to be one.

It's not a bad thing to feel that way. Some folks have fun and enjoy landlording for a while, but then other things become more important. It's your life and your feelings that matter at this point.

If you still enjoy dabbling in real estate and being a landlord, go for it. If the shine has worn off, get rid of the place. If the latter is the case, you'll get the responsibility of being a landlord off your back and become debt-free all at the same time!

—Dave

Stop Losing Money Safely

By Ryan Shumaker
Smartvestor Pro at
The Retirement Team



Over the course of the average retirement all prices more than double. In fact, they'll go up more than 2.5 times. Something that costs \$100 today will cost \$257 at the end of a 30 year retirement. That's assuming just

(meaning there are literally 33% more US dollars that exist today than what did in February of 2020), one can probably assume inflation is not going to go back to where it was prior to the pandemic anytime soon.

Besides taxes in retirement, the biggest problem we help most people solve is ensuring they have an ever increasing income to offset ever increasing prices. When conservative investments across

over time.

The approach we're using with our clients aright now is to try and have as little in investments that are earning less than inflation while ensuring there is still enough to never have to 'sell low' or lock in losses to generate income. If you're relying on traditional growth mutual funds or index funds you could go over a decade (the S&P 500, for instance, was at the same value in 2011 as it was in 2000) with no gains, which means you might need more than 10 years worth of income sitting in conservative investments that are safely and slowly losing money to inflation in order to make sure you have enough to never have to sell low. Having that much earning so little will likely lead to poor results. Our flagship investment strategy is being managed to make up any losses in only 3 years. If you only need 3 years worth of income in conservative investments this reduces the amount that is slowly losing and increases the amount that is growing, which will help with having ever increasing income to offset ever increasing prices. The bonus part of this is that even though it is a moderate risk strategy it has outperformed the majority of aggressive investments over time.

If having ever increasing income in retirement is important to you, give our team a call today at 785-228-0222 to schedule a complementary consultation.

Other great articles about retirement, investing, and tax reduction can be seen at RetireTopeka.com/blog.

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

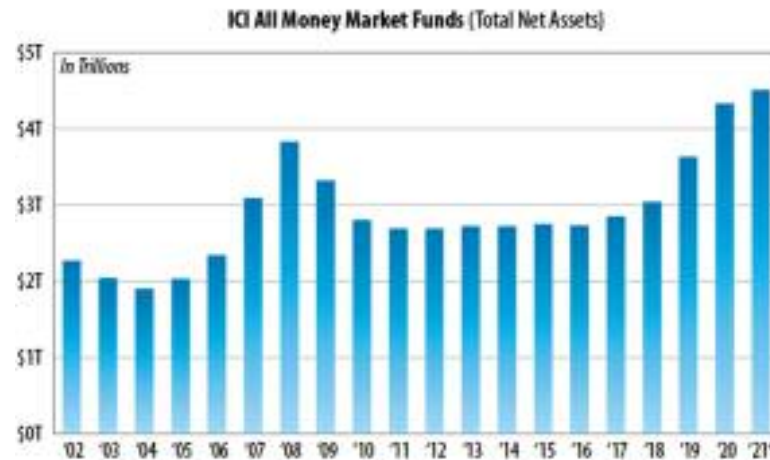
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historical average levels of inflation as measured by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Lately things have been anything but average with inflation hitting a 13 year high last month of 5.4%!

While interest rates have come up a little since their all time record lows of last year, rates for many conservative investments are still substantially lower than current inflation levels. According to BankRate.com, the average money market account is paying a paltry 0.07% interest, the average 1 year CD 0.17%, and the average 5 year CD 0.31%. The wild thing is that in no point in history has there ever been at the end of any year more money in money market than what there is today. The sad part is that all of this money is earning about the least it ever has too.

If you had \$100 last year and earned just 0.07% interest on it you now have \$100.07. The problem is that something that cost \$100 last year now costs \$105.40. In essence sitting in a money market earning this amount cost you \$5.33 in buying power. You have safely and slowly lost over the last 52 weeks to inflation. Given that the M2 measure of the money supply is now a stunning 33% higher than what it was pre Covid

the board (whether they be bonds, CDs, money market, guaranteed annuities, etc.) are generally earning the least they ever have it is quite difficult to accomplish this goal by having most or all of your money in these types of instruments. Annuities that guarantee income streams are paying out record low levels as most all of them are backed by bonds paying historically low interest. Plus, any guaranteed income stream whether it be from an annuity, pension, etc. that does not increase over time is just assuring that each and every year your actual spendable income (what you can buy with that income stream) will continuously decrease. Again, with just average inflation over the average retirement something that costs \$100 today will cost \$257 at the end. If you have an income stream that stays the same over your retirement you'll only be able to buy 39% of what you could have at the beginning.

Imagine if your budget got slashed by over 60%. How would that impact your lifestyle? That's what you need to plan on happening if your income stays the same throughout your retirement. Having the same income means safely and slowly having a massive reduction in lifestyle



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The Financial Side of Being a Caregiver

By Jim Hanna

One in five Americans are currently unpaid caregivers, and as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, that number is on the rise. Caring for a family member can be complex. While deeply meaningful and rewarding, it can also present challenges, both emotionally and financially.



Hanna

If you may need to step into a caregiving role for an aging loved one or a family member with disabilities, it's a good idea to plan a financial strategy today, before it becomes an added stressor. Here are some questions to help you get started:

What do you know about your loved one's financial situation? Knowing the particulars of your loved one's disability, life and health insurance policies, savings and financial obligations can make it easier to step in on a moment's notice. Obtain contact information for the financial professionals your loved one works with so you know who to go to if you have questions.

What is your strategy to pay caregiving expenses? First, think about what bills and expenses your loved one is currently paying that you may need to make on his or her behalf. Encourage your loved one to set up automatic bill pay or to add you as a second signer on a bank account to make handling expenses easier. Next, consider what expenses you may incur as a result of your caregiving role, such as out-of-pocket medical care or home improvements needed to accommodate your loved one.

What is the financial impact if you need to take time off from work? If you are employed, you may be covered by the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). With this federally mandated program, eligible employees can take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for an immediate family member while health benefits continue. Some companies allow employees to stockpile sick days and vacation days; if you can use this kind of accrued time off, you'll still get paid. Liquid savings of your own can help to cover your expenses if you need to take unpaid leave from work.

Are your loved one's assets legally

protected? Being proactive from a legal standpoint can help ensure your loved one's wishes are known and assets are protected during a prolonged illness. Power of attorney, or a durable power of attorney, gives a trusted party the ability to make important decisions about finances and health care. Another legal document that can help is an advanced directive, which outlines specifics for medical and end-of-life care. When these documents are in place, you have clear guidance on how to manage your family member's affairs.

Who would you turn to for support? Talk with other family members about their willingness to help and how responsibilities might be divided. Research social service and community organizations in your area to see what support is available for caregivers. Remember, you can't take care of others if you don't take care of yourself – so be sure to take time for your own well-being, whether that's hiring someone to help around the house or speaking to a licensed therapist.

How will you balance your financial goals with caregiving expenses? Caregiving often requires more immediate expenses that can make it challenging to focus on saving for your child's college education or your own retirement. Developing a plan to continue saving toward long-term goals may help you reduce your financial stress down the road. Financial planning under the guidance of a financial advisor can help you anticipate and prepare for caregiving and other future events that may impact your finances.

1 AARP Caregiving in the United States, 2020

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Kansas' Protected Level of Income Has Increased for Both PACE and HCBS

Effective July 1, 2021, the protected level of income for Program of All-Inclusive Care (PACE) participants and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) increased to \$2,382. The new policy was passed through the Kansas Legislature via Senate Bill 159 during the 2021 session.

The increase is 300% of the Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) standard. Moving forward, as the 300% of the SSI level increases each year during the annual COLA increase, the protected level of income will also increase.

This is particularly important to Midland Care because the monthly protected level of income is used for purposes of determining a person's client obligation in regard to PACE. The increase means that seniors in our state will have additional funds that they may use to pay their rent, utilities, and medical needs/necessities.

"PACE is an all-inclusive program that can meet seniors where they are at and help ensure they stay in their homes for as long as possible," said Shawn Sullivan, President and CEO at Midland Care. "Often times, those who need services like PACE are living on a fixed income. This increase will allow people to keep \$2,382 per month without having to pay out of pocket for a client obligation."

One of the biggest hurdles for people interested in the PACE was that Kansas had a very low protected level of income. Midland Care has found that some seniors who really need assistance from PACE do not enroll, as they were not able to live on only \$1,157 per month. This increase means that many more seniors will be able to access services as they won't have to choose between paying for care and basic living expenses. Midland Care is expecting to enroll more seniors into the PACE program as this change goes into effect.

Midland Care PACE is an option for those who may need help with:

- Transportation to Medical Appointments
- Nutritional Meals
- Incontinence Supplies
- Building Social Relationships
- Home Support
- Medical Equipment
- Physical Therapy

To be eligible for Midland Care PACE, one must:

- Be 55 years old or over.
- Live in the Midland Care

PACE service area.

- Be able to live safely in the community with help from PACE.

For more information about the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, contact PACE intake at

1-800-726-7450.

Midland Care is a not-for-profit, community-based organization providing options to families with challenging health needs.

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opinion

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The humiliation of the church and the coming revival

By Dr. Michael Brown



It has been a very difficult season for conservative Christians in America. There have been countless scandals, both minor and major, sexual and financial, rocking all different sectors of the church. There have been prominent leaders who have renounced their faith. There have been well-publicized, failed prophecies about Trump's reelection. The list goes on and on, and we have egg on our face. Lots of it.

And what about the extreme politicization of so many Christians in the

last five years, to the point that some of us became better known for our support of a political leader than for our allegiance to Jesus?

This is a time of humiliation, of confusion, of dishonor, a time to get low before the Lord rather than a time to strut.

Worst of all, we have brought reproach to the name of Jesus and disrepute to the reputation of the Gospel. We have driven people away from the Lord more than drawn people to Him.

Yet all is not lost. To the contrary, the humbling of the church is actually a good sign. As believers, we are being purified by God's refining fire (see Malachi 3:1-5). As the Body of Christ, we are being disciplined and judged (not condemned) by the Lord (see Hebrews 12:3-13; 1 Peter 4:17-18).

We are being pruned – a painful yet necessary process – so that we can bring forth more and better fruit (see John 15:1-2).

We are being rebuked and corrected so that God can bring us to a better place (see the messages to the seven

churches of Asia Minor in Revelation 2-3).

We are being humbled so that we can be lifted up (see 1 Peter 5:6; James 4:6).

In fact, the lower we will go – confessing our sins, acknowledging our faults, turning away from the bad and turning to the good – the higher the Lord will lift us, meaning, the higher we will go in receiving God's grace and mercy.

Of course, it would have been better if we did not need to be refined. Or pruned. Or rebuked. Or corrected. Or humbled.

But that is not the case. Instead, for many years now, rather than the church changing the world, the world has changed the church. And rather than our light penetrating the darkness, the darkness has dimmed our light.

We have watered down our message to make it acceptable to the world, thereby robbing it of its convicting and transforming power.

We have lowered our standards so as not to offend, leaving us stuck in

the miserable middle, half-worldly and half-Christian, worthy of mockery and derision from both the lost and the saved.

The sins of the world are the sins of the church, from porn to no-fault divorce, and from abortion to hate-filled social media posts. (Really now, aside from Scripture memes and Gospel videos, are our social media pages much better than those of non-believers?)

Is it any wonder that so many young people today who have been raised in the church are not following in the faith of their parents? Is it any wonder that they are questioning the veracity of the Bible and the reality of God? And when we preach a non-experiential Gospel, is it any surprise when they conclude that our message is one of words only? Can we fault them for never experiencing God's power when we have not introduced them to that very real power, the same power that raised Jesus from the dead?

But, to repeat, this is not all bad

■ CONTINUED on next page

Elohim Reigns in The Face of Evil and Injustice



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hopefortoday

The God of the Bible says of Himself, "... for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose' ... (Isaiah 46:9-10)

When mankind squares his shoulders back and holds his head high in pride, his Creator says to him, "I am God, and there is none like me." When evil abounds and the pillars of justice fail, the Lord says, "I am God, and there is none like me." When the things God has done and only can do are attributed to science, government or other entities of this world, He forcefully states, "I am God, and there is none like me." When people forget God and trust in themselves, the King of kings declares, "I am God, and there is none like me." Who is this God?

He is Elohim (El-o-heem). The Supreme God. The God of all gods. The One True God. Elohim is a name ancient Hebrews chose to describe the

God who created the heavens and earth.

Do not mistake Almighty God's invisibility or silence as approval of evil or abandonment of His children. For God has spoken on both points. First, He will bring justice on all those who perpetrate evil and refuse His command to repent. Among those who will receive Elohim's justice are the rebellious and self-righteous, because they continually reject the Lordship of Christ and His extended merciful hand. Secondly, He will never abandon His faithful as they walk through dark and dangerous valleys during evil and trying times. Elohim's love and presence is like a rock. He is firm, steadfast and trustworthy. He is like no other.

The greatness of Elohim and the authority He possess over the lives and eternal souls of people is absolute. On judgment day military generals, kings and presidents, and people of sizeable wealth and influence will come trembling before Elohim's throne and beg for mercy, but because they refused His mercy in this life, Elohim will cast them out of His sight forever. In this life, evil people boast of their godless exploits and rejoice in their vain achievements, but one day they will be forced to bow before Elohim and their mouths stopped, as the Almighty will declare His final judgment against them.

Elohim came from heaven to earth in the form of a baby over 2,000 years



ago. He came as a man, Jesus of Nazareth. Through Him, Almighty God walked among us. He showed His power over evil, the Devil, nature and disease. The cross on which Jesus died, was Elohim's greatest display of Lordship over all. He showed Himself greater than any power on earth when He died and rose again. Once and for all time, the world saw how He conquered sin and death, then smashed evil's twin heads under His feet.

Elohim is a mighty and conquering King, and from His throne comes a river of mercy. Whoever has repented of their sin and placed their faith in Jesus, can drink of its living waters. The man of war, can be transformed into a man of peace. A woman of bitterness, can be changed into a woman of joy.

In this chaotic world kingdoms topple, economies collapse, cancer diagnoses come, evil and injustice often win. And when these things happen,

we sometimes say "Why God?" or "Where are you?" No matter what we see with our eyes or feel deep inside, there is a truth that is unchangeable – ELOHIM REIGNS! By faith, believe this truth. Listen quietly. He is speaking. Can you hear Him? "I am God, and there is no other."

A prayer for you - "Lord God, you are King over all. Though the world be filled with uncertainty and trouble, you remain on your throne, watching over all. From your throne let justice and mercy come. I pray for mercy upon those who have never known your forgiveness. Bring them to repent and discover your mercy today. 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.

■ CONTINUED from previous page

news.

Something is stirring across the nation. There is a fresh spiritual hunger. There is a rising, holy desperation. Many Christian leaders, who, just a few years ago were boasting about how healthy their churches and ministries were, are now on their faces, crying out for mercy, asking God for a fresh visitation. Many now recognize the urgent need for revival, resonating with the title of this forthcoming book: "Revival Or We Die: A Great Awakening Is Our Only Hope."

The truth is that the Lord only fills the hungry, and it is to the degree of our hunger that we will be filled. How hungry are we? How thirsty? How desperate? How determined to see a radical, national awakening – or else? How much room is there in our lives, in our churches, in our ministries, for a great outpouring of the Spirit?

The humbling and pruning are painful. Very painful. And it is a terrible shame that we have so dishonored our Master and Savior.

Yet out of the pain God is building something great, and out of the humbling, something glorious will arise, something for which people cannot take credit. It will be something from above, not limited to one place or one ministry. It will be a truly national (and, likely, international) revival. Are



we ready?

But the good news doesn't stop there.

America itself is ready. The nation is reeling, hardly knowing which way is up and which way is down.

The chaos and upheaval of 2020 – from the day and night controversies surrounding Trump to COVID; and from the racial divisions, protests and riots to the contested elections – have been replaced by the chaos and upheaval of 2021 – from the storming of the Capitol to the second wave of COVID; from financial turmoil to a seemingly unstable government.

People are at their wits' end. They fear for their lives. They fear for the well-being of their children. They don't know who to trust. They are

lonely. They are hurting. And they are ready for the Gospel.

And so, I urge every follower of Jesus: Get low, seek God earnestly, receive correction where needed in your life, and then share the Gospel and love your neighbor. The harvest is ripe for gathering.

And I urge every leader: Go through the refining fire, let God purify your life and ministry, then pursue the Lord earnestly, determine to preach the gospel without compromise, and make room for the Holy Spirit.

Something big – very big, bigger than we have seen in our lifetimes – is at the door.

I ask again: Are we ready?



Letters & Mails

Producing Patriotic Americans

One quality that makes America exceptional has been our belief in treating all persons as individuals according to their character. No matter one's background, happiness and opportunity to succeed is available to those willing to work.

America's guiding principle has come under attack from proponents of Critical Race Theory (CRT). CRT makes one's degree of melanin the central factor of a person's life and what they can accomplish. The Marxist philosophy divides people by economic class, pitting them against each other. CRT divides people by skin color, labeling some as oppressors and others as oppressed. CRT teaches that white people are inherently racist and "privileged" and must abolish "white supremacy" principles of private property, equal protection, free speech, and capitalism. People of color are encouraged to reject "whiteness" ideals such as the nuclear family, work ethic, and respect for authority.

CRT is implemented in our government, workplace, military, sports, and at every level in our schools. You might be asking, is CRT being implemented in Kansas schools? Yes, it is. However, Marcus Baltzell with the Kansas Nation Education Association tries to muddy the waters by saying, "No one is teaching CRT as a topic; instead, they are teaching how issues of race have impacted our society." Unfortunately, local school boards are left to grapple with curriculum that likely has CRT implemented in it.

Kansas State Senator Caryn Tyson, R-Parker, stated she would introduce a bill in next year's legislative session that will prohibit the teaching of Critical Race Theory. In an interview with KSNT News, Sen. Tyson said, "We need to make sure that race is not an issue; people should not be judged by the color of their skin. They shouldn't."

—Barbara Saldivar, State Director
Concerned Women for America of Kansas

Those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it

By George Ismael Feliu

Sometimes, I feel like I'm watching reruns with current event. The great Rush Limbaugh often said that the Democrats fight using one playbook; and they never vary from it. I think history proves it. See if you can see what I see?

1. In 1945, after China led by Chiang Kai-shek fought against the Axis Powers, the CCP led by Mao struck after years of hiding and allowing the Free People of China to do all the fighting. Chiang Kai-shek and the Chinese people looked to America for aide. President Truman (Democrat) led America to turn their back on our ally. After four years, the surviving Chinese freedom fighters led by Chiang Kai-shek fled to Taiwan which was recognized as the true China until Nixon (Republican) in an attempt to divide the CCP from the Soviets, betrayed Taiwan. Mao and the CCP killed millions of their own people in the name of socialism. Truman's lack of action leads to the next two major conflicts in the world.

2. The Korean War (the Korean Conflict for America), from 1950-1953, Truman (Democrat and big UN guy) once again interjected himself in the war as he removed General MacArthur who was winning the War by pushing the communist into Manchuria (that's in China) and insuring no winner in this war in subjugating North Korea to mass murder and poverty thanks to the socialist and Chinese puppet Kim Jong-un. Millions of North Koreans died because of it.

3. The Bay of Pigs (1961) – Communist forces invaded Cuba the wealthiest island in the Caribbean. President Kennedy promised the Cuban Freedom Fighters (Pro-American and our

allies) air support. On the day of the attack, JFK mysteriously reneges on his promise leading to the death of Cuba's last chance for freedom and giving the communists a foothold in the Western World. Not only is Cuba pushed into poverty, but things are so bad that Cubans risks a journey through shark infested water in order to be free of the tyranny of socialism.

4. The Vietnam War (Vietnam Conflict for America) – Eisenhower sent Military advisors to South Vietnam to help them fight the Communists sent down by China. LBJ (Democrat and a true blue racist), wanting to distract the American public from what he was doing, escalated our presence in Vietnam. The American military never lost a major engagement in Vietnam and if allowed might have won freedom for all of Vietnam if not for the Democrat-controlled Congress constantly interfering and restricting how Americans fought in this war and the media controlled by the Democrats vilifying our soldiers. But Nixon (Republican)... was already impeached. Congress controlled by Democrats withheld aid to South Vietnam allowing it to be conquered by the Viet Cong thus plunging all of Southeast Asia into Communist control, killing millions.

5. Iran falls to Muslim extremists in 1979. Once again, after the media vilified the pro-American ruler of Iran, Jimmy Carter (Democrat) led America in turning our backs on our ally and allowed an entire nation to fall into a Muslim tyrannical rule thus making Iran the leading funder of terrorism across the planet. To top that off, Americans were trapped in Iran and



America was made to look like fools.

6. The World Trade Center bombing (1993) - February 26, 1993, is the day that Osama bin Laden first struck the twin towers. Although Libya offered bin Laden to us in the late 90's, Bill Clinton (Democrat) refused to take him saying he had no legal grounds to take him despite the bombing that Osama bin Laden orchestrated. This would allow bin Laden to plan and execute his 9-11-01 attack against America. On the other hand, Clinton did bomb some aspirin factories in Afghanistan to distract the media and public from his debauchery.

7. Catch and Release (2001-2021) - After 9-11, President Bush (Republican) spent much time catching the leaders of the Al Qaeda network of terrorists. America liberated Afghanistan from the tyranny of the Taliban and captured much of the leadership while killing much of the rest; America also liberated Iraq from Saddam Hussein's tyranny. New governments were formed granting freedom to women and religion to these Muslim countries not seen for decades. Despite negative media attention, America was winning the War on Terror. Then 2012 brought a change in American philosophy with the election of

Obama (Democrat) who saw America as the villain. Obama released many of those captured during the Bush era for one reason or another. This turned ISIS into a threat in Iraq as well as rebuilt the Taliban. Obama also gave Iran billions of dollars making America the biggest funder of terrorism in the world. Also Obama did nothing as Muslims took over Libya who at the time was afraid of the US and killed many Americans on the Anniversary of 9-11 insuring America had another enemy in the Muslim world.

8. The Taliban Insurrection-Biden (Democrat who first gained office in 1972 running as a segregationist) took a vacation in time for the new Taliban to take over Afghanistan. Once again, America turned its back on an ally under a Democrat President.

If you look at the last hundred years, you can see a pattern. The patterns show the forces of tyranny whether Muslim or socialist (communist) always striking when a Democrat is in office. But what about Wilson and FDR both Democrats? Wilson (instrumental in the reformation of the KKK) saw a chance of instituting a one world socialist government in the League of Nations after being dragged into the war. Thankfully, America rejected it.

People often forget that FDR and the Democrat Party of its time loved Hitler and Mussolini and often opined their jealousy of how quickly they instituted socialism in their respective countries. It was only after they kicked Russia out of the Axis Powers that FDR truly turned against Hitler as FDR was fully enamored with the butcher named Stalin who ruled Russia with an iron hand.

Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

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Health & Wellness Fair to be part of Topeka Fall Fest Oct. 9

Emerald City Cosmopolitan Club will present Health & Wellness Fair 2021 on October 9 at the Historic Vinewood Venue, 2848 SE 29th St., as part of Topeka Fall Fest. The event will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. that day, and will feature health screenings and information on various health topics.

Various local businesses and non-profits will present education and information on diabetes, mental health, fitness, personal safety, and other topics. Various vendors will also offer demonstrations of fitness and exercise routines. Other vendors will offer



information on assisted living, home safety, health products, healthy foods and more.

Businesses and organizations represented at the health fair will include Midland Care, Thornton Place, Innov8tive Nutrition, NAMI Kansas, Perfectly Posh,

GraceMed, SoulFire Nutrition, KVC Kansas, Emerald City Cosmos and more.

The Health Fair is part of the 2021 Topeka Fall Fest, to be held that day on The Vinewood grounds. In addition to the health fair, families will be able to listen

to live music, visit over 60 vendors & food trucks, and take part in the kids activities such as inflatables, ball toss, cake walk and face painting. Many of the vendors will have healthy activities and other options for kids, including Bonkers, Ultimate Bounce, MyGym and more.

The event, which takes place from 10am to 3pm, is coordinated by C5Alive, Metro Voice Newspaper, Health & Wellness magazine and Emerald City Cosmopolitan Club.

Other major sponsors include Integrity Insurance, Peggy Beasterfeld Tax & Accounting, The

Pad Restaurant, Golden Eagle Casino, ServPro, Terminix, College HUNKS, Midwest Barter, Capital City Flooring, Davidson's Funeral Home and more.

There is still room for more sponsors and participants for the Vendor Market, Food Court and Health Fair. For more information, visit Topeka Fall Fest on Facebook, email info@C5Alive.org or call 785-640-6399.

Two to three thousand people are expected to attend the event, and funds raised will be shared with Operation Food Secure and Operation Backpack for kids. Admission to the event is free.

Impact Avenues Registers Success in First Two Years

Public school student homelessness is a national crisis affecting more than 1 million children in grades K-12. The City of Topeka, Topeka Public Schools, and more than 35 community partner organizations are working to end student homelessness through the Impact Avenues program.

Impact Avenues reached 207 families with 525 children from its launch in August 2019 through July 2021, making it possible for 73 families with 186 children to reach a permanent housing solution. Moreover, 191 families received utility assistance that allowed them to remain stably housed, 108 individuals received mental health services, 61 families received transportation assistance, and 31 families received legal help during this period. 49% of the families in the program were not employed at entry and are now fully employed.

"Topeka is dedicated to ensuring that no student has to endure the burden and stigma that is associated with homelessness. Impact Avenues is a powerful force for good in Topeka and Shawnee County. Its skilled, innovative, and compassionate approach to student homelessness will continue to help families break the cycle of poverty through housing stability, educational attainment, and economic mobility for years to come," said Corrie Wright, Division Director of Housing Services for the City of Topeka. "I am very proud that Impact Avenues has been able to help over five hundred children become housed, and continue to stay housed in its first two years. I'm excited to continue the important work and continue to help eradicate child homelessness in our community."

Impact Avenues is a replication of the

nationally recognized Impact KCK program in Wyandotte County, Kansas. The program combines the skillful application of the Collective Impact Model for Community Change with a number of social service innovations to effectively serve homeless students and their families.

Impact Avenues uses a two-generation approach to addressing student homelessness and a wide array of wrap-around services to achieve its goals. Innovative social service practices include (1) a single point of service; (2) intensive case management provided by an Impact Navigator; and (3) connection with a permanent housing solution. In addition, effective management and continuous improvement are supported by developmental evaluation, a method that provides real time assessment of program outcomes, challenges, and opportunities that further strengthens program effectiveness. City Communications City Hall, 215 SE 7th Street Topeka, KS 66603 Tel: 785-368-0991 www.topeka.org

A student is considered homeless if

they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (i.e., living in cars, parks, public spaces, house sharing, couch surfing, living in motels or campgrounds due to the lack of adequate accommodations, living in emergency shelters, etc.). To qualify for Impact Avenues, a student has to be referred through a school liaison. Children and their families will get the support they need to obtain stable housing and assistance with overcoming barriers to success like transportation, employment, financial literacy, healthcare and others.

The community infrastructure organized by Impact Avenues made it possible to quickly respond to the emergency needs of children and families when the COVID-19 pandemic reached Kansas. This response has included services ranging from care calls to determine family needs to connections with financial resources to delivery of food and other necessities. Emergency relief has been extended to all

families, not just those who are designated Impact Avenues families.

How to help:

For more information, please go to <https://www.topeka.org/impact-avenues/>.

If your organization is willing to assist us in this crucial effort, please contact Impact Avenues program lead,

Corrie Wright at cwright@topeka.org.

To contribute to ongoing expenses for the program, you can donate online at <https://www.topekacommunityfoundation.org/Donate/> and select the "Impact Avenues Fund", or send a check directly to the Topeka Community Foundation with "Impact Avenues Fund" in the memo line.

Alpha Christian Children's Home & School
www.alphachristianchildrenshome.com



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GreatLife brings Topgolf's Toptracer to Topeka

By Sydney Hanna | Metro Voice

An exciting new center for family fun opened in Topeka this summer. GreatLIFE North, located at 350 US-24, now offers visitors Toptracer, a division of Topgolf.

Toptracer is "Changing golf. One shot at a time." It is the technology that tells players the real-time flight of their ball after it has been hit. This allows golfers to view the statistics of their game such as ball speed, spin, and more. It also shows the path of the ball from the moment it was hit to the place where it lands, and how close it landed to the target. The provision of these numbers and a visual of the ball's trajectory helps players better critique their game and understand the mechanics of their play. Knowledge of these things will improve a golfer's skill level tremendously.

Not only does Toptracer display a player's statistics, ball path, and landing location of the ball, but it allows golfers to play numerous games — like Angry Birds, for example — on the driving range as well as play on virtual courses all over the world. Toptracer is compatible with an app that lets golfers create their own profile where they can keep record of their statistics and other important data. It also offers players the opportunity to challenge and compete against one another. The app, Toptracer Range, can be found in any app store and is free to download.

Toptracer in Topeka

Rick Farrant, the owner of Topeka's GreatLIFE North, decided to bring Toptracer to the capital of Kansas after visiting a Toptracer driving range in Springfield, Missouri. He and his family recently took a trip to the area where they were able to experience the joy Toptracer has to offer. Shortly after having a memorable time at the driving range in Springfield, Farrant realized that this was the kind of golf everyone would enjoy despite their age and skill level. He knew instantly that he wanted to add this feature to GreatLIFE North. Farrant is the first to bring Toptracer to Kansas. He owns many facilities throughout the state, but he chose to install this new technology at GreatLIFE North because Topeka is where he grew up. He wanted to provide his local community with the inspiring and sensational experience he knew Toptracer would bring to his hometown.

In addition to adding the Toptracer technology to his driving range in northern Topeka, Farrant executed the instillation of a food and bar area that offers an ample menu containing everything from

exquisite beverages to simple, delicious meals. A section of the outdoor area nearby is in the process of being designed into an entertain-

from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. All activities are discounted if a customer has



ment zone that will host a variety of games. 30 golf bays — most covered and some made of turf — have also been constructed at the facility.

a GreatLIFE membership, although Toptracer players will have to pay an extra fee.

Through Rick Farrant's efforts



Toptracer at GreatLIFE North allows guests of any level of ability to have more fun practicing the game of golf. GreatLIFE North is open

and vision, GreatLIFE North has been turned into one of Topeka's most unique attractions for family fun.

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Kansas News Briefs from around the state

Kansas Schools Prioritize Mental Health for Pandemic Aid

BELLE PLAINE, Kan. (AP) — Education officials overseeing the more than \$1.1 billion in federal pandemic aid for Kansas schools say districts are spending much of the money to meet the mental health needs of students and staff. Districts also are hiring "intervention specialists" who can work one-on-one or in small groups to fill in learning gaps. They're also spending to upgrade curriculum. Since March 2020, the federal government has provided \$190 billion in pandemic aid to the nation's schools, which is more than four times what the U.S. Education Department spends on K-12 schools in a typical year. In Kansas, the aid averages nearly \$2,400 per student.

Kansas School Leaders Say State Law Limits Remote Learning

WICHITA, Kan. (KNS) — Some Kansas school leaders say a new state law is limiting students' options for attending class remotely, even during COVID-19 quarantines. Legislators passed a measure last year to urge schools to conduct only in-person classes. It cuts funding to the school for any student who logs more than 40 hours of remote learning per school year. There are exceptions for illnesses or emergencies with a special waiver. Wichita school board member Ernestine Krehbiel says some families want a longer-term remote option, but state lawmakers tied their hands. "I try to explain to parents that it wasn't our choice. We're not the ones making the

decision." Wichita is the state's largest school district. School officials say says more than 1,600 Wichita students have been quarantined since school started on August 12.

Informal Talks Take Place on Building a 3,000-Acre Solar Panel Farm Near the Douglas / Johnson County Line

LAWRENCE, Kan. (LJW) - The Lawrence Journal-World reports(link is external) that a 3,000-acre solar panel farm, the largest in the state, could be coming to an area along the eastern edge of Douglas County. While official plans for the project have not been filed, informal talks about the project have taken place. The Journal-World reports(link is external) that planning commissions in both Douglas and Johnson counties have been holding such discussions for the past several months. A Florida-based energy company hopes to build a large solar farm that would straddle parts of the border between Douglas and Johnson counties. Officials with NextEra Energy are actively planning for a project that would be located several miles east of Baldwin City. NextEra estimates the solar farm would produce enough renewable energy to power about 40,000 homes.

Wichita Council Sets \$15 Minimum Hourly Wage for Employees

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — The Wichita City Council raised the minimum hourly wage to \$15 for full-time city employees as part of the city's new \$670 million budget. Tuesday's vote

comes as the city plans to begin filling several positions that were kept vacant to save money. Officials had predicted the city would face a \$10 million to \$11 million shortfall because of the coronavirus pandemic. But Wichita will receive \$70 million in federal COVID-19 funds and unexpected increases in sales tax revenue. City officials plan to start filling 139 civilian positions, and add seven police officers. Wichita Mayor Brandon Whipple said the cur-

rent minimum wage is between \$12 and \$13 per hour.

Kansas State Will Limit Beer Sales During Football Games

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — Kansas State University football fans will have to search a little harder for beer and alcohol during football games this season. A year after allowing beer and wine sales throughout Bill Snyder Family Stadium, the university says it

will return to a previous practice of limiting alcohol sales to specific areas. Kansas State athletic director Gene Taylor said 60% of fans who answered a survey said they preferred limited beer sales and combined exit/re-entry over beer sales at every concession stand and no re-entry. The university said it will open a third beer garden at the stadium this season.

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NOTO LIVE returns to the Arts District

The NOTO Arts and Entertainment District and Envista Credit Union once again bring you NOTO LIVE, a celebration packed full of performance art, live music, busking, and talent of all kinds! Join us for this family friendly extravaganza and experience performers sprinkled throughout the district, with special acts at Redbud Park and Compass Point, and a grand finale by Last Carnival Act to end the evening!

Performance Schedule

The following is a list of scheduled performances and acts. Art demonstrations, buskers, and other activities will be ongoing throughout the district.



NOTO LIVE is September 11, from 11:30am to 8:00pm, and this action packed day includes activities for everyone! And for our little performers, the new Otto's Adventure Area will provide special interactive art stations and opportunities to try a little busking of their own!

The essence of any performance is the audience, and while NOTO LIVE is a community event that is free and open to the public, individuals may purchase VIP tickets. VIPs will have access to the NOTO LIVE VIP Backstage where they can partake in art activities, enjoy refreshments, and be wowed by close-up specialty performances offered exclusively to VIPs. From 4:30 - 7:00, the "Hire Wire Reception" includes adult beverages and appetizers.

All VIP ticketholders will receive specialty coupons from participating businesses and will be eligible for NOTO prize drawings. Finally, limited seating will be reserved for VIPs at the two main stages.

- 11:30-1:00 Topeka Big Band (Redbud Park)
- 1:00-1:15 Topeka High School Drumline (Begins at Compass Point; Ends at Redbud Park)
- 2:00-3:15 Lady Shakes Theater Group (Compass Point)
- 2:15-3:15 Last Carnival Act: Flying Fun (Redbud Park)
- 2:45-3:30 Tim Dingus: Party Tricks for Friends (Redbud Park)
- 3:00-7:00 Art Fusion: Live Art by a Community of Artists (Redbud Park Pavilion)
- 3:30-4:15 Steven Massey Dance Theatre: A Girls Life (Compass Point)
- 3:30-4:00 Last Carnival Act: Defying Gravity (Redbud Park)
- 4:15-4:30 Ballet Folklorica: Bailes Regiones de Mexico (Redbud Park)
- 5:30-6:45 Topeka Civic Theater: Senior Class Improv Comedy (Compass Point)
- 5:45-6:15 Last Carnival Act: High in The Sky (Redbud Park)

6:30-7:15 Flint Hills Fairies (Redbud Park)

7:15-8:00 Last Carnival Act: Grand Finale (Redbud Park)

VIP Tickets may be purchased at <https://explorenoto.org/product/noto-live-vip-ticket/>.

Of course, First Friday Art Walk & Market is the first Friday of every month. The North Topeka Arts District has become an attraction to Art Lovers and History Buffs alike with beautiful scenes of art and history. The restaurants, locally owned shops, art galleries antiques and studios have become a favorite art walk destination.

Art Walk Hours are 10 am to 9 pm. You can visit the NOTO Arts Center to pick up a map of participating businesses and view the newest exhibit at the Morris Gallery.

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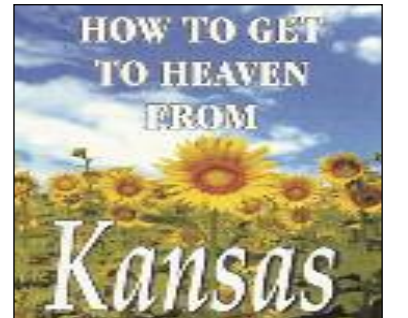
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More important than living in KANSAS is where you will live forever. Just as you would look at a map of KANSAS to find your way, so you must look at the Bible to find your way to heaven. The Bible says, "Narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life,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

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

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

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

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

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the events calendar

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

CONCERTS

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

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

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

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

LIVE @ LUNCH – Wednesdays; 11am-1pm, Every Plaza downtown. Live music, food trucks, yard games & more.

EATS & BEATS – Every Thursday through August, 6:30pm-9pm, Every Plaza. Bring your lawn chairs. Food trucks & beer gardens.

CASTING CROWNS – Oct. 3, 7pm, Stormont Vail Event Center. Special guest will be Matthew West. For info: castingcrowns.com

MERCY ME IN CONCERT – Oct. 30, 7pm, Cable Dahmer Arena, Independence, Mo. Get Your tickets with 10% Discount! Use promo T4C10 during checkout: <https://zhetix.fun/cities/Independence>

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@rhctopeka.org

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

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

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

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

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

HOE-DOWN – Sep. 11, 4-6:30pm, Kansas Ave UMC, 1029 N Kansas Ave. Bring your lawn chairs - Entertainment: "The Heartstrings," Joe Kampsen - keyboard; Infinity Dancers; Children's Activities; Door Prizes, Free hot dogs, chips, soda, cookies, & popcorn.

HOLY SMOKIN JAMBOREE – Sep. 11 & 12, Mother Teresa Catholic Church, 2014 NW 46th St. Outdoor family event with food, drinks, bingo, cake walk, car show, crafts, raffles, and live music featuring the band Departure on Saturday night. Outdoor Mass and live auction on Sunday. \$2 wristband for all-day kids' games, inflatables, and activities! Register for the 5K, Car Show, & Poker Run online at <https://mtctopeka.org/news/492-join-us-for-the-jamboree>

PLAY DAY/FAMILY FUN DAY – Sep. 11, Crossroads Cowboy Church, 1255 Oak St., Perry. 5 Divisions: Pee Wee - Junior - Teen - Adult - Open. Stick Horse Race, Mounted Relay Race, Dummy Roping, Mounted Dummy Roping, Barrels & more. \$2 per event. Free Admission, Concessions Available, Books open at 8:30 am, Arena open for warm up at 9:30 am

GATHER TOPEKA – Sep 19, Every Plaza. What used to be Meet Me at the Park is now GATHER TOPEKA @Every Plaza. Join us for a fun, family-centered worship service. First Southern Baptist Church, (785) 272-0443

SILENT AUCTION AND BAKE SALE – Sep. 24, 4-7pm, Crossroads Wesleyan Church, 41st and California

ROME SWEET ROME ITALIAN FESTIVAL – Sep. 25, 4:30-11pm, Christ the King Catholic Church, 25th & Wana-maker. Outdoor Mass at 4:30pm. 5:30pm - Italian Dinner inside the gym and the food trucks open outside. The beer and wine garden also opens. Fun and fellowship with live music, activities for the kids, bingo inside for, and fireworks display at dusk. Sweepstakes tickets and raffle tickets are also available as a chance to win some great prizes.

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.

TOPEKA TWILIGHT LIONS BRANCH CLUB – 4th Mondays at 5:30pm, Norsemen Brewing Co., Visitors welcome.

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@tscpl.org

MARKET MONDAYS – Monday 3-7pm through October, Every Plaza. A farmers market and artisan market helping to increase access to fresh, locally produced foods and other products.

MONDAY FARMERS MARKET – Mondays 7:30-11:30am, May 10 to Oct. 4, Topeka & Sh. Co. Library, 10th & Washburn. (closed Memorial Day & Labor Day)

SILVER LAKE FARMERS MARKET – Tuesdays 6-8pm, June 1-Sep. 7, Silver Lake Library

LAWRENCE TUESDAY MARKET – Tuesdays, May 4-Oct. 26, 4-6pm, South Park, 1141 Massachusetts

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.

CARBONDALE FARMERS MARKET – every Wed. 4-6pm in Carbondale City Park. Vendor-grown or vendor-produced. For vendor information, call Mary at 836-7887.

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

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.

MOVIES AT EVERY PLAZA – Second Fridays til fall

DOWNTOWN TOPEKA FARMERS MARKET – Saturday's April 3 to 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

MOTHER TERESA'S FARMERS MARKET – Saturdays, May 3 – Sep. 11, 8:30-11:30am, 2014 NW 46th St.

LAWRENCE FARMERS MARKET – Sat. 7:30-11:30, 824 New Hampshire St. Open April 10-Nov. 20

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.

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

FREE MOBILE FOOD DISTRIBUTION – Fourth Tuesday through November, 9am, 1231 NW Eugene St. Randal 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.RandalMinistries.com

BARE BONES TEC TOUR – Aug. 31, Noon, 3414 SW 6th. See the new location for The Entrepreneur Community before the renovation. Meeting spaces and work stations will be available for rent soon for small businesses and networking groups. 785-422-6388

GUN & KNIFE SHOW – Sep. 4, Stormont Vail Events Center

WILDLY CREATIVE AT THE ZOO – Sep. 4, 9am-noon, Topeka Zoo. Celebrate the arts with Ballet Midwest, partnering with local talent to provide you with arts, crafts, magic, dancing, and music! All for the price of zoo admission. Activities geared towards children ages 3-12, but fun for the whole family

KANSAS CITY RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL – Sep. 4 - Oct. 17, 10am-7pm; Weekends only plus Labor Day and Monday Oct. 11. 628 N 126th St., Bonner Springs, KS. www.KCRenFest.com. 913-721-2110 (email

voice@cox.net to see how to get free tickets from Metro Voice!

EAST TOPEKA MIX & MINGLE – Sep. 9, 7-9pm, Milk & Honey Coffee Co., 2200 SE 29th St. A casual mixer for business people. Baked goods, coffee & other drinks available. 785-250-3684

C5Alive "POWER" LUNCHEON – Sep. 9, 11:30-1. at Thornton Place. Jeanne Gaudun of Kansans For Life will be the featured speaker.

• 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: C5 POWER Luncheon, Oct. 14, 11:30-1, C5Alive POWER Luncheon. State Senator Kristen O'Shea will be the featured speaker.

NOTO LIVE FESTIVAL – Sep. 11, 11:30am-8pm, NOTO Arts and Entertainment District. A day-long celebration of performance art, live music, busking, and talent of all kinds, with special acts at Redbud Park and Compass Point, and a grand finale by Last Carnival Act to end the evening. <https://explorenoto.org>

BLUES, BREWS AND BITES – Sep. 11, 2pm, Ward-Meade Park, 124 NW Fillmore St. Live bands, adult bev-

erages, fantastic food. \$75 VIP TICKETS include (1) admission ticket, (2) drink tickets, VIP lanyard, Souvenir Festival T-shirt, and swag bag of goodies! Private VIP Private Party Tent with hors d'oeuvres beginning at 6:30 pm. \$30 General Adm. Please bring a lawn chair. (785) 2136161 <https://tfffamily.org/tfi-blues-brews-bites/>; skearney@tfffamily.org

TOUCH A TRUCK – Sep. 11, 9:30am-1:30pm, Every Plaza, Downtown Topeka. Providing children hands-on learning opportunities!

OUTDOOR KANSAS FOR KIDS DAY – Sep. 11, 9am-noon Shawnee North Community Center Trails, 300 NE 43rd. Youths will hike the Shawnee North Nature Trail, study aquatic life in the creek, learn about Kansas animals, do nature mural painting, archery, animal track casting and finish the hike at a camp site making S'mores. Free. 785-251-6800

THUNDERBIRD SQUARE BLOCK PARTY – Sep. 11, 10am-1pm, 29th & Croco. Lawn games, free hot dogs, ice cream, wine tastings, fun for all. Music by DJ Wiseguy.

GREATLIGHT AGLOW TOPEKA: Ana Werner – Sep. 16, SpringHill Suites by Marriott Topeka Southwest, 2745 Southwest Fairlawn. Ana Werner: Assessing The Greater Glory. Ana moves in the prophetic and healing gifts. She is a Seer and teaches on seeing in the Supernatural with Jesus in churches and arenas around the world. Ana is an inspiring author and speaker. Her transparency as she shares on the realities and experiences she



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Registration is required:

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

Sep. 9, 11:30-1: "POWER" Luncheon
at Thornton Place, 2901 SW Armstrong,
featuring Jeanne Gaudun, KFL

RSVP to info@C5Alive.org.
Open to the public.

• Oct. 9: FALL FEST at Vinewood! 10am - 3pm
• Oct. 14: POWER Luncheon: featuring Kristin O'Shea
• Nov. 11: POWER Luncheon at National Guard Museum

Save the Dates!

For info: www.C5Alive.org or Facebook.com/C5Alive

has in heaven, always bring Holy Spirit and the power of God into the room when she speaks. Healing, signs and wonders follow her ministry. She has appeared on Sid Roth's, It's Supernatural and many other programs. Register at: greatlightseptember2021.eventbrite.com.

KVC GOLF TOURNAMENT – Sep. 17, 1pm, Shawnee Country Club. Benefits kids in Shawnee County. To register, sponsor, donate or for more info: Lance Wilson at lanwilson@kvc.org, or events@greatlife.com

MOVIE ON THE LAWN – E.T. – Sep. 17, 7-10pm, State Capitol grounds. Movie starts at 7:45pm. Bring chairs & blankets.

BLARNEY BREAKFAST – Sep. 18, 7-10am, Blind Tiger. All-you-can-eat. Visit www.capper.org/events for details.

KANSAS BOOK FESTIVAL – Sept. 18, 9-4pm, Washburn University Mabee Library. Free presentations by 50 authors, as well as outdoor performances, a book-art exhibit, food vendors and exhibitor tents with publishers from around Kansas. Children's activities, and local entertainment. www.kansasbookfestival.com

LADIES DAY OUT – Sep. 18, 10am-3pm, Ag Hall. A day of shopping and pampering! Come support local small businesses. 75 booths for snacks, beauty, health, home goods, decor, gifts, local businesses, clothing, jewelry, and more! Many free samples or pampering services. Adm is \$2 donation for Sole Reason. First 100 women will receive a goodie bag loaded with coupons and samples from vendors.

HILLSBORO ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR – Sep. 18, 9am-4pm. Over 300 vendors from across the nation, bake sale, German food & Kaffeehaus, Midwestern Creative Art Market. Hillsboroartsandcraftsfair.org

HALFWAY TO ST. PATRICK'S DAY IRISHFEST – Sep. 18, 10-6, 8th & Jackson. Fun run – 2.5 K – at 10 a.m.; Irish Food, a beer garden, whiskey tasting, adult and children's games, live bands and Irish dancing. The St. Patrick's Day Parade will start at noon. For more info, and to register for the FunRun, visit www.TopekairishFest.com.

GARY'S PUMPKIN PATCH & FALL FESTIVAL – Sept. 18-Oct 30, Fri. - Sat. - Sun., 5991 17th St. Grantville, KS. 8 Acre Corn Maize, Pig Races, Corn Pit, 2 Jumping Pillows, Giant Slides, Animals, and more. Home Made Curly Fries, Hamburgers, Brats, Turkey Legs, Apple Cider Slushy and new attractions this year!. garysfarmfest.com

TOPEKA TEC MEET-UP – Sep. 21, 12-1pm, at Historic Harley-Davidson. The Topeka Entrepreneur Community meeting for income-producing ideas & info. Check

facebook.com/TopEntrepreneurCommunity for details.

CHRISTIAN SINGLES MIX & MINGLE – Sep. 23, Milk & Honey Coffee Co., 2200 SE 29th St. A casual mixer for single Christians. Baked goods, coffee & other drinks available. 785-250-3684

TUMI COMMENCEMENT – Sep. 23, 6pm, New Beginning Baptist Church, 1329 SW 37th St. Urban Ministry Institute of Topeka Class of 2021. TUMI serves the church by training theologically sound leaders. Classes for the community as well as prisoners. Reception following.

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S – Sept. 25, 8am opening. Lake Shawnee, Shelter House 1 and 2, 3400 SE Leisure Ln. Register at alzwalkneks.org. For info: 913-948-8654 or icblatter@alz.org

CIDER DAYS FALL MARKET – Sep. 25-26, Exhibition Hall - Stormont Vail Events Center. Explore over 175+ makers, creators, artisans and pickers at this week-end filled with amazing shopping, unique food and live entertainment.

FREE BREAKFAST LAST SUNDAY EACH MONTH – Sep. 26, 8am-12pm, VFW Philip Billard Post 1650, 3110 SW Huntoon. Free breakfast to all that come through the door. Pancakes, sausage, eggs, coffee, juice and some times biscuits & gravy. Donations are accepted and will go to helping vets in the Topeka area. vfw1650seniorvice@gmail.com; 785-383-2997

YOUTH FOR CHRIST GOLF CLASSIC – Sep. 27, 9AM reg.; 10AM shotgun start, Lake Shawnee. Several sponsorship levels available. Lots of prizes! 232-8296 or topekayfc.org

PEPPA PIG'S ADVENTURE – Sep. 30, 6pm, TPAC

VINEWOOD MARKET – Oct. 2-3: 8-4 Sat. & 8-2 Sun. The Vinewood, 2848 SE 29th St. Indoor & outdoor flea market & craft fair. Food Trucks. 785-260-6772 or thehistoricvinewood.com

TOPEKA FALL FEST – Oct. 9, 10am-3pm, at the Vinewood, 2848 SE 29th St. Come out and enjoy the live music, a craft & vendor fair, food trucks, and a health & fitness fair, plus games and activities for kids. Fun for the whole family, and admission is free! Dozens of local businesses, non-profits & churches will operate games & activities such as Face Painting, Craft Stations, Photo Booth, Inflatables, Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, Ball Toss, Cake Walk, Trunk or Treat and more! We'll have a Health & Fitness Fair sponsored by Topeka Health & Wellness Magazine, featuring Health Screenings & Fitness Demonstrations, Information & Educational Booths, Health & Safety Products and more. For more information, email info@C5Alive.org.

HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR – Oct. 9, 10am-3pm, at

the Vinewood, 2848 SE 29th St. Hosted by the Emerald City Cosmopolitan Club. Free screenings, demonstrations, vendors and speakers. Get the information you need about diabetes and other health topics. For questions: Lindsay.Ransom-Engelken@yaho.com at 785-438-0552 or lindsayengelken@yahoo.com.

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.

BOYS' TRAIL LIFE & AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS TROUPOUS – 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 ourladyofthefaihtful@gmail.com. Facebook: "OurLadylOfTheFaithful."

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

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

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

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

A GOOD YARN CLUB – 2nd & 4th Sat, 9-11am, Wana-maker Rd Baptist Church, 2700 SW Wana-maker. 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 GREAT LIGHT AGLOW – For meeting info contact Vickie Lynch at greatlighttopeka@gmail.com.

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

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entertainment

THE WIZARD OF OZ's Ray Bolger on God's Provision

Actor Ray Bolger, best known for his role as The Scarecrow in the 1939 classic *THE WIZARD OF OZ*, recounted how his family grew up with little money but lots of faith.

"When I was a little boy growing up in the old Irish section of Boston, it never occurred to me that some day I would find myself skipping down a yellow-brick road with a Cowardly Lion, a Tin Woodman and a little girl, searching for a brain, for courage, for a heart and a home. Let me tell you how it came about," Bolger wrote in an article in 1982.

"There was never much money in our family; my father worked at a variety of jobs. And Mother was in very poor health, but she took time to scrub our souls as well as our faces," he continued. "She lifted our eyes above the grimy streets and the shrieking elevated trains to beautiful things, by taking us to the ballet, the Boston symphony, art museums, and, most of all, by giving us books.

Bolger remembers one of his mother's prized books was the Bible. Despite their circumstances, Bolger said that his mother taught their family the importance of trusting in God's word.

Bolger recalled:

"This book has a marvelous philosophy, Raymond," Mother said. "It tells how we all need wisdom, love, courage and a home. The trouble is," she added softly, "God has given each of us these gifts, but we don't believe it. And so we roam the world searching for them when we have them within us all the time. Remember what the Bible says: 'The kingdom of God is within you.' [Luke 17:21] Keep those words with you always, Raymond."

However, Bolger confessed that he did not fully understand what his mother meant until she died.

"My mother died, and my whole world seemed to collapse around me. Still in my teens, I had no real home any-



more. On top of this, I lost my job," he said.

But Bolger returned to the one thing that he had always had, faith.

"I remember trudging along one cold, gray afternoon wondering what lay ahead. I came finally to the cathedral I had attended ever since I was christened there. The church was empty, and for a long time I knelt there in the quiet, praying," he said.

"Light flickered from the candles on the altar, and I thought of Mother and the home we once had. And I remembered her words about God's true gifts being within us. What were mine? Certainly not any real talent for business," he added. "But then suddenly words from one of the Psalms came to me as if written in letters of fire: 'Let them praise His name with dancing, making melody to him...' (Psalm 149:3, RSV) And it seemed to me, as I looked deep inside myself, that this was the road God wanted me to travel."

While working as a vacuum cleaner salesman, Bolger earned enough money to create his own costumes and started performing four or five homemade shows a day.

"Rewards came, though not financial ones. I learned that if I gave love in my

acting and dancing it was returned in kind from those on the other side of the footlights," he said. "And I believe God often led me to the right place at the right time, as when I met Gwen Rickard in 1926. She had come from Montana to Los Angeles' Orpheum Theater, where I was appearing, to sell some songs. We were married three years later, and she has been my inspiration ever since."

After performing solo shows, Bolger received some Broadway roles. At the time, Bolger was under contract with MGM and was approached about playing the Tin Woodman in their upcoming adaptation of *THE WIZARD OF OZ*.

However, Bolger wanted to play *The Scarecrow*.

"My heart sank. MGM had several ways of enforcing discipline; if you got too rebellious they could suspend you without pay," he said. "So strong was the feeling within me, however, that I should play the Scarecrow that I couldn't give up. I fought the hardest fight in my life. Eventually, Buddy Ebsen said he'd just as soon play the Tin Woodman. Later that part was taken by Jack Haley. And I became the Scarecrow."

When the movie first came out, Bolger said that reviews were not positive.

"Reviews were mixed, with some important critics saying things like 'a stinkeroo,' 'displays no trace of imagination, good taste or ingenuity' and 'weighs like a pound of fruitcake soaking wet,'" he recalled. "But that didn't bother me. No matter what reviewers said, I felt it was a good picture, the kind my mother would have approved of. Later, many of the reviewers had to eat their words. During the war years that followed the film's opening, the song 'Over the Rainbow' expressed a nation's longing for future peace. And 'We're Off to See the Wizard' became the theme of RAF pilots flying into battle.

"The rest of the story of the yellow-brick road is written in the hearts of all those who have seen the film. Now an American institution, it has become one of the most enduring and best-loved movies ever made and is shown on television every year. For me it's always a reminder of the wisdom from the Bible that my mother pointed out to me: The kingdom of God is indeed inside all of us. If we'll only seek and find it there."

—movieguide.org

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

Award-winning film 'Nine Days' celebrates beauty of life

Filmmaker Edson Oda has made a new movie about the gift of life. "Nine Days" premiered at the Sundance Film Festival last year and is captivating audiences in its current theatrical release.

"When we go through times of struggle, it's easy to create these blind spots where we can't enjoy or see what's in front of us," Oda says. "I thought, what if there's this world where souls are competing to have the privilege of being where you are right now?"

The film follows Will (Winston Duke), a celestial being who is responsible for choosing the next human soul that will have a chance at life. Before a soul is permitted to enter the earth, they must undergo a rigorous process where they weigh in on what-if scenarios and answer Will's probing interview questions. Once Will chooses a soul,

he loads VHS tapes of their lives, meticulously documenting their experiences.

The candidates are an eclectic bunch: the cunning Alexander (Tony Hale), the innocent and gentle Mike (David Rysdahl), the mild-mannered Maria (Arianna Ortiz), a pragmatic Kane (Bill Skarsgård) and the live-in-the-moment Emma (Zazie Beetz). Each individual, with their own unique personalities, perspectives and attitudes, has nine days to earn a shot at life. If they fail, they simply fade into the abyss.

Although it's not a faith-based film and is rated R for language, "Nine Days" grapples with spiritual themes and existential philosophies. While it never explicitly mentions God, the film examines questions surrounding his goodness in light of the inevitability of death, loss and the reality of suffering. More explicitly, it highlights how humans were created with a longing to be part of something bigger than themselves.

Oda, a self-described "extremely spiritual" person who was raised Catholic, said he wants "Nine Days" to resonate with viewers of all religious backgrounds.

"I have a strong spirituality and a religious background, so the movie is, of course, spiritual," he said. "But I want people to watch this movie and understand it through their own values and beliefs. The whole premise of the movie is life is a gift and it's precious."

"The connection with faith in terms of redemption and then later when Samuel Jackson's character, I think about that all the time," Oda says.

"Nine Days" initially premiered at Sundance back in January 2020, just months before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Billions across the globe were, and are, faced with the reality of their own mortality. It was during that time that Oda acknowledged the unexpected timeliness of the film.

"It was an interesting coincidence," he

said. "During the pandemic, people started asking questions about life, trying to understand what was happening in times of isolation. They essentially went through what Will goes through in the movie, and so I think it allowed them to empathize with more of the characters."

Themes or questions of faith don't often make it into secular films. Maybe that's why the film is turning heads and receiving universal praise of both secular and faith critics.

Variety chief film critic Peter Debruge described "Nine Days" in an August 10 article as a film of "dizzying conceptual ambition," writing:

"At the risk of overselling [Oda's] ultra-original, meaningful directorial debut, there's a big difference between 'Nine Days' and pretty much every other film ever made."

Brian Tallerico, with Rogerebert.com

stated, "Edson Oda's 'Nine Days' is one of the most unexpected experiences I've had in almost a decade of going to Sundance."

The popular faith website faithspotting.com writes that "the film presents a foundational and stark choice among people of faith, to live through the struggles and darkness of life with Paul's 'Rejoice in the Lord Always' spirit from Philippians 4, or the worldly spirit that sees darkness overcoming the Light that is Christ and the hope of the Gospel. What are the costs of each perspective?"

Filmgoers have also been offering online praise for the film.

Nic Fiocca writes on LetterBoard.com "The first handful of scenes had me nearly groaning in anticipation of a pretentious attempt at some profound analysis of life. Such reservations could easily have tainted the rest of the movie, but it eventually worked me over. I was swept up by the emotion of the latter portions of the film, and found it genuinely beautiful and moving at times."

"It was so heartwarming. After the premiere, I was just walking in the streets and some people stopped me and said, 'Can I give you a hug?'" Oda recalls. "I've also gotten emails from people who are going through issues, problems, traumas and loss, and they've shared how this movie speaks to them."

"I think because I was vulnerable through my film, people are motivated to be vulnerable as well and share things with me," he added. "That's the best reward of making movies like this: having people tell me how much it means to them and how it's connected to something they've gone through in their lives."

"Nine Days" was released in New York and Los Angeles theaters on July 30, followed by a nationwide rollout on August 6. You'll have to look hard. Not all theaters are picking this gem up.

—Dwight Widaman with Anita Widaman / Metro Voice



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Netflix's 'Vivo' is one of the best family films of the year

By Michael Foust

His name is "Vivo," and he's the most talented kinkajou this side of South America.

He can dance. He can play musical instruments. Most of all, he can perform on cue when his owner -- a talented elderly man named Andres --



takes him to the lively streets of Havana, Cuba, their home. There, they sing for coins.

Who wouldn't pay money to watch a kinkajou tap dance? Fortunately for Andres, plenty of Havana's citizens do just that.

As Vivo sees it, he and Andres have a "perfect life." They eat mangoes together. They relax along the beach together.

And then everything changes.

Andres receives a letter from a former love interest, Marta, asking him to attend her final concert in Miami. Andres is thrilled -- not only because he wants to see Marta again but also because he wants to deliver a love song he wrote for her.

But then Andres dies.

Vivo is grieved, yes, but he is determined to fulfill Andres' wishes. Vivo decides he will find a way to get to Miami -- and that Marta will hear the romantic song Andres penned.

It's all part of the new Netflix movie Vivo (PG), a family-friendly animated musical that features one of the top names in musicals -- Lin-Manuel Miranda -- in the lead role. Miranda, who has starred in such films as Hamilton and Mary Poppins Returns, co-wrote the music and served as executive director.

The story follows Vivo as he befriends a quirky girl named Gabi, who also is grieving a loss (her father died) and who agrees to help Vivo find Marta. Together, Vivo and Gabi fill a void in each other's lives at the

exact moment they need a companion.

It's one of the best family movies of the year, thanks to positive messages (about friendship, fatherhood and parenting) and a handful of toe-tapping songs that will stick in your head. Thankfully, it includes no language or sexuality and only a bit of Looney Tunes-type violence. It has one hiccup -- Gabi disobeys her mom -- but if you can avoid that, it's a fun ride.

Also worth watching this month:

Expedition Unknown (Discovery Plus) -- Host Josh Gates takes viewers on a worldwide journey to explore some of history's most interesting subjects, such as the disappearance of Amelia Earhart's plane and the D-Day battle on Normandy's shores. The first nine seasons are now on Discovery Plus. Rated TV-PG for minor language.

Serengeti II (Discovery Plus) -- The Emmy-nominated series returns for a second season with jaw-dropping drone footage of animals on the plains of Tanzania. Imagine walking alongside a lion or jogging within a herd of elephants -- only a few feet away from danger. That's what Serengeti II delivers. Job 12:10 says of the animals, "In [God's] hand is the life of every living thing." No doubt, Serengeti II can spark reflection and even worship among viewers. TV-PG.

Chip 'n' Dale: Park Life (Disney Plus) -- America's favorite squirrels spark mayhem and solve problems in this hilarious new Disney Plus series. Each episode is comprised of three seven-minute segments. TV-Y7.

Ruth (Sight & Sound TV) -- If you've never had an opportunity to watch one of Sight & Sound's Broadway-like productions in person, then this is the next-best thing. The uplifting story of Ruth is the latest musical to enter the Sight & Sound TV platform (Sight-Sound.TV). It was filmed in front of a live audience.

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.

Actress Donna Reed: 'God Still Lives and Rules'

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE star Donna Reed revealed that faith in God is her foundation in trials.

Reed also worked to teach her four children, two sons and two daughters, that true peace can only come from the Lord.

In an article from 1962, Reed recalled a memory of her son Timothy and a homework assignment that made her anxious for the future.

"Not long ago my younger son Timothy—he's 12 now—came in to me with his homework assignment. Timmie had to read and try to understand all the stories on the front page of our newspaper," she wrote. "I hastened to cover up the momentary despair I felt. There, splashed baldly across the page, were frightening headlines about many of the things that are wrong with our world today.

"There were reports about a hydrogen bomb explosion, about a murder, a car crash, a divorce. Oh Timmie, I thought to myself, must you learn about all of these things? What a world to bring you up in!" she added. "It is easy to believe that our children don't think much beyond baseball or when-they'll-be-allowed-to-wear-lipstick or what's-for-dessert? Actually, however, children are but small adults; they, too, worry about the terrors of atomic war; they, too, can see the dark shadows with which our days are edged."

One day, Reed's eldest daughter asked, "Mom, what did you have to worry about in your day?"

Although it was a simple question, Reed couldn't help but recall her childhood.



"My family on both sides had pioneered in that state before I was born. As children all of us had chores to perform. I could and did milk the cows and drive the tractor, bring in water from the pump and coal and wood for the stove; to this day I can bake my own bread," she said, referencing the total contrast to her Beverly Hills home she lived in as an adult.

"The most obvious difference between my childhood and our children's is not that I lived on a farm, but that back in Iowa during the terrible pressure of the Depression years we were quite poor," she continued. "Poverty, need, these are awful things to have happen to you, but worse, I think, to watch in others. I remember the sounds of our animals crying for food and water.

"When I think back to those harsh days, I think mainly in terms of my parents, and the anguish I felt inside as I saw them up early and late to bed, day after day, laboring hard with no returns," she added. "As children we had few toys and I always yearned for a bicycle which I never got, but I can't recall these things as having been very important to me when I knew so well the inescapable realities of our sit-

uation. We might have left the farm, too, if it had not been for Dad."

Reed remembered her father, William Mullenger, as a "stubborn man," with a drive to never quit. Reed reflected on what sustained her father and her family: Faith.

"I used to wonder how Dad could be so sure when so many others were not. And then, on Sundays, I'd get a glimpse of the answer. On Sundays Dad would pile Mom and the four kids into that old car we drove for 15 years and we'd rattle to the Methodist church in Denison," she said. "You could get strength just from sitting next to Dad in church. When the minister would read from the Bible, Dad would lean forward a little, as though this especially he had to hear.

"Watching his face, we children could see that the ancient words were food to his spirit, strength to get him through one more week," she continued.

The words of Isaiah 41:17-18 brought back Reed's memories as a child in church.

"When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them... I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water," the verse reads.

"These are the things which my father heard and believed," Reed said.

Just beneath her father's priority of faith came his love for his family.

"Dad was a family man, a real family man. 'If there is family strength,' he used to say, 'that old Depression's not going to get us.' And the Depression did pass and it did not get us," she remembered.

Mark Wahlberg and Mel Gibson Team Up to Tell a Story of Faith

Actor Mark Wahlberg and famed Hollywood director Mel Gibson are tackling a new biopic, STU.

According to the Hollywood Reporter, Wahlberg wanted to make a movie to honor the life and faith of boxer turned minister Father Stuart Long after the priest died on June 9, 2014. He was just 50 years old.

Early on in Father Stu's life, he was a self-described "anti-Christian" and passionate about sports like football and boxing—not about his faith.

Long's heart continued to harden toward his faith after college. However, Long's plans to become a prizefighting boxer were derailed after undergoing reconstructive jaw surgery.

With his days of boxing behind him, Long turned to Hollywood to become an actor.

"God was working behind the scenes. He was within me but I was outside," Father Stu said in retrospect, quoting St. Augustine.

However, Long's life changed forever after what should have been a fatal motorcycle accident.

God had a different plan for Long. One week after being admitted to the hospital, Long was allowed to leave and went immediately to a church to discuss his faith with a priest.

"People are ultimately drawn to the Truth," Long would say later.

Influenced by the church and its ministries, Long gave his life to God and immediately began to work with his church to evangelize, help the poor, and



stand for pro-life in Monrovia, California, at the parish Legion of Mary.

California Catholic Daily reported:

Father Stu flourished, absorbed with the love of Christ and graced with a desire to share it; he brought the faith to others.

Father Stu earned a Master's degree in philosophy and then received his priestly formation for the diocese of Helena at Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon. He was ordained a priest by Bishop Thomas on Dec. 14, 2007, at the cathedral of St. Helena.

While a seminarian at Mount Angel, Father Stu underwent surgery to remove a tumor discovered on his hip. He was diagnosed with inclusion body myositis, a rare autoimmune disease that mimics the symptoms of ALS, Lou


Gehrig's disease, and for which there is no cure. By the time of his ordination, Father Stu was walking with the aid of crutches. Father Stu found his great love serving as a priest, administering the sacraments and counseling his flock.

Both Gibson and Wahlberg are professed Catholics and inspired by the priest.

Wahlberg is known for producing and starring in patriotic movies like LONE SURVIVOR and PATRIOTS DAY. Gibson is known for his movies full of biblical themes, freedom, and faith, such as HACKSAW RIDGE, THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST, and BRAVEHEART.

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

Tips to Improve Your Mental Health and Wellbeing

“There’s no place like home.” There’s a reason why Dorothy preferred the warm feeling of rural Kansas over the hustle and bustle of Oz. Scientific studies show that busy urban life can actually take a toll on mental health.

Adjusting your surroundings can have a significant impact on your mental and physical well-being, which is why many city-dwellers are moving to areas like The Landings, a premier gated community near downtown Savannah, Ga. featuring resort-style amenities and a friendly, small-town feel. But whether you’re ready to move or not, you

can improve your health with a few simple tips.

A Natural High

Spending time in nature has been found to help with mental health problems, including anxiety and depression. And more specifically, looking at water provides a significant calming effect. So, take time daily to get outdoors. Whether it’s venturing to a nearby park or water source or simply sitting in your own yard, find time to create some outdoor zen. At the Landings, residents are surrounded by a beautiful, natural island setting overlooking picture-per-

fect marshes, lagoons and waterways – a serene backdrop to ease one’s mind anytime.

Let There Be Light

Increased hours of sunlight can heighten the brain’s production of the mood-enhancing chemical serotonin, so be sure to fit natural light into your schedule as much as possible. Whether it’s a coffee on the patio or a simple walk at lunch, adding bits of natural light to your day can help. And during the winter months, consider light therapy with a light box or lamp to simulate daylight.

The Social Network

The pandemic showed us the importance of social connections – not on social media – but true human interactions. To keep up connections, start right at home with neighbors. Walking groups, game nights or social hours are great ways to ensure you’re adding social events to your calendar. The Landings helps facilitate friendships through a New Neighbors group. For the first two years after their move, residents participate in a variety of activities

to make new friends, as well as learn about the rich history of the area and the community.

Find a Furry Friend

Connections don’t always need to be with humans. Pets, especially dogs and cats, can reduce stress, anxiety and depression. Plus, walking your pet is great for your cardiovascular health. The Landings offers 30 miles of beautiful walking, biking and jogging trails – and even has a fenced in dog park – combining all the key elements of nature, water, wildlife, sunshine and socialization.

Get Physical

Exercise makes us feel happier,

improves our immune system and can even prevent heart disease – so find ways to move daily. Exercising with a friend or loved one can make it more fun, and increase your chances of sticking to it. You may consider trying new activities that can also introduce you to new social connections, such as golf, pickleball or tennis.

To learn more about The Landings, visit www.thelandings.com.

With a few tips for adding the right elements to your surroundings, you’ll be on the right track to make a positive impact on your mental and physical well-being.

–StatePoint



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Top Ten Lifestyle Tips for Healthy Aging Month

September is Healthy Aging® Month, the national observance month created by the Healthy Aging® organization over 25 years ago.

The mission behind September is Healthy Aging® Month, is to draw attention to the importance of healthy lifestyles for adults, 45-plus," according to Carolyn Worthington, president of Healthy Aging®, an international multi-media platform.

"Since we kicked off the observance month in the early 1990s, there have been no more significant changes in the world and the lives of older adults than what we have seen over the past year and a half," Worthington said. "We've hunkered down, taken stock of our health status, changed the way we communicate, work and play. While it's been a challenge in many ways, we can now ready to capitalize on what we've learned and move forward in a healthy, positive way."

What has not changed and is more important than ever is the opportunity to follow a healthy lifestyle, remain positive and passionate about life, and look forward to better days ahead.

Sometimes, it isn't easy, though, to get going. If you are in that boat and feel you need a boost to improve your lifestyle, here are ten tips for physical, social, mental, and financial wellness in recognition of September is Healthy Aging® Month.

10 Tips For Healthy Aging Month

MENTAL WELLNESS

The highest levels of anxiety and depression have been reported since the pandemic began. According to Mental Health America, a national community-based nonprofit dedicated to addressing the needs of those living with mental illness, loneliness and isolation are still a significant trend.

Tips for mental wellness:

1. Be realistic

If you feel overwhelmed by some activities (yours and/or your family's), learn to say NO! Eliminate an activity that is not absolutely necessary. You may be taking on more responsibility than you can or should handle. If you meet resistance, give reasons why you're making the changes. Be willing to listen to other's suggestions and be ready to compromise.

2. Shed the "superhero" urge

No one is perfect, so don't expect perfection from yourself or others. Ask yourself, "What really needs to be done?" How much can I do? Is the deadline realistic? What adjustments can I make?" Don't hesitate to ask for help if you need it.

3. Take one thing at a time

For people under tension or stress, an ordinary workload can sometimes seem unbearable. The best way to cope with this feeling of being overwhelmed is to take one task at a time. Pick one urgent



task and work on it. Once you accomplish that task, choose the next one. The positive feeling of "checking off" tasks is very satisfying. It will motivate you to keep going.

For more mental wellness tips, visit Mental Health America.

PHYSICAL FITNESS

Aside from the pandemic, according to the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, about six in ten adults in the U.S. have a chronic disease, and four in ten have two or more.

These diseases include heart disease, cancer, chronic lung disease, stroke, Alzheimer's Disease, diabetes, chronic kidney disease. Risk behaviors are primarily behind these diseases, such as tobacco use, poor nutrition, lack of physical activity, and excessive alcohol.

There are many benefits of physical activity for adults and older adults.

Exercise has been proven to lower the risk of cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke), hypertension, type 2 diabetes, cancers of the bladder, breast, colon, esophagus, kidney, lung, and stomach. Keeping fit helps improve cognition, reduces the risk of dementia (including Alzheimer's disease), builds skeletal muscle strength, power, endurance, and mass.

We are meant to move. Exercise and strength training improves the quality of life, reduces anxiety, the risk of depression and improves sleep to say nothing of potential weight loss, improved bone health, and a lower risk of falls.

Tips for Physical Fitness:

4. Move more, sit less

The first key guideline for adults is to move more and sit less.

This recommendation from health.gov is based on new evidence that shows a strong positive relationship between increased sedentary behavior and increased risk of all-cause mortality, heart disease, and high blood pressure.

All physical activity, especially moderate-to-vigorous activity, can help offset these risks. Even for inactive adults, replacing sedentary behavior with light-intensity physical activity is likely to produce some health benefits.

5. Aerobic exercise

For substantial health benefits, adults should do at least 150 minutes (2 hours and 30 minutes) to 300 minutes (5 hours) a week of moderate-intensity, or

75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes) to 150 minutes (2 hours and 30 minutes) a week of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity, or an equivalent combination of moderate- and vigorous-intensity aerobic activity. Preferably, it would be best if you spread aerobic exercise throughout the week.

6. Muscle strengthening

Adults should also do muscle-strengthening activities of moderate or greater intensity, involving all major muscle groups on two or more days a week, as these activities provide additional health benefits.

For more physical fitness tips, visit Health.gov

DIET

We can all collectively grown over this statistic ... 42 percent of Americans have packed on the pounds with an average weight gain of 29 pounds since the start of the pandemic. Not only have many been eating more, according to a survey by the American Psychological Association, but alcohol consumption increased too.

What to do?

If you need a reset on your diet, check out the Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2020 – 2025 published by the USDA.

In a nutshell, the USDA suggests a healthy eating plan by doing the following:

7. Review your daily diet and make necessary changes

Choose a diet that emphasizes fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free or low-fat milk and milk products; includes a variety of protein foods such as seafood, lean meats, and poultry, eggs, legumes (beans and peas), soy products, nuts, and seeds.

Chose a diet low in saturated fats, trans fats, cholesterol, salt (sodium), and added sugars and stay within your daily calorie needs

If you need some free help, try the Start Simple with MyPlate app. This app is easy-to-use and helps you pick simple daily food goals, see real-time progress, and earn badges along the way. After you log in your age, sex, height, weight and physical activity, you receive an instant, customized food plan.

SOCIAL

As a result of the lengthy lockdowns during the pandemic and now a fear of

more to come, how we socialize is up in the air. We are social animals and crave human interaction. Pre-pandemic, many of us could only think of getting away for peace and solitude. Now, we are looking for ways to get back together under the current conditions.

After prolonged isolation, some older adults find it hard to get out without being mentally exhausted. With different opinions on how to socialize (fist bump, handshake, hug, or not to hug), it's hard to know what to do.

Looking for ways to socialize while still keeping your distance? Here are some ideas.

8. Volunteer

Change the world by volunteering. Become a United Nations Volunteer.

The UN Volunteers website currently lists over 150 ideas from around the world. Here are a few examples: volunteer to make a field hockey website for kids in Sierra Leone, Africa; write up UN volunteer stories from the Asia Pacific; teach elementary students via Skype in southern India once a week. Or you can volunteer to translate, proof-read and develop websites.

Become an Audio Book Volunteer. Volunteer to read and record chapters of books in the public domain for LibriVox

9. Dream and then get to it

Visit the U.S. National Parks in Google Earth which brings the national parks to you in a Google Earth guided tour through 31 different parks around the country.

"From the breathtaking vistas of the Shenandoah Valley to the awe-inspiring hoodoos of Bryce Canyon, the National Parks allow us to truly experience the natural wonders of our country. Start with the pink granite formations of Otter Cliff in Maine's Acadia National Park, then head west to explore the ancient Pueblo dwellings of Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado. Finally, complete your journey with a peek through the North Window Arch in Utah's Arches National Park."

The producers of the National Parks program hope that "Once you've virtually explored the national parks in Google Earth, we encourage you to put down your phone, put on some sunscreen and get outside to explore the wonders that our parks system has to offer. Start by finding the park closest to you."

FINANCIAL

10. Launch your next career

Capitalize on your career experience and start a new one. Yes, enjoy a brief "retirement." Travel, spend more time with family and friends. Develop new hobbies. And, then become an entrepreneur. Statistics show people who retire and do nothing are more likely to die within 3 years.

Here are resources that can help you launch your next career suggested by the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging:

Encore.org. Learn about programs and opportunities designed to help seniors pursue careers after retirement. IRS Small Business and Self-Employed Tax Center. Provides information about the various tax provisions that affect American businesses.

SBA.gov. A step-by-step guide on how to start a new business.

SBA Office of Veterans Business Development. Supports veterans, reserve component members, and their dependents or survivors in the business community.

SCORE. Educates entrepreneurs and helps small businesses start, grow, and succeed nationwide. StartupAmericaPartnership.org. Delivers strategic and substantive resources to help entrepreneurs start and scale companies.

So, grab onto that "back to school" feeling and make September is Healthy Aging Month the perfect time to renew or set your lifestyle goals.

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sports

All Glory Goes to God - Stefen Wisniewski



Stefen Wisniewski is a 32-year-old NFL offensive lineman who is currently a free agent. He's started three of the past four Super Bowls, winning Super Bowl LII in 2018 with the Philadelphia Eagles and Super Bowl LIV in 2020 with the Kansas City Chiefs. He just announced his retirement. Below, Wisniewski shares about the trials he experienced in 2020, how God was sovereign over them all and how he aims to see Christ increase in his life.

As a kid born and raised in Pittsburgh, who grew up attending football games in black and gold, I was thrilled when the Steelers offered me a contract last year. My family went crazy with the news.

However, my Steeler experience didn't turn out as I expected. I thought I'd have a chance to be a starter, but that didn't happen. I only played in one away game, in which I was injured and then placed on injured reserve for eight weeks. Prior to this, I'd never missed that much of a season due to injury. As an athlete, when you're hurt, you essentially have no value to a team. You can feel kind of worthless.

Thankfully, my identity is in Christ.

Through faith in Christ, I am an adopted son of God. I am forgiven. I am loved. God is for me, not against me, and I am more than a conqueror. Because of Christ's shed blood on the cross, I will spend eternity in Heaven with God. These Biblical truths are the solid foundation on which I build my life. Any foundation or identity other than faith in Christ is like a house built on sand — eventually it will fall.

My identity or attitude shouldn't change whether I'm playing great or terribly, hurt or healthy, starting or on the bench. I believe Christians should have the best attitudes on the team, and in the world, because of our eternal perspective. I was able to rejoice despite my frustrating circumstances because I knew God was with me through it all.

After being on IR, I was cut from the Steelers and spent a few weeks unsigned, and unsure if I'd ever play again. But two weeks later, the Chiefs called and I was really excited to play there again, having won the Super Bowl with them the previous year. I was hoping to get my starting job back, and while that

didn't work out at first, I found myself starting in the Super Bowl — my third Super Bowl start in the past four years.

It's so crazy and humbling to see what God can do — whatever He wants, whenever He wants. I believe God allows us to endure trials for a purpose and He can end a trial whenever He chooses. It was a rollercoaster year for me, and these trials ensured I knew all of it was His doing. All glory goes to Him, in victory or defeat. We lost the Super Bowl, which was heartbreaking. But I still led the postgame midfield prayer, because God is worthy of our worship and thanksgiving no matter what happens.

Looking back, I wouldn't have written the story any differently. God wrote it in a way where He is the only one who can say, "Yeah I did that, not you." I am 100-percent aware that none of this is about me. It's all about God.

What am I going to do next? I'm going to be a pastor. The absolute best part of my life is my relationship with Jesus Christ and I can't imagine a better full-time job than teaching people the Bible and sharing the love of Christ with others.

— Stefen Wisniewski, NFL offensive lineman

Gold medalist Sydney McLaughlin opens up about trying year, faith

Fresh off two gold medals and a new world record at the Tokyo Olympics, U.S. track star Sydney McLaughlin posted an extremely powerful and vulnerable video on Instagram on Monday, giving insight into some struggles elite athletes face, even amid career-defining success.

McLaughlin stated that she recorded the video two days after first setting a women's 400-meter hurdles world record at the U.S. Olympic Trials. She went on to break her own record in Tokyo, and win a second gold medal in the women's 4x400m relay on her 22nd birthday.

"I recorded this video two days after the Olympic Trials, with the intention of venting my frustration. Watching it back now, I feel there is a deeper message than just my emotions that I think others may need to hear," McLaughlin wrote. "Even in success, there can be pain. Even in triumph, there can be tribulations. But how you respond, and the lens in which you view those situations provides an opportunity for growth and change.

"I am beyond grateful for everything that has taken place this year. But the thing I am most grateful for, is a renewed mind that has allowed for me to look at a video like this, and see the changes Christ is doing in my life."

The video was motivated by the way people close to McLaughlin responded to her breaking the world record. In it, she explains how the past year has been a test of her faith despite all the success she's had on the track.

"I felt like the people I thought would be the most excited for me literally almost didn't even care," McLaughlin said. "And I have some really great people in my life that love me more than I can say some family loves me. And I'm just gonna be real, it hurts. I'm still hurt to this point just not understanding when it's going to be enough for a lot of



people."

She continued by saying her primary goal is to bring glory to God.

"I've worked really hard and been really cautious of how I carry myself, of the things that I post, because I want to glorify God and I want to be a good example to people," she said. "But our world only accepts ignorance, and it hurts my feelings and I find it really disrespectful that you can do everything right and it will never be enough."

Later on, the two-time Olympian went into more detail about some of the criticism she received. She shared that some teammates have given her the impression she got to where she is because of her physical appearance or the amount of followers on social media she has, rather than hard work and talent. That idea, McLaughlin said, "blows my mind."

She leaned into her faith to help her cope with the pain and disappointment she was feeling. McLaughlin explained in the video that while she doesn't understand why some people are treating her so poorly, the best thing she can do is turn to God.

"I'm so grateful I have a relationship with God the way that I do because without it, I think I would honestly be going crazy right now," she said. "There's so many things I just don't understand about the world, about our sport, about our culture. It makes no sense a lot of the time."

The most important lesson the experience reinforced to McLaughlin is to live for the approval of God and God alone. She acknowledged that had she been more worried about what others thought of her, she would have gone to an even darker place.

"I'm so grateful I don't live for the approval of people anymore," she said, "because moments like this would have me down for about three weeks. Of not understanding why even some of my family, some of my closest friends, aren't more happy for me in this moment."

"Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ." — Galatians 1:10

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KVC Charily Golf Tournament Benefits Foster Children

KVC Shawnee County Golf For Kids 2nd Annual Golf Tournament will host over 100 golfers on September 17 in a charity golf game to raise money for children and teens who have experienced mental health crisis or child abuse, neglect and other family challenges. Participants will play at the Shawnee Country Club in Topeka, KS. All proceeds will remain in Shawnee County to specifically assist youth in foster care.

Participants will have access to a cart and 18 holes of golf, multiple opportunities to win gifts and prizes through Silent Auction and drawings, receive complimentary beverages and meals and take home

deluxe golf gifts. Signage throughout the course will be set up to honor those businesses and organizations that have supported the tournament making it possible for KVC to serve the families and children in crisis.

Sponsorships and individual and team registrations for the golf tournament are available. If your company would like to support KVC by spon-



soring an event or you would like to enter a team, contact Lance Wilson at 785-207-3403.

Sponsors include Top Fuel Digital, Buffalo Grille & Smokehouse, Topeka Metro Voice, Peggy's Tax & Accounting, EMC2, Next Level Baseball, Skinny's Sports Bar, Breakers Sports Bar, Backs by Popular Demand, Tile Worx by Nick, Kansas Fencing Inc, Dirty Dog Pet Services, The Dugout Sports Bar, Victoria's Bar, and Shannon Nichol, Coldwell Banker. Lunch will begin at 11:00am with Tee Off at 1:00pm.

KVC is a private, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that enriches and enhances the lives of over 60,000 children and families each year by providing medical and behavioral healthcare, social services, and education. KVC's diverse continuum of services includes in-home family support, behavioral healthcare, foster care, adoption, substance abuse treatment, and children's psychiatric hospitals. Learn more at <http://www.kvc.org>.

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TOP FLITE SPONSORSHIP	\$400
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SILVER SPONSORSHIP	\$750
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GOLD SPONSORSHIP	\$1000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logo on 18" X 24" sign Company Name on event web page and Facebook event page Promotional material placed in swag bag TWO Complimentary Foursomes in tournament Large company banner at event 	

New Resident Church Guide

1. HIGHLAND HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

785-379-5642
Sunday Services: 8:30 and 10:00 AM
2930 SE Tecumseh Road
Tecumseh, Kansas 66542
www.highlandheightsccc.com
Jars of Clay Children's Ctr 785-379-9098

2. CHRISTIAN CAVALRY MINISTRIES INT.

Pastor Beaux Bryant
Call about new meeting location for current services.
785-224-5419 • www.church4bikers.org
Sun. School 9:30 am
Sun. Service 10:45 am
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study 7pm

3. TOPEKA BIBLE CHURCH

1101 SW Mulvane St., Topeka
785-234-5545
Worship: 9:00 & 10:30 am
Livestream at 9:00 am
Sunday School & Bible Studies:
9:00 & 10:30 am
www.discovertbc.com

4. NORTHLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH

3102 NW Topeka Blvd., Topeka
286-1204
Worship Sun. 9:00 & 10:45 AM
www.northland.cc

5. INDIANA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST

"Grace has dispensed, because Grace has redeemed"
3510 SE Indiana Ave., Topeka, Ks. 66605

785-266-7788, www.Indianaavecofc.org
Bible University – Sunday - 9:30 a.m.
Classes for all ages.
Morning Worship – Sunday – 10:45 a.m.
Midweek Bible University – Wed. – 7pm

6. FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST

1912 SW Gage, Topeka, KS
272-0443 www.fsbctopeka.org
Sunday Services:
8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:45 AM Bible study—all ages
11 AM Contemporary Worship

7. TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH

"Finding NEW LIFE in CHRIST"
Sunday Worship 9:15 & 10:45am, 6pm
~ Sunday School for all ages ~
4500 SW Gage Blvd., Topeka
785-862-0988
www.topekabaptist.org

8. WANAMAKER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

"Being and making disciples of Jesus Christ by the power of the Gospel, to the glory of God"
2700 SW Wanamaker Rd., Topeka
(785) 272-9323 www.wrbctopeka.com
Traditional Sunday Worship 10:30am & 6pm
Sunday School 9am • Wed. Prayer 7pm

9. GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

310 E 8th St (E. US 56 Hwy)
Overbrook, KS; 785-665-7117
Elvin Dillard, Senior Pastor
Sunday School 9 am; Worship 10 am
www.gccinoverbrook.com
office@gccinoverbrook.com

11. COMMUNITY CHURCH

1819 SW 21st St., Topeka

233-3537 www.CommunityTopeka.com
info@CommunityTopeka.com
Sun. 8:30am - Sunday School for all ages
Sun. 10:00am - Worship & Word
Sun. 10:00am Youth Service
~ Nursery care for all services ~

12. BUCK CREEK COUNTRY CHURCH

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

13. WANAMAKER WOODS NAZARENE

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

14. OPEN ARMS OUTREACH MINISTRIES COGIC

1 (785) 232-3463/41 (785) 217-5560
Sunday School 10:00, Worship 11:30
In person or conference call:
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Supt. S. C. Mitchell, Pastor

15. OAKLAND UNITED METHODIST

801 NE Chester, Topeka, KS 66616
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Children's worship time 10:30am
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Wed. Prayer & Praise 7pm



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J. Michael Borjon, Pastor

17. EAST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

19. SEAMAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Independent Christ-Centered Bible Church
2036 NW Taylor, Topeka, KS
354-8777 • www.seamanchurch.com
Adult Sunday School - Sun. 9:30am
Sunday Worship: 10:30am
Children's Sunday School: 10:30am
Youth group 1st & 3rd Sundays 4-6pm

20. HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH

1937 NE Madison St,
Topeka, KS 66616 • 785-506-4594
Pastor Dale Stockburger
Sunday Worship: 11 am and 6pm
Sunday School: Sun 10am
Wed. Evening Worship: 7pm

21. HARVEST FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

Meets at 522 SW Polk
785-220-5418
Pastor Rey Rodriguez
Sun. Worship 10:30 am
www.topekaharvest.vpweb.com

22. FAMILY OF GOD CHURCH

1231 NW Eugene St.
Topeka, KS 66608
Pastor Roger Randel

Sunday Worship 10:30am & 6pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7pm
234-1111 • FOGchurch.com

24. TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

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5 Tips for Remodeling in Today's Market

In the aftermath of the COVID-19 lockdown, labor shortages and access to certain products affects numerous industries, including remodeling. Even so, after extra time at home and delays caused by the pandemic, there is high demand for home renovation projects.

If you're planning a home remodel or construction project, consider these tips from professional remodelers to avoid frustration and ensure your vision comes to life.

Do Research and Plan Ahead

Mapping out your project early and thoroughly can help you avoid delays. This is especially important when it comes to materials, said John Brown of Bliffert Lumber and Hardware.

"The quicker a homeowner can make selections, the sooner we can get it on order and get it in," Bliffert said.

Some contractors are adjusting the way they approach planning to offset delays. For example, selecting materials and finishes at the outset, instead of as you progress through the project like you normally would, may mean the materials are available when you need



compromise. Others have a time constraint for one reason or another; they don't have the luxury of waiting."

It's a sentiment echoed by others, who caution that you may be able to get an item you have your heart set on, but you may need to be willing to wait.

"If you have your heart set on a certain bathtub, it might be a 6- or 8-month wait, but another one

might be available sooner," said Jason Hensler of Marvin Windows and Doors.

Avoid Making Changes

Once your plans are set and your materials have been ordered, avoid unnecessary delays by changing your project scope or material selection. In this environment, project timelines are extremely tight and even minor changes can create significant disruptions, especially if there's a delay in obtaining different materials or your new ideas require a different crew that wasn't already scheduled for your job.

Choose a Trustworthy Partner

While these are unusual times, having a reliable contractor can make the project run more smoothly and help you feel more comfortable as the project progresses.

"Use someone you trust, someone who is part of a reputable group like the National Association of the Remodeling Industry," Brown said.

That way, if you encounter unexpected bumps along the way, you can be confident they will be handled professionally and appropriately. Brown encourages his teams to communicate early and often, which helps homeowners understand and trust they're doing everything possible to keep the job on track.

them.

"The design process has really changed," said Robi Kirsic of TimeLine Renovation and Design. "We're still designing based on homeowners' wishes and dreams, but we're also modifying by providing options based on what's available."

Know Where You're Willing to Compromise

Whether you're able or willing to compromise often comes down to why you're doing the renovation in the first place.

"Some homeowners are specific about what they want," Kirsic said. "They've been waiting for a long time to do this project and they're not doing it to



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Be Patient

Above all, understanding these are unusual times can go a long way toward a more successful project.

"Patience will help it go a lot smoother," Hensler said. "That may mean accepting longer wait times than

you anticipated and a later completion date than you hoped."

The sooner you get your project started, the sooner your contractor can start mapping out a project timeline. Find contractors in your area at RemodelingDoneRight.com.

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