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See inside back cover!

Harvard Students to visit Topeka



Students from Harvard Kennedy School's (HKS) Taubman Center for State and Local Government will be visiting the City of Topeka in January. The visit is part of the Center's annual Transition Term program. The program embeds HKS students in the offices of newly elected mayors, county executives, and governors to provide students with a unique learning opportunity, while helping officials accelerate key initiatives as they shift from campaigning to governing.

During the program, Topeka Mayor-elect Michael Padilla will be paired with three HKS students. The students will join Padilla full-time for three weeks in January.

"Shortly after the election I was given the opportunity to attend the Harvard John F. Kennedy Institute of Politics at Cambridge. As a participant, I interacted with a wide range of newly elected and seasoned Mayor's from across the country. Sharing our paths to a mayor's seat, it was clear that the same commitment to serve our community is our common driving force. I

Please see HARVARD STUDENTS page 2



Kansas soldier is Walking Patriot

The Walking Patriot: Kansas soldier shares his story

A Kansas soldier is sharing his message of inspiration and positivity on social media.

Derek Redenius joined the National Guard when he was 17 and has since

gone on three tours. When he returned, he began driving semis across the Midwest, and it was behind the wheel where he said he had an epiphany.

"I started walking because, being in

the National Guard, I need to stay physically fit, and driving a semi-truck and sitting all day does not help with staying active," Redenius told Fox News. "I

Please see WALKING PATRIOT page 3

24th annual Christian college fair features schools from 17 states

Christian colleges from across the nation will gather in Kansas City February 26 for the Annual Midwest Christian College Expo.

For the 24th year, the region's largest private college fair will feature Christian colleges and universities plus ministry opportunities. It annually draws families from across Kansas.

The free event runs from 10 a.m. to Noon. on Saturday, February 26 at Colonial Presbyterian Church, a large suburban church located at 9500 Wornall Rd. in south Kansas City, Mo., just east of Overland Park. It has been held at this location for 23 of its 24 years.

"Surveys have found that enrollment at private Christian colleges skyrocketed in 2020 and that growth continued into 2021, partly in response to Covid and social unrest" says expo coordinator Anita Widaman. "This year's event provides students with great options and may be the only in-person college fair in the region this Spring."

Widaman says that college education should reinforce the strong family values of hard work, compassion for others and give young people an opportunity to change the world. Often times, public education struggles to do that

Please see COLLEGE FAIR page 2



Respect Life Special Section PAGE 8

Topeka Fire Chief announces retirement

Topeka Fire Department Chief Craig Duke announced his plans to retire from the City of Topeka in April of 2022.

"It has been a pleasure working alongside Chief Duke over the last four years. The City was lucky to have Chief Duke's leadership and I wish him the very best in his upcoming well-deserved retirement," said City Manager Brent Trout. "Incoming Interim City Manager Bill Cochran and the Governing Body will work closely alongside Chief Duke to ensure a successful transition when the time comes to hire a replacement?"



In the coming weeks, City staff and the Governing Body will work together to determine a process for hiring Chief Duke's replacement.

Chief Duke was hired in March of 2017. The fire department will be the latest area of city government to see a leadership change. Bryan Wheelers was hired in December as Topeka Police Chief, after serving a year in an interim capacity.

Kansas kids in school after break, others across country not so lucky

With the holiday break having ended, a number of school districts across the country are deciding to go fully remote to start the new year. It comes as Omicron cases rise, though with little impact on hospitalizations and few deaths.

But thanks to a new law, you won't find a rush to remote learning in Kansas.

Under House Bill 2134, which the Kansas Legislature and Gov. Laura Kelly approved in the spring, schools can use remote learning for a student for only 40 hours a school year, allowing for temporary issues such as weather or a gas leak at a school building. Otherwise, Lawrence families who want their children to learn remotely this school year will need to enroll them in the district's virtual school.

The law was applauded by parents who have seen serious impacts to their children's learning abilities in the last 20 months.

While Kansas may be at the forefront of protecting school children from the negative effects of lockdowns and remote learning, other states and cities are bowing to pressure from teacher unions.

These decisions come despite mounting evidence that pandemic lockdowns and other restrictions have taken a significant mental and emotional toll on children. The data shows that children are the least at risk of serious illness from the disease. Media reports during New Year's weekend reported a doubling of covid deaths among children but failed to mention it rose to .000025%.

Milwaukee Public Schools on Sunday night announced it will begin the calendar year with remote learning on Tuesday, with a goal of returning to in-person classes on



Jan. 10.

In New Jersey, Newark, Jersey City, Paterson and East Orange schools are among those taking a pause on in-person learning and going fully remote when classes are set to return Monday.

The same can be said for Prince George's County School District in Maryland, where more than 130,000 students attend. And in Mount Vernon, New York, Cleveland, Ohio, Niles Township and West Chicago, Illinois, and elsewhere.

"We have been closely monitoring our staffing needs concerning our 2nd Semester return," a message sent to families of Niles Township schools in Skokie, Illinois, reads. "Due to staffing shortages, we have made the determination, with guidance from the Skokie Health Department, that we need to implement remote learning (Adaptive Pause) for the weeks of Jan. 3-7 as well as Jan. 10-14, 2022. We made the decision to take a 2-week pause following guidance from the Illinois Department of Health (IDPH) and the

Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) which says that school staff, faculty and students will continue to follow the 10-day isolation period for confirmed positive COVID-19 cases."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control recently revised its quarantine guidance for confirmed positive cases, saying asymptomatic people can isolate for just five days, but ISBE is directing schools to maintain the 10-day quarantine window.

In Pittsburgh, 12 schools are going remote on Monday also due to staffing shortages caused by an outbreak in cases, the school district announced late Sunday. The district hopes to return to in-person learning on Tuesday, it said.

Teachers unions across the country are openly advocating to close schools in January in the wake of a rise in cases due to the omicron variant.

"Recklessly opening school buildings right now instead of working to reduce community transmission is, once again, needlessly putting millions of lives at risk,"

National Educators United tweeted. "National #2weeks pause now to #ProtectOurCommunity?"

Other teachers unions are using the hashtag #SickOut2SaveLives to endorse walkouts in New York City, Chicago and elsewhere.

But academic research increasingly finds that closing schools and other COVID-related restrictions are hurting children's development.

"School closures contributed to increased anxiety, loneliness and stress; negative feelings due to COVID-19 increased with the duration of school closures," a study from Professor Carl Heneghan, director of Oxford University's Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine, found.

"[E]ight out of ten children and adolescents report worsening of behavior or any psychological symptoms or an increase in negative feelings due to the COVID-19 pandemic," Heneghan wrote.

When lockdown restrictions were first imposed last year, mental health-related visits to emergency rooms increased by 24% in those ages 5-11 and by 31% in those ages 12-17, the CDC reported. The data is among several listed in a newly published Pediatric Health, Medicine and Therapeutics journal article that highlights the worsening mental health conditions of children in the U.S.

Working parents of younger school-age children also will have to call off work or make other arrangements to help their children during remote learning.

-Reporter Bethany Blankley and Just The News contributed to this report.

HARVARD STUDENTS

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listened to problem solving that encouraged progressive and sometimes bold action. Looking at issues from different perspectives is the goal of this Transition Term Team. 'Learning how the sausage is made' at the local government level will engage the graduate students in many aspects of Topeka's governing body," said Mayor-elect Padilla.

The students will help to accelerate projects based on the City's priorities to include researching, conducting data analysis, drafting memos, engaging with stakeholders, and responding to rapidly evolving needs that arise during the intense early weeks of governing. "Transition Term provides students with critical on-the-ground experience working with new mayors, county executives, and governors at a time when these administrations are most in need of extra capacity," said Professor Jeffrey Liebman, Director of the Taubman Center. "We are excited to announce the largest and most diverse cohort of mayors and students yet and look forward to seeing the real-world impact of this program in the weeks to come." Topeka is one of 13 communities to have been selected for this program. The full list of participating communities is below:

1. Mayor-elect Andre Dickens, Atlanta, Georgia
2. Mayor Michelle Wu, Boston, Massachusetts
3. Mayor-elect Aftab Pureval, Cincinnati, Ohio
4. Mayor-elect Justin Bibb, Cleveland, Ohio
5. Mayor-elect Daniel Rickenmann, Columbia, South Carolina
6. County Executive-elect Brenton Davis, Erie County, Pennsylvania
7. Mayor Brian DePeña, Lawrence, Massachusetts
8. Mayor-elect Edward Gainey, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
9. Mayor-elect Malik Evans, Rochester, New York
10. Mayor-elect Katjana Ballantyne, Somerville, Massachusetts
11. Mayor-elect Ken Welch, St. Petersburg, Florida
12. Mayor Caroline Simmons, Stamford, Connecticut
13. Mayor-elect Michael Padilla, Topeka, Kansas

You can learn more about the program here: <https://www.hks.harvard.edu/centers/taubman/students/transition-term>

COLLEGE FAIR

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because their values often conflict with those of Christian students.

"That's why a Christian college education can make such a positive impact on students," Widaman said.

In the past over 60 colleges have made the event a huge draw for high school juniors, seniors and their parents scouting some of the nation's best colleges, univer-

sities and missions opportunities.

Organizers say the Expo is a convenient way to visit with colleges from many states by finding them in one location-for one day, thus saving travel time and gas. In 2021 colleges attended from Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Iowa, Nebraska, Indiana, Illinois, Tennessee, Kentucky, Michigan, Virginia, Texas, Colorado, Minnesota, Arizona and numerous other states.

The expo is organized by the Metro Voice Newspaper - Topeka and Kansas

City's Christian community newspaper.

Metrovoicenews.com is currently one of the largest independent Christian news and lifestyles print/digital platforms in the nation.

A final list of attendees will soon be available. For more information call 816-524-4522.





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Kansas church among those using big tech data

More than 30,000 churches have signed up for the services of Gloop, a small company that uses people's personal data and online activities to target individuals who might be more receptive to their message and become new members as they seek to sure up dwindling numbers in their pews that was made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gloop brands itself as a personal growth platform that seeks to reshape "the ways that churches, ministries, and people connect with each other."

The company explained in a recent Wall Street Journal report that it wants churches to be empowered with big data — extremely large data sets that can be analyzed to reveal patterns, trends and associations, especially relating to human behavior and interactions. The goal is to target people in the same way that big brands like Amazon, Google and Netflix use that data to target consumers with goods and services.

"We believe this is the right thing to do. And Gloop is committed to doing it the right way," the company said in a written statement to WSJ.

Gloop clients include free and premium users. The average premium customer pays \$1,500 a year, the company said.

Churches say that people in crisis are most receptive to their outreach efforts. Gloop uses big data to help churches identify people who may, for example, be experiencing marriage trouble, suffering from depression or anxiety, or struggling with drug addiction.

Westside Family Church, a non-denominational Christian church near Kansas City, Kansas, told WSJ that it used Gloop to target people dealing with financial problems and those struggling in the pandemic by using online ads.

"The church is committed to going out at whatever cost to find that one lost sheep that needs help," Randy Frazee, lead pastor of Westside, said. "There are a lot of people who are in pain and isolated. If you don't come to church, the church will come to you."



A report generated by Gloop for Westside in September predicted that 25% of marriages within a 5-mile radius of the church might be on the verge of divorce. Another 26% of people were at risk of opioid addiction, and 3% of households were found to have anxious or depressed persons.

In marketing material from Gloop highlighting how churches can use data, the company explained how data can be "co-serving."

"Let's examine the following example to explain this clearly. Analyzing data may reveal that a person is spiritual and has a high propensity for depression. With these insights, they may decide to take part in a small group at church, work with a therapist, and interact weekly with a personal trainer. Each of these Champions play an important role in the growth and development of that individual," Gloop said.

Staff at Westside were not immediately available when contacted by The Christian Post on Monday with questions about the ethics behind this approach to evangelizing. However, Gloop told WSJ that it follows California and other state privacy laws as well as the privacy policies of companies like Apple Inc. and Alphabet Inc.'s Google.

"We call ourselves a trusted personal growth platform," Gloop co-founder Scott Beck said.

Gloop told the WSJ that it was no longer using mental health data in its analysis after the publication began reporting on its work, but also refused to say how it identified who had mental health or addiction struggles. The company further declined to say where it got the data, citing confidentiality agreements with third-party data providers.

Tal Frankfurt, founder and CEO of Cloud for Good, a consulting firm that works with faith-based groups and other nonprofits, told the publication that churches are seeking more details to help them target members more efficiently.

"They want to know who you are, they want to predict your capacity to give, your likelihood of dropping out of a program — it's the same concepts that apply to a bank," he said.

Sam Neves, an Adventist pastor and official at the church's global headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, said they do outreach to vulnerable groups in distress using social media ads. Neves said they have received more responses sending out general ads rather than trying to target specific groups.

—Leonardo Blaire / CP News Service

January C5Alive Luncheon will feature local pastor

The January C5 POWER Luncheon will be held January 13, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Peak, 1912 SW Gage Blvd.

Featured speaker will be Doyle Pryor, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church.

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 February 10 at Fairlawn Plaza Mall.

For more details on these and other events, stay tuned to the C5Alive facebook page and website: www.C5Alive.org.

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

In addition to monthly "POWER" luncheons held on the second Thursday of each month, C5 also hosts periodic business fairs and other events, including EASTERFEST, the annual Topeka Easter Parade and Family Fun Fest, held on N. Kansas Avenue and in Garfield Park on the day before Easter (cancelled for 2021).

The group also hosted 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.



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WALKING PATRIOT

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believe in God, and I prayed for guidance, and on October 1, 2020, I woke up, and I heard the Lord tell me 'Let's go for a walk.'

That morning, Redenius put on his 25-pound military vest and started walking. As he walked, he waved to local farmers, and they waved back from their tractors. As his walk turned onto Kansas Highway 15, he continued to wave to passersby.

"It was refreshing to see people see me. It felt really good. When I got home, I wrote a little post on my Facebook thanking people for acknowledging and waving to me. I thought, I am going to do this again tomorrow."

The next morning, Derek Redenius started carrying a large American flag as a show of patriotism.

"I would share something positive on social media," he said. "One day, someone told me to post on TikTok.



The first few videos didn't do great, but one morning, my video got 20,000 views."

After his first viral video, Redenius began sharing more.

"People are enjoying my videos, and it's helping me. In turn, the inspiration that we're giving each other is creating positivity, which we need more of in this world."

Since he began in October 2021, he has gained over 61,000 Tik Tok followers.

"I didn't share my personal views towards politics, I just tried to show inspiration, positivity, and appreciation to this country. I want to give my thanks to God, this country and show positivity."

As Redenius looks towards 2022, he shares his dream of creating a movement to help others.

"Twenty-two is a big number for service men and women because that's the average number of suicides we have per day. I've made a plan to walk every day of 2022, to do something for veterans and for others."

As Derek looks towards the future of The Walking Patriot, he wants to, "help veterans less fortunate," however he is able.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

The Value of Work

Dear Dave,

All the talk on the news about inflation is a little scary. Is there any way to protect yourself against it on a day-to-day basis?

Garret

Dear Garret,

When people start talking about inflation, it seems like there are always some who want to start collecting gold, fill every container they own with gasoline and stick their cash under their mattresses. But listen, you can prepare for inflation and address the results without being panicked.

You are still in control of your money, inflation or not. You'll be able to make sure your money is going toward the right things, while being able to find places where you can cut spending, if you're living on a written, monthly budget. If you're noticing the prices of things like food and gas rising in your area, you'll need to adjust your budget to account for this. That way, you'll know exactly what you're working with, and it will help you avoid any nasty surprises.

If you're really feeling the pinch and want to save even more, look for specific ways to lower your grocery bill or save money on gas. Maybe it's time you switched to generic brands, or started a carpool into work. If you find great deals on canned food and things you can stock your pantry with—I'm talking about stuff you'll actually use—go ahead and buy a little extra. Just make sure you've budgeted for it before heading to the grocery store. You'll want to already know exactly what you're going to spend, so you don't get swept up into impulse buying.

Like it or not, inflation is a thing. If you plan on retiring one day, it's pretty much guaranteed that the cost of a loaf of bread, a tank of gas and even a cup of coffee will have gone up by then. The best way to protect yourself against infla-



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

davesays

tion that's bound to happen is to invest your money—and the sooner the better. But remember, if you still have debt other than your mortgage, and don't have an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses, you need to take care of those things first!

— Dave

Address the deeper issues

Dear Dave,

My boyfriend is not very good with money, and he is in a bad situation right now. He has a huge car payment every month, plus about \$30,000 in credit card debt. He also lives in a very expensive apartment. He recently quit a really good job because he doesn't like his boss anymore. He has talked about filing bankruptcy, and yesterday he asked if he could move in with me. I love him, but I'm also scared. I try to manage my money well by saving, investing for retirement and staying out of debt. What does this mean for our future together?

Crislyn

Dear Crislyn,

My guess is the guy's not really bankrupt, but it sounds like he has some maturity and character issues that need to be addressed. I'm not saying things can't change, but this is not someone to move in with or consider marrying anytime soon. You two would have a hard time as husband and wife unless he makes some real course corrections in his attitudes about money and life.

For starters, he needs to get another

job, sell the expensive car and find a cheaper place to live. Leaving one position for another is okay, but deciding you

just don't like something and walking away from it without another job waiting—especially when you've got bills and a bunch of debt—is just plain irresponsible.

Lots of people identify too strongly with what they drive or where they live. They come to believe those things are indications of their value or worth, and

that's sad. It means something inside them is broken, and bankruptcy isn't going to fix that.

All this doesn't mean he isn't basically a decent guy, but it does mean he needs to get control of his finances—and that he's got some soul searching and growing up to do.

— Dave

Getting The Taxman Out Of Your Retirement — Part 2

By Ryan Shumaker
Smartvestor Pro at
The Retirement Team



Last month, in part one of this article, we discussed how you might be in a lower tax bracket in retirement, but pay a higher tax rate. In this article, we'll look at how a Roth can help you avoid this scenario.

Utilizing a Roth

The beauty of a Roth is that not only does the money grow tax-free, but withdrawals can be made to be tax-free as well and don't count as income in the calculation for if/how much your Social Security is taxed.

With Roth options now being made available in many employer-provided retirement plans, more people should be able to take advantage of these tax-friendlier accounts while saving for retirement at work. Those who don't have a Roth option at work and/or already have larger balances in tax-deferred accounts, such as IRAs or 401(k)s, should consider Roth conversions.

With a conversion, you pay taxes on whatever you take out now; this can be any amount in your IRA and doesn't have to be the entire account all at once. That money then moves to a Roth where it won't be taxed again or potentially cause taxation on Social Security in the future.

Without proper planning, many people could lose more to taxes on their Social Security than they would by not starting their benefits at the most optimal age for their situation.

Delaying withdrawals

In this "golden tax age," where the Trump tax cuts have temporarily lowered income tax rates, people in or nearing retirement should consider pushing their Social Security to a later age. Doing this allows them to withdraw money from tax-deferred accounts (like 401(k)s and IRAs), pay the 12% or even 22% tax on that money now, and convert that money over to a Roth. Once it's in the Roth, they can then start drawing

Social Security and won't have to worry about future withdrawals causing taxation on their Social Security.

If you've already started drawing Social Security benefits, you can actually stop them for a while once you've reached full retirement age, if it makes sense for your situation.

Given that Social Security income, ordinary income, and capital gains taxation all function differently, every tax plan is a custom process. There is no one-size-fits-all rule to how much you should be converting or contributing to a Roth each year.

Below is a typical example that assumes tax rates have reverted to what they were prior to the temporary tax cuts so we can see what is likely to happen in the future after Social Security is started.

Although someone might be in a lower tax bracket (in red), they might actually face higher marginal taxes (gray), which is the tax you pay on every \$1 of additional income at that level. The 27.75% mark (rounded up in the graph) comes up quickly with a large spike where federal taxes peak at an astonishing 55.5% because of other non-Social Security tax factors.

For a situation like this, it's advantageous to get as much out of pre-tax retirement accounts prior to starting Social Security. Waiting to start both your Social Security and tax-deferred account withdrawals until as late as possible (starting at age 72, you're required to start Required Minimum Distributions from IRAs and should have begun receiving Social Security benefits) makes little sense once you've seen this chart.

In the event you can't delay Social Security, it might make sense to take out more than what's required to take advantage of the lower tax rate after that potential 55.5% spike. You could even take the extra, move it to a Roth, use it to draw from for future income, and potentially avoid the spike in future years by not having to take as much out of traditional pretax accounts, like IRAs. It makes a lot more sense to pay a 22%

tax rate now versus a 27.75% or 55.5% rate later.

Tax-efficient planning

To truly maximize both your income and wealth, you need a plan to minimize taxes. Unfortunately, many pay for financial products and portfolio management and are left to figure out taxes, Social Security planning, and other retirement planning processes by themselves. The reality is, many would be better off doing the opposite and paying for a plan that effectively accounts for and coordinates these other parts of their financial life and managing their investments themselves in a simple, low-cost, diversified, average-performing portfolio.

A great comprehensive plan that minimizes taxes with average investments will usually do better than a poor/no plan with good investments. If you have no tax plan and use the default one created by Uncle Sam, who do you think will benefit most? It takes a lot of additional return to end up with the same amount of money if you are paying a 55.5% tax instead of 12% or 22%. Additional return usually requires additional risk, and there's certainly no guarantee that taking that extra risk will pay off, as past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Figuring out how much each year, if any, you should be contributing or converting to a Roth prior to or after starting Social Security in order to minimize your tax bill is heavily dependent on other aspects of your specific financial situation. As always, seek help from a financial professional capable of helping you with this advanced kind of planning. In the end, proper planning with taxes in mind can have a much larger impact on your spendable retirement income than investment return. If you can have both a great plan and great investments that's clearly the best, but if you can only choose one often times proper planning results in more wealth than better investments.

(Reprint from Forbes.com BrandVoice)

Ryan can be reached at 785-228-0222



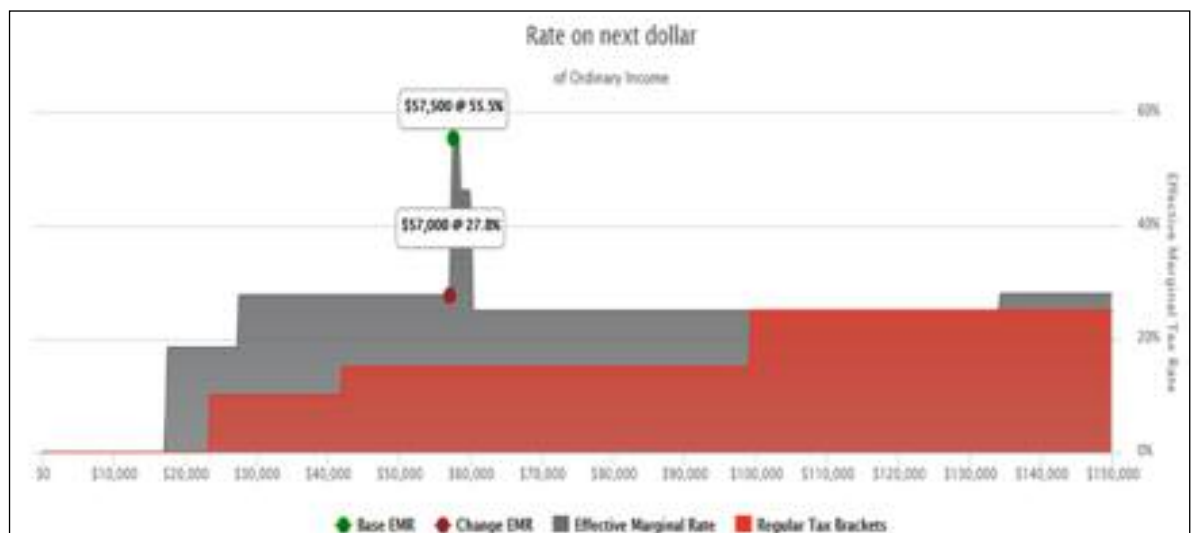
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Combating Inflation Threats in Retirement

By Jim Hanna

Today it's common for Americans to spend two, three or even four decades in retirement. This means people have ample time to relax and achieve a bucket list of dreams. However, the flip side is that retirees need to ensure they have enough savings to last through their lifetime. One complicating factor is that inflation is a fact of life, and it can result in meaningfully higher expenses over time.



Hanna

As you've likely seen in recent headlines, inflation rates are the highest they've been in many years. Living costs have risen 5% over the past 12 months ending in June, based on the Consumer Price Index 1 – significantly higher than the 1-2% annual increases we've gotten used to seeing over the past decade.

Inflation creates challenges for all consumers, but it can be particularly difficult for those who are retired and living on a limited income. Higher inflation can throw off the assumptions for regular expenses reflected in your retirement plan. It's unknown whether this uptick in living costs will persist, but you should prepare for the impacts of inflation regardless. Here are a few things to know and do:

Keep it in perspective

Today's inflation rate of 5% is high by recent standards, but nowhere near a record. We may be a long way from seeing an extended period of high inflation like we had in the 1970s and 1980s, where inflation in the United States peaked at 13.5%. Since 1982, inflation has only been higher than 5% in one calendar year (1991) until now.² While another decade-long inflation threat is unlikely, living costs in the near-term may continue to rise at a fast pace.

Revisit your expenses

If the cost of essential items, such as food, gas, plus the cost of discretionary expenses, such as travel, are busting your budget, you may need to explore ways to cut back. Can you buy food in bulk to save money? Should you reduce your casual driving to cut down on gas? Are

there other discretionary expenses you can forego, at least for now? Addressing these questions today could prevent you from spending down your assets too quickly.

Adjust your investments

Is your portfolio properly positioned to keep pace with inflation? It may make sense to keep a portion of your assets invested in stocks. Over the past 30 years, the Standard & Poor's 500, a benchmark of U.S. large cap stock market performance, gained, on average, more than 10% annually³, well above the 2.3% average annual inflation rate over that same period.⁴ Earning higher returns on money you may need 10 to 20 years in the future should help it grow sufficiently to meet inflated income needs at that time, but a large portion of your portfolio should still be invested more conservatively to protect it from market volatility.

Look at other options to improve your position

If you are experiencing financial strains as living costs rise, you may want to consider other options, such as a part-time job or consulting. Even in retirement, it is important to be flexible to react to changing circumstances that may affect even your best-laid plans. Be sure to check with your financial advisor to discuss your most attractive options to manage today's inflation risks.

¹Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Consumer Price Index Summary," July 13, 2021.

²Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, "Consumer Price Index, 1913-,"

³Based on total return data from Standard & Poor's.

⁴Based on the Consumer Price Index, Bureau of Labor Statistics, June 1991 through June 2021.

Jim Hanna, CFP®, MBA, CKA®, is a Private Wealth Advisor and Certified Kingdom Advisor® with Heart Financial Partners a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC in Topeka, Kansas. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 26 years. To contact her, ameripriseadvisors.com/james.c.hanna, 785.358.6278 x19, 601 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66603.

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Taxpayers should hold onto IRS information letters

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

The Internal Revenue Service announced that it will issue information letters to Advance Child Tax Credit recipients starting in December and to recipients of the third round of the Economic Impact Payments at the end of January. Using this information when preparing a tax return can reduce errors and delays in processing.

The IRS urged people receiving these letters to make sure they hold onto them to assist them in preparing their 2021 federal tax returns in 2022.

Watch for advance Child Tax Credit letter

To help taxpayers reconcile and receive all of the Child Tax Credits to which they are entitled, the IRS will send Letter 6419, 2021 advance CTC, starting late December, 2021 and continuing into January. The letter will include the total amount of advance Child Tax Credit payments taxpayers received in 2021 and the number of qualifying children used to calculate the advance payments. People should keep this and any other IRS letters about advance Child Tax Credit payments with their tax records.

Families who received advance payments will need to file a 2021 tax return and compare the advance Child Tax Credit payments they received in 2021 with the amount of the Child Tax Credit they can properly claim on their 2021 tax return.

Eligible families who did not receive any advance Child Tax Credit payments can claim the full amount of the Child Tax Credit on their 2021 federal tax return, filed in 2022. This includes families who don't normally need to file a tax return.

Economic Impact Payment letter can help with the Recovery Rebate Credit

The IRS will begin issuing Letter 6475, Your Third Economic Impact Payment, to EIP recipients in late January. This letter will help Economic Impact Payment recipients determine if they are entitled to and should claim the Recovery Rebate Credit on their tax year 2021 tax returns that they file in 2022.

Letter 6475 only applies to the third round of Economic Impact Payments that was issued starting in March 2021 and continued through December 2021.

The third round of Economic Impact Payments, including the "plus-up" payments, were advance payments of the 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit that would be claimed on a 2021 tax return. Plus-up payments were additional payments the IRS sent to people who received a third

Economic Impact Payment based on a 2019 tax return or information received from SSA, RRB or VA; or to people who may be eligible for a larger amount based on their 2020 tax return.

Most eligible people already received the payments. However, people who are missing stimulus payments should review the information to determine their eligibility and whether they need to claim a Recovery Rebate Credit for tax year 2020 or 2021.

Like the advance CTC letter, the

Economic Impact Payment letters include important information that can help people quickly and accurately file their tax return.

More information about the Advance Child Tax Credit, Economic Impact Payments and other COVID-19-related tax relief may be found at [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

As the 2022 tax filing season approaches, the IRS urges people to make sure an accurate tax return and use electronic filing with direct deposit to avoid delays.



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Jim Hanna, CFP®, MBA, CKA®
Private Wealth Advisor
Certified Kingdom Advisor

james.c.hanna@ampf.com
ameripriseadvisors.com/team/heart-financial-partners

785.357.6278, Ext.19
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opinion

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metro
VOICE

MANAGING EDITOR



Lee
Hartman
LHartman3@cox.net

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Nick Hartman
Dwight Widaman

ADVERTISING CONSULTANTS

Lee Hartman
785-640-6399; Voice@cox.net
Sydney Hanna
sydneykatharineh@gmail.com
Darcy Childs 785-249-6203
childs.darcy@gmail.com

NEWS & FEATURES

Sydney Hanna, Carolyn Cogswell, Rob
Mooney, Marie Asner, Alan Goforth, Clint
Decker, Michael Foust, John Altevogt,
Dwight Widaman, Lee Hartman

LAYOUT & DESIGN

Joe Boothe, Lee Hartman, Dwight Widaman

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CONTACT INFO

Offices: 2611 SW 17th St. (by apt.)
Correspondence & Payments:
P.O. Box 5724, Topeka, KS 66605
Phone/Fax: 785-235-3340
Voice@cox.net
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John Schneider: 'We Are What People Look Up To As A Free Society'

DUKES OF HAZZARD star John Schneider recently spoke out against cancel culture and shared his thoughts on the controversy surrounding a confederate flag in the classic show from 1979.

In an interview with Fox News, Schneider said he was not surprised at the critics.

"It was the older, uneducated generation that wanted to remove it from the series, from the airwaves. There's a group of people that seem to base their values on removing what they're against. I've always placed people's values on what they are for," Schneider told Fox News. "It had been attacked maybe 20 years ago. And then that attack went away. I guess the critics found another hobby. So no, it didn't surprise me. But I tell you, my wife and I dirt track race. We are out among people from coast to coast all year round... And there are still children playing with General Lees in the dirt regardless of cancel culture trying to cancel it. And I think it's because parents save their General Lees and pass them down to another generation."

"It depends where you are, but from where I stand, none of the cancel culture antics is going to diminish what the show has represented to families who grew up on it," he con-

tinued. "It brought families together. It was never about division. For years, I've had people from all walks of life come up to me and say how the show brought their families together. Generations watched it. And they still do."

Schneider also addressed cancel culture in the broader sense, calling it "short-sighted."

"Someone asked me the other day, 'What do you think about all this cancel culture business?' And I quoted Groucho Marx. Simply put, why would I want to belong to a country club that would have me as a member?" Schneider explained. "Cancel culture is very short-sighted and it's very much against everything I believe in concerning freedom of speech and freedom of expression. I'm looking forward to the day when the wind finally comes out of the sails of all that nonsense."

"My grandparents used to say, 'Give them enough rope and they will hang themselves,'" he added. "And you know, I saw something on Facebook that was just astonishing. Someone had put a Bible verse with praying hands like the picture your grandparents used to have in their homes. And over this picture, it said, 'Some may find these words and this picture offensive.' But you have to



click on it to see the picture. It was praying hands and it mentioned 'God.' There's just no way in the world that a free society is going to allow that to continue any longer. It has gotten way out of hand."

Despite his frustration at cancel culture, Schneider encouraged people to take pride in their country and beliefs.

"Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness – they are at the foundation of our country," he said. "That's why people from all over the world are trying to come to this country. I do believe we are the city on a hill. We are the living example of a free society. That's why I believe we have to go against the notion that we are

not a free society. That we are not free to show praying hands and mention the word 'God' on a public platform. We've got to eliminate that."

"It's not going to happen on its own," he continued. "I believe freedom is something that is maintained and achieved. Our national anthem reminds us of that. Our flag must wave over the land of the free and home of the brave. It's up to each one of us to make sure that remains. The world is depending upon that. We are what people look up to as a free society. We are a country of opportunity, love, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That's what's so great about America. It gives the world something to strive for."

How to Know What is the Right Thing to Do



CLINT
DECKER

President and
Evangelist
with Great
Awakenings, Inc.

hopefortoday

How do we know information that we are reading, watching, listening to or being told is accurate? Maybe we will say, "Because it comes from my mom", "It sounds believable", "Everyone is saying it", "I read it on the internet." Since we live in a time of disinformation, fact-checkers and fake news, how do we know what is true and thereby make important decisions, comments or accept certain beliefs on things?

As we close out 2021 and begin 2022, let us call out for wisdom and seek it like vast treasures hidden in our backyard. The Bible speaks of people who "... have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil" (Hebrews 5:14). Discernment is a form of wisdom. It causes a person to stop and consider, and provides understanding and good judgement.

When what is true could be false and what is false could be true, and the implications of such are costly, we need discernment. When the pressure is on from family, friends or others, we need discernment. When our job, health, finances, or our very lives are on the line, we need discernment. It helps us see more clearly what is truth versus error and good versus evil, so we can wisely respond to what is before us.

How do we practice godly discernment? 1. Pray. Ask God to provide you with discernment or understanding over your situation in order to make a wise decision. 2. Read the Scriptures. It is the source for wisdom, where God will show you something in His Word to give needed guidance. 3. Identify the costs. There are consequences to decisions, so identify what they are for deciding or believing one way or the other. 4. Identify pressures. List out the various pressure points you are feeling to go this direction or that. 5. Research. Take time and effort to read, ask questions, learn and gain as much information as you can. 6. Getting advice. Search out a few people you would consider to be wise, maybe with differing points of view, and get their input. 7. Trust God and act. After you have done all this, there comes a time to stop dithering, place



your complete faith in God and make a decision.

Godly discernment is a faithful guard, protecting us against lies, deception and manipulation. It can literally save our life and the lives of those whom we love. But there is a high cost. It means we question things when we are discouraged from doing so. It means we may have to separate from the crowd, while we go one way and they another. Though the cost is great, the benefits are worth it. There is a peace that abounds knowing it is well with our soul when we have chosen to do right, no matter the outcome. There is also a sense of confident trust in God, knowing we have obeyed Him, as best we understand, and He will take care of the unknown.

How do we obtain such a form of wisdom, that the Bible calls more valu-

able than silver or gold? It comes through a covenant relationship with Jesus. He is the very embodiment of wisdom and discernment. When we turn from our own understanding and disobedience, then call upon Him with all our heart, He will save us and give us the gift of Himself and His wisdom. A prayer for you - "Lord God, open the eyes of the confused, frustrated, fearful and anxious. Give them godly discernment in the situation they face. Turn them towards yourself, for you are the very wisdom they so desperately need. 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

Why “wokeness” is a threat to Christianity

In 416 BC, during the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta, Athens decided to attack the neutral island of Melos. When the Melians protested they had done Athens no wrong, the Athenians replied, “The strong do what they can; the weak suffer what they must.” The Melians were starved into surrender, their men were killed, and their women and children were sold into slavery.

None of this was unusual in the ancient world. The strong, it was supposed, had every right to dominate the weak. Cruelty, rape, torture, and slaughter were ordinary means of enforcing power. Neither the gods nor the moral codes opposed dominations. Atheist historian Tom Holland, describes his feelings about the Greco-Roman world this way: “It was not just the extremes of callousness that unsettled me, but the complete lack of any sense that the poor or the weak might have the slightest intrinsic value.”

So what changed? As Holland notes, the difference was Christianity.

Christians and Jews believed that all persons were made in the image of God. Thus, every person had intrinsic worth and dignity, no matter their race, ethnicity, gender, or strength. On this basis, oppression of the poor and weak was condemned. Neither might nor wealth made right. Christianity further emphasized the spiritual and moral equality of all people. Not only do we all share the same humanity, but we all suffer from

the same problem (sin) and are in need of the same solution (salvation through Jesus).

Because of these ideas, Christianity is the sole historical source of concepts now taken for granted: human dignity, human equality, and universal human rights. As not only Tom Holland but other prominent atheists such as Jürgen Habermas and Luc Ferry admit, these ideas are at the root of our modern concern for the poor and oppressed.

And this is why it's accurate to call “wokeness” a Christian heresy.

“Heresy” comes from the Greek verb *hairein*, which means to choose. The idea is, heresy is the result of choosing one thing that is true and then running with it until it distorts everything else.

“Wokeness,” a way of seeing the world built on critical theory, fastens onto the Christian idea that oppression is evil, but makes it the sole significant fact about humanity and society, while rejecting so much else that Christianity teaches — original sin, forgiveness, and salvation.

It should not be difficult to see why various expressions of critical theory and “woke” rhetoric resonates with so many Christians. The appeal is rooted in legitimate biblical concerns about the poor, the marginalized, the oppressed, and the potential misuse of power. However, it fails on many other levels.

First, the anthropology of critical theory misunderstands who we are by assuming that the only relevant fact about us is where we fit within the vari-

ous categories of oppression. We are the group we belong to, which serves a social role as either oppressor or oppressed. As such, this theory rejects any universals that unite humanity, including the image of God.

Second, the understanding of sin, or what's wrong with the human condition, is limited to oppression. In this view, oppressors are guilty and the oppressed are innocent. The universality of human guilt before God, that we all are broken and sinful, that we are all in need of forgiveness and redemption is replaced by a moral reckoning that is dependent on which group we belong to. Human identity, human nature, and human problems are all flattened onto a single spectrum of oppression.

Given its failure to diagnose sin, it's not surprising that critical theories lack an adequate understanding of salvation. At best, a semblance of acceptance is offered to those who accept its worldview, but even then, the guilt of certain groups and the moral superiority of other groups is fixed and perpetual. This also means that forgiveness and reconciliation are effectively ruled out a priori. Even for the oppressed, there is no path for healing; no bearing one another's burdens; no easing the burden of pain by forgiving another.

In the end, wokeness is built on a worldview without salvation and offers an eschatology with no real hope. Though the proclaimed goal is to end oppression, it's what the late sociologist



Philip Rieff called a “deathwork,” dedicated to tearing down things but unable to build, or offer, anything better. Advocates of critical race theory, for example, argue that although race is a cultural construct, racism is an inevitable and irredeemable trait of certain groups and society.

They cannot offer a vision of the world in which this sin is defeated or redeemed, much less one in which the guilty are forgiven and restored. The best that can be hoped for is to replace one set of powers with another.

Playing off of legitimate concerns about power and corruption, concerns first introduced to the world by a Christian vision of life and the world, critical theories push these ideas to the point of reframing the Gospel.

The real problems with race and injustice in America need to be addressed. However, any expression of critical theory fails even as an analytical tool for Christians because it is built on a flawed and contrary worldview.

—John Stonestreet is President of the Colson Center for Christian Worldview, and radio host of *BreakPoint*, a daily national radio program providing thought-provoking commentaries on current events and life issues from a biblical worldview. John holds degrees from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (IL) and Bryan College (TN), and is the co-author of *Making Sense of Your World: A Biblical Worldview*.

BreakPoint is a program of the Colson Center for Christian Worldview. *BreakPoint* commentaries offer incisive content people can't find anywhere else; content that cuts through the fog of relativism and the news cycle with truth and compassion. Founded by Chuck Colson (1931 – 2012) in 1991 as a daily radio broadcast, *BreakPoint* provides a Christian perspective on today's news and trends. Today, you can get it in written and a variety of audio formats: on the web, the radio, or your favorite podcast app on the go.

A New Year Commitment to Excellence

The holidays and new year are a perfect time to reflect and commit/recommit ourselves wholeheartedly to Jesus. Don't allow your past to define you and your future! God delights in comebacks and loves 'do-overs' with people who humbly come to Him and ask for forgiveness. People like me and you!

Throughout the Bible, Jesus chose people for significant leadership roles and to be His apostles who messed up, had horrible pasts, committed murder and adultery, along with various other sinful acts. If the Lord can forgive these fallen men within the Bible and renew their hearts and minds, he can certainly forgive our mess-ups and help us reach our full potential. Romans 3:23 says, “All of us have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God.” And 1 John 1:9 encourages us, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Friends, I believe we are living in a world of compromise all around us each day. I recently wrote a book, “The Discipline of Consistency in a World of Compromise” and will be sharing different excerpts from the book through the coming months. The lead-



ership model I write about is a Christ-centered leadership style called Consistent-Centric Leadership. There are 10 pillars which I will touch on in my “Consistency Corner” each month which include the disciplines of trust, character, accountability, integrity, humility, wisdom, listening, persistence, determination, and authenticity.

In the meantime, Happy New Year and continue to Be the Difference!

—Frank Armato serves as an executive, entrepreneur, author and consultant within the disciples of leadership development, purpose-casting, creating cultural excellence, and personal/professional development. Learn more at www.ETHOSCOE.com or contact him at Frank@ETHOSCOE.com

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“I placed my son for adoption 20 years ago. Words can’t describe what I felt when we met.”

At the age of 15, I became pregnant and chose life and adoption to give my son the life I never had and the family he deserved.

Even before I was pregnant, I knew that adoption was an act of love and found it fascinating how someone could become a parent because of the selfless act of someone else. After finding out I was pregnant and realizing I could not parent my child in my situation even if I wanted to, I decided to make the most out of the situation.

My whole world was collapsing. The cocky young girl that thought she was invincible was gone.

My religion looked down on pregnancy out of wedlock. And I knew what I had to do even in the midst of despair. I knew I could never offer my son what was rightfully his, a life full of opportunities. A home where both mom and dad wanted him.

My parents never supported my decision, because in my culture that is considered child abandonment. You never leave one of your kind behind. But I went ahead

with the adoption process and stuck to it even though the father and half of my family didn’t support it. I knew it in my heart it had to be this way.

The day of the adoption came. I found myself holding my baby, filled with confusion, indecision, and doubting myself — about to sign all my rights away to someone I hardly knew but who wanted a son so desperately. I had to step back and pray, because I could not physically sign the papers in the state of confusion and despair I was in.

I gave my baby to my sister and walked to another room.

Praying was hard. The voices in my head were so loud I could not get a sentence out. But I persisted, and finally... there was peace in my soul. I knew right then and there this was going to change lives — not only mine but the adoptive parents’... and most importantly, my son’s life.

I went ahead and signed the papers without hesitation. I kissed my baby boy one last time, and walked to the adoptive

mother and father anxiously awaiting their son. As I passed my baby to her, I could see and feel the joy in her as tears ran down her cheeks and she trembled ecstatically. Then, just as she said, “He’s just like in my dreams!” my world collapsed.

The evident contrast of pain and joy was in that room. The pain of loss for one mother and the joy of another.

Just like in life, there is an opposite to everything. We must experience both pain and joy in life to know what real happiness is.

For years, letters and pictures held this hole in my chest ever so present. And I watched him grow away from me, but was happy of the decision to choose to give him more.

A month ago — almost 21 years later — I decided to reach out to him, and to my surprise he wanted to meet me. He wanted to know more about me, to learn about this part of him he knew about, but truly had no idea about.

This past weekend, I met him at the air-



port and was able to hug him, kiss him, and caress his hair... just like I did 21 years ago. Time had passed by, but my love had never diminished. I was whole again! We talked for hours!

He thanked me for the life I gave him and for the sacrifice I made so he could be the man he is today. Words cannot

describe the joy I felt being around him and reconnecting with him.

There is love and only love when you choose life and adoption. There’s the opportunity for lifelong bonds and relationships. “Ends are not bad things, they just mean that something else is about to begin.” Mine has just begun!

Session offered for after-effects of abortion

Another session of the study Binding up The Broken Hearted, a study written specifically for women who suffer from the after-effects of abortion, will begin in January 2022. All the women who lead these sessions have had an abortion and have received healing from God’s Word.

For more information, contact local Healing Hearts representative Shelly Brush, Topeka First Southern Baptist Church, Topeka, KS, at shelly.b@healinghearts.org

All communication is confidential and secure.

The power of an ultrasound to change a mind and save a life should never be underestimated

It happened when I was scrolling through my Facebook feed one day.

In between posts about the latest football games, I saw it—and it melted my heart.

There was an Ultrasound of not one, but two babies—the latest additions to my Facebook friend’s family.

I have seen my share of Ultrasounds over the years—my darling daughter’s was the most memorable. Lying on the exam table, I looked up at the screen and saw my little one playing with her toes while in utero.

It was an incredible and unforgettable sight.

But I believe this was the first time I have viewed an Ultrasound of twins. The precious preborn babies were clearly visible—and their official age was 14 weeks’ gestation.

In that moment, gazing at that image, it was hard for me to fathom the idea that anyone would view them as unworthy of care and too young to be guaranteed the right to life. It was also hard to accept the fact that babies where I live, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, can be legally aborted up to 24 weeks’ gestation—10 weeks past the age of the twins in question. It is even more alarming to think about the babies who are aborted up to the moment of birth.

A picture is worth a thousand statistics. It is one thing to hear about nearly one million preborn children being aborted each year. It is quite another to see a prenatal portrait of a baby who lacks protection under the law.

I wonder how many other minds and hearts that Ultrasound touched. From the comments below the photo, it was clear that Facebook friends were astounded at



the amazing image.

And it is no wonder that studies show that, when pregnant women are shown an ultrasound of their babies inside supportive pregnancy resource centers, the vast majority will choose life for their children.

Thus it is abundantly obvious why abortion centers do their best to hide Ultrasounds from their abortion-minded clients. Once a woman sees that miraculous image, her tenuous bond to her child is highly likely to grow stronger. The Ultrasound literally puts a face—a distinctively human face—on what the abortion industry cavalierly refers to as the “choice.”

The experience of seeing that Facebook

Ultrasound has also left me to wonder, “How many twins are aborted each year in our country? How many times is the tragedy of abortion actually doubled through the deaths of two preborn babies at one time?”

In the words of one clergyman, this could be considered a “two-for-one temptation.” Twice the tragedy. Twice the heartache for the mother left behind.

Never underestimate the power of an Ultrasound to change a mind and to save a life. And consider using your Facebook feed as a way to celebrate life at all its stages and at all phases of development.

— Maria Gallagher

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Annual Rally and March for Life to be held in Topeka



Kansans for Life will hold the Annual Rally and March for Life in Topeka on Tuesday, January 25, 2022. The event has drawn thousands in the past.

The day will feature numerous events including educational workshops for teens and adults, interdenominational worship service, and a rally on the south steps of the State Capitol Building.

The special day is in memory of the 49th anniversary of Roe V. Wade that legalized abortion. Since that day in 1973, over 65 million babies have been aborted in the United States.

Registration for the march and rally runs from 8:30 a.m. until 11 and will include coffee and donuts in the hallway just south of the state capitol Visitor Center inside the north entrance. Exhibit booths will be in the first-floor rotunda. Donated baby items can also be dropped off there.

Free workshops will be held from 9:00 to 10:30 in the Capitol Visitor Center auditorium on several topics including how to lobby your legislator and understanding the Value Them Both Amendment

A Catholic mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. at the Topeka Performing Arts Center. A non-denominational prayer service will also take place at 10:30 at the Visitor Center classroom and auditorium.

In addition to the March and Rally, events include, pro-life educational

booths, capitol tours, visiting legislators, and attending general legislative sessions and committees. Featured rally speakers are Executive Director of Democrats for Life of America Kristen Day and Kansas Republican National Committee Woman Kim Borchers. There will also be a Catholic youth event at the Topeka Performing Arts Center (TPAC) in the morning hosted by the Diocese of Kansas City in Kansas.

Lunch by donation will be held between 11:30 and 2:30 in the basement of Mater Dei Assumption Church nearby at 8th & Jackson.

The March for Life begins at Noon and goes from TPAC at 8th & Quincy to the south Capitol steps. The Rally for Life will run from 12:15 to 1:15 with elected officials and special speakers on hand.

Considerable attention will be given to the Value Them Both Amendment that will be on the August 2022 primary ballot.

“On April 26, 2019, the Kansas Supreme Court took power from voters and found – created – a nearly unlimited ‘right to abortion’ in our 1859 State Constitution,” stated Mary Kay Culp. Prior to this ruling, through widely supported limitations, Kansas abortion rates had been reduced by 43 percent since 1999 and partial birth abortions had been completely banned.

“Essentially, women and their preborn babies have now been abandoned to an

continue and threatens these lifesaving limits:

- Parental consent for minors seeking abortion
- Informed consent, alerting women to potential health risks
- 24-hour waiting period
- Abortion clinic sanitation and safety standards

To do this, the pro-life community will need the support of a two-thirds majority in both the Kansas House and Senate. From there, voters will weigh in at the ballot box. A simple majority of votes is all that’s necessary once the amendment is on the ballot.

Kansans for Life and like-minded

organizations are working to pass the amendment to the Kansas Constitution, and are encouraging Kansans to continue to contact legislators and urge them to support the Value Them Both Amendment in August.

The Annual Rally and March for Life in Topeka will bring considerable attention to the issue this year.

KFL will host actor Jim Caviezel, who portrayed Jesus in The Passion, and abortion survivor Melissa Ohden at banquets held in Overland Park and Wichita in February.

For more information visit www.kfl.org.

–Dwight Widaman



Tuesday, Jan. 25 Kansas State Capitol

8:30am–11am Registration

9-10am Workshops

10:30am Non-denominational Service

10:30am Catholic Mass at TPAC

Noon March to Capitol

12:15pm Rally • 2:30–3:30pm Workshops

In addition to the March and Rally, events include pro-life educational booths, capitol tours, visiting legislators, and attending general legislative sessions and committees. Featured rally speakers are Executive Director of Democrats for Life of America Kristen Day and Kansas Republican National Committee Woman Kim Borchers. Catholic youth event at Topeka Performing Arts Center (TPAC) in the morning hosted by the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas.

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The Top Pro-Life Stories of 2021

2021 has been an historic year for life in America.

At national, state and local levels, pro-life leaders took action to protect unborn babies from abortion in ways that could significantly change the future — not only of laws and policies but also of generations of children and families for years to come.

States like Texas and South Carolina passed laws to protect unborn babies by banning abortions once their heartbeat is detectable, and local cities and counties passed pro-life ordinances and resolutions declaring their support for unborn babies' right to life. A record 106 pro-life state laws also passed in 2021, according to the Guttmacher Institute, including total abortion bans that could protect tens of thousands of unborn babies every year if Roe v. Wade is overturned.

At the national level, pro-life lawmakers in Congress managed to stave off radical pro-abortion legislation to get rid of the Hyde Amendment and force taxpayers to fund abortions, and the U.S. Supreme Court heard a major challenge to Roe from Mississippi.

First, and perhaps most significant, is the Texas heartbeat law, which prohibits abortions once an unborn baby's heartbeat is detectable, about six weeks of pregnancy. It is the first pre-viability abortion ban that the Supreme Court has allowed to go into effect since Roe in 1973, and

pro-life leaders estimate thousands of unborn babies' lives already have been saved.

Follow LifeNews on the MeWe social media network for the latest pro-life news free from Facebook's censorship!

The heartbeat law has the potential to save tens of thousands of unborn babies from abortion every year. In 2020, about 54,000 unborn babies were aborted in Texas, and about 85 percent happened after six weeks of pregnancy, according to state health statistics.

Pro-abortion groups still are challenging the law in court, but the Supreme Court watered down their case in a December ruling and Texas abortion businesses say they may be forced to close permanently if the law remains in effect much longer.

Second, the U.S. Senate has been a buffer against radical pro-abortion legislation thanks, in part, to Democrat Sen. Joe Manchin, of West Virginia. Democrats who control the U.S. House and Senate want to get rid of the Hyde Amendment and force taxpayers to fund abortions, a widely unpopular move; but Manchin has remained steadfastly pro-life, joining Republicans in opposing legislation like President Joe Biden's Build Back Better bill and the misnamed Women's Health Protection Act, both of which would force taxpayers to fund abortions.

Third, some Catholic bishops have

become increasingly vocal about the evil of abortion and the supposedly Catholic politicians like Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi who support it. They have expressed serious concerns that these politicians, through their prominence and actions, are creating "scandal" for the church by making it seem acceptable to be Catholic and support the killing of unborn babies in abortions.

In particular, San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, Tyler, Texas Bishop Joseph Strickland and Cardinal Raymond Burke, have been strong in their insistence that Biden and Pelosi repent and stop supporting abortion if they want to continue to receive Communion.

Fourth, while many federal politicians are working to expand abortions, local government leaders are doing the opposite. The year brought a wealth of grassroots support for unborn babies' right to life through Sanctuary City for the Unborn ordinances and pro-life resolutions in dozens of municipalities in Texas, Arkansas, Ohio, North Carolina and Nebraska.

These include more than 40 Sanctuary City for the Unborn ordinances in Texas, Nebraska and Ohio that ban abortions within city limits. These ordinances are enforceable legislation that protect unborn babies by prohibiting abortions within city limits.

More than a dozen Arkansas municipi-



palities also passed pro-life resolutions that declare their cities and towns to be sanctuaries for the unborn.

Fifth, the actions of the U.S. Supreme Court suggest there are strong reasons to hope for a better future for unborn babies in 2022.

Not only did the justices refuse to block the Texas heartbeat law twice, they also heard a major Mississippi abortion case, Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health, in December that directly challenges Roe v. Wade.

Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch told the high court that its abortion decisions are "egregiously wrong" and states should be allowed to protect

unborn babies from abortion again.

"This court should overrule Roe and Casey," she told the court earlier this year. "They have proven hopelessly unworkable. Nothing but a full break from those cases can stem the harms they have caused."

A decision from the Supreme Court is unlikely until next year, but, given the conservative majority on the court and its unusual decision to allow the Texas law to remain in effect, pro-life advocates are more hopeful than ever that the victories in 2021 will lead to even greater victories for life in 2022.

—From LifesiteNews.

Report: Texas women are traveling to 'crowded' clinics in Kansas

"Pregnant people" in Texas who are seeking an abortion are traveling to "crowded" clinics in Kansas to access the procedure, The Texas Tribune reported recently.

On Sept. 1, a new law in Texas, S.B. 8, took effect, which banned all abortions in the state after fetal heartbeat detection. This occurs at roughly six weeks gestation. Last month, the Supreme Court upheld the law after abortion clinics in the state and the Justice Department filed lawsuits against it.

"Pregnant people who are unable to get an abortion in Texas due to the new restrictions are choosing to travel out of state for the procedure," the Tribune's report stated. "While clinics in neighboring states like Oklahoma and Louisiana fill up with Texas patients, pregnant Texans are finding appointments at the



Trust Women health clinic in Wichita, Kansas. Up to half of the patients at Trust Women's Wichita clinic are from out of state, with a large proportion from

Texas."

Reporters from the Tribune visited Trust Women's clinic in Wichita to see firsthand the Texans visiting the clinic. In

a video detailing the visit, the Tribune said that employees from both Trust Women locations, in Wichita and Oklahoma City, say they've been "inundated with pregnant Texans seeking abortions."

Ashley Brink, the clinic's director, spoke to the Tribune and said that they schedule 80 to 100 patients a week. She said one-third to one-half of the patients that they see are from another state, mainly Texas and Oklahoma.

Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly's actions during the pandemic had already turned Kansas into a "regional destination for abortion," due to her deeming abortions "essential services."

"In the abortion industry's own words, 'the floodgates opened' when Laura Kelly deemed abortions more essential than Easter Sunday services,"

commented Shannon Pahls, Executive Director of the Kansas Republican Party. "She used a pandemic to make Kansas an 'abortion destination.' Not only do Laura Kelly's actions show how out of touch she is with Kansas values, but also demonstrate how beholden she is to the radical pro-abortion groups who fund her campaign. Kansans reject this abortion extremism and are eager to elect someone who will protect the unborn and their mothers."

Kansas Department of Health and Environment records show that last year 289 patients from Texas and 277 patients from Oklahoma got abortions in Kansas, compared to 25 from Texas and 85 from Oklahoma in 2019.

—Madeline Leesman / townhall.com
contributed to this report

FDA Removes Longstanding Safeguard for Women, Endorsing Dangerous DIY Abortion Via Pill

The abortion industry's mantra when fighting every reasonable regulation of their business practices is "abortion should be between a woman and her doctor."

Now, after successfully lobbying the FDA to remove the longstanding in-person physician requirement for the administration of abortion pills, the abortion industry has proven once again that it is more concerned about profits and expediency than the safety of women.

"Considering the significant documented risks to a woman's body from the chemical abortion cocktail, the abortion industry's claim that physician oversight is unnecessary rings hollow," said

Danielle Underwood, Kansas for Life Director of Communications. "This places women in the precarious position of monitoring their own potentially fatal complications of a 'DIY abortion' and knowing when to seek emergency help."

The FDA's most recent Adverse Events Summary for chemical abortions reports serious risks for women from the two-pill process, noting that 26 women have died after using the chemical cocktail that induces death for the preborn baby. Since 2000, over 1,000 women have been hospitalized for potentially fatal complications like missed ectopic pregnancies.

"The abortion industry knows of over 4,000 women who have reported severe complications after using the abortion

pill including hospitalizations, needed blood transfusions and severe infections like sepsis. These complications all occurred during physician-supervised chemical abortions, when they could be identified early and medical advice provided quickly. No one is certain of how many adverse reactions go unreported," said Underwood.

Even under "normal circumstances," the abortion pill causes bleeding for an average of 9-16 days but may last up to 30 days. According to the FDA, "excessive vaginal bleeding usually requires treatment by uterotonics, vasoconstrictor drugs, curettage, administration of saline infusions, and/or blood transfusions."



In Kansas, a bi-partisan majority of the Kansas legislature passed the abortion facility sanitation and inspection law in 2011, which included a safety protocol for the administration of abortion pills by requiring in-person physician administration as an important safeguard for women. This law was just struck down in

December as a direct consequence of the Kansas Supreme Court's ruling in Hodes & Nauser v. Schmidt, which created a virtually unlimited and unregulatable abortion industry in our state, putting women at risk of serious health complications from dangerous do-it-yourself abortions.

This underscores, Underwood said, the critical importance of voters passing the VALUE THEM BOTH Amendment on August 2, 2022, to help protect existing state laws that have safeguarded women from an unregulated abortion industry.

Twitter request for pro-abortion stories receives flood of pro-life stories

The political website FiveThirtyEight sent out a Christmas Day tweet asking for followers to share their abortion stories from the last 10 years. It was an attempt to showcase that abortion is common and therefore acceptable, and that restrictions on abortion are harmful. But the site likely didn't get what it was expecting, as pro-life responses flooded in.

At the ultrasound for my 2nd pregnancy we were told our baby had Down Syndrome and her heart was incompatible with life. They encouraged us to end the pregnancy. She's completely healthy.

pic.twitter.com/RgR8haX15s
— Sarah (@sarah_wtx) December 26, 2021

One Twitter user, Sarah, responded with a photo of her smiling daughter. She wrote, "At the ultrasound for my 2nd pregnancy we were told our baby had Down Syndrome and her heart was incompatible with life. They encouraged us to end the pregnancy. She's completely healthy."

Another parent wrote, "We had an NIPT test at 10 weeks which detected Trisomy 21. 20 week ultrasound revealed ventricular septal defect with aortic override. We were adamant we were keeping her no matter what. And she's amazing."

I found myself unexpectedly pregnant at the age of 22 in my last semester of college with my daughter. Her father and I decided to marry, and she is still the most unexpected blessing in



our lives. I cannot imagine a world without her joyful presence.

https://t.co/fhtUpX3eiH
— Robin (@robincaphill) December 26, 2021

Robin replied to the question, say-

ing, "I found myself unexpectedly pregnant at the age of 22 in my last semester of college with my daughter. Her father and I decided to marry, and she is still the most unexpected blessing in our lives. I cannot imagine a world without her joyful presence."

Nekochan replied about abortion regret, revealing, "I know three women that have had abortions. All three were talked into it by someone else. All three say it's the biggest regret they have in their lives."

One heartbroken father wrote, "Does years of psychological pain, depression, regret, guilt, and anger because you had to stand helplessly by as someone legally murdered your daughter, count as an abortion story?"

One woman revealed her own abortions and the regret she has suffered. "Had multiple abortions," she wrote. "Convinced myself they were just 'cells'. Got older, got married, had a child. When I saw my child being born, I realized what awful, horrific choices I had made. Forgive us God, for we know not what we do."

Another woman who underwent an abortion shared her heartbreak as well. "Yes, I do," she replied. "I experienced an unplanned pregnancy at 18 and chose to have an abortion. It was a traumatic experience and I still wonder all the time who my son would be today. Stop telling women abortion is their ultimate freedom. I never felt empowered by it."

My mom was raped and faced family pressure to abort, but she chose to keep me and raised me alone. 5 months ago my wife and I just had our first child and none of this would have happened had she followed through with people's "suggestions".

— Dean Cullinane (@DeanCullinane) December 26, 2021

A young man conceived in rape commented, "My mom was raped and

faced family pressure to abort, but she chose to keep me and raised me alone. 5 months ago my wife and I had our first child and none of this would have happened had she followed through with people's 'suggestions'."

Lupa Smailliw replied to FiveThirtyEight, saying, "I used to run routes for a biomedical reference lab,

against abortion. One pro-abortion man even wrote, "Got a girl pregnant at 17. She aborted and now im walking around with a good job not paying child support." His remarks are nearly identical to those parodied in the #ProChoiceMen Live Action video here.

Pediatric neurosurgeon Dr. Michael

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart."
Jeremiah 1:5



Triangle Park headquartered. I had several stops on my route that involved picking up aborted fetuses. [...] the staff would arrange the fetuses in funny positions and laugh, leaving them there so I would see before getting them ready for pick up. These were my friends. I laughed along with them. Years later, it occurred to me the horror of what they were doing. They made themselves laugh in order to dehumanize that that they knew were human, but wanted to believe otherwise. I hope they eventually came to the same conclusion I did."

As these pro-life comments streamed in, abortion advocates became defensive, ridiculing and mocking the pro-lifers who spoke out

Egnor wrote about the Twitter thread, saying, "[E]very day I treat kids (and adults) who were prime candidates for abortion, but by the grace of God escaped the abortionist's tools. [...] Even for children with serious diagnoses, the outlook is often much better than the abortion-happy medical profession tells families in crisis."

He added, "Shame on FiveThirtyEight for publishing this abortion endorsement on Christmas Day of all days. Christmas is, after all, the day Christians celebrate the Incarnation of the Lord of life, and it's heartening to read how many people in FiveThirtyEight's Twitter feed chose life instead."

—Live Action News Service

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NOTO offers continuing activities during winter months

Normal events continue in NOTO during the winter months.

First Friday Art Walk hours are 10 am to 9 pm. Visit the NOTO Arts Center to pick up a map of participating businesses and view the newest exhibit at the Morris Gallery.

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



The NOTO Arts District has become an attraction to art lovers and history buffs alike with beautiful scenes of art and history. The restaurants, locally owned shops, art galleries and studios have become a favorite art walk destination.

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

Make plans now to attend the NOTO Arts and Antiques Festival in March, featuring an array of workshops offered by local experts.

Deadlines for applications to exhibit are in February.

For more information visit <https://exploreNOTO.org>



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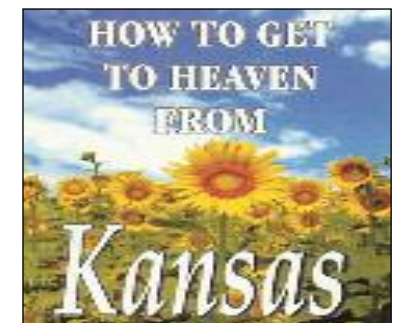
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More important than living in KANSAS is where you will live forever. Just as you would look at a map of KANSAS to find your way, so you must look at the Bible to find your way to heaven. The Bible says, "Narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life,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

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

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

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

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

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

the events calendar

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

CHRIS TOMLIN – Feb. 25, T-Mobile Center, KCMO.

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

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

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

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@tsopl.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.

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

TOPEKA SWING DANCE – Tuesdays, 7-8pm, Swing Dance Lessons, no partner required, Jayhawk Theatre, 720 SW Jackson. www.topekasingdance.com.

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

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 EVERGY PLAZA – Second Fridays

TOPEKA ACAPELLA 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.

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BINDING UP THE BROKEN HEARTED – Jan. sessions offered for women who suffer from the after-effects of abortion. All the women who lead these sessions have had an abortion and have received healing from God's Word. For more information, contact local Healing Hearts representative Shelly Brush, Topeka First Southern Baptist Church, Topeka, KS, at shelly.b@healinghearts.org. All communication is confidential and secure.

READING THE ENTIRE BIBLE OUT LOUD – Jan. 8, 1-3pm, Kansas Capitol. The Entire Word of God will be read out loud simultaneously, like a symphony as 170 readers spread throughout the capital, joining other states on the same day. For more information, contact: jana@cultureshield.com or call 316-516-0777

CAR SEAT CHECKUP EVENT – Jan. 8, 9am-12pm, Topeka Fire Station #5, 720 SW 21st St. Allow 20-30 minutes for each seat.

TOPEKA FARM SHOW – Jan. 11-13, 9am-5pm. Stormont Vail Events Ctr. Bigger than ever!

C5Alive "POWER" LUNCHEON – Jan. 13, 11:30-1 at The peak, 1930 SW Gage. Featured Speaker is Pastor Doyle Pryor.

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, Feb. 10, 11:30-1, at Fairlawn Plaza.

DC MARCH FOR LIFE – Jan. 21, National Mall, Washington, DC. The March for Life is an inspiring, peaceful rally of women, men, young people, and children from all across the country. Every year, tens of thousands of pro-lifers converge on the National Mall and march on Capitol Hill on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling which legalized abortion in all 50 states.

BLOOD DRIVE – Jan. 22, 8:30am – 1:30pm, Susanna Wesley United Methodist Church. The Red Cross is experiencing the worst blood shortage in over a decade. Can you help? Register to donate at www.redcrossblood.org, using zip code 66614 to locate the donor appointments available on Saturday, January 22 at Susanna Wesley UMC. To thank donors for helping during a time when the blood supply is at historically low levels, the Red Cross will automatically enter all donors for a chance to win two tickets to Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles! The package includes two tickets to Super Bowl LVI, round-trip airfare to Los Angeles, three-night hotel accommodations (Feb. 11-14, 2022), plus a \$500 gift card for expenses.

RALLY AND MARCH FOR LIFE – Jan. 25, Capitol Building, Downtown Topeka.

8:30 a.m. – REGISTRATION – Get info on legislative activities, maps, lobbying, capitol tours, pro-life booths and more

9:00 a.m. – WORKSHOPS – 30-minute educational workshop sessions provided by KFL in Capitol Visitor Center auditorium

10:30 a.m. – NON-DENOMINATIONAL RELIGIOUS SERVICE

10:30 a.m. – Catholic Mass with Kansas Bishops at TPAC

11:55 a.m. – MARCH FOR LIFE from TPAC to south steps of the state Capitol

12:15 p.m. – Rally for Life on the south Capitol steps
2:30 p.m. – WORKSHOPS – 30-minute educational workshop sessions provided by KFL. All workshops will take place in the Capitol Visitor Center and are no charge. Everyone is welcome for lunch any time between 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. for free-will donation in the Mater Dei Assumption Catholic Church basement. Mater Dei, 204 SW 8th Ave., is north and across the street from the Capitol. If weather is a problem, the rally will be held on the 1st floor rotunda of the Capitol. Events include, pro-life educational booths, capitol tours, visiting legislators, and attending general legislative sessions and committees. Featured rally speakers are Executive Director of Democrats for Life of America

Kristen Day and Kansas Republican National Committee Woman Kim Borchers. There will also be a Catholic youth event at the Topeka Performing Arts Center (TPAC) in the morning hosted by the Diocese of Kansas City in Kansas. For details about the capitol building and parking information, visit www.kshs.org/p/kansas-state-capitol-plan-your-visit/18649. 785-383-8636 or 913-406-4446. For more info go to kfl.org.

BLEEDING KANSAS – Sundays from Jan. 30-Mar. 6, 2pm, Constitution Hall Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Leocompton. A series of talks and dramatic interpretations on the violent territorial and civil war history of Kansas 1854-1865. Actors will portray Kansans from this turbulent era. Adm: \$3 adults. Children five & younger free.

MONSTER BUCK CLASSIC – Jan. 28-30, Stormont Vail Events Center.

KFL VALENTINE BANQUET WITH JIM CAVIEZEL – Feb. 15, 6pm. Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Blvd, OPKS. For more information go to kfl.org

KFL VALENTINE BANQUET WITH JIM CAVIEZEL – Feb. 16, 6pm. Hartman Arena, Wichita. For more information go to kfl.org

TOPEKA HOME SHOW – Feb. 18-30, Stormont Vail

Events Center.

23RD METRO VOICE MIDWEST CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & COLLEGE EXPO – Feb. 26, 10:00 am-12:00 pm. Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall, Kansas City, MO. FREE SEMINARS. 50 Christian Colleges from 17 states. 816-524-4522. MetroVoiceNews.com

7th ANNUAL EASTERFEST: TOPEKA EASTER PARADE & FUN FAIR – Apr. 16, 10am-3pm, North Kansas Avenue & Garfield Park. Topeka's annual Easter Parade will begin at 10am at the tracks in NOTO and proceed north on Kansas Avenue past Garfield Park. Egg Hunt begins right after the parade at the playground in Garfield Park. Food Trucks will be on hand and the Family Fun Fair, Vendor Market with Bingo, and Health Fair will be 10-3 in Garfield Park, in the Shelter House and in the Gym, including vendor booths, children's games, food, facepainting, pony rides, laser tag, bubble soccer, cake walk and more. Bands, gymnastics, ballet and other entertainment will be on hand. For info: info@C5Alive.org or 640-6399.

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Featuring Pastor Doyle Pryor
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Save the Dates!

- Feb. 10: Valentine Luncheon at Fairlawn Plaza
- Mar. 10: POWER Luncheon
- Apr. 14: POWER Luncheon
- Apr. 16: EASTERFEST

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



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.flocritkans.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 tgstopeka.org.

KINGDOM ADVISORS TOPEKA AREA STUDY GROUP - 3rd Thu., 11:30am, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. Christian financial professionals: financial planners, accountants, attorney's & insurance agents invited. kingdomadvisors.org 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 Wanamaker. Doing Good for Others: Knitting & Crocheting for Local Charities, free yarn, needles, hooks & patterns. All are welcome. Anne, 272-9249 or kittens812@sbcglobal.net

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

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

TOPEKA GREAT LIGHT AGLOW - For meeting info contact Vickie Lynch at greatlighttopeka@gmail.com.

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS - Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging provides an opportunity for caregivers to get together and share their ideas and feelings. 2nd Monday of the month, 3:30pm, Topeka public library, Anton Rm. 3rd Friday of the month, 12 noon, Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, 2910 SW Topeka

ABORTION RECOVERY SUPPORT - Providing services for women & men who suffer from Post-Abortion Syndrome. Kay Lyn at KLCarlson20@cox.net.

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

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

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

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

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

BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE - NE Kansas Chapter (B.A.C.A.) 3rd Sun., 4 pm American Legion, 3800 SE

Michigan. Open to the public. For info: 817-5801.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRISON OUTREACH MINISTRY - Every Tue., 7-9pm, Topeka Women's Prison, 815 Rice Rd. Reaching out to those who can't come in, finding freedom behind bars, inspiring inmates to seek salvation during a difficult

time. Providing support & guidance through the Holy Spirit to offer strength. Director: Don Garner, 286-0489 or faithfamilyfeministries@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NICOTINE ANONYMOUS - Every Fri., 6:30pm, Town & Country Church Renaissance Room, 4925 SW 29th St., use west door cross red foot bridge. A fellowship of men & women helping each other to live free of nico-

tine. No fees. 402-321-486; Laboomaha@att.net

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

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



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Special Unveiling of a Group Portrait Identifying Each Member of the 1857-1858 Kansas House of Representatives, the First-Ever Antislavery Majority to Convene in Kansas at Lecompton in Constitution Hall
- FEBRUARY 6** President John Calhoun: Chief Architect of the "Lecompton Swindle" by T. Kevin Griffin, Major (Retired) & MA
- FEBRUARY 13** Smoky Hill Thompson: A Life Wild and Perilous by Donald Wade Davis, independent author and scholar
- FEBRUARY 20** Civil War Order No. 11 - Desperate Days and Hard Travel: Recollections of Women by Peggy Bahr, Director, Bates County, Missouri Historical Society and Museum
- FEBRUARY 27** The Life and Times of Ross Burns: Accidental Linn County Pioneer and Civil War Hero by Bryce Benedict, J.D., author and retired National Guardsman historian.
- MARCH 6** "The Trial of Jefferson Davis and the Issue of Secession" a first-person portrayal by reenactor Lane Smith.



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10 questions to ask yourself as you begin a new year

Once, when the people of God had become careless in their relationship with Him, the Lord rebuked them through the prophet Haggai. "Consider your ways!" (Haggai 1:5) he declared, urging them to reflect on some of the things happening to them, and to evaluate their slipshod spirituality in light of what God had told them.

Even those most faithful to God occasionally need to pause and think about the direction of their lives. It's so easy to bump along from one busy week to another without ever stopping to ponder where we're going and where we should be going.

The beginning of a new year is an ideal time to stop, look up, and get our bearings. To that end, here are some questions to ask prayerfully in the presence of God.

1. What's one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?
2. What's the most humanly impossible thing you will ask God to do this year?
3. What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your family life this year?
4. In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year, and what will you do about it?
5. What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year?

6. What is the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?

7. For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year?

8. What's the most important way you will, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year?

9. What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?

10. What single thing that you plan to do this year will matter most in 10 years? In eternity?

In addition to these 10 questions, here are 21 more to help you

"Consider your ways." Think on the entire list at one sitting, or answer one question each day for a month.

11. What's the most important decision you need to make this year?
12. What area of your life most needs simplifying, and what's one way you could simplify in that area?
13. What's the most important need you feel burdened to meet this year?
14. What habit would you most like to establish this year?
15. Who is the person you most want to encourage this year?
16. What is your most important financial goal this year, and what is the most important step you can take toward achieving it?
17. What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your work life this year?
18. What's one new way you could be a blessing to your pastor (or to another who ministers to you) this year?
19. What's one thing you could do this year to enrich the spiritual legacy you will leave to your children and grandchildren?
20. What book, in addition to the Bible, do you most want to read this year?
21. What one thing do you most regret

about last year, and what will you do about it this year?

22. What single blessing from God do you want to seek most earnestly this year?
23. In what area of your life do you most need growth, and what will you do about it this year?
24. What's the most important trip you want to take this year?
25. What skill do you most want to learn or improve this year?
26. To what need or ministry will you try to give an unprecedented amount this year?



27. What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your commute this year?
28. What one biblical doctrine do you most want to understand better this year, and what will you do about it?

29. If those who know you best gave you one piece of advice, what would they say? Would they be right? What will you do about it?
30. What's the most important new item you want to buy this year?

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Faith-based 'American Underdog' movie performs well in theaters

"American Underdog," the new faith-based film about football star Kurt Warner, had a strong opening weekend and despite a strong "Spiderman" and other holiday movies. It opened in the top 10 at the box office, and moviegoers gave it an A+ rating on CinemaScore.

On its first weekend, the movie earned an estimated \$5.9 million, which placed it at No. 5, just behind fourth-place newcomer "The King's Man." "American Underdog's" total is even more impressive considering it opened on Christmas Day and was in theaters only two days last weekend, Saturday and Sunday. "The King's Man," by comparison opened on December 22. "The Hollywood Reporter" labeled it a "stellar two-day gross."

Currently, the film has earned almost \$15 million. Over New Year's weekend it raked in more money than the much-anticipated "The Matrix Resurrections," plus "Westside Story," "Disney's Encanto," and more.

"American Underdog" also earned a rare A+ CinemaScore grade from audiences. CinemaScore is a service that asks moviegoers to rate films on the opening weekend. The romantic sports drama follows the life and career of Kurt Warner,



who won a Super Bowl five years after working at a grocery store, Hy-Vee, to stay afloat financially. The film also follows his relationship with his wife Brenda, who guided him in his spiritual growth.

Kurt Warner celebrated the film's success on social media. "To hear that our movie @AmericanUnderdog is making a bunch of grown men cry just warms my heart," he tweeted.

Warner told "Christian Headlines" that he didn't hesitate to let his life's story be made into a movie. "I've always felt like

there's a reason that we have the story that we have," he said. "I was never worried about sharing the story and putting it on the big screen. I was worried about getting it right."

Warner said he is thrilled with the final product.

"I want to make a movie that impacts people, I want people to leave the theater saying, 'Man, that was good,'" he said. "I think without a doubt, we made that movie."



Will Smith: 'You Can't Get Where I Get If You Don't Love the Lord'

Actor Will Smith is currently promoting his upcoming movie KING RICHARD, where he stars as tennis pros Venus and Serena Williams' father and coach. In addition to talking about the film, Smith also discussed the role faith has played in his own life.

The movie follows the family as the Williams sisters rise to fame in the professional tennis world, showing the hardships they faced and the courage they showed in their pursuit of greatness.

In an interview with Movieguide® Award winner DeVon Franklin, the star was asked if he, like his character Richard Dove Williams Jr., was a man of faith.

"You can't get where I get if you don't love the Lord," Smith responded. "You don't get to sit how I sit, move how I move if you don't love the Lord. You'd be seeing a whole lot of other repercussions."

He also touched on how his own faith helped him with this role.

"You have to have faith. That's what Mrs. Oracene [had]," Smith said, mentioning Oracene Price, mother and coach to the Williams sisters. "She's so solid that she is completely, thoroughly and totally

certain. She doesn't walk in doubt."

"She said, 'In order to doubt, that means you don't trust God,'" he continued. "She said, 'There was never a moment of doubt. When we set out as a family, we knew we were going to do what was ordained. It was this family around this belief, and they trusted God. And they believed that their devotion would be rewarded and they never wavered.'"

Smith's own faith was instilled in him by his grandmother, who attended Resurrection Baptist Church and made sure that her grandchildren participated in church events.

"My grandmother was really my connection to God," the actor said in an interview with The Christian Post. "She was the most spiritually certain person that I had ever met in my entire life. Even to the point that when she was dying, she was happy, like she was really excited about going to heaven."

Smith's faith helped him connect with this role in a deep way, giving dimension to a performance that is already garnering Oscar buzz.

— Movieguide

Actor Denzel Washington opens up about faith, spiritual warfare

Academy Award-winning actor Denzel Washington shared his faith in a recent story in "The New York Times."

"What I do, what I make, what I made — all of that — is that going to help me on the last day of my life?" he asked. "It's about, 'Who have you lifted up? Who have we made better?' This is spiritual warfare. So I'm not looking at it from an earthly perspective. If you don't have a spiritual anchor, you'll be easily blown by the wind and you'll be led to depression."

Washington went on to discuss spiritual warfare.

"The enemy is the inner me," he said. "The Bible says in the last days — I don't know if it's the last days,



it's not my place to know — but it says we'll be lovers of ourselves. The

number one photograph today is a selfie, 'Oh, me at the protest. 'Me with the fire.' 'Follow me.' 'Listen to me.'

"We're living in a time where people are willing to do anything to get followed. What is the long- or short-term effect of too much information? It's going fast, and it can be manipulated obviously in a myriad of ways. And people are led like sheep to slaughter."

Denzel, 66, also shared his view of

heaven, explaining that "there are going to be two lines, the long line and the short line, and I'm interested in being in the short line."

Washington later revealed how he "fills up" spiritually every morning before starting his day.

"You have to fill up that bucket every morning," he said. "It's rough out there. You leave the house in the morning. Here they come, chipping away. By the end of the day, you've got to refill that bucket. We know right from wrong."

At an event this fall, Washington revealed what the Lord has been telling him to do when he prays in this season.


"At 66, getting ready to be 67, having just buried my mother, I made a promise to her and to God, not just to do good the right way, but to honor my mother and my father by the way I live my life, the rest of my days on this earth," he said. "I'm here to serve, to help, to provide."

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Kathie Lee Gifford on Cancel Culture: 'Jesus Would Never Cancel Someone'

TV icon and outspoken Christian Kathie Lee Gifford urges people to look to Jesus in her new book entitled, "The Jesus I Know."

The Movieguide® Visionary Award winner has never been one to shy away from an opportunity to talk about her faith, and she is sharing some of her conversations about faith with friends, celebrities, and family in her new book.

"I wanted to talk to people who were very different from me, but who were willing to share what they think about Jesus and what faith means to them," Gifford told Fox News. "It's uplifting. And I think it's a good time, especially because of the cancel culture we live in. It's a cancer. It's evil and it's not something Jesus would ever do. Jesus would never cancel someone."

"I certainly don't want to be that person who cancels someone because they don't look like me or believe in the same things that I do. We shouldn't dismiss someone and treat them as if they have no value," she added. "I believe this is a challenge for us to look at people who are different from us and understand them better. I want people to take a good look at themselves each day and ask, 'Lord, am I doing the right thing? Does this honor God?' And if it does, do it."

Despite the death of her husband Frank Gifford in 2015, Gifford continues

to work hard and proclaim Jesus.

"People always tell me, 'You're so religious.' I respond, 'Please don't call me that. I don't like religion. I think religion puts us in chains. I believe in walking with God. And that's really what these stories are about. You may know some of their names, but I wanted to connect with them in their journeys with God.'"

Gifford also added encouragement to those who have not found their way to faith in God.

"God calls upon each one of us differently. It's part of our journey. I would say keep your heart open. There's a scripture that says, 'Taste and see that the Lord is good.' People have tried everything in their lives, except for the goodness of God. For whatever reason, they avoid it," she said. "If you could only give God that chance, for you to know Him, you will realize how much He loves you too."

"This book is really for those who have not understood yet that God loves them," she added. "They don't realize it. So I just pray that the Lord illuminates His truth in their hearts. I pray that no matter what [that person] is going through, they will feel God's love wherever they are, whatever darkness they sit in, whatever loneliness they're experiencing, whatever loss they're enduring."

—Movieguide

Christian music fans mourn death of Jay Weaver of Big Daddy Weave

Condolences continue to come in for Jay Weaver of the Christian music group Big Daddy Weave died January 2 from complications of COVID-19. Weaver, who played bass guitar and sang for the band, is survived by his wife, Emily, and the couple's three children, according to the K-LOVE radio network.

Big Daddy Weave initially posted a social media message on Saturday asking for prayer for Jay and noted the performer was struggling with COVID-19.

"Jay has been in the hospital for five days fighting a tough battle against COVID," the message read. "Would you pray with us for complete healing for Jay and for peace for his family? We pray in the name of Jesus that it be so."

Emily Weaver said in a statement released through the band that her husband was fighting hard and expressed hope he would be healed. "I just want my best friend/everything to get better," she said. However, Weaver died one day later.

Weaver has experienced numerous



health problems in recent years. His most recent battle unfolded in August when he was hospitalized after complications from dialysis. Doctors were worried he wouldn't be able to return home, but the band rejoiced when it was announced he was healed. These serious issues came after other major health complications, including a double foot amputation in 2016 because of a serious infection in Weaver's body.

The band's producers have not announced if upcoming shows in Kansas City, Arkansas, Texas, California and dozens of other locations will proceed.

Everyone has heard a Wicked song, but have you ever seen the musical?

Have you heard this one?

"...Everyone deserves a chance to fly!"

"Popular, you're gonna be Popular!"

"I've heard it said that people come into our lives for a reason bringing something we must learn."

"And we are led to those who help us most to grow if we let them, and we help them in return."

"Well, I don't know if I believe that's true, but I know I'm who I am today because I knew you..."

You, along and many others, have been changed for the better! The Broadway musical Wicked has been performed in 100 cities in 16 countries around the world and seen by more than 60 million people. Those are pretty good statistics for a story about a girl who is green and her blonde "valley girl" school roommate.

Wicked flies into Kansas City with performances at the Music Hall January 5 – 23.

Emily Short, writing a review in Broadway World, says "The acting was flawless, the singing was striking, costumes were perfect, the set



transported us directly to the heart of Oz, and the lighting was the tool that brought everything together."

Wicked is based on a novel by Gregory Maguire and revolves around the origin of the characters in the Wizard of Oz. It focuses on the relationship of Elphaba and Glinda. An obviously green and prickly Elphaba is played by Talia Suskauer. Glinda, portrayed by Allison Bailey, is as blonde as one can get. The audience sees two individuals transition from antagonists to friends—best friends. Along the way, they are challenged by love, good, evil and the desire for power.

The Broadway sensation opened in 2003 and has been a favorite theater-goers ever since. Stephen Schwartz's exhilarating scores and

lyrics are rooted in our psyche. "Popular," "Defying Gravity," and "For Good" are the standards for countless playlists.

Time Magazine hailed Wicked as "a magical Broadway musical with brains, heart, and courage." The return of Wicked to Kansas City will be a delight for those yearning to return to normalcy with looming challenge of COVID. We need some happiness. Have you heard this one? "Because happy is what happens when all your dreams come true! Well ... isn't it?"

Wicked is recommended for children 8 and above. Running time for the show is 2 hours and 45 minutes, including a 15-minute intermission. Wicked runs January 5 – 23, 2022 at the Music Hall, 301 W 13th St. Kansas City, MO

Christian actors live out their faith despite cost to their income

Although there may not be a lot of Christian actors in Hollywood, many are putting their money where their faith is.

Comic actor Chris Tucker turned down up to \$12 million to star in "Next Friday," the 2000 sequel to his stoner comedy smash "Friday," because he no longer wanted to "cuss or smoke weed" on screen for "religious reasons." Christian stars routinely make sacrifices for their art. Some do so with little or no fanfare, while others say being an openly Christian actor can hurt their career.

Oscar-winner Denzel Washington isn't shy about his Christian beliefs. The director of "A Journal for Jordan" told "The New York Times" he considers his art spiritual warfare. The superstar, whose new film explores the true story of a soldier's journal entries for his infant son, said his faith influenced his emphasis on directing. He promised his mother, who passed away last year, that his career would "attempt to honor her and God by living the rest of my days in a way that would make her proud. So that's what I'm trying to do."

"This is spiritual warfare," he said. "So I'm not looking at it from an earthly perspective. If you don't have a spiritual anchor, you'll be easily blown by the wind and you'll be led to depression."

Those comments, and previous ones made by the "Training Day" star, failed to stir complaints or social media backlash. That's not true for a similarly outspoken Christian star. Chris Pratt preaches his love of Christ on social media and TV appear-



ances. That often draws blowback from fellow stars and media outlets alike. His post-praising his wife after the birth of their daughter drew fire from actress Busy Philipps. The "Freaks and Geeks" alum called it "patronizing" and suggested his wife was his "possession."

Other stars let their faith guide their career decisions, much like Tucker did by rejecting a huge "Next Friday" payday. For "Yellowstone" star Neal McDonough, who also starred in "Minority Report" and "Band of Brothers," hid faith won't allow him to kiss or bed another woman on screen.

"Killing people on screen — that's fake," he said. "That's not real. When you're in bed with another woman on screen — guess what? That's real. I don't like that kind of stuff. Especially now with kids, I don't want

to have my kids say, 'Hey, Dad, what are you doing with that lady on screen?'"

The stigma against Christians in Hollywood is real, according to Matthew McConaughey. The Oscar winner said he's witnessed Hollywood's disdain for Christians firsthand. Director Mel Gibson once warned Jim Caviezel against playing Jesus Christ in "The Passion of the Christ," telling the actor he'd "never work in this town again" if he joined the project. Caviezel took the role anyway, later suggesting some of Gibson's fears proved accurate.

The more A-list stars like Washington and Pratt speak openly of their faith, and Christian content scores with audiences, the more prejudices against Hollywood Christians may crumble.



Take Charge of Risk Factors Impacting Your Heart Health

Cholesterol – a waxy substance created by the liver or consumed from meat, poultry and dairy products – isn't inherently "bad" for you. In fact, your body needs it to build cells and make vitamins and other hormones. However, too much "bad" LDL cholesterol, or not enough "good" HDL cholesterol, can pose problems.

High cholesterol is one of the major controllable risk factors for heart disease and stroke. Because it typically has no symptoms, you may not know you have high cholesterol until it's causing problems.

Knowing key health numbers like blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol, and working closely with

your doctor to manage them, are keys to preventing heart disease and stroke.

Those who have already experienced a heart attack or stroke or have family history of cardiovascular disease, chronic inflammatory disease or kidney disease may need to have their cholesterol and other risk factors checked more often and may need medication to manage their conditions to prevent another event. According to the American Heart Association, as many as 1 in 4 survivors will have another heart attack or stroke.

Along with taking medication as prescribed, some lifestyle habits can help manage your risk and help you

live a longer, healthier life like watching what you eat, getting more exercise and managing stress.

Make Healthy Menu Choices

A healthy eating plan is a well-rounded diet with plenty of fruits and vegetables (at least 4-5 servings each day). In fact, researchers at the University of Columbia found each daily serving of fruits or vegetables was associated with a 4% lower risk of coronary heart disease and a 5% lower risk of stroke.

Other smart choices for your menu include nuts and seeds, whole grains, lean proteins and fish. Limit sweets, sugar-sweetened beverages, saturated fat, trans fat, sodium and fatty or processed meats.

Get Moving

You likely know exercise is good for you, but an Oxford University study revealed simply swapping 30 minutes of sitting with low-intensity physical activity can reduce your risk of death by 17%. Mortality aside, in its Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services noted physical activity offers numerous benefits to improve health, including a lower risk of diseases, stronger bones and muscles, improved mental health and cognitive function and lower risk of depression.

The greatest impacts come from getting the recommended amount of activity: at least 150 minutes of moderate activity, 75 minutes of vigorous activity or a combination of those activities per week. Be sure to discuss with your doctor which activities may be best for you.

Reduce Stress

Constant or chronic stress can have real consequences on both emotional and physical health. In fact, research shows chronic stressors like long work hours, financial stress and work-life conflict may be as risky for health as secondhand smoke, according to a report by the Behavior Science and Policy Association.

Aside from the toll on your body – including elevated risk for heart disease and stroke from high blood pressure, depression or anxiety – stress can lead to unhealthy habits like overeating, physical inactivity and smoking.

Exercise is an effective way to keep your body healthy and release stress. You might also consider incorporating meditation and mindfulness practices into your day to allow yourself a few minutes to distance yourself from daily stress.

Research compiled by the



American Heart Association suggests meditation can reduce blood pressure, improve sleep, support the immune system and increase your ability to process information.

Learn more about managing your cholesterol and habits to protect your heart health at heart.org/cholesterol.

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4 Steps for Recovery and Daily Living After a Stroke

In the weeks and months immediately following a stroke, an early rehabilitation program offers the best possible recovery outcomes. While each patient's journey may be different, starting the path toward rehabilitation as soon as it's medically safe allows stroke survivors to mitigate the lasting effects.

According to the American Stroke Association, a division of the American Heart Association, each year, approximately 800,000 people in the United States have a stroke. About 4 in 5 people who suffer a stroke will survive, but the majority have some degree of physical impairment or disability.

Early Intervention

The first three months after a stroke are especially critical. Although recovery may continue for years after a stroke, this golden time in the immediate aftermath of a stroke is when the brain is most able to adjust to the damage done by the stroke so the survivor can learn new ways to do things.

"There is a critical period of neuroplasticity, which is the brain's ability to create new connections where there has been damage from a stroke," said Elissa Charbonneau, M.S., D.O., chief medical officer of Encompass Health and an American Stroke Association volunteer. "The early period after a stroke is crucial for helping the brain to establish those connections again."

Customized Rehabilitation

Once a stroke survivor's medical condition is stabilized and he or she is ready to leave the hospital, post-stroke rehabilitation can help restore function and teach new ways to complete everyday tasks. Rehabilitation may take place in an inpatient facility, skilled nursing facility, long-term acute care facility or nursing home. Outpatient clinics and home health agencies can also provide rehabilitative care in certain circumstances.

One patient's rehab journey might include therapy to improve balance, strength or mobility, while another might need speech or other therapies. A rehabilitation designed for the individual is critical.

Support for Your Journey

Following a stroke, your medical team will likely help connect you with a local rehabilitation center where you can find experts to guide your rehabilitation and recovery. Other resources, including the



American Stroke Association, provide resources for stroke rehab and recovery including step-by-step videos for stroke survivors and caregivers.

These tools help answer your questions, explain what to expect and address practical concerns like how to approach daily living tasks such as grocery shopping, doing laundry and meal preparation.

Preventing a Recurrence

After a first stroke, 1 in 4 sur-

fully, moving more and taking medications as prescribed can help your brain and reduce your risk of a repeat stroke. Controlling conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes and sleep apnea also reduce your risk of having another stroke.

Find additional recovery tips, includ-



vivors will have another. Although some risk factors, like age, gender and family history, are beyond control, survivors have the power to reduce that risk by working with a doctor.

Simple habits like eating health-

ing advice from stroke survivors, caregivers and health care professionals, at stroke.org/recoverytips.

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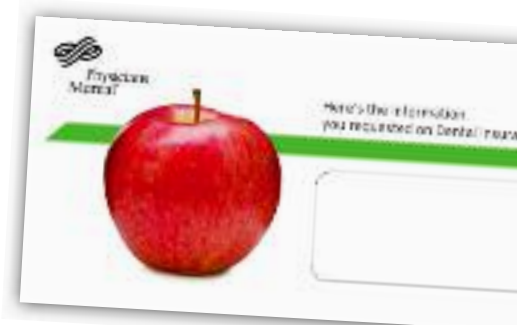
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NFL Player Names Pro-Life Group As Choice Charity



Jacksonville Jaguars tight end Jacob Hollister chose pro-life organization Live Action as his charity of choice for Week 13 — a time in the NFL when players are spotlighted to showcase their charities through their cleats.

Hollister's custom cleats say "Love Them Both" and feature an image of pregnant mother with her unborn baby.

"Hollister has bravely chosen to showcase his support for women and the lives of preborn children by displaying pro-life organization Live Action on his cleats,"

Live Action said in a press release. "Live Action is one of the nation's leading human rights nonprofits, with the largest and most engaged following in the global pro-life movement. It exists to shift public opinion against abortion and defend the rights of the most vulnerable."

In a video announcing his choice charity, Hollister emphasized that both women and their unborn are of value, though the unborn do not get a "choice" when it comes to abortion.

"I don't think a baby's life is more valuable than the mother's or a mother's life more valuable than the baby's," he said, Live Action reported. "Both have equal worth and demand equal protection — the only difference is the baby doesn't have a choice. I'm thankful and happy to support Live Action who gives those babies a voice."

The athlete also told fans that he was initially hesitant to publicly support the pro-life group out of fear some would feel "anything but love from me," not from fear of confrontation.

"There's a lot of different reasons why I decided to support [Live Action]," he said. "To be honest, at first, I was really hesitant to do it. Not because I'm afraid of any confrontation

or any arguments around the subject, it's really just because I fear that anybody who feels differently than I do about it would feel anything but love from me. Because the way that I was raised and the way that I try to live my life to the best of my ability is to love people first in everything that I do and love people really well."

Live Action president and founder Lila Rose praised Hollister as an example for other men.

—Amanda Prestigiaco /

FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by Rob Mooney

As we all know, the Kansas City Chiefs began the season with a miserable 3-4 record through the first 7 games of the season and everyone was quick to blame the offense for their struggles. That wasn't totally wrong though as the offense made it a habit of turning over the ball at an unprecedented rate, at least from what we've grown accustomed to.

In the losses to the Baltimore Ravens the Chiefs turned it over twice. They turned it over four times in their loss to the Los Angeles Chargers. Four turnovers against the Buffalo Bills and three turnovers against the Tennessee Titans for a total of 13 turnovers in their four losses and 17 turnovers through the first seven games.

However, through 15 games now, the Chiefs have 25 turnovers. That means during this current eight game winning streak, they have turned over the ball eight

times. That's right....just eight times. That, combined with a resurgence of the defense, has them in the driver's seat for the #1 seed in the AFC playoffs and home field advantage throughout.

Of those 25 turnovers, 13 of them are interceptions thrown by Patrick Mahomes. I find it amus-

ing when folks say that balls that bounce off of receivers hands or heads or any other body part that you can imagine, shouldn't be credited to the quarterback. To a certain degree I kind of agree with that take. I mean it's not his fault that the receiver couldn't catch it. But I say if you're going to count those against the quarterback, let's

not count the 80 yard touchdown pass when he throws a 5 yard out pattern and the receiver takes it to the house. Just saying!

Back to the defense though. There are several reasons that their defense has been on fire but I believe that the number one reason is the addition of Melvin Ingram, who they acquired from the Pittsburgh Steelers in a trade deadline transaction that appears to be the shot in the arm that they needed. The defense has allowed 306 points a game this year, an average of 20.4 points a game. As a

matter of fact, since their week 7 loss to Tennessee, the Chiefs have only allowed more than 20 points once, against the Los Angeles Chargers in their 34-28 overtime win.

The Chiefs are eyeing the top seed in the playoffs and all they have to do is take care of business against the Bengals and the Broncos, both road games but both winnable. They're playing great football right now and I'd love to see them make it to Super Bowl to face my other favorite team, the Dallas Cowboys! We'll see.



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Take a Room-by-Room Approach to Renovations

When your home needs updating in multiple spaces, you may find yourself wondering where to begin. Prioritizing the rooms you use most and those in the greatest need of attention can allow you to work through your renovation at a reasonable pace while bringing greater enjoyment to your home one room at a time.

There's no rule about where to start; it all comes down to your budget and how your family uses your home. The true beginning of any project is defining your vision for the finished space. These on-trend ideas can help you get started.

Multi-Purpose Room Makeover

If you spend any time on social media, you know laundry and multi-

purpose mudroom updates are popular. Having a well-organized, attractive workspace can make the less glamorous aspects of homeownership more appealing. Today's mudrooms are more than a pass-through space. With thoughtful planning, you can create a more functional area for laundry, a drop area for book bags and other daily necessities and even grooming space for a pet or a potting area for an avid gardener.

With a space that gets used in so many



ways, cabinetry plays an important role in keeping your cleaning equipment and belongings tidy and neat. You'll be able to find shapes and sizes to fit practically any need you can imagine, like tall hideaways for brooms or gardening tools and low-profile options that can double as bench seating. If your footprint allows it, consider an island for added storage and workspace.

Updated Kitchen

A stylish, functional kitchen is a must for anyone who enjoys culinary arts or the simple pleasure of gathering family or friends around the dinner table. Cabinetry is a focal point in most kitchens, so it's an element that many homeowners give plenty of consideration. Today's looks are commonly painted, and black is a surprisingly neutral option that can be adapted to numerous styles. Medium density fiberboard is ideal for painted cabinetry because it provides a smooth surface for even coating and stands up to the temperatures and humidity commonly found in the kitchen.

For a contemporary but classic look, try Wellborn Cabinet's Hartford door finished in Onyx paint and dressed with bronze pulls and moulding for an attractive look from floor to (almost) ceiling. To create visual interest and contrast, take a different approach with your island, such as a Concord Maple door in Drift Slate finish. Don't forget to give extra attention to what's inside the cabinets, too. Options like adjustable slide-out shelving make it easy to access even more storage space.

Bathroom Refresh

Whether you're breathing new life into an outdated bathroom or converting unused space into a new one, practical design is essential. This is especially true if you're working on a full bath with a smaller footprint where storage space is at a premium. While a powder room may not require much in the way of storage beyond space for extra rolls of toilet paper and hand towels, a full bath demands much more.

Using the right cabinetry for your vanity can create architectural detail that makes even this small space feel special. The clean lines of a Preston door style in medium density fiberboard is a practical and eye-pleasing option. To complement the vanity, consider built-in cabinets in the corner. This is a smart way to

use square footage that might otherwise be wasted. For visual interest, match the cabinet door style to the vanity but in a complementary way. One on-trend example is a soft, creamy Gray Mist vanity paired with a rich Willow gray.

Make function a priority with deep drawer dividers, sliding shelves and

other creative solutions, such as repurposing a silverware tray insert to organize your toiletry drawer.

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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.wrbcctopeka.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; 785-670-6456
 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:
 (712) 770-4749 / 583229
 2401 SE 11th St., Topeka KS 66607
 Supt. S. C. Mitchell, Pastor

15. OAKLAND UNITED METHODIST

801 NE Chester, Topeka, KS 66616
 235-1010 • oumc@att.net
 Shawn O'Trimble, Pastor
 Sunday School 9:15am, Worship 10:30am
 Children's worship time 10:30am
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16. HOUSE OF THE LORD CHURCH

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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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www.TrinityReformedBaptist.org

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Construction work continues on largest Catholic church in Kansas

Construction crews are finishing up the exterior of a \$40 million church in Saint Marys. The Immaculata Church is expected to be finished by the end of 2022 and will be the largest Catholic church in the state of Kansas.

The original Immaculata Church was built on the St. Mary's Academy campus in 1909. Rector Father Patrick Rutledge said the

historic church burned down after the Society of St. Pius X, an offshoot of the Catholic Church, took ownership in 1968.

"We've grown so much that the Immaculata at this size can no longer fit on campus," Rutledge said. "That's why we decided to rebuild it up here on a new site so practically speaking it means a lot to our people because it will finally



be a church big enough for our Sunday mass attendance."

The new Immaculata Church will seat more than 1,500 people. Father Rutledge said the church sees close to 4,000 people each Sunday. He said an average mass will have 1,200 people and a Christmas mass will have 1,500 to 1,600 people.

The Immaculata is expected to be finished in December 2022.



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Entire Bible to be read out loud at Capitol on Jan. 8

Culture Shield Network is sponsoring Keeping Faith in Kansas - Reading the Entire Bible Out Loud, on January 8th, from 1-3 p.m. at the Capitol Building in Topeka.

It takes 170 people to do this in an hour and a half.

The Entire Word of God will be read out loud simultaneously, like a symphony as 170 readers spread throughout the capital, joining other states on the same day.

For more information, contact: jana@cultureshield.com or call 316-516-0777

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Parade starts at 10:00 am! (From NOTO to Garfield Park) • **Food Trucks** in Garfield Park 9 am - 3 pm!
Easter Egg Hunt following parade at Garfield Park playground! • **Vendor Market** open 10 am - 3 pm!
Dance troupes, martial arts, gymnastics, ballet, demonstrations & more at the Health Fair 10am-3pm!
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Bingo at the Vendor Market! • **Win a Bicycle** at the Ball Toss! • **Win Cupcakes** at the Cake Walk!

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