



JIM & MELISSA BRADY

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FREE! TAKE ONE!

4 Things to Know About the Elvis Movie

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NEW RESIDENT churchguide

Heritage Baptist Church



See inside back cover!

AG Schmidt proposes the elimination of retirement income tax



Kansas Attorney General and Republican Candidate for Governor Derek Schmidt has announced his "Retire Tax Free" plan to eliminate state income tax on Kansans' retirement benefits and savings.

"The Schmidt-Sawyer administration is going to focus every single day on growing Kansas, and if we're going to do that we can't keep losing retirees at such a high rate to other, more tax-friendly states," Schmidt said. "To every retiree considering leaving Kansas after a lifetime of working and living here, we

■ Please see TAX-FREE page 3

After Roe: What now?



COMMENTARY by Lee Hartman

The United States Supreme Court has determined that Federal Government authority to regulate abortion is not found in the Constitution, and that therefore it falls to each individual state to do so. In doing so, it was determined that Roe v. Wade was wrongly decided and is now overturned.

First, some facts.

- The Roe reversal did not ban abortion. It simply returned to the individual states the right to regulate it.
- Abortion is still legal in every state, though each state has its own regulations.
- In all states, abortion is legal to save the life of the mother.
- Abortion regulations do not

apply to tubal pregnancy or a miscarriage, stillbirth, etc.

- Some states allow "elective" abortion through 15 weeks or more, and some allow it up until the moment of birth when baby is halfway out of the birth canal. Some state leaders have even proposed extending abortion to a certain period AFTER birth!

■ Please see AFTER ROE page 2

Spirit of Kansas, other events to celebrate our Independence



The Spirit of Kansas festival is set for July 4 at Lake Shawnee. The Spirit of Kansas Festival is set for July 4 at Lake Shawnee. The day includes a car show, the Spirit of Kansas Blues Festival, food and craft vendors, a Waterski Show and the Capitol Federal Fireworks Display at 10 p.m.

- Car Show -- 9 a.m. at Shelters 4 & 5 in Tinman Circle
- Food and craft vendors open -- 11 a.m. next to Reynolds Lodge
- Spirit of Kansas Blues Festival -- 11:30

■ Please see CELEBRATE page 3

How our leaders responded to Roe v. Wade decision

Kansas Senator Rick Kloos:

Today will go down in history as a monumental day for life in America. The Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade will now give states the rightful power to legislate on the issue of abortion.

Rep. Jake LaTurner:

"Today is a monumental win for pro-life Americans across our country who have been fighting tirelessly over the last fifty years to protect the most vulnerable

among us—the unborn."

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt:

Called the decision the "right one." "I prefer a future with less abortion, not more. To preserve existing limits on late-term abortions, requirements parents be notified when minors seek abortion, and prohibitions on using taxpayer funds to pay for abortion,

Sen. Jerry Moran:

"This historic decision will now allow

legislatures, accountable to the citizens who elected them, to take action to pass laws that protect children in the womb and support their mothers."

Vicki Hiatt, Kansas Democratic Party chairwoman:

"This decision makes it clear: The rights of Kansans to control their own reproductive healthcare decisions are under attack. Kansans don't



want more government mandates that infringe on their individual liberties. We

■ Please see ROE RESPONSE page 3

Shawnee County news briefs

The Salvation Army has issued warnings and guides concerning the summer heat.

HEAT SAFETY

- Never leave children or pets alone in enclosed vehicles.
- Slow down, stay indoors and avoid strenuous exercise during the hottest part of the day.
- Take frequent breaks if working outdoors.
- Use a buddy system when working in excessive heat.
- Check on family, friends and neighbors who do not have air conditioning, who spend much of their time alone or who are more likely to be affected by the

heat.

- Check on animals frequently to ensure that they are not suffering from the heat. Ensure they have water and a shady place to rest.
- Eat small meals and eat more often.
- Avoid extreme temperature changes.
- Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, light-colored clothing.

HEAT CAN BE DANGEROUS

Excessive heat can lead to sunburn, heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat-stroke. Avoid problems by drinking plenty of fluids and limiting drinks with caffeine or alcohol.

If someone is experiencing heat cramps in the legs or abdomen, get them

to a cooler place, have them rest, lightly stretch the affected muscle and replenish their fluids with half a glass (about 4 ounces) of cool water every 15 minutes.

If a person is exhibiting signs of heat exhaustion (cool, moist, pale or flushed skin, heavy sweating, headache, nausea, dizziness, weakness exhaustion), move them to a cooler place, remove or loosen tight clothing and spray the person with water or apply cool, wet cloths or towels to the skin. Fan the person. If they are conscious, give small amounts of cool water to drink. Make sure the person drinks slowly. Watch for changes in condition. If the person refuses water, vomits or begins to lose consciousness, call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number.

HEAT STROKE IS LIFE-THREATENING

Signs include hot, red skin which may

be dry or moist; changes in consciousness; vomiting; and high body temperature. Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number immediately if someone shows signs of heatstroke. Move the person to a cooler place. Quickly cool the person's body by immersing them up to their neck in cold water if possible. Otherwise, douse or spray the person with cold water, or cover the person with cold, wet towels or bags of ice.

Jackson Spray Park reopens

Jackson Spray Park, SE 8th and Lake, has reopened. A broken pump has been replaced and the park is ready for more summer fun. Jackson Spray Park is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Free Admission.

• The Dornwood Spray Park, 2500 S.E. Highland Ave. is also open with fee Ad-

mission

Aquatic centers hours are noon to 7 p.m. daily, with admission \$7 for adults; \$6 for children ages 2 to 12; and free for children under age 2.

- The Blaisdell Family Aquatic Center, 4201 S.W. Reinisch Parkway, in Gage Park.
- The Midwest Health Aquatic Center, 2201 S.W. Urish Road.
- The Shawnee North Family Aquatic Center, 300 N.E. 43rd.

Community swimming pools are open from noon to 5 p.m. daily. Admission at community pools in the city of Topeka is \$2 for those 2 and older and free for children under age 2.

- The Garfield pool, 1600 N.E. Quincy.
- The Hillcrest pool, 1800 S.E. 21st.
- The Oakland pool, 801 N.E. Poplar.

AFTER ROE

continued from page 1

- No state in the nation bans abortion to save the life of the mother. The strictest regulations on abortion in the nation also have exceptions for rape and incest. Only about 1-2% of abortions fall into these categories, anyway.
- Even some ardent pro-abortioners have admitted for decades that Roe v. Wade was on shaky Constitutional grounds, even Ruth Bader Ginsburg.
- Europe has stricter abortion laws than America.
- Women tend to be pro-life more than men.

In America, based on Judeo-Christian values and principles, we believe that we must stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.

In a strict Democracy the majority rules, but in a Republic we have laws that protect the minority from evils that may be perpetrated by the majority.

Abortion is the civil rights issue of our time. Is human life worth protection? Do the unborn have the right to life in this country? This is a pivotal moment in our society. Roe declared that the United States as a nation favored a culture of death, and now that has changed.

There is something inside of us that tells us that killing is wrong, that killing someone's unborn baby is also wrong. To say that it's okay for the mother to kill

it cannot be right. It is life, and cannot be justifiably snuffed out on a whim.

Roe v Wade went against all that, and it was our national shame for nearly 50 years. Many believe that God withheld His blessings from this nation because of it.

Abortion is worse than slavery. Not only does legal abortion say "this is your property to do with as you will," but it actually denies a person the right to be born at all.

Science tells us that at conception a new life is formed with its own unique DNA, different from the mother and father. This is a new body, temporarily inside the woman's body. Does it have personhood, with the right to life of any other American? That is a question we need to confront – individually, as states, and as a nation.

What do we do now?

Pro-lifers have good reason to celebrate something they have prayed and fought for, for nearly 50 years. But let's not spike the football. We don't have to celebrate "in your face."

We should be thankful and grateful. But the fight for life is not over. We must now fight for life in each state, trying to instill the same respect and value for life in the hearts and minds of our countrymen. Speak the truth in love. Explain, educate and demonstrate what love and respect is like. That all life is precious. That all life has value – from the womb to the tomb.

While we fight to change minds on abortion, we must also support those who are already born, but need our help; whether those are babies or toddlers or teenagers who need adoption or fostering; whether those are low-income mothers who need assistance; whether those are the homeless; whether those

are the mentally ill, or the elderly who can no longer take care of themselves.

Will the number of abortions decrease because of this decision? Almost certainly.

Will more unborn babies' lives be saved? Almost certainly.

Will mothers face more unplanned expenses and difficulties? Almost certainly.

Many corporate leaders have responded by saying that they will provide transportation for their employees to abort their babies. I wonder if they will similarly help someone with adoption, pregnancy expenses, childcare, etc.?

How will you respond? How will your business respond? How will your church respond?

How we respond will say a lot about who we are, as individuals, as a community, and as a nation.

In Kansas, we will have a choice on August 2nd. The Value Them Both amendment to the Kansas Constitution states that we "...may pass laws regarding abortion, including, but not limited to, laws that account for circumstances of pregnancy resulting from rape, incest, or circumstances of necessity to save the life of the mother."

The Kansas Supreme Court legislated from the bench when they found an "unlimited right" to an abortion in the Kansas Constitution...it's simply not there. They went further than Roe and Casey even. That is a breach of trust by the court and the only way to rectify it is voting "yes" on August 2nd.

We as a nation and as individuals need to support the babies and the mothers, with our time, talents and treasure. This is what we are called to do as Christians.

Also, government programs may

need to be revised. It would be great if all those millions the government's been sending to Planned Parenthood to finance abortions could be redirected to pregnancy centers and women's services.

- We would do well to remember:
- Our actions have consequences
 - Sex has consequences
 - Elections have consequences

This change in national policy and culture is Donald Trump's biggest legacy, because he appointed constitutionalists ("the Constitution says what it says, and it doesn't say what it doesn't say") to the Supreme Court, and it makes all his other accomplishments on the economy and foreign policy seem small by comparison.

As Christians, we are called to love everyone always. That means loving and caring for the unborn, single mothers, those who have received abortions, low-income mothers struggling to meet expenses, and people who passionately disagree with you on this topic.

When discussing this topic, leave others with no doubt of your love for everyone always.

Going forward, will we, as individuals and as a nation, foster a culture of life or a culture of death?

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb."

Psalms 139:13

"Do everything in love."
1 Corinthians 16:14 (CSB)

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

Galatians 5:22-23 (CSB)

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But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream. - Amos 5:24

CELEBRATE

continued from page 1

a.m. behind Reynolds Lodge

• Waterski show – 6:30 p.m.

• Capitol Federal® Fireworks Display -- 10 p.m.

Area roads close at 9:45 p.m. for the fireworks show. Parking is available in Tinman Circle and designated areas around the lake. Handicap parking is marked. Admission is free, but there will be no shuttle buses running. No alcoholic beverages and no personal fireworks are allowed.

Other area events:

SUMMER FIREWORKS EX-TRAVAGANZA – July 2, 7pm, Fellowship Hi-Crest, Fremont Hill. Shuttle available at 455 Golf Park Blvd. Food trucks, bounce houses,

and a live DJ, fireworks at 10pm.

THE TOPEKA HIGH TOWER CHIMES CONCERT - July 3, 6pm, on the front lawn of Topeka High School, 800 SW 10th St. Bring lawn chairs and water to this free event and listen to the patriotic tunes coming from the Deagan Chimes. Food Trucks beginning at 5:30 p.m.

COLLINS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD JULY 4TH PARADE – July 4, 11am, SW Collins Ave.

SPIRIT OF KANSAS FIREWORKS & BLUES FESTIVAL - July 4, at Lake Shawnee. Live music, kids activities, vendors, food trucks, car show, fireworks.

JULY 4TH CELEBRATION – July 4, 6-10pm, Rolling Hills Christian

Church. free food, games, bounce houses, music, homemade ice cream, and FIREWORKS! Food will be served at 6:00 pm and the fireworks will start around 9:30.

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION AT OVERBROOK CITY LAKE – July 4. Food will be available around 6 p.m. provided by the Snack Shack food truck. A DJ will be there along with other activities until the fireworks begin at 10 p.m.

COLLEGE HILL PARADE – July 4, 9:30am, at Boswell Square. After the parade, gather around to enjoy social time, awards and cookies or ice cream. A dessert potluck will also occur at Boswell Square Park at 13th & Boswell. Desserts, snow cones, popcorn, and drinks.

According to another independent analysis, Kansas ranks as the third-worst state in the country for tax burden on retirees and is in the least tax-friendly category for retirees because of the combined burden of high income, sales, and property taxes. Kansas is one of only 13 states that do not fully exempt Social Security retirement benefits from state income tax.

Gov. Laura Kelly's administration has recommended increasing income taxes on retirees and other Kansans who earn more than \$50,000 per year.

Schmidt's plan would instead provide relief to retirees living on fixed incomes and struggling with both the rising everyday costs of inflation and shrinking retirement investments because of market losses. It also would encourage more retirees of all income levels to remain in Kansas, or move to Kansas, rather than move to other states.

Schmidt says Retire Tax Free is a first step toward the urgent need to grow Kansas. Kansas finished the prior decade with its slowest population growth since the 1930s. In 2021, Kansas was one of only 17 states in the country that started the new decade with net population loss. Kansas has 27,400 fewer jobs filled today than in January 2019 and the share of

Kansans participating in the labor market is near its lowest rate since 1977. Kansas lags far behind the nation as a whole in recovering jobs destroyed by the pandemic and its lockdowns - 76.7 percent recovered in Kansas versus 96.3 percent nationwide. Amid those broader economic problems, the state's poor rankings for taxing retirees persist.

"To have a brighter future, Kansas must grow. The ability to Retire Tax Free in Kansas will grow Kansas and add to the civic capital of our communities," Schmidt said. "Our state's heavy tax burden is one of the significant obstacles to population growth and a significant reason so many Kansas retirees move away, taking with them their lifetime of talent, civic involvement, and savings."

Retire Tax Free would zero out all state income tax on

- Social Security retirement benefits
- out-of-state public pensions
- private pension benefits
- defined benefit retirement plans
- defined contribution retirement plans like 401(k)s
- retirement annuities
- individual retirement accounts
- retirement plans
- deferred compensation retirement plans

tory for life. The Supreme Court correctly returned the right to regulate abortion back to the people and their elected officials."

Amanda Adkins:

"I am pleased that the Supreme Court returned decisions related to abortion back to the states because it gives voters more of a say on the issue. Most Kansans agree we want to reduce the number of

abortions, support parents of minors being notified if their child is seeking an abortion, eliminate late-term abortions, oppose taxpayer funding of abortion, and support safety regulations in clinics.

Mike Pompeo:

I applaud the SCOTUS decision to overturn Roe v. Wade today. This is not the end of the fight to save the lives of the

■ Please see ROE RESPONSE page 13

C5Alive POWER Luncheon to meet at Aldersgate

The monthly C5Alive POWER Luncheon will be held July 14, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Aldersgate Village, 7220 SW Asbury Dr.

The Featured speaker will be Lucrecia Nold. Nold is a Public Policy Specialist for the Kansas Catholic Conference, and will speak about the Value Them Both Amendment.

The cost to attend a C5 luncheon is \$10 for C5 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. RSVPs and inquiries can be sent to info@C5Alive.org.

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

C5Alive is part of the Capital City Christian Chamber of Com-

merce (C5), an organization dedicated to developing and uniting Christian Leadership in the community: businesses, non-profits and churches.

C5 also hosts other periodic events, including EAST-ERFEST, the annual Topeka Easter Parade and Family Fun Fair, held on N. Kansas Avenue and in Garfield Park on the day before Easter. Find details at Topeka Easter Parade on facebook. The second annual Fall Fest will be on

October 8 at The Vinewood.

C5 members may also sponsor luncheons and other events as a way to promote their organizations.

For more information about C5, go to www.facebook.com/C5Alive, C5Alive.org, or call 785-640-6399.



Nold

TAX-FREE

continued from page 1

want you to stay. To every retiree in another state looking to move, come to Kansas. We're going to give you another reason to remain or return to Kansas by helping you Retire Tax Free."

Kansas is currently among the states with the highest outbound migration in America. According to surveys compiled by moving companies and data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Kansas ranked poorly at 10th worst in 2020 and 11th worst in 2021, for outbound migration. In 2021, Kansas lost about 5,200 people from net domestic outbound migration. Departing retirees are a major cause of that outmigration. Nationwide, retirement is the third most-common reason for moving away from a state, and that trend is accelerating. Kansans are increasingly likely to leave at retirement – taking a lifetime of accumulated talent and wealth with them. According to an annual report on migration data, one in five Kansas respondents says the primary reason they decided to leave the state is retirement, and the state's high tax burden on retirees is widely acknowledged as a significant factor in retirees taking up residence elsewhere.

ROE RESPONSE

continued from page 1

will continue to fight for our freedom and against this political overreach. Vote no on August 2 and support Democrats up and down the ballot this November."

Shannon Pahls, KSGOP Ex. Dir.:

"Today's decision is a tremendous vic-

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Topeka's First Disabled & Proud Parade to Take Place July 23rd

The month of July marks important history in the Disability rights movement as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law July 26, 1990. Later that year the first Disability Pride Day was held in Boston. The First Disability Pride Parade was held in Chicago in 2004. July is now recognized as Disability Pride Month, a month for us to remember the history that brought us to where we are now and celebrate the lives lived today by proud members of the Disability Community.

What is Disability Pride? Taking pride in your whole self, including your disability, which means understanding your limitations while embracing and accepting who you are with love. It is essentially a specified version of self-love involved in honoring and accepting all people with the mindset that disability is not a flaw.

The 1st Annual Disabled and Proud Parade of Kansas will be taking place at 11:00 AM July 23, 2022, in Downtown Topeka. The parade will circle the Capitol Building, starting at 8th & Jackson, and then the public is invited to gather on the south Capitol lawn for a resource & activity fair, speeches, food trucks and more!

The Mission for this event is to unite in celebration of the beauty and diversity of the disability community while creating visibility, awareness, and acceptance for all people with disabilities throughout the state.

During the fair following the parade, resources and activities that benefit any and all parts of the disability community are welcome to participate. A wide variety of needs (including blind/visually impaired, deaf/hard of hearing, wheelchair and mobility aid users, intellectual and developmental disabilities etc.) will be served at this event. This opportunity is not limited to established businesses with resources. If you are a person with a disability that wants to share about a passion of yours that has impacted your life, that is a resource of empowerment. Activities of all kinds will be celebrated as long as they are inclusive and appropriate for children.

Kirstianna Guerrero, born and



Kirstianna, National Miss Amazing Teen 2020, and Autumn Bertels, Kansas Miss Amazing Jr. Miss 2022

raised in Topeka, is currently The National Miss Amazing Teen 2020 and the young adult organizing this event. Earlier this year she founded a nonprofit to host the parade and further the impact of this mission: The Disabled & Proud Foundation of Kansas. The foundation is collaborating with Kansas Miss Amazing to facilitate this first year event.

Guerrero talked about why she decided to be the one to bring this event to Kansas.

"I have had epilepsy since birth and have always been intrigued by the unique experience of living with a chronic illness.

In 2018 I was selected as a delegate for the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum by the Kansas Youth Empowerment

Academy. There I learned what the disability community was, the rich history we have, how to embrace living with a disability, what Disability Pride is, and what advocating for yourself means. Throughout their other programs I discovered my passions of public speaking, advocacy, and the importance of self-love. Later I discovered Kansas Miss Amazing, a nonprofit that works to empower girls and women with disabilities to build self-confidence and public speaking skills. Through my involvement I cultivated my passions and

started to reach even more people through the platform of being a National Representative. In 2020 due to complications with epilepsy, I became a full-time wheelchair user. In seeing the change that embracing my disability made in my life of loving myself and empowering others, and the drive I had to make an impact through every circumstance, and with the encouragement of my mentors in both these organizations, I started working to bring this movement to Kansas."

Though this started as a project to meet a personal goal, it grew to focus on so much more.

"I am excited to lead this initiative," Guerrero added, "but an event this monumental is not about just one person, it takes all of us to showcase the importance of celebrating and accepting people with disabilities. There are many ways to get involved. From Sponsors,

Parade Floats, Resource & Activity Fair Presenters, and Volunteers. We need you to help us showcase and celebrate who we are! Your support not only helps us start this event, but to continue it in the years to come."

To participate in the parade, present at the fair, sponsor, or volunteer, visit

<https://nmateen2020.wixsite.com/ksparade> All Materials are available in multiple Accessible formats including links to online registration, PDF forms, Large print PDF, and Text only word Documents.

For any questions, contact Guerrero at 785-430-1088 or email NMA-Teen2020@gmail.com The mailing address is Disabled & Proud Foundation of Kansas, PO Box 67102, Topeka, KS 66667. You can also follow on Facebook for updates leading to the event @KS-DPParade.



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Here's how you can register to vote in Kansas



in Primary Election

Monday, July 11, 2022

Estimated iVoterGuide Release Date for Primary

Thursday, July 14, 2022 - Monday, August 1, 2022

Early Voting for Primary Election

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Primary Election Day

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

Last Day to Register to Vote in the General Election

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

- Monday, November 7, 2022

Early Voting for General Election

Tuesday, November 8, 2022

General Election Day

The Aug. 2 primary will be here before long. And in Kansas, it's critical for those wishing to vote to make sure their registration is up to date before that time.

Why? Because Kansas requires residents to register 21 days prior to a primary or election. That means those who want to vote in the primary must be registered on or before July 12.

For the general election, residents must register by Oct. 18. This can be done online at the Kansas Secretary of State's website, sos.ks.gov/elections, which also provides more information.

Statewide Election Dates

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

Last Day to Register to Vote

Historic Topeka sculpture now fully renovated



Artist DeAna Morrisson has put the final touches on the Old Buff buffalo statue in Cushmanberry Park, completing her restoration of the former Kansas Technical Institute mascot.

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Dear Dave,

I am following your plan, and recently became debt-free, but I have a question. When doing a monthly budget, should I figure in a specific category for car repairs and maintenance, or just use my

emergency fund?
—Ashleigh

Dear Ashleigh,

Congratulations on becoming debt-free! You know, new cars, old cars and in-between cars all have one thing in common — they'll need repairs at some point. Fixing your car is just a basic part of car ownership, and something every car owner should be prepared for.

When life happens, to your vehicle or anything else, an emergency fund acts like an airbag. Only instead of keeping your face from hitting the dashboard, it keeps your finances from getting smashed up. When it comes to car repair costs, I advise creating a sinking fund in

your budget. A sinking fund is a special place in your budget where you save up money for specific, big-ticket items — like car repairs.

Should You Take a Pension Buyout?

By Ryan Shumaker
Smartvestor Pro at
The Retirement Team



Interest rates have been soaring and bonds, typically seen as a more conservative or 'safer' investment, are seeing their largest loss in history as a result. In fact, if you look at the US Aggregate Bond Index (this is the most widely followed bond index and the largest 'total bond market' index fund in the world tracks this index as do many 'target date' retirement funds) it is now lower than when it came into existence over 30 years ago! This was something we warned about in our articles titled 'How Low Can Rates Go?' (which you can reread at RetireTopeka.com/Blog) that were published in November of 2020 and July of last year. Since we first warned that there was likely a bubble brewing in bonds this index is down over 18%. If you didn't pay attention to the concerns we were raising about bonds and have suffered steep losses, you should probably not make the same mistake again if you're someone that has a pension buyout available to you and you're considering retiring soon.

A lump sum pension buyout is typically calculated based on what your monthly pension amount would be (which is based on years of service and earnings), your age, and an interest rate average. If you've maxed out your monthly pension amount from your years of service, then waiting to retire can cause your lump sum amount to actually go down! Why? Well, pension funds figure as you get older you don't need as much of a lump sum to get the same amount of monthly income as what the pension would supply since you now have fewer years to live. Similarly, if interest rates go up they figure that you need a smaller lump sum to get the same amount of income.

Many employers only make these calculations annually or semi annually while others do it monthly or even more frequently. With the recent sharp increase in interest rates there will be many people that see their pension buyout lump sum decrease significantly when these recalculations happen. There will certainly be some that see their lump sum amount go down by more than what their salary is. If

Look at it this way, if you had a car loan like most people, you'd be putting hundreds toward that debt each month. Instead, you're one of the smart ones who doesn't have any debt and can easily create a repair fund for your car by setting aside less than the average car payment each month. Even "reliable" cars need repairs and maintenance, and a

sinking fund within your budget for this sort of thing means you're ready to handle virtually any auto issues that pop up.

You know you'll need to pay for repairs and maintenance. It's a thing with all cars. And when you know something's coming, that's not an emergency fund situation.

—Dave

you're considering retiring soon and are contemplating the lump sum option it would be wise to find out when the recalculation would occur for you and consider retiring before then. Otherwise the amount you get paid continuing to work could be less than what the pension buyout amount decreases. It costing money to work makes little sense.

So why would someone consider a pension buyout instead of a monthly pension income stream? There are really 4 reasons: income flexibility, potentially higher guaranteed income, taxes, and legacy. One issue with a regular monthly pension check is that it will go less far every day. That check will remain the same amount, but prices are ever increasing. Over the average retirement length if there is just average levels of inflation all prices will more than double. At the end of retirement one would need over 2.5 times the amount of income in order to buy the same things and keep the same lifestyle as today. This would mean a pension that pays the same amount each month would only buy 40% of what it can buy today. If you go with the traditional monthly pension check you need to ask yourself what 60% can you cut out of your budget. That is again only assuming average inflation, not the crazy 40 year high levels we've been experiencing recently! With a well constructed plan, you can create a strategy to combat ever increasing prices with ever increasing income from a lump sum buyout. This is one kind of income flexibility. You might also want to spend more earlier on in retirement while still young and healthy and less later on. You have that flexibility too with the lump sum option. Maybe you're in the other boat and are sick and don't have a terribly long life expectancy. A lump sum would allow you to concentrate spending a large amount in the shorter time period you have left. When we've been doing pension analysis for new and existing clients we're often finding it would take 20-25 years for pension payments to total the same amount as a lump sum. If you happen to live less than that then you missed out. If you live longer it doesn't take much of a return on that lump sum to allow you to not only get the same amount of money as what the pension would have been, but likely more.

For those liking the idea of someone

providing a guarantee of what that income stream is, there are many private companies out there that right now could provide you with a higher monthly income stream if you were to transfer the lump sum to them. This is in part due to them using the new higher interest rates to calculate what a monthly check would be compared to the older lower rates that a pension fund may still be basing a lump sum on.

Taxes are another huge consideration. If you take a lump sum, that money can go into your 401k or an IRA. You can then control how much comes out and when. Since that is when taxes are paid you can better control what tax you pay and when. With historically low tax rates as part of the temporary Trump tax cuts, it could be wise for many to pay tax on much of this money now rather than later when tax rates could be higher. This would allow more spendable dollars on the same amount of income since less would be going to the government and more going into your pocket. If you just take a monthly pension check you're at the mercy of whatever tax rates might be in the future. The last reason is legacy. By taking a lump sum there can be something left to some sort of beneficiary whether that is kids, grandkids, relatives, church or some sort of charity.

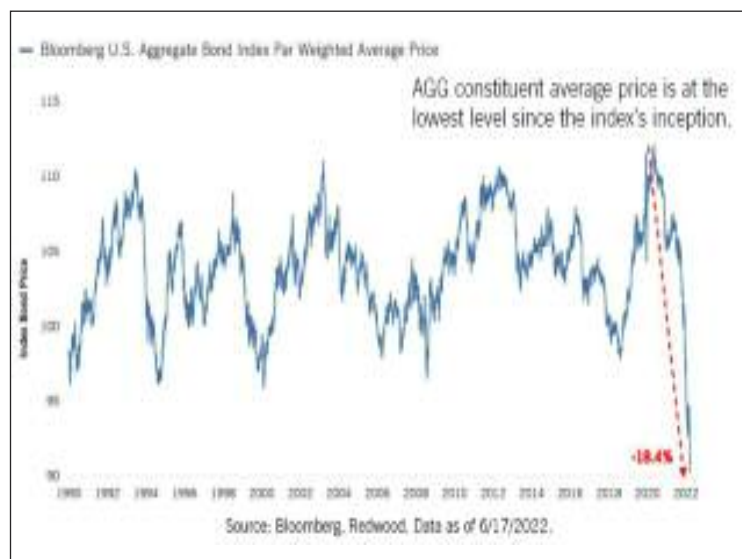
We've been helping a lot of people recently figure out what pension option might be best for them from Hills, Evergy, BC/BS, and Frito Lay to name just a few. In some situations the lump sum is still so large compared to what the monthly pension check would be it is a complete no brainer to take the lump sum, but in a few instances, especially if a recalculation factoring in the new higher interest rates has caused the lump sum amount to plummet, taking the pension and the inflexibility that comes with it is the better choice. Helping people figure out which pension option to take for their particular situation and minimizing the taxes on that option is just one of the things we do as part of our complementary 3 step review for new clients. If you're considering retiring sometime soon, having this kind of analysis completed would be wise as waiting to retire and working longer could cause a significant loss in money because of recently rising interest rates.

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It May Be a Time for Tax Loss Harvesting

By Jim Hanna

Watching your investments take a tumble in the stock market generally isn't a fun experience. But seasoned investors know that market volatility—and the inherent ups and downs that come with it—is a natural part of the process, and that historical trends show that market swings even out over time.



Hanna

In the right conditions, a market drop can even present opportunities, such as with tax loss harvesting.

If this concept intrigues you—particularly in light of recent stock index declines—here's what you should know:

A potential tax-saving strategy

The tax loss harvesting strategy applies specifically to investments held in taxable accounts. Since current taxes aren't applied to IRAs or workplace retirement plans, this strategy is not applicable in those accounts.

The tax benefit of selling a security in a loss position is that those losses could potentially reduce your tax liability. Suppose you invested \$10,000 to buy 1000 shares of a stock for \$10 per share more than a year ago. Today, if the stock's value dropped to \$8 per share, your initial investment is now valued at \$8,000. The stock may recover and eventually appreciate in value. But if you sell it today, you could claim a \$2,000 long-term capital loss. Is that the right choice?

The upside of tax-loss selling

One deciding factor is whether you have capital gains that can be offset by the losses you incur from selling securities in a negative position. Long-term capital gains which relate to assets you've held for more than a year are taxed at rates of 0, 15, or 20 percent based on your federal taxable income. If you had a \$3,000 long-term capital gain to claim on your 2022 tax return, that would come with a federal income tax bill of \$450 if your long-term capital gain is taxed at the 15% rate. If, at the same time, you lock in a \$3,000 long-term capital loss on a different investment, it will offset that gain and eliminate the tax liability

with respect to that capital gain.

Likewise, if you own mutual funds in a taxable account, they may pay out capital gains distributions this year, even if they are not performing well at the present time. Those gains too can be offset by capital losses you claim.

Note that you may not need or want to offset capital gains if your taxable income in 2022, including the gains, is \$41,675 or less for single tax filers or a married taxpayer filing separately, or \$83,350 or less for a married couple filing a joint return. Taxpayers with total taxable income and gains below those income thresholds qualify for a 0% tax rate on long-term capital gains.

Singles and married couples filing a joint return can use up to \$3,000 of net capital losses to offset ordinary income (\$1,500 for a married, filing separately, tax filer). Beyond that, unused losses can be carried forward to offset potential taxable capital gains in future tax years.

Cautions about tax loss selling

The downside to selling a position that has suffered a loss is that you can't purchase that specific security or one that is "substantially identical" to it 30 days before or after the sale at a loss without the possibility of running afoul of the wash sale rules and deferring the loss. Choosing to sell also means you sacrifice the potential to benefit from a rebound in the price of the security while you are out of the position. You want to be certain that you are comfortable not owning a specific security for a period of time that could be a candidate for tax loss harvesting.

Most of all, any buy-or-sell decisions you make regarding your portfolio need to go beyond just the tax consequences. Talk to your financial advisor about how tax loss harvesting opportunities fit into your overall financial plan. Be sure to consult with your tax advisor as well to understand how tax rules apply.

Jim Hanna, CFP®, MBA, CKA®, is a Private Wealth Advisor and Certified Kingdom Advisor® with Heart Financial Partners a private wealth advisory practice

IRS warns of "Dirty Dozen" tax scams

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

The IRS reminds taxpayers to watch out for and avoid advertised schemes, many of which are now promoted online, that promise tax savings that are too good to be true and will likely cause taxpayers to legally compromise themselves. The first four on the "Dirty Dozen" list are described in more details as follows:



Use of Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust (CRAT) to Eliminate Taxable Gain. In this transaction, appreciated property is transferred to a CRAT. Taxpayers improperly claim the transfer of the appreciated assets to the CRAT in and of itself gives those assets a step-up in basis to fair market value as if they had been sold to the trust.

Maltese (or Other Foreign) Pension Arrangements Misusing Treaty. In these transactions, U.S. citizens or U.S. residents attempt to avoid U.S. tax by making contributions to certain foreign individual retirement arrangements in Malta (or possibly other foreign countries).

Puerto Rican and Other Foreign Captive Insurance. In these transactions, U.S. owners of closely held entities participate in a purported insurance arrangement with a Puerto Rican or other foreign corporation with cell arrangements or segregated asset plans in which the U.S. owner has a financial interest.

Monetized Installment Sales. These transactions involve the inappropriate use of the installment sale rules under section 453 by a seller who, in the year of a sale of property, effectively receives the sales proceeds through purported loans.

Taxpayers and practitioners should always be wary of participating in transactions that seem "too good to be true."

We'll look at more next time.



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Celebrate **SUMMERTIME** in Downtown Topeka!

Summertime is the perfect time to visit Downtown Topeka! There are many fun places and events to visit, and shopping downtown can also be fun, with all the unique shops and a bit of nostalgia in the air!

Following are some tidbits from some of your friendly downtown merchants waiting to serve you. Why not take a trip downtown and visit them?

A Full-Service Florist, Home Decor & Gift Shop

Absolute Design by Brenda, 629 S. Kansas Avenue, offers hand-selected flowers and exquisite designs with delivery throughout the Topeka area. They have an expansive line of gifts, jewelry and home decor for all your holiday and year-round needs.

This locally-owned Topeka florist de-



livers courteous, professional service and the highest quality floral and gift items around. Their experienced designers can create floral designs that will complement any occasion and meet your budget and style expectations as well. Daily delivery service is available to all local funeral homes, hospitals and nursing homes.

You can even save \$5.00 on an in-store purchase with the coupon on this page! You can also order or wire flowers 24 hours a day at: www.absolutedesignbybrenda.com.

Taking chocolate to a new level

Owners Nick & Terry Xidis at Hazel Hill Chocolate, 724 S. Kansas Avenue, have been a staple in Downtown Topeka for years.

Hazel Hill, Terry's grandmother, is a symbol of their dedication to a family tradition of "the best in everything they do." Nick is the third generation chocolatier, and they use only the finest ingredients, chocolate, fresh cream and butter, to produce handmade treats that explode with flavor.

Lately, Nick has been making handcrafted chocolate from cacao (coco



beans) that import from around the globe. Much like fine wine, each cacao origin produces a unique flavor profile in the finished chocolate.

"There are only a couple of hundred companies in the US that hand craft chocolate," Nick said.

"In 2019, three of our handcrafted chocolate bars won bronze in the International Chocolate Awards Americas competition," Nick said. "In 2020

our sea salt caramel won the gold medal in the Chocolate Alliance competition. Both of these competitions include entries from more than 400 craft chocolate professionals."

Whether your preference is hand-made chocolate truffles, home-style fudge, crispy-creamy caramel apples or something else – at Hazel Hill they have delightful treats for every palate.

Need a gift basket, gift box, or just a few delicious chocolates to go? They'll do all the packing and shipping, too!

Delicious treats for all to enjoy

Shana Cake opened at 435 S Kansas in 2015, and they are still committed to providing your family gluten-free, allergy-friendly treats.



They have a variety of cupcakes, cookies, muffins, breads, and other treats that are free of gluten, dairy, soy, nuts, tree nuts, artificial colors and flavors, preservatives, and GMO's.

Most of the products can also be made egg-free, and they strive to offer vegan goods daily.

One of their favorite compliments is when a new customer says they can't tell the treats are gluten-free. Many customers that have no dietary restrictions return simply because they enjoy the delicious treats.

Special orders, such as cakes, specific flavors of cupcakes, or special treats, etc., can be placed online at [.shanacake.com](http://shanacake.com) or by calling (785)408-1272.

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SUMMERTIME Memories, Events, & Fun!

Check out these upcoming Summertime Events & Activities Downtown!

Take home a bag of the featured "Made in the USA" coffee grown and roasted in Hawaii, with aloha flavors like toasted coconut, chocolate and vanilla macadamia nut.



Local favorites are still available, like the Turkey Lurkey and house made Cranberry Almond Chicken Salad for lunch. Fresh salads, wraps and tasty paninis make it perfect for casual dining. Daily house made specials keep it fresh and exciting. Check out the menus online at www.juliscoffeeandbistro.com. You can order and pay online and then pick up, or use Eatstreet delivery.

Community matters, so remember 911 S. Kansas for "Great Coffee, Better Food!"

Diamonds are Forever

You'll find many specials and gift ideas at David's Jewelers, 623 S. Kansas - a family business that has served Topeka for four generations. Diamond rings, pendants and earrings usually top the list, but they also offer vivid colored gemstones in unique settings, watches, clocks, statues and fine crystal, as well as many other gift items, whether for yourself or someone else.



"Gifts can start at \$20.00 and go from there," said Mitzi from behind the counter at David's.

"We will be glad to help you find that special gift for that special someone."

While you're making your way around the downtown area, watch for these downtown events coming up:

ART WALK ON FIRST FRIDAYS – Downtown & NOTO arts district. Arts, antiques, fine crafts, many more items.

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

EATS & BEATS – Every Thursday through Sep. 15, 6:30pm-8:30pm, Every Plaza. Bring



lawn chairs. Food trucks, beer gardens. July 7: The Bash; July 14: Delta Haze



ROCKIN' THE JAYHAWK – July 6, 7pm, Jayhawk Theatre. 38 cellists live on stage. Tickets: jayhawktheatre.org



FRIDAY FLICKS – July 8, Every Plaza. "Aladdin" will show at 8pm. Food trucks.

Bring a lawn chair

FIESTA MEXICANA'S DOWNTOWN TOPEKA KICK-OFF EVENT – July 9, 4:30-9pm, Every Plaza.

SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT – July 9, 6-11:30pm, Celtic Fox. Soul 2 Soul and Departure.



2ND ANNUAL COUNTRY KICKOFF – July 13, 6:30pm, Every Plaza. Nebraska Show-down will be making their return! This 90's country cover band was a fan favorite. There will also be vendors & food trucks on site.

SPLASH PAD SOCIAL – July 13, 4-6pm, Every Plaza. Soak up the sun with Mrs. Grey and Mrs. Bremer

1ST ANNUAL DISABLED AND PROUD PARADE OF KANSAS - July 23, 11AM, Capitol



Building, Downtown Topeka. The parade will circle the Capitol Building, starting at 8th & Jackson, and then the public is invited to gather on the south Capitol lawn for a resource & activity fair, speeches, food trucks and more. For info: 785-430-1088 or NMATeen2020@gmail.com



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Getting the Most out of the Camp Experience

Summer camp allows kids to create lifelong memories and uncover passions that will last a lifetime. But sometimes a little help from parents and counselors can make a good thing even better. Particularly if your child is a first-time camper, there are a lot of things to think about.

Here are some useful tips and advice to ensure campers make the most of their experience while hopefully putting parents' minds at ease.

What to Know Before You Commit

The most important steps to make sure your child has an awesome summer camp experience take place long before they leave for their big adventure. Ashley Price, director of student experiences at the PAST Foundation, says it is important to consider the interests of your child before signing them up. If they're interested in technology, an outdoor camp might not suit them as well as STEM-focused programs.

The American Camp Association suggests that in addition to the theme, parents also talk with children about how far away from home they are comfortable traveling and whether a half-

day or full-day program is best.

When selecting a camp, it is essential to make sure both you and your child are aware of the activities that await them. All the mental and emotional preparation in the world won't fix a wet pair of socks, so packing proper clothing and supplies is a must. When in doubt, Price encourages parents to reach out to camp staff. "Don't be afraid to ask questions," she says.

First-timers will want to ensure they label everything they bring, and don't forget summer essentials such as sunscreen, bug spray and the like. The ACA has a list of suggested items on its website, but use your camp's list as the official guide.

Campers Should Be Ready to Try New Things

Price says campers also should be prepared for experiences that get them out of their comfort zone. "You come to camp to try new things and to find out what you like. And so you may come in, and you may fail at something," Price says. "But don't be afraid to fail, because you get the opportunity to go back and try again."

Accepting and learning from failure is a common lesson that camps try to teach. A weeklong camp provides children with a chance to push their boundaries in a low-risk environment, away from the social and academic pressures of school. At the same time, it presents a host of intimidating new experiences.

Kelsey Hopkins, an instructor and Goldsmith Artist in Residence at Columbus Children's Theatre, says struggling is nothing to be ashamed of. "These are the places where it's a safe space to really just test yourself and discover yourself," she says.

Hopkins recommends practicing mindfulness with your child. Campers who regularly check in with themselves are less likely to let their anxiety get out of hand. She says camp is a perfect place for kids to practice emotional maturity and self-advocacy. "What makes them have a great time is that they really understand that they have a voice, and they can express their needs to an adult," Hopkins says.

This sort of self-awareness can help campers connect with each other as well as find enjoyment for themselves. Collaboration is key to most summer camp activities, so Hopkins encourages kids to build empathy for one another. "Pep talk them, and support your friends when it's their turn, because you want the same thing when you're doing your thing," she says.

Hopkins cites social interaction as a common challenge for campers, especially in recent years. Pandemic isolation and social media exposure have intensified their insecurities while deepening their desire for connection. She suggests kids treat camp as a social workout, strengthening their patience, listening skills and confidence.

Fostering Communication at Camp

Stormy Gibson, executive director of the Ohio Wildlife Center, says fitting in is a universal concern for camp attendees. "They take a whole year to get comfortable with their instructors or their teachers at a traditional school, and we ask these campers to get very comfortable in talking or interacting with our camp instructors in a very short period of time," Gibson says.

She advises kids to "go in with an open mind and an open heart." This also applies to summer camp veterans, who can pursue new experiences and help newbies feel welcome.

The common thread is communication. Parents should communicate with



their children and camp staff about what to expect, and children should speak up to ensure they have a positive experience.

Paul Huttlin, CEO of Recreation Unlimited, which serves individuals with developmental and physical disabilities, says parents can help staff by being clear about the needs of their child. Although parents might be worried about their baby bird leaving the nest, they should trust camp staff to have their best interests in mind. "What makes it successful for us is the information that we get from parents," he says. "That's very, very important, because they know their child better than we do."

Gibson stresses that it's always better to be proactive if a child has unique needs, but you can't prepare for everything. A benefit of day camps is that parents can check in with their kids and camp staff before things get out of hand. She recommends parents ask their child

specific questions about their day, instead of opting for the open-ended, "Did you have fun?" Try asking about the high and low points of their day. If things seem especially negative, don't be afraid to bring it up with camp staff.

With the right preparation, camp is more than just a fun summer activity; it can be a formative experience. "I see them grow," says Hopkins. "I've had kids since they were 12, and now they're graduating high school. And to see them become adults is so weird, because they're all so awesome. ... They're so compassionate and have a lot of good friendships and relationships."

The American Camp Association has numerous resources to help parents prepare for camp, including how to choose a program, dealing with homesickness and packing tips. Learn more at acacamps.org.

— Nicholas Youngblood / columbus-monthly.com

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Getting ready for summer camp | Summer camp checklist

There are so many benefits of summer camp that your child can gain if they attend. Whether it is day camp or sleepaway, sports, academics, sewing, cooking, or something else, summer camp provides children with the opportunity to be independent, explore their interests, and make new friends.

However, it is important to adequately prepare your child for camp. This is especially true if they are attending a sleepaway camp, but it is still equally important for day camp. Getting ready for summer camp takes time, so get ahead of it so that your child has the best time this summer! This guide will give you helpful tips and summer camp checklists so that you know your child will have fun and feel comfortable at camp.

- How to find a good summer camp
- Getting ready for summer camp
- Summer camp checklist

How to find a good summer camp

Did you know that you can book your child for summer camp as early as January? Most camps open up enrollment in the winter and many parents take advantage of these early bookings.

But, how do you know which is the right camp for your child? When you search for summer camps on Sawyer and elsewhere, you might be overwhelmed by the number of results. Choosing the perfect summer camp for your child is the



first step towards preparing them for a great summer. Here are our best tips on how to find a good summer camp for your child.

Talk with your child

Your first step towards finding the right summer camp for your child is to speak with them. What are they interested in doing this summer? Do they want to learn something new or advance their skills in a subject like STEM, art, music, or cooking? Or, are they interested in lots of different topics? Maybe they want to play sports or spend the entire time outdoors. This knowledge will help you narrow down your options so you can find a good summer camp for your child.

Try to create a balance

Remember: summer break should feel like a break for your child. When looking at camps, check the dates and make sure there is some time between school and camp at the beginning and end of the summer, so they can unwind and relax. This is especially important if your child is attending an academic camp. Children experience burnout just like adults do, so make sure that they get some time off during summer break.

Read reviews

Not sure how to find a good summer camp? Read what others have to say about the camps! You can read reviews from parents and children who have attended the camps and other activities offered by the educator. These reviews are often the best way to get an

honest opinion on the camp and make sure that it is the right place for your child.

Include a friend

If this is going to be your child's first experience with camp, you might want to include one of their friends in the planning. Speak with the parents of a few of your child's friends to see what they are doing for the summer. New camps and activities can be a lot less scary if your child has a buddy. However, you still want your child to make new friends and practice independence, so we'd recommend against inviting all of their friends to the same camp.

Decide on the right type of camp

Sleepaway, day, or virtual camp: which is the right summer camp type for your child? Or, maybe it's a mix of the three! Making this decision starts by understanding your child. Are they independent and ready for some time on their own? Try a sleepaway camp! Are they just starting to feel comfortable being away from you for school? Consider a day camp! Are you worried about summer camp and COVID-19? Check out one of the many virtual camp options!

Getting ready for summer camp

Once you have found the right summer camp (or camps, because you can mix and match), you need to start thinking about preparing your child. Camp is different from school, even if they are attending day camp or virtual camp, because there is less structure and oversight and more independence. Here are some tips as your child starts getting ready for summer camp so they can have the best summer ever.

Be transparent

Children thrive when they know what to expect. One of the best ways to prepare

your child for summer camp is to give them as much information as possible. Ask your contact at the camp for a sample of the daily or weekly schedule, meals that will be served, and field trips. Let them know what you will be packing for them and how they can contact you, if needed.

Do a trial run

If your child is going to sleepaway camp for the first time, it is likely the first time they will be away from you for such an extended period of time. Likewise, attending a day camp that lasts 8 hours might be the first time your young child is away from you for that long. Before you throw them into the deep end, do a test. Drop your little one off at a full day



activity or even with a relative for the full day. To prepare for sleepaway camp, have your child spend the night at a friend's or relative's house.

Set them up for success

When you pack your child up for camp, include some items that will help them make friends. For example, you can send them with coloring books and enough markers to share, nail polish, jacks, playing cards, and a Polaroid camera. These group activities are great for connecting the children at the beginning of camp and making fast friends.

Prepare for the possibility of homesickness

If your child is going away for camp, they might experience homesickness. It is a completely normal feeling and most children feel it at some point. Part of getting ready for summer camp is helping your child understand what to do if they feel homesick. They should speak with their counselors who are there to help them with exactly this (and much more, of course). On your end, try not to engage with your homesick child because it will only make them miss you more.

Summer camp checklist

Most camps provide you with a summer camp checklist so you know what to pack and what to leave behind for your child. Whether it's day camp or sleepaway camp, packing the right items for your child is important to ensuring they are comfortable and ready to take on the day. Always follow the list provided by your camp, but here are some important summer camp checklist tips.

1. Send extras. If your child is going away to camp, you should send them with a reusable water bottle. But, things happen and children are children, so it might get lost. Add a backup water bottle to their bag, just in case. Likewise, with socks, underwear, and other small clothing items, it might be best to include a few extra.

2. Label everything.

This is a helpful tip for both day camp and sleepaway camp. Every parent received the same packing list, so you need to make sure you label everything you send with your child. Write their initials or last name on clothing tags,

the tongue of sneakers, sunscreen bottles, and everything else you pack.

3. Pack layers. Early mornings and evenings can get chilly in the summer. Make sure your child has a sweatshirt and sweatpants that they can slip over their regular camp clothes.

4. Include ziplocks and plastic bags. These bags can be useful if your child has wet or dirty clothes that they want to bring home.

5. If your child takes medication, speak with the camp. In general, camps will not let a child keep their own medication. If it is emergency medication like an inhaler or epi-pen, then it will usually be kept with a staff member who is always with the children. If it is a daily medication like allergy pills, it will likely be kept with the nurses. The best recommendation is to speak with the camp in advance so you know how and where to pack their medication so it is safe for your child and the other children.

With the above tips and guidance, you and your child should feel confident when getting ready for summer camp in 2022. Summer 2022 is going to be the best one yet!

—hisawyer.com

VBS & SUMMER CAMPS

PEACE CAMP 2022 -- July 11-15, 8:15 a.m. - noon, West Side Christian Church, 432 SW Lindenwood Ave., Topeka, KS 66606; Half-day camp for children who have finished K-5th grades; Full information and registration at www.westsidedisciples.org

SINGLE DAY SUMMER CAMPS — Aspire Gymnastics is offering Wednesday and Friday themed Summer Camps on Wed. 1-3pm for ages 3-8, and Fri. 9-12 for ages 4-11. Visit aspiregymnasticsclub.com for details. 785-380-6046

CAGE GYMNASTICS CAMP — various dates in July. 785-266-4151. Cagegymnastics.com

KANSAS BALLET ACADEMY SUMMER DANCE CAMP. 785-383-7918, or KansasBallet.com

YMCA SUMMER CAMP - The YMCA offers several varieties of summer camps. Call 785-435-8651 or TerryJ@ymcatopeka.org

opinion

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THE CONSTITUTION vs. ROE v. WADE

By George Ismael Felio Jr.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. — from the Declaration of Independence.

There are certain cases throughout the course of American History that has changed the course of our country. In most cases, they were for the worse such as the Dred Scott Case. Like that case, each of these decisions involved judicial activism or overreach. It is activism because the justices wrote law that was never written nor approved by the Constitution. It is overreach because the judiciary according to the Constitution has no power to write law.

When it comes to Roe v. Wade, everyone eighteen and over has an opinion and chosen a side. The average person's opinion comes from someone else (most often a college professor and sometimes a family member) and not from their own personal study. The key to a well-informed populace concerning the Constitution is to have actually read three things: the Constitution, the Federalist Papers, and the Bible. The first two show the thoughts and actual words of those who wrote the Constitution; and the last shows the heart and soul of the writers of the Constitution.

The activist judges (ironically, three of which were nominated by Nixon to the Supreme Court as strict Constitutionalist) who wrote law through Roe v. Wade did so for three reasons: political and social pressure, faulty science, and a willful desire to ignore the Constitution in favor of instituting their own political desires. Even still, they did not fully understand the monster none as the Abortion Industry that they would unleash upon America; but the two dissenting judges did. The majority argued that this would never happen as they naively thought that each person must have a personal physician that would come

to the decision of abortion for the health and safety of the mother, but it did.

So how did a court packed with strict Constitutionalist come to this dreadful decision? First came the pressure. One of Nixon's greatest fears was the affect the Washington elites might have on the justices' wives and their influence. One justice was annoyed by this train of questioning as he thought that would never happen. It did as his wife swerved her husband's thinking in a desire to be accepted by the Washington Elites.

One of the key questions the justices had was "Where does life begin?" Here's where the faulty science came in along with the term Fetus (Latin for offspring). If sonograms existed in 1973, the question would have been answered with conception; but it did not. Amazingly, the science which was thought settled had not been. In fact, one of the argument made for abortion was that the Fetus (unborn baby) went through the stages of evolution inside the womb. Who would dare argue with the science? I mean if you argue with the science than you only show your ignorance.

"God forbid: yea, let God be true and every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged." Romans 3:4.

As a reminder, power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely. The justices stretched the Fourteenth Amendment (something a few justices admitted was wrong) which dealt with the freed slaves to include abortion. In order to make abortion legal, the very justices who were chosen because they were against judicial overreach exceeded their powers and wrote a law which stood until June 24, 2022.

Once again a trial came before the Supreme Court challenging Roe v. Wade. This time there was five justices who were supposed to be Originalist (those who believe that the Constitution should be judged according to the Founders' original intent) against four activist judges. News was illegally leaked that this landmarked case was about to be overturned.

The major question was to be how the judges reached their decision in order to determine the future of this conflict between life and death. The judges only had

Amendment X.
The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

sought for a definition for when life began.

What the Supreme Court did use was the 10th Amendment to overturn this egregious law. The 10th Amendment dictates that whatever the Constitution does not address belongs to the state legislature (not courts). This is a point that any student of our govern-

ment and its law must honestly concede and many Liberal justices (including the beloved RBG) admitted. The Supreme Court had no right to make that decision in 1973 because it belonged to each individual state.

So the battle for life will be fought state by state. Abortion has not been made illegal despite what the pundits may say. Each state through their legislature in the next few years will push for their stance on the issue which means the fight for life has never been more important.

Why the Declaration of Independence? It's simple and also the hard sell. One of the major arguments for abortion during the original trial was when life began and what constituted a human being. According to the document that gives birth to our nation, God gave us the rights to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of happiness. It is our government's job to secure it. Thanks to sonograms and science we know when life begins despite the Bible already laying it pretty clear in the Bible. If (according to our Founding Fathers) it is the job of the government to secure life, than an unborn child has the right to a chance to live.

The hard sell is because it is not in the Constitution. I'd argue the Supreme Court, through activist judges, have used flimsier foreign law to overturn existing law as well as write new laws from the bench. I do believe the Declaration of Independence is a valid document for the Supreme Court to use in making a decision and so did the justices during Roe v. Wade which is why they

two options: the Declaration of Independence (which is a major foundational document of this country which declares our independence as a nation from England and our dependence on God) and the 10th Amendment of the Constitution (the first ten amendments were passed in exchange for the Constitution being ratified by all the states).

This August, the state of Kansas must make its decision on where it stands. Because of a corrupt Republican governor decades ago, our legislature ensured that our State Supreme Court would be dominated by leftist activists for all eternity or until we people are willing to abolish this oligarchic tyranny. These activist judges rewrote our Constitution to include Abortion as a right. Murder of the innocent is never a right.

We must vote yes to the Value Them Both Amendment. We must educate others on the importance of this ballot and the value of life. Knowing is half the battle. We must say NO to the tyranny that our governor and her ilk so desperately want to impose on our people.

"RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION: BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO



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Gawdun

Why we must pass the Value Them Both Amendment on August 2

In 2019, the Kansas Supreme Court radically changed our state constitution, making it impossible to regulate the abortion industry in even the simplest of ways. As a result of this decision, over twenty life-saving laws on abortion are now presumed unconstitutional and are in danger of being struck down by abortion industry lawsuits. Over a 20-year period, these reasonable regulations had helped to lower the number of abortions in Kansas by 44%.

Passing the Value Them Both amend-

ment on August 2 will reverse the 2019 state court ruling and restore our constitution to the way it was. It will protect the bi-partisan supported limits on abortion and ensure that Kansas does not become a permanent destination for unlimited, unregulated, taxpayer-funded abortion.

Voting "yes" on Value Them Both will protect laws that enable parents to counsel their minor daughters through an abortion decision; ensure that there are abortion clinic-specific inspection and health and safety standards in place; provide pregnant women with easy access to information on fetal development, the risks of abortion, alternatives and a

statewide list of organizations offering assistance with their needs; and prevent our taxpayer dollars from being used to subsidize the abortion industry.

The effects of the 2019 state court ruling have been devastating. In 2020, Kansas saw the largest increase in the number of abortions in 25 years. In the last two years, the number of women coming from out of state to have abortions in Kansas has increased 16%, and the number of painful, live dismemberment abortions has increased 17%.

While states around us are able to place limits on the abortion industry, Kansas is poised to be the destination

state for extreme abortion in the Midwest. The abortion industry is predicting a 1,362 % increase in the number of women who come to Kansas for abortions if Value Them Both does not pass. Using the most recent Kansas abortion statistics, we could see anywhere from 50,000-100,000 abortions a year.

There is a lot at stake and now is the time for everyone to get involved! Join us in the most historic grassroots effort in the history of Kansas. It is not a question of whether you should help, but how.

First of all, pray for the successful passage of Value Them Both. Speak to your pastor about scheduling a presentation

for your church to help spread the truth about the amendment. July 12 is the deadline to register to vote, so help others do so easily by hosting a voter registration drive at your church. Volunteer to make phone calls and go door to door sharing information and asking people to commit to voting "yes" on August 2. Put a bumper sticker on your car and a yard sign at your home or business.

Visit ValueThemBoth.com for more information and to volunteer.

—Jeanne Gawdun is Director of Government Relations, Kansas for Life. KFL is a National Right to Life Affiliate

ROE RESPONSE

continued from page 3

unborn. We owe it to them to joyously defend this most fundamental right -- the right to life.

President Biden:

Called the verdict "a tragic error" in an address Friday afternoon, a sentiment echoed by Speaker Pelosi (D-CA).

Senator Lindsay Graham (R-SC):

Called Friday "a day to celebrate,"

The Vatican:

Praised the decision, saying it challenged the world to reflect on life issues.

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann:

"I think many people prayed and worked for this day when the court would correct the grave errors that it made in 1973. We stand against the killing of the innocent unborn, but we also stand with women in difficult pregnancies, and we want to surround them with a community of love and support — not just so the baby will be born, but so the baby and the mother will thrive."

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod:

We give thanks to God, through His Son, Jesus Christ, for this opinion released on the Nativity of St. John, the one who leapt in the womb at the voice of Mary, the mother of our Lord.

Topeka Bible Church:

As a people who worship God and value life, we are called to care for vulnerable children, including the unborn. With the overturn of the 1973 Roe v Wade ruling, we want to take this opportunity to highlight how Topeka Bible Church supports the sanctity of life. We invite you to take a step forward in faith to play a role in one of these ministries – through financial, prayer, or volunteer support:

- Foster Care + Adoption Ministry: We support adopting or fostering fami-

lies through community, free training, and workshops. We also highlight this ministry through Foster Care & Adoption Sunday (this year on October 23)

- Lifeline Children's Services: TBC financially supports this local organization through our annual budget and our congregation's participation in the "Make a Change" baby bottle fundraiser.

- Single Moms Ministry: We create a space where single moms can gather for conversation and Bible study on Sunday mornings, knowing their children are being cared for and growing their faith.

- TBC Adoption Fund: Provides financial support for adoption expenses.

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas:

"Right is still right, even if you stand by yourself."

Alveda King, a niece of Martin Luther King Jr.:

"Praise God." But "the work's not over." "We keep on our warfare equipment," said King, referencing the "spiritual warfare" in the apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians. "We've got to support the pregnancy care centers," King said, and elect officials who believe in the sanctity of life. "America is on the mend. We are understanding that life from the womb to the tomb is sacred."

Dan McLaughlin, New York Post:

Roe was a legal mistake that played a large role in driving our national politics crazy. Now the democratic process gets to decide what happens to abortion. Before Roe, nearly every state in the Union banned or restricted abortion, but the trend was toward allowing abortion in more situations. That trend, here and abroad, tracked the liberalizing of divorce laws and other features of the sexual revolution of the 1960s and 1970s. Roe stopped all that in its tracks, high-handedly sweeping off the books the laws of nearly every state at once...

"No matter how you feel about abortion, this should be welcomed as a healthy development for American democracy and for the rule of written law made by the people's representatives..."

"All the energy that usually goes into politics and lawmaking in Congress and state legislatures was forced into an all-or-nothing national battle for the Supreme Court that lasted decades. When presidential candidates such as Donald Trump or Bill Clinton misbehaved, their supporters insisted that the stakes of every presidential election were too high for dissent, because Roe was always on the national ballot. That isn't healthy. In America, the people are supposed to make the law. Now they can."

Hugh Hewitt, Washington Post

"Trust the people," Winston Churchill would proclaim. The Supreme Court on Friday declared that — on abortion — we will. States have and will continue to legislate on abortion. Congress may even, down the road, preempt those laws — as is its constitutional right. We don't 'trust the people' on freedom of the press, the free exercise of religion, the right of the accused, the ability to keep and bear arms. Those rights are clearly enumerated in the written Constitution. They are set down in writing in the Constitution to stand against the demands of transient majorities..."

"No written, explicit protection for abortion rights exists in the Constitution; nor did the court simply anticipate where state legislatures were headed, as it did in the Griswold case striking down state barriers to contraception or in Obergefell, which established the right to same-sex marriage. Nothing remotely approaching consensus developed on abortion because of the fierce, continuing debate about the status of the fetus/unborn child. This freighted argu-

ment must be settled, if ever, by elected representatives accountable to voters."

Tish Harrison Warren, New York Times

"Whatever one thinks sex is and what it is for — whether a sacred act or a mere recreational pleasure — all of us can agree that sex is the only human activity that has the power to create life and that every potentially procreative sexual act therefore carries some level of risk that pregnancy could occur... Except in the horrible circumstances of rape or incest, which account for 1 percent of abortions, women and men both have bodily agency and choices about whether they will have sex..."

"Our bodies undeniably place a disproportional burden on women in reproduction. There is an inescapable asymmetry in male and female bodies

when it comes to making and carrying life. To address the particular difficulty that pregnancy places on women, we need to hold fathers more responsible through child support laws. And we need to create a culture that does not shame women for unintended pregnancies but supports them..."

"Yet, the state, in the end, cannot and ought not entirely rescue us from the known realities of human biology... To use language of forced gestation or of a state 'controlling' women's bodies is to portray biology itself as oppressive and halting the natural course of the body as the liberative role of the state. For both men and women, bodily autonomy can't mean that we can do whatever we want, whenever we want, with our own bodies without natural consequences or obligations to others."

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Why abortion is worse than slavery

By PreBorn Americans United

This column was originally published December 31, 2021 and expounded on why *Roe v Wade* should be overturned.

Before the Civil War, the relationship of masters to their slaves was defined in state law and by the U.S. Supreme Court. Slaves were the lawful property of their owners who could abuse and even kill them with impunity.

Today, the court-defined relationship of mothers to their aborted babies is exactly the same, so says the truly unique and insightful amicus brief ("friend of the court") filed by the Pacific Justice Institute, or PJI, in the case that will, we contend, overturn *Roe v. Wade* next year, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

PJI argues in its brief that the Court should rule that the abortion-homicide authorized by *Roe* violates the 13th Amendment prohibition against the enslavement of human beings because a mother can kill her preborn child with impunity – that an aborting mother's Court-defined relationship to her child is one of master to slave, of an owner to her property. PJI asks the Court to end abortion in America by overturn *Roe* on that basis.

The following summary, an overview of the brief, is offered hoping that you might read it for yourself.

As readers follow PJI's examination of the Supreme Court's slavery jurisprudence, the comprehension sinks in of what it must have been like when the law of the land in previous centuries commanded and enforced evil. Then, PJI shows how that historical example of legally sanctioned evil haunts us today as the atrocity of abortion imposed by the Supreme Court on our nation for almost half a century now. It has authorized history's worst crime against humanity, resulting in the slaughter of 63 million of our innocent brothers and sisters. Abortion is the same in principle, but much worse in fact, than the previously worst shame in American history, black slavery.

PJI's brief must be read to fully appreciate its in-depth comparison of the twin evils of black slavery and the slaughter by enslavement of tens of millions of innocent preborn babies today – showing that the Supreme Court has, once again, enshrined evil in American law.

From page 29-31 of PJI's brief:

"To date, this Court, when considering abortion, has considered it only under the 14th Amendment. The 13th Amendment, however, . . . sweeps more broadly.

"The 14th Amendment is confined to state action; the 13th is not. Instead, the 13th regulates both public and private acts. Moreover, the Thirteenth Amendment is self-executing, prohibiting the imposition of slavery and involuntary servitude by either a private citizen or government official.

"The 13th Amendment is also broader than the 14th in that, while the latter speaks of 'persons,' the former speaks only of the condition imposed. Obviously, the 13th Amendment protections only extend to those of the human race. But there is no limiting language in the amendment, as some resort to in the 14th, to limit those protections to persons already born. *Thus, the 13th Amendment, on its face, covers all of the human race, at whatever stage of development.*

"As abortion treats the fetus as a slave, the mother is prohibited from aborting by the 13th Amendment. This Court [*Dobbs*] should so hold." [Emphasis and bracketed comments added].

To understand the 14th Amendment aspect of this issue, see "How Mississippi lawyer failed unborn Americans at SCOTUS."

Selected excerpts from PJI's brief:

"This Court's abortion jurisprudence allows mothers to treat their own children as property – not to be bought or sold as reusable property, but to be killed

because they are a present or future burden to their mothers. It allows mothers to treat their own children as slaves." (Page 12)

"The parallel to abortion is plain. Under this Court's abortion jurisprudence, fetuses may be poisoned, dismembered, and killed by their owners/mothers without fear of criminal prosecution. The law assumes that any mother who kills her fetus has good reasons to do so. The idea that she might do so out of anger or caprice or mental illness will not be entertained by the law. That the fetus, if allowed to continue to develop, might prove inconvenient to the mother and others is wholly sufficient justification for killing her fetus. The fetus is property of the mother and may be disposed of summarily." (Pages 14-15. Footnote omitted).

"The only difference between then and now is that we have even more certainty of conception facts than Chief Justice Taney had that his social science was asked [Taney authored *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, history's worst Supreme Court case. . . until *Roe*]. But the results of ignoring facts are the same: fetuses, like blacks before the Civil War Amendments, are considered the property of another, the most elemental definition of slavery. This allows fetuses to be treated as property – as slaves – until viability and, in some cases, until birth." (Page 24. Two important footnotes omitted; bracketed comment and emphasis added.)



"Abortion is also a violation of the amendment's prohibition on involuntary servitude. * * * A mother bringing her fetus to term is acting in voluntary servitude to the child. However, a mother aborting her fetus is acting in her own interests; instead of acting in the child's best interests, the aborting mother puts her fetus in unwilling, involuntary servitude to her own, perceived best interests." (Page 29)

"The whole point of abortion is that mothers may dispose of their unwanted unborn with impunity." (Page 29).

Slavery and abortion also have the following things in common, both:

- while objectively evil, are/were considered a "positive good" by advocates;
- are/were profitable (Southern society was based upon slavery and there is a HUGE abortion "industry" today that,

additionally, profits from the sale of aborted baby organs).

Thomas Jefferson's expressed fear about the consequences of slavery is directly applicable to today's abortion-genocide:

"Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just [and] that his justice cannot sleep forever."

PreBorn Americans United demand Nuremberg-style trials when *Roe v. Wade* is overturned to identify and bring to justice those responsible for slaughtering our 63 million innocent brothers and sisters, especially the pro-abortion leaders/propagandists, and those with the blood of innocents on their hands – the doctor-abortionists *who are scientists* and knew they were slaughtering living human beings.



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Pro-Choice Versus Pro-Life

By John Stossel

Now abortion law is up to states. Some will ban it, while most blue states will allow it in some form.

Because libertarians want government out of our lives, people assume we are pro-choice. Some of us are. But like the rest of America, there are principled libertarians on both sides.

We freedom-lovers believe women (and men) own their bodies and should have control over what happens to them.

But we also believe that one of the few legitimate roles for government is stopping murder. If a fetus is a life, abortion is legally murder.

"Life begins from the moment conception is complete," says Kerry Baldwin, host of the "Dare to Think" Podcast. "Abortion is murder."

"The termination of a pregnancy is the right of any woman," counters pro-



Stossel

choice Aven O'Brien of Feminists for Liberty.

I say to O'Brien, "That is a form of life in the womb. You're not bothered terminating that?"

"I'm not sure I agree that it's a person with rights," she responds.

"At what point does the baby have a right to be protected by the state?" I continue. "You're saying that one minute before birth, the baby does not, and one minute after, it does?"

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"Individuals have rights," she responds. "Individuals don't exist inside other people."

Baldwin counters, "Passing through the birth canal doesn't change the humanity of the fetus."

"As long as a fetus is inside a person, the person gets to determine whatever's happening to it," answers O'Brien.

Baldwin says the only time abortion should be legal is if a woman's life is in danger. Rape is not justification. Rape, she says, is "a crime against women. They need restitution for that crime," but the woman must carry the baby to

term.

Baldwin is libertarian, so she usually opposes government force. I point out that abortion bans are government force.

"It is the role of civil governance to criminalize acts of violence," she replies.

I wonder how such criminalization would work.

"If abortion is illegal," I point out, "the state either has to punish the woman or doctor or both."

"This is a woman who's in crisis," says Baldwin. "It doesn't make sense to ... throw her in prison."

Before Roe v. Wade, prosecuting women was rare. Sometimes doctors were prosecuted.

"The way you enforce is not through a police state," says Baldwin. "The way to get women to stop choosing abortion is to provide other options." One such option, she says, is to make adoption easier.

Easier adoption would be good, but it certainly won't persuade all women to carry babies to term.

Watching this week's abortion protests, one thing puzzles me: Why do



activists always turn to politics?

Celebrities like Lady Gaga and Rihanna attacked Alabama's abortion bill. "Governor ... SHAME ON YOU," said Rihanna.

Instead of shouting at politicians, activists could put their money where their mouths are.

I say to Baldwin and O'Brien, "Lady Gaga and Rihanna by themselves have enough money to fly every woman ... to a state where it's legal. Why is this a government issue?"

"It would be great if celebrities spent their money on mutual aid and direct action instead of lobbying politicians," says O'Brien.

"Currently there is a meme going around," she adds. "People write, 'If

anyone needs to go camping because their state does not allow camping ... come camping with me. We'll never talk about your camping.'"

Why "camping" instead of "abortion"?

Because in "certain states, that would create a legal problem," explains O'Brien.

The two sides will never agree about abortion.

Personally, I think it's reasonable when states ban late-term abortion. An 8-month-old fetus sure seems like life to me.

But I'm mostly pro-choice. People should own their own bodies. If someone lives inside you, you have a right to control that life.

The Vanishing of America's Decency



CLINT
DECKER

President and
Evangelist
with Great
Awakenings, Inc.

Speaking Truth

When you scan the moral landscape of American culture, how would you judge it to be? Isaiah the Prophet, a spiritual leader in days long gone, was a student of the moral condition of his nation, "Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; for truth has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter. Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey." (Isaiah 59:14-15)

What a poetic, yet accurate denunciation he made of his nation. Does this resemble America? Has justice turned back in our nation? Has truth stumbled in our public

sector? Does the person who no longer does evil make himself prey? Is the character of our society known more by virtuousness or unscrupulousness, especially among the leaders who have cultural influence?

Truth indeed has stumbled in America's public square, while decency and honesty are no longer welcomed in its borders. The upright virtues America's founding fathers laid, also provided the foundation for truth in all spheres of our society. Today, we are an amoral nation. There are no firm standards of right and wrong or good and bad. Instead, corruption is expected and rewarded. Evil is framed by statute and applauded. Violence is supported and justified. Deceitfulness is fostered and defended.

What Isaiah said has become a reality for our nation, "uprightness cannot enter." Meaning personal integrity is not invited. Truthfulness is silenced. Rightful justice is absent. And the one who walks away from corruption, violence and deceitfulness is vilified, becoming a danger to themselves.

We are a people that have sunk to a moral low, "For our sins testify against us." (Is. 59:12) God is not blind, for it is written "The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice." (Is. 59:15) Who will pray for America while we are in this morally destitute condition? Will the Lord find anyone on their knees praying to Him for His saving power to sweep across our land? His judgment is coming, getting nearer every day. The Scriptures say, "According to their deeds, so will he repay." (Is. 59:18)

And sometimes God repays rebellious nations through His appointed judgements, which is meant to humble them, "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place." (2



Chronicles 7:13-15)

Is it too late, is there divine mercy available for our nation? Read what God Himself says, "And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression," declares the Lord." God is looking for a faithful remnant, who will come out from among the lawless and live for Him. He has sent His Son to be their Redeemer. Through Jesus, He promises to be their God and they will be His people. And this remnant of the redeemed can be the means for a great spiritual awakening to descend on America.

A prayer for you – "God of truth and justice, our nation is in desperate

need of you. In past days, we have seen you move mightily on our land. Do it again O God! Raise up a faithful remnant to intercede for America and live holy lives before the godless masses. The evil one and his forces will not win. Jesus, you are Lord. Christ, you are King. You are the Victor! Save us O God! In Jesus name. Amen."

Clint Decker is President of Great Awakenings and Speaking Truth is a nationally syndicated column. Please share your comment with Clint at cdecker@greatawakenings.org and follow his blog at clintdecker.blogspot.com.



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Experience art & music in NOTO

The three-month NOTO Summer Concert series continues on 3rd Friday's and will highlight regional musicians as well as local emerging musicians, including family friendly activities, vendors, food truck and a beer garden.

Concert starts at 5 with music ending at 9. Bring your lawn chairs and bring some friends. These concerts are FREE to the public!

July 15

5:00-5:45 local emerging musicians TBA

5:30-6 VIP Backstage Meet & Greet

6:00-9 Maria the Mexican, a Mexicana/Americana/indie blues rock/funk/soul fusion - a true hybrid of Mexican folklore and rock 'n roll delivered in both English

and Spanish!

August 19

5:00 - 5:45

local emerging musicians TBA

5:30-6 VIP

Backstage Meet & Greet

6:00-9 Hector Anchoondo, 2020

International Blues Challenge winner. This prestigious Memphis Cigar Box Guitar Award winner for best guitarist takes the audience on an emotional and personal journey through his powerful brand of blues music. Hector is traveling from Nebraska to join us!

"West of Topeka: Kansas Women Artists" is at NOTO Arts Center,



935 N. Kansas Ave. This new exhibit, curated by Barbara Waterman-Peters, features a group of female visual artists who live and work west of the Topeka community. Hours are Thursday - 11:00 - 5:00, Friday 11:00 - 8:00, and Saturday 10:00 - 3:00

First Friday Art Walk hours are 10 am to 9 pm. 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.

You can also visit every 1st and 3rd Saturday, 10am-3pm through October for the NOTO Saturday Market. Various local vendors will be available exhibiting; art, antiques, furniture, and handmade wares. Contact NOTO Arts District office for details.

Saturday Night Cruises are held every 4th Saturday at The Pad.

JULY 4TH CELEBRATION - July 4, 6-10pm, Rolling Hills Christian Church. free food, games, bounce houses, music, homemade ice cream, and FIREWORKS! Food will be served at 6:00 pm and the fireworks will start around 9:30.

JESUS FEST TOPEKA - FREE CHRISTIAN CONCERT - July 30, 5-8pm, Family of God Church, 1231 NW Eugene. Everyone is welcome to attend, free food while supplies last. Performer's coming from Texas, Missouri and lots of Local talent will perform, this event is for all ages, bring a friend, chairs are limited so bring a lawn chair.

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

the events calendar

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

CONCERTS

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

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

fun!

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

LIVE AT LUNCH – Wednesdays, 11-1 at Every Plaza.

Live music and food vendors.

EATS & BEATS – Every Thursday through Sep. 15, 6:30pm-8:30pm, Every Plaza. Bring lawn chairs. Food trucks, beer gardens. July 7: The Bash; July 14: Delta Haze

ROCKIN' THE JAYHAWK – July 6, 7pm, Jayhawk Theatre. 38 cellists live on stage. Tickets: jayhawktheatre.org

WILDER HORSES – Jul. 8, 8pm, The Vinewood. Doors open at 7. Cash bar & snacks available! Tickets: \$10 at the door or at thehistoricvinewood.com. 785.260.6772

SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT – July 9, 6-11:30pm, Celtic Fox. Soul 2 Soul and Departure.

2ND ANNUAL COUNTRY KICKOFF – July 13, 6:30pm, Every Plaza. Nebraska Showdown will be making their return! This 90's country cover band was a fan favorite. There will also be vendors & food trucks on site.

STEVE KILE BAND – Jul. 15, 8pm, The Vinewood. Doors open at 7. Cash bar & snacks available! Tickets: \$10 at the door or at thehistoricvinewood.com. 785.260.6772

MARIA THE MEXICAN – NOTO SUMMER CONCERT – July 15, Redbud Park.

BOP DADDIES – Jul. 23, 8pm, The Vinewood. Doors open at 7. Cash bar & snacks available! Tickets: \$10 at the door or at thehistoricvinewood.com. 785.260.6772

TYPICAL STEREO – Jul. 29, 8pm, The Vinewood. Doors open at 7. Cash bar & snacks available! Tickets: \$10 at the door or at thehistoricvinewood.com. 785.260.6772

JESUS FEST TOPEKA – FREE CHRISTIAN CONCERT – July 30, 5-8pm Family of God Church, 1231 NW Eugene. Free food while supplies last. Performer's coming from Texas, Missouri and lots of Local talent will perform, this event is for all ages, bring a friend, chairs are limited so bring a lawn chair.

DUKE MASON WITH COWDOY – Aug. 5, 8pm, The Vinewood. Doors open at 7. Cash bar & snacks available! Tickets: \$10 at the door or at thehistoricvinewood.com. 785.260.6772

GOOD OL BOYS & A GAL – Aug. 12, 8pm, The Vinewood. Doors open at 7. Cash bar & snacks available! Tickets: \$10 at the door or at thehistoricvinewood.com. 785.260.6772

JIM & MELISSA BRADY IN CONCERT – Aug. 12, 7pm, Wanamaker Woods Nazarene, 3501 SW Wanamaker. Free will offering, doors open at 6pm. 785-273-2248, woodsna@wnnaz.org

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 10am, 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 SATURDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET – 7:30 AM – 10:00 AM, Shawnee Heights UMC, 6020 SE 44th

INSIDE OUT FELLOWSHIP CHURCH – Every Sunday 12pm service; Every Tuesday 7:30pm service. Location: 2020 SE 21st. For info: 785-380-7031 or io@insideoutinc.net or www.insideoutinc.net

W.I.G.L. "WATER IN GOD'S LAWN" YOUTH & KIDS ACTIVITIES – Wednesday's June 1 – Aug. 10, 7-8pm. Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco. Weekly games & fun possibilities: water balloons, water slide, kiddie pools, bubbles, side walk chalk, snacks, friends, fun, Jesus! (please bring appropriate water-wear, towel & sun screen. If necessary, please wear a t-shirt over swimsuit.) There will be Bible Study upstairs for the Adults. 785-266-3247, Facebook at Topeka Lakeview Nazarene, www.Lakeviewtopeka.org, lakenaz@aol.com

PEACE CAMP 2022 – July 11-15, 8:15 a.m. - noon,

West Side Christian Church, 432 SW Lindenwood Ave., Topeka, KS 66606; Half-day camp for children who have finished K-5th grades; Full information and registration at www.westsidedisciples.org

REVIVAL SERVICES – July 13 – 17, Wednesday through Sunday, 7:00 p.m. each evening, at Grace Missionary Baptist Church, 5821 NW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, Kansas. We will feature a different evangelistic speaker each evening. Enjoy inspirational music, dynamic Bible preaching, and friendly Christian fellowship with us. Call 903-733-0099 for more information. Everyone is welcome.

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

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

July 14, 11:30-1: **"POWER" Luncheon** at Aldersgate Village, 7220 SW Asbury Dr.
Featured: Lucrecia Nold - Value Them Both.

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

• Aug. 11: POWER Luncheon, 11:30-1
• Sep. 8: POWER Luncheon, 11:30-1
• Oct. 8: FALL FEST at Vinewood, 10-3
• Oct. 13: POWER Luncheon, 11:30-1

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

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TOPEKA TWILIGHT LIONS BRANCH CLUB - 4th Mondays at 6:30pm, Norsemen Brewing Co. Social gathering, guests welcome. Topekalions.org

TOPEKA LIONS CLUB - 2nd Mondays at Noon at Wings, Etc. Come at 11:30 to order from the menu. Guests 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 rnhonl@tscpl.org

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 inside the doors.

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

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

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

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

TOPEKA ACAPPELLA UNLIMITED AUDITIONS - Topeka Acappella Unlimited is looking for female singers who would like to sing four part acappella harmonies. Come be our guest July 5 at 7:00 p.m. at Topeka Bible Church, 1135 College Avenue, Topeka, KS at our guest night to meet the Director and learn more about our chorus. Topeka Acappella Unlimited is a Chapter of Sweet Adelines, International. Call Cindy Patton at 785-640-7403 for info

SQUARE DANCING - Shawnee Swingers has monthly dances and sponsors lessons in the Fall. Call or text 785-845-2357; wesquaredance.com shawneeswingers@gmail.com. On Facebook: Shawnee Swingers Square Dance Club.

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

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

FREE MOBILE FOOD DISTRIBUTION - 4th Tue. through Nov., 9am, 1231 NW Eugene St. Randel Ministries, Inc., in partnership with Harvesters and Family of God Church will have its monthly food distribution. No ID or proof of income required, first come first served. Distributing fresh produce and other items to families in need. 785-234-1111
www.RandelMinistries.com

TOPEKA PUBLIC LIBRARY PLAY BUS - 9:30am-noon, Lakeview Nazarene Church, 2835 Croco. Every Tuesday, enjoy story time, play opportunities, books for check-out & take & make art. 785-266-3247.

HOPE AND HEALING ACADEMY harnesses the power of horses to transform the human spirit. They are expanding services to address the needs and experiences of first responders and members of the armed forces. For info, call 785-224-4232 or go to www.hopeandhealingacademy.com.

OVERCOMER'S OUTREACH ANONYMOUS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP - Mondays 6:30-7:30pm, at Be Filled Of South Topeka, 200 Airport Rd, Bldg. 818 Suite 1. Led by Pastor Bill Ritchey. 785-817-2802

OPEN INDOOR COURT PICKLEBALL - Sundays at 4pm, Berryton United Methodist Church (7010 SE Berryton Rd. All ages and abilities welcome.

SENIORS PITCH CLUB - Every Tuesday 1 pm at Garfield Community Center. First visit free then a dollar per visit for coffee and replacement cards

FRIDAY FLICKS - Second Fridays, 8pm at Everygy Plaza. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Food trucks.

MONDAY FARMERS MARKET - Mondays 7:30-11:30am, May 9 to Oct. 3, Topeka & Sh. Co. Library, 10th & Washburn. (closed Labor Day)

SILVER LAKE FARMERS MARKET - Tues. 6-8pm, June 7-Sep. 13, Silver Lake Library, 203 Railroad St.

DOWNTOWN TOPEKA FARMERS MARKET - Saturday's April 2 to Oct. 29, 7:30am-noon, 12th & Harrison. The open-air market is full of fresh fruits and vegetables, herbs, arts & crafts, flower, home-baked goods and more.

BREAD BASKET FARMERS MARKET - Sat., 7:30am-1pm, through Nov. 19, south end of West Ridge Mall.

JUL. CYCLING EVENTS - Various cycle rides are offered by Kansas Cyclist. www.kansascyclist.com/

JUL. OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES - Outdoor events and activities. www.getoutdoorskans.com/calendar

SATURDAY NIGHT CRUISES - 1st Sat. - Spangles, 29th & Topeka Blvd.; 2nd Sat. - Fairlawn Plaza; 3rd Sat. - The Dugout, 17th & Fairlawn; 4th Sat. - The Pad; 5th Sat. - The Dugout.

OVERBROOK FARMER'S MARKET - every Monday now to October, from 4-6 pm at the Overbrook Fair Grounds.

SINGLE DAY SUMMER CAMPS - Aspire Gymnastics is offering Wednesday and Friday themed Summer Camps this summer on Wed. 1-3pm for ages 3-8, and Fri. 9-12 for ages 4-11. Visit aspiregymnasticsclub.com for details. 785-380-6046

SUMMER FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA - July 2, 7pm, Fellowship Hi-Crest, Fremont Hill. Shuttle available at 455 Golf Park Blvd. Food trucks, bounce houses, and a live DJ, fireworks at 10pm.

COLLINS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD JULY 4TH PARADE - July 4, 11am, SW Collins Ave.

SPIRIT OF KANSAS FIREWORKS & BLUES FESTIVAL - July 4, at Lake Shawnee. Live music, kids activities, vendors, food trucks, car show, fireworks.

JULY 4TH CELEBRATION - July 4, 6-10pm, Rolling

Hills Christian Church. free food, games, bounce houses, music, homemade ice cream, and FIREWORKS! Food will be served at 6:00 pm and the fireworks will start around 9:30.

FRIDAY FLICKS - July 8, Everygy Plaza. "Aladdin" will show at 8pm. Food trucks. Bring a lawn chair

DALE EASTON'S THE DRUNKARD - July 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 at 8pm, VFW Phillip Billard VFW Post, 3110 SW Huntoon. katastings@outlook.com. Tickets available on Eventbrite.com

TOPEKA MUSIC WEEK - July 8-16. The week leading up to Country Stampede, area businesses, attractions, and restaurants will be celebrating music and fun with Topeka Music Week. Keep an eye on social media for announcements of who is performing and what locations are participating.

FIESTA MEXICANA'S DOWNTOWN TOPEKA KICK-OFF EVENT - July 9, 4:30-9pm, Everygy Plaza.

SPLASH PAD SOCIAL - July 13, 4-6pm, Everygy Plaza. Soak up the sun with Mrs. Grey and Mrs. Bremer

PICNIC ON THE PRAIRIE - July 14, 5:30-8pm, Old Prairie Town. Bring a picnic basket and enjoy a warm summer evening surrounded by the Ward-Meade Botanical Garden and the historic buildings of Old Prairie town. Volunteers will be on site to give

free tours of the gardens and buildings. The Mulvane General Store and Potwin Drug Store will be open late for your shopping convenience and old-fashioned treats

C5ALive "POWER" LUNCHEON - July 14, 11:30-1 at Aldersgate Village, 7220 SW Asbury Dr. Featured speaker is Lucrecia Nold, Public Policy Specialist for the Kansas Catholic Conference, who will speak about the Value Them Both Amendment

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, Aug. 11, 11:30-1.

KICKER COUNTRY STAMPEDE - July 14-16, Heartland Park

FIRST TEE ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT - Sep. 16, Shawnee Country Club. Reg. 11am, noon shotgun start. For info email marcus@firstteetopeka.org or visit firstteetopeka.org

C5ALIVE, METRO VOICE NEWS, TOPEKA HEALTH & WELLNESS MAGAZINE, GOLDEN EAGLE CASINO, AND EMERALD CITY COSMOPOLITAN CLUB PRESENT

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Vendors: HINDISONFACEBOOK FOR MORE DETAILS!



VOLUNTEERS ALSO NEEDED! CONTACT: info@C5ALive.org or 785-640-6399



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APPOINTMENTS AND WALK-IN'S

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SHAWNEE COUNTY FAIR - July 21 - 24, Stormont Vail Event Center. Thursday thru Saturday at 8:00am - 10:00pm; Sunday at 10:00am - 3:00pm. Animals large and small, competition exhibits, vendors, and food trucks are available all days. Find all the information on the fair at www.shawneecountyfair.org

FAIRLAWN PLAZA SIDEWALK SALE - July 22, 10am-8pm. Great Deals, Dining, Featured Products and Services and Information about some of our wonderful businesses and more

1ST ANNUAL DISABLED AND PROUD PARADE OF KANSAS - July 23, 11AM, Capitol Building, Downtown Topeka. The parade will circle the Capitol Building, starting at 8th & Jackson, and then the public is invited to gather on the south Capitol lawn for a resource & activity fair, speeches, food trucks and more. For info: 785-430-1088 or NMATeen2020@gmail.com

SATURDAY SUMMER MARKET - July 23, 9am-1pm, Milk & Honey Coffee Co. Vendor Market time! Stop by and grab your favorite drink and sandwich and grab something locally made! Beauty from Ashes, Crochet by ECE, Ember and Spruce laser engraving, Everbloom Flower Farm, Made Maker Pottery, Sew Useful Studios and more!

YOUTH FOR CHRIST GOLF CLASSIC - Sep. 26, Lake Shawnee. Several sponsorship levels available. Lots of prizes! 232-8296 or topekayfc.org

2nd ANNUAL TOPEKA FALL FEST - Oct. 8, 10am-3pm, at the Vinewood, 2848 SE 29th St. Live music, a craft & vendor fair, food trucks, and a health & fitness fair, plus games and activities for kids. Admission is free! Dozens of local businesses, non-profits & churches will operate games & activities such as Face Painting, Craft Stations, Inflatables, Petting Zoo, Cake Walk, Pumpkin Decorating, Trunk or Treat and more! We'll have a Health & Fitness Fair sponsored by Topeka Emerald City Cosmo Club, featuring Health Screenings & Fitness Demonstrations, Information & Educational Booths, Health & Safety Products and more. For more information, email info@C5Alive.org.

MEETINGS & CLASSES

CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA MEETING - Join other concerned individuals to pray and unite in action for Shawnee Co. and our Nation. For info about monthly meetings: 785-260-5659 or ks.cwfa.org.

HEAT UP TOPEKA - Free fitness classes; learn and build healthy social & eating habits. Held at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 4746 SW 21st St. Florence Crittenton: 785-233-0516 www.flcrritkans.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 TROUPOUS - Every Mon. 6pm, Cornerstone Comm. Ch., 7620 SW 21st. Faith-based scouting programs, age 5-18. Register: 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

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 Presi-

dent, Abraham Lincoln, and his times. The public is welcome. For info, contact Kirk Nystrom 235-6977.

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

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

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

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES Aerie 4319: First & Third Tue. 7pm; Auxiliary: Third & Fourth Tue. month 6pm, 2941 SE Fremont Street. The Fraternal Order of Eagles is an international non-profit organization uniting fraternally in the spirit of liberty, truth, justice, and equality, to make human life more desirable by lessening its ills and promoting peace, prosperity, gladness and hope. www.foe.com 785-266-7307

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

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@sbcbglobal.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, 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. (no meeting in July)

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 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 Wana-maker. Doing Good for Others: Knitting & Crocheting for Local Char-ities, free yarn, needles, hooks & patterns. All are welcome. Anne, 272-9249 or kittens812@sbcbglobal.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

OVERCOMER'S OUTREACH ANONYMOUS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP - Mondays 6:30-7:30pm, at Be Filled Of South Topeka, 200 Airport Rd, Bldg. 818 Suite 1. Led by Pastor Bill Ritchey. 785-817-2802

BINDING UP THE BROKEN HEARTED - 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 info, contact local Healing Hearts representative Shelly Brush, First Southern Baptist Church at shelly.b@healinghearts.org. All communication is confidential and secure.

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 Chap-

ter (B.A.C.A.) 3rd Sun., 4 pm American Legion, 3800 SE Michigan. Open to the public. For info: 817-5801.

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 faithfamilylifeministries@gmail.com.

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

MOMS-IN-TOUCH PRAYER GROUP - Every Wed.,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Supreme Court rules in favor of coach who was fired for praying after football games

Supreme Court rules in favor of coach who was fired for praying after football games

June 27, 2022

The Supreme Court has upheld religious expression in another high-profile case ruling 6-3 that Washington state violated First Amendment religious freedom protections when it fired a praying football coach.

Joseph Kennedy had prayed silently at the 50-yard line after games ended and students often voluntarily joined him.

A central question before the court was if a public school employee who says he is praying by himself while at school and visible to students was engaging in “government speech” that lacks any First Amendment protection.

“The whole idea of just because I’m working there, I have no rights anymore as an American?” Kennedy told Fox News in April. “When do I stop representing the school district? And that’s what we’re kind of asking, just a simple thing. Can I pray after a football game?”

The decision is regarded as a victory for religious freedom. Kennedy had become a target of liberal media, including Sports Illustrated which waded in saying he had destroyed the separation of church and state.

In the case, the high court held that the Free Exercise and Free Speech Clauses of the First Amendment protect an individual engaging in a personal religious observance from government reprisal.

The court found that the U.S. Constitution neither requires nor allows governments to suppress such religious expression.

Kennedy, who no longer works for the Bremerton Public School District in Washington state, claimed his rights were violated when the district forbade him from praying in view of the public after games.

The school district argued that when Kennedy prayed midfield after games, he was viewed by onlookers as a coach who was serving as a mentor and role model.

But the majority of Supreme Court justices disagreed with the school district in Kennedy v. Bre-

merton School District (court file 21-418), an appeal from the frequently overturned U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit.

Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote the majority opinion (pdf) for the court. All six conservative Republican-appointed justices, including Gorsuch, ruled in favor of Kennedy; all three liberal Democrat-appointed justices ruled against him.

Gorsuch noted that Kennedy lost his job as a high school football coach in the Bremerton School District “because he knelt at midfield after games to offer a quiet prayer of thanks” during a period “when school employees were free to speak with a friend, call for a reservation at a restaurant, check email, or attend to other personal matters.”

In other words, Kennedy offered “his prayers quietly while his students were otherwise occupied.”

The school district disciplined him because it believed anything less might lead a reasonable observer to mistakenly conclude that it endorsed Kennedy’s religious beliefs, Gorsuch wrote.

The district was wrong to do so, the justice added.

“The Free Exercise and Free Speech Clauses of the First Amendment protect expressions like Mr. Kennedy’s. Nor does a proper un-

derstanding of the Amendment’s Establishment Clause require the government to single out private religious speech for special disfavor.

“The Constitution and the best of our traditions counsel mutual respect and tolerance, not censorship and suppression, for religious and nonreligious views alike,” Gorsuch wrote.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor filed a dissenting opinion, which was joined by the court’s other Democrat-appointed justices: Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan. The dissent characterizes Kennedy as not having the right to pray.

“This case is about whether a public school must permit a school official to kneel, bow his head, and say a prayer at the center of a school event,” Sotomayor wrote. “The Constitution does not authorize, let alone require, public schools to embrace this conduct.”

Kelly Shackelford, President,



CEO, and Chief Counsel for First Liberty which represented Kennedy was ecstatic with the ruling. “This is a tremendous victory for Coach Kennedy and religious liberty for all Americans,” Shackelford says. “Our Constitution protects the right of every American to engage in private religious expression, including praying in public, without fear of getting fired. We are grateful that the Supreme Court recognized what the Constitution and law have always said – American’s are free to live out their faith in public.”

Paul Clement, former U.S. Solicitor General and First Liberty network attorney who argued

Kennedy’s case before the Justices, said, “After seven long years, Coach Kennedy can finally return to the place he belongs – coaching football and quietly praying by himself after the game. This is a great victory for Coach Kennedy and the First Amendment.”

In response to today’s opinion, Coach Kennedy said, “This is just so awesome. All I’ve ever wanted was to be back on the field with my guys. I am incredibly grateful to the Supreme Court, my fantastic legal team, and everyone who has supported us. I thank God for answering our prayers and sustaining my family through this long battle.”

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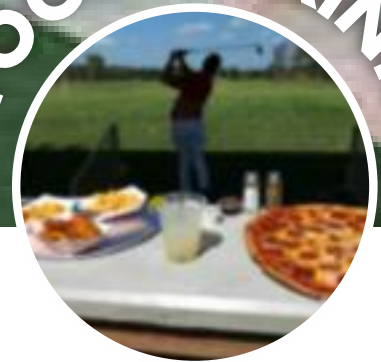
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Supreme Court rules tuition aid can be used for religious schools

Supreme Court rules tuition aid can be used for religious schools

A Maine law that requires schools to be nonsectarian in order to receive tuition assistance violates the Free Exercise clause of the First Amendment, the Supreme Court ruled today.

The 6-3 decision in *Carson v. Makin* sided with parents who sued the State of Maine because they were denied tuition assistance when sending their children to religious schools in the state.

The law provides tuition assistance for parents who live in school districts that neither operate a secondary school of their own nor contract with a particular school in another district.

Under the program, parents designate the secondary school they would like their child to attend, and the school district transmits payments to that school to help defray the costs of tuition. Since 1981, Maine has limited tuition assistance payments to “non-sectarian” schools.

When David and Amy Carson were denied tuition assistance so they could send their daughter to Bangor Christian Schools, they sued the commissioner of the Maine Department of Education. They were joined by Troy and Angela Nelson, who sought to send their children to Temple Academy, which is also a religious school. The district court ruled for the commissioner, and after the two couples failed in their appeal to the First Circuit Court of Appeals, the case was brought to the Supreme Court.

“Maine has chosen to offer tuition assistance that parents may direct to the public or private schools of their choice,” the court said. “Maine’s administration of that benefit is subject to the free exercise principles governing any public benefit program — including the prohibition on denying the benefit based on a recipient’s religious exercise.”

Dissent

Roberts was joined by the five other conservative justices on the court: Clarence Thomas, Samuel A. Alito Jr., Neil M. Gorsuch, Brett M. Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett.

In a dissent joined by Justice Elena Kagan and in part by Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Justice Stephen G. Breyer said the court had “never previously held what the Court holds today, namely, that a State must (not may) use state

funds to pay for religious education as part of a tuition program designed to ensure the provision of free statewide public school education.”

Maine, Breyer wrote, “excludes schools from its tuition program not because of the schools’ religious character but because the schools will use the funds to teach and promote religious ideals.

“The two private religious schools at issue here satisfy both of these criteria,” the retiring justice wrote. “They are affiliated with a church or religious organization. And they also teach students to accept particular religious beliefs and to engage in particular religious practices.”

But Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York and Bishop Thomas A. Daly of Spokane said in a statement that the high court “has rightly ruled that the Constitution protects not just the right to be religious but also to act religious.” They are chairmen of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committees for Religious Liberty and Catholic Education, respectively.

“This common-sense result reflects the essence of Catholic education,” said the bishops. “Moreover, the Court has again affirmed that states cannot exclude religious schools from generally-available public benefits based on their religious affiliation or exercise. In our pluralistic society, it is vital that all peo-

ple of faith be able to participate in publicly available programs and so to contribute to the common good.”

The two prelates said it is fitting that this decision concerns a program in Maine, the state that James G. Blaine represented as a U.S. senator in 1875 when he worked for the passage of the Blaine Amendment. Dolan and Daly called that amendment a “cynically anti-Catholic measure” to amend the Constitution to “ensure that no public aid be provided to ‘sectarian’ schools.”

While his effort was narrowly defeated, Blaine Amendments were ultimately adopted in some form by 37 states. “These laws have nothing to do with government neutrality towards religion,” the bishops said. “Rather, they are expressions of hostility toward Catholics. We are grateful that the Supreme Court continues to rebuke this harmful legacy.”

Eric Rassbach, an attorney at the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which had filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the Carson case, said on Twitter that Tuesday’s ruling is “the latest in a series of big wins at #SCOTUS for religious schools.”

“The Court specifically rejects any attempt to exclude religious schools from full participation in society based on ‘whether’ or ‘how’ a religious school pursues its educational mission,” Rassbach tweeted. “In fact, that kind of

scrutiny would result in church-state entanglement.”

Former United States Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback in a statement called the June 21 decision “both good and right.”

“I am encouraged that the Court has upheld the Constitution’s protection of

a person’s free exercise of religion,” said Brownback, who now heads the National Committee for Religious Freedom. “I agree — if a state wishes to subsidize education it must not exclude or discriminate against those who would use that subsidy in favor of religious schools.”

—aleteia.org



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7 On-Trend Kitchen Upgrades

Designers from coast to coast are cooking up fresh ideas for kitchen upgrades. This year's hottest trends bring numerous fresh aesthetic approaches while functionality also plays a leading role in top design ideas.

If you are planning a kitchen upgrade, take inspiration from these on-trend elements spotted by the design experts at Wellborn Cabinet:

Unique Tile

In recent years, backsplash tile has taken a more prominent role in kitchen design and has continued to grow in popularity to the point where tile is now a full-stop focal point. From eye-catching colors and patterns to texture that brings new dimension, kitchen tile can make a big statement. In fact, bold tile is not just limited to the backsplash. Patterned tile is an on-trend option for adding character to your flooring and dressing up commonly under-designed spaces like the window jamb with a practical material, like tile, that is easy to clean and maintain.

Multiple Appliances

Function is front and center in residential kitchen design this year, and homeowners' growing demands to go big on appliances is proof. From double ovens to extra dishwashers, homeowners

are committing to more useful features. There are even some kitchens that boast two refrigerators, which may be a nod to the way grocery shopping habits shifted during the pandemic, with fewer, but larger, trips to the store.

Walk-Through Pantries

Whether you are capitalizing on the mystique of a "hidden" room or attracted to the idea of a more seamless aesthetic, a walk-through pantry can be a stunning and functional solution. With a walk-through pantry, you can add extra space to an existing pantry to create a better flow to your floor plan. Available in a variety of widths and heights, Wellborn Cabinet's Walk-Through Pantry blends naturally into the rest of your cabinetry to create visual continuity. Integrated magnetic door catches add stability and keep doorways securely closed.

Wood Finishes

After years of painted cabinets and woodwork dominating kitchen design,



wood grain finishes are making a comeback. The look is cozy and inviting, and with a wide span of stain options, it is equally possible to take the look ultra-modern or veer toward a more traditional style. Outside of cabinetry, there is plenty of room to incorporate the warmth of wood, such as butcher-block counters or exposed beams.

Green, Blue and Earth Tones

Jewel-inspired hues had their moment, but this season's color scheme is more about subtle shades that meld with neutrals for lighter, brighter spaces that feel airier and more spacious. Greens, in particular, pair well with an array of wood finishes, whether cabinetry, countertops or furnishings. Integrating greens, blues and other nature-inspired colors allows you to bring earthy serenity to a bustling and busy room, and this motif lends itself well to a design that creates a cohesive connection with adjacent outdoor living space.

Clever Storage Solutions

The kitchen is a busy place prone to clutter, and this season you will find multiple examples of practical solutions showing up in showcase kitchens. The features that can make your kitchen chores easier and neater come in all shapes and sizes. For example, discreet knife blocks tucked into drawers, drawer dividers for maximum customization and sliders that make it easy to empty the trash and recycling bins.

Marble Countertops

Marble is not necessarily a new trend, but this year's attention is on slabs of marble with eye-catching veins that make counters really pop. For a fresh take on marble, forgo the typical white, gray or black styles in favor of

color. Standout gold veining or even full slabs with stunning greens, blues and reds can make a statement. If budget is an issue, or you are worried about too much of a good thing, consider using a bold slab on a smaller space, like the is-

land, rather than outfitting the entire kitchen.

Find more on-trend ideas to upgrade your kitchen at Wellborn.com.

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4 things you should know about the new Elvis movie

Colonel Tom Parker is a cunning middle-aged man with a background in the carnival and a strong desire to find the best musical acts on the planet.

As he sees it, such an act could "create the greatest show on Earth." It even could help the audience experience emotions "they weren't sure they should enjoy."

He finds one such act in a teenage boy named Elvis Presley out of Tupelo, Miss. He can sing. He can dance. More importantly to Colonel Tom, Elvis can captivate an audience of teenage girls, who often leap to their feet in screams of joy.

Presley signs with Parker, who agrees to help make this talented teenager a big-time star.

But does Colonel Tom Parker have Presley's best interests in mind?

The new movie *Elvis* (PG-13) retells the story of Presley and his controversial manager, played by Tom Hanks. Austin Butler stars as Elvis.

Here are four things you should know about the film:

1. It's about Elvis and His Manager

The film opens and closes with the words of Parker, who takes credit for discovering Elvis and introducing him to the world. Parker, though, is haunted by Presley's early death. He's even having nightmares.

"Many believe that Colonel Tom Parker was responsible for the death of Elvis Presley," a newscaster says in one of Parker's dreams.

The film, partially narrated by Parker, implicates him in the death of Presley, even though Parker insists the two "were partners."

Parker packs the tour calendar with a grueling schedule. And when Elvis grows too tired to continue, Parker gives him drugs.

Elvis expresses a desire to tour internationally, knowing it could bring in \$1 million per show. Parker, though, stubbornly rebuffs this idea and instead signs a deal with a Las Vegas casino – which privately agrees to erase Parker's gambling debt. (Incredibly, Elvis only played outside the U.S. three times – all in Canada.)

Tom Hanks and Austin Butler are marvelous in their respective roles.



2. It's Rock and Roll ... and Gospel, too

Elvis becomes the so-called "King of Rock and Roll" in the film – we're told he blended "white country" and "black rhythm and blues" – but he also displays his love for gospel music. Early in the movie, we see a young Elvis sneak into a lively tent revival where a predominantly black congregation is singing and dancing to an upbeat gospel tune. Elvis, like a handful of others in the tent, gets lost in the moment – his body shaking as if he's captivated by the Spirit.

For the rest of the film, we see flashes of Elvis' love of gospel music. He takes a trip to Beale Street, where he listens to a woman sing, "I'm going to heaven to get my reward." He listens to Mahalia Jackson sing a gospel tune, and he tells Priscilla, "That's the music that makes me happy." He sings his most-popular tunes during a television special yet demands he be allowed to sing gospel songs. (In real life, Elvis won a Grammy for a live performance of *How Great Thou Art*.)

Meanwhile, the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s forms the backdrop to the plot, showing how Elvis' music was loved by black and white teens alike and helped bridge the divide between races. (Elvis' mom says early in the film, "The Lord gives us music to bring people together.")

Colonel Tom Parker, upon hearing Elvis' voice on the radio, assumes it's a black man singing and says in shock, "He's white?"

3. It's a Lesson on Temptation, Money and Fame

Colonel Tom Parker insists that he didn't kill Elvis but instead "made Elvis."

As Parker sees it, they were co-dependent on one another as they chased the two things both wanted: money and fame. As the movie shows us, Parker and Elvis quickly succumbed to temptation, making wrong choices in their pursuit of fleshly desires.

Parker, upon watching teenage girls scream while seeing Elvis gyrate, vows to push the music envelope in order to make a quick buck: "[Elvis] was a taste of forbidden fruit," Parker says.

Elvis marries a young woman but eventually loses interest in the monogamous life, opting instead to share his hotel bed with woman after woman as Priscilla – back home – cares for their daughter. She wanted a husband. Elvis, though, wanted the adrenaline rush of fame – and the passionate kisses of adoring female fans as he walked off stage. ("The only time you're happy is when you're on that stage – and in between that you're a ghost," Priscilla tells him.)

Eventually, this lust for fame and money killed Elvis – with Colonel Tom Parker and Parker's doctor playing a major role. They gave Presley the drugs he wanted to maintain his energy for the tour schedule. (His 1973 schedule included 168 concerts.) Eventually, he became addicted. During one poignant scene in the film, Presley collapses backstage before a concert – only to be given a drug that provides a quick boost.

Scripture warns that the "love of money is a root of all kinds of evils" (1 Timothy 6:10). It's difficult to watch *Elvis* and not wonder: What if the King of Rock and Roll had been surrounded by a team who had his best interests in mind?

Elvis earns its PG-13 rating with strong language (details below) and sev-

How worship music and Bible reading helped Chris Pratt overcome backlash



Chris Pratt revealed that he cried over the backlash surrounding his praise of his "healthy" daughter last November. Worship music helped him overcome the situation, and he encourages his followers to do the same.

"If you feel down today maybe get exercise and maybe listen to some good worship music or get the Word in because it really helped me this morning," Pratt said.

The *Guardians of the Galaxy* star has been open about his faith in the past, often facing cancelation for his Christian beliefs. Attacks arose again in early April after Pratt's *Star-Lord* appeared in the *Thor: Love and Thunder* trailer. Fans called for his replacement, but Director James Gunn was quick to come to his defense, saying, "For what? Because of your made-up, utterly-false beliefs about

eral suggestive scenes. (The film contains no nudity or lengthy bedroom scenes, although sex is implied multiple times.)

4. It's Gripping ... and Tragic

Elvis is one-third music history, one-third concert, and one-third tragedy.

You cheer for him as he rises to fame and pledges to make enough money to purchase his parents a nice, big house. You clap as he performs concert after concert, eventually trading his undercard role for a headliner act. (He gets poor advice from his mother, who greenlights his sensual gyrations by telling him, "The way you sing and move is God-given – so there can't be nothing wrong with it." The lustful response by teen girls leads to a different conclusion.)

By the time the final 30 minutes roll around, though, you weep internally for his poor choices.

Elvis Presley died at age 42. If he had lived, he would be 87 today.

him? For something that someone else told you about him that's not true? Chris Pratt would never be replaced as *Star-Lord* but, if he ever was, we would all be going with him."

However, the criticisms after his November Instagram post hit closer to home. In the post, Pratt praised his wife, Katherine Schwarzenegger, for giving him a healthy daughter.

Attacks ensued, and Page Six explains, "Social media users subsequently slammed the 'Guardians of the Galaxy' star, alleging that his post was a dig at his ex-wife, Anna Faris, since their 9-year-old son, Jack, was born premature."

Pratt shares that the backlash "really bothered" him because his son would read it one day. He revealed that he cried, saying, "it's etched in digital stone."

"I went to bed last night really kind of upset and depressed," Pratt said in an Instagram story following the incident. "And I woke up feeling crappy and I didn't want to work out."

But after listening to Christian music and going for a run, "It felt amazing," Pratt said. "That moment, it really captured me and so I just want to say, all glory to God."

He encouraged any of his followers who are struggling to listen to worship music and exercise.

"It felt like there was another in the fire standing next to me," Pratt explained about this experience.

—movieguide.org

He didn't find the joy he desired in money (by the end of the film, he's broke). The fame provided only temporary pleasure. "I'm gonna be 40 ... and nobody's gonna remember me," he says late in the film, referencing the younger acts that have replaced him in the limelight.

The film is like a modern-day retelling of the story of Solomon, who took part in the sinful pleasures of the world before concluding, in *Ecclesiastes*, that they are "meaningless." We were created, Solomon said, in order to "fear God and keep his commandments."

Elvis is rated PG-13 for substance abuse, strong language, suggestive material and smoking. Coarse language: b--th (1), GD (13), misuse of "God" (1), h-- (5), b-----d (1), s--t (3), SOB (3), a-- (1), d--n (1).

Entertainment rating: 4 out of 5 stars.

Family-friendly rating: 3 out of 5 stars.

—crosswalk.com



Max McLean on 'The Most Reluctant Convert': 'People really resonate' with C.S. Lewis

By Michael Foust

You may not know Max McLean's face, but you may know his rich, baritone voice from the Bible translations he has narrated. His Bible narration is so popular, in fact, that it's the default choice on many English Bible apps.

"I've been asked to do it multiple other times, but I just haven't been able to carve out the time," he told me.

Thanks to a new faith-based movie that became a hit, McLean's face, too, is growing in popularity.

The film, *The Most Reluctant Convert: The Untold Story of C.S. Lewis*, retells the dramatic conversion story of Lewis, who enrolled at Oxford as an atheist before becoming a Christian thanks to the influence of J. R. R. Tolkien and others. On its opening night last year, *The Most Reluctant Convert* finished No. 2 at the box office -- trailing only *Dune* -- and No. 1 in per-theater average.

The film is now available on home video.

McLean stars as a middle-aged Lewis in the film, which is a mixture of narration and drama. It was filmed at 18 sites in and around Oxford, England.

The Most Reluctant Convert is based on a stage play of the same name starring McLean, who says he was naturally drawn to Lewis' story.

"I'm an adult convert to Christianity. He was an adult convert to Christianity. I read his works at an early age in my Christian development," McLean said.

Lewis' atheism was grounded in multiple life tragedies, McLean said.

"He lost his mother to cancer at a very young age," McLean said. "He had an estranged relationship with his father that got worse when his mother died. He had first-hand experience with the senseless

brutality of trench warfare in World War One -- he called it the hell where youth and laughter go, only to see horribly smashed men still moving about like crushed beetles."

Lewis came to the conclusion that either God did not exist or that God is in different to good and evil, McLean said.

Eventually, though, logic and reason -- and the Holy Spirit -- drew Lewis to Christ. Lewis "saw the contradiction in his own beliefs," McLean said.

A line can be called "crooked," Lewis argued, only because a straight line exists with which to compare it. Similarly, Lewis argued, "What was I comparing this universe with when I called it cruel and unjust?" McLean said.

Lewis eventually concluded: "If pain is so undeniably real, [then] that which overcomes pain is even more real, more essential, and that to Lewis was the essence of Christianity," McLean said.

All the words in the film that are attributed to Lewis are actually from Lewis, McLean added.

"People really resonate with Lewis," McLean said.

The Most Reluctant Convert debuted as a stage play at the New York City-based Fellowship for Performing Arts, which McLean founded. The theater's goal is to produce stories from a "Christian worldview to engage a religiously diverse audience."

"It's just my feeble attempt of being faithful to the calling that God has given me," McLean said. "My life verse is Ephesians 2:10. We were created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. So I've always felt that the obligation of a Christian is to listen to the Holy Ghost when He speaks."

Visit CSLewisMovie.com.

'The Blessing' singer Kari Jobe on pursuing what's next: 'Is this a good idea or a God idea?'

With the Covid-19 pandemic settling down and life resuming normalcy, Kari Jobe is ready to hit the road to bring her worship tour around the country after a two-year hiatus.

"I'm thankful we can all be together again," Jobe said of the upcoming tour.

She and her husband, Cody Carnes, are heading out on a 13-city tour with Elevation Worship, hitting places like San Antonio, Knoxville, and Philadelphia, before finishing at Radio City Hall in New York City.

Even though she and Carnes are excited to spread their music, they will miss their two sons at home.

"[Negotiating life's responsibilities is] a daily thing," she explained. "We're so thankful for the Holy Spirit and just thankful for being able to hear the Lord's voice and just navigating, 'God, where do we give our yes? Where do we give our no? How do we parent and be married and be artists and serve in our church? I don't know if we'll ever have the answer, but we kind of go season-by-season with it.'"

To help make the decision, she said she and her husband adopted a practice they learned from friends and fellow musicians Jonathan David and Melissa Helser: asking God what he was inviting them to do, and if it was the right time for the invitation.

"Cody and I really adopted that, [asking], 'Lord, are you inviting us into this tour? Are you inviting us into this event or this album or -- you know, is this just a good idea or is this a God idea?'" Jobe explained. "That's been really helpful for us to discern, just inviting the Lord into it and having Him tell us."

This is the first time Jobe and Carnes can perform their hit "The Blessing" with Elevation Worship on tour.

Jobe previously opened up about how the song ministered to people during the pandemic:

"We wrote the song in late February 2020. For us, this song came from the things we'd heard all our lives in the church, specifically, a section of [The Book of] Numbers 6, which says 'The Lord bless you and keep you... This is an age-old blessing from God over the people. This song came out of our desire to write about this passage,'" Jobe said.



YouTube. The following Friday, the pandemic [shutdown] hit America," Jobe recalled. "Then we understood why we felt so compelled to get it out."

Even as the song comforts millions of people, Jobe said the song also ministered to her heart.

"In my toughest moments during this, when I'm tired or sad or anxious, I've whispered the words to myself. I've used it as a prayer. I've sung it while rocking my baby son to sleep. Even when I don't feel it, this song has reminded me that God is there for me," Jobe said.

Jobe also shared her favorite lines from the song, which discuss God's steadiness even when human circumstances change.

"There's a line in the song that goes, 'In your weeping, and rejoicing, He is for you.' This line applies to so many areas of my heart. It means that we have seasons of weeping or seasons of joy, but God is still with us. We wanted to write a song around all the blessings we believed and prayed over ourselves. We just didn't know that we'd need all those [blessings] all at once and all of a sudden [with Covid]," Jobe said.

—movieguide.org

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A Guide to Enjoying Life in the Best Years

How to Boost Your Health as a Woman Over 60

The importance of self-care increases as we age. While we cannot overcome natural physical and mental changes that come with growing old, maintaining a healthy lifestyle and an upbeat outlook on life can have a major positive impact on your standard of living. In this article by Topeka Health & Wellness Magazine, we'll ex-

plore three useful habits you can implement to make the most of your golden years.

Stay Physically Active

Engaging in regular exercise translates to better physical and mental health. Additionally, for women over 50, it provides an array of benefits

such as:

- Reduces the risk of diseases by boosting immune function. Moreover, it contributes towards better cardiovascular health, helping individuals with heart diseases or diabetes to manage their symptoms better.

- Strengthening of bones and muscles leads to improved balance and decreasing risk of falls which is one of the prominent causes of injury among seniors.

According to Medicare.org, here's a list of exercises to include in your routine:

- Taking a brief walk around your neighborhood
- Climbing a flight of stairs once or twice a day
- Full-body stretching
- Simple bodyweight exercises such as wall-push-ups, chair squats, and more.

Focus on Your Nutrition Intake

While the logic of eating a balanced diet still holds true, here are some food choices you should consider to keep your body and mind healthy:

- Eat foods rich in Vitamin D such as eggs, meats, soy, milk, and fish. This will help maintain strong bones and good balance.
- The foods mentioned above also serve as a good source of vitamin B-12, which plays an important role in producing red blood cells, improving brain function, and reducing the risk



of diseases such as Parkinson's, osteoporosis, and more as reported by Snug Safety.

- If you consistently feel low on energy, increase your uptake of carbohydrates which can be derived from bread, pasta, rice, and cereals.

Take on New Challenges

Struggling to stay occupied post-retirement is a common issue faced by seniors. A sudden change from an active lifestyle to a passive one can lead to feelings of stress and dissatisfaction. One of the best ways to overcome this barrier is taking on new challenges, such as starting a business.

As a senior, you have two strong advantages over others:

1. You have years of experience at your disposal.

2. You have ample time and resources to fully be committed.

While starting a business may feel challenging, various online platforms make it easy to plan, fund, and launch your business, these include:

- SCORE: They have created a simple business plan template in line with industry expectations to help new entrepreneurs create strong foundations for their businesses.

- Registering your business as a Limited Liability Company is important to protect yourself from business-related liabilities, and this formation service helps you do this in Kansas in just a few clicks.

- SBA: The Small Business Association, provides a variety of funding options for entrepreneurs such as short and long-term loans, funds to meet business expenses, and special provisions for senior business owners.

The best way to ensure you remain fit and active is to take control of your health. While regular check-ups and medication will remain an important part of your routine, maintaining a healthy lifestyle will allow you to remain independent and continue to enjoy all the things you cherish in life.

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3 Tips to Maintain Brain Health

Many people are fearful of developing Alzheimer's disease, especially those with a family history of the condition. Researchers are investigating innovative treatments for Alzheimer's and other dementias, but no cure exists right now.

There are steps people can take, however, to help maintain and support their brain health. These activities often help with physical and emotional health and are generally positive habits to foster, especially as people age. In fact, a report from "The Lancet" found the risk of dementia is lower among people who adhere to these healthy habits:

1) Get Physical

According to Harvard Medical School, exercise keeps the brain healthy by helping release chemicals that support the development of new nerve cells and connections between brain cells. Exercise also improves mental health, blood pressure and the



regulation of blood sugar, all of which can impact the development of cognitive diseases like Alzheimer's and other dementias. Staying physically active can become more difficult if someone's health declines, but doctors and other medical providers can share ways to maintain physical activity even if mobility is limited.

2) Keep Your Brain Active

Engaging in mentally stimulating activities may help keep the brain fit and potentially stave off dementia or other types of cognitive decline. For example, people who have cognitively demanding jobs (like accountants or math teachers) or who engage in cognitively stimulating activities (like learning a second language or how to play a musical instrument) may be at lower risk for developing cognitive decline and dementia, according to Harvard Medical School. Activities like these and more can also decrease feelings of depression, isolation and loneliness, which occur more frequently as people age and are also associated with an increased risk for developing dementia, according to the National Institute on Aging.

3) Track Your Brain Health and Get Help Early

One way to detect changes in brain health is to track memory and other thinking skill performance over time. Detecting changes in memory is critical to slowing the progression of Alzheimer's, which can begin 15-20 years before the onset of obvious symptoms. Some changes in mood or memory that may raise red flags are often noticed by other people, not by the individual experiencing the changes,

making it important for older adults who live alone or who do not have large social circles to track their own brain health.

One option for tracking brain health is the Alzheimer Prevention Trials (APT) Webstudy, funded by the National Institutes of Health, which monitors an individual's brain health through regular online memory testing that can be completed anywhere, anytime from a computer, laptop or tablet. Participants take no-cost, online memory tests quarterly that are automatically shared with researchers who track results over time. If changes in memory are detected, and a participant is close enough to a study site, he or she may be invited to an in-person evaluation and, if appropriate, given the option to join an Alzheimer's clinical trial.

While researchers are working to advance treatments and find a cure for Alzheimer's, it's important that people practice healthy

brain habits and monitor their brain health as they age to detect any changes in memory as early as possible. Without a cure, taking preventive measures and maintaining a healthy lifestyle are the best defenses against the disease.

Find more information at APTwebstudy.org.

Alzheimer's Facts

- More than 1 in 9 people ages 65 and older has Alzheimer's disease, according to the Alzheimer's Association.

- Black adults are twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's compared to white adults, according to the National Institute on Aging.

- Hispanic or Latino adults are 1.5 times as likely to develop Alzheimer's compared to white adults, according to the Alzheimer's Association.

- According to the Alzheimer's Association, 1 in 3 seniors dies with dementia.

— Family Features



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¹ "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2021. ² "How might my oral and dental health change as I age?" www.usnews.com, 11/30/2018.

³ American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, 2018 Survey of Dental Fees, Copyright 2018, American Dental Association.

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Steph Curry shares Bible verse that got him through tough times



NBA star Steph Curry has always been open about his Christian faith, even sporting a Bible verse from Philippians 4:13 (“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”) on his shoes. However, the basketball player recently revealed another verse that’s meant a lot to him.

While appearing on The High Note podcast, Curry revealed that the New Testament’s Romans 8:28 has been very important to him over the years.

The verse reads, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Curry explained that his mom was the base of his strong Christian faith, taking them to church and Bible studies.

“It kind of gave me the confidence to find out what that meant for myself,” Curry shared. “These last crazy 12 years in the league, a lot of it has come down to forming an identity and knowing where my foundation is so that with all the things thrown at me, like you said, I knew who I was and I know who I am. I credit my mom a lot for showing us the way.”

As he faced struggles as he launched his NBA career, Curry said that his mom continued to be a source of strength for him.

“My mom messaged over and over and over and over again, Romans 8:28, and that was the verse that she spoke life into me,” Curry revealed. “To me, that was something that I really believed. Whatever I put my mind to, whatever I decided, I was going to really work it and have that spirit of accomplishment.”

Curry is now looking to bring his faith

to the big screen. The 30-year old athlete, husband and father of three looks forward to using his platform for good. As reported by Variety, Curry now plans to test his artistic capabilities with his new production company, Unanimous Media.

Curry promises to be heavily involved in the projects that make their way to production. Yet, with his outspoken faith, Curry clears up his intentions with the content Unanimous will portray; “It’s not about me hitting people over the head with a Bible and telling them they have to believe a certain thing or think a certain way,” he explains. Rather through showcasing Christian topics and inspiring stories, his desire is to lend a hand in offering better content options.

Clearly, Curry is aware that faith and moral content is sparse for family-friendly audiences today. He hopes that the work of Unanimous Media will elevate the positive content that audiences desire.

Unanimous will produce feature-length movies, mini-series that showcase a variety of genres along with merchandise and video games. Two of the current projects he’s focusing on center around the Christmas and Easter holidays.

Due to their experience in the faith-based realm, Sony will serve as the distribution company for most of the production company’s projects. Affirm Films, a faith-branch of Sony, released other faith-based movies like PAUL AND APOSTLE OF CHRIST, MIRACLES FROM HEAVEN, FACING THE GIANTS and RISEN.

—*movieguide.org*

FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by Rob Mooney

My son and I enjoy getting out on our bikes and riding the trails that are in the area. We have ridden the Lawrence Loop trail several times, the Shunga Trail in Topeka, a section of the Flint Hills trail down by Ottawa, part of the Landon trail in Topeka and a section of the Katy Trail in Missouri. However, what we enjoy most are the dirt mountain bike trails.

Our “home” trail, if you will, is the Lawrence River Trail. We try to hit that trail at least twice a month, but we’re always eager to try different trails. Over Father’s Day weekend we were able to go down to Bentonville, AR, the self-proclaimed mountain biking capitol of the world. Wow! It did not disappoint. We were able to ride at Slaughter Pen, The Back 40 and Coler Mountain Bike

Park. What a great time.

A few months ago, we came upon an organization called NICA, National Interscholastic Cycling Association. Established in Kansas in 2019, this is an organization that is committed to the development of high school and middle school teams/clubs for grades 6-12. My son, being a senior, wanted to get in on the action, so we attended a meeting in Lawrence at Sunflower Outdoor and Bike Shop. There we met some wonderful people who introduced us to the world of youth mountain bike racing. He signed up and he had a blast all season!

There are currently nine teams in Kansas. They are located in Lawrence, Topeka, Leavenworth, Manhattan, Emporia, Hutchinson, Wichita, Louisburg,

and Tipton. This was the second year that they’ve been racing and I was told that participation doubled from last year to this year. All I know is, it was exciting to see so many young people on bikes.

My son learned so much from his coaches and teammates that he’s almost like a different rider than he was 6 months ago. He’s faster, stronger and more aggressive on his bike and he constantly leaves me in the dust. But that’s the good thing about mountain biking, or biking in general. I can be left behind but I’ll still have a good time.

The NICA season is over but it’s never too late to get involved. Check out kansasmtb.org. There you will find information about NICA and you’ll be able to contact the team in your area. Trust me, no matter what skill level your biker is at, they’ll be welcome with open arms into your local team!

See you out on the trails!!!

Pickleball & Faith: The fastest-growing sport centers on building relationships

Pickleball — a mix of tennis, pingpong and badminton — is now the fastest-growing sport, boasting more than 4.8 million participants nationwide. It’s claimed the “fastest-growing sport” title the last two years, according to the latest data from the Sports & Fitness Industry Association.

It’s played on courts looking similar to those in tennis, but the size of badminton courts (20 feet wide by 44 feet long).

Players use wooden paddles and a wiffle ball. It has long been popular among those of retirement age, but the demographics continue to trend younger. Like many recreation sports, it’s a way to compete and meet people.

It’s also being used as a way to spread faith in God.

Such is the case for Tennessee resident Stephanie Lane, who has competed in seven USA Pickleball Association Nationals, the highest competition for pickleball players. Before pickleball, Lane played tennis in college, where she was first introduced to this new game.

The Nationals are held for all ages and Lane says the events are where players get to meet people from all over who com-



pete at the same level. And it’s at those national tournaments where Lane has been able to connect with other believers all over the country.

“When I’m playing the Senior Pro Tour, I’m traveling and playing tournaments and watching my daughter who plays at the 5.0 level now. And so [believers] just kind of migrate to each other. We’ve even had faith gatherings just for people to kind of share what’s on their heart,” Lane said.

For Lane, her relationship with God has grown through learning how to balance her priorities.

“God is just at the top of all that,” she said. “Pickleball has helped me put things in perspective. I can see how I was

probably off balance at the beginning of it when I poured my whole life into it.

One of the many connections Lane has made through pickleball on the local level is with Stacy Lynn Harp, another former tennis player. She was searching for a community to belong to after moving to Tennessee. Harp first learned how to play at her local recreation center, and it led her to write a book, “Pickleball Faith: Inspiration on and Off the Court.”

Harp’s pickleball playing experience has led her to experience God’s grace through convictions on and off the court.

“My faith compels me to move and be obedient to the Lord, and it compels me to be a better person on the court because the relationship is the cure,” Harp said.

Pickleball has shown Harp how to be bold in her faith while also providing her with a community. The players are close, literally, on the court, but being a game centered around building relationships, they often grow close off the court too.

And as they do, players like Lane and Harp share about their faith in God.

—*sportsspectrum.com*



Youth For Christ Golf Classic Scheduled for Sep. 26 at Lake Shawnee Golf Course

Topeka Youth for Christ's 2022 Annual Golf Classic will be held on Monday, September 26 at the Lake Shawnee Golf Course. The four-person, 18-hole scramble begins with a shotgun start at 10:00 PM. The format is a 4-person scramble. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m., with a shotgun start at 10:00 a.m.

The YFC Golf Classic helps Youth for Christ staff and volunteers in the Topeka area to continue building authentic Christ-sharing relationships with teens through a variety of ministry programs; i.e. Juvenile Justice Ministry, YFC Core and YFC Camp designed for today's teens.

YFC reaches young people everywhere, working together with the local church and other like-minded partners to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus who lead by their godliness in lifestyle, devotion to prayer and the Word of God, passion for sharing the love of Christ and commitment to social involvement.

Across the country at community centers, high schools, middle schools and juvenile institutions the YFC staff and volunteers meet with young people to share the name of Jesus.

To sign up for the YFC Annual Golf Classic Tournament go online to www.topekayfc.org. Awards and prizes will be given for first and second low teams, scored in two flights of players. Individuals will receive awards and prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive, and longest putt. The entry fee for the fundraiser is \$500 per team or \$125 per individual. The fee in-



cludes green fees, cart for two, a box lunch, two mulligans, Gary www.topekayfc.org.

Woodland Drive and many great door prizes! Individual and corporate sponsorships are still available.

For more information about Topeka Youth for Christ or the golf tournament, call (785) 232-8296, or email info@topekayfc.org, or visit the website at

FIRST TEE - GREATER TOPEKA

2ND ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

SEPTEMBER 16, 2022

Registration at 11:00 AM
Shotgun at 12:00 PM

Shawnee Country Club
913 SE 29th St.
Topeka, KS



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Monday September 26th

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REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 9:00 A.M.
SHOTGUN START: 10:00 A.M.



SIGN UP AND SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION ONLINE AT:
www.topekayfc.org

For more information call the YFC Office at 785-232-8296

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.highlandheightscc.com
Jars of Clay Children's Ctr 785-379-9098
- 2. CHRISTIAN CAVALRY MINISTRIES INT.**
Pastor Beau Bryant
Call about new meeting location for current services.
785-224-5419 • www.church4bikers.org
Sun. School 9:30 am
Sun. Service 10:45 am
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study 7pm
- 3. TOPEKA BIBLE CHURCH**
1101 SW Mulvane St., Topeka
785-234-5545
Worship: 9:00 & 10:30 am
Livestream at 9:00 am
Sunday School & Bible Studies:
9:00 & 10:30 am
www.discovertbc.com
- 4. NORTHLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
3102 NW Topeka Blvd., Topeka
286-1204
Worship Sun. 9:00 & 10:45 AM
www.northland.cc
- 5. INDIANA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST**
"Grace has dispensed, because Grace has redeemed"
3510 SE Indiana Ave., Topeka, Ks. 66605
785-266-7788, www.Indianaavecofc.org
Bible University – Sunday - 9:30 a.m.
Classes for all ages.
Morning Worship – Sunday – 10:45 a.m.
Midweek Bible University – Wed. – 7pm
- 6. FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST**
1912 SW Gage, Topeka, KS
272-0443 www.fsbctopeka.org
Sunday Services:
8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:45 AM Bible study—all ages
11 AM Contemporary Worship
- 7. TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH**
"Finding NEW LIFE in CHRIST"
Sunday Worship 9:15 & 10:45am, 6pm
~ Sunday School for all ages ~
4500 SW Gage Blvd., Topeka
785-862-0988
www.topekabaptist.org
- 8. WANAMAKER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH**
"Being and making disciples of Jesus Christ by the power of the Gospel, to the glory of God"
2700 SW Wanamaker Rd., Topeka
(785) 272-9323 www.wrbctopeka.com
Traditional Sunday Worship 10:30am & 6pm
Sunday School 9am • Wed. Prayer 7pm

- 9. GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH**
310 E 8th St (E. US 56 Hwy)
Overbrook, KS; 785-670-6456
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 9:30, Worship 11:00
In person or conference call:
(712) 770-4749 / 583229
Bible Study Tue & Wed conference call
2401 SE 11th St., Topeka KS 66607
Supt. S. C. Mitchell, Pastor

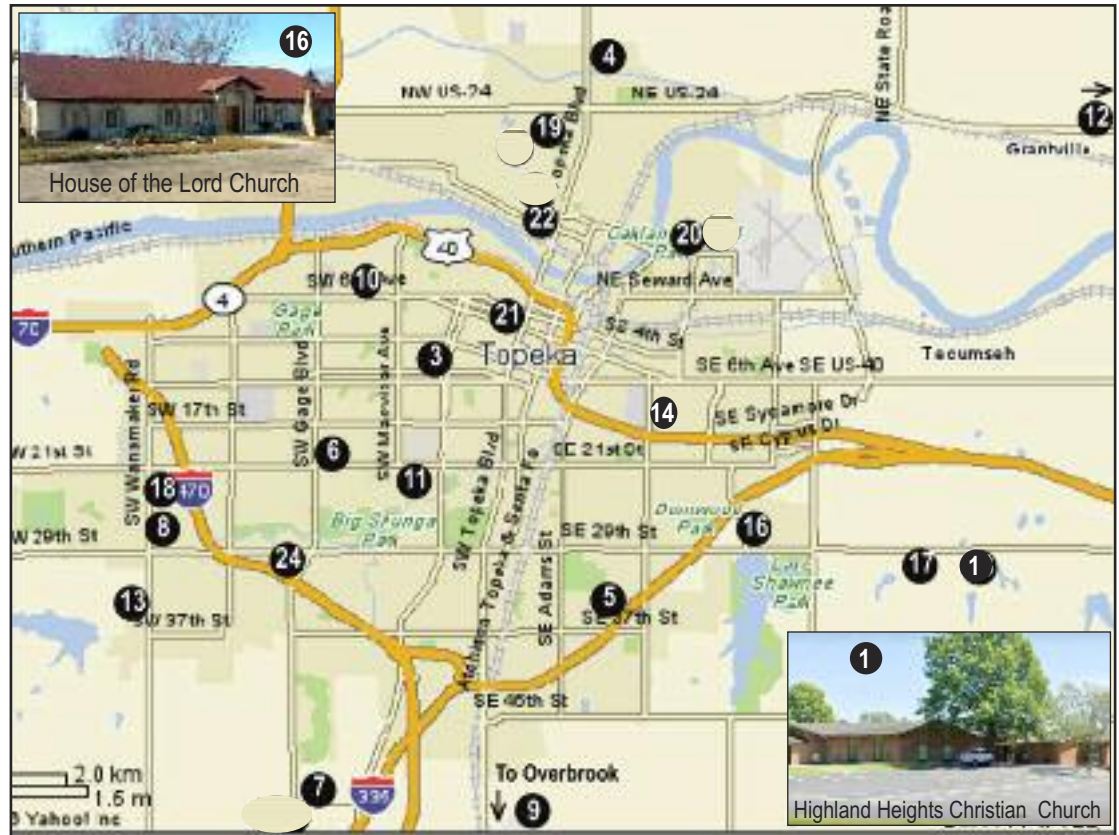
- 16. HOUSE OF THE LORD CHURCH**
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- 17. EAST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**
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- 20. HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH**
1937 NE Madison St,
Topeka, KS 66616 • 785-506-4594
Pastor Dale Stockburger
Sunday Worship: 11 am and 6pm
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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.harvestfamilyfellowshiptopeka.org

- 22. FAMILY OF GOD CHURCH**
1231 NW Eugene St.
Topeka, KS 66608
Pastor Roger Randel
Sunday Worship 10:30am & 6pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7pm
785-234-1111
FOGchurch.com

- 24. TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST**
Holding to the authorized King James Version and the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith
Sunday 10 a.m. Wednesday 6 p.m.
Pastor Bob Spagnuolo 785-273-3506
meeting in our home:
4307 SW 30th Ter., Topeka
www.TrinityReformedBaptist.org



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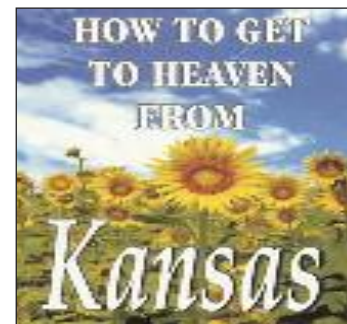
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1. Realize you are a sinner. Everyone starts the same place spiritually. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of god." (Rom. 3:23). Sin's penalty keeps you out of Heaven and condemns you to Hell, separating you from God. Romans 6:23 says,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

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

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

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



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- ♥ Protect current Kansas law, which prevents babies from being aborted up to the moment of birth.
- ♥ Prevent taxpayer-funded abortion and extreme procedures such as partial-birth and live-dismemberment abortions.
- ♥ Preserve safeguards that require the abortion industry to protect women with important clinic health and safety standards.

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