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August 2022

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NEW RESIDENT churchguide



House of the Lord Church

See inside back cover!

Topeka Metro to get new buses, some electric



Topeka Metro's Board of Directors has approved the purchase of six new heavy-duty transit buses. Three of the buses will have traditional diesel drive systems, while three will be Topeka Metro's first fully electric buses.

The electric buses are made by Proterra Operating Company, Inc., and the diesel buses are made by Gillig, LLC. Topeka Metro's current fleet of fixed route buses are all made by Gillig. All of the new buses are estimated to be completed within 12-18 months.

For more information visit www.topekametro.org.



CLINT DECKER

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings,

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A new king took the throne in Egypt and looked upon the people of Israel with contempt. They had lived under the Egyptians in peace for generations, but things dramatically changed with the new Pharaoh. They were turned into slaves, oppressed and treated ruthlessly for decades. At one point Pharaoh ordered all sons born to Israelite women to be thrown into the

river to die. Day after day the cries of the people of Israel ascended before God, praying against the wicked acts of Pharaoh and for their deliverance.

The story of the Israelites is the story of many nations today. A sinful leader takes his seat of power and with it firmly in his hand, he wields it with a vengeance against his ene-

■ Please see EVIL TIMES page 2

Topeka aquatic centers and pools will close Aug. 7



With some school districts starting school Aug. 10 and 11, and college students heading back to campus, Shawnee County Parks + Recreation aquatic centers and pools will close after Aug. 7. Dornwood and Jackson Spray Parks will remain open through Sept. 15. Aquatic fitness classes will continue through Aug. 13.

"Our lifeguards and pool staff are largely high school and college students," noted Shawn Osborne, outdoor adventures superintendent. "Once high school begins and college students begin heading back to campus, we no longer have the staff to keep the aquatic centers and pools open."

Paddle boat, water trike, canoe and kayak rentals at the Lake Shawnee Adventure Cove will continue through Sept. 11.

2nd Annual Topeka Fall Fest will be October 8 at the Vinewood

Four thousand people attended the Topeka Fall Fest last year, and a similar crowd is expected this year, according to organizers. Families attending will be able to listen to live music, visit over 90 vendors & food trucks, attend the Health Fair and take part in the kids activities.

Dozens of local businesses and non-profit organizations will take part in the event as vendors or sponsors, and live music acts will

perform on the outdoor stage.

An outdoor vendor market will offer a wide variety of products and services, with food trucks nearby.

Inside Vinewood hall, an Oz-themed Health Fair will showcase a variety of health care and fitness businesses and services, several of which will offer presentations or demonstrations to fair goers.

■ Please see FALL FEST page 3



Minority faith leaders say court ruling on prayer is significant

Christians are not the only group who celebrated the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that the Constitution protects a high school football coach's right to pray. Several minority faith leaders who previously looked to separation of church and state as a judicial concept that protects their equality are rethinking their positions.

"Fighting religion altogether and trying to ban it will only make things worse," said Imam Abdullah Antepli, associate professor of the practice of public policy and interfaith relations at Duke University and Duke Divinity School. "We should own religion and claim it and claim our religious liberties." Antepli welcomed the ruling and said it offers an opportunity for minority faiths, such as Islam, to have a "broader conversation about the role of religion in public places and public schools and discuss what it means in a multicultural context."

Asma Uddin, a visiting law professor at Catholic University who is Muslim and represents minority faiths in constitutional legal cases, agreed the Kennedy case helps the cause of religious freedom.

"The win in Kennedy is not just for Christians or evangelicals but for all religious believers (and more broadly, for public employees' expressive rights)," Uddin wrote in an email. "A great way to counter-majoritarian influence on our public schools is for minorities to speak up and utilize religious liberty protections for themselves."

Elana Stein Hain, a Jewish educator and director of leadership education at the Shalom Hartman Institute, also wondered if the ruling might not empower minority faiths, such as Judaism.

"If you're a religious minority, is it better to have a public space that is denuded of religion altogether or is it better to have a public space that allows for religious liberty where



you can compete in a marketplace, too?" she asked. "Realistically, you're not going to be the strongest voice, but maybe it'll help you down the road for when you want to do something publicly in a religious way."

The concurrence is that while adherents to the faiths might disagree on much, when a person of any faith is discriminated against, all suffer.

The plaintiff was represented by

the First Liberty Institute, which calls itself "the largest legal organization in the nation dedicated exclusively to defending religious liberty for all Americans." This term, the institute also successfully represented two Maine families who had challenged the state's tuition-assistance program. The court ruled that Maine must fund religious education at private religious schools.

Cider Days to return

Saturday September 24th from 10am - 6pm and Sunday September 25th from 10am - 4pm at the Stormont Vail Event Center. Early Bird Tickets are being sold at all Topeka Dillons locations; ReHome (out at Forbes Field); and of course at the ticket box office at the event center. The tickets will go on sale August 3rd 2022.

Early Bird tickets will be \$8 and they will be \$10 at the door the day of the event. (Note: This year the tickets are a two-day ticket. You will need to get your hand stamped at the door when you scan your ticket in order to come back the next day)

There will be around 200 vendors; live entertainment; food truck vendors; fun foods; kids activities; and of course APPLE CIDER and APPLE CIDER SLUSHES. There will be something for everyone.

EVIL TIMES

continued from page 1

mies. His foolish exercise of power ultimately not only brings ruin upon his powerless opponents, but tragically ends up destabilizing his nation.

It is this type of situation the Psalmist had in mind when he penned a prayer to the Lord God, "Can wicked rulers be allied with you, those who frame injustice by statute? They band together against the life of the righteous and condemn the innocent to death." (Psalm 94:21-22) This is what life is like under

an immoral government. Laws are passed, which run contrary to God's Word. Disobedience toward God is legalized and encouraged. Immoral and corrupt behavior becomes rampant in government and across the nation. The sick, poor, widows, orphans and already marginalized communities become victims of sinful leadership.

And who is the enemy to this kind of corrupt government? The righteous. Those who seek to do what is right, wise and good no matter the cost. Officials band together to silence these righteous voices. Why? Because they shine the light on their corrupt deeds. Their words of truth and the gospel they preach, exposes the darkness. Therefore, they are condemned. There is no justice for them in the courts of men, and they are harassed at every turn by the powers over them.

How shall the righteous remnant live in such a time? The writer of the Psalm goes on, "But the Lord has become my stronghold, and my God the rock of my refuge." (Ps. 94:22) A stronghold is where one goes for protection. A rock of refuge is a place of safety. These images communicate who God is to those who trust in Him. In a time when depraved men rule,

godly people go to the Lord God and His Son, as their rescuer. It does not mean He will remove all forms of pain, suffering and injustice. Actually, in evil times, it will increase. But what does God promise His children? His presence. He will be with us. And He also promises to supply our needs and deliver us from the tempter's snares.

Moreover, God promises to deal with our adversaries, "He will bring back on them their iniquity and wipe them out for their wickedness . . ." (Ps. 94:23) The vengeance of God through Jesus will come on those who rebel against Him and attack His chosen ones. At first, He is patient with His enemies, providing them a chance to trust Him, but if they refuse, judgment will come.

Such was the case with Pharaoh.

Eventually, God sent Moses to rescue Israel. Through him, God warned evil Pharaoh many times, but he rejected God's mercy. Therefore, with a strong arm, God led His people out of Egypt through the greatest exodus in history. Pharaoh pursued, but his army was wiped out. God destroyed the hard-hearted enemy of His people.

In these evil days, where sinful leaders occupy seats of power, let us persist in doing good, being voices of truth and sharing heaven's good news. Our trust and hope is in Jesus, who has risen from the dead. For He has conquered the evil which rulers pedal onto their citizens, and is more powerful than any demonic forces leading them.

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Faith leaders share explanations for sharp decline in faith in God

Christian leaders have several explanations for why faith in God has hit an all-time low in the United States.

Bart Barber, pastor of First Baptist Church of Farmersville in rural East Texas and president of the Southern Baptist Convention says that more and more people in the United States have “not only no connection to faith congregations but also really no time in life to stop and contemplate anything spiritual. Even some of the people who identify themselves as Christians and say they believe in God and have accepted the gospel, for a lot of them, church and contemplation and worship have been squeezed out by the schedule in their lives.”

The Rev. Lawrence R. Rast Jr., president of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind., said, “People are continuing to search and continuing to think about the larger questions, but the lack of dedicated spaces and time set aside for that leads to the chaos that we see around us presently.”



Young people are the demographic that Robert Barron, bishop-designate of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester and founder of Word on Fire, worries about the most, because they have “inherited the attenuation of religious practice” that is prevalent in society.

“When I was a kid, my parents took it for granted that we’d be brought to Mass, we’d be taught the ways of prayer, we learned about the saints,” he said. “They just immersed us in that world. Well, when you don’t immerse people in that world, you say things like, ‘Oh,

it’s up to you, you decide what you want to do when you’re 16. You lose all that. And then we’re surprised that young people are adrift and young people have lost their sense of purpose and meaning?”

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton, president of the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church, said that, in some ways, the poll is not surprising, because churches have lost multiple generations of parishioners by not nurturing young people in the faith.

“We’re missing two or three generations of people who aren’t steeped in the rhythm or the liturgy of the church,” he said. “They are not involved in the relationships in the church. They are doing other things. For me, the practice of my faith is what steeps my deepened belief in God, and if you get generations that aren’t in church practicing the rhythm of worship or practicing their faith, there’s no surprise they are now doubting whether or not God exists.”

Back to School Bash offers hygiene bags, haircuts and more

The Salvation Army’s Back to School Bash will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 2, with free hygiene bags, haircuts and immunizations available.

For the sixth year in a row, The Salvation Army of Topeka says it will ensure students receive a personal hygiene bag for the upcoming 2022-23 school year. Through a generous donation from BNSF Railway, students will get a set of personal hygiene items.

According to the Salvation Army, the items will help ensure students get the

new year started off on the right foot. In addition to personal hygiene bags, it said students can also receive haircuts, immunizations and other school supplies items at its Back to School Bash.

The Salvation Army indicated that the Back to School Bash will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Salvation Army, 1320 SE 6th St. Students will have the chance to get a personal hygiene bag - including socks, underwear, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and

deodorant. It said Silverbacks will be on site for those in need of sports bras.

“We want every student to head back to school this fall with a clean bill of health and to be ready to learn,” Captain Cristian Lopez said, “This is our sixth year for the Back-to-School Bash and we see it continuing to make a positive impact going forward.”

The Salvation Army said other partners on site will provide immunizations, haircuts, pizza and watermelon for free.

FALL FEST

continued from page 1

Many kids’ activities will be offered, such as facepainting, petting zoo, cake walks and bouncehouses.

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

Major sponsors include Integrity Insurance, ServPro, College HUNKS, Capital City Flooring, Davidson’s Funeral Home, Hutton Monument, SoulFire Nutrition, Rasmussen University and more.



C5Alive POWER Luncheon to be held at The Peak

The monthly C5Alive POWER Luncheon will be held August 11, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at The Peak, 1930 SW Gage.

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.

The next luncheon will be held September 8, at Thornton Place.

C5Alive is part of the Capital City Christian Chamber of Commerce (C5), an organization dedi-

cated to developing and uniting Christian Leadership in the community: businesses, non-profits and churches.

C5 also hosts other periodic events, including EASTERFEST, 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.



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Why are leading scientists rethinking the theory of evolution?

Evolution, as a theory for explaining how all life forms came to their present form, is regularly presented as “settled science” – an “irrefutable fact” for which there is no sound room for disagreement or dissent. On par with gravity. But is it really?

Not if you read real academics doing work in the field of evolutionary theory.

There are a wealth of working scientists who demonstrate healthy amounts of intellectual humility regarding the present strengths and weaknesses of the theory. This is outlined in a major article published just this week in The Guardian, a famously liberal British newspaper. Entitled “Do We Need a New Theory of Evolution?,” the author, a leading science writer and researcher, explains there has been a ferocious backlash taking place over decades among leading evolutionary scientists and increasingly competing theories. He asks,

What accounts for the ferocity of this backlash? For one thing, this is a battle of ideas over the fate of one of the grand theories that shaped the modern age. But it is also a struggle for professional recognition and status, about who gets to decide what is core and what is peripheral to the discipline.

Yes, academic politics loom large in the supposed “purity” of science.

The Guardian adds, “Behind the current battle over evolution lies a broken dream.” It has not become, and is not, the clean, confident “unifying theme” explaining how life developed to its present form that popular assumptions claim. Disagreement is robust among leading scientists who generally align with the theory.

The Royal Society held a major scientific conference on evolutionary theory in 2016 in partnership with the British Academy because, as its organizers explained, “Developments in evolutionary biology and adjacent fields have produced calls for revision of the standard theory of evolution, although the



issues involved remain hotly contested.”

Even the prestigious science journal Nature featured a forum in 2014 where leading scientists wrestled seriously with the question: “Does evolutionary theory need a rethink?” Eight evolutionary biologists argued, literally, “Yes” and “urgently.”

These scientists explain, “The number of biologists calling for change in how evolution is conceptualized is growing rapidly,” adding, “Strong support comes from allied disciplines, particularly developmental biology, but also genomics, epigenetics, ecology and social science.” In essence, the more science advances, the more challenges we see to the original theory. They conclude, “We contend that evolutionary biology needs revision if it is to benefit fully from these other disciplines. The data supporting our position gets stronger every day.”

Nature notes that ideological battles are limiting scientists’

freedom and responsibility to criticize important aspects of standard evolutionary theory. They admit, “Perhaps haunted by the spectre of intelligent design, evolutionary biologists wish to show a united front to those hostile to science” and thus are reticent to admit substantial weaknesses in the popular conception and dangerous hubris of the theory.

These scholars are not the only scientists raising this concern. Evolution News asked the same question in 2011, “If discussing criticisms of Darwin’s theory

amounts to promoting Intelligent Design?” They conclude, “Mere ‘critical analysis’ of evolution does not logically lead to the conclusion of ID. It’s simply good science and would be good for students.” Yes, raising serious questions about so-called settled science is itself, very good science. It is, after all, what the scientific method itself does.

The Guardian carefully details the major scientific and academic turns since Darwin himself that recognize and endeavor to address serious fundamental and developing problems with the theory itself. They explain much of the

history of the theory itself has been a coming to terms with its inability to keep up with other essential and sophisticated scientific developments. They provide a story of the vulnerability of the theory itself, rather than being so-called “settled science.” The author of the piece even notes,

Where once Christians had complained that Darwin’s theory made life meaningless, now Darwinists levelled the same complaint at scientists who contradicted Darwin.

But these scientists exist, and this article details the fact. The Guardian’s lengthy and detailed article is certainly worth reading for anyone interested in an honest and humble appraisal of evolution’s frailties by a major liberal publication.



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

Jordan Peterson encourages churches to get back to business of saving souls



“The third accusation is that the prime contributor to the tyranny that makes up the oppressive patriarchy and structures all of our social interactions past and present and the unforgivable despoiling of our beloved mother earth is damnable male ambition, competitive and dominating, power-mad, selfish, exploitative, rap-

ing and pillaging.”

The church, Peterson said, should remind people, including young men, “perhaps even first and foremost, that they have a woman to find, a garden to walk in, a family to nurture, an ark to build, a land to conquer... to face stalwartly in truth, devoted to love and without fear.”

Churches should focus on saving souls before it's too late, renowned psychologist Jordan Peterson shares in a “Message to the Christian Churches.”

“It is, of course, completely presumptuous of me to dare to write and broadcast a video entitled ‘Message to the Christian Churches,’” Peterson said at the beginning of his video posted on YouTube. “But I’m going to do it anyway, because I have something to say and because that something needs to be said.”

He said that over the last four years, as he spoke about a psychological approach to the Bible, the majority of his listeners have been young men.

“In the West, because of the weight of historical guilt that is upon us, a variant of the sense of original sin in a very real sense, and because of a very real attempt by those possessed by what might be described as unhelpful ideas to weaponize that guilt, our young people face a demoralization that is perhaps unparalleled,” Peterson said.

This “extremely damaging ideology” consists of three accusations, he explained:

“Human culture, particularly in the West, is best construed as an oppressive patriarch motivated by the desire, willingness and the ability to use power to attain what are purely selfish and self-serving ends.”

“The second accusation is that human activity, particularly that undertaken in the West, is fundamentally a planet-despoiling enterprise. The human race is a threat to the ecological utopia that existed before us and could hypothetically exist after us in our absence.”

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davesays

Dear Dave,

Our son is 13, and he has been doing some part-time work for a friend of the family. He makes \$40 to \$60 a week, and he would like to begin investing the majority of what he earns. Do you have a

suggestion for a good place he could put his money?

Lindsay

Dear Lindsay,

Well, here's the thing. At this point in his life, the goal of this investment isn't wealth. Number one, it's not a lot of money. Number two, well, it's not a lot of money. The goal is to create knowledge, reward his interest in the subject and teach him how to handle his finances when he's an adult.

I've got no problem with you helping him open checking or savings accounts at a local bank or credit union. There are lots of good lessons to be learned in reconciling a bank statement, and the value

of spending, saving and giving. Then, you could get with a good financial pro, one with the heart of a teacher, and let him open a mutual fund for \$50 a

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

month with you as the custodian. He could learn about compound interest, how to calculate the value of his shares and other things, and all that would be a good learning exercise, too.

We did these things with our kids. But keep in mind that over the course of a year — and when you're 13, that's an eternity — there's not going to be a lot of

action on the investing side of things. It could be kind of boring for him at times. But he's better off to learn now that good things don't always come with flashing lights and whistles.

When it comes to wealth building, things aren't sexy. Slow and steady wins the race!

—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.

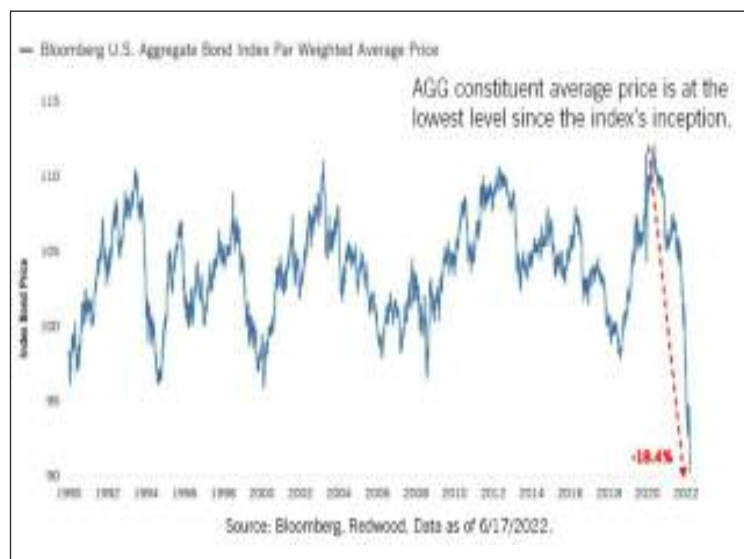
We've been helping a lot of people recently figure out what pension option might be best for them from Hills, Evergy, BC/BS, and Frito Lay to name just a few. In some situations the lump sum is still so large compared to what the monthly pension check would be it is a complete no brainer to take the 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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Four Tips for Spending on Your Grandkids

By Jim Hanna

Many grandparents spend money on their grandkids, whether by chipping in on big expenses like tuition bills and travel expenses or covering smaller costs like meals and holiday gifts. The inclination to be generous is understandable, and many seniors say it brings them joy to support (or even occasionally spoil) their grandchildren. But lavishing them with gifts shouldn't come at the expense of your or grandparents own financial security. If you're seeking to find the balance between supporting your grandchildren and ensuring your own finances stay in healthy shape, here are four tips to keep it all in check:



Hanna

1. Know what you can afford. No matter how much you enjoy splurging on your grandkids, your financial security should remain your first priority. There are many unknowns in retirement, including your longevity, the fluctuation of markets and the impact of inflation on purchasing power (a factor that's particularly pronounced at the moment, with inflation rates at their highest in 40 years). Spend and gift within your means to maintain your own financial health in the future.

2. Determine if you're giving or loaning. If you're giving a gift, understand current federal tax rules, which are based on the calendar year. In 2022, you can give up to \$16,000 to each family member before the federal gift tax is applied. If you are married, both you and your spouse may gift \$16,000 (for a total of \$32,000). And make certain the recipient knows it's a gift for their own tax purposes, and so there is no uncertainty about whether or not they need to pay you back. If you are loaning money to a grandchild, be very specific about the terms and repayment, and consider having a written document that both parties sign and date. This can help safeguard your financial situation and ensure both of you are on the same page — now and in the future.

3. Talk about it. Many people tend to shy away from

discussions about money and finances with their family. If you would like to help support your grandchildren or save for their future goals like college or a down payment on a home, be sure to communicate this with their parents. This can help your adult children do a better job with their own financial planning. For example, if the parents of your grandchild know how much you are expecting to contribute to their child's education, they may be able to decrease the amount allocated to a 529 Plan and invest more toward other goals, such as their own retirement.

4. Establish boundaries. Even if you want to help your grandchildren financially, depending on their situation, it may not be appropriate to do so, or to repeatedly provide support. Everyone appreciates help, but if your grandchild needs to learn financial independence, there can be value in letting them live within their own means. Keep in mind the smart — and sometimes tough — financial lessons you learned as you made your own way as a young adult, and the pride that came with successfully overcoming challenges.

If you want to provide financial support to a family member, but haven't incorporated it into your overall financial plan, consider consulting a financial professional. He or she can help you evaluate your financial needs and goals and create a strategy. A clear and realistic understanding of your own financial picture can help you identify how much you can comfortably give and stay on track with your own goals.

Jim Hanna, CFP®, MBA, CKA®, is a Private Wealth Advisor and Certified Kingdom Advisor with Heart Financial Partners a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC in Topeka, Kansas. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for over 25 years. To contact him, ameripriseadvisors.com/james.c.hanna, 785.358.6278 x19, 601 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66603.

IRS warns of "Dirty Dozen" tax scams

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

The IRS continues to remind taxpayers to watch out for schemes that promise tax savings that are too good to be true. More examples follow.



Economic Impact Payment and tax refund scams: Identity thieves who try to use Economic Impact Payments (EIPs), also known as stimulus payments, are a continuing threat to individuals. Similar to tax refund scams, taxpayers should watch out for these tell-tale signs of a scam: Any text messages, random incoming phone calls or emails inquiring about bank account information, requesting recipients to click a link or verify data should be considered suspicious and deleted without opening. Reminder: The IRS has issued all Economic Impact Payments. Most eligible people already received their stimulus payments.

Unemployment fraud leading to inaccurate taxpayer 1099-Gs: Because of the pandemic, many taxpayers lost their jobs and received unemployment compensation from their state. However, scammers also took advantage of the pandemic by filing fraudulent claims for unemployment compensation using stolen personal information of individuals who had not filed claims. Taxpayers should also be on the lookout for a Form 1099-G reporting unemployment compensation they didn't receive.

Fake employment offers posted on social media: There have been many reports of fake job postings on social media. The pandemic created many newly unemployed people eager to seek new employment. These fake posts entice their victims to provide their personal financial information.

Fake charities that steal your money: Bogus charities are always a problem. They tend to be a bigger threat when there is a national crisis like the pandemic.



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opinion

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Metro Voice is published monthly and serves the communities of Topeka, Lawrence, and other communities in NE Kansas. It is available primarily by bulk and subscription distribution to over 400 locations, including grocery stores, churches, schools, restaurants, bookstores, libraries, businesses and other retail outlets. Written materials submitted become property of Metro Voice. The content of this publication, including all stories, advertising or other graphic symbols, may not be reproduced in any way, for commercial purposes or added to any web site without the express permission of Metro Voice. Advertising in MV is open to anyone wishing to reach the Christian community or the family market with family-friendly advertising. MV reserves the right to refuse any advertising. Metro Voice is a member of the Christian Newspaper Association and the Evangelical Press Association.



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Court Restores Culture of Life

By Star Parker

The cries from the left predicting the end of the world in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade is a familiar sound.

We heard the same after the historic reform in welfare in 1996 when Aid to Families with Dependent Children, which effectively subsidized low-income women to have children out of marriage, was replaced with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families -- which introduced the idea of workfare.

The reform, the left screamed, would throw low-income women mercilessly to the streets. But the result was quite the opposite. We had a dramatic decrease in welfare cases and increase in work among low-income women.

Human beings respond to incentives and to the realities around them.

When those incentives inspire responsibility, productivity and creativity, this is what we get. When incentives inspire irresponsibility and dependence, this is what we get.

What we call morality, the morality rooted in biblical truths that still influence and guide large parts of the American population and that served as a guide to many

more in our past, provides the rules and framework that sustain life and living.

Everyone that knows me knows how I celebrate this court decision that overturns that decision in 1973 that opened the door to the destruction of 60 million-plus pregnancies.

That decision introduced a culture of death to our nation.

When I say a culture of death, I don't only mean the widespread physical destruction of infants in the womb, which is what the decision brought about.

A culture of death means introduction of behaviors that threaten the future of our communities, of our nation.

When we lose appreciation for the sanctity of life, along with this we lose the sense of sanctity of behavior that brings life to the world. Marriage and sex become no longer responsible expressions of love and creation but expressions of egoism and self-gratification of the moment.

Sadly, and predictably, following the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, we saw collapse of the institution of marriage and of child-bearing.

The fertility rate in the United States today is at a historic low and well below the rate necessary for the population to replace itself.



This is what I call a culture of death.

An aging nation, where the number of souls departing exceeds the number of new souls being brought forth, is not a nation with a future.

Particularly troubling is the disproportionate extent to which the culture of death has rooted itself in Black communities.

About one-third of the nation's abortions are performed on Black women.

In 1960, the percentage of Black adults and white adults, age 25 and above, who had never been married was almost identical -- around 10%. By 2012, among whites this increased to 16%, but among Blacks to 36%.

Black poverty is largely centered in Black households headed by single women.

Sadly, the Congressional Black Caucus wants to perpetuate the culture of death. They decry the court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade.

But the Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade is not a ban on abortion. It is a rejection of the bogus decision that claimed the U.S. Constitution grants abortion rights.

Those on the left, who regularly express their concerns about our democracy, now have things the way they want it.

The future of abortion lies in democracy. Each state will decide if they want a culture of death.

My prediction is Americans will choose life. And Black Americans will choose life.

The result will be a rebirth of the American family, children and future.

Yes, I am rejoicing that so many will be called "Mom" this time next year and am praying that God will shower their offspring with a double portion of His blessings.

There is great reason today to celebrate in America.

Inconvenient truth for globalists

The World Economic Forum and the globalist movement it helps lead have used the "climate crisis" and the COVID-19 pandemic as pretexts for measures to redistribute the wealth of nations.

When the WEF convened its annual conference in Davos, Switzerland, the Arctic sea ice expanse was at a 30-year high, according to data from intergovernmental European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites, points out climate-change skeptic Tony Heller.

EUMETSAT, as the organization is known, was created through an international convention signed by 30 European nations.

The extent of Arctic ice during the warmer months long has been a metric for climate-change alarmists. In 2007, Al Gore began warning the world that scientists were predicting that by 2013, the Arctic would be ice-free during the summer.

Last September, Heller noted the Arctic

Ocean had gained a record amount of sea ice for that time of year.

"Most years the Arctic loses ice, but this year ice extent has increased" more than 77,000 square miles, he wrote on Twitter, adding the news likely would not be reported by CNN, BBC News or the New York Times.

Meanwhile, the sea melt last summer was the lowest in 15 years, and the expanse of Antarctic sea was well above average.

Last September, amid the increase in Arctic ice, the New York Times reported a number of leading health and medical journals declared climate change "the greatest threat to global public health" and called on governments to respond with the urgency with which they confronted the coronavirus pandemic.

The declarations followed the announcement that the Biden Health and Human Services Department would treat climate change as a public health issue.



The Daily Caller pointed out at the time that governments and public health bodies could invoke emergency authority as they had in response to COVID-19 and enforce drastic measures such as curbing private-vehicle use, consumption of animal products and fossil fuel drilling.

Researchers who published a study in Nature Climate Change in March 2021 were delighted to find that during the 2020 lockdowns, carbon emissions fell by about 2.6 billion metric tons that year. A pandemic-scale lockdown once every two years, they

concluded, would produce an equivalent decline in emissions over the long-term.

"If climate activists were allowed, they would take us from COVID lockdowns straight into climate lockdowns," JunkScience.com founder Steve Milloy told the Daily Caller. "Now that they've seen arbitrary lockdowns successfully imposed under the guise of a 'public health emergency,' they can't wait for federal, state and local declarations of a climate emergency to achieve the same sort of dominance over us."

Is an unborn child part of the mother's body, or a separate human being?

By Philip Kosloski

The Church believes that from the moment of conception, the unborn child is an entirely separate human being.

Abortion is often put into terms of a right of a woman to do what she wants with her body. The unborn child is seen not as a separate human being, but part of the woman.

While it is true that the child relies upon the mother for his/her life, that child is a separate human being.

St. John Paul II quotes the Declaration on Procured Abortion in his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*.

Some people try to justify abortion by claiming that the result of conception, at least up to a certain number of days, cannot yet be considered a personal human life. But in fact, "from the time that the ovum is fertilized, a life is begun which is neither that of the father nor the mother; it is rather the life of a new human being with his own growth. It would never be made human if it were not human already. This has always been clear, and ... modern genetic science offers clear confirmation. It has demonstrated that from the first instant there is established the program of what this living being will be: a person, this individual person

with his characteristic aspects already well determined. Right from fertilization the adventure of a human life begins, and each of its capacities requires time—a rather lengthy time—to find its place and to be in a position to act."

Furthermore, St. John Paul II argues that while evidence for a soul is not scientifically verifiable, the science is clear that everything is there for the development of a human person.

Even if the presence of a spiritual soul cannot be ascertained by empirical data, the results themselves of scientific research on the human embryo provide "a valuable indication for discerning by the use of



reason a personal presence at the moment of the first appearance of a human life: how could a human individual not be a human person?"

The Church believes that God

creates a new human life at the moment of conception, and as a result it is no longer a "part" of the mother's body, but an entirely separate human person.

Why should we all truly love America?

By Rev. Alex McFarland

America, I love you!

Economically resilient, stubbornly optimistic, miraculously birthed, divinely blessed, statistically exceptional America.

Historically flawed? Sure. What country isn't? But I love America! And so should you.

By Alex McFarland

Merta (not her real name), now in her 90s, recounted her story to me, a child's story of terror. Her father owned an old tube radio – illegal under Nazi occupation. As the war raged on and the Nazi soldiers advanced, they would huddle around the radio, the volume barely audible. Merta's family found hope listening to a gravelly British voice – Winston Churchill speaking of freedom.

"I remember being outside with my father one day," Merta said. "In the distance, we saw soldiers. 'Hide!' Papa yelled. But when he came for us, I will never forget the tears in his eyes as he cried, 'We're saved! The Americans are here!'"

Merta's story is a story retold thousands of times across the globe. I love the American values her story represents. When I say that, people counter with various historical references to America's failures: slavery, racism, wars.

It boils down to a dismissive, "America made this or that mistake,



and it's unforgivable."

As a Christian, I believe the highest form of my faith is forgiveness. Jesus demonstrated this on the cross when He said, "Father, forgive them. For they know not what they do."

I can forgive America's missteps and failures because I love America. Not sweep them under the rug but forgive and do my part to keep us from failing again. I love America for many reasons. Here are a few.

America has the capacity to learn, correct course, and we continue to change. The country where Martin Luther King was assassinated only a generation ago has since elected a Black man President and a Black woman VP.

America is generous. Whenever I come upon a modern freshwater well while traveling in an impoverished nation, it is a virtual certainty

that it was provided by an America-based Christian entity like Samaritan's Purse, World Vision, Compassion International, World Help, et al. Private American initiatives and Christian NGOs are in developing nations by the thousands.

Side note: You may search countries and continents for a plaque that reads, "This well dug by the Democrat Socialists," or, "This Pediatric Medical Clinic provided by American Atheists," but you'll never find such a thing.

America is blessed. I believe God was actively involved in America's formation and continues to bless this country. America was founded on principles quoted by Jesus, the Apostles, Abraham, and others: Love your neighbor as yourself. Obey the law. Care for the poor. Defend human life. Our Constitution says these are "The Laws of Nature

and Nature's God."

America is exceptional. That simply means that statistically, we are the exception, not the rule. America is 4% of the world's population, yet every year we produce more technology, medical cures, scientific discoveries, symphonies, movies, music, and literature... than the other 96% of the world combined! That's exceptional.

Jack Hibbs, the pastor of Calvary Chapel Chino Hills says, "American Exceptionalism is not a statement of arrogance. It means that God did something He had not done before among the nations. The freedom of worship and the love of the Gospel was the foundation to our nation's beginning."

Ponder these amazing words from Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren, told to *Time* magazine in 1954:

"I believe no one can read the history of our country...without realizing that the Good Book and the spirit of the Savior have from the beginning been our guiding geniuses...I believe the entire Bill of Rights came into being because of the knowledge our forefathers had of the Bible and their belief in it: freedom of belief, of expression, of assembly, of petition, the dignity of the individual, the sanctity of the home, equal justice under the law, and the reservation of powers to the people. I like to believe we are living today in the spirit of the Christian religion. I like also to believe that as long as we do so, no great harm can

come to our country."

America is exceptional because we have trusted the Bible and believed in God as our constant guiding source. The very idea of exceptionalism hinges on trusting in a Power higher than ourselves.

In June, Gallup reported that 50% of Americans say the U.S. has poor moral values, a reading that has been on the decline for two decades. During the same 20-year period America's moral values have declined, the percentage of those who say they believe in God has also fallen. From 92% as recently as 2011 to 81% in Gallup's latest survey; reaching the lowest since they began asking the question in the 1950s. Is it causal or merely parallel? Either way, it's critical that we love America back to where she should be.

I don't love her poor decisions or vacillating values, but I love America.

It's critical that we do, especially now, when she needs patriotism and God's truth most urgently—because of our declining values and bad choices. My neighbors of all description: Let's love God. Love our families. Let's value human life.

And let's gratefully love this, our country, America.

Rev. Alex McFarland is heard daily on the American Family Radio network. He directs Biblical Worldview for Charis Bible College, located in Colorado. Alex speaks frequently throughout the U.S.

Are we fighting the wrong battle?

David McCullough wrote a masterpiece on the 50-mile Panama Canal, which saves ships 8000 miles a journey. At a price tag of \$639 million it has been heralded one of the supreme human achievements of all time. In lives, it was even more costly: 25,000 people died working on the project. It was like ten September 11 attacks.

The primary causes of death were malaria and yellow fever. Medical knowledge was limited in the day on how these diseases were transmitted. They thought ants were the cause of infection ... so ants became public enemy number 1. Since ants cannot swim, a big preventative measure was to install pans of water under all four bed posts to create a liquid barrier to keep ants away. Little moats were dug around trees and the standing water kept the ants away—but people kept on dying. For 20 years they fought the presumed ant

problem.

Finally, someone discovered it was not an ant problem but a mosquito problem. What do mosquitoes love? Water, especially stagnant water. The ant moat solution, that people thought was keeping them safe, was killing people. Once they got rid of the standing water and installed screens to their windows, the mosquitoes went away and so did the sickness. Fighting a battle is not enough; it must be fought in the right way.

I see this happening in our country right now. Too many people are wrestling with sickness, suicide, addiction, despair, loneliness, isolation, division, bitterness, crime and hopelessness. There are loud voices with lots of human solutions ... some of them good but many are probably “ant solutions.” Perhaps we do not merely have a human relations problem but a God problem. Perhaps the real cul-

prit is that we refuse to let God be God. Perhaps, we lack the power to fix the problems and cannot extricate ourselves from their grip. Perhaps, all our God substitutes are failing us and leaving us exhausted.

This is not the first-time the world has faced division, plagues, and violence. Could our real need be vertical? Do we need to look up? Do we need to surrender our hearts to the Divine rescue plan?

Often when talking to leaders I will remind them of the days of Jeremiah. Storm clouds were everywhere. The economy was in the tank. Enemies surrounded the people from every side. People cannibalized their children. Jeremiah was in prison. For 40 years, Jeremiah called the people to the vertical solution - Remember the Lord. The people laughed at him, threw him in the stocks, tried to assassinate him and made him a national joke. Yet, it got so bad in the nation ... the king had the prophet



brought out of prison and asked him, “Is there a word from the Lord?”

Behind closed doors more leaders are asking, “Is there a word from the Lord?” Desperate and discerning people are asking, “Is there a word from the Lord?” Is it time to leave the “ant solutions” behind

and swat some mosquitoes? “This is the word of the LORD... ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty.” (Zech. 4:6).

—Michael Sprague, Chaplain at Capitol Commission

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OB-GYN who delivered 5,000 babies: Abortion is not health care and miscarriages are not abortions

“Don’t let the sun set on an ectopic pregnancy” was an axiom we were taught the first week of OB-GYN residency – it’s as true today as it was before and after Roe, and after Dobbs.

Make no mistake about it, an ectopic pregnancy is always a life-threatening condition, and the reality of being sued for delay in treatment far outweighs the misguided cry of those who say physicians will “withhold treatment.”

Like all OB-GYNs, including pro-life OB-GYNs, I commonly treated ectopic pregnancies as well as miscarriages. Neither are an abortion, and the myth that this will change after Dobbs is simply inconsistent with any clinical reality.

Furthermore, it goes without saying, every state’s trigger laws allow for exceptions to save the life of the mom, debunking another outright lie. To say otherwise is simply fear-mongering.

Other myths are out there, like “Dobbs is a federal ban on abortions,” which we all know is not true. What the Dobbs decision did was simply return this emotional issue back to state legislators directly elected by the people.

There are those who say women won’t have access to abortions. This is untrue, as even the New York Times estimates that after overturning Roe, abortions will decrease by only 14%. It’s also worth noting that after Texas passed its heartbeat law, abortions fell barely 10%.



Another myth? Those on the left say, “Overturning Roe is devastating to women’s health.” They imply carrying a baby to term is more dangerous than an abortion. Using their logic, should we abort every baby? Should we stop all childbearing?

Presenting abortion as the ‘life-saving solution’ for women facing challenging pregnancies is a warped view of health care. It belongs in a culture that does not value human life. And it denies the modern medical science that can bring both mother and baby safely through even a high-risk pregnancy. Finally, in absolute terms, trauma, suicide and drug overdose kill more women of child-bearing age.

The final myth is yet another fear-driven claim that Republicans want to end contraception and family planning. Nothing could be further from the

truth.

In my first year of residency, after I delivered several babies from 13-year-old moms, I made a commitment to provide easy access to contraception and early prenatal care – regardless of a woman’s ability to pay in any community I practiced. And, that’s why I set up and volunteered at prenatal and family planning clinics in residency, and why I oversaw three community health centers in rural Kansas, and accepted everyone who sought treatment at our prenatal clinic.

And, this is why every year we fight for robust funding for community health centers and health departments, as well as nutritional programs like WIC.

Without a doubt, women with miscarriages and ectopic pregnancies will be treated in every state without exception. Life of the mom will continue to be honored, family planning clinics will continue, and Plan B contraception remains over the counter.

Beyond this, we remain committed to working with Democrats – and will continue to fight for more and earlier access to prenatal care and proper nutrition, especially in rural and urban settings, as well as child care and attending to all the social challenges a young single or married mom faces – before and after delivery of a baby.

LifeNews Note: Republican Roger Marshall, M.D., represents Kansas in the U.S. Senate. Previously he was the congressman for Kansas’ 1st District. Prior to Congress, Dr. Marshall was a practicing obstetrician and gynecologist in Great Bend, Kansas. He received his M.D. at the University Of Kansas School Of Medicine in 1987.

This column originally appeared at Fox News.

YouTube to start deleting abortion videos

YouTube will begin removing videos that promote techniques to perform unsafe abortions and those they say feature false claims about abortion safety the company says.

The crackdown will delete videos questioning the safety of the medical procedure as well as those promoting dangerous at-home abortions.

“Like all of our policies on health/medical topics, we rely on published guidance from health authorities,” the Google-owned video streaming platform said on Twitter.

“We prioritize connecting people to content from authoritative sources on health topics, and we continuously review our policies [and] products as real world events unfold.”

The platform will also launch an information panel to provide users with “context and information from local and global health authorities under abortion-related videos and above relevant search results.”

This comes a month after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, finding the 1973 ruling wrongfully took the right to regulate

abortion away from the states.

The purge of videos will ramp up over the next few weeks, according to YouTube. At-home abortion videos are rare on the platform and some pro-life observers contend the real purpose is to remove videos from pro-life organizations that use long-standing data to point out the dangers of all abortions.

Under the company’s misinformation policy, YouTube bans certain types of content that it deems to be misleading, deceptive, or “having serious risk of egregious harm.”

“This includes certain types of misinformation that can cause real-world harm, like promoting harmful remedies or treatments, certain types of technically manipulated content, or content interfering with democratic processes,” the policy states.



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'Helping Moms Choose Life': Bill Would Let Child Support Begin at Conception

A congressional bill that would allow pregnant women to receive child support beginning at conception is receiving wide praise from the pro-life community.

Introduced by U.S. Sens. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Kevin Cramer (R-ND), and Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA), the bill – called the Unborn Child Support Act – would allow states to enforce child support obligations of the biological father beginning at conception if the mother requests it.

Such support would apply retroactively and be paid out while the baby is still in the womb. Meanwhile, the bill gives mothers flexibility in order not to receive child support if they don't want the father to be involved.

"We should do everything we can to support American mothers and their children," Rubio said. "This bill would allow expecting mothers to prepare and support their babies before they are born."

Cramer said care for the child should begin "long before a baby is born."

"It begins at the first moment of life – conception – and fathers have obligations, financial and otherwise, during pregnancy," Cramer said. "Mothers should be able to access child support payments as soon as she is supporting a child. Our bill makes this possible."

It has the support of Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, March for Life, Concerned Women for America and the Family Research Council.

"In the new Dobbs era, our policies should reflect the science that life begins at conception and the reality that women and families start making plans well before the birth of a child," said Marilyn Musgrave, Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America's vice president of government affairs. "From the moment a woman learns she is pregnant, throughout her pregnancy, and



after a child is born, she should receive the support she needs to care for herself and baby."

Musgrave thanked the legislators for "calling men to greater respon-

sibility in helping moms choose life for their children."

In the Senate, co-sponsors are Sens. Steve Daines (R-MT), Jim Inhofe (R-OK), Cindy Hyde-Smith

(R-MA), Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), Rick Scott (R-FL), Roger Marshall (R-KS), James Lankford (R-OK) and Roger Wicker (R-MS).

– Michael Foust

Michigan's Jim Harbaugh: Have the 'Courage to Let the Unborn Be Born'

One of America's most prominent college football coaches spoke at a pro-life event over the weekend in the wake of Roe's demise and urged attendees to have the "courage" to stand up for the unborn.

Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh, who led his team last season to the College Football Playoff, spoke at the Plymouth (Mich.) Right to Life dinner and auction at a sold-out event. Detroit Catholic, the news service of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit, covered Harbaugh's speech. The theme of the dinner was "We Were Made to be Courageous."

Harbaugh is Catholic.

"I believe in having the courage to let the unborn be born," Harbaugh said. "I love life. I believe in having a loving care and respect for life and death. My faith and my science are what drive these beliefs



in me. Quoting from Jeremiah, 'Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I set you apart. I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.'"

The Wolverine coach acknowledged that there are other perspectives on abortion, especially after the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade.

"Passions can make the process

messy, but when combined with respect, it ultimately produces the best outcomes," Harbaugh said, according to DetroitCatholic.com. "This process has been passionate and messy, but I have faith in the American people to ultimately develop the right policies and laws for all lives involved. I recognize one's personal thinking regarding morality of a particular action may

differ from their thinking on whether government should make that action illegal. There are many things one may hold to be immoral, but the government appropriately allows because of some greater good or personal or constitutional right."

"Ultimately, I don't believe that is the case with abortion," Harbaugh added. "Yes, there

are conflicts between the legitimate rights of the mother and the rights of the unborn child. One resolution might involve incredible hardship for the mother, family and society. Another results in the death of an unborn person."

In the end, the life of the unborn must win out, he said, according to the Catholic news service.

Harbaugh also encouraged pro-

lifers to support programs for pregnant mothers.

"In God's plan, each unborn human truly has a future filled with potential, talent, dreams and love," Harbaugh said. "I have living proof in my family, my children, and the many thousands that I've coached that the unborn are amazing gifts from God to make this world a better place. To me, the right choice is to have the courage to let the unborn be born."

His wife, Sarah, acknowledged that some have suggested his pro-life stance could harm recruiting.

"During halftime of a game, talking with the players, I say they are here because they have chosen to be here," Sarah Harbaugh said. "If someone believes in what they stand for, they are choosing to stand for that position, and what kind of person are you if you don't fight tooth and nail for what you stand for? You get to change hearts by fighting for what you stand for."

Harbaugh is entering his eighth season at Michigan.

–Michael Foust

Dick's sued for helping pay for abortion but not birth

The tables have been turned on Dick's Sporting Goods after the liberal retailer said it would pay women \$4,000 towards an abortion. Now, the company is being sued on behalf of women who don't get a similar benefit to keep their babies.

America First Legal Foundation wants the government to investigate Dick's Sporting Goods for the policy that reimburses employees up to \$4,000 to travel for an abortion. The pro-life group argues that the practice constitutes illegal employment discrimination.

The foundation was launched by former senior Trump White House adviser Stephen Miller in February 2021. Former President Donald Trump, who is considered by many to be the most pro-life president in history, endorsed it a few weeks later.

America First Legal vows in its mission statement to "wage a forceful defense of our rights, our country, and our cherished American way of life" against "progressives [who] have used the court system to attack our founding documents, undermine the rule of law, and erode our nation's most cherished principles and traditions."

Employee abortion benefit programs have been popping up at corporations across the nation since a draft Supreme Court opinion indi-



ating the court was poised to overturn Roe v. Wade was leaked in early May. The court ruled the 1973 decision legalizing abortion was unconstitutional on June 24, returning the regulation of abortion to the states. The benefit reimburses the pregnant woman for traveling outside her home state which restricts abortion access to a state where obtaining an abortion is easier.

Citigroup, Disney, Warner Bros., Meta, Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Lyft, Uber, Intuit, BuzzFeed Inc., Levi Strauss and Co., Starbucks, Yelp, Microsoft, Apple, MasterCard Inc., Netflix, and Zillow have also reportedly adopted the benefit policy. Typically the benefit is a travel stipend capped at \$4,000, trade publication HR Dive re-

ported. Some companies have offered abortion benefits to employees for years.

Hours after the Supreme Court ruling, Dick's announced it would offer the abortion benefit, which provides as much as \$4,000 to reimburse travel for an employee, spouse, or dependent, along with a support person, to procure an abortion.

"We recognize people feel passionately about this topic—and that there are teammates and athletes who will not agree with this decision," Dick's CEO Lauren Hobart said in a post on her LinkedIn page.

"However, we also recognize that decisions involving health and families are deeply personal and made with thoughtful consideration. We are making this decision so our teammates can access the same health care options, regardless of where they live, and choose what is best for them."

Dick's policy runs counter to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, according to America First Legal Senior Counselor and Director of Oversight Reed D. Rubinstein.

"We are prepared to ensure that all of our teammates have consistent and safe access to the benefits we provide, regardless of the state in which they live," Hobart said.

Dick's also has "inclusion and diversity goals" that "are infused with facially unlawful considerations of race, color, sex, and/or national origin." The company discriminates on the basis of race, color, sex, and national origin in its employment and contracting policies, Rubinstein writes.

Gov. Slammed for Vetoing Pro-Adoption Bill

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer sparked confusion and frustration within the pro-life community this week when she vetoed multiple items in the state budget that were designed to promote adoption, including tax credits for adoptive parents and a marketing program that would have promoted adoption as an alternative to abortion.

Whitmer, a Democrat, signed the state budget Wednesday but used her line-item veto power to strike down several items that were approved by the Republican-controlled legislature, according to Bridge Michigan, a non-partisan news site.

Among the items Whitmer vetoed were:

- \$2 million to "fund a tax credit to adoptive parents," according to the budget's language.

- \$10 million to fund marketing programs that "promote the adoption of infants" and "develop factual educational information materials on adoption as an alternative to abortion, including the ability of the birth mother to establish a prebirth plan."

- \$1.5 million for pregnancy resource centers. The budget language



defined such centers as "nonprofit organizations that promote childbirth and alternatives to abortion, provide referrals and information, and may also provide other services related to pregnancy or post-pregnancy."

- \$3 million for a "maternal navigator pilot program" to promote "childbirth and alternatives to abortion."

Michigan Right to Life criticized Whitmer, saying her veto will prevent pregnant women from receiving "diapers, formula, clothing, classes in parenting skills, community referrals, and other great FREE services."

State Rep. Thomas Albert, the Republican chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, also was critical.

"The governor claims to be a voice for 'choice,' but her actions clearly support only one option for women in a crisis pregnancy—the deadly choice of abortion," Albert said, according to the Detroit Free Press.

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Parents missed the LGBTQ curricula for decades

Across the country, parents are reacting with shock and outrage as they discover what their kids are learning in school. These children are being indoctrinated by an aggressive, one-sided, radical LGBTQ+ curriculum, causing many parents to push back. What surprises me is not that the parents are upset, rather many are just finding out about this now. This indoctrination has been happening for years.

The New York Times in 2006 reported, “As their children head into adolescence, some parents are choosing to block puberty medically to buy time for them to figure out who they are, raising a host of ethical questions.” Not surprisingly, “some schools are engaged in a steep learning curve to dismantle gender stereotypes.”

What exactly does this mean? “At the Park Day School in Oakland, teachers are taught a gender-neutral vocabulary and are urged to line up students by sneaker color rather than by gender. ‘We are careful not to create a situation where students are being boxed in,’ said Tom Little, the school’s director. ‘We allow them to move back and forth until something feels right.’”

Yes, this was in 2006, and Park Day School is an elementary school.

Should we be shocked today to learn that this gender-confused ideology has spread to schools throughout the country?

When *A Queer Thing Happened to America* was published in 2011, I cited this “Official Policy of the San Francisco Unified School District School Board” (SFUSD): “Restroom Accessibility: Students shall have access to the restroom that corresponds to their gender identity



exclusively and consistently at school.”

I also cited this, from the Los Angeles Unified School District Reference Guide: “Gender identity refers to one’s understanding, interests, outlook, and feelings about whether one is female or male, or both, or neither, regardless of one’s biological sex.”

Note those last words carefully: “regardless of one’s biological sex.” This radical agenda is hardly new.

Already in 2011, I could write, “Children in elementary schools will be exposed to the rightness and complete normality of homosexuality, bisexuality, and transgender expression – witness highly-praised academic books such as *The Queering of Elementary Education* – and opposing views will be branded as dangerous and homophobic, to be silenced and excluded from the classroom.”

And get this: *Queering Elementary Education* came out in 1999. Yes, 1999! Chew on that for a moment. (The subtitle of the book was *Advancing the Dialogue about Sexualities and Schooling*, and it was part of the series *Curriculum,*

Cultures, and [Homo]Sexualities Series.)

I also wrote that “Middle schools, high schools, and colleges will go out of their way to encourage both the celebration of homosexuality and deep solidarity with gay activism,” referencing things like *Queer Study Programs* in our universities.

Much of this was rampant on our campuses long before your 18-year-old college-bound child was born. Why are we so surprised today?

Already in 2005, Kevin Jennings, the founder of GLSEN (originally the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network, founded in 1990) could boast, “Nearly 3,000 schools have GSA’s [Gay Student Alliances] or other student clubs that deal with LGBT issues. Over fifty national education and social justice organizations, including the National Education Association (NEA) have joined GLSEN in its work to create safe schools for our nation’s children through projects like ‘No Name-Calling Week.’”

And 2005, in terms of the growth of LGBTQ+ activism, was a very long time ago. (In case you didn’t know, in 2009,

President Obama appointed Jennings, himself a gay educator, to serve as Assistant Deputy Secretary for the Office of Safe & Drug Free Schools.)

GLSEN has long been active in providing educational tools for teachers and schools, including their famous GLSEN Lunchbox.

I purchased the second edition of this tool (called GLSEN Lunchbox 2) shortly after it was released in 2007.

It was described as “a comprehensive training program aimed at providing educators and community members with the background knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to make schools safer and more affirming places for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students.”

Some of the activities included “North American History Game Cards,” listing 28 North Americans, most of whom are fairly well known and all of whom, alleged GLSEN, are (or were) gay or transgender. (Among the better-known names were Sara Josephine Baker, James Baldwin, Leonard Bernstein, George Washington Carver, Babe Didrickson, Allen Ginsberg, Barbara Jordan, Margaret Mead, Harvey Milk, Bayard Rustin, Renee Richards, Andy Warhol, Walt Whitman, and Tennessee Williams.)

A similar game card activity was provided for World History, alleging luminaries such as Alexander the Great, Hans Christian Anderson, Pope John XII, King Edward II, Noel Coward, Hadrian, Dag Hammarskjöld, Joan of Arc, Elton John, Juvenal, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Rudolph Nureyev, Pyotr Tchaikovsky, and Oscar Wilde. According to GLSEN, all of them were gay (or bisexual).

There was even an activity called “Getting in Touch with Your Inner Trannie,” meaning your inner transgender identity. (I’m not making this up!)

Its stated purpose was, “To help participants better understand and personally relate to the breadth of issues around gender identity and expression,” asking the children questions such as: “Have you ever been told, ‘Act like a lady/woman/girl,’ or ‘Act like a man?’ What was the situation? How did it make you feel and why?” And, “If you see someone on the street whose gender is unclear to you, how do you react – both internally and externally?”

And this was directed at elementary school students as early as 2007, with every word of it documented in *A Queer Thing Happened to America*. In fact, this was just the tiniest tip of a massive iceberg, even back then.

Today, some of this material seems quite tame and even understated. The slope has been slippery indeed.

From the perspective of LGBTQ+ educators and their allies, this is great news, since, in their minds, they are helping children accept who they really are, creating an atmosphere of acceptance.

From the perspective of social sanity and educational propriety, this is insidious indoctrination which must be opposed.

So, I urge every parent, as busy as you might be and as many things as you might have on your plates: Please, please, please find out what your kids are learning in school (not to mention taking in on social media).

The stakes are unimaginably high.

—Dr. Michael Brown / Askdrbrown.org

Frightened thieves return relic said to contain the blood of Christ

In what seemed like a scene straight out of “*Raiders of the Lost Ark*,” thieves in France have returned a stolen relic that is said to contain the blood of Christ. The thieves apparently were afraid of keeping such a revered object.

The relic, which contains two vials encased in a gold-plated box, was stolen from Holy Trinity Abbey Church in Fécamp, France, on the night of June 1, stunning Catholics in the region who make an annual pilgrimage to the location. But it since has been returned, thanks to the work of art detective Arthur Brand, known

as the “Indiana Jones of the art world,” who received a mysterious email from someone claiming to know where the relic was. If he didn’t help them return the relic to the church, the email said, they would trash it.

“If you can do this for us, you can put this on your legacy,” the email said, according to ArtNet.com, a popular international art website. He asked the emailer to leave the relic on his doorstep in the Netherlands.

“On a Tuesday evening, the doorbell rang at 10:30,” Brand said. “I looked outside. I could see nobody, but I saw a box. I ran downstairs, and

there it was. Then I started to believe it was real.”

He assumes the thieves grew “spooked” about holding the relic. Brand, who is Catholic, said it was “as close as one can get to Jesus Christ, the Knights Templar and the Holy Grail.”

Being in possession of the box, he said, changed his behavior. “I didn’t curse,” he said. “When I went from the shower to my bedroom, I put a towel around my body so I was not naked.”

According to a local website, legend says the church was built “from the trunk of a fig tree in which the blood of Christ had been hidden and



miraculously washed ashore on the beach of Fécamp.”

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NOTO First Friday features band

First Friday Art Walk this month will feature the Good Sam Club Band, playing August 5, 6pm, at Redbud Park.

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!

August 19
5:00-5:45 local emerging musicians TBA
5:30-6 VIP Backstage Meet & Greet
6:00-9 Hector Anchondo, 2020

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

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.

You can also visit 3rd Friday's NOTO Night Out!

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

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.

HOLY SMOKIN JAMBOREE – Sep. 10-11, Mother Teresa Catholic Church, 2014 NW 46th St. family-friendly event with great food, drinks, 5K run, car show, bingo, cake walk, crafts, raffles, silent auction, and live music by THE BASH Saturday night. Outdoor Mass and live auction on Sunday. \$2 wristbands for all-day kid games & inflatables! Register for the 5K Run/Walk, Car Show, & Poker Run online at <https://mtcctopeka.org/.../parish.../holy-smokin-jamboree!> Two full days of fun for the whole family

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CONCERTS

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

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

LIVE AT LUNCH – Wednesdays, 11-1 at Every Plaza. Live music and food vendors.

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.

EATS & BEATS – Every Thursday through Sep. 15, 6:30pm-8:30pm, Every Plaza. Bring lawn chairs. Food trucks, beer gardens. Aug. 4 – The Paradise Band, Aug. 11 – Time Express; Aug. 18 – The Coats; Aug. 25 – Wilder Horses

TOPEKA JAZZ WORKSHOP – July 31, 3-5pm, Topeka Library, Marvin Auditorium.

DUKE MASON WITH COWDOY – Aug. 5, 8pm, The Vinewood. Doors open at 7. Cash bar & snacks avail-

able! Tickets: \$10 at the door or at thehistoricvinewood.com. 785.260.6772

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK – GOOD SAM CLUB BAND – Aug. 5, 6pm, Redbud Park. Part of the First Friday events.

ELMONT OPRY – Aug. 12, 7pm; and Aug. 13, 1pm, Elmont UMC, 6635 NW Church Ln. Featuring Helen Russell & company. Doors open 90 minutes early for lunch or dinner. Tickets \$15 – call 785-249-0908 for reservations.

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, woodsna2@wnaz.org

ALEX MILLER BAND – Aug. 13, 8pm, The Vinewood. Doors open at 7. Cash bar & snacks available! Tickets: \$10 at the door or at thehistoricvinewood.com. 785.260.6772

HECTOR ANCHONDO - Aug. 19, 6pm, Redbud park, Free concert.

KELLY HUNT – Aug. 20, 7pm, Jayhawk Theatre. The Kelley Hunt Acoustic Quartet concert scheduled for June 24 has been rescheduled. All ticket holders will be moved to the new date. Jayhawktheatre.org

PLATINUM EXPRESS – Aug. 27, 8pm, The Vinewood. Doors open at 7. Cash bar & snacks available! Tickets: \$10 at the door or at thehistoricvinewood.com. 785.260.6772

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

CHANCE ENCOUNTER – Sep. 17, 8pm, The Vinewood. Doors open at 7. Cash bar & snacks available! Tickets: \$10 at the door or at thehistoricvinewood.com. 785.260.6772

JOSEPH HALL – ELVIS TRIBUTE ARTIST – Sep. 30, 7pm, Jayhawk Theatre. Jayhawktheatre.org

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

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TIVITIES - 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

WORSHIP AS ONE – Aug. 14, 6-8pm, Gage Park Amphitheatre. Worship As One is a unique event gathering talent throughout Topeka churches for a night of highlighting worship styles from as many cultures and backgrounds as we can. Our skin color may be different; our food preferences may be different; our political opinions may not align; and our taste in worship music may clash... BUT OUR GOD IS THE SAME. And there is nothing standing in the way of Him receiving all the glory. So join us for this amazing

night of worship, and get a glimpse of what Heaven will be like. Find more information at fsbctoepka.org/worshipasone

HOLY SMOKIN JAMBOREE – Sep. 10-11, Mother Teresa Catholic Church, 2014 NW 46th St. family-friendly event with great food, drinks, 5K run, car show, bingo, cake walk, crafts, raffles, silent auction, and live music by THE BASH Saturday night. Outdoor Mass and live auction on Sunday. \$2 wristbands for all-day kid games & inflatables! Register for the 5K Run/Walk, Car Show, & Poker Run online at <https://mtctoepka.org/.../parish.../holy-smokin-jamboree!> Two full days of fun for the whole family

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

SENIORS NUTRITIONAL LUNCH – Weekdays, except holidays, at noon at Auburn Civic Center, 1020 N. Washington Street. Minimal cost per person. Reserva-

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tions/cancellations required 24 hours in advance by calling Meals on Wheels of Jefferson & Shawnee Co. at 295-3980. Each meal includes 1% milk & sugar-free items for diabetics. 215-0064.

TOPEKA TWILIGHT LIONS BRANCH CLUB - 4th Mondays at 6:30pm, Norsemen Brewing Co. Social gathering, guests welcome. Topekaliions.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 rnhoni@tsocpl.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. topekaswingdance.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.lecomptonkansas.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.

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

AUG. OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES - Outdoor events and activities. www.getoutdoorskansas.org/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

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH - Aug. 2, 9am-3pm, Salvation Army, 1320 SE 6th St. Free hygiene bags, hair-cuts, immunizations and other school supplies, as well as pizza and watermelon - all for free.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE - Aug. 3, 8-5, 3497 SW Fairlawn. Kansas Secured Title will be collecting school supplies to help out Topeka's students in need. Receive a FREE Dole Whip from the Pineapple Dream Truck when you bring donations to the office between 2:00pm - 4:00pm

BACK2SCHOOL GLOW NIGHT - Aug. 5, 9-11pm, Pure Golf, 21st & Indian Hills. Glow mini golf. Food & drink specials.

JOHNNIE W. - Aug. 6, Jayhawk Theatre. Live comedy show. Jayhawktheatre.org

TOUCH A TRUCK - Aug. 6, 9-11am, Christ Lutheran Church, 3509 SW Burlingame. Check out large trucks and other vehicles up close and meet first responders and other hard-working members of the Topeka community. Fun for the whole family! Free event! Free snacks! Free book for the first 100 kids

SCHOOL SUPPLIES GIVEAWAY - Aug. 6, 10am-12pm, Seaman Comm. Church, 2036 NW Taylor St. Topeka North Outreach is holding a School Supplies Community Giveaway for those who live in the Oakland and North Topeka area. Children must be present to receive 1 pack per student, and proof of address is required.

FOOD TRUCK NIGHT - Aug. 6, 4-8pm, Helping Hands Humane Society, 5720 SW 21st. Live music.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT Kickoff Party - Aug. 5, 5:30-7:30pm, HyVee parking lot. Free fun for the whole family.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENTS - Aug. 6. National Night Out events throughout Topeka and Shawnee

County. For info call Judy at Safe Streets, 266.4606 or email jwilson@safestreet.org.

C5Alive "POWER" LUNCHEON - Aug. 11, 11:30-1 at The Peak, 930 SW Gage. Barry Feaker will be the featured speaker!

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

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

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

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

SAVE THE DATE: C5 POWER Luncheon, Sep. 8, 11:30-1.

FRIDAY FLICKS - Second Fridays, 8pm at Everygy Plaza. Bring a blanket or lawn chair & get comfy. Food trucks on hand. Aug. 12: Gohstbusters

CAPITOL PADDLE - Aug. 20, 8am-3pm, at the weir. This guided 10-mile paddle on the Kaw begins downtown due north of the Kansas statehouse taking you through Topeka to Seward boat ramp. On this stretch, you'll safely paddle past the remains of the ATSF collapsed bridge from the historic 1951 flood while enjoying the beauty of a prairie river basin on a sand bar along our way. Register Here --> <https://events.blackthorn.io/5Y1d0nc7/6a185Y1aZ> WDO Sponsors; Dirty Girl Adventures, Friends of the Kaw, Riverfront Advisory Council, and Greater Topeka Partnership.

KANSAS CITY RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL - Sep. 3 - Oct. 16, 10am-7pm; Weekends only plus Labor Day and Monday Oct. 10. 628 N 126th St., Bonner Springs, KS. www.KCRenFest.com. 913-721-2110 (email voice@cox.net to see how to get free tickets from Metro Voice!)

FIRST TEE ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT - Sep. 16, Shawnee Country Club. Reg. 11am, noon shotgun

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CiderDays.com



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Michael Youssef lays out plan to equip next generation for church challenges

As deconstruction, liberal theology and “woke” doctrine continue to invade the church, Michael Youssef, pastor of the Church of the Apostles in Atlanta, Georgia, is on a mission to instill truth in the next generation of Christian leaders.

“The Apostle Paul tells us we’re going to see young people fall by the wayside, but don’t give up on the Gospel, don’t compromise on the truth,” the 73-year-old Egyptian-American pastor shared with *The Christian Post*.

“We’re seeing deconstruction, pastors watering down the Gospel, and other things going on. I realized this is a time for me, at the age of 73, to leave a legacy to the younger generation of pastors. And it’s not really my legacy; it’s the Word of God, it’s the Apostle Paul’s legacy. But I needed to expand it, give illustrations and stories from my own personal life, to urge the next generation leaders to never give up, don’t compromise, don’t turn your back on the cross and Christ.”

It was out of this urgency that Youssef, who has authored over 40 books and whose programs are broadcast in 26 languages worldwide, penned his latest book, *Never Give Up: Holding Fast to Biblical Truth in Times of Danger and Despair*.

In it, Youssef draws lessons from the life and teachings of the Apostle Paul to encourage readers to stand firm for the Gospel. He also tells stories from his own life to highlight the importance of having conviction and resilience in challenging times.

The televangelist, who spent the first 18 years of his life through the ’50s and ’60s living in Egypt before escaping to the United States, reflected on the numerous public leaders who have “deconstructed” in recent years.

He said that a common theme among those who deconstruct is many of them were never taught the Gospel in its entirety; either they were presented with an overly-legalistic interpretation of Scripture or a watered-down version.

“As I look at some of the backgrounds, many of them grew up in very legalistic homes and churches, where they grew up with the list of the do’s and the don’ts and never really understood the grace of God and what it means to be overwhelmed with His grace,” he said.

Conversely, he said he’s concerned about professing Christian parents who, in efforts to seem loving, compromise on biblical truth and avoid biblical morality.

“They think, ‘If I just soften the message a bit, be sensitive on the topic of homosexuality,’ and give the impression that it’s OK instead of speaking the truth in love,” he said. “And this is a very delicate formula. Many people kind of go one way or the other.”

As many churches are capitulating to woke theology in an effort to seem inclusive and “seeker-friendly,” Youssef stressed the need for pastors to draw distinct lines between biblical and unbiblical behavior.

“If a person is deliberate in turning their back on Christ, he or she should not be in ministry,” he said. “We can continue to love them, we continue to reach out to them, we’ll continue to care for them because that’s the call of God in our lives is to love everybody and to love sinners. We were loved by God while we yet sinners.”

“But,” he continued, “if a person says, ‘I don’t believe that Jesus is Lord,’ then you really need to get out of the ministry. If someone says, ‘I’m living in sin, any sin, and I’m not ready to repent,’ Well,



you can’t join the church. You can’t be a member. You are welcome to come in every Sunday, but you cannot be a member.”

The pastor acknowledged that it can be difficult to discern when a pastor is a false

teacher who promotes a watered-down theology versus a biblically-sound one who holds to the ancient truths found in the Scriptures.

He encouraged churchgoers to ask, “Do they lift up Jesus and the cross of Christ as the only hope for salvation, eternal life, and calling men to repent and women to repent of their sins and turn to the Lord? Or do they simply preach affirmations?”

“Affirmation is not going to save souls. It’s not going to save people. They’re not going to be convicted of their sins and repent and turn to the Lord,” he stressed. “Sin is not to be winked at. If, when I preach, sin is minimized, the cross is trivialized, people are not going to understand the enormity of sin, that they desperately need the cross of Christ.”

The message of the Gospel — that people are desperately sinful and must repent to receive eternal life — is one “desperately needed today,” yet is getting “smothered” as pastors seek to become accepted and the secular world seeks to silence the truth.

“We’re seeing these lobbying groups trying to manipulate Christians, and say, ‘Well, if you’re really loving, you must love me with my sin, and you’ll even love my sin. And if you don’t, then you’re not really a loving person,’” he contended. “That’s manipulation. We’re not going to fall for it.”

Serving as a pastor or a church leader is a serious calling, and not one to be taken lightly, Youssef emphasized. The pastor shared that in his own life, he was called into the ministry “kicking and screaming,” but felt undeniably called by God.

“We have faced horrendous times, all kinds of turbulent times,” he said. “Every time I am in difficult times, I say to the Lord, ‘This was not my idea. I did not want to start a church; you dragged me into Him. Therefore, it’s Your church, You take care of it.’ And, God will take care of the problem.”

He added, “Having a call of God and being absolutely convinced of that call is a must; otherwise, don’t do it. If you just think, ‘Well, it’s a good thing to do. I like to help people I like to teach,’ or whatever other reasons, do not enter the ministry. You have to be called of God.”

Though it’s easy to succumb to hand-wringing in light of the issues swirling in culture, Youssef offered the reminder that the Church has endured trials for thousands of years, yet God always remains faithful. Still, he said, conviction is needed and service is required on the part of the Church.

“The reason I wrote this book is that you realize this is not new to us; this has been going on in the Church for 2,000 years. And the disciples of Christ faced far worse than what we’re facing. Yet, they never gave up, never surrendered,” he said.

Though he receives criticism for his biblical views on many issues, Youssef said he takes comfort in the promises found in John 16:33: “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

“I once heard a persecuted Indonesian pastor say, ‘If Christ is not worth dying for then he’s not worth living for,’” he said. “So take it all the way to the bottom: What can they do to me? Kill me? Great. I go to Heaven. That’s the mentality people need to have instead of saying, ‘Oh no, look what’s happening.’ We just need the body of Christ to need to be more discerning, and that’s really the key.”

— Leah M. Klett is a reporter for *The Christian Post*. She can be reached at leah.klett@christianpost.com. Used with permission.

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U.S.-Mexico border now 'deadliest' in the world

The U.S.-Mexico border under the Biden administration has become the world's "deadliest" land crossing according to a United Nations study.

The shocking report says 728 recorded immigrant deaths and disappearances along the U.S.-Mexico border crossing in 2021 surpasses all other immigrant passages around the world. That includes Syria to Turkey, and African and southeast

Asian crossings made by refugees escaping war and persecution. The study was conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

These deaths accounted for the majority of the 1,238 immigrant deaths in the Americas in 2021, the IOM said in a press release on July 1, adding that these numbers should be considered an "undercount" due to difficulties in collecting data. Immigration experts believe that thousands of more deaths are unreported.

The study of deadliest crossings attributed the deaths and disappearance of immigrants in the Americas to a "lack of options for



safe and regular mobility," saying that this would drive migrants, presumably those choosing to enter as illegal aliens, to pursue riskier dangerous pathways to their destinations.

The agency also noted how the dangers faced by migrants are highlighted by recent news about what amounted to the deadliest known smuggling incident in American history: the discovery of 53 bodies in a tractor-trailer packed with 67 illegal immigrants in San Antonio on June 27.

The record deaths came as Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents reported a record number of apprehensions along the south-

ern border. From Brownsville, Texas, to San Diego, border agents apprehended 232,628 illegal aliens in May—the highest monthly total in 23 years.

In the same month, 79 illegal immigrants were found dead or died while crossing the border, according to the CBP data.

Since President Joe Biden took office in January 2021, a whopping 4 million individuals have entered the country illegally. CBP data shows that includes the apprehension of more than 3.2 million illegal border crossers, plus an additional 800,000 who have been detected but evaded capture.

Five Christian-Owned Companies With Godly Values

Christian-owned companies are diamonds in the ruff. It can be quite difficult to find a company or a store whose owner(s) shares the same ideals as you.

As you may know, companies are made with different purposes. Some business owners simply want to make money, but for others, there's a deeper purpose for it.

So if you're in the United States you probably know about In N' Out Burger and Chick-Fil-A, but there are still other Christian companies out there to support. Take a look at these 5 Christian companies with Godly values that you should know about:

1. Forever 21

Forever 21 is a one-stop-fashion shop for everyone. You will practically find everything you need here from clothes, bags, shoes and even makeup. Many are fond of shopping here because the prices are affordable and there's a wide array of fashion choices.

However, what makes F21 very special is that this is actually a Christian-owned company. The Changs are born-again Christians and Mrs. Chang, co-owner of F21 once shared that opening the store is God's calling for her. You can actually see "John 3:16" printed under the plastic bags.

2. Mary Kay

Mary Kay Ash, owner of this cosmetic brand, built the company with



a goal in mind--to let all women know that they are beautiful creations of God. This has been her motivation ever since. She also attributes the success of Mary Kay to God, sharing the company is blessed because they had the right motivation behind it. So if you're planning to buy some beauty products and cosmetic, put Mary Kay on your list.

3. Interstate Batteries

At face value, Interstate Batteries may not look like a Christian company. But once you read the company's purpose and values, you'd be surprised! The mission statement reads:

Our Purpose

To glorify God and enrich lives as we deliver the most trustworthy source of power to the world.

Our Values

LOVE. Treat others like you'd want to be treated.

SERVANT'S HEART. Lead with what people need.

EXCELLENCE. Do great things with the gifts you've been given.

COURAGE. Learn, improve and boldly drive change that matters.

FUN. Work hard, laugh often.

TEAM. Together, we're better.

INTEGRITY. Be who you are and live up to your commitments.

4. Tyson Foods

John Tyson, owner of Tyson Foods, launched the Chaplaincy Program in 2000. The program aims to employ chaplains who will help motivate, encourage and pray with their team members. Currently, there are 115 chaplains employed in Tyson Foods with 113,000 team members.

5. Hobby Lobby

This arts and crafts chain store donates and ministers. Hobby Lobby donates 10 percent of its in-store discounts to school, churches and charities and can also arrange for its customers to get the discount for donations. One of the company's mission statements says "We are committed to...Honoring the Lord in all we do by operating the company in a manner consistent with Biblical principles." This is also why the store is closed on Sundays.

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Gunsmoke's Doc grew up in Western Kansas

The actor Milburn Stone is best known for playing Doc Adams on Gunsmoke. He appeared throughout the entire series run, a hefty brag in TV history, but many viewers likely don't know that Stone was born in 1904 in a small town in Kansas much like Dodge City.

Today, the population in Burrton, Kansas, Stone's hometown, is just over 1,000 people, but a census from 1910 shows when Stone was a young boy, there were fewer than 700 folks total in his whole town.

On set, James Arness remembers Stone talking about his hometown and that this casual talk actually evolved to have a positive impact on the authenticity of the show. Arness said in an interview with the Archive of American Television,

"I remember [Stone] telling us that when he was a boy that he and his pals would be playing around in the streets of this little town and these old-timers would be sitting up on the boardwalk, whittling away and all and talking about the very times when Dodge City and other frontier towns were operating in. So he had that in his mind, and boy, he wasn't going to let anything get through that he didn't feel was authentic."

In that way, Arness credits Stone for setting the tone on Gunsmoke early on. The older actor's true Western roots



helped translate the hit radio drama for TV, and he became an informal consultant based on his life experience growing up in an old Western town in Kansas. Arness said, "He didn't hesitate to speak up and say, 'Well that wouldn't work because it's not the way it would actually have been.' Turned out to be a great help. A major contribution to the early formative years."

But that wasn't the only way Milburn Stone molded Gunsmoke right from the start. Arness credits Stone as an inspiration for Stone's dedication to the show, "He was a guy that had a whole lot to do with getting us off to a good start because No. 1, he was a very dedicated actor, serious about his work and all. And No. 2, he had been born and raised in a little town in Western Kansas, back in the early part of the

century." In that way, you could say Stone showed Arness what it meant to truly commit to Gunsmoke's high quality, which is likely part of the reason why the show famously remained on air for 20 seasons.

On Gunsmoke, the character of Doc is a fan favorite for his vital role, as well as his mild-mannered barbs exchanged with Festus and Chester and his dependable moral compass. That's why an early episode "Doc's Revenge" was a shock to the system for many viewers. In it, a stranger comes to town and Doc, who's normally the one dressing the wounds, went straight for his gun instead. Fortunately, Marshal Matt Dillon talks him down before the shootout can conclude. Arness described his character's underlying motive throughout the series: "He hated violence, particularly shooting. He hated to kill a man." It was this aspect of Dillon's nature that stopped Doc from pulling the trigger.

Then later in the episode, the same man turns up with a bullet in his shoulder by the episode's end, it throws in question everything we knew about Doc up until then, but fortunately the Doc we know and love comes around in the end. Stone delivers this line as a salve at the end of the thrilling episode, a quote that sums up Doc's Old West mantra: "I carried hate in my heart for him, all these years. And that's just not good for a man."

So whether it's the actor consulting on the ways of the actual Old West or the character reacting to events in an episode, Gunsmoke taught us that you can always count on Doc for a healthy read on

LifeHouse Child Advocacy Center issues challenge to 15 local men

LifeHouse Child Advocacy Center is challenging 15 men in the Topeka area to raise money and awareness about child sexual abuse.

"We chose 15 men because our statistics show that almost 90 percent of perpetrators of children are men. So we wanted to take the chance to highlight that there are good men out there," LifeHouse executive director Kelly Durkin said.

One of those men is Topeka attorney Mike Patton.

"We accept the challenge," Patton said, "We are all in, and excited about the momentum of LifeHouse Child Advocacy Center."

Patton said, "They are helping some of the most vulnerable individuals in our community who have suffered and endured the worst kinds of evil and survived. Lifehouse provides common sense services to these victims. LifeHouse has built a team of highly professional individuals who care deeply about helping

the most vulnerable among us. We love the fact that we have an opportunity to help them carry out that mission."

Patton began his law career after graduating from Washburn Law School and is now part of the Patton and Patton law firm. With offices headquartered in Topeka; the firm now has branch offices in Lenexa and Wichita. The firm offers client services in diverse legal fields, including personal injury, nursing home negligence, estate planning, and long-term disability insurance claims.

For more information about helping him reach his goal and raise money and awareness about LifeHouse, contact Mike Patton at 785 640 7403(cell) or 785 273 4330 (work) or mike@joepatton.com.

You can get more information about LifeHouse and the other 14 men who are part of the challenge by going to lifehousecac.com or calling 785-232-5433.



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Easy DIY Summer Projects to Tackle

Summer is the most popular time of the year for home renovations, with the great weather making indoor and outdoor fixes a breeze. From simple remodel ideas to budget-friendly outdoor updates, these are the top projects to tackle this summer, according to a DIY expert.

Shake It Up

If you're craving a modern aesthetic, but don't want to take on an expensive and time-consuming renovation, updating cabinets, doors and lighting can make all the difference.

"During a recent bathroom remodel, I made shaker doors because they are easy to assemble yet give a nice style and modern look to cabinets," says Mark Robertson, the DIYer behind Mark the Builder, who specializes in accent walls and bathroom and kitchen remodels. "To give plain cabinets the shaker look, we basically take a door frame and add raised panels to it."

For this project, all you need is a cabinet door, wood panels found at your home improvement store, glue and paint or stain. Once you have all the materials, measure and cut the horizontal pieces to the length of the door and make the vertical rails two inches

thick. Glue the panels together and then secure the molding to the cabinet door. For renters, Robertson recommends applying a peel and stick wallpaper over cabinets or doors for a quick refresh.

Under-the-cabinet lighting will help highlight your handy work and offer extra illumination at night. To easily install lighting without the hassle of hardware, Robertson suggests cutting small pieces of T-Rex Super Glue Tape and attaching them to LED light strips. The high-tack, double-sided tape offers super-glue-like adhesive strength for quick mounting and leaves no mess behind.

Combine Storage With Style

The best home updates not only look good, but function beautifully, too. New shelves are an impactful way to add storage and enhance a room's style.

It's easy to find inexpensive shelving on resale websites—many just need a quick coat of stain or paint to look brand new. For those who want to



build it themselves, Robertson recommends making an industrial pipe shelf using reclaimed wood—typically one to two inches thick—and a three-quarter inch industrial black pipe. Lay the piece of wood flat, trace the circular part of the pipe onto the wood and then drill two holes. Slide the wood over the pipe to assemble the shelf.

Dress Your Walls

From indoors to out, options for accent walls are endless. However, Robertson follows these two design rules: stick with simplistic patterns in formal areas, such as a dining room or living room; and use abstract shapes in bedrooms, game rooms and offices. To achieve a perfect accent wall every time, Robertson uses templates instead of a tape measure.

"If you are making a wall with panels four inches apart, cut a piece of scrap to four inches and use it for all of the design," he says. "You will get the same spacing for the entire project and everything will be symmetrical."

Create an Outdoor Oasis

Summer is the optimal time to fix up the backyard. From staining the deck to building a new fire pit, there are several projects that will make the area pop.

While working outdoors, Robertson suggests keeping T-Rex Waterproof Tape handy for quick fixes. The strong tape provides waterproof adhesion so you can easily patch a leak in a swimming pool, tape up a hole in a bucket, or repair a garden hose damaged from

wear and tear.

After tackling these DIY projects, you'll enjoy interiors and exteriors that

look and feel as bright and fresh as the summer weather.

— StatePoint

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entertainment

Sight & Sound Films plans first feature film release

Sight & Sound, which operates life theaters in Branson and Pennsylvania, is expanding into movie production with Sight & Sound Films.

Known for creating spectacular family-friendly entertainment experiences, Sight & Sound is taking its craft from the big stage to the big screen. With a longstanding team of talented writers, actors, engineers, builders and even animal trainers, the addition of film production is the next step in reaching the world with inspirational true stories.

“This multigenerational, family-run ministry began as a traveling multimedia show, so in many ways, making motion pictures feels like we’re returning to our roots,” said Josh Enck, president and chief story officer. “Not only are we excited to be expanding into this new medium, we are thrilled to be venturing into new stories from the pages of the past that are waiting to be told.”

Sight & Sound Films will focus on true stories of historical figures who made a significant impact on history because of their faith.

“We’re humbled that God has



given us this opportunity to expand our passion for sharing stories of faith beyond the stage,” CEO Matt Neff said. “We want these films to ring out above the noise of culture and bring hope, truth and inspiration to the silver screen.”

Sight & Sound Films’ first feature film, “I Heard the Bells,” is expected to be released this December. The film will share the inspiring true story behind the famous Christmas carol and the life of its author, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Known as America’s poet, Wadsworth leads an idyllic life until the day his world is shattered by tragedy. With a nation divided by Civil War and his family torn apart, Henry puts down his pen, silenced by grief. But it’s the sound of Christmas morning that reignites the poet’s lost voice as he discovers the resounding hope of rekindled faith.

For more information about current productions in Branson, visit Sight & Sound Theatres – Branson MO (sight-sound.com).

Thirteen Lives Will Reveal the ‘Miracle’ of 2018 Thai Cave Rescue, Ron Howard Says

A new movie about the 2018 rescue of a Thai soccer team trapped in a cave will spotlight the “unity” and selflessness that was necessary to perform what could be called a “miracle,” director Ron Howard says.

The film, *Thirteen Lives* (PG-13), will release in select theaters on July 29 before launching globally on Prime Video on August 5. The trailer was released this week and tallied nearly 2 million views in its first 24 hours.

The film tells the story of how thousands of volunteers came together to save 12 boys and their coach from a cave that became flooded when a torrential rain slammed the region.

The deadly predicament and harrowing rescue made headlines around the world. Incredibly, no one died.

Howard told media members during



a virtual news conference this week that the film “hopefully does remind us of what is possible when we come together, unify and work.”

He said he wrote on his script the phrase “anatomy of a miracle” – a description that fits what took place, he said.

“As simple and kind of corny as that sounds, that’s what I was always trying to build in the most granular, detailed way,”

Howard said.

More than 10,000 volunteers combined with Thai forces and experienced divers to rescue the boys, who had to use scuba gear in order to breathe underwater.

Howard said he wants viewers to understand the “emotional risks, the career risks, the physical risks involved in doing the right thing.”

“Here’s an example where it came together, and it worked, and that’s why you choose these true stories that are extraordinary, that are stranger than fiction in a way,” he said.

Howard called it a “joy” to make the film.

“I learned so much, and I’m just grateful to have had it, and I’m excited to share the movie,” he said.

The film is rated PG-13 for some strong language and unsettling images.

—Michael Foust

Hollywood actors share their faith



ences, if they’re rooted in that, I know your heart, you know my heart, there’s always a way, and it always is God working in it.”

Wahlberg and Gibson spoke to “The Ingraham Angle” about their film “Father Stu” earlier this year and the impact of finding faith through redemption.

“Having gratitude as a whole is really important, but I think everybody’s having lots of difficulties,” Wahlberg said. “It’s in all those difficulties, when I focused on my faith, I was able to endure, and good things started to happen. Everything seemed to make sense.”

For “Spy Kids” actress Alexa PenaVega and her husband, Nickelodeon’s “Big Time Rush” star Carlos PenaVega, following a Christian lifestyle outside of the bright lights of Hollywood was paramount for their family. After reflecting through prayer, they packed up and left Los Angeles for Hawaii with their three children.

“I was the one trapped in the entertainment world and needed to take a step back,” Alexa said. “My job became my identity. God pulled me out of that so I could learn how to be an awesome mom and an awesome wife. God helped us build that foundation in our family. And once I had that revelation, I felt at peace.”

Chad Michael Murray said he has turned down projects that didn’t align with his core values.

“I get up every day and I put that spiritual armor on, read the Bible and do some devotionals and then get ready to go to work,” he said. “I feel stronger and safer walking onto my sets every day knowing that I have God with me every day. Jesus is there with me every day. When you have that comfort that you just feel safe, you feel different, you feel the opportunity to handle more, your shoulders are bigger, you can carry more weight.”

Despite opposition from the popular culture, more Hollywood actors are speaking out about their faith. Chris Pratt, Carrie Underwood, Mark Wahlberg and Mel Gibson are among those who keep their beliefs at the forefront of their actions, Fox News reported.

“I think there’s a distinction between being religious — adhering to the customs created by man, oftentimes appropriating the awe reserved for who I believe is a very real God — and using it to control people, to take money from people, to abuse children, to steal land, to justify hatred,” Pratt said. “The evil that’s in the heart of every single man has glommed onto the back of religion and come along for the ride.”

Country star Carrie Underwood and husband Mike Fisher openly discussed a few of their marital struggles while under quarantine because of the COVID-19 pandemic during a four-part series called “Mike and Carrie: God & Country.”

“We just differ drastically,” Underwood said. “We learn from each other, and we have spirited discussions about things that we disagree on. But at the end of the day, we love each other very much.”

Fisher added: “That’s where our faith comes in, I think it gives us a center ground where that’s the most important thing in anything. And then your differ-

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3 Things You Should Know about Gaither: A Legacy in Music, the Documentary

By Michael Foust

They've written more than 700 songs, won eight Grammys and received more than 40 Gospel Music Association Dove Awards. In 2000, they were even named ASCAP's Christian Songwriters of the Century.

Bill and Gloria Gaithers' music has transformed gospel music and inspired millions around the world.

A new TBN documentary, *Gaither: A Legacy in Music*, tells the fascinating story of their career, beginning in their home state of Indiana and following them as they became household names. Eventually, they launched the careers of countless others. Mark Lowry narrates it. Matt and Laurie Crouch are the hosts.

Music can transform a culture for the better, he said.

"The little song that you learned in Sunday School was true – we are light. And light will punch holes in the darkness," Bill Gaither told *Crosswalk*.

Here are three things you should know about the documentary:

1. It's the Story Behind the Songs

Even if you're so young that you've never used a hymnal, you likely have sung a song by Bill and Gloria Gaither. Because He Lives, He Touched Me, It Is Finished, His Eye Is on the Sparrow, The Family of God, The King Is Coming – all were written by the talented husband-and-wife duo. (And several of them are included in modern-day hymnals – right alongside those written by Charles Spurgeon, Charles Wesley and Fanny Crosby.)

In *Gaither: A Legacy in Music*, the Gaithers reveal the inspiration behind some of their most famous tunes. Gloria wrote the words for most of their songs while Bill composed the music. They wrote *Because He Lives*, Bill Gaither says in the documentary, "just basically for us and our baby" in the midst of the turbulent 1970s.

"We said, 'Who would bring a child into this world at a time like this?'" he said, referencing his thoughts in the 1970s. "And I think the Lord said to Gloria and me, 'Well, Mary brought Jesus into this world where it was about as turbulent as you can get.'"

When the song was written, Gaither said he thought it was "good" but not great.

Songwriters often want him to evaluate their songs, he said. To that, he responds with a smile, "I'm not even good at evaluating my own."

2. It's a Venture to Alexandria, Indiana

Viewers take a trip to the Gaithers' home in Alexandria, Indiana, where the water tower welcomes you to the "Home of the Gaithers," and the small-town square testifies to Bill Gaither's humble beginnings. He was born half a mile from his current home, yet "we've traveled all over the world," he said.

He shows pictures from his childhood and teen years.

As a teenager, Gaither first heard a gospel quartet on a radio station out of Indianapolis – WIBC. At age 12, he got the autographs of members of a WIBC quartet who had traveled to Alexandria. They signed a picture.

"Those guys didn't realize what that signature and that picture meant to me," he said.

As a youngster, he also watched the Statesmen Quartet at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tenn. One of those quartet members, Jake Hess, later traveled on a 1990s tour with the Gaithers.

The documentary follows his career, from marrying Gloria in 1962 to the growth of the Bill Gaither Trio and then the Gaither Vocal Band. The mega-popular Gaither Homecoming series, he said, began with a simple idea: honoring the "great patriots" of the gospel music era.

Gaither, in the documentary, encouraged the Christian community to embrace new and old music alike.

"The Bible says sing unto the Lord a new song – but at the same time, I think it's arrogance to think we can only connect with God with something that's been created in the last year or two," he said. "And I think for the old folks who are hanging on, 'we can only connect with God through a pipe organ' – I think they need to loosen up a bit."

3. It's a Tribute from Other Artists

Gaither: A Legacy in Music is filled with personal tributes from some of the top artists in Christian music history: Michael W. Smith, Amy Grant, Steven Curtis Chapman, Duanne Allen of the Oak Ridge Boys, Ann Downing, Natalie Grant, and more.

Gaither told *Crosswalk* he wants his life to be remembered as "a bridge" that "brought people together."

"I just think as Christians, we ought to be able to talk to people on all sides. And the Scripture says, 'And if I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me.' Therefore that makes a wonderful bridge of bringing people who might say, 'I don't think I'd like you' together, even within the body of Christ."

4 Things to Know about Paws of Fury: The Legend of Hank

Hank is an energetic, lovable dog who is training to become a samurai.

The problem? He's horrible at it. Cats – as everyone knows – are the best samurai. In fact, Hank is the only dog in his samurai class.

"As if a dog could ever become a samurai – never," says Ika Chu, the country's evil leader.

But then Hank gets caught up in Ika Chu's twisted plan. Ika Chu will send Hank to be the samurai of Kaka-mucho, a village of cats that Ika Chu wants wiped off the map. The villagers will turn on Hank – he's a dog, after all – and then Ika Chu's army will destroy the village for killing a samurai. At least, that's Ika Chu's plan.

Can Hank quickly learn the ancient art of the samurai? And can he win the affection of the villagers?

The new animated film *Paws of Fury: The Legend of Hank* (PG) tells the story of Hank, Ika Chu and Jimbo, the ex-samurai who trains Hank.

Here are four things parents should know about the film:

1. It's a Kid-Friendly Spoof

Paws of Fury is a parody/spoof along the lines of *Blazing Saddles* (1974), *Airplane!* (1980), *Spaceballs* (1987) and *Austin Powers* (1997). (It supposedly is loosely based on *Blazing Saddles*.)

Yet while those live-action films were filled with mature content, *Paws of Fury* stays (mostly) in the family-friendly realm. It's a film that makes fun of the genre (in this case, Westerns and martial arts films) while making fun of itself ("this movie is only 85 minutes long," one character says in the film, emphasizing the need to speed up the plot.)

It's the type of comedy that will appeal to lovers of dad jokes. That is, the kids, moms and dads who embrace such corny silliness. For example:

The evil ruler Ika Chu boasts that he built a grand palace with a state-of-the-art bathroom and monstrous toilet. He calls this toilet the "Super Bowl."

Jimbo looks back, wistfully, to the highs and lows of his life before being offered a film projector by Hank: Projectors "really bring things to light" during flashbacks," Hank says.

Hank wears his sword backward. Jimbo saddles a horse backward. In the



film's film moments, Ika Chu borrows a line from *Empire Strikes Back* and tells Hank, "I am your father" – only to admit, seconds later, that he was joking.

I laughed alongside my tween son from beginning to end. But if spoof humor isn't your thing, then you better skip this one.

2. It Features Samuel L. Jackson and Mel Brooks

Paws of Fury includes an impressive lineup of voices, led by Samuel L. Jackson as Jimbo, a cat and former samurai who trains Hank. (Jackson has voiced other animated films in recent years, including Frozone in *The Incredibles* series and Whiplash in *Turbo*.)

Mel Brooks, who at age 96 is still going strong, voices the Shogun – the mysterious figure who Ika Chu is trying to impress. (Ika Chu wants to be the Shogun's successor.) Brooks, of course, starred in 1974's *Blazing Saddles* yet has found a niche in recent years in the animated realm, voicing characters in the *Hotel Transylvania* films, *Toy Story 4*, *Leap!* and *Mr. Peabody and Sherman*.

The film also stars George Takei (*Star Trek*), Ricky Gervais (*Night at the Museum*), Michelle Yeoh (*Crazy Rich Asians*) and Djimon Hounsou (*Guardians of the Galaxy*).

3. It's a Lesson on Racism

Paws of Fury smartly uses the hate-filled rivalry between dogs and cats in order to teach moviegoers a lesson about loving others – specifically, loving those who look different.

Much of this lesson involves humor. Hearing a co-worker question why they have grown to hate dogs, another cat responds, "My dad hated dogs, and that's good enough for me. It's not really based on logic." When a cat-mom learns her youngster touched Hank, she orders her

family to use hand sanitizer. When Ika Chu hears that the cat villagers did not eliminate Hank – which was his goal – he complains that "upright citizens" no longer can be counted on to kill someone when they "look different."

Fortunately, both sides make peace before the movie ends, thanks in part to a friendship between Hank and a young cat.

"We have to find a way beyond judging each other strictly on labels like dog and cat," Hank says. "... We can all be better, together."

The film also contains messages about selflessness (Hank grows too cocky), loving your enemy (Hank does that) and second chances (Jimbo gets one).

4. It's Better than the Trailer

Have you ever noticed how studios fit nearly every questionable scene from an animated film – the potty humor, the borderline swear words – into the trailer? That's certainly the case with the *Paws of Fury* trailer, which shows a massive sumo (cat) wrestler plucking Hank out of his large posterior. We also hear Jimbo say, "what the mother father cocker spaniel is going on here?" Both of those scenes are indeed in the film, but, thankfully, those are the worst ones.

For parents, the film is better than the trailer, even if it does have some potty humor (we see explosions caused by flatulence and, elsewhere, a cat sitting on a rock – instead of the toilet – while reading the newspaper). It contains no coarse language (minus the one already mentioned, the phrase "what the flush" during a toilet scene, and a sprinkling of words like "butt" and "idiot"). Still, it's worth noting that the MPAA ratings board gave it a PG in part for "some language" – a reference to the pushing of the envelope. The violence stays in the Looney Tunes realm.

If you can overlook the film's few speed bumps, *Paws of Fury* is a fun film with a solid message.

Paws of Fury is rated PG for action, violence, rude and suggestive humor, and some language.

Entertainment rating: 3.5 out of 5 stars.

Family-friendly rating: 4 out of 5 stars.

-Michael Foust

50+ Lifestyles

A Guide to Enjoying Life in the Best Years

7 Behavioral Health Tips for Older Adults

Older adults experiencing a behavioral health issue such as anxiety or depression may be embarrassed and think they simply need to “pull themselves up by their bootstraps,” but helping them seek help can empower them to live their best lives, according to experts.

“Everyone is different, but there are

tools for better health, including therapy, medication and self-care,” said Dr. Lindsay Evans-Mitchell, medical director for behavioral health for Cigna Medicare Advantage.

Behavioral health disorders affect one in five adults over 55. Older men have the highest suicide rate of any age group or gender. Among men who

are 75 and older, the suicide rate is 40.2 per 100,000 – almost triple the overall rate.

The most common behavioral health disorder in older adults is dementia, and its incidence is growing as the Baby Boomer generation ages. Experts project that more than 9 million Americans 65 years or older will have dementia by 2030. Anxiety disorders and mood disorders are also common among older people.

Dealing with a behavioral health issue? These self-care tips can help:

1. Find a Provider. “Cognitive disorders, such as dementia and mood disorders, often look the same,” Dr. Evans-Mitchell said. “Only a trained professional can make an accurate diagnosis.” For help finding a provider, reach out to your primary care physician or health plan, such as Medicare or Medicare Advantage. Also consider virtual therapy. It’s easy to schedule and offers the convenience of seeing a therapist without leaving home.

2. Nurture Yourself. Good nutrition feeds the body and mind. If you have questions about nutrition for older adults, consult your physician or a registered dietitian. Additionally, drink water throughout the day. “Dehydration can worsen cognitive issues,” Dr. Evans-Mitchell said.

3. Sleep Well. Like all adults, older people need seven to nine hours of sleep nightly. Dr. Evans-Mitchell noted that older people’s tendency to go to bed early, wake up early, and nap



throughout the day can disrupt healthy sleep cycles and limit rapid eye movement (REM) sleep, potentially contributing to behavioral health issues.

4. Exercise. Even moderate exercise can improve mental and physical health. The Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans describes benefits such as improvements in brain health, better cognitive function, and reduced risk of anxiety and mood disorders. People who exercise also tend to sleep better. Having trouble getting started? Some Medicare Advantage plans include a fitness benefit, which can pay for a gym membership or provide at-home fitness tools.

5. Head Outside. Being outside has numerous benefits, including vitamin

D absorption needed for cognitive health. Additionally, research has shown that chemicals released from trees can stimulate brain functions. Don’t forget the sunscreen though, as skin cancer is most common in people older than 65.

6. Buddy Up. Papa, available through some Cigna Medicare Advantage plans, connects older adults and their families with “Papa Pals” for companionship and support. “Papa Pals” can provide transportation, help with everyday tasks -- or simply be a friend, doing activities like watching movies or playing games.

7. Parent a Pet. Caring for pets generates positive emotions and can reduce anxiety. Just petting a dog has been shown to lower levels of the stress hormone cortisol, and pets provide a bond that can elevate two feel-good brain chemicals: oxytocin and dopamine. Dogs also encourage people to exercise outdoors.

“Behavioral health issues can be complex and confusing to navigate, but taking positive actions can be empowering,” Dr. Evans-Mitchell said. “It’s never too late to make a new start.”

— StatePoint

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6 tips to beat the heat during summer exercise



Summer is a great time to get outdoors. Plus, the warm weather and long days can empower you to take charge of your fitness goals. However, it's important to be careful not to overdo it in the heat. If you do, you risk experiencing fatigue, exhaustion and even heatstroke.

How can you beat the heat this summer? Plan your outdoor workouts using these six helpful tips.

1. Timing is key

Summer days are typically hottest around midday. Try to exercise outside of these peak hours of heat.

"It's important to plan your outdoor activities around the position of the sun," says Sharon Zarabi RD, CDN, CPT, a registered dietician and fitness expert at Lenox Hill Hospital, New York City. "Extreme heat can wear you down, so it's best not to be running at high intensities between

11 AM and 2 PM when the sun is at its peak."

2. Use your yard or a park

Depending on where you live, you will find different open-air locations to work out. Take advantage of being outdoors; go for a hike in the nearby mountains or take a dip in a popular swimming locale.

You can also use your environment to find relief from the heat — think shaded areas and paths. These can make great places to jog or bike because they help you avoid direct sunlight.

3. Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate

Always make sure to be on top of your water intake while working out, especially in the summer. When you sweat, you lose water and electrolytes — minerals like calcium, magnesium and potassium. Electrolytes are essential for your body to function properly.

"There's nothing that will quench your thirst better than the traditional H₂O, but you can jazz it up with fresh fruit. Citrus varieties are best and add a bit of tang!" suggests Zarabi.

Depending on your needs and goals, you may want to reach for an electrolyte-enhanced beverage. However, be aware that these drinks often contain calories in the form of added sugar.

4. Adapt your workout intensity

Check on the heat before you go outside to exercise. If it's going to be a very hot day, you should adjust the intensity of your workout accordingly.

"On cooler days, perform high intensity workouts like interval training, boot camps and runs. On warmer days, go for low-intensity activities like Pilates or yoga," says Zarabi.

You can also use the heat to get more out of your workout. For

example, hot yoga fueled by the sun — just remember to apply broad-spectrum sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher) at least every two hours (or after swimming or sweating) and drink lots of water!

5. Wear moisture-wicking clothing

Workout clothing has come a long way, so there's no reason you need to be weighed down by a sweat-soaked T-shirt. Look for breathable and moisture-wicking clothing to help keep your body cool and dry.

"Excessive heat from heavy fabrics can exacerbate heat stroke and lead to dehydration. Keep it light and flexible," recommends Zarabi.

6. Head indoors if you have to

Humans invented air condi-



tioning for a reason! Instead of letting the heat stop you, head inside to hit your workout goals. On sweltering days, exercise in the gym or swim a few laps in an indoor pool.

While the summer can be a great time to experience the outdoors, you should never ignore the heat. Keep these six tips in mind to beat the summer heat to help you stay fit and healthy.



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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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Bills QB Case Keenum fits in well with Buffalo as he seeks to stand for Christ



New Buffalo Bills quarterback Case Keenum is with his seventh different team in his 10th NFL season, but his excitement about the upcoming season is as high as ever.

The 34-year-old is projected to be Buffalo's backup quarterback behind superstar Josh Allen. According to Keenum, his first few months in the city have been some of the most enjoyable of his professional career.

"It feels great to have a team want you to come. I think that's when you look at a trade, you know, it's less about being traded away," Keenum told The Buffalo News. "It's a team that wants you. It's a fresh start. A great city. I think Buffalo has exceeded my expectations in a lot of different ways, including off the field, out of the building. It's been great."

Allen says he has already developed a deep respect for Keenum's extensive NFL experience and trust in his on-field suggestions. Keenum, meanwhile, will settle for golf victories against Allen while admiring the talent his quarterback counterpart displays every practice.

"It feels great to have a team like this, the caliber of players, the talent on the team, the type of offense they run, what Josh (Allen) has been able to do," Keenum told The Buffalo News. "To be able to come and learn and grow my game and get myself out of my comfort zone and learn some new offense has been really good. I've enjoyed it a lot."

Although everyone involved is pleased with the seamless chemistry between Keenum and Allen, there's one player Buffalo's front office knew Keenum would work well with: superstar wide receiver Stefon Diggs.

Keenum and Diggs were both starters with Minnesota in 2017, when the Vikings posted a 13-3 record and advanced to the NFC championship game. It was Keenum's best statistical season, as he completed 67.6% of his passes for 3,547 yards, 33 touchdowns and only seven interceptions.

Yet what NFL fans remember most about Keenum and Diggs that year was pulling off the "Minneapolis Miracle" in the postseason. In one of the most famous plays in NFL history, Keenum completed a 61-yard touchdown pass to Diggs on the last play of the game to beat the Saints, 29-24, and advance to the conference championship.

"To get back with [Diggs], give him a hug and throw him the ball again, I didn't really think I would ever do that," Keenum told The Buffalo News. "I wasn't sure after that year, so it's exciting to get to be able to do that."

Keenum was asked by FOX Sports about the miraculous play in the minutes following the victory and seized his platform to tell the world about Jesus.

"It's probably going to go down as the third best moment of my life behind giving my life to Jesus Christ, marrying my wife and this one," he said.

In addition to his veteran savvy and natural fit with the Bills, Keenum (who lists the Bible verse Isaiah 40:31 in his Twitter bio) will also be a voice for Christ in the locker room.

In 2018, Keenum and his wife, Kimberly, talked with Sports Spectrum about their struggles with infertility and how they leaned on God during those trying times.

"Over the course of a few bumps in the road, some different procedures, some different things that we've had to go through, we're still praying that God's plan has children for us," Case said in the video.

Eventually, the couple did have a child, as baby Kyler was born in 2019.

As much as Keenum has added to the Bills locker room, his place on the team is still not fully secure, as fellow quarterback Matt Barkley is on the roster as well. The first roster cuts will occur in mid-August.

Despite any uncertainty, Keenum will seek to continue to enjoy his time in a Bills jersey and place his trust in God's hands.

—Kevin Mercer / sportsspectrum.com

College track star balances school & motherhood

Jolie Robinson is a standout track star at Saddleback College. In April, she won the heptathlon title at the Southern California Regional Finals, won two events, and set multiple personal bests. She has broken records and shown incredible promise in track and field. Yet Robinson isn't just any student athlete — she's also a mom, who experienced an unplanned pregnancy in high school and is now parenting her son while dominating in her chosen sport.

Robinson, a pastor's daughter, grew up as the youngest of four kids. She began competing in track her freshman year of high school, and quickly realized it was something at which she excelled. She was set to go to a Division I university on a track scholarship her senior year, until she realized



she was pregnant. But even then, she kept going.

"I still competed without telling my coaches and broke two of my high school records while pregnant," she told Live Action News. But that didn't mean it wasn't a challenging turn of events.

She and her boyfriend had been together for three years when she became pregnant, and she was scared to tell her family at first. "So much was going through my mind regarding sports, school and my family," she said. "I have such a loving and supportive family that I knew they would accept me through this... but breaking the news was still difficult to do. When I finally told my family, they hugged me and let me know everything would be all right. I felt a type of peace over me, knowing that this is all part of God's plan for me."

Today, she and her ex-boyfriend are not together, but are focused on their son. "It wasn't always easy to do that but we have worked



hard to get to the healthy parenting situation we are in now," she said.

For two years, Robinson focused on just being a mom, spending time with her son before deciding to not only go back to school, but try to get back into sports again as well. "My son is my biggest motivation," she said. "I knew I would have a different experience than most people around me starting college late and with a toddler, but my parents were supportive of me going back to school, and I have seen so many other single moms accomplish

going to school and working, so I knew I could do it, too. The extra step was knowing if I could play sports again or not."

It ended up being no problem for Robinson, who is excelling in all of her roles. But that doesn't mean it's easy.

"It can definitely be hard to manage my time being a mom, student, athlete and a social life, but it keeps me busy and it's always a lot of fun," she said. "My friends, teammates and coaches are so supportive, and love having my son around, even if that means he will be at a practice every once in a while. I had always been an athlete, and then I stopped playing sports — I felt like I lost a part of me. But I had to experience that I could still be me and do the things I love, and also be a great mom."

"I appreciate being able to play sports even more now, and I would encourage other young moms to keep working hard for what they want in life," she said. "I would also like to encourage young moms that may be expecting and scared about what may happen to stay positive and know it's possible. My biggest piece of advice is to have a support group of people close to you, and don't be afraid to ask for help!"

—Cassy Fiano-Chesser / liveaction.org

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First Tee - Greater Topeka holds fundraiser golf tournament to help with youth development

First Tee – Greater Topeka is a youth development organization that enables kids to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of new challenges. By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with a life skills curriculum, active learning experiences are created that build inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience, that kids can carry to everything they do. Golf is seen as a metaphor for life. It's not the score that counts, but what you learn along the way. Like in life, golf requires goal setting, working with others and digging deep when things get tough. Golf is a perfect practice ground for learning skills that go far beyond the fairways.



This fun bunch is from the First Tee Spring Shawnee Country Club age 7-9 group

First Tee programs can take place daily at 7+ program locations, 45+ schools and 15+ community partners throughout Shawnee and Jackson counties. Participants ages 5 – 18 progress through the program over time, deepening their understanding of life skills and golf development. The integrated approach helps kids and teens build confidence and resilience for when they are on the course, at home and in school. Every participant has the opportunity to:

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The 2nd Annual First Tee Golf Tournament is a major fundraiser for First Tee programs, and it will take place on September 16 at Shawnee Country Club, 913 SE 29th St. Registration starts at 11:00 a.m., with a shotgun start at noon. For more information about First Tee or the golf tournament, contact Marcus Miller, Executive Director, at 785-730-2220 or visit www.firstteetopeka.org.

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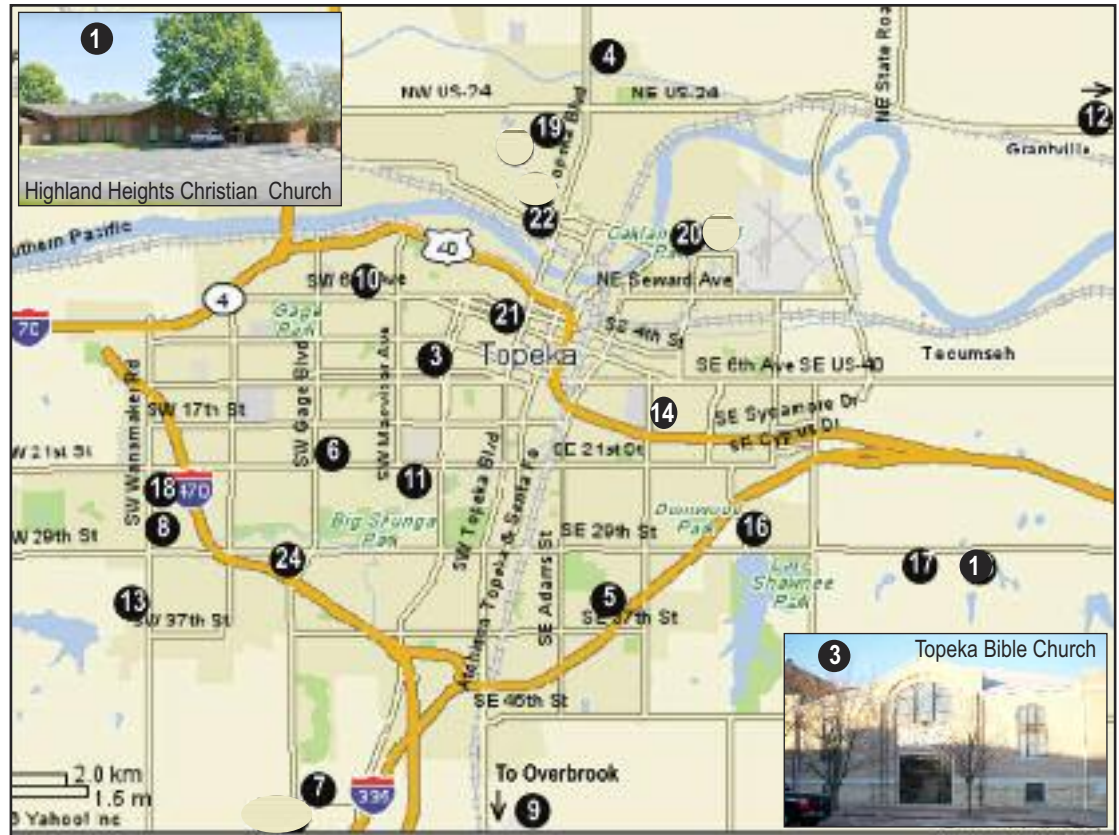
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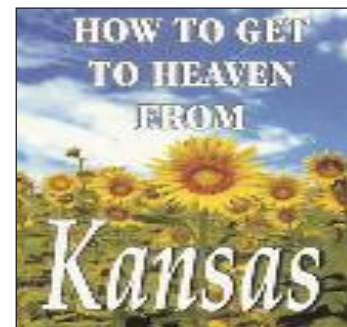
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1. Realize you are a sinner. Everyone starts the same place spiritually. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of god." (Rom. 3:23). Sin's penalty keeps you out of Heaven and condemns you to Hell, separating you from God. Romans 6:23 says, "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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