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KANSAS BOOK FESTIVAL

Page 17

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Page 25

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## NEW RESIDENT churchguide



Highland Heights Christian Church

See inside back cover!

## Kansas Book Festival is back at WU



Saturday, Sept. 24, from 9 am to 4 pm, you can hear 60 authors discuss their fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and children's books, including winners of major U.S. writing awards. You can also purchase a signed copy, browse at 30 outdoor vendor booths, or donate a used or new book to improve libraries at Kansas jails. Then grab a chili dog or tropical treat from the food trucks, and sit and listen to live bluegrass, rock, and jazz. Bring the kids too, so they can

■ Please see BOOK FESTIVAL page 2

## The Biblical Key To True Freedom



By Philip Kosloski | Aletea

Freedom is a complicated issue, as at face value it simply means the ability to choose what we do each day.

However, according to the Bible, freedom is about always choosing to do good.

For example, St. Paul reflects on freedom in his letter to the Galatians.

*For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.*  
- Galatians 5:1

This ability to choose the good is also explained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

*The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. There is no true freedom except in the service of*

*what is good and just. The choice to disobey and do evil is an abuse of freedom and leads to "the slavery of sin."*

A Christian vision of freedom is more of an interior freedom, one that is not bound by habitual sin, but set free by the grace of Jesus Christ.

We may be "free" to choose what-

■ Please see FREEDOM page 2

## TSA PreCheck® screening program to be offered here



Attention Topeka area travelers! You can sign up in Topeka this month for TSA PreCheck and save time and trouble when traveling. The AAA Topeka store at 1223 SW Wanamaker (next to Starbucks) is bringing the TSA PreCheck® enrollment process to Topeka September 12-16, with the IdentoGO® Mobile Enrollment Vehicle.

Sign-up will be offered by appointment only. Appointments will be scheduled during the following times:

Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2022 – 9am-5pm

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2022 – 9am-5pm

■ Please see TSA PRECHECK page 2

## 2nd Annual Topeka Fall Fest features live music, health fair, fun

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



## Sen. Marshall introduces resolution recognizing “invasion”

The flood of immigrants at the southern border constitutes an invasion, Sen. Roger Marshall, R-Kansas, said in a speech on the Senate floor on Wednesday.

He introduced a resolution that would recognize that “the unprecedented crisis at our southern border constitutes an invasion of the United States of America,” “The Daily Wire” reported, adding that it is “the constitutional right of state governments to repel the dangerous ongoing invasion across the southern border. The federal government has failed, intentionally or unintentionally, to uphold its obligations to protect the states from invasion under Article 4, Section 4, of the United States Constitution.”

Article 4, Section 4 states: “The United States shall guarantee to every state in this union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion . . .”

Marshall then ripped President Biden: “During his campaign to become presi-



dent, Joe Biden made it clear to the entire world that if he became president, America would be open; not open for business, but that our southern border would be open, wide-open, for anyone and everyone to violate our nation’s immigration laws and to take advantage of America’s generosity.”

In 2019, Biden called for all those people seeking asylum to immediately surge to the border, Marshall said.

“He pledged free health care for illegal immigrants and pledged support for sanctuary cities,” Marshall said. “One of

his first actions as president was sending proposed legislation to Congress that would provide a path to citizenship for 10 million to 12 million illegal aliens residing in the United States. On his first day in office, he halted construction of President Trump’s border wall and halted the Remain in Mexico program.”

Marshall said that last year, the Border Patrol made more than 1.7 million arrests of illegal immigrants along the southern border, the highest level ever recorded. He added that now that Biden is prepared to end the Title 42 program, the vast majority of illegal immigrants will be released into the interior of the United States.

“It’s long past time for states to protect their interests, because Joe Biden has made it clear the federal government will not,” he said. “President Biden’s dereliction of duty and failure to take care that the laws be faithfully executed at our southern border has directly put the citizens of all 50 states in danger and has resulted in loss of life.”



## 20-year-old from Ulysses, KS passes bar 2 years after graduating from Harvard and high school

Braxton Moral is one of the youngest lawyers in the country.

Moral, of Ulysses, KS, graduated from high school and Harvard, at the same time, in 2019. He then went on to pursue his law degree from Washburn University and graduated at the age of 19.

Moral was recently on the Kelly Clarkson Show and told the talk show host about how he found out that he had passed the bar exam.

“So, we’d actually just entered the

movie theater, scrolling through social media, saw one of my friends got their scores, figured my score’s probably in as well, started to panic, found out I passed as well. My parents were ecstatic, and we saw the movie,” said Braxton.

Braxton he had an externship with the local city/county attorney where he tried a few people for traffic infractions. He told Kelly his interests include trials, litigation and keeping his city safe.

## TSA PRECHECK

continued from page 1

Thursday, Sept. 15, 2022 – 9am-5pm  
Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 – 9am-Noon

Limited time slots are available. To sign up for an appointment, visit <https://cluballiance.aaa.com/travel/tsa-precheck>.

1. Access the application page
2. Click “Start Application Now”, then click “New Enrollment”
3. Fill out Steps and choose “Next” at

the bottom of each screen

4. Type in your location at Zipcode/City/Airport Code box – search
5. Choose the AAA location near you and click “Next”

6. Select your desired appointment time

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The TSA PreCheck® application program allows U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents to directly apply for TSA PreCheck®. Once approved, travelers will receive a “Known Traveler Number” (which can be added to a traveler’s airline profile and reservations) and will have the opportunity to utilize TSA PreCheck® lanes at select security checkpoints when flying on over 50 carriers that currently participate in TSA PreCheck®.

When arriving for your appointment, be sure to bring your proof of U.S. Citizenship with you to you.

The application fee is \$85 and can be paid by credit card, money order, company check, or certified/cashier’s check. Cash and personal checks are not accepted.

To reach AAA Topeka, call (785) 233-0222.

## BOOK FESTIVAL

continued from page 1

hear from a Cherokee storyteller, visit the Kansas Children’s Discovery Center tent, or attend a presentation by children who have published books.

## FREEDOM

continued from page 1

ever we want, but to use that freedom to sin is actually an abuse of freedom. By doing so, we are no longer free, but slaves of sin.

If sin has weighed you down, ask God to set you free, so that may use your freedom for good and not be led

This year’s keynote speaker—at noon—is K.J. Dell’Antonia, author of *The Chicken Sisters* (NYTimes Bestseller), whose new novel, *In Her Boots*, explores the comedic but profound problem of finding personal happiness. This is all at Maybee Library at Washburn University, and it’s free admission.

into the darkness of sin.

*For you were called for freedom, brothers and sisters.*

*But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love.*

-Galatians 5: 13

True freedom consists in the ability to choose good things, instead of becoming a slave to sin.

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## As students return to classroom, parents have several tools available to hold schools accountable



School starts this week in most parts of Missouri and Kansas. Many parents are concerned that public schools often seem less focused on reading, writing, math and science than on implementing critical race theory, teaching about gender fluidity and teaching about the plethora of pronouns that young children now use.

Parents have several tools they can use to hold schools accountable, according to Fox News.

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment requests. First passed in 1974, the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) is a powerful legal tool that allows parents to review instructional materials, including curriculum and teacher training, without requiring payment. All it takes is sending a simple letter or email to the school district asking to conduct a PPRA inspection of instructional materials used as part of a child's education. The PPRA also prohibits schools from surveying children about sex, political

beliefs, religion, family life and other issues without providing parents an opportunity to opt out.

If children are surveyed on these issues without parental notification or if a school refuses to let parents inspect the school's instructional materials, they can file a PPRA complaint with the U.S. Department of Education. If the department refuses or fails to act, they can sue the department, file an administrative petition with the department asking to stop funding the offending school, write a letter to their senator or member of Congress or ask the state's attorney general to investigate.

Freedom of Information Act requests. FOIA is one of the most powerful tools in the arsenal of a watchdog mom or dad. Each state has its own FOIA laws, and most school districts will have an electronic FOIA portal to submit requests. It is important to be as specific as possible when asking for documents. Otherwise, a school district will quote exorbitant fees to stop parents from getting the documents. It's always the best practice to be concise with date ranges, custodians (senders and recipients of the information) and subject matter.

Every investigation is different, but a good rule of thumb is to use the PPRA to get the instructional materials. Then, armed with those materials, submit well-tailored FOIA requests to collect information about how those instructional

materials were approved, purchased and implemented in the school system.

Litigation. Public comment is an annoying necessity for school board members. Bad press for a school district is temporary, and the school district's leaders know that. But litigation is more than a mere annoyance, and it is anything but temporary. Until now, these school districts could implement woke policies and practices that violated the constitution or state statute without fear. They long thought, correctly, that parents would be afraid of bringing such lawsuits and being canceled and ostracized for daring to challenge the regime of wokeness. But those days are over.

Parents now are stepping up and filing lawsuits for everything from compelling students' speech in violation of the First Amendment by forcing them to use preferred pronouns, violating parents' liberty rights under the Fourteenth Amendment by keeping their child's claimed gender identity a secret from parents and for blocking parents from documenting a school critical race theory framework, also in violation of the First Amendment.

Equally as important, public interest litigation organizations such as America First Legal's Center for Legal Equality and others are funding these kinds of meritorious lawsuits so parents don't have to mortgage their futures to fight for their children's future.

## FALL FEST

continued from page 1

The Health Fair will also offer healthy food options, as well as fun things for the kids.

Businesses and organizations represented at the health fair will include Midland Care, Thornton Place, Innov8tive Nutrition, Perfectly Posh, GraceMed, St. Croix Hospice, SoulFire Nutrition, Celebrate Recovery, Sunshine Connection, MyGym, SHopper's Kitchen, PARS, Emerald City Cosmos and more. Rasmussen University is a co-sponsor and will also be on hand with educational information.

Many kids' activities will also be offered outside, such as facepainting, petting zoo, cupcake walks and bounce houses.

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, Rasmussen University, SoulFire Nutrition, Stormont Vail Health, Hutton Monument and more.

Other sponsors ServPro, Capital City Flooring, Kanss Fencing, Cu-

mulus, WIBW and more.

There is still room for more sponsors and participants for the Vendor Market, Food Court and Health Fair. Volunteers are also needed to help with the entire event.

For more information, visit Topeka Fall Fest on Facebook, email [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org) or call 785-640-6399.



## C5Alive POWER Luncheon to be held at The Peak

The monthly C5Alive POWER Luncheon will be held September 8, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Thornton Place, 2901 SW Armstrong in Topeka.

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](mailto:info@C5Alive.org).

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

The next luncheon will be held October 13, at The Peak.

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](http://www.facebook.com/C5Alive), [C5Alive.org](http://C5Alive.org), or call 785-640-6399.



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# List of scientists saying there is no 'climate crisis' surpasses 1,150

There is no climate emergency say a growing number of scientists, climatologists and other specialists. They're joining a growing list that now totals more than 1,100 who have signed a World Climate Declaration (WCD).

The independent Foundation Climate Intelligence (CLINTEL) issued the one-page summary in late June and it continues to find support worldwide with the number of signatories surpassing 1,166 as of August 26.

"Climate science should be less political, while climate policies should be more scientific. Scientists should openly address uncertainties and exaggerations in their predictions of global warming."

At the same time, "politicians should dispassionately count the real costs as well as the imagined benefits of their policy measures," the declaration states.

CLINTEL was founded in 2019 by emeritus professor of geophysics Guus Berkhout and science journalist Marcel Crok to promote knowledge and understanding of climate change in forming climate policy.

Crok said the WCD project began in 2019 and that the power is in its message, brevity, and accessibility.

"The message is plain and clear: there is no climate emergency. Very important: this is true even if you accept that CO2 is the main driver of the current climate change," Crok told a news outlet in an email.

"We simply state that all evidence so far indicates that the increase in CO2 and the increase in temperature [are] not harmful for us or for nature and therefore the climate hysteria surrounding the topic is totally unjustified [and] that the 'cure'—getting rid of fossil fuels asap and replace them with renewables—probably will be worse than the 'disease' [climate change]," Crok said.

Crok said the CLINTEL document has produced significant pushback from climate activists and others who reap billions of dollars in grant money



Carbon capture companies are set to reap trillions of dollars as governments push forward with climate change taxes on consumers, businesses

from the United States, Europe and Australia.

He said the organization sent many open letters to organizations such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations, and World Economic Forum asking for a high-level meeting with CLINTEL scientists.

"We normally don't even get a polite reply," Crok said. "Activists don't like our WCD for the simple reason that they always claim there is a 97 percent, or 99 percent, or 99.9 percent consensus."

"They simply dominate the media, and if they feel our WCD has some impact, they will arrange that it gets discredited in the media and the social media."

In recent weeks, CLINTEL has received increased attention and new signatories, many of whom have worked in academia.

The WCD concludes that the science of climate change is far from settled and that the geological archive

shows Earth's climate has been in flux for as long as the planet has existed. Many are now referring to it as "climate cycling" relying on extensive data that shows the earth has experienced regular, and normal, variations in temperatures.

"Therefore, it is no surprise that we are now experiencing a period of warming. Natural as well as anthropogenic factors cause warming. The world has warmed significantly less than predicted [based on] modeled anthropogenic forcing," the WCD states.

"The gap between the real world and the modeled world tells us that we are far from understanding climate change."

The WCD states that climate models have "many shortcomings," and are unsatisfactory policy tools.

"They do not only exaggerate the effect of greenhouse gases, [but] they also ignore that enriching the atmosphere with CO2 is beneficial. CO2 is not a pollutant. It is essential to all life on Earth. More CO2 is favorable for nature, greening our planet.

"Additional CO2 in the air has promoted growth in global plant biomass. It is also profitable for agriculture, increas-

ing the yields of crops worldwide."

The declaration advises European leaders that climate policy should "respect scientific and economic realities."

"To believe the outcome of a climate model is to believe what the model makers have put in. This is precisely the problem of today's climate discussion to which climate models are central.

"Climate science has degenerated into a discussion based on beliefs, not on sound self-critical science. Should not we free ourselves from the naive belief in immature climate models?" the WCD states.

Crok said the document's main goal is to make clear that even if you accept most of the claims of the IPCC, that you can still conclude there is no climate emergency. In this respect, our WCD should be uncontroversial."

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

# More Americans than ever report “suffering,” new Gallup poll finds



More Americans than ever say they are suffering, according to the Gallup’s Life Evaluation Index for July reported by “The Daily Wire.”

“Since reaching a record high in June 2021, life ratings among American adults have steadily worsened,” Gallup reported. “The 5.6 percent suffering rate in July marks the first time the Gallup measure has exceeded 5 percent in the United States and translates to an estimated 14 million American adults.”

Using a metric called the Cantril Self-Anchoring Striving Scale, Gallup asked respondents to rate their current lives and anticipated lives in five years on a scale of 1 to 10 and classified them as “suffering,” “struggling” or “thriving” based on their responses.

In June 2021, just 2.9 percent of Democrats, 4.7 percent of Independents and 2.7 percent of Republicans were classified as “suffering.” Since then, the “suffering” rate has doubled among Republicans to 5.4 percent; nearly doubled among Democrats, also to 5.4 percent; and climbed significantly among Independents to 6.2 percent.

Americans’ dismal outlook on their current and future lives likely is caused by equally dismal economic conditions, Gallup noted. Inflation soared to record highs for months on end, reaching a peak of 9.1 percent in June before finally cooling slightly to 8.5 percent in July. The U.S. economy also entered a recession in July after recording two quarters of negative economic growth, despite the Biden administration’s attempts to spin the num-

bers. These factors also have dragged the Gallup Economic Confidence Index to its lowest levels since the Great Recession.

Gallup’s findings also come after several studies have shown just how severely inflation has affected Americans. Recent data from LendingClub showed that 61 percent of

Americans are living paycheck to paycheck, including more than one-third of Americans making more than \$200,000 a year, up from 55 percent in 2021. Another study from the University of Iowa found that rural Americans are spending 91 percent of their after-tax income on their day-to-day expenses.

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

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## HOW CAN I MAKE SURE MY LEISURE SPENDING DOESN'T GET OUT OF HAND?

**Dear Dave,**  
I finally paid off all my debt except for my house, and I have an emergency fund of six months of expenses saved. It feels great to be in control of my money, but I am afraid I might lose control again and end up back where I started before I began following your plan. How can you make sure your leisure spending doesn't get out of hand?

*Lavell*

**Dear Lavell,**

I get what you're saying. You don't want to go back to those days of being scared and out of control where your finances are concerned. You spent a lot of time, made tons

of sacrifices, and put in lots of disciplined hard work getting out of debt, changing your behavior, and finally reached a point where you're winning with money. Most people don't forget the hardship and sacrifices that go into something like that, and I don't think you will, either.

There's a season to be strict, hard-nosed, and deny yourself things. There's also a time to act like an adult, and forego instant gratification, like during those early Baby Steps. But some self-care and a little fun is important once in a while, too. One way to enjoy life without going financially overboard is to make a budget line for fun money.

Putting fun money in your budget isn't a green light to forget your money goals, or go on a spending free-for-all. It's actually part of sticking to your budget. Remember, you want a zero-based budget. That means giving every dollar a job, and having a fun money category helps you focus on all your spending, so you don't accidentally waste money on little things here and there.

When you give yourself a budget line for fun, you can spend that amount on whatever you want. We talk a lot about goals and how they need to be a balance of

empowering and realistic. Budgeting fun money helps with the real-

## Top 10 Reasons Not to Plan for Retirement

By Ryan Shumaker  
Smartvestor Pro at  
The Retirement Team



You probably read or hear about some "Top Ten" list nearly every day, but take a moment to read this one. This list is different, and probably not the kind of list you'd expect a financial advisor to write.

Reason #10: "It's too expensive" Being penny wise and dollar foolish isn't necessarily a great idea. There are unfortunately far too many in the financial industry that are salespeople and not planners. A good financial advisor should bring far more value than any fees charged whether that is from better investment performance, tax reduction, Social Security maximization, or something else. At our firm we generally won't take on a client unless we believe we can bring over 3 times more value to them than whatever fees are charged. Sometimes the cheapest option can end up being the most expensive option if you're missing out on other planning opportunities.

Reason #9: "I'm too busy" I can't tell you how often I hear this excuse. So many people want to plan for a better retirement and future, but they don't have time. They think they'll take care of it tomorrow, or the day after that ... and before they know it, years have gone by. The best advice I can give is to stop procrastinating and start planning. My great grandfather use to have a saying that "procrastination is suicide on the installment plan." There's a lot of wisdom and truth in that saying, especially when it comes to finances, taxes, investments, and retirement planning.

Reason #8: "It's too soon" The notion that you shouldn't have to start planning for your retirement until it's almost time to retire is incorrect. The truth is, the sooner you start planning, the better chance you stand of having the kind of retirement you want. It's never too soon. If what you thought about your financial future turned out not to be true, when would you want to know about it? As soon as possible so you can make simple and easy corrections, or later when it's not as simple or easy? Often if you're failing to plan you're planning to fail.

Reason #7: "It's too late" So what if

istic side because it lets you stick to your goals and have a treat every now and then.

When you think of your budget as permission to spend, you get a new perspective on budgeting. You're giving your

money permission to go where you want it to go. Plus, when you treat yourself once in a while, you're less likely to fall back in your old, financially-out-of-control ways!

— Dave

you're already near or in retirement? Does that mean all is lost and whatever you've got is what you're stuck with? Is it now too late to do anything about it? Certainly not. If you're unsure of what your options are, speak to a professional. Even if you've already retired, it's important to consider how you're receiving income, how long it will last, how much in taxes you're paying, and whether your investments are still the most suitable for this new phase of life. It's never too late to make improvements; but the longer you wait, the more costly avoiding taking corrective action can become.

Reason #6: "I don't need to" I've heard this excuse many times and it always baffles me. Many people think that because they've been diligent about contributing to a retirement account, they're all set. While saving for retirement is good, you also need a plan for income distribution once you enter retirement. The front 9 of this golf course is very different from the back 9. Are you certain that what you're saving will be enough? Have you considered your distribution plan? What about taxes? What about inflation? Are you sure your money is best positioned to create an ever increasing income to offset ever increasing prices? There may be other, better options for you and it quite likely would prove worthwhile to look into them.

Reason #5: "My finances are a mess" This is all the more reason to seek out an advisor who can help you sort through and understand your assets. Perhaps you have several 401(k)s from former employers scattered across several companies, a couple of savings accounts, a trust from a deceased relative, and some stocks that your parents bought in your name when you were younger. A hodgepodge of accounts like this can be confusing and feel overwhelming, but leaving it as is won't improve the situation. Consider speaking with someone who can look at your complete financial picture, help you to understand it, and help you to develop a plan to simplify it.

Reason #4: "The Government will take care of me" The bottom line is this: If you think the government is going to take care of you then you're likely not going to live the lifestyle in retirement you'd like.

Reason #3: "Between my savings and

my 401(k), I'll be fine" Saving for retirement is one thing, but creating a distribution plan is completely different. How will you use that money once you have it? And while you may think you'll have everything you're going to need, have you considered how much will be lost to taxes and inflation? There is over a 50% chance that a 65 year old couple in average health will have at least 1 partner live past age 92. Will your assets last that long? If they won't, what then? It's a good idea to look ahead and have a plan for lifelong, increasing income and to account for lifelong potentially being very long.

Reason #2: "I don't want to think about it" With financial markets having their worst start to a year since the Nixon administration, many view the thought of discussing financial matters right now as unappealing. I can certainly understand that, but ignoring the problem isn't going to make it go away. Having a good, solid, well constructed plan and portfolio can alleviate the pressures and anxiety a volatile market can bring, particularly if that plan ensures you have the income you want and need regardless of what is going on with the economy, stock market, and elections.

Reason #1: "I don't know how" If you knew everything there was to know about financial planning, you'd probably be writing articles like this instead of reading them. While it is possible to do everything on your own, that generally results in poorer outcomes. The first time you do something like build a deck, drive a car, or ride a bike, is it usually the best? You only get one retirement and the reality is struggling through it one time alone will likely result in many expensive learning experiences along the way. Working with a financial professional that has seen and helped hundreds through the process can prevent you from making first timer's mistakes. If you're putting off retirement planning because you don't know how, then you need to speak with a skilled professional who does.

Don't let one of these top excuses prevent you from reaching your full financial potential. Retirement is supposed to be about going out and making memories, not worrying or stressing. The sooner you get started optimizing a plan likely the sooner you can start living the retirement you want.

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## Sharing Financial Wisdom with Your Kids

By Jim Hanna

When is the best time to talk to your kids about money? For most parents, the answer is simple: as soon as you can. Talking to your kids about money can help them learn how to be financially responsible, self-supporting adults. To get the discussion flowing, consider using these conversation starters depending on your child's age.



Hanna

Begin with basics for your preschooler. Look for opportunities to teach values that will help your child develop positive financial attitudes and behaviors later in life. For example, the concept of sharing with others is something most young children can grasp. Talking about what you're thankful for and involving kids in philanthropy can help instill gratitude. After all, children primarily learn about money from modeling their parents' behavior.

Explain financial building blocks to your elementary school student. As your child progresses through school, start introducing the difference between needs and wants. Present the concepts of cost and quality to teach your child how to discern value. Give your child the chance to make some simple financial decisions that involve delayed gratification, such as setting aside a small allowance to buy a toy. Teaching children to strengthen their willpower and giving them age-appropriate autonomy is a foundation that can help them flourish financially in adulthood.

Understand that your middle schooler may be watching more than listening. Kids tend to be peer-oriented in the preteen years and may be less receptive to parental advice. Keep talks short, but don't abandon the mission. Remember that your actions speak volumes about your values. For example, if your child hears you continually talking about a new car purchase or sees you frequently shopping for nonessential items, he or she may pick up similar attitudes and behaviors. Consider involving your child in donations or charitable work you are passionate about or encourage him or her to support a cause of their own.

Encourage your high school student to think about the

future. Now is the time to discuss college costs and encourage saving for college expenses. Talk to your child about what you plan to contribute and what portion you expect them to pay. Discuss whether student loans will play a role and their potential impact down the road. Conversations about college and majors can include frank discussions about the job market and future income potential. Discuss day-to-day financial responsibilities as well, such as how to maintain a checking account and debit card and how to protect accounts from fraud.

Help your college student prepare for independence. Counsel your child about the importance of living within their means and establishing and maintaining a good credit record. Explain how to use a credit card appropriately (and how to avoid fees and other credit troubles). As graduation nears, discuss your expectations for your child's transition from student to working adult. Offer yourself as a resource for guidance on how to seek fulfilling work, negotiate a good salary, and navigate the world of employee benefits.

Inspire your college graduate to embrace adulthood. Once your child becomes financially independent, be thoughtful about how you approach money topics. Let your newly employed college graduate know you are willing to offer support and guidance yet steer clear of making decisions for him or her. Allow your child space to decide their financial goals. Continue sharing advice based on your experience, such as the importance of saving for retirement early, having appropriate insurance, or building a financial safety net. Encourage your child to establish a relationship with a financial advisor who can provide an objective perspective and tools to create a financial plan unique to their goals.

It's worth it. If you want to help your child develop financial competence and independence, start the conversation early and keep it going. Sharing your financial values can enrich your relationship and instill wisdom that will serve them well into the future.

## Do you have a document plan for emergencies?

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

Internal Revenue Service urges everyone to develop an emergency preparedness plan.



Everyone, from individuals to organizations and businesses, can start now by 1) Securing and duplicating essential tax and financial documents 2) Creating lists of information once a disaster occurs.

In the aftermath of a disaster, having the updated documents and other information readily available can help victims apply for the relief available from the IRS and other agencies.

Taxpayers should keep critical original documents inside waterproof containers in a secure space. These include tax returns, birth certificates, deeds, titles, insurance policies and other similarly important items. In addition, consider having a relative, friend or other trusted person retain duplicate copies of these documents at a location outside the potentially impacted disaster area.

If original documents are available only on paper, try scanning them into a digital file format. Saving them in a secure digital location, like a cloud-based storage application, can provide added security and portability.

Maintain a detailed inventory of your property and business contents. Taxpayers can take photos or videos to record their possessions but should also write down descriptions including year, make and model numbers, where appropriate. After a disaster hits, this kind of documentation can help support claims for insurance or tax benefits. The IRS disaster-loss workbooks can help individuals and businesses compile lists of belongings or business equipment.



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# opinion

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## The war on freedom of religion

By Joseph Farah

Mandatory vaccines, abortion on demand, men competing in women's sports, children being forced by the state to coercively change their sex!

There is, perhaps, no principle more ingrained in U.S. law and the very foundations of Americanism than freedom of religion. Nevertheless, it is under assault by two of the three branches of the federal government — the executive and legislative — while the third, and often the least powerful of the tripartite system, is making something of a comeback.

In addition, powerful cultural institutions — including most of the press, academia, taxpayer-supported education, the entertainment industry, major and well-endowed foundations, and Big Tech — soft-pedal the attacks, misrepresent them or actually champion them.

It's surreal. It's existential. It's incoherent. It's illogical. Never has the United States faced a more serious threat to its most basic freedom.

Even more dangerous is the fact that most Americans don't understand how all other constitutionally guarded liberties are in danger — including freedom of speech — should this trend go unchallenged.

The clear intent of the law was to protect the religious freedom of individuals so they cannot be coerced to participate in actions that would violate their sincerely held religious convictions. From the earliest days of America's founding, this was the very definition of religious freedom.

For instance, in 1779, Thomas Jefferson, often cited by today's skeptics as their inspirational hero, drafted the Virginia Act for Establishing Religious Freedom — just three years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence and before the drafting of the Constitution and the First Amendment.

It clearly defines what is meant by religious freedom: "Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, That no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place, or ministry whatsoever, nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested, or burdened in his body or goods, nor shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief; but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of religion, and *that the same shall in nowise diminish, enlarge, or affect their civil capacities*" (Emphasis added).

Now there are countless examples of sincere Christians being fined, coerced,

jailed, intimidated and ostracized for simply refusing to actively participate in what they consider to be immoral, unbiblical practices. These actions of government render meaningless the entire concept of religious freedom, as defined by Jefferson and accepted by every other Founding Father and universally by Americans for the last 244 years.

Note, again, the last phrase Jefferson includes in his definition. It is the key to understanding religious freedom, which has often been mischaracterized as "freedom of worship."

Freedom of worship — the right to believe what we want and to attend the religious services we prefer — is dealt with in the first component of Jefferson's definition. But the last part of his definition, which has never been controversial in America until the last few years, is under siege.

Today, judges, major corporations, the news media and the popular culture are maintaining that Christians who take their faith seriously and into the public square are bigots, guilty of discrimination and must put their beliefs aside rather than



translate them into personal action and conduct.

Clearly, this was never the intent of Jefferson and the other Founders. It's not what is meant in the First Amendment of the Constitution, which states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

If this trend is permitted to continue, not only will the entirety of the First Amendment fall — the protections of freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right of peaceful assembly and the right to petition of the government for redress of grievances — but so will the rest of the Constitution and every other right it guards.

## 4 lessons I learned teaching young adults that have helped my parenting, too

By Cerith Gardiner

As a teacher of young adults for the last 18 years, I've had the privilege of having hundreds of talented youngsters in my class. While the experience can sometimes be exhausting, at the end of the school year I like to reflect on what I continue to learn from these oft-opinionated, inspiring, loud, and funny individuals.

What has proved interesting is that I have four children myself, two of whom are the same age as my students, and it often surprises me that what I learn in the classroom really helps my relationship with my own 22- and 23-year-olds.

### 1) YOUNG ADULTS REALLY, REALLY CARE

At home I can easily brush off what my kids are telling me, as I'm up to my eyes in chores, and work. Yet as a language teacher part of my job is to get these students talking, often through debate. They have strong feelings about politics, family life, society, and the environment.

They build intelligent and reasoned arguments that give me a hint of what thoughtful adults they will become, even if I don't always share their beliefs. And they remind me to take the time to listen and question my own children on matters that count — not to steamroll them with my own ideas, but to help them form their own based on what counts for them.

### 2) THEY KEEP US TUNED INTO THEIR GENERATIONAL ISSUES

There's no doubt that COVID was really hard on the younger generations. Just as they were about to embark on their adult life and find independence, they were forced to stay home. In class I encouraged them to talk about these frustrations, but also their catalog of worries that are mounting up in the current social climate.

These conversations give me a little window into what my own children might be going through — worries or thoughts they may not have put into words but which are there in the background, nagging away



without them always realizing.

### 3) THEY LIKE BEING NEEDED (HONESTLY)

While teens might get annoyed at being asked to do chores, young adults like to feel needed, perhaps to show their worth. In class I generally encounter a myriad of technical issues. While I *think* I could muddle through, there's always a willing student wanting to lend a hand. And this attitude goes beyond tech problems.

Sometimes students will come to class with helpful ideas for each other, me, and

even my kids. They want to be helpful members of society and take proper control of their lives. This reminds me that I need to give my older kids adult problems to solve, to help them feel that they're worthy of my trust and more than capable.

### 4) OUR FUTURE IS IN SAFE HANDS

Watching my students absorb knowledge and apply it is always a marvel to me — especially as these days I feel my busy brain has turned to marshmallow. They generate ideas at an impressive rate and they begin to realize that they are needed members of society. (I do remind them that I'll be relying on their generation when I retire, so they have a real challenge ahead!)

This is a message I try to pass on to my own kids, too: That one day my generation will be handing over the reins to them, and I believe they'll do a fantastic job. It's important to remember to instill this faith in young adults, so they can have faith in themselves.



# The Wisdom of the Ten Commandments

By Laura Hollis

One of the shortcomings of Christianity (in my humble opinion) is its ineffectiveness at teaching the wisdom of God's laws. In my 16 years of education in Catholic schools, the laws of the Church -- including but not limited to laws about personal morality -- were presented more as a series of seemingly arbitrary rules that one must follow to secure one's place in heaven. The focus was on some distant future, not the here and now. Obedience, not understanding, was what mattered. God's motives were inscrutable, or (to the extent they could be discerned at all) were based on authority, not love.

This, it seems to me, has been a mistake of unfathomable proportions.

While obedience to the laws of God may well result in an eternity in paradise, what has become increasingly clear to me over the years is that compliance with those laws is fundamental to a society here on earth in which human beings can flourish and prosper.

The precepts set forth in the Ten Commandments are as good an example as

any. Among the admonitions handed down by God to Moses on Mount Sinai were:

-- First and foremost, to worship only the one true God, not any of the many

pagan gods popular in the Middle Eastern cultures surrounding the Israelites

-- To set aside a day of rest (the Sabbath)

-- To honor one's father and mother

-- The prohibition against murder

-- The prohibition against adultery

-- The prohibition against theft

-- The prohibition against lying

-- The prohibition against envy and covetousness

Consider the extent to which American society has decided to abandon these principles in favor of selfishness and easy gratification; what have we wrought?

Marriage no longer holds the primary place in our society as it once did. Infidelity is common. While the divorce rate in the United States is down from its highest point in the 1980s, nearly 50% of all marriages will still end in divorce. Furthermore, some of the decline can be attributed to the fact that fewer Americans

are marrying at all. In other words, an additional consequence of decades of broken commitments is that the latest generation of Americans is even less likely to make those commitments in the first place.

Society suffers greatly without a culture of strong marriages and families, and children arguably pay the highest price. Almost 25% of all children in America grow up in single-parent homes -- and it is usually the father who is absent. A shocking figure released by the U.S. Census in 2015 showed that fully 54% of teens aged 15-17 had grown up in broken families where their parents had either never married or had divorced.

Research shows that children from broken and single-parent homes are more likely to grow up in poverty, less likely to achieve academically, attend college or experience upward financial mobility, more likely to suffer from emotional or psychological illness (including depression and suicidal ideation) and more likely to engage in risky and destructive behavior like drug use, sexual promiscuity and crime. Yes, there are exceptions. But by almost every conceivable metric, success in life is more difficult for these children.

So much of this can be laid at the feet

of the "sexual revolution," which sought to separate sexual behavior from marriage and the procreation of children. When sex is reconstituted as being primarily for entertainment or personal gratification, the children who are conceived outside of marriage are often considered "unwanted." The pill and other forms of contraceptives were supposed to usher in an era of freedom from biological reality. But contraceptives often fail (or are simply not used). Thus, abortion on demand becomes a fallback.

The Israelites of the Old Testament would have been familiar with the Canaanite god Moloch. According to historians, infants were sacrificed by dumping them into the belly of a statue of the pagan deity in which a fire burned to consume its victims. As barbaric as that practice sounds to modern ears, America has had its own history of child sacrifice. More than 60 million children have been aborted since the Supreme Court decided *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. (The numbers have been declining in recent years, and it remains to be seen what the recent decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* will do to the total number of abortions in the U.S. each year.)

It is not only in matters of sex, marriage and the family where our society is choosing to deviate from the wisdom of God's

laws, and we are reaping the destructive consequences. In cities and states across the country, laws have been changed in ways that fail to punish criminals -- and therefore fail to protect law-abiding citizens. In California, for example, thieves can now steal up to \$950 worth of property without being charged with a felony. (Which means, as a practical matter, that they are not charged at all.) Theft has become rampant in Los Angeles and San Francisco. New York changed its law in 2020 to eliminate cash bail; criminals are now released immediately after being arrested and charged; hundreds of crimes have been committed by released repeat offenders, many of them violent. In Waukesha, Wisconsin, last December, Darrell Brooks Jr. drove his SUV into a Christmas parade, killing six people and injuring dozens more. Brooks had been released on a paltry \$1,000 bail just three weeks prior, despite a record of violent offenses across three states, and after having run over his girlfriend with his car.

One would think that we would wise up upon seeing the damage we are doing to ourselves, our children, our families and our communities by discarding time-tested principles, and seek to return to them as quickly as possible.

But then, we would need to be a society that prized wisdom.



## Are You Living a Religious Lie?



CLINT DECKER

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

### Speaking Truth

The great Christian leader, Paul of Tarsus, appointed a young man he was mentoring to lead the church in the city of Crete within the Roman Empire. He wrote a brief letter filled with guidance for his task. Part of it was a warning about some ungodly teachers that were doing tremendous harm, "They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work." (Titus 1:16)

This strong, but accurate statement, hits on a theme of the Bible. It springs from a problem in the human heart, that causes one's words and actions not to align with each other. This type of living is a lie. It is deceptive and ma-

nipulative, leading to a lack of personal trust and integrity. It is spiritually dangerous, potentially causing the damnation of one's personal soul.

Paul received this teaching from Jesus, whom spoke about it when He asked a rhetorical question to His listeners, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" (Luke 6:46) In other words Jesus is asking, "Why do you say you believe in me, but do not obey my commands?" This was also dealt with hundreds of years before Jesus, as God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah, "Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely . . . then come and stand before me . . .?" (Jeremiah 7:9-10)

All three quotes are statements of contradiction. On one hand, people profess to know God or His Son Jesus through their words or Christian activities, but contradict that profession in how they live. What they say on Sunday and how they live the rest of the week does not match up. They give ample reason for another to question the genuineness of their faith, if they have truly been born again or to

wonder about their salvation.

They say with confidence, "I pray", "I believe", or even "I have asked Jesus to forgive my sins." Yet, their life is a walking illustration of a religious conflict when sins like drunkenness, sexual immorality, anger, bitterness, profanity or others mark their life. How can this be? They may respond with, "No one is perfect." Yes, that is true, but it is no excuse for continuing to do what one knows is wrong, especially while boldly professing Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. This is a hypocrite. A religious actor. It is written, "Therefore you have no excuse, O man . . ." (Romans 2:1)

This is a widespread problem. Why have so many chosen to live this way?

Simple. There is no cost to it. It is a vain attempt to have two kingdoms. God's and mine.

This way of thinking provides the benefits of religion. One can pray, believe in God, experience His blessings, or even enjoy worship and taking the Lord's Supper, while receiving a sense of peace and ease of conscience. But then one also has the freedom to live how one chooses without feeling



judged.

Those who teach or believe this, are embracing a dangerous lie. For God strongly condemns this and will not be deceived or mocked. Jesus will one day say to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness." (Matthew 7:23)

To enter into God's Kingdom, you must walk away from YOUR kingdom. Yes, there is a cost. There might be relationships that need to be broken or places you need to stop going. This is repentance and is costly, because it means you are turning away from someone (you) and toward someone -- Jesus.

If God were to examine your life, what would He see? Just empty reli-

gion or a life that is totally sold out to Christ?

*A prayer for you -- "Lord God, examine our lives. Help us to see what you see. If we have been living for two kingdoms, show us. From this day forward help me to live fully for Christ, the One who suffered, died and rose again that I might truly live. In Jesus' name. Amen."*

*--Clint Decker is President of Great Awakenings and Speaking Truth is a nationally syndicated column. Please share your comment with Clint at [cdecker@greatawakenings.org](mailto:cdecker@greatawakenings.org) and follow his blog at [clintdecker.blogspot.com](http://clintdecker.blogspot.com).*

# Can we keep our children in the Church for life?

## Commentary from a former pre-school teacher from Topeka

For thirty years the answer has been “NO”. For each of those years, nearly all protestant denominations have lost 70-86% of the children raised in the church (Barna research and many others).

Considering we start with only 24% of the nation's children the problem is so critical that a half dozen at least of our major denominations are considering merging or closing their doors altogether. Average church closings across denominational lines are now 4,000 to 5,000 per year. The church NEEDS this next generation.

On this topic “Keeping Children in the Church” God’s word is VERY CLEAR. Deuteronomy 6:5-9, the second half of the greatest commandment gives us God’s commands to parents on HOW best to effectively share his word with our children. These four verses connected to the ten commandments and greatest commandment are supported by a flood of research and support from major church leaders.

*Deut 6:5-9 God’s commands to Parents*

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today (a reference to the preceding verses of the Ten Commandments and Greatest commandment.) shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*



The essence of these verses is twofold: to SHARE your own personal experience with God’s word with your children AND to give your home a Bible makeover...God’s Word ON DISPLAY in the home.

### Help the children you love experience God

**1: Get** a Bible Calendar to place near each child’s bed. It is the ONE THING both parent and child need most...a REMINDER...to begin and end each day with thoughts about God. It will be the best 10-12 dollars any parent/grandparent could ever spend.

**2: Explain** to your children that God gave us the Bible to help us know Him better and to trust His love...that it is more than a book...that His power backs His word. Part of sharing any Bible verse is praying with the child that God

would help move the verse from the head to the heart. Share how God has been real to you.

**3: Raise** a SEEKER. God GUARANTEES that if we SEEK Him we will find him. Motivating our children to want to know more about God is the skill of a Master Parent. A great first step is asking questions: “Do you believe God is Real. Does he ever answer when you pray. Did you learn anything about God in Sunday School?” There is nothing like a question to get a child thinking. A good second step is to ask the child what questions he would ask God if he were in the same room with them. Then share with the child that God IS in the same room with them, even though he is invisible. For a third step we can ask our children about their doubts and FINALLY the biggest question of all “How could you get to know God better; prayer, scripture, church, walking out of doors, Christian Music?”

**4: Let** your children SEE you using Bible verses yourself... perhaps a verse or two tucked in your pocket or purse... perhaps a verse taped to the dashboard of your car?

**5: Put** God’s word ON DISPLAY in your home...verses for windows, walls, inside cupboard doors, in a small dish by the TV. Many Christian bookstores have a grand selection of verses...OR... let your children download and color their own home decor at sites like [www.bibleparent.com](http://www.bibleparent.com). Children will remember all the lives what is on the walls of their home. Make it a point to SURROUND them with God’s word.

**6: When sharing** a Bible verse always do so with love. (*God is Love.*)

**7: Consider putting** a little plaque with a Bible verse near the doorbell, something your children and their friends SEE each time they enter your home.

**8: If** you are single parent, tell other adults in your child’s life about your efforts to surround your children with Bible verses. Ask for their support.

**9: Use** Bible verses to comfort, correct, encourage and protect your child. Put some verses in a bowl and once a day or when your child has a need, pass the bowl... feed their spirits and yours!

(Our favorite website with hundreds of free individually printable coloring pages and “Pocket Scriptures” is [www.bibleparent.com](http://www.bibleparent.com).)

**10: Give** your children a Christian Vocabulary. Focus on teaching one word a week, words like: faith, mercy, forgiveness, hope, fellowship, trust, repentance, temptation, renewal, rebirth, salvation, growth, fear, love, holiness, Holy Spirit, prayer, sin, risen, Divine, supernatural, prayer, transformation, evil, believe, soul, resurrection, angel, heaven, hell, satan, Christ, grace, baptism, disciple, messiah, omnipotent, parable, prophecy, rapture, sacrifice, tribulation etc, etc.

Raising children without God’s word is like running a marathon with one leg.

Don’t limp through parenthood! Let God’s word be your other leg.

Visit [www.bibleparent.com](http://www.bibleparent.com)

—Charles White is a retired Christian pre-school teacher from Topeka Ks.

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# Public school enrollment down by two million students since start of pandemic

Around two million students have left public schools since the beginning of the pandemic, according to Education Next, a nonpartisan research group.

Researchers found that from 2020 to 2022, enrollment in public schools declined from 81 percent to 76.5 percent; charter school enrollment increased from 5 percent to 7.2 percent; private school enrollment increased from 8 percent to 9.7 percent; and home-schooling rose from 6 percent to 6.6 percent.

“Our polling data indicate that district-operated schools lost 4 percent of student enrollments to other types of schooling between 2020 and 2022,” researchers said. “If that percentage is accurate, it means that nearly two million students have shifted from traditional public schools to alternative school arrangements.”

Although appearing to be a significant drop in enrollment, the re-



port did not consider the decline to be severe. Researchers found that in November 2020, public school enrollment had dropped down to 72 percent, or 4.5 percentage points lower than it is at present.

“A wholesale mass exodus from traditional public schools has not occurred,” the report said. “And despite partisan differences in responses to COVID-19, the parents of children in states both blue and red report less anxiety about their children’s academic and social progress than was the case two

years earlier.”

Recently, debates surrounding lockdown measures and controversial curriculum content have led many parents to take their children out of public schools and choose alternatives such as homeschooling or private education. Last September, the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools released a report showing that around 1.4 million children had been taken out of public schools, based on an analysis of the school districts of 41 states and the District of Columbia.

“It is premature to draw any conclusions about why charter school enrollment grew while enrollment in district public schools declined,” the alliance report aid. “And yet the pattern among states in this report is undeniable. There is much to learn from families who made the switch, and perhaps the biggest lesson for everyone is how critically important charter schools are to public education.”

Earlier this year, the National Catholic Educational Association reported a slight increase in Catholic school enrollment for the 2021-22 academic year compared to the 2020-21 academic year. “Enrollment at all types of schools -- public, charter and private -- was impacted last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” the association said. “Catholic schools had a decline in enrollment of 6.4 percent from 2019- 20 to 2020-21,”

## Ms. Wheelchair Kansas receives Rising Star Award at National Competition

The 2022 Ms. Wheelchair Kansas (MWKS) recently attended the Ms. Wheelchair America event where she competed for the national title. Marci Clare joined with 20 other women vying for the opportunity to represent women who are wheelchair mobile in the United States. This annual event was hosted in Grand Rapids, Michigan and was held August 15-21 at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids. After an intense week of competition, networking, and empowerment, Marci came away with a new sisterhood from across the nation, a renewed motivation to advocate, and the honor of being named the Rising Star Award winner.



Marci is the eighteenth woman to represent the state of Kansas at the national competition since the creation of the Ms. Wheelchair Kansas organization in 2004. While in Grand Rapids, Marci participated in three personal interview sessions where she was scored based on her accomplishments, self-perception, communication, and projection skills. She also gave a speech on her chosen platform, “There’s No Place Like Home,” and heard from speakers on a variety of topics related to leadership and advocacy. Marci was able to enjoy some fun activities as well. All 21 titleholders enjoyed a fun day where they had a scavenger hunt, visited the Ford Museum, and learned wheelchair ballroom dancing. They also enjoyed themed evenings, including Dancing Through the Decades, Fairy Garden, and Under the Sea. The week culminated in the crowning ceremony, which was held Saturday, August 20, where Ali Ingersoll of North Carolina was named Ms. Wheelchair America 2023. The proceeding top four contestants were announced as follows: 1st Runner-Up- Sarah Nassar of Michigan; 2nd Runner-Up- Tatianna Davis of South Carolina; 3rd Runner-Up- Brooke Brown of Arizona; and 4th Runner-Up- Caitlin Chasar of Pennsylvania. Marci received an award created specifically by the judges to recognize a contestant who has accomplished much and demonstrated growth in a short amount of time.

Marci, of Abilene, was crowned Ms. Wheelchair Kansas in March of 2022. Since receiving her title, she has worked to fulfill the MWKS mission, which is to educate, advocate, and empower all people on a state level. Marci has been traveling to different areas meeting Kansans of all ages, speaking to different groups, and participating in local events. Some of her notable appearances have included attending a parade in Abilene, the Wichita Art Museum Birthday Bash, Challenge Games, and Crowning the Capital event. She has also visited with children at a local elementary school, with residents at Village Manor, and with community members at a local water park, Kenwood Cove. Marci has also been mentoring Little Miss Wheelchair Kansas 2022, Leslie Lane, throughout her year, and both titleholders have been able to attend various events together. Marci is currently planning many more appearances and will continue traveling across the state in order to spread her platform and advocate for Kansans with disabilities.

Marci will continue to fulfill the MWKS mission in the coming months and is available for speaking engagements and appearances. For more information, please contact Carrie Greenwood, State Coordinator, at (785) 633-7255 or via email at mswheelchairkansas@yahoo.com. More information can also be found on the Ms. Wheelchair Kansas web site at [www.mswheelchairkansas.org](http://www.mswheelchairkansas.org).



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## Atheist group takes exception to Justice Alito's speech on religious freedom

Associate U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito recently gave a speech discussing religious liberty and the importance of helping nonbelievers see its value. Atheists were not amused.

Speaking at a recent conference in Rome for the Notre Dame Law School's Religious Liberty Initiative, Alito described the dire state of religious liberty in many places. He also discussed atheism, nonbelief and the dismissive nature that some take to faith.

"Religious liberty is under attack in many places, because it is dangerous to those who want to hold complete power," he said, according to "Faithwire." "It also probably grows out of something dark and deep in the human DNA, a tendency to distrust and dislike people who are not like ourselves."

Alito went on to discuss the "turn away from religion" that is helping fuel problems regarding religious liberty.

"Polls show a significant increase in the percentage of the population that rejects religion or thinks it's just not all that important," he said. "And this has a very important impact on religious liberty, because it is hard to convince people that religious liberty is worth defending if they don't think that religion is a good thing that deserves protection."

These comments frustrated the Freedom From Religion Foundation, an atheist activist group, with nontheists calling the comments "disturbing" and accusing Alito of framing "nonbelievers as obstructors of religious liberty." "Alito appeared to single out nonbelievers as implied enemies of religious freedom," the foundation wrote in a statement.

Annie Laurie Gaylor, co-president of the organization, said nonbelievers have always been the "most ardent defenders of religious freedom." She also questioned how Alito could be seen as



giving a fair hearing to nonreligious appellants.

At the center of the dispute seems to be the definition of religious freedom and liberty, with the foundation's statement differ-

entiating between Alito's view on the matter and atheist activists' framing. Regardless of atheists' critiques of Alito, a very real religious freedom struggle is unfolding in the United States, and his

comments about the rise of non-religious -- and the impact this is having -- continue to be played out in political and cultural circles.

## Brother of famous Wahlbergs found his faith while locked in prison

While Mark and Donnie Wahlberg achieved great success in music and film, their brother Jim took a darker path.

"I lived a rough-and-tumble life," he said. "I was always a hustler, was always manipulative, just to get what I wanted, and I did whatever I had to do to get it. Hustling, stealing and running from police soon became a way of life."

Wahlberg was only 10 the first time he was arrested. He would spend his teen years in and out of juvenile detention while slowly becoming dependent on drugs and alcohol. One morning, he came to in a jail cell covered in his own blood. He had broken into a police officer's house and now was charged with home invasion, which carried a life sentence.

"I felt completely defeated and broken, and I felt resigned to the fact that this was the way my life was gonna be forever," Wahlberg said. "My heart was a stone."

On June 4, 1988, Mother Teresa spoke to the prisoners at the Mas-



sachusetts Correctional Institution in Concord. "She said, 'You're more than the crimes that you've committed to be here,' he said. 'You're more than your prison ID number. You are a child of God.'"

Many were inspired by her message of a loving God. Inmate 44563 was one of them. "God, help me to

be the person that you want me to be," Wahlberg prayed. "I can't continue to be this person. Help me to be free of this life.' I felt the presence of God in my heart."

Now that he was truly depending on God, he studied the Bible and was able to curb his addictions. In 1990, after serving only three years,

Wahlberg was released for good behavior. "I was weak in my relationship with God, and I was just a weak human being," he said. "And God got further and further away I said, 'Thank you, I'll take it from here.'"

Over the next two decades, Jim got married, had three kids and became the executive director of the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation for inner-city kids. Despite his success, he still was unfulfilled and drifting further from God.

"When you feel his presence and you walk away from it, there's guilt, there's shame, but there's also sort of a sense that it'll never happen for

you again," he said. "My daughter, Kyra, who was 12 at the time, came to me and said, 'Daddy, I want you to be happy. I want you to know Jesus.'"

At the urging of his family and daughter, Jim agreed to go to a Christian men's retreat. "God started to reveal himself to me again," Wahlberg said. "And he started to melt away the ice that was my heart. I mean, I started crying and I couldn't stop. I was just so overwhelmed. And I just felt so at peace."

That reignited his faith and passion to serve Christ and others. Now he has a successful podcast and studio working to bring awareness to the far-reaching effects of addiction. And now his hustle is to lead others to Christ.

"I'm trying to talk people into this life that is second to none," Wahlberg said. "This life of feeling Christ's presence in your life. When you open your heart man, God's presence will just jump right in there."

# Pro-Democracy accounts that criticize China banned by Twitter & Facebook

Twitter and Facebook have banned over 100 pro-democracy accounts that criticized China, Russia and Iran.

The social media companies allege that the pages and groups were pro-American and “used deceptive tactics” to promote Democratic and pro-Western narratives while exposing atrocities and genocide by Russia and China. That, according to a report released on Aug. 24.

The joint report by the Stanford Internet Observatory and Graphika, a social media analytics firm, alleges that an “interconnected web of accounts” on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and five other social media platforms utilized “deceptive” strategies to back Western narratives in the Middle East and Central Asia.

But the deceptive practices, some point out, are common among all media outlets – mainly coordinating posts, news stories and links to other websites, including military news sites.

“These campaigns consistently advanced narratives promoting the interests of the United States and its allies



asia, China, and Iran,” the report states.

The accounts heavily criticized Russia in particular for the deaths of innocent civilians amid the invasion of Ukraine which began in February this year, according to the report. They also promoted the narrative that Russian President Vladimir Putin planned to induce a global food crisis that would impact less economically developed countries the hardest.

The accounts also praised American aid to Central Asia and concentrated on the Chinese Communist Party’s treatment of Chinese Muslim minorities, particularly Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang.

Accounts in the Middle East also focused on issues in Yemen, primarily sharing content that was critical of Iran-

country, including posts that accused Houthi rebel leaders of blocking humanitarian aid deliveries and acting as proxies for Iran and Hezbollah.

A portion of the activity also promoted anti-extremism messaging, according to the report.

Twitter alleged the two overlapping sets of accounts violated its policies on “platform manipula-

tion and spam,” according to the report, while Meta said the accounts engaged in “coordinated inauthentic behavior.”

Both Twitter and Meta, after taking down the accounts, provided portions of their activity to Graphika and the Stanford Internet Observatory, according to the report.

While neither Twitter nor Meta shared the technical details of their investigations and declined to publicly state who was behind the accounts, Twitter said the activity’s “presumptive countries of origin” was the United States and UK, while Meta said the “country of origin” was the United States.

A spokesperson for Meta said the company would not comment further on its actions to delete the pro-Democracy accounts and had no additional information to share regarding the report.

# Black Conservative Summit to address family breakdown



Ben Carson, the famed neurosurgeon and former secretary of Housing and Urban Development, will headline the upcoming Black Conservative Summit.

The summit’s theme, “How to Fix Black America,” will serve as “a constant reminder that America is “one nation under God, indivisible,” said Eric Wallace, Ph.D., a black scholar and former Republican candidate for the Illinois Senate.

“Right now, race, gender and new science are being weaponized to challenge the status quo of American values,” he said. “This radical liberal ideology is infiltrating our churches, our schools and our socio-political institutions at every level.”

The Mach 2023 event will come after voters head to the polls in the midterm elections, giving political observers a key barometer of the mood of

the country—particularly black voters. The summit will focus on conservative priorities, including “responsible government, individual liberty, economic empowerment and family values.”

“The traditional nuclear family in the United States — whether red, yellow, black, brown or white — is under attack from an extreme liberal agenda,” summit organizers said. They cite critical race theory, Black Lives Matter and the promotion of unrestricted abortion and gender fluidity as major threats to the traditional family and the cause of many problems facing black communities.

“Many of the problems facing the black community in America, including high crime and incarceration rates, stem not from racism but from the rise of welfare and the disintegration of the traditional nuclear family,” said Bob Woodson, founder of the Woodson

Center. He and his wife, Jennifer, both will speak at the summit.

“We believe that in order to minimize black confrontation with police and reduce abortion clinic visits, school dropout rates, incarceration and illicit drug use among blacks, we must focus on combatting the dysfunction and disintegration of the black family,” she said. “The family serves as the center for social, educational, economic and spiritual life to build strong bonds among the generations and to pass on a way of life that has transcendent meaning. Unless the Lord builds the house, we labor in vain.”

Polls show that Black Americans are leaving the Democrat Party in high numbers. In 2020, Donald Trump received a record number of Black votes and President Joe Biden’s approval rating remains at record low levels among people of color.

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# How Christianity modeled care for the sick in the Roman world

Far from being an otherworldly religion, Christianity teaches both the importance and goodness of life in this world. In fact, from Jesus' healing ministry to the work of modern missionary doctors, a consistent feature of the work of the Church in the world has been to care for the sick and needy, and not just point them to the life to come.

The early Church understood Jesus' ministry to be a paradigm for their own work. So, just as Jesus set believers free from their bondage to sin, early Christians purchased slaves specifically to free them. Whereas Jesus used miraculous power to heal people from physical effects of the Fall, Christians used more ordinary tools to care for the sick and disabled. These activities are not merely good deeds in themselves but serve to advance the Kingdom. Though the Gospel is a message and must be proclaimed, the early Church saw works of mercy and preaching the Gospel as two sides of the same coin.

The first major epidemic faced by the Church was the Antonine Plague (A.D. 166-189). In fear, the Romans threw the sick out of their homes to die in the streets. Galen, the most prominent physician of the age, knew he could neither heal its victims nor pro-



tect himself. So, he fled Rome to stay at his country estate.

Recognizing that all persons were made in the image of God and that Jesus came to make all things new, body and soul, many Christians ran the other direction. They fought the Fall by tending to the sick, at risk (and often at the cost) of their own lives.

Since even basic nursing care can make a significant difference during an epidemic, Christian action saved lives. Their courage and self-sacrifice contributed to the rapid growth of Christianity. For example, when Irenaeus arrived in Lyon from Asia Minor, there were very few Christians. By the time

the plague ended, there were 200,000 believers in Lyon.

The Plague of Cyprian, which took place the following century, was named after the bishop of Carthage who documented the epidemic. Dionysius of Alexandria, also a bishop, described what happened this way:

*At the first onset of the disease, they pushed the sufferers away and fled from their dearest, throwing them into the roads before they were dead and treating unburied corpses as dirt...*

But, he continued...

*Most of our brother Christians showed unbounded love and loyalty, never sparing themselves and thinking*

*only of one another. Heedless of danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ.*

From the earliest centuries, Christians embraced the medical theories and practices of the day. Contrary to stereotypes, the early Church did not attribute illness to demons, though they did recognize demonization as a real phenomenon. The real difference between Christians and physicians of the day was the willingness to risk death in order to treat the sick, convinced that if they died it would only mean a transition to a better life. The physicians, on the other hand, fled.

Christians also founded the first hospitals in history. By the late fourth century, there were hospitals in both the eastern and western halves of the empire. By the Central Middle Ages, hospitals and leprosaria (leprosy hospitals) could be found throughout most of the Christian world. When universities began granting medical degrees during the period, church-affiliated institutions continued to provide much of the care.

By the 18th century, the medical field had become increasingly professionalized and separate from the clergy. Though monasteries still provided care

for the poor and nursing was almost entirely in the hands of sisters and nuns, professional physicians increasingly handled medical issues for those who could afford to pay. Clergy attended to the dying and contributed to discussions of medical ethics but had few other responsibilities for the sick.

However, medicine was an integral part of the modern mission movement of the 19th century. Because Christianity has always affirmed the importance of the body, hospitals soon followed wherever missionaries went. This is another way the Church has been essential throughout history.

Many Christians and critics today are skeptical that the Church is essential or necessary in the modern world. It is. To learn how and why, please join the new online Breakpoint course *The Essential Church: Why the World (and Christians) Still Need the Body of Christ*. Hosted by Colson Center theologian-in-residence Dr. Timothy Padgett, the course will feature thought leaders Dr. Peter Leithart, Dr. Glenn Sunshine, and Collin Hansen. Go to [colsoncenter.org/August](http://colsoncenter.org/August).

—John Stonestreet / President of The Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview

## Pro-life community responds to Walmart decision to fund abortions

Walmart, the nation's largest retailer, recently revealed that it has begun paying for employee abortions. On Wednesday, pro-life leaders expressed their disapproval in a letter to Doug McMillon, the company's president and CEO.

"Surely as board members with a fiduciary responsibility to your shareholders, you must understand that Walmart's increasingly woke policies are alienating millions of your customers who will take their business elsewhere," the letter states. "Your founder Sam Walton would be appalled."

The list of leaders includes William Walton, executive board member of CPAC; Penny Nance, CEO and president of Concerned Women for America; former U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint; Kevin Roberts, president of the Heritage Foundation; and Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the pro-life group

Susan B. Anthony List.

"CPAC and other conservative leaders are changing tactics," said Matt Schlapp, chairman of CPAC. "Once allies, these companies that fund Black Lives Matter and Planned Parenthood are as big an adversary as the woke socialist groups they support. Large publicly held companies need to realize conservative groups and officeholders will no longer do their bidding. We are shelving our polite silence and in full-on battle mode. After November, it will get much worse for these woke corporations."

The letter follows a company expansion of abortion coverage in a memo stating that "effective immediately, the Walmart self-insured health-care plans will cover abortion when there is a health risk to the mother, rape or incest, ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage or lack of fetal viability."



Critics have pointed out that the "health risk" can be used to abort a child if the pregnancy causes mental stress or worry, which abortion supporters say is "health."

Democrats and media outlets have wrongly reported that the recent Supreme Court decision criminalized miscarriages and abortions

related to ectopic pregnancies. No states ban these procedures and there is no proposed legislation in any state or U.S. territory to do so.

The conservative leaders reminded Walmart that "in prior years, the company policy was to offer benefits related to abortion only in cases 'when the health of

the mother would be in danger if the fetus were carried to term, the fetus could not survive the birthing process or death would be imminent after birth.'

Conservatives will neither condone nor forgive Walmart's choice, the letter said. "Conservatives who seek a government that reflects their values should take their business elsewhere," it said. "And no self-proclaimed conservative official or conservative organization should accept funding from Walmart while it supports the policies of the woke left."

The Supreme Court ruling returned to the states, the responsibility for health regulations and legislation over abortion which had been federalized in the 1973 Roe decision. The court ruled there was no constitutional right to an abortion and that it may be regulated by states.

# Free app facilitates prayer for many persecuted Christians around world



A new mobile prayer app developed by Christian persecution watchdog Open Doors USA gives users the ability to connect with persecuted Christians suffering for their faith. Available for free in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store, the Open Doors Prayer App was created to help strengthen and support Christian communities facing high levels of persecution with prayer and encouragement.

“Prayer is the most powerful way to support our brothers and sisters worldwide who are suffering for the sake of the gospel,” CEO David Curry said. “Through this app, we are excited to provide a simple and accessible way to pray for urgent requests from our persecuted family living in the most dangerous countries in the world for Christians.”

The app highlights real stories of Christians in countries where persecution is most intense and information ordinarily is limited, including Afghanistan, North Korea, Nigeria and others. Users can watch videos, scroll through prayer requests and click “pray” to let persecuted Christians know fellow believers are supporting them. A “prayer wall” gives users the opportunity to write out their prayer, seeing other prayers in real time. Prayer requests can be shared through social media, email or text with one click.

Those who download the app can also access Open Doors’ highly cited World Watch List, an annual ranking of the 50 countries where it is most difficult and dangerous to be a Christian. Users can explore country profiles to find information, stories and prayer requests for each of the countries listed, along with ways to support persecuted Christians.

More than 360 million Christians live in places where they experience high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith. Operating in more than 60 countries, Open Doors supplies Bibles, training for church leaders, emergency relief and support to followers of Jesus facing persecution.

For more than 65 years, Open Doors

has worked in the world’s most oppressive regions, empowering, and equipping persecuted Christians by providing

Bibles, training, and programs to help those who have been marginalized for their faith.



There was a lot of action recently during a FitLot exercise class in Willow Park, located at 1800 SW 6th Street. Sign up for the next FitLot session of classes at <https://fitlot.org/parks/topeka/>. All FitLot classes are 100% free to attend and led by certified fitness professionals.

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Open Arms Outreach Ministries, located at 2401 SE 11th St., has made it our mission to put God first and focus on the needs of our community.

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On Dec 15, due to extreme weather conditions, part of our church’s roof was blown off, leaving behind devastating damages. We have exhausted all of our avenues to secure funding and with the colder months approaching, the roof damage is threatening our ability to provide a warm & safe place to live for community members in need. Founder & Lead Pastor of the church Superintendent S.C. Mitchell has been a very active and influential leader within the community for almost two decades now and is doing all he can to ensure that our ministry remains a safe haven for the community.

We are seeking donations from the community to help reach our goal of \$100,000.00 for roof repairs so that we can continue to provide these services. Donations can be dropped off at any CoreFirst Bank & Trust location. All you have to do is let the staff know that you are there to contribute to Open Arms Outreach Ministries Roof Fund.

Donations can also be mailed to Open Arms Outreach Ministries, 2401 SE 11th St, Topeka KS 66607. To contribute through your mobile application, use Cash App: \$OAO20, or Givelify: Open Arms Outreach Ministries (Topeka)

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## NOTO Live Festival is September 9 & 10

The NOTO Arts and Entertainment District is bringing back NOTO Live, a weekend celebration packed full of performance art, live music, busking, and talent of all kinds. Performers will be sprinkled throughout the district, with special acts at Redbud Park, Breezeway Park and Compass Point, and a grand finale by Last Carnival Act and the Arthur Black Band to end the evening.

This action-packed day includes activities for everyone! Otto's Adventure Area will provide special interactive art stations and opportunities for youngsters to try a little busking of their own!

### Friday 6-9pm:

Music by Urban Safari  
Live Art Fusion painting by Jancy Pettitt

### Saturday 11am-10PM:

Last Carnival Act: Flying Fun (Red-

bud Park) 11:15, 12:45, 4:30, 7:45

Bob Dealey 12:00, 2:00

Jovari Downing 11:00 (Compass Point) Professor Farquar & Polecat Annie 12:00 2:15 (RBP & Compass Point)

Zerf Kansas Cowboy 1:00, 3:15 (RBP & Compass Point)

Topeka Swing Dancers 5:30 (RBP)

Topeka Big Band (RBP) 6:00

Last Carnival Act Grand Finale 7:45 (RBP)

Arthur Black Band 8:30 (RBP)

Otto's Adventure Area; Bouncy House, Face Painting, Sunflower Stem, Manessa's Music Academy, Storytime

Volkstember Car Show (Veterans Park) 11-5



Vendors Market 11-5  
Breezeway Park Buskers 11-5  
Comedy Corner 3:30 (Compass Point)  
Artist Demonstrations w/ Shelly Bedsaul, Pam Saunders, Kammy Downs (Redbud Park Pavilion) 11-5  
ARTS-TEMBER Raffle (RBP Pavilion)

Check out *Exploring Watercolor and Collage*, September 7 at 6pm. Artist Michaela Butterworth will teach basics to watercolor and collage. This is a FREE workshop as part of the NOTO Arts-tember celebrations. Class time starts at 6pm. Call the business office to reserve your spot, 785-408-8996; NOTO Arts Center, 935 N Kansas Ave.

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.

### Other North Topeka events:

SATURDAY NIGHT CRUISES are held every 4th Saturday at The Pad.

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://mtcctoepka.org/.../parish.../holy-smokin-jamboree!> Two full days of fun for the whole family

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# the events calendar

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

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**53rd HILLSBORO Arts & Crafts Fair**

Saturday 9am - 4pm  
September 17, 2022

Find us on Facebook


- Over 300 vendors from across the nation
- Bake sale, German food and Kaffeehaus
- The Midwestern Creative Art Market

For more information, contact

**Hillsboro Arts & Crafts Association**

110 N. Main  
Hillsboro, Kansas 67063  
620-947-3506  
[director@hillsboroartsandcraftsfair.org](mailto:director@hillsboroartsandcraftsfair.org)  
[www.hillsboroartsandcraftsfair.org](http://www.hillsboroartsandcraftsfair.org)

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**Sep. 8, 11:30-1: "POWER" Luncheon**  
at Thornton Place  
2901 SW Armstrong

RSVP to [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org). Open to the public.

- Oct. 8: **FALL FEST** at Vinewood, 10-3
- Oct. 13: **POWER Luncheon**, 11:30-1
- Nov. 10: **POWER Luncheon**, 11:30-1
- Dec. 8: **CHRISTMAS Luncheon**, 11:30-1

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

## CONCERTS

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

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

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

**LIVE AT LUNCH** – Wednesdays, 11-1 at Every Plaza. Live music and food vendors. Sep. 7: Delta Haze; Sep. 14: Matthew Mulnix; Sep. 21: Soul 2 Soul; Sep. 28: Simple Pieces

**EATS & BEATS** – Every Thursday, 6:30pm-8:30pm, Every Plaza. Bring lawn chairs. Food trucks, beer gardens. Sep. 8: Darsonics; Sep. 22: Steve Kile Band

**SUMMERTIME BLUES CONCERT SERIES** – Sep. 14, 7-9pm, Gage Park Amphitheatre. Mark and the Sharks.

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

**BOP DADDIES** – Sep. 24, 8pm, The Vinewood. Doors open at 7. Cash bar & snacks available! Tickets: \$10 at the door or at [thehistoricvinewood.com](http://thehistoricvinewood.com). 785.260.6772

**FORECLOSURE** – Sep. 30, 8pm, The Vinewood. Doors open at 7. Cash bar & snacks available! Tickets: \$10 at the door or at [thehistoricvinewood.com](http://thehistoricvinewood.com). 785.260.6772

**JOSEPH HALL** – ELVIS TRIBUTE ARTIST – Sep. 30, 7pm, Jayhawk Theatre. [Jayhawktheatre.org](http://Jayhawktheatre.org)

**STEVE KILE** – Oct. 14, 7pm, The Vinewood. Doors open at 6. Cash bar & snacks available! Tickets: \$10 at the door or at [thehistoricvinewood.com](http://thehistoricvinewood.com). 785.260.6772

**GUARDIANS IN CONCERT** – Oct. 21, 7pm, Wana-maker Woods Nazarene, 3501 SW Wanamaker. Free will offering, doors open at 6pm. 785-273-2248, [woodsnaaz@wnnaz.org](mailto:woodsnaaz@wnnaz.org)

## SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

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

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

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

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

**INSIDE OUT FELLOWSHIP CHURCH** – Every Sunday 12pm service; Every Tuesday 7:30pm service. Loca-

tion: 2020 SE 21st. For info: 785-380-7031 or [io@insideoutinc.net](mailto:io@insideoutinc.net) or [www.insideoutinc.net](http://www.insideoutinc.net)

**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

**COMMUNITY NIGHT OF WORSHIP** – Sep. 17 & Oct. 22, 6pm, Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Road. Parent meeting, meet your teacher, pick up supplies, find classroom, enjoy snacks & fellowship! 785.266.3247. Come & worship Jesus with us!

holidays, at noon at Auburn Civic Center, 1020 N. Washington Street. Minimal cost per person. Reservations/cancellations required 24 hours in advance by calling Meals on Wheels of Jefferson & Shawnee Co. at 295-3980. Each meal includes 1% milk & sugar-free items for diabetics. 215- 0064.

**TOPEKA TWILIGHT LIONS BRANCH CLUB** – 4th Mondays at 6:30pm, Norsemen Brewing Co. Social gathering, guests welcome. [Topekalions.org](http://Topekalions.org)

**TOPEKA LIONS CLUB** – 2nd Mondays at Noon at Wings, Etc. Come at 11:30 to order from the menu. Guests welcome.

**MEDICARE MONDAYS** – First Mon. ea. month, 1-3pm. Topeka/Sh. Co. Public Library, 1515 SW 10th. Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging offers Senior health insurance counseling. For info: 580-4545 or [nhonl@tscpl.org](mailto:nhonl@tscpl.org)



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

## FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

**SENIORS NUTRITIONAL LUNCH** – Weekdays, except

**HISTORIC LECOMPTON**  
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OF KANSAS 1855 - 1861

**CIVIL WAR HISTORY**

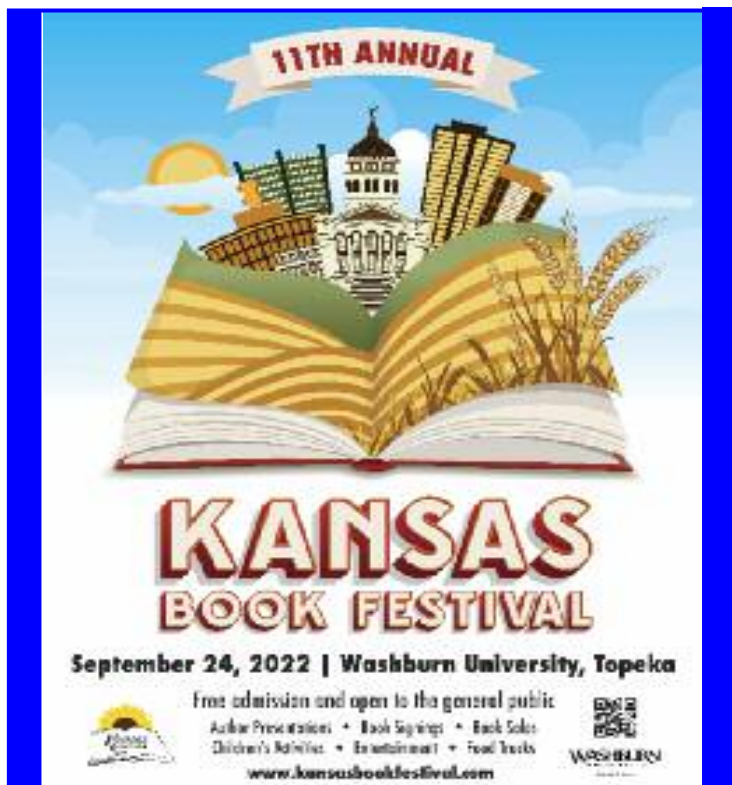



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Purchase tickets early at Topeka Dillons stores and ReHome in Topeka.

[www.CiderDays.com](http://www.CiderDays.com)

Park on the WEST side. Gym is inside the doors.

**TOPEKA SWING DANCE LESSONS** - Tuesdays, 7-8pm, no partner required, Jayhawk Theatre, 720 SW Jackson. <http://jayhawktheatre.org/events>

**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; [wesquaradance.com](http://wesquaradance.com) [shawneeswingers@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.lecomptonkansas.com) [historiclecompton@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.hopeandhealingacademy.com).

**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.

**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.

**SEP. CYCLING EVENTS** - Various cycle rides are offered by Kansas Cyclist. [www.kansascyclist.com/](http://www.kansascyclist.com/)

**SEP. OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES** - Outdoor events and activities. [www.getoutdoorskansas.org/calendar](http://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, 4-6 pm at Overbrook Fair Grounds

**FRIDAY FLICKS** - Second Fridays, 8pm at Every

Plaza. Bring a blanket or lawn chair & get comfy. Food trucks on hand.

**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](http://www.KCRenFest.com). 913-721-2110 (email [voice@cox.net](mailto:voice@cox.net) to see how to get free tickets from Metro Voice!)



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**633 N. 130th St., Bonner Springs, KS**

**KCRenFest.com 913-721-2110**

**Free Parking**



# Christian History: Bible backing archaeologist Kenyon

Seventy years ago this month, Frederick George Kenyon passed away. He was a trailblazer in biblical archaeology.

“Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established.”

Frederick George Kenyon was in an authoritative position to write those words. After graduating from Oxford University (where he also tutored), he went to work for the British Museum in 1889. Nine years later he had become assistant keeper of manuscripts. By 1909 he was its director and head librarian. A renowned scholar of ancient languages, he also took a deep interest in the Bible.

His position offered him many opportunities to study ancient papyri in the Greek language. Papyri are documents written on Egyptian reed “paper.” He showed that there are parallels between things written in Greek documents and the text of the Bible.

Scholars as great as Kenyon often write in such a way that few people can follow what they say. But Frederick had a gift for making his words understandable to ordinary people. He wrote books such as *Our Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts*. He was convinced that science does not disprove the Bible, but rather supports it.

Kenyon concluded from his research, “The Christian can take the



whole Bible in his hand and say without fear or hesitation that he holds in it the true Word of God, handed down without essential loss from generation to generation, throughout the centuries.

Writing about the Bible, he showed that our documentary evidence for it is very good compared to the documentary evidence for other events in ancient history. For instance, here is what he has to say about Sophocles: “We believe that we have in all essentials an accurate

text of the seven extant plays [plays for which we still have copies] of Sophocles; yet the earliest substantial manuscript upon which it is based was written more than 1,400 years after the poet’s death.” By comparison, the oldest manuscripts of the New Testament date just decades after the death and resurrection of Jesus and almost every verse of the New Testament had been quoted in a writing by someone somewhere by the third century.

“The number of manuscripts of the New Testament, or early translations from it in the oldest writers of the Church, is so large that it is practically certain that the true reading of every doubtful passage is preserved in some one or other of these ancient authorities. This can be said of no other ancient book in the world.”

Kenyon concluded from his research, “The Christian can take the whole Bible in his hand and say without fear or hesitation that he

holds in it the true Word of God, handed down without essential loss from generation to generation, throughout the centuries.”

In 1920, Sir Frederick became president of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem. He had been knighted in 1912. Between 1933 and 1936, Kenyon published the famous Chester Beatty papyri in five volumes. The British Museum had acquired these. They dated from about 200 AD and included most of the Epistles of Paul.

Kenyon was not only interested in the Bible, but in the era of Aristotle and the poetry of Robert Browning. The great scholar died August 23, 1952. He was 89 years old, but had lived long enough to learn of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

#### Bibliography:

“Kathleen Mary Kenyon.” [http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/information/biography/kmno/kenyon\\_kathleen.html](http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/information/biography/kmno/kenyon_kathleen.html)

Kenyon, Frederic G. *The Bible and Archaeology*. New York, Harper, 1940.

Various encyclopedia and internet articles, such as “Kenyon” in *Encyclopedia Americana*, 1956.

—by Dan Graves

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# 4.9 Million Illegal Aliens Have Crossed our Borders Since President Biden Took Office

The Federation for American Immigration Reform issued the following statement, as well as a deeper dive into the growing border crisis, based on data quietly released yesterday by the Biden administration:

Earlier this month, President Biden took credit for the July inflation rate being “only” 8.5 percent. Now that July border numbers are finally public, the White House may take credit for the fact that “only” 199,976 illegal aliens crossed our border, down from 207,416 in June.

A minor drop in border encounters is not encouraging. Traditionally, numbers drop in the hottest summer months, and last month’s figures actually represent a 325 percent increase over the average number of July apprehensions under the Trump administration. More significantly, July numbers bring the total of illegal aliens crossing our borders since President Biden took office to 4.9 million, including some 900,000 “gotaways” who eluded apprehension and have since disappeared into American communities.

“Roughly the equivalent of the entire population of Ireland has illegally entered the United States in the 18 months President Biden has been in office, with many being released into American communities. In that time, the Biden administration has blamed an unprecedented surge of illegal immigration on all sorts of external factors, except their own sabotage of our nation’s immigration laws. The endless flow of illegal aliens and the incursion of lethal narcotics pouring across our border will not end until this administration demonstrates a willingness to enforce our laws,” said Dan Stein, president of FAIR.

FAIR Border Snapshot for July 2022

- Since President Biden took office, nearly 4.9 million illegal aliens have crossed our borders.

lion illegal aliens have crossed our borders.

- o This includes the 3.9 million nationwide total reported by CBP – which includes a whopping 3.4 million at our Southwest border – as well as approximately 900,000 gotaways who have entered the country undetected per agency sources.

- CBP had 199,976 encounters at the Southwest border in July 2022, including 134,362 single adults, 51,822 family units, and 13,299 unaccompanied minors.

- o This is a 325 percent increase from the average number of July apprehensions under President Trump.

- o CBP has encountered more illegal aliens in just 10 months of FY 2022 than in the entirety of FY 2021.

- o July was the 17th straight month with more than 150,000 encounters.

- CBP reports that 10 individuals on the FBI’s terror watchlist were apprehended between ports of entry at the Southwest border in July, bringing the total for the current fiscal year to 66.

- The Biden administration continues its crusade to end the Title 42 public health authority, despite extending other COVID-related national emergencies.

- o In July, CBP expelled only 37 percent of illegal aliens using Title 42, a 7 percent drop compared to last month.

- 2,071 pounds of fentanyl and 12,989 pounds of methamphetamine were seized at the southern border in July, with much more getting through because Border Patrol agents are busy processing illegal aliens.

- The amount of fentanyl seized in July is equivalent to 469 million lethal doses.



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## TOPEKA Small Businesses:

Has your business been hurt by the pandemic?

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Send your ad or information to **Lee Hartman at: voice@cox.net**

We'll make any changes you need & send you a proof.

# Speak Softly and Carry a Big Rifle: A Church Steeped in Abolitionist History

Don't mess with Kansas's Beecher Bible and Rifle Church.

In 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed, organizing the territory that would eventually become the great states of Kansas, Nebraska, Montana, and the Dakotas.

The land was vast, and peaceful, already inhabited by Indigenous people and roaming bison. It lay north of 1820 Missouri Compromise, which meant slavery here was technically prohibited. However a powerful coalition of politicians from the South was trying to change that restriction and repeal the Compromise. To appease them, the 1854 Act stipulated that the new territory would be organized "with or without" slavery. In other words, the citizens could vote amongst themselves to be a free or slave state.

Kansas could go either way. And so, the race was on. Pro- and anti-slavery acts flooded the territories in an attempt to sway the vote in a time that became known as "Bleeding Kansas." If you were going to come down, you needed to be armed.

Which is exactly what a group from New Haven, Connecticut did.



An anti-slavery coalition of 60 men were formed, led by activist Charles B. Lines, with the purpose of emigrating and setting up shop physically and idealistically in Kansas. Before they left, the congregation of New Haven's North Church held a meeting to provide the group with the necessary provisions and arms for their journey. There, Yale professor Benjamin Siliman pledged \$25 to provide them with a Sharps rifle. The Reverend Henry Ward Beecher from Brooklyn—who opened the meeting with an antislavery sermon—fol-

lowed suit, promising that if 25 rifles were pledged that day, his congregation in New York would pledge 25 more. At the end of the meeting in Connecticut, 27 rifles were pledged.

A few days later Beecher (brother of abolitionist Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of Uncle Tom's Cabin) sent Lines \$625 for the rifles. With it came 25 bibles. According to lore the rifles were smuggled through Missouri—a slave state—disguised with the Bibles, most likely in crates marked "Bibles."

Later, the imposing Sharps rifle would be nicknamed the Beecher Bible.

When the group of Connecticut settlers got to Wabaunsee (an indigenous word meaning "Dawn of the Day") first by train to Kansas City, then by wagon partially along the Oregon Trail, there was already a bustling tent town in place. On the South bank of the Kaw—now Kansas—river a settler had built a tiny store. Streets were being laid out. Makeshift church services were held in tents, which later became cabins. Not all the settlers could endure the rough pioneer life: some gave up and went back up North. Things got better when company in the form of wives and children came down to join. With a steady population, in June 1857 they decided it was time to organize a church officially, and "the First Church of Christ in Wabaunsee" was born. Of this initial group of 28 charter members, nine were

women.

Funds for the permanent church were mostly raised in New Haven, and the structure was built using sturdy stone hauled from quarries by oxen. Mortar was mixed by hand. Straight-backed pews were divided down the center of the church by a partition that divided men and women. The churchyard was lined with hitching posts.

In 1861, the work of the settlers came to fruition: Kansas entered the Union as a free state. In May 1862, the church, now the Beecher Bible and Rifle Church, was dedicated, and became one of the largest and most influential Congregation churches in Kansas.

As time passed settlers moved on, and the church became deserted. But in 1950 the residents of Wabaunsee had formed a new church group. They began holding weekly services again, and it's thought that this new incarnation was one of the first churches in Kansas to integrate, continuing the settlers' legacy. Renovations came in 1957 to the rural century-old structure in the form of a new floor, a tile ceiling, and replacing coal stoves with modern heaters. New pews were put in with comfortable padded seating, and stained glass windows for a wel-

coming pop of color. In the back room is a cabinet of history with a plaque that reads "Integrity is Doing the Right Thing When No One is Watching," flanked by pictures of the pioneers and parishioners throughout history. Black and white parishioners are represented, and a picture of an impressively-bearded Charles B. Lines—the original leader of the Connecticut group—makes an appearance. There's also a couple of incredible shots of two older women wearing cat-eye glasses, handling one of the Sharps rifles.

In 1969, a monument was erected in a park a few blocks north of the church, which reads, "In Memory of the Beecher Bible and Rifle Colony, which Settled This Area in 1856 and Helped Make Kansas a Free State. May Future Generations Pay Them Tribute."

In 1992, a new structure was added to the church, with modern facilities for classes and Sunday School. Today you can still attend a Sunday church service—continuously running since 1950—or take a tour. Maybe leave your rifle at home.

—By Vanita Salisbury

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### 5 practical upgrades to increase style, function

Whether you've purchased a new house or are just looking to invest in what is likely your largest asset, home improvements can make your living space more comfortable, functional and stylish.

Homebuyers are looking for practical home amenities that allow them to live, work and play – such as dedicated home offices, backyard retreats, home gyms and more – without having to worry about any potential future restrictions caused by the pandemic, according to a survey by Zolo of more than 3,300 new homeowners and potential first-time buyers in 2022.

Consider these upgrade ideas to create a space built for your family's needs that can also increase resale value.

#### Home Office

At the height of the pandemic, many professionals found themselves working remotely – a trend that continued as restrictions were lifted. In fact, 46% of survey respondents listed a dedicated office space as a must-have when purchasing a new home. When creating this space, keep function and efficiency top of mind. Build your home office around a desk – then consider additions like an ergonomic chair and keyboard, soft light desk lamp, mood-boosting plants and a white

board to stay organized. Don't forget to add flairs of personality like artwork, knick-knacks or photos of loved ones to make it your own.

#### Skylights

By improving the overall look and functionality of dark spaces, such as home offices where natural light can improve creativity and productivity, an option like skylights can increase the value of a home, and 55% of new homebuyers rated skylights as desirable or essential, according to research from the National Association of Home Builders. For rooms that need brightening, skylights can free up wall space for storage while adding abundant natural light and increasing ventilation. An option like Velux No Leak Solar-Powered Fresh Air Skylights help rid indoor air of bacteria, volatile organic compounds and carbon dioxide.

Over the long-term, high-quality skylights can also help reduce carbon emissions and home energy consumption, saving money on household bills, according to Urban Grade. Remote-controlled models can be opened to bring fresh air inside, and with light-



filtering or room-darkening shades homeowners have maximum control over the exact amount of light they want. Plus, solar-powered shades come in more than 75 colors and patterns, allowing homeowners nearly endless customization options. Learn more at [whyskylights.com](http://whyskylights.com).

#### Backyard Retreat

Perfect for hosting friends, dining al fresco or simply relaxing with the backdrop of nature, 48% of survey respondents cited a backyard retreat as a must-have home amenity. Start with a deck or patio then customize your outdoor living space to meet your family's wants and needs. Weather-proof furniture can add comfort while features like outdoor kitchens, fireplaces, fans and lighting can create a connection to your indoor areas that add both style and function.

#### Walk-In Pantry

If you want to add a pantry in your kitchen, you're not alone. Walk-in pantries found their way onto 48% of respondents' lists of must-haves. To get started, consider your storage needs to determine the amount of space you'll require and remember to vary shelving heights to maximize space. Open shelving can also be combined with additional counter space, cabinets, pull-out organizers and other features to help match the design to the rest of your kitchen.

#### Home Gym

Another trend that rose in popularity amid the pandemic, home gyms can take on a variety of shapes and sizes, utilizing available space in the garage, basement, a spare bedroom or even the backyard. Providing more

time to fit workouts into your schedule, home gyms can be customized with equipment most important for your lifestyle. From yoga mats, jump ropes and free weights to treadmills, ellipti-

cals and benches and racks, your space, budget and goals can help in the creation or update of a dedicated, in-home workout space.

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# entertainment

## Will 'Rings of Power' TV series be faithful to Tolkien?

As the Sept. 2 release date of Amazon Prime's controversial series "Rings of Power" nears, fan anticipation is building immensely. The show is meant to be a prequel to J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the Rings", set during the fictional Second Age that resulted in Sauron's rise to power.

Fans of Tolkien's original work and the early 2000s movie adaptations by Peter Jackson fear that the show will be a soulless cash-grab that fails to capture the spirit of Middle Earth properly. The creators' initial comments that they wanted the show to be "the new Game of Thrones" made many fear that the show would feature explicit sex scenes — something the showrunners have since denied. An emphasis on diverse casting, for diversity's sake, created early backlash on social media.

For religious fans, opinions of the new show will depend on how faithfully it captures Tolkien's Christianity.

Tolkien's explicitly Christian imagination is at the heart of "The Lord of the Rings" story, so the involvement of creators who largely disagree with that worldview has caused preliminary worry — particularly since the show is using original material that doesn't just follow the books.

Joseph Pearce, author of "The Hidden Meaning of Lord of the Rings" and director of book publishing at The Augustine Institute, noted the strong and public nature of Tolkien's faith in an exclusive interview with ReligionUnplugged.com.

"Tolkien said that 'The Lord of the Rings' is, of course, a fundamentally religious and Catholic work," Pearce said. "Elsewhere he said that the fact that he was a Christian and in fact a Roman Catholic was the most important connection between his role as author and the nature of the work, adding that the Catholic dimension can be deduced from the stories."

Famous philosopher and Christian apologist Peter Kreeft, speaking at Biola University, said, "You'll notice that there's no overt religion in 'The Lord of the Rings'. There's no churches. There's no temples. There's no prayers. Why is that? Well, when Frodo and Sam enter the elf forest of Lothlórien, Sam says, 'There's strong magic here all over the place, but you can't see anybody working it.' Well, that's not just true of Lothlórien, that's



true of the whole 'Lord of the Rings.' And for a Christian, that's true of the world. The presence of God is everywhere — so ubiquitous that you don't notice it, as a fish doesn't notice the ocean. In fact, I would go so far as to say that the single most important character in 'The Lord of the Rings' is God."

The Rev. Fleming Rutledge, author of "Battle For Middle Earth: Tolkien's Divine Design in 'The Lord of the Rings'", emphasized this point in an exclusive interview with ReligionUnplugged.com.

"The real agency in the story is that of God," she said. "God is the real actor. The important thread that runs through the book is God at work. And the fact that it's so hard to see unless you're looking for it — or unless you're hit over the head by it, like I was — the fact that it is hidden is so important because in life God is hidden most of the time."

The most obvious place this is referenced is in Gandalf's speech to Frodo in "The Fellowship of the Ring" explaining why it is right not to kill the despicable Gollum.

Frodo: It's a pity Bilbo didn't kill Gollum when he had the chance.

Gandalf: Pity? It was pity that stayed Bilbo's hand. Many that live deserve death. Some that die deserve life. Can you give it to them, Frodo? Do not be too eager to deal out death in judgment. Even the very wise cannot see all ends. My heart tells me that Gollum has some part to play in it, for good or evil, before this is over. The pity of Bilbo may rule the fate of many.

Frodo: I wish the Ring had never come to me. I wish none of this had happened.

Gandalf: So do all who live to see such times, but that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with

the time that is given to us. There are other forces at work in this world, Frodo, besides that of evil. Bilbo was meant to find the Ring, in which case you were also meant to have it. And that is an encouraging thought.

Rutledge calls what happens in the book's climax "one of the greatest written endings in fiction."

Frodo, overcome by the ring's corrupting influence, says he can't destroy it and threatens to leave Mount Doom with his mission incomplete. Instead, Gollum is the one to destroy the ring — destroying himself in the process.

"Gollum completes the task, but the task is strategized not by Gollum, and not by Frodo, and not even by Gandalf," Kreeft said. "It's strategized by God. The God behind this invisible magic of divine providence is the real hero of 'The Lord of the Rings.' But he's an anonymous God; he's a humble God; he's a Christlike God. He's not like Zeus or Thor."

The Bible's idea of sin also plays a prominent role in the narrative and lives of characters in Tolkien's work.

"This is not a battle of good versus evil," Rutledge said. "I can't emphasize that strongly enough. If you start thinking about it that way, you're going to start putting characters on the good side and characters on the bad side and you're going to lose all the depth and all the nuance. The ring is able to rule anyone."

Instead, in the same way Christians understand that sin is universal but can be forgiven, the characters of "Lord of the Rings" both have the propensity for good and evil within them.

For religious people, these elements are distinctly Christian. Losing them would be to lose what makes "Lord of the Rings" as powerful as it is.

Some are less than optimistic about

## Johnny Cash's son releases book of devotions based on his father's faith



Although Johnny Cash died two decades ago, his spiritual influence lives on. His son, John Carter Cash, is keeping the flame of his dad's faith alive by compiling a new devotional book titled "Walking the Line: 90 Devotions of Truth and Hope Based on the Faith of Johnny Cash."

The text is a compilation of Johnny Cash's past spiritual quotes and never-before-seen proclamations, with his son explaining how important God and the Bible were to his dad.

"My father's faith was defining of who he was," Cash says. "My dad fell short in many ways through his life, but he always went back to that faith. He always carried that with him no matter what, wherever he went. Everything that he did in his life, that was a foundation."

Cash described his dad and late mom, June Carter Cash, as "down-to-earth, regular people." Despite being larger than life on stage, he said his father

had a "great sense of humility" and a wonderful sense of humor. In the end, Cash — who had a well-known friendship with Billy Graham — valued the things in life that truly matter.

"The things that he stood for are ... essential aspects of love and respect for family and forgiveness," Cash said, adding that he tries in his own life to live by his dad's examples. "His faith was like unto Job. He did not curse God. He realized that he was human, and his faith helped carry him."

Cash said he leans on this example when he faces turmoil or hardships in his own life. "I remember what my father stood for," he said. "I remember his face. I remember the beauty that he carried at those times of hardship, and then it helps me find it within myself."

He hopes the devotional helps readers "forgive as far as East to West," a message his dad embraced. Cash also hopes fans will glean advice on living a more Christian life

whether the show will capture these elements, given it is done by Amazon.

"It won't do it," Pearce said. "It's like trying to reason with Sauron. It's a waste of time."

However, others think fear over "Rings of Power" is misplaced. Stephen Colbert, who's both a Catholic and a Tolkien superfan, is excited about the show.

"Of course it can be challenging to have something you love as much as 'Lord of the Rings' and that entire world taken on by someone new," Colbert said at this year's San Diego Comic Con. "I've gotten to meet showrunners Jaden Payne and Patrick McKay, and I am struck by their sincerity and love of this world."

It remains to be seen whether the show will be faithful to the religion inherent in Tolkien's work. If it isn't, it may at least excite a new generation to read the

original works and explore the deep theology bubbling beneath the surface.

"People can read 'The Lord of the Rings' just for fun or to get a very powerful experience of good and evil — and to experience from the inside some of the great mythology of the world and also derive some philosophy of life from it," Rutledge said. "I think there's some food for thought for everyone in it. You don't have to be a theological nerd to enjoy the book, but for those who are open to theological nuance, it's a hundred times richer."

Joseph Holmes is an award-nominated filmmaker and culture critic living in New York City. He is co-host of the podcast "The Overthinkers" and its website [theoverthinkersjournal.com](http://theoverthinkersjournal.com), where he discusses art, culture and faith with his fellow overthinkers.



## 'A Christmas Story' Sequel Coming • Kendrick's movie 'Lifemark' is an inspiring adoption story

Fans got their first introduction to Ralphie's family and friends nearly 40 years ago in the film that would become a Christmas classic — and a sequel to "A Christmas Story" will drop this year on HBO Max.

In the highly anticipated film titled "A Christmas Story Christmas," fans will check in on "grown-up" Ralphie — played once again by Peter Billingsly — who "must deal with Christmas and all that comes with it, this time as a dad," according to the a description from the streaming site.

"With the same attention-to-real-life tone of the first, Ralphie reconnects with childhood friends, reconciles the passing of his Old Man and sows the seeds for the origins of the beloved holiday classic," the film's logline read.

It will reportedly take place in the 1970s, with Billingsly playing an adult Ralphie, bringing his family to his childhood home for the holiday. Erinn Hayes, Julianna Layne, River Drosche, RD Robb and Scott Schwartz along with Zack Ward and Julie Hagerty also star.

For those who might have somehow missed the original movie, the film follows



a kid in the 1940s, (Ralphie) on the adventure that culminates in him getting the one Christmas gift he would die for, a Red Ryder BB rifle from Santa Claus. Through a series of hilarious incidents, everyone from his teacher to the Santa Claus mall tells him he will "shoot his eye out" if he gets one.

But regardless, Santa does deliver that BB gun on Christmas morning and well, not to spoil it, but the advice he got from others about the potential risks of owning a rifle do not seem completely unwarranted.

Despite the cult following the legendary Christmas movie has had, it was originally considered a box office flop in 1983 when it hit the big screen.

"A Christmas Story Christmas" debuts on HBO Max November 17.

-Katie Jerkovich | Daily Wire

## Candace Cameron Bure Encourages Gratitude

In a recent Instagram Story, Candace Cameron Bure got vulnerable with her followers as she cried over the "state of the world."

"Do you ever scroll through Instagram and just get sad at the state of the world?" the actress said. "That's me right now."

Even as she teared up, Bure let her fans know that she works on practicing gratitude and encouraged her fans to do the same.

"I'm going to think of the things that I am grateful for, and I am grateful for God, Lord Jesus Christ, who's in control of all of it," she explained. "I'm grateful that He's already given all of us and me the ability to be justified before Him and be sanctified throughout the process of my life and that He redeems it all at the end."

Movieguide® has previously reported on Bure's comments about finding comfort in her faith:

Candace Cameron Bure told Movieguide®'s Evy Baehr Carroll that the Bible is getting her through everything surrounding COVID-19.

"I'm in my Bible every day, like that's absolutely been getting me through



everything," Bure said in an interview with Movieguide®. "It's just knowing where God's truth is, and not allowing my worry or even the anxiety or the frustration that I feel that many times get to me because that's really where the source of truth is for me, so I'm in the word every day."

Bure's comments touch on the scripture verse found in Matthew 6:34, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Now more than ever we're bombarded by darkness in media, movies, and TV. Movieguide® has fought back for almost 40 years, working within Hollywood to propel uplifting and positive content. We're proud to say we've collaborated with some of the top industry players to influence and redeem entertainment for Jesus. Still, the most influential person in Hollywood is you. The viewer.

What you listen to, watch, and read has power. Movieguide® wants to give you the resources to empower the good and the beautiful. But we can't do it alone. We need your support.

Filmmakers Alex and Stephen Kendrick are known for movies that convict your heart, tug at your emotions and point you toward a major biblical truth.

*Courageous* (2011) urged fathers to take their roles more seriously. *War Room* (2015) encouraged Christians to take prayer more seriously. *Overcomer* (2019) reminded believers of their identity found only in Christ. And *Fireproof* (2008) helped strengthen countless marriages.

The Kendricks will release their latest film, *Lifemark*, on Sept. 9. The good news? It has the same emotional punch and gospel-centric truth of those earlier hits.

Inspired by true events, *Lifemark* tells the story of David, an 18-year-old high school teenager who is enjoying a care-free life when he learns that his birth mother -- David is adopted -- wants to contact him.

Thankfully, David's adoptive parents, played by Kirk Cameron and Rebecca Rogers, have prepared David for this moment by openly discussing his birth history and by championing her heroic role in his life. Still, it's a lot to process.

"I don't even know her," David says pensively, unsure what he should do.

"There's no rush," his father responds.

As we follow this emotion-laden plot, we also get to know more about David and his family's past. He's a high school wrestler. He's a talented public speaker, too, and we see that on display as he gives a speech about his adoption in front of a large audience. As he's speaking on stage, we watch as his birth mom -- hundreds of miles away -- googles for information about him, thrilled to learn about the young man he has become. It's one of the movie's best moments.

Eventually, David becomes friends with his birth mom, Melissa (played by Dawn Long), on social media. After a few exchanges, he decides to meet her face to face. He's excited, but nervous, about the in-person visit.

Asked what he may say to her, he thinks for a moment and answers solemnly: "Thank-you."

*Lifemark* is an inspiring pro-adoption movie that perfectly captures all the emotions of the adoption process -- making you empathetic for both sides as you cheer for David's success in life.

Via flashbacks, we learn why David's birth parents placed him for adoption (they were young). We also watch his birth parents sort through dozens of paper bios before landing on the mom and dad that became his adoptive parents. (During one emotional scene, we



watch a young Melissa place an out-of-the-blue phone call to his future adoptive mom, asking her how she baits her fishing hook.) We then watch David being raised as a baby, then a toddler, then a child.

No doubt, there are multiple scenes that bring tears to your eyes.

The filmmakers, though, smartly use humor to cut the emotional tension thanks to David's goofball friend, Nate, who is filming a documentary about David's life and wants him to display more on-screen joy. ("You have the emotion of a rock!")

The film's lead actor, Raphael Ruggero, is stellar.

It is the first Kendrick Brothers film not directed by Alex Kendrick (who is an executive producer). That chore went to Kevin Peeples, who previously directed *Like Arrows*.

The movie's first hour is as gripping as any Kendrick Brothers film ever.

*Lifemark* is a faith-based movie that promotes adoption, affirms biblical truth and leaves you wanting to get more involved in the adoption movement.

It's a film every church can embrace.

Visit [LifemarkMovie.com](http://LifemarkMovie.com).

### Also worth watching this month:

**Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters/Love + Local** (Pureflix) -- In *Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters*, a father comes to grips with his now-grown daughter getting married and moving to Mexico. It's based on the book by Meg Meeker and has the uplifting "feel" of a Hallmark movie. In *Love+Local*, two morning DJs of a popular Christian radio station cope with change under a new producer. It's a mockumentary series starring Dave Coulier and Emily Pender-

gast. Both titles are hilarious, solid additions to the lineup of Pureflix, a faith-based service that has grown its library since being sold to Sony in 2020.

**Family Camp** (Home Video) -- Two polar-opposite families are forced to share a yurt at a Christian summer camp. The film stars the faith-based comedy duo best-known as the Skit Guys -- Tommy Woodard and Eddie James -- who play the respective fathers. It's one of the best family-friendly comedies in recent years and includes solid messages about parenting, forgiveness, priorities and love.

**David** (Sight-Sound.TV) -- The incredible story of King David is re-told in this musical extravaganza, which combines live-action, special effects and tunes inspired by the Psalms to tell a Broadway-style biblical story at Sight & Sound's theater in Lancaster, Pa. *David* will be broadcast live at Sight-Sound.TV on Sept. 2, with encore showings on Sept. 3 and 4. If you've never watched a Sight & Sound production -- it's the best Bible-based musical in the U.S. -- then you're missing out.

**Rise** (Disney Plus) -- A young boy overcomes poverty growing up in Athens, Greece, to become one of the best basketball players in NBA history. *Rise* is the incredible story of Giannis and Thanasis Antetokounmpo, who sold trinkets to tourists on the Athens streets and didn't discover basketball until they were teens (Giannis was 13). Both now play in the NBA. The film is faith-centric -- we often see them and their parents pray -- and family-friendly.

*Michael Foust has covered the intersection of faith and entertainment for more than 15 years. He is the husband to Julie and the father of four young children.*

# 50+ Lifestyles

## A Guide to Enjoying Life in the Best Years

### Keep Grandma Safe at Home: 4 Easy Ways

Ninety percent of older Americans say they want to age in-place and live in their home and not in an assisted living facility. But every 20 minutes, an older adult dies from the consequences of a fall. But there are simple things you can do to keep grandma safe in their space.

Sarah Grant, an 84-year-old woman, tells of a dangerous fall she suffered at home. "I laid in the yard for about two and a half hours before the next-door neighbor saw me laying there. I fell going in there into that back room, I couldn't get up." Grant has fallen more times

than she can remember, "I could almost write a book for falling."

Susan Stark, PhD, is an Occupational Therapist at Washington University, she states, "I was stunned to understand that for any older adult, 65 or older, the risk of falling is huge. So, you could have a 25 to 33 percent chance of falling, even if you don't have any risk factors for falling."



not gotten up in the morning, or if there is continued movement in one place. Keep grandma safe! — *Ivanhoe Newswire*

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A Harvard study found the five most important universal design features in the home are no-step entries, extra-wide hallways, accessible living spaces on the ground floor and accessible light switches and door levers. But the same study found only one percent of homes in America have all five features. But that's not all you can do.

Emily Somerville from Washington University adds that "Things like these carpets, where the edges can lift up and cause a problem with a walker getting stuck or a foot getting stuck."

Guardrails on steps, benches on tubs and handrails in showers all cut fall risks by 50 percent. As for Grant, she uses all the help she can get.

"All I had to do was just make myself stop and grab hold to something," Grant explains.

If you would like a high-tech way to keep a watch on your loved ones without intruding on their privacy, instead of placing video cameras, motion monitors can be installed to alert you if your loved one has

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**Medicare doesn't pay for dental care!**  
As good as Medicare is, it was never meant to cover everything. If you want protection, you need to purchase individual insurance.

**Early detection can prevent small problems from becoming expensive ones.**  
The best way to avoid large dental bills is preventive care. Experts recommend checkups twice a year.

**Previous dental work can wear out.**  
Your odds of having a dental problem only go up as you age.<sup>2</sup>

**Treatment is expensive — especially the services people over 50 often need.**  
Unexpected bills, like \$189 for a filling, or \$1,219 for a crown<sup>3</sup> can be a real burden, especially if you're on a fixed income.

#### When you're comparing plans ...

▶ Look for coverage that helps pay for major services.

▶ Look for coverage with no deductibles.

▶ Shop for coverage with no annual maximum on cash benefits.

**Simply put — without dental insurance, there may be an important gap in your healthcare coverage.**

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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Use it or lose it, something we have all heard at one time or another. We know that things left unto themselves with no outside input will break-down. Well, that includes our bodies and even our spiritual walk. In this article we will look at the impact of aging and neglect on our physical muscles and strength along with our faith.

Like myself, if you have lived long enough you notice changes in your body from when we were in our 30's, heck even our 20's. We may feel the same in our heads, but some definite changes have taken place.

In fact, muscle strength peaks for most in their mid-20's and can be relatively maintained into our 60's. However even with our best efforts by the time we reach our 80's our strength is half that of a younger adult.

This age-related process of muscle atrophy is called Sarcopenia which literally means "lack of flesh."

Well, this loss is important because our muscles do so many amazing things besides letting us open that pickle jar in the fridge.

#### **Muscle is incredibly important:**

- To joint health, they take stress off the joints.
- To posture and body symmetry. Placing less stress on our connective tissue.
- On our ability to perform activities of daily living and maintain our independence.
- For diabetes management, prevention, and insulin sensitivity.
- It helps with fat loss and metabolism. Like upgrading your engine.
- Makes movement less fatiguing and more enjoyable.
- Give us confidence to move safely.

• Improves fall prevention, overall balance and fall resilience if suffering a fall.

#### **NATURAL AGING PROCESS,**

Not all muscle loss is from simply growing older. Often a prolonged illness or an injury that reduces our ability to exercise and move can have a significant impact on our muscles atrophying or wasting away. The key here is to have a healthy reserve of strength and muscle from your past efforts. That is one of the great take-aways of physical activity. You are more likely to literally survive an illness or injury because you came into it healthier and stronger instead of weak and frail.

Actually, loss of muscle mass and strength has been shown to be the single biggest predictor of loss of quality of life and mortality. It robs us of the things we love to do and increases many other health risks.

#### **CAN I SLOW THIS PROCESS?**

The great news is that this state can be reversed, quite impressively so. Research has shown that a two to three fold increase in strength can be accomplished in as little as 3-4 months.

The key, as you may have already guessed, is resistance training. Not only will it improve muscle strength and muscle mass it can:

- Reduce depression, anxiety, stress and improve mood.
- With a single bout, increase insulin sensitivity for 16-24hrs helping blood sugar regulation and diabetes prevention.
- Lower blood pressure and improve cholesterol numbers.
- Delay and/or prevent the onset and severity of osteoporosis

• Help preserve our ability to perform activities of daily living, thus maintaining independence.

• Extend how long and how enjoyable our hobbies, sports and lives are in later years.

Especially in times of lockdowns, gym shutdowns and isolation it's imperative now more than ever to make a concerted effort against this from occurring. So how?

#### **ATROPHY IN SPIRITUAL LIFE**

Just as in our physical walk, there is a spiritual parallel to this. I offer to you that comfort, apathy and isolation are the enemy. Muscles as well as our faith are strengthened under repetitive use along with adverse circumstances and struggles.

We were not created for a life of ease and entertaining ourselves into boredom and apathy. We were made with gifts and talents for a purpose with a desire and drive for significance, impact and meaning.

It's not productive to rest on past things God has done in our lives. We need continual and purposeful action to maintain a healthy walk and relationship with God. Do this and our relationships with others will be positively impacted as well as our mental sanity. We have an assurance that no matter what is going on in this world our eternal destiny is secure and a bright, a wondrous and glorious adventure awaits us. No matter what happens we are going to be all right.

So how do we combat this atrophy or wasting away? Here are a few ways to keep your faith strong as you age:

- By being others centric and shift our focus from being on ourselves only.
- Having an eternal mindset. Do not let the temporary challenges take our eyes off our true destiny and citizenship.
- Focusing on Jesus, the only One who can satisfy our soul and fill that God shaped hole in our hearts instead of trying to use things or people to do so.
- Daily exposure to God's word [the Bible] no matter how small, especially in the beginning. The habit and daily communication are more important than the duration.
- Bring someone else into your world; we were not called to walk this spiritual walk alone, even if during a

pandemic it's watching a church service on YouTube and getting connected with an online group.

#### **TAKE THE SAME APPROACH TO FIGHTING PHYSICALLY**

• Same, be others centric. This is not just about losing weight but about having the strength, energy, and less stressed condition to be there for your family and accomplish your calling. To live out the second half of our lives with as much dignity, independence, and vitality as possible that depends on us.

• Focus on large muscle groups, especially if you do not have the time or are not particularly "into this" at first. If you're just doing 10 minutes – work your larger legs and back muscles over doing arm curls for example. Challenge more muscles at once.

• Daily exposure again no matter how small. Short 10-minute increments add up. An example looks like this:

DAY 1 might be a wall sit at home while watching a show for 30-60 seconds. Buying a pair of exercise bands and doing those back rows.

DAY 2 do a brisk 5-10 minute walk down the driveway and back multiple

times, etc... You get the idea; it doesn't have to be a 45minute-1 hour intense event. When you are just beginning you reap benefits of even the smallest efforts. You'll feel better and over time you can increase your intensity and exposure. Remember consistency always beats out intensity.

• Get someone else to meet you for your walk, even if over the phone and chat. Set up challenges and check in with each other whether they did their exercises for the day. You come up with one workout to do and they put together the next. Make it something fun, it's your personal time with a friend or in communication with God.

#### **PANDEMIC LESSON**

The pandemic really solidified the once theoretical concept for many that we are not meant to be isolated. Flip the mindset and instead of thinking of why you don't have someone in your life, consider how you can be that person for another. Pray about it and make an effort to reach out to another person. Remember, left alone and to ourselves with no engagement, all parts of our lives waste away.

–Dino Nowak | [faithandfitness.net](http://faithandfitness.net)



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# sports

## Len Dawson will always be remembered as Lenny the Cool



Kansas City Chiefs legend and Pro Football Hall of Famer Len Dawson passed away Aug. 24 at the age of 87.

He went into the Hall of Fame as a player in 1987 and a broadcaster in 2012. Dawson served as host of HBO's "Inside the NFL" from the late 70s until 2001.

Dawson's playing career started as a standout quarterback at Purdue before he joined the Pittsburgh Steelers as a first-round draft pick. He was quickly traded to the Cleveland Browns.

In 1962, Dawson finally signed with the Dallas Texans, reuniting him with Hank Stram, who had been an assistant coach for the Boilermakers before becoming the AFL franchise's head coach.

Dawson promptly led the Texans to the AFL title and was the league's MVP, and then moved with the club to Kansas City the following year. He led the Chiefs to two more AFL titles in 1966 and 1969, when he came back from a serious injury to help the Chiefs beat Minnesota 23-7 for their first Super Bowl title.

He ranks among the elite forward passers of all time with an 82.56 rating compiled over 19 seasons.

"My family and I are heartbroken. Len Dawson is synonymous with the Kansas City Chiefs. Len embraced and came to embody Kansas City and the people that

call it home. You would be hard-pressed to find a player who had a bigger impact in shaping the organization as we know it today than Len Dawson did," Chiefs Chairman and CEO Clark Hunt said. "I admired Len my entire life – first as a Hall of Fame player on the field, and later as he transitioned into a successful broadcasting career. Throughout his remarkable career, Len made it a priority to give back to the community that he loved. The franchise has lost a true legend. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Linda and his family."

Willie Lanier served up quite the history lesson when asked to share an anecdote that summed up the essence of Len Dawson.

"I think it was the confidence that the team in '69 had in who he was," Lanier, the Hall of Fame middle linebacker, told USA TODAY Sports. Dawson, the former Kansas City Chiefs quarterback, will be laid to rest on Sept. 16 after passing away on Wednesday at 87.

Of course, that 1969 team Lanier referenced was a special cast that captured a Super Bowl IV crown behind the AFL's best defense and its ultra-composed field general.

Early in the campaign, though, it may have seemed like the season would go up in flames. In

## FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by Rob Mooney

I'm to the point where I actually prefer college football over professional football. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy watching certain NFL teams play. I like the Chiefs and the Cowboys. I used to be a big Broncos fan for two reasons, one, they're in Colorado and I love the mountains and two, John Elway is one of my favorite players of all time. It's hard for me to just sit and watch a random NFL game. However, when it comes to college football, I can watch just about anyone play. Tennessee State vs. Ball State? Bring it on.

I say all that as I realize that the only big time college stadium I've seen a game in is Memorial Stadium in Lawrence. Yeah, say what you will about the Jayhawks, I always enjoy going to their games and I try to get to a couple of them each year.

Back when Mark Mangino was their coach we had season tickets for a few years and I remember the infamous "Dollar Signs" game against Texas in 2004. The Longhorns were ranked 6th and were in the running for

a BCS Bowl Game. KU was up 23-20 with a little over two minutes to go when they faced third and 7 from their own 26 yard line. Charles Gordon caught a 16 yard pass that would have given the Jayhawks a first down, but Gordon was called for the phantom offensive pass interference penalty which



made it third and 20. They then had to punt out of their own endzone and Texas, with great field position scored a touchdown with 11 seconds to play to give them the win. Mangino complained at his post-game press conference that the Big 12 wanted Texas to win so that they would receive a BCS bowl bid, bringing a lot of money into the conference. He said that's what

Week 2, Dawson suffered a knee injury that sidelined him for six games.

Dawson came off the bench to spark a comeback victory in his first game back from the injury, then led the way to road victories against the defending Super Bowl champion New York Jets and the Oakland Raiders that helped seal a playoff berth that allowed the Chiefs to become the first wild-

card team to win a Super Bowl.

At the end of that campaign, Dawson was named Super Bowl MVP. He ran Hank Stram's offense, with its "moving pocket," to a tee. And his Hall of Fame credentials are underscored by his four AFL passing titles and the eight times that he led that league in completion percentage.

Yet it was the unflappable persona, particularly in crunch time,

made the difference, "Dollar Signs."

Of course, Mangino was fined for what he said but everyone knew what had happened. To this day, I can't stand Texas. My two favorite teams are KU and whoever is playing the Longhorns!

Dollar signs still drive the world of college football. Just look at all the realignments that have happened over the course of the last 10-15 years and the realignment that will once again sweep through the NCAA. Oklahoma and Texas leaving the Big 12 for the SEC. The Big 12 adding Houston, Central Florida, Cincinnati and BYU. Then most recently, when we thought everything had died down a little, USC and UCLA announce that they're joining the Big Ten. Now everyone is scrambling to pick apart the remainder of the Big 10 while they try to keep things together.

And of course, it seems like no one wants KU, even though they come with a blue blood basketball program, which only proves that football is the engine that drives the college athletics train.

Anyway, I think I'll try to get to another couple stadiums this year. I hear K-State has a great game day atmosphere. May have to check that out!

that Lanier remembers most as it bolstered the confidence of the entire team.

"A calm demeanor," described Lanier. "One that was never rattled. One that was confident that he could bring it back like any of the top-notch guys in the sport over time. He had the ability to manage men and expect and demand respect, and have the outcome show it."

## Chiefs LB Willie Gay: Getting closer to God helped my mental health

It's been a good off-season for Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Willie Gay.

The young defensive player has been having an excellent preseason and training camp and has the makings to become a star in the NFL.

When asked about how well he's set himself up for the season, he said being in a good mental space helps everything.

"When you take care of your



mental [health] it puts you in a good position to where everything else handles itself," Gay said.

That off-the-field work can have an impact on his play.

"It carries over. Next thing you know I'm having good practices. Next thing you know it carries to the games and making plays. Everybody just thinks it's because of preparation, but really it's cause it's all a step each and

every day, each and every week to be good mentally."

Getting baptized and getting closer to God is what Gay said helped him the most.

"Knowing where my foundation is, knowing where my real problems were," Gay said. "Still not perfect of course, but when I handled that [situation] and told Him I just wanna live right, everything else fell into place and is still falling into place."

The Chiefs open their season at the Arizona Cardinals at 3:25pm on CBS.



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

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

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

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

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


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



dividual. The fee includes green fees, cart for two, a box lunch, info@topekayfc.org, or visit the website at [www.topekayfc.org](http://www.topekayfc.org).


two mulligans, Gary Woodland Drive and many great door prizes! Individual and corporate sponsorships are still available.

For more information about Topeka Youth for Christ or the golf tournament, call (785) 232-8296, or you can email



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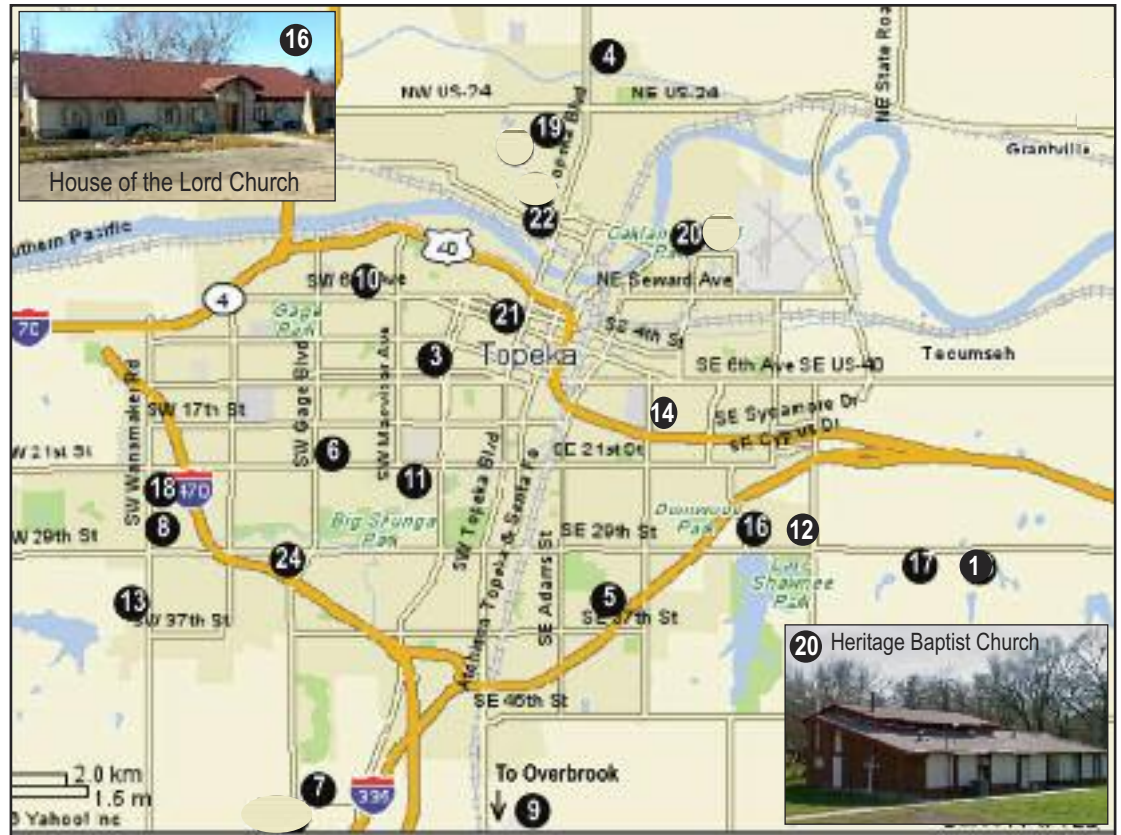
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# New Resident Church Guide



**17. EAST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
4425 S.E. 29th St., 379-9933.  
Sunday Worship 10:00am & 6:00pm  
AWANA Sunday at 5:45 p.m.  
See our website for info on our  
Student Ministries & Kid City  
[www.esbcks.org](http://www.esbcks.org)

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

**21. HARVEST FAMILY FELLOWSHIP**  
Meets at 522 SW Polk  
785-220-5418  
Pastor Rey Rodriguez  
Sun. Worship 10:30 am  
[www.harvestfamilyfellowshiptopeka.org](http://www.harvestfamilyfellowshiptopeka.org)

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

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

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Tecumseh, Kansas 66654  
[www.highlandheightscc.com](http://www.highlandheightscc.com)  
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## 2. CHRISTIAN CAVALRY MINISTRIES INT.

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785-224-5419 • [www.church4bikers.org](http://www.church4bikers.org)  
Sun. School 9:30 am  
Sun. Service 10:45 am  
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study 7pm

## 3. TOPEKA BIBLE CHURCH

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

## 4. NORTHLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH

3102 NW Topeka Blvd., Topeka  
286-1204  
Worship Sun. 9:00 & 10:45 AM  
[www.northland.cc](http://www.northland.cc)

## 5. INDIANA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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785-266-7788, [www.Indianaavecofc.org](http://www.Indianaavecofc.org)  
Bible University – Sunday - 9:30 a.m.  
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Morning Worship – Sunday – 10:45 a.m.  
Midweek Bible University – Wed. – 7pm

## 6. FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST

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

## 7. TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH

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## 8. WANAMAKER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday School 9am • Wed. Prayer 7pm

## 9. GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Overbrook, KS; 785-670-6456  
Elvin Dillard, Senior Pastor  
Sunday School 9 am; Worship 10 am  
[www.gccinoverbrook.com](http://www.gccinoverbrook.com)  
[office@gccinoverbrook.com](mailto:office@gccinoverbrook.com)

## 11. COMMUNITY CHURCH

1819 SW 21st St., Topeka  
233-3537 [www.CommunityTopeka.com](http://www.CommunityTopeka.com)  
[info@CommunityTopeka.com](mailto:info@CommunityTopeka.com)  
Sun. 8:30am - Sunday School for all ages  
Sun. 10:00am - Worship & Word  
Sun. 10:00am Youth Service  
~ Nursery care for all services ~

## 12. LAKEVIEW CHURCH of the NAZARENE

2835 SE Croco Road (785)266-3247  
Rob Self, Senior Pastor  
Facebook: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene  
Sun. 9:30am: SS all ages & Discipleship Class  
Sunday 10:45am: Nursery, Children's Church, & Worship  
Wednesday: Awana - 6:30pm - 8pm  
Life Group/Bible Study - 7-8pm

## 13. WANAMAKER WOODS NAZARENE

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[www.wwnaz.org](http://www.wwnaz.org)  
Sun. Worship: 9am (Hymns) & 11 am  
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Sunday School 10 am, all ages  
Sun. Evening Various Children's Programs  
6 pm Life Groups; 6:30 pm Teen Service  
Wed. 6:30 pm Adult & Teen Life Groups  
Wed. 6:30 pm Kids University  
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## WANTED:

**Executive Director:** LifeCare, a Christian crisis pregnancy center in Ottawa, KS is seeking an Executive Director. Email for information and to apply: applications.ottawa.lifecare@gmail.com. Applications taken until position filled.



**ASSISTANT EDITOR** – Research articles & event info online & on phone. Some writing & editing. Some updating files, social media posting, possibly some deliveries. Mostly work from home. Could be part-time hourly wages, or contract services basis. Call 785-640-6399

**PART-TIME ACCOUNT REP** – Work your own hours. Call on businesses, churches & non-profits about their advertisements in Metro Voice. Generous commission on all ads you place; no base. Voice@cox.net

**VOLUNTEER WRITERS** – Metro Voice needs volunteer writers or interns for church and community news around the area. Call 235-3340 or email voice@cox.net. Some perks. involved.

**FEMALE SINGERS WANTED** – Topeka Acapella Unlimited is looking for female singers who would like to sing four part acapella harmonies. Topeka Acapella Unlimited is a Chapter of Sweet Adelines, International. Call Cindy Patton at 785-640-7403

**\$1250 HIRING BONUS**

within first 9 months!

## NOW HIRING:

Direct Support Professionals

Paid training, great benefits, including next day pay



Serving People with disabilities since 1971

3401 SW Harrison St, Topeka, KS 66611  
EOE www.slitopeka.org

**metro VOICE**

metrovoicenews.com

Check Out Our Newly Redesigned, Mobile-ready Breaking-news Website.



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

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

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

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

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



## Part-Time Income

Work flexible hours

Call on businesses, churches, and non-profits about advertising options in Metro



Voice. Generous commission paid on ads placed.

Call 235-3340 or email voice@cox.net

**All Insurance Access, LLC.**  
Auto-Home-Life-Commercial

**Brittany Elliott- Agent**  
3706 SW Topeka Blvd.  
Suite #411  
Topeka, KS 66609

Office: (785) 267-0707  
Fax: (785) 266-9154  
Cell: (702) 205-0132  
Email: Bellott@aiatopeka.com  
AllinsuranceAccess.com

#sleevesrolledup

**TRM**  
**MINISTRIES**

**TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION MINISTRIES**

Visit [TRMonline.org](http://TRMonline.org) or check us out on Facebook

To donate: text TRMgive to 77977

For Breakfast and Lunch it's...



1034 S. Kansas Avenue - (785) 232-1111  
[www.hanoverpancakehouse.com](http://www.hanoverpancakehouse.com)



Hanover Pancake House...need I say more?

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

**2ND ANNUAL TOPEKA**

# Fall Fest

HOSTED AT

**THE VINEWOOD**

## FAMILY FUN PRESENTED BY LOCAL BUSINESSES & NON-PROFITS

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live music</li> <li>• Craft &amp; vendor fair</li> <li>• Food trucks</li> <li>• Kids games &amp; activities</li> <li>• Inflatables</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Petting zoo</li> <li>• Face painting</li> <li>• Gifts &amp; Décor</li> <li>• Clothing &amp; accessories</li> <li>• Non-profit information</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pet care services</li> <li>• Carnival Games</li> <li>• Cake Walk for kids</li> <li>• Trunk or Treat</li> <li>• Pumpkin decorating</li> </ul> |
|--|---|---|

## HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR PRESENTED BY EMERALD CITY COSMOPOLITAN CLUB

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health screenings</li> <li>• Safety instructions &amp; education</li> <li>• Health &amp; Wellness products &amp; samples</li> <li>• Health information &amp; education</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fitness information &amp; demonstrations</li> <li>• Gymnastics &amp; Exercise demonstrations</li> <li>• Personal Safety Items &amp; Education</li> <li>• Emotional &amp; Mental Health Information</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

**100+ VENDORS & SPONSORS FOR OUR MARKET, HEALTH FAIR, FOOD COURT, MUSIC STAGE & KIDS GAMES!**

Funds raised will be shared with a local non-profit organization.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE SEND EMAIL TO: [INFO@C5ALIVE.ORG](mailto:INFO@C5ALIVE.ORG)**

Vendors: **FIND US ON FACEBOOK  
FOR MORE DETAILS!**



**VOLUNTEERS ALSO NEEDED! CONTACT:**  
[info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org) or 785-640-6399



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022 • 10 AM - 3 PM**

The Vinewood is located at 2848 SE 29th St, Topeka, KS 66605 (North side of Shawnee Lake)