



EVENTS

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VOLUME 17 • NUMBER 12

August 2023

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See inside back cover!

WU cuts ribbon on Robert J. Dole Hall



Washburn University held a ribbon cutting on Friday, July 21, to celebrate the opening of the new Robert J. Dole Hall, a part of their School of Law.

Gov. Laura Kelly, Senators Roger Marshall and Jerry Moran, Washburn President Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek and former Washburn President Jerry Farley, as well as many Washburn students, faculty and alumni, were in attendance.

"This is a meaningful thing for the university, for Topeka and Shawnee County, but this is a big deal for Kansas as well," Sen. Moran said. "What it does is enhance the opportunities that Washburn Law School and Washburn University has to attract students, great

■ Please see DOLE page 3



Like the Sunflower, Always Seek The Light

By Clint Decker

The sunflower is the official flower of Kansas. It can reach upwards of 10 feet, with its bright yellow rounded flower standing atop of its long stem. A field of hundreds or thousands is a sight to behold. Aside from its stunning appearance, sunflowers have a unique feature that has been stud-

ied by many experts. First thing in the morning, the flower is facing the sun, then it follows the sun as it moves across the sky from east to west during the day.

The sunflower is an illustration of the life-giving nature of light as its head follows the sun in the course of a day. It could not live without light, nor would any other plants, trees, bushes, animals or

humans. Light is essential for our existence.

In the Bible, Jesus describes Himself, saying "I am the light of the world." (John 8:12) What does this mean?

Jesus is the source of light. When He says, "I am the light..." He is communicating how He is the eternally divine, self-existent

■ Please see SUNFLOWER page 2

Goodbye toll booths; KTA going cashless



The Kansas Turnpike is not only going cashless but also ticketless for drivers passing through, starting in about a year.

The Kansas Turnpike Authority is planning to roll out license plate scanners, a system that will send bills through the mail instead collecting on the road.

"There will be an image taken of your license plate, and that image is associated with your vehicle registration information. We then turn around and bill that driver on the registration for a toll," said Rachel Bell, director of business services and customer relations for the Kansas Turnpike Authority.

The majority of drivers mostly rely on their automatic KTAGs already. But next summer, even people without a KTAG won't have to stop. KTAG users will still have their own system, and will pay 30% less than the people who are billed through mail.

3rd Annual Topeka Fall Fest moves to Great Overland Station

Over three thousand people are expected to attend the Topeka Fall Fest on September 16, but this year it will be held at Great Overland Station. 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 spon-

sors, 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, a 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.

Many kids' activities will be of-

■ Please see FALL FEST page 3



Kansas receives nearly \$5 million to support diabetes treatment, prevention

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) will receive nearly \$5 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to aid in treating and preventing diabetes.

“My administration continues to be laser-focused on providing resources that are fundamental to the health of all Kansans, including those with diabetes,” Governor Laura Kelly

said in a press release. “This funding is a step in the right direction as we work to expand quality, affordable health coverage to more Kansas families.”

The funding will go to the



the impacts of diabetes in our state,” Joan Duwve, MD, MPH, the department’s State Health Officer, said. “This funding will be instrumental in allowing us to work with our partners to improve access to quality care and resources Kansans need to live longer healthier lives.”

About 11.1% of adults in Kansas have diabetes, resulting in \$2.4 billion in direct medical expenses and indirect costs annually.

Diabetics are more likely to have other health issues - physical and

mental - resulting in a higher cost to the healthcare system.

“This diabetes funding is an investment in Kansans and a lifeline for individuals with type 2 diabetes,” Lainey Faulkner, KDHE Community-Clinical Linkages section director, said in the release. “The funds will provide support for diabetes management and will help to increase prevention and risk mitigation of vulnerable indi-

viduals in Kansas.”

The program will promote healthy behavior for those at risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, partner with communities in local diabetes prevention and management efforts, and urge employers and insurers to improve coverage of preventative and management measures.

—By Tom Joyce | The Center Square

KDHE’s community-clinical linkages project aimed at helping Kansans disproportionately impacted by diabetes.

“It is critical that we make resources and help available to stop

this darkness with His radiant light. However, even though the light is before people they try to block it out, and build around themselves a disobedient life to remove any signs of light, like a walled room with no windows. Even so, Jesus’ light persists and is so strong, that it cannot be held back. The walls are not able to withstand heaven’s force, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

Though our world cannot turn off the light of Jesus, they can reject it. But when they do, it is to their own peril, “And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. (John 3:19-20) This is why people reject the most precious light of Jesus, they do not want to hear the truth.

Jesus’ light opens the eyes of people. His light illuminates the mind,

helping people to see the error of their ways, giving them ability to discern between right and wrong in their life, then persuading them to turn toward Christ with all their heart.

Jesus’ light is life giving. As our earth’s sun provides life to the sunflower, and all living things, so does the light of Jesus.

All people are born in spiritual darkness, and without life. They are among the living dead. However, when the light of Christ comes, it purges the darkness and brings new life. “In him was life, and the life was the light of men.” (John 1:4)

A prayer for you – *Lord God, I pray people would see Jesus as the light of the world. And when His light points out areas of failing, may they not block it out, but gratefully respond and walk in the life it gives. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*


SUNFLOWER

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source of light to the entire world. His source is Himself and He is not dependent on water, wind, nuclear fusion, gas, electricity or anything else. He IS THE LIGHT, which has both a physical and spiritual element to it.

Jesus was once praying on a mountain with some of His disciples. And as He was, something dramatic happened. The account says, “And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.” (Matthew 17:2) This was a physical manifestation of this supernatural light. It will one day fill the new heavens and new earth that is coming. The Bible predicts about the capital city of the new earth, saying “And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light...” (Revelation 21:23)

Jesus’ light shines in the darkness. His blazing light goes wherever people are found. This is the purpose for which Jesus came, “I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.” (John 12:46) The darkness He speaks of, is a moral one, where people live in lawless, immoral ways of the heart and life. Jesus came to penetrate



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Cider Days to return

For over 40 years, Cider Days has been one of the most popular Topeka events. It is coming back in 2023 on Saturday, September 23rd, from 10am - 6pm, and Sunday, September 24th, from 10am - 4pm at the Stormont Vail Event Center.

Early Bird Tickets are being sold at all Topeka Dillons locations; ReHome (out at Forbes Field); and of course at the ticket box office at the event center. The tickets will go on sale August 3rd.

Early Bird tickets will be \$8, and they will be \$10 at the door the day of the event. The tickets are a two-day ticket; you will need to get your hand stamped at the door when you scan your ticket in order to come back the next day. Children 13 and under get free admission.

There will be over 250 vendors: live entertainment; food trucks; fun foods; kids activities including a large petting zoo; and of course apple cider and apple cider slushes. For more information go to www.ciderdays.com.



Informational meetings to be held on homelessness issues

Topeka Rescue Mission Ministries is hosting a series of informational meetings in response to the increased concerns in the community about issues surrounding homelessness. These meetings will be a time for the community to come together and dialogue on the concerns.

All meetings will be held at the former North Topeka Baptist Church, 123 NW Gordon, in the fellowship hall located on the lower level of the church. The dates are August 10, 9-11am and August 22, 11:30am-1:30pm.

The purpose of these sessions will be to discuss the current state of homelessness locally and across the nation, as well as addressing concerns and questions TRM has heard from people across the community.

An RSVP is not required, but is requested to give a better idea on number of attendees to expect. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F44A8AA2BA1F58-trminformation>

Earlier this year, the city hired Chicago-based Sylver Consulting to help come up with a plan of action. Sylver outlined three steps to approach homelessness: understand the problem before jumping to solutions, shape ideas for a maximum impact and implement those solutions into the world.

To begin this process, Sylver recommends the city name a team of eight to 12 members to work on the project. The group should be made up of city leaders and community members. The city has yet to accomplish building such a team.

C5Alive Power Luncheon features Omni Circle Group CEO Odupitan

The August C5Alive POWER Luncheon will be held Aug. 10, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Omni Circle Group, 1301 SW Topeka Blvd..

Michael Odupitan, current CEO at Omni Circle Group, will be the featured speaker. The Washburn graduate has previously worked at Valeo, KidsTLC and Youth Villages.

Omni Circle Group's mission is to empower communities to connect, collaborate and create together, through providing personal and professional development.

The cost is \$15 for C5 members and first-time guests who RSVP, and \$17 at the door. Repeat guests pay \$20. RSVPs and inquiries can be sent to info@C5Alive.org.

"POWER" luncheons are held on the second Thursday of each month and are open to the public. The September 14 luncheon will feature Shelly Brush of Healing Hearts Ministries,

sponsored by Christians For Life.

C5Alive is dedicated to creating Christian culture in the Capital City, by developing and uniting Christian Leadership in community businesses, non-profits and churches. C5 also hosts other periodic events, including **EASTERFEST**, the annual Topeka Easter Parade and Fun Fair, held on N. Kansas Avenue and at **Great Overland Station** on the day before Easter.

The 3rd Annual C5Alive **TOPEKA FALL FEST** will be on September 16, 2023 at **Great Overland Station**.

C5 members may also sponsor luncheons and other events as a way to promote their organizations. C5 is currently holding a membership drive with special incentives for new members.

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



Odupitan

DOLE

continued from page 1

students and quality faculty to move into the new age in which law school is less about libraries and books and more about computers and technology for the

research that's necessary to practice law."

"This is a momentous day," Dr. Mazachek said. "We are humbled to be able to name this building after one of our most outstanding alumni and truly a servant for the state of Kansas. To be able to have his name associated with our building and with our School of

Law is just an amazing tribute to his legacy of service."

"I think the people of Topeka underestimate how important Washburn University is to Kansas," Sen. Marshall said."

Dole's 100th birthday would have been Saturday, July 22.

FALL FEST

continued from page 1

ferred, such as facepainting, petting zoo, cake walks and bouncehouses.

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

Major sponsors include Stormont Vail Health, ServPro, College HUNKS, Big Phil's Auto, SoulFire Nutrition, Rasmussen University TV 25, WIBW-TV, WREN, Magic 107, KFGB 97.7 and more.

There is still room for more spon-

sors 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 or call 785-640-6399.



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Letters from 'Daisy' - No. 2

Below is another article from someone I have been working with, who is going by the name, "Daisy". As I saw how writing was so healing for Daisy, I believe God has prompted me to help facilitate her being able to share her journey with you. I believe it will not only be healing for her, but also for many of those who read what she has to say. If you would want to write to Daisy, you can send your email to, shane@shanemjones.com, and I will forward it to her.

Shane M. Jones, LSCSW

Shane M. Jones & Associates, P.A.



struggle. Almost weekly I have needed to call a hotline just to talk to someone. If I hadn't called 988 just last night I would have probably cut.

As I'm writing this, I find myself feeling sad. Sad that I had to learn my lesson the hard way. I have ruined my body, and we only get one of those. There are no take backs. What's done is done. So, all I can do is try to help you.

I don't want anyone to go on for 30-plus years the way I have.

Last month I touched on spirituality. I wasn't raised in church, but I think there's definitely something to it. I do go to church and realize there's something more. With an open mind and an open heart, I long for you to try it. You don't have to go to church every week or read your Bible every day. I'm going to give you a challenge to try before next month.

I want you to try and pray and we'll see how it goes. Just try for me.

Prayer is simply communicating with God. There is no secret formula as to how someone prays. On your knees, sitting at the light on the way home from work, in your head or out loud. Do what works for you. Just experiment with it. There is no "right" or "wrong" way. You just have to find "your" way!

More to come...

—Daisy

safe from myself.

I am a cutter. I seek relief from mental and emotional anguish by using self-inflicted violence. I use single edge razor blades and have been using them since my early twenties. I like them because they give me a clean cut and just something about the way it feels on my skin.

According to author Steven Levenkron, self-mutilation is "when a person attacks his or her own body with an instrument that will wound the skin and often worse; and means that the person feels helpless to use any other means to manage the mental anguish and chaos born of unmanageable feelings."

As of today, I have not cut for almost four months, however it's something I battle every day. Not only that, but many times also I've been down to taking it day by day. A lot of times it's been a minute-to-minute

#2... My story continues.

If we were to meet one day, I wonder what you would think. Would you think I was lazy because I'm fat? Would you assume I'm a smoker because my teeth aren't the whitest. Would you think I was a freak if you saw my forearms covered in scars? Last month I introduced you to myself. My name is Daisy and like everyone does, I've been experiencing my share of troubles, addictions and issues. I hope you can learn from what I've experienced.

It didn't take long for me to come up with what I was going to focus on. I stated in the last article that I've been self-mutilating since I was in first grade. I struggle trying to keep myself

HS students ride Free on Metro buses



The Topeka Metro board of directors has approved for the 2023-24 academic year, that all high school students with a valid student ID can ride fixed bus routes for free. Paratransit users will need to apply for eligibility.

"Topeka Metro considers providing transportation an essential service and that includes getting students to school," said Bob Nugent, Topeka Metro General Manager. "By providing their own school ID, the student can just hop on the Metro bus and take which route

they need to travel to school, work, home, or elsewhere within our route system. We will work diligently to make sure that students, parents or caregivers are aware of this opportunity."

To ride free, high school students will only need to present their valid student ID for the 2023-24 school year.

Nugent said, "We want to remind everyone that the Kids Ride FREE! promotion for youth 18 and under is still in effect until Tuesday, August 15, 2023."

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NNO activities help keep neighborhoods safe



and many others!

To sign up your neighborhood or to find out if your neighborhood has National Night Out plans, contact Safe Streets at 785-266-4606

or email info@parstopeka.org. You don't have to have a neighborhood organization to host an event, so contact your neighbors and Safe Streets and get involved today!

Safe Streets, a program of Prevention and Resiliency Services, is a local crime prevention and substance abuse prevention organization in Topeka. For more information, visit parstopeka.org

Safe Streets is about to embark on its 27th year of National Night Out in the Topeka/Shawnee County community! This annual event, which will be held Saturday, August 5, brings neighborhoods together to connect with one another and local law enforcement. The simple act of getting to know your neighbors is the best form of crime prevention.

In Shawnee County, neighborhoods are encouraged to hold indi-



vidual events on August 5. Neighborhoods' activities vary – some may host an ice-cream social, cookout, potluck dinner, or a pool party. Some events are smaller with around 25 people, and others are larger with more than 300 attending.

In 2021, Topeka/Shawnee County ranked 4th in the nation for cities of comparable size for our National Night Out events.

National Night Out event is coordinated through Safe Streets in partnership with local law enforcement, including the Topeka Police Department, Shawnee County Sheriff's Office, Shawnee County District Attorney's Office, Topeka Fire Department, and Kansas Highway Patrol and with area businesses, including Evergy, Reser's, Hy-Vee, Dillons, Federal Home Loan Bank, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation,



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PREPARE FOR A LAYOFF

Dear Dave,

My husband was recently told layoffs are about to happen at his company, and that it might be a good idea for him to start looking for another job. He has found a couple of good possibilities, but the jobs are located about 100 miles away. In preparation for a possible move, we spoke with a real estate agent who told us we'd have to remodel our kitchen to sell the house. We've got about \$4,000 in savings, but the agent said remodeling would take between \$2,500 and \$3,000. Should we get a second mortgage to pay for the work.

— Natalie

Dear Natalie,

For starters, I'd suggest cutting expenses any way you can, living

on a strict budget and saving as much cash as possible. But taking out a second mortgage? No! You don't want that hanging over your heads.

You might want to get another opinion on the kitchen remodel, too. Sure, a new kitchen would be nice, but would it be a make or break kind of thing if you decide to sell your home? Probably not, unless it's in really terrible shape right now. Regardless, there's no way I'd go into debt to make this happen. I mean, your house isn't even on the market yet. There's no reason to fix up a house that's not for sale, especially when you've got just \$4,000 to your names.

My advice is to wait and see how the whole job situation plays out before you make any big decisions. Then if you end up selling the house and moving, you might take \$500 or so from savings to freshen up the kitchen a little bit.

— Dave

Be smart about paying off debt

Dear Dave,

Should I cash in my 401(k) to

pay off my car? I have just enough in the account to pay off the car and free up money in my budget. — Marina

Dear Marina,

If I were in your shoes, and I could pay off the car in 18 months or less, I'd live on rice and beans — plus a very strict

monthly budget — and just push through until that car payment was out of my life. If that wasn't realistic, then I'd take out ads online and in the local paper, and sell the car as fast as possible.

Cashing out your retirement plan to make this happen isn't a good idea. I love that you want to get rid of your car payment, but

if you use your 401(k) they'll charge you a 10% penalty, plus your tax rate. That means you'll lose anywhere from 30 to 50 percent of it to the government.

I don't know about you, Marina, but I think those guys get way too much of our money already!

— Dave

The '7% Guaranteed' Annuity Myth

By Ryan Shumaker
Smartvestor Pro at
The Retirement Team



One of the most common things I hear from people who own or have been pitched an annuity is the belief that the annuity will "earn 7% guaranteed." Usually this is due to either a salesperson misrepresenting how the annuity works or the consumer misunderstanding.

The fact of the matter is, to my knowledge, there have been exactly zero annuities in the last 25 years that actually guarantee 7% growth of your account value that are still in force today. What is actually guaranteed in most of these cases is that for every year you wait to take income from the annuity, the amount of income that is guaranteed to be paid to you goes up by 7% per year, which is entirely different.

With these kinds of products, there are typically two different buckets. One is your actual account value, which is what you can cash out and which typically goes up and down with the performance of chosen stocks and/or bonds. The other is what I sometimes refer to as "funny money." Many companies call this an "income account value" or "protected value." Basically, it is just a bucket that is used for only one purpose: to calculate what your guaranteed income stream will be. It is not something you can cash out and take the money. It is this bucket that is commonly touted as having "7% guaranteed growth."

Let's go through an example of how this might work. Let's say

you are 65 years old and you put \$100,000 into one of these products. At a growth rate of 7.2%, your money doubles over the course of 10 years. This is what would occur with your income account value bucket. Your actual account value, again, will usually fluctuate with the performance of chosen stocks and/or bonds. Let's just assume, though, that it doesn't gain anything over those 10 years. So now you have an account value that is \$100,000 (this is what you can actually cash out) and an income account value of \$200,000. Let's say that in this case the annuity guarantees an income stream of 5% of the income account value (I've seen these range from 4% to 7% in most cases, usually depending on age). So, 5% of \$200,000 is \$10,000. This is the guaranteed annual income amount that you will receive. As long as you never take out more than this amount each year, you will continue to receive it even if it causes your account to run out of money.

The issue is, though, that if you signed up at 65, waiting for the income account value bucket to double over 10 years with its "guaranteed 7.2% growth" puts you at 75 years old before you start your \$10,000 guaranteed income stream. At \$10,000 a year, it is going to take you 10 more years just to get back your original \$100,000 investment, assuming your actual account value never grows at all! So, just to get your own original money back, it takes 20 total years and you are now 85 years old. If you have any account growth at all, it would take even longer. When explained this way, that "7.2% guarantee" doesn't

sound so attractive now, does it?

Many annuities can be complex and hard to understand products. Because of this, you should be sure you fully understand exactly how the product works and all of the costs and fees associated with it before making a buying decision. Many annuities are very long-term and sometimes lifetime commitments if you are older. Knowing exactly what you are getting as a guarantee and the fee you are paying to get that guarantee should be carefully considered.

Sometimes how something is presented when it is sold and how it actually works are two very different things.

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

Ryan can be contacted at 785-228-0222 or RetireTopeka.com.

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Managing finances when retiring solo

By Jim Hanna



Hanna

Approximately 23 million Americans ages 65 and older are single, divorced or widowed, according to the most recent data available from the U.S. Census Bureau. That means there are many people in this country who are planning their retirement on their own, without the help of a spouse or partner.

If you are a part of this group – whether it is your choice or the result of unexpected circumstances – there are unique considerations, you may need to keep in mind as you navigate your path to retirement on your own. The following tips can help you craft your retirement plan:

1. Align your lifestyle with your savings: Retiring solo may mean you get to call the shots on how you want to spend your time. Whether it's traveling, volunteering, visiting family, or working part-time, think about how you want to fill your days – then consider how you'll fund your new lifestyle.

2. Plan for health care expenses: Decide how you'd like to handle health care expenses, including your possible need for long-term care. Depending on your situation, insurance coverage (including Medicare, Medicaid and long-term care insurance), health savings accounts and investment savings may be part of the solution.

3. Update your estate plan: Review and make any necessary adjustments to your estate plan and beneficiaries on key accounts to ensure they align with your wishes. Pick a trusted family member or friend to serve as your financial and health care proxy. An attorney can help you assign someone to make decisions for you in the event you can no longer act on your own.

4. Consider your mortgage: If you have a mortgage on your current home, think about whether you'd like to pay it off before or during retirement. Consider your tax strategy, cash flow needs today and down the road, and whether you intend to downsize or move in retirement as you make your decision.

5. For those who are divorced: If you were previously

married, additional considerations apply as you think about your retirement plans:

a. If you receive alimony payments, be aware that the amount you receive may be modified — or even end — once your ex-spouse reaches retirement age. On the other hand, if you are the one who makes alimony payments, make sure you understand how much you're obligated to continue paying in retirement. The terms were likely spelled out in your divorce settlement.

b. You may also consider claiming Social Security benefits based on the earnings of your ex-spouse. You can do so as early as age 62. However, the longer you delay claiming benefits (up to your full retirement age), the larger your monthly benefit will be. Your claim has no impact on the amount of your ex-spouse's Social Security benefits.

6. For widows and widowers: Retiring single is likely different than what you envisioned during your married years, and you may still be going through an adjustment period. The following tips can help you as you reframe your retirement years:

a. If you were not closely involved in managing household finances, enlist a trusted family member or financial professional to review your current situation. Track down passwords to all your accounts and make an updated plan to address your current needs and retirement goals.

b. If you collected an insurance settlement following the passing of your spouse, focus on investing that money effectively to help generate income during your retirement. You can also claim Social Security survivor benefits if you are at least age 60. You can decide later to begin collecting benefits based on your own work record.

How you decide to spend your retirement days is personal – so your retirement plan should be too. Turn to a tax professional and financial advisor for guidance on what steps to take next.

1 "America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2022 – Table A1,"



Jim Hanna, CFP®, MBA, CKA®
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Identity Protection PINs prevent identity theft

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

Identity Protection PINs, also referred to as IP PINs, serve as a critical defense against identity thieves. The numbers protect the taxpayer's sensitive tax return information and complicate efforts by identity thieves to file fraudulent tax returns. The IRS and the Security Summit partners urge tax professionals to encourage their clients to protect themselves through the IP PIN program.

More than 8 million taxpayers have taken the steps to obtain an IP PIN. To obtain an IP PIN, taxpayers can visit the Get an IP PIN, the IRS online tool.

Given the strength of IP PINs, obtaining this number can be a tempting target for identity thieves. Summit partners urged taxpayers and tax professionals to be careful and protect the IP PIN from identity thieves, and noted these key tips:

- Taxpayers should share their IP PIN only with their trusted tax prep provider.

- Tax professionals should never store clients' IP PINs on computer systems. This reduces taxpayer risk if a tax pro's system is compromised by an identity thief or cyberattack.

- The IRS will never call, email or text either taxpayers or tax professionals to request the IP PIN. This is a sign of a scam.

To obtain an IP PIN, the best option is the Get an IP PIN, the IRS online tool. Taxpayers must validate their identities through ID.me to access the tool and their IP PIN. Before attempting this thorough process, see How to Register for Certain Online Self-Help Tools.

The IP PIN process for confirmed victims of identity theft remains unchanged. These victims will automatically receive an IP PIN each year.



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opinion

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Stop the crazy rapture prophecies

By Dr. Michael Brown

Back in the 1970s, I used to joke that someone was going to write a book titled, *Jesus Is Coming Back in the 1970s*, only to publish a new and revised edition a few years later titled, *Jesus Is Coming in the 1980s*.

Little did I know that on January 1, 1988, Edgar Whisenant, a former NASA engineer, would publish *88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will Be in 1988*. Hundreds of thousands of books were sold or given away, creating a national frenzy.

Some Christians even plunged heavily into debt, thinking that they would leave the bills for the antichrist. Instead, they left them for the collection agency.

Yet, true to form, Whisenant quickly revised his calculations, publishing an updated version of his studies on January 1, 1989, the new year of the rapture. This book was titled *The Final Shout: Rapture Report 1989*. It, too, went through several revisions as the year of the rapture was adjusted annually, year after year. I kid you not.

Then there was Harold Camping, who “first predicted that the Judgment Day would occur on or about September 6, 1994. When it failed to occur, he revised the date to September 29 and then to October 2. In 2005, Camping predicted the Second Coming of Christ to May 21, 2011, whereupon the saved would be taken up to heaven in the rapture, and that ‘there would follow five months of fire, brimstone and plagues on Earth, with millions of people dying each day, culminating on October 21, 2011, with the final destruction of the world.’”

What is most striking in this sad account is that, despite his previous failures in setting the date for Judgment Day (not to mention some bizarre doctrines that he espoused), many thousands still believed his 2011 prophecy, which received wide attention. It was only after that final failure, only exacerbated by his age (he was about 90 at the time) that put an end to the folly.

The latest, utterly ridiculous prediction is that the rapture will occur before the end of this year. That’s right. The clock is ticking rapidly, and we’ve got a few months, at most, before we’re out of here. And many Christians believe this is true!

For the record, I don’t believe in a secret, pre-trib rapture at all, at any time in the fu-

ture. Instead, I understand from the Scriptures that the Church will meet Jesus in the air when He returns for the world to see, and we will accompany Him back to earth at that time. (For more on this, see the book I co-authored with leading New Testament scholar Craig Keener, *Not Afraid of the Antichrist: Why We Don’t Believe in a Pretribulational Rapture*.)

That being said, I do not divide over this issue, and some of the finest Christians on the planet today believe in a pre-trib rapture. And the purpose of this article is not to debate the pre-trib doctrine.

Instead, it is to expose the latest, completely unfounded, pre-trib prophecy, especially since it claims to deduce all this information from the first word of the first line of the first book of the Hebrew Bible.

Yes, from the opening letters of Genesis, b-r-sh-y-t, traditionally rendered, “In the beginning,” C. J. Lovik has deduced that we will be out of here by the end of this year.

As a student of the Word and, more importantly, as a Hebrew language scholar, I can assure you that this is absolute rubbish. Rubbish!

You might as well as deduce the date of the Lord’s return using the first line of your local phone book. The results would be just as bogus.

Lovik posted his claims in a 2018 YouTube video that has now been viewed more than 1.8 million times. And, showing no signs of temerity as the dates drew nearer, he released his predictions in digital, written form in 2022. (The video is titled, “Is the End of Days Prophesied in the First Word of the Bible?”)

I only found out about this recently when people started with me links to the video. So I decided to watch the first few minutes, during which time Lovik completely misused the Hebrew text, then fast-forwarding to the end, where he proclaimed with certainty that the Church of Jesus would not be here on earth by the end of 2023. (Mr. Lovik might be a sincere, Jesus-loving believer. But his claims are dead wrong.)

To counter his claim, I produced several short and relevant videos.

In one, I demonstrated graphically that the ancient Hebrew letters (called paleo-Hebrew), once they became an alphabet, no longer contained pictographic meanings. (The letters originally came from pictures, just like our English alphabet,



which goes back to the same, original pictographic sources as the Greek and Hebrew alphabets.) I also explained that in their earliest form, the Hebrew letters did not stand for numbers either. (That development came centuries later.)

In another video, I produced absolutely astonishing insights from the words “In the beginning,” all from the English words, before explaining that it was complete hogwash and that I had made the whole thing up. I was trying to illustrate the danger of reading “hidden” meanings into the letters.

In yet another video, I put the “secret pictographic” meaning of the Hebrew letters to the test, asking viewers to decipher two sentences in Hebrew, both consisting of just two words, using the alleged pictographic meanings.

To illustrate this here using English, let’s take my father’s name, Abe.

The argument would be that the letter A originally meant “ox,” therefore standing for something strong. B originally meant “house,” speaking of some kind of dwelling place. As for E, let’s say it originally meant “eagle,” so, something that soars in the air.

What, then, would be the “meaning” of my dad’s name? It would signify that he was a strong leader, the man of the house, one who lifted all of us up. Yes, that’s the kind of stuff people are reading into the words of the Hebrew Bible. The sky is the limit in terms of what you can “deduce.”

It’s the exact same thing with the Hebrew letters, which, to repeat, are simply that: letters, not symbols with secret pictographic meanings. (If you’d like to watch an in-depth explanation, go here.)

So, to illustrate the point, I listed the alleged pictographic meanings for these four Hebrew words, the first of which (allegedly) consisted of ox + ox goad, with the second (allegedly) consisting of mark (as in putting a mark on something) + head + fishhook + fence. These were the

alleged pictographic meanings of these various letters in the Hebrew alphabet.

Some of the “interpretations” we received included: “ox goad + ox = get the ox to go; mark + head + fishhook + fence = aim the fishhook to the head and either 1. but can’t access the fishing spot because blocked by a fence or maybe the good fishing spot is fenced off... Or 2. guard your fish cache with a fence so no one steals them while you’re still fishing.”

And what, in reality, did the Hebrew words mean? “Do not murder”! They were taken straight from the Ten Commandments! (The second sentence, which received equally farfetched, totally disparate “interpretations,” was also from the Ten Commandments: “Do not commit adultery.”)

Yet when I expose this nonsense – there is no other word for it – some people react as if I had spat on the Bible or challenged their most sacred beliefs. It is really sad to see. Aren’t the words God spoke to us, words that are intelligible and understandable and mean what they say, words of life and truth, enough for us?

It is even sadder, though, and more disturbing, when people actually think that, hidden in the first word of Genesis, is a prophecy that Jesus will remove the church from the Earth by the end of 2023.

This is absolute madness, not to mention a shocking indictment of our immaturity. And how could anyone really think that Jesus was going to rapture His people out this year when there is so much more we must accomplish here in His service?

Back in 1988, a friend asked me if I was going to read the *88 Reasons* book, which predicted the rapture on September 12 of that year. I responded with a smile, “I’ll read it on September 13.”

Well, please do archive this article and check back here on January 1, 2024. I assure you that this article will age well. The “End of Days” video and book will not. Watch and see.

Dear pastors: It's OK to defend the creation account. Science just gave you permission

By Jason Mattera

There were two frustrating aspects of megachurch pastor Andy Stanley's recent advocacy of theistic evolution.

The first was that Stanley's position is at odds with the biblical story of creation, which he, as a pastor, is charged to defend. While the Northpoint Church Community head tried his hardest to synchronize Genesis with Darwin, the plain reading of Scripture doesn't allow such a harmonization to take place.

The second frustrating aspect, which will be the focus of this article, is that those who preemptively disavow the creation account so as not to be seen in conflict with "the science," are, ironically, not keeping up with the "the science" themselves as it pertains to evolutionary claims.

Far from discrediting theism, the latest scientific literature continues to drive a stake through the heart of Darwin's original hypothesis.

This new evidence comes by way of an international journal called *Progress in Biophysics and Molecular Biology*, which is a peer-reviewed publication established in 1950. It seeks to offer "infor-



mative and critical reviews of recent advances in different aspects of biophysics and molecular biology."

We're not talking about Internet rando posting on Wikipedia.

The journal published a paper not too long ago with this title: "Neo-Darwinism Must Mutate to Survive." It was penned by one scholar at the University of Missouri-Columbia and another at the University of Texas at Arlington.

The authors waste no time in getting to their main idea:

"Darwinian evolution is a 19th cen-

tury descriptive concept that itself has evolved. Selection by survival of the fittest was a captivating idea. Microevolution was biologically and empirically verified by discovery of mutations.

"There has been limited progress to the modern synthesis. The central focus of this perspective is to provide evidence to document that selection based on survival of the fittest is insufficient for other than microevolution."

As a reminder, "microevolution" concerns the variation that exists within a particular species. It could be the result

of environmental factors, like impacts on a local climate, or it could be man-made, as is the case with animal breeding.

The point is that this variation takes place within a specific group. Microevolution does not account for an entirely new species. Fish classifications are numerous, for instance, but they remain fish; they don't mutate into frogs, crocodiles, or birds.

With that background, why do Olen Brown, who holds a Ph.D. in microbiology, and David Hullender, who is a professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, assert that "selection based on survival of the fittest is insufficient for other than microevolution?"

In short, it's mathematically preposterous to infer macroevolutionary developments from microevolutionary observations.

They write that macroevolution has "shown to be probabilistically highly implausible (on the order of 10-50) when based on selection by survival of the fittest."

Now, if you're like me and still have no idea how you passed your high school precalculus class, you see a number like 10-50 and your brain shuts off in protest.

Yet unlike my high school days, there are currently online tutorials that put the concept of negative exponents in layman's terms.

You can see for yourself how many zeroes are to the right of the decimal point when calculating ten to the power of negative 50 as a possible outcome; basically, it's a prospect that we non-mathematicians would call a ... ridiculously absurd likelihood.

Brown and Hullender are distinguished university employees, so their conclusion is more academic sounding. But if you read the following paragraph carefully, you certainly get that ridiculously absurd likelihood vibe:

"Any overall mechanistic explanation of the origin and evolution of life ultimately must satisfy two challenges: the transition from non-life to life, and the blossoming of life forms that is so extreme as to appear outrageous.

"Evolution of a few flowers on a hillside is reasonably explained by mutation and selection; it stretches logic to explain the millions of extremely diverse species seen currently and in the fossil record."

The duo note that such "probability

■ Please see CREATION on page 11

Stop Judging Me!



CLINT DECKER

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

Speaking Truth

Jesus said, "Judge not, that you be not judged." (Matthew 7:1) This is a popular Bible verse that is used by people to shame their critics. "Stop telling me what I should be doing. It's my choice. Plus, Jesus said not to judge, and that's what you're doing to me."

Is this what Jesus and the Bible teaches, that no one should ever voice opposition to another? Of course not, and this is not what the often-quoted Bible verse is referring to anyways.

When Jesus talks about judging, He is referring to making some kind of decision or judgement about someone. The judgements can be made based on what another person has

said, done, written, thought, posted on social media or even what their motives are. Jesus is not talking about legal judgements, but personal relationships. How we treat family, friends, neighbors, or even our enemies.

Look at this illustration Jesus gave about judging, to help us understand, "Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." (Matt. 7:3-4)

Jesus is not saying, to never speak up and address someone's behavior. Far from it. He encourages us to do that, and models it for us as well. Instead, Jesus is addressing not being a fault-finder or critic on minor, inconsequential things. Additionally, when dealing with people on both the small and big things, He is telling us to not have a morally superior attitude that looks down on them.

Here are four lessons from Jesus about why we should not have this kind of judging spirit.

1-Because it belittles others while portraying you as more virtuous. Observe in Jesus' illustration, that the one with the log in his own eye, was completely oblivious to it. All he noticed was the speck in the other person's eye.

When we have this type of spirit, all we can see are other people's problems. We are blinded to our own short-comings, while being eager to point them out in others. This is a self-righteous kind of judging, that portrays others as inferior to you.

2-Because it turns us into critics. When we have a giant log in our eye, so we cannot see clearly, we end up with a judgmental spirit on the small stuff. The situations are not moral failures, sins or crimes. No, they are trivial things people have disagreed with us on, or they have fallen short of our standards in some way. Yet, instead of overlooking inconsequential things, we focus on them and go to battle.

3-Because it unfairly condemns



people. When we judge this way, we treat people unjustly and inconsistently.

4-Because the same measure will be used against you. Jesus gives a warning to fault-finding, morally superior people. One day we all will stand before God to be judged justly and fairly. However, God says that the same standard by which we judged others, will be used against us. This is to give us pause and maybe even a sense of fear and trembling. For the Scripture says, "Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God..." (Romans 14:10)

So how are we to engage with people in both the small and big things?

God calls every one of us to treat others with love, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and gentleness, while exercising self-control.

A prayer for you – *Lord God, we praise you that Jesus came to die and rise again to give us a new heart. Because He lives, we no longer have to treat people with a fault-finding morally superior attitude anymore. Through Christ, we can be free. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

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

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Americans' confidence in church, schools, courts, military has changed

Only about one-third of Americans have confidence in the church or organized religion, and even fewer have faith in public schools. Gallup sampled Americans' level of trust in more than a dozen institutions, as it has done for several years.

Thirty-two percent of respondents expressed a "great deal" or "fair amount" of confidence in the church and organized religion compared to the historic low of 31 percent recorded in 2022 but still lower than the 37 percent recorded in 2021. Twenty-six percent of Americans held a "great deal" or "fair amount" of confidence in the public schools, tying the historic low recorded in 2014 and down from 32 percent in 2021.

The share of Americans who have a "great deal" or "fair amount" of confidence in the U.S. Supreme Court rose from a record low of 25

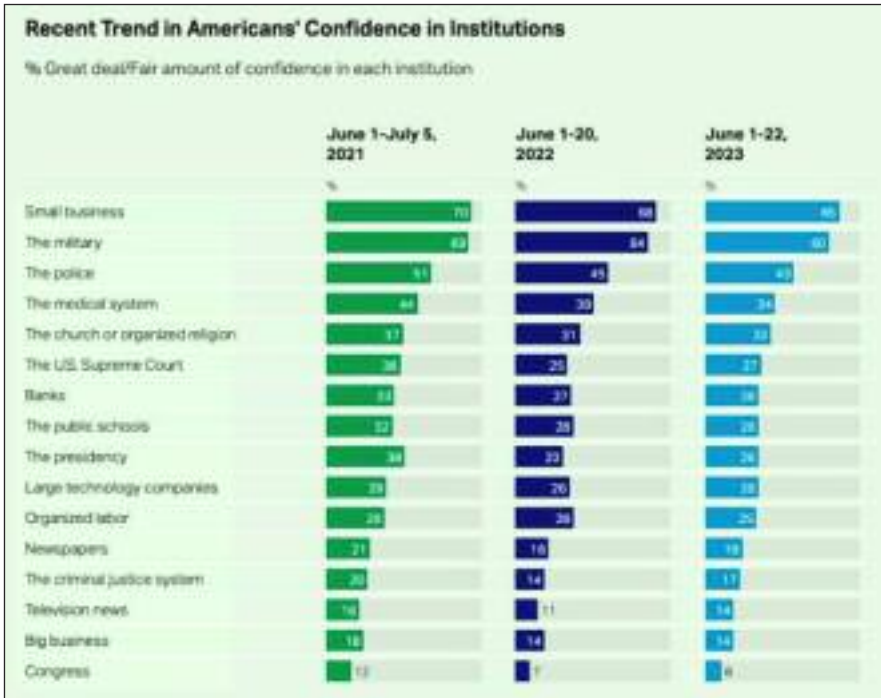
percent in 2022 to 27 percent in 2023 but still down from 36 percent in 2021.

The confidence level in public schools, Supreme Court and Church or organized religion varied significantly based on partisan identification. A larger share of Democrats (43 percent) than Republicans (9 percent) and independents (25 percent) expressed a "great deal" or "fair amount" of confidence in public schools. Meanwhile, a larger share of Republicans (49 percent) reported a significant amount of confidence in the church and organized religion compared to 25 percent among both Democrats and independents.

Similarly, a greater share of Republicans (43 percent) held a "great deal" or "fair amount" of confidence in the high court than Democrats (15 percent), likely reflecting Democrats' intense disapproval of some of the

court's major rulings, including the 2022 ruling determining that the U.S. Constitution does not contain a right to abortion. Twenty-six percent of independents expressed some level of confidence in the Supreme Court.

The average level of confidence in nine institutions Gallup has consistently sampled public opinion about since 1979 reached an all-time low of 26 percent this year, a dip from the 27 percent measured last year and the high of 48 percent in 1979.



CREATION

continued from page 13

assessment has largely been overlooked" for the simple fact that "evolution is generally accepted as scientifically established."

The consensus attitude is, "It happened, we are here, so the probability is one."

Expressed differently, today's scientific community has assumed Darwinian evolution to be true because they are philosophically hostile to a theistic alternative.

Outspoken atheists like Richard Dawkins, for example, are so intent on making sense of "intelligent design" apart from God that they have been reduced to spit-balling guesses about space aliens or multiverse phenomena as potential answers to our fundamental questions about life's origin.

This atheistic pre-commitment is less about science and more about absolving themselves (in their minds, at least) of accountability to a Holy God who requires our obedience.

Mathematical implausibility aside, proponents of Darwinian evolution are running up against another obstacle.

Charles Darwin's theory, remember, is built on a model of transitional phases, wherein lower lifeforms evolve into higher, more advanced ones through the method of natural selection and survival of the fittest. This process, we're told, has

taken place through incremental intervals spanning millions of years, eventually producing the most superior organism to date: humans.

This theory, it turns out, makes a big assumption: That these transitional phases improve an organism's chance of survival.

This assumption, however, is unwarranted, as Brown and Hullender main-

tain:

"[S]urvival of the fittest is illogical when proposed as adequate for selecting the origination of all complex, major, new body-types and metabolic functions because the multiple changes in multiple genomes that are required have intermediate stages without advantage; selection would not reasonably occur, and disadvantage or death would logically prevail."

To paraphrase: What advantage does a half-evolved eye offer for survival? Or how about a three-quarters evolved lung? Or a two-thirds evolved genitalia? How do mammals even reproduce without fully functioning sex organs?

This is what Brown and Hullender are getting at when they assert that "survival of the fittest," contrary to popular acceptance, is a death warrant to its recipient

because the "evolved" organism is left physically vulnerable during these "intermediate stages."

It's as if creatures were first created in a mature, completed state.

Where have we read that before?

-Jason Mattera is a New York Times bestselling author and Emmy-nominated journalist

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'We're Going After Amazon': The Rise of a Conservative Online Shopping Alternative

Conservatives and their products face obstacles on Amazon: Ads are blocked, social networks are booted, and books are undiscoverable on the search engine or removed entirely.

Now, an alternative is on the rise: PublicSq., which brands itself as “Pro-Life, Pro-Family, Pro-Freedom,” has accumulated over 1.1 million consumer users and 55,000 businesses since its launch on July 4, 2022.

“I’ve witnessed the need for a parallel economy for a decade now, as corporate entity after corporate entity turned against me and my family’s more-traditional values,” Michael Seifert, the founder and CEO of PublicSq., told NATIONAL REVIEW in an interview. “We continually felt disheartened and wondered if there were any brands that would speak to us or, at the very least, wouldn’t verbally antagonize us.”

PublicSq. encourages “freedom-loving Americans” to enjoy “values-aligned businesses.” After high-profile conservatives advocated for boycotts of Target and other corporations that introduced Pride-themed merchandise in June, the PublicSq. app surged to the #2 shopping app and the #3 free app in Apple’s App Store, while the consumer member base grew by over 300,000.

“We’re going after Amazon,” Seifert said.

Small businesses that joined PublicSq. can attest that the app provided a valuable platform. Natalie Meneses Martinez, the owner of the herbal-wellness company Naturacentric, told NATIONAL REVIEW that she saw a 20 percent increase in orders within two weeks of joining and advertising on PublicSq.

PublicSq. requires businesses joining the site to affirm its five core values: a



“commitment to freedom and truth,” “protect the family unit and the sanctity of every life,” belief in the “greatness of this nation,” and the conviction that small businesses are the “backbone of our economy” and that “government isn’t the source of our rights, so it can’t take them away.” Businesses must further affirm that they will source as many products as possible in the United States. Then, a vetting team will conduct internet searches and interviews to verify whether the business has publicly contradicted the values.

Seifert said PublicSq. also checks for quality by ensuring that the phone numbers are live, the websites are functioning, and there are promising reviews. PublicSq. also has a feedback mechanism that allows consumers to relay their shopping experience.

“Boycotts are not enough,” Seifert told NATIONAL REVIEW. “Unto themselves, we actually don’t believe they’re as effective as if you were to completely unsubscribe from these broken and corrupt companies because you found something better.”

But while conservatives have called for boycotts, progressives have expressed their hostility toward brands and companies that defend traditional values.

Anna Person, a mechanical engineer in Ohio, launched the skin-care small business Root Apothecary in 2022, then added it to PublicSq. in May, 2023, after a conservative follower on social media suggested she join the platform.

“My products sell out in under two minutes almost every time I do a [merchandise] drop, so it’s hard to know if I’ve gotten new customers from PublicSq[uaire],” Anna told NATIONAL REVIEW.

Although her tallow skin-care products sell out within minutes, she does carry products from other small businesses that are always in stock, and she’s seen a 10 percent increase in daily sales since joining PublicSq. Additionally, she saw an increase in social-media reach after joining: Her Instagram followers grew by 14 percent to total just over 9,000.

Anna’s company is transparent about its values: “We believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God and that he died on the cross for our sins,” “We are unapologetically Anti-Woke, Pro-Life, Pro-Medical Freedom, Pro-2A,” and “We value faith, life, family, freedom, and obviously small American businesses.”

Anna said that the most controversial of those values is being pro-life, and she’s received plenty of hostile messages on social media, especially after the overturn of Roe v. Wade.

“I’ve never shied away from what I believe in, because even if you’re going to lose a handful of people that are going to be nasty in your comments anyway, you might as well gain the respect of those who agree with you,” she told NA-

TIONAL REVIEW. “We have been told time and time again that our quality of products and prices are what bring people in the door, but our values are what makes them stay. People are tired of liberal and progressive agendas being shoved down their throat!”

A representative from Nimi Skincare, a company that joined PublicSq. in January, 2023, echoed Anna’s comments. Although Nimi Skincare has received hostile messages on social media, such as being told it “deserve[s] a bullet in the head,” it also found a consumer audience that wanted skin-care products from a conservative company.

“We were tired of hearing their liberal political views in every single place we looked,” Nimi Skincare states on its website. The American-made brand advertises representing an “empowered, conservative community of women.”

“We try to focus on our customers and who they are as opposed to what other brands are doing. Our customers proudly stand behind Faith, Family, and Freedom,” a Nimi Skincare representative told NATIONAL REVIEW in an email. The company saw an increase in sales after joining PublicSq., because it “created a platform that amplifies our message to the right audience — conservative, values-based, Americans.”

Although PublicSq. brands itself as conservative, some of the businesses featured think that it is an apolitical venue to support small businesses.

“I think that people need to support small businesses, and I think this is a great platform to do that. I don’t even think it is a political thing,” Joseph Schubach, the owner of Joseph Schubach Jewelers in Arizona, told NATIONAL REVIEW. “We just need to think about when you spend a dollar,

where does that dollar go? With so many businesses, it doesn’t stay in the community, even in the country.”

Consumers have told Schubach that they prefer to buy from small businesses rather than “big conglomerates.”

“Since Covid, there’s been a swell of people wanting to support the little guy. The little guys were the ones that were shut down, and the big guys were allowed to stay open. I think a lot of people took offense to that,” Schubach said. He added his business to PublicSq. about a month ago.

Seifert noted a similar phenomenon. “During the Covid lockdowns, I witnessed the government deem some businesses as essential and others as nonessential,” Seifert told NATIONAL REVIEW. “Often, it was the businesses that were willing to go along with hyper-progressive political messaging that were deemed essential, and the major corporate entities that had the firepower to lobby.”

Seifert agrees with Schubach that PublicSq. isn’t an exclusively conservative platform, noting that “nowhere in our five values does it use the word ‘conservative’ or ‘Republican.’” He adds that small businesses are “the heartbeat of what we do” and constitute over 90 percent of businesses hosted on PublicSq.

PublicSq., which recently relocated its headquarters from California to Florida, has around 60 full-time employees who work both in-person and remotely. PublicSq. has a “baby bonus,” which provides a \$5,000 bonus after taxes to its employees or their spouses who have a baby or adopt.

“We’re not political, we’re principled,” Seifert said.

—Abigail Anthony/
nationalreview.com

Moms for Liberty under attack after leftist organization brands it as hate group

The parental rights group Moms for Liberty is facing political attacks and even death threats after the Southern Poverty Law Center denounced it as a hate group.

The progressive civil rights watchdog frequently brands conservative and Christian organizations “hate groups,” and this year, that included Moms for Liberty as well as other parental rights groups such as Parents Defending Education. “Schools, especially, have been on the receiving end of ramped-up and coordinated hard-right attacks, frequently



through the guise of ‘parents’ rights’ groups,” it said in its report, accord-

ing to “The Daily Wire.”

“I will personally eradicate you from Massachusetts,” one person wrote, calling them “nasty sows.” A person who put their name as Execute All-Nazis wrote, “Fascists like you deserve to be dragged against a wall and force-fed hot lead.” “You women

have no soul, no morals, for quoting Adolf Hitler in your newsletter,” another person wrote. “The state should remove your kids and/or grandkids from your homes. Evil, evil, evil people you are!”

Tina Descovich, a Moms for Liberty cofounder, referenced the 2012 shooting at the conservative Family Research Council’s headquarters, which the shooter targeted after he found them online through the Southern Poverty Law Center.

“I don’t think you have to look any further than at the Family Research

Council and how they were threatened by a shooter because of the designation as a ‘hate group,’” she said. “It gave people permission to treat us as subhuman.”

Moms for Liberty was started in 2021 by two former school board members responding to COVID restrictions in schools. Since then, the group has expanded its fight to include issues such as sexual content in curricula and school libraries, gender pronoun policies in schools, declining grades and test scores, and racial curriculum content with leftist overtones.

These new abortion, gender and drug laws just took effect in Kansas

These new abortion, gender and drug laws just took effect in Kansas

New laws that range from the definition of male and female to testing for a lethal drug to abortion pill regulations took effect in Kansas in July.

It's unclear how many of them will survive likely court challenges.

The fresh statutes reflect the Legislature's increasingly aggressive approach to America's culture wars, over Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly's sometimes toothless objections.

But lawmakers also found some ways to find bipartisan bargains, like one change in law that legalized fentanyl test strips as a way to reduce overdose deaths.

Here are some of the most consequential new laws in Kansas:

Women's Bill of Rights

Men and women are now defined by their sex assigned at birth.

But it appears the true ramifications of the law will need to be resolved in court.

Republican Attorney General Kris Kobach said he plans to sue Kelly's administration after the governor announced the law would not change how Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas De-

partment or Revenue issue identification.

Kobach contends the law requires driver's license and birth certificate records maintained by the state revenue and health departments to reflect a person's anatomical sex identified at birth as opposed to their gender identity. He's argued that it also forces agencies to reverse any changes to those documents that were made before the law took effect.

Fairness in Women's Sports Act

Transgender girls (biological males) will no longer be allowed to participate in girls sports for schools

and colleges.

Republican lawmakers argued the law was needed because student athletes assigned male at birth have a biological advantage in sports over girls.

Kelly initially vetoed the bill — the third time she'd rejected similar legislation in three years. But Republicans rallied enough votes — including one from Democratic Rep. Marvin Robinson — to enact the law. But the law may also be challenged in court.

Legalizing fentanyl test strips

Fentanyl test strips are no longer considered drug paraphernalia. That allows them to be used to detect

whether other drugs are laced with deadly fentanyl.

Several attempts to legalize the test strips failed in recent years. But this year, lawmakers heard gut-wrenching testimony from Kansas parents who lost children to drug overdoses.

The change received broad bipartisan support. When the bill was signed into law, Republican Rep. Stephen Owens said the test strips can help save lives.

"These issues that are so critical," Owens said, "can be bipartisan issues that we can move forward together to make Kansas a better place."

Statute of limitations for child sex crimes

Prosecutions of child sex crimes no longer have a statute of limitations. Similar to murder and rape cases, prosecutors can now bring cases to trial decades after the crime.

Additionally, victims of child sex abuse have until they are 31 years old to pursue civil lawsuits against abusers. Previously, the state required those lawsuits to be filed before the victim turned 21 years old.

The new law received unanimous support in the Legislature.

Abortion pill reversal

Doctors are now required to provide abortion patients with informa-

tion about the reversibility of the abortion pill mifepristone.

Although the law is on the books, the state won't enforce it until a court weighs in.

Kobach reached an agreement with abortion providers to wait until the court rules on a request for a temporary injunction. Abortion providers are challenging the law.

Laws restricting abortion access in Kansas are likely to face scrutiny from the Kansas Supreme Court, which ruled in 2019 that the state constitution protects the right to an abortion.

— By Dylan Lysen | KMUW



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Marshall files bill to reverse Biden mortgage rule charging higher rates to those with good credit

U.S. Sen. Roger Marshall, R-Kansas, has teamed up with his fellow Republican lawmakers in opposing the Biden administration's proposed changes to mortgage rate calculation.

With U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Indiana, and others, he introduced the Middle Class Borrower Protection Act. It would block the Biden administration's Loan-Level Price Adjustment (LLPA) rule changes that raised interest rates for home buyers with good credit to lower rates for those with bad credit. The bill would reverse this to lower rates for those with good credit scores.

The proposal has 15 co-sponsors in the Senate, including U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kansas. Its companion bill, introduced in the U.S. House last month by U.S. Rep. Warren Davidson,



R-Ohio, passed with bipartisan support.

"It is ludicrous to punish fiscally responsible buyers by charging them a

higher fee in order to give risky borrowers loan-level price adjustments," Senator Marshall said in a press release issued by his office. "Our bill will reverse this misguided choice and require the FHFA to follow the established rules and administrative procedures when making changes like this. This is unfair to every American who has worked hard and managed their finances responsibly — they shouldn't have to pay more and be penalized for the choices of others."

Braun said that most American homeowners have good credit, so it doesn't make sense to penalize them to the benefit of a few.

"The average American has a credit score over 716," Braun said. "The Biden administration is making homeown-

ership more difficult for everyday Americans by raising rates for most people with a credit score over 680 to subsidize riskier borrowers. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to quickly vote to overturn this unfair rule that penalizes fiscal responsibility."

Additionally, Moran said what the Biden administration is doing will make home ownership less attainable, which he opposes.

"Helping Americans achieve the dream of homeownership shouldn't require punishing homebuyers with good credit," Moran said in the release. "Rather than subsidizing high-risk borrowers and punishing fiscal responsibility, the federal government needs to be focused on reducing housing costs to make homes more affordable

for all Americans."

The bill comes in response to a decision made by the Federal Housing Finance Agency on May 1, 2023. The new rule changes the country's Loan Level Pricing Adjustments (LLPA) policy. They are one-time, upfront fees charged to lenders when Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (GSEs) purchase their loans.

The borrowers pass the fees off in the form of higher interest rates, according to Marshall's office. As a result, the change raises rates for those with credit scores above 680 "to subsidize relatively lower rates for those with credit scores below that threshold," according to the release.

— By Tom Joyce | The Center Square

Summertime— should gals go sexy or modest?

Short shorts? Bikinis? Sprayed-on yoga pants? Does it really matter as temperatures rise and summer starts?

I recently read three tweets I'm sure will ignite some interesting debate. We really do need to get ahead of this before the pool parties and picnics start.

As parents we raised four kids, and now have seven grandchildren, so I'm well aware this is usually an area where clear-cut godly guidance is essential.

• "Dear sisters, as summer approaches, it is so important to be mindful of your clothing choices. Please prioritize dressing modestly in the fear of God, and being considerate of your brothers in Christ."

• "Acceptable occasions to wear yoga pants? How about alone in your house with your husband. Working out alone in your private gym. No public venues or social media."

• "Bikinis are closer to nudity than swimwear. Women, please cover up—especially Christian women. Sisters, be mindful of the conscience of your brothers in the Lord. If you cause your brother to sin, you played a part."

Are these unreasonable perspectives? Are they biblical? We can avoid legalism and it really does matter.

Scriptural Guidelines

Scripture clearly reveals the direction Jesus gave us to never "look on a woman to lust after her" (Matt. 5:28) and Ps. 101:3 tells us, "I will set no wicked thing before my eyes." What follows are six guidelines pertinent to women but having application for men as well.

• We are to "present [our] bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable to God, which is [our] reasonable service of worship ... [and] "not be conformed to this world [pop culture] but be transformed by the renewing of [our] mind[s]" (Rom. 12:1-2a).

We should look sharp, not seductive. We can dress cool without appearing cheap. Let's draw attention to our countenance and eyes (which Jesus said are the "lamp of the body," as opposed to body parts and flesh that often show where a person's heart and focus really are). Let's not rationalize either ("I get a better tan line, and guys shouldn't be looking anyway").

• We know that we should never wear clothing that draws lustful looks, causing others to "stumble" into sin (see Matt. 18:6) or commit adultery in their heart by fantasizing after viewing us dressed provocatively or immodestly (Matt.



5:28), as in wearing a swimsuit akin to walking around in revealing underwear. Let's get real: Is some beach attire a bathing suit, or almost a birthday suit? We must not allow ourselves to become desensitized to the message of modesty today.

• Modesty is a positive principle emphasizing inner beauty and character over outward vanity and cheapness. "I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly" (1 Tim. 2:9a, NASB). Sprayed-on yoga pants or see-through, braless blouses don't get a thumbs-up here.

Helpful Definitions

• "Proper": suitable, appropriate, conforming to an acceptable standard, de-

cent

• "Modest": having a regard for decencies of behavior or dress, not displaying one's body

• "Discreet": lacking ostentation (showiness); showing good judgment

In the Garden of Eden, before sin entered into the world, the man and his wife were both naked (the Hebrew word speaks of partial covering, covered by God's glory) (see Gen 2:25); after they sinned, the effect was shame, so they covered up (Gen. 3:7). "The parts that are unrepresentable are treated with special modesty" (1 Cor. 12:23b, NIV). This is why we naturally feel self-conscious about body parts revealed; we fold arms under breasts and clasp hands in front of our lower anatomy when standing be-

fore a group.

No matter how alluring and supposedly happy certain divas, models and Hollywood superstars appear, don't be fooled. God tells us: "Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain but the woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised" (Prov. 31:30, MEV). Behind closed doors, many of these "picture-perfect" (and computer-enhanced, surgically altered) people are, in reality, lonely, jaded and empty. They flit from romance to romance and therapist to therapist; "on the outside they appear beautiful but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness" (Matt. 23:27, NASB). Pray for them!

• We are "called to be free. But do not use [our] freedom to indulge the flesh [our sinful nature]; rather, serve one another humbly in love" (Gal. 5:13, NIV). In other words, we have the privilege and the ability to defer to rather than defraud the opposite sex through sensuality.

More Definitions

• "Defer": limiting my freedom in order not to offend those God allows me to serve (see Rom. 14:21)

• "Defraud": arousing sexual desires in another person that cannot be righteously satisfied" (see I Thess. 4:6)

• "Sensuality": planned appeal to the physical senses for physical gratification (see 1 Pet. 2:11)

Let's ask: "Who dictates my wardrobe—worldly magazines, movies and models, or the Word of God, which calls me to be (as a woman): 1. feminine, 2. modest, 3. appropriate?"

Here's the deal: When there is a question raised (by yourself, a parent or a faithful friend) concerning an article of clothing, length of a skirt, level of a neckline, tightness of pants, message on a shirt, follow the following:

• Doubt—do without (Rom. 14:13)

• Flee from youthful lusts" (2 Tim. 2:22a, NASB)

• Honor your father and your mother" (Eph. 6:2a, MEV)

Let's help our young women learn to discern the deception of pop culture advocating "empowerment." Remember, modest attire starts in the heart, not a dress code. Let's focus on the abundant life Jesus promised!

—Larry Tomczak / wnd.com



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Israel Uncharted! Presentation: Archaeology Proves the Bible is True

Aaron Lipkin returns to the Kansas City area with exciting new discoveries from the Holy Land. He'll be appearing at three free events on the evenings of July 31, Aug. 1, and Aug. 2 in Olathe, Raymore and Lee's Summit.

The presentation, "Archaeology Proves the Bible is True," will explore Joshua's Altar and the lead tablet recently announced to the academic world. The tablet, discovered at the site of the altar, has turned the archaeological world and secular historians on their heads! It has upended everything they once believed about the Israelites entering the Promised Land and revealed historical details that corroborate the dates and events in Scripture. It is being called the most significant biblical archaeological discovery ever made.

Can we prove that Moses instructed Joshua to build the altar? Did Joshua follow those instructions? Is the story of the blessings and curses true? Is there any source outside of the scriptures that can prove that event happened? Was the Old Testament only passed down orally or does text exist to prove its events were also written down? These and many other questions will be answered.

Aaron Lipkin is a popular speaker, archaeological preservationist, and Bible scholar who appears on numerous U.S. and Israeli TV news programs and works to help both Jews and Christians

understand the history behind the Bible.

His work in the preservation of Joshua's Altar brought the world's attention to Palestinian destruction of ancient biblical sites that are central to the narrative of the Scriptures. His work takes him across Samaria and Judea exploring some of the most exciting sites Israel has.

He is currently on a U.S. speaking tour giving presentations on the discovery and scientific study of the lead tablet found at the site of Joshua's Altar. Audiences are captivated as he brings the scriptures to life, showing how science and recent discoveries are proving the accuracy of the Bible.

Aaron's presentation gives attendees goosebumps as he describes how science, archaeology and geography are proving the accuracy of the Scriptures.

Here are the dates:

Archaeology Proves the Bible is True!

Monday, July 31, 2023
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Journey Bible Church
13700 W 151st ST
Olathe, Ks 66062

Tuesday, August 1, 2023
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Fellowship Church, Raymore, MO
Campus

116 S Washington St
Raymore, MO 64083

Wednesday: August 2, 2023

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

MidContinent Public Library
Lee's Summit Colbern Road Branch
1000 NE Colbern Rd.

Lee's Summit, MO 64086

Make sure to share this with anyone who loves the scriptures, history, and archaeology.

Israel Uncharted is a program by Dwight & Anita Widaman of Metrovoicenews.com, their nonprofit Visionisrael.org and this year, the Bott Radio Network.

New senior living facility to open in Southeast Topeka

A new senior living facility is being built on the southeast side of Topeka.

The development of the new Southern Hills Senior Homes is at SE 38th St. and SE Adams St.

The new facility will feature a community building, 12 duplexes, 24 units, each with two bedrooms and one bathroom.

"A lot of seniors are on fixed income and although... you know the supply and demand issues with housing in Topeka. Rents keep going up," said Chris Palmer, Cornerstone of Topeka. "This is targeted. This whole project is targeted to people who... their gross income is less than 50% of the area median income. So, for a single person that would be \$30,000 a year or under."

Cornerstone of Topeka partnered with Excel Development Group to create this low-income tax credit facility.

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New Study Names Kansas Sixth Best State for Cycling

Whether for recreation or as part of a commute to work, the bicycle industry has continued to grow in the United States. According to Zippia, there are 52 million bicycle riders in the U.S. and \$8.2 billion was spent by Americans on bicycles and accessories.

One of the biggest recent jumps surrounding interest in biking in the United States came as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Between 2019 and 2020, sales increased by 40% during that span. Sales continued to increase a year later by 57% from 2020 and 2021.

With continued growing interest, the research staff at Gam-

bling.com decided to rank the best states for cycling in the U.S. They looked at four different data points to see how the 50 states compare to each other.

- Wyoming is crowned the state best for biking with an overall score of 89.8

- Maine and South Dakota came in second and third place

- Kansas Named as Sixth Best State for Cycling

- Missouri Named as Tenth Best State for Cycling

- New research also discovered Alabama and Illinois are the worst states for biking

Rank	State	Bike Shop Excellence Award Score	Cycling Friendly Actions Score	Rental Cost Score	Cycling Safety Score	Overall Cycling Score
1	Wyoming	87.8	87.8	88.4	83.8	89.8
2	Maine	81.8	88.3	88.0	87.2	84.3
3	South Dakota	85.8	71.4	48.0	100.0	78.1
4	Alaska	100.0	79.5	88.2	81.3	78.0
5	Kentucky	83.8	81.2	78.6	87.4	74.8
6	Kansas	86.7	44.8	100.0	44.8	80.9
7	New Mexico	79.8	88.7	87.8	12.3	88.2
7B	Iowa	83.8	83.2	87.8	28.8	85.8
7B	Nebraska	80.0	83.3	98.0	80.0	88.8
11A	Missouri	76.6	85.3	87.8	72.8	84.3
11A	Wisconsin	77.5	84.3	98.0	88.4	84.3
12	Rhode Island	80.0	83.8	78.8	81.7	83.8
13	Oregon	87.7	76.6	51.1	28.8	80.3
14	Massachusetts	88.7	88.7	32.3	87.8	88.7
15	Colorado	81.8	48.8	88.8	14.3	88.2
16	Tennessee	88.3	81.8	28.8	83.7	87.7
17	Indiana	71.4	48.8	98.0	18.4	88.7
18	Maryland	87.1	88.1	88.4	42.8	88.1
19	Utah	73.4	73.4	8.2	83.3	84.1
20	Alabama	81.2	28.5	48.0	78.8	83.8
20	Illinois	88.1	30.8	78.8	48.0	83.8

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Archaeology Proves the Bible is True!

Bible Scholar & Archaeology Expert
Aaron Lipkin from Israel

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VisionIsrael.com
Bott Radio Network
Info: metrovoicenews.com

July 31, 7-9pm: Journey Bible Church
13700 W 151st, Olathe,

Aug. 1, 7-9pm: Fellowship Church
116 S. Washington, Raymore Campus

Aug. 2, 6:30-8:30pm: MidContinent Library
1000 NE Colbern Rd., Lee's Summit



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NOTO Summer Concerts Continue

The NOTO Summer Concert series is a celebration of music that strives to offer culturally rich experiences for the community through a diverse variety of genres and performers. In addition to regionally acclaimed headlining bands, these concerts also feature a local emerging artist as the opening act. With the intentional focus on a diversity of music performances, the vibe of the NOTO Arts & Entertainment District and the intimate setting of Redbud Park, these concerts are like none other in our community.

Head to NOTO on August 18th for the headlining act, Project 11, Opening for Project 11 is jazz musician Luke Sheibmeir.

Project 11 was created in 2008 by Stephanie Nesseth- keyboard player, vocalist, bass player and educator. For live performances, she collaborates with talented multi-instrumentalists, reimagining jazz standards and blending

neo-soul, jazz, and electronic music. Stephanie has performed solo for events like the American Heart Association winter gala, and as a keyboardist/vocalist with bands in Kansas City, Seattle, and Spain.

The Friends of NOTO Sneak Peek on Thursday, August 3 will introduce you to the start of many special activities connected to this exhibit over the next couple of months. The Morris Art Gallery exhibit "NOTO Land Acknowledgement" curated by Lisa LaRue Baker is in relation to the Three Sisters story from many Native American tribal cultures, as well as depictions of the origins of North Topeka limited to the Gonville-Pappan sisters and the Kaw Reserves. Doors open at 5:00PM with a brief presentation at 6:00PM.



In September there will be a special dedication of a mural of the same name, as well as a land reclamation ceremony. More details will be provided as the event gets finalized.

Saturday September 2 is Arts-tember - the season to embrace the beauty of nature with the vibrancy of fall colors, and its also a time to embrace the arts with an array of activities featuring live art performances.

Stay tuned for more information, and save the date now!

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK & MARKET is the first Friday of every month. The North Topeka Arts District has become an attraction to Art Lovers and History Buffs alike with beautiful scenes of art and history. Entertainment can also be found on First Fridays, at various venues during the artwalk 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. Art Walk Hours are 10 am to 9 pm.

THROUGH THE DECADES 70s 80s & 90s - July 29, 9pm, The Woodshed. Summer night fun through the decades of the 70s 80s and 90s. If you're 21 and up and have \$20, then come party in your best costumes!

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

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

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

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

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the events calendar

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

GRAND OTTAWA OPRY – 2nd & 4th Saturday, 5:30PM-pre-show, 6PM showtime, Ottawa Memorial

Auditorium, 301 S Hickory, Ottawa. Tickets are \$15 and only at the door. Ph. 785-241-6762, email grandoprpy@gmail.com

PICKIN' ON THE PRAIRIE BLUEGRASS JAM, every Sunday 1-3:00, Potwin Drug Store, Old Prairie Town, 785-215-6997 for info. Milkshake for the month of August is GIMME'S MORE

THROUGH THE DECADES 70s 80s & 90s – July 29, 9pm, The Woodshed. Summer night fun through the decades of the 70s 80s and 90s. If you're 21 and up

and have \$20, then come party with us in your best costumes! Which decade will you choose?

EATS AND BEATS – Aug. 3, 6:30-8:30pm, Every Plaza. Paradize band

CONCERT FOR A CHILD – Aug. 3, 6:45-9pm, 4341 US 40 Hwy. Rick Faris & The Faris Brothers. Benefits pediatric services at Capper Foundation. Food trucks.

MUSIC IN THE PARK – Aug. 6, 7pm, Gage Park Amphitheater. Sante Fe Band

EATS AND BEATS – Aug. 10, 6:30-8:30pm, Every Plaza. Lazy Wayne Band

TOPEKA JAZZ WORKSHOP – Aug. 13, 3-5pm, Topeka Library

SUMMERTIME BLUES CONCERT SERIES – Aug. 16, 7-9pm, Gage Park Amphitheater. Howard Mahan Band.

EATS AND BEATS – Aug. 17, 6:30-8:30pm, Every Plaza. Big Rick and Soul'd Out

NOTO Summer Concert series – Project 11 – Aug. 18, 7-10pm. Jazz musician Luke Sheibmeir.

EATS AND BEATS – Aug. 24, 6:30-8:30pm, Every Plaza. Carswell and Hope

EATS AND BEATS – Aug. 31, 6:30-8:30pm, Every Plaza. Soul Rebel and the Beast

SUMMERTIME BLUES CONCERT SERIES – Sep. 20, 7-9pm, Gage Park Amphitheater. Mark & The Sharks.

CASTING CROWNS IN CONCERT – Oct. 6, 7pm, TPAC. TopekaPerformingArts.org

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

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

HOPE HOUSE FREE COMMUNITY CLOTHING BANK – Wed. 6-8pm and Sat. 12-3pm, Oakland Church of the Nazarene: 939 NE Oakland

HARVESTER FREE MOBILE FOOD DISTRIBUTION – 2nd Saturday each month, 1:30-3pm, Oakland Church of the Nazarene: 939 NE Oakland

FREE WEEKLY COMMUNITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST – Sundays 8:10 to 10:30am, at Oakland Church of the Nazarene: 939 NE Oakland, followed by church services at 10:45am with Pastor Jeanette Cook

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

INSIDE OUT FELLOWSHIP CHURCH – Every Sunday 12pm service; Every Tuesday 7:30pm service. Location: 2409 NE Division St.. For info: 785-380-7031 or io@insideoutinc.net or www.insideoutinc.net

KIDS for JESUS! – Wednesday's 6:30 – 8pm, Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Bring your friends, family, neighbors, enemies! For info: 785-266-3247, FB: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene, Email: Lakenaz@aol.com

MID-WEEK PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY – Wednesday's, 7-8pm, Lakeview Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. You are invited! Contact info: (785)266-3247, FB: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene

LOL "LADIES OF LAKEVIEW" – Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Monthly Women's Ministry Events! (Cooking, Crafts, Outreach, Bible Study, Fellowship!) Call the church office for info: (785)

266-3247, Facebook: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene Email: LakeNaz@aol.com

STELLAR Vacation Bible School – July 31-August 4, 6-8 PM, Bethel Community Church, 6944 NW Landon Rd., Topeka, KS. For ages 3 through 6th grade (completed). This year's theme is "STELLAR - Shine Jesus' Light". Contact Brenda @ 785-633-9042 with questions. Register at bethelchurchks.org

FIRST FRIDAY FREE FLICKS – Aug. 4, 7pm, "Running the Bases," Kansas Avenue United Methodist Church, 1029 N. Kansas Ave.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENT – Aug. 5, 6-8pm, Tecumseh UMC, 334 SE Tecumseh Rd. Food, fun & games. Win kids prizes at back-to-school carnival.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENT, Aug. 5, 6-8pm, Kansas Avenue United Methodist Church, 1029 N. Kansas Ave. Free food while supplies last.

TOUCH A TRUCK – Aug. 5, 9-11am, Christ Lutheran Church, 3509 SW Burlingame Rd. christlcmns.org. Free event. Free book for first 100 kids.

CRUISING BACK TO SCHOOL – Aug. 6, 10-2, Fairlawn

Church of the Nazarene, 730 SW Fairlawn. Car show, lawn games, free hair cuts & braids, face painting, school supplies. <https://bit.ly/3rjzpc>

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PULLED PORK DINNER – Aug. 19, 5:30pm, Christ the King Church, 5973 SW 25th St.

GATHER TOPEKA – Aug. 25, 6-8pm, Every Plaza. An awesome show put on by Kidz Blitz, with food trucks and fun for the whole family.

FAMILY MOVIES ON THE LAWN "Do You Believe?" – Aug. 25, 9pm, Harvest Family Fellowship, 522 SW Polk. Popcorn & koolaid provided, Bring lawn chairs.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

SENIORS NUTRITIONAL LUNCH – Weekdays, except holidays, at noon at Auburn Civic Center, 1020 N. Washington Street. Minimal cost per person. Reservations/cancellations required 24 hours in advance by calling Meals on Wheels of Jefferson & Shawnee Co. at 295-3980. Each meal includes 1% milk & sugar-

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Friday, August 25th, 9:00 pm
"Do You Believe?"
North side of building

Harvest Family Fellowship
522 SW Polk

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Aug. 10, 11:30-1: "POWER" Luncheon at Omni Circle Group, 1301 SW Topeka Blvd.

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



• Sep 14: POWER Luncheon, 11:30-1
• Sep. 16: Topeka FALL FEST, 10-3 at Great Overland Station
• Oct. 12: POWER Luncheon, 11:30-1
• Nov. 9: POWER Luncheon, 11:30-1

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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 rnhnl@tsopl.org

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

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. Topeka Acappella Unlimited is a Chapter of Sweet Adelines, International. Call Cindy Patton at 785-640-7403 for info

SQUARE DANCING - Shawnee Swingers has

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

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

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

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

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 8 to Oct. 2, Topeka & Sh. Co. Library, (closed Memorial Day & Labor Day)

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

LAWRENCE TUESDAY MARKET – Tuesdays, 4-6pm, South Park, 1141 Massachusetts. Opens May 9

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

CARBONDALE FARMERS MARKET – every Wed. 4-6pm in Carbondale City Park. Vendor-grown or vendor-produced. 785836-7887

PERRY LECOMPTON FARMERS MARKET – Fridays 4-6:30pm, Bernie's/Cenex parking lot, Ferguson & Hwy 24

DOWNTOWN TOPEKA FARMERS MARKET – Saturday's April 8 to Oct. 28, 7:30am-noon, 6th & 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 – Saturday's, 7:30am-1pm. Apr. 1 through Nov. 18, south end of West Ridge Mall parking lot.

LAWRENCE FARMERS MARKET – Sat. 7:30-11:30, 824 New Hampshire Street. Opens April 8

MOTHER TERESA'S FARMERS MARKET – Saturdays, July 1 – Sep. 9, 8:30-11:30am, 2014 NW 46th St.

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

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES – Outdoor events and activities. www.getoutdoorskansas.org/calenda

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

ARCHAEOLOGY PROVES THE BIBLE IS TRUE! – Israel Uncharted Summer Series: July 31, 7-9pm, Journey Bible Church, 13700 W 151st St, Olathe, KS; Aug. 1, 7-9pm, Fellowship Church, 116 S Washington St, Raymore, MO.; Aug. 2, 6:30-8:30pm, Mid-Continent Public Library, 1000 NE Colbern Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. Israel Uncharted is a program by Dwight & Anita Widaman of Metrovoiceneews.com, and their nonprofit Visionisrael.org, which sponsors trips to Israel. 816-524-4522

FOCUS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING – August 1st - Stigma & Diversity, 9:30-10:30am, Sunflower Foundation on the former Menninger Campus, 5820 SW 6th. Prevention and Resiliency Services (PARS) and Safe Streets present a community education event, designed to spark engagement, increase awareness and understanding, and empower the community to be informed and vocal on challenges faced in Topeka. RSVP – https://tinyurl.com/2p4yse37

JAYHAWK THEATRE OPEN HOUSE, Aug. 4, 6pm. Tours every 30 minutes Register at https://historic-jayhawk-theatre-inc.dm.networkforgood.com/forms/jayhawk-theatre-open-house-friday-august-4

FRIDAY FLICKS – Aug. 4, 8pm at Everyy Plaza. "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." Bring a blanket or lawn chair & get comfy. Food trucks

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENTS – Aug. 5. National Night Out events throughout Topeka and Shawnee County. For info 266.4606 or info@parstopeka.org.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENT – Aug. 5, 5-7pm, Big Brothers Big Sisters parking lot, 2348 SW Topeka Blvd. Free food, drinks, games for all ages. Bring your lawn chair.

TOPEKA TACO & MARGARITA FESTIVAL – Aug. 5, 11am-5pm, Vail Events Ctr. Doors open at 12 for \$10 General Adm. (VIPs - \$45 at 11am) Live pro wrestling, shopping, live DJs. Aimee.craig@oakviewgroup.com. Tickets: https://www.ticketmaster.com/event/06005EAC2754CED

STATION 9 ¾ – Aug. 5 & 6, 10-4 at Great Overland Station. Magic, mirth & merriment!

FREE WOMEN'S SELF DEFENSE SEMINAR – Aug. 5, 3-5pm, Vigilance Martial Arts, WestRidge Mall. RSVP https://forms.gle/xqKRZbv9QqArFsYJ7

785 SHOW-DOWN CAR SHOW – Aug. 5, 1-6pm, 2029 SE 29th St. Free back to school supplies for kids

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH – Aug. 5, 11am-1pm, Re-Home at Forbes Field. Save big on back to school supplies.



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FOOD TRUCK NIGHT – Aug. 5, 4-8pm, HHHS, 5720 SW 29. Featuring Delta Haze and food trucks. Helps homeless animals.

TOUCH A TRUCK – Aug. 5, 9-11am, Christ Lutheran Church, 3509 SW Burlingame. Free snacks for all. Free food for first 100 kids.

FOOD TRUCK NIGHT – Aug. 5, 4-8pm, Helping Hands Humane Society, 5720 SW 21st. Live music

DOG SWIM AT SHAWNEE NORTH AQUATIC CENTER – Aug. 7, 4-7pm.

TOPEKA JOB FAIR – Aug. 8, 12:30-3pm, Crestview Comm. Ctr.

C5Alive "POWER" LUNCHEON – Aug. 10, 11:30-1, OMNI Circle Group, 1301 SW Topeka Blvd. Featured Speaker: Michael Odupitan of OMNI Circle Group. Cost: \$15 for C5 members & first-time guests who RSVP, \$17 at the door. • \$20 for non-members & repeat guests. • Please RSVP to info@C5Alive.org, so we know how much food is needed! Open to the public – Put POWER in your life with great food, great speakers and great company! Invite a friend to join you!

SAVE THE DATE: C5 POWER Luncheon, Sep. 14, 11:30-1, featuring Shelly Brush, Healing Hearts Ministries. SPONSORED by Christians For Life.

SAVE THE DATE: C5 POWER Luncheon, Oct. 12, 11:30-1, featuring La Manda Broyles, Executive Director of Topeka Rescue Mission.

INDIA MELA – Aug. 11, 6-10pm, Everyy Plaza. A celebration of Indian culture

SUNNY DAYS VENDOR FAIR – Aug. 12, 10-4, Owl's Nest, 29th & Adams.

SUMMERTIME BLUES CONCERT SERIES – Aug. 16, 7-9pm, Gage Park Amphitheater. Howard Mahan Band.

TRM INFORMATION MEETINGS – Aug. 10, 9-11am and Aug. 22, 11:30am-1:30pm, N. Topeka Baptist Church, 123 NW Gordon. Topeka Rescue Mission Ministries is hosting

Tucker Carlson Starts Reading Scripture and Discovers These Two Truths

Tucker Carlson hosted The 2023 FAMiLY Leadership Summit in July, interviewing six presidential contenders in Iowa in front of thousands of grassroots leaders and political activists.

Iowa is a particularly important state, as it will host the first-in-the-nation 2024 Republican presidential primary caucus on January 15, 2024.

The annual leadership conference was hosted by The FAMiLY Leader, Focus on the Family's allied state family policy council for Iowa, headed by president Bob Vander Plaats.

After interviewing the presidential contenders, Carlson himself was interviewed by Vander Plaats, in which he spoke about his developing faith.

He disclosed that even though he doesn't consider himself a "particularly faithful or virtuous person," he began reading through all of Scripture in February for Lent. So far, he's halfway through and has read the entire New Testament, and up to Deuteronomy in the Old Testament.

"It's like the most interesting thing that I think I've ever done, actually," Carlson said.

So far, there are two primary things that he has learned from reading Scripture.

First, he said he's realized that every figure – except for Jesus – is "really flawed."

"Like, flawed in a way where you'd be like, I don't know if I could be friends with that person," he said.

As an example, Carlson pointed out Abraham's lie to Abimelech, king of Gerar, recorded in Genesis 20. Abraham told the king that Sarah – his wife – was only his sister.

"Abraham enters Egypt and he's like, uh, it's my sister actually, take her!" Carlson joked.

Carlson said that he asked his wife – who is a religion teacher – what the purpose of Scripture's inclusion of that story was.

She responded, "Maybe the point is that God takes people, who are not perfect people ... and uses them for these grander purposes."

Indeed, Carlson – and his wife – are right. All major biblical figures – Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Rahab, Samson, the Prophet Eli, Saul, David, Solomon – and the list goes on, were remarkably imperfect.

And yet, God used them to accom-



plish His purposes.

Second, Carlson said he's learned that "there are unseen forces acting on people. People, while they have freewill, are not really in charge of the arc of history at all."

"People's choices matter. You need to do certain things and not do other things," he added. "On the other hand, you are not in charge. You are being acted upon by a world you can't see."

Carlson then applied that idea to the political realm, saying, "A lot of these issues are symbols of this much larger battle."

Once again, Carlson is correct.

In Ephesians 6:12, Paul writes, *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places"* (ESV).

Indeed, to Tucker's last point, when it comes to the most pressing issues of our day, they are not political in the traditional sense. They are spiritual issues.

For example, laws over abortion restrictions may be debated in the po-

litical arena, but abortion is primarily a moral and spiritual issue.

This is also true for the issues of same-sex marriage, transgenderism, religious liberty, women's sports, sex-segregated spaces, pornographic material in public schools, laws mandating the teaching of "gender identity" to young children and parental rights.

What else can Christians who try to exercise their citizenship in a responsible way take away from Tucker's remarks.

First, don't ever let someone tell you that religion and politics should be separated. Don't ever concede the point that morality should not be legislated.

Far from it. Every law is a debate over morality. Everything that is illegal, should be illegal because it is immoral. You cannot separate these two areas of knowledge. The only question in terms of governing is, which morality will prevail?

Second, Christians should be involved in politics. Why? Because the issues up for debate are spiritual issues – they are all under the Lordship

of Christ and His interest in creation. Therefore, Christians – and Christianity – has a lot to say about them.

Third, we must remember that there is genuine evil in the world, and this includes the area of politics. When Christians fight for or against certain political issues, ballot measures and the like, we do so because we have a moral obligation as followers of Jesus Christ to fight against what is evil, and promote what is good.

Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God (3 John 11, ESV).

Fourth, pray. Since our battle is spiritual, prayer must be one of our weapons, along with truth, righteousness, the gospel and the Word of God.

In response to Carlson's speech, Yoram Hazony, a Modern Orthodox Jew, Bible scholar and chairman of the Edmund Burke Foundation, tweeted, "Terrific that Tucker Carlson was willing to bring the Bible onto center-stage in such a humble and open-hearted way.

"There's nothing America needs now more than to re-engage with the Bible."

Amen to that.

-Daily Citizen.com

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Help for Christians navigating pro-life conversations

As the United States marks the first anniversary the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, many individuals are grappling with how to engage in conversations with those who disagree with the decision. For Christians, especially, discussions on the sanctity of life can be particularly sensitive, prompting them to ponder the appropriate responses to those with contrasting viewpoints.

Recognizing the need to assist believers in addressing the confusion and disagreement surrounding the *Dobbs* ruling, James Spencer, President of the D. L. Moody Center, has published a valuable resource called “20 Questions: Christians, Abortion, and the United States.”

This guide aims to provide answers to twenty potential queries, equipping Christians to effectively communicate Christ’s message in a post-*Roe v. Wade* era. It addresses questions related to bib-



lical and theological aspects, the role and extent of the state’s authority, the ruling itself, and offers guidance on discerning truth online and pointing individuals towards Christ when responding to those who oppose the ruling.

“The fundamental task for Christians remains unchanged,” emphasized Spencer. “We are called to be disciples and make disciples. However, the complexities of our broken world often complicate this simple mission. Follow-

ing the monumental *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision, which overturned *Roe v. Wade* and declared abortion as not protected by the Constitution, Christians will inevitably encounter numerous questions. While we should rejoice in the ruling, we must also be prepared for what lies ahead.

“20 Questions’ seeks to help Christians approach those who staunchly support the pro-choice stance with compassion while providing biblical and theological insights into the broader subject of abortion. It offers a distinctive perspective by evaluating the church-state relationship, taking a deeply theological approach to Christian responses to the pro-choice camp, and drawing valuable insights from the Old Testament concerning abortion,” he says.

Spencer expressed his hopes for the impact of this question set: “My intention is for readers to not only find an-

swers to questions and responses to objections but to also serve as a reminder that we cannot neglect proclaiming the Gospel, even in the midst of advocating for the unborn—an issue of great significance. Safeguarding the unborn and reaching the lost must go hand in hand because Christians do not have the privilege of selecting who should hear the Gospel. Our mission is to direct others to Christ.

“As Dwight Moody once stated, ‘God has placed us where we are, and He expects us to shine—to be living witnesses, to radiate His light. While we are here, our duty is to shine for Him.’ We now find ourselves in a world post-*Roe v. Wade*, and our responsibility is to shine brightly for Christ in this new reality.”

For more information about having these conversations and to get your free copy, visit their website at moodycenter.org/twentyquestions/.

'Real Housewives' Star Reveals How God Has Totally Transformed Her Life

When one thinks of Bravo’s “The Real Housewives” franchise, many things certainly come to mind. But “Jesus-loving” and “Christian” generally aren’t two of the first descriptors to materialize.

Yet Lydia McLaughlin, who formerly starred on “The Real Housewives of Orange County,” fully embraces those titles, openly sharing her faith with the masses.

In fact, McLaughlin, who left the show for a second time in 2018, recently released a book, “JoyFull: 365 Daily Devotions for Women” aimed at helping women get closer to Jesus.

The book’s title has much to do with McLaughlin’s own life and demeanor.

“My time in the spotlight or on ‘Housewives,’ I was known for being a happy housewife ... being someone [who has] a lot of joy,” she told CBN’s Faithwire. “I just believe in the joy that comes from the Lord.”

McLaughlin pointed to the Apostle Paul’s writings on the subject of joy, paraphrasing Paul’s words in *Philippians* 4.

“Paul wrote, ‘I have learned to be content,’” she said. “Joy is something that we can learn to do even if it’s not something that comes natural to us.”

McLaughlin acknowledged joy comes more intrinsically to some than it does others — and explained how life circumstances can complicate people’s quest for peace. Yet even amid the



storm, she believes it’s possible to cling to hope and experience joy.

“I’ve had the hardest year,” McLaughlin said of her own journey. “My mom’s been sick, and even in the midst of hardship and trial, no one can steal my joy because the joy comes from the Lord. And that is everlasting, and that is never changing.”

How Lydia landed on ‘Housewives’

She also recalled the comedic and unexpected way she was cast on season eight of the Bravo show.

At the time, she had two kids and was in her 30s. She and her husband had a magazine, and they’d often photograph well-known celebrities. Another “Housewives” star she met through that work recommended McLaughlin for the show, and she then received a shock-

ing call from casting directors.

“They called me literally out of the blue, and I answered,” she said. “I thought it was a work call ... they were like, ‘We’re casting Director of ‘Housewives.’ Would you wanna audition for the show?’”

McLaughlin said she laughed and explained she wasn’t right for the gig. But after talking with her husband, Doug, McLaughlin said she reconsidered.

“He was like, ‘You should do it. It’d be really good for business, and it would be good for you,’” she said. “I had been leading Bible studies for like 20 years, and he just was like, ‘I think you’re supposed to do it.’”

In the end, McLaughlin said she felt a “calling” and decided to at least audition.

“In all the auditions, I was basically

telling them why I wasn’t good for it. I was like, ‘I like people to get along. I’m a peacemaker. I love Jesus,’” she recalled. “And at the time ... the cast was really separated, shocker. ‘And so they ... weren’t looking for drama.’”

McLaughlin ended up being the peacemaker they purportedly wanted to round out the cast. She starred in two nonconsecutive seasons before calling it quits, saying she believed God had other plans for her life.

Lydia’s testimony

McLaughlin’s faith and reliance aren’t new; they were staples during her time on “Real Housewives,” which is what made her such a fascinating cast member.

The author and TV star didn’t grow up in a Christian home, though she said it was a house that was “very spiritual.” Her mom had a hippie-like vibe, and her father was “into Eastern religion.”

McLaughlin was taught about reincarnation, Buddha, and other themes; she believed there was a God but didn’t worship as a Christian as she does today.

Through her dad’s successes, McLaughlin said she met many people who “had everything that the world had told them to go after.”

Yet these people were “unsatisfied, or they were on drugs, or they were in the middle of a divorce.”

It all became a cautionary tale of

what to avoid, with the chaos not being lost on McLaughlin. Looking for fulfillment and truth, she said she found herself on a faith-filled journey.

“I just started seeking God,” she said, noting she soon started going to church and got involved in a youth ministry. “I never was introduced to Jesus the way that these people were talking about Jesus. And so I continued to seek and search, and God just really broke open my heart.”

McLaughlin became a Christian as a freshman in high school and later met her husband, Doug, while participating in Young Life, a nonprofit Christian ministry.

“I walked into a Young Life leadership meeting, and, across the room, I saw Doug,” she said. “And I feel like it’s one of the most profound times Holy Spirit has spoken to me. And He was like, ‘You’re gonna marry him.’”

The two fell in love and started a family. Over time, other members of her family also started going to church with her. Her brothers accepted Christ and got baptized — and her mom, too, dedicated her life to God after receiving a miracle healing from Stage IV cancer.

McLaughlin said she intends to continue sharing the hope God offers to everyone.

“[God] has transformed my life,” she said. “His word has transformed my life.”

—cbn.com

Americans identify as socially conservative at highest numbers in decade

Americans may be rebelling against an increasingly liberal culture. More adults identify as social conservatives than at any time in the past decade, a new Gallup poll has found.

Nearly four in 10 respondents said they are conservative or very conservative on social issues, an increase from the 33 percent who said so last year. The percentage who now say they are liberal or very liberal on these issues dropped from 33 percent last year to 29 percent.

Gallup had not found as many people identifying as social conservatives since 2012, which it said was a time when respondents consistently identified more as conservative than liberal on social issues.

Among the other findings:

The percentage of Republicans who now say they are socially conservative rose significantly in the past two years, from 60 percent to 74 percent.

Pollsters also noted increases in the percentage across most age groups. The group of 30 to 49 saw the biggest rise, jumping 13 points from 22 percent in 2021 to 35 percent in 2023.

Young people between 18 and 29 are also more conservative moving from 24 percent to 30 percent who describe themselves that way.

The percentage of those aged 50 to 64 who said they are socially conservative increased 11 points in that time, from 35



percent to 46 percent.

The overall percentage identifying as moderate remained roughly steady this

year at 31 percent.

The results come as Republican-led states have pushed forward various ini-

tiatives on social issues in the past year, including many restrictive abortion bans following the overturn of *Roe v. Wade* and bans on gender-affirming care for transgender youth. Gallup said in its analysis that Americans were about as likely to say they are conservative on social issues as that they are liberal in the past eight years. But conservatism has a clear advantage this year, largely because of the increase among Republicans.

“Greater social conservatism may be fostering an environment more favorable to passing conservative-leaning social legislation, especially in Republican-dominated states,” the survey report said.

Despite media perceptions, study finds correlation between religion, successful life

Religious belief tends to be associated with key indicators of a successful life, such as education level and marital status, a recent study found. Ryan Burge, a political scientist who studies religion in American public life, writes that religion in the United States had become an “enclave” for those who have college degrees, stable marriages and children, and middle-class income.

“What the media tell you is that it’s the most educated among us who never go to church, and it’s the least educated among us who always go to church,” said Ben Shapiro who leads “The Daily Wire.” “And that actually is not true.

When you identify that marital status, what you find is that married people go to religious services weekly at a far higher rate than people of any other marital status.”

In his article, Burge said the key takeaway from the numbers would be that churches should be more welcoming to those who do not have as successful lives. Shapiro said that there was an inverse way to read the data as well.

“But there’s a way to read this in reverse, and that is that the rules that the elite of our society, marital elite, the parental elite, the income elite, the educationally elite have applied to them-



selves are very different than the rules they’ve promulgated to the rest of soci-

ety,” he said. “And you see this very clearly in the social science data.”

Shapiro added that the media were pushing a narrative of success that was the opposite of reality, saying that this message was harmful to society at large.

“Now, if you look at the media or if you look at the way the government treats this, it’s precisely the opposite,” he said. “They pretend that the people who are most likely to be successful in our society are single female Berkeley graduates with no children who hate God and hate the church. Those are the people who are most likely to be successful if you watch TV.”

Actress Mariel Hemingway escapes family’s dark past through power of faith

Actress Mariel Hemingway has found peace after a dark history in a family that has been plagued by alcoholism, addiction and mental illness.

Seven of her family members have taken their own lives, including her famous grandfather, Ernest, in 1961, and her sister, Margaux Hemingway, the former supermodel, in 1996. Hemingway, who has battled an eating disorder, has written two books, “Out Came the Sun” and “Invisible Girl,” to help shed light on personal struggles facing many people.

“I did suffer tremendously,” the 61-year-old, who is starring in Pure Flix’s new film, “God’s Country Song,” told Fox News. “I had depression probably most of my life. My belief in God has been a cornerstone for me. It has helped me understand the things that I came



from. I come from an amazing family, but there was also a lot of addiction, alcoholism, depression and suicides. And very serious mental illnesses that I was deeply afraid of. My belief in God and my belief in prayer and connecting with the God within and your inner voice,

that has always been a saving grace for me and a good path for me.”

Margaux, who had been cast in the 1976 film “Lipstick,” suggested that Hemingway play her sibling. Following her appearance, Woody Allen cast her in 1979’s “Manhattan.” As Hemingway’s fame skyrocketed, she faced her own personal struggles but persevered. “We all can make ourselves the best that we can be,” she said.

In “God’s Country Song,” she plays the mother of singer Noah Bryan (Justin Gaston), who learns that he’s the father of a 4-year-old he barely remembers. With the help of faith, family and song, Bryan finds his way and later realizes what truly matters in life. Aspects of the storyline hit close to home.

“God’s Country Song” is such a wholesome story, but it deals with addic-

tion,” she said. “You know, using alcohol to self-medicate the pain we go through in life or things we can’t deal with. I think the reason why it felt so touching to me is that I do a lot of work for mental health... And any time you can get the message out there, especially through

scripted work, it just seems to land really well. There are so many superhero films out there that are wonderful, but I think a more family-oriented story connects with me. And I think it connects with so many others, too. It’s so wonderful and — oh my gosh — the singing is great.”

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Tips for Homeowners to Improve Safety

You may not realize it, but building safety has a huge impact on our everyday lives.

According to InjuryFacts.NSC.org, about 16 out of 100 people were injured in a home or community venue in 2021. The leading causes that contribute to these injuries, such as drowning, fire smoke, and general home maintenance, can be prevented by acting ahead of time.

As the leading global source of model codes, standards and building safety solutions, the Code Council is passionate about educating homeowners on fire safety, home maintenance and sustainability practices. Here are some safety tips from the Code Council to help prevent accidents and keep your family and community safe:

Fire Safety Tips:

- Put a smoke alarm on every level of your home, outside each sleeping area and inside every bedroom. Test each smoke alarm regularly and replace it every 10 years.
- Install home fire sprinklers. They are relatively affordable and can increase property value and lower insurance rates.
- Make an escape plan with a meet-

ing place outside so everyone knows how to get out fast.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from portable heaters.
- Keep all items that can burn away from your home. Remember to clean leaves from your gutters and clear dead leaves and branches from shrubs and trees surrounding your home.

Home Maintenance Tips:

- Never overload electrical cords or power strips.
- Don't use appliances that have damaged cords.
- For mold prevention, watch for leaky pipes, condensation and wet spots, and fix sources of moisture problems as soon as possible.
- Keep in mind that there are several materials and items that should never be flushed down the toilet, including medication, disposable wipes, coffee grounds and more.
- To prevent your pipes from freezing in the winter, drain water from the swimming pool and water sprinkler supply lines following the manufacturer's or installer's directions.
- Make sure all pedestrian gates in the barrier fence of your swimming pool are self-closing and self-latching.



According to the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, the average U.S. family can spend \$2,000 a year on energy bills. This means that reducing your home energy use is the single most effective way to save money and reduce your home's contribution to greenhouse gasses. The Code Council recognizes that for many people, it's unclear where to start, and suggests the following tips to help communities forge a path forward.

Energy and Sustainability Tips:

- Install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators and use your water meter to check for hidden water leaks. These steps can improve water conservation.
- To prevent stormwater runoff pollution, never dump anything down storm drains.
- Change the filters in your home's heating and cooling system regularly to increase energy efficiency.
- Replace your light bulbs with LEDs, which use up to 90% less energy and last up to 25 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs.
- Build green and design your home with materials that are easily recyclable, reusable, renewable, durable, affordable and low maintenance.
- Build a rain garden to capture roof drainage and divert it to your garden or landscaping to recycle non-potable water. Be sure to check your local rules on rainwater harvesting prior to installation.

For more information, check out the Code Council's Safety Tool Kits and additional resources at ccsafe.org.

— StatePoint

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entertainment

'We need role models': Actor urges Hollywood to promote faith and integrity instead of evil

'We need role models': Actor urges Hollywood to promote faith, integrity instead of evil

Kristoffer Polaha, star of the upcoming sci-fi action film "The Shift," believes it's time for Hollywood to create content that will inspire people to do good in the world instead of evil.

Throughout his many years in the industry, Polaha, 46, has seen a noticeable change in the content being produced in film and TV. As a man of faith, he believes it's time for Hollywood to create more entertainment with messages of "integrity" and "faith."

"I think it is inspiring and ennobling to see someone have integrity, and to see someone fight for love, and to see somebody who's true and true-hearted and what does that look like? We need role models," Polaha shared in a recent interview with The Christian Post.

"I'm in Hollywood, and I love Hollywood, and I think that Hollywood is doing its best job to be as representative as it can, and sometimes it feels heavy-handed and it misses the mark, he added.

"It's almost like we're telling so many stories that we're forgetting to tell the stories that are sort of a basic, fundamental."

Set to be released in January 2024, "The Shift" follows a man named Kevin, played by Polaha, who lives in a dystopian world where he is confronted by a mysterious person called "The Benefactor" (played by Neal McDonough), who gives him challenges as he travels the multiverse trying to return to the woman he is in love with.

"'The Shift' deals with, very simply put, at its core, as we all are, we all have the potential to be sort of broken and rotten. If I gave you a hall pass to do anything that you wanted to do, would you do it? It's a very simple question. There's no repercussions, legally you're fine, morally you're fine, here's a hall pass, do whatever you want to do. So that's what my character is given," he explained.

The main character is a power broker, and in all but one of the multiverses he is in, he "represents an agent of chaos."

"He kills people. He shakes things up. He destroys things. But in this one version, Kevin's truth is that he is a man of integrity. He's fighting to be good, and



he's a man of faith and he's [trying to get back to the love of his life, his wife]," Polaha detailed. "And so what you see is this guy, literally trying to go to the ends of every universe trying to find this girl."

Polaha's character is tempted in every universe he shifts into by a character that represents the devil. Polaha said that, for many years, entertainment has enticed people to "dance with the enemy" because it was such an opposite representation of reality.

"I think that, as a Christian, when you read the Bible, you know there's the devil. What was fascinating to me is that Jesus did two things: He healed the sick, and He cast out demons," the actor and author said.

"As a Christian, we're not given authority over other people, but we're given authority over the principalities in the spiritual realm, and even Shakespeare acknowledges 'there are so many things that are seen and unseen, that cannot be conceived by the mind of man,'" Polaha continued.

"We acknowledge mediums. We acknowledge ghosts. We acknowledge aliens. We acknowledge all of these things that we can't see, even Sasquatch. So, we're allowed to believe all of these things and I think where Hollywood has really sunk its teeth into human nature in the way that Jesus was talking about the world."

Polaha acknowledged spiritual warfare in leading the infection of evil in the world, but he also maintained the lure of the flesh.

"The world is broken and I think left to our own devices, if you take the hall pass and do what you want, it becomes very easy to start to feed your own nature

because we are full of pride, we are full of lust, we are full of greed," he noted.

Polaha cited actors Marlon Brando and James Dean, popular stars known for playing sympathetic bad boys, as examples of Hollywood having "loved to embrace that fleshy, raw and even Satanic element" of life.

"There's a pretty clear line of this idea of good and evil and this idea of dancing with the devil," he said to CP. "There's this weird appeal and there's this weird fantasy element of like, 'Well, I'm doing so good on my own, but I do want to see that little window.'"

"I think now the world is caught up, life has imitated art," he added. "I think we've arrived in culture, where, really, our real life is far more egregious than anything we will ever be allowed to put on screen. When you think about sex trafficking, mass shootings, we can go as dark as we want to go. You can't write the things that are happening in the world."

Polaha said Hollywood now has the responsibility to show what it would be like if the world was good, saying that he felt it was "Hollywood's job to start showing the fantasy of what it looks like to have integrity, the fantasy of what it looks like to have faith, the fantasy of it looks like to be a good man and a good woman."

"You can tell all the stories still and you can still represent everybody. Everybody can be represented by that," Polaha concluded.

"Let's start showing people what it looks like to be tested and still have faith, and still be true to your faith, and still have integrity, and still have honesty, what does that look like?"

—Christianpost.com

Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One



In MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE – DEAD RECKONING PART ONE, Tom Cruise returns as spy Ethan Hunt. Ethan's boss at the Impossible Missions Force wants Ethan's team to obtain the two halves of a cross-shaped key. The key grants people access to the source code of a super-powerful Artificial Intelligence entity. The entity has infiltrated all digital information and communications except for the world's top intelligence agencies. Ethan's boss wants the government to control the entity, but Ethan wants to use the code to destroy it. A deadly quest begins. Meanwhile, the entity is working with a ruthless, nihilistic assassin who wants to control the power for himself.

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE – DEAD RECKONING PART ONE tells a gripping story of good versus evil. It's a superlative, high stakes spy thriller with explosive action, gripping suspense and great characters. DEAD RECKONING PART ONE has a strong allegorical Christian worldview, with the theme that, "The Cross of Christ holds the key to destroy evil." However, the movie has lots of strong action violence and some foul language, including four strong profanities. MOVIEGUIDE® advises caution for teenagers and adults.

Dominant Worldview and Other Worldview Content/Elements:

Very strong allegorical Christian worldview with the message that "the Cross of Christ holds the key to defeat or destroy evil," with very strong moral elements where hero has a viewpoint that highly values life and hates evil, especially malicious and merciless evil and evil that desires absolute power;

Foul Language:

Seven mostly light obscenities (including one "f" word in the midst of some frenetic noisy action that the editors may have missed), four GD profanities and five light exclamatory profanities;

Violence:

Lots of strong action violence, fighting and chase scenes such as gunfight between hero and heroine and a bunch of bounty hunters in the Arabian desert, other gunfights occur, lengthy chase scene in the Abu Dabi airport, lengthy street chase between bad guys and hero and police and a military team sent to capture or kill hero, hero fights off a male and a female villain to run and save the two women (he bests the female villain but spares her life), hero jumps off a mountain with a parachute to stop the ruthless villain who may kill the hero's female compatriot who has something the villain wants, hero smashes through a train window, hero and ruthless villain fight atop speeding train, villain kills people in cold blood, villain fatally stabs a person in the chest, and people try to survive a runaway train that eventually sits precariously on a ledge of an exploded bridge while the train's cars start falling into the canyon below one by one;

Sex:

No sex but there's suggestive dancing in one or two shots, and the hero's relationships with women are mentioned, but the sexuality is not mentioned (it's mentioned that, because of his dangerous job, the women he falls in love with are always put in deadly danger);

Nudity:

Suggestive partially nude dancing shown briefly in one shot (upper male nudity and bare male and female legs);

Smoking and/or Drug Use and Abuse:

No smoking or drugs, but hero knocks out his boss with a tranquilizer dart; and,

Miscellaneous Immorality:

One character is a thief who keeps lying and taking an object that the hero needs to stop a great evil, and two government officials turn out to be corrupt.



Stay away from the “Barbie” movie, Movieguide founder warns parents

“Barbie” earned more than \$155 million at the box office last weekend. However, a leading Christian film critic is warning families to avoid seeing it. “The movie is worse than you could possibly expect,” Dr. Ted Baehr of Movieguide told Faithwire. “It’s hardcore propaganda. ‘Barbie’ just is terrible.”

Baehr said the movie opens with a scene featuring girls playing with baby dolls and the children “bash them and slap them” and proclaim something along the lines of, “We don’t have to be mothers anymore.”

“Barbie is hardcore feminist and paints men as the problem in society,” he said. “Barbie has to leave because she’s not adapting to this hate of the patriarchal society, although she hates Ken. Men are the villain, and there are a couple of trans people playing characters. You’re saying to those little girls who go to see this movie that some little boy can be a better girl than that little girl. It’s an attack on men.”

As for the LGBTQ themes in the movie, Baehr said they are “extremely overt” and “not subtle.” Beyond the themes, Movieguide contends the movie is poorly made with multiple

premises and isn’t easy to follow, even for the brand’s most ardent fans.

“They had a built-in market and audience for this franchise that they completely ignored,” a Movieguide staff member aid. “Millions of families would have turned out to the theaters and purchased tickets, but instead, Mattel chose to cater to a small percentage of the population who has proven over and over to abandon the box office. Movieguide’s 40 years of research indicate this just isn’t true, and Mattel has made a grievous mistake.”

The content issues with “Barbie” come as other brands such as Target and Bud Light have made headlines over their handling of LGBTQ issues. Entertainment companies such as Disney also have been in the crosshairs, with Disney movies reportedly struggling at the box office. One report last month found The Walt Disney Company is hemorrhaging money, with revenue losses nearing \$900 million for recent theatrical releases. The report comes after releases such as “Strange World,” “Elemental” and “Lightyear” featured either same-sex relationships or non-binary characters.



New Great American Family/Pure Flix Movie Relies On Faith To Solve Mysteries

A new faith-based mystery movie is coming to Pure Flix and Great American Family Network at the end of this month.

The Abigail Mysteries, directed by Brittany Goodwin, stars Ansley Gordon, Bret Green, and Karen Abercrombie of the Movieguide® Award-winning War Room.

A trailer from the GAF’s Facebook page shares, “A podcast detective solves mysteries with a little help from above.” The video shows Abby Brooks as she looks inquisitively at clues and searches through her Bible for answers.

IMDb gives a short synopsis of the movie: “It follows Abby Broukes, who is struggling to come to terms with the loss of her baby and divorce. She moves back to her hometown and gets wrapped up in a mystery surrounding the death of her eccentric neighbor.”

One of the main characters in the film is Poppa, who is Abby’s grandfather. He is a preacher at her church who gives wise advice throughout the film. Pure Flix Insider shares some important lessons he presents throughout the film. One of these lessons is “God’s love is endless.”

“In one of the first scenes, when Abby



is unpacking boxes in her new house, she comes across her Bible that Poppa gave her. He wrote this note to her inside the front flap: ‘You are more loved than you could ever know. What a gift to know this statement is true for each and every one of us! Poppa’s inscription reminds us that God loves us without end. Because His grace and mercy are so boundless, we know that no matter what we do, no matter our sins, if we repent, God will always forgive us. His love knows no ends.’

Another important lesson that Poppa shares in the movie is “God desires a re-

lationship with you.” Pure Flix Insider quotes Poppa in the film. “If you look through the books of the Bible, you’ll see that God created unique relationships with each of the authors. There’s an intimacy, a safety, trust. And God wants that with you too! For you to really know Him and to really trust Him with His plan.” This speaks to Abby since she had a troublesome few recent years, and helps to encourage her faith.

The Abigail Mysteries will be available on both Pure Flix and Great American Family Network July 30.

The Way Jim Caviezel’s Wife Saved 200 Children at ‘Sound of Freedom’ Filming

A safety concern from Jim Caviezel’s wife led to 200 children being saved from child trafficking during the filming of *Sound of Freedom*.

While Caviezel’s heart for the movie is one of the major draws for *Sound of Freedom*, he almost had to withdraw from the project due to his wife. After seeing the Columbian cartel portrayed in the TV show *Narcos*, Caviezel’s wife was afraid for the safety of her husband, and the rest of the crew, if they traveled to Columbia for the movie.

Losing Caviezel would have been a massive blow to the project, as director Alejandro Monteverde and producer Eduardo Verástegui both believed he truly embodied the spirit of his character.

“[Caviezel’s] brave; he’s a Godly man, and I know he’s going to be an actor who is not going to just come here, play the role, go to the premiere, and then move to the next movie; he will stay with us until the end,” Verástegui explained on the Timcast IRL podcast.

To address Caviezel’s wife’s concerns, Tim Ballard, whom the movie is based



on, suggested employing thirty ex-Navy Seals to protect the filming of the movie. The suggestion calmed her fears and Caviezel was given his wife’s blessing to shoot the movie in Columbia.

The ex-Navy Seals ended up doing more than just protecting the movie. Verástegui recalls half of the ex-Navy Seal team disappeared from the set; later, the cast and crew found out that they had participated in an undercover operation that saved 200 children from child traf-

fickers in Cartagena. The real-life operation largely mirrored the plot of the movie, which follows Caviezel portraying Tim Ballard as he rescues children from child trafficking in South America.

“Thank God for Jim Caviezel’s wife who said ‘no’ in the beginning,” Verástegui said – because that ‘no’ led to 200 children being saved before the movie had even finished production.

Sound of Freedom has made over \$100 million at the box office so far.

50+ Lifestyles

A Guide to Enjoying Life in the Best Years

A Healthier You in Just 10 Minutes a Day

People in the United States average about 5 hours of free time, with men tending to have more of it than women.

However, those hours can get quickly overtaken by life's necessities, leaving less time for exercise.

But almost anyone can find an extra 10 minutes in their day to exercise. And that might be enough to prolong your life, a new study suggests.

Researchers said that if adults ages 40 to 85 engaged in just 10 additional minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity a day, it would save 110,000 deaths a year.

Not that you have to stop at 10 minutes.

If the same groups increased their exercise by 20 minutes, it could save 209,459 lives, and 30 minutes could prevent 272,297 deaths, the researchers reported.

"We have known that regular exercise is essential and has tremendous health benefits," said Dr. Vanita Rahman, clinic director of the Barnard Medical Center at the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, a nonprofit organization that promotes preventive medicine.

"What is unique about the study is that it shows us just how beneficial exercise is by providing quantitative measures," she said.

"Regular exercise benefits virtually every organ system in our body. It reduces blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol levels. Exercise can also help us sleep better and improve our mood, sense of well-being, and quality of life," Rahman told Healthline.

Regular exercise can also protect us against the natural physical effects of aging.

"In our 30s, we all begin experiencing some level of age-related muscle loss called sarcopenia," Dr. Danine Fruge, medical director of the Pritikin Longevity Center in Miami, told Healthline.

"If we are active daily, we lose less, but if we are inactive, we can lose on average 3 to 5 percent of our muscle mass per decade," Fruge said. "Maintaining a healthy muscle mass for our age is key for preventing falls and unhealthy bodies as well as increasing both qualities of life and longevity."

Making time for working out

Getting over the mental barrier of "needing" a full 30 minutes to work out can be an important one.

Experts say the study supports that notion.

"What happens often is that people become so focused on needing 30 minutes of movement each day that if they can't dedicate a full 30 for any reason (as opposed to breaking it up throughout the day into 10-minute increments, for example), they'll end up doing nothing," Dana Ryan, PhD, director of Sport Performance and Education at Herbalife Nutrition, told Healthline.

"This study linking movement and longevity is a good reminder that some type of exercise or functional movement throughout your day is still always better than doing nothing," Ryan added.

Dr. Tina Gupta, a health coach and ACE-certified fitness nutrition expert, agreed.

"Ten minutes per day seems nominal," she told Healthline. "But over a span of a year, it adds up to [a lot more] hours of exercise."

Strategies for getting moving

So you've committed to moving more and living longer, but where to start?

The most important thing is to find what works best for your schedule and start small, according to Ryan.

"Small changes can make a big difference, so don't stress about changing your habits all at once," she said.

"Simple things like choosing to take the stairs instead of the elevator, taking some work calls during a walk, and, if possible, scheduling a few 5- to 10-minute breaks in your day to do some simple exercises like jogging in place or squats can help you increase your activity enough to reap those benefits that help your body function optimally for better longevity," Ryan explained.

And if you need something more structured, try this 10-minute morning workout to start your day and get the blood pumping.

—BlueCross BlueShield | Healthline.com



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10 Ways to Protect Your Personal Information



Identity theft affects millions of people each year and can cause serious harm. Protect yourself by securing your personal information, understanding the threat of identity theft, and exercising caution.

Here are 10 things you can start doing now to protect yourself and your loved ones from identity theft:

1. Protect your Social Security number by keeping your Social Security card in a safe place at home. Don't carry it with you or provide your number unnecessarily.

2. Be careful when you speak with unknown callers. Scammers may mislead you by using legitimate phone numbers or the real

names of officials. If they threaten you or make you feel uneasy, hang up.

3. Create strong, unique passwords so others can't easily access your accounts. Use different passwords for different accounts so if a hacker compromises one account, they can't access other accounts. Check out the Federal Trade Commission's password checklist for tips.

4. Never give your personal or financial information in response to an unsolicited call or message, and never post it on social media.

5. Shred paper documents that contain personal information, like

your name, birth date, and Social Security number.

6. Protect your mobile device from unauthorized access by securing it with a PIN, adding a fingerprinting feature, or using facial recognition. You can also add a password and adjust the time before your screen automatically locks.

7. Regularly check your financial accounts for suspicious transactions. You can also request and check a free credit report from each of the three credit bureaus every year: TransUnion, Equifax, and Experian.

8. Avoid internet threats by installing and maintaining strong anti-virus software on all your devices—including your mobile device and personal computer. Use a virtual private network (VPN) to stay safe on public Wi-Fi. Do not perform certain activities that involve sensitive data, like online shopping and banking, on public Wi-Fi networks.

9. Protect yourself on social media by customizing your security settings and deleting accounts you no longer use. Also, double-check suspicious messages from your contacts, as hackers may create fake accounts of people you know.

10. Never click on any link sent via unsolicited email or text message—type in the web address

yourself. Only provide information on secure websites

You can create your own personal my Social Security account to

track your earnings record. For more information, read Protecting Personal Information. Find out more at www.ssa.gov.

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Ravens Coach Finds Hope in Christ's Resurrection: There's 'Strong Evidence' in History for It



Longtime NFL head coach John Harbaugh is an outspoken Christian, as well as a history buff. On a recent episode of the "Sports Spectrum" podcast, the Baltimore Ravens coach said he's intrigued by historical proof of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Harbaugh told Jason Romano he's been listening to an Alistair Begg sermon about the topic, which he finds "just fascinating." The entire basis of Christianity "basically comes down to the resurrection," said Harbaugh. "If the resurrection didn't take place, then Christianity—there's no point to it."

Harbaugh pointed to apostles and martyrs in the early Christian church who were eyewitnesses to the resurrection and "held firm" to their belief that Jesus was crucified and then rose again. "Nobody at any point in time recanted," he added, even when they faced "being executed in the most gruesome ways." To Harbaugh, the "strong evidence" and "consistency of the accounts" are factors that "I don't think you can ignore."

Harbaugh, who said he spends about 30 minutes daily on Scripture reading, devotions, and prayer, urged Christians to study Scripture as well as history. The coach said he has read through the entire Bible "numerous times," which has helped build his trust in God and in God's will.

At age 60, Harbaugh said it's easier now to look back and "see where [God] has brought you." Looking ahead can be tricky, but "when you look back, there's a certainty in the road that you've traveled," he said. "And as I get older now, I can really see that more clearly." The coach added that he strives to put his life into God's hand and to trust God's plan.

Denver Nuggets Rookie Hunter Tyson Says He Is Grounded in Christ

Former Clemson star and now Denver Nuggets player, Hunter Tyson is turning heads as he is outperforming many in the NBA Summer League.

However, Tyson's most rewarding attribute is that he has built his faith on Jesus.

In a feature for the Clemson tigers Tyson said, "It wasn't easy, and I had a growth period. A lot of hard days and a lot of hard practices that make you question if you are sure this is what you want to do. Deep down I always knew that basketball is something that God had planned for me, and I just stuck with it, kept working hard at it every day and then five years later, had a little bit of success."

"When my name was finally called, it was just such a blessing," he said in an interview following the NBA draft. "I'm just glad God put me in this position, and I'm very thankful to be here."

While Hunter is preparing for the NBA, his identity is solely found in Jesus Christ.

"I find my identity in my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. At the end of the day I know no matter how many points I score, how many wins, it's not what's most important. With that being said, I'm extremely competitive. Anybody who knows me knows that, probably to a fault honestly [laughs]."



Everything I do, I'm trying to win."

Although Tyson put in all the work to achieve his goal of playing in the ACC and NBA, he credits a lot of his success to his father, Jonathan.

"My dad always was really big on hard work," Hunter remembered. "If basketball is what we wanted to do, that's awesome, but we needed to give our all to it. From a young age, I started working really hard at the game of basketball."

Hunter added, "I told my dad that my dream was to play in the ACC and the NBA. He's like 'Alright, we're gonna do everything we can to try and get you there.' He really helped me. He played in college, and he was also a

high school coach, so he was really my trainer. I saw a lot of kids growing up with higher trainers and stuff like that. I didn't ever have to do that because my dad was always there working with me. Whether it was 6 a.m. or on a Saturday or right after school, he always found the time to invest in me and make me the best basketball player I could be."

Joshua Doering of Sports Spectrum reported, "Tyson's ability to stretch the floor and rebound make him an ideal fit for a Nuggets team loaded with talent and looking for complementary pieces as it attempts to repeat. He believes the various roles he had at Clemson will help him adjust to whatever role he has in his rookie season."

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Fast Turnaround



Golf fundraisers help to finance youth and mental health services

The Breakthrough House Annual Golf Tournament is a fundraiser that helps make possible the programs that Breakthrough House uses to enrich the lives of the mental health community. The mission at Breakthrough House is "Empowering mental health consumers to live independent, impactful lives."

The golf tournament is being held

September 7 at Cypress Ridge Golf Course at 2533 SW Urish Rd. Registration is at 11:00 a.m. with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. Lunch and a live auction is at noon. There is also a putting contest at 11:30 a.m. The tournament is a four-person scramble format.

The tournament is open to golfers, golf teams and sponsors. To register, do-

nate or volunteer, visit the website at: www.breakthroughhouse.org or call Brian Blevins at 785-840-8733. All proceeds go directly to Breakthrough House, and will help with funding their 4 main programs:

Residential Services—Providing housing options since 1983, including 24-hour supported group living and independent living apartments. Residents receive help with quality of living, finances, social, educational, substance and medication monitoring.

Clubhouse—is open five days a week and one Saturday during the month, Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Includes being open on major Holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas 10:00 am—2:00 pm.

Payee Services—The Social Security Administration authorizes BTH to manage monthly finances for individuals receiving SSDI or SSI, making sure basic needs are met, plus helping clients manage funds and savings, assuring they make good financial decisions.

Breakthrough Living—Project based HUD and Section 8 Housing for individuals with mental health disabilities.

YFC Golf Classic is a Tournament of Champions for teens

Topeka Youth for Christ's 2023 Annual Golf Classic will be held on Monday, September 25 at the Lake Shawnee Golf Course. The four-person, 18-hole scramble begins with a shotgun start at 10:00 PM. The format is a 4-person scramble. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m., with a shotgun start at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

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

To sign up for the YFC Annual Golf Classic Tournament go online to www.topekayfc.org. Awards and prizes will be given for first and second low teams, scored in two flights of players. Individuals will receive awards and prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive, and

longest putt. The entry fee for the fundraiser is \$500 per team or \$125 per individual. The fee includes green fees, cart for two, a box lunch, 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 email info@topekayfc.org, or visit the website at www.topekayfc.org.

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12:30 - Shotgun Start - Four Person Scramble

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New Resident Church Guide

- 1. HIGHLAND HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
785-379-5642
Sunday Services: 8:30 and 10:00 AM
2930 SE Tecumseh Road
Tecumseh, Kansas 66542
www.highlandheightscc.com
Jars of Clay Children's Ctr 785-379-9098
- 2. CHRISTIAN CAVALRY MINISTRIES INT.**
Pastor Beau Bryant
Call about new meeting location for current services.
785-224-5419 • www.church4bikers.org
Sun. School 9:30 am
Sun. Service 10:45 am
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study 7pm
- 3. TOPEKA BIBLE CHURCH**
1101 SW Mulvane St., Topeka
785-234-5545
Worship: 9:00 & 10:30 am
Livestream at 9:00 am
Sunday School & Bible Studies:
9:00 & 10:30 am
www.discovertbc.com
- 4. NORTHLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
3102 NW Topeka Blvd., Topeka
286-1204
Worship Sun. 9:00 & 10:45 AM
www.northland.cc
- 5. INDIANA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST**
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3510 SE Indiana Ave., Topeka, Ks. 66605
785-266-7788, www.Indianaavecofc.org
Bible University – Sunday - 9:30 a.m.
Classes for all ages.
Morning Worship – Sunday – 10:45 a.m.
Midweek Bible University – Wed. – 7pm
- 6. FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST**
1912 SW Gage, Topeka, KS
272-0443 www.fsbctopeka.org
Sunday Services:
8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:45 AM Bible study—all ages
11 AM Contemporary Worship
- 7. TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH**
"Finding NEW LIFE in CHRIST"
Sunday Worship 9:15 & 10:45am, 6pm
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4500 SW Gage Blvd., Topeka
785-862-0988
www.topekabaptist.org
- 8. WANAMAKER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH**
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2700 SW Wanamaker Rd., Topeka
(785) 272-9323 www.wrbctopeka.com
Traditional Sunday Worship 11am & 6pm
Sunday School 9:30am • Wed. Prayer 7pm

- 9. GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH**
310 E 8th St (E. US 56 Hwy)
Overbrook, KS; 785-670-6456
Elvin Dillard, Senior Pastor
Sunday School 9 am; Worship 10 am
www.gccinoverbrook.com
office@gccinoverbrook.com

- 11. COMMUNITY CHURCH**
1819 SW 21st St., Topeka
233-3537 www.CommunityTopeka.com
info@CommunityTopeka.com
Sun. 8:30am - Sunday School for all ages
Sun. 10:00am - Worship & Word
Sun. 10:00am Youth Service
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- 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**
3501 SW Wanamaker Rd • 273-2248
www.wwnaz.org
Sun. Worship: 9am (Hymns) & 11 am
Children's Worship 9 & 11 am
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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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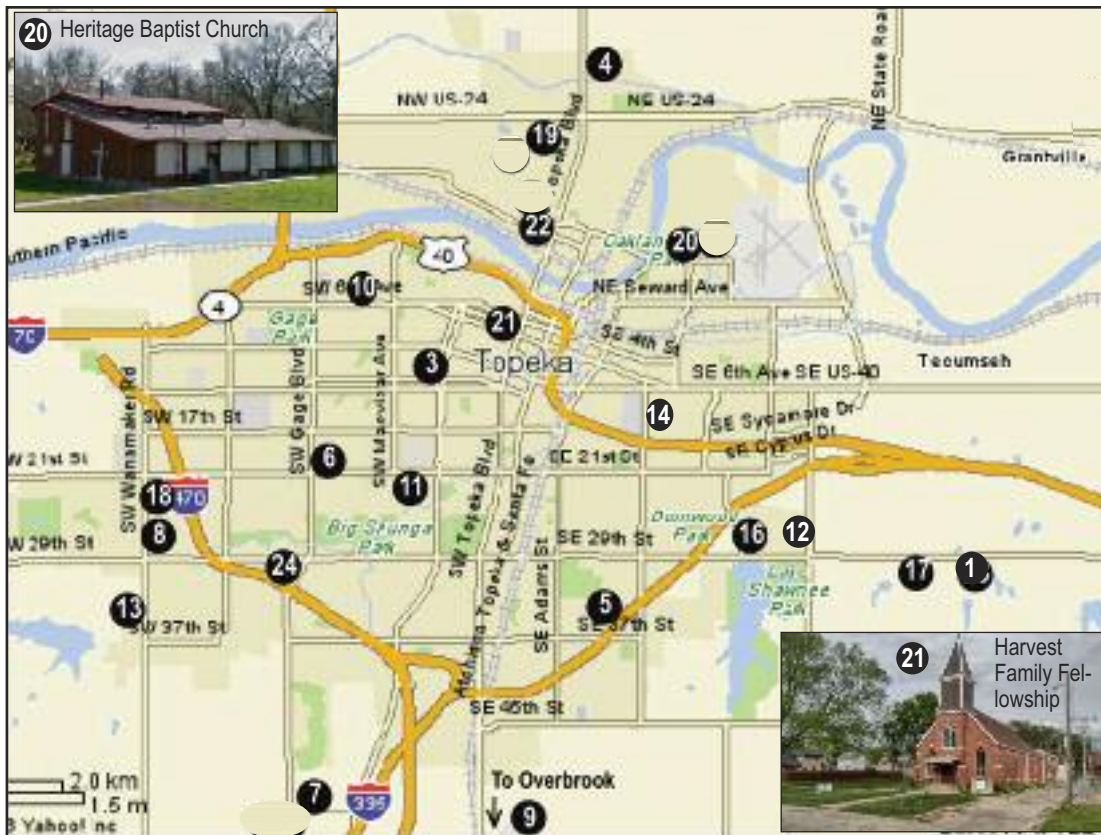
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- 20. HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH**
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Pastor Dale Stockburger
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Sunday School: Sun 10am
Wed. Evening Worship: 7pm

- 21. HARVEST FAMILY FELLOWSHIP**
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785-220-5418
Pastor Rey Rodriguez
Sun. Worship 10:30 am
www.harvestfamilyfellowshiptopeka.org

- 22. FAMILY OF GOD CHURCH**
1231 NW Eugene St.
Topeka, KS 66608
Pastor Roger Randel
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Wednesday Bible Study 7pm
785-234-1111

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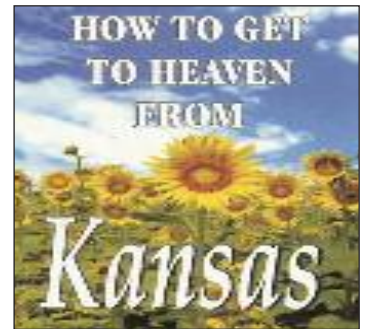
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1. Realize you are a sinner. Everyone starts the same place spiritually. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of god." (Rom. 3:23). Sin's penalty keeps you out of Heaven and condemns you to Hell, separating you from God. Romans 6:23 says,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

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

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

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

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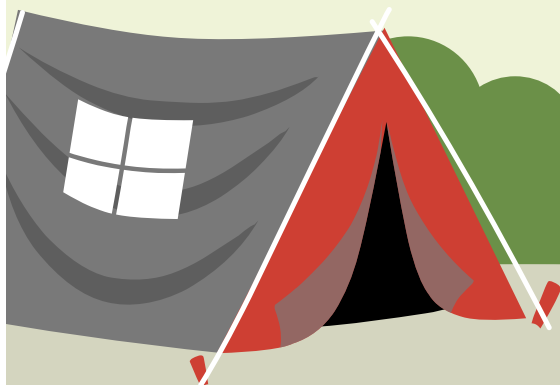
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