

# Kingdom Chronicle

## The Citizens Spoke: Special Sales Tax for School District Stays!

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

In a significant meeting held on July 18, the Woodland Park City Council discussed several pressing issues, notably the management of the special sales tax of 1.09% for the Woodland Park School District. City Manager Vassalotti presented three distinct models to the council, aiming to enhance accountability in how the tax is spent. The council members favored an option that would manage the tax similarly to a street fund, requiring monthly or quarterly line-item reporting.

School Board President Mick Bates expressed his readiness to collaborate with the council, but he highlighted that the school district is currently without a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and is in the process of hiring a new CFO. Bates emphasized the importance of allowing the incoming CFO to participate in these discussions once appointed. Nevertheless, the council hopes to get a new Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) signed before the August 15 City Council meeting, which would still allow the council to initiate a ballot question should the discussions not be successful.

Contrary to the wording of the resolution on the table, the council reassured citizens that there is no intention to repeal the sales tax but emphasized the need for drafting a new IGA to ensure more accountability. During the public hearing, numerous citizens voiced their opinions, urging the council to dismiss the ordinance if their true intention was to maintain the sales tax and engage in sincere negotiations with the school board. Responding to public comment, several council members expressed a change of heart, leading to the ordinance being killed by a 6:1 vote, with council-member Geer as the sole dissenter.

In other matters, the council voted to adopt a new city traffic code. This change will allow residents with minor infractions, such as expired license plates, to handle their tickets in local municipal court rather than going to county court in Cripple Creek.

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## Our Greatest Treasure BY AMANDA LOCKMAN *Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

We are invited to elevate our walk and draw into greater intimacy with God. It's a heartfelt call to action, urging us to seek His presence with an earnest and sincere heart. As Psalm 27:8 (AMP) says, "When You said, 'Seek My face [in prayer, require My presence as your greatest need],' my heart said to You, 'Your face, O Lord, I will seek [on the authority of Your word].'"

God's heart is our greatest treasure. When He calls us to come close, we must ask ourselves: Do we truly desire Him and His heart? Will we only pursue Him if it's easy? What if it requires something of us? What if it requires everything of us? The promise is clear: seek and you will find!



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Seeking God is not always a comfortable journey. It requires commitment, sacrifice, and a willingness to lay down our own desires. The path to a higher spiritual life is often challenging, but the rewards are immeasurable. As we rise higher, we experience God's glory in profound ways.

According to Strong's Concordance, the Hebrew word for "glory" is "kavod" (H3519), which means weight, honor, splendor, or copiousness. It signifies the manifest presence of God and His overwhelming majesty. To seek God's glory is to pursue His presence and experience His transformative power in our lives. Signs, wonders, and miracles!

Colossians 1:27 (NLT) says, "For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory." This scripture highlights the mystery and hope that comes from Christ dwelling within us. The hope of glory is not just a future promise but a present reality for those who seek Him.

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The council also passed a new wireless ordinance regulating the placement of 5G cell towers. Although the ordinance doesn't grant the city much authority over new tower applications in Woodland Park, council-member Nakai noted the necessity of having some regulation in place, even if it lacks comprehensive expertise. She assured concerned citizens that the ordinance could be modified in the future as new ideas for improvement arise.

## Here Are Two Local, Christian-Owned Businesses We'd Like To Highlight:



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bitcreed.us

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Contact us at [info@bitcreed.us](mailto:info@bitcreed.us) for a free initial consulting.

**Your partner in all software matters**

## Our Greatest Treasure BY AMANDA LOCKMAN *Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

Colossians 3:1 (NLT) reminds us, "Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand." This verse urges us to focus on heavenly things and not be consumed by earthly distractions. Our calling involves setting our hearts and minds on Christ and His eternal kingdom.

This is an amazing invitation from God. It challenges us to seek His face, understand the depth of His glory, and pursue a deeper relationship with Him. As we respond to this call, may we find the courage and commitment to seek Him with all our hearts, knowing that in His presence, we will find our greatest treasure.

Reflect on Psalm 27:8 and consider what it means to seek God's face in your daily life. Meditate on Colossians 1:27 and Colossians 3:1, asking God to reveal His glory and guide you in setting your heart on things above. Commit to a deeper prayer life, prioritizing God's presence as your greatest need. Be willing to make sacrifices and embrace the challenges that come with pursuing a higher spiritual calling.

May we all respond to God's call and experience the fullness of His glory and presence in our lives.

## Raise Your Voice! BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI *Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

### Upcoming Community Dates:

- ◆ 08/01/2024, 6:30 p.m.: City Council meeting at City Hall, 220 W South Ave.
- ◆ 08/12/2024, 3-5 p.m.: High School Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at CSCS Woodland Park.
- ◆ 08/13/2024, 6:30 p.m.: Teller County Republicans (GOP) monthly meeting at Pikes Peak Community Center in Divide.
- ◆ 08/14/2024, 6 p.m.: Regular School Board Meeting at the District Office, large conference room.
- ◆ 08/14/2024, 6 p.m.: Community Engagement Forum with the Woodland Park Police Department at the police station.
- ◆ 08/15/2024, 6:30 p.m.: City Council meeting at City Hall, 220 W South Ave.

## Here Are Some Local, Christian-Owned Business We'd Like To Highlight:



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813-857-7738





## Christianity In Our Nation's Founding

BY JON WILLIAMS  
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

I would like to take another opportunity to continue exploring our nation's founding. This time I would like to write about the Christian faith having a premier influence on the founding of our nation in education and one example of government funding the spread of Christianity.



*Istock/fstop123*

Looking back through the lens of historical writings, it is apparent that our educational system was founded on the principles of the Bible. The founding fathers believed that “the philosophy of the schoolroom in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next”. The clearly stated purpose of education in the early colonies was to enable the next generation to read the Bible to follow in the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Doctor Benjamin Rush, who was titled the Father of Public Schools, was a medical doctor by training and was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He declared that “Christianity is the only true and perfect religion, and that in proportion as mankind adopts its principles and obeys its precepts, they will be wise and happy”.

Legislation such as the Old Deluder Satan Act that was passed in 1647 in Massachusetts was designed to ensure that parents and communities educated their children. Again, the belief was, to ensure that the republic survived, citizens needed to be able to read the Bible. Many of the books and educational tools of the day used Bible stories to teach not only letters and numbers, but morals and character traits as well. The New England Primer is a prime example of using the Bible to educate the next generation. Students learned to read and write

using the Holy Scriptures and Biblical stories. The McGuffey Readers of the 1830s were some of the most popular textbooks in the history of American education. William McGuffey wrote that he drew on the best English literature and the Holy Scriptures to write the readers.

Looking at higher education, Harvard University was established originally to train ministers to spread the gospel. Harvard admonished its students to “know God and Jesus, which is eternal life” which is a quote from Jesus straight out of the book of John. Yale University was also founded to train ministers of the gospel. They admonished their students that “the great end of all your studies, which is to obtain the clearest conceptions of Divine things and to lead you to a saving knowledge of God in His Son Jesus Christ”. Finally, Princeton University, another school that was established to train ministers, was led by John Witherspoon who himself was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Witherspoon instructed his students with the following, “whoever is an avowed enemy of God, I hesitate not to call him an enemy of his country”. Not only were these institutions places where the Word of God was respected, these institutions were founded to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Such was the overt influence of Christianity of the time. The federal government even sponsored missionaries to promote Christianity to the Indians. It was Thomas Jefferson who signed into law a Congressional bill that gave property to the Moravian Brethren at Bethlehem (PA) to “evangelize the heathens” (apologies if offensive). Yes, the US government funded Christian ministry to the Indians of the time.

The United States has a rich heritage of shamelessly promoting Christianity in every facet of life. They recognized that good government should be founded on the timeless teachings of the Bible. They looked to, quoted, and built their new government upon Biblical teachings. Many of the writings of the great political leaders in the United States are profound even by well-educated ministers of our day. They embedded the teachings in the law and did their best to pass these beliefs to the next generation.

## Just Enough (Part Three-Finale)

BY JOY OTI

Kingdom Chronicle Staff

The conversation with the old man had had an impact on Mira more than she ever thought. "I want to cross the Red Sea," she said, in response to the call to take a step that scared her to her bones.

Seeing her determination, in a calming tone he said to her, "Jesus asked a crippled man if he wanted to be healed, and the man complained to Jesus that people got into the healing pool before he could get in for his healing. Jesus didn't ask him if he had faith but gave him an instruction: 'Get up, take up your mat and walk.' When you get into the doctor's office, get up, take up your mat and walk."

Perplexed by the analogy, Mira sought clarification. "I don't understand. How do I get up, take up my mat, and walk?" she asked, obviously confused.

With a comforting touch on her shoulder, the old man said to her, "You will know when it's time," he assured her, his words carrying a weight of certainty. With a gentle smile, he rose from his seat, expressing his need for a stroll to relieve his legs. "Everything will be alright," he assured Mira before bidding her farewell.

Grateful for his wisdom and encouragement, Mira watched as the old man walked away, a sense of peace settling over her troubled heart.

Fifteen minutes later, the hospital assistant who had led her to the park came to inform her that Dr. Casey was ready to see her. Gathering her thoughts, Mira rose from her seat, her mind still processing the wisdom she had gained from her encounter with the old man.

As she entered Dr. Casey's office, the doctor tendered her apologies for the delay. "It's okay, I heard about your emergency," Mira responded graciously. Dr. Casey expressed her gratitude for Mira's understanding and explained the plan to run some tests before scheduling the surgery.

Listening intently, Mira suddenly recalled the old man's words echoing in her mind: "Get up, take up your mat and walk." With newfound clarity, she knew what she needed to do.

"Dr. Casey, could you please run an MRI on me first before any other tests?" she requested. Surprised by the unexpected request, Dr. Casey asked her why she wanted another MRI, reminding her that an MRI had already been performed, which was the basis for scheduling the surgery.

Undeterred, Mira asked, "Will the surgery be a hundred percent successful?"

Dr. Casey hesitated, choosing her words with care. "I'm sorry, Mira, but like I told you before, this surgery does not have a hundred percent success rate. We can only hope for the best."

Still determined, Mira said to her, "Then, I'll cross the Red Sea. Please run the MRI scan this one time."

Dr. Casey, confused and feeling exasperated but empathetic, inquired about Mira's sudden suggestion. Summoning courage, Mira revealed, "I met a man who told me that God could heal me, and I want to try."

Dr. Casey responded with empathy, cautioning against misplaced hope, but Mira remained steadfast in her resolve. "Well, I've been disappointed many times. What difference will this make?" she asserted confidently.

Dr. Casey, struck by Mira's conviction and resolve, questioned her belief in the possibility of healing. "How much faith do you have?" she asked.

With a strong conviction, Mira responded, "Certainly not one hundred percent. If I could measure my faith, I would put it at thirty percent, which seems insignificant. But the old man told me God brings the completion. He will add His seventy percent. I also know that God cannot lie. So, I am giving Him the benefit of doubt." Accepting Mira's request, Dr. Casey agreed to run the MRI again. Grateful for the opportunity, Mira thanked her before being escorted to a room to prepare for the scan - her heart filled with hope and anticipation.

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## Here Is A Local, Christian-Owned Business We'd Like To Highlight:



[Yourmoneymakeover.com](http://Yourmoneymakeover.com)

## Just Enough (Part Three-Finale)

BY JOY OTI  
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

When Mira entered the MRI room, Dr. Casey greeted her with a reassuring smile. Positioned on the patient table, Mira felt a surge of hope running through her veins as Dr. Casey asked if she was ready. "I hope to get up, pick up my mat and walk," she responded with a smile. With a gentle pat on her cheek, Dr. Casey nodded and then Mira was rolled into the MRI tube. The scan proceeded smoothly, and within twenty minutes, it was over. Guided by the nurse assistant, Mira returned to the changing room, dressed up and was led to the waiting room for her result.

Alone in the waiting room, Mira was not going to let any negative thoughts into her head. She could feel her heart racing, and so she quickly replaced the fearful thoughts with a prayer, saying, 'You have my thirty percent God, the burden is now on you.' And then she began reciting the words from the old man over and over again, nodding her head back and forth saying, 'I'll get up, pick up my mat and walk.'

After a brief moment, Dr. Casey and the Radiologist walked into the waiting room, interrupting Mira's confessions of faith. When Mira saw them, she stopped abruptly and gazed on Dr. Casey whose facial expression was hard to tell. When Dr. Casey saw the sweat on Mira's face and her blood shot eyes, even though the room was cool, she imagined the emotions Mira must have struggled with in the moment she was waiting for the result of her scan. Then she became emotional. Mira, got up and said to her, "Tell me, no matter what, I can take it."

With trembling lips, Dr. Casey said to her, "I couldn't do this alone. I needed help! You are clean and clear! It's all gone Mira. You crossed the red sea, whatever that means."

Stunned by the words of Dr. Casey, Mira embraced her tightly and began to cry. "Yes," said Mira, "I crossed the red sea."

Then the Radiologist said to her, "I interpreted your previous MRI scan, and the brain that I saw today is brand new. I wanted to see you with my own eyes, and I must confess I'm in awe." Mira thanked him and suddenly remembered the old man. She told Dr. Casey there was someone she needed to see and bolted out of the room, running as fast as she could to the water fountain, hoping to find the old man.

When Mira reached the water fountain, she spotted

the old man watching the waters, and hurried towards him. "I was hoping I would meet you here," she said, her voice trembling with tears.

Turning around, the old man greeted her with a gentle smile. "I see you crossed the Red Sea. How is it on the other side?" he inquired.

Tears streaming down her cheeks, Mira replied, "It's clean and clear!" Overwhelmed with emotion, she began to cry and the old man embraced her.

As Mira regained her composure, she expressed how much easier it felt yielding her thirty percent faith.

The old man giggled. "That's because you gave God the little you felt you had, and He completed it," he explained. "Remember, the measure of faith you have is just enough for whatever you need. Always place the burden of perfection on God. Jesus said 'my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Yoke signifies work, and the work of God is to simply believe Him. And that of itself is faith. And Jesus is the perfecter of our faith.'"

Again, Mira expressed her gratitude to him for helping her in her journey of faith. The old man acknowledged her gratitude and thanked her for listening to him. As he made to leave, Mira inquired about the friend he had come to support. "She's doing very well. Thank you for asking," he assured her before bidding her farewell.

**Continued on Page 7...**

## Here Is A Local, Christian YouTube Content Creator We'd Like To Highlight:



Place of  
Immersion@immersiontoday



## Just Enough (Part Three-Finale)

BY JOY OTI

Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Mira stood there watching him walk away when a hospital staff came up to her. “Do you know that man?” he asked her.

“No, I don’t. I met him at the water fountain.” Mira answered.

“Well, I think he’s weird. I started my shift at 6am, and he’s been sitting at the water fountain since that time. When I spoke to him, he told me he was waiting to see a sick friend who needed his support. But he never entered the hospital complex, and now he’s walking away. Poor old man!”

Surprised by this revelation, Mira decided to chase after the old man. Outside the hospital gate, Mira scanned the area but found no trace of him. Disappointed, she turned to head back to the hospital when she slipped and fell.

A kind old lady approached, offering assistance. Still on the floor, Mira assured her she was okay.

Seizing the opportunity, the old lady said to her, “Well then, I’ve had a good day today. I sold all my mats but one is left. Would you please kindly buy this last one. It’s a very good mat and beautiful too.”

Mira looked up to the heavens, laughed and said, “You do have a good sense of humor, Lord.” Then she turned to the old lady and said, “Yes, I’ll buy your mat.”

After she paid for the mat, Mira got up, took her mat and walked to her car, clean and clear.

*The burden of a perfect faith is on God alone.*

*And the burden of a miracle is on Him as well. He began the good work of faith in us and has promised to bring it to completion until Jesus Christ is revealed. Take the first step and you’ll cross the red sea to the other side, where it is clean and clear.*

## Freedom Church Upcoming Events

BY KYLE GONZALEZ

Kingdom Chronicle Editor-in-Chief

◆ 08/25/2024: Freedom Summer Bash at Memorial Park. Looking for some wholesome family fun? Join us for food and games for the whole family.

◆ 09/28/2024: Jerry Garcia is coming to Freedom Church for a lively Saturday Night Service.

◆ 10/09/2024: Richard Harris is coming to Freedom Church for our Saturday Night Service from the front-lines of what God is doing in the political realm.



## Here Are Two Local, Christian-Owned Businesses We'd Like To Highlight:

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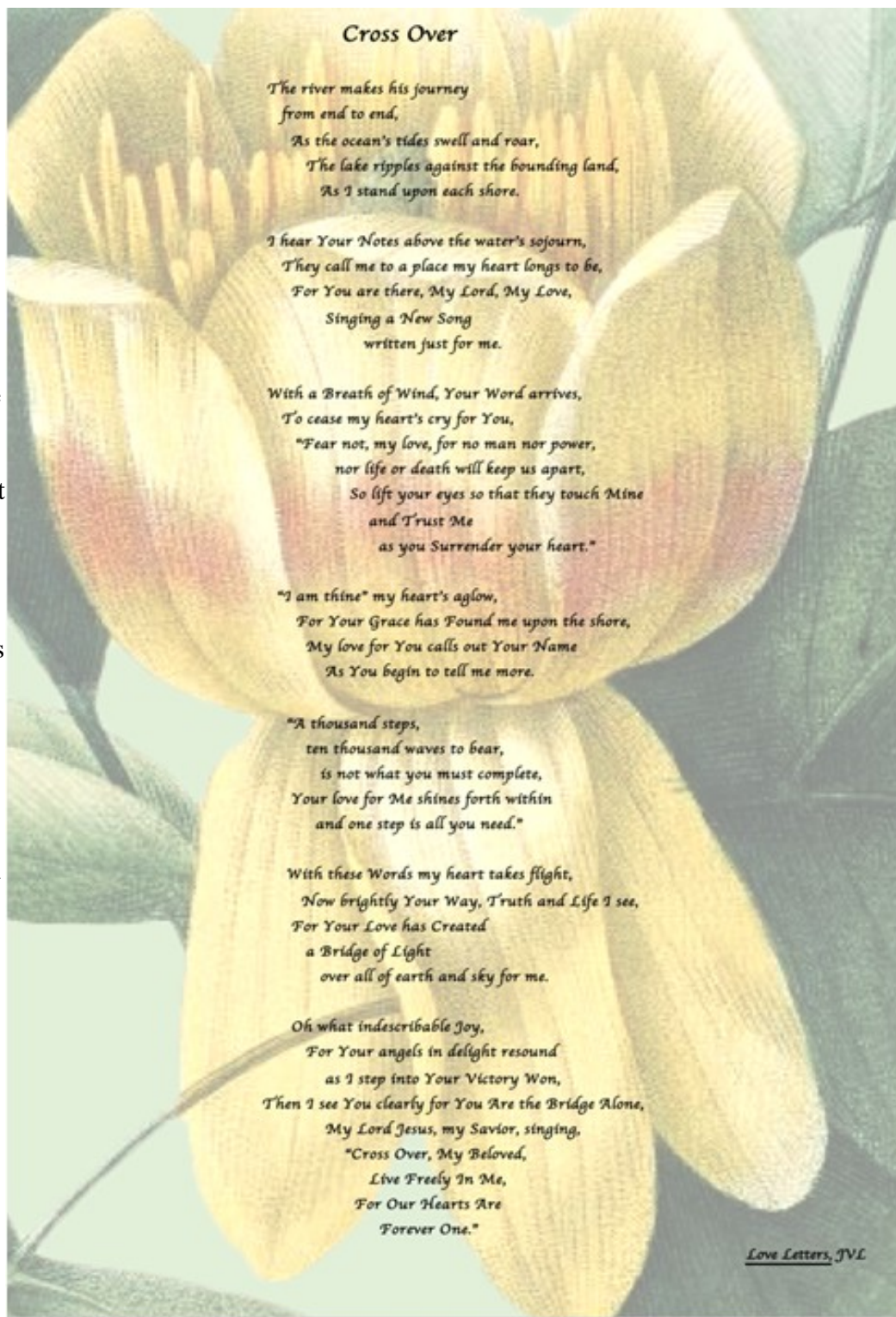
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## Love Letters With God - “Cross Over”

BY JULIA LEE  
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

The most beautiful place I have ever been when the Lord began to write a new love letter in my heart is when I am worshipping Him. That beautiful place is not necessarily a particular location because I could be worshipping Him at an altar at our church, driving in my car, or singing to Him while I mowed the lawn on a John Deer diesel mower. That beautiful place is where my heart is completely one with Him and His love is flowing like a river within me. I will never forget when He began to write in my heart the love letter called “Cross Over.” One Sunday morning I was worshipping the Lord at my home church and in a quiet moment the eyes of my heart opened and saw myself standing on a distant shore and this is what I heard.

Our Father in Heaven, in His great love for the world, made a way for us to be reconciled back to Him. God gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. In John 14:6 Jesus tells us “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Jesus is the point of crossing over from death to eternal life. It is a faith-filled heart step. It is a place of surrender and believing that Jesus is the Son of God and confessing Him as our Lord and Savior. In that one step of surrender we cross over into the Kingdom of God, from darkness to light, from death to eternal life, born anew to be joined with Christ Jesus forever. It is the most important and beautiful step we will ever take. In my heart I see Jesus with His arms outstretched and His eyes filled with love saying, “Cross Over, My Beloved, Live Freely in Me, For Our Hearts are Forever One.”





## Colorado Springs Christian Schools to Open High School at Woodland Park Campus

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

After 19 years of operating in Woodland Park, Colorado Springs Christian Schools (CSCS) is excited to announce the opening of a high school at its Woodland Park campus. The expansion marks a significant milestone for the school community, as CSCS aims to provide a continuous Christian education from kindergarten through high school. While students were so far able to attend the Woodland Park campus until eighth grade but subsequently had to be bussed to the central campus in Colorado Springs to attend high school, students will now be able to get a full high school experience right here in Woodland Park.

The school is currently constructing new classrooms and facilities to accommodate the ninth grade, which will begin on August 13 with the start of the new school year. The plan is to add one grade each subsequent year, culminating in a fully established high school by 2027.

To celebrate this expansion, the public is invited to a back-to-school rally and high school ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Woodland Park campus, located at 1003 Tamarac Parkway. The event will take place on August 12 from 3 to 5 PM, providing an opportunity for community members to tour the new facilities, meet the staff and faculty, and celebrate the pioneering freshman class of 2028.

This development reflects CSCS's commitment to offering a comprehensive, faith-based educational experience to families in Woodland Park and came in reaction to large support from current CSCS families for a local chapter of the only christian high school available to date to local students. The new high school aims to uphold the values and educational standards that CSCS is known for, providing students with a supportive environment to grow academically and spiritually.

## Slavery Curriculum Accusation Against the School District Debunked

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

The Woodland Park School District (WPSD) has completed its investigation into allegations made by City Council Member Jeffrey Geer, who claimed during a city council meeting on May 16 that a classroom assignment required students, including his son, to “explain why not all slavery was bad.” The public accusation prompted WPSD to conduct an internal review.

After thoroughly interviewing the teacher involved and reviewing all relevant curricula and assignments, the district determined that the claim was false. No such prompt was given to students during the school year. The confusion seems to have arisen from a misinterpretation of educational materials used in a history unit covering American slavery from 1619 to 1865. One of the resources for this unit included a YouTube video titled "Summary of Slavery, Slavery: A Crash Course, U.S. History #13." The video presents different viewpoints about slavery during the early American period, including how some Southerners attempted to argue there were benefits to slavery. However, the lesson in no way argues that “not all slavery was bad,” but rather explains the historical context of how some slave owners justified the practice.

The district emphasized that its curriculum aims to portray history comprehensively and accurately, educating students on the complexities of historical events. Despite the public outrage caused by Geer’s accusations, Geer has not issued a public apology. Geer made the following statement towards the Courier: “I have no comment on this release and will have no additional comment on this moving forward. I do want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the exceptional educators that we have in the Woodland Park School District. Thank you for all you do.”