

Morgan County Today

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June 1, 2021

MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK

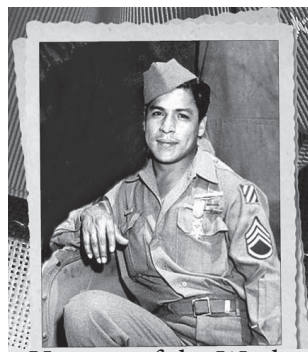
Tue 01	82°/63°	
Wed 02	78°/62°	
Thu 03	76°/62°	
Fri 04	80°/63°	
Sat 05	82°/64°	
Sun 06	84°/65°	
Mon 07	85°/66°	

Track & Field in STATE Meet

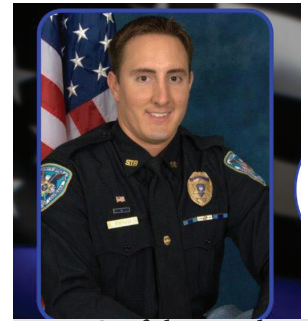


has been a joy to coach! I look forward to next year.”

Becca Newport, a senior at Sunbright School, also advanced to the state competition in the discus. Becca too has broken her own personal and school records multiple times this season in the discus. A difficult decision had to be made by Becca. Becca was accepted into a TCAT program that began the day before the state competition. So she had to choose whether she should go to class or the state competition. She chose to go to class. Coach Tara England, stated, “I am disappointed that I did not get to see Becca compete at the state, but I respect the adult decision she made.”



Veteran of the Week
Lucian Adams



LEO of the Week
Stephen Arnold

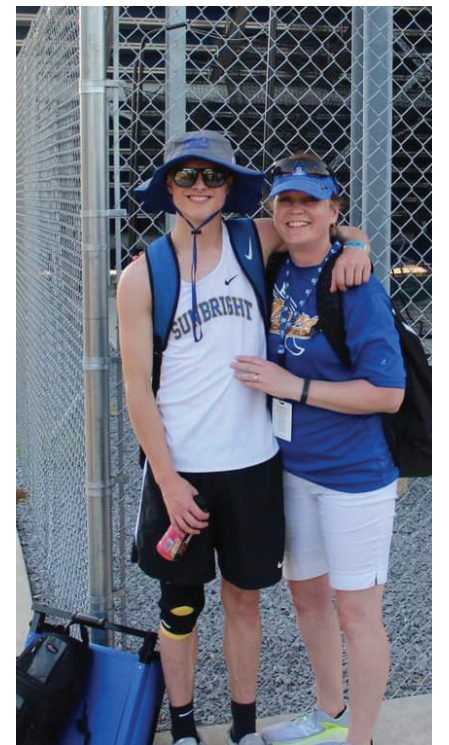
This has been a great season for the Sunbright Track and Field Team. The team of eight members from Sunbright High School and Wartburg Central High School have competed with some great showings this season. These showings lead to two team members qualifying for the TSSAA State Meet at Rockvale High School on March 25th.

Jonah Freels, a sophomore at Sunbright School, made it to the state competition in the 300 meter hurdles. Jonah has competed throughout the season creating new personal and school records over and over again. He currently holds the school record in the 300 meter hurdles, 110 meter hurdles, and the long jump. The interesting part about these accomplishments is we do not have a track to practice on.

At the state meet Jonah was ranked 12 out of 16 going into the meet. Jonah finished the race 9th with a new personal and school record. This

means Jonah is the 9th fastest 300 meter hurdles runner across the state in the small schools division. Coach Tara England stated, “I am so proud of Jonah. He has such a competitive spirit and he is the most coachable athlete I have ever worked with. Jonah’s accomplishment is huge for him and this program.”

Coach England continued to state, “The students and teachers at Sunbright School gave Jonah a big sendoff on Tuesday as he left for Murfreesboro. It has been great to see pictures of people on social media in their blue or gold to show support for Jonah. Seeing Jonah read the emails and text messages of encouragement before and after the state competition meant a great deal. I am thankful to all those that showed Jonah support! The hope is that people throughout the community will realize the track and field team is a highly competitive group of athletes and the team will continue to get this type of support in the future. This team



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Highland Telephone Announces Annual Scholarship Winners

The Manager and Board of Directors of Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc., (HTC) presented this year’s scholarships to winning seniors Monday, May 25, 2021, at Company headquarters in Sunbright. This is the twenty-first year the scholarships have been awarded by HTC to high-school seniors judged to be the winners of their essay contest. The deadline for turning in the essays was March 19, and the winners were announced today. The essay was entitled “How Technology in Telecommunications Impacted the Pandemic of 2020” and was judged by an impartial panel consisting of local teachers. Each judge reviewed essays from a county other than their county of residence.

The awards presentation was held at Company headquarters in Sunbright, following the CDC guidelines for social distancing and small groups.

Recipients of the scholarship must present proof of enrollment or incurred fees at the post-secondary institution of their choice to receive the scholarship funds. Students may use the scholarship at any post-secondary institution.

There were eleven (11) \$1,000 scholarships awarded. The winners are as follows:

MORGAN, ANDERSON AND CAMPBELL COUNTIES:

Keiara Munday, Sunbright High School, 628/965 exchange, David Freytag, Director
Collin Bunch, Wartburg Central High School, 346 exchange, Donald Jones, Director
Macee Brackett, Oakdale High School, 369 exchange, Mickey Bingham, Director
Milas Campbell, Wartburg Central High School, 324 exchange, Max Spurling, Director

SCOTT COUNTY:

Gracie Martin, Oneida High School, 569/286 Exchange, Ms. Dorothy Watson, James E. Terry, Directors
Mikayla Sexton, Oneida High School, 569/286 Exchange, Ms. Dorothy Watson, James E. Terry, Directors

Marcie Day, Scott High School, 663 Exchange, Jan Byrd, Director
Allie Rae Bailey, Scott High School, 627 Exchange, John Tate, Director

MCCREARY COUNTY:

Marah Hamlin, McCreary Central High School, 354 Exchange, Mr. Sam Strunk, Director
Cortney Nicole Phillips, McCreary Central High School, 376 Exchange, Ms. Shelva Jo Jones, Mr. Tony Kidd, Directors
Brooklyn Rose, McCreary Central High School, 376 Exchange, Ms. Shelva Jo Jones, Mr. Tony Kidd, Directors

Also receiving checks were three area school districts that provided judges for the grading of the essays. Their respective schools received a \$500 contribution in appreciation for their time and effort in judging the essays. The money may be spent as the school deems appropriate. The judges included Ms. Samantha Taylor, Wartburg Central High School; Ms. Rhonda Davis, Oneida High School; and Ms. Tami Starrett, McCreary Central High School.

The response for the HTC Scholarship Fund was better than last year, even though we were still in the throes of a pandemic. HTC believes this is an excellent way to promote education among our young people and hopes that the scholarship program will continue to grow each year so that all seniors pursuing a secondary education will take advantage of this easy opportunity to win a scholarship.

HTC thanks everyone for his or her participation and support.

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Wartburg



Sunbright

Donald Omer Cox, 82

Donald Omer Cox, age 82, passed away May 24, 2021 at Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge. He was a loving father, and Papa who loved the outdoors and loved being around his family. He enjoyed his retirement from General Motors.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Joann Cox; parents, Elmer Cox & Hazel Bunch; brothers, Jack, Ronnie and Joseph Cox.

He is survived by his children, Teresa (Rod) Bond, Donald (Christine) Cox, Hazel (Todd) Holler, James Cox, Marsha

(Mitchell) Young, Kevin Cox and loving grandson, Jason Lee Cox; a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren; sisters, Aleen Mills, Mary Ruth Wilder, Dottie Flynn, and Bessie Russell; brothers, Tommy and Huey Cox; special friend, Barbara Wilson and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family.

No services are scheduled at this time.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Donald Omer Cox.

David Lee Houston, 45

David Lee Houston, age 45, of Deer Lodge, Tn passed away May 24, 2021. He was our dear and loving child.

He is preceded in death by his sister, Elizabeth Ann Houston; grandparents, Joe and Ruby Houston and Reed and Rena Aytes all of Deer Lodge.

He is survived by his parents, Lee and Nancy Houston of Deer Lodge; son, Austin Lee Houston; sisters, Amanda Ann Houston and Pamela Carney and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and extended family.

David will truly be missed by all who knew him.

The family will receive friends Friday, May 28, 2021 from 11:00-12:00 p.m. at Adams Hill Baptist Church in Deer Lodge with the funeral to follow at 12:00 p.m. with Bro. Ronnie Wilson and Bro. Wayne Matthews officiating. Interment will follow in the Adams Hill Church Cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of David Lee Houston.

Karen Angela Phillips Garrett, 62

Karen Angela Phillips Garrett, age 62, of Wartburg passed away May 26, 2021 at her home. She was born June 21, 1958.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Pat Phillips and James H. Garrett.

She is survived by her father, Junior Phillips; sisters, Peggy & Allen Reisinger, and Pam & Jerry Stallard; sons, Shane Garrett and Brandon Garrett; step-daughter, Sandra & Bill Lane; grandchildren, Larry James Garrett, Kailyn, Aleila, Brandon, Jr and Tristan Garrett, Lacey & Dustin King; great grandchildren, Nathaniel James Sullivan and Peyton & Preston King. Karen enjoyed life, loved her

family and grandchildren, going to the lake, fishing, flowers, gardening, and Tennessee Vols. She was a loving daughter, mom, and friend. She loved her job at ORNL and her co-workers. She also loved to cook and was good at it. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

The family will receive friends Saturday, May 29, 2021 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 11:00-12:00 p.m. with a memorial service to follow with Dr. Paul Frick and Rev. Terry Stallard officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Karen Angela Phillips Garrett.

Sharon Ashburn, 64

Sharon Ashburn, age 64, of Wartburg passed away May 26, 2021 at Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge. Sharon was a stay-at-home Mom who loved her family and her fur baby Bailey. She was a member of Pilot Mountain Missionary Baptist Church where she loved playing the keyboard for the choir.

She is preceded in death by her parents, John and Clara Salts.

She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Larry Ashburn; sons, Larry Ashburn, Jr. and Dustin Ashburn; granddaughter, Katelyn Ashburn; grandsons,

Dylan and Braxton Ashburn and a host of uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews and church family.

The family will receive friends Friday, May 28, 2021 at Pilot Mountain Missionary Baptist Church in Lancing from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. with Bro. Charles Webb and Bro. Josh Baldwin officiating. Graveside services will be Saturday at 11:00 a.m. at Sunbright Cemetery in Sunbright.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Sharon Ashburn.

Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.

Morgan County Sheriff's Office has 16 surplus items to sale by bids only:

1. VIN- 1FMEU73E37UB07410 07' EXPLORER	12. VIN- 1FMZU72K55UA49497 EXPLORER
2. VIN- 1FMEU73E77UB07409 EXPLORER	13. VIN- 2FAFP71V38X134545 08' CROWN VIC
3. VIN- 2FAFP71V18X134544 08' CROWN VIC	14. VIN- 2FAFP71V18X123754 08' CROWN VIC
4. VIN- 2FAFP71W31X150811 01' CROWN VIC	15. VIN- 1FM5K8ARD- FGB98442 15' EXPLORER
5. VIN- 2FAFP71WZYX188394 00' CROWN VIC	16. VIN- 1FM- 5K8ARZFG98443 15' EXPLORER
6. VIN- 2FAHP71WF3X188875 03' CROWN VIC	
7. VIN- 1FMEU73E77UB07409 07' EXPLORER	
8. VIN- 2FAFP71WZXX178169 CROWN VIC	
9. VIN- 2FAFP71V28X127151 07' CROWN VIC	
10. VIN- 2FAFP71W21X130954 CROWN VIC	
11. VIN- 2C3DXAT8DH549843 CHARGER	

Bids can be mailed to PO 250, Wartburg TN 37887 or dropped off at the Morgan County Courthouse Finance Office, third floor. Bid opening date will be May, 21, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at the Morgan County Courthouse 3rd floor conference room. All purchases shall be paid for in full within 7 days of bid opening. Items must be paid for by check or money order. Checks are to be made to Morgan County Sheriff's Department. Items must be paid before renewal of item. Morgan County Sheriff's Office reserves the right to refuse or reject any or all bids.

LICENSED & BONDED CONTRACTOR NEEDED

Estimates wanted for three projects.

Project 1: Renovation of offices, restrooms and exam rooms.

Project 2: Addition to building.

Project 3: Increasing parking lot.

Projects may involve electrical, plumbing and HVAC.

To express interest and request additional information respond by email only to info@morgancountymedical.com

MCMC Morgan County Medical Center
224 Old Mill Road • Wartburg

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*This health center is a Health Center Program grantee under 42 U.S.C. 254b, and a deemed Public Health Service employee under 42 U.S.C. 233(g)-(n). This health center receives HHS funding and has Federal Public Health Service (PHS) deemed status with respect to certain health or health-related claims, including medical malpractice claims, for itself and its covered individuals. For more information, please see <http://www.bphc.hrsa.gov/ftca/>

To the Editor:

My name is Kim Colston and I am excited to announce that I have been hired as the new Library Director for Oakdale Public Library. After a few months of being closed, the library is now open a few hours each week for patrons and plans are being made for some fun events.

The 2021 theme for Tennessee libraries is "Tails and Tales." Many of the summer events being planned will go along with this theme. Together Morgan County and Save the Children are partnering with Morgan County Public Libraries and will be supporting events at each of the libraries.

On Saturday, June 5, from 9:00 – 2:00, there will be a grand re-opening of the Oakdale Library and a kickoff for the summer reading program. Randy Raccoon will make an appearance and will be giving out books. The Oakdale Fire Truck will be available for

photos with little fireman. A few community members will be bringing animals to talk about pet care. There will be a used book sale with children's books and adult literature. Anyone wanting to donate books to the sale is welcome to do so. Pets (stuffed animals) will be available for children to adopt. After choosing a pet, children will receive an adoption certificate and will be asked to read to their pets as often as possible. Pet adoption will begin during the kickoff and will continue until all pets are adopted. Anyone wishing to donate a pet to be adopted or anyone who would like to give money for the purchase of pets, can contact me and I will be happy to help.

Plans are also being made for family events that will take place during the summer. Possible fun family activities are Taco Tuesday and Book BINGO.

Oakdale Library will be participating in the 100 Days of Reading Challenge with Together Morgan

County. Children 18 and under can log minutes read, not books read, and turn their logs in to be eligible to win prizes. Logs will be provided. Everyone should try to read at least 20 minutes daily for 100 days. The Summer Reading Challenge will run from June 1 thru September 8.

I look forward to seeing my friends at the library and also to meeting many new friends. I welcome suggestions and ideas for the library and will do my best to keep things fun and interesting.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our Summer Kickoff on June 5.

Sincerely,
Kim Colston
Oakdale Library Director
colstonk@mcsed.net

Morgan County Today

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Rates in Morgan County

\$40; \$35 for senior citizens & Veterans

Out of County Rates

\$55; \$50 for senior citizens & Veterans



Disappeared: Chapter 1: Part 1



Carol Hall
Author

Nick, Maggie, Chris & Evie-Day 1

Camping gear was scattered around the room. Everything needed for a two night hiking/camping trip was stacked in piles according to category. Sleeping bags and tents were piled near the door. Flashlights, matches, bear spray, and such, were spread out across the coffee table. Water, food bars, and dried jerky were laid on the couch. Several more items were still strewn across the floor waiting to be sorted into the correct pile.

Nick was holding the notebook that contained the list of all the items they would need. "Ok, next on the list is the first-aid kit," he said, reaching down and picking up the kit off the floor in front of him. "That goes on the coffee table with the safety items," Maggie told him as she sorted through the items on the floor.

"Are you sure we need all this stuff?" Nick asked, as he laid the first-aid kit on the coffee table and picked up a compass and whistle. "Are you kidding me?" Maggie asked, somewhat surprised. "We're going to be out in the middle of nowhere. Of course we need all this stuff. I don't want to be out there and realize we didn't have something we needed." Maggie Stewart was one of those kinds of people that made lists for everything. Organization was as natural to her as breathing. She never did anything without a checklist, and she stuck to it like glue.

At 45 years of age, she was still a very attractive woman. Her long wavy brown hair didn't have a single gray hair in it, and she maintained her figure with a good diet and plenty of exercise. She was considerably shorter than Nick at 5'6 compared to his 6'4, but they made a stunning looking couple. They had met in college their junior year and it was love at first sight. They started dating and were married 3 years later. Nick always told everyone he married the prettiest girl at school and most folks didn't disagree. Nick wasn't short on looks either. His collar length black hair and stunning blue eyes had turned many a girl's head over the years. Just as Nick was laying the compass and whistle down on the coffee table, the doorbell rang. Nick walked over opened the door to his and Maggie's best friends, Chris and Evie Gilbert.

Nick had met Chris in a study group at college their freshman year, where they were both studying accounting. They had hit it off right away and had become best friends.

Maggie was studying elementary education where she met Evie in language arts class and the two of them became best friends. When Nick started dating Maggie, she introduced Evie to Chris, and the rest was history.

"Hey guys," Maggie called from the living room. "Are you ready to do this?" Evie walked into the living room with Chris. Nick followed. "Yes, yes, yes," she said enthusiastically as she ran over to give Maggie a hug. "We've waited all summer for this!"

The four of them had been planning to take a hiking/camping trip up in the mountains together for a long time, but finding time to spend together was getting increasingly more difficult with their varies work schedules. They had finally all managed to rearrange their schedules enough to be able to have this whole weekend off.

Nick and Maggie had been hiking and camping many times through the mountains, but this was Chris and Evie's first time camping out in the woods. Maggie wanted to make sure it was a memorable one. She had grown up near the mountains her whole life and hiking and camping was something her family did a lot of. She knew these trails through the mountains like the back of her hand. When she and Nick got together, hiking had become a regular activity for them. Now, Nick loved it as much as Maggie did. Looking around the room, Chris ran a hand through his sandy blonde hair and let out a low whistle. "WooWee, you all have enough stuff laid out here for a month in the woods."

Nick looked over at Maggie and chuckled. "See?" Maggie rolled her eyes and laughed. "Alright, alright! I admit it looks like a lot, but you never know when you might need something. I'd rather have it and not need it, then to need it and not have it." She picked up a roll of toilet paper and raised her eyebrows at Nick. "What do you think? Should we leave this at home?"

Nick looked over at Chris and raised his arms in surrender. "Well, I guess she does have a point," he laughed. "We could use leaves, but I really don't want to go around all weekend scratching my butt because I wiped with poison ivy. I say we take the toilet paper."

Maggie threw the roll at him and laughed. They finished packing up all the gear, then loaded it into the back of Nick and Maggie's Tahoe. They had decided to take only one vehicle since they would be leaving the car at a parking spot close to the trail head. By taking only one, they left room for others to park there as well.

"Let's get a quick bite to eat before we hit the trail. What do you say?" Nick asked as he slid into the driver's seat. Everyone agreed, so they all hopped in the car and headed out to IHOP. They pulled into the parking lot just as the sun was peeking up over the horizon.

Sitting in a booth across from each other, the four of them poured over a map of the trails that snaked their way across the mountains. "This is where we're headed," Nick told Chris and Evie, pointing at a spot on the map. "We'll park here and take this trail that follows along this ridge line, then down into this low spot, then back up this ridge toward the camp, which is over here. It will be a long, strenuous hike, but well worth it." They followed his finger as it traveled across the map.

"Now, what about our reservations and permits? Do we need to check in at the park offices or anything?" Chris asked. "I've got all our reservations and permits in my backpack. We shouldn't have to check in since I already have the permits. They know we're going to be out there, where, and for how long," Nick assured him. "I reserved the campsite for two nights, so we should be good."

"Did anyone think to bring emergency locators in case we get lost?" Evie asked. Being new to the whole hiking/camping thing, her concern was evident in her voice. She wasn't the type to turn down any adventure, but that didn't mean she didn't get a bit nervous at times. She had heard too many stories of people getting lost up in the mountains and not being found in time to save them. Getting lost in these mountains was bad business. Exposure, hypothermia, and animal attacks were real threats. Hundreds of people got lost in the mountains every year, and some were never found.

Maggie reached over and squeezed Evie's hand for reassurance. "These are well marked, well traveled trails. The only way you would get lost is if you wandered off the trail, and I don't have any intentions of doing that, do you?"

Evie shook her head vigorously from side to side, her eyes wide. Even though she was in her mid 40s, her platinum blonde, short bobbed hair and wide hazel eyes gave the impression of being much younger. Maggie always thought she was, as the old saying goes, "as cute as a button".

"Evie, it's going to be fun. I'll be right there with you. Nothing's going to happen. Just relax and try to enjoy it," Chris said gently, as he put his arm around her and squeezed. "You're going to love hiking and camping. They say it's a really enjoyable and relaxing way to spend a weekend." He leaned

over and gave her a quick peck on the top of her head.

Visibly more relaxed, Evie let out a deep sigh and leaned into Chris. "Alright, I supposed you're right. I'm just nervous because I've never spent the night in the woods before. But I am looking forward to it," she said. They finished eating and paid their bills. After a quick bathroom stop, they all loaded up in the Tahoe and headed out.

The drive up the mountain to the designated parking area was breathtaking. They drove along mile after mile of winding roads, deep woods, and scenic views. Maggie honestly believed there was no finer place on earth. It truly was one of her favorite places to be.

As they pulled into the parking spot where they would leave their vehicle for the next two nights, she looked around at the thick undergrowth and tall trees that lined the side of the road. This would be home for the next couple of days, she thought. With a deep, happy sigh and a smile on her face, she turned to the others. "We're here! Let's get this show on the road," she said.

As she stepped out of the vehicle, a breeze blew across her face bringing with it the smell of earth, pine and fresh mountain air. The sun was just starting to peek over the treetops. She took in a deep breath and closed her eyes for a moment, tilting her face toward the sun. Although it was still early morning, it was already warm. The day promised to be a scorcher for sure. Temperatures would probably reach into the high 80s, but once they got back into the trees, it wouldn't seem as hot. It was always a bit cooler under the cover of the trees.

"Nick, don't forget to put the parking ticket in the window," Maggie said. "We don't want the car to get towed away because they think it's an abandoned vehicle."

"Got it, Magpie." Nick used the nickname he had given her back in college. He slid the ticket onto the car's dash where it could be seen and got out of the vehicle.

Chris and Evie got out and stood looking around them for a moment. "This is the trail head?" Chris asked, rather skeptically. "It just looks like a path." He turned to see Nick and Maggie smiling at each other.

"Yep, this is it," Nick said. "What were you expecting? A wide, paved trail?" he laughed. "This is just the trail head. It may not look like much yet, but just wait till we get back in there. It'll take your breath away." He chucked his friend on the shoulder and grabbed his backpack out of the back of the Tahoe.

After doing a final check of their supplies, they hoisted their backpacks onto their backs and set off into the woods with Nick in the lead.

As they entered the forest, the light from the sun diminished. The path was dappled with sun flecks, and the air was heavy with the smell of rotting wood, damp earth, and pine. Trees towered over the path, and thick undergrowth surrounded the narrow trail.

It was Heaven, thought Maggie. Nowhere on earth did she feel more alive, more aware of herself than in these woods. The weight of the world was lifted, and she felt free. She had a great job as an elementary school teacher, and she loved it, but nothing compared to being here in these woods with nature all around her. Every opportunity she had to escape to the mountains, she took it. She was really excited to share this adventure with Chris and Evie, too. She was hoping to make some awesome memories and take lots of pictures along the way. She never went anywhere without her camera, and today was no exception.

The trail began by making a steady descent down into the forest. It was rocky and rough in places, making the trek slow. They made their way around gigantic boulders and through narrow straightaways where the foliage along the trail was bundled in thick clumps, almost blocking their way. Occasionally, a bird could be heard chirping in the distance. The air was warm and heavy. The smell of wood and earth floated by them on a soft breeze.

As they gradually made their way deeper into the forest, Maggie turned to look back at Evie. They were walking single file along this section of trail, and Evie was bringing up the rear.

"So what do you think so far?" She asked her. "Isn't it gorgeous? I love the sights and smells of the forest. I could live in here, but I'd never want to leave."

"I never realized how beautiful the woods could be." Evie took a deep breath and gently blew it out. "And you're right, it smells wonderful!"

She looked from side to side, taking in the views around her. She stopped and turned to Maggie. "I think someone else is out here too," she said, looking off to the left of the trail, back into the woods.

"Well, that is possible," Maggie replied. "It's a popular trail. A lot of people come out here to hike."

During the summer months, these trails were heavily populated, but now, being early September, kids would be back in school, and most vacationers were back home already. The trails would be less traveled now. They walked a little farther when Evie suddenly stopped. She was gazing off into the woods to the left again. Maggie noticed she had stopped, so she turned and looked in that direction too, but didn't see anything. "It's probably just a deer," she said.

"That was no deer," Evie responded with a hint of fear in her voice. "It was way too big. And it was black. Could it have been a bear?" She continued to stare off into the woods as she raised her hand and pointed in the direction of her gaze. Her finger was pointing to a part of the woods that was dense and tangled with lots of brush and fallen limbs. "Look! Over there!" she exclaimed. She was squinting as if to get a better look.

"What?" Maggie asked, looking in the direction Evie was indicating. "I don't see anything. What are you looking at?" Maggie scanned the area several times, but didn't see what Evie was seeing. "I thought..." Evie stammered, but didn't finish. She just continued to stare off into the woods.

"What, Evie?" Maggie asked, getting a bit frustrated. "What did you see? You're freaking me out a bit!" Maggie again scanned the surrounding woods, but saw nothing. If Evie saw a bear out there roaming around, it was best to steer clear and just move along away from it.

"I don't know, to be honest. It looked like a tall man wearing all black, but I only saw him for a second. I think the darkness and the shadows are playing tricks with my eyes." Evie turned back to look at Maggie and shrugged.

Carol Hall was born and raised in Chester, West Virginia, but she currently lives in Lancing, TN with her husband and three cats. Her writing career began with her first book, Disappeared in November 2019. Since then she has written several more books including The Journey North, The Inheritance, Full Moon Rising, The Witch of Broenwyck and Saving Grace. Her love of writing began at an early age when her father would tell her and her sisters fun, adventurous stories he created out of his own imagination. These stories sparked an interest in Carol to tell her own stories.

Carol's love of writing has spread across several different genres including, action/adventure, mysteries, horror, and drama.

Historically Speaking Our own Airmail Beacon House - update part 1

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Last week we looked at the first in a series of three Historically Speaking columns featuring the Beacon House located near the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The initial story of that historic structure was written late in 2007.

Now a year later let me give you an update on the status of the preservation of what turned out to be a truly historic Beacon House.

I am proud to tell you that it seems to have a very “bright” future...an obvious play on words regarding the structure’s historic beginnings as a light to guide airmail pilots.

The Beacon House was likely constructed in the years just prior to the Manhattan Project, which began in 1942, and resulted in the government reservation being established here in East Tennessee. As I noted in the first article on the Beacon House, airmail using these beacons on the routes began in 1939 and ended in 1949.

Just as a reminder to readers of how we came to know of the Beacon House, I will review the details of how I came to be aware of it. In November 2007, I received an e-mail from Pat Parr, Oak Ridge National Laboratory’s Oak Ridge Reservation Area Manager, telling me of the most unusual small structure and wondering if I had ever heard of it.

She said that when the Tennessee Valley Authority was clearing the right of way for an expansion of an electrical power line near the Oak Ridge National Laboratory an unusual small building had been discovered. She wondered if I knew anything about its history. I did not but was sure interested.

She said TVA personnel had called the building a “Beacon House.” This was a new term to me.

Ernest Ryan, of Pat’s staff, and I travelled to the site and found the building in good condition, except for the single door being missing and some rust on the tin roof and metal siding. We found two concrete foundation blocks just east of the building that obviously served to support the fuel tank that powered the generator housed inside the structure.

There were also two depressions that seemed located exactly where two of the four foundations for the light tower would have stood. Since learning more about these beacon houses, it seems there would have originally been a large concrete arrow there as a visual indicator of the direction to the next beacon house. There is no trace of that large concrete arrow.

The two depressions make me wonder if there ever was a concrete arrow at this location. The diagrams for such installations show a large concrete pad beneath the light tower, not four separate concrete foundations for the legs. Obviously more research is needed.

The beacon houses were located approximately 10 miles apart. The old access road to this one is still visible. It obviously provided a route to and from a nearby home where the family living there would have been employed to start the generator each evening and stop it each morning.

I must wonder what happened in late 1942 when the government sent letters to all the families in the area telling them to vacate their homes. Do you reckon the beacon was in use at the time and the family just moved off and left it? That is

highly doubtful, in my opinion.

Of course, that’s about what all the families had to do with structures on their home places. Likely the family responsible for the beacon saw no option but to leave it and didn’t know any way to have it maintained, if it was still in use at the time.

Was it even still functioning in the win-



Our very own historic Air Mail Beacon House! (Photo Submitted)

ter of 1942? Had technology overcome the beacon method of guiding pilots? The history of beacon lit routes indicates some lasted until as late as 1949. I highly doubt that this one ever operated after the Manhattan Project took possession of the area.

Makes you wonder about the airway route to Knoxville. Maybe the radio beacons that replaced the lighted beacons had already made this beacon house obsolete by 1942.

Some things Mark Dickey of the ORNL Library has learned in his research follow. Mark has really been dedicated in his search for information. He has contacted such locations as the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, the Library of



The two concrete foundations for the fuel tank obviously installed where the concrete arrow would have been had it been included in this installation (Photo Submitted)

Congress, the National Archives and Records Administration and done extensive internet searches.

He has learned the history of this window of time when air transport was trying to find its way. Air mail was one of the methods used to try and make air travel profitable in the 1930’s and 1940’s. We now know many more details of our Beacon House than ever before, thanks to Mark’s dedicated research.

One of the most distinguishing markings for these “power sheds,” as the representative from the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum called the beacon house, was a two-foot-wide stripe painted mid-height of the wall on all four sides of the shed using black paint. The representative went on to state that the rest of the outside walls were white.

He also noted that the exterior window frames would have been painted medium grey as would have been the exterior portion of the door. The interior of both the door and window frames would have been painted white. The remains of the exterior “black stripe” can still be seen in the photos of the beacon house, if you look closely.

The Smithsonian representative went on to recommend that close scrutiny be used to determine the original paint

scheme by closely inspecting areas just beneath the eaves and window frame overhangs where weather damage would be minimized.

However, Mark found another resource that stated the outside walls of the shed along with the roof and the huge concrete arrow on the ground were all painted “chrome yellow number 4” with the two-foot band running around the exterior walls painted black and the numbers on the roof painted black. Again, further research is required to determine exactly what color to paint our beacon house during restoration.

The roof would have had two sets of numbers painted black. One number would have identified the airway. The Smithsonian researcher has tentatively identified the airway as of June 1941 as the “Blue civil airways (No. 2).

The National Archives and Records Administration researcher located a “... rotating beacon with course lights approximately four miles to the east of Wheat, TN. The chart shows a number 12 printed next to the beacon symbol.” The “chart” referred to came from the July 1940 edition of the Chattanooga Sectional Aeronautical Chart.

So, it seems our beacon house was located on an airway identified by the number 2 and was beacon number 12. It had a two-foot black band painted around the walls at about half-way up the walls. It was painted either white or chrome yellow number 4. It had a 51-foot-tall tower painted with alternating bands of white and international orange as of 1932, prior to that the tower would have been painted with alternating chrome yellow number 4 and black bands.

There would have been a 54-foot concrete arrow pointing in the direction of the airway, also painted chrome yellow number 4 with a four-inch black border. This arrow would also have formed the base for the tower and the slab on which the power shed (beacon house) was constructed. There is no remaining physical indication of there ever having been such a huge concrete arrow at the location of our beacon house.

Additionally, the remaining two concrete foundations for the fuel tank are placed in the ground where there would have been a concrete pad if there had been an arrow there. This along with the two depressions where foundations for the tower may have been, seem to deny the presence of a concrete arrow.

Next week we will continue our journey to try and learn the history of our Airmail Beacon House.

Oak Ridge was created as a part of the Manhattan Project in 1942 to help stop World War II. The atomic bomb, Little Boy, fueled by uranium 235 separated at Oak Ridge helped to do just that.

Oak Ridge began in war, has continued to support our nation’s efforts through the Cold War, and even now in the age of terrorism. Oak Ridge has also produced nuclear medicine, nuclear power and fuel for the US Navy nuclear submarines and ships.

This “Secret City” nestled in Appalachia near Morgan County and where many from Morgan County go each day to work, continues today to produce scientific discoveries used worldwide and still routinely makes history. These Historically Speaking stories will provide insight into the people of Oak Ridge and the work they do to help humankind. Historically Speaking is written by D. Ray Smith, Oak Ridge City Historian, retired Y-12 National Security Complex Historian and Vietnam Veteran.

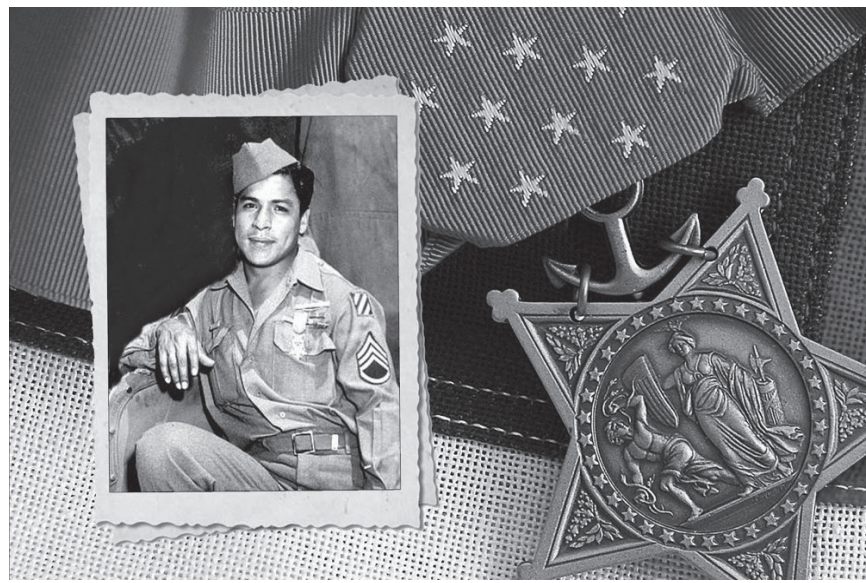


Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week

This week we honor the courageous United States Army Veteran and Medal of Honor recipient, Staff Sergeant Lucian Adams.

SSgt. Adams served in the United States Army during World War II as a member of Company I, 3D Battalion, 30TH Infantry, 3D Infantry Division. He earned the Medal of Honor due to courageous actions on October 28, 1944, near St. Die, France.

His Medal of Honor citation reads:



For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on

28 October 1944, near St. Die, France. When his company was stopped in its effort to drive through the Mortagne Forest to reopen the supply line to the isolated third battalion, SSgt. Adams braved the concentrated fire of machine guns in a lone assault on a force of German troops. Although his company had progressed less than 10 yards and had lost three killed and six wounded, SSgt. Adams charged forward dodging from tree to tree firing a borrowed BAR from the hip. Despite intense machine-gun fire which the enemy directed at him and rifle grenades which struck the trees over his head, showering him with broken twigs and branches, SSgt.

Adams made his way to within 10 yards of the closest machine gun and killed the gunner with a hand grenade. An enemy soldier threw hand grenades at him from a position only 10 yards distant; however, SSgt. Adams dispatched him with a single burst of BAR fire. Charging into the vortex of the enemy fire, he killed another machine gunner at 15 yards' range with a hand grenade and forced the surrender of two supporting infantrymen. Although the remainder of the German group concentrated the full force of its automatic-weapon fire in a desperate effort to knock

him out, he proceeded through the woods to find and exterminate five more of the enemy. Finally, when the third German machine gun opened up on him at a range of 20 yards, SSgt. Adams killed the gunner with BAR fire. In the course of the action, he personally killed nine Germans, eliminated three enemy machine guns, vanquished a specialized force which was armed with automatic weapons, and grenade launchers, cleared the woods of hostile elements and reopened the severed supply lines to the assault companies of his battalion.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

We honor fallen Detective Stephen Arnold of the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office in New Orleans. He had served with the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office for twelve years and was assigned to the DEA Task Force.

Detective Arnold succumbed to gunshot wounds he sustained on January 26, 2016, while serving a search warrant and arrest warrant in New Orleans.

He and other members of a DEA Task Force had knocked on the home's door and announced themselves but did not receive a response. As they forced entry into the home the wanted subject opened fire from inside, striking Detective Arnold five times. The man was taken into custody

and pleaded guilty to federal charges as a result of the narcotics investigation and of shooting Detective Arnold. Sadly, Detective Arnold remained in a coma until passing away from his wounds on May 23, 2021.

Sheriff Joe Lopinto said, "Arnold, was thirty-five-years-old when he



was shot, was just a great overall guy. He was not only a leader, but a leader on the narcotics (division), being assigned to the DEA task

Arnold's family members noted that he grew up not far from the Holy Cross neighborhood where he was shot, and that he decided to become a law enforcement officer after a close friend overdosed.

The Sheriff's Office said that Arnold had received several commendations for his service, including two Distinguished Service Awards and an Award for Valor. He was awarded a Purple Heart at the time of his injury and will be posthumously awarded the JPSO Medal of Honor.

Let's remember this fallen hero.

force and always answering the call for duty and in this community."

The IRS is looking for crypto tax cheats



David Zubler

Crypto currencies are becoming a very popular way to make money. It's estimated that over 21 million adults in the United States currently own cryptocurrency, which is about 14% of the population.

The IRS has become aware that most people avoid paying taxes on their crypto profits. Consequently, the IRS is finding ways to determine whether people are reporting their crypto income.

Brokerage firms have been required to report stock sales and other information so that the IRS could determine tax compliance by investors. However, crypto currency agencies were not required to report their investor's activity.

If you have been trading a considerable amount of crypto currency, you should consider the consequences of not reporting the income.

The lack of reporting requirements for bitcoin and other crypto exchanges has attracted many income tax evaders. Consequently, the IRS is taking this tax evasion seriously and is determined to go after crypto cheats. There are two new efforts by the IRS which show the seriousness of the IRS and the direction they are taking.

A federal judge in Boston recently approved an IRS summons to the payments company known as Circle and its affiliates, including Poloniex, to turn over customer records to the IRS. And a federal judge in San Francisco approved another IRS summons for records to the crypto exchange known as Kraken.

When Kraken initially turned over information, the IRS said the information received was insufficient to identify the customers. Consequently, Kraken may be required to turn over the taxpayer's name, ID number, address and phone number.

The summons and other activity show how seriously the IRS is taking cryptocurrency income reporting compliance.

The IRS has even included a question on the top of 2020 tax returns which asks if the taxpayer has been involved in crypto activity. It requires filers to check yes or no regarding crypto activity.

Some Coinbase customers have decided to enter the IRS's Voluntary Disclosure program for people with criminal liability. This program normally lets people out of prosecution but imposes substantial penalties.

You should take crypto profits seriously. If you have traded a considerable amount in crypto currency, ignoring a crypto currency tax issue could result in large future penalties or even criminal prosecution. You may want to consider hiring a licensed tax professional to determine your potential tax liability and the best alternative for your tax issue.

David Zubler is a tax accountant and Enrolled Agent in East Tennessee representing clients before the IRS and has over 25 years of tax experience. He is the author of four tax books and is the founder and president of Your Tax Care. The company provides business and tax education to the public at its website, YourTaxCare.com. David can be reached at (865) 363-3019 or contacted by email at zublerdavid@gmail.com.

NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

The Morgan County Highway Department will receive sealed annual bids for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Products must meet all state specifications and be able to comply with all state regulations. ANNUAL BID must be printed on the outside of the envelope on bid. More information can be obtained from the Highway Department office at 3519 Morgan County Highway Wartburg, TN from 7am-5pm, Monday through Thursday. You may also contact us by phone at 423-346-6661.

Sealed bids will be publicly opened on June 2, 2021 at 10am on the following categories:

- Asphalt-Hot Mix
- Emulsified Asphalt
- Corrugated Metal Pipe
- Crushed Stone
- Road Striping
- Salt

The Morgan County Highway Department reserved the right to reject any and all bids.

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Superintendent of Highways
Morgan County



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John 3:7

- Jesus

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Shiloh: The Palace of Rest



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

April 6, 1862 would find the Union Army of the Tennessee camped at Pittsburgh Landing awaiting the arrival of the Army of the Ohio under Don Carlos Buell to attack the rebel stronghold of Corinth, Mississippi. It was the fourth day of Passover in the Hebrew Year 5622-5623. This would be the day after Jesus Christ's resurrection. In God's eternal eyes it was the 18th of Nisan 5622. April 6 was a Friday. It would be Shabbat at sundown, which is very significant in the lives of Jewish people living in the Southern states. The Person commanding the Army of Tennessee was Ulysses S. Grant.

The place was given the name Shiloh after the only structure in or around Pittsburgh Landing, Tennessee.

The Christian Church there was named Shiloh. I believe that supernaturally, God was setting the stage for the next 150 years of American history. In Bible chronology, Shiloh is the place Joshua camped as he awaited the people sent to search out the newly conquered land. He would await there, the spies would return, and then cast lots for their tribal allotments of land that God intended to give the tribes of Jacob/Israel. This is an incredible act of mercy on behalf of God. Joshua had not totally listened to God. He failed to conquer seven principal cities of the Canaanites. Those seven cities are a thorn in Israel's flesh today. The Palestinian authority controls Shiloh as I pen these words. Israel will have no rest until Shiloh comes.

Joshua 18 reveals that Shiloh was both a place and a him. Who in the Bible, that is masculine, is known for being the place of rest? Jesus Christ is both the Prince of Peace and the King of Righteousness. Both peace and righteousness precede rest in God's kingdom. So, before you or I can enter Shiloh, we must request peace and righteousness. Joshua was wrong to enter Shiloh before carrying out God's orders. His decision to allow certain peoples to live have cost millions of lives over the last 2,000 years. So, God appeased Joshua and allowed Israel to enter Shiloh prematurely. He had failed at cleansing the idols from the land and today, the Palestinians still control the seven principal cities of the Book of Judges. God does not play let's make a deal. He is the Creator not a game show host!

The Him of Joshua 18 is who Joshua should have found rest in, so he would never have questioned God's will. The man anointed by God to continue the mission of Moses, after God had to chasten Moses until he will return in Revelation as one of the two witnesses in the tribulation. God was not done with Moses, and he will visit Shiloh during the tribulation to witness of Jesus Christ as the Jewish Messiah. And they will kill Moses and Elijah. That is why Jesus Christ finally returns to rule Israel. He is never coming as a Lamb again. He is returning as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah to restore Shiloh and Jerusalem to Godly control.

What is the irony of the battle of Shiloh? It was the largest attack of the Civil War to date. At the place of rest, Christians and Jews murdered each other. There is nothing new under the sun. God was chastening Americans to the reality that he alone is in control. General Grant was persecuting the war on behalf of Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln was no abolitionist. Grant had a father who was. He had a father-in-law that resided in Missouri and owned slaves. Colonel Dent was a veteran of the Revolutionary War. He fought in the first war of Independence and then returned to slaveholding. And Grant was thrust into immortality at Shiloh. He was thoroughly whipped on day one and rallied the troops for a successful counterattack supported by Buell on April 7 at sunrise. The Confederates would lose General Johnson and Grant would eventually occupy Corinth as the Rebels retreated to Nashville and Vicksburg.

The Battle of Shiloh led to General Grant issuing General Order number 11: Expelling the Jews from his theatre of operation because he believed they were responsible for smuggling supplies to the Confederates. Grant had Jews in his ranks and eventually was persuaded to rescind the order. Lincoln had reminded him that persecuting the entire race of people for the crimes of the few was against his republican convictions. Lincoln was an avid student of Bible history and I am sure he knew God has never revoked the Abrahamic covenant. He who blesses Israel shall be blessed and he who curses Israel shall be cursed. General Grant would go on to appoint more Jews to public office than all other presidents combined. Grant would Lose 13,700 troops in two days. The Rebels would lose 10,000. And all the killing took place at the place of rest.

The Bible reveals that God first called Samuel in Shiloh. He would eventually become the priest and Prophet to Saul and King David. Samuel was born to Elkanah and Hannah in Shiloh. Elkanah was from Bethlehem and an Ephratite. He would continue the pattern of God supplying priests and kings in Shiloh. He was a devout Jew who would come up yearly to offer sacrifice for his family. Elkanah agreed with Hannah that Samuel should be left at Shiloh to serve the Lord since he came from God. It would be in Saul who God curses through Samuel, and David who is to be anointed as King over Israel to replace Benjamite Saul. God wanted Shiloh on the throne from the House of Judah. Israel sinned by requesting Saul of the House of Benjamin. They sin today by electing a Benjamite and not praying for the return of Yeshua ha Messiah to Shiloh. But one day Shiloh will return to Israel and rule and reign from Jerusalem forever. Jew and gentile united in the kingdom of God on Earth for 1,000 years. Hallelujah. Why has God allowed Shiloh to be occupied by Palestinians today? Because Israel knew not the hour of their visitation and they have been separated from their inheritance and their reward. That hour is fast ending. The battle lines have been drawn, and an American president has acknowledged what God has been saying from the beginning: Israel is my tithe of land from the garden of Eden. When Adam transgressed, mankind was banned from my Garden. I had to reenter the garden at Calvary and the Jews missed their Messiah and king. I paid the sin debt of the world and then I banished the Jewish remnant from the Garden again until 1948! Now, I have Planted my remnant back in my tithe of land and the Jewish people are my landlords until I send my son back to restore the Jewish people to their exalted place in my plan of redemp-

tion. God's plan has always included Shiloh as the place of rest for all believers. It is Him, and he is our permanent future. To get to Shiloh we must all go through Jerusalem. To get back to the place of rest, Israel will have to cleanse the land of all idols so Yeshua Ha Messiah our Shiloh can return. Psalm 83 is on our immediate horizon. Our President has asked Israel to partition God's Land and Benjamin Netanyahu had better not listen to him! Last time he listened to a president tell him to partition Jerusalem he lost reelection. Next time, he will end up in an Israeli prison. Mr. Prime Minister; take the Palestinian territories and cleanse the land of all Roman Catholic and Muslim shrines and idols! God is waiting on you to fulfill your destiny as the Son of the right hand chosen by YHWH!

In order for Christians and Jews to return to Shiloh a lot of uncomfortable things have to occur. America and her denominational churches have gone the way of Baalim. They are listening to false prophets who preach for money and curse Israel when they separate her from God's plan of redemption. This will lead to an incredible falling away from faith toward more church tradition. Legalism will replace God's mercy and grace as mechanisms for salvation. Everyone doing what is right in their own eyes has led to apathy. America will have to be knocked off its military and financial church perch in order for God to reap the last harvest of Christian and Jewish souls before our country descends into complete lawlessness. Our overdependence on a secular government, will lead to our destruction. The overreliance on a government that has legislated God out of our lives is approaching its end. America will eventually turn on Israel and it will be the end of America as we have all known it. America will elect a devout anti-Semite hellbent on murdering babies, Jews and Christians. They will promote polytheism in the forms of Hinduism and Islamism. They will support the destruction of the family unit in any way they can muster evil. They will outlaw church and religion all together unless it agrees with their lawlessness. Women in combat arms is a disgrace to America. You have murdered 63 million potential tax payers and military service people in the wombs of women. Deceit is the tactic to destroy our Judeo-Christian heritage. How will America ever return to Shiloh if it turns it's back on Jerusalem and God's plan of redemption?

The same way from the beginning. Teshuva! Repent and return to God as Creator. That means being raised from dead religious thinking. Religion in any form does not deal with the issue all humans face, which is how to pay the sin debt we all owe God as our Holy and Righteous judge. Sin is not your problem. How you intend to cover and pay that sin debt is our problem. God has had one way from the beginning. The sinless God intended to enter our dimension of time and be born to a virgin Jewish woman as the King of the Jews who would save his people from their sins. He is a distinctly Jewish messiah. God speaks Hebrew for it is his love language. All other languages are conquest languages. God loves you and he has no intention of conkering you. His thoughts are of Shiloh and an expected end. Peace is the future of every person born of a woman who believes God died to pay your sin debt. Shiloh is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the only future for anyone that has the faith to believe in His death, burial, and resurrection. Jerusalem is in your future on your way to Shiloh. Hallelujah.

Where are we Now? I believe we are in Beulah. For this is not our home. Every Christian and Jew should have an eternal longing for Israel and especially Jerusalem. If you are the bride of God or the bride of Yeshua, your inheritance is Shiloh and it goes through Jerusalem. Nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ qualifies a believer for entrance into God's eternal kingdom. He paid our sin debt and he married his gentile bride at the resurrection. Christ did not die to make bad men good, he died to raise dead men to eternal life. The first thing that has to die is who you think Jesus Christ is. It takes a lifetime of sanctifying work of the holy Spirit. A believer must surrender to Jesus Christ lordship to qualify as the bride of Christ. It is the bride of Christ who will be raptured while part of the body of Christ goes through the tribulation. If you are the bride of Christ then trim your lamp with oil for the bridegroom is returning very soon! Hallelujah.

Shiloh today is controlled by Palestinian Arabs. Esau sold his birthright to be the grandfather of Messiah for a morsel of meat. I know he was not a Ranger! He sold his soul for one meal. He has condemned the Arab people into conspiring to halt the redemptive plan of God. Their days in charge of the Israeli city of Shiloh are numbered. Shiloh played an important role in the times of Saul and David, and it will play a major role in the life of Mr. Netanyahu and Jesus Christ, the root and the offspring of David. Jesus Christ is the root of the tree which is growing God's kingdom of Jew and Gentile. King David will return with Messiah to establish the Kingdom from Jerusalem on our way to permanent residence in Shiloh. He is our Lord and Savior, and he is the promised place of rest for all of those who would believe. He is our Shiloh! He was crucified upon a cross of wood, yet he created the hill upon which it stood! Even so come Lord Jesus Christ. RLTW
John Burns 5-26-2020

Staff Sergeant John Burns enlisted into the United States Army on September 23, 1987 as an 11C Infantry Mortarman. He graduated from the 7th Infantry Division, Ranger Class 11/89 and served in the invasion of Panama, Desert Storm and the Battle of Mogadishu while assigned to the 75th Rangers.

Some of his many decorations, awards and badges include; Bronze Star Medal for Valor, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Sniper Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantry Badge and Expert Infantry Badge. Throughout his prestigious military career, he traveled to forty-five countries on five continents and all but two states while serving in the military.

He currently serves as the Chaplain for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. His devout faith demonstrates to all he comes into contact with that he believes nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He enjoys writing and teaching God's Word while sharing his faith with a dying world.

Opinions expressed by readers and columnists do not necessarily reflect those of Morgan County Today

Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

Capetown



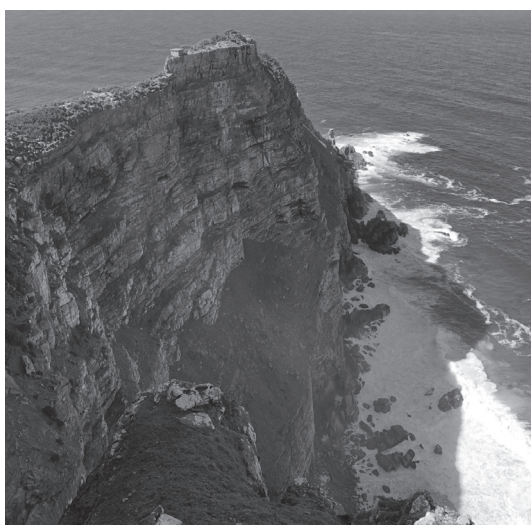
After traveling 26 hours across the international timeline, my flight finally landed. I had reached my vacation spot. I was tired, dirty, and ready to get to the hotel. I grabbed my suitcase, hopped in a cab, and headed toward the hotel. Heavy traffic began to build; the cab had slowed to 5 mph. We eventually pulled up to what was hindering the traffic flow. I distinctly remember seeing a white sheet barely covering a dead body lying on the interstate. I could see the face and the feet sticking out from the bright, white sheet. Two things immediately went through my head: A. I picked the wrong spot to vacation and B. what in the world happened to this poor guy?

Cape Town is a beautiful city located on South Africa's southwest coast, on a peninsula beneath the massive Table Mountain. Table Mountain is one of the 7th Natural Wonders of the World. It's a flat-topped mountain with many hiking trails, cable cars that stretch

to the top of the mountain, and majestic scenery overlooking the ocean. Cape Town is also known for their wine vineyards, Their National Botanical Garden, a penguin colony, cliffs off the ocean called, The Cape of Good Hope, and tours that take you on an animal safari's.

It's a scenic city, that has a lot to offer tourists. Cape Town has a high crime rate and has consistently ranked as one of the most dangerous cities in the world. Most of the crime is theft/robbery related. I saw all the things the city had to offer and asked, "Why is the crime so bad?"

Poverty runs ramped in Cape Town along with crime, government/police corruption, and civil unrest over government policies. The poor/indigent people live on government property with free government housing. They call these homes, "shacks". I never witnessed anything like these small structures. Thousands of "shacks"



pressed together row after row. These houses are literally a tiny bedroom made from scraps of aluminum. The shack normally has one queen size bed that takes up the entire space. A family of four lives in one shack.

There is no running water, plumbing, heat, or electricity. The water and bathrooms are all communal (outside/shared). There are no televisions, radios, cell phones, or transportation. Assault, rape, drug use, and theft are common among the individuals living in the shacks. It was winter when I visited Cape Town. I saw big rings of black smoke and noticed the village people were burning old tires just to stay warm.

I finally learned what happened to person that I saw lying on the interstate. This happens around the shacks all the time. People cross the interstate instead of using the pedestrian bridges and end up being struck by fast moving cars. Life's perspective is a powerful tool to accomplish our goals. We think we might have it bad, but those people have no hope in sight. We are truly blessed to be living where we live, and we shouldn't take life for granted.

Zack graduated from Wartburg Central High School in 2001 and from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2004. Since graduation he has become a TedX Motivational Speaker, Author, and Career Consultant. He travels the world giving back and hosting seminars teaching people on various topics. Zack has established an ongoing annual scholarship at his Alma Mater, Wartburg, which has inspired others to give back as well. Visit www.zackballinger.com for more of Zack's travels and events.



Zack Ballinger

Sandra Helton's weekly column

Oakdale Area News

email: kvhelton@highland.net



Happy Birthday to Aunt Zelma "Iney" Bingham who turns 91 years young today, June 1. Wishing you an awesome day Iney!

Happy 3rd Birthday to Hattie Caroline Ruppe who will celebrate her special day June 8. Hattie shares her birthday with Aunt Valerie Lake, Aunt Donna Brown, her cousin Justin Osborn and her great grandmother Rita Whit-ed. Wishing all of you a wonderful day.

Happy Birthday to Ivy Tilson who will turn 17 and on June 4 and to Sophia Hamby who will turn 17 on June 7. Have a great day girls!

I have several belated birthday greetings this week. Sorry about being late.

Belated birthday greetings to Sawyer Smith, Natalie Rogers and Zach Collins who all celebrated their birthdays May 27.

Happy birthday to a couple of my cousins, Donna Tilson and Eric Goldston, who celebrated their birthdays May 28.

Happy birthday to Tiffeney and Donnie Yeary who celebrated their birthdays May 28.

Happy birthday to our niece, Victoria Clabough who celebrated her birthday May 29.

Happy Birthday to Rick Colston who had a birthday May 29.

Happy Birthday to Doug Miller who had a birthday May 30.

Happy birthday to Todd Smith and Stone Stewart who celebrated their birthdays May 31.

Pine Orchard Baptist Church Clothes Closet will be open Tuesday, June 8 from 10:00 – 12:00.

Kloe and Konlin Headrick have been very busy lately. Kloe did the Spring into Summer benefit pageant that was a fundraiser to help with Coalfield Youth Club sports. She had fun and the pageant awarded lots of cool prizes to all participants. Konlin finished up his AAU season in a tough Gatlinburg tournament but got to enjoy some fun team bonding time at Soaky Mountain water park. Kloe and Konlin are the children of Drew and Kristan Headrick.

Cartie Disney graduated from Kindergarten on Friday May 21st so for a surprise present, her parents, Justin and Valerie Disney, took her to Tybee Island for the weekend. It was their first time there. Cartie and Clay love the ocean. They found sand dollars and lots of jellyfish were washing up on the beach. Cartie loved them and actually picked them up after being informed by a local they were "harmless" jellyfish.

Susan Brewer recently traveled with friends. They toured with Travel with Common Sense Travel to Virginia Beach, Colonial Williamsburg and Historical Norfolk, VA May 17 - 22. A great time was had by all. They enjoyed a Dinner Cruise aboard the Spirit of Norfolk, experienced the Nauticus and Battle

Wisconsin.

Oakdale Preschool Group met at Oakdale Park Tuesday, May 25. The children enjoyed a picnic lunch followed by "Rhyming to the Beat" with Ms. Jeanie Bingham. Everyone loved singing and acting out Humpty Dumpty, Hey Diddle Diddle and Going on a Bear Hunt. The children and their families would like to thank Ms. Jeanie for doing these fun nursery rhymes with them.

Piney Baptist Church will have Vacation Bible School June 7 -11 with supper beginning at 6:00 and VBS from 6:40 – 9:00.

First Baptist Church Oakdale will have Vacation Bible School June 14-18. They will serve a meal at 5:30 and VBS will be from 6:00 – 8:45.

White Oak Baptist Church will have Vacation Bible School July 12 – 16 from 7:00 – 9:00 each evening.

Mt. Vernal Baptist Church will have Vacation Bible School June 7 – 11 from 6:30 – 8:30 each evening.

On Saturday, June 5, from 9:00 – 2:00, there will be a grand re-opening of the Oakdale Library and a kickoff for the summer reading program. Randy Raccoon will make an appearance and will be giving out books. The Oakdale Fire Truck will be available for photos with little fireman. A few community members will be bringing animals to talk about pet care. There will be a used book sale with children's books and adult literature. Anyone wanting to donate books to the sale is welcome to do so. Pets (stuffed animals) will be available for children to adopt. After choosing a pet, children will receive an adoption certificate and will be asked to read to their pets as often as possible. Pet adoption will begin during the kickoff and will continue until all pets are adopted. Light snacks will be available. Make plans to join in the fun.

The following quote is on display at Dollywood. I must say I agree with Dolly. We live in a beautiful place.

"There is no prettier place on earth than in the woods, hills, valleys where we lived. We waded in flowers everywhere we went. Spring flowers of all kinds; red, blue, white, yellow, pink and lavender grew as if God himself had walked along and put them where He knew we'd be." Dolly Parton

Announcement Together Morgan County

Nonprofit Save the Children is committed to supporting kids and families most affected by the COVID pandemic. No matter what is happening in the world, reading is always there for you. No matter the story, reading can take you anywhere you want to go! This summer, Save the Children and Morgan County Public Libraries invite children 18 and under to join our summer reading challenge June 1 through September 8. Participation is easy! Just read, log your minutes, and turn it in for the chance to win cool prizes. Reading logs are available at your local public library. Special programs are scheduled at each library. To learn more, visit/call Coalfield, Deer Lodge, Oakdale, Petros, Sunbright or Wartburg Library.

Family storytime is a special way to encourage your child's interests and talents. You can help them develop a love for reading that will enrich and expand their life. This summer, try curling up with a good book on a rainy day, or reading under a shade tree when it's sunny out. Read a story with your child that you loved when you were younger. You can use silly voices and watch them light up as they engage in the story. We're all in this together!

Opinions expressed by readers and columnists do not necessarily reflect those of Morgan County Today

Romans 6

(Romans 6:1-2) Anticipating an objection: as this section is begun, Paul appears to be answering additional potential Jewish criticisms designed to contend for the perpetuity of the Mosaic law versus Christian grace. "If grace is provided as an antidote to sin, would not it stand to reason that if one longs for more grace, he should keep on sinning?" The response is: "Absolutely not!" No one who has "died to sin" (to the love and habitual practice of sin) would dare want to keep on keep on living in that sordid state. This is the very essence of what repentance is about.

(Romans 6:3-11) baptism: the point of transition: the inspired writer now begins to show how grace is accessed (5:1). "We were buried therefore with him into his death." Note the following points: (a) The plural pronoun "we" reveals that the baptism here referenced is the same kind as administered to Paul—namely, water baptism (Acts 9:8), to "wash away sins" (Acts 22:16). The baptism of this text is not Spirit baptism, as commonly alleged. (b) Baptism was the mode of transition "into" the "in Christ" relationship. The popular idea that baptism is merely an outward sign of a conversion already experienced is completely foreign to the plain language of the text. Before baptism, these people were out of Christ; after the rite, they were in Christ. (c) The baptism ushered the candidate "into the death" of Jesus—into the benefits of his death. (d) It involved a burial and being raised. Therefore, it was an immersion, as indeed the verb "baptized" signifies. (e) This baptism resulted in "newness of life" and was "to the glory of God"; but the newness of life was not enjoyed until they were raised. (f) "Newness of life" is the equivalent of "free from sin" (v. 18).

Paul continues by emphasizing that we are "united with Christ" at the time we join him in the "likeness of his death" (in "dying to sin") (note at v. 2) and being "buried with him" in baptism (v. 4). John Wesley, of Methodist fame, commented: "The apostle alludes to the ancient manner of baptizing by immersion." When one is raised from baptism he also emulates Christ in a new, resurrected life. The "old man" of the pre-conversion mode of life was "crucified" with Christ (put to death) separated from his newly purposed Christians conviction. He has resolved to no longer be "in bondage to sin"—enslaved to a rebellion against God (v. 6). The one who has submitted to the conversion process just outlined "is justified from sin" (v. 7). This context focuses clearly upon the point of one's passage from spiritual death to life.

If one dies with Christ (turns his back on the world through the rite of conversion), he will also live with the Savior in a new redeemed life (Mt. 28:20)—and beyond that, eternally in heaven (v. 8). Jesus was raised from death to "die no more," hence was the "first-born" from the dead (Col. 1:18; Rev. 1:5) in the permanent sense. The death of Christ was a one-time event (which nullifies the Catholicism's dogma of the sacrifice of the mass, by which Jesus supposedly is sacrificed repeatedly) (v.9). Even so, we must consider ourselves dead to sin but consistently alive (the force of the verb) unto God within the in-Christ domain.

(Romans 6:12-14) the obligation of consecration: following his conversion, the child of God is to refrain from letting sin "reign" in his body, yielding to the carnal desires thereof. His bodily members are not to be used as instruments of unrighteousness. Instead, he is to present his body as "alive," in contrast to his former "dead" state (separated from God), using his body to the glory of God. Though the Christian will sin, he must not let evil have "dominion" over him. He must constantly struggle to conquer it. What does the apostle mean—"you are not under law"? Certainly not that one may be an outlaw! He means we are not under a law system that demands perfect obedience or condemnation. We live under a regime of grace which has forgiveness available when we transgress sacred law.

(Romans 6:15-22) freedom is servitude to God: Paul again anticipates a possible objection to the proposition that grace has replaced the justification-by-law-keeping theory (v. 1). "If one is under grace, and not law, where is the incentive to refrain from sin?" This conclusion would be terribly wrong. The apostle now demonstrates that the grace system does not imply that when one is under grace, obedience to God is flung to the wind. Under the Christian regime, one presents himself to God as a servant, totally committed to obedience. He is no longer a slave to a sin-master, but unto God—who reckons his servant as righteous on account of his surrender to Christ. Those "obedient from the heart" have been "freed from sin" to serve "righteousness" (v. 18).

Formerly, because of the weakness of the flesh, you were slaves to spiritual uncleanness, one level of iniquity after another. Now, you must present yourselves as dedicated servants, committed to lives of righteousness whereby you are set apart unto God (v. 19). When you slavishly served sin, you were not restrained by the urge to live right. What benefit was there in that reckless way of life? Was not that a shameful existence that led only to eternal separation from God? (v. 20-21).

Now, however, "in Christ," you have been made free from sin; you serve God, and your fruit (obedience) will result in eternal life. When one surrenders his life to sin, he earns the right to death (Rev. 20:14, eternal separation from the Lord) (II Thess. 1:9). But eternal life (unending communion with the Lord) is not earned by slavishly keeping law (which is beyond human power). Instead, life is God's free gift. But the gift must be "received" (Jn. 1:11). It must ever be remembered that Jesus taught that one must "work for that which abides unto eternal life, which the Son of Man gives you" (Jn. 6:27). "Work" and "gift" are not mutually exclusive terms. The theme of grace can never be divorced from the responsibility of obedience.

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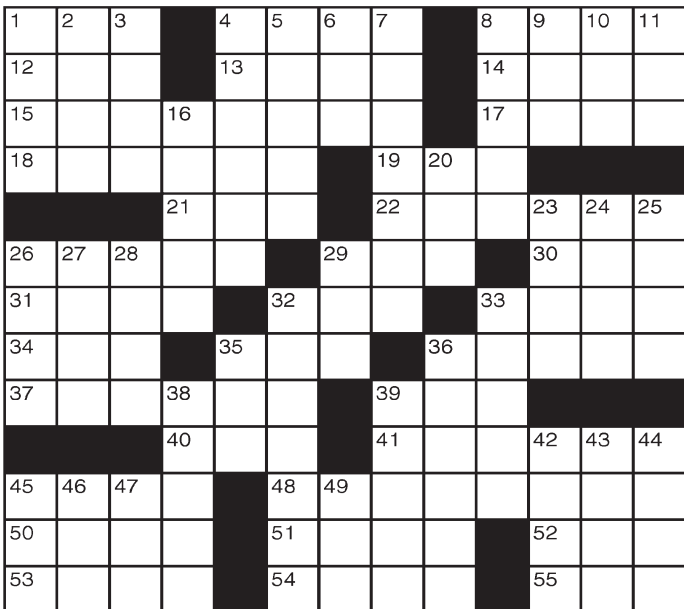
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King Crossword

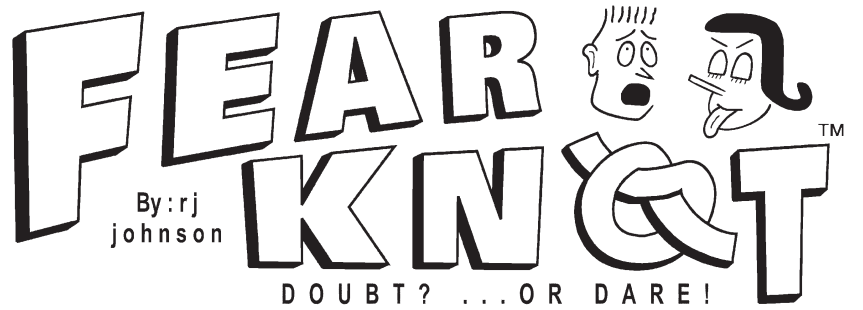
ACROSS

- 1 Billboards
- 4 Competent
- 8 Pretzel topper
- 12 Fib
- 13 Work hard
- 14 Spiced tea
- 15 In toto
- 17 Frees (of)
- 18 Bug barrier
- 19 "Gosh!"
- 21 Reply (Abbr.)
- 22 Also
- 26 "It's a Wonderful Life" director
- 29 French article
- 30 "— -haw!" (rodeo cry)
- 31 "Hi, sailor!"
- 32 Follower (Suff.)
- 33 Nota —
- 34 Airline to Sweden
- 35 "Today" rival, briefly
- 36 Fragrant wood
- 37 Typically
- 39 X-ray's cousin
- 40 — -de-France
- 41 Oregon city
- 45 Apple computer
- 48 Prescription phrase
- 50 Opulent
- 51 Attic buildup
- 52 Historic time

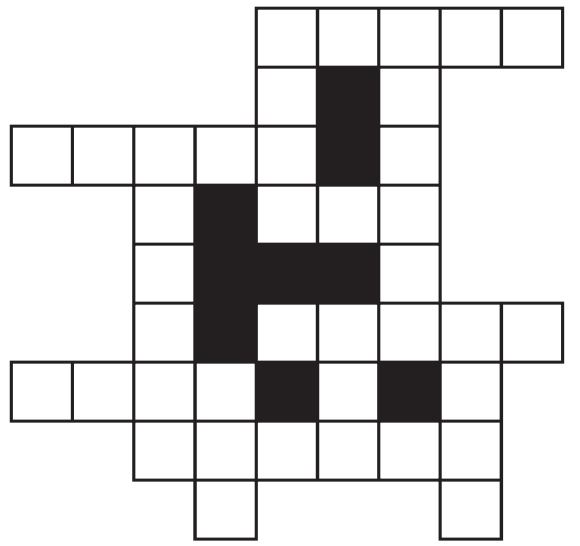


- 53 Needing liniment
- 54 Pro votes
- 55 — de plume
- DOWN**
- 1 "Sad to say ..."
- 2 Platter
- 3 Char
- 4 Goddess of wisdom
- 5 Benefits
- 6 Dogpatch adjective
- 7 Graceful
- 8 Threaded hardware
- 9 Sashimi fish
- 10 Young bloke
- 11 Frank McCourt memoir
- 16 Tired
- 20 Language suffix
- 23 Kept tabs on
- 24 Sultry Horne
- 25 Ogler's look
- 26 Juan's home
- 27 Cries of discovery
- 28 Stance
- 29 G8 member
- 32 "Let's do this!"
- 33 Ecu
- 35 Solidify
- 36 Vinegar bottles
- 38 French spa town
- 39 High-IQ group
- 42 Idyllic place
- 43 Sleuth Wolfe
- 44 Dutch cheese
- 45 Lyricist Gershwin
- 46 Karaoke prop, for short
- 47 Koeln cry
- 49 Take to court

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- MRU
- SPOLEG
- ♥ TAGER
- ♥ LCMA
- GINLET
- ♥ TAE
- ♥ NAUT
- ♥ NALGE
- ♥ UMG
- MEWNAL
- ♥ RATEC
- EGLE



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Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. **HAGNEC** becomes **CHANGE**). Prepare to use only **ONE** word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥**RATHE** becomes **HATER** or **EARTH** or **HEART**). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

"If everyone does a little, no one has to do a whole lot."

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Fred C. Mize III



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

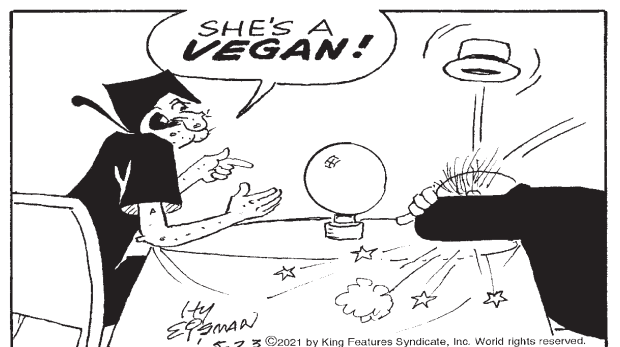
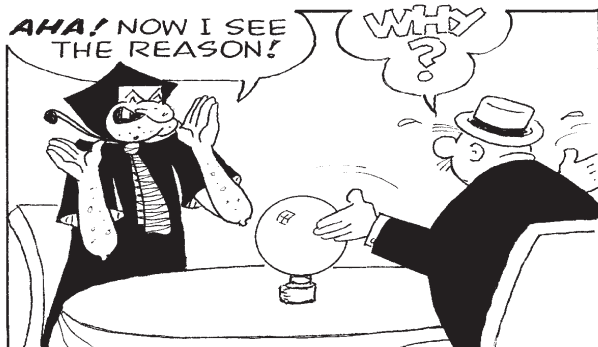
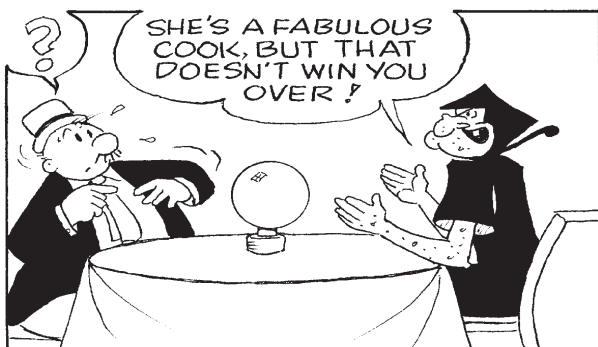
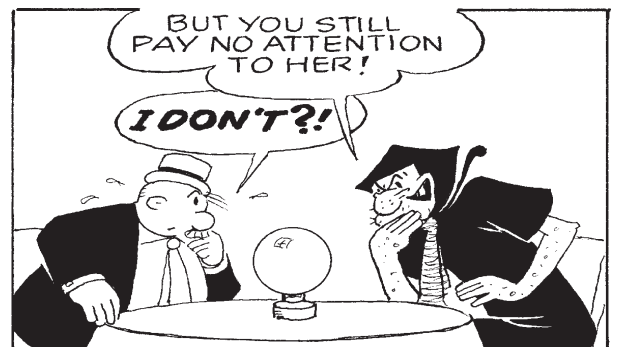
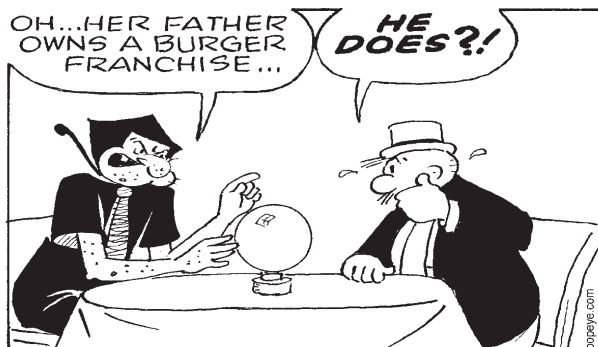
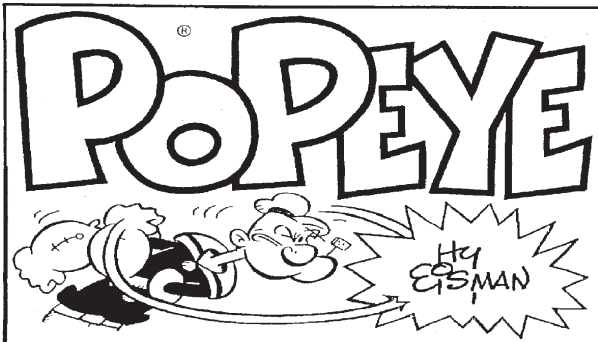
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	7		6				2
		3		4	9		
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	5			3			7
	6		4				1
7					1	8	6
		8		6		4	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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answer

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

5	2	1	8	4	7	3	9	6
4	3	6	5	9	2	1	7	8
8	7	9	6	1	3	5	2	4
6	8	3	2	7	4	9	1	5
2	1	7	9	5	8	6	4	3
9	5	4	1	3	6	2	8	7
3	6	2	4	8	9	7	5	1
7	4	5	3	2	1	8	6	9
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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

A	D	S		A	B	L	E		S	A	L	T
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The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program* is funded by the FCC and provides a monthly broadband credit of \$49.95 to certain broadband plans.



A household may be eligible if one member:

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To see if you qualify, please visit www.GetEmergencyBroadband.org

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