

Morgan County Today








Your Community. Your News. **75¢**

VOLUME 07 • NUMBER 24

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June 15, 2021

MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK

Tue 15	81°/57°	
Wed 16	81°/55°	
Thu 17	81°/58°	
Fri 18	87°/66°	
Sat 19	83°/65°	
Sun 20	81°/64°	
Mon 21	81°/67°	

Budget Expansions Approved

Yager announces approval of budget expansion requests to help Tennesseans struggling with housing needs and homelessness

NASHVILLE -- State Senator Ken Yager (R-Kingston) today announced that members of the Senate Finance, Ways, and Means Committee have approved requests from the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) to expand programs providing Tennesseans help with mortgage delinquencies, foreclosures, loss of utilities and tenant-based rental assistance. The funds came to Tennessee through federal coronavirus relief efforts to address homelessness and housing hardships caused by the pandemic.

Yager, who is a member of the Senate Finance Committee, supported expansion requests for three THDA programs providing aid related to housing.

"Many people in our district have struggled with housing and utilities needs during the pandemic, said Senator Yager.

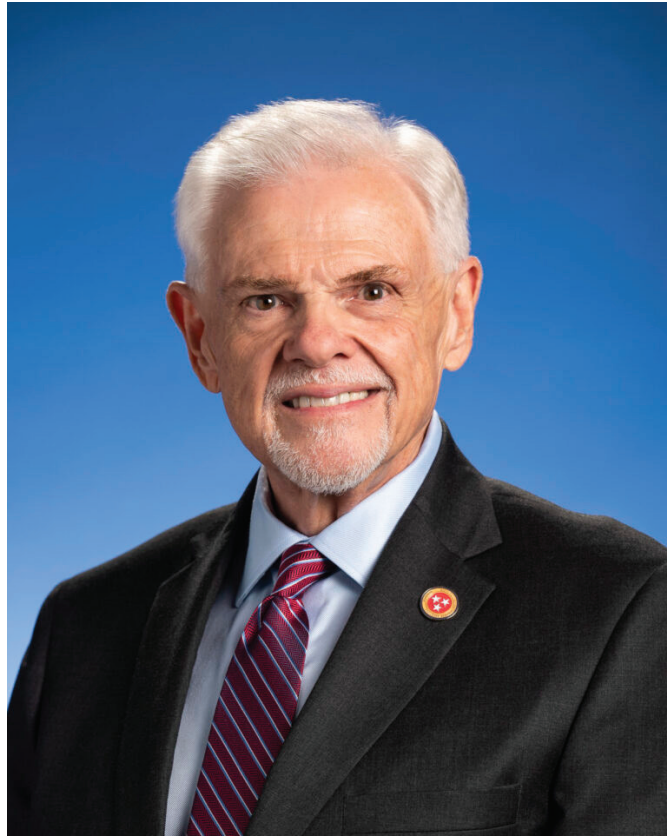
"These programs have been approved for expansion to provide help to those who most need support."

The expansion request includes \$168.2 million for Tennessee under the U.S. Treasury Assistance Homeowners Assistance Fund (HAF) Program. This program is to prevent mortgage delinquencies and defaults, foreclosures, loss of utilities or home energy services, and displacement of homeowners experiencing financial hardship after January 21, 2020.

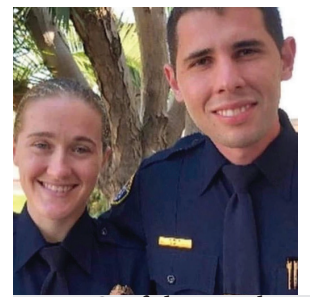
The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LI-HWAP) was expanded by \$54 million in Tennessee. It provides funds to assist low-income households with water and wastewater bills.

In addition, the HOME American Rescue Plan Grant will receive \$53.27 million to create affordable housing and services for Tennesseans experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. This includes development of affordable housing, tenant-based rental assistance, supportive services, and acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter units.

"I urge those who need help to contact THDA or visit their website at thda.org for further information on eligibility or information on how these programs work," Yager concluded.



Veteran of the Week
Webster Anderson



LEO of the Week
Ryan & Jamie Park



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Rainbow After The Storm




A beautiful sight as a rainbow appeared after a storm this past week. Julia Norris was able to capture this photo near Camp Austin in Oakdale. It is a reminder of God's promise to not destroy the earth again with a flood. Genesis 9:13-17 share this story.

Blackburn Reintroduces the Stop COVID Act to Hold China Accountable for Spreading COVID-19

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) reintroduced the Stop China-Originated Viral Infectious Diseases (Stop COVID) Act to ensure Beijing faces consequences for its role in spreading the novel coronavirus that originated in Wuhan, China. The Stop COVID Act will empower Americans to sue China in U.S. court and seek compensation for the devastating harm the deadly virus has caused to the economy and human life.

"The Chinese Communist Party must face the consequences for unleashing the virus upon the world over a year ago," said Senator Blackburn. "Since then, the costs have been devastating: trillions of dollars in economic damage, more than \$365 billion spent on unemployment assistance programs and over half a million deaths in the United States. Business owners and families who have lost loved ones deserve justice. Under this legislation, Americans will have the opportunity to take China to court in the U.S. and demand accountability for their lies and deceit."

The Stop COVID Act will make China legally and financially liable for unleashing SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus responsible for COVID-19, on our country. It will also empower Americans with the legal tools to sue China in the U.S. federal court system for creating and worsening this worldwide pandemic. The legislation builds on existing law in the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act and eliminates sovereign immunity for states that spread biological agents. As the world continues to recover from the loss of life and livelihood, China should be forced to pay the costs of these damages to the American people.



Vacation Bible School



329 Longview Dr.
Warburg, TN 37887
Need a Ride?
423-346-1611

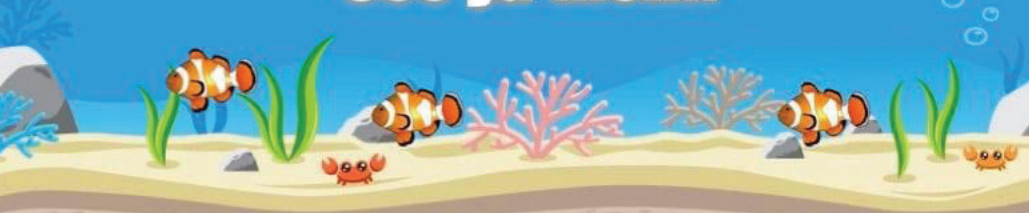
UNDER THE SEA

"Diving Deep Into God's Word"

June 21-25, 2021

See ya then!!




Food will be served starting at 5:30 pm with VBS starting at 6:30 pm.

Bubba J's

Thrift Store

544 E. Tri County Blvd. • Oliver Springs, TN
All Clothes \$1 each



Ship and drop off packages here.

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Rita Ann Tabler Whited, 74



Rita Ann Tabler Whited, age 74, went to heaven on June 11, 2021. She was born to Jim and Ruth Tabler on June 8, 1947. She was preceded in death by her husband Sherman Whited, along with her parents and grandsons: Kenneth E. Howard III and Zack L. Manis.

She welcomed everyone into her home, for conversation, a hot meal, hugs, and lots of kisses as you left. Most importantly she had an eternal love for family members:

Shelly Collins & her daughters Mandy & Kim Collins, Gail Howard Ruppe & her sons Kyle James and Timothy Jacob (T.J.)

Ruppe. Kenneth E. & wife Christine Howard and their daughter Christina E. and son Hunter B. Howard Mike Howard & son Michael Howard and youngest son of Rita: Scott D. Whited.

There will be a graveside service on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 1pm Crab Orchard Cemetery, Oakdale with Bro. David Weismuller officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Rita Ann Tabler Whited.

Patricia Anna "Granny" Combs, 74

Patricia Anna "Granny" Combs, age 74 of Wartburg passed away on, Tuesday June 9, 2021 at Roane Medical Center. She was preceded in death by parents Wilbur and Mettie Polson. She was a member of Armes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Patricia worked at the Tennessee Department of Correction for 28 years and active community member. She also worked at Hammers of Wartburg where she was known as Granny to all.

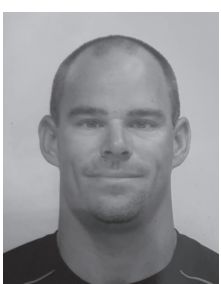
Surviving family members are son Robert Combs, sister Dorothy Polson and brother Henry Carson. Grandchildren; Zachary Combs, Lindsay Black, Lyric

Combs and Chloe Covette. Six great grandchildren; Zander, Kinsley, Azarias, Timothy, Conner and Axel.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, June 12, 2021 from 2-4 pm Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral services will follow at 4 pm with Brother Perry Spurling officiating. Graveside services will be Sunday, June 13, 2021, 1pm Highland Cemetery 5315 Kingston Pike Knoxville, TN.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Patricia Ann "Granny" Combs.

Richard Audney Nitzschke, II, 38



Mr. Richard Audney Nitzschke, II, age 38 of Sunbright, passed away Monday, June 7, 2021 in Plano, Texas. He was a member of IBEW Local 760 and a Class of 2001 graduate of Sunbright High School. Richard was the winner of the 2012 Tennessee Valley Lineman Rodeo and also earned the 2012 Tennessee Valley Individual Journeyman Lineman Award. Richard had an adventurous spirit and was an avid outdoorsman.

He was preceded in death by his brother: Lucas Ray Nitzschke. His grandparents: Harold and Josephine Nitzschke, and Milard and Lois Evans. And one uncle: Nicky Evans.

He is survived by his parents: Ricky and Marta Evans Nitzschke. His son: Jaxon Nitzschke.

Patricia Baker, and many beloved aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and loved ones.

The family will receive friends Sunday June 13, 2021 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at Davis Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral service will be at 4:00 PM with in the chapel of Davis Funeral Home, Wartburg with Bro. Doug Morgan officiating. Interment will follow in the Sunbright Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.davisfuneralhomes.com

Davis Funeral Home, Wartburg, is honored to serve the family of Mr. Richard A. Nitzschke, II.

Douglas Lynn Carroll, 55



Douglas Lynn Carroll, age 55, of Kingston, went to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Saturday, June 12, 2021. He was born in Clinton on Wednesday, December 8, 1965.

Doug graduated in 1984 from Central High School in Wartburg.

Doug was a unique person, he was caring, lovable and had a fun sense of humor. He enjoyed spending time with his family, watching Old Westerns TV Show, Andy Griffith, Green Acres and listening to gospel music.

He was preceded in death by his father L.D. Carroll. His paternal grandparents Marion and Nancy Mendi (Daugherty) Carroll. His maternal grandparents Gentry Lowe, Anges Faye (Farmer) and Robert LeRoy Robinson.

He is survived by his mother Rose Mary (Lowe/Robinson) Carroll.

His three favorite sisters and brother-in-law's Shelia and Curtis Bunch, Lavonna Sue and Jubal Collins, and Becky and Gerald Bunch.

His favorite niece Riley Bunch and fiancée

Darik Brackett His nephews Mikie and Jodi Heidel, Sustin and Airren Heidel, Chase and Desiree Crain, Bailey Bunch and Collin Bunch. He was the great uncle to Willow, Olivia, Finn, Lennon, Morgan, Briar and Zaedyn and loved when they visited him.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, from 11am to 12 pm Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Graveside services will follow with Bro. Garvin Walls officiating, in the Phillips Cemetery, Devonia.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Douglas Carroll.

Bertha Natalie Harlan Kennedy, 90



Bertha Natalie Harlan Kennedy

On June 9, 2021 @ 3:41 am The Lord called home a very special servant Bertha Natalie Kennedy. Natalie was born February 8, 1931 in Phillips, Virginia. She was preceded in death by her mother Thelma (Dutchie) Harlan, her father James Nathaniel Harlan, her brother Jimmy Harlan, and her husband of 56 years Chester Ray Kennedy.

She is survived by her sister and life long best friend Ann Smith, of Deer Lodge, TN

Her daughter Donna (Frank) Kirby of Deer Lodge, TN Her son Chester (Donna) Kennedy of Orlando, Florida 3 Grandchildren Zachary (Jennifer) Kirby of Normandy, TN, Amanda Kirby of Dawson Springs, KY, and Caleb (Priscilla) Kirby of Hopkinsville, KY.

8 Great Grandchildren Dakota, Joey, Wesley, and Trenton Shuck. Elijah and Alexandria

Kirby, Skylar and Harlynn Kirby.

Also surviving is a very special Care Giver and friend Mary Phillips.

Besides her family Natalie enjoyed her time working with the Morgan Scott Project, Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center, Mount Hope Cemetery Association, and the Deer Lodge Congregational Church. The family is thankful for her 90 years and her life as she shared with family and friends.

The family will receive friends on Friday, June 11, 2021, from 3-5 pm Schubert Funeral Home Wartburg. Funeral Services will follow at 5 pm with Bro. Zach Kirby and Bro. Frank Kirby officiating, interment will follow in the Mount Hope Cemetery, Deer Lodge, TN.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of.

Mom

Feb 4, 2018

Dad

May 28, 2018

Mom and Dad

You were there for me to unpack and rummage through each day. You brought so many smiles, laughter, comfort, and often wiped the tears along the way. You were always there whenever I needed you whether morning, noon, or night. Momma and Daddy you're always in my heart. You will stay close until our great reunion day. Locked up inside mysterious heart always at my beck and call lives all the beauty, joy, and love you both brought into my world. You were my world. My shining star.

Memories to treasure and to cherish and moments that delight. Their value is beyond all measure and a testament to the lives you both lived.

They say in time it will be easier, but this year has been really rough. We love you Mom and Dad. We miss you beyond measure. We hold you close in our hearts. We thank our Heavenly Father that He chose you to be our parents. God always gives the best.

Your Children,

Robert Lee Carroll - Millie, Mary Lou McBurnett - Wayne, Jackie Dean Carroll, Molly, Tammy, Jane Hamby, Jerry. Grandchildren & great grand children.

Send Letters to the Editor
Editor@mocotoday.com

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

Morgan County Today

Tommy Lee Francis: Publisher
Email: publisher@mocotoday.com

Heather Francis: Editor
Email: editor@mocotoday.com

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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 2: Part 1



Carol Hall
Author

Nick, Maggie, Chris & Evie-Day 1

While the men worked on setting up the tents on opposite sides of the fire pit from each other, the women prepared dinner. Canned soup was placed in a pan over the fire and heated up. They had packed small plastic bowls and silverware to be used for their meals. Water bottles were passed out, and there was dried fruit for dessert.

They sat around the fire as they enjoyed their meal. It had been a long day of hiking, and everyone was hungry.

After they were done eating and had carefully cleaned up their dishes in the stream, they made sure their food was hung up high in a tree so animals couldn't get to it. Once that was done, they settled around the fire, and talk turned to the following day's plans.

"There's a path that not many people know about just a bit farther up the mountain. I think it's an old service road. I thought we could try it out tomorrow," Maggie said. "I know it's off the marked trail, but I've always wondered where it went. I used to see it whenever my parents and I would come up here camping when I was still in school."

"I thought it was a bad idea to wander off the marked trails," Evie said. "I don't relish the idea of getting lost up in these mountains."

"We're not going to get lost. If it really is an old service road, it will most likely come out at the ranger's station. Then we just hike back here for our second night stay. I can't imagine the trail being that long, but if we hike a while and it seems like it is going too far, or if the terrain gets too bad, we'll just come back," Maggie said.

"I don't know..." Evie said. "I think it's best if we stick to the trails that are marked. I would feel a lot safer that way."

"Tell you what – how about we try the trail for a mile or two and if you still don't feel good about it, we'll turn around and come back. Would that be ok?" Maggie asked. "Nick, Chris, what do you think? Should we explore the old road or follow along the marked trails?"

"I'm all for exploring the old road, but I agree that if the terrain gets bad, or Evie gets scared, we come back and do the marked one," Chris said. Evie shot him a dirty look, but he just shrugged. "It might be fun. We might get to see stuff most people don't."

"Nick?" Maggie asked.

Everyone stopped and looked at Nick. He was sitting with his hands in his lap, his head down. He didn't say anything for a moment, but finally lifted his head and looked at each one of them in turn. He reached down and picked up his flashlight that was laying on the ground at his feet. He shifted it from hand to hand, then suddenly snapped it on and shined it up under his chin. "I heard of a tale of a strange creature up in these here mountains. They call it the boogeyman, but some folks say it's the old man in the mountain who likes to hunt down and eat people – Bwahahahahaha!" He jutted out his lower jaw and opened and closed his mouth quickly several times as if chewing. Everyone burst out laughing. Maggie playfully slapped his arm and grabbed the flashlight. "Funny," she said, still laughing. "But now we'll never get Evie to go off trail."

"Hey!" Evie cried, pretending to be offended. "Fine, I guess we can go on the old road for a little ways. But if it gets bad, we turn around and come back, ok?"

Maggie nodded. "Agreed."

They sat around the fire for a couple more hours talking about their jobs, families and life in general. When the sun had completely disappeared from the sky, and the forest floor was lost in darkness, Nick stoked the fire and suggested that it was time to hit the sack.

The night was filled with a million crickets and cicadas serenading them as they made their way to their tents.

The inside of Nick and Maggie's tent was roomy and comfortable. Nick hated feeling suffocated by tight quarters, so they had opted for a four person tent to give them a little more room. It was heavier to carry up the mountain, but Nick figured it was worth it.

After kicking off his boots and pants, Nick wriggled down into his sleeping bag for the night.

Maggie needed to make a quick bathroom run before crawling into her bag, so grabbing her flashlight and bathroom necessities, she crawled out of the tent.

As she passed the fire pit, she noticed the fire had dwindled down to embers. She made a mental note to throw another couple of logs on it when she came back. A fire helped keep wildlife out of the camp, as well as added a little bit of light to an otherwise very dark night.

As she made her way into the woods, she felt an odd prickly sensation crawl up her spine making her hair stand on end. It was the feeling you get when someone was watching you. She scanned the woods around her, shining the flashlight into the woods, but it was too dark to see anything.

"Hello?" she called out, but only silence greeted her.

Shaking off the feeling, she finished her business and was headed back to camp when a twig snapped nearby.

She froze and listened closely for any further noise, but none came.

She looked up at the sky through the canopy of treetops. She could see stars shining, but no moon to offer any light. She felt a wave of fear creep into her veins. But why? She had been in these mountains – these woods – many times before and had never been afraid. Why now?

Bears and mountain lions wouldn't come this close to the camp, not with the fire and all the noise they had been making. Elk didn't pose a threat this close to a campsite either, so what was she so afraid of? She didn't know for sure, but something had her spooked, and she didn't want to stick around to find out what it was.

She bolted back to camp and was almost to her tent when she realized she had forgotten to add a couple more logs to the fire.

She scanned the camp for anything unusual, but everything was still and quiet. She quickly grabbed a couple of logs that were stacked near the pit and tossed them onto the fire. A spray of sparks shot up into the air as the logs hit the burning embers. From across the fire pit, a short distance back in the woods, she thought she saw eye-shine. She looked again, but it was gone. Had she imagined it? Probably. She was still on edge from the creepy feeling she had gotten in the woods. Her mind was just playing tricks on her.

She quickly made her way to her tent and after slipping off her boots, crawled inside.

She lay awake inside her sleeping bag for a long time listening to the night noises outside the tent.

Somewhere in the distance an owl hooted. A log in the fire would snap occasionally, and the rustling of small nocturnal animals could be heard. Eventually, Nick's soft snoring lulled her to sleep.

She didn't know how long she had been asleep when she and Nick were awakened by Chris and Evie calling to them from outside their tent. Nick crawled out of his bag and unzipped the flap of the tent. "What's going on?" he asked, peering out of the tent at them.

By this time, Maggie was out of her bag and beside Nick. "Is everything ok?" she asked.

"Evie is freaked out by some loud knocking sounds she heard," Chris said, looking more annoyed than scared. "I didn't hear it, but she woke me up and told me to come get you guys."

"You guys didn't hear it?" Evie asked, looking around. "It started about an hour ago. It's like someone is hitting two pieces of wood together. What would be making that sound?"

Maggie crawled out of the tent and put her arm around Evie to comfort her. "We're in the middle of the woods out here. There are trees everywhere. You probably heard an old dead tree fall. It happens all the time out here."



"Oh come on, really? I think I would know the difference between a tree falling and something knocking wood together. I may be new to this whole hiking and camping thing, but I am not stupid, Maggie. What I heard was not a tree falling!"

"I'm sorry, Evie. I never meant to imply that you were stupid," Maggie said. The last thing she wanted to do was insult Evie or hurt her feelings. "I was only saying that..."

Just then a loud knock echoed through the woods. They all stopped. A moment later, another loud knock.

"Ok, I agree with Evie. That is not a tree falling," Chris said. "But what could make that noise? It sounded close by."

Another knock rocked the woods. It reverberated off the trees making the direction it came from hard to pinpoint.

"Ok, I agree with Evie, too," Maggie conceded. "That was definitely not a falling tree,

but I have no idea what could be making that sound. I've never heard anything like that before. There are other campsites up here, but they're quite a ways away from us, and that did sound kind of close."

They all stood there in the dark, listening for any more knocks, but it seemed that whatever was making the noise was done for the night.

After a few minutes, Chris yawned and said he was heading back to his tent.

"I think everyone should stay inside their tents for the rest of the night to be safe. I don't think anyone should be out roaming around just in case there is an animal or person out there," Nick said. "Keep your flashlights handy, too. Does anyone have a weapon of any kind?"

"Wait, what?" Chris demanded. "What do you mean do any of us have a weapon? Didn't you guys bring your guns?" He looked from Nick to Maggie and back to Nick again. He knew Nick and Maggie had concealed carry permits, and he knew they always had their guns on them. Nick just shook his head.

"Well, great then! Just flipping great!" Chris exclaimed, his anger evident. "I thought you guys took them everywhere with you. I wasn't worried because I figured you two had your guns. But since you don't, what are we going to do if it is some nutcase out there messing with us?"

"We forgot to pack them," Nick said. "It was just an oversight. We were trying to make sure we had all the essentials, but we forgot the guns."

"Great, just great! I would have thought those were essentials! We're out here in the middle of the woods with nothing to protect ourselves. That's just great!" Chris snapped. He grabbed Evie's hand, and they headed back toward their tent. "Who goes out in the woods and forgets their guns?" he called back over his shoulder.

"I guess we do," Maggie mumbled softly to Nick as she watched Chris and Evie crawl back into their tent. "I'm really sorry. I know I messed up. The guns should have been first on the list."

"Hey," Nick said. "At least we have the bear spray, right?"

Maggie just shrugged her shoulders and crawled back into the tent. She wasn't happy that Chris and Evie were upset with her and Nick, but it was too late to do anything about the missing guns now. She didn't want to admit it, but this trip was proving to be a bit strange, and she was starting to get a little worried. What did Evie see shortly after starting the hike? Who, or what, threw that rock at Chris? Why did she feel like she was being watched earlier, and what was making that wood knocking sound? Too many weird things were happening for her to believe it was just normal things going on. Was someone out there messing with them? If so, who and why?

She was starting to think it would be best if they called it quits and headed home tomorrow. She would bring it up in the morning and see what everyone else thought. She crawled into her sleeping bag again but knew she wouldn't be able to sleep.

Several minutes later, Nick came back into the tent. He zipped up the flap and crawled back into his sleeping bag. Maggie pretended to be asleep because she just didn't want to have to talk about what just happened.

She knew Nick was a little disappointed in her for forgetting something as important as their guns. She was disappointed in herself for that too. Frustration and weariness from the long day washed over her. A silent tear slid down her face as she squeezed her eyes shut and wished for a quick sunrise.

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.

History

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Historically Speaking

Marshall Andy and Cherokee Caverns
By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

At one of Jim Whidby's earlier semiannual Cherokee Caverns open to the public tours – "Cool Down in the Cave." 640 individuals enjoyed the grand experience of seeing the 300 million years old formations. Jim does a tremendous job of protecting this most special and unique cave system.

You may recall that for years Cherokee Caverns was also the "Haunted Cave" and was open to huge crowds around Halloween each year. Jim held the last haunted cave adventure in 2008 and does not plan to continue that approach into the future. Rather the cave system is now being used to promote preservation of the cave features and to the education of the public and professional cave explorers.

Jim now holds caving workshops and educational tours regularly. These excellent training programs are held in one of the most accessible yet exotic caverns with a wide array of unusual cave features found anywhere. Because of the intense interest of the public and Jim's desires to educate everyone to the wonders of underground caverns, he continues to create unique learning experiences for both experienced and novice cave explorers.

"Warm up in the cave" in February and "Cool down in the cave" in August remain the mainstays of the public access. Additionally, he will give special group tours by special arrangement for groups of 12 or more.

Granted, many of the people touring the public access portion of the cave on that earlier Saturday failed to appreciate that startling age of what they were seeing, they only saw beautiful shapes and unusual flow stones, some that have developed seemingly in defiance of gravity. How does a stalagmite grow on an angle, or a stalactite grow in an upward slant, when the only way either of them can grow is for water to drip from the ceiling?

Each time I visit Cherokee Caverns and take photographs I am again amazed at the enormous variety of formations and the most unusual growth patterns I have ever seen in any cave system. You can see my latest photos at: <https://onedrive.live.com/?id=465E8525EDED80A6%212900&cid=465E8525EDED80A6>

On that Saturday, I was privileged to get to take a personal tour of the cave with Jim and Marshall Andy Smalls. You know who that is, right? He is the cowboy Marshal Andy, aka Andy Smalls, who is Knoxville's greatest singing cowboy. And he has been for the last 30-plus years!

The Marshal Andy character started out in the Tennessee Valley Fair in 1971. Marshal Andy has appeared on numerous television ads and radio spots. Marshal Andy, in 1983, began hosting the old cowboy movie showcase Riders of the Silver Screen.

He can be found on public television dressed in full early Hollywood cowboy regalia and joined by film historian Dan Calhoun and Rawhide Ray. Smalls also plays bass in the Riders of the Silver Screen Band. Marshal Andy continues to host old B Western movies and cowboy serials every Saturday morning on public television affiliates WSJK and WKOP.

But on that Saturday, Marshall Andy was telling me the story of his involvement with this very cave, Cherokee Caverns. He is a great storyteller and he soon had his small audience spellbound with his knowledge about this particular cave.

While we were preparing to venture into the cave, Marshall Andy began to tell stories about the time when he was marketing manager for what is now Cherokee Caverns. I was amazed to learn about Marshall Andy and his pivotal role in the naming of the caverns.

Andy Smalls, "Marshall Andy," of the Riders of the Silver Screen fame, the man who has a cowboy country band and who plays with large bands as well, was sitting on a golf cart with Jim Whidby and having a blast entertaining kids as they passed by. He just stuck his hand out to shake their hand and asked them some question that showed he had noticed something special about them and he sincerely wanted to know them better.

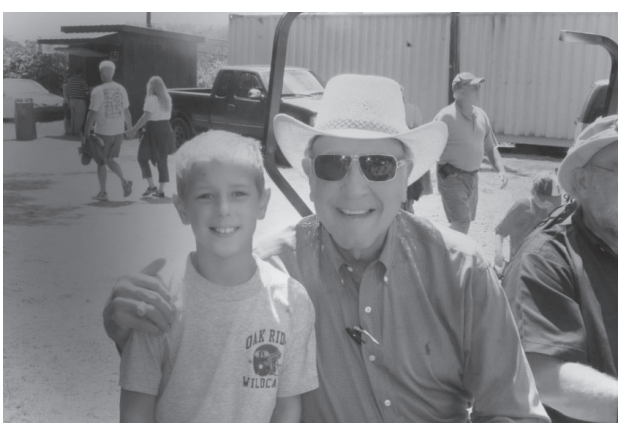
Youngsters were amazed that this 80-year-old man would be interested in them. I think this act by Mar-

shall Andy tells us something about our current generation and culture. We are ignoring the children. But not Marshall Andy, he sought out the kids. His eyes were constantly roving the crowd seeking the eyes of children and when he caught one looking, he immediately reached out to them. We could learn from Marshall Andy!

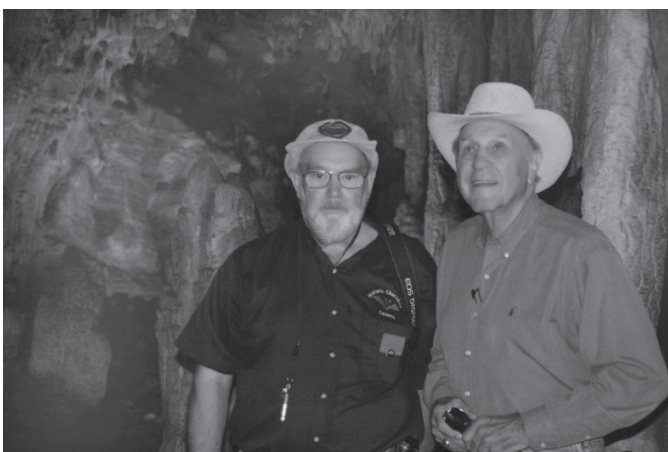
Yes, we buy them video games, toys, and such and we take them to soccer or football practice as well



Marshall Andy points to the brochure he developed that caused the need to change the name of the cave system to the simpler Cherokee Caverns(Photo Submitted)



Marshall Andy Smalls and a new young friend, Matthew Thompson who was touring Cherokee Caverns when the Marshall captured him in a conversation across the generations (Photo Submitted)



Jim Whidby and Marshall Andy Smalls pose near the entrance to the upper cave of the Cherokee Caverns, a cave they both admire and cherish (Photo Submitted)

as anything else their little heart's desire...but we adults don't talk to children! Have you noticed? If we do talk to them, it is usually talking down to them. Not Marshall Andy. He is genuinely interested in everyone he speaks to, especially kids.

Some of the adults there recognized Marshall Andy and rushed over to have their picture taken with him. He dutifully stood at attention and made pictures with everyone who asked. He has done this plenty of times in his long career. The kids, however, did not know him, but quickly saw he was genuinely interested in him. Remember, he did not have on his authentic western outfit, just a broad rimmed hat.

We sat and he told me his story of how he came to be the one who named Cherokee Caverns. I knew the cave system had changed names several times over the past several years, but I had no idea who or what had made that happen.

Between Jim Whidby and Marshall Andy, I learned all about the various names for the cave system. The cave systems started out (in historical times as we know them) in 1929 as Gentry's Cave. This was the first commercial venture to open the cave to the public. Margaret Crudington Gentry's father, Robert Crudington, in 1854 when he saw fog rising from around some rocks and upon exploring found a cavern beneath the rocks.

In 1931 Margaret changed the name to Grand Caverns hoping to give the caverns a more descriptive name. In 1947, after Margaret's death, the cave was sold and the new owners, taking advantage of the huge amount of publicity attached to the explosion of the atomic bomb on the Bikini Atoll renamed the caverns the Atomic Caverns because the huge

formation near the center of the lower cave that (if you get your mind just right) looks somewhat like the base of the mushroom cloud of the Bikini Atoll atomic bomb.

A side note: Margaret Crudington's gravestone can be seen as you drive through Hardees at Karns and look to the right into the graveyard nearby. The first large tombstone is hers. There is no death date, only a birth date. Jim used to tell folks during the haunted cave weekends that the reason there was not a death date on the stone is that she is still haunting Cherokee Caverns.

Next the cavern was renamed as the Caveman's Palace in 1950 and then the Palace Caverns in the last 1950's. Caverns of the Ridge came along as the name in the 1960's. Then the longest name Cherokee Firesite Ceremonial Caverns was chosen in 1971.

Here is where Marshall Andy, the "Knoxville Cowboy" comes into the picture with regard to the names of the caverns. Marshall Andy was hired to promote the cave. He knew right away that the long name would not do. But first let's see how he came to be in Tennessee.

Andy told me that he had come from New York City where he was working for Ted Turner's father to Knoxville in 1968 working for Ted after Ted's father's death. But Ted soon sold the firm and Andy had to go to Atlanta. But soon he was asked to take a job promoting the Lost Sea caverns.

Andy did this for a while and recalls fondly the time he spent there. Soon he was offered the job of promoting what was then known as Cherokee Firesite Ceremonial Caverns. This was in 1973. The new owner had changed the name of the caverns and Andy thought the name was too long to promote effectively. So, he shortened it to Cherokee Caverns to get a more workable name for advertising and promotion. This name has stayed with the caverns to this day.

Andy also designed the advertising brochure that is proudly displayed by Jim Whidby in his display of the caverns. It was about this same time that Andy Smalls got "Marshall" added to his name.

The name "Marshall Andy" came about during the Tennessee Valley Fair when he was under contract to perform a cowboy show where he was the person getting shot during each show. During one particular show, Andy noticed his hands were bloody and he thought, "I don't have to do this. I can be the one doing the shooting and would not have to fall on my hands so much."

So, he told the man announcing the show that he was going to change the script. Andy wanted to be the one doing the shooting. They decided that would be okay, but they now needed a name for Andy that played to that new role of the shooter.

First "Sheriff Andy" was briefly considered, but Andy was afraid that name would be too easily be associated with Andy Griffith. So, they settled on "Marshall Andy" and within weeks Andy Smalls was doing commercials as Marshall Andy. It proved to be a very good choice.

But on this day, Marshall Andy was thinking back to the 1973 when he explored the Cherokee Caverns and gave the cave system its lasting name. What a joy it was to be with Jim and Andy as they explored "their" cave once more.

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 humbly honor United States Army veteran and Medal of Honor recipient, Sergeant First Class Webster Anderson as the veteran of the week. SFC Anderson received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions on October 15, 1967 in Tam Ky, Republic of Vietnam, while serving as a member of Battery A, 2d Battalion, 320th Artillery, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile).

Now enjoy a moment of reflection while reading the Medal of Honor citation of a true American hero.

SFC Anderson (then Staff Sergeant) distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as chief of section in Battery A, against a hostile force. During the early morning hours Battery A's defensive position was attacked by a determined North Vietnamese Army infantry unit supported by heavy mortar, recoilless-rifle, rocket-propelled-grenade and automatic-weapons fire. The initial enemy onslaught breached the battery defensive perimeter. SFC Anderson, with complete disregard for his personal safety, mounted the exposed parapet of his howitzer position and became the mainstay of the defense of the battery position. SFC Anderson directed devastating direct howitzer fire on the assaulting enemy while providing rifle and grenade defensive fire against enemy



soldiers attempting to overrun his gun section position. While protecting his crew and directing their fire against the enemy from his exposed position, two enemy grenades exploded at his feet knocking him down and severely wounding him in the legs. Despite the excruciating pain and though not able to stand, SFC Anderson valorously propped himself on the parapet and continued to direct howitzer fire upon the closing enemy and to encourage his men to fight on. Seeing an enemy grenade land within the gun pit near a wounded member of his gun crew, SFC Anderson heedless of his own safety, seized the grenade and attempted to throw it over the parapet to save his men. As the grenade was thrown from the position it exploded and SFC Anderson was again grievously wounded. Although only partially conscious and severely wounded, SFC Anderson refused medical evacuation and continued to encourage his men in the defense of the position. SFC Anderson, by his inspirational leadership, professionalism, devotion to duty, and complete disregard for his welfare, was able to maintain the defense of his section position and to defeat a determined attack. SFC Anderson's gallantry and extraordinary heroism at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

This week we honor the memory of a pair of married San Diego Police Department detectives who were tragically killed in a car crash on June 4, 2021.

Detective Ryan Park (32) and his wife, Detective Jamie Huntly-Park (33), were killed when their department vehicle was struck head-on by a wrong-way driver on June 4, 2021.

The married detectives were conducting follow-up investigations when the crash occurred. The driver of the other vehicle was also killed in the collision.

The couple reportedly began dating in 2012 while in the San Diego police academy, and even became officers on the same day



that April, and detectives on the same day in 2018. They married in February 2016. Huntly-Park was a detective in the depart-

ment's Southern Division, while Park was a homicide detective. San Diego Police Chief David Nisleit reportedly said, "The void

in our hearts will be impossible to fill," the San Diego Police Department wrote on social media. "San Diego truly lost two of America's Finest officers today."

"You couldn't have met two nicer kids," Nisleit said, "They had nothing but their lives ahead of them. Both their lives and their careers were definitely on a very, very rapid trend upward, just doing amazing work."

Let's pray that Jesus Christ will give comfort and peace to fill the vast void in the hearts of all who knew and loved these two fallen detectives and the same for the other driver that was killed in the collision.



David Zubler

The IRS is requesting an \$80 billion increase in its budget over the next ten years. The investment is predicted to return a minimum of \$320 billion.

The budget increase request for workforce and IT are in line with IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig's October request for "consistent, timely and adequate multi-year funding" in order to overcome the IRS's "gutted workforce and anachronistic IT systems."

The decline in the budget over the past decade has made it very difficult for the IRS to adequately function.

The IRS has fewer auditors than any time since World War II. The decline has caused the federal government to have lost out on a large amount of revenue.

Revenue officers are responsible for collecting taxes. They have suffered the most significant losses and have seen a decline by 50 percent since 2010.

Revenue agents audit complex returns and have had a 35 percent decrease. The IRS estimates that \$4 dollars are brought in for every \$1 the agency spends on compliance efforts. Audit rates have decreased the most for highly complex audits.

Existing IRS employees cannot simply be moved to the highest valued audits. Complex business exams can be extremely complicated and require specialized training.

"Because the expansion in the IRS's budget is phased in over a 10-year period horizon, each year the IRS's workforce should grow by no more

IRS Plans for Expansion

than a manageable 15 percent. By the end of the decade, however, the IRS's budget should be roughly 40 percent above 2011 levels in real terms as a result of this proposal," according to the tax compliance agenda released by the Department of Treasury.

"The IRS's new workforce would include additional dedicated customer service representatives ready to assist taxpayers as they navigate newly expanded programs like the Child Tax Credit, the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, and the Earned Income Tax Credit."

The IRS's IT architecture and design was created in the 1960s. Few programmers understand the old Assembly code. Auditors at the Government Accountability Office have said the antiquated code is limiting an inflexible. The number of IRS programmers that understand the IMF code is diminishing as IRS employees retire.

"It's gratifying to see investments in the IRS workforce front and center in the administration's plan to improve compliance and customer service," National Treasury Employees Union National President Tony Rearden said in a statement.

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.

Invitation to Bid

Replacing HVAC Units at the Morgan County Pre-Arrest Diversion Building

Morgan County Government is accepting bids from businesses interested in replacing HVAC Units at the Morgan County Pre-Arrest Diversion Building located across the road from the Morgan County Courthouse in Wartburg, TN. Please contact 423-346-6288 winning bidder must be a licensed and insured HVAC Company. There are 2 HVAC Units to be replaced with new, comparable units. One split unit is to be relocated. These units can be seen at the Morgan County Pre-Arrest Building. Morgan County Government reserves the right to reject any bid. Sealed bids can be mailed to:

Morgan County Executive's Office
P.O. Box 387
Wartburg, TN 37887.

Bid opening will be Tuesday June 21, 2021 at 10 A.M. in the third floor conference room of the Morgan County Courthouse. For any more information, please call 423-346-6288

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John 3:7

- Jesus



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John Burns
Opinion Columnist

Have you ever considered the story of Cain from a Hebrew hermeneutical perspective? His name transliterates as “A Man from the Lord.” He was Eve’s firstborn after the transgression and promised hope of Messiah was first revealed as the plan of God. Redemption has always been the plan. God is the God of creation. Creation required action. The action God planned is the most preposterous debt payment plan in creation’s history. It required God to enter the realm of his greatest creation, in the womb of a predestined Jewish virgin girl, as his own son, all for the purpose of redeeming man and creation to himself. And the word was preincarnate so God’s plan has always been pre-incarnate. God does not react to anything or anyone. He is the God of pre-incarnate action! Hallelujah.

No doubt Eve would have been thinking, my son Cain will be the father of the chosen Messiah. Or maybe even from a religious perspective, he was that chosen Messiah. The desire of every Hebrew woman is to be the mother of Messiah. Eve is the mother of all living. Is that from our perspective or God’s perspective? A Hebrew is the descendant of Adam or his genealogy would not show up in the New Testament. A Hebrew is the children of Abraham, Isaac and Israel (Jacob). Israel is comprised of all those humans who wrestle with God and wrestle with men. It was never meant to only become a national identity. The name of Israel was set apart and reserved for all those born of a woman who would accept God’s Messiah: The Lord Jesus Christ. Today, the nation of Israel is on a collision course with Jesus Christ’s inheritance and their tribulation of the last times. Israel will once again embark on building a home they believe can contain God. Their temple will end up being the Lord Jesus Christ’s temple after national Israel looks upon him whom they have pierced and cry Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. They will finally recognize their risen Messiah and king. The Star of David is actually the star of Messiah. It incorporates the first and last Passover Lamb’s blood in two right angle triangles. At the first Passover in Egypt, Israel was commanded to smear the blood upon the lenthil above the doorpost and upon both side doorposts. At the last Passover, God’s Lamb was slain with the Romans nailing his hands and feet. Forming another right triangle of the blood of the lamb. The national symbol of Israel is the menorah. The menorah is the seven churches of revelation identified by Jesus Christ as the seven lampstands. When the light is in heaven the nation of Israel will suffer persecution. The rapture of the bride of Christ is fast approaching and Israel will lose their engrafted brothers on Earth. They will be surrounded by all the nations of the Earth intent on stopping God’s plan. But that plan has always included the mark of Cain. Hallelujah.

According to scripture, Cain was firstborn so he alone would have enjoyed pre-eminence in the family. His mom was told the Messiah would come through a virgin woman and the son would inherit everything. The birth of Cain would have pleased Adam. Adam was reeling from unbelief so no doubt he neglected to teach Cain proper rites for bringing an offering to God. When Cain followed in Adam’s foot-steps he became the gardener in the family. He would have toiled over his land and no doubt would have felt the need to horde his crop. He must not of learned the law of tithing yet. If he, had he would have brought God the first ten percent. Instead, Cain brought God some of what was left over. Wrong move on Cain’s part. When Abel appeared with the firstlings of his flock of lambs, of course it pleased God. He always intended to slay a lamb to cover the sins of humanity. Abel understood this and his offering was accepted. Cain let jealousy arise and when he and Abel were in the field, he killed Abel and buried him in the ground. What was Cain thinking when God appeared and questioned him about Abel’s whereabouts?

The God of creation who communes with mom and dad, is asking you where your brother is and you get cynical? Strike two. God already knew Abel was dead. He wrote the script in eternity past. This is act two in God’s profound cosmic love story. Eve’s firstborn proves that sin exists to bend our knees toward God and his salvation. The mark of Cain proves it! Hallelujah. Jesus Christ himself identifies as the Alpha and Omega. What he actually said in front of his Jewish audience of priest’s was I am the Aleph and the Tau. Like the Greek, these are the first and last characters in their prospective alphabets. In Hebrew the Aleph is the ox or burden bearer. That same ox is also an animal of sacrifice. Which burden bearer became our eventual sacrifice? Who is the Aleph? Then who is the Tau. It is the last letter in the Hebrew Aleph-Beit. It is representative of the cross. It is the cross shaped letter in the Hebrew letter sequence. It was designed by God our burden bearer and Messiah. That same

God would eventually succumb to the Tau or cross. It was all part of his grand strategy. God orchestrated every aspect of our lives and the lives of every person born of a woman. Why do you think science uncovered that every photon knows where every other photon is located in the entire universe at all times? The same God created them at his big bang when he appeared in our dimension of time as the light of the world. He is the designer of creation, He upholds creation, and he died to redeem creation, Hallelujah.

What about the mark of Cain? What was it? I have heard countless gentile preachers go from tattoos to brands. Once again, I turn to Hebrew hermeneutics and equidistant lettering sequence in the closed loop system, we call our Bible. The mark of Cain it turns out is the Hebrew letter TAU! God marked Cain with the cross. What other sign has God given beside the sign of Jonah. Cain was born of a woman. He was born with the ability to follow God or lean to his own understanding. This is called sin. No matter how you put it, Cain needed God’s mercy and grace and what is the one mark in history which identifies God with these divine attributes? The answer can only be the Tau. The cross of Jesus Christ is what he marked Cain with. Has God marked you with the cross of Christ? Do you pick up your TAU daily and follow Jesus Christ? Would you show mercy and grace to Cain? How about mercy and grace to your wife or husband? Or Children? We all need the mark of Cain daily. Cain was God’s second witness of the cross of Christ in our Bible. The first was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God created a garden in which he intended to put you and me. He gave us every seed-bearing plant for sustenance that we were to manage as his highest creation. He told us not to touch or eat the tree in the midst of the garden. It was Elohim’s tree. He would bring that tree to fruition all by himself and it was to our benefit. But we did what humans always do, question the authenticity of God’s word. Did God say? Hell, we have created so many houses designed to question this very affirmation from God: His Word. We all need God’s mercy and grace and church needs it the most. The time has come for judgement to begin and to begin in the house of God! Hallelujah.

So, God had humans tend the tree for 3,000 years. He taught men to fashion incredible iron instruments of war. In his season he had man fashion three iron nails and a long spear. I am that man. I bear the mark of Cain. I fashioned the nails and the spear. Then God instructed me to hew down the tree and fashion it into the TAU! Then he had me spit on him, condemn him unlawfully, and eventually nail him to that TAU. And the entire time he opened not his mouth for he planned it all in eternity past! Hallelujah. So, the conclusion must be that the mark of Cain, in whatever form the creator fashioned it to his head, was the TAU or cross of Christ. Humans have had no excuse. The cross has always represented God’s mercy and grace and his pattern has always been the Tau. He said so himself. For humans require the mercy and grace of God every day and no mark in history beside the Hebrew Tau, represents the mind of God like the cross of his Messiah son Jesus Christ. I look forward to taking up the mark of Cain and carrying it daily until my Messiah returns to rapture me home. Even so come Lord Jesus Christ. He was crucified upon a cross of wood yet he created the hill upon which it stood. RLTW

John Burns 6-8-2020-

Where metaphors abound, mysteries reside! Dr. Chuck Missler. Well done good and faithful servant.

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

Alaska: Part 1



I wanted to share with my readers my recent Alaska trip. I have recorded a journal writing for every day of my trip. Enjoy!

Alaskan Vacation Day 3: I flew into Anchorage, AK late last night. Alaska’s time zone is 4 hours behind EST and during this time of the year it doesn’t get dark until around 11:00pm. I started off the day by making the scenic drive from Anchorage to Seward, AK.

Seward is a small town that is land shaped by glaciers situated between mountains and the ocean. It offers a beautiful national park, abundant wildlife, and fresh seafood right of the coast. I explored the town of Seward, visited the Alaska SeaLife Center, and stopped for lunch at Ray’s for a cup of their famous, piping hot seafood chowder and fresh Alaskan salmon.

After lunch, I went on a hike to view a glacier at Kenai Fjords National Park. After completion of my hike, I took another 3 hour scenic drive to Homer, AK. I will

post pictures tomorrow about Homer and show you more of the iconic scenery on the way back.

Alaskan Vacation Day 2: I stayed overnight in Homer, AK. Homer is located at the southern point (end of the road). It’s known for its fishing, especially the halibut . Homer is the “halibut fishing capital of Alaska”. I walked along the coast and took some pictures in the morning of the starfish.

I drove back to Seward, AK stopping at many scenic sites along the way. Cooper Landing was a highlight of the drive. It’s located in the middle of Kenai Peninsula; you can see the emerald waters radiant throughout my pictures. I was able to take a picture of a wild moose on the hike. Tomorrow is the helicopter tour.

Alaskan Vacation Day 3: Most of today was spent driv-



ing in the car. I started out in Seward, AK and headed to Chugach Mountains which are located about 40 minutes outside of Anchorage. I took pictures in the Chugach

Mountains and then flew on a helicopter to an ice glacier called, The Knik. According to the tour guide, Knik is one of the largest ice glaciers in south central Alaska. The movies Star Trek V and Avalanche were also filmed on this glacier. I drove to Denali National Park to stay overnight and explore it tomorrow.

Stay tuned for days 4, 5, 6 and 7!

How can I find or listen to The Zack Ballinger Show? The show will have 2 to 3 guests per week on various careers in The United States. You can listen live via YouTube by searching for Zack Ballinger and subscribing. The show is also streamed live on Facebook on www.facebook.com/thezackballinger. What if you want to listen to a podcast? The show can be found on iTunes and Spotify: search for The Zack Ballinger Show and you can find all the episodes.

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



Hello My Friends! I trust everyone remained safe during the storm Saturday night. There were many downed trees and power outages and lots of things blown around but God blessed us with a beautiful double rainbow following the storm. Be reminded of His promise.....He will never destroy the earth again by water. I do believe that was the brightest, most long lasting rainbow I have ever seen.

Each week when I attempt to do this column, I think of Ms. Imogene Johnson, Ms. Annie Johnson and Ms. Bo Miles. It isn't as easy as one might think. Sometimes I feel that is no more than a calendar of events. I always ask for news items to be contributed and I appreciate those who help me out. I read a lot of things on Facebook but I rarely share without permission. I especially think of Ms. Bo when trying to choose a thought to end with. Hello to you Ms. Bo. Thank you for encouraging me to continue with this column.

Vacation Bible School is going on this week at First Baptist Church Oakdale beginning with a meal at 5:30 and VBS from 6:00 – 8:45.

Rankin Chapel Baptist Church will have Vacation Bible School the week of June 21st from 6:30 – 8:30 nightly. The theme is Psalm 56:3. Commencement will be Friday, June 25th.

Living Waters Baptist Church on Montgomery Road will have Vacation Bible School June 21 – 25 from 7:00 – 9:00 nightly. The theme will be Revelation 4:11.

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

Pine Orchard Baptist Church will have Vacation Bible School July 19 -12. The theme is Farm Fresh Faith. The time will be announced soon.

West Side Baptist Church and Boswell Chapel Baptist Church will have VBS. Dates and times will be announced soon.

Brother Mike Nelson preached at White Oak Baptist Church Sunday morning. As always, we loved having Brother Mike in the service with us.

Scout Scarbrough from Charlotte, NC visited his grandmother Vera Scarbrough to continue celebrating his 17th birthday week. Also present besides his parents Todd Scarbrough and Lisa Lackey were brother Riley, cousins Kennedy from Knoxville and Debbie and Bob from next door. Scout received gift cards, money, and a token gift Vera had saved: Grandfather Paul's monogrammed "S" cuff links for his future prom dates. Besides gifts, he enjoyed his favorite food fixings, especially his granny's fried chicken.

Meredith Scarbrough Bell is enjoyed a weekend beach vacation with her college friends. Her daughter Kennedy and Mavis, her dog are "camping out" at Granny Vera's for a few days.

Special thanks to TVA for gifting Oakdale City Park with some new facilities which include grills, updated trash cans and some new picnic tables. The contributions came about as a result of a fall meeting at the park with County Executive Brian Langley, his assistant Bret Pallotta, Oakdale Commissioner Vera Scarbrough, Oakdale Mayor Buddy Miller, Road Superintendent Joe Henry Miller and others. Keith Kilby and his team from Morgan County Solid Waste gave volunteer assistance to help set the equipment in the park on Friday, June 11. "Hopefully all those who use the park and love Oakdale will help take care of the new additions and help the city keep the park for all to enjoy" commented

Mrs. Scarbrough. Commissioner Scarbrough also mentioned that TVA has indicated it will assist in making an access ramp/point for the Emory River in the Bottoms. Morgan County Executive Brian Langley as well as Oakdale City Administration are setting out to work with TVA on this project which will hopefully take place soon.

The family of the late Ellis and Marie Redmon Bingham held their annual reunion Sunday, June 6 at Cumberland Mountain State park. Ellis, Marie and their 7 children began gathering in the 1960's. It is believed that the first reunion was in 1967 although the actual date is often a topic of discussion. At that time, their son Bill lived in Ohio and their daughter Georgia and her family lived in Jasper, TN. Eventually, a standing date of the first Sunday in June was established for the reunion. The family has grown to include several generations. This year, the surviving children Betty Chapman, Tom (Billie) Bingham, Marlene (Larry) Goldston and daughter in law, Zelma Bingham, were in attendance. 15 of the 16 grandchildren were present. They were Terry Bingham, Lavanna Miles, Wayne Langley, Donna Tilson, Randy Chapman, Wendell Langley, Glen Chapman, Sandra Helton, Frederick Shelton, Kimberly Hall, Wade Bingham, Tabitha Hamby, Eric Goldston, Lyndell Goldston and Katrina Adcox. Valerie and Maura Lake of Fayetteville, NC traveled the farthest to attend. The youngest in attendance was 2 year old Luke Hensley, grandson of Frederick Shelton and the oldest in attendance was Zelma Bingham who turned 91 on June 1. Everyone enjoyed a day of food, fellowship and laughter. Those who were not able to attend were missed.

Phil Helton and his friend, Kay Teague, spent a few days visiting his Mother, Fayette Helton last week. On Friday evening, his siblings James, Randy, Keith and Melinda and a houseful of nieces and nephews visited and enjoyed a family dinner. On Saturday, his sister Velma Human of Wartburg and his brother Eddie of Chattanooga visited. As always, the family enjoyed being together.

Condolences to Darren and Julia Norris and their family due to the passing of Julia's grandfather, Mr. Bobby Strickland of Erwin, TN.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Rita Whited who passed away Friday, June 11. She is survived by her children Shelly Collins, Gail Ruppe, Kenny (Christine) Howard, Mike Howard and Scott Whited along with her grandchildren Mandy and Kim Collins, Kyle and TJ Ruppe, Christina and Hunter Howard and Michael Howard and many great grandchildren. A graveside service will be held today, Tuesday, June 15 at Crab Orchard Church Cemetery at 1:00. Upon hearing of her passing, the most common words spoken by those who had the pleasure of know her were "She was so nice." I considered it a privilege to have known "Mamaw Rita."

Please remember the Bud Cochran family. He passed away early Sunday morning.

"You may not always see the results of your kindness, but every bit of positive energy you contribute to the world makes it a better place for all of us." Lisa Currie

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sunil Patel has applied for a permit to sell beer OFF premises at the location known as:
Brushy Mountain Market
10208 Petros Hwy
Oliver Springs, TN 37840

Anyone having reason to believe that this permit should not be issued, must appear before the Morgan County Beer Board on the 24th day of June 2021 at 5:30 pm in the Office of the County Clerk

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

Romans 8

(Romans 8:1-11) deliverance through Christ: Paul's claim of no condemnation to those in Christ is not an affirmation of the impossibility of apostasy, as many Protestants assert. The promise is subsequently qualified by apostasy, as many Protestants assert. The promise is subsequently qualified by "who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit" (v. 4). The "law of the Spirit of life" (v. 2) is the law to which the Christian is amenable. It is: (a) a law of no condemnation due to the justification produced by the atoning death of Jesus; (b) the conduit of life into and within the in-Christ sphere; (c) freedom from the "law of sin and death"; (d) designated the "law of the Spirit" because it has been conveyed by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (it is the equivalent of the "law of Christ") (Gal. 6:2, 1 Cor. 9:21; Jas. 1:25); (e) in remarkable contrast to the "law of sin and death" (the Mosaic law primarily but any other law, practically speaking), which could only define and expose sin, but could not permanently remedy it.

The apostle now addresses what the law could not do, in that it was "weak." It could define and condemn sin, but was without power to deliver from sin on an absolute basis. The antidote to the weakness of the law was the mission of God's Son, who came in the "likeness of sinful flesh." He was able to be tempted, though he never yielded (Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22). Additionally, he came "for sin" (Isa. 53:12). By his perfect life and sacrificial death, Christ was able to pronounce a condemnation upon sin. He fulfilled the demands of the law that no sinful human ever could do.

The pattern of one's life is a reflection of whether he walks after the flesh or after that of the Spirit. The former leads to separation from God; the latter to union with the Creator and blissful peace. Carnality refuses to be subject to God, and those of this disposition simply cannot please the Holy Lord (v. 5-8). The genuine disciple does not pursue the "flesh," but the instruction of the Spirit; and that temperament is indicative of whether the Spirit indwells one. And if one does not possess the Spirit, he does not belong to Christ (v. 9). If Christ is a genuine influence in the Christian, his spirit lives even though his physical body is dead (potentially) because such is the common lot of all men (Heb. 9:27). If the divine Spirit dwells in you (in view of your faithfulness), that Spirit ultimately will give life to your mortal body at the time of the general resurrection (v. 11).

(Romans 8:12-17) sonship: this section likely will be interpreted consistent with the view one holds regarding the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Some believe that the indwelling is direct (through not miraculous); others allege it is indirect, by means of the written word. There need not be discord over this issue so long as ideas are not taught that are in direct conflict with Scripture. The Christian has an obligation to live "by the Spirit" (consistent with his instruction via the Scriptures) and not after the inclinations of the flesh. If he lives after the flesh, he will die. This clearly implies the possibility of apostasy. To follow the Spirit's leading is characteristic of being children of God. The

Spirit leads by his inspired word (Eph. 6:17) and by the mysterious work of providence (Acts 14:27; 1 Cor. 16:9). We are not to view ourselves in a state of bondage, but as children adopted by God--a sweet and tender relationship (v. 14-15).

The Spirit (who dwells in us v. 11) is evidence that we are children of God (Gal. 4:6). In addition, our spirit (based upon our knowledge of what it takes to be a child of God) similarly bears witness to this fact. The two are dual witnesses to our divine status. The child relationship ensures that we will be heirs of God in eternity--indeed, joint-heirs with Christ. It is an amazing thought that Jesus continues to maintain a unique relationship with us, even in his ascended state. It may be required, however, that we suffer with him (because of our Christian commitment) preliminary to our glorification with him (v.17).

(Romans 8:18-25) the effect of sin: one of the effects of sin is the phenomenon of suffering. Contrary to the claims of atheism, suffering does not negate the existence of a benevolent God. Suffering was never intended to be the divine ideal. It is, however, a part of the price paid for human rebellion--in both direct and indirect forms. Whatever the range of hardships, all of these combined pale into insignificance compared to the glory that awaits the faithful people of God.

In verses 19 through 22, the apostle speaks of the deliverance of the "creation" from the "bondage of corruption." The following elements are important. (a) The term "creation" refers to the material creation (Gen. 1:1). (b) The creation was not made corrupt initially, nor did it corrupt itself. It was "subjected" to such by God. (c) Metaphorically, the creation longs for deliverance, illustrating the longing of the sons of God from their own pain and sorrow. (d) This type of argument is not without precedent in the Scriptures. In Psalm 114, the inspired writer describes the deliverance of Jehovah's people from Egyptian bondage. In conjunction with that glorious event, various elements of the creation are depicted as cooperating with, and rejoicing at, Israel's freedom. The sea saw it and fled, the mountains skipped as rams, the hills frolicked like little lambs, and the earth trembled. The Old Testament is replete with this type of symbolism (Psa. 96:12; 98:8; Isa. 35:1; 55:12). (e) The text does not depict a renovation of the material earth following a millennial reign of Christ, as commonly believed. (f) The deliverance will be in the form of a "new heavens and new earth," the equivalent of heaven itself. (g) The chronological goal is when the "sons of God" are "revealed" in their future glorious form (v. 18).

Paul continues by contending that we also groan, waiting for "the redemption of our body" (v. 23). The resurrection of the body in glory is a part of the redemption package. Our salvation from sin also included a hope for the future; such is not seen currently, but will be appreciated at the end of our patient wait (v. 24-25).

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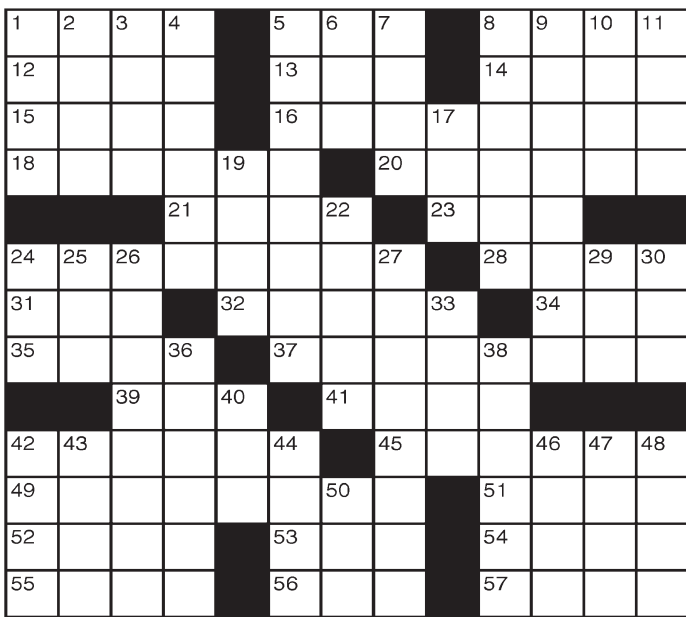
MELVIN HOWARD

Melvin Howard's Weekly column is sponsored by
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Egyptian deity
- 5 Piercing tool
- 8 Probability
- 12 Lion's share
- 13 Hot tub
- 14 Stench
- 15 Unoriginal one
- 16 Home to the Buccaneers
- 18 Pizza topping
- 20 Wine container
- 21 Off-white
- 23 Dict. info
- 24 Spoofs
- 28 Pharmaceutical
- 31 Playwright Levin
- 32 Leg bone
- 34 Mentalist's gift
- 35 Rhett's last word
- 37 Mildew cause
- 39 Scratch
- 41 Valentine flower
- 42 Molds
- 45 Foliage
- 49 Marshmallow toaster
- 51 Carousel, for one
- 52 "I cannot tell —"
- 53 Pair



- 54 Aspiring atty.'s exam
 - 55 Fork setting
 - 56 Still, in verse
 - 57 Orange veggies
- DOWN**
- 1 Apple computer
 - 2 Former frosh
 - 3 "Got it"
 - 4 Meryl of film
 - 5 Space rock
 - 6 New Deal agcy.
 - 7 Gentle soul
 - 8 Gave a speech
 - 9 Owing nothing
 - 10 Transaction
 - 11 Terrier type
 - 17 Group of seals
 - 19 Highlander
 - 22 Release a deadbolt
 - 24 Cover
 - 25 Altar constellation
 - 26 Abba-inspired hit musical
 - 27 Buck
 - 29 Constitution letters
 - 30 Family docs
 - 33 Church section
 - 36 Caught some z's
 - 38 Almost
 - 40 Ump
 - 42 "Lion King" villain
 - 43 Saintly ring
 - 44 Faction
 - 46 Travel permit
 - 47 Dutch cheese
 - 48 Collections
 - 50 Regret

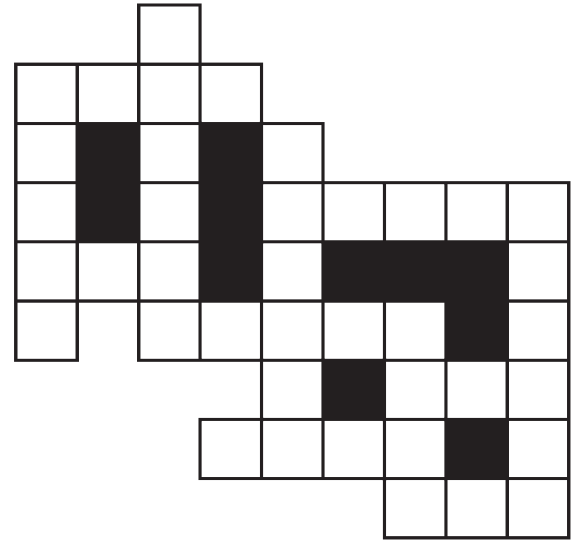
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FEAR & TRIVIA

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

- EKL
- AMPBLO
- ♥OLSHA
- PKLE
- ♥PELNIA
- HMO
- ♥ESLA
- PYLHM
- UPN
- ♥NEHKRA
- NIBKR
- PHEO



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.

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Volume I

Fred C. Mize III



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

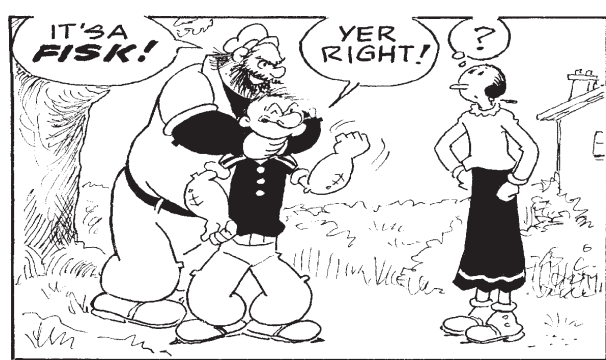
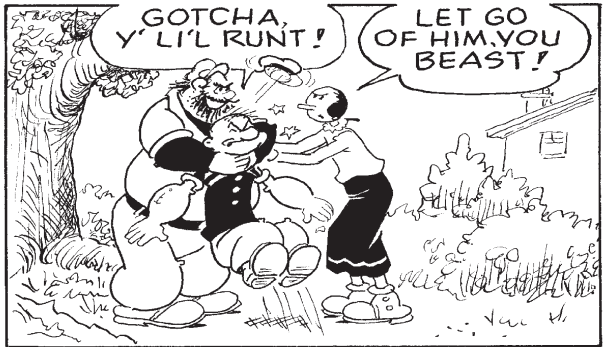
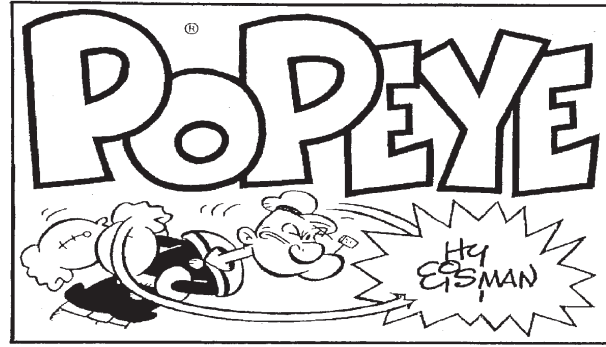
3	2		4			7		
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		5		2				6
2			5			6	4	
	8				7			1
		1		6		2		
	7		3		5			4
8				4				1
		3			6	9		

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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FEAR & TRIVIA

answer

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

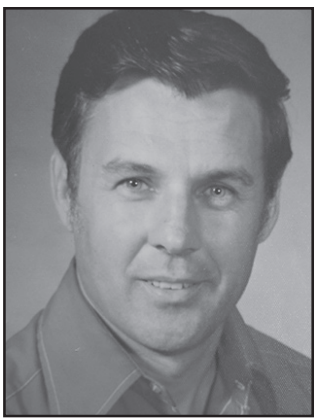
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4	9	8	6	7	3	1	5	2
7	1	5	9	2	8	4	3	6
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6	8	4	2	3	7	5	9	1
9	5	1	8	6	4	2	7	3
1	7	2	3	9	5	8	6	4
8	6	9	7	4	2	3	1	5
5	4	3	1	8	6	9	2	7

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

I	S	I	S		A	W	L		O	D	D	S
M	O	S	T		S	P	A		R	E	E	K
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C	H	E	E	S	E		B	O	T	T	L	E
					E	C	R	U		D	E	F
L	A	M	P	O	O	N	S		D	R	U	G
I	R	A		T	I	B	I	A		E	S	P
D	A	M	N		D	A	M	P	N	E	S	S
					M	A	R		R	O	S	E
S	H	A	P	E	S		L	E	A	V	E	S
C	A	M	P	F	I	R	E		R	I	D	E
A	L	I	E		D	U	O		L	S	A	T
R	O	A	D		E	E	N		Y	A	M	S



Tom Redmon
Columnist

The Rest of the Story – Survival Training

I have already told you about part of my Naval Survivor Course

(the water part). Now I want to

tell you about Land Survival in the mountains above San Diego, California.

In the way of review, I will tell you that in the water training phase we had a boat accident during the helicopter rescue at sea. Eight men were sent to the hospital and one was allowed to go on and complete the training. I was the lucky one (maybe unlucky one) who got to finish the training.

The night after the helicopter pickup we had to stay on the beach and let me tell you the storm raged all night. The wind was cold and the rain made a person miserable. My group consisted of two Navy LT. pilots and two enlisted Petty Officers. They sent a Navy 2nd Class Petty Officer out in a navy grey pickup truck to look after us. Since I had injured my feet in the boat accident, they didn't want to take a chance on blood poisoning or something else. Also, if one of the sailors had an emergency, they could get him to the hospital quick.

We didn't have an emergency but we did take advantage of the Petty Officer. We saw him eating his dinner and one of the pilots went over to talk with him. We all knew what he was talking about although we couldn't hear the conversation and he hadn't said anything to us. He came back with a big smile on his face and a sandwich and a big red apple in five parts and we might have cheated but the small piece of food tasted good.

The wind blew all night and whipped our tent made of a discarded parachute, around like it was a handkerchief. If anyone out of the 30 men got any sleep that night, they were lucky. Although this was California in January 1959 it was not good weather.

The night was long and miserable and we were glad to see morning come. They put us in a 2-ton Navy truck and headed to the mountains.

The first day in the mountains they met with us in a little open space. A commander came out and told us what was in the agenda. He said tomorrow you will be placed at a starting point in a mile course. At the end of the course is an American flag on a platform. If you make it to the flag your training of escape and evasion is over. The trouble is there are twenty-five enemy soldiers all along the course and usually no one gets through. He had drawn the escape and evasion course in the sand with a stick; he threw the stick down and asked is

there any questions? Everyone remained silent. Then the commander said, "men this is a tough course and crybabies don't make it."

We could not catch any food in the snares we had set. We then found a good level smooth place to lay our old parachute out to sleep on for the night. We laid close together and having hurt feet caused me to be restless and one of the Lt. pilots jumped on me for moving around. I didn't complain or make an excuse. I tried to be still.

The morning came quick. This was to be the day we would

lot of us would get caught fast, and it happened when most of us got less than fifty yards into the course. I heard a lot of shots ahead and when I heard a group of voices say, "alright I see you in there get up and come out with hands raised." Six of us all around him stood up. I wondered if he had seen any of us.

He lined us up and marched us to the top of a hill. Already when we got there, I think all thirty of us were captured. All the men were lifting heavy rocks or timbers, one was naked jumping a rope, and another one was being interrogated.

You could hear the enemy ask the sailor or a

want any special treatment, but I knew too that we were supposed to obey our leading officer. He wanted to go by the Geneva Convention. Finally, the Lt. Commander said, this man was hurt in the helicopter pickup and his feet are in bad shape.

The enemies asked me to come over and sit on a log and pull my shoes off. The doctor had put a large amount of red medicine on my wounds before they bandaged my feet. When they saw my bandaged feet and the red, I knew I was going to be treated better. They put a Marine with me and we walked to the paved road when I would get into the back of a 2-ton Navy truck. The old men would run up to the truck and belly themselves in. One fat pilot had a very difficult time and had to try it three times before he threw up. They let him get in the normal way.

The prison camp was fashioned just like the camps in North Korea. I was put into it right away. The guard on the upper deck told me to go up around the little building and police the area. Luckily, I had heard from some sailors who had been through the training a few weeks before and they told me the way to escape was by a tunnel in the little building. I felt that the guard wanted me to try it so he could do something to me.

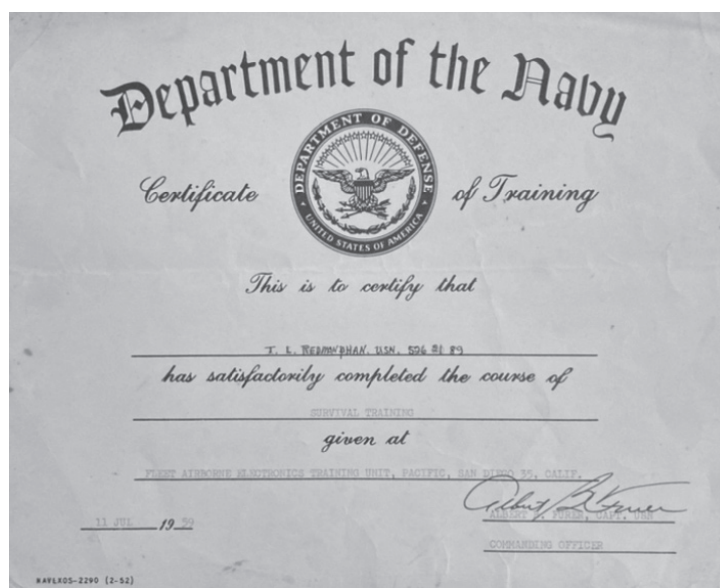
I stepped into the building and dove for the hole that had a tunnel going left and another one going to the right. I forgot which one they said went to the outside and I took the wrong one. The Comme guard came up, shot two times, with blanks of course but it really burned on my backside.

The next time I found the right tunnel and when I got outside, I ran as fast as I could. They came after me in a jeep but I refused to give up until they threw me some fruit.

I was taken back to the compound and I sat in a room with a two-way mirror and watched the interrogation. No one talked but two men almost gave in so they eased up. These two sailors could never be given a high classification in classified documents.

This ended the survival training and we were taken back to North Island. I had liberty the first night and went to downtown San Diego to get me the biggest burger I could find. I lost nine pounds and although they told us not to eat a big meal, I was going to do just that.

What hurt me most was not doing without food it was going without sleep. In a way I was glad I got to go through this training because it shows toughness. Since there was no war on this had to be the toughest the Navy had. I was injured but I got no Purple Heart, not wartime.



never forget. Some of the pilots had already been through this and they looked worried. They knew what was up.

The commander had told us that during the Korean War we did not have one successful escape from the Communist Prison and we had too many men to talk and give in to the enemy we even had twenty-one who chose to stay in Red China when the war was over. We all knew if we were captured, we could only tell them four things and they were, name, date of birth, rank, and serial number. We couldn't even answer a question yes or no. Promptly at 0800 we lined up at the starting place. The gun sounded and we were off.

I found out right away the forest in California was quite different than Tennessee. The growth didn't provide a hiding place so I knew right away a

question, and the sailor coming back with the four things he could say. Then you saw the sailor fly up in the air and hitting the sand. The enemy knew judo and it was being used a lot. I knew my time was coming.

They asked me a question about my wife or mother. I said, "Thomas Redmon, 5262189, AA, Jan. 1, 1936." He said I don't want to hear that again. He said, "are you scared?" I didn't answer. I flew up into the air about ten feet and hit softly on the sand. I wasn't hurt at all. They kept on with rougher stuff and soon the Lt. Commander, the highest-ranking officer in the group came over and said, "I object to the way you are treating this man." They picked him up and he flew up in the air. Already his lip was bleeding. I wanted to tell him that I was okay because I didn't

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Coal - It's In Our Blood

By Terry Futrell

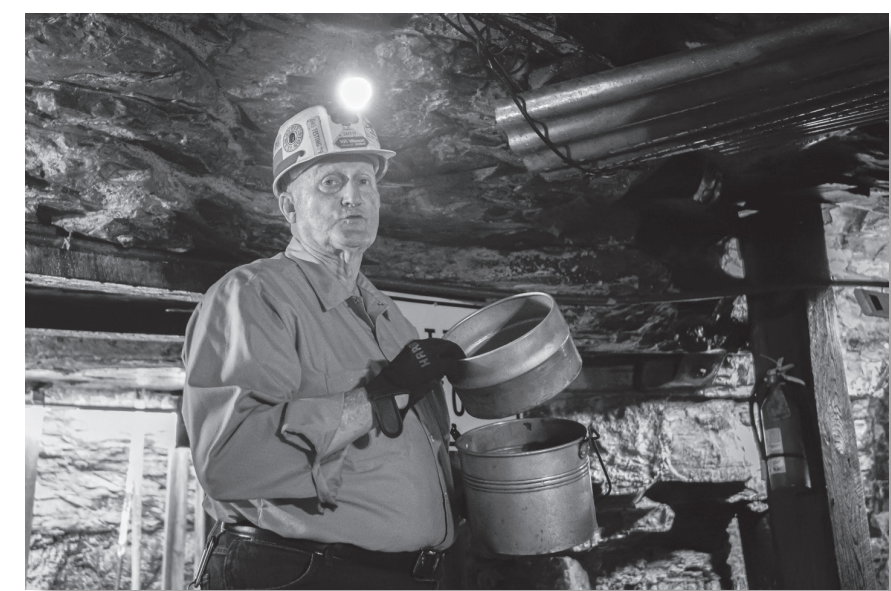
Every miner who spent much time digging coal in the dark depths of the earth likely developed a condition known as “black lung,” which is the result of inhaling coal dust into the lungs. Coal dust penetrated the soft tissues of their lungs and there was no way to remove it. Black lung could be very debilitating and lasted until death.

From a historical point of view, many of us who grew up in Morgan County also have a lasting condition resulting from coal mining – coal is figuratively “in our blood.” Our lives were shaped by fathers and grandfathers who worked in the coal mines. Their sacrifices and work ethic influenced us in ways that we will perhaps never fully understand. Only in my later years have I developed an appreciation for the hardships my ancestors experienced in the coal mines. This became much more real to me during a recent visit to Beckley, West Virginia where I was able to go several hundred feet underground into a coal mine and hear a former miner share his firsthand experiences.

My paternal grandfather was disabled from about the age of 30. His four sons, including my father, took jobs working in the mines when about nine years old to support their parents and sisters. Two of my father’s brothers were injured in mining accidents. My maternal grand-



Interior of the “Bachelor Miner’s Shanty” at the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine [Photo by Terry Futrell]



Tour guide Eddie explains the importance of the miner’s bucket while deep inside the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine. [Photo by Terry Futrell]

father was twice injured in mining accidents before finally losing his life when the slate roof fell on him in 1927. Two of his three sons also worked in the mines. Our family has a rich heritage in coal mining, as do many Morgan County families.

Because of my coal mining heritage, I welcomed the opportunity to visit the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine during our recent vacation in West Virginia. The City of Beckley purchased a coal mine located within the city that had been abandoned since 1910 to establish a coal heritage center. In addition to an excellent coal museum, buildings that were typically found in coal camps were relocated to the site and opened to visitors. These include a superintendent’s house, miner’s three-room house, bachelor miner’s one-room shanty, schoolhouse, and church. Each of the buildings are originals relocated from other coal camps to the Beckley site. But the highlight of the exhibition coal mine is the underground tour of the mine led by a former coal miner. Our tour was led by Eddie, who spent 15 years working in the mines.

Loaded into motorcars similar to those that took miners back into the mines, we were taken several hundred feet into the mine where Eddie provided a detailed description of how mining was performed in the early days and how it progressed through the years as machines were brought in to replace manual labor.

Miners typically worked six 12-hour shifts per week, which means for much of the year they never saw daylight except on Sundays. Each miner was expected to dig at least two tons of coal per day for which they

were paid twenty cents per ton. For low seams of coal, miners had to dig rock from above the coal, for which they were not paid. The seam in the Beckley mine ranged from 24” to 36”. Miners would often go into work on Sunday without pay to remove rock from their assigned work area. While the Beckley mine had a ceiling of about six feet, smaller mines such as those found in early Morgan County, often had a ceiling so low that miners had to spend their entire shift on their hands and knees.

Life in the mining camps was unlike anything experienced today. Houses were owned by the coal company. If a miner lost his job for any reason, his family was evicted from the company-owned house the next day. Miners were paid in scrip that could only be spent at the company store, where prices were typically much inflated. Miners often had to buy groceries or other items on credit from the company store with little hope of ever paying off their debt. For miners living in the coal camps, it was a form of slavery – their entire lives were spent at the mercy of the coal company. This led to violence as miners unionized, and resulted in many battles being fought between the miners and the coal companies.

In spite of the hardships experienced, there was a sense of community among the miners. My mother, who grew up in coal camps in Coalfield, Devonia, and Caryville, said “There was more love among these coal miners and their families than any community I have ever seen.”



A view of the 18-24 inch coal seam in the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine. Miner’s previously were not paid for removal of the rock above the seam to provide headroom. [Photo by Terry Futrell]

Several areas, particularly Southeast Kentucky and Southwest West Virginia, have been almost totally dependent on coal mining. Yet, automation and reduced use of coal as a fossil fuel have resulted in the loss of countless jobs. Little has been done to bring other industries to these economically depressed mining communities, resulting in the residents living beneath a cloud of despair. Here in East Tennessee, the impact has been significantly less because of job opportunities in Oak Ridge, Clinton, and other nearby communities.

There are those who would love to see coal mining totally ended. These people tend to focus only on coal’s use as a fossil fuel, which is only a small percentage of its use. They don’t seem to understand that many other products on which we depend are manufactured from coal. One of the most revealing items at the Beckley museum is a “Coal Products Tree” that depicts the many uses of coal.

So, what does the future hold for coal mining? We can only hope and pray that an equitable balance is achieved between concerns for the environment and concerns for the well-being of the thousands of people whose very existence depends on coal.



A collection of miner’s caps and lights in the museum at the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine. Lights ranged from the earliest oil lights to modern, no-spark safety lights. [Photo by Terry Futrell]

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