VOLUME 07 • NUMBER 26 PSALM 100:3 June 29, 2021

#### **MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK** 87°/68° Tue 29 85°/68° Wed 30 Thu 01 80°/67° 76°/63° Fri 02 79°/59° Sat 03 81°/59° Sun 04 83°/63°







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#### Inside This Edition

Obits	Page 2
Local	Page 3
History	Page 4
Games	Page 5
Faith, Family	
Freedom	Page 6
American	
Heritage	Page 8
Heroes	Page 9
Trending	Page 10



## The Assault on One Person, One Vote

By: Senator Blackburn

As parents, we tell our kids that their voice matters. We teach them about the importance of maintaining a free and open democracy and the inviolable promise of "one person, one vote." But as Congressional Democrats' latest attempt to upend the American

electoral system revealed, the foundations of our republic are more vulnerable than they seem.

The name they chose for this sweeping affront to voting rights, the "For the People Act," makes the latest conversation on voting laws seem unassuming; but the left has been peddling these dangerous policies for years. House Democrats demanded a nearly identical proposal two years ago, and Senate Democrats have spent years trying to move various provisions through Congress using procedural trickery. Each time they've tried to sneak it past the American people with little debate or discussion, and each time, they've failed.

These policies are a top-down rewrite of election laws. This time around, the legislation strips state-level prohibitions against vote trafficking, restricts voter roll clean-up, and all but outlaws widely supported voter ID laws. As Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett explained, "At best, HR1 is nothing more than a federal power grab and an attempt to rewrite the rules regarding the electoral process to benefit one party." This isn't just contrary to public opinion, it poses a danger to our democratic system.

This reckless attempt to rewrite election law would give quarter to fraudsters and open the door to indefinitely contested elections. Without the ability to verify a voter's identity or remove felons, non-residents, or those who have died from voter rolls, determining legitimate votes will become a near-impossible task. The promise of a "one person, one vote" system

would be functionally void. Nicholas Stephanopoulos, a Harvard Law Professor who focuses on constitutional and election law, explained that if the left's latest rewrite becomes law, "we're going to have a dozen major Supreme Court cases on different pieces of it."

Election laws should be simple. They should make it easier to vote and harder to cheat, and any changes to those laws should ideally happen at a local level. Before I ever held office in the United States Congress, I served on my county election commission. I've seen firsthand the strides Tennessee has made to ensure greater confidence

in the electoral process. The Volunteer State is not alone. Across the nation, state and local authorities already have the constitutional authority to implement solutions that fit their needs and are constantly working to meet that responsibility.

Rather than imposing their own agenda on our electoral system, Washington Democrats should focus on empowering the states they represent. Our kids and grandkids deserve to grow up in an America where their voice matters; a nation of "one person, one vote."

#### New laws strengthening penalties for crimes against children to become effective on Thursday

(NASHVILLE), June 28, 2019 -- Several new laws protecting children are set to take effect on July 1 in Tennessee. This includes major Truth in Sentencing legislation ensuring parole and probation are not options for those found guilty of certain violent crimes that historically target women and children. These crimes include child abuse, child sexual abuse, felony solicitation of a minor and producing child pornography. It is sponsored by Lt. Governor Randy McNally and Judiciary Committee Chairman Mike Bell (R-Riceville) in the Tennessee Senate.

"This Republican majority has always made cracking down on crimes against children a priority," said Lt. Gov. McNally. "This year has been no different. Part of criminal justice reform is drawing a bold, bright line between those crimes for which we can show mercy and allow some flexibility in sentencing and

those we cannot. Crimes against children simply cannot be tolerated. A society that does not protect its children is not worthy of calling itself one. I am proud of all the legislation we passed this year specifically to protect children and commend the sponsors for their excellent work."

July 1 also marks the enactment of Evelyn Boswell's Law which provides that parents in Tennessee who do not report children missing to law enforcement within 24 hours could face Class A misdemeanor charges. Sponsored by Senator Jon Lundberg (R-Bristol), the legislation was named after a Sullivan County 15-month-old who was found dead after her mother failed to report her missing to the authorities for months.

Lundberg also sponsored Eli's Law, which will also take effect on Thursday. It was named after a child subjected to traumatizing levels of parental abuse, even though his older brother had been removed from the parents' custody for both neglect and abuse. This legislation helps prevent such tragic situations by giving the court that previously decided the first child's

case the ability to take further action needed to protect children.

Protection of children is the impetus of another law that will go into effect July 1 requiring adoptive parents receiving subsidies to annually provide the Department of Children's Services (DCS) with medical or school enrollment records in order to ascertain a health check. The new law was passed after the horrific deaths of two Roane County children. The arrest warrant said the children were caged in isolation and fed a "starvation diet of light bread and water" by their adoptive parents. Authorities believe the children were buried several years before discovery, while the adoptive parents continued receiving financial benefits. Sponsored by Senator Ken Yager (R-Kingston), it authorizes DCS to initiate a face-to-face visit if the adoptive parent fails to provide the documentation and foul play might be suspected.



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## In Loving Memory

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

#### Pearl Ruth Hines, 89

Pearl Ruth Hines, age 89, of Harriman formerly of Lancing, passed away June 22, 2021.

She is preceded in death by husband, Virgil Hines, great granddaughter, Macy Johnson.

She is survived by 2 children, Linda (Ronnie) Silvey of Harriman and Ray Hines of Calhoun, GA; 5 grandchildren, Karen, Travis, Brittany, Jessica, and Samantha and 6 great grandchildren.

The family will receive friends kee County, GA. Passed away Wartburg from 12:00-1:00 with 24, 1953. with Rev. Eddie Neeley officiat- He is survived by, Stephanie ing. Interment will follow in the Falkoff of Johnson City and Morgan Memorial Gardens in Miranda Semko of Powder Wartburg.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Pearl Ruth Hines.

#### Barbara Phillips, 74

Barbara Phillips, age 74, of Coalfield passed away Saturday, June 19, 2021, at her home surrounded by family and friends.

She retired from Laborer's Union Local 818 and was a veteran of the United States Army. She was a loving, wonderful wife, mother, sister, and grandmother.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Helen Price; husband of 48 years, C.B. Phillips; son, Junior Phillips and sister, Patsy Price.

She is survived by her sons, bara Phillips.

the funeral to follow at 1:00 p.m.

Gary (Becky) Phillips of Sunbright, David L. (Janie) Phillips, of Harriman; daughter, Buffie McKeehan and friend, Virgil Davis of Sunbright; 6 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow with Bro. Greg Overton officiating. Graveside services will be Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at Petros Cemetery in Petros.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Bar-

#### Robert (Bim) Shirks, 67

Robert (Bim) Shirks of Chero-Friday, June 25, 2021, at June 14, 2021. He was raised Schubert Funeral Home in in Petros and was born October

Springs, GA and Jessica Shirks of Cherokee County, GA.

The family will be having a celebration of life, Sunday, June 27, 2021 at the Petros Senior Citizens Center in Petros from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

#### Cynthia Mulligan, 61

Cynthia Mulligan, age 61 of Deer Lodge passed away on Saturday, June 26th, 2021 at Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge. Cynthia was a cosmetologist for many years and a long employee of Life Care of Morgan County.

She is preceded in death by father James Harold Bilbery and brother Jimmy Bilbery.

She is survived by her husband Martin Mulligan Mother Eva Bilbery **Daughter Lindsy McIntosh** Step son Brendan Michael Mulligan Grandchildren Jimmie Hall, Josh Mulligan, Kyla Mulligan

Aunts and Uncles Cherri Bar-

nett, Charles Barnett, Fred and Marilyn Newport and Garland Also surviving are best friends Michelle and Johnny Liss and

many friends in Michigan and a

nett, Lena Barnett, Tracie Add-

abbo, Nolen and Margie Bar-

host of other family and friends. The family will receive friends Wednesday June 30, 2021 from 11 to 2pm at Schubert Fu-

neral Home Wartburg. Funeral

service will follow at 2pm.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Cynthia Mulligan.

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

## Send Letters to the Editor Editor@mocotoday.com

#### ORDINANCE #110-21

ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF SUNBRIGHT, TEN-NESSEE APPROPRIATING FUNDS

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022

PUBLIC HEARING DATES

July 7,2021 10:00 am First Reading Final Reading July 8,2021 10:00 am

Public Hearings will be held at City Hall

#### **ORDINANCE** #109-21

ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF SUNBRIGHT, TEN-**NESSEE** 

AMENDED BUDGET FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021

PUBLIC HEARING DATES

First Read-July 7, 2021 10:00 am

ing

July 8, 2021 10:00 am Final Reading

Public Hearings will be held at City Hall

#### City of Sunbright General and State Street Aid Amended & Proposed Budgets

General Fund Proposed Amended Budget Budget Revenues 2020-21 2021-22 Total Local Taxes \$200,500.00 \$199,508.83 Total State Govt. Allocations \$112,896.47 \$ 57,000.00 Total Other Revenues \$ 16,603.24 \$ 16,340.00 Total Revenues \$329,008.54 \$273,840.00

Expenditures

Total Expenditures Gen. Govt. \$ 98,154.00 \$ 81,274.24 Total General Govt. Salaries \$ 22,384.91 \$ 24,980.00 Total Public Safety Expend. \$ 50,379.19 \$ 37,300.00 Total Public Works Expenditures \$ 92,092.06 \$ 45,306.00 Total Public Works Salaries \$ 55,992.51 \$ 68,100.00 Total Expenditures \$273,840.00 \$302,122.91

Excess Revenues/Expenditures \$ 26,885.63 0.00

Beginning Fund Balance \$789,958.90 Ending Fund Balance \$816,844.53

The General Fund has 2 full time employment positions and 2 parttime positions.

State Street Aid Proposed Amended Budget Budget Revenues 2020-21 2021-22 State Gas & Fuel Tax \$ 43,000.00 \$ 40,000.00 Total Revenues \$ 43,000.00 \$ 40,000.00

**Expenditures** 

Asphalt, Paving Materials \$ 9,000.00 \$ 4,825.09 Vehicle Operations \$ 15,373.12 \$ 12,000.00 Street Lighting \$17,989.29 \$ 18,000.00 Misc. Expenditures 1,000.00 \$ 2,503.17 \$ Total Highways & Streets \$ 40,000.00 \$ 40,690.67

Excess Revenues/Expenditures \$ 2,309.33

Beginning Fund Balance \$ 90,384.55 Ending Fund Balance \$ 92,693.88

## Published

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County Today, LLC P.O. Box 451 510 Main Street Wartburg, **TN 37887** 

every Tuesday

by Morgan



**Mail Delivery Subcriptions** 

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Call 423-346-2329

**Postmaster:** Send address changes to P.O. Box 451, Wartburg, TN 37887

**Rates in Morgan County** 

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

**Out of County Rates** \$55; \$50 for senior citizens & Veterans

Periodical postage paid at Wartburg, TN **USPS Publication Number** (15400)

### Disappeared: Chapter 3:



Carol Hall Author

Maggie - Day 2

Maybe taking this old service road wasn't such a good idea after all, Maggie thought. She was getting farther and farther behind the others as she fought her way through the tall weeds that all but swallowed up the trail.

The others were beating a path through the overgrowth as they walked on in

front of her, which was causing her to trip over the trampled weeds and get her feet caught in the tangled foliage.

She was a good 15 feet behind Evie when she opened her mouth to call out for them to stop when suddenly a putrid smell filled the air. She nearly gagged. She caught her breath just as something massive and hairy slid around her waist and jerked her backward. She was slammed into a solid wall of fur with such force it knocked the wind out of her. At the same time, a huge leathery hand closed over her face. The hand was pressed so tightly over her nose and mouth that she was unable to draw in a breath. She fran-

tically clawed at the hand, but couldn't make it budge. Panic seized her. She tried kicking and squirming, but the arm that held her was too strong. A horrible wave of dizziness washed over her. She had a fleeting sense of being carried away from the area silently and stealthily without so much as a whisper of sound. Slowly, she slid into darkness.

Nick, Chris & Evie- Day 2

Nick was frantic. Panic seized him as he ran up and down the old road several yards in each direction calling Maggie's name. He shoved his way through the tall weeds along the road, swatting and beating them to the sides so he could see the ground beneath. The more he searched the more frantic he became.

Chris and Evie searched the woods around where they had last seen her, but nothing was found – no footprints, no anything. It seemed she had simply vanished into thin air. "Where could she have gone?" Nick demanded. "She can't just have disappeared! She has to be around here somewhere! She wouldn't just wander off by herself!" He looked imploringly at

Chris and Evie as if they had the answers.

Chris slowly shook his head and looked sympathetically at Nick. "We've searched the area and called out to her. She isn't here. We need to head back to camp, grab our gear and go get help." He was just as scared as Nick, but he had to hold it together for Evie. Ever since they discovered that Maggie was missing, Evie had gone silent. He knew that she was scared and he didn't want to upset her by letting her know how scared he was.

He looked over at Nick. Nick was running his fingers through his hair and shaking his head. "Come on, man, there's nothing more we can do. She isn't here. Let's go get help." Chris said.

"I can't just leave her out there!" Nick ground out angrily. "What if she's hurt or something? We have to keep looking. Let's go back into the woods and look some more."

"No, we need to go get help. There's no way I'm going into those woods looking for her. We could all end up lost. I'm not dragging Evie back in there either. Let's just go get help."

"Do you know how long it's going to take us to get back to camp, grab our stuff and get back to the vehicle?" Nick shot back at Chris. "It will take hours and Maggie will be alone up here all by herself. I can't leave her. We have to keep looking!"

Chris understood Nick's dilemma, but he wasn't about to go wandering off into the unfamiliar woods. That would be stupid. They could all end up lost or hurt. Then what? Evie was already upset and he wasn't about to put her through that.

"If you want to stay and look for her, then you're going to do it on your own. Evie and I are heading back to go get help.' Nick just stood there staring at Chris with total disbelief in his eyes. "You really expect me to just leave her up here all alone? Would you do that if it was Evie?"

"I would do whatever was necessary to find her even if it meant leaving to go get help," Chris said. "I know this is hard, but we can't risk getting lost ourselves. What good would we be to her then?" Nick stood there staring off into the trees. After a few moments, he turned back to Chris and Evie. "I know what you are saying makes sense, but how can I leave her? How can I just walk out of here and leave her behind?"

Chris walked over and put a hand on Nick's shoulder. "What other choice do we have? We're wasting time. We need to head back now. The sooner we get back, the sooner we can get help." Nick reluctantly agreed, but he would never forgive himself if something happened to her. She needed him and he was leaving. He turned quickly and took off running back down the trail leaving Chris and Evie behind.

Nick arrived at the campsite ahead of Chris and Evie. He was gathering up his and Maggie's packs when they finally caught up to him.

"Nick, slow down," Chris huffed. He was out of breath from trying to keep up. "We can't keep up with you. We don't know the area like you do. If you leave us behind, you might end up searching for three people instead of one."

Nick threw Chris an exasperated look. "We can't dilly dally around, Chris. We need to get a move on."

"I understand that, Nick, but slow down just a bit so we can keep up. These are hard trails and unlike you, Evie and I aren't used to hiking. I'm not asking you to slowly saunter back. I'm just asking you to slow down a bit so we can keep up."

Evie, who still hadn't said a word, suddenly burst into tears. She

was sobbing so hard, her whole body shook. Chris grabbed her and enveloped her in his arms. He looked over her head at Nick, pleadingly. Nick's shoulders drooped and he shook his head.

"Fine. I'll slow down a bit, but I'm not stopping. We're still a few hours from reaching help and every minute counts." He grabbed the two backpacks, slung one over each shoulder and

started back down the trail. Chris and Evie followed close behind. He was still moving quickly, but no longer running.

The trip down the mountain was taking the three of them longer than Nick would have liked. The trail was rough with jutting rocks, tree roots and uneven paths, making it hard to keep up a fast, steady pace.

Evie was having a hard time clambering up and over the large rocks that were scattered along the trail. She was getting farther behind the men with every minute that passed.

She hurried along, tripping over tree roots as she tried to keep up with their long legs. As her foot got tangled in one, she fell, scraping her knee. Chris yelled for Nick to slow down when he realized Evie got hurt.

"Nick, for Heaven's sake, please slow down!"

Nick turned back and saw Evie on the ground rubbing her skinned

up knee.

He was at his wit's end. He knew he was being overly hard on Chris and Evie, but he was desperate to get to help as quickly as possible. It was driving him crazy to think of Maggie up in the mountains all alone, possibly hurt or worse. They still had several more miles to go and he just couldn't slow down to wait on them.

"I'm sorry, guys," he said to them apologetically. "We just need to get to help as quick as possible."

Evie got back on her feet and they continued on down the trail. Grudgingly, Nick slowed down to a pace Chris and Evie could keep up with.

After a couple more hours, they finally reached the trail head. Exhausted and out of breath, they emerged from the trees. It was now mid-afternoon and the sun was high in

the sky. The temperature was soaring near 90 degrees. Chris and Evie were standing at the front of the truck trying to catch their breaths while Nick hurriedly opened the back of the

Tahoe and tossed their backpacks inside.

"Let's go," Nick said. "You can rest on the way to the visitor's center." He jumped into the Tahoe and started the engine. Chris opened the back door for Evie and helped her in. She was soaking wet with sweat and had dirt smudges down her cheeks where she had been crying earlier. Her knee was scraped up and bleeding.

Chris was a little bit worried about her. She had been oddly silent the whole trip back down the mountain. She had just hurried along the trail trying to keep up with him and Nick, but hadn't uttered a single word. He had asked her several times if she was ok, but all she did was nod.

He quickly crawled into the passenger side of the truck and fastened his seat belt. He turned around to tell Evie to fasten hers, but she was laying down on the seat curled up. He knew she was exhausted, so he just let her be.

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.



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#### Page 4

## Historically Speaking ORNL's unsung discovery of messenger RNA

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Carolyn Krause brings us an amazing story, yet not such a surprising one. It is a story of a research scientist at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory who 65 years ago discovered the messenger RNA (mRNA). As is sometimes the case, he did not, however, receive due credit for his discovery. Learn more in this column of Historically Speaking about Elliot (Ken) Volkin and his amazing discovery that is a key to the Covid vaccines today.

\*\*\*

When Karen Brunner received her first Moderna vaccination against the virus causing the COVID-19 pandemic, she told the nurse that her father co-discovered messenger RNA (mRNA), the chief ingredient in the highly successful Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech two-shot vaccines. The nurse said, "Wow, that's pretty cool!"

In an interview with Robin Wilhoit for a recent

WBIR news broadcast, Brunner said of Volkin, "He was just my dad but to my friends and family he was this giant. As soon as news about the mRNA vaccines came out, my Facebook page just blew up with comments from classmates who were so excited about this." Her father was Elliot (Ken) Volkin, who died in 2011. He and his research partner Lazarus (Larry) Astrachan first observed and described what later came to be known as messenger RNA (ribonucleic acid) in 1956 while working in the Biology Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. They labeled their finding "DNA-like RNA" in their paper in the Journal of Virology. This transitory DNA-like RNA, or mRNA, transmits genetic information from the DNA in the cell's nucleus to the protein-building ribosomes in the cell's cytoplasm, which is outside its nucleus. The ORNL researchers' discovery came three years after James Watson and Francis Crick, with the help of Rosalind Franklin, discovered in England the structure of DNA, the carrier of genetic information. The ORNL research addressed this major problem in biology: How is the hereditary information encoded in DNA used by living cells to synthesize the proteins that do the cells' work and that are needed for the structure, function and regulation of the body's tissues and organs?

If you ask Google, "Who discovered messenger RNA?", the answer you get is this: "The existence of mRNA was first suggested by Jacques Monod and François Jacob, and was subsequently discovered by Jacob, Sydney Brenner and Matthew Meselson at the California Institute of Technology in 1961." Monod and Jacob, two French researchers, won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1965 "for their discoveries concerning genetic control of enzyme and virus synthesis," which included elucidation of the nature of mRNA from their observation of protein synthesis by genes of mutated bacteria in the presence of lactose.

In late 2003 I interviewed Volkin at his Oak Ridge home for an article I wrote for the ORNL Review (Vol. 37, No. 3, 2004) entitled "ORNL's Unsung Discovery." He recalled his conversation with Sydney Brenner at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in 1960 in New York, where Volkin conducted research on the hot topic of bacterial viruses during the summers in the late 1950s. "I can well remember sitting on the lawn at Cold Spring Harbor and telling Sydney Brenner about our experiments," Volkin told me. "I gave a presentation on our RNA research to the group there."

Early this century, former ORNL Director Alvin Weinberg wrote that the original discovery of mRNA at ORNL "has never received the acclaim it deserves," calling it "next to the original discovery of the molecular structure of DNA, probably the most important event in the history of molecular biology." Paul Berg, winner of the 1980 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, called the ORNL research an "unsung but momentous discovery of a fundamental mechanism in genetic chemistry" and a "seminal discovery [that] has never received its proper due." These quotes and subsequent quotes from Weinberg here are included in the ORNL Review article.

When Volkin was asked later about how he felt

about the French scientists being honored with a Nobel prize for work similar to what was done at ORNL, he reportedly said, "I have no hard feelings. That's the way things were." His daughter told Wilhoit: "I'll never know what was in his heart of hearts. I think he understood that that's how science works sometimes. Were it me, I probably would have felt a little cheat-

History

The ORNL discovery

Because DNA and RNA are organic molecules with pentose-phosphate backbones, Waldo Cohn and Volkin incorporated radioactive carbon and phosphorus into these molecules to help determine their structure using ion-exchange chromatography. That technique, first used by Cohn for separating fission products at ORNL's Graphite Reactor, was employed by him and Volkin to discover the building blocks (nucleotides) of nucleic acids in DNA and RNA. Volkin then became interested in working with bacteriophage, a virus that infects only bacteria, and Astrachan joined him in conducting experiments.

According to Berg, Volkin and Astrachan "discovered that the virus 'turns off' the [bacterial] cell's machinery for making its own proteins and 'instructs' the cell's machinery to make proteins characteristic of the virus. That instruction entails making a new kind of RNA, a copy of the virus's DNA. This discovery revealed a fundamental mechanism for gene action: the coding sequences of genes are copied into short-lived RNAs that are transported out of



Elliot (Ken) Volkin (Photo courtesy of Oak Ridge National Laboratory)

the nucleus into the cytoplasm, where they are translated into proteins. Because such RNAs transport information from genes in the nucleus to the cytoplasm, they are designated as messenger RNAs."

In his August 2, 2003, obituary for Astrachan in the New York Times, Nicholas Wade wrote: "The Volkin-Astrachan experiment showed that there were two kinds of RNA, a long-lived type found in the ribosomes and a transitory kind whose role was unclear. They also showed that the transitory kind was made when a virus invaded bacteria and that it resembled the virus's DNA, not the bacterium's."

According to Volkin, the ORNL findings were not widely accepted by the biology community at first because they challenged prevailing theory.

Weinberg's letter

In a book review in a 2001 issue of the prestigious journal Nature, Horace Judson, a renowned historian of science, attributed the discovery of messenger RNA to François Jacob, Sydney Brenner, and Matthew Meselson. Weinberg published a letter in the November 29, 2001, issue of Nature disputing this claim. "In fact," Weinberg wrote, "Jacob, Brenner, and Francis Crick, at an informal meeting on Good Friday 1960, suddenly 'discovered' the unique RNA found first in 1956 by Elliot Volkin and Lazarus Astrachan. Good accounts of this event can be found in "The Statue Within" by Jacob and "What Mad Pursuit" by Crick. In several publications from 1956 through 1958, Volkin and Astrachan thoroughly described the unusual properties of this RNA, which they termed DNA-like RNA. These were precisely the properties that Jacob and Jacques Monod sought to assign to the unstable intermediate (which they called X), necessary for the synthesis of galactosidase. Out of that Good Friday discussion on the lactose operon came the realization that Volkin and Astrachan's DNA-like RNA was indeed the genetic messenger, hence the messenger RNA (mRNA)."

Nicholas Wade cited Judson's history of molecular biology, "The Eighth Day of Creation," in

his statement that Brenner, in a 1960 meeting in Cambridge, England, with Jacob and Crick, "realized there must be a missing ingredient that carried information from the DNA in the cell's nucleus to the ribosomes in its periphery. This ingredient, he conjectured, must be the same as the transitory form of RNA seen in the Volkin-Astrachan experiment."

Although Weinberg acknowledged that Brenner (a 2002 Nobel Prize winner), Crick, Jacob and Monod are giants of molecular biology, he believed that Volkin and Astrachan were never appropriately recognized for their original discovery.

Volkin, who grew up near Pittsburgh, Pa., as the youngest of seven children of Lithuanian immigrants,

was honored by Pennsylvania State University, his alma mater. "Miriam and I were his escorts to Penn State when he received the Distinguished Alumni award," said Gordon Fee, former president of Lockheed Martin Energy Systems and former manager of the Y-12 National Security Complex, as well as a Penn State alumnus. After majoring in the new field of biochemistry and graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Penn State, Volkin took graduate courses at Duke University where he earned his master's and Ph.D. degrees and met his future wife Sylvia Fine Volkin, longtime food columnist for The Oak Ridger and late mother of Marcia Ann Volkin Rabinowitz (who died in 2006) and Karen Volkin Brunner.

mRNA – another Pennsylvania connection

Another mRNA discovery has a Pennsylvania connection (full disclosure—I am a Pittsburgh native, my husband is a graduate of Drexel University in Philadelphia, we both have advanced degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and his brother-in-law is a University of Pennsylvania graduate). At the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine, Drew Weissman, a professor of medicine, and Hungarian native Katalin Karikó, an adjunct professor at Penn and a senior vice president at BioNTech, together made discoveries that were licensed to Pfizer and Moderna, leading to the vaccines that are helping end the pandemic. According to the Penn website, "Unmodified mRNA molecules are normally unable

to slip past the body's immune system, but Weissman and Karikó's breakthrough research made key changes to the molecular structure and manufacturing of mRNA that allow the resulting modified mRNA to avoid immediate immune detection, remain active longer, and enter into target cells to efficiently instruct them to create antigens or other proteins that fight or treat disease."

The COVID-19 vaccines teach our cells to make the "spike protein" found on the novel coronavirus. As a result, our immune system learns to recognize and destroy the virus when it tries to infect us. I hope Weissman and Karikó, the woman who persisted against pushback to find therapeutic uses for mRNA, will someday win the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for their life-saving achievements.

Thanks Carolyn, for bringing us the facts about a 65-year-old discovery that has gone essentially unrecognized yet is such a key to the success of the Covid vaccines.

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 United States Army Ranger, Sergeant First Class (SFC) Leroy A. Petry, as the veteran of the week.

SFC Petry earned the Medal of Honor for heroic actions while serving in Afghanistan with the 75th Ranger Regiment on May 26, 2008.

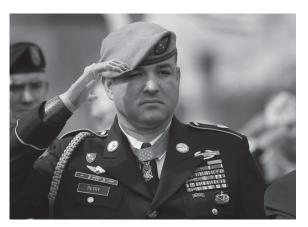
Below is the official narrative used for his Medal of Honor. At the time of his actions, he held the rank of Staff Sergeant.

On May 26, 2008, Staff Sergeant Leroy A. Petry, as a member of a Ranger helicopter assault force conducting a daylight rotary wing raid in the vicinity of Paktya, Afghanistan, distinguished himself conspicuously and with

gallantry and intrepidness, by risking his life above and beyond the call of duty, during an extremely close and violent engagement with an extraordinarily determined and well armed enemy. During the initial engagement, Staff Sergeant Petry was shot through both legs and another Ranger was hit by enemy fire. Shortly thereafter, an enemy hand grenade landed amid Staff Sergeant Petry and two other Rangers; despite his serious leg wounds, Staff Sergeant Petry unhesitatingly moved to the grenade, grabbed it, and immediately threw the armed grenade away from his fellow Rangers. The grenade detonated shortly after Staff Sergeant Petry threw it away from his fellow Rangers resulting in a catastrophic amputation of his right hand and multiple shrapnel wounds penetrating his body. This deliberate individual act of heroism by Staff Sergeant Petry saved the

lives of his fellow comrades and allowed the completion of the mission. The helicopter assault force was committed to execute a rare daylight raid to accomplish the mission based on the high value of the target and its fleeting nature. Soldiers and helicopter assets were exposed to unusual risk by landing within small arms range of confirmed enemy forces. At 1334z. on May 26, 2008, the assault force began to clear the objective area. Sergeant Petry's task was to locate himself with the platoon headquarters in the target building once it was secured and serve as the senior Non-Commissioned at that site for the remainder of the operation. Recognizing one of the assault squads needed assistance clearing their assigned building, Staff Sergeant Petry relayed to the Platoon Leader that he was moving to the squad to provide additional supervision and guidance during the clearance of the building. Once the residential portion of the building had been cleared, Staff Sergeant Petry took a member of the assault squad, Private First Class Lucas Robinson, to clear the outer courtyard knowing it had not been cleared during the initial clearance. Both Rangers moved into an area of the compound that contained at least three enemy fighters that were prepared to engage friendly forces from opposite ends of the outer courtyard. Staff Sergeant Petry and Private First Class Robinson entered the courtyard and immediately to their front was an opening followed by a small chicken coop. As they moved to cross the open area before the chicken coop,

an enemy insurgent accurately engaged them with AK-47 fire from an approximate



range of 10 meters. Staff Sergeant Petry was wounded by one round, which went through both of his legs, and Private First Class Robinson was hit in his side plate by a separate round. While wounded and under accurate enemy fire, Staff Sergeant Petry led Private First Class Robinson to the cover of the chicken coop. The enemy continued to deliver accurate sustained fire in the vicinity of the chicken coop as Staff Sergeant Petry rapidly assessed the situation and reported that contact was made and that there were two wounded Rangers in the courtyard of the primary target building.

Upon hearing the report of two wounded Rangers, Sergeant Daniel Higgins, a team leader, immediately moved to the outer courtyard. As Sergeant Higgins was moving to Staff Sergeant Petry's and Private First Class Robinson's position, Staff Sergeant Petry threw a thermobaric grenade

in the vicinity of the enemy position. Shortly after the grenade exploded, which created a lull in the enemy fire, Sergeant Higgins arrived at their position and began assessing their wounds. While Sergeant Higgins was evaluating the severity of their wounds, an insurgent threw a grenade over the chicken coop at the three Rangers. The grenade landed approximately ten meters from the three Rangers, knocked them to the ground, and wounded Sergeant Higgins and Private First Class Robinson. Shortly after the grenade exploded, Staff Sergeant James Roberts and Specialist Christopher Gathercole entered the courtyard moving towards the contact. Staff Sergeant Petry, Sergeant Higgins, and Private First Class Robinson were still grouped together on the side of the chicken coop when another grenade landed a few feet from Sergeant Higgins and Private First Class Robinson. Recognizing the threat that the enemy grenade posed to his fellow Rangers, Staff Sergeant Petry, despite his own wounds and with complete disregard for his personal safety, consciously and deliberately risked his life to move to and secure the live enemy grenade and consciously throw the grenade away his fellow Rangers, removing the immediate threat to their lives. As Staff Sergeant Petty released the grenade in the direction of the enemy, preventing the serious injury or death of Sergeant Higgins and Private First Class Robinson, it detonated and catastrophically amputated Staff Sergeant

Petry's right hand. With a clear mind, Staff Sergeant Petry assessed his wound and quickly placed a tourniquet on his right arm. Once this was complete, he reported that he was still in contact and that he had been wounded again.

Staff Sergeant Petry's selfless and conspicuous gallantry during daylight hours of May 26, 2008 undeniably risked his life while saving the lives of two fellow Rangers and through great individual sacrifice and personal intrepidness enabled the assault force to accomplish its mission. His actions epitomize the Army's Warrior Spirit and have brought great credit to the 75th Ranger Regiment.

### Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

#### **Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford**

This week we honor fallen Police Officer Joseph Burson as the officer of the week. Officer Burson was twenty-five-yearsold and served one year and six months with the Holly Springs Police Department in Georgia.

Officer Burson was tragically killed on Thursday, June 16, 2021, after being dragged by a car driven by a man he fatally shot

A statement from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation claims that Officer Burson and fellow officers had stopped a vehicle

for speeding. The routine traffic stop began just after 11 p.m. on June 16. "At some point during the traffic stop, the driver of the vehicle, a man later identified as Ansy Dolce, 29, of Cherokee County, attempted to escape in his car," the



statement reads. "Dolce dragged **Holly Springs** Police Officer Joe Burson, down Hickory Road until the vehicle crashed." the statement continues "During the incident, Officer Burson fired shots at Dolce."

Other officers already at the scene rendered aid to both Officer Burson and Dolce. Dolce was taken to North Fulton Hospital where he was declared dead. Officer Burson was rushed to Kennestone Hospital, where, after midnight, he also was pronounced dead. This terrible incident is yet another example of what law enforcement personal are willing to face day in and day out. Morgan County Today, humble honors Officer Burson and thanks all who serve

#### Possible repayment of the advance child tax credit



David Zubler

Advance payments for the child tax credit are scheduled to start in July. Some parents will end up owing more taxes next year due to the advance payments. Before receiving the advance tax credit and spending the money, it's a good idea to determine whether you will owe taxes and be required to pay back the money. The American Rescue Plan passed earlier this

year and increased the child tax credit. The credit for 2021 was increased to \$3,000 for each child ages 6 to 17 and \$3,600 for children under 6.

Eligible families can receive half of their credit in

monthly payments from July through December 2021. If advance payments are received, the other half will be applied as a credit when the 2021 taxes are filed.

The child tax credit is based on income and phases out for single filers earning more than \$75,000 and \$150,000 for individuals filing married

If you normally owe taxes when you file your return, receiving the advance payments could cause you to owe more taxes when you file your 2021 tax return. Consequently, it may be a good idea not to receive the advance payments so that you can reduce your tax liability when you file your tax return.

There are other circumstances which could have an impact on the amount of child tax credit that you are eligible for in 2021.

A higher paying job or your spouse going back to work, could affect the amount of your child tax credit. An increase in business income could also have the same effect on your credit.

If you took money out of your retirement account, sold stock or property, and increased your income in 2021, it could also reduce your child tax

A family with a child ages 6 to 17 and eligible for a \$3,000 child tax credit who chose to receive advance payments would receive half of it in advance payments. The remaining \$1,500 would be applied on the tax return. The child tax credit in 2020 was \$2,000. By taking the advance payments there would be \$500 less for the credit in 2021 when the return

If you decide it is in your best interest to opt out of the advance payments, you can use the IRS Child Tax Credit Update Portal. It allows families to verify their eligibility for the payments and to opt out from receiving the monthly payments so they can receive a lump sum when they file their tax return for 2021.

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.

#### 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

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 infor-

Wartburg, TN 37887.

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John 3:7

- Jesus

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## American Heritage



John Burns **Opinion Columnist** 

government.

Patriotism, it seems today a word most misunderstood. Americans are more than willing to take a day off from work and celebrate the 4th of July or Memorial Day. Do they have any clue how the God of the Bible views patriotism?

King David was a patriot. His patriotism was birthed as a young boy in the valley of Elah. It revolved around the knowledge that the God who created this world had called him to lead Israel in the worship of Elohim as creator. And Elohim had a definitive plan for his creation. It is the most preposterous debt payment plan ever contrived. It

dealt the death blow to all man-made religions, denominations, and cults: To include the cult of human My patriotism had morphed into an obsolete form of idol worship. flags,

eagles, presidents, all created things. As a military man my patriotism was based upon the willingness to fight for something greater than myself. That something was the plan God had contrived in eternity past. God alone is worth fighting for.

Who is America's God? If you ask a modern elected official, it is government. Their agenda has evolved to become an all-out assault on anyone who worships anything other than government as God. And Americans have gotten comfortable going along with the narrative. I am not able to tow the line. I believe in the American revolution. It was fought by men who pledged their wealth, their land and their blood to be released from the yoke of Earthly monarchy. A king ruling over the lives of free men was something they were not willing to tolerate. However, we should lose our presuppositions and unlock the secrets of the American revolution.

The foundations of America are Puritan. The men who landed at Plymouth Massachusetts were Christian insurrectionists. They brought along Jewish bankers fleeing English persecution by the Church of England. England has never separated church and state. The Church of England has nothing to do with God's will for man. England believes their monarchy is God willed. I believe only Jesus Christ's monarchy is God willed. It is a future kingdom of Jew and Gentile believers in Yeshua ha Messiah. It will be ruled by Jesus Christ himself from Jerusalem. For now, it is a kingdom of conscious. That conscious is one where the word of God alone orders our footsteps daily. Church tradition will be dealt with harshly by Jesus Christ when he returns. Depart from me worker of iniquity, for I knew you not!

The men who gave us our constitution practiced Synecretism. They mixed Pagan belief systems with Amillenial Christian beliefs. Their system had nothing to do with God's plan. If they really believed in the God of the Bible, Sunday would never be the sabbath. This is a church tradition started by Constantine in 323 A.D. He gave the slaves of the empire a day off based upon the Roman Pantheon that venerated sun worship. God's sabbath has never changed! Friday evening through Saturday evening. That is when Jesus Christ will be in the temple in the coming millennium. If you travel to Jerusalem on Sunday, he will not be in the temple. You will however catch him on the new moon if you are truly saved.

Salvation is based upon making Jesus Christ the lord of your life. He is pre-eminent. He is the God Man. To worship anyone else as God is blasphemy. Today's Christian church is totally in bed with the government Jesus Christ died to separate us from the bondage of. Government in any form exists to keep us in bondage to a morality that is not God's morality. Government will never wash your feet! They will give you plenty of monetary help to get you to forgo believing that God alone provides all of your needs according to his riches in glory. Our government is bankrupt and soon Americans will have to return to our Puritan roots or die separated from God eternally.

George Washington is the founder most people can talk about. I spent the majority of my childhood growing up in the suburbs of Philadelphia enamored with everything Washington. He was larger than life. Catholic school had nurtured an unhealthy dose of Pagan patriotism in me that took me years of prayer and supplication with thanksgiving to free me from the bondage of family presuppositions. I had been taught all kinds of things in Catholic school that do not line up with the teachings of Christ in our Bible. So, when I joined the Army, I left everything I had ever been taught and began to pursue finding out who Jesus is and what Catholicism is not. Roman Catholicism teaches everything God abhors. The worship of men as pious. The deification of the feminine gender. The Roman solar calendar, the slaughter of Jews in the holocaust, the Spanish inquisition, necromancing, and transubstantiation. These are all Pagan practices that Constantine included in his brand of Christianity. The Nazi's developed their own brand of positive Christianity and slaughtered millions of Jews and millions of potential believers in Jesus Christ. The Silent pulpits in Europe made up of denominational preachers are the worst of the bunch. Their silence dealt the death blow to the Church of Sardis. This is Luther's reformation church. While Luther gave us a look inside the mind of God in Habbakuk 2;4 he also became devoutly Antisemitic and Germany became the land of Lutheran Christians that separated God's covenant people Israel from their inheritance. It permeates liturgical services as I pen these words. There is nothing patriotic about antisemitism. If you think you love Jesus Christ then you had better not separate him from his Jewish future as Israel's and our coming king. Salvation is of the Jew first and then of the Greek.

Washington saved the revolution through bold leadership. He also had a card to play in his love for the Jewish remnant God had hidden in America. When money was short and men were starving at Valley Forge, Washington called upon Haym

### **Patriotism**

Soloman. He was a Jewish banker who believed in America being the place God would protect the Jews fleeing Roman and English persecution. He answered the call of liberty and pledged an enormous amount of his own wealth to the patriot cause. You will never hear about this in public school. Teachers have been indoctrinated and education is no longer the free exchange of information. Public school is counterintuitive to anything Jesus Christ loves. It teaches your children they are a result of random processes and not the deliberate creation of God. It teaches them that nature is a result of evolution. Ask your child's science teacher if he or she believes DNA evolves? The Bible teaches us everything we need to know about nature and nature's creator. The physical laws that govern our world are all in the Bible. Entropy, thermodynamics, mathematical constants, animal and human reproduction, chemistry, metallurgy, and most importantly: God's plan for each of our lives. The Bible is God's owner's manual, and warranty deed over you and your children's eternal future. Henry Ford provides every purchaser of a Ford with an owner's manual and warranty and just like the Bible most people never read it and put it in the glove box until there is an emergency. Well now there is an emergency in America!

Churches need rescuing from Roman Pagan Synecretism. All Churches! All three-dimensional spaces are counterintuitive to God's nature. Albert Einstein grappled with the confines of our physical universe. In 1909 he theorized something God has been saying since creation. He was able to grasp four dimensions. He opened the door to knowing that time is a physical property; subject to mass, acceleration and gravity. What he did not understand is that the creator established our physical universe and time is something he desires to command in our lives. While we focus on length, width, and height, God alone focuses on time. It is the physical property he does not allow to be manipulated. Time alone with God will always be more important than the space you gather in to worship him. That is why he gave us such a beautiful planet. To have plenty of space from which to glorify God alone. Yet in America, there is a predisposition to kidnap God in three-dimensional space and only for set amounts of time. No one has time for God on Monday through Saturday. Then they insult him by going along with the Roman Caesar and change God's sabbath to Sunday. God will never change. Jesus Christ acknowledged this by going to the temple on Shabbat. Humans have become far to comfortable compromising with Lucifer! And Christians had better wake up to the reality of both testaments of your Bible. The New Testament alone will never lead you to mercy and mercy alone is grace's foundation!

George Washington was a Mason. I have never desired to be a part of anything other than the kingdom of God. I myself do not need anything but the Bible to glean morality from. It is much easier to believe Jesus Christ died to pay my sin debt than to pledge to anything outside God's plan for my life. The seeds planted by George Washington need to be reexamined. All religions to include Free Masonry require a eugenic mindset. You must first believe that someone chose you as better than others. The Greeks were the first to advance the well born stock model in literature. I believe it goes further back then the Greeks who gave us the classics.

Jerusalem is the center of God's universe. On Earth, every language east of Jerusalem is written from right to left. Every language west of Jerusalem is written from left to right. Every religion east of Jerusalem venerates a lunar calendar while everyone west of Jerusalem venerates the Roman solar calendar. Is this coincidence? I think not. I think it goes back to Babel and beyond. God separated the Earth at the time of Peleg. I think that separation had to do with these two phenomena. This phenomenon is what is playing out in every geo political decision made by men. Washington undoubtedly subscribed to the western phenomena and it led to his practice of combining Free Masonry with Amillenial Christianity. He melded two belief systems that were not totally Biblical. He was doing what was right in his own mind. We all do this at this present time. I myself am chiefess amongst sinners. I pray every day for God to cleanse me from all unrighteousness and deliver me from obsolete idolatry contained in the worship of human government. God is my government and the Bible is my Bill of Rights!

Americans have been euthanized to everything God in public school. Alternative morality permeates your child's education experience. Silent pulpits are the cause once more. Not one Christian preacher stood up to the Kennedy administration. Martin Luther King Jr. was busy with the civil rights struggle and I believe he was killed because he would have told the president how detrimental removing prayer and the Bible from public school would have been to the black community. Satan had his party; the Democrats destroy any chance your child would have to share God's message of salvation and silent pulpits are to blame. Silent pulpits have given us school

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 **Face Your Fears** 

I remember riding in my granny's car to my Uncle Otho and Aunt Lorene's house located in the mountains of Oakdale, TN. She would take me there every Saturday and Uncle Otho would be waiting on me to help him around his yard. Uncle Otho was an avid gardener, fisherman, and love to work outdoors. I was about 13 years old when he asked me to do an impossible task: He wanted me to get on a ladder, climb up to his barn's attic, and help him store his birdhouses from the gourds he grew that summer.

I was terrified. I hated heights. My legs were shaking, my palms were sweaty, my heart was beating rapidly, each step up seemed heavier, as I climbed up what seemed to be a 100-foot ladder. The barn's attic was probably about 25 feet high. I felt like I was on a skyscraper in NYC. I couldn't wait to come down from the barn's attic; I was even afraid to come down. After some coaching from my uncle, I finally made it down the ladder.

I meet people that are petrified of change. 70% of Americans don't like their jobs. A lot of the people I speak with are afraid of change. They have been doing the same career for 20 years and can't imagine a career change. Being hamstrung by the fear of change, Many will remain in a career they despise because of their fear. Everyone has a fear of something. We have legitimate fears that will never go away or fears that we think are legit, we can overcome.

I get it if you are afraid of snakes; You can't hate snakes and then overnight love them. You may al-



ways be afraid of snakes because that fear is really hard to change. That is a physical fear. Heights isn't an easy fear to change. It took me a lot of time to overcome that fear, but I was able to conquer it a few years ago.

I visited Queenstown, New Zealand. The birth



place of the Bungee jump. AJ Hackett had invented

this sport in 1984. I was crazy enough to purchase the ticket to plunge off a 141 foot bridge over a small river. I decided I would face my fear and do it in a big way. The tour guides harnessed me



**Zack Ballinger**in,

recorded my height and weight, made me sign a waiver not to sue if I died, and I was ready to do the impossible. I will never forget looking over that river thinking, "What in the world was I thinking???" Moments later it was over. I had conquered my biggest fear.

For many of us, we need to conquer emotional fears. I knew if I were able to bungee jump, I could work towards conquering any fear. I think for a lot of people it's time to conquer the fear of changing jobs, job interviewing, public speaking, or starting up a business. For a lot of us: conquering fear is standing between our passion, happiness, and success. FACE YOUR FEARS!!!

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.

## Happenings

Sandra Helton's weekly column

### Oakdale Area News

email: kvhelton@highland.net



Sara Kate Norris will represent Oakdale School Jr. Beta next week at Disney. Cade Snow tested nationally and will know his results this week as well. We are all super proud of our Beta Clubs and appreciate the sponsors and families who make these trips possible.

Pap and Gran...aka Mickey and Jeanie Bingham, recently got to watch their grandson Cooper play baseball at the Ripken Experience in Pigeon Forge. Their son, Jay, is the coach. The team came in 2nd in the tournament.

Belated birthday greetings to Emma Lou Meunier who turned 80 years young on June 26.

June 26 is also a special date for at least 3 Oakdale couples. Benny and Rachel Collins celebrated their 17th wedding anniversary on the 26th. Jerry and Jo Hardin celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary on the 26th. Bunt and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary on the 26th.

First Baptist Oakdale appreciates everyone that attended or helped with their VBS. They rejoice that two children were saved.

Andy and Natalie Ruppe held a surprise gender reveal to let the family know that they are expecting another baby girl in October. Her name will be Elayna Lucille Carolyn Ruppe. She is named after her grandmother and 2 great-grandmothers. Everyone was very surprised!

White Oak Baptist Church will have Vacation Bible School July 12 – 16 from 7:00 – 9:00 nightly. Proverbs 25:25.

Pine Orchard Baptist Church will have Vacation Bible School July 19 -23 from 6:00 – 8:00 each evening. The theme is Farm Fresh Faith.

West Side Baptist Church will be having vacation Bible school July 21-23 from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Commencement will

be on Sunday night, July 25 at 6:00 p.m.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a happy and safe Independence Day.

July 4, 2021 marks the 245th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Every July 4th, we celebrate the birthday of the United States of America and all the great things our nation represents. Let us all gratefully salute the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who fight to defend America. God Bless the USA.

First Baptist Church of Wartburg invites you to climb aboard the Rocky Railway as we learn how "Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through." VBS will begin July 12th – July 16th nightly from 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm. Ages 3 and up are welcome. To secure your tickets aboard the train pre-register is available at www.fbcwartburg.org or you may contact the church office at 423-346-3550.

#### 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

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Ricky E. Newport has applied for a permit to sell beer OFF premises at the location known as: Newport's Quality Oil 2470 Morgan County Hwy Wartburg, TN 37887

Anyone having reason to believe that this permit should not be issued, must appear before the Morgan County Beer Board on the 15th day of July 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 9 part B

(Romans 9:19-29) divine justice vindicated: Paul, in his characteristic fashion, raises objections from critics. "If God hardens someone, how could he fault them for being hard? If a man cannot withstand his will, why is he condemned for withstanding?" (v. 19). Here is a question that solicits a response: "Who do you think you are to debate with God?" The one who was formed is not greater than the one who did the forming. Does the creature have the wisdom to question the Creator? No, that would be like a piece of pottery criticizing the potter---an absurd position. The potter has a "right" (sovereignty, authority) over his creations, and may use them consistent with his own purpose (v.20). This statement may not be forced to imply any position that is contrary to the overall nature of the Lord. It certainly does not suggest that God made some people to be lost and others to be saved---a proposition wholly foreign to the entire tenor of Scripture. Nonetheless, it is argued by radical Calvinists.

God's sovereign power has been demonstrated over the course of history. The Lord had the right to deal with the nation of Israel as he saw fit. For centuries he had been extremely longsuffering with the nation; he "endured" much from these "vessels of wrath" (deserving of wrath) who were "fitted" for destruction (v. 22). (Many scholars take the verb "fitted" to be used in a reflexive sense---they "fitted themselves" for destruction.) Eventually (the Roman invasion of A.D, 70) they would receive that for which they prepared themselves. In the meantime, it was the Lord's will to likewise make known "the riches of his glory" to "vessels of mercy." These vessels of mercy were those who would be recipients of divine mercy in the forgiveness of their sins when the new Israel was established. In this regime, both Jews and Gentiles would be welcome, for preparation (v. 23) on behalf of both had been in progress for centuries.

The apostle cites passages from the Old Testament to make several points pertaining to the proposition just argued. (a) Citations are introduced from Hosea that clearly reflect the Lord's interest in the Gentiles. (b) Isaiah spoke of the nation of Israel as being like the "sand of the sea," yet only a "remnant" would be saved. God knew from the very beginning of the nation's inclination toward stubbornness and disbelief. There is no hint here of a national conversion of the nation of Israel, as some millennialists affirm. (c) The nation of Israel

Melvin Howard's Weekly column is sponsored by The Lord's Church

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passed through many crises over the course of history, with thousands being destroyed. The Lord preserved a "seed" from the nation, however, so that the sacred plan of salvation might be realized as prophesied.

(Romans 9:30-33) the receptiveness of the Gentiles: What is our conclusion? (a) The Gentiles, who generally did not pursue righteousness, were inclined to accept the gospel, hence attained righteousness as a result of their obedient faith (Romans 6:3-6 "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.) (b) In contrast, Israel, who possessed a law that was intended to lead them to righteousness, did not understand or follow the thrust of that law, as it pointed to Christ as Savior. What was their problem? They were so riveted to the notion that they could justify themselves---either on the basis of their ancestry or their feigned rigorous obedience to the law---that the majority never submitted to God's plan for being credited with righteousness. (Romans 10:16 "But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?") (Romans 10:21 "But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.")

Instead of looking to the "rock" of their "refuge" for stability (Isa. 28:15-16), they "stumbled" over him because of their unrealistic, nationalistic expectations. They supposed he would fulfill their patriotic ambitions (Jn. 6:15; 1 Cor. 1:23). In spite of the stumbling of many, those who exercised the "obedience of faith" (1:5; 16:26) would not be "put to shame." The door was open to "whosoever will."

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MELVIN HOWARD

15

### King Crossword

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Choose
- 4 Scale amts.
- Diving duck 8 Diner workers
- 10 Dijon darling 11 Removes, as
- a brooch 13 Winter Olympics
- event 16 "- Clear
- Day"
- 17 Bolivian city
- 18 "Ulalume" writer
- 19 Favorites
- 20 Roman emperor
- 21 Driverswith
- handles
- 23 Battery part 25 Persia, today 40 Tax form ID
- 26 "What's for 41 Reply (Abbr.) me?"
- 27 Lincoln or Ford
- 28 Accord maker 30 Baseball
- execs 33 2016 Best Picture nominee
- 36 Net defender in hockey
- 37 Separated
- 38 Island near Java
- 39 Apple variety
- **DOWN**

36

38

- 1 Alpha's opposite
- 2 Lima's land 3 Performer
- with a baton 4 Candymaker
- Willy 5 November birthstone
- 6 Revue segment
- Tibia's place 8 Points
- 10 Corp. money manager
  - Napper's racket

9 Took potshots

- 14 Comestibles 15 Earth (Pref.)
- instrument
- Daniel 22 Legendary
- French actress "The King —"
- 24 Falls on

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border

39

25 German pronoun

the U.S./

Canadian

18

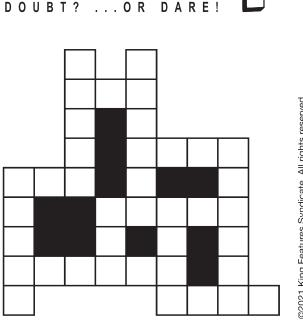
- 26 Draw a conclusion
- 19 Calligrapher's 28 Big wheels at 20 Word of denial 29 Leek's kin
- 21 007 portrayer 30 Metric measures
  - 31 Simple 32 Retired jet
  - 34 Lectern locale
  - 35 "Once a time ..."



GUD EIGHCO **♥**LANGE **♥** REEW GWIDNA MLA WRGE ♥ DERDA

♥ WNA ♥ GEMRIA HECWN

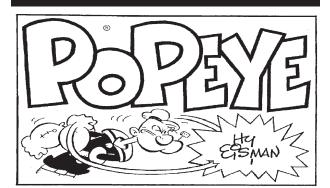
♥ ERGA



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 lit-tle, no one has to do a whole lot."

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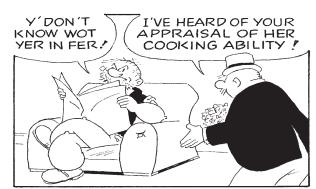
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Volume I

Fred C. Mize III











#### Answer

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

### Weekly SUDOKU

#### by Linda Thistle

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

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!







**King** Crossword Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

		0	Р	Т			W	Т	S			
	S	Μ	E	8		С	0	0	Κ	S		
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F		G	U	R	Ш	S	Κ	Α	Т	_	Z	G
0	Ζ	Α		L	Α	Р	Α	Ζ		Р	0	Е
			Р	Е	Т	S			Ν	E	R	0
	C	В	E	R	S		Α	Z	0	D	Е	
_	R	Α	Ν			П	Z		Т			
С	Α	R		Ι	0	Z	О	Α		G	М	S
Ι		О	D	Е	Z	F	Ι	G	$\supset$	R	Е	S
	G	0	Α	L	_	E		Α	Ρ	Α	R	Т
		Т		М	0	R		R	0	М	Е	
			S	S	Ζ			Α	Ζ	S		

Tom Redmon **Columnist** 

Because of what our forefathers did in 1776

we were born free. Fifty-six

men gathered in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776 to sign the Declaration of Independence. They were from the thirteen colonies and when they signed the declaration they pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. The British were still in charge and the road ahead was rough. Many colonists would die in the Revolutionary War and many of the men who signed the Declaration of Independence paid a high price. Five signers were captured by the British and as traitors they were tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned, two lost their sons in the Revolutionary War, another had two sons captured; nine of the fifty-six fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

In the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr. noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over his home for his headquarters. He told Washington to go ahead and open fire. The house was destroyed and Nelson died bankrupt. Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The British jailed his wife, and she died within a few weeks. These men were not wild-eyed rabble-rousing ruffians; they were men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more.

We all should give thanks to these great and humble men that gave so much (in some cases everything) to give us the greatest gift of all; liberty. Because of them we have been able to fight to keep our freedom. The men who signed the Declaration of Independence knew there would be a war and it wouldn't be long before King George III would be sending more British troops to America. Soon there were over 35,000 troops here to fight the patriots who had never fought before. George Washington had been

## **Born Free**

appointed Commander of the Continental Army. He fought eight long years and lost many battles to start the Revolutionary War but on Christmas Day 1776 when Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware River surprising the British, which caught them off guard at both Trenton and Princeton the tide began to turn for the Continental Army. Washington went on to defeat Cornwallis at Yorktown

wanted to change America where it would no longer be a world power. I believe this is where the words "I hate America" grew. Now we have this president's third term and look at the damage he is doing. I think we need another revolution: a non-violent revolution where we can get the people to turn to God and start loving their country again. We do not need to bow down to these liberals.

Some of us take our liberty



brought the war to an end. Washington never gave

These patriots who fought the British loved freedom more than they did their fortunes and even their lives. Patrick Henry's famous words were "Give me liberty or give me death." Nathan Hale, who was about to be killed said, "I regret I have only one life to give for my country." They really meant it too. Since those days over 245 years ago, we have had many brave men to go to war to fight for our freedom. We even had to fight the British again in the war of 1812. Those brave patriots who fought against great odds at Fort McHenry in 1814 risked their lives to keep our great flag flying.

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the young and brave men of WWII. When I think of the men who landed on Normandy Beach on June 6, 1944, and many of them were mowed down before they even got to the beach, it brings tears to my eyes. They too were fighting for our freedom. They were some mother's son, some girl's husband, and they loved life as much as any of us.

When I think of the government, we have today it makes my blood boil to think we had a former president who took trips to foreign nations and ran our country down. I think of how he tried to change our constitution and how he

so much for granted, but we shouldn't. We should take a few minutes while enjoying our 4th of July and silently thank all those patriots and for the many who have given their all for our freedom. It's not too much to ask for the price they paid. Remember freedom is never free.

Its time we got the word out that patriotism is not a sin, and the 4th of July has more to it than fireworks, picnics, beer and baseball games.

Remember the Declaration of Independence was the promise, and the Constitution was the fulfillment. I know my article only reaches a few readers and I regret that I can't get some of my articles out to a national audience. I'm afraid if we do not turn this government around, we are doomed to live under a socialistic government soon. Forget about all these freedoms you have had all your life. Some are already gone or on the road to being taken away. Freedom of speech and freedom of religion, our first amendment rights have been under attack by the radical left for some time. Our right to bear arms (2nd Amendment) is also under attack and I believe before the House or Senate elections in November 2022 the radical left will do everything they can to start passing laws to take away gun rights. We need two democratic senators to vote with the GOP. It would be harder

for them to pass some of these bills.

radical left has done re-

One of the worst things the

cently is to try to get all our schools to teach what they call, Critical Race Theory (CRT). White children will be taught that basically whites are to blame for our racial problem because of how blacks were treated by our relatives years ago. This was brought about because our present administration is using race to divide our nation. This has been going on since Obama became president. We didn't have a serious race problem until 2008. If CRT is taught in classrooms, the (whites) will be the ones discriminated against. College education has been a big problem for some time since over 90% of college professors are liberals. This is were much of our "hate America" has come from.

Our country needs to return to patriotism and a love for country. Former President Dwight David Eisenhower said it best in 1963, "Without patriotism and a deep respect for our flag and country, we are subject to become slaves of dictators and despots. Yes, we are doomed if we fail to keep this sacred trust."

This Independence Day I would like for all of us to pause and thank all the early patriots for our liberty because without them the American Colonies would have remained British subjects. We would never be free.

Since those days in 1776 many brave men have fought and died for America. Our freedom has come at a great cost. In one war we lost 400,000 men (WWII).

I hope you are with me when it comes to patriotism. Be proud that you live in America, for there is none greater. Stand up for her and never forget that freedom isn't free.

"When government takes away citizens' right to bear arms it becomes citizens' duty to take away governments right to govern." George Washington, Constitutional Convention Philadelphia, PA.

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### The Road Less Traveled (The GPS from Hades)



Robert Frost's poem "The Road Not Taken" concludes with these lines:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

On a recent vacation trip to West

Virginia along with my wife Marsha and our friend Lynn, we took "the road less traveled," thanks to my GPS, and the difference was one of the most unsettling and harrowing experiences that we have had in a long time.

To properly set the stage for my story, you must first understand that West Virginia is very different from Tennessee – they charge tolls on interstate highways. We paid two four dollar tolls in just over fifty miles from Charleston to Beckley, which was to be our base of operations for the week. Needless to say, I hate toll roads and will take extreme measures to avoid them!

So, when we headed for Babcock State Park northeast of Beckley to photograph their famous grist mill with water-wheel, I looked at the two optional routes offered by the GPS on my Honda Pilot and quickly chose the route with no tolls. Big mistake!

The route took us several miles through Beckley on narrow residential streets. Finally, we left Beckley on Highway 41, which was a paved road much like many rural roads in Morgan County. The highway wound its way down into the New River gorge, with several miles of eight percent grade. I was thankful that Lynn was driving because I did not have to look down into the gorge that is about 500 feet high.

We then crossed New River and traveled some distance along the river before once again climbing to the top of the gorge. The highway was dotted with small settlements having only a few houses each, along with a typical post office and Dollar General.

We had just passed through the community of Layland when the GPS said turn left onto Chestnut Knob Road. This is where our adventure really began! Now, a prudent person might wonder "Why would I leave a state highway and turn onto a lesser road several miles from my destination?" Well, on this occasion, I was not very prudent and we blindly followed the GPS' instructions.

After a short distance, the nice lady in the GPS said turn right onto Beury Mountain Road, and, like puppets on a string, we obligingly did so. Soon, much to our dismay, the road changed from pavement to gravel. The further we drove, the more narrow the road became. We were literally on a one-lane gravel road with no signs of civilization and no place to turn around



The one-lane gravel road over which Terry's GPS led him for more than six miles. [Photo: Terry Futrell]

Then, we saw a sign ahead – Beury Mountain Wildlife Management Area. To say that we were more concerned at this point would be a gross understatement! All I could think of was Burt Reynolds and the movie "Deliverance." I listened intently for sounds of banjo music and Ned Beatty's squeals. With an unpleasant feeling in the pit of my stomach, I made sure that my gun was readily accessible. How I wished that Vernon Justes and Thump were along to ride shotgun!

Finally, after traveling almost six miles over the one-lane gravel road at about ten miles per hour, the now not-so-nice lady in the GPS said turn left onto Park Forest 804. Well, that road was more like a pig-path with grass growing in the middle. Fortunately, I saw a couple of hikers and asked them if that road was passable. Their reply was "There is a gate about two hundred yards ahead." Finally, we made an almost intelligent decision and did not make the turn.

After continuing on for about a quarter mile, we found ourselves back on Highway 41, that nice paved road that we had left about 40 minutes earlier. The GPS had put us through much distress to save perhaps a mile of travel, even though it took at least 30 minutes longer. At this point, I mentally dedicated an old Jimmy Dickens song to the Garmin Company – "May the bird of paradise fly up your nose."

Needless to say, we returned to Beckley by the route that was a toll road. Adding insult to injury, we found that the toll on this road was only 75 cents. I suppose we learned a couple of lessons through this experience. First, never blindly follow a GPS – that soft spoken lady is not your friend! Second, pay the tolls – there is a good reason they chose those roads on which to charge you!



The grist mill at Babcock State Park provided a rich reward for Terry's harrowing experience traveling through the mountains of West Virginia. [Photo: Terry Futrell]





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