

Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

75¢

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June 8, 2021

MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK

| | | |
|--------|---------|--|
| Tue 08 | 80°/66° | |
| Wed 09 | 76°/66° | |
| Thu 10 | 75°/66° | |
| Fri 11 | 78°/66° | |
| Sat 12 | 80°/64° | |
| Sun 13 | 81°/62° | |
| Mon 14 | 81°/61° | |

Moonshine & Mud



Veteran of the Week
Thomas P. Payne

The weekend was packed full of great things to do in Morgan County. One of those was the Moonshine and Mud festival hosted by Johnboy's BBQ at the Morgan County Fairgrounds.

People came from all over to attend the event. Vendors, food, games, crafts, live music, and the Mud Sling were all a part of the fun.

There was a mullet contest, corn-hole tournament, chili cookoff, bbq sauce contest, and much more.

Johnboy says he is ready for next years event to be a 2 day festival to pack in all the fun.



LEO of the Week
The Badge



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*\$20,000
Bonus
*Job Training

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Redmon Returns



After a short rest, Tom Redmon has returned to writing. He took a short break just to get some rest but is back bringing you the articles that you enjoy so much.

We are grateful to have him be a part of our paper but more importantly a fixture in the Morgan County fabric. He is truly a treasure.




Inside This Edition

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Loreen Bunch, 73

Loreen Bunch, age 73 of Devonia passed away at her home on Saturday, May 29, 2021. She was preceded in death by her parents Shadrice and Lille Mae Patterson Bunch; brothers Randall and Emer Bunch; sisters Geneva York and Rachel Patrick.

Surviving her are Husband Stanley (Big Mo) Bunch.
Brothers: Lowell (Gladys) Bunch
Verlon (Faye) Bunch
Walter (Maxine) Bunch

Also surviving are several nieces, nephews and other friends and family.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 from 12-2 pm Schubert Funeral Home Wartburg. Funeral services will follow at 2 pm with Bro. Gary Armes officiating, interment will follow in the Bunch Cemetery, Devonia, TN.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Loreen Bunch.

Jerry Dean Phillips, 54

Jerry Dean Phillips, age 54, of Devonia passed away Sunday, May 30, 2021 at his home. He was a member of Free Communion Baptist Church. He played guitar, sung in church and wrote many gospel songs. He loved his family dearly and enjoyed hunting, fishing, ginsenging, and playing bluegrass and bluegrass gospel music.

He is preceded in death by his father, Elmer Phillips; brother, Roger Phillips; sister-in-law, Jenny Phillips.

He is survived by his loving wife of 32 years, Loretta Crabtree Phillips; son, Eric Austin of Clinton and Jacob and wife, Bridgett Phillips of Coalfield; grandson, Landon Austin and grandson on the way; mother, Jewel Phillips of Devonia sister, Lisa and husband Tim of Coalfield; brothers, Michael B. and wife, Joyce Phillips of Clinton and Jeff and

wife, Paulette Phillips of Coalfield; nephews, Kevin Ward, Bradley Phillips, Cody Woods, Robert Huckaby, Dusty Bunch; nieces, Rebekah Parchman, Amy Young, Mahaley Huckaby, and Laura; mother-in-law, Elma Huckaby; father-in-law, Charles Huckaby; brother-in-law, Charlie Robert Huckaby and wife, Junelle Hileman.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Funeral services will be Thursday at Free Communion Baptist Church in Devonia at 11:00 a.m. with Bro. Odis Phillips, Bro. Kevin Ward and Bro. Eric Austin officiating. Interment will follow in the Phillips Cemetery in Devonia.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Jerry Dean Phillips.

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

Send Letters to the Editor
Editor@mocotoday.com

Sunbright Honor Roll

Sunbright High School 4th Nine Weeks Honor Roll

Finn Rodgers
Addison Shannon

Highest Honors

Kendra Adkins
Alex Buchanan
Jasmine Collins
Kiersten De La Cruz
Shannon Freels
John Hamby
Lucas Morgan
Olivia Newport
Holly Nitzschike
Alexis Northrup
Graycie Ostermayer
Willie Phaler
Jozie Shelton
Cameron Simmons
Callie Smith

High Honors

Austin Frogge
Erica Hendrick
Kristen James
Katelyn Letner
Andrea Overton
Mykenzie Phillips

Honors

Megan Bilyeu
Lindsey Brown
Stanley Cooper
Charlee Hawn
Logan Kreis
Casie Newport
Alley Shannon
Andru Stone
Michael Webb

Sunbright High School 2nd Semester Honor Roll

Highest Honors

Kendra Adkins
Alex Buchanan
Jamsine Collins
Keirsten De La Cruz
Shannon Freels
Austin Frogge
Olivia Newport
Holly Nitzschke
Alexis Northrup

Willie Phaler
Jozie Shelton
Cameron Simmons
Callie Smith
Ashlin Trent

High Honors

Lindsey Brown
John Hamby
Charlee Hawn
Kristen James
Katelyn Massey
Lucas Morgan
Casie Newport
Graycie Ostermayer
Finn Rodgers
Addison Shannon
Michael Webb

Honors

Gavin Carpenter
Stanley Cooper
Logan Kreis
Justin Newberry
Mykenzie Phillips
Alauna Redmon
Alley Shannon
Andru Stone

COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION

East Tennessee Human Resource Agency (ETHRA) will distribute Commodities, Thursday, June 10th, 8 am to 12 pm, at the Wartburg Civic Center. You may pick up for 3 households only. Please bring a box for your commodities. Households can pre-register prior to distribution date at the ETHRA office located next to Wartburg High School. For more information, call 423-346-6651, option 5. This program is funded under an agreement with the Department of Agriculture. In accordance with federal law and USDA, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

Morgan County Today

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

Out of County Rates

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

Disappeared: Chapter 1: Part 2



Carol Hall
Author

Nick, Maggie, Chris & Evie-Day 1

Maggie continued scouring woods for a moment. “Well, that’s possible. The trees can cast some deep shadows, and the woods are very dense along through here. I’m sure it was just a shadow. But if there really is a bear-or a person-out there, I hope they just continue on their merry ole way,

and leave us alone. It’s not uncommon to meet other people along the trails, but we don’t want to run into any bears.” They hurried along the trail until they caught back up with the men again. As they walked and talked, they put the incident out of their minds. It was so peaceful and quiet along the trail that they easily slipped back into happy, relaxed conversation. They walked for another hour when Nick called for everyone to take a break. Even though the sun was partially obscured by the canopy of trees, it was still hot, and a break was a welcome relief.

Sweat was rolling down Maggie’s back as she took off her backpack and set it down next to a fallen tree that lay along the path. She plunked down on the log and pulled a water bottle out of her pack. Twisting the lid off, she tipped the bottle up and drank until the contents were gone.

Nick sat down beside her and did the same. He was sweating and flushed. Maggie knew he needed the break as badly as she did. Chris and Evie plopped down on the other end of the log. Pulling water out of their packs, they drank till their bottles were empty, too.

They were not used to hiking the way Maggie and Nick were, and the hot temperatures, and rugged terrain, were taking a toll on them. It was obvious to Maggie that they were very grateful for the rest.

They all sat in silence for a few minutes while they rested and caught their breaths. Placing her water bottle back in her pack, Maggie pulled out her camera. It was a digital model that Nick had gotten her for Christmas last year.

She began snapping photos of Chris and Evie. Chris was a real ham for the camera. He was making funny faces and striking ridiculous poses for her. Chris loved to make people laugh, and he had everyone’s full attention.

Evie was laughing so hard, she slipped backward off the log and landed on her back on the ground. Laughing even harder now, she stood up and began dusting the dirt off her legs. Chris reached over to brush some of the dirt off of her when something hit him in the back.

“Ouch!” he exclaimed, as he looked around on the ground to see what had hit him. He reached down and picked up a rock the size of a golf ball that had landed by his foot.

“What in the world?” He flipped the stone around in his hand, looking behind him into the woods. “Where did that come from?”

“What is it?” Nick asked, walked over to see what Chris was holding.

“A rock came flying out of the woods and hit me in the back,” Chris said. He handed the rock to Nick.

“Are you hurt?” Nick asked, taking the rock. After examining it, he handed it back to Chris.

Chris chucked the rock over his shoulder. “No, but it smarted a bit. It didn’t break the skin or anything, did it?” he asked pulling up his shirt to show where the rock had hit him.

Nick looked at Chris’s back. “No, it didn’t break the skin, but you have a nasty red welt where it hit you.”

“Hey guys,” Maggie said. “Evie thought she saw someone in the woods a ways back, watching us. Do you think that’s who threw the rock at us?”

Maggie wasn’t generally a paranoid person, but she had never experienced anything like this in these mountains before. She wasn’t necessarily scared, just a bit cautious. People did crazy things nowadays, and you could never be too careful. She and Nick had concealed carry permits, but they hadn’t brought their guns along with them on this trip. An oversight in Maggie’s perfectly planned out list. Oops. She was wishing she had remembered to bring them now.

“Why would someone throw rocks at us?” Chris asked.

“What you saw was probably just a shadow or a tree that looked like a person. I can’t imagine why anyone would be watching us.” He scanned the area for a moment, then shrugged his shoulders. He grabbed his backpack and slung it over his shoulder.

“Let’s get back on the trail so we can reach our campsite while it’s still daylight,” Nick said. “Remember, it gets dark in the woods long before it gets dark anywhere else. We best get a move on. Once we set up camp, I’ll be ready for a good hot meal over a campfire.”

They trekked on for a couple more hours. The trail rose in elevation and followed along a ridge line offering spectacular views of far off mountain ranges that stretched on for miles. Low lying clouds obscured the distant mountain peaks giving the appearance that they were covered in a blue mist. Along the way, the group would stop, and Maggie would take pictures.

The trail continued on over rough, rocky paths and up and down steep inclines. As they reached the higher elevations, the temperatures dropped a few degrees. The view through

the trees showed a sky that was colored with blue and purple hues.

Up ahead, a small herd of elk made their way slowly across the path. The bull was in front followed closely by four females. They were magnificent creatures. Much larger than a common deer. The bull trumpeted to keep his females moving. They seemed oblivious to the human presence, but they were used to humans being in the area.

Nick threw his hand up in the air signaling everyone to stop. They all came to a standstill to allow the elk to pass. Though the elk seemed unfazed by their presence, Nick was taking no chances of scaring them or making them mad. He respected all wildlife and knew the dangers of approaching a wild animal.

The elk continued across the path until they entered the woods and disappeared. Nick lowered his arm and started walking again. The others followed. Everyone remained quiet until they were sure the elk were gone.

The forest was alive with the sound of twittering birds and squirrels rustling in the leaves. A gentle breeze ruffled the tops of the trees.



Nick was in a hurry to reach the campsite. Even though it was only mid-afternoon, darkness would blanket the forest in only a few short hours. Once it got dark, finding their way would be tricky and dangerous, even with the aids of flashlights.

As they made their way farther along the trail, a very eerie stillness settled over the area. No more birds or squirrel sounds. No more rustling leaves. Even the breeze seemed to have stopped.

Evie stopped dead in her tracks and grabbed Chris’s hand. “Where did all the noise go?” she asked in a hushed tone, as if she, too, felt she needed to be quiet. Nothing moved, nothing made a sound as the four of them stood there.

“Maggie, have you ever had this happen

before?” Nick asked, turning to look at her.

“Uh, no,” she answered, trying to sound unconcerned. “I’m sure it’s nothing. Just a weird forest thing.” She looked over at her friends and shrugged. She tried to sound convincing, though she was a bit weirded out by it, too.

Then, suddenly, the herd of elk that they had watched cross the path a while earlier, burst from the woods onto the trail right behind them.

Evie screamed. Maggie jumped, grabbing a hold of Nick’s arm.

The elk bolted across the path and into the woods on the other side. Just as suddenly as they had appeared, they disappeared. The sound of them crashing through the trees echoed around them for a moment. Then that too, was gone.

Suddenly, the sound returned to the forest with a cacophony of noise.

“Holy cow, that scared the crap out of me!” Chris said, clutching his chest.

“I wonder what scared them?” Evie asked, sounding nervous. She looked back in the direction the elk had come from. “The birds are chirping again though, so that’s good,” she said. She was really starting to look spooked, and Maggie knew she should say something to diffuse the situation.

“It’s probably their dinner time, and they were heading home to eat. They must have been really hungry,” Maggie laughed at her own stab at humor. The rest of them just stared at her.

“Well, I’m sure it was just a thing elks do. You know, change directions. Maybe they didn’t like the direction they were going in. It’s really not something to get worked up about.” Her feeble explanation sounded lame even to herself.

“Come on guys. Only about 4 more miles till we reach camp,” Nick said.

The rest of the hike to the campsite was uneventful. The trail descended sharply into a cove, winding through some boggy ground, then up a steep hill on the other side, finally leveling off as it came into the camp.

The campsite was a large circular clearing surrounded by thick undergrowth and tall trees. A fire pit sat in the middle of the clearing. The smell of an old fire wafted up from the pit, filling the air with the pungent smell of smoke and burnt meat.

Down a small embankment, running alongside the campsite, was a creek. Not much water was flowing at this time of year, due to the lack of rain, but the sound of it trickling over the rocks lent an air of peacefulness that encompassed the camp. The air was calm, and the forest quiet. It was the perfect setting for a campsite.

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

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

Historically Speaking Our own Airmail Beacon House - update part 2

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Last week we brought you up to date on the continuing efforts to document the specific nature of the mission of our Airmail Beacon House. Up to now our focus has been on a visual marker in the form of a small building housing a generator and a large tower with a light on it. There is one other possibility that comes from the research. Might it have been a radio range transmitter?

The Smithsonian representative also tentatively identified our beacon house as potentially being a "radio range beacon" that was part of what was termed the "Knoxville, Tenn., radio range." The low frequency radio range approach to navigation aids came into being as early as 1927 and immediately was recognized as an improvement in navigational safety.

However, the visual light beacons continued in use and even continued expanding into the 1930's. According to the online article Nocturnal Travels by John Schamel, by 1933, the Federal Airway System had 18,000 miles of lighted airways containing 1,550 rotating beacons.

These radio range transmitters operating in the late 1920's and 1930's consisted of four way transmitters that sent Morse Code signals for the letter "A," • —, and its opposite, the letter "N," — •, such that when an airplane was "on beam" a steady drone would be heard, but when the pilot allowed the airplane to drift in off course either the "N" signal or the "A" signal became stronger overriding the steady drone, thus letting the pilot know which direction to turn to correct the airplane's course.

This low frequency radio range transmitters were soon joined by the next technological advance. By 1930, the Very high frequency Omni-directional Radio range (VOR) was an improvement over the low frequency system as weather did not adversely affect the signal. However, VOR was limited to line of sight whereas the low frequency signal would follow the curvature of the earth.

The US Post Office operated the air mail system from 1918 – 1927. By 1927 the air transport system was growing so much that the post office put air mail delivery out to competitive bids. This was the start of significant increases in air transportation.

The Kelly Airmail Act of 1925 had provided private airlines the opportunity to function as mail carriers through involvement in a competitive bidding system. These private carriers, through the airmail revenue, could then expand into carrying other forms of cargo, including passengers.

By 1925 only nine of the 40 pilots originally hired by the US Post Office in 1918 were still alive. This is when the US Post Office first began to bid routes. In two more years, by 1927, all air mail routes were put out to competitive bids and the Post Office got out of the airmail business.

With the high number of pilots deaths, it is easy to see why so much attention was paid to the lighted beacons, various

radio frequency signals, multiple direction finder technologies and other safety related technological advances. While air transportation was in its early stages, the industry was pushing for safety improvements and even requesting government regulation of airways.

From the online history of night navigation, the following specific details of the



Our Beacon House located near the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Photo Submitted)

airway beacons is found:

"Beacons were positioned every ten miles along the airway. At the top of a 51-foot steel tower was a 1 million candlepower-rotating beacon. Pilots could see the clear flash of light from a distance of 40 miles. Also at the top of the tower were two color-coded 100,000 candlepower course lights. These pointed up and down the airway. They were colored green, signifying an adjacent airfield, and red, signifying no airfield.



The location where the generator would have set on the two concreted foundations (Photo Submitted)

"The course lights also flashed a Morse Code letter [W, U, V, H, R, K, D, B, G or M]. The letter corresponded to the number of the beacon within a 100-mile segment of the airway. To determine their position, a pilot simply had to remember this phrase – "When Undertaking Very Hard Routes, Keep Direction By Good Methods" – and know which 100-mile segment they were on.

"The beacons were also built to aid daytime navigation. Each tower was built on an arrow shaped concrete slab that was painted yellow. The arrow pointed to the next higher numbered beacon. An equipment/generator shed next to the tower had the beacon number and other information painted on the roof.

"An English aviation journalist, visiting the U.S. in 1924, wrote, 'The U.S. Post Office runs what is far and away the most efficiently organized and efficiently managed Civil Aviation undertaking in the World.'

Our Beacon House was a part of the historic world-changing growth in air transportation. It was most likely operated by a local family sometime prior to 1942. It was either a flashing light beacon or a radio range beacon.

If it was a flashing light beacon, it would have been a type "B" as defined by the fact that it was powered by a direct current generated at the site and had no airfield immediately nearby. There was type "A" (connected to commercial power), a type "C" (similar to "B" but located at an intermediate air field) and a type "D" (similar to a type "A" but located at an air field).

It was painted white or chrome yellow number 4 with a 2' wide band painted black midway up the exterior walls with the window frames and exterior door painted medium grey. It had the numbers "2," indicating the airway, and "12," indicating the beacon house number, painted black on the roof.

I wonder if it ever had a 54' concrete arrow. This would have admittedly been unusual, but no physical evidence exists to suggest there was ever such a large slab of concrete there. Of course, if it was a radio range beacon, then the concrete arrow might not have been there. The tower, fuel tank and generator shed would have completed the radio range installation.

The beacon house is a most interesting bit of history and is worthy of the efforts being put forth by ORNL to gain recognition by restoring the structure and obtaining National Historic Register status. Additional articles on the ORNL Beacon House will be published when it is restored and that historic status obtained.

I hope you have enjoyed visiting Oak Ridge's unique Airmail Beacon House and now have a better appreciation for the historic structure. At some point in the future, I hope to see this small building restored to its original colors and structural integrity. I also hope to see the historic marker and informational display installed there and the place added to Oak Ridge's historic tours.

Places such as this Airmail Beacon House and Freels' Bend Cabin can contribute to the telling of our history just as the Manhattan Project, Medical Isotopes, Cold War, Birth of a City, International Friendship Bell and other historic sites in our city. The Alexander Guest House, a senior living center now, which was the Guest House during the Manhattan Project and is included in the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, is an excellent example of a structure that has been saved and thus still plays a key role in telling our history!

Oak Ridge has many unique historical structures and stories. I have been pleased to bring you this update on our own Airmail Beacon House.

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

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

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



Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week

This week we honor Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant First Class (SFC) Thomas P. Payne of the United States Army as the veteran of the week.

SFC Payne was awarded the Medal of Honor on September 11, 2020, for his actions on October 22, 2015, during a hostage rescue at an Islamic State prison compound in the north of the town of Hawija, Kirkuk Province, Iraq, in support of Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve. The joint operation, conducted with the Kurdish CTG (Counter-Terrorism Group), resulted in the rescue of 70 Iraqi prisoners with one American casualty, Delta Force Master Sergeant Joshua Wheeler. Payne received the Medal of Honor from President Donald Trump during a ceremony at the White House. He is the first living Delta Force member to receive the Medal of Honor, the third Delta Force recipient after Master Sergeant Gary Gordon and Sergeant First Class Randy Shughart who died in the 1993 Battle of Mogadishu, and the first Medal of Honor recipient for Operation Inherent Resolve.

SFC Payne's Medal of Honor Citation.

Sergeant First Class Thomas P. Payne distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, above and beyond the call of duty, on October 22, 2015, during a daring nighttime hostage rescue in Kirkuk Province, Iraq, in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. Sergeant Payne led a combined assault team charged with clearing one of two buildings known to house the hostages. With speed, audacity, and courage, he led his team as they quickly cleared the assigned building, liberating 38 hostages. Upon hearing a request for additional assaulters to assist with clearing the other building, Sergeant Payne, on his own initiative, left his secured position, exposing himself to enemy fire as he bounded across the compound to the other building from which en-



trenched enemy forces were engaging his comrades. Sergeant Payne climbed a ladder to the building's roof, which was partially engulfed in flames, and engaged enemy fighters below with grenades and small arms fire. He then moved back to ground level to engage the enemy forces through a breach hole in the west side of the building. Knowing time was running out for the hostages trapped inside the burning building, Sergeant Payne moved to the main entrance, where heavy enemy fire had thwarted previous attempts to enter.

He knowingly risked his own life by bravely entering the building under intense enemy fire, enduring smoke, heat, and flames to identify the armored door imprisoning the hostages. Upon exiting, Sergeant Payne exchanged his rifle for bolt cutters, and again entered the building, ignoring the enemy rounds impacting the walls around him as he cut the locks on a complex locking mechanism. His courageous actions motivated the coalition assault team members to enter the breach and assist with cutting the locks. After exiting to catch his breath, he reentered the building to make the final lock cuts, freeing 37 hostages. Sergeant Payne then facilitated the evacuation of the hostages, even though ordered to evacuate the collapsing building himself, which was now structurally unsound due to the fire. Sergeant Payne then reentered the burning building one last time to ensure everyone had been evacuated. He consciously exposed himself to enemy automatic gunfire each time he entered the building. His extraordinary heroism and selfless actions were key to liberating 75 hostages during a contested rescue mission that resulted in 20 enemies killed in action. Sergeant First Class Payne's gallantry under fire and uncommon valor are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the United States Special Operations Command, and the United States Army.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

This week we honor all who serve in blue with a poem.
"The Badge"

He starts his shift each day
To respond to calls unknown.
He drives a marked patrol car.
A police officer he is known.

He's paid by the citizens' taxes
To make it safe on the streets.
But he usually has a second job
'Cause a waitress has his salary beat.

Now he doesn't know a holiday
'Cause he works all year round.
And when Thanksgiving and
Christmas finally arrive
At his home he cannot be found.

He's cursed and assaulted often,
The one whose blood runs blue.
He seldom ever gets a thanks,
To some he's just a fool.

His friends are always other cops
'Cause people just don't understand
That underneath his badge and gun,
He's just another man.

He knows there might not be a tomorrow
In this world of drugs and crime.
And he gets so mad at the court system
'Cause the crooks don't get any time.

And each day when he leaves for work,
He prays to God above.
Please bring me home after my shift
So I can see the ones I love.



But tonight he stops a speeding car,
He's alone down this ole' highway.
It's just a little traffic infraction.
He does it every day.

Well, he walks up to the driver's window,
And his badge is shining bright.
He asked the guy for a driver's license,
When a shot rang through the night.

Yes, the bullet hit its mark,
Striking the officer in the chest.
But the Department's budget

didn't buy
Each officer a bullet-proof vest.

So he lay on the ground bleeding.
His blood wasn't blue - His blood was red.
And briefly he thought of his loved ones
'Cause in a moment the officer was dead.

In the news they told the story
Of how this officer had died.
And some who listened cared less,
But those who loved him cried.

Well, they buried him in uniform
With his badge pinned on his chest.
He even had his revolver,
He died doing his best.

Written By:
David L. Bell

The IRS has been looking for stimulus fraud and ineligible payments



David Zubler

Due to the pandemic the IRS was required to act quickly during the crisis to rush out stimulus payments while also dealing with the new and changing tax laws.

Unfortunately, identity thieves began taking advantage of the stimulus by filing fraudulent returns. Consequently, after the IRS discovered the activity, they created specific filters to identify potentially fraudulent filings. When a return was identified to be potentially fraudulent, it was forwarded to an IRS team for review. As of Nov.

11, 2020, the IRS recognized 457,325 questionable returns and had determined that 38,273 returns were a fraudulent stimulus claim.

"In 2020, the IRS found itself in uncharted waters, as did the nation," wrote Kenneth Corbin, commissioner of the IRS's Wage and Investment Division. "The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic presented some of the greatest challenges to the IRS history, both in terms of being able to carry out our mission in protecting the health and safety of taxpayers and our own workforce."

The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) determined that approximately 4.4 million potentially ineligible payments were made to individuals as of July 16, 2020. Taxpayers voluntarily returned 65,447 stimulus payments totaling more than \$80 million as of Oct. 1, 2020.

Many ineligible payments went to deceased individuals. Congress and the IRS made several changes in terms of the eligibility of widows and widowers to receive payments on behalf of deceased spouses which

made the rules confusing for taxpayers. Consequently, the IRS updated the EIP FAQs on its website with new guidance concerning payments that were issued to deceased individuals.

The IRS informed many taxpayers who received the payments for an individual who died before the receipt of the payment that the payment should be returned to the IRS. Additionally, the IRS included steps that should be taken to return these payments as part of its FAQs.

Ineligible payments also went to individuals with filing status changes, ineligible dependents, nonresidents, and individuals in U. S. territories who have already received payments from the territories.

The IRS has added instructions to its website to provide information about stimulus ineligibility and the need to return the payments. It also provides information about the process for returning the stimulus.

If you believe that you may have received stimulus that you weren't eligible for, the IRS website will provide answers and instructions to help you resolve issues that you may have.

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.

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said unto thee,
Ye must be born again.

John 3:7

- Jesus

Sunbright Public Library will have
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inside the library. Left over items will
be for sale at the library during regu-
lar library hours after the book sale.



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Be Not Deceived



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

The command of Messiah to his disciples. Many shall come in my Name. Is the name of Messiah more important to a believer than the word of God? Do most believers understand whose name they are invoking? No one can serve two masters, you will love the one, while despising the other. Jesus Christ said these words. Who was he talking to?

When Jesus Christ asked the Apostles who people said that he was, they responded with the same answers Christians give today. Only today, they do not believe Jesus Christ is present to correct their denominational thinking. Roman traditions have replaced, "Thus says the Lord"! There is no power in the Gospel being prostituted in our houses of worship. No one is eagerly awaiting the sound of the trumpet to call the bride home. The word being taught in Church is an emotion laden diatribe clinging to whatever doctrine the pastor learned in western seminary. What would life be like if Christians once again were willing to die for the salvation promised by Jesus Christ to all who would believe? What if professing Christians fulfilled Jesus Christ's command to go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel? The Laodicean Church has manifest in our denominational houses of worship, and the United States finds itself under the abandonment wrath of God as I pen these words. God is once again raising up apostles willing to forgo earthly wealth, abandon the failed three-dimensional church model, and returning to the word of God daily, to find out if what John Burns is saying is true. True Christians are Berean Christians right out of Acts 17! Hallelujah.

The Bible you possess, is the most amazing piece of literature ever written. It contains at least 245 parts of speech in English alone. The Hebrew language is the God of creation's love language. It is a self-correcting three out of four error correcting digital code. It is the world's original algorithm, written by the greatest code-talker in history. It contains every math problem and answer, human beings have ever pondered. The Bible can be proven to have been written outside of how we humans experience time. It is the warranty deed, and owner's manual for every person born of a woman. It describes our past, our present, and our future. On the microcosm and the macrocosm. It contains every answer for every complex question humans experience, in the flesh and beyond. It was conceived by a loving God before he spoke the foundations of our universe into existence. It is the manual of war, and a path to finding peace. It has all the elements of a great mystery, the prose of a wedding ceremony undergirding the entire message, and the promises of our creator to never leave us nor forsake us. Yet, we Christians refuse to open it, run from wielding it, and judge others by the parts we choose to believe is how God sees only us. Coming to Christ means crucifying our religious pre-suppositions that keep us in bondage to Christian eugenics. We look just like the world we claim we were called out of. God is least happy with the modern A-millennial Christian denominational church, that permeates the American religious experience. God needs sons of thunder again! Hallelujah.

How does a believer guard against deception in any form? According to our Bible, by living according to God's word. In two places in the Bible, God reminds believers that anyone who adds to or takes away from the words of the prophecy of the Bible, would suffer the plagues contained within the book. God warns believers 14 times in the Old Testament, that they need to quit doing what is right in their own eyes. God went out of his way to teach us our history as Christians, in the lives of our Jewish ANCESTORS FOUND IN THE STORIES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. Yet Christians became incredibly anti-Semitic by the death of John the Apostle in 103 AD. The anti-Nicean Church fathers went out of their way to separate from all things Jewish, except for the Pagan desire to build elaborate Temples, and their desire to establish a Church hierarchy which God abhors in any form. To understand the New Testament, one must comprehend the Old Testament. Hebrews tells us of the abundance of the Law it is written of me. Jesus Christ only quoted from the Old Testament. He taught in

parables to get believers to discern those parables, by reading their origins out of the Torah. The Book of Revelation has 404 verses with 800 allusions found only in the Old Testament. Jesus Christ points the Apostles to his origins as outlined in our Old Testament. Jesus Christ practiced Hebrew hermeneutics not Greek. Jesus Christ is a Jewish rabbi who fulfilled every covenant in our Old Testament, and they are all eternal. Paul is quoted as saying that his Gospel he preached was that Jesus Christ died according to scripture, was buried according to scripture, and he rose again the third day according to scripture. What Scriptures was Paul referring to when he wrote Corinthians in 58 AD? When writers of the Bible read the Bible, they all read it as literal fulfillment. Hallelujah.. Ephesians 6 reminds believers that they are to put on the full armor of God and take with them the sword of the spirit, which is the written word of God. The Bible is identified by Jesus Christ as a two-edged-sword. To rightly divide the word of truth, by definition, requires we understand at least two things. I believe the two attributes of God can be gleaned only when a believer can wield both edges of their sword and when a believer places their entire hope in what God says and not what indoctrinated men say. The Church will never sanctify a believer. Only the study of God's word daily, and the belief that God is able to chasten a believer to total belief in every word God spoke to holy men, as God saw fit to reveal to them at set times. Jesus Christ's example to quote the Old Testament origins of himself, is our key to not being deceived as a modern believer. Deception is present in our modern houses of worship. So long as the modern church refuses to learn mercy God's way, they will continue to believe God saves them to judge everyone else. When David was embroiled in adultery, conspiracy, and murder, he still deferred to the word of God and he appealed to God's divine attributes of mercy and grace. He wanted to be judged by God and not by the Pharisees or Sadducees. He believed in God's word more than he believed in religious men who thought they were chosen to judge others as to outward piety. God gave each of us the word of God to judge ourselves alone, and to find out if we are totally willing to forgo Earthly living, to be willing to endure persecution, and to repent of all of our religious traditions that have replaced relationship to God as creator, with fertility holidays that destroy the moral fabric of the world God intends to rule and reign in. Teshuva; repent and return to the word of God, and only then will a believer in Christ experience revival! Hallelujah.

I rely totally upon God's written word for guidance in all of my dealings. I treat every person I encounter with God's mercy and grace. I do not believe God saved me to make me good. I believe he saved me to raise me from dead Roman religious practices. I believe he is sanctifying me to help the believing world get back under the chastening of the entire Bible message. Humility is at the heart of a return to thus says the Lord. The only person who made money off the crucifixion of Christ was Judas. If your church follows an American business model, it is not part of God's kingdom. If mercy is not the foundation by which your pastor is building the house of grace, then he is not called by Jesus Christ. A return to the Bible Jesus Christ taught from, is America's only hope. For America ever to be great again, it must return to the Puritan model, and place the Bible back in our children's education experience. He was crucified upon a cross of wood, yet he created the hill upon which it stood. Even so come Lord Jesus Christ. John Burns May 4, 2021

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

Tennessee Wins In Dramatic

Fashion, Thanks To Walk-Off

Grand Slam

By: Trey Wallace



As the crowd was streaming into Lindsey Nelson Stadium on Friday night, you could tell it would be an electric atmosphere. Nobody expected what was coming in the 9th, maybe besides the Tennessee roster. This game got off to an interesting start for the Vols, as Wright State jacked a 2-run homer in the 1st inning, giving them an early 2-0 lead. As for starting pitcher Chad Dallas, he continued to battle and try to keep the Vols out of many jams, which he did until the 5th inning. Tennessee answered back in the 2nd inning, as Luc Lipcius hit a rocket down the right field line, which cleared the wall and Tennessee was back in it, trailing 2-1. The Vols would end up being the aggressive team in the 3rd inning, as Connor Pavolony hit a 2-run homer to right

field and Max Ferguson backed it up with a homer of his own. Thanks to an RBI-double from Lipcius, Tennessee led 5-2, heading into the 4th inning. But for Wright State, they just kept hanging around, tacking on a run in the 4th and 5th inning, thanks to the deep ball. That's when things started to feel different and State was starting to gain the momentum, even though they still trailed 5-4.

Tennessee kept putting themselves in tough spots all evening, especially leaving runners on base, which they ended the night with six. As Sean Hunley came in to relieve Dallas, he settled in for a bit until Wright State struck pay dirt in the 7th. Sitting at a 2-1 count, Hunley threw a fastball that was destroyed to left center for a 3-run homer for State, giving them a 7-5 lead. At this moment, you could feel the air slip out of the stadium.

Wright State wasn't done, especially from a home run perspective. A 2-out homer in the 8th inning gave them an 8-5 lead and Tennessee fans were thinking about returning at noon on Saturday to watch their Vols, at least a few of them. Wright State had 7 HR's through 7 innings, scoring six unanswered runs and putting the Vols on life support.

Now, picture over 4,000 fans screaming at the top of their lungs, holding on to hope that Gilbert could somehow will this team closer in the box score. It was an 0-1 count and Lindsey Nelson Stadium was about to explode like you've never heard it before. Gilbert struck the ball so hard that there was absolutely no doubt what we had just witnessed. Tennessee had done it again, another walk-off win in a crucial moment. This time, it came in an NCAA Regional and in front of a rabid fanbase that was desperate to feel that emotion of something powerful happening. It was absolute chaos from the Tennessee players and fans who were dying for a moment like tonight. Not only did the Vols prevent an

elimination game, but they defeated a team that had no reason being a 4-seed in their bracket.

This was one of the craziest endings to a Tennessee sporting event that you will ever witness and see again.

The Vols were feeling the pure energy from the thousands of rabid fans as Drew Gilbert rounded third and headed home, to cap off an incredible comeback. In the famous words of legendary Tennessee broadcaster, you could easily sum up tonight's ending. "Pandemonium Reigns".

Trey Wallace is a Knoxville-based journalist who has been covering University of Tennessee athletics since early 2018. His passion for sports is evident in his work and has led him to break some of college football's biggest stories. His vast social media reach and natural podcast proficiency continue to make Wallace one of Vol Nation's most trusted sources. Wallace was born and raised in Mobile, AL and graduated from the University of South Alabama. He loves the mountains as much as the beach and looks forward to living in East Tennessee for many years to come.

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



The grand re-opening and summer reading kickoff at Oakdale Library on Saturday, June 5 was a success and everyone who attended had a great time. Approximately 70 people came out for the fun. The day started with County Executive Brian Langley reading a proclamation to start the summer reading program. Randy Raccoon and Sparky the Fire Dog were in attendance. Children visiting were able to view the fire truck and received a fireman's hat and water bottle. Heather, Savannah and Sierra Alonso brought Samson and Apple Jack for horse rides which were a big hit with the children and even a couple of adults. There were snacks for everyone. There was a used book sale, stuffed pet adoptions and library cards assigned. Congratulations to Jr. Nichols who won the "Tails and Tales" gift basket. Library director, Kim Colston, would like to thank everyone who attended and those who donated items and helped in any way.

Happy Birthday today, June 8, to Teagan Kirby, Remington Bunch, Missy Powers, Brenda Reed, Rita Whited, Donna Ruppe Brown, Justin Osborn and our Valerie Lake and Hattie Ruppe. Wishing each of you a wonderful day.

Jeffery and Cheryl Johnson enjoyed a trip on Memorial Day weekend along the Blue Ridge Parkway. They visited Lineville Falls and Grandfather Mountain. They stayed in Bristol and went to South Holston Dam. They enjoyed family time with Jay, Sissy and MaKayla Johnson while visiting Rock Island State Park, Burgess Falls and ending the day at Fall Creek Falls.

Jennifer and Crusade Ruppe, Cartie Disney, Kayla, Clara and Hattie Ruppe and I recently spent a couple of days at The Wilderness in Sevierville. We had a good time at Dollywood and the Soaky Mountain Waterpark.

Vacation Bible School is going on this week at a couple of local churches.

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

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

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

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

Monday, June 14, Oakdale Library will host a family event. "Kindness Rocks" will be the theme and everyone of all ages can paint rocks to keep or hide.

Sunbright Public Library will have a used book sale Saturday, June 12 from 9:00 - 2:00 at the City Park. In the case of rain, the book sale will be inside the library. Left over items will be for sale at the library during regular library hours after the book sale.

This is a reminder that ALL Morgan County kids ages 18 and under are eligible to receive FREE MEALS that will be available for pick up each Friday from 12:00-12:30 P.M. Go to one of the following school sites: Central Elementary School, Coalfield School, Petros Joyner School, Oakdale School and Sunbright School.

Pray for all that needs to be prayed about. God knows each situation and has things in control but it is our duty to take our burdens to Him. Pray for the many sick and their caregivers, those who have lost loved ones, our pastors and churches, Vacation Bible Schools, homes, the military, missionaries, our leaders and most of all, pray for the lost.

Kindness makes you the most beautiful person in the world, no matter what you look like. - Anonymous.

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Romans 7

Romans 7:1-6 dead to the law; alive to God: Paul now speaks to a fundamental principle. The law has a claim on people while they are living. Here is an example. A woman is bound to her husband only while he is alive. If the husband dies, she is discharged from his law. If she joins herself to another man while her husband is alive, she is rightly labeled as an adulteress. However, if the husband dies, she is free to wed again without the stigma of adultery. What is the point of the illustration? (This analogy is limited; it does not consider a potential divorce for marital infidelity (Mt. 19:9); such would serve no purpose in this example.)

Here is the point. The Jewish Christians were made "dead" (separated) to the law of Moses by means of the death of Christ (Eph. 2:13-15; Col. 2:14) so that they might be joined to another. (The death of Christ terminated the law of Moses.) Phasing into a new stage of the imagery, there is the reference to Jesus, who was raised from the dead. By implication, Jewish converts were joined to him through the gospel that "fruit" (spiritual offspring) might be brought forth to God (v.4). Clearly the death of Christ was the "continental divide" between the two covenant systems.

Here is the application. Before Jewish Christians were converted, those sinful urges, revealed by the law, worked through their body members, leading them to death (v. 5). But now (having become Christians), they "discharged" from Moses' law. Paul argues: "We have died to the bondage of that system. We now serve with a new disposition, not in the former legalistic fashion."

(Romans 7:7-13) the law and sin: are we to conclude that the law itself was sinful? Certainly not. It was very good for its intended purpose. The law was designed to teach the Jew the nature of sin, which he could not have known without it. For example, one could not have defined "coveting" if the law had not prohibited such and illustrated it. (Paul quotes from the Ten Commandments; this negates the Sabbatarian quibble that though the "ceremonial" law was cancelled by Jesus' death, the Decalogue was not.)

The law is personified as an agent of complicity in generating sin (since there would be no sin without law). It frequently is the case that when one is forbidden to do something, his evil impulses encourage him to yield all the more (v. 8). Paul, using himself as an illustration, suggests that apart from law (and thus the knowledge of sin), one feels alive. But when he is exposed to the law, sin (which has lain dormant as a result of ignorance) comes to life with all its ugliness, and one learns he is spiritually dead (v. 9). The commandment (law) which was assumed to produce life, in reality produced nothing but death---for it had no power to impart life (v. 10). Sin is then personified. "Sin, working through the law (without which there would be no sin), deceived me, and provided me with the vain hope of life by means of the law." Paul says, "The law became a tool to take my life" (v. 11).

Is the fault to be found in the law itself? Not at all! For the law, as given by God, is holy, righteous, and good---for the purpose it was designed to accomplish. How then could that which is good produce death? When the law was trusted to provide life, which it

never could do, it produced only disappointment. The law, by furnishing the opportunity for violation, hence sin, ultimately became an instrument of death. Such should have driven one to grace and the Lord Jesus Christ---another important purpose of the law. The apostle now returns to a discussion of the aim of Moses' law. It was intended to show sin as sin and to highlight it as "exceeding sinful" (v. 13).

(Romans 7:14-25) the limitation of the law: in this segment of the chapter, Paul appears to use his own frustration to illustrate the ineptness of the law as a source of comfort in dealing with sin. The law was a spiritual instrument intended to reveal to the Jew his hopeless condition under Hebrew law. The problem was not with the law; it was with fleshly man, who, hard as he tries, sells out to sin, and his sinfulness is reflected by the law's condemnation. (When one is less-than-attractive---to express the matter courteously---there is no virtue in blaming the mirror.)

Paul's anxiety is summarized as follows: (a) In hyperbolic fashion, he feels like he has sold out to sin. (b) He does not understand why he does what he does on occasion. (c) He is conscious of things he should do---and wants to do---but is not doing. (d) He finds himself doing what he knows he ought not---even things he hates. It is a distressing situation. To employ a further dramatic description: at times it feels like he has lost his will power and that sin has taken up residence in him (14-17).

A source of much controversy is whether Paul is speaking of his pre-Christian life or his present struggle. The present tense verbs would appear to argue in favor of the latter view (for an excellent discussion see Jack Cottrell's commentary). He therefore appears to be emphasizing that while his soul has been saved from sin, he still resides in a fleshly body, lone trained by habit (Eph. 2:1-3), and that his life is one of constant warfare---without and within (v. 18-19). The humble apostle does not deny personal responsibility; he does concede a tremendous struggle within him (v. 20-21). If such was true in Paul's case, what shall be said for those of us of weaker constitution?

The brutally honest, conflicted apostle describes the emotional turmoil that is common to devout Christians of every age. There is a delight for the principle of law that puts man under obligation to the Creator and helps restrain him, appealing to his mind with evidence and reason. There is, however, a different law that wars in one's body members. Such leaves us in a state of wretchedness at times, and causes us to long for deliverance (v. 24). There is, however, a different law that wars in one's body members. Such leaves us in a state of wretchedness at times, and causes us to long for deliverance (v. 24). There is a fresh breeze across this confusing terrain; it is the hope we have through our Lord Jesus Christ, the dispenser of grace (v. 25). Paul therefore pledges to continue serving God with his mind and within the framework of divine restraint, though he understands that sin will always be a problem as long as he is in the flesh.



MELVIN HOWARD

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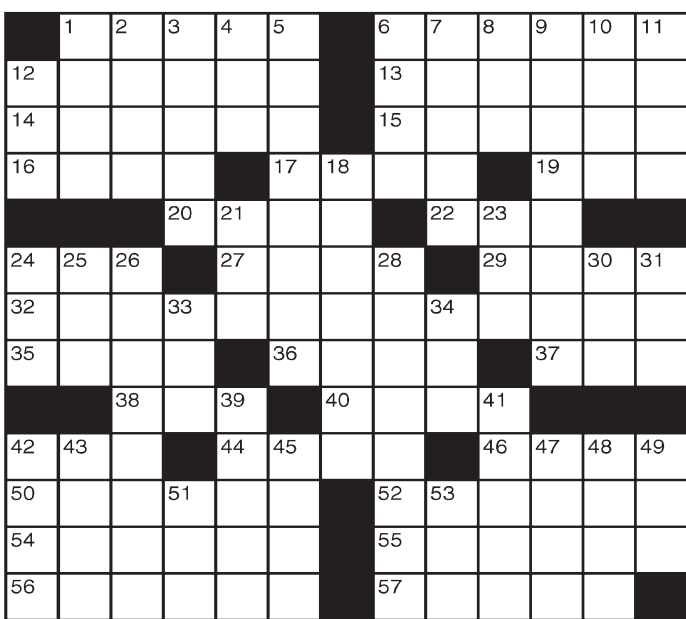
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Lingo
- 6 Slopes regular
- 12 Tenant
- 13 Sheathe
- 14 Schedules
- 15 Pumpkin relatives
- 16 Appointment
- 17 Spring melt-down
- 19 Cooking fuel
- 20 Libertine
- 22 Poseidon's home
- 24 Satisfied sigh
- 27 La Scala solo
- 29 Fine spray
- 32 Fruity rum cocktail
- 35 Author Wiesel
- 36 Eve's third son
- 37 That girl
- 38 "Awesome, dude!"
- 40 Pop
- 42 Trojans' sch.
- 44 Org.
- 46 Forget-me- (flowers)
- 50 Paris art museum
- 52 Athlete's woe
- 54 Tempt
- 55 Point maker
- 56 Op-ed pieces
- 57 Dwelling



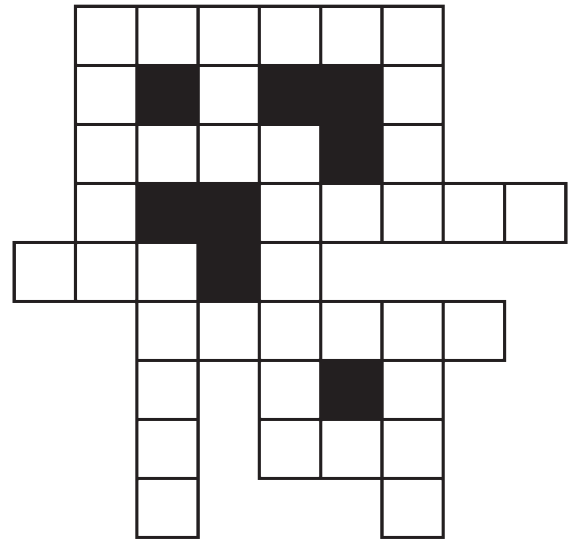
DOWN

- 1 Actress Ward
- 2 Aspiring atty.'s exam
- 3 Fall bloom
- 4 Formerly called
- 5 Hand signals
- 6 Video game giant
- 7 Recognizes
- 8 Hosp. section
- 9 Haggles
- 10 Fed. food inspector
- 11 GI dining hall
- 12 Leary's drug
- 18 Patty Hearst, for one
- 21 Feed-bag morsel
- 23 Outback bird
- 24 Mimic
- 25 100 percent
- 26 Barber's offerings
- 28 Flabbergast
- 30 Learning ctr.
- 31 Common title start
- 33 Museum-funding org.
- 34 Prof's degree
- 39 "Pride and Prejudice" suitor
- 41 Pear variety
- 42 Peter Fonda's beekeeper role
- 43 Male deliveries?
- 45 Beholds
- 47 Partially mine
- 48 Genealogy chart
- 49 Neighbor of Leb.
- 51 By way of
- 53 Sgt., e.g.

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- GOH
- HORGUT
- ♥HORET
- ♥RBDA
- NIGLEO
- TYE
- GHHI
- OBGEL
- ARO
- GUYHOD
- OBTOA
- NOOT



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

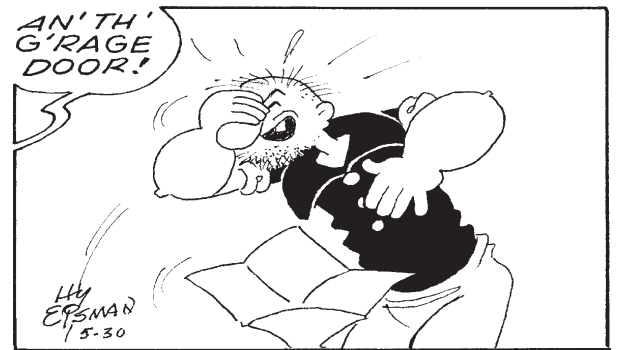
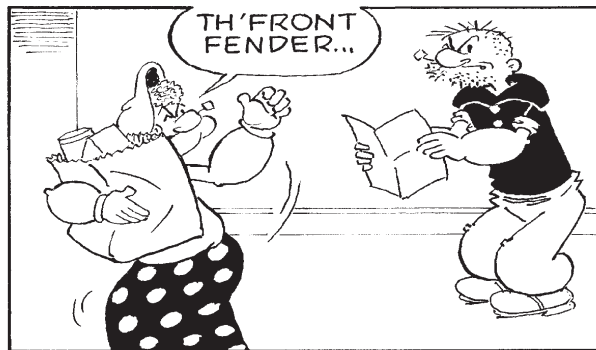
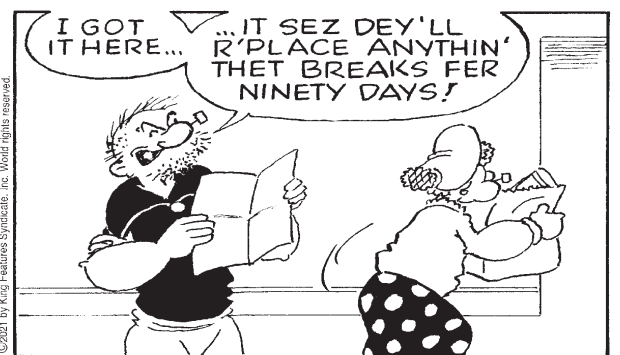
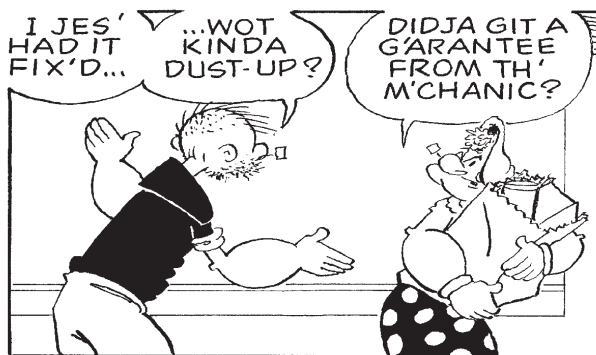
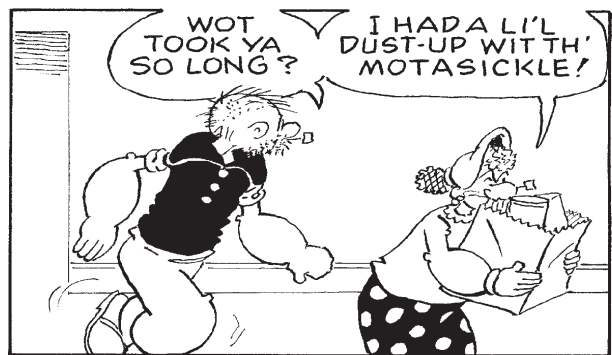
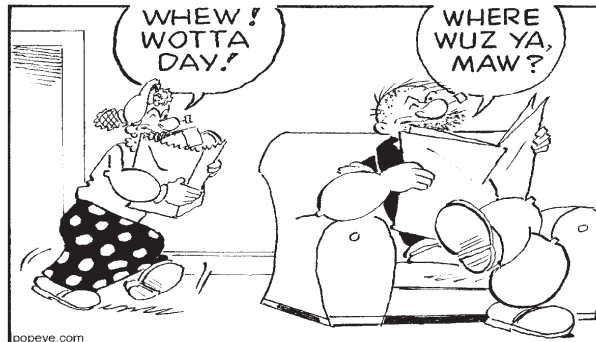
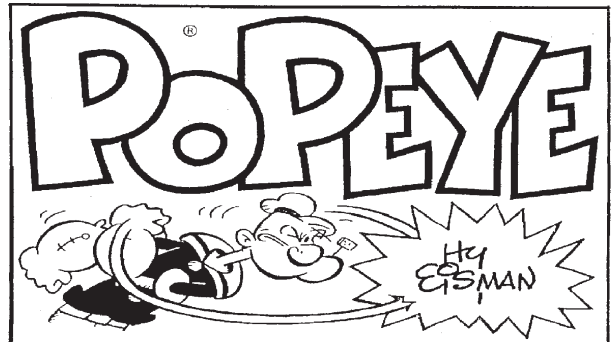
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

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

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answer

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

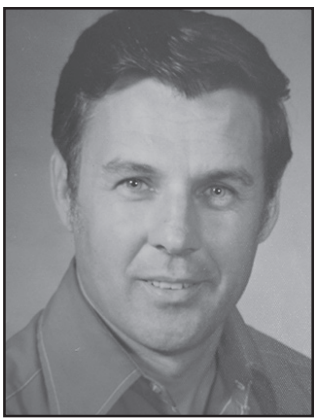
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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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Tom Redmon
Columnist

Our Heroes on the Big Screen (The Days of Western Movies)

Many boys who grew up in the 40's no doubt remember the days of the double feature westerns playing at the Princess Theater in Harriman. I still get excited when I think of Johnny Mac Brown, Tim Holt, Hopalong Cassidy, Roy Rogers and Gene Autry among others riding their horses across the silver screen into our lives. They were the kind of heroes we need today because they were always the good guys after the bad guys.

The Pioneer Theater hadn't opened yet and television was still several years away. All week-long boys were thinking about Saturday; saving up a quarter to ride the greyhound bus to Harriman and a dime to get into the theater to see an exciting double feature western. Believe it or not getting 35 cents wasn't easy, sometimes we had to cut into our school lunch money.

On Saturday morning we would find ourselves standing in line or sitting on the concrete waiting for the lady to get into the pay booth of the great Princess Theater. The entire audience might not be all boys under fifteen years of age but I'd say eighty percent were.

One cowboy that was very popular was William Boyd aka Hopalong Cassidy. Hopalong rode a beautiful white horse named "Topper" another popular cowboy would ride this white stallion into fame. His name was "The Lone Ranger" and the horse was "Silver." Topper was a real ham. Once while they were filming, he accidentally stepped into a bucket, and everybody laughed. Then they moved the bucket off the road and started to

reshoot. Topper actually went out of his way to step in it again; he wanted the laughs.

Boyd was born in 1895, in Hendrysburg, Ohio. He did a lot of things the first thirty-five years of his life; even appeared in several silent films like "King of Kings" and "The Volga Boatman." He even became a heavy drinker and party goer, but when he met and married Grace

their teeth or to take their spurs off before going to bed. Boyd's personal appearances were standing room only; at one 340,000 kids and parents stood in line to meet him. He was perceived as fatherly even grandfatherly and he took care of people, making them feel he would be a good person to have on their side.

Between 1935 and 1948,



Bradley his life changed for the better.

Hoppy dressed in black from head to toe and rode a snow-white horse. He warmed hearts chilled by cold war fears. Parents actually urged their children to watch Hoppy, hoping his honesty, respect for others and patriotism might rub off. In time, Boyd would be inundated with phone calls from moms and dads begging him to tell little Billy and Jane to brush

Boyd made 66 Hoppy movies. At one time over 2,000 products carried the Hoppy name. In 1950 the Hopalong Cassidy empire was said to be worth over 200 million dollars.

When Topper (Silver) died Boyd felt like it was time to hang it up. It was 1960 and things were changing; westerns no longer drew the crowds like they did in the late 40's and early 50's. The space age was taking over. Boyd spent his

later years living quietly in Palm Desert, California, where he was happy to walk the streets unrecognized. He died of a brain tumor in 1972. He was seventy-years-old. He not only became a cowboy star on the wide screen but virtually overnight, the silver-haired cowboy established himself as America's first true television hero. Within three months more people were watching Hoppy than Arthur Godfrey, Ed Sullivan, and Groucho Marx. The Lone Ranger, who was my favorite came along about the same time as Hopalong Cassidy. At first, he was a star on the radio and many boys in the late 40's couldn't wait until they got home from school. He came on the radio around 4:30 or 5:00 pm.

I remember at the Princess when the good cowboy was chasing the bad guys and was getting close to them, how the entire audience would stand up and cheer.

I believe the American people needed some real heroes at this time in our history. We had been through the Great Depression and the worst war that our country had been involved in. We needed something to get our minds off the bad things and western movies filled the bill. In the movies made back then the good guys always won. Much of the West in the early days was wild and the law in many places was not very well established.

I'm glad that they are re-playing a lot of the old movies on television. The Lone Ranger is on almost every day. You might have to search a long time for it.

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Coal Dust: Finally, I Understood!

By Terry Futrell

However successful you are, there is no substitute for a close relationship. We all need them.

Francesca Annis

Unlike many other kids, I never had a good relationship with my father when I was growing up. He never took me fishing, hunting, or to ball games. My participation in sports was frowned upon and viewed as a waste of time. Most importantly, I never heard him utter "I love you". My dad had been a coal miner all his life since the age of ten, and he returned to working in the mines after the war. I can remember him leaving home very early in the morning, long before daylight, with his carbide lantern and lunch bucket to travel to distant mines. He would return very late in the evening with blackened face and arms, with just enough time to take a bath in the washtub, eat, and go to bed, only to repeat the cycle the next day. Such was the life of a coal miner.

Along with working in the mines, my dad participated in an agricultural program established by the Farmer's Home Administration for GIs who had returned from World War II. Through training and federal loans, the program was intended to equip former soldiers to earn a living through farming. My dad took the training, borrowed money to purchase a team of horses, plows, and seeds, and then rented additional property on which to raise corn. The payback wasn't there and the endeavor simply resulted in debt, not just for our family but for many other families who received the government "help". This was the beginning of an economic roller coaster for our family that would last throughout my high school years. One of the peaks of that economic roller coaster came when my dad got a job about 1950 as a converter maintenance mechanic at the K-25 Plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, which enriched uranium for the Atomic Energy Commission. Finally, there was a sustainable source of income, and my dad upgraded the shack that was our house, installing electric wiring and appliances, drilling a new well, installing indoor plumbing in the kitchen (but still no bathroom), and adding new siding on the exterior. For a few years, we were poor no longer. Then, just as quickly as the peak began, disaster struck. Massive layoffs occurred at the K-25 Plant and my dad lost his job and his new 1956 Chevrolet. Faced with no job opportunities, he purchased the stock in the Company Store, the last remaining symbol of the Coalfield mining camps, rented the old store building, and tried to make a living selling groceries. By that time, there simply weren't enough people left in the Camp to make the business successful.

Finally, after failure of the grocery store, my dad took the only other job that he could find in the area - working as a prison guard at the Brushy Mountain maximum security prison in Petros, Tennessee. Ironically, Brushy Mountain was built because of the Coal Creek War of the 1890s, an armed uprising by coal miners in neighboring Anderson County. The miners fought the Tennessee Militia to abolish the State's practice of renting convicts to mining companies at cut-rate prices, taking workers jobs away.

While the income as a prison guard was steady, it was grossly insufficient to meet the economic needs of any family. My dad worked 72 hours each week for only \$180 per month, and he had to provide his own uniforms. In addition, politics were very much a part of the Tennessee prison system and he was expected to financially support the campaigns of the party in power. My dad remained in this meager job throughout my last few years in high school, and my prospects for a college education seemed distant at that point.

One of the highlights of my dad's years working at the prison was guarding James Earl Ray, the confessed killer of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. During those times, my dad had opportunities to talk to Ray, who assured my dad that the killing of Dr. King was a conspiracy and he did not act alone. Ray shared the same conspiracy story with others - the truth went with Ray to the grave when he died in prison in 1998, three years after the passing of my dad.

The loss of his job at the K-25 Plant had left my dad embittered against education because he blamed educated

people for automating the plant and eliminating jobs. Many times, I heard him exclaim "Education is ruining the world!" When he said that, it simply strengthened my resolve to pursue an education at all costs and was a source of contention between us for many years.

As I have grown older and spent considerable time researching our family history, I have found my perspective changing. Now I think of things that were important but that never dawned on me as a teenage boy. While we never had much money, I can say that we never missed a meal, largely because of the tremendous amount of work that my father put into raising vegetables and a few pigs. Even after the kids were all grown and had left home, my dad was still driven to plant garden crops on practically every square foot of ground that he owned. I have never witnessed anyone with a stronger work ethic. I have also learned that love can be expressed without uttering a word.

There was another aspect to his character that I remember well - he never turned down someone in need. I recall a time in the 1960s when he was coming home early in the morning from working the night shift at the prison farm near Wartburg. It had snowed and there was at least 6-8 inches of snow on the roads. He encountered Charles Roberts, a young man who was a former Coalfield resident serving in the military at the time, standing shivering near Petros Junction trying to get home on leave to Harriman, Tennessee. Even though the roads were treacherous, my father would consider nothing less than driving Charles to his

parents' home in Harriman.

After a near fatal accident in the mid-1960s in which he was run over by a farm tractor, my dad felt the call to become a preacher and was ordained as a Southern Baptist minister. He pastored several churches in the Coalfield area over the next twenty years, always rigidly holding to his doctrinal beliefs. This became one more source of contention between the two of us, as well as between him and my oldest brother Tommy, who was also a Southern Baptist minister.

I was working in Washington, DC, in 1993 when I received the call that my dad had a stroke while doing what he loved best, working in his garden. Mother just happened to look out the kitchen window and saw him standing stationary holding the handlebars of his garden tiller. While he suffered some physical difficulties because of the stroke, he mostly recovered. Then, about a year later came the massive stroke from which he never recovered.

He was physically so strong that his body lasted for nine months, even though his mental capacity seemed almost totally diminished. I recall spending his last night with him in the hospital along with my brother Tommy. Near the end, there seemed to be an attempt by my dad to communicate with Tommy. Perhaps at that moment, in some mysterious way, there was reconciliation over past differences.

We spend our entire lives thinking we know someone, but with respect to my father, I found that not to be true. I knew that he had dropped out of school as a young boy to work in the coal mines. But, it was only in recent years that I realized it was of necessity because his father was disabled and could not work to support their family. The significance of a ten-year-old boy going to work in the mines had somehow escaped me. Then, I recently visited the Coal Creek Miners Museum in Rocky Top (previously Lake City and before that Coal Creek). There is a display in the museum that depicts a young boy and an adult male going to work in a coal mine.

As I viewed the exhibit, I suddenly realized that this was my father's childhood - nothing but hard work in the worst possible hazardous environment. There was no playing, no sports, no frivolity in his life, just a constant struggle to see that his parents and siblings had something to eat. What a burden to place on a ten-year-old! I then lost it and the tears flowed. Finally, twenty years after my father's death, I understood!

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The display in the Coal Creek Miners Museum that triggered Terry's realization of what it meant for his father to go to work in the mines at age ten [Photo: Terry Futrell]



Terry and his father Lewis Futrell ca 1951. [Photo Submitted]

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