

# Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3

Volume 07 Number 29

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Your Community. Your News.

75¢

## For God, and Country



**Inside:**

Michael Nance joins

MoCo Today

Weather

History

Hometown Heroes

*Jerry Futrell*  
Photography

Cover Photo: Bulldogs:  
McCarty, McPeters,  
Johnson salute the  
flag during baseball  
season



Morgan County  Today  
Your Community. Your News.

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**MAIL DELIVERY  
SUBSCRIPTIONS**

CALL 423-346-2329  
POSTMASTER:  
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P.O. BOX 451,  
WARTBURG, TN 37887

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**PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID  
AT WARTBURG, TN  
USPS PUBLICATION NUMBER  
(15400)**

**I'D  
RATHER  
BE  
READING.**

#mocotoday

# Michael Nance Joins MoCo Today Team

## *Veteran, Author, County Historian*



At the Morgan County Today we are excited to welcome back Michael W. Nance as a regular columnist in our newspaper. Over the last few years Michael has wrote in both of our local papers, but now he will be exclusively providing content for the Morgan County Today. To you who may not be familiar with Michael, he is first and foremost a combat veteran of operation Iraqi Freedom III. He served various roles in his service in Iraq including the Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) for Battle Position Caldwell, and later being assigned as a military advisor to the 1st Division 3rd Battalion of the Iraqi Army light infantry. During his service in Iraq Michael was awarded the Combat Action Badge and the Army Commendation Medal.

Michael is also an accomplished writer, publishing six books over the last seven years while working full time. He holds a B.A. in

History from the University of Memphis and serves as the current Morgan County Historian.

He will be writing a column that will appear twice a month in our paper. The column will focus on various topics including politics, technology, and local history. We look forward to providing his content that will always be created through the lens of a patriot who loves our country and our way of life.



### Summer weather means it's time to PLAY!!!



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### MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK


Tue 20 76°/63° 


Wed 21 85°/66° 

Thu 22 85°/67° 

Fri 23 83°/67° 

Sat 24 85°/68° 

Sun 25 85°/68° 

Mon 26 86°/67° 

# In Loving Memory

## Cathy Ridenour, 60

Cathy Ridenour age 60, passed away July 12, 2021 at Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge.

and a host of extended family and friends.

She is preceded in death by her father, Arthur Richardson and brother, Jeffery Richardson.

The family will receive friends Monday, July 19, 2021 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00-2:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Bro. Shawn Overton officiating. Interment will be at Union Cemetery.

She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Rocky Ridenour; mother, Betty Jo Lawon; 3 children, Michael (Amanda) Ridenour, Darrell (Toshia) Ridenour and Monica Bridges and former husband, Keith Bridges; grandchildren, Alura, Tori, Brenden, Jacob, Madlynne and Matthew; 2 brothers, Johnny (Brenda) Richardson and David Richardson; special niece and cousin, Nicole Ridenour and Hayley Richardson

In lieu of flowers the family ask that contributions be made to Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg, P.O. Box 326, Wartburg, TN 37887.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Cathy Ridenour.

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

# Homecoming at White Oak

White Oak Missionary Baptist Church in Sunbright will be having their annual homecoming service Sunday, July 25, 2021. The service will start at 10:00 a.m. with Bro. Larry Waters bringing the message and West Side Baptist Church singers will be singing. Bro. Doug Morgan invites everyone out to be with us for a great day of worshipping the Lord.

## Thursday, July 22, 2021 Meeting Announcement:

The Morgan County Chamber of Commerce will hold our Annual Meeting sponsored by Davis Funeral Home at the American Legion Post 149 on Thursday, July 22, 2021 from 1130am to 1pm. The Board of Directors will meet immediately prior at 1030 am. To RSVP and/or discuss your prepared biography for Board consideration, please contact Bridget DeFee at [chamber@morgancountytn.org](mailto:chamber@morgancountytn.org) or by phone at 423.346.5740.



### FREE COMMUNITY EVENT!

WHAT? Bubba J'S Thrift Store in Oliver Springs is celebrating their one-year anniversary. All ages are welcome.

Where? 544 E. Tri County Blvd Oliver Springs, TN 37840

Time/Day: August 7<sup>th</sup> 2021, 12:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M.

Come join us as we celebrate our one-year anniversary party. There will be games, Bounce house, food, drinks, pie eating contest, Paparazzi and live music. Also, we will be having a fill up the truck event with food for Dust Of Hope Mission. Prizes will be given away including a 32gb iPad. All winners will be announced at 1:30 P.M. and must be present to win.



Thursday, July 22, 2021 Meeting Announcement

The Morgan County Chamber of Commerce will hold our Annual Meeting sponsored by Davis Funeral Home at the American Legion Post 149 on Thursday, July 22, 2021 from 1130am to 1pm. The Board of Directors will meet immediately prior at 1030 am.

In addition, we will hear from Chamber members that are seeking a position on the Chamber Board of Directors in the upcoming election on July 22, 2021. If you are a current member of the Morgan County Chamber of Commerce as an individual or representative of a company or organization and would like to serve on the Board of Directors, please contact Bridget DeFee at [chamber@morgancountytn.org](mailto:chamber@morgancountytn.org) or by phone at 423.346.5740. You will need to prepare and send a brief biography; be prepared to present during our meeting. The following board seats will be on the ballot:

#### Wartburg/Lancing Area

- (1) Currently held by Ashley Davis who will not seek re-election 2021-2022
- (1) Currently held by Kathy Beach who plans to seek re-election 2021-2023

#### Petros/Joyner/Coalfield Area

- (1) Currently held by Joe Duncan who plans to seek re-election 2021-2023
- (1) Currently held (At Large) by Vic Davis who plans to seek re-election 2021-2023

#### Sunbright Area

- (1) Currently held by Diann Stevens who plans to seek re-election 2020-2022

#### Deer Lodge/Burrville/Rugby/Chestnut Ridge Area

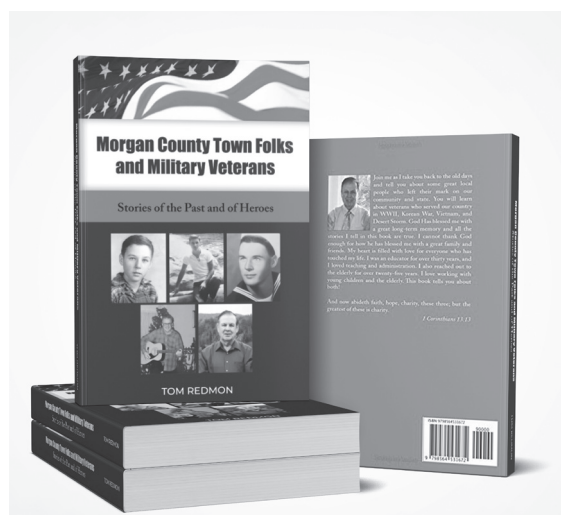
- (1) Currently held by Mike McGrath who plans to seek re-election 2021-2023
- (1) Currently held by Melissa Kreis who plans to seek re-election 2020-2022

#### Oakdale/Pine Orchard/Mossy Grove area

- (1) Open seat (Vera Scarbrough has served her term limit) 2021-2023
- (1) Currently held by Lisa Collet who will not seek re-election 2021-2022

Per bylaws, director positions must be filled by a member located in the relevant designated areas. If no nomination is made for the specific location then nominations shall be open to the entire membership regardless of location.

# Tom Redmon to Have Book Signing at Outdoor Show



Tom Redmon will be at the WECO Outdoor Show on Saturday, July 24, 2021. He will be located in the WECO tent for a book signing. His book, Morgan County Town Folks and Military Veterans, will be on sale for \$20.00 and if you have ordered your book on Amazon bring it by

and Tom will sign it for you. Tom's book of 436 pages contains stories of the past and of heroes mostly from Morgan County or East Tennessee.

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Sandra Helton's weekly column

## Oakdale Area News

email: kvhelton@highland.net



Hello Everyone! I hope everyone is having a good summer. We have had a lot of rain in the last couple of weeks along with some high winds. One day we received 2 inches of rain in about 20 minutes. We have also been having a lot of yellow jackets nest. I think we have found 7 nests in our yard so far. I have heard reports of a lot of snakes too. Be careful!

The WECO Outdoor Show has been postponed until this Saturday, July 24. There will be a lot of vendors. Be sure to stop by the Together Morgan County tent to pick up free children's books.

Please consider making a donation to local cemetery funds for the upkeep of the cemeteries. It is a hard job and I appreciate those who maintain our cemeteries.

Pine Orchard Baptist Church is having Vacation Bible School this week from 6:00 – 8:00 each evening. It will continue through Friday, July 23.

West Side Baptist Church will be having vacation Bible school this Wednesday thru Friday, July 21-23, from 6:00- 8:30 p.m. Commencement will be on Sunday night, July 25 at 6:00 p.m.

Boswell Chapel Baptist Church will have Vacation Bible School Saturday, July 24 from 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

White Oak Baptist Church had a wonderful Bible School last week. Attendance was great. I would like to brag on the young adults in the church. They really stepped up and took part as superintendent, teachers and helping with the music. Thanks to all of the families who allowed their children to attend. We loved having them. The absolute best part was that Konlin Headrick was saved during Bible School.

Happy Birthday to my Aunt Marlene Goldston who is celebrating her birthday today, July 20 and to my Aunt Betty Chapman who will celebrate her birthday Friday, July 23.

Congratulations to Chloe Collins, an upcoming 8th grader at Oakdale School, who was

notified last week that she was selected as the 2nd place winner of the Middle School Essay Division in the Mira Kimmelman "Learning From the Holocaust" contest. Oakdale School Language Arts teacher Chelsea Martin promoted this contest to her classes and Chloe submitted an essay. In addition to being recognized for her writing, Chloe will receive a monetary award. Her parents are Benny and Rachel Collins.

Melinda and Alesha Massey hosted a "Helton Family Shindig" at their home Saturday, July 10. I was informed that these fun gatherings are shindigs. I looked up the definition of shindig and found this: Shindig can be applied to any party or event, but it's most often used in a silly or ironic way as a more fun way to say party. I think that is an accurate term. Approximately 24 family members enjoyed a summer picnic. The youngsters enjoyed a slip and slide. There was a kiddie pool for the little ones and a fun game of croquet. Everyone had a good time and is looking forward to the next shindig!

Oakdale Public Library has been having some fun programs. Last Saturday, Carmen Ward visited with her Ball Python, Slither, and her Bearded Dragon Lizard, Jim Scary. Ms. Carmen read a book and shared a lot of information about reptiles before letting everyone meet Slither and Jim Scary. She let the children adopt a rubber snake and gave them all a bag of gummy snakes. This afternoon, Tuesday, July 20, at 5:00, will be story time at the library. The theme will be "Under the Sea" and children will make a keychain after the story. Be sure to follow Oakdale Public Library via their website or on Facebook to keep up with upcoming events.

In an effort to provide fun programs for families at Oakdale Library, there will be an online auction in a few weeks. Donations are now being accepted for the auction. Please consider donating an item or service to the auction.

All funds raised will be used in the library for future activities.

The Holder family celebrated Charlee Blair Manis' 2nd birthday last Saturday. She turned 2 on July 10. Charlee is the daughter of Bridgett Holder. Attendees included her great grandmother, Barbara Holder of Oakdale and her maternal grandparents, Kenny and Anne Costello Holder of Mossy Grove. Her big sister, Baylee, age 7, helped her open gifts from everyone. Yummy cupcakes, ice cream and a fruit bowl was enjoyed by everyone.

The 3 Rs.....Retired, Retreads, Refurbished..... also known as Jeanie Bingham, Emma Lou Meunier and Lou Ann Voyles, enjoyed lunch at MeMe's Restaurant in Rockwood on July 15 to celebrate their birthdays. It had been 2 year since the longtime friends had been able to do this. They nicknamed themselves "The 3 Rs" while sitting in Food City's parking lot! Ms. Emmie celebrated her birthday June 26. Ms. Lou Ann celebrated her birthday July 17 and Ms. Jeanie will celebrate her birthday July 31. These dear ladies have had an impact on many students and families and we wish them many more blessed years and many more lunches together.

UT TSU Extension Morgan County will be at Pine Or-

chard Community Center Thursday, July 22 at 5:00 doing a Roasted Red Pepper Chicken Cooking Demonstration. Tastings will be available. Cost is \$5. Contact Sydney at 423-346-3000 to let her know if you can attend.

Sympathy is extended to the family of James 'Sonny' Hickman who passed away Sunday, July 11. He is survived by his wife, Ruby Beach Hickman, sons James and Adam, grandsons Dylan and Blake, sister Brenda Mathis and a host of other family members and friends. A graveside service and interment were held Wednesday, July 14 at Pine Orchard Cemetery.

There are many things for us to pray about. First of all, we need to thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us. We are a blessed people. There are many sick in our communities. Please pray for their comfort and recovery if that is God's will. Pray for those who have lost loved ones. Grief doesn't go away quickly. Pray for our government, our military, our churches and pastors, our schools and educators, our homes and families and most of all, pray for the lost.

*"With integrity, you have nothing to fear, since you have nothing to hide. With integrity, you will do the right thing, so you will have no guilt." Zig Ziglar*

Join us on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Grand Re-Opening and Benefit Concert

Our event will have:

Food Truck: Nacho Bisnez

Vendors

Raffle

Games

Concert: Pale Root

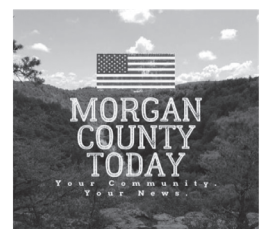
I am looking for local businesses that could set up a table or donate items for the raffle. I will promote all vendors that participate!

All proceeds from the concert and raffle will go to

The Kennedy Ladd Foundation!

Ticket prices and participating vendor info coming soon.

Activities will begin at 4 p.m. and the concert at 6 p.m.



3549 Airport Road Rockwood TN 37854

Contact Kim Cox 865.363.7699

kdb0423@yahoo.com



**Carol Hall**  
**Author**

just a story. Guess not!

How could something like this exist out here and no one know about it? People hike these trails and roam these mountains all the time. How has no one ever seen them before? Well, she herself, had been in these mountains on many occasions and had never seen one. Is this what happened to all the hikers who have vanished over the years never to be seen or heard from again? A shiver ran up her spine. Is that what was going to happen to her? Fresh tears sprang to her eyes. Oh Nick, please come find me, she thought. Please don't leave me here!

Nick-Day 2, cont.

The local police department had been notified and officers had arrived on the scene. The word was out and the parking lot of the visitor's center was filling up with volunteers for the search. Mr. Peterson and his search dogs had just arrived.

Nick was watching all the activity with amazement and wonder... and gratitude. It had only been about thirty minutes since the call went out and already things were happening.

The young ranger who had assisted Ranger Williams with the initial report had radioed all the rangers in the area with Maggie's description and the approximate location of her disappearance. The police officers and park rangers were working together to coordinate the search. At last count, there were about 80 volunteers and 8 search dogs.

Nick walked over to Mr. Peterson, who was pulling out harnesses and leashes from the back seat of his truck. The dogs were in large crates in the back, barking and yipping, anxious to get out and start the hunt.

"Mr. Peterson, I'm Nick Stewart," Nick said, offering his hand to Mr. Peterson. "It's my wife, Maggie, who is missing."

Mr. Peterson took Nick's hand and gave it a hardy shake. He was an older man with gray hair and a long gray beard. He wore overalls and boots that reminded Nick of a hillbilly.

"Call me Sam," he said with a gravelly voice. "I'm really sorry to hear about your wife. But don't worry none, my dogs are the best in the state. If anyone can find her, it's them." He nodded toward the dog nearest him. A large black and silver German Shepherd. "That's Calliope. She's the best dog I got. She won't quit till she finds what she's looking for."

Nick looked the dogs over. They were all German Shepherds of different colors and sizes. He noticed one was a bit smaller than the others.

"What's with that one? He seems a bit small for the job, doesn't he?" Nick asked as he pointed to the pup.

Sam didn't lift his head as he continued to sort through the leashes. "You must be talking about Orion. He's still just a pup in training, but don't let his size fool you. He's a quick learner and loves the hunt. He will do just fine out there, you'll see."

"I can't thank you enough for coming and bringing your dogs," Nick told him. "You don't know how much I appreciate it."

Sam nodded and continued with his work. "You're welcome." Nick had heard a lot about how useful search dogs were on these hunts. He was glad that Sam had brought so many. With that many dogs, surely at least one of them would pick up Maggie's scent and be able to find her. He admired the looks of the large one named Calliope. She looked like the kind of dog that got the job done and Nick liked that. He wanted that dog in his group. He made a mental note to ask for her to be on his team. He wasn't so keen on the pup, but if he had to tag along too, well then, so be it.

Chris and Evie were sitting on a stone bench that sat just off the parking lot when Nick found them. Taking a seat next to Chris, he let out a long sigh. "We should be ready to head out very soon. Not soon enough for my taste, but I have to give it to everyone who is helping out. They sure are getting things in order very quickly."

Chris studied Nick for a moment then asked, "How are you holding up?" He knew this was really hard on him. Nick and Maggie had a very good marriage. If two people ever belonged with each other, it was those two. Well, besides him and Evie, of course. He couldn't even begin to imagine what it would be like if it had been Evie who had disappeared up there.

"I don't know, Chris. I honestly don't know," he said. "I'm afraid to think about it right now. I just want to get moving and get back up there." He dropped his head into his hands.

He had been so busy talking to the police officers, rangers and then Sam, that he hadn't taken a moment to stop and let himself think or feel anything. He was afraid to feel anything right now. He just wanted to get up there and start searching as soon as possible. He was afraid that if he stopped for even a moment, he would lose it. He was scared and panic was just waiting to set in if he didn't stay busy.

"Nick, Evie isn't going back up tonight," Chris told him. "She's exhausted, so I'm taking her to a hotel in town for the night."

Nick looked over at Evie. Her face was all red and swollen from crying. Her knee was swollen and red despite the first-aid that Chris had administered. Her clothes were dirty and she looked like she was ready to burst out crying again. He reached over and laid a hand on her knee.

## Disappeared: Chapter 4: Part 2

"It's alright, Evie. Go to the hotel and get cleaned up and rest. If you feel better tomorrow, you can always join us then," Nick said gently to her.

Evie just nodded her head and looked away. She was so ashamed of herself for not being a stronger person, for not being able to be there for Maggie when she needed her. But she knew that she would only hold everyone up if she went. She was so tired and her whole body hurt from the fast paced trek down the mountain today. She just hoped that Maggie could forgive her, because she wouldn't be able to forgive herself if anything happened to Maggie.

Chris borrowed Nick's Tahoe to take Evie into town. On the drive there, Evie hardly said a word.

"Are you ok, Evie?" Chris asked after several long minutes of silence. He was seriously concerned about her. She was taking all this really hard.

"Oh Chris, I just feel so bad for not going back up there with you guys tonight. Maybe we're making a mistake and I just need to buck up and go." She looked tearfully at Chris.

"No, Evie. I don't think so. You're exhausted and you look horrible, no offense. You had a really rough day and this is the best thing for you right now. Stop fretting about it, ok? You can rest tonight and join the search tomorrow if we don't find her tonight."

Evie just nodded and looked out the window, miserable in her own thoughts.

The hotel offered Evie a free room for the night after hearing what had happened. She took a long hot shower once she got to the room and then crawled into bed. Even though it was only about 5:00 in the afternoon, she dropped off to sleep almost immediately.

Chris gently kissed her forehead and quietly left the room. Down in the foyer, he gave the desk clerk the phone number to the visitor's center in case she needed to reach him for anything.

He got in the Tahoe and headed back to the visitor's center, hoping he wasn't too late to join the group going back up the mountain tonight. Nick would be furious with him if he was.

When Chris got back to the visitor's center, everything was ready to go. There were four search teams assigned with twenty people and two dogs in each team. Each group was assigned two rangers and an officer.

The search and rescue team, or SAR for short, had explained the search plan to everyone and search grids had been assigned to the different groups. Everyone was given a map, a copy of the search grid they were to search in, a flashlight, compass, walkie talkie and anything else needed for the search.

All four groups would be heading up to the campsite that Nick, Maggie, Chris and Evie had stayed at the night before and setting up base camp there. Two of the groups would spend the night at that campsite and the other two groups would set up camp at another campsite further up the trail.

As the groups loaded up into various vehicles, Nick caught up to Ranger Williams and pulled him over to the side.

"It's going to take a few hours to get back up there. It will be dark by the time we get there and set up camp. We aren't going to be able to search tonight, are we?"

Ranger Williams rubbed his forehead between his thumb and fingers, then looked at Nick sympathetically. "No, Nick, we won't be able to do much searching tonight. The place she disappeared is way up in the mountains. Unfortunately, there is no quick way up there. We have to hike and that takes time. I know how frustrating this is, but we are doing the best we can."

"I understand that," Nick said, gritting his teeth. "I just wish there was a quicker way. That just means she will have to spend the night out there alone in the woods."

"Yes, it does," Ranger Williams agreed. "You told me that she's an avid outdoors woman and knows her way around these mountains. Since she has wilderness training and a level head, we just have to hope she will be ok until morning. Now let's go. We're burning daylight."

Nick found Chris waiting for him at the Tahoe.

"Ready to go?" he asked. He was so glad for Chris. He really didn't know what he would do without his best friend.

Chris climbed into the passenger seat and buckled his seat belt.

"As ready as I can be," he said. He was not looking forward to the hike back up the mountain, but nothing would have stopped him from being there for Nick. The caravan of vehicles carrying all the searchers finally set out for it's journey up the mountain.

As they arrived at the parking area, Nick noticed dark clouds moving in. No, no, no, he thought. Not now! Please not now!

He didn't remember there being any chance of rain in the forecast when they had set out on the hiking/camping trip yesterday. Where was this coming from? If it came up a storm, that would only delay the search that much longer. He would trudge through rain, sleet or hail to get up there. He sure hoped everyone else would too!

Despite the threat of an approaching storm though, the searchers, rangers and officers, along with the dogs, parked and unloaded all their gear. They started up the trail as the first roll of thunder rumbled across the sky.

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*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.*

## To Save A Country



Tom Redmon  
Columnist

Absolute things that must be done to save our country.

You've heard it from both parties: without borders we have no country. But the far-left party now in control does not believe this or else they are intent on destroying a country that patriotic people love. We must control our border. Every year America accepts over one million legal immigrants who have been vetted. At present the illegals coming across the border are not being vetted or screened and who knows the danger they present to the American people. They could have the CoronaVirus. They could have other contagious diseases or they could be dangerous criminals who present a real problem for our crime ridden cities. Here liberal officials want to defund the police and at the same time allow criminals to cross our borders illegally.

We must gain control of our borders or our children and grandchildren are going to live in a 3rd world country.

Another thing we must do to save our country is protecting our Constitution. Our Constitution was ratified in 1787 (234 years ago) with the first ten amendments ratified on December 15, 1791. Those were referred to as the Bill of Rights. Some of the men at the Constitutional Convention wouldn't sign the Constitution until the Bill of Rights were added. They said without the Bill of Rights the government would have too much power. I believe they were right. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the Amendments have worked for us for many, many years.

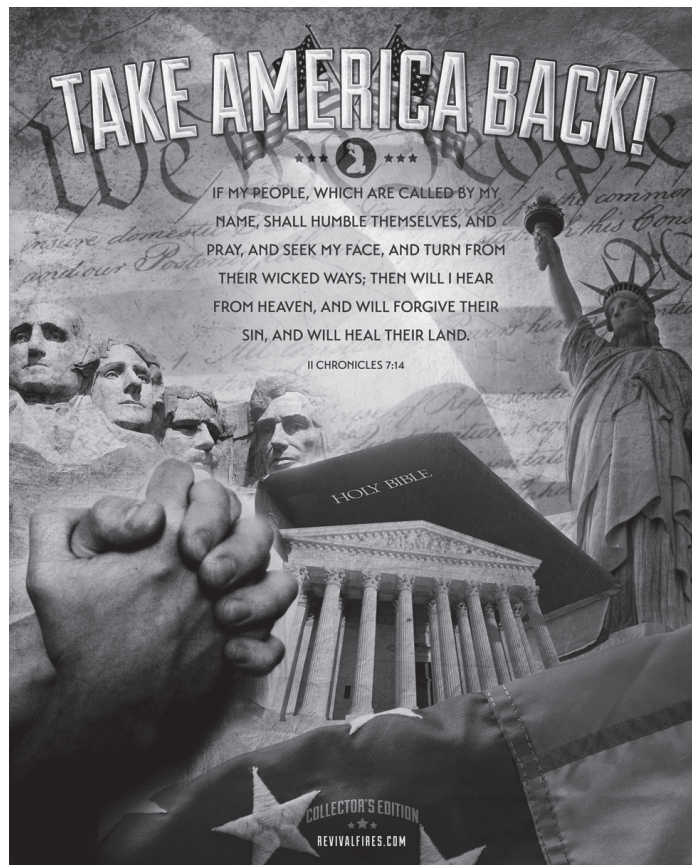
The far-left liberals would like to get rid of the Constitution and since they control two branches of government they have started chipping away at our laws. They want to pack our Supreme Court since the conservatives control this branch of government and they can't control us the way they want to. They also want to change our election laws so the federal government would be in control. According to the Constitution all the states are in charge of the election laws in their state. How they did what they did in the 2020 election is beyond me. Many believe this must be stopped or we are going to end up with a one-party system. The liberals think that voters shouldn't have to have a picture I.D. To drive a vehicle, you have to have a picture I.D., to get a passport, or to get a visa, to get on a plane, to purchase tobacco products or other items. If you are a U.S. citizen it's easy to get a picture I.D. If we lose faith in our Constitution, we will lose our country.

Patriotic education needs to return. The theme "I hate America" must go. You don't have to love everything about America. We have elections where we can elect people we agree with on most things. We have a way to amend our Constitution. One thing for certain we do not want to do like the radicals did last summer; burning and looting many cities down and demanding that we defund the police. Don't let the liberal press try to fool you in saying that the GOP was the party that wanted to defund the police. Everyone needs to be involved in this patriotic movement if "love for our country" is to return. Parents, teach-

gain our freedom. We know that many of the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence were killed or had their property destroyed. They paid a high price for our freedom. Abraham Lincoln saved our Union and freed the slaves; still the liberals wanted to destroy his statue last summer. Their desire was to destroy our complete culture and build a new one. I can imagine what it would look like.

This country is worth saving. We have some great people in the U.S.A. Just to name a few: we have the health care workers many of them put in twenty hours a day during the epidemic. The first responders who put their lives on the line. Our military men and women. Christians who are willing to stand up against evil. Our few elected officials who fight to keep our freedoms. Ministers who preach the truth and teachers who not only love their children but teach real history.

We need to have a strong military. Remember we defeated the Soviet Union without firing a shot. Now we have another communist enemy called China. China cannot be trusted and having a strong military will make them think twice before coming against America. As a nation of faith, we need to humble ourselves and pray. We need liberty and justice for all, not socialism or communism that provide it for the few elites. We must stand up and serve our country.



ers, military officials, clubs (civic, military) churches, etc. We must eliminate (Critical Race Theory CRT) at every level. CRT is one of the worst things to be forced on us as part of our educational curriculum. It will divide our nation and maybe create a revolution. Do not believe the national press when they say we have a "racial problem" because we only have a racial problem because one party wants it. Cancel culture must go. Rewriting history has not been good for America. As Americans we know that George Washington, our first president, was the father of our country. He had to fight the British for over ten years to



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# Coal Dust: Snuff Dipper



**Terry Futrell**  
Author

*Snuff dipper, snuff dipper,  
it's the story of my life;  
Snuff dipper, snuff dipper,  
bet she'd make me a wonderful wife.*

These words from the song “Snuff Dipper”, written by Malcom Miller in the 1950s, are indicative of the popularity of dipping snuff in the mountains of Southern Appalachia, especially among women. At that time, there was a social stigma associated with women smoking in public, and dipping snuff was somewhat more discreet and apparently was a preferred alternative.

I was exposed to snuff dippers from birth. My dad dipped snuff and always had a small can of Bruton snuff with him. Personally, I had considered it a disgusting habit since I was very young. It was especially embarrassing when we would be in the car and my dad would spit out the car window at every traffic light. But, my worst experiences with snuff came through two women in my life.

The first of these female snuff dippers was my maternal grandmother, Nanny Freels King. She was the only grandparent still living when I was born, but because of her frail physical condition, I was never able to have a close relationship with her. Nanny had been widowed since 1927 and came to live with us in 1953 after the death of her youngest son with whom she had lived. She was a tiny woman, capable only of minimal physical activity and could barely walk from her bed to a recliner.

I can recall only two pleasures in Nanny's life – listening to Billy Graham on the radio on Sunday nights and dipping snuff. As the time for the Billy Graham radio broadcast neared, she would always say “Find Billy for me”. I would then tune her ancient radio so she could listen to her “Billy”. Even though she had very little money, Nanny always managed to send her “widows mite” to support the Graham broadcast.

When it came to dipping snuff, Nanny could hang in there with the best of them. Because she was an invalid, Nanny always had a cup sitting beside her chair for spitting. As the only boy remaining in the household, distasteful chores typically were my responsibility, and I often had to empty Nanny's spit cup. Disgusting! I recall one day coming into the room with a small rubber ball. My mother immediately told me not to bounce that ball in the house. My disobedient response was quick – bounce, bounce – right into Nan-



*Bruton was a popular brand of snuff and was used by Terry's father.*

ny's spit cup!

Toys and playthings were scarce at that point in my life, and it was nothing short of a catastrophe to lose even a simple rubber ball. But, who wants to play with a rubber ball that has been dunked in someone's spit cup? Sadly, I fished the ball out of the spit cup and tossed it into the coal burning stove as directed by my mother. This was a hard lesson to learn and did little to change my opinion about the disgusting nature of snuff dipping.

My second distasteful experience with female snuff dipping involved my Aunt Sadie, wife of my uncle Conrad. It was “Decoration Day” when I was about eight years old and Aunt Sadie had gone with us to visit the Ritter and Coalhill cemeteries where our Futrell ancestors were buried. Officially, it is called Memorial Day, but back in the 1950s, it was still called Decoration Day by the old folks and was taken much more seriously than today.

I recall how we would cut rose petals out of crepe paper, use a spoon to stretch them into the proper shape, and fasten several to a piece of wire to form an artificial rose. These were then dipped into melted paraffin to make them waterproof and used to decorate the graves in the cemeteries.

On this particular Decoration Day, it was extremely hot. But, in those days, no one had air conditioning in their cars. It was necessary to drive with every car window rolled down, even if the roads were dusty, to combat the sweltering heat. My dad's car was full of adults and kids as we were returning home from our visit to the cemeteries. Aunt Sadie was sitting in the front seat next to the window. I was lucky enough to be seated by the window in the back seat, immediately behind her. Well, at least I thought I was lucky to have the window seat to get more fresh air.

Suddenly, Aunt Sadie turned towards the open window – ptui! A dark stream hurled from Aunt Sadie's mouth. Horrified, I quickly jerked back from the rear window, hoping to avoid getting a face full of Aunt Sadie's snuff-laden spittle. This episode was repeated numerous times as we continued our trip. I was a nervous wreck by the time we dropped Aunt Sadie off at her house in Coalfield. I vowed never again to sit behind a snuff dipper in the car!

Needless to say, I have never been tempted to take up the habit of dipping snuff, nor do I have kind thoughts about those who do. These traumatic episodes from my childhood have established in me a permanent bias against snuff dippers.

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# Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger



**Zack Ballinger**

## Don't Be a Zombie: Discover your Passion and Purpose Part 2

is your “vacation needs to be your vocation”. The time is now to discover what you want to do with your life. If you are going to the interview just because you see a good job opportunity—but you know you would hate this particular job day in

to my calling for life. Days, weeks, months, and years passed. I looked up and it had been eight years since meeting with David. Nothing had changed in my life. I was still stuck in the same industry with a job I really didn't like. I was making a decent living, but dreaded work. I never had my “aha!” moment. I grew more depressed each day, but I never gave up. I continued to wait for my moment. I've learned by talking to many people that David is an exception to the rule, rather than reality. Most people whom I have interacted with don't like their day job. Most of them say the same cliché statements: “It pays the bills.” “I am just glad I have a job.” “I don't really like it, but there's nothing else out there.” “This is all I know how to do.” I don't like my job, but I have no choice.” I know these statements very well. In fact, I've recited them to everyone I know and even to random strangers.



*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](http://www.zackballinger.com) for more of Zack's travels and events.*

You should discover your passion for whatever brings you the most happiness in life—and you need to do this before you start interviewing for a job. If you are not passionate about your career, you will become bored, miserable, and will hate your life. I understand you may need to take an entry-level job to work your way up the ladder, but the ladder should lead to your dream job. I think one of the best career counselors and coaches in America is Dan Miller.

Dan has written one of the best job books out there called, 48 Days to the Work You Love. In this book, the underlying theme

and day out—then don't go to the interview. I don't care how much money you think you are going to make, eventually you will burn yourself out and be looking for another job. Then you will read this book again to refresh your memory about successful interviewing. Find your passion in life and once you do it will lead you to happiness and financial peace.

For years, I read many self-help books on trying to discover my passion in life. What was my calling? What could I do that would bring me the most joy? I grew very unhappy in my job as the years progressed. I would search for answers from friends, relatives, books, TV, prayer, self-help articles, etc. No matter how much time I invested reading, soul-searching, pondering, studying, and meditating, the answer never came and it seemed like all hope was lost.

I kept praying and begging God to let something hit me like a ton of bricks to alert me



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# NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JoAnn Derson

- \* Keep a pretty basket by your front door for anything you need to take along when you leave. This can be store returns, backpacks, exercise gear for the gym, your sunglasses, whatever. When you leave the house, check the basket!
- \* "Necklaces can be stored together without tangling if you thread each one through a straw. You can cut the straw to a shorter length for choker-length necklaces or bracelets. No knots!" -- I.A. in Arizona
- \* If you have a little bit of touchup paint left in your gallon can, transfer it to a mason jar. Write the exact color and brand on the lid, and it will be much easier to store.
- \* "Our basement was dark and a little claustrophobic.

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- \* In the 1880s, businessman LaMarcus Thompson was so upset over the temptations presented by saloons and brothels that he decided to clean up what he viewed as one of America's most immoral places—New York's Coney Island. To that end he built the country's first roller coaster in a bid to give folks some good, clean fun well away from sleazier pursuits.
- \* Flamingos bend their legs at the ankle, not the knee. Their knees are closer to the body and covered by feathers.
- \* Those apples you buy at your local market aren't all that fresh. They're typically plucked between August and November,

then covered in wax, hot-air dried, and sent to cold storage before landing in stores six to 12 months later.

\* The world's largest waterfall, in the Denmark Strait between Iceland and Greenland, is underwater.

\* Dunce caps used to be a sign of intelligence! Thirteenth-century philosopher John Duns Scotus believed that a pointed cap helped spread knowledge from the tip to the brain, and his followers proudly wore them as badges of honor. A few hundred years later, when his ideas became less popular, the meaning of the Duns cap was turned on its, er, head, becoming a joke that led to its less flattering association.

\* About a month after its dedication, the Statue of Liberty became a working lighthouse for 16 years.

\* When Benjamin Franklin designed the first U.S. penny in 1787, it was emblazoned not with E Pluribus Unum, but "Mind Your Business."

\* The tongue of a blue whale can weigh as much as an elephant. \*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts: therefore, guard accordingly, and take care that you entertain no notions unsuitable to virtue and reasonable nature." -- Marcus Aurelius

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My husband painted it a lovely sunny yellow and that helped, but it needed something else. I took a photo of the spectacular view at our son's house in Montana, and had the photo blown up. We mounted it on the wall with some dummy curtains! It's perfect, and it reminds me of him." -- R.W. in New York

\* Need to chill a bottle of wine quickly? Wet a kitchen towel, then wrap it around the wine. Twist the ends to secure, and put the whole thing in the freezer for 30 minutes.

\* Great ways to remove stuck labels: nail polish remover (NOT for use on plastics), WD-40 oil, soaking in hot water, rubbing alcohol.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475 or e-mail JoAnn at heresatip@yahoo.com.

### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

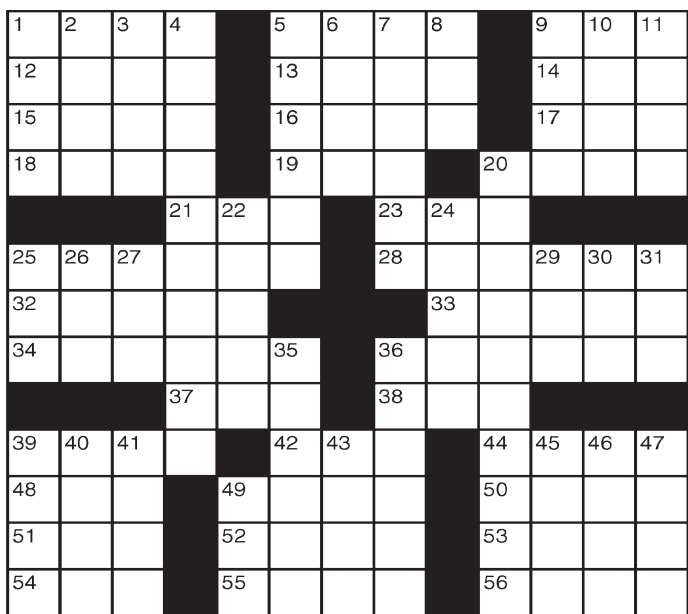
**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆**

◆ Moderate    ◆◆ Challenging  
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!  
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## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Circulate
- 5 Jolly laugh
- 9 Lustrous black
- 12 Zero, in tennis
- 13 Scent
- 14 — glance
- 15 Border on
- 16 Reply to "Shall we?"
- 17 Rug cleaner, briefly
- 18 Gestation location
- 19 Goat's plaint
- 20 Roman censor
- 21 Fib
- 23 Medit. nation
- 25 Cellist Pablo
- 28 Keep perusing
- 32 Muscat resident
- 33 Sky blue
- 34 Lively dances
- 36 "Be that as it may ..."
- 37 Sch. URL ender
- 38 Atty.'s title
- 39 Libretto
- 42 Plead
- 44 "Oops!"
- 48 Priestly garment
- 49 Competent
- 50 Tiny bit
- 51 2016



- 6 Olympics city
- 7 Empty talk
- 8 Hosp. areas
- 9 Coffee
- 10 Coup d'—
- 11 Mexican entree
- 20 Hodgepodge
- 22 Homer classic
- 24 Penn and Connery
- 25 Police officer
- 26 "I love," to Livy
- 27 Bando of baseball
- 29 "Gee, ya think?"
- 30 Spanish gold
- 31 Just out
- 35 Filled in
- 36 Sea off Greece
- 39 Old salts
- 40 Author Wiesel
- 41 PlayStation alternative
- 43 Vogue rival
- 45 60 minutes
- 46 "Beetle Bailey" dog
- 47 Vague
- 49 Lawyers' org.

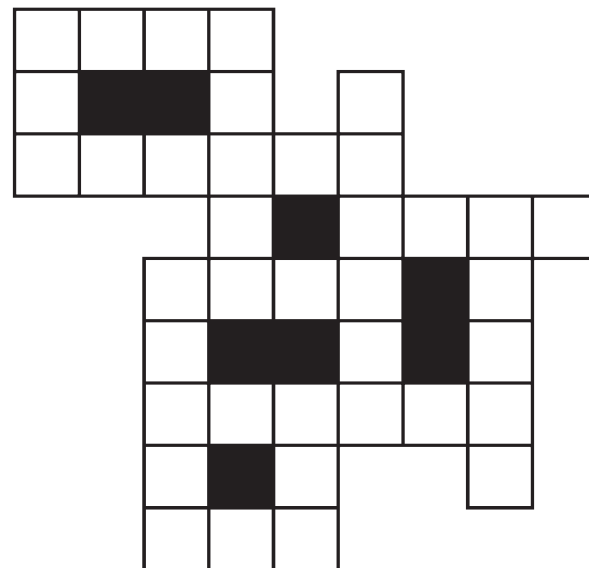
**DOWN**

- 1 Imperfection
- 2 Timber wolf
- 3 Egg
- 4 Stick-in-the-mud
- 5 Baker Street sleuth
- 52 Composer Bartok
- 53 Figure skating leap
- 54 Gender
- 55 Mideast gulf
- 56 Helen's home

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- BMU
- OMNERT
- ♥ HESTO
- ♥ ENMA
- ARCFIB
- ITH
- ♥ TBSE
- AHMCT
- ♥ MTO
- ♥ EHNTRO
- ETFIB
- ♥ UTRH



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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# Everleigh Brooke Human competes in Pageant

Birthday: 3/26/21

Brother : Brantley Human

Eyes: Blue

and smiling all the time

Parents : Jacob & Cassidy Human

Hair color: Brown

Hobbies: playing with big brother



## August 28th, 2021

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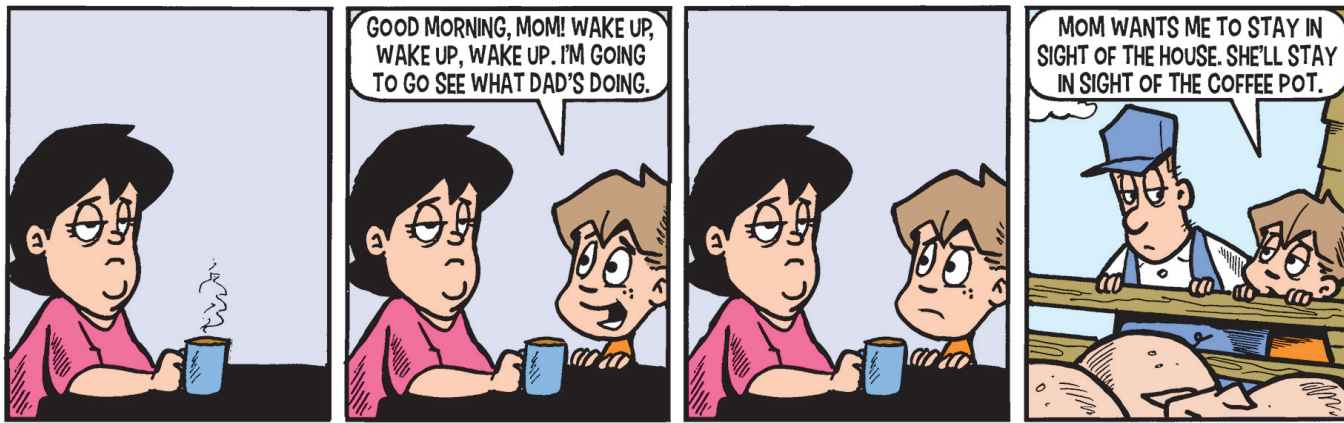
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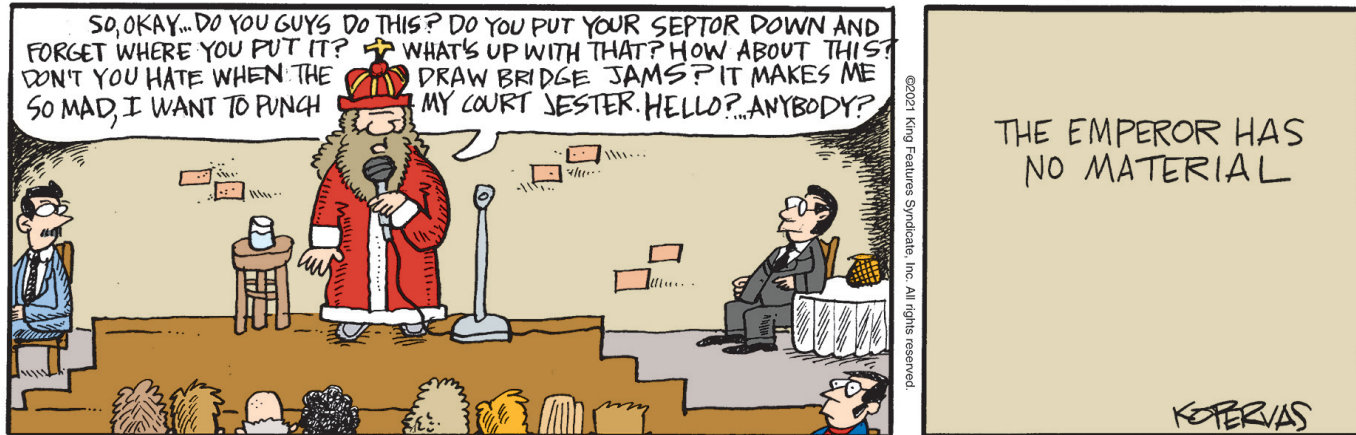
# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



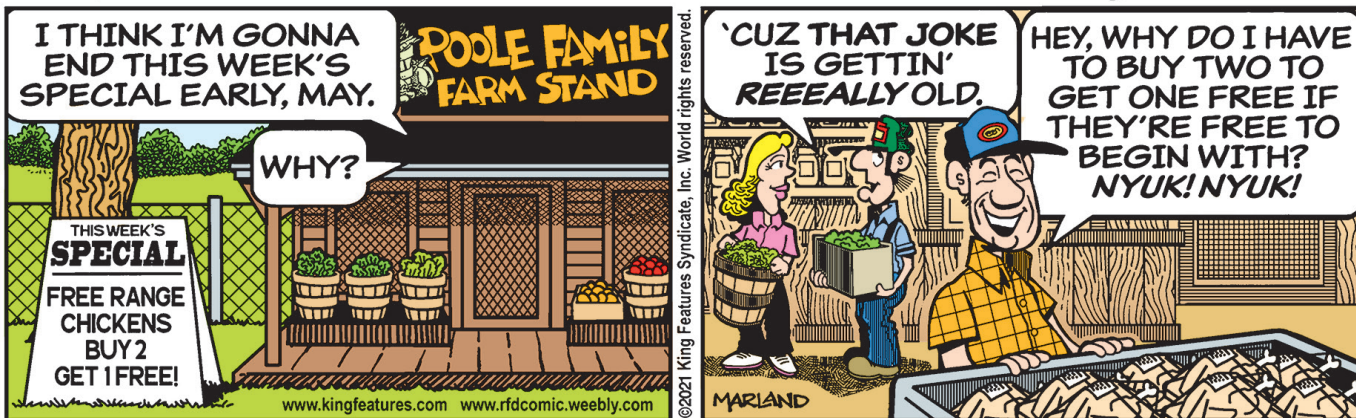
# Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



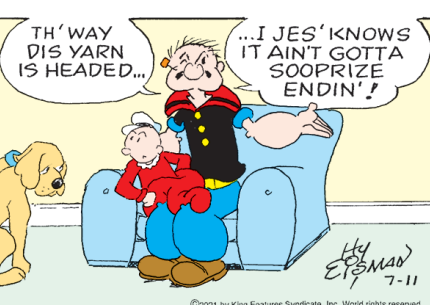
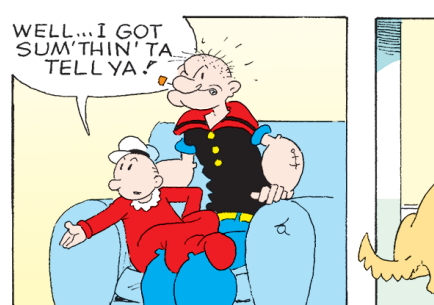
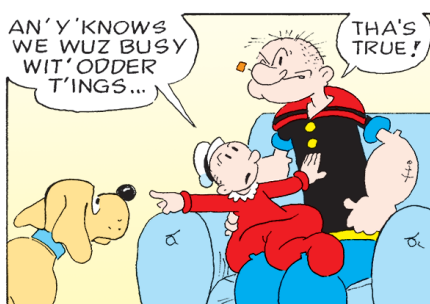
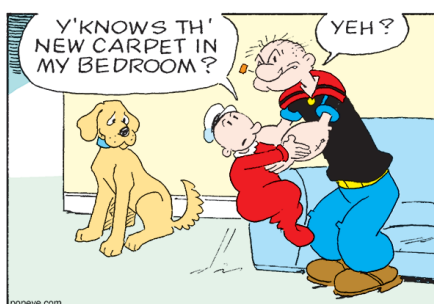
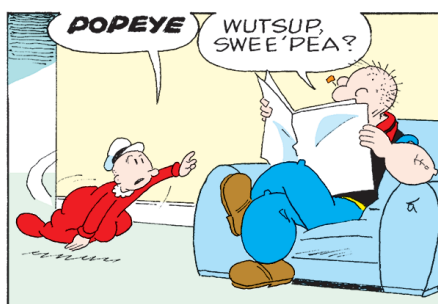
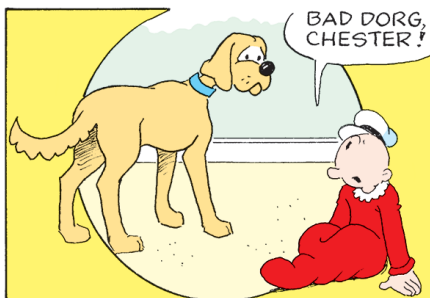
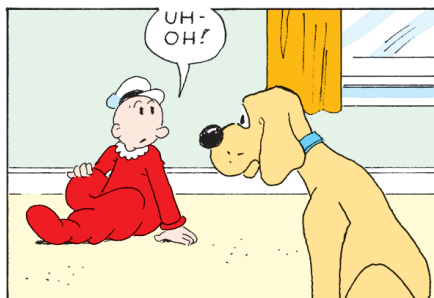
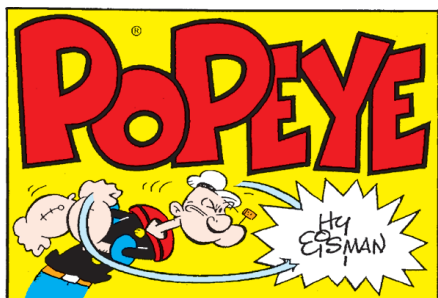
# R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



# The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



# MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

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 \* On Aug. 2, 1776, members of Congress affix their signatures to an enlarged copy of the Declaration of Independence. Fifty-six congressional delegates in total signed the document. John Dickinson of Pennsylvania and James Duane, Robert Livingston and John Jay of New York refused to sign.

\* On Aug. 3, 1861, the last entry of Charles Dickens' serialized novel "Great Expectations" is published in his literary circular, "All the Year Round." The novel tells the story of young Pip, a poor orphan who believes he will inherit a fortune.

\* On Aug. 6, 1890, at Auburn Prison in New York, the first execution by electrocution in history is carried out against murderer William Kemmler. When the current failed after 17 seconds, a second charge was required for two minutes before Kemmler was declared deceased.

\* On Aug. 5, 1914, the world's first electric traffic signal is installed, in Cleveland, Ohio. It consisted of four pairs of red and green lights on corner posts. A gas traffic light, in 1860 in the U.K., exploded after being used for a month.

\* On Aug. 4, 1936, American Jesse Owens wins gold in the long jump at the Summer Olympics in Germany. It was the second of four gold medals Owens won in Berlin. Owens would win his third gold medal in the 200 meters the next day.

\* On Aug. 8, 1942, six German saboteurs who secretly entered the United States on a mission to attack its infrastructure are executed for spying. On June 12, the German team had buried explosives on Long Island to use later. On July 18, a second team had successfully landed in Florida.

On Aug. 7, 1987, Lynne Cox braves the freezing waters of the Bering Strait to make the first recorded swim from the U.S. to the Soviet Union. Her swim took 2 hours and 16 minutes.

# BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

- 1) Is the book of Ecclesiastes in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- 2) Where is "For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" found? *Ephesians, Colossians, Galatians, 1 Timothy*
3. Who asked God, "Why is my pain perpetual, and my wound incurable?"? *Moses, Jeremiah, Abraham, Noah*
4. How many angels rescued Lot and his family from Sodom? *2, 7, 13, Dozens*
5. Where is the story of the burning bush found? *Genesis, Exodus, Luke, John*
6. What is the longest Psalm in the Bible (KJV)? *1st, 23rd, 119th, 130th*

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Galatians 6:7; 3) Jeremiah 15:18; 4) 2; 5) Exodus; 6) 119th

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy).

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# Comfort foods

Made fast and healthy

by Healthy Exchanges

## Zucchini Ham Pasta Salad

When the temperature and the heat index create readings of 100 F in the shade, you definitely need a plan of action for supper that doesn't add to the problem. Bring this to the supper table and see if you don't become an instant hero!

- 1/2 cups cold cooked rotini pasta, rinsed and drained
- 1 cup chopped unpeeled zucchini
- 1 1/2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/2 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
- 3/4 cup fat-free Ranch dressing
- 1/4 cup fat-free mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup reduced-fat Parmesan cheese
- 3/4 cup reduced-fat Cheddar cheese
- 1 1/2 cups diced 97% fat-free ham

1. In a large bowl, mix Ranch dressing, mayonnaise and Parmesan cheese. Add rotini pasta, zucchini, tomatoes and mushrooms. Mix well to combine. Stir in Cheddar cheese and ham.

2. Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. Gently stir again just before serving. Serves 6 (1 full cup each).

• Each serving equals: 151 calories, 3g fat, 7g protein, 24g carb., 557mg sodium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Meat, 1 Starch, 1 Vegetable.

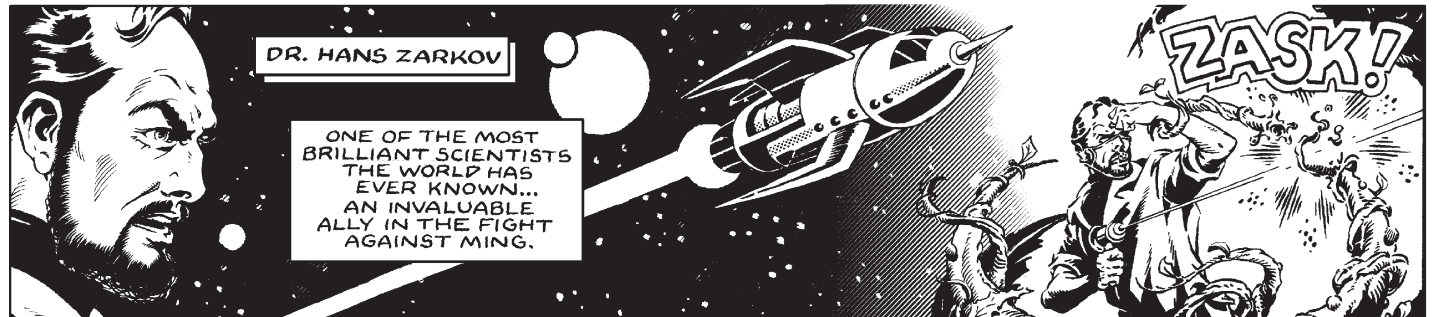
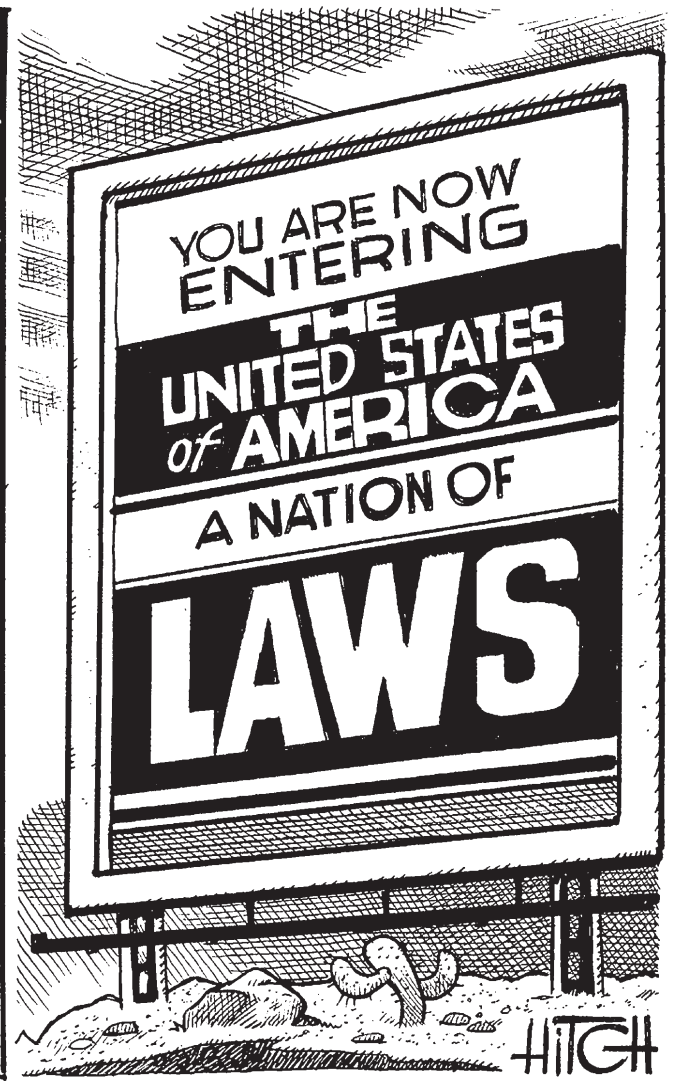
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EVER NOTICE HOW KAMALA HARRIS IS ALWAYS LAUGHING?

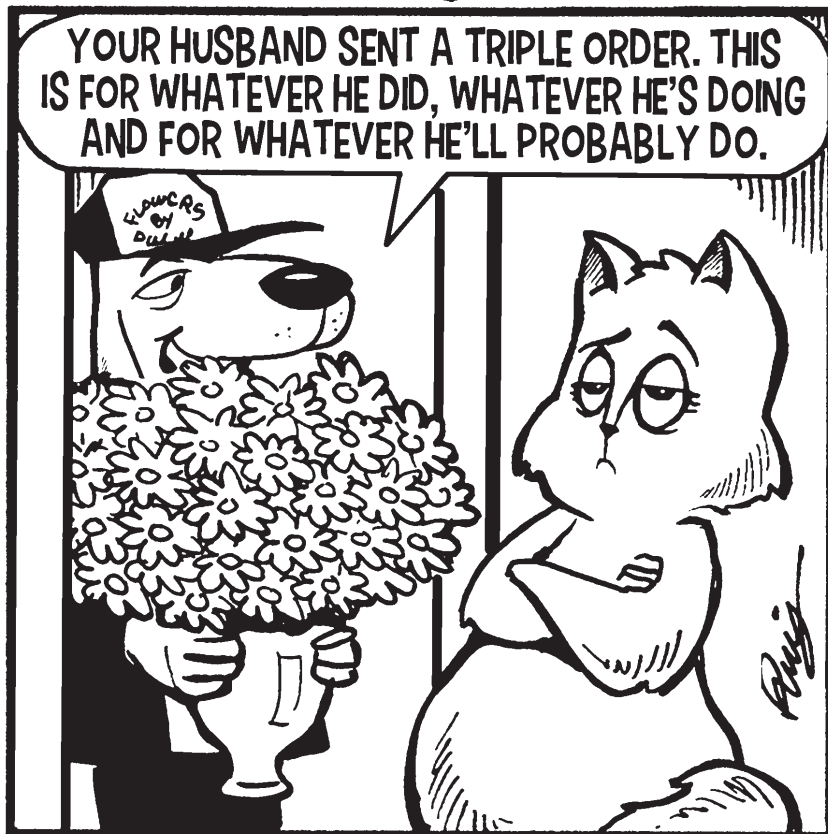
YEAH... AND AT THE ODDEST MOMENTS!

MAKES ONE WONDER WHAT SHE FINDS SO AMUSING...



## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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# The Kitchen Diva!

by Angela Shelf Medearis



## Recipes for Life

Dear Readers:

Over a decade ago, I was given the wonderful opportunity to work King Features Weekly Service to create The Kitchen Diva! food and lifestyle column. Editor Jim Clarke helped me to craft 800 words, including a recipe, into a user-friendly and, hopefully, entertaining format each week, year in and year out. This is my last column for King Features, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Jim for being such an extraordinary editor, the King Features Weekly Service staff and all of you for your interest and support of my work.

I've enjoyed reading your emails, searching for recipes that you loved and lost, and answering questions about your cooking dilemmas. I feel like I've made thousands of new friends over the years. I can't thank you all enough for the privilege of doing what I love, and the honor of being able to share my thoughts and new discoveries with you each week.

When I started The Kitchen Diva column, I was transitioning into the culinary world after writing more than 100 children's books and visiting schools and presenting speeches at literacy conferences all over the U.S. and Europe. My love affair with studying culinary history, writing about food, creating recipes, publishing cookbooks and doing cooking demos as The Kitchen Diva! is an odd turn of events considering I was never a great cook.

My mother, Angeline, is a wonderful cook, among her many other artistic talents, so I never felt the need to try to cook anything when I was growing up. My mother's decision

to supplement her income by baking and selling her fabulous pies was the impetus of my career change. But instead of baking and selling pies, my sister Sandra suggested that I write a cookbook containing her recipes.

I taught myself how to cook and to write a recipe as part of the educational process of creating my first cookbook, "The African American Kitchen," with lots of help from my mother and my sister Marcia. I had no idea how labor-intensive, expensive (we bought all of the ingredients and tested over 150 recipes) and challenging this cookbook would be. I spent two years studying culinary history and heritage recipes from Africa, South America, the Caribbean, old Southern "receipts and scripts" and the African-influenced melting pot of cuisines that make up the foundation of the way that we eat in America today.



Angela Shelf Medearis

### Angela Shelf Medearis with her mother, Angeline

Over the past two decades, I've also observed the impact of recipes, handed down from generation to generation and prepared for the people you love, to bond together a family or to welcome new friends. It's those recipes for life that have held me in good stead through the horrible and heartbreaking national and personal events during the pandemic last year. Jim, my editor at King Features, took over my column in order to allow me to take the time that I needed to run The Kitchen Diva's Health Outreach, a division of Book Boosters, our families' non-profit education, health and social-service agency.

We were able to distribute hundreds of prepared meals, and to purchase canned and packaged foods to establish onsite pantries for families living

in apartments in underserved communities here in Austin, Texas, during the pandemic and the horrible winter storm last year. I want to devote more time to operating our non-profit health outreach division and focus on educating and empowering people all over the world about ways to combat diabetes and diet-related illnesses using every form of media.

So, dear readers, as a tribute to my mother, Angeline, who LOVES collard greens, I'm sharing one of her favorite recipes with you. Enjoy, and "see" you soon!

### ANGELINE'S EASY COLLARD GREENS

- 1 large bunch (about 10 ounces) collard greens
- 3 tablespoons olive or vegetable oil
- 1 red bell pepper, seeded, ribs removed and thinly sliced
- 1 yellow onion, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 tablespoons balsamic or red wine vinegar

1. Wash the greens in cool water to remove any dirt. Cut the thick central ribs out of the collard greens. Stack the leaves on top of one another. Starting at one end, roll them up into a cigar-like shape, then slice across the roll to make the greens into thin strips about 1/8-inch wide, and cut again lengthwise.

2. Place a large, heavy bottomed skillet over medium-high heat. Add the olive oil and heat for a minute. Then add the greens and all of the rest of the ingredients except for the vinegar. Cook the greens, stirring every 30-seconds to combine the ingredients and cook them through, about 8 to 10 minutes.

3. Transfer the collards to a serving bowl, sprinkle them with the vinegar, stir and serve immediately. Serves 4.

\*\*\*

Angela Shelf Medearis is an award-winning children's author, culinary historian and the author of seven cookbooks. Her latest cookbook is "The Kitchen Diva's Diabetic Cookbook." Her website is [www.divapro.com](http://www.divapro.com). Recipes may not be reprinted without permission from Angela Shelf Medearis.

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# THE RICH LOWRY COLUMN

By Rich Lowry

## Joe Biden's Afghan Withdrawal Folly

Barely a day passes without additional news of Taliban gains in Afghanistan.

Perhaps the Afghan government and its forces will prove more resilient than many expect, but if the country continues its slide toward chaos or, worse, the Taliban rapidly take Kabul, President Joe Biden's decision to withdraw a residual U.S. force will look like an amateurish, unforced error by a man who prides himself on his foreign policy experience and acumen. With his top military leadership opposed and credible warnings that Kabul could fall within months after a withdrawal, Biden went ahead with it anyway on the basis of what an aide has called "his gut."

So far, indications are that the president would have been better off heeding his military advisers than his viscera. The Afghan war has, of course, stretched on for two decades and become a holding action satisfying to no one. But the cost to the U.S. of sustaining 3,500 troops in the country without losing anyone in combat for more than a year hasn't been high compared with the entirely plausible downside of Islamist extremists allied with al-Qaeda sweeping to power again in Afghanistan. The desire to pull out of Afghanistan has been an area of rare Biden-Trump agreement. Then-President Donald Trump's foolhardy ceasefire deal with the Taliban in February 2020 set the predicate for Biden's withdrawal. It would have taken some determination for Biden to reverse the U.S. promise in that deal to withdraw its forces by May 2021, although the Taliban's transparent bad faith provided plenty of occasion for it.

Biden says not to worry. The U.S. will continue to provide "over the horizon" support, i.e., from a distance, for the Afghan government.

This is likely a pipe dream, and nothing about Biden's poorly thought-out drawdown lends any more credibility to it. The CIA has been struggling to figure out how to maintain intelligence-gathering capabilities in Afghanistan. There will be no targets to strike from "over the horizon" if we don't have the assets on the ground to find them.

Ideally, the U.S. would locate some other base next door to Afghanistan, but there are no good options in the neighborhood. Conducting operations from the Persian Gulf eight hours away isn't much of a substitute. In congressional testimony, Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, the head of Central Command, said the long-distance missions would be "extremely difficult to do," but "not impossible."

The U.S. withdrawal has had other troubling loose ends. The contractors who have worked with the Afghan Air Force to maintain its planes are leaving, too, potentially stripping Afghan forces of air support.

The fate of the Afghans who have assisted U.S. forces is uncertain, although under political pressure here at home, Biden has committed to getting them out.

Biden wants to provide \$3 billion in security assistance to the Afghans, but who will do the training with that money? The allies are leaving, with the administration anxious to get the Turks to stay to secure Kabul International Airport, without which we won't be able to maintain our embassy.

As the bad news has piled up, the Biden administration has tried to provide reassuring signals. But are the Afghans, and the Taliban, not supposed to notice that nearly all of his forces have already withdrawn?

One justification for leaving is that it will free up resources for us to concentrate on the growing threat from China. It's not as though the 3,000 ground troops are going to relocate to East Asia, though, and make a difference in the balance of power there. On top of this, if there is an unraveling in Afghanistan, controlling the fallout will become a consuming issue for the U.S. military. Biden has gotten his drawdown. Now, he may reap the whirlwind.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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# Donna's Day

Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

## Make Summer Sand Candles

Like most people, I enjoy taking long walks on the beach. I love the feel of sand under my feet and the way it stretches for miles before me. And then I suddenly feel inspired, thinking of the ways sand can be used in decor and crafts. That's when I know it's time to go home and have some more fun.

Here's a popular sand craft kids enjoy at day camp year after year. The adults melt the wax and the kids create the molds and add decorations for state-of-the-art sand candles. With a child's touch, they're whimsical, spontaneous and useful.

### To make candles at home, you'll need:

- Clean, damp sand in a bucket or sandbox
- 1 pound box of paraffin wax (available in canning section at many markets)
- 1 saucepan
- 1 tin can, such as a large soup can with lid removed. (Pinch rim of the can with pliers to form a spout for easy pouring)
- Candle coloring or stubs from colored candles (optional)
- Candle wicking (available at craft stores)
- Pencil or sticks
- Tiny trinkets, stones or shells (optional)

the damp sand, about 3-4 inches wide. Pat the sides and base of the depression to make a very firm mold for your candle. Press several trinkets into the mold, if you wish.

2. Meanwhile, an adult should fill a saucepan with a few inches of water and set the tin can in the center. Put a chunk of paraffin in the can, and add candle stubs or coloring, if you wish. As the water gets hot, the wax will melt. Stir occasionally, keeping a constant eye on it, since it is flammable.



3. An adult should carefully pour the melted wax into the sand mold. While the wax is still liquid, place a length of wicking down the center of the mold with at least one inch of wicking exposed at the top. Hold the wick in place until the wax begins to harden. Then, prop the wick with a stick until the wax is completely hard. Or, tie the wick around the middle of a pencil and let it rest across the top of the mold with the wick in the wax.

4. When hard, gently lift the candle out of the sand mold. Brush off excess sand from the candle and embedded trinkets with an old toothbrush, leaving some sand on the surface for a natural look.

Note: An adult should always be present when burning candles.

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Find more family fun at [www.donnaerickson.com](http://www.donnaerickson.com). Write to Donna at [Info@donnaerickson.com](mailto:Info@donnaerickson.com)

# VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

## The VA's Fourth Mission

The Department of Veteran's Affairs has been busy. It was recently announced that it has completed 150 Fourth Mission assignments across the country.

Fourth Mission's goal is to improve preparedness for response to war and national emergencies by developing plans and taking actions to support service to veterans as well as national efforts. In other words, when a need is there, so is help. (The first three VA Missions are health care, benefits and national cemeteries.)

If you ever doubted that the COVID pandemic has been a true emergency, you only need to look at the very long list of Fourth Mission humanitarian efforts to back up the nation's health care system.

Here are a few examples of what the VA's Fourth Mission has accomplished in all 50 states plus territories:

- Provided 935,000 pieces of Personal Protective Equipment.
- Admitted 488 non-veteran cit-

izens to VA medical centers for treatment.

-- Deployed over 5,000 medical personnel to 1,215 state VA homes, 980 community nursing homes and 94 non-VA hospitals. In Arizona alone, they provided staffing for six civilian hospitals. In Florida, they worked with over 8,000 long-term-care patients at 82 facilities. In Virginia, it was 852 long-term-care facilities. There were untold thousands of COVID tests given and results processed. When the vaccines came out, VA personnel were there across the country to administer them.

The efforts weren't limited to hands-on medical staff. Truck drivers were sent to multiple states to deliver supplies and vaccines. Pharmacists were sent to numerous locations, including federal prisons. VA personnel fed 250 veteran families every month in Georgia, along with 150 homebound VA patients. They held town hall and state meetings with civilian authorities to coordinate how to contain the spread of COVID.

I'm impressed by this massive effort. To the thousands of VA personnel who volunteered to go, thank you. (c) 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

# Historically Speaking

## A brief history of the Oak Ridge Health Department

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Jim Harless contacted me regarding yet another unique story about Oak Ridge. He personally was involved in the Oak Ridge Health Department as it evolved and wondered if I would like to document that history in Historical Speaking. Of course, that interested me. Jim has been most helpful by sending me a lot of details of this unusual organization's history. He also introduced me to "Dog Tag" art, which he invented.

What makes our Health Department unusual? Like many other aspects of our city, the Health Department first began during the 1940's as a part of the unique Oak Ridge experience. Each Manhattan Project site created a new city of workers and their families. Part of what the Army faced was how to provide for the health of these quickly forming cities.

Oak Ridge led the way as it was the first site selected by the Manhattan Project's General Groves on September 19, 1942. Right away this once peaceful valley and ridge river bottom land and its group of communities changed drastically. People who were accustomed to city living and had never considered living in East Tennessee moved into what some called "Dog Patch!" Yet, they expected health services just as any other community would.

By November 1942 construction was underway in Oak Ridge (Site X) and throughout the first months of 1943, the city, soon to be known as Oak Ridge, was being built right along with three government facilities. The Y-12 electromagnetic separation plant and X-10 graphite reactor both of which started construction in February 1943 and



Early photo of Oak Ridge Health Department vaccinations – do you recognize anyone? (Photo Submitted)

K-25 which started construction in June 1943 also required health services. Happy Valley, the construction community for K-25, also required health services for the few years it existed. As the houses were being built, the scope of this brand new city rose from an original planned number of 13,000 to 50,000 by the summer of 1944 and to an eventual swell of 75,000 by August 1945. Also expanding were the Army's efforts to provide the whole range of health services as they strived to meet the growing health related needs of the city and the workers. At the three facilities and in the city, all looked to the Army for necessary health related care and services.

A 50-bed Army hospital was built and staffed in 1943 as one of the first major community healthcare service efforts. The first baby was born on November 8, 1943. Red Cross "Gray" Ladies served as the pioneering secret city's first volunteers at the new hospital. The hospital served the community and the federal facilities.

During the Manhattan Project, like everything else, healthcare and other health related services were provided by the Army. Although some civilian jobs were created as needed, the Army took care of the population in every way possible.

The comfort and care of the population was a key strategy for attracting scientists to work on the critically important work of creating an atomic bomb. No expense was spared and nothing needed to assure the success of the project was withheld. General Groves literally had a "blank check" and he used that authority to assure the workers and their families were well taken care of...health care and other health related services being no exception.

After the war ended in 1945 and the Atomic Energy Commission was formed to take control of the nation's atomic energy program from the Army, several changes occurred as a part of the transition from Army to civilian control. However, health care and health related services continued to be provided by the federal government until the city was incorporated in 1959.

The transition from a secret city in 1949 brought many changes and would lead to radical changes in the Oak Ridge Health Department, especially related to how it was funded. The first phase of the three-phase history of public health services in Oak Ridge funded by the federal government ended with incorporation of the city in 1959.

Jim Harless, who worked for the city of Oak Ridge from 1973 to 1985, most of that time supervising environmental health for the Municipal Health Services Department, says, "While most unique, the Oak Ridge Health Department, has seen a great deal of change over time.

Originally, the City of Oak Ridge had the only municipal funded health department in Tennessee. It came about in a bit of an unusual way..." Oak Ridge may well



Jim Harless, Oak Ridge Health Department from 1973 until it closed in 1983 (Photo Submitted)

Federal Staff of the Public Administration Service (PAS), the federal contractor operating Oak Ridge like it was a city, worked to pull together an initial draft charter in part during 1957 and 1958." This was in preparation for incorporation as the federal provided health services program was fast coming to an end with the plans to incorporate the city.

Jim notes, "...Mr. R. D. Hutcheson, Commissioner of Health, State of Tennessee, and A. Shipley, Regional Health Director met in Nashville on January 29, 1958, with PAS staff D. B. Henry, and R. D. Stover. The meeting came forth to say the future needed Public Health services could be furnished by Anderson County Health Department, but 'there seemed to be general agreement among these officials, however, that the additional expenses to the county for providing health service to Oak Ridge should be borne solely by Oak Ridge.'" This is what was most unusual and still seems strange to me. No other city in Tennessee was required to pay for health services and pay taxes as well.

This arrangement was and remains to this day to have been the single such arrangement ever made in Tennessee. I am not sure why Oak Ridgers agreed to it and continued to fund public health over the years. Maybe there was no choice at the time.

Jim further states, "Consideration apparently was not given to the fact that Oak Ridgers already were making a sizeable contribution through their tax payments to the operation of the Anderson County Health Department. The original charter PAS had worked up called for a contract city-county health operation. This is reported in the charter plan in 1958..."

Jim goes on to say, "City planners of the early times had anticipated a city-county contract, shown in the initial charter, in which costs of health operations were shared. When the State officials designated Oak Ridge to be the "sole" payer, the City rapidly set up a Committee on Public Health and Welfare for short-term planning for Oak Ridge. The results of that final report are found in their document, dated May 1959."

Jim also cites references for his conclusions, "Other year to year city operations of health, the funding of health, and the relationship of the City to the joint State/Anderson County health department, was reported at length in the 60-page Budget document, per David Ammons, (1982) by report and MEMO to M. Lyle Lacy III, February 20, 1981.

He continues by saying, "Oak Ridge was, by 1958 and 1959, operating using a State-City working verbal agreement, even if the city did not feel it was a fair agreement, the effort began moving forward. The City was moving to cooperate with a City Health Department. At least they would have some control over a City Health operation. Over time, with the Oak Ridge City Public Health and its city residents paying costs for many years, but NOT without asking the State/County Health office for help in funding or manpower for Public Health, multiple times over the years."

"But, finally over two decades had passed and the City did, soon after that, convince Anderson County or the joint state operation to come into Oak Ridge to begin Health service delivery to Oak Ridge citizens and residents by the 1983 time period. A former Regional Director from Knoxville, now retired, attended and told me the State officials tried to get Oak Ridge city to continue to participate or offer some funding to city-county health, but Oak Ridge declined, feeling it had paid and operated health services for 25 years and that was enough.

Jim Harless concludes, "Mr. Dave Ammons was perhaps, the most active City staff person, as Research and Budget Director, who acted upon and worked to deal with what he described as an inequity." Dave Ammons deserves considerable credit for ending the practice of forcing Oak Ridge to fund its health services and the transition to the last of the THREE government operations phases of Oak Ridge public health.

For nearly 25 years, from 1959 to 1983, the Oak Ridge Health Department, a function of the city and funded by the city, provided excellent public health services to include environmental monitoring, restaurant inspections, day care services inspection, school inspections, animal control and a multitude of other health related services. Those individuals who worked as nurses, supervisors and health workers are understandably proud of the many years

of exceptional services. The present arrangement began about 1983, and continues to the present date. There is reason to feel the County-State operation will be the final and long lasting Oak Ridge service provider of Public Health services.

Mr. Art Miller, District Director, Anderson County Health Department, provides insight into the history of that organization and relevant information about present day practices that include Oak Ridge. The Anderson County Health Department seems to have begun with three employees, a doctor and two nurses in the 1930's.

Beginning in the 1980's when phase three of Oak Ridge health services came into being, the Anderson County Health Department provided services to Oak Ridge at locations in Oak Ridge until 2005 when both health departments combined in one new location at 710 N. Main St. in Clinton. Services increased and costs decreased.

Art says, "The staff now numbers 49 and primary care for the uninsured has been added. The dental clinic is state of the art and has tripled in number of patients seen. Since moving in 2005, a large conference room has been added along with office space for primary care. A third dental clinic room is to be added this summer. Anderson County Health Department sees over 20,000 patients a year but public health touches everyone every day." Their web site is: [www.healthdept.org](http://www.healthdept.org).

This article has attempted to provide a brief history of a most unusual arrangement whereby Oak Ridge was required to pay for public health services. In doing so, I have focused on the three phases of how health services have been provided to citizens.

Another of the many interesting and unique facts that should be captured as well is the association between the Oak Ridge Health Department and the Environmental Quality Advisory Board. Jim says that was one of the unique things he found when he arrived in Oak Ridge in 1973. EQAB was created October 19, 1970 as a temporary board and made permanent March 12, 1973, according to records found by Jackie Bernard.

Over the years, the working relationships and partnering efforts have helped assure Oak Ridge environmental concerns are addressed. One just has to look at the record of the City of Oak Ridge dealing with the mercury contamination of East Fork Poplar Creek to see examples of such joint cooperative efforts.

There is also the relationship to Earth Day. Jim wanted to time this brief history of public health in Oak Ridge to publish just before Earth Day 2009 to bring additional attention to the importance of each of us doing all we can to protect our home planet for the long term.

Senator Gaylord Nelson, Founder of Earth Day, said this about the first "Earth Day" in 1970, "Earth Day worked because of the spontaneous response at the grassroots level. We had neither the time nor resources to organize 20 million demonstrators and the thousands of schools and local communities that participated. That was the remarkable thing about Earth Day. It organized itself."

Of course, that initial Earth Day 39 years ago has grown into a massive celebration of our planet and is now helping to place a "green" emphasis on all we do. Enjoy Earth Day 2009, celebrate at Bissell Park on Saturday, April 25, 2009!

**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.**

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Poster showing Jim Harless' daughter, Nicole Donna Harless Zimdars getting a vaccination from Mrs Edna Epling of the Oak Ridge Health Department (Photo Submitted)

# The Ephesian Dilemma



**John Burns**  
*Opinion Columnist*

The Ephesian Church is one of the two churches to have two letters addressed to it. The first by Paul the Apostle to the Gentiles and the letter Jesus Christ dictated to the church's founder, and writer of the book of Revelation, one of the sons of thunder, John the Apostle.

We will begin our study with the letter Jesus Christ dictated to an Angel to be delivered and written by John. The seven letters to the seven churches, are the most important teachings a member of God's kingdom can rightly divide.

The word Revelation is singular not plural. It is one revelation of Jesus Christ's true church, as labeled by Messiah as his bride. He being masculine, the word Ephesus is a feminine pronoun. It is understood as "My desired one." It is the Apostolic Church founded by John and admonished by Jesus Christ and Paul. Ephesus is a city on the coast of western Turkey in modern Izmir province. It enjoyed a geographic position as the center of Pagan Greek worship. The Temple of Artemis was in Ephesus. Greek life revolved around the veneration of created deities. Ephesus is the feminine goddess of fertility. Her roots can be traced to the cult of Semiramis in Babylon. She is most often depicted posing with reindeer, for she is the deity Americans call mother nature. John the Apostle set up shop in Ephesus after escaping persecution in Jerusalem.

Ephesus was first settled by the Lydian Greek colonists in the 14th and 13th centuries, BC. It is where the Greek life was full. There was a theatre, a gymnasium, a massive library, and the Temple of Artemis. It was considered the most modern city of its time. Greek life in western Turkey was centered in Ephesus for a long time. It would be conquered by Cyrus the great who allowed for the worship of Artemis to continue. It would be re-conquered by Alexander the Great and Hellenization took on renewed life as he funded the construction of the city. At the time of John and Paul, Ephesus was the center of Roman life in western Turkey. The ancient Jewish people had settled in Ephesus and at the time of the Apostles, there was a prominent Jewish synagogue in the city center. This is a paradigm of our Jewish ancestor's fate as God chose to destroy their temple in Jerusalem, and send them packing around the entire globe. The diaspora begun in 70 AD is drawing to a close as I pen these words. Israel is in the land and prospering, America finds itself under the abandonment wrath of Yeshua, and the Laodicean Church has manifest around the globe. Where the carcasses lie, there the eagles shall be gathered.

Paul the Apostle, lays the groundwork for the admonishment Jesus Christ would issue in Revelation 2. Ephesians 3:18 is Paul's remedy for the problem they had. Paul tells the church to allow their whole breadth, width, depth and height to be sanctified to the will of God the father. The Church of Ephesus was only getting three of them right.

Depth, width, and height are easy for most professing Christians to sanctify. It is church attendance and ministry outreach. But what about breadth? The word breadth in the original koine Greek translation was understood as a great expanse of time. To cross the breadth of the ocean requires a sea captain to spend a lot of time learning to navigate the entire breadth of the ocean expanse. Breadth to the Greek mind, has nothing to do with church, it has everything to do with how much time you spend alone with Jesus Christ.

Paul the Apostle laid out in Ephesians what God sees as true membership in his kingdom of Jew and Greek peoples. John was reminded to issue the rebuke for what they were getting wrong. The Ephesian church was going to church every week. They chose the Roman model for worship on the venerable day of the Sun. Sunday. God's sabbath will always be Shabbat. Friday evening to Saturday evening. It is one of two days that Jesus Christ will be in the temple during the millennium. The other is the new moon. Sunday is the day the Roman Caesars gave slaves the day off. Six days shall a man work and on the seventh he shall rest. Sunday is the first day of the work week in God's Bible. It has never changed. Men changed in their haste to assimilate to Roman, Pagan traditions.

Ephesus is where many Pagan traditions migrated into church worship services. Roman holidays began to be venerated by Ephesian Christians, and time spent earning income became more important than spending time with Jesus Christ. Alone in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving. And in the sanctifying work of the study of scripture. This is why there is absolutely no power in the Gospel being taught in today's denominational churches. They are ok with Roman holidays and church tradition started by our ancestors. They are fine with lukewarm Christianity.

Jesus Christ admonished the Ephesian church with the words "YOU have lost your first Love". He was speaking to John the revelator and an amazing recipient of the love of Christ. It is John who introduces the world to the agape love of Jesus Christ. It is John who was entrusted with the care of Jesus Christ's mother

Mary. She is buried in Ephesus right beside John the Apostle today. Since Jesus Christ saw fit to entrust John with the care of his mother, and the admonition of the Church, he must also be the one who can provide Christians with the remedy to our dilemma.

1 John 5:4,5 is the remedy for those who have an ear to hear. Do you have an ear to hear what the Spirit is saying to the modern Ephesian Church? For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world but he that believes Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Hallelujah!

The Ephesian letter is a letter that should give us Biblical hope. It was at Ephesus that Christ introduces us to the prophetic timeline of church history. Ephesus denotes the Apostolic Church age. It begins with the calling of the twelve and ends with the martyrdom of Polycarp in Smyrna. He is the bishop John anoints at Ephesus to be over the Church of Smyrna and the second church Jesus Christ addresses in his letters to the seven Churches. Smyrna is the place where Gentile persecution begins to occur in western Turkey.

The Ephesian letter finishes with the practical application of Christian faith. We are commanded to put on the full armor of God. Having our loins girt about with truth, having on the breastplate of righteousness, our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, taking the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit which is the word of God.

At the time of the writing of Paul's admonition to the Ephesian Church, Rome was the world superpower. The sword the Roman legionnaire would take into battle was the two-edged gladius. Our Bible is one message with two edges over two testaments. Mercy is the message of the Old Testament, and grace is who appears in the New Testament. He has a name. It is Yeshua ha Messiah or Jesus Christ in English. He preached salvation from a Hebrew hermeneutical perspective gleaned while he was writing the Old Testament in eternity past. He is the author and finisher of our faith. He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. He is the Alpha and the Omega; he is the Aleph and the Tau. He is our redeemer. He is coming soon at the sound of the trumpet to retrieve his bride and bring her to heaven to receive her mansion. He will return to this world with his bride at the end of the tribulation to receive his kingdom and inheritance. He is alive forever more. Hallelujah! The Ephesian Church had become so adept at church attendance once or twice a week, they were now ok with not spending time with Messiah. John could not wait to see Christ in the Gospel period. After the resurrection, church attendance became more important than personal relationship to Jesus Christ. It was comfortable having people see you at church. Outward piety, replaced inward conviction. Jesus Christ is upset.

The one thing the Ephesians were getting write was that they hated any type of church hierarchy. Relationship to God was personal. The Nicolaitans were the precursors to the Pope, bishops, priests, deacons, and lay people who started a government where men lorded over the lives of believers. It was a cult started by the deacon Nicholas in Acts 6. The words can be derived from two Greek words. Nicao: to rule over, and Laity: the people. There is one mediator between God and man, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ hates any type of church hierarchy where men set up other men who appear outwardly pious but inside, they are ravenous wolves. The only person to earn a wage from Christ's crucifixion and the Gospel was Judas! Christ condemned the need for government in church.

The reaction of the Roman government was to begin wholesale persecution of Gentile Christians in Asia minor beginning with the martyrdom of Polycarp. It would not end until Constantine married government to the Christian Church at Pergamos. Persecution was the lot for professing Christians from Stephen through the current persecution of believers in Africa and other countries where government as God leaves believers in Christ with no other option than death. Are you willing to die for Christ testimony of himself? If not, then you are not justified or should I say, saved.

Even so come Lord Jesus Christ. He was crucified upon a cross of wood, yet he created the hill upon which it stood.  
John Burns 6-28-2021

*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



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E		F	A	B	R	I	C		
I		U							
T	O	M							

## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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





# Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week

This week we humbly honor the five military servicemembers who were killed in a terrorist attack six years ago on July 16, 2015 in Chattanooga, TN. The names of this five servicemembers and the details that took place on that horrific day are listed below.



Marine Corps Lance Corporal Squire K. "Skip" Wells (21)  
 Marine Corps Sergeant Carson A. Holmquist (25)  
 Marine Corps Staff Sergeant David A. Wyatt (37)  
 Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant Thomas J. Sullivan (40)  
 Navy Logistics Specialist Second Class Randal Smith (26)

On July 16, 2015, Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez opened fire on two military installations in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He first committed a drive-by shooting at a recruiting center, then traveled to a U.S. Navy Reserve center and continued firing, where he was killed by police in a gunfight. Four Marines died on the spot. A Navy sailor, a Marine recruiter, and a police officer were wounded; the sailor died from his injuries two days later.

On December 16, following an investigation, former Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) director James B. Comey said that the shootings were "motivated by foreign terrorist organization propaganda."

The shootings began shortly after 10:30 a.m. at the Armed Forces Career Center in a strip mall located on Lee Highway. The Center recruited personnel for branches of the United States military, including the U.S. Army, the U.S. Air Force, and the Tennessee National Guard. There, Abdulazeez fired 30 to 45 shots into the office from inside a silver rental Ford Mustang convertible, wounding a U.S. Marine. He then escaped and led members of the Chattanooga Police Department on a six miles pursuit. At the time of the first shooting, only seven people, including the wounded Marine, were inside the recruiting center.

Abdulazeez drove seven miles to a U.S. Navy Reserve center on Amnicola Highway in Chattanooga, where he rammed his vehicle through a security gate. He drove to one of the center's buildings, where the Inspector-Instructor staff of Mike Battery, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marines and sailors were working.

Abdulazeez first fired at it, then charged inside and continued firing, fatally wounding a U.S. Navy sailor. Abdulazeez then exited the building through the back and entered a fenced motor pool area, where he shot several Marines. Three to five minutes after the second shooting began, he reentered the building, where he fired upon responding police officers. He was eventually fatally shot by five police officers (Officers Keven Flanagan, Jeff Lancaster, Sean O'Brien, Lucas Timmons, Grover Wilson III) outside the facility.

## Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

We honor fallen Lubbock County, TX Sheriff's Office SWAT Member Sergeant Josh Bartlett who was shot and killed during a barricade at a home on July 15, 2021.

Earlier that morning, the subject had been stopped by a Texas Highway Patrol trooper for reckless driving and attempted to bait the officer into a confrontation. The subject returned home after the encounter and began walk-

ing around the neighborhood with a firearm at about 1:15 pm.

When officers with the Levelland Police Department arrived, the man opened fire on them and then barricaded



himself inside. The regional SWAT team was requested as the subject randomly fired shots from the home.

Sergeant Bartlett and three other members of the SWAT team were shot as they engaged the subject. Sergeant Bartlett was transported to Cov-

enant Medical Center in Levelland where he succumbed to his wounds. Several other team members were wounded, one critically.

The subject was taken into custody at about 11:30 pm. Sergeant Bartlett leaves behind a wife and three sons. The family just celebrated his youngest son's teenage birthday just two days prior.

### Huge revenue loss from decline in audits

A government agency reported that a decline in audits of wealthy taxpayers has resulted in potential loss of nearly \$2 billion. IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig told lawmakers the actual tax gap could approach or exceed \$1 trillion per year. He said that when wealthy taxpayers evade their obligations, the costs are borne by taxpayers who follow the law.

The IRS has had a decline in staffing and a decline in resources. Charles Rettig said that the IRS has lost 17,000 enforcement personnel over between 2013 and 2018. The number of audits of high-income returns that closed in fiscal 2019 was only 29,610 compared to 47,024 in fiscal 2015.

The IRS defines high-income taxpayers as people whose positive income was at least \$200,000.

A report by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) noted that a program that focused on wealthy taxpayers was discontinued in 2017. The report noted that when high-income taxpayers were audited it averaged more dollars per hour than any other audit strategy.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has said that if the IRS were funded appropriately and able to crack down on tax cheats, the government would be able to collect more revenue without raising taxes.

"The tax gap is huge, and I think we would have a fairer tax

system and collect more tax revenue without the need to raise rates if we resourced the IRS properly to be able to address this issue," Yellen stated during testimony before the Senate.

"Every dollar spent on IRS enforcement reduces at least three or four dollars to the federal budget essentially, but it is not something that gets scored. When we look at budget increases, there is a little bit of controversy here. We had the president and the White House come out and say, the IRS needs 80 billion, and we are prepared to fund them \$80 billion over the next decade. We would use that to enhance their technology and to do some significant hiring and training at all levels. What's happening more recently, though, is that Congress started looking at it and saying maybe we should give them \$40 billion, not \$80 billion." Said Patti Burquest, principal, and Washington national tax leader at RSM US.

The IRS has requested an \$80 billion investment over the course of a decade, which would allow the IRS to increase its enforcement and crack down on tax cheats.

The senate is negotiating a bipartisan deal that includes \$40 billion to boost audits with a goal of raising \$100 billion more in tax collections.

*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.*



David Zubler  
Columnist

## Romans 11 part B

(Romans 11:25-32) Israel's partial hardening: the following declaration is one of the most misunderstood in this document, if not the entire New Testament. It is the favorite text for the misguided national-conversion-of-Israel theory. According to the dispensational dogma, Israel is to be "re-gathered from all nations, restored to her own land and converted" (Scofield Reference Bible). Paul wants his readers to understand this "mystery," the reality of Israel's future, which was obscure in the writings of the prophets.

Paul states that "a hardening in part has befallen Israel." (a) The hardening was manifested in their utter refusal to believe in Christ, in spite of overwhelming evidence (Jn. 11:47; 12:37-40; Acts 4:16). (b) "In part" acknowledges there was a "remnant" that did believe (v. 4; 14), as reflected in the conversions on Pentecost (Acts 2:38). (c) The expression, "has befallen," involves a verbal tense that suggests an attitude initially engaged and then sustained. As one scholar noted, it was not a "temporary insensibility." (d) The terminal point is described as "until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." This is key to understanding this passage.

The expression, "fulness of the Gentiles," denotes the accomplishment of Jehovah's purpose among the Gentiles (or the "nations"). In other words, Israel's hardness will remain until the end of the present dispensation. This hardening of the bulk of Israel will continue "throughout the time of the Gentiles" (until Christ's return, Lenski). There is a similar phrase in Luke's Gospel. Christ, alluding to Jerusalem's impending destruction, declared that the city would be "trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (21:24). The expression, "trodden down," is in a tense that hints of prolonged hardships (though not necessarily uninterrupted) for Jerusalem (and what she represented---the nation). Again, the phrase, "times of the Gentiles," represents the current age. It implies a previous "times of the Jews." When they rejected the Messiah, that age of prominence (called a "reign") (Matt. 21:43) ended. It was superseded by "the times of the Gentiles"---the Christian age. It is clear that physical Israel is to be the recipient of divine retribution throughout the Christian era.

What, then, is the meaning of "and so all Israel shall be saved" (v. 26)? Since the hardening of Israel was not total but only "in part," there was still hope that many Jews might be saved. How? Those that are saved will be saved by their acceptance of the gospel (10:12-16) and their surrender to the Deliverer from Zion (v. 26). The word "so" is an adverb of manner, meaning "in this way." Hence, it is in the way of obeying Christ that "all Israel"

(who are saved) may be saved. There will be no exception to the divine procedure! This passage does not affirm a nation-wide conversion of the people of Israel. The following quotation (v. 26-27) is from Isaiah 59:20; it confirms this interpretation. (a) The Deliverer is Christ. (b) He comes "out of Zion" as per dispensational theology. (c) The deliverance is by means of Christ's "covenant" (Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:8). (d) The prophecy is fulfilled in the "taking away of their sins" (as on Pentecost)---not by the return of Christ.

It is true that the Jews are the "enemies" of the gospel, but they are still beloved of God because of their heritage, and the Lord longs for their inclusion into the "elect" (v. 28). Jehovah does not regret the blessings poured out upon the nation of Israel in centuries gone by, even though the Jews have, in large measure, rejected his Son (v. 29). Just as the Gentiles obtained mercy (by having an extensive opportunity to hear the gospel following the Jews' rejection), it is the apostle's hope that the mercy that has been extended to the Gentiles might somehow influence the Jews to reconsider at the gospel of Christ (v. 30-31). Verse thirty-two suggests that even though the Lord has "shut up" (allowed, tolerated) disobedience, his mercy still is available to all willing to accept it. Note that between verses thirty and thirty-two the terms "disobedient" and "disobedience" are both used twice. This graphically underscores Paul's definition of "faith" as used in this letter. His conception of faith is a universe apart from the modern Protestant theory.

(Romans 11:33-36) God be praised: this chapter and the end of the doctrinal section of the book are concluded with an anthem of praise concerning God Almighty. A collection of divine attributes is depicted respecting the "depth" and "wealth" of these qualities. The Lord's knowledge and wisdom are applauded. The former refers to the limitless scope of what he knows; he is omniscient (1 Jn. 3:20). The latter alludes to the consummate skill with which his knowledge has been and is exercised---both in material creation and in the "new creation" through Christ.

His judgments exceed human analyses, and his ways are "beyond tracing" (trackless"). Ignorant humanity would do well to acknowledge this and cease their silly criticism of the Almighty. Job certainly learned this lesson. No one can fathom the mind of God nor serve as his advisor (though many attempt to). The Lord is not indebted to us, and his gracious gifts are not the result of his repayment for anything we have done on his behalf. God is the source, agency, and goal of all things. May he be glorified eternally. So be it!

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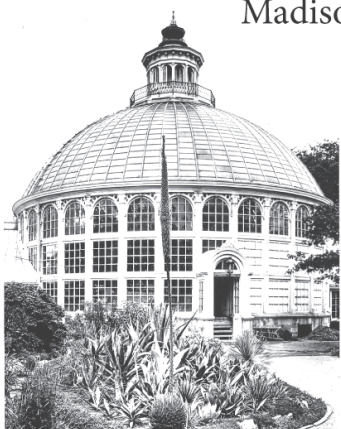
102 Paxton Road, Lancing



## United States Botanic Garden

The Botanic Garden is the oldest continuously operating public garden in the United States. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison helped establish it on the National Mall in 1820; George Washington's letter written in support of it is on display in the Library of Congress. Its displays include rainforest plants, succulents, grasses, shrubs, orchids, medicinals, endangered species, butterfly gardens, a children's garden, water gardens and seasonal exhibits. - Brenda Weaver

Source: www.usbg.gov



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## Americanisms



"They invented hugs to let people know you love them without saying anything."

— Bil Keane

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# Sen. Yager urges citizens to take advantage of Tennessee's new and traditional sales tax holidays



Senator Ken Yager

NASHVILLE – State Senator Ken Yager (R-Kingston) today encouraged citizens to take advantage of Tennessee's new and traditional sa-

les tax holidays which are set to begin at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 30th. The 16th annual tax holiday on clothing, school supplies and computers will run through 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, August 1st; while a new sales tax holiday on food, food ingredients, and prepared food will remain in effect through the end of the day on Thursday, August 5th. The new holiday includes the qualified sales of prepared food by restaurants, food trucks, caterers

and grocery stores.

Sen. Yager says the new sales tax holiday on food is intended to provide relief to all Tennesseans. He said the sales tax relief for prepared food will also aid restaurants which have been especially hurt by the effects of the pandemic.

"The traditional sales tax holiday, which occurs before students go back to school each year, helps parents, students and teachers with expenses in preparation for the fall semester," said Senator Yager, who supported passage of the legislation. "But people of all ages, not just students, can realize sales tax savings on clothing, shoes, computers and other supplies. It will also support local businesses and jobs."

"This year, we have added another sales tax holiday to provide relief to all

Tennesseans by extending a full week of no sales tax on food from both restaurants and grocery stores," continued Yager.

In addition, Sen. Yager said legislation passed by the General Assembly this year provided a sales tax holiday on gun safes and safety devices. The year-long holiday began on July 1, 2021 and ends on June 30, 2022 and helps encourage safe storage of firearms.

"I urge all citizens to take advantage of the sales tax relief offered this year and shop at local small businesses and restaurants during this time. I look forward to the positive economic effect it will have on our economy," Yager concluded.

For more information about the sales tax holiday weekends, visit [www.tntaxholiday.com](http://www.tntaxholiday.com).

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

By Matilda Charles

### No, Life Has Not Returned to Normal

A recent survey concluded that we seniors are ready to go back out into the world, to resume our former pre-COVID activities.

I suspect the poll questions weren't asked of seniors in my part of New England. We are not, for the most part, ready to get back to what we were doing before.

We learned to talk to family and friends on internet conferences and managed the software quite well. We explored new hobbies with materials that arrived by mail since we weren't going into stores. We mastered complicated recipes (with ingredients picked up curbside at the grocery), and we renewed our interest in chess and other games, playing online. We explored parts of our state we

hadn't seen before because we could safely drive around -- as long as we didn't get out of the car.

Our senior center is still holding the men's Monday lunch in the parking lot, socially distanced, of course. The French language class still isn't meeting because it didn't work out well trying to hear and speak French while spaced out across the parking lot with cars going by. The art classes are still done remotely because it's difficult to do watercolor painting outside with the breeze blowing, and no one is ready to go inside the building.

A few fast phone calls revealed that, no, the American Legion hall still isn't open. The auto dealership is trying to restrict potential buyers to test driving only three cars because each one has to be sanitized after customers take one out for a spin. The deli on Main Street is still taking orders only at the front window and doesn't know when it will open for indoor eating.

If a poll were done here, I suspect it would conclude that, no, we're not ready to come out yet.

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## FLASHBACK

By Mick Harper

1. What was the original name of "The Macarena"?
2. Lionel Richie's "Say You, Say Me" was the title song for what film in 1986?
3. How did Spandau Ballet get their name?
4. Who released "Last Night a DJ Saved My Life"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "In the midnight moonlight I'll be walking a long and lonely mile, And every time I do, I keep seeing this picture of you."

### Answers

1. "The Magdalena," taken from a spoken verse in honor of a flamenco dancer in Venezuela in 1992. When Los Del Rio turned it into a song, they changed it to Macarena. The duo has been performing together since 1962.
2. "White Nights," starring Mikhail Baryshnikov and Gregory Hines.
3. A friend saw it written on a wall in Berlin. They made the change from Gentry and Martin when they moved over to electronic music.
4. Indep, in 1982.
5. "Here Comes My Baby," released by Britain's The Tremeloes in 1967. The song was written by Cat Stevens (born Steven Demetre Georgiou) and had been released on his debut album, "Matthew and Son." The Tremeloes had a string of hits in the '60s, including "Do You Love Me" and "Silence Is Golden."

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# Proud To Be American?



**Michael Nance**  
Columnist



Have you ever asked yourself how proud you are to be an American, or how lucky we all are to live in the greatest country in the world? Recently, a mainstream media outlet Gallup poll reported that only 42% of Americans indicated they were extremely proud to be American.

The same source indicated that this is the lowest number measured since the inception of the poll in 2001. Those numbers disturbed me but considering the amount of disinformation in the media today I was not at all shocked.

I will outline just one example of how different reality is from the view many would have you believe. If you rely on the internet, you will believe the country of Costa Rica is fantastic with exotic beaches, free healthcare, no military, and a utopia of all things pure. Some of the information I retrieved indicated that Costa Rica has one of the highest literacy rates on the globe and more schoolteachers than police officers.

One quote I will use from an internet source is the following: "Costa Rica provides the perfect combination of relaxation, adventure, culture, fine cuisine and wildlife." Are you ready to go on vacation after reading the above information? Well before you book your flight let me tell you what reality is in the country.

Although Costa Rica is often forwarded as an example of a modern and successful Latin American nation, it has many problems which are conveniently disguised by savvy travel ads.

I personally visited Costa Rica in July of 2019 for five weeks as a part of a study abroad program to learn how to speak Spanish. I lived with a family of modest means in the city of San Jose that had been selected to be hosts for the university. They did not speak one word of English! My first hint that the internet might have steered me astray was the fact that their small one-bathroom house had razor wire surrounding the perimeter of the roof. My fears were further confirmed when the padre of the house would not leave

after dark unless he was accompanied by at least one other person.

I interviewed many local citizens on the topics of free health care, taxes, crime, and the economy. I discovered that the free health care wasn't a bargain. Many of the citizens would tell me stories of waiting over six hours to see a doctor in the emergency room. There were even tales of people dying while waiting to see a doctor!

On the topic of crime, it did not take long before I realized that I was not in Kansas anymore. During my visit, the State Department issued a warning to stay away from the streets near the U.S. Embassy. Apparently,

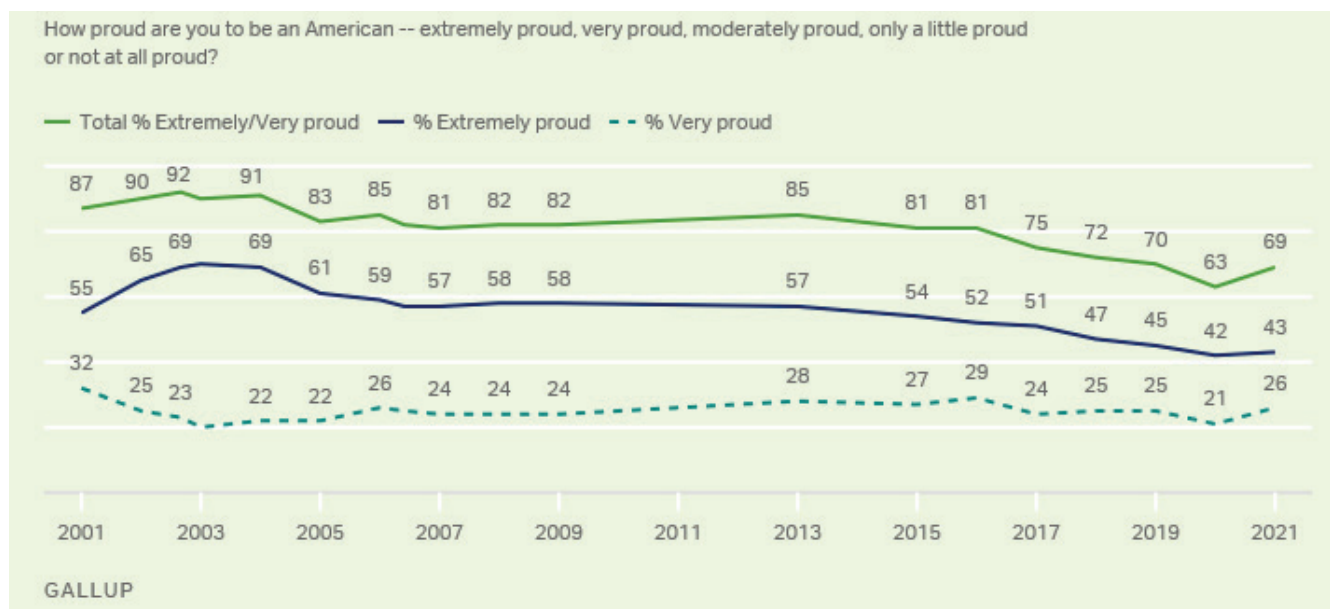
occurring in Costa Rica during my stay that the government was instituting new taxes which had the whole town of San Jose in an uproar.

The last comparison I will make between Costa Rica and America is identification requirements. The requirement to produce a copy of your identification to absentee vote has caused quite a stir here in the states. Many news outlets are debating the subject vigorously. In Costa Rica, the government has instituted a national identification law which enables the police the right to arrest you if you cannot produce your identification at any time. One of the reasons they do this

is a massive illegal immigration problem with Nicaragua. The streets of San Jose are littered with Nicaraguans who are relegated to jobs like selling orange juice to pedestrians.

The point I am attempting to make in this article is that many Americans who are not proud of our country

have a distorted view of the rest of the world. If you booked a trip to Costa Rica and stayed on an all-inclusive resort you might believe the hype about the country. However, if you left the gates of the resort and mingled with the local population you would quickly discover the countries dark underbelly. My advice to those folks who are not proud to be Americans would be to take a few trips out of the country and live among the locals. I am certain that experience would convince even the skeptics that we live in the greatest country on earth and enjoy freedoms that others can only dream of.



rival drug gangs were having an armed dispute. This was especially concerning considering the American embassy is the one place you want to be able to access if you encounter trouble in a foreign country.

Government corruption was probably the most underreported item I identified during my stay. There was a host of high-ranking government officials being arrested almost weekly on the news. I vividly remember reading the report of one federal cabinet member who somehow maintained a three-million-dollar mansion on an \$82,000 salary. She was later discovered of diverting public funds to buy and maintain her palatial home.

So much government corruption was