

# Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3  
Volume 07 Number 35  
Tuesday, August 31, 2021

Your Community. Your News.

75¢

 Terry Futrell  
Photography

## Inside:

Community News

Sports

History

Weather



**Civil War: Federal  
Troops Invade  
Morgan County:  
Aug 30, 1863**



# Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

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# I'D RATHER BE READING.

#mocotoday



**Michael Nance**  
*Columnist*

Although the recent events expose a sad chapter in American policy, our elected leaders must learn from this experience. It is also important for policy makers to recognize the allies of the Taliban.

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This week, I am focusing on understanding who is helping the Taliban and why. My research reveals if the United States does not force Pakistan to adopt a pro-American policy, our country could face more trouble on horizon.

It is essential to understand that many leaders and members of the current Taliban fought alongside, or with the U.S. supplied Afghan Mujahideen during the Soviet occupation of the 1980s. The conflict during the Soviet-Afghan war was brutal and is credited with an estimated one million civilian casualties, not including over 13,000 Soviet soldiers who met their demise in the conflict. After the Soviet withdrawal, the country descended into to a chaotic caldron and bloody power struggle. Eventually, the Taliban emerged as a key military power and set their aims on an Islamic sheria dominated state. In 1996, the Taliban seized the capital and with great publicity politely hung the nation's last communist president, Najibullah Ahmadzai.

Many of the leadership cadre of the Taliban received training in religious schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. These relationships with Pakistan have proved to be a thorn in the side of the coalition forces who have attempted to diminish the Taliban influence in the region.

Recently, the Taliban marched across Afghanistan and made quick work of the indigenous Afghan military. Many politicians, including President Biden seemed surprised that the U. S. trained Afghan military proved no match for the seemingly backward and primitive Taliban forces.

In the search for a scapegoat, many news sources blame the military debacle on the will of the Afghan Army to fight. It is true that there are obvious signs that indicate that the Afghan Army was somewhat of a hollow shell, but that is only one part of the real story with the Afghan Army collapse. Many academic experts of Afghanistan culture and history predicted this collapse many years ahead of the event itself. This collapse is not the result of a military gap, rather a knowledge gap of our elected leaders who write the foreign and military policy of our nation.

To think of the Taliban as a primitive or backward military

This week's events depicting a failed exit from Afghanistan and more importantly the loss of United States service members is a tragedy that will echo in

the hearts of Americans for an infinite

future. First and foremost, my prayers go out to those families who have lost loved ones in the recent attacks, as well as those families who currently have friends or relatives attempting to leave the war-torn country.

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To think of the Taliban as a primitive or backward military

# Pakistan, the Key to Taliban Gains

force is the first mistake many so-called experts make. Their organizational structure combined with their strategy and experience in guerilla warfare reveals a resilient opponent. The Taliban also understand the complicated tribal nuances of the region, which they habitually exploit, and as recent evidence reveals, they are capable of well-coordinated military action. Conversely to popular thought, the Taliban have not been hiding in caves sulking from the U.S. led invasion of Afghanistan, rather they have been planning, gathering intelligence, and patiently organizing support in the region. The Taliban's intelligence network has also continued to evolve from its inception until present day.

According to the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, the Taliban intelligence operations prior to 9/11 were very effective and sophisticated. The intelligence network operates throughout Afghanistan and Pakistan. This network not only gathers information on opponents, but also has an action arm. This action arm is known to have bribed Northern Alliance officials, recruit soldiers from opponents, and conducted assassinations. The Taliban also maintain a complicated, but beneficial relationship with the Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence Agency (ISI).

This relationship with the ISI has made the Afghan-Pakistani border a military nightmare for the coalition forces operating in Afghanistan. The porous border between the two countries allows the Taliban a place of refuge in Pakistan whenever the coalition makes significant progress. Why does the ISI appear to offer help to the Taliban? Pakistan's military establishment requires an ideologically and religiously extremist regime in Afghanistan to act as a barrier against its long-standing rival India. Pakistan's key role in the Taliban takeover did not go unnoticed by everyone on Capitol Hill. Republican Congressman Steve Chabot of Ohio was quoted as stating:

"In contrast, we all know that Pakistan and particularly its intelligence services played a key role fostering the Taliban and allowing them to eventually take over. It's just disgusting to watch Pakistani officials celebrate the victory of this group that will bring untold brutality to the Afghan people."

The Pakistani relationship with China is also a cause for concern for the United States. Chinese relations in the region could be significantly strengthened with the U.S. now withdrawing from the country.

Academia has been predicting a Taliban takeover as far back as 2009. One of the voices, Gilles Dorransoro, working for the Carnegie Endowment, authored a paper explaining the strategy the Taliban have adopted in Afghanistan. The paper's title, "The Taliban's Winning Strategy in Afghanistan", is an accurate summary of the paper's contents.

In his paper, a verbatim quote from Dorransoro: "The Taliban's military organization demonstrates a good level of professionalism in the regions where they dominate. In a country with a long history of determined, effective fighters, today's Taliban are without question the strongest and most effective guerilla movement in Afghanistan's history."

His quote and assessment are

much different than the information we routinely see in the daily news cycle. Most programs depict the Taliban as "backward and lacking any real military sophistication." It is obvious that many analysts have grossly underestimated the military capability of the Taliban. Another place where it seems U.S. policies have failed is related to ideologically aligning the coalition government with the people it represents. The coalition government of Afghanistan is marred by claims of corruption, underrepresentation of minority groups, and gross inefficiency.








Government corruption is a re-occurring theme that has plagued the U.S. in many military operations that required nation building. The corruption in Afghanistan has been obvious to many experts and offered the Taliban a means to recruit support to their cause. Cultural disparities are another area that the Taliban have exploited, and the coalition and Afghan government have also failed to address. During the last decade the cultural fissure has widened between the citizens of the large Afghan cities and those of the rural countryside. The city dwellers are largely made up of people supporting the coalition and they enjoy more money and a much more affluent life than those who reside in the more isolated areas of the country. These circumstances have allowed the Taliban to narrate a story that the coalition government doesn't care about those in the remote tribal areas, which offers yet another opportunity to recruit support to their cause.

What does the future hold for the United States in Afghanistan? Strategic foreign policy implications are on the near-term horizon. The Taliban are cultivating and strengthening relationships with China, Russia and Iran. These countries are also recognizing the Taliban on the world stage. Recently the top Chinese diplomat, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi received a delegation of the Taliban. This is evidence into the growing sophistication of the Taliban's political acumen. Wang was quoted making the following statements: "Afghanistan belongs to the Afghan people, and its future should be in the hands of its own people, "The hasty withdrawal of the U.S. and NATO troops from Afghanistan marks the failure of the U.S. policy toward Afghanistan. The Afghan people have an important opportunity to achieve national stability and development."

The action of collaborating with the Chinese evidence the Taliban's ability to learn from their past mistakes. They are employing political measures on the world stage to disincentivize future U.S. military actions in the region.

As for the United States, it appears that the key to preventing Afghanistan from becoming a refuge for terrorists demands that Pakistan support U.S. interests. The United States must find a way to leverage Pakistan into preventing another terrorist respite to form in Afghanistan. That is the only logical way that the United States can avoid the redeployment of significant military assets back into the region.

## MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK

Tue 31	74°/66°	
Wed 01	75°/59°	
Thu 02	78°/54°	
Fri 03	81°/57°	
Sat 04	85°/61°	
Sun 05	87°/62°	
Mon 06	85°/63°	

## In Loving Memory

### Jackie Ray Ooten, Jr. (Slick), 75

Jackie Ray Ooten, Jr. (Slick), age 75, of Rockwood passed away August 22, 2021, at the Victoria Square Assistant Living in Rockwood. He was a Vietnam Veteran of the U.S. Army who fought with agent orange since then. He worked at the City of Chattanooga for several years. He was a good brother who loved his family.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Robert Lee Ooten and Cora Headrick; brothers, Edward, LeRoy and Tony Ooten and sister, Helen Bullen.

He is survived by his son, Jack-

ie Ray Ooten, Jr. and his mother, Ginger Workman of Jasper, TN.; sisters, Anna Mohring, Lena Bunch, Ida Zumstien, Minnie Taylor, and Marsha Byrge; brothers, Ray and Joe Roy Zumstien and a host of nieces, nephews, and extended family.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, August 25, 2021, at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 5-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. with Bro. Herb Judkins officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Jackie Ray Ooten, Jr.

### Lisa Taylor Ward, 51

Lisa Taylor Ward, age 51, of Crossville Tn. passed away at her home on August 15, 2021. Lisa was born on July 28, 1970, in Jamestown Tn.

She is survived by her mother, Dereda Taylor; sons, Derrick, Dustin, Kyle, and Keith; daughters, Chanel, Chelsea, and Rose; grandchildren, Trayvonne, Ayeden, Trinity, Zayedn, Lylac, and Aniya; brothers Joel and James; sister, Louise.

Lisa is preceded in death by her grandma.

Lisa loved god, her family, being a nana, hiking with her dog, camping and dancing. Lisa was a hard worker who found joy in helping others.

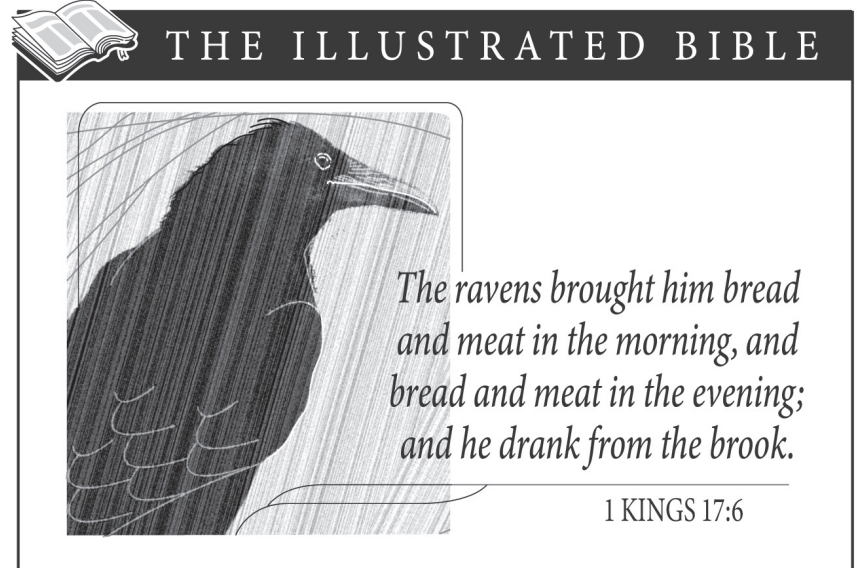
Services are pending at this time.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Lisa Taylor Ward.

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

Send Letters to the Editor  
 Editor@mocotoday.com

The Morgan County Highway Department will have a portion of Camp Austin Rd. in Oakdale closed for a small bridge replacement approximately 1 mile North to North West from the intersection of Johnson Rd. (also known as Imogene Johnson Rd.) and Camp Austin Rd. Construction on this bridge replacement project will begin on August 23, 2021. A completion date hasn't been determined yet. For any questions please give our office a call at (423) 346-6661.



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MSG Fred Mize

Satan wants us to live our lives in fear and confusion. He wants us to be blinded and paralyzed by fear. Look at the world today. People are suffering. People are

attacks against Christians. He knows his time is short and becomes shorter with every passing minute. He desires to turn everyone he can against God and prevent the lost from accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. He wants to take everyone to hell with him. He wants to cloud our minds with so much pain and confusion that we lose our focus on the

## Stand

STRONG!!! Not in our own strength but in the LORD and in the POWER of HIS MIGHT!!!!

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

We must choose to PUT ON the WHOLE armour of God. Then we may be able to STAND against the wiles of the devil. The whole armour of God... Ephesians 6:14-17

Truth – Righteousness – Gospel of Peace – Faith – Salvation – the Word of God

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

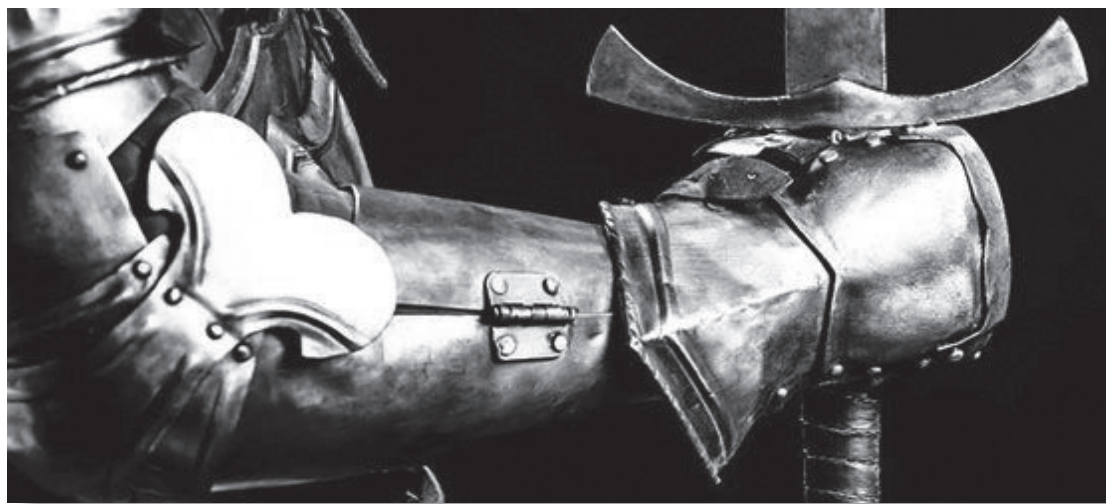
16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

We must not only wear the whole armour of God and stand but we must pray without ceasing.

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

My brethren PREPARE for BATTLE. PUT ON the WHOLE armour of God, STAND today and PRAY forevermore. Amen!



filled with fear and confusion. Our world is overwhelmed with suffering from war to cancer. No one is safeguarded from the tribulations of this life regardless of their age, race, or gender.

Christians must realize that we are at WAR against Satan and his evil desires. We are his priority target of attack. This is plainly stated in Revelation 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Satan is fueled by anger in his

to tell you, my brethren. My fellow brothers and sisters-in-Christ. My fellow born-again Christians. We will fall, we will coward down, we will become blind, and we will fail to live the lives God almighty desires for us to live, IF AND ONLY IF WE ALLOW...

We have a choice to make and we must make it NOW. We must choose today to STAND or to FALL to the wiles of the Devil. Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

LISTEN MY BRETHREN!!!! Be

Sandra Helton's weekly column  
**Oakdale Area News**  
 email: kvhelton@highland.net



Congratulations to the Oakdale EAGLES for their Friday night win over Jellico with a final score of 49-19. They were cheered on by family, friends and the Eagle Cheerleading team who are doing a fantastic job. The Eagles will play at Midway this Friday night at 7:30.

Some of Rolland Headrick's family gathered at the home of his mother, Ruth Headrick Sunday, August 22 to celebrate his birthday which was the day before. Along with his wife Kristi and sons Bryson, Evan and Preston were Dean and Debbie Headrick, Landon, Tessa, Hallie and Bram Headrick all of Crossville and Reggie and Candy Headrick, Cameron and Paisley Headrick and Drew, Konlin and Kloe Headrick. Everyone enjoyed the visit.

Dwain and Judy Garrell of Florida, formerly of Pine Orchard, announce the birth of their granddaughter, Haydn June Garrell. Haydn was born August 26 weighing 8 lbs 7 oz. She is the daughter of Quentin and Heather Garrell and was welcomed home by her twin brothers, Kaide and Jonah. Congratulations Everyone!

First Baptist Oakdale will have revival September 26-29. Brother Jim Disney will be preaching.

The 83rd Annual Pine Orchard Fair will be Saturday, September 11 begin-

ning at 9:00. Exhibit entries will be accepted from 9:00 – 11:00. The BBQ plate lunch will begin at 11:00. Anyone interested in being a vendor can contact Alesha Massey. The vendor fee is \$10 and vendors need to provide their own tent/tables. Vendors are asked to not sell any food or drink.

There will be no school in Morgan County Friday, September 3 or Monday, September 6.

The online auction for Oakdale Public Library was a success. Library Director Kim Colson would like to thank Ashley Ruppe for photographing the auction items and setting up the event page on Facebook. She would also like to thank all of the donors and those who bid on the items. Everyone working together for a common goal is one of the special things about our small community. Mrs. Kim says "Thank You" to everyone who helped in any way.

Kerry and Jennifer Ruppe spent last week in Pigeon Forge. They had a good week with friends, good food and lots of Jeeps. The Great Smoky Mountain Jeep Invasion was August 26-28 at the LeConte Center. On Friday, Raymond and Trula Ruppe drove up and enjoyed a Jeep ride.

Sunday, August 29 was a wonderful day for the White Oak Baptist Church Family. It was youth Sunday. Bryson

Headrick served as Sunday School Superintendent. He shared a lesson on boldness. "Younger" people served as Sunday School teachers. Ivy Tilson and Seth Johnson sang "He Knows My Name." Brother Marcus Nelson preached for us. It was a wonderful service and it got even better! Following the service, we gathered at Helton Creek for the baptizing of Konlin Headrick. Konlin is the son of Drew and Kristan Headrick. He was saved during Vacation Bible School. Several of Konlin's family members were present for this special day. I was not present but Brother Jacob Helton delivered the evening service. We are so grateful for these young preachers and people willing to serve.

First Baptist Oakdale had their regular 5th Sunday night singing August 29. Special singing was by Jonathan and Chelsea Mathis, Jeanie Bingham and White Oak Trio. It was a wonderful song service. I always enjoy hearing Ms. Jeanie and White Oak Trio but it was a real treat for me to hear two young people I have loved for years. Jonathan and Chelsea are such a blessing. As always, we want to thank First Baptist for making us feel so welcome.

Pre-school and Home School Programs at Harriman Public Library will begin Tuesday September 7th. Show and Share Programs will be on Mondays at 11:00. Kindergarten-1st grade home-school programs will be on Tuesdays at 10:00. The Preschool Program will be on Wednesdays at 11:00. Elementary Home School Programs will be on Thursdays at 10:00 and the Middle School and High School Home School Programs will be on Thursdays at 12:00.

Postage stamps have increased to .58. No one likes the price increase but we all like to get our mail.

Condolences to the friends and family of David Humphrey who passed away August 24. David and his family were my neighbors when I was growing up. He was a carpenter and did work for several people in our area. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Margaret Freels Humphrey. He is survived by his children Michelle (John) Dyer, Robin (Greg) Scarbrough, Jason (Amy) Humphrey and Amanda (Matthew) Gaskin. He is also survived by several grandchildren and great grandchildren, brothers Mickey and Danny and sisters, Linda Swafford and Sue Carter. A celebration of life was held Sunday, August 29.

Please pray for the many sick in our communities and pray for our nation.

After a discussion with my family this week, I am ending with the following quote. I did not always like being taught how to work or being expected to work but boy am I grateful that my parents were smarter than me! Parents are not doing their children any favors by not giving them responsibilities and teaching them how to be self-sufficient, how to work and get along with others or letting them learn by experience. Have a good week friends!

*"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."* — Thomas Edison

Morgan County Highway Department is accepting bids on Fold and Form PVC culvert linings for three locations as well as Concrete Spray lining for one location. Full bid package and specifications may be picked up at the Highway Department. Exact locations are listed in bid packet. All bids must be delivered to Morgan County Highway Department, PO Box 250, Wartburg, Tn. 37887 or hand delivered to 3519 Morgan Co. Hwy. Culvert Liner Bid must be clearly and boldly marked on outside on envelope when delivered. Bid opening will be September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 10 a.m. at the Highway Department. Morgan County is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate.

## Americanisms



"If all the cars in the United States were placed end to end, it would probably be Labor Day Weekend."

— Doug Larson

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## Journeyman Linemen / Lineman Apprentices

**Plateau Electric Cooperative is accepting applications through Friday, September 3, 2021 from qualified candidates for the position of journeyman lineman or lineman apprentices. Position performs all types of skilled work relative to the construction and maintenance of Plateau Electric Cooperative's overhead and underground electric system. Climbs poles or steel structures and works from aerial lift devices to install conductor, transformers, crossarms, insulators and other related equipment. Must be willing to work in adverse weather conditions. Position requires a high-school diploma or GED. The successful candidate(s) must have a valid driver's license, and be able to obtain a Class "B" Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Journeyman linemen and/or Apprentices in advanced stages of their apprenticeship are preferred. Those interested may pick up an application at either of the Cooperative's offices in Oneida or Wartburg.**

**Plateau Electric Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity and Drug Free Workplace Employer**

# EmPOWERment Tools Classes Begin Oct 4th!

EmPOWERment is a 12-week Domestic Violence and/or Sexual Assault recovery program offered by the Avalon Center that utilizes video-based instruction, group process, and peer support.

All classes are free of charge and designed to enhance knowledge of power-based violence for victims, survivors, parents, or anyone in a support person role. Participants can attend anonymously, or completion certificates are available to those who sign up and complete ten sessions.

We will offer participants options for how they choose to cope and heal.

Other topics include building self-worth, information on trauma responses, and transitioning into healthy relationships.

With an abundance of caution, classes will be held online at this time using Zoom. Classes start on October 4th, 2021 and will be held every Monday from 5:00-6:30 PM CT.

Call 1-800-641-3434 to sign up today.

AVALON CENTER



EmPOWERment  
Tools

ENDING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE  
ONE TOOL AT A TIME

12 CLASS PROGRAM

12-week Domestic Violence and/or Sexual Assault  
recovery program using video-based instruction, group  
process, and peer support.

All classes are **FREE**, and designed to enhance knowledge  
of power-based violence for victims, survivors, parents, or  
anyone in a support person role.

Other topics include self-worth, information on trauma  
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Domestic Violence 101 and Safety Planning.....	Oct 4
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Recovery from Abuse You Suffered as a Child.....	Oct 25
Knowing Your Worth and Self-Esteem .....	Nov 1
Coping Skills Unhealthy and Healthy.....	Nov 8
SMART Goals to Get You Where You Want to Be .....	Nov 15
Healthy Relationships and Healthy Sexual Experiences.....	Nov 22
Knowing Red Flags and Setting Boundaries .....	Nov 29
Talking to Your Children about Abuse They Have Endured or Witnessed.	Dec 6
Makeup Session.....	Dec 13
Makeup Session.....	Dec 20

**We value your health!**

**Classes held via Zoom**

**Program completion certificates are available to  
those who complete 10 sessions.**

**For more information please contact us!**

**Call 1-800-641-3434 to sign up today!**

Avalon Center, 196 Tenth St. Crossville, Tn 38555  
Crisis Line: 1-800-641-3434 / Office: 931-456-0747

# Subscribe to the Morgan County Today by calling 423.346.2329 or emailing publisher@mocotoday.com

# TN Wild Hog Festival Huge Success

The Second Annual Tennessee Wild Hog Festival was held this past Saturday at the city walking track next to Central High School in Wartburg. For the second year in a row this event was a hit for Morgan County and families. The festival opened up at 10am and throughout the day you could follow the floating foam to the festivities. The foam pit has become a staple activity at the festival. Children and families stayed all day enjoying the bounce houses and foam pit all provided by Party On Inflatables, laser tags, and more. In addition to the many craft vendors, music entertainment, this year's event added a Car Cruise that included forty vehicles participating. The car cruise in nwas organized by the Mountain Shadow Cruisers in partnership with the Oak Ridge car club to put on a great showing of vintage and customized work.

Some of the animal highlights of the day that came back from last year were Sit Means Stay and their furry friends and Reptile Bliss. A new addition to this year's festival was Neigh's and Bray's who provided pony rides and cowboy bingo. You will need to come back next year just to see how cowboy bingo is played. I will only hint that you wouldn't want to pick up the chips.

You can not have a Wild Hog Festival without some good pork. Spirit Wind Farms, locally owned and operated here in Morgan County, and Briblets BBQ from Jamestown entered in some amazing BBQ. This year's winner of the TN Wild Hog Festival barbecue contest was Briblets BBQ.

Sponsors for this year's festival were Tennier Industries, Davis Funeral Homes, Jerry & Jody Zorsch, Sheriff Wayne Potter, One Bank, and BH Howell Insurance Lenoir City. Proceeds raised went to CASA of the Tennessee Valley. CASA helps child victims across Loudon, Morgan, and Roane counties by being a voice for them in the juvenile courtroom. To learn more about CASA you can visit [beforthethechild.org](http://beforthethechild.org).

Make sure to mark your calendars for next year's Tennessee Wild Hog Festival. You can follow them on Facebook to make sure you don't miss next year's event. There is something there for the whole family to enjoy.





# Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week



Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Knauss, 23, Tennessee  
 Navy Hospital Corpsman Max Soviak, 22, Ohio  
 Marine Corps Lance Cpl. David Espinoza, 20, Texas  
 Marine Corps Sgt. Nicole Gee, 23, California  
 Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Darin Taylor Hoover, 31, Utah  
 Marine Corps Cpl. Hunter Lopez, 22, California  
 Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Rylee McCollum, 20, Wyoming  
 Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola, 20, California  
 Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kareem Nikoui, 20, California  
 Marine Corps Cpl. Daegan William-Tyler Page, 23, Nebraska  
 Marine Corps Sgt. Johanny Rosario, 25, Massachusetts  
 Marine Corps Cpl. Humberto Sanchez, 22, Indiana  
 Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jared Schmitz, 20, Missouri

These thirteen American service men and women were of different ages, from different states, served in different military branches, some were married, and some had children of their own. They had many differences but they all served alongside each other. They all sacrificed their lives not for just Americans but for Afghans.

We as Americans regardless of all of our differences should set our differences aside as these fine men and women did and we should mourn and honor them together as a united nation.

Our nation and our world suffer for their loss. Their families, our nation, and the world will never be the same again for these thirteen men and women are now gone but should never be forgotten.

## Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Marla Hines, Circuit Court Clerk

This week we honor fallen Daytona Beach Police Officer Jason Raynor. On August 17, 2021, Officer Raynor succumbed to a gunshot wound he sustained on June 23, 2021, while he was investigating a suspicious vehicle.

vehicle one of the occupants exited the vehicle and suddenly pushed Officer Raynor. During the ensuing struggle, the subject shot Officer Raynor in the head.

Officer Raynor noticed the vehicle parked near an apartment building. As he approached the



The suspect then fled to Atlanta, Georgia where he was arrested three days later. He was extradited to Florida and charged with attempted first-de-

gree murder of a law enforcement officer prior to Officer Raynor's death. Officer Raynor had served with the Daytona Beach Police Department for two years and had previously served with the Port Orange Police Department for three years. He was twenty-six-years-old and is survived by his mother, father, and sister.

## Adventure on Guam



**Tom Redmon**  
Columnist

In January 1959 the U.S. Navy sent me to the South Pacific Island of Guam for 18-29 months. I can't say that I was happy about going to N.A.S. Agana Guam but I was determined to make the best of it.

Guam is an island in the Mariana Chain that is 30 miles long, 8 miles wide at the widest point and contains only 212 square miles of land. The U.S. obtained the island after defeating Spain in the Spanish American War. At the time they had little interest in Guam; it was the Philippines they wanted, but Guam became a prized territory during WWII and after.

The Japanese captured the island on December 10, 1941 and held it for 31 months. The U.S. returned on July 21 and fought the Japanese until August 10, 1944 and were victorious. We had 1,700 killed and 6,000 wounded while the Japanese had 18,000 killed.

When the war ended in September 1945 several Japanese stragglers refused to come out of the jungle and give up. That is where my story really begins.

I was interested in the World War II battles fought on Guam. You could see wrecked war machines on the edge of the jungle but I always wanted to go deep into the jungle and see if I could find some big American or Japanese tanks that were left in the jungle. Maybe I could find a Japanese rifle or sword for a souvenir.

I asked two or three buddies if they wanted to go with me deep into the jungle. I said the war has only been over for fifteen years so there's bound to be some evidence left by the two sides. All of them said no, they didn't want to face the mosquitos or other insects. At the time there were no snakes on the island but there are some now; brought over on ships and let loose (unlawful act). I said, "Well fellas I'm going to take a little nap and then go on this adventure by myself." One sailor said, "Watch it Redmon, you know there are stragglers out there."

The jungle came right up to the edge of the naval base, so I had no problem walking right into the battleground.

I knew a little about the geography of Guam. On the north tip of the island was the big Air Force base named Andersen. Agana, the capital was only around 2 miles from NAS where I was stationed and the Navy base was a little south of Agana.

I decided to go north because I had already gone south to Talofof Falls with some buddies. I wanted to go to Mount Bauriegado and Mount Santa Rosa. Surely, I could find something that would take me back to World War II.

At first, I followed a jungle trail and kept a good eye on both sides of the trail. It was so quiet until I saw a big B-29 that took off from Andersen Air Force Base. The mosquitos were pretty bad which made me glad that I had brought some insect spray. I was glad I didn't have to worry about snakes.

The only living things I saw, besides insects, were birds. Remember Guam was a tropical island so the kinds of birds I saw were different. Being tropical it rained a lot and it could be raining on one side of the road and the sun would be shining on the other side. I forgot to bring my Navy raincoat so there was a good chance I would get wet.

I had walked about two miles and I thought I would sit down for a while and take a drink of water from the canteen I had brought with me. While sitting there I looked

all around in the jungle and there I saw my first WWII vehicle. It was a Japanese truck and I just had to go over to it and examine the inside. It was really rusty because of all the rain and moisture. I couldn't help but wonder what kind of battle had been fought here. Soon I could see ahead of me what I thought was Mount Bauriegado. The mountains were not very high, compared to the mountains in East Tennessee.

So, I walked up to the edge of the hill and I sensed that there was someone near me. All at once the thought of Jap stragglers entered my mind. I looked to my left and saw what looked like a cave and as I walked over to the entrance two figures came running out of the jungle and they came for me. I thought they were moving too fast to be stragglers.



I stepped aside to avoid them but one grabbed me by the arm and said in perfect English "What are you doing in our domain? You are not supposed to be here." They were Japanese but they were in good health and I answered him. "I'm looking for wrecked vehicles, especially tanks from the war. You couldn't be stragglers."

No, we came from Japan after the war was over and we are here to get even. We want revenge. Our fathers were killed here on this island and we have others to help us kill Americans. They opened a big earthen door and they pulled me inside the cave where I

saw what looked like fifty or more Japanese. The cave was elaborate with all kinds of weapons placed around the walls. They had living quarters and all kinds of food stored in cabinets.

I asked one of the Japanese how they got all the stuff to this island? I said Japan is 1,500 miles from here.

The Japanese said we have inventory which we have come up with since WWII. You would see some of it if you would not die here, but we can't let you leave here and reveal our secret.

They had dug this cave and underground facilities. They were experts at this, just look at what a network of caves they built on Iwo Jima during the war.

They also had rescued around fifteen stragglers and nursed them back to good health.

Needless to say, I was scared to death as they took me to a big room with a table and chairs. They said, we have questions to ask you before you die.

We want to kill your base Captain and officers. You will draw a map of the base and show living quarters. They gave me a pen and paper but I told them I couldn't do it.

One big Japanese grabbed me and picked up his weapon. He said, "This is where you die, American!"

That is when I woke up shaking. My nap had turned into a nightmare and I told my buddies, I don't believe I want to go into the jungle now. I've seen enough jungle in my sleep.

Epilogue

Of course, the latter part of this story is fiction. But the truth is that the Japanese committed

many atrocities on this island when they took it over in 1941. There were only 400 Navy men and around 150 Marines on Guam when the Japanese invaded the island. It had to be a sad day when this happened. Not only were the sailors and marines killed but the native islanders suffered greatly as many atrocities were committed.

Two Japanese stragglers were captured in 1960 when I was on Guam and another one in 1972. They feel that this was the last of the stragglers. Today Guam is a modern vacation place, believe it or not, for the Japanese.

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



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## Disappeared: Chapter 7

### Maggie-Day 2, cont.



**Carol Hall**  
Author

Maggie was scrubbed from head to toe by Rose. She used what Maggie could only assume was some kind of homemade Bigfoot soap. It smelled earthy and oddly enough, it lathered up well. After being sudsed up and scrubbed till her skin was pink, Maggie was repeatedly dunked in the water to remove the suds.

Rose was careful not to dunk her too deep. The water was only about 8 feet deep, so Rose and Brutus could stand in it up to their chests, but Maggie

couldn't touch the bottom.

Even her hair got a good scrubbing, leaving it in knots. Whatever the soap was they were using, it obviously didn't have any moisturizers in it. It would take her an hour using her fingers to work out the tangles.

That wasn't half as concerning as the fact that she was just washed from head to toe and everywhere in between by Bigfoot. Yeah, she wouldn't be sharing that little tidbit with anyone after she was rescued. Some things were best kept to oneself.

After Maggie's scrubbing, Rose and Brutus both lathered up and rinsed themselves in the pool as well.

When they were done, Maggie was lifted out of the pool by Brutus. He and Rose both climbed out and shook the water off themselves, similar to the way dogs do, sending droplets of water flying everywhere.

After watching this ritual, Maggie couldn't understand why they smelled so bad. Did they only do this once a year? Maybe Bigfoot just naturally smelled bad. Maybe it was a way to ward off other animals. Well, duh Maggie, she thought. They wouldn't be prey for other animals. These guys were definitely at the top of the food chain.

Maggie watched them shaking themselves, then she too started to shake and jump up and down to remove as much water as possible.

She felt like an idiot standing naked in a cave with Bigfoot, jumping up and down, shaking herself, but how else was she to remove the water. Obviously there wouldn't be any towels for her to use.

When she was dry enough, she started reaching for her clothes, but Rose grabbed them up and dropped them into the pool.

"Hey, I need those!" Maggie said. "What am I supposed to wear now?" Rose knelt down beside the pool and grabbed the soap and proceeded to scrub the mud out of Maggie's clothes.

"Oh," she said, shrugging her shoulders. "Well then, go ahead, knock yourself out. I'll just sit here naked and freeze to death."

She squatted down next to Rose and watched her work the soap into the fabric. After removing as much of the mud as possible, Rose rinsed out the clothes. She wrung them out and laid them on the ground around the pool to dry. "Um, Rose?" Maggie asked. "What am I supposed to wear while my clothes are drying?" She pointed down at herself, then to her clothes. Rose looked at her and motioned toward the bed.

When Maggie didn't move, Rose led her over to the bed and motioned for her to sit down. Maggie sat down and covered herself as best she could with her arms.

Rose sat down beside her and put an arm around her. Though Rose's body was warm, her fur was still wet. Leaning up against her was starting to give Maggie the chills. She started to shiver. Rose pulled her closer to herself and wrapped her arms tighter around her.

Even after the bath they just had, Rose still stunk. How was that possible? The smell wasn't as pungent as before, but it was still there.

I wonder if I smell stinky to them, Maggie thought. Maybe that was why they bathed her. Maybe humans smelled bad to Bigfoot. She lifted her arm and sniffed her armpit. All she could smell was the earthy scent of the soap they had used. Nope, I certainly do not stink, she thought.

The light shining down through the rock opening, thought gray and gloomy, was beginning to fade quickly. The temperature inside the cave was cool and being wet only made it feel that much cooler. Rain continued to pour down through the hole into the pool.

Before long, what little bit of light coming in would be completely gone and the cave would be shrouded in darkness. It would only get cooler as the night wore on.

Brutus sat by the fire pit with his back to Rose and Maggie. Before long he had started a small fire. Being satisfied that the fire would stay lit, he turned and left the cave.

Maggie watched him go.

"Where is he going?" she asked Rose, pointing after him.

Rose grunted and opened her mouth and pretended to put something in it.

"You understood me?" Maggie asked excitedly. "You knew what I asked?"

She felt a twinge of excitement wash over her. Was Rose able to understand her? Would they be able to communicate with each other? She seemed to know what Maggie just asked. Could she understand other stuff too?

"What is he going to bring back?"

She waited hopefully to see if Rose would respond somehow, but she just smiled at her.

Hmm, I guess not, thought Maggie. I will find a way to communicate with her, though. One way or another.

They got up from the bed and moved closer to the small fire and waited for Brutus to come back.

Maggie hadn't had a chance to think about how hungry she was, but now, at the thought of food, her stomach began gurgling and churning. She hoped Brutus returned soon with food.

But what would he bring back? What did Bigfoot eat? Berries? A dead animal?

Apprehension filled Maggie at the thought of him bringing back a dead animal. Would they cook it over the fire or expect her to eat it raw and uncooked like an animal? Oh please, please, please, let them cook it first, she thought.

The light from outside had completely disappeared by the time Brutus returned. The only light in the cave came from the small fire. It reflected off the cavern walls and cast a dim glow around the room. Rain still poured down into the pool from above indicating that the storm was still raging outside.

Brutus approached them carrying something in his hands. He stopped next to Rose and dropped several dead rabbits on the ground next to her. Maggie watched in awe as Rose quickly and skillfully, skinned the rabbits with one of the tools she had seen laying around the fire pit. Brutus must have gutted them before he brought them back because they were hollowed out of any internal organs.

Once they were skinned, Rose shoved them onto skewers and arranged them over the fire. Once they were sizzling, she grabbed up the furs and headed down the tunnel to the outside world.

Maggie got up to follow, but Brutus growled a warning, so she sat back down and waited for Rose to return.

Several minutes passed before she saw Rose emerge from the tunnel back into the cave. She stopped at the pool and washed her hands, scrubbing them thoroughly with soap and water. Again, Maggie was surprised at the near human traits these things had.

The cooking rabbits smelled so good that Maggie's stomach rumbled. The smell filled the cave making her lightheaded and dizzy with hunger. She couldn't wait to sink her teeth into one of those juicy little rabbits. Rose tested the rabbits several times before she eventually pulled them off the fire. She handed a skewer to Maggie and one to Brutus before taking one for herself.

Maggie used her teeth to pull a bite off and chew it up. The meat was tender and hot. She was so hungry she didn't care if it wasn't seasoned. She didn't care that it was a rabbit. She ate it with relish and enjoyed every bite.

When she had picked the carcass clean, she handed the skewer back to Rose. Rose started to hand her another one, but Maggie held up her hand and shook her head. She couldn't eat another bite. One rabbit was plenty. "No, thank you," she said. "One was enough."

She couldn't believe she ate the whole rabbit. Never in her life had she eaten so much at one meal, but then she had to admit, she had never gone a whole day without eating either.

In all her camping trips, she had never resorted to eating any rabbits. They always packed in all their food. She realized just then, that they had been missing out. Maybe rabbit was an acquired taste, but starvation will make you try anything, and she had to admit, rabbit wasn't half bad.

With the food eaten and the skewers washed and laid on the ground to dry by Rose, it was time for bed.

Brutus got up from the fire, patted his stomach and let out a long, deep belch, then farted so loudly it echoed around the cavern. This seemed to amuse him because he looked over at Rose and smiled. She patted her stomach too and let out a tiny, squeaky belch. It wasn't nearly as grand as Brutus's, but she seemed happy to have expelled one anyway.

Well, Maggie thought, disgusted. There's the animal side of them. Even male Bigfoots farted and belched. It wasn't just human men after all. Rose grabbed Maggie and made her way over to her bed. She curled down into the twigs and leaves and pulled Maggie down beside her.

Still naked, Maggie felt very awkward. She didn't want to spend the whole night naked sleeping next to a Bigfoot. She started to get up to go get her clothes, but Rose yanked her back.

"I just want to get my clothes," she told Rose. She gestured toward her clothes and then down at her naked body. Rose seemed to understand what she wanted, so she let go of her.

Maggie used the light from the fire to locate her clothes. Surprisingly enough, they were dry. She slipped them on in the darkness and made her way back to the bed.

She curled up next to Rose to keep warm. She must have started getting used to her smell, because it didn't seem to bother her as much now. Exhaustion overtook her and she quickly drifted off to sleep.

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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.*

## NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JoAnn Derson

\* Use club soda on a damp rag to wipe down your stainless-steel sink. It will help bring back the shine.

\* Fresh versus frozen in the seafood aisle: Unless you're at the docks, most seafood in the grocer's fresh fish case is thawed from frozen. Always ask. It's much cheaper to buy frozen and thaw it yourself.

\* "My mother swears by wrapping her feet in a vinegar-soaked rag once a week to soften calluses. She does this before her bath, and uses a pumice stone to rid her heels of hardened spots on the skin. It seems to work for her, so I thought I would pass it on!" -- C.D. in Colorado

\* "If you need to keep your 1-year-old corralled in the bath, try using a laundry basket. The water flows

in, but she has only so much room to roam. And it lessens the odds she could slip away from you to the other side of the tub. Always stay with baby from the first drop to the last!" -- W.H. in Texas

\* To distinguish all the cords plugged into a power strip, write the appliance name (TV, DVD, speakers, etc.) on a plastic bread tab, and attach it to the cord at the plug. A quick look at the power strip, and you can unplug any appliance without having to follow the cord through the jungle behind your entertainment center!

\* "Save on children's clothes by buying after-season. Summer and winter clothes can be purchased a size or two ahead for next to nothing." -- M.M. in Idaho

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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## STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

\* Kite flying is an official sport in Thailand.

\* It's not unusual to cry at weddings, but in certain parts of China, weeping is a required part of preparation for the big day. A month before they tie the knot, Tujia brides will cry for one hour each day. Ten days in, they're joined by their mothers; ten days after that, grandmothers, and eventually other female family members. The practice is said to date to China's Warring States era when the mother of a Zhao princess broke down in tears at her wedding.

\* The Chinese soft-shelled turtle urinates from its mouth.

\* Fashion designer Michael Kors' first project was a redesign of his own mother's wedding dress, at her second marriage. He was 5 years old at the time.

\* Too much sunlight can damage the algae that live inside shallow-water coral and are the main source of its sustenance. To protect this algae, the corals fluoresce, creating proteins that essentially serve as a sunscreen.

\* The Greek national anthem consists of 158 verses.

\* We all know hiccups can be annoying, but at least they tend to pass quickly -- unless you were Charles Osborne, who began hiccupping in 1922 after a fall while attempting to weigh a hog before slaughtering it, and continued doing so for a total

of 68 years. That's an estimated 430 million hiccups!

\* Leeches have a brain in each of their 32 body segments.

\* Looking to expand your ice-cream palate? Masiwa, a cafe chain in South Korea, offers a black-hued, squid ink-flavored version, served in glasses with an octopus mascot.

\*\*\*  
Thought for the Day: "The path of peace is not a passive journey. It takes incredible strength not to open a can of 'whoop-ass,' justifiably, when one's button is pushed." -- T. F. Hodge

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### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate    ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Wee dollop
- 4 "I smell —!"
- 8 Lose it
- 12 Single
- 13 Only
- 14 Chantilly, e.g.
- 15 Vitamin stat
- 16 Frost
- 17 "— Misbehavin'"
- 18 Improbable, unexpected wonders
- 21 Existed
- 22 Squid squirt
- 23 Song of praise
- 26 Frequently
- 27 "Lion" actor Patel
- 30 Intends
- 31 Dinner for Dobbin
- 32 Seethe
- 33 Sample
- 34 "Shoo!"
- 35 Crazy Horse, for one
- 36 Mountain pass
- 37 Hot tub
- 38 Insignificant sum
- 45 Car
- 46 "Who —?"
- 47 Ultimate
- 48 Leisurely
- 49 Fashion magazine

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18			19					20				
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23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30						31				32		
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45						46				47		
48						49				50		
51						52				53		

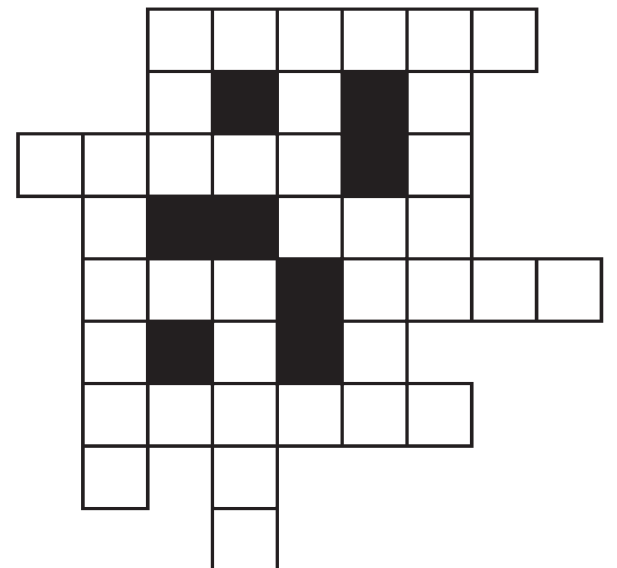
### DOWN

- 1 Campus digs
- 2 "The King —"
- 3 Noggin
- 4 Hindu retreat
- 5 Hotel units
- 6 Jai —
- 7 Fill with intense fear
- 8 Not taut
- 9 Hammer target
- 10 Teen's woe attendees
- 11 Favorites
- 12 Edict
- 13 They give a hoot
- 14 Guy's date
- 15 Sudden bursts
- 16 Radiates
- 17 Long-legged shorebird
- 18 Obi
- 19 Stubborn
- 20 Busy insect
- 21 Feedbag morsel
- 22 Molecule part
- 23 Bit of butter
- 24 Knightly address
- 25 Actress
- 26 Adams
- 27 Pair with an air
- 28 Outback bird
- 29 Irritate
- 30 Many
- 31 Woodstock
- 32 Molt
- 33 Sudden bursts
- 34 Radiates
- 35 Long-legged shorebird
- 36 Obi
- 37 Stubborn
- 38 Molecule part
- 39 Norway's capital
- 40 Burden
- 41 Jazz singer
- 42 James
- 43 Molt

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- ♥ TPA
- ♥ NOPGLI
- ENLEW
- ♥ RAWP
- WISPRA
- ♥ EAL
- ♥ OLPO
- WARLB
- ♥ EOW
- TUBPAR
- ♥ TREET
- ♥ LAAG



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.

# BIBLE TRIVIA

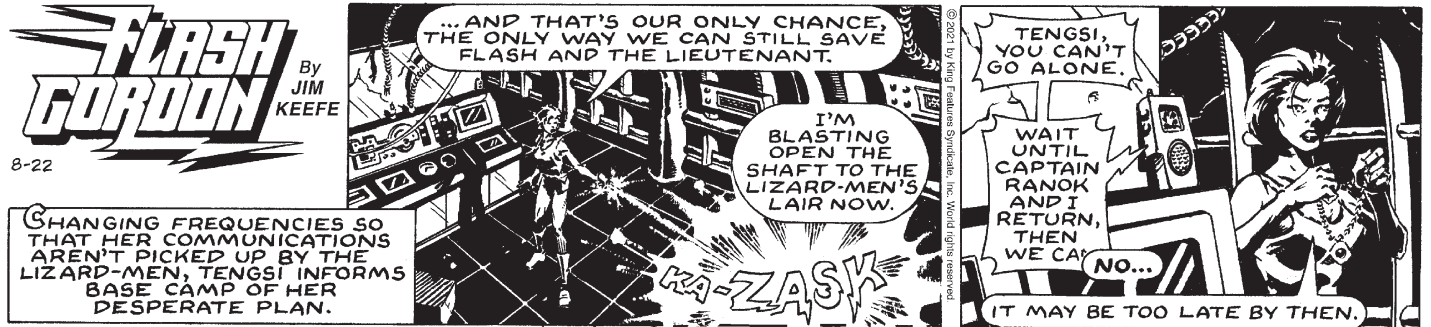
by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Labor in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Acts 20:35, "That so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words, it is more \_\_\_\_\_ to give than to receive." Righteous, Understanding, Blessed, Bountiful
3. Ecclesiastes 3:13 states, "And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labor, it is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God." Will, Gift, Guidance, Law
4. From Proverbs 14:23, "In all labor there is profit: but the \_\_\_\_\_ of the lips tendeth only to penury." Whispering, Closing, Talk, Howling
5. In Ephesians 4:28, "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his \_\_\_\_\_." Brothers, Soul, Might, Hands
6. From Exodus 20:9, how many days shalt thou labor and do all thy work? Two, Four, Six, Seven

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Blessed; 3) Gift; 4) Talk; 5) Hands; 6) Six

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit [www.TriviaGuy.com](http://www.TriviaGuy.com)

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## Comfort foods

Made fast and healthy

by Healthy Exchanges

### Party Pasta Salad

The last days of summer are upon us. Maybe you'll choose one last visit to the beach, a trip to a state park or maybe even your own backyard. Wherever you choose to "party," be sure to take this easy pasta dish along. It's sure to please.

- 1/2 cup fat-free French dressing
- 2 tablespoons fat-free mayonnaise
- 3 cups cold cooked rotini pasta, rinsed and drained
- 1 cup finely chopped celery
- 1/2 cup finely chopped onion
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh parsley

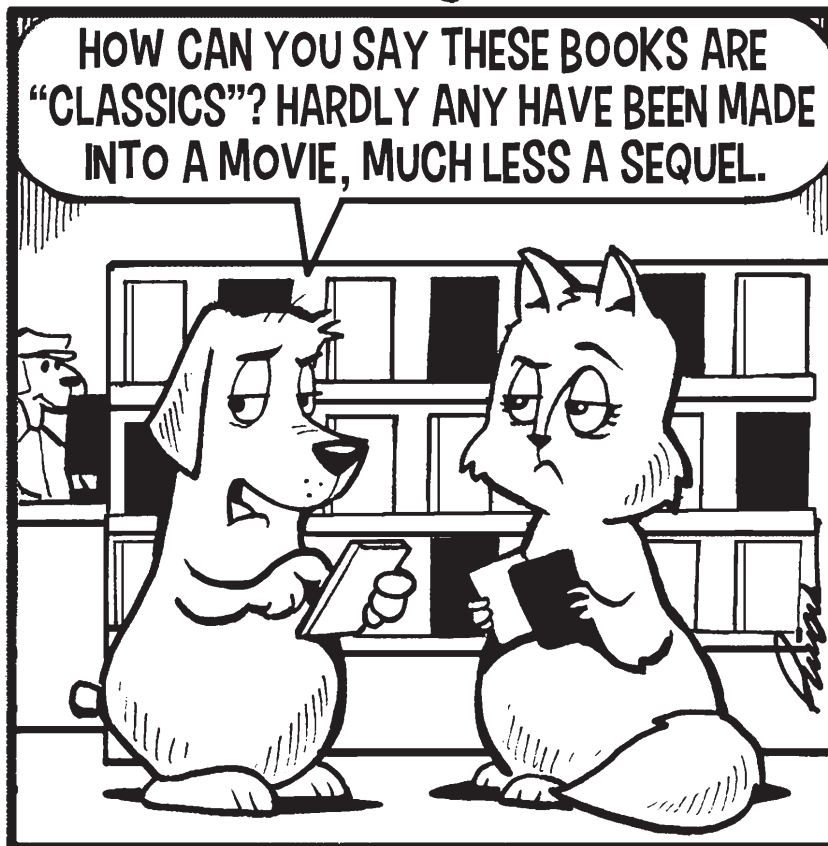
1. In a large bowl, combine French dressing and mayonnaise. Add pasta, celery, onion and parsley. Mix well to combine.

2. Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. Gently stir again just before serving. Makes 6 (3/4 cup) servings.

• Each serving equals: 132 calories, 0g fat, 4g protein, 29g carb., 259mg sodium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Starch, 1/2 Vegetable.

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### Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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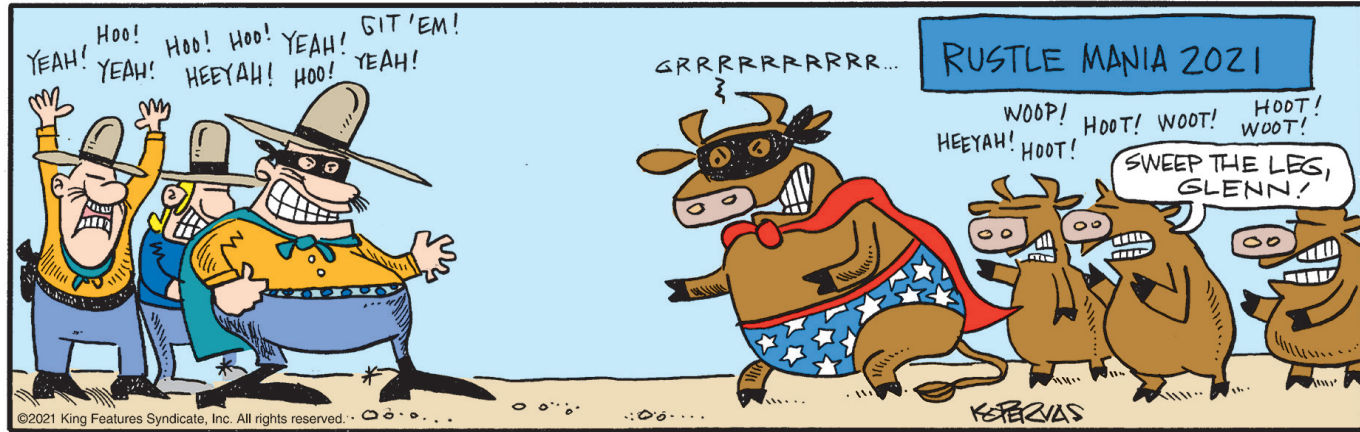
# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



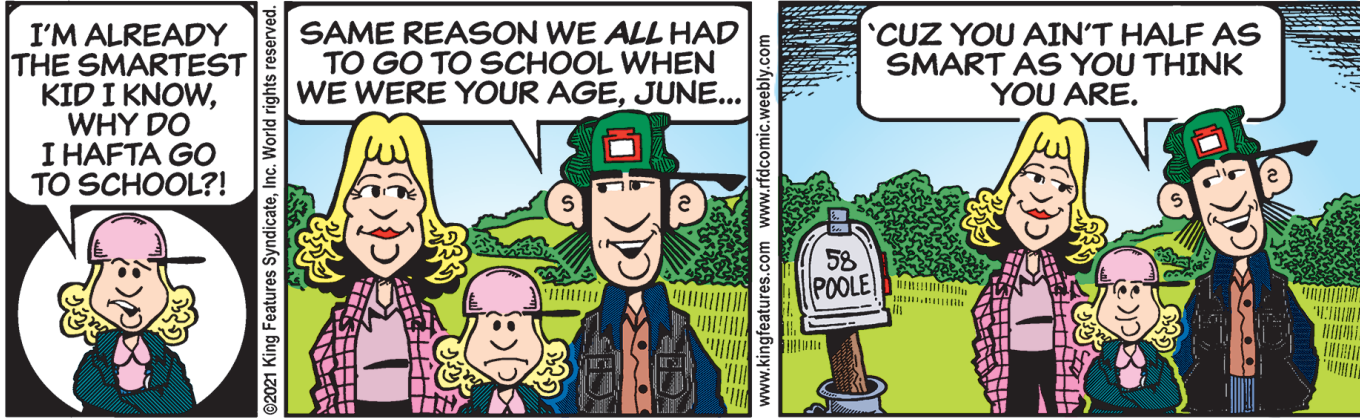
# Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



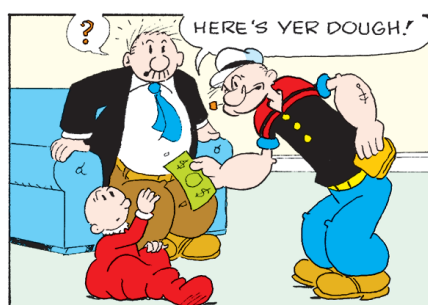
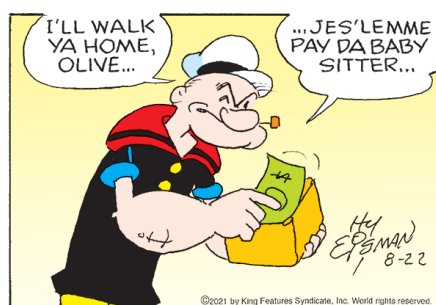
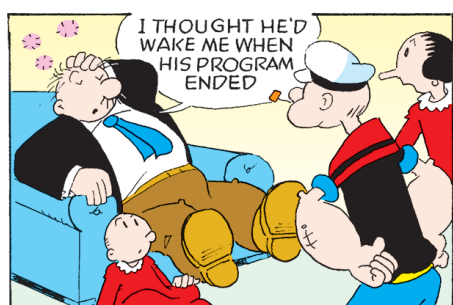
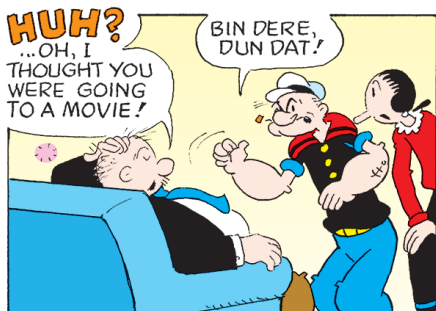
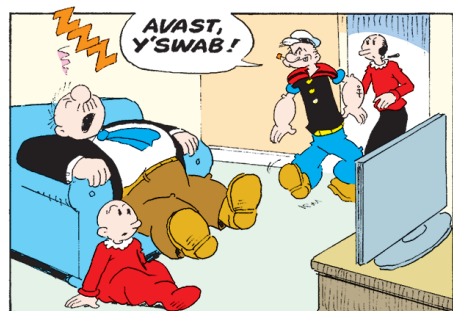
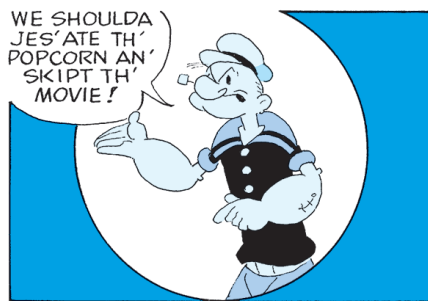
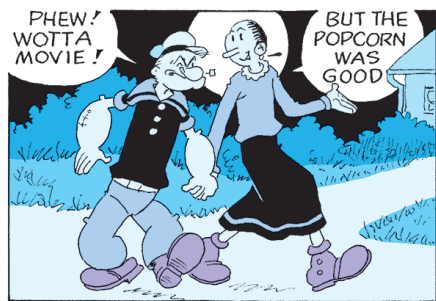
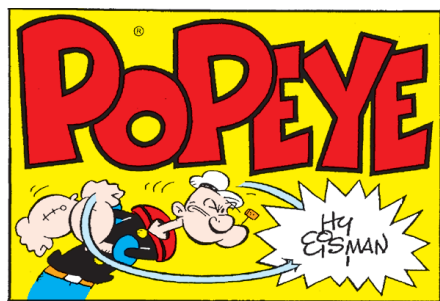
# R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



# The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



# MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

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 \* On Sept. 17, 1796, President George Washington prepares a final draft of his farewell address. Two days later, his words appeared in Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser, officially notifying the American public that he would voluntarily step down as the nation's first president. Rarely in the history of Western civilization has a national leader voluntarily relinquished his title.

\* On Sept. 18, 1893, New Zealand becomes the world's first country to grant national voting rights to women. The United States granted women the right to vote in 1920, and Great Britain followed in 1928.

\* On Sept. 16, 1932, in his cell near Bombay, Mohandas Gandhi begins a hunger strike in protest of the British government's decision to separate India's electoral system by caste. Gandhi worked all his life to spread his own brand of passive resistance.

\* On Sept. 14, 1944, the U.S. 1st Marine Division lands on the tiny island of Peleliu in the Pacific as part of a larger operation to provide support for an invasion of the Philippines. The Marines suffered heavy losses, with 4,000 men killed in the first week alone.

\* On Sept. 15, 1978, boxer Muhammad Ali defeats Leon Spinks at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans to win the world heavyweight boxing title for the third time in his career. Ali left the sport permanently in 1981.

\* On Sept. 18, 1987, cesium-137 is removed from an abandoned cancer-therapy machine in Brazil. Junk yard workers, fascinated by the glowing blue stone inside and unaware of its dangers, gave pieces to friends, relatives and neighbors. Hundreds of people were eventually poisoned by radiation, and 40 contaminated homes had to be demolished.

\* On Sept. 13, 1990, the drama series "Law & Order" premieres on NBC. It will go on to become one of the longest-running prime-time dramas in TV history and spawn several popular spinoffs. (c) 2021 Hearst Communications, Inc. All Rights Reserved

# THE RICH LOWRY COLUMN

By Rich Lowry

## The Media's Finest Hour

Poor Ron Klain.

It's not a good sign when a White House chief of staff to a Democratic president wants to re-tweet favorable news coverage and all he can find is the least credible and most slavishly loyal commentators on the internet.

The Afghanistan fiasco has created that most disorienting and discomfiting experience for a progressive administration -- a serious bout of critical media coverage immune to White House spin and determined to tell the unvarnished story of an ongoing debacle.

The White House and its allies have lashed out at what they are portraying as an insular, pro-war media ignoring its many successes in the Afghan evacuation.

This, like Ron Klain's tweeting, is a sign of desperation and of a feeling of outraged betrayal that usually dependable allies have, on this story, switched sides. Say it's not so, CNN.

The White House is unfamiliar with what it's like to be on the receiving end of the kind of media feeding frenzy that Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis experiences every other day (almost always involving spurious storylines).

But on Afghanistan, Joe Biden in effect set out to test how much shameless incompetence and dishonesty the media would accept. The answer? Not nearly enough.

The press is blatantly biased and has become even more so over time, repeatedly propagating false narratives that have shredded its credibility. Still, there are limits beyond which even it can't be pushed.

Biden said that the Afghan withdrawal wouldn't be another Saigon within weeks of Saigon-like scenes of a hasty evacuation of the U.S. embassy, of terrified Afghans clinging to a U.S. transport plane, of desperate Afghans passing their infants over the barbed wire to Western soldiers guarding the Kabul airport.

There is no number of look-on-the-bright-side briefings that are going to overcome these indelible images, and even a journalist who tilted heavily toward Biden in 2020 and supports his agenda was going to be hard-pressed to look away.

The contradiction in Biden's case for withdrawal was also too stark to ignore. He originally justified his pullout because the Afghan government and military were capable of defending the country without us, then he justified his exit because the government and military collapsed so quickly. Which was it?

Much of what Biden has said in his remarks and press conferences has been vulnerable to instant fact checks. When he said that Americans weren't having trouble getting through to the airport, reporters could immediately attest that it wasn't true.

Who was everyone supposed to believe? Biden's misleading assurance, or CNN reporter Clarissa Ward's compelling report from outside the Kabul airport that she was threatened with a whip for not covering her face and her producer nearly pistol whipped? Ward said it was "mayhem" and "a miracle that more people haven't been very, very seriously hurt."

The complaints from the administration and its most committed journalistic supporters that the coverage has been unfair and the product of a press biased toward interventionism ring hollow.

It is certainly true that the East Coast media has more cosmopolitan attitudes than the rest of the country, but it's hardly full of committed foreign policy hawks. The press didn't notably dissent from President Barack Obama's pullout from Iraq in 2011 or his nuclear deal with Iran. It has steadfastly favored the so-called peace process in the Middle East.

It's not as though only the American media has noticed Biden's ineptitude, either. If anything, our foreign allies have been harsher about the humiliating mess Biden has stumbled into (former British prime minister Tony Blair called it "imbecilic") than journalists here at home.

Since he won the Democratic nomination last year, Biden has been the subject of relentless favorable press coverage forgiving his lapses and enthusiastic about his alleged accomplishments. It was hard to see what he could do to lose media support, even for a time, and then he botched his withdrawal.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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# Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

## Slow-Cooker Chicken Tortilla Soup

Mention "slow-cooker meals" and your mind no doubt drifts to chilly fall and winter weather eating. Mine, too, until my oldest son, Bjorn, took charge



**Granddog Cali sniffs out a bowl of Chicken Tortilla Soup.**

of dinner a few nights ago and ladled up bowlfuls of his tasty slow-cooker chicken tortilla soup. Topped with crisp bean sprouts from the Asian market, cilantro from the garden and a handful of grated cheese and crushed chips, his version of Tex-Mex/Asian fusion made for healthy family fare.

It even gets better when considering the three-minute prep-time factor. No

# VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

## Guardians Stole From Helpless Veterans

Most of the time, a scammer of veterans will be given a prison sentence that is less than satisfactory to those of us who are following the story. A few years here or there, a monetary fine ... it's not enough.

But now and then, a sentence will come along that just feels right. This happened in a recent fraud case against a group of four criminals. One of the males received a sentence of 15 years. His stepson got almost six years. One of the female criminals got 20 years. But the last one, another woman, received a sentence of 47 years for her part in the crimes.

The group, calling itself a nonprofit corporation, acted as guardians, conservators and financial managers to those with special needs, including veterans. The 33-count indictment included money laundering, mail fraud, conspiracy and aggravated identity theft.

The criminals would either

need to saute the chicken or chop vegetables ahead of time. Simply let your kids open five cans of basic ingredients while you unwrap a package of fresh chicken breasts. Dump all the food in the cooker, turn it to low, and soup's on in 6 to 8 hours. It doesn't get much easier than that!

Bjorn's Slow-Cooker Chicken Tortilla Soup

- 2 (14.5-ounce) cans stewed tomatoes
- 1 (15-ounce) can black beans
- 1 (4-ounce) can diced green chili peppers
- 1 (15-ounce) can chicken broth
- 2 pounds skinless, boneless chicken breasts; or 1 pound for a less-dense soup

### Toppings:

Grated Cheddar cheese  
Cilantro  
Mung Bean sprouts  
Tortilla Chips, crushed

1. Place all soup ingredients in a slow cooker and stir together lightly. Cover, set slow cooker to low and cook for 6-8 hours.

2. When ready to serve, remove the cooked chicken and shred into bite-size pieces with a fork. Place the shredded chicken back in the slow cooker and stir. Cook for another hour if you wish, or ladle in large soup bowls.

3. Add toppings according to taste. Serve with a green salad and enjoy fresh fruit for dessert. Makes 6 to 8 servings

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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)

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use a company credit card to make their purchases, knowing the company would pay it back out of client money, or write checks to themselves out of the account. Among the take were RVs, vacations, cars, cruises and more, to the tune of \$11 million in client money ... clients who suffered when they didn't have enough money for expenses, care and food, and were sometimes left homeless.

What's galling is that it could have been stopped as far back as 2012. The company's tax accountant raised flags with their attorney, saying one of the women was using the client funds as her own personal ATM. But instead of going to the authorities, the accountant let himself be silenced by a threatening confidentiality agreement and a check for payment in full for his services.

Despite the short sentences the two men received, there is one thing that does make me smile. The head criminal, the woman who received a sentence of 47 years plus three years supervised release, is 74 years old.

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## Historically Speaking The Oak Ridge Pioneers Part 2

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

In the last Historically Speaking the second attempt at bringing professional baseball to Oak Ridge in the form of the Oak Ridge Pioneers was introduced. Several Oak Ridgers worked hard to support this renewed effort in 1954 after the failed attempt in 1948 that was The Oak Ridge Bombers.

At the end of the last installment in this story, Frank J. "Sonny" Tuck, had been identified as the first person signed by the newly forming team. While he was a well-known pitcher from his high school days, Sonny explained to me that he only got to play a short time for the new team.

Sonny said when he injured his ankle, he was soon released from his contract as they had to pay him regardless of whether he played or not. He also told me that the uniforms they used during pre-season practice had "Boston" on the back with either dark blue or black numbers on the front. He wondered about what connection there might be between the Boston Red Sox and the Oak Ridge Pioneers.

I asked him how the name "Pioneers" came to be selected. He said he recalled some sort of naming contest that resulted in that name. I wonder - do any readers know more about how that name came to be selected? I can see the connection with Oak Ridge for the name "Bombers" but what is the connection with "Pioneers?"

Sonny also recalled a pitcher on the Morristown Red Sox team, Pedro Ramos. Pedro went on to become a long-standing big league professional player for the Washington Senators and the New York Yankees.

Another story about the Pioneer uniforms comes from George Warne, owner of New York Dry Cleaners in 1954. George, along with his dad, had built a new dry cleaning facility next door to the Snow White Restaurant (now there is yet another potential Historically Speaking story!).

George told me that when the Pioneers got into financial trouble, they offered shares to the public. I learned from The Oak Ridger coverage that on June 24, 1954, the shares sold for \$10 each. George recalled that he contributed to the team but did not recall the amount. He, being the adventurous partner in the business with his dad, agreed to wash the uniforms for the team in exchange for free passes for his family to the games.

As this was all happening the team was in financial trouble and the league was failing as several teams left the league to play in other more prominent leagues. Those "free passes" never materialized.

However, George did say he recalled being left with 25 freshly washed uniforms when the team folded. He said they stayed around the dry-cleaning facility for quite a while and finally the person who donated the uniforms, whom George recalls as the owner of a television station located in the building next to the cleaners that housed The Oak Ridger for many years, came by wanting his uniforms back.

George recalled a bit of discussion regarding who would pay the washing bill. He finally relented and gave the uniforms back to the person who donated them. George told me he was still waiting on those "free passes!" He also recalled the words his dad used to warn him against such trades, stating that getting paid for their work was an important part of running a successful business.

The season opener was played on April 24, 1954,

against the Maryville-Alcoa Twins and the Pioneers lost six to one. Even though the team lost, the game was hyped well before hand with a parade, huge coverage in the Oak Ridger and the Atomic Energy Commission's Oak Ridge Operations manager, Sam Sapirie performing the traditional "throwing out of the first ball rites."

According to The Oak Ridger coverage on April 23, 1954, "Preceding his official starting of the season, there will be a band concert, introductions, a flag raising ceremony (if the flagpole is finished on time), and a unique introduction of the



*B. B. Hopkins signed with Mountain States League but had to drop out because of school responsibilities (Photo Submitted)*

team's board of directors as well as the introduction of the team."

The news article went on to promote the newly renovated Ridgeview Park that was previously known as Gamble Valley Park. It was this renovation that eventually led to the financial troubles of the Pioneer club.

The cost of \$13,000 was paid down to an \$8,000 debt that could not be paid and caused the club president, Ross Charles, to tender his resignation at a stockholder meeting on June 28, 1954, by stating: "Possibly, I have over-estimated my capabilities. Possibly, I am the wrong man for this job and someone else might be able to accomplish more."

Charles continued, "If this is the case, we, as stockholders, must take advantage of this possibility. Therefore, with a sincere and whole-hearted thanks to the nine gentlemen of my board, I submit my resignation effective immediately, and respectfully urge that the first action of this stockholders meeting be on this resignation."

This proposal for his resignation was turned down unanimously by the stockholders. They also voted unanimously to make every possible effort to retain the Pioneers.

Another Oak Ridge standout baseball player was B. B. Hopkins. He signed with the Morristown Red Sox of the Mountain States League but had to quit before the season began because of conflicting school schedule. He was attending the University of Tennessee and practice teaching in Morristown at the time. B. B. was a former college All-American and had been named twice to the All-Southeastern conference team as a third baseman.

B. B. had earlier been offered a tryout with the New York Giants during his senior year at Oak

Ridge High School, but he decided to complete his education and forego the fancy bonus signing offer from the Giants. During the summers while attending the University of Tennessee, B. B. played semi-pro ball in Wisconsin.

While at Oak Ridge High School, B. B. played three sports. He was a tailback on the football team, a forward on the basketball team and third baseman on the baseball team. He will be the subject of a future Historically Speaking column. Another thing Sonny Tuck told me that he thought was a contributing factor making it hard for baseball to succeed in Oak Ridge was the superb fast pitch softball teams sponsored by the three Atomic Energy Commission sites, Y-12, X-10 and K-25. He cited the excellent quality of those teams and the successful support they enjoyed from family and co-workers as strong competition for fledgling professional baseball teams.

I have heard many people tell of the emphasis placed on fast pitch softball by the plants during the same years that professional baseball was trying to make a go of it in Oak Ridge. Stories are told about good softball players being hired primarily for their softball skills. Of course, they had to be able to perform on the job as well but were granted interviews as a result of recommendations from fellow softball players.

Jack Bailey also gave some insight into why these professional baseball teams failed in Oak Ridge. He says, "In general, in commenting on the two failed efforts of minor league baseball in Oak Ridge, I think it can fairly be said that minor league attendance peaked around the country in 1948 and continued to decline for many years after that. Oak Ridge certainly suffered.

"The advent of television in the early 1950's gave people a reason to say home rather than going out to the local ballpark. Oak Ridgers supported plant league teams and Oak Ridge High School sports. Many minor league clubs back then were "on their own" to raise money, find players and promote their team.

"Oak Ridge didn't have a working arrangement with any major league team and both the 1948 and 1954 teams were severely undercapitalized. The owners were not prepared to suffer financial losses as they tried to grow their business. Thus, they failed."

As we wrap up this segment of baseball history in Oak Ridge, I have just learned from Larry Gipson of yet another Oak Ridge "Bomber" team. AND there are at least two players on that team who are still here in Oak Ridge. More to come!

***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.***

# Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger



## My Trip to Maui



I recently took a trip to Maui, HI. I have been to 4 islands in Hawaii: Maui, Kauai, Big Island, and Oahu. Maui is known for its scenic beauty and world-famous beaches. The weather is usually perfect; it's around 86 degrees F with little humidity. I recommend you staying in south Maui. Many resort style hotels are located along the coast.

I took a couple pictures of the resort property at The Wailea Beach Resort Marriott. Then ventured off to Haleakalā National Park for a nice scenic drive through the rainy side of the island. I hiked on some of the beautiful trails at the peak of the park. The park sets on a dormant volcano and covers an area of over 30,000 acres. The topography, history, and climate make Maui a unique island with a rich volcanic history.

Day 2 Maui, HI: POOL DAY!!! Make sure you build in some pool/ocean time into your vacation. The resorts have amazing pools, waterslides, and hot tubs. Maui is the perfect place to plan a whole day at the pool. You can enjoy a refreshing drink in the pool that overlooks the ocean. This is perfect for rest, relaxation, and island paradise.

Day 3 Maui, HI: I drove up to the Iao Valley Natural National Monument to do a small hike in the west Maui Mountains. It's known for its unique environment and lush, green landscape. I then walked around the Kealia Pond Wildlife Sanctuary and enjoyed the views of the ocean. You can see many different types of bird species in the sanctuary. The path has a nice wooden walkway for at least a mile.

Day 4 Maui, HI: I headed out to an area called The Dragon's Teeth. This rocky scenery was formed by the powerful

waves in the west area of Maui. Dragon's Teeth was created by a culmination of mother nature's natural power. As the lava from the volcano poured into the ocean, wind and waves forced it back and cooled into this unique formation.

Day 5 Maui, HI: Helicopter tour! There are gorgeous views of the island! Plan a half day to do the helicopter ride around the island. It's worth the

money. Make sure you purchase the video and pictures. You'll want to keep it for the memories. The helicopter travels over an area of the island that isn't habituated.

I highly recommend a restaurant called Momma's Fish House. It's open atmosphere seating and the tropical winds add to the dining experience. They have gracious and fantastic service along with fresh Hawaiian seafood. If you plan on trying this restaurant, you will definitely need a reservation as it books up fast.

Enjoy your trip!

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

Zack graduated from Wart-

burg Central High School in 2001 and from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2004. Since graduation Zack Ballinger 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.



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# August 30 – Federal Troops Invade Morgan County!



**Terry Futrell**  
Author

Yes, a military invasion of Morgan County happened, but it was 158 years ago on August 30, 1863. On that date, about 18,000 Federal (Union) troops under the command of Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside entered Morgan County as they began one of the most significant actions of the Civil War, known as the East Tennessee Campaign.



**Michael Nance**  
Author

Morgan County was known as a bastion of Union support during the Civil War, with 93% of Morgan Countians voting to remain in the Union. This loyalty earned its citizens merciless treatment from the Confederate regular and irregular forces. With Confederate Camp Schooler located just east of Wartburg and

the infamous Confederate guerrilla Champ Ferguson roaming without hindrance, a curtain of fear and misery draped over the citizens of Morgan County. The combination of fear, lawlessness, and looting left Morgan County a literal hell on earth during the occupation years of 1861-63.

On July 12, 1861, Confederate troops arrived in Morgan County and immediately began to operate from the Schooler farm, located adjacent to Liberty Baptist Church. The farm was known as Confederate Camp Schooler. Confederate cavalry units used the camp as an outpost, resupply hub, and staging area. On November 20, 1861, Confederate General Zollicoffer was headquartered at Camp Schooler along with 3,565 Confederate troops. That same day, he authored a communication recommending a policy of harsh treatment for civilians who were hostile towards the Confederacy.

The consequences of Camp Schooler being in Morgan County were felt by the citizens for a dark period beginning in July 1861. For more than two years the citizens were subject to being harassed, arrested, jailed, or even murdered for their support of the Union. Resources were forcibly acquired from the local population and consumed by the many Confederate units that sought respite at the camp. The many Confederate Cavalry Units occupying the region resupplied at Camp Schooler. Their supplies were provided by forcibly taking livestock, crops and sundry items from the local population. Even the split rail fencing of the locals was looted to supply firewood for the troops during the many cold winter months.

The Confederate occupation and roaming guerilla bands also provided an opportunity for the few rebel supporters of the County. Old scores could be settled and personal wealth obtained. An example of such an action took place in February of 1862. William Howard, who staunchly supported the Union, was assaulted, arrested, and taken to prison by Lafayette Lavender, a local Confederate sympathizer who was also a member of a Tennessee Confederate Cavalry Unit.

The invasion of East Tennessee on August 30,

1863, by the Union Army led by General Ambrose E. Burnside brought welcome relief to Morgan County citizens – they were finally free from two years of Confederate tyranny. Burnside's troops came over three different pathways – some through Jamestown, some via Pine Top (now Sunbright), and some through Hamby Gap via the Brimstone Road in the mountains above Gobey. Burnside established his headquarters at Montgomery, just a mile from Wartburg. Burnside's force was so large that some camped at Montgomery, others camped at Schooler's (Flat Fork), and some traveled on down Caswell Road, through Fairview and Kring Hollow, to camp near the Roane County line. Altogether, there were an estimated 18,000 Union troops, including cavalry, infantry, and artillery. In comparison, the entire population of Morgan County in 1860 was only 3,353 and most of the men were away in the Union Army. It took 200 wagons just to haul powder and ammunition for the troops. The length of the supply wagon train was estimated to be nine miles.

Burnside's army included two mounted infantry units with many men from Morgan County. These were the 1st Regiment Tennessee Volunteer Infantry commanded by Col. Robert K. Byrd of Roane County, and the 2nd Regiment Tennessee Volunteer Infantry commanded by Col. James Marion Melton of Wartburg.

What a sight it must have been as these troops came through Wartburg! Their column would have extended for many miles. Imagine looking out over Flat Fork Creek from Liberty Baptist Church and

seeing nothing but blue as thousands of Union troops were encamped there. To say it was a welcome sight to Morgan Countians and other East Tennesseans is a gross understatement. As described by author Oliver Perry Temple in his book *East Tennessee and the Civil War*:

“The advent of the [Union] army into East Tennessee was, to its loyal people, a resurrection from the grave. Their joy had an exultation which seemed almost beyond the power of expression. Old men fell down fainting and unconscious under the stress of their emotions as they saw the flag at the head of the column and tried to cheer it! Women wept with happiness as their husbands stepped out of the ranks of the loyal Tennessee regiments when these came marching by the home.”

The entry into Morgan County on August 30 was the first time that all of Burnside's troops had been in the same location. Most left the following day to capture Kingston, Loudon, Knoxville, and Cumberland Gap. By taking control of upper East Tennessee and the major transportation routes between the deep South and Virginia, Burnside's army essentially severed the spine of the Confederacy. Their passage through Morgan County not only freed loyal Morgan County citizens, but also marked the beginning of the end for the Confederacy.

**August 30 – truly a day to remember and celebrate in Morgan County!**



*Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside led 18,000 Union troops into Morgan County on August 30, 1863, freeing the citizens from harsh Confederate control.*

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**423.346.2620****Spider  
lilies**Sources: [www.gardenia.net](http://www.gardenia.net) | [www.southernliving.com](http://www.southernliving.com)

Native to Japan, these perennials exhibit large, striking flowers on slender 2-foot stalks that appear in late summer and early fall. They love very rich and well-drained soil, with only a moderate watering schedule needed. They grow well in both full-sun and partly-shady garden areas, and will also tolerate being potted for use

as a patio accent. Spider lilies are quite resistant to diseases and pests, and attract pollinators.

- Brenda Weaver

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**Retro Dinner Gets  
a Modern Makeover**

Perhaps best known as an iconic TV dinner, Salisbury steak has been a favorite dinner in my family for decades. It's such an old school, comforting meal from back in the day. In honor of National TV Dinner Day, Sept. 10, 2021, let's revisit a classic.

When I was a kid, it was a special occasion for me to get a TV dinner, reserved for those rare times when my folks went out and I had a babysitter. Do you remember the ones in the aluminum pans with the individual compartments for each food? When I was 8 years old it was so exciting. A whole miniature meal, all for myself.

My favorite was the Salisbury steak dinner with whipped potatoes that had a yellow square of what we can only assume was a pat of butter, peas and perfectly square carrots, and in the upper center compartment, a blissful chocolate brownie! Oh, joy!

Kids today just don't understand the excitement. (Boy, I sound ancient!) Now everything is frozen and zapped in the microwave.

I updated the recipe, but the essence remains. Most recipes from back in the day called for a can of this and a packet of that. My recipe is made simply from scratch, and the difference is glorious. This lip-smacking savory, beefy delight is even better when it's homemade.

**CLASSIC SALISBURY STEAK  
WITH MUSHROOM GRAVY****Yield:** 4 servings **Time:** 45-60 minutes**Serving suggestion:** *mashed potatoes and steamed vegetables.*

- 1 onion, half minced, half sliced into rings
- 1½ tablespoons olive or vegetable oil, divided
- 1½ pounds hamburger (85/15, you want these juicy)
- 1/4 cup breadcrumbs or crushed crackers
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1 tablespoon horseradish



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**Salisbury steak with mushroom gravy and  
mashed potatoes is old-school comfort food  
at its best.**

- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce, divided
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3 cups mushrooms, sliced
- 1 (14.5 ounce) can beef broth, low sodium
- 1 tablespoon cold water
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch

1. Start with the onion. To clarify — cut the onion in half. You'll finely mince one half and thinly slice the remaining half into rings or half-moons depending on which direction you sliced the onion.

If you're serving mashed potatoes, start them now or they won't be ready when the Salisbury steaks are done.

2. OK! Now, heat a large skillet to

medium-high heat. When it's hot, add 1/2 tablespoon oil and saute the minced half of the onion until softened. Keep your eye on this while you move on to the next step.

3. In a medium bowl, mix the hamburger, breadcrumbs, egg, horseradish, 1/2 tablespoon Worcestershire and a little salt and pepper. Add the softened onions from the skillet, then reduce the heat on the skillet while you mix and combine these ingredients. Divide mixture into 4 portions and form oval-shaped patties about 1/2-inch thick.

4. Return your skillet to medium-high heat and add another 1/2 tablespoon oil. Place the patties into the skillet and cook about 4 minutes per side, flipping once. Set aside and keep warm.

5. In the same skillet, saute the rings of onion and the mushrooms until soft and golden brown. Remove the onion and mushroom and set aside. Add the broth, and using a spatula or wooden spoon, stir, scraping up all the lovely, browned bits. Mix the cold water and cornstarch together until very smooth (no lumps!) and pour into the broth.

6. Bring to a simmer for 2 to 3 minutes, or until thickened. Add the remaining 1/2 tablespoon Worcestershire. Return the patties, onions and mushrooms to the pan and give it a stir to coat. Let this simmer for a few minutes to let the flavors develop.

If we made brownies for dessert, my inner child would think I'd died and gone to heaven.

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*Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website "Divas On A Dime — Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous!" Visit Patti at [www.divasonadime.com](http://www.divasonadime.com) and join the conversation on Facebook at [DivasOnADimeDotCom](https://www.facebook.com/DivasOnADimeDotCom). Email Patti at [divapatti@divasonadime.com](mailto:divapatti@divasonadime.com)*

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# The Babylonian Legend



**John Burns**  
*Opinion Columnist*

The celebration of the birth of Tammuz, to Semiramis and Nimrod, is still accepted as a Christian holiday in the America I love. Does it qualify as worshipping other gods beside the Trinity?

Ecclesiastes 7:1 reminds a believer they are not to celebrate the day of one's birth but to celebrate the day of one's death.

Would Jesus Christ do something contradictory to the word of God as the sinless Lamb? I think

not. To celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on the winter solstice is a fable. Jesus Christ was born in the Hebrew month of Nisan.

Nisan is the first month on the Hebrew calendar. It occurs in spring. The lambs that were born for the purpose of being sacrificed for the remission of Israel's sins, are only born in spring.

This is confirmed when the shepherds were guarding their flocks by night. The only time shepherds guard their flocks at night is during the birthing season, when the sheep are most vulnerable to predators. Sheep born for the sacrifice of sins are only born in the town of Bethlehem even to this day!

Hebrew Rabbis do not celebrate pagan fertility holidays to include the day of their birth. Jesus Christ our Jewish rabbi was no different. Roman Catholicism gave us the celebration of Christmas, and it is totally pagan.

The Babylonians celebrated the birth of Tammuz as the son of God by going into a forest and cutting down an Erez tree. This is the genus pinea. A fir or pine tree. This is referenced in Jeremiah 10:4.

Why do you do like the heathens? Why do you cut down and decorate a pine tree? Decorate it with silver and gold, adorn it with the star known as the sun of the morning. This is a reference to the planet Saturn.

The Romans would adopt this celebration in the month of December explicitly to deny Jesus Christ's heritage as the Jewish messiah. Saturnalia is the star and planet assigned to none other than Lucifer himself. The religion it birthed is called Luciferianism. Saturn is the planet or star visible in the morning sky during the winter solstice.

The celebration of the birth of Tammuz as the son of God was adopted by Romanized Christians from Thyatira and Babylon.

Babylon had another feature to this holiday. They would cut and burn a Yule log. The word Yule is the Chaldean word for an infant. The worship of Tammuz was highlighted with the sacrifice of infants upon altars superheated by the burning of logs under brass altars. This was done to recognize Nimrod as the sun god and Semiramis as the queen of heaven.

America does it at the convenient altar of the womb of the mother. Americans celebrate abortion, each time you do like Jeremiah warned us not to do, celebrate this holiday as believers.

All pagan traditions come from the Babylonian legends. Babel was the place from which Nimrod led the first rebellion after the flood. I believe he was under the influence of the giants who escaped Noah's flood. These Nephillim will return after the man of lawlessness is revealed and the Satanic trinity is revealed unto the world during the period know as Daniel's 70th week.

Jesus Christ warned us that such as in the days of Noah, so shall the coming of the son of man be. Angel worship begun at Babylon. Will you be able to recognize the sons of God from the Old Testament book of Genesis chapter 6?

Jesus Christ adjured all 7 churches to exchange each letter. Every church has a little bit of each in all of them. Do you believe Jesus Christ is happy we have stopped believing in the truth of the Bible? Do you believe he is happier with born again Christians celebrating Babylonian traditions, than believing every word of the Bible? I am going to stick with the Bible. As for me and my house we will serve the Lord Jesus Christ!

Nimrod's rebellion had lasting implications in the entire known world at the time. The Babylonian legends he and Semiramis began, migrated into Egypt, Phoenecia, Tyre, Sidon, Greece and beyond to our current standing as the second iteration as the Roman empire outlined in Daniel 2.

Thyatira is the Greek rendering of the Babylonian name for Semi-

ramis. A great temple to her was built by the original trade guilds established in Lydia. Those trade guilds each venerated a pagan god. Nothing has changed. Today we call them trade unions.

The church of Thyatira was told by Christ he knew their works. He told them they were committing fornication. Biblically, fornication is to worship any other gods other than the trinity. At Thyatira the temple priests and priestesses were prostituting themselves to celebrate fertility in women. Apparently, this is a veiled reference to the many fornications Thyatira allowed to migrate into Christian worship. To worship Babylonian gods and celebrate their holiday is fornication to God our trinity.

We are introduced to the Old Testament character Jezebel in the letter to Thyatira. She is the wife of King Ahab from 1 Kings 18. She was the daughter of Eth-Baal the king of Sidon, and priest of Astarte. The Golden egg of Astarte was worshipped.

The idol assigned to Astarte was the body of a naked woman and the head of a bunny rabbit. Another gift from Babylon through ancient Israel is the worship of Ishtar, or Astarte, the Phoenecian fertility deity on what Christians call Easter.

Ahab was king in the northern kingdom of Israel. He ushered in the worst time in the entire Old Testament. The Popes in Rome have ushered in the worst times in the New Testament period.

Jezebel was his queen. She adopted the fertility holidays first begun in Babylon under Semiramis.

Worst of all, Jezebel wiped out the blood line of Naboth to secure his land and tribal inheritance. She did not just kill Naboth, she had every living member of his family killed to steal his vineyard. That vineyard is the Garden of Gethsemane. Where the living vine would pray before being brought to the place of the skull to die for you and me. Hallelujah!

This is the first inquisition in history, and it began the paradigm of the Roman Catholic church murdering the Jews and confiscating their property, throughout the period known as the dark and middle-ages. It was continued by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain, which led to the founding of America by Jews and Puritans leaving Europe to escape persecution from within the Roman church. It would carry all the way through to the holocaust of World War II and the final 7 years of gentile history will see the Satanic trinity of Catholic Pope, the man of lawlessness out of the western leg of the Roman empire, unite with an Assyrian dictator to exalt themselves above everything that is called God.

Jezebel continued the pattern begun in Babylon as the so-called queen of heaven. The deification of the woman was continued with Jezebel. She called herself a prophetess just like the Catholic church refers to itself as the mother church and queen from heaven. Queen Isabella referred to herself as a Roman Catholic Queen from heaven.

Jesus Christ's reference to himself as the Son of God directly contradicts queen of heaven worship, and the worship of all pagan Babylonian legends. He is coming back soon. Is Christmas more important than thus says the Lord?

Pagan practices first migrated into Israel all the way into the Christian church experience 1 John 5:4 is the method for understanding overcoming faith.

He was crucified upon a cross of wood yet he created the hill upon which it stood.

Even so come Lord Jesus Christ.

*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



answer

Word search grid with words: LOPING, BRAWL, PATALGA, SORTR, ABRUPT, WTE

## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

# 1 Corinthians

(1 Corinthians 1:1-3) Salutation: Paul begins this letter by reminding them of his authority as an apostle, a necessary point in view of some of the stiff teaching to follow and because of a certain element within this church that questioned his apostolic authority. Sosthenes, who obviously was known by the Corinthian Christians, is probably to be identified with the “ruler of the synagogue” in Corinth (Acts 18:17), likely the successor of Crispus (Acts 18:8), who was himself persecuted and converted. It is not to be concluded that he was a co-author of this epistle. The recipients are “the church of God” at Corinth, along with “all that call upon the name of the Lord...in every place” (v.2). The teaching of this document was not restricted to those first-century saints. It is equally binding on the modern Christian (miraculous elements excluded, of course). These had been “sanctified in Christ” at the time of their baptism (12:13; Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27; Eph. 5:26). So are we today.

(1 Corinthians 1:4-9) A word of thanksgiving: the apostle is thankful for these Christians in spite of their many problems. They were benefactors of the “grace of God” in the salvation of their souls (Eph 2:8-9; 5:26; Acts 19:1-7), and had been divinely “enriched” in both “word” and “knowledge”---two qualities the Greeks highly prize, but of which their philosophers were bankrupt. They had received the “testimony of Christ” (about Jesus) which was “confirmed” in them. This most likely is a reference to the supernatural gifts that had been conferred by Paul’s hands (Chapters 12-14), which authenticated their teaching (Mk. 16:20; Heb. 2:2-4). These gifts would pass away with the completion of the New Testament canon (13:8-9).

They were not “behind” in the bestowal of these things, and they awaited the “revelation of Christ”---whenever that comes. Every generation is to anticipate it. The expression, “the end” (v. 8), does not refer to the end of time, but signifies “to reach the goal” (Jn. 13:1), the signs confirmed the integrity of the gospel so that these Christians could remain sound in the faith, not deserving of condemnation of the day of judgment.

(1 Cor. 1:10-17) Division over preferred preachers: Paul had received a report of “contentions” among these saints. Especially had they become infatuated with the ones who immersed them, and a spirit of rivalry had developed. The names Paul, Apollos, and Cephas are used to conceal the identity of the actual men who were bestowed undue prominence (perhaps with no fault of their own, see 4:6). There is no evidence that Cephas (Peter) had baptized anyone at Corinth. Paul rebukes this hero adulation on two bases: (a) Christ is not divided; Christians should not fragment themselves over men. How tragically this counsel has been violated over the centuries, Lutherans, Calvinists, etc. (b) “Paul was not crucified for you; thus, do not wear his name!” A negative implication from this premise is: “You cannot call yourselves after Christ, Christians, unless you were baptized into the name of Christ (for remission of sins).”

When Paul “thanked God” that he had baptized only a few, he was not deprecating the rite of baptism, suggesting it was not-essential for salvation (which would have invalidated his testimony regarding his own immersion, Acts 22:16); rather, it was to emphasize that he was conscientious not to produce pro-Paul cliques. He had immersed Crispus, Gaius (Acts 18:8; Rom. 16:23), and the household of Stephanas, but no one else he could recall. The Holy Spirit only refreshed apostolic minds in essential things (Jn. 14:26), not incidentals. The apostle was not

“sent to baptize, to administer the act. It is important to recognize the context in which this statement was made. Other people could perform the act; his primary function was to preach the gospel (v. 17). Paul’s gospel (Rom. 2:16) was not presented with the rhetorical flourish and philosophical arrogance of the Greek system (2:1). It involved historical facts in plain language!

(1 Corinthians 1:18-25) The gospel versus human wisdom: the Greeks prided themselves on their wisdom. Real wisdom, however, is in the “word of the cross,” the message of the crucified and resurrected Christ. To the “intellectually elite,” the gospel was foolishness; to those “being saved” (a process, not a one-time act) it was the “power of God” (Rom. 1:16). The so-called “wisdom of the wise” would come to a dead end (Isa. 29:14). The philosophers of the Greek world were fools compared to the revelation from God (v. 20). Compare the modern philosopher who has no idea how the universe came into being---or of his own origin. Instead, he pontificates utterly ridiculous theories.

It was God’s pleasure to save lost humanity (those who will) through the so-called “foolishness” of the message of the cross, accessed only by those who believe it and surrender to its obligations (v. 21; Acts 18:8). The pride of the Greeks would not allow many of them to accept the simple message of a Savior who died for their sins. So remains the situation with many today. A crucified Messiah was a “stumbling block” to the Jews; such did not fit their perception of a conquering king who would overthrow Rome (Jn. 6:15). To those who truly were wise, however, and accepted the sacred “calling” (v. 24; 2 Thes. 2:14), Jesus Christ was the power and wisdom of God. With strong hyperbole Paul declared that the “foolishness” and “weakness” of god is so vastly superior to the “wisdom” and “strength” of men, there is no comparison! (v. 25).

(1 Cor. 1:26-31) The divine calling: the Christian commitment is biblically designated as a “calling.” Paul approaches this theme---first negatively, then positively. Those who congratulate themselves on being wise, mighty, and noble are not likely candidates for the gospel. They do not feel they need to learn anything. God’s plan of redemption, however, was to be accepted on its historical merit, not on superficial bases. No one is prepared to come to God while glorifying himself (v. 29). Jesus Christ is the manifestation of divine glory. One will glory in the Lord or glory not at all!

The divine “calling” (Eph. 4:1) is not a direct communication from God or his Holy Spirit, as some today allege. No one on earth knows anything about Jesus Christ and his way of redemption except what they have learned either directly or indirectly from the Scriptures. Here are some facts about the Christian’s calling: (a) Its source is God (Acts 2:39; Heb. 3:1). (b) It is characterized by a humble, willing-to-learn attitude (26-29). (c) The sacred calling is by means of the gospel (2 Thes. 2:14). (d) Its design is for a holy, worthy life (v. 2; Eph. 4:1). (e) Its direction is upward (Phil. 3:14). (f) Its sphere of operation is “in Christ” (Phil. 3:14). (g) The ultimate hope of the calling is in a single destine---heaven (Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:5).

It is not without significance that the Greek word that is normally rendered “church” in our English versions is *ekklasia*, a compound term meaning “to call” and “out from.” Such emphasizes the Christian’s separation from his past life of worldliness. Answering the error@GBNTV.ORG BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo video.wvbs.org FortifyYourFaith.org



MELVIN HOWARD

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David Zubler  
Columnist

## Column New IRS guidance for the ERC credit

The employer retention credit (ERC) was designed to aid businesses who retained their employees during the pandemic by providing substantial tax credits. The credit for 2020 is equal to 50% of qualified wages paid, including qualified health plan expenses, up to \$10,000 per employee. Consequently, the maximum credit available for each employee is \$5,000.

You are a qualified employer if you were ordered to fully or partially shut down or if your gross receipts fell below 50% for the same quarter in 2019 (for 2020) and below 80% (for 2021). If you were not in business in 2019, then you could use the corresponding quarters from 2020.

The IRS recently provided detailed guidance for employers claiming the employee retention credit (ERC) for calendar quarters in 2020.

The IRS says the guidance in the notice is similar to the information it posted in FAQs last year, but the notice clarifies and describes retroactive changes under the new law that apply to 2020. The guidance primarily relates to expanded eligibility for the credit for taxpayers who took Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans.

For 2020, the employee retention credit can be claimed by employers who paid qualified wages after March 12, 2020, and before Jan. 1, 2021, and who experienced a full or partial suspension of their operations or a significant decline in gross receipts.

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

(AICPA) requested more guidance from the IRS and recommended that the filing of a PPP loan forgiveness application should not constitute an election to forgo the employee retention credit with respect to the amount of wages reported on the application exceeding the amount of wages necessary for loan forgiveness.

Eligible employers that received a PPP loan are permitted to claim the employee retention credit, although the same wages cannot be counted for both for 2020. Notice 2021-20 explains in detail when and how employers that received a PPP loan can claim the employee retention credit for 2020.

The notice explains (1) who are eligible employers; (2) what constitutes full or partial suspension of trade or business operations; (3) what is a significant decline in gross receipts; (4) what is the maximum amount of an eligible employer's employee retention credit; (5) qualified wages; (6) how an eligible employer claims the employee retention credit; and (7) how an eligible employer substantiates the claim for the credit. The employee retention credit can provide a substantial tax credit if you retained employees during the pandemic.

*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.*

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

By Matilda Charles

### On Our Wish List: Basketballs

The recreation center is open again! While they tried to do a "soft opening," word traveled quickly.

Going to the rec center won't be as it was before, of course. There used to be classes in the middle of the gym, which is surrounded by a long indoor track. Scattered around the interior were basketball hoops and exercise mats.

Now, we're told, we'll check in at the front door for a specified timeslot (one hour) on the track. At the end of our time period, the center will be emptied and the next group let in. There will be no classes, no use of mats, no basketball ... but we'll have indoor walking.

This is the best news we've had around here in a very long time. Indoor walking,

while not urgently needed right now, will be most welcome when cold weather arrives. Icy sidewalks send many of us to the rec center, which was closed last year, to walk in winter.

But, we're told, we won't be able to buddy up and walk with a friend, chatting as we do laps. We'll walk alone in the right lane, passing in the left lane if we should overtake the person in front of us.

No, we won't be able to use the mats for pre-walk stretching (they're stacked in the storeroom), and no, the guys won't be able to play basketball (the balls also are in the storeroom).

So, why, if there are so many restrictions about using the rec center, are we happy? We're happy because it's one small sign that maybe, just maybe, things are inching back to normal.

How will we know for sure? We'll know, said one wit, if we walk into the rec center and the basketballs are on their racks at the center of the courts. That's going to be our barometer: basketballs.

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## FLASHBACK

By Mick Harper

---

1. Which group released "Down By the Lazy River"?
2. "Giving It All Away" was the debut single for which artist?
3. Who wrote and released "You Saved My Soul"?
4. Who released the 1987 version of "I Still Believe"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I'd like to know when she's not with me if she's still true to me, I'd like to know when we're kissing does she feel just what I feel."

### Answers

1. The Osmond Brothers, in 1972. The song was used in 2021 on "The South Park Vaccination Special" on Comedy Central and MTV2. The show was a bit more popular than "The Pandemic Special" in 2020.
2. Roger Daltrey, lead singer for The Who, in 1973. The song came out at the same time The Who was being sued for damages they'd caused to a hotel room. It reached No. 5 in the UK, the highest chart placement Daltrey would ever see as a solo artist.
3. Burton Cummings, in 1981.
4. Brenda K. Starr. Mariah Carey followed with a cover in 1988.
5. "A Lover's Question," by Clyde McPhatter in 1958, and written by Brook Benton. The song made it to No. 1 on the R&B chart.

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# Bulldog Crickets Take Down Waves 24-0

By Brittany Hamby

Wartburg Bulldogs Crickets were at it again this Saturday, battling the Midway Green Waves. Wartburg got the ball to begin the game and was ready to avenge their last second defeat last week. On the first play of the game, Kaiden Wagner went around the left end untouched for a 70-yard touchdown. The 2-point conversion came up short as Konnor Goad got tripped up on his first run of the day. Wartburg's defense looked vastly improved this week, stifling the Green Waves early and often, never giving up a first down on the day. Wartburg would continue to move the ball and led 18-0 at halftime following a failed 2-point conversion by Kamden Shannon and Kaiden Wagner. The 3rd period was handled by the Green Waves as they ate up the clock looking for a crease in the smothering defense the Bulldogs brought with them. Konnor Goad and Tucker Quinney made a big stop to set Wartburg up for the final touchdown. Silas Lick got the final drive started with a strong run to the left side. The drive was capped off by Wagner's 4th touchdown of the game to seal their victory with a score of 24-0.

The Bulldogs would like to thank Midway for being a gracious, sportsmanlike host of the event as well as the parents and fans who came to cheer them on. They start a 4 week home stand against Spring City at 9am next Saturday at Wartburg Central High School.



# Friday Night Spotlight

## Oakdale Eagles Soar to Victory vs. Jellico 49-19

The Oakdale Eagles opened their football season up by traveling to Jellico. They were able to come out the gate firing on all cylinders and dominated the game. They were able to win their season opener by beating Jellico 49-19 in a strong performance.



Photo by Jimmy Evans

# Yellow Jackets Continue to Roll!

The new gateway/way-finding signs have been installed at the junction of North Kingston Street and Highway 27. The construction, design and installation were a cooperative effort by the City of Wartburg, Downtown Wartburg Revitalization (DWR), Fox Design and Plateau Electric Cooperative. These signs are the first of a series of smaller way-finding signs that will eventually be strategically placed within the square area with directions to specific places.



*Jacket Levi Mullins shuts down a Scott High ball carrier. (Photo by Cathy Bird)*



*Canaan Bowling gets some effective blocking from the Coalfield line to run the ball around left end. (Photo by Cathy Bird)*



*Coalfield's Haden Hicks intercepts a Scott High pass. (Photo by Cathy Bird)*



*Coalfield's Landon Lowe finds room around the side to advance the ball for the Jackets. (Photo by Cathy Bird)*



*Coalfield's defense swarms a Scott High ball carrier. The Jackets held Scott High scoreless until late in the game. (Photo by Cathy Bird)*

# New Signs in Wartburg

## Spirit of the Mountain Pow Wow

Native American & Taino Story Tellers  
Intertribal Dancing  
Native American and Indigenous inspired  
Handmade Arts & Crafts  
Fry Bread  
Fun for the whole family.  
All Dancers are Welcome.  
Aho and Taino ti

Friday (School Day)  
Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 3pm  
Saturday, 10am to 9:30pm  
Sunday, 9:30am to 4:30pm

**SOLOMON PARK  
WARTBURG, TN 37887** **OCTOBER 29-31, 2021**



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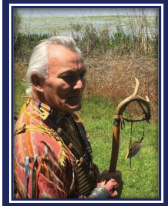


Host Native American Drums:  
North Drum – Medicine Horse  
South Drum – Kiowa Style

**Head Man: Thomas Zermeno**  
**Head Lady: Juanita Zermeno**  
AD: TBA  
MC: Richard Gallant



Resident Flutist: Crazy Flute Music



Story Teller:  
Winding Eagle, Wayne White



Story Teller:  
Joey Karei Kumaha'manigua



Guest Flutist Duo:  
Spirit Winds



Host Taino Drum:  
Akitchitay Carline

*Native American Festival*  
Request Vendor Contracts

Event Coordinators:  
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# Urgent Care Walk-In Clinic

**NEW HOURS beginning September 1st!**

**Monday - Friday: 12pm-8pm**

**Saturday & Sunday: 10am-4pm**