

Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3

Volume 07 Number 30

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

Your Community. Your News.

75¢



Inside:

Morgan County Fair

History

Weather

Hometown Heroes

DeBoard Falls,
Frozen Head
State Park

Terry Tutrell
Photography



Morgan County  Today
Your Community. Your News.

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**I'D
RATHER
BE
READING.**

#mocotoday



Michael Nance *Columnist*
impose significant impacts on the smallest of communities.

Social media now has enormous power in the venue of communication. A person or a group can literally get their message out to nations. Companies having this much power should give everyone a moment of pause. How are the companies regulating this power and our rights of free speech being impacted? These questions are certainly worthy of discussion.

All social media is not the same, or in the opinion of the author equal. Facebook seems to provide a great conduit for like minded people or groups to network, whereas, Twitter seems more like a sounding board, or 'bully pulpit' that often serves as debating platform for opponents. These statements are not meant to imply that Facebook cannot be used for mischief, everyday there are many examples of negative behavior.

The abilities of the social media companies to censor certain individuals or groups has ignited accusations of free speech violations. This is an extremely complex issue. It involves ownership and the American dream. Owners of social media companies have invested real dollars on their internet platforms, why shouldn't they be able to run their company as they see fit? But the

Social Media and Freedom of Speech

The technology age continues to test the underpinnings of the American constitution and power of social media can affect elections and issues in our communities. To limit one opinion appears a de facto violation of free speech. The last element is responsibility, if no censorship existed on social media platforms reckless people can destroy reputations and forward ideas and thoughts that can literally be dangerous.

In fairness, Facebook has rules on content that appear to be well thought out and can easily be accessed. But who makes the interpretation if the rules have been violated? Does that person or group have a political or ideological bias?

According to constitutional experts, censorship of social media is not a violation of freedom of speech. It is clear from reading the First Amendment that the experts are correct. The First Amendment was aimed to prohibit the Congress or the U.S. Government from infringing on its citizens ability to have free speech. When an individual or a group utilizes a social media platform it is not a violation of free speech to censor the person or group.

This weekend, at the outdoor show I took an informal poll from a diverse age group of people. It was clear from the results that everyone wants fair rules and almost no one likes the notion of censorship. But the overarching sentiment was that of ownership. Sixty percent of the participants indicated that if you own the platform, ultimately you had the right to censor, but everyone indicated that censorship should be based on published rules, not political leanings. Although the question

was not asked, nearly 90% of the participants indicated that almost every single social media platform has views that were obviously slanted.

The experts agree with the participants in my poll. Recently, Carnegie Mellon's Juergen Pfeffer and McGill's Derek Ruths warned that scientists are using data gathered by social networks as an indication of what people are thinking, but there are many problems with the data that scientists are overlooking.

The argument about social media biased access is certainly valid, and there is a mountain of data that evidences Americans are taking notice. If you are one of those many dissatisfied Americans, then the answer to your troubles is capitalism. Search and find those social media platforms which give fair opportunities to all viewpoints and allow healthy debates.

In closing, it appears that the principals of ownership and capitalism will eventually provide opportunities to overcome social media bias. Social media platforms that have obvious bias and political leanings will spur platforms that have the opposite views. In a supply and demand economy, if one view is not served you can be sure enterprising entrepreneurs will create a platform to serve the demand from the opposing side. It is my belief that at the end of the day our economic system will be the conduit that forces an overall balance in the aggregate of social media management.

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MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK

Tue 27	88°/67°	
Wed 28	93°/68°	
Thu 29	94°/70°	
Fri 30	89°/66°	
Sat 31	87°/67°	
Sun 01	86°/68°	
Mon 02	86°/64°	

In Loving Memory

Veness Shannon Diden, 91

Mrs. Veness Shannon Diden, age 91, joined her loved ones in their eternal home on July 19th, 2021, peacefully in her home surrounded by loved ones.

God of Prophecy. One of her greatest joys was spending time with family and friends, cooking at church camps, and visiting the Holy Land in Israel.

Mrs. Diden was born on April 14th, 1930, in Sunbright, TN, the fifth of thirteen children to Virgil and Linda (Goodman) Shannon. She is preceded in death by her husband G.T. "Jake" Diden, five brothers, and four sisters.

Although our hearts are heavy, we will celebrate her life and find comfort knowing she is in Heaven watching over us.

She is survived by her son Lawrence "Jake" (Pam) Diden, daughters, Brenda Gail (Larry) Hannahan, Teresa (Dave) Henry, Kathie Lawrence, Debbie (Darrell) Capps, Linda Ybarra, sisters Velva Turner, Vona (Byrl) Jones, and Vinadean Griffith, fourteen grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren, and 1 great great grandchild along with a host of nieces, nephews, friends, and beloved church family.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, July 21st, 2021, from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm at Sunbright's Church of God of Prophecy with the funeral to follow at 2:00 pm. Interment will be immediately following at the Diden family cemetery in Sunbright.

In lieu of flowers, those who choose to give a gift to honor our beloved Veness are asked to make a contribution to Sunbright Church of God of Prophecy. You may bring or mail your donation to P.O. Box 65, Sunbright, TN 37872.

Throughout her life she was devoted to the Lord and faithfully attended and supported her church, Sunbright's Church of

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Veness Shannon Diden.

Bobbie Gene Robbins

Bobbie Gene Robbins passed away July 23, 2021 at Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge. Bobbie served in the Navy during the Korean War and retired from the State of Tennessee Department of Corrections. Bobbie loved his family and fishing. He was saved at an early age and baptized.

brothers Joe, J.C., Clarence and Hubert.

He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Elizabeth Faye Robbins, son Michael Wayne Robbins and a host of loving relatives and friends.

He is preceded in death by his father and mother, James and Mary Robbins, sister Thelma and

Family has chosen cremation. Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Bobbie Robbins.

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

Notice of Public Hearing

There will be a Public Hearing on Monday, August 9, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. in the main courtroom of the Morgan County Courthouse in Wartburg, Tennessee. The hearing is being conducted to review and discuss the Proposed Budget for Morgan County, Tennessee for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.



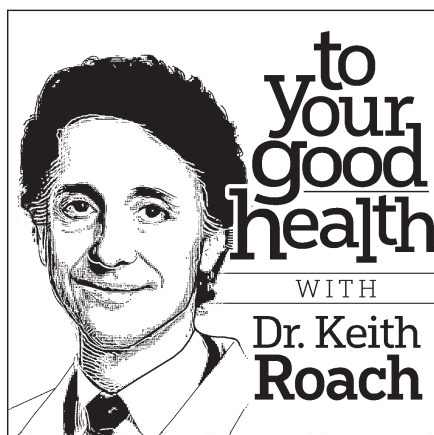
FREE COMMUNITY EVENT!

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

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

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

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



Does Oatmeal Contain Roundup Herbicide?

DEAR DR. ROACH: Experts advised us to "throw out sugar-laden cereals" and eat a healthy breakfast, such as oatmeal. Now we are told that oatmeal contains a significant amount of glyphosate, which they say is an ingredient in Roundup! Are we poisoning our children? — *A.D.*

ANSWER: There have been traces of glyphosate (an herbicide) found in oatmeal and other cereals. However, as always, the dose makes the poison.

The Environmental Protection Agency has set a level of 30 parts per million, below which the exposure is considered safe. A 2018 study by the Environmental Working Group found levels of glyphosate in oatmeal breakfast cereals to be between 0.5 and 1 parts per million. It is unlikely that consumption of these cereals causes any significant health risks. Nobody likes the idea of eating an herbicide, but these are very low amounts, and some experts have questioned the specificity of the detection method used.

The same EWG report found that organic cereals had less, but often still some, glyphosate in them. Although the levels in both conventional and organic cereals were safe, glyphosate itself is found at generally lower levels in organic products. Unfortunately, there have not been good studies on residual amounts of organic pesticides (some of which are substantially more toxic than glyphosate) that might be found in organically grown food.

I agree with reducing the simple sugars found in many cereals, especially those marketed to children. However, I

recommend more protein for breakfast than is found in oatmeal. You can add more with nuts, egg whites or seeds.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I was diagnosed with high LDL cholesterol 20 years ago. I have been taking higher statin doses and now take Crestor 20 mg. Due to muscle pain, my cardiologist prescribed Praluent injections of 75 mg every two weeks to lower my LDL to below 77. I am 74 and have two heart stents in my right coronary artery, but have never had a heart attack.

Praluent is a monoclonal antibody, and the literature states that it can lower your immunity. I also have low-grade (Gleason 3+3) prostate cancer that has been stable since diagnosed in 2012. Is there a risk that Praluent could cause my prostate cancer to advance? — J.E.

ANSWER: Although taking a statin (such as the Crestor you were taking to reduce cholesterol) was once thought to increase cancer risk, multiple studies have since found no convincing evidence that this is the case.

Praluent (alirocumab) is in a new class of drugs, called the PCSK-9 inhibitors. They have not been used for very long, but I found no evidence that these drugs increase cancer risk either. There was some concern that the increase in bile acids seen in people treated with these drugs might predispose them to colon cancer, but initial studies have not shown any problems so far with either Praluent or evolocumab (Repatha).

I believe that for you, heart disease is a larger risk to your life than your prostate cancer. Since you can't tolerate a statin, a PCSK-9 inhibitor is more likely to prolong your life by reducing heart disease risk than it is to shorten your life by increasing prostate cancer risk. There is no evidence that it does so.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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



Open house for all Morgan County Schools will be Tuesday, August 3 from 4:30 – 7:30. The 1st day of school for Morgan County students is Wednesday, August 4 from 8:00-11:30 a.m.

Rankin Chapel Baptist Church had their annual homecoming Sunday, July 18. Crimson River Trio sang.

Hope Davis, daughter of April and Phillip Holder, turned Sweet 16 on July 22. A celebration was held Sunday, July 24 at Roane County Park.

Happy Birthday to my sweetheart, James, who celebrates his special day July 29. He shares his birthday with my cousin, Montana Nealon. Wishing you both a good day.

Happy Birthday to Mrs. Jeanie Bingham who will celebrate her special day Saturday, July 31.

Birthday Greetings to Eunice Navis of Wartburg who will turn 96 years young on August 3. All of your Oakdale friends wish you a wonderful day!

The 2021 WECO Out-

door Show was a huge success. Although a bit warm, the weather was fantastic. There were many vendors and organizations set up and lots of opportunities to win prizes. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this a wonderful event for our county. Congratulations to all of the winners. A special shout out to Emery Francis of Pine Orchard who won the karaoke contest. She was fantastic as usual.

It was nice to see my friend Melissa Stewart Saturday. Melissa is always very complimentary of this column and I appreciate that.

Oakdale Public Library will have an online auction August 20 -22. Payment and pickup of items will be Monday and Tuesday, August 23-24 at the library. Donations for the auction are now being accepted. All funds raised will be used for future library events.

Betty Chapman was honored by her family with a surprise party on her birthday, Friday, July 23. Approximate-

ly 40 family members gathered at her house to enjoy a delicious barbeque supper. The evening ended with fireworks.

The 25th wedding anniversary of Christy and Kevin Powers was celebrated Monday, July 5 at the Pine Orchard Baptist Church Outreach Center with family and friends in attendance. They were married July 6, 1996. Congratulations Christy and Kevin!

Congratulations to Matthew Johnson for being nominated to Tennessee 4-H Vol State while attending Round UP. This is the highest honor in Tennessee 4-H.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Virginia Jo Stewart Gibson who passed away Wednesday, July 21. She is survived by her daughters, Rhonda (David) Cline of Madisonville and Lisa (Robert) Gibson of Knoxville, eight grandchildren and one great granddaughter. She is also survived by her brothers Jim

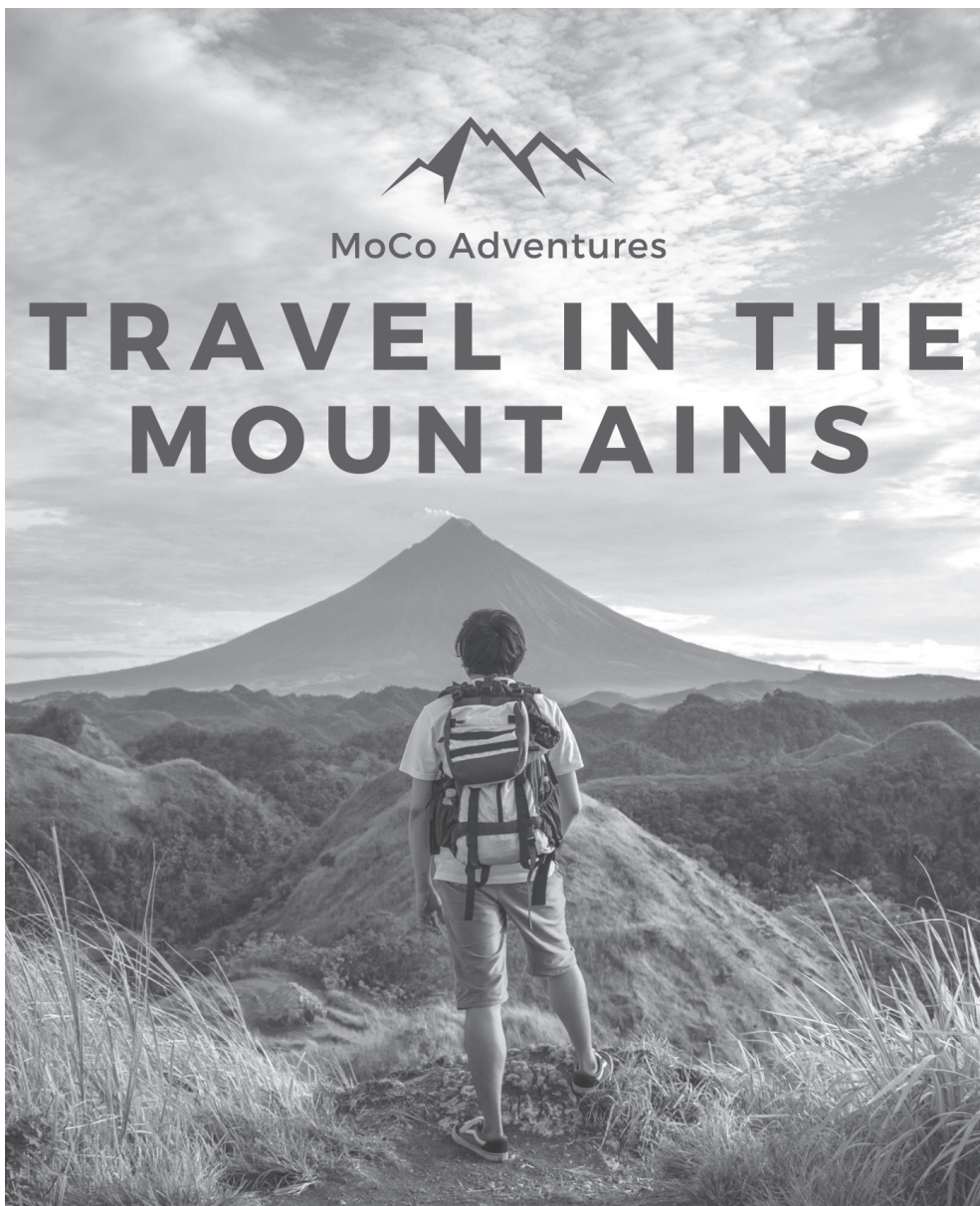
Stewart of Oakdale and Ralph Stewart of Kingston along with a host of other friends and family. The family received friends Saturday, July 24 at Pine Orchard Baptist Church and interment was in the church cemetery.

Condolences to the family of Jake Sexton who passed away Friday, July 23. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann, his parents, Darrell and Sheila Sexton, his brothers, Todd and Clay and his in laws, Doug and Angela Nealon along with many friends and family. The family received friends Monday, July 26, 2021, from 4:00 – 7:00 with the funeral following. Interment is today, Tuesday, July 27 at 11:00 a.m. at Mt. Vernal Cemetery.

“Be the reason someone smiles. Be the reason someone feels loved and believes in the goodness of people.” Unknown

Morgan County, Tennessee
Proposed Budget
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022

	Actual 2019-2020	Estimated 2020-2021	Estimated 2021-2022
General Fund			
Estimated Revenues and Other Sources			
Local Taxes	\$ 6,137,177	\$ 6,124,011	\$ 5,927,337
State of Tennessee	810,732	801,041	772,306
Federal Government	66,465	441,629	53,000
Other Sources	2,326,851	2,716,911	2,571,404
Total Estimated Revenues and Other Sources	\$ 9,341,224	\$ 10,083,592	\$ 9,324,047
Estimated Expenditures and Other Uses			
Salaries	\$ 6,494,541	\$ 6,651,376	\$ 6,817,274
Other Cost	2,454,022	2,889,014	2,506,773
Total Estimated Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 8,948,563	\$ 9,540,390	\$ 9,324,047
Estimated Beginning Fund Balance - July 1	\$ 1,460,176	\$ 1,852,837	\$ 2,396,039
Estimated Ending Fund Balance - June 30	1,852,837	2,396,039	2,396,039
Employee Positions (full time)	112	108	110
Highway/Public Works Fund			
Estimated Revenues and Other Sources			
Local Taxes	\$ 106,207	\$ 97,478	\$ 118,849
State of Tennessee	3,053,621	3,106,407	2,865,000
Federal Government	41,568	0	0
Other Sources	88,308	73,840	6,000
Total Estimated Revenues and Other Sources	\$ 3,289,706	\$ 3,277,724	\$ 2,989,849
Estimated Expenditures and Other Uses			
Salaries	\$ 770,036	\$ 777,852	\$ 1,048,454
Other Cost	2,631,254	2,030,553	3,161,469
Total Estimated Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 3,401,290	\$ 2,808,405	\$ 4,209,923
Estimated Beginning Fund Balance - July 1	\$ 3,676,367	\$ 3,564,783	\$ 4,034,102
Estimated Ending Fund Balance - June 30	3,564,783	4,034,102	2,814,028
Employee Positions (full time)	14	14	14
General Purpose School Fund			
Estimated Revenues and Other Sources			
Local Taxes	\$ 2,905,609	\$ 2,943,330	\$ 2,870,806
State of Tennessee	20,488,452	20,091,672	20,238,651
Federal Government	17,721	131,577	0
Other Sources	1,033,891	1,083,475	834,166
Total Estimated Revenues and Other Sources	\$ 24,445,673	\$ 24,250,054	\$ 23,943,623
Estimated Expenditures and Other Uses			
Salaries	\$ 20,049,454	\$ 20,181,317	\$ 20,712,149
Other Cost	4,348,557	4,265,620	3,674,764
Total Estimated Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 24,398,011	\$ 24,446,938	\$ 24,386,913
Estimated Beginning Fund Balance - July 1	\$ 5,127,074	\$ 5,174,736	\$ 4,977,852
Estimated Ending Fund Balance - June 30	5,174,736	4,977,852	4,534,562
Employee Positions (full time)	423	511	505
Debt Service Fund			
Estimated Revenues and Other Sources			
Local Taxes	\$ 1,265,084	\$ 1,647,262	\$ 1,085,718
State of Tennessee	73,615	71,745	70,000
Federal Government	0	0	0
Other Sources	5,222,855	482,388	477,612
Total Estimated Revenues and Other Sources	\$ 6,561,553	\$ 2,201,395	\$ 1,633,330
Estimated Expenditures and Other Uses			
Salaries	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Other Cost	6,851,856	1,684,156	1,688,330
Total Estimated Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 6,851,856	\$ 1,684,156	\$ 1,688,330
Estimated Beginning Fund Balance - July 1	\$ 2,653,279	\$ 2,362,976	\$ 2,880,216
Estimated Ending Fund Balance - June 30	2,362,976	2,880,216	2,825,216
Employee Positions (full time)	0	0	0



Disappeared: Chapter 5



Carol Hall
Author

Maggie-Day 2, cont.

At some point Maggie must have dozed off. She was awakened suddenly when a sharp tug to her hair snapped her head back. It didn't so much hurt as it surprised her. She jerked herself into an upright position and found the female Bigfoot sitting beside her. She must have been petting her or running her fingers through Maggie's hair and that is what the tug was. Maggie reached up to smooth her hair down. The female Bigfoot

inched closer, trying to reach out and touch her, but she moved back just out of reach.

The pungent smell of her filled Maggie's nostrils and made her eyes water. Good heavens, she thought. How did the smell not wake her up. She smelled worse than Brutus, if that was possible. She wrinkled her nose and waved her hand in front of her face in hopes of warding off the smell. The Bigfoot watched her curiously.

"You stink!" she said as the Bigfoot once more reached out for her. Maggie, again, managed to scoot back just enough to avoid being touched.

"Why do you smell so bad? You seriously need a bath. And deodorant. And perfume."

She should have been afraid, but instead she sat looking back at the Bigfoot with a mixture of disgust and curiosity.

After a long moment she said, "You need a name too, don't you? To be honest though, One Who Stinks doesn't seem very nice. How about Rose?" She said. "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet. There is absolutely nothing sweet smelling about you, but with a name like Rose, maybe I can forgive the smell a little."

Rose watched her closely as she talked. It looked as though she was trying to understand what Maggie was saying.

She reached her finger out slowly toward Maggie's mouth. Maggie didn't move. She sat perfectly still watching Rose guardedly. As Rose's finger came closer to her mouth, Maggie started to turn her head away, but decided not to. She was curious to know what Rose was going to do.

Rose hesitated for a moment, then touched Maggie's mouth with the tip of her finger. She grunted softly and pushed on Maggie's lips.

It wasn't a hard push, but more of an "it's your turn" kind of push.

Maggie grunted back quietly in response.

Rose shifted a little on her seat then pushed her finger to Maggie's lips again and grunted.

Maggie quietly grunted back again.

Rose sat back and stared at Maggie for a moment. She grunted again, then looked at Maggie expectantly.

"What? You want me to grunt again? Do you want me to talk?" Maggie asked. She was amazed that she was, in a weird sort of way, communicating with Rose. It certainly appeared as if Rose was trying to communicate with her.

"Well, let's talk about why you kidnapped me then. Let's talk about what you are going to do with me. You want to talk? Then tell me what is going on!" With each sentence, Maggie's voice rose to a higher pitch. Her frustration was growing with each question she asked. She was still very afraid and her nerves were on edge.

"Huh? Well? Tell me!" she demanded loudly.

Rose scrunched up her nose and snorted. Maggie knew instinctively that it was a warning. She knew she was getting louder and she had learned from Brutus earlier that yelling and screaming wasn't going to be tolerated. She stole a quick glance in Brutus's direction and noticed him watching them. He was sitting a few yards away, but his full attention was now on Maggie.

She looked back at Rose who had put her head down and was pulling the fur on the back of her hand. She quietly snorted glancing over at Brutus then back to Maggie.

Maggie felt panic wash over her. If Brutus came over here, would he hit her again? Would he pick her up and throw her again?

She took note of what Rose was doing and put her head down too and pretended to play with her hands. She very quietly snorted back at Rose.

Afraid to move a single muscle, she sat perfectly still and watched Rose. Rose continued to sit quietly, playing with her hands. Maggie's nerves were shot and she felt like crying.

After a few moments, when nothing happened, she glanced up at Rose. She looked back at her and Maggie could have sworn she saw a smile form on Rose's large lips. Maggie relaxed a little and smiled back. She reached out her hand and laid it gently on Rose's. Rose made a sound in her throat which almost sounded like humming. Maggie hummed back.

What had happened while Maggie was sleeping for Rose to decide it was ok to have her around now? She was no longer making threatening

noises or moves toward her.

In fact, Rose seemed to actually like her now and seemed to be trying to be friendly toward her. And perhaps was even attempting to teach her the ropes, so to speak.

All Maggie knew was she was glad Rose had decided to accept her and it was nice to have someone, or something, so that she didn't feel so afraid or alone.

Not that she was growing fond of Rose or anything, but there was something about the Bigfoot that made her feel like she shared a kind of kindred heart with her. But that was crazy, right? Rose was a Bigfoot. Was it possible to befriend a Bigfoot?

Maggie wasn't sure what to think of all this. Maybe they weren't bad monsters after all. Maybe they were creatures with thoughts and feelings similar to humans. Well, that was yet to be determined of Brutus. She was still very leery of him and preferred he keep his distance. But Rose seemed gentle, almost kind, now.

Was she getting ahead of herself? Was she reading more into Rose's actions than what was really there? Maybe deep down she was just sincerely hoping that Rose was good, and not actually just buttering her up to eat her later.

Maggie suddenly remembered her camera. She had been wearing it around her neck when she was taken.

Where was it now? If she could find it, maybe she could take a few pictures of the Bigfoots...Bigfeet? Whatever. She needed to find her camera.

If she was found, she would have proof of who took her. Otherwise, no one would ever believe her. It was simply unbelievable to think that she was abducted by Bigfoot. If she was rescued and told everyone that Bigfoot abducted her, she would be made a laughing stalk and ridiculed by everyone. If it hadn't happened to her, herself, she certainly wouldn't have believed it.

Maggie slowly turned and scanned the area around her while staying seated. She didn't want to alarm Rose or Brutus with any sudden movements. She looked all around the makeshift bed, but didn't see the camera laying anywhere. Slowly, she rolled over onto her knees and began crawling around, patting the bedding as she went, hoping to feel the camera under the weeds.

Rose was watching her curiously. Soon, she too was crawling around on her knees patting the ground and shuffling the weeds around. Maggie almost laughed. Rose was imitating her.

She continued to look and feel around for the camera, but after a couple of minutes, she resigned herself to the fact that the camera was not there. Where could it be? Was it dropped in the woods somewhere as she was being carried here?

Disappointed, she sat back down. Rose stopped too and sat down beside her. Maggie turned to face her. She put her hands up to her face like she was holding a camera.

"Where is my camera?" she asked.

She started motioning around her neck with her fingers and then pointed to her chest indicating where the camera had been. Rose watched her for a moment, but made no indication that she understood what she was asking.

Maggie tried again.

Rose just watched her, then looked over at Brutus.

Maggie noticed that Brutus was sitting very still watching every move that she and Rose made.

As she watched him, he slowly stood up. He was huge. His broad shoulders and heavily muscled legs made his appearance frighteningly menacing. He moved slowly, but with a purpose. Maggie stiffened as fear gripped her. What was he going to do? Did he understand what Maggie was asking for? Was he coming to hurt her? Should she run? She sat there with trepidation as he made his way over to them.

Rose didn't seem afraid of him this time, just curious.

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Carol Hall was born and raised in Chester, West Virginia, but she currently lives in Lansing, 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.

Aunt Mag Dagley, A Special Lady



Tom Redmon
Columnist

John Redmon had come over to the United States as a stowaway on a ship when he was thirteen-years-old. A Basler family took him in and

he ended up marrying their daughter, Mary. Ireland was going through the Potato Famine at the time and John and one of his daddy's hired hands stole the payroll from his dad's mill and came to America. While working on the Southern Railroad John ended up in East Tennessee. He said Morgan County and East Tennessee reminded him of Ireland, his homeland, so this is where he would live and die. He would never see Ireland again.

John and Mary would build a home where Martin and Dallie would live later on and Billy Martin, Martin and Dallie's son, would build a house there later when Redmon Road enters into HWY-27.

John and Mary would have nine children, six boys and three girls. They were; James, John, Dave, Will, Martin and Larry. The girls were Maggie, Mary and Lilly.

My Dad always said that Maggie was the tomboy of the clan and she proved that many times during her 98 years here on earth. Maggie was born on April 21, 1881 and died on July 14, 1979. Just think what Maggie saw during her long life here on earth. She saw the advent of the automobile, the airplane, the expansion of the west, and the railroad. She lived through two world wars, a great depression, several recessions, and many inventions that made life easier for some, but not always Maggie.

She never had indoor plumbing, she carried water from a well that was 200 yards from her house. Although she had electricity, she still didn't have many of the conveniences of life. Maggie and her husband, James S. Dagley heated their home with two fireplaces and a "warm morning" stove. They never had television. You could say that she lived in the horse and buggy age but still got to see man walk on the moon.

Maggie and James had six children. They were Roy, Agnes, Bonnie, Bessie, Louis, and Willie. Willie would die young from a ruptured appendix. They had nineteen grandchildren and most of them live in Morgan County today.

Maggie was a great cook. At one time she cooked for a timber crew, and a sawmill crew who worked for her husband. This self-sufficient lady raised a garden, in which she loved, and canned vegetables, peaches, apples and cherries. Her specialties were fried chicken and pies.

I was in Aunt Mag's house several times and I can tell you it was always spotless. As I recall much of the house had linoleum on the floors and they always looked like they had just been mopped. You never saw a fly in her house.

I remember molasses making time in the fall when Aunt Mag would come over, bring her horse named Queen and help us pull cane fodder. She could pull two rows of fodder before the others could get one row pulled. I could imagine she had cleaned her six-room house before she came over to Jim Redmon's house to help us grind the cane and make molasses.

Aunt Mag was always very cheerful and fun loving. She had a wealth of stories

to tell and I can remember my mom telling me that I should get a tape recorder and record some of those tales. I bet she's up there now, looking down saying, "Tom, I told you many times, didn't I. Your Aunt Mag had a lot of stories to tell."

James Dagley said that Mag was the perfect grandma. She was always caring for her grandchildren's ailments: stubbed toes, sunburns, cuts, and bruises, belly aches, skinned knees and an assortment of other things that could happen to kids. Mag got out and skated on a frozen pond with her



Aunt Mag Dagley, A Special Lady (Photo Submitted)

grandkids when she was in her late 80's and early 90's. She even rode behind a grandson on a motorcycle when she was 90. She joined them in their softball games.

Like I said, Mag never had a T.V. but she loved to read books, especially mysteries. Her grandchildren would check out books at the school library and bring them to her to read. She had two sisters who lived around ½ mile from her house and she would visit Mary Phillips and Lilly Bingham once a week.

Aunt Mag lived in a different age than we live in today. She was a special lady who talked of barn and house raisings with a dance and dinner afterwards. She laughed and joked a lot and if someone played a joke on her she would always get the last laugh. One of her favorite sayings was "remember well and

bear in mind a good true friend is hard to find." If you asked her the key to her longevity she would laugh and with a twinkle in her eye she would tell you to laugh, work hard, and don't let doctors give you too many pills. Aunt Mag left us on July 14, 1979 at the ripe old age of 98, but I think it would be safe to say that Maggie Redmon Dagley still lives in the hearts of her grandchildren, relatives, and friends today. She was really one of a kind.

Aunt Mag Dagley lived in a different world than we have witnessed. In 1881 when she was born, we had no automobiles and no airplanes. The majority of people had not heard of electricity. We had no supermarkets and only cities and large towns had many of the implements we have today even in rural areas. Maggie knew what hard work was because she was up at 4:00 am in the morning and by lamp light she worked up into the night. We had no nursing homes or old age homes.

When Mag's husband was living out his final days, she had to care for him twenty-four hours a day. James Dagley said his grandma would change him many times a day and wash his clothes on a scrub board in a galvanized tub. In all kinds of weather, she carried water from a well that was 200 yards away. She had to hang out his clothes on a clothesline in freezing weather. She carried in coal and wood for her stove and fireplace. Still Aunt Mag smiled and laughed a lot in life. The ones who knew her best said she was always cheerful and she liked to joke around.

My grandpa James Redmon was Aunt Mag's brother and he and my grandpa lived a similar life like Aunt Mag. When electricity came along, they were not excited. Grandpa didn't want an indoor bathroom. He was born in 1872 and died in 1958 at age 86. This family lived in an era that we can only read about.



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Here I Go Meddlin'...



Terry Futrell
Author

A few weeks ago, I saw a Facebook post about education that really made me stop and think. I don't recall the content of the original post, but a comment made by a local teacher raised my concerns. In essence, the teacher said that teachers were trained in specific subjects, such as math, history, and English, and teaching anything beyond that subject matter is not their responsibility. Is that really true? Has our view of the purpose of education really become so narrow? Let's dig deeper.

In 1993, I had the privilege of working for a national manufacturing trade association in Washington, DC. One of the major initiatives of the association was to explore the need for skill standards in manufacturing. A survey of tens of thousands of manufacturers was conducted and the results were surprising. Most manufacturers stated that they could teach subject matter skills beyond the basics on the job, and they identified "employability skills" as most lacking in potential employees.

Rather than subject matter skills, many employability skills are character traits such as honesty/integrity, attendance/punctuality, teamwork, responsibility, goal setting, and positive attitude. We used to collectively call these traits "work ethic." These employability skills cannot be taught in a classroom by presenting facts and methods like other subjects, but must be developed in a student through application from the time they are born until they enter the workplace.

The findings of the manufacturing association were complemented by results of a survey of Morgan County educators in 1999. In this survey, 94% of high school teachers and 76% of all teachers agreed that the primary role of schools is to prepare students for rewarding careers and productive employment. Conversely, only 12% of high school teachers believed that the primary role of schools is to prepare students for college. Yet, the survey found that teaching methods identified as most effective for teaching employability skills were least used in Morgan County classrooms.

So, where is the disconnect? It is easy to point a finger at both teachers and parents who each play a vital role in the overall development of a student's character. But it is also easy to be wrong. During recent decades, there has been a major shift in how teachers are evaluated. Student testing does not focus on employability skills, but instead focuses on subject matter facts and methods. Teachers are not evaluated on how they instill positive character traits, but instead are evaluated on how well they have programmed student brains with facts and methods. Like any normal person, teachers are more likely to focus their teaching methods on the things that are emphasized in their performance evaluation. We can't judge teachers by how red their apples are and then complain about them not producing oranges.

Meanwhile, many students miss out on the most critical development that prepares them to be good employees – positive character. The impact is horrendous. As an example, my nephew has been trying to fill hundreds of positions for a major

East Tennessee manufacturer. He told me for every 60 employees that he hires, only about six make it beyond the first three weeks on the job. I'm sure that almost any business can share similar stories. It should not be surprising that we see "Now Hiring" signs practically everywhere.

What is the solution? I submit that it begins with getting government – both state and federal – out of education. The educational needs of Morgan County are driven by its unique culture and heritage, and by the local job market. For any government official to sit in Nashville or Washington and assert that they know what is best for educating Morgan County students is ludicrous. Taking government out of the equation is a challenge that must be faced through the cooperative effort of Morgan County and area educators and politicians. It is a formidable task, but the future of Morgan County students depends upon success.

Enough meddlin' for now...

NOW HIRING for all POSITIONS

The number of area businesses now hiring is an indicator that schools are not graduating enough students with good employability skills.

Join us on August 7th, 2021

Grand Re-Opening and Benefit Concert

Our event will have:

Food Truck: Nacho Bisnez

Vendors

Raffle

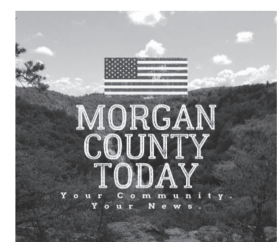
Games

Concert: Pale Root

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

All proceeds from the concert and raffle will go to
The Kennedy Ladd Foundation!

Ticket prices and participating vendor info coming soon.
Activities will begin at 4 p.m. and the concert at 6 p.m.



3549 Airport Road Rockwood TN 37854

Contact Kim Cox 865.363.7699

kdb0423@yahoo.com

Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

Don't Be a Zombie: Discover your Passion and Purpose Part 3



David knew what he wanted to do since he was a child. He majored in elementary education, and volunteered at the local church, tutoring children. If he weren't around children, he would live a very miserable life. My goal was to one day be David—joyful and fulfilled in my career—but how could I ever achieve this goal? I never had a passion for a career when I was growing up. I had pretty much picked my college major because time was running out and I had to choose something in order to graduate in four years. Business seemed like the easiest route to make the most money. I figured magically, one day, I would wake up and the answer to my life's calling would flash before my eyes. For years, I waited, but the epiphany never came. At this point in my life, I doubted it would ever appear.

My revelation of my calling never came as an "aha" moment, like I always assumed it would. I spent years reading, praying, and meditating. I spent most of my free time reading books on career decisions, because I hated my day job. I recall reading a book called *Start* by renowned career author and speaker John Acuff. I read Acuff's first book, *Quitter*. Both of his books helped me along my journey. I was a big fan of his thoughts, ideas, and advice. This was my second time reading his book, and a simple statement spoke to me the second time (it usually takes me two reads, then studying, to have true comprehension).

Acuff said in the book *Start*, "I always wanted to be in a plane crash".

When I first read this, I thought, "Wow! He was really suicidal about his career at the time." As I read farther, Acuff explained that he never heard a story from someone who had survived a plane crash and then come home and not fulfill dreams. After coming so close to death, they didn't waste the precious small amount of time they actually had on earth. "His point was how many people [who] had a near death experience, that survive, come back in life and say, 'Wow! I really wished I had watched more television!'"

People who survive a near-death experience often come back and live a more fulfilled life. It was time for me, personally and

metaphorically, to crash a plane in my life and come back. It was time for me to start investing every single waking moment thinking, meditating, pondering, and soul-searching with a renewed vigor to identify the ultimate career path. I wanted to mentally have a near-death experience that would ignite a fire that would light the way through the path of a better life for me.

I went back to the drawing board to find my passion and calling in life. Over eight years, I had accumulated a wealth of self-help books, articles, and handwritten notes to myself. I thought maybe something would speak to me through the books, journals, and articles the second time around reading and studying. I remained diligent and focused, but once again, another year had passed without any significant progress. I never gave up searching to find my passion.

Zack graduated from Wartburg Central High School in 2001 and from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2004. Since graduation he has become a TedX Motivational Speaker, Author, and Career Consultant. He travels the world giving back and hosting seminars teaching people on various topics. Zack has established an ongoing annual scholarship at his Alma Mater, Wartburg, which has inspired others to give back as well. Visit www.zackballinger.com for more of Zack's travels and events.



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 A black and white advertisement for Jerry Duncan Ford. The top half features the text "Locally Owned" and "Locally Operated" in large, bold, serif fonts, with "by the People you KNOW and TRUST" in a smaller font below. To the left is the Jerry Duncan Ford logo, and to the right is a Facebook logo with the text "Like us on Facebook". The bottom half of the ad shows three Ford SUVs parked in a row on a reflective surface. At the very bottom, the text "DOWNTOWN HARRIMAN" and "JERRYDUNCANFORD.COM" is displayed in large, bold, sans-serif fonts.

NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JoAnn Derson

* If you've lost a zipper pull, you can create a temporary one with a paperclip.

* Remove all of the air from a plastic storage bag with a drinking straw. Slip the straw into the bag and close as much as possible. Then suck any air out through the straw, and quickly pull out and close in a single motion. Your leftovers will stay fresh longer, and foods may stack better in the freezer.

* And speaking of straws, did you know you can use them to curl your hair? Wind sections of damp hair around a plastic straw and secure the ends with a bobby pin. Dry in the sun or use a hair dryer on low heat. Remove and spritz with hair spray.

* Here's an oldie but a goodie! Iced coffee is at its

best when brewed with twice the usual amount of ground coffee, because the coffee is diluted by the melting ice cubes. Or use regular-strength brewed ice coffee and serve over coffee ice cubes. They're easy to prepare: Pour cool brewed coffee into ice-cube trays and freeze.

* Lemon juice can bring out the flavor of mushrooms. I keep a little spray bottle to keep lemon juice accessible in the kitchen. I find it's good for all kinds of things, like avocados and apples. I spray the cut side to keep them from browning. It's also great for salad greens. -- T.T. in New Jersey

* Make your own camping lamp: Strap a headlamp to a full gallon jug of water. It fills the tent with a soft light, and you can still drink the water!

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

* Prior to becoming America's 38th president, Gerald Ford had a side gig as a model. In 1942, shortly after joining the Navy, he landed an uncredited spot on the cover of Cosmopolitan in his uniform.

* Scotland has 421 words for snow.

* Coca-Cola can remove blood stains. Pour a whole can into your wash, along with the blood-stained clothing and your usual detergent, then run a normal cycle. The laundry will come out stain-free.

* "Albert Einstein" is an anagram for "ten elite brains." Hmm, seems fitting to us.

* Sales data gathered by the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council indicates a strong link

between the number of hot dogs and sausages sold at Major League Baseball stadiums and their team's ability to win games.

* Your nose is always visible to you, but your brain ignores it through a process called Unconscious Selective Attention.

* "Prison Inside Me" is a hotel of sorts in South Korea where people pay to be locked away in solitary confinement for 24 hours. "Jail mates" wear matching uniforms, sleep on the floor in 54-square-foot cells and are forbidden to speak to each other. Meals are minimal -- a steamed sweet potato and banana shake for dinner and rice porridge for breakfast. Like any good getaway, the prison stay comes with a souvenir: a certificate of parole upon completing one's stint in

solitary confinement!

* Who says there's no such thing as truth in advertising? Nebraska's recent advertising campaign slogan, complete with T-shirts and coffee mugs, was "Nebraska: Honestly, it's not for everyone."

* Tickling has been divided into two types. Knismesis refers to "light featherlike" tickling, and gargalesis refers to "harder laughter-inducing" tickling.

Thought for the Day: "There's something beautiful about keeping certain aspects of your life hidden. Maybe people and clouds are beautiful because you can't see everything." -- Kame-nashi Kazuya

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

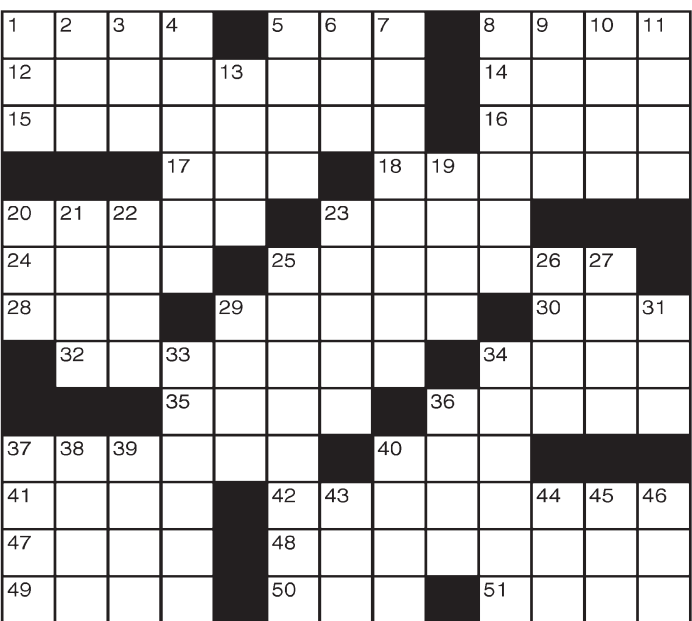
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

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

ACROSS

- 1 Mattress option
- 5 NASCAR advertiser
- 8 Wild guess
- 12 Supervisor
- 14 "Yes —?"
- 15 Accidentally
- 16 Late July babies
- 17 Since Jan. 1
- 18 12-year-olds, e.g.
- 20 Bjorn Borg, for one
- 23 Salon request
- 24 Actress Elisabeth
- 25 Act of contrition
- 28 Knight's address

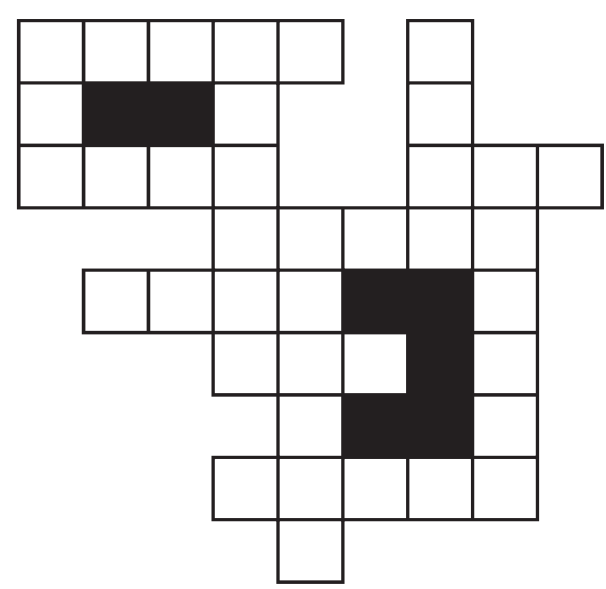


- 29 Persnickety
- 30 Fez, e.g.
- 32 Woo
- 34 City district
- 35 BMW rival
- 36 Follows
- 37 Mississippi city
- 40 Venus, to Serena
- 41 Mine, in Montreal
- 42 Astaire specialty
- 47 Scepters
- 48 Valuable volume
- 10 Soon, poetically
- 11 Employer
- 13 Fill fully
- 19 Fay of "King Kong"
- 20 Snake's warning
- 21 Spinning sound
- 22 Modern money
- 23 Joe of "GoodFellas"
- 25 Talking heads' opinions
- 26 Spiced tea
- 27 British noble
- 29 Ersatz
- 31 Pro Bowl stats
- 33 Zedong follower
- 34 Sushi condiment
- 36 Ocean motion
- 37 Fir coat
- 38 "— a roll!"
- 39 California city
- 40 Agile
- 43 Motorist's org.
- 44 Silent assent
- 45 Army rank (Abbr.)
- 46 Scrape (out)

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- URO
- ♥AURLN
- ♥DATEC
- ♥SPCU
- ♥RUSTUE
- ♥UPT
- ♥OSEL
- ♥NEOST
- ♥RCA
- PRETOX
- UTSAL
- ♥ERPA



Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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Morgan County Today

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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



WILD HOG FESTIVAL

Morgan County  Today



August 28th, 2021

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10AM - 7PM

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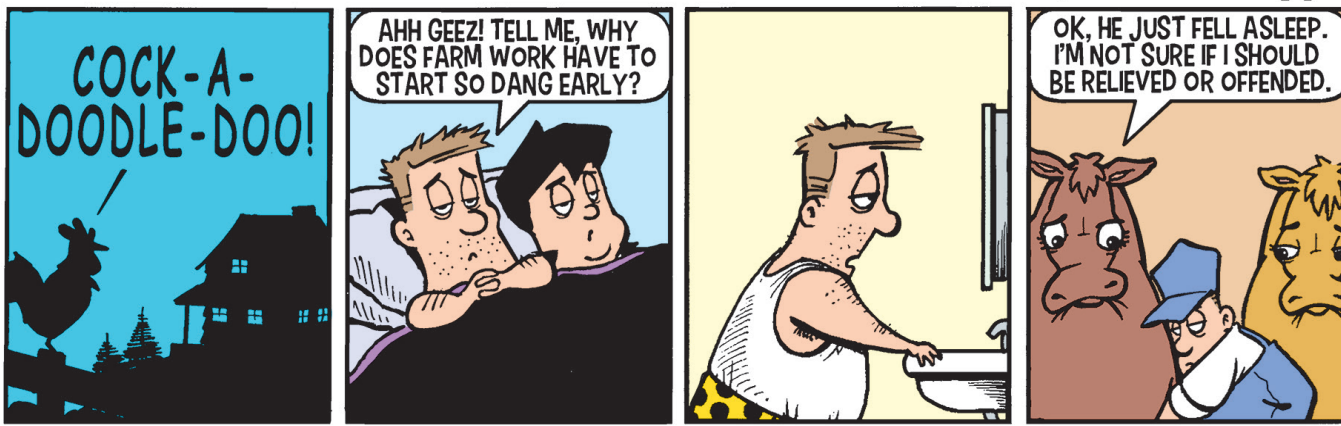
Marla Hines
Circuit Court Clerk

423-346-3503
415 N Kingston St.
Wartburg, TN 37887



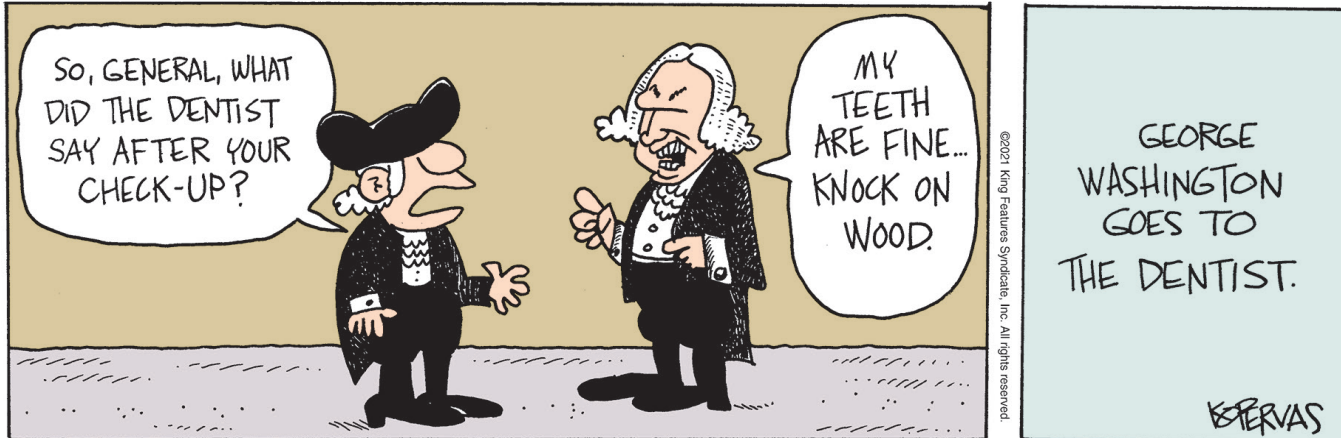
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



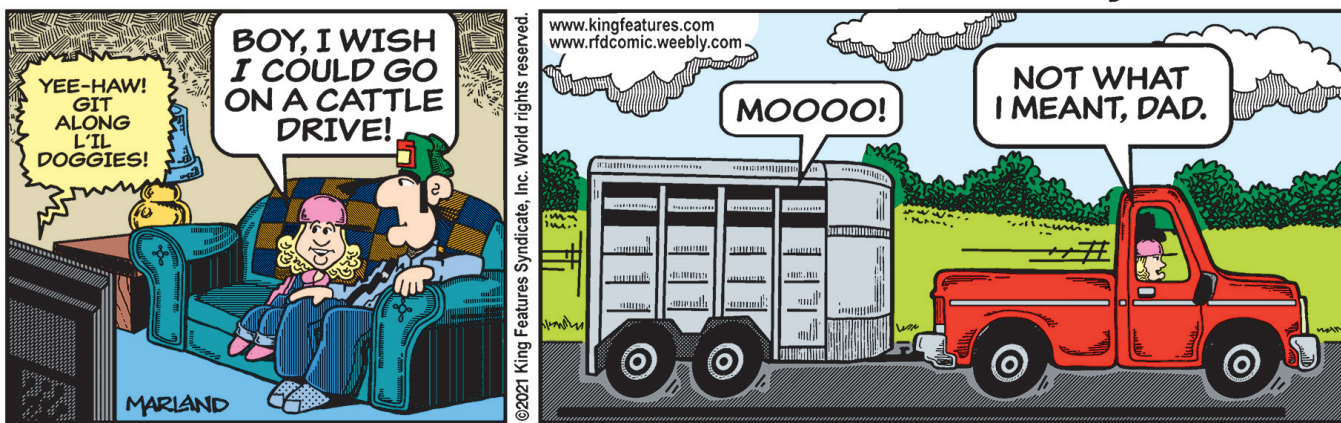
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



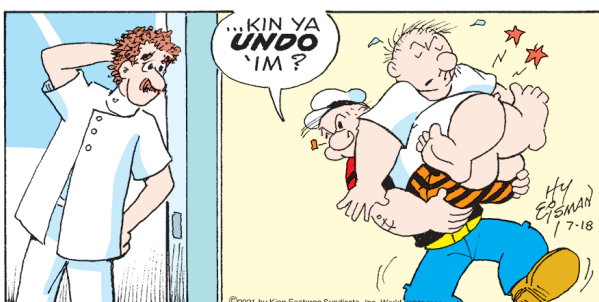
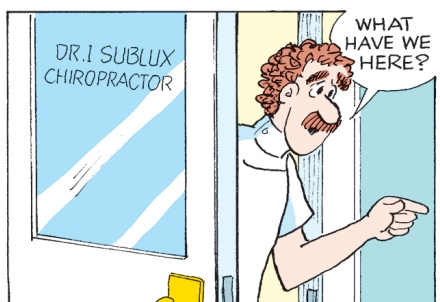
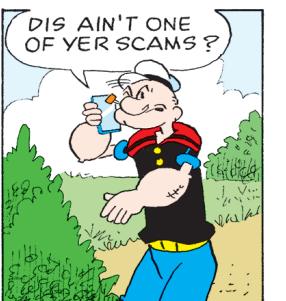
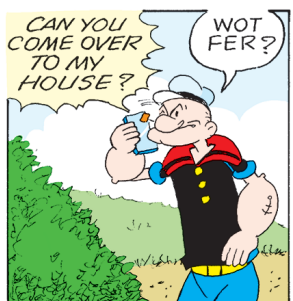
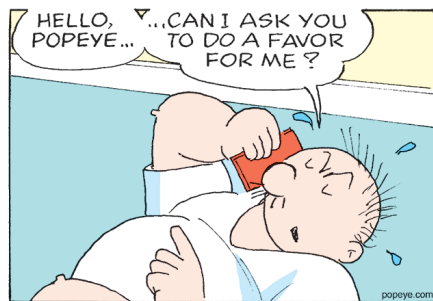
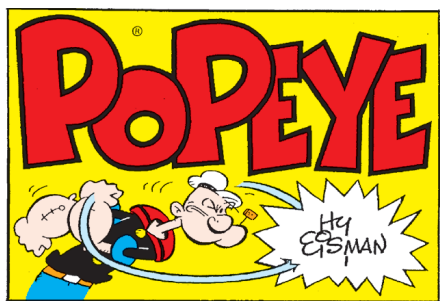
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

 * On Aug. 9, 1854, Henry David Thoreau's classic "Walden; or, A Life in the Woods" is published. The book is Walden's account of his experimental time of simple living in a cabin at Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts, starting in 1845. The book sold just 300 copies a year when it was published.

* On Aug. 13, 1878, Kate Bionda, a restaurant owner, dies of yellow fever in Memphis, Tennessee, after a man who had escaped a quarantined steamboat visited her restaurant. The disease spread rapidly, and the resulting epidemic emptied the city. An average of 200 people died each day through September.

* On Aug. 15, 1914, the Panama Canal, the American-built waterway across the Isthmus of Panama, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, is inaugurated. U.S. engineers moved nearly 240 million cubic yards of earth and spent more than \$10 billion in today's dollars in constructing the 40-mile-long canal.

* On Aug. 11, 1921, author Alex Haley is born in Ithaca, New York. His novel "Roots" (1976) was a fictionalized account of his family's history, traced through seven generations. It won a special Pulitzer Prize.

* On Aug. 14, 1935, President Franklin Roosevelt signs into law the Social Security Act, which guaranteed an income for the unemployed and retirees. The Social Security system has remained relatively unchanged since 1935.

* On Aug. 12, 1964, Charlie Wilson, part of the gang who pulled off the 1963 Great Train Robbery, one of the biggest heists of its kind, escapes from the maximum-security Winslow Green Prison in Birmingham, England. Wilson remained on the loose until 1968.

* On Aug. 10, 1981, Pete Rose of the Philadelphia Phillies gets the 3,631st hit of his baseball career, breaking Stan Musial's record, in a game against the St. Louis Cardinals. Musial had spent his entire career with the Cardinals, and he was on hand to congratulate Rose.
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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Lazarus in the Old Testament, New Testament or neither?
2. What happened to Jeroboam's hand on confronting the man of God at the altar? *Fell off, Turned to salt, Became a viper, Dried up*
3. The children making fun of Elisha's bald head were torn apart by? *2 bears, 3 lions, 7 serpents, Locust swarm*
4. From Acts 13, who was called "A man after mine own heart"? *Gideon, David, Matthew, James*
5. In John 19, who said, "What I have written, I have written"? *Daniel, John the Baptist, Pilate, Jesus*
6. From Genesis 1:20, on what day did God create the birds? *1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Dried up; 3) 2 bears; 4) David; 5) Pilate; 6) 5th

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

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Comfort foods

Made fast and healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

Sour Cream Raisin Cake

It's Fair Time, but many county and state fairs have been put on hold due to the pandemic. So, we decided to hold a recipe fair of our own, and declared this the Best of Stove Winner!

- 3/4 cup no-fat sour cream
- 2 eggs or equivalent in egg substitute
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- Sugar substitute to equal 1/2 cup sugar, suitable for baking
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 1 cup raisins

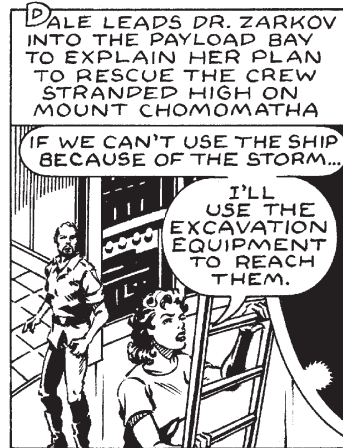
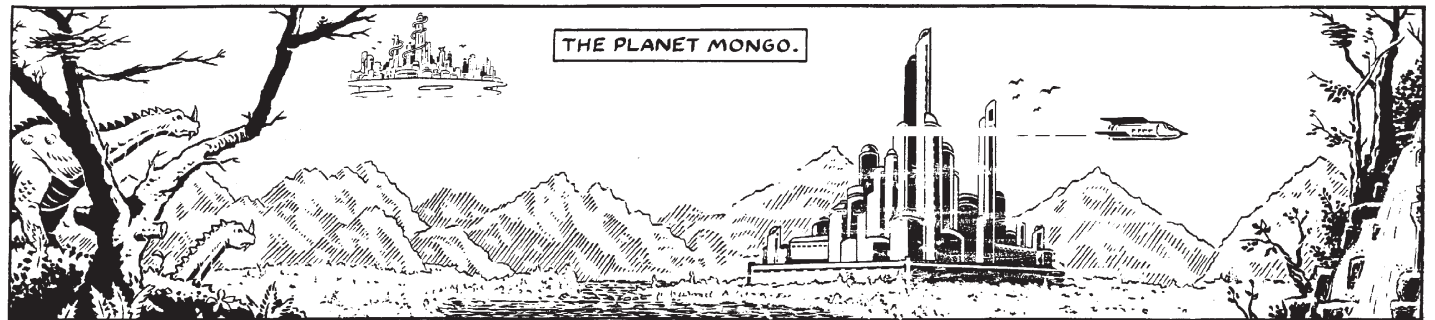
1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Spray a 9-by-9-inch cake pan with butter-flavored cooking spray.

2. In a large bowl, combine sour cream, eggs and vanilla extract. Add flour, sugar substitute, baking soda and pumpkin-pie spice. Mix just to combine. Fold in raisins. Spread batter into prepared cake pan.

3. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes. Place cake pan on wire rack and let set for at least 5 minutes. Makes 8 servings.

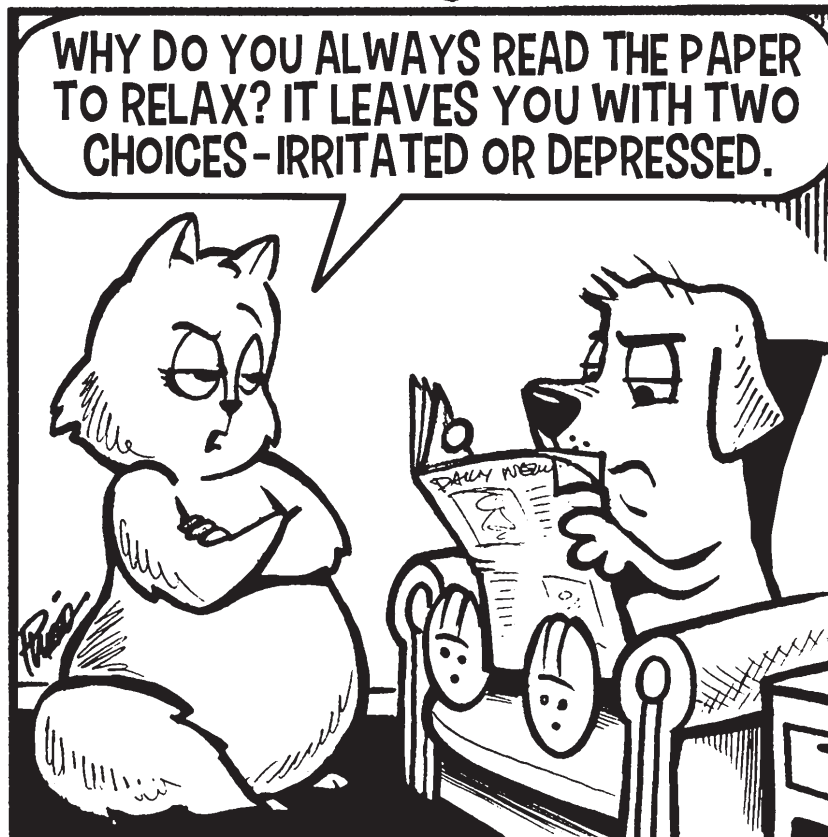
• Each serving equals: 173 calories, 1g fat, 5g protein, 36g carb., 205mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Starch, 1 Fruit.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps





Easy Melon Salsa Is Taste of Summer

Hello! I'm so happy to meet you. I'm Patti Diamond, AKA Diva Patti, the recipe developer and content creator for "Divas On A Dime — Where Frugal Meets Fabulous." I got the nickname Diva Patti in my former career as a musical theater professional. I was quite the soprano back in the day.

I believe everyone should live like a diva, even if they're living on a dime. My passion is finding inexpensive ways to make extraordinary things happen in the kitchen and in life. I love to help people save money on their food budget because I think we have better things to spend our money on, like paying off debt, saving for retirement or buying more shoes. If you agree, then we're going to be great friends! Let's get cookin'!

Don't you love it when something that costs as little as 20 cents per pound can be dressed up to take any occasion from everyday to elegant?

Few things say "summer" like a big slice of cold, juicy melon. Watermelon, cantaloupe and honeydew melons exemplify the beautiful colors and sweet taste of summer. In season from June to September,

choose melons without soft spots, heavy for their size and slightly sweet-smelling at the stem end. Here are some wonderful ways to make the most of your melon:

Infused Water — The simplest thing to do with melon is make infused water. Mint and melon are a lovely refreshing pairing. Just add chopped melon and a few sprigs of mint to a pitcher of water and let it chill for a few hours or overnight. In the summer months, it's nice to have infused water in beautiful glasses to offer as soon as guests arrive. It's a lovely way to say, "I've been expecting you." Add a splash of club soda just before serving for a little fizz.

Sweetly Savory Appetizer — Want an irresistible hors d'oeuvre? Serve any melon sliced and wrapped with



www.JasonCoblentz.com

Melon salsa and chips

deli meat. Traditionally, you'd see cantaloupe with prosciutto, but that's rather expensive. Thinly sliced deli ham or smoked turkey give that same sweet, smoky, savory combination at a fraction of the cost.

Melon Salsa Fresca — If you like your sweet with a little heat, you'll love this. In a mixing bowl, combine the zest and juice of 1 lime, 1/2 tablespoon

honey and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Add 3 cups mixed melon, diced; 3/4 cup cucumber, diced; 1/2 cup any color bell pepper, minced; 1/4 cup red onion, minced; 2 tablespoons cilantro, chopped; and one small jalapeno pepper, finely minced, with ribs and seeds removed. (Use caution when working with jalapenos.) Gently mix and chill. Serve with your favorite chips, over grilled chicken, in fish tacos or a grain bowl, or green salad, — just put it on everything!

Summer Sangria — Add mixed melon to your favorite white wine. This is when to use boxed wine, or as I call it "Chateaux Cardboardaux." Into a large pitcher, place 3 cups of vino, a healthy shot of brandy, 1 tablespoon sugar, a few sprigs of fresh basil and melon balls to your heart's content. Serve over ice, mixed with sparkling water.

Melon Vodka — Let's upgrade some inexpensive vodka. Place chopped melon in a clean jar and top off with vodka. Pop that in the fridge at least three days, the longer the better. This makes an excellent martini with a twist of lime, or a Melon Mule, which is melon vodka with ginger ale and lime juice over ice. Don't throw away that fruit! Remember, boozy fruit is the best fruit.

As you plan your summer celebration, be sure to put melon on your shopping list. Versatile, inexpensive, frugal and fabulous ... now *that's* using your melon.

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 and join the conversation on Facebook at [DivasOnADimeDotCom](https://www.facebook.com/DivasOnADimeDotCom). Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com

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THE RICH LOWRY COLUMN

By Rich Lowry

Yes, Remember the Alamo

No one is trying to topple the Alamo quite yet, but a new revisionist book on the foundational event of Texas history partakes of the iconoclastic spirit of our time.

The book, titled "Forget the Alamo," is a harsh call for Texans, and Americans, to get over a battle deeply etched in our popular memory. According to the authors, the Texans (then the Texians) were foolish to try to defend the indefensible. Some of the defenders tried to make a run for it. Santa Anna, the Mexican general central to the story, wasn't so bad. And given the importance of slavery to the early history of Texas, the Alamo and the Texas Revolution are due an overall post-George Floyd reevaluation.

If there are legitimate disputes over the historical record, it's really not hard to understand why a badly outnumbered garrison of men who fought ferociously against a government force almost to the last man and provided a rallying cry for a rebellion that quickly swept to success occupies an outsize place in our imagination.

Especially given that two of the most famous Americans of the time, Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie, died there. Such an event is inevitably catnip for myth-making, but even when stripped down to its essence, the Alamo and the aftermath were truly extraordinary.

Santa Anna, president of Mexico 11 separate times, first took power as a federalist, then switched sides and became a centralizer. A new constitution squashed Mexican states that had been run largely autonomously. Santa Anna put down the ensuing revolt in the province of Zacatecas in horrifyingly brutal fashion, and then he came for Texas.

About 150 defenders holed up in the Alamo, and the rest is not just legend, but history.

Santa Anna did indeed signal that his force of more than a thousand would give no quarter.

William Barret Travis, commander of the garrison, did indeed write an immortal letter concluding, "Victory or death." He made a plea for reinforcements that never came. "If this call is neglected," he wrote, "I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country."

Santa Anna's troops did indeed launch an early morning attack that was bloodied by the defenders, but quickly overwhelmed the fortification. Santa Anna insisted that roughly half a dozen survivors be executed, and followed up this atrocity with the murder of about 350 other captured rebels in the Goliad Massacre. Sam Houston, his forces swelled by volunteers, did indeed tell his troops prior to the Battle of San Jacinto: "We will meet the enemy. Some of us may be killed, and must be killed. But, soldiers, remember the Alamo, the Alamo, the Alamo!" In an astonishing turnabout, the battle turned into a bloody rout of the Mexicans that secured the independence of Texas.

Who wouldn't want to make a movie of such events? Of course, such popularizations aren't going to be academically rigorous. Pushing back, the authors of "Forget the Alamo" assail the character of Jim Bowie and William Travis, and, sure enough, you wouldn't trust them to manage your real-estate holdings. Texas at the time was a hard place, and the Mexicans and Comanche who contended for control of the territory weren't paragons, either. The authors note the contribution of the Tejanos, native Texans of Mexican descent, and regret how it's missing from many accounts of the revolution, which is fair enough, but doesn't detract from the basic story.

They make much of how Mexico abolished slavery, whereas Texas planters depended on it. Yet Mexico tolerated slavery in Texas and had its own rigidly hierarchical economic system. By all means, let's be as truthful as possible about the Alamo and the Texas Revolution. But it's pointlessly destructive to tear down what deserves to be honored and to forget what -- as Sam Houston insisted so ringingly and aptly -- should be remembered.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Donna's Day

Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

Sandcastle Making Is Fun for All Ages

Life IS a beach for "Sand Guy" and grandfather Kirk Rademaker. As an internationally acclaimed sand sculptor, he is known for his innovative designs created with sand and water on exotic beaches of the world. In 1997, he quit his career in carpentry, traded in his construction boots for bare feet, and began a fulltime career enjoying the enchantment of sand, surf and art.



"A beach filled with people is an equalizer in a society that divides people," he says. "When beachgoers of all ages and stations of life spontaneously join together to create a sandcastle, no one cares about your title, name, rank or lack thereof."

On vacation in Santa Cruz, California, I experienced the freedom he talks about as I poked around in wet sand to my heart's content, sharing the moment with the newfound friends around me. I discovered that castle-making isn't just for kids with pint-size pails and scoops. All ages can reawaken their inner artist

VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

OIG Holds the VA Accountable

The Office of Inspector General for the Department of Veterans Affairs has been busy. Despite COVID, the OIG managed to keep working, and it has checked in with its congressionally required six-month report. The eye automatically zips to the bottom line: The dollar impact from its efforts during the past six months amounts to \$1,923,417,054.

You don't need to count the commas; that's 1.9 billion dollars it identified in one way or another. For every dollar in the OIG budget, it got back \$21 in return. During the six months, the OIG made 109 arrests, issued 652 administrative sanctions, put out 124 publications, talked to 14,129 hotline contacts and made 389 recommendations to the VA.

The biggest category in that \$1.9 billion is "Fines, Penalties, Forfeitures, Restitution and Civil

and experience joy.

As Kirk guided a seaside crowd of eager onlookers and myself through the basics of sandcastle and sand sculpting, he demonstrated his basic and doable techniques for getting started.

When you head to a sandy beach at a lake or the ocean, bring along the following along items, then let nature provide the rest.

Here's the stuff:

— 3 five-gallon plastic buckets (available at hardware and building supply stores). Remove the base of 1 bucket so it looks like a wide tube.

— Shovel for sand and water mixture.

— Your favorite sand-sculpting tools, such as a small trowel, butter knives, spoons and scoops.

Here's the fun:

1. Fill one of the buckets with sea or lake water and bring it to the "construction site."

2. Set the bucket with base removed firmly into the sand upside down. Fill it about two-thirds full with sand, then add water to the top. Vigorously mix with your hands. Tap the outside of the bucket; the vibrations cause the wet sand to settle and harden. Repeat with more sand and water until the bucket is full and the sand feels very firm.

3. Tap the sides of the bucket again and gently lift it upward to reveal a large silo-like sand shape. Now you have the basic building block for your castle, Mount Rushmore-esque sculpture or wacky design. When you get going, just let it expand with your imagination. The goal, according to Kirk, is that you don't want the sand shape to look like a 5-gallon bucket any longer.

TIP: To see the Sand Guy's spectacular sand-sculpture photos, visit www.kirkrademaker.com.

Find more family fun at www.donnaerickson.com. Write to Donna at Info@donnaerickson.com

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Judgments," which brought in a cool \$755 million.

The OIG put out some excellent reports during that time as well. Here are two:

-- The VBA (Veterans Benefits Admin) didn't test the skills of claims processors from 2016 to 2019, even though it's a congressionally mandated requirement. Not only did the VBA not provide additional training to many of those who failed the tests, it didn't even bother to give skills tests to 4,700 of the 10,800 people who are processing claims.

-- VA health care had no way to track patients who had received various medical implants, such as cornea or dental. That means if there was a problem or a recall, there was no system in place to find those veterans. Of 10,000 purchases of implant material, 2,900 purchases were either mis-categorized or not even put in the system, making them impossible to track. For 18 months, 45% weren't tracked and \$1.1 million in material (714 items) could not be located. Nearly 300 unrecorded items were found in storage.

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Historically Speaking

Muddy Boot Award and Postma Young Professional Medal – Oak Ridge Traditions

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Senator Lamar Alexander, when presenting Muddy Boot awards, said, "...the Muddy Boot is one of Oak Ridge's great traditions." Traditions are defined as the handing down of statements, beliefs, legends, customs, information, etc., from generation to generation, especially by word of mouth or by practice. Over the past 36 years Oak Ridge has created a tradition for the generations.

This tradition is known as the Muddy Boot award.

This unusual award is unique to Oak Ridge, yet it speaks to more than the city of Oak Ridge, it is a fitting symbol to communicate respect, honor, pride and joy for significant and long-term contributions to East Tennessee. It is presented to accomplished and experienced leaders in many fields, all of whom have shown their long-term dedication to improving our region of East Tennessee.

A second award that is fast becoming a tradition also is the Postma Young Professional medal. Created in 2005, the medal is presented to honor the accomplishments of young professionals who have made an impact and fostered a community culture throughout the region. Again, it is broader than just the city of Oak Ridge, it also speaks to accomplishments that impact East Tennessee.

East Tennessee Economic Council President, Jim Campbell, says, "Muddy Boot winners come in all sizes and shapes."

Jim notes that, "Scientists and visionary thought leaders like Alvin Weinberg, Herman Postma, Al Trivelpiece, and Bill Madia all received the award for their efforts to build Oak Ridge National Laboratory into the world class institution it is today. But there are also folks like Bill Manly, perhaps the premier metallurgist of his era, who got the Boot—even if it was mainly for his work to promote regional economic development and health care."

"Not surprising, also, are the politicians that have and are serving Oak Ridge and the surrounding area that receive the honor. Al Gore, Sr., a senator during the days when Oak Ridge became a town, was one of the first recipients of the Boot. Senator Howard Baker, Jr., also was an early recipient. Leaders of the organization delivered his boot in person to his office in the White House while he was serving as chief of staff to President Ronald Reagan." Tom Hill, Ben Adams and Jesse Noritake were the individuals who made the presentation.

Jim continues, "Congressman Chet Holifield of California got a boot as a consolation prize in one of the more interesting stories of Oak Ridge. The congressman, an appropriator on the Energy and Water Committee, really wanted Oak Ridge National Laboratory renamed after himself, and in fact, ORNL was for a brief time officially named the Holifield National Lab. Thankfully, the name didn't take."

The name change forced on the Oak Ridge National Laboratory only lasted about one year. ORNL was briefly known as the Holifield National Laboratory from late 1974 until late 1975. This occurred when staff members of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy acted unilaterally in late 1974 to change the name to honor their retiring chairman, Representative Chet Holifield. However, because of the pressure of the Tennessee congressional delegation reacting to intense pressure from Oak Ridge leaders, Congress was convinced to restore the name, Oak Ridge National

Laboratory, in late 1975.

Jim continues, "Both United States Representatives Marilyn Lloyd and Zach Wamp, who combined to serve the 3rd congressional district for the last 30-plus years, have received Boots for their advocacy of Oak Ridge issues in Washington. So did Congressman Joe L. Evins, who helped bring the American Museum of Science and Energy to Oak Ridge."

"Likewise, two State Senators—Buzz Elkins and Randy McNally—were honored with a Boot for their work at the state capital. (Randy McNally has to share the honor with his wife, Jan, former administrator of Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge. They have the privilege to be the only husband and wife to both win a Boot.) Oak Ridge's first mayor, A.K. Bissell, is also an honoree."

In discussing the history of the Muddy Boot Award,



The Postma Young Professional Medal and the Muddy Boot Award – honored traditions (Photo Submitted)

Jim and I noted that there are some surprises on the list. The award recipients are not always those individuals one would expect to be so honored and that is one of the unique aspects of our traditional award.

Jim pointed out that, "Two newspaper editors—Dick Smyser, a fixture at the Oak Ridger for over 40 years, and Horace Wells of the Clinton Courier, were selected for the Boot for the consistently outstanding journalism their organizations maintained. Clearly, both men did much to build this community."

"Likewise, 2007's winner, community activist Tim Myrick, doesn't fit the traditional community development mold either. But his work as a facilitator for the Oak Ridge High School project, his work with a dozen or more non-profit groups, and his willingness to go the extra mile for the people in this community made him an ideal candidate for a Boot."

The list for Oak Ridge's and East Tennessee's most unusual traditional award goes on to include yet even more wide-ranging professionals and key individuals who contributed mightily to the East Tennessee region. There have been 107 Muddy Boot awards. There have also been 22 Postma Young Professional medal winners in the brief history of this prestigious award.

Economic development professionals like David Patterson, Tom Rogers, Lou Dunlap received Boots. So did Floyd Culler, longtime chair of the Oak Ridge Regional Planning Commission. I am pleased to have been allowed the honor of presenting legendary Manhattan Project photographer, Ed Westcott, with his Muddy Boot!

Also populating the list are corporate leaders who have gone above and beyond the call to make Oak Ridge a better place to live and work: Union Carbide, Science Applications International Corporation, Battelle, Bechtel, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Burns and Roe, Oak Ridge Associated University, the University of Tennessee and South Central Bell all are represented.

"Each Boot has a story," explains Jim. "It is those stories that the East Tennessee Economic Council and our partners want to preserve and tell the next generation of Oak Ridgers and people throughout the area." This telling of our stories, as you might expect, is also my passion. The Muddy Boot and Postma Young Professional award winners each have stories that MUST be told and MUST be remembered if our heritage is to survive to succeeding generations. It is vital that we create ways to tell these stories NOW.

All too many of our past leaders and scientists are passing from our midst without us adequately and properly capturing their stories for future generations. We should be ashamed of our lack of respect shown the people who made world-changing discoveries, who created new and wonderful practical applications of science that benefited mankind.

We MUST capture these stories. An active and ongoing Oral History program is a MUST. The Center for Oak Ridge Oral History based at the Oak Ridge Public Library has played a key role in this monumental task. Funding for this historical preservation effort has been provided by DOE Oak Ridge Operations. There has been significant progress in capturing our stories which has resulted from this initiative.

We MUST tell our story in every way possible and to everyone who comes our way. Every day new young men and women come to work in this town. They follow in the footsteps of truly remarkable men and women who created history through their hard work, their genius, their passion for this place. Keeping those stories alive, setting the bar high for those coming to Oak Ridge, is what the Muddy Boot project is all about. The Postma Young Professional medal also supports this same high standard of achievement.

In conjunction with other aspects of Oak Ridge and East Tennessee traditions, the Muddy Boot and the Postma Young Professionals awards take their place among the heritage of traditions that make our region an outstanding place to live and work.

A permanent wall display of the Muddy Boot award and Postma Young Professional medal winners can be seen at the entrance lobby to the East Tennessee Economic Council's meeting room. I am glad to see the display filling the wall.

It is my hope that this unique tradition of ours that recognizes excellence in our East Tennessee region will continue to help us tell our most unusual story.

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.

Willingness of Smyrna



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

Jesus Christ addressed the Church of Smyrna, having endured the humiliation of the Roman execution at the hands of the Jewish high priest. God was dealing the death blow to human religion in any form. The Church of Smyrna is the shining example of when a Christian knows they are saved.

Smyrna is a feminine pronoun. It comes from the root word Myrrh. This is one of the three gifts brought to Mary and Joseph by the Magi from Persia. It is a spice used for the Jewish burial right.

It is a gift most often presented to Kings. Jesus Christ is the world's messiah who will one day receive a kingdom in Jerusalem at the end of the times of Jacob's trials. It is Jesus Christ inheritance promised to his mother Mary, while he was yet in her womb.

The church of Smyrna should be what every Christian is willing to endure, persecution to the point of death. This is how a Christian knows they are saved. A willingness to lay down your life for the testimony that Jesus Christ is the God of mercy and grace. He died to pay the only debt that matters when you die. Your sin debt to God the father.

Human religion had taken hold in Ephesus. God's reaction, was to convict Gentile Christians that they must be willing to die to dogma and doctrine, in favor of dying for Christ in the flesh. Smyrna is where it all began for Gentile's. Polycarp is the first gentile martyr and the last eyewitness to the ministry of the Apostle whom Jesus Loved. John anointed Polycarp to be the Bishop of Smyrna. He would be burnt at the stake and eventually run through with a Roman spear to finish his execution at the hands of the Roman pro-consulate in Smyrna. Rome feared insurrection, Christianity was at odds with the accepted Roman pantheon to include Caesar worship. It is no different in America today. God has not changed. We are living in the times the Bible has a lot to say about. Yet we cling to our denominational structures and Church liturgy to our own peril. God has been building a kingdom of Jew and Gentile, while we build A-Millennial houses of worship, where God is not present. Smyrna is one of the two Church's Jesus Christ had nothing bad to say about. Philadelphia is the second. Choose this day whom you will serve. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

A willingness to die for what Jesus Christ taught began for Gentile's at Smyrna. John the revelator had begun to preach Christ death, burial, and resurrection in Smyrna. It was a Greek colony where Rome had begun to assert its fledgling power in western Turkey. Caesar worship was the center of Roman life. Pontifex Maximus was the religious title Augustus had chosen for himself, following the Babylonian pantheon that emigrated to Western Turkey from the banks of the Euphrates. His power was absolute, and any religion that challenged his authority was squashed, and martyrdom was the choice of the fledgling gentile converts to Christianity in Smyrna.

Smyrna was located at the confluence of two rivers that emptied into the Aegean Sea. This location led the Ionian colonists to build elaborate Temples to the River God Kaestros. Smyrna was considered a colony of Ephesus and Artemis was one of the early goddesses venerated by the Greek colonists'. Smyrna was conquered and re-conquered many times during its' ancient history. Alexander the Great rebuilt the city, and his Generals fought for control of Smyrna until the times of the Roman colonization.

Smyrna was a strategic port city. Commerce flowed through frequently and was distributed throughout the Aeolian peninsula. Religion dominated the lives of the people who lived in ancient Smyrna. When the Roman's began to dominate the region, they melded the Greek pantheon with their Roman Caesar worship. Roman mythology emanated from Greek settlers of the Italian peninsula. They enjoyed the same founding myths' the Aeolian Greeks identified with. Rome repackaged the Babylonian gods and goddesses as a part of asserting their will on the lives of the people they conquered. As a colony of Ephesus, Artemis was the principal goddess born to Zeus venerated by the Greeks at Smyrna.

Smyrna according to Christ begins the times of Gentile persecution for our testimony. No greater love hath a man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. This is Jesus Christ model for true Christian worship. It is this pattern that has been resurrected in these last days. Men and women willing to forgo the worship of America's gods, and be persecuted to the point of death by those unwilling to believe in Christ. Death to one self has always been at the heart of Christian testimony. Understanding what that means, is at the heart of individual Christian conviction. Individual conviction, is how God has been building Christ kingdom.

The church of Smyrna was an underground church. It occurred in people's houses, not in three- dimensional church structures. Temple's, have always made God angry. The tabernacle God desires to inhabit, is the three -part temple known

as the human condition. Spirit, soul, and body, individually sanctified to the will of God the father in heaven. God does not dwell in houses made with human hands. His desire is to inhabit your entire existence all the time. He loves you, and he laid down his life for you on a wooden cross at a place called Calvary. The nails did not hold him to the cross, his love for you and me held him there! Hallelujah. Smyrna was the church that was actually practicing Johns' message of overcoming taught by John in his first letter. 1John 5;4 is the key to becoming an overcomer. Believing that Jesus Christ as God manifest in the flesh is the foundation for Christian testimony. God became the son of God in the womb of Mary. To divide Jesus Christ divinity from his humanity is called Syncretism. The melding of two belief systems to appease government as God, was not the testimony of the church of Smyrna. They overcame to the point of death by understanding that it was God on that cross. It was God who left eternity past, present and future, to enter our dimension of time, and die a humiliating death at the hands of those he LOVED forever! Hallelujah.

Smyrna followed the biblical pattern of willingness to die for God's perfect will for our lives. Fear can never be the testimony of Christians. Fear is the opposite of faith. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. It is completely a production of God's Holy Spirit. Faith is a gift from God. It is not something you do it must become who you are. For faith to truly activate, the willingness to die to all religious pre-suppositions must be at the heart of your Christian testimony, holding on will never lead to letting go! God is the God of surrender. He surrendered to the Jewish high priest willingly. He surrendered to Pilates' verdict and never opened his mouth to defend the indefensible. He surrendered to the grave knowing it was a temporary existence. Have you surrendered to God as Messiah over your entire life? What could you possibly hold onto? God let it all go on the cross. Hallelujah.

This message is a prophetic warning from behind the veil of eternity. The letters to the seven Church's, are Jesus Christ prophetic warning to his bride, and my message continues the pattern begun by Christ in western Turkey. To become the bride of Christ is to unlock the secrets of the word of God. it is the true blessed hope God established during his ministry to his creation in Jerusalem. He came to the lost sheep of Israel who were practicing human religion. Their fate is temporary. Gentile salvation was first offered by Paul in Antioch. It migrated to the Jewish synagogues in western Turkey. Upon John's release from Patmos, Christ instructed him to enter the homes of people to include Gentile's living in the incredibly Greek Pagan world of Ionia. Patmos is where gentile Christianity became real. To die for the testimony of Christ is the responsibility of all who claim faith in Yeshua ha Messiah.

I am a Smyrnian, Philadelphia Christian. I am willing to lay down my life for the testimony of Christ any- time, anywhere. This belief requires that I go ye into all the world and preach Christ and Paul's Gospel. It is all centered in God's preposterous debt payment plan. He created us with the inherent ability to deny him as our creator. Because he is a God who can- not learn and he can- not lie, he had to pay our debt himself to deliver us from the fear of dying to one's self. Salvation must begin between your own ear's. The distance between your ears is the greatest gulf God intends to breach with the message of the Gospel. Choose this day whom you will truly serve. Serve Christ with the willingness to die to self and endure persecution, or serve at the houses of worship where God is not present. He was crucified upon a cross of wood, yet he created the hill upon which it stood. Even so come lord Jesus Christ.

John Burns 7-4-2021

Staff Sergeant John Burns enlisted into the United States Army on September 23, 1987 as an 11C Infantry Mortarman. He graduated from the 7th Infantry Division, Ranger Class 11/89 and served in the invasion of Panama, Desert Storm and the Battle of Mogadishu while assigned to the 75th Rangers.

Some of his many decorations, awards and badges include; Bronze Star Medal for Valor, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Sniper Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantry Badge and Expert Infantry Badge. Throughout his prestigious military career, he traveled to forty-five countries on five continents and all but two states while serving in the military.

He currently serves as the Chaplain for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. His devout faith demonstrates to all he comes into contact with that he believes nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He enjoys writing and teaching God's Word while sharing his faith with a dying world.

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



answer

A	C	T	E	D	S		
R		X			L		
C	U	S	P		O	U	R
		O	N	S	E	T	
P	A	R	E				
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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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



Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week

Saluting local veterans is what Veterans' Day is all about

The Welch family has continued the tradition with grandchildren and great-grandchildren that have served or are currently serving in the military:

Grandchildren
 Lindsey M. Welch, Army.
 Ronnie Barnes, Marine.
 Karen Thomas, Army, still in service after 19 years.
 Susan Welch, Navy.
 Gary T. Welch, Army.
 Kirk Flowers, Navy.
 Jason Flowers, Army.
 Michael V. Welch, Army.

Great-grandchildren
 Chad Harvey, Navy, still in service.
 Samantha Nail, Air Force.
 Chas Theriot, Marines.

This week we honor a very patriotic family that demonstrated their love for our country through military service and sacrifice. On July 23, 2021 I had the absolute pleasure of interviewing Reval Welch the son of Thomas and Bernice Welch. Reval served in the United States Army from 1958 – 1964 as a Jeep Driver. He served in Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Fort Knox, Kentucky and for three years in Germany. During his service in Germany, he had the pleasure of visiting a lot of European countries. Once Reval completed his tour of duty in the Army he exited the Army at the rank of E-4 Specialist.

Reval explained during his interview that he came from a very large family. His parents Thomas and Bernice Welch had seven sons and five daughters. All seven of their sons served in the military.

Reval and his siblings grew up in Cumberland County. Reval now resides in Kingston with his loving wife Judy.

Below we honor the military service of Reval and his brothers. Henry Welch served in the Navy for four years during WWII, Conrad

Welch served in the Army from 1950 – 1970 and served in the Korean War, Donald Welch served in the Navy from 1954 – 1974 and served in Vietnam, Ralph Welch served in the Army and Navy both for a total of twenty-three years and served in Vietnam, Reval Welch served in the Army from 1958 – 1964, William R. Welch served in the Army for twenty-one-years and served in Vietnam, and Larry Welch served in the Army from 1968 – 1988 and served in Vietnam.

Thomas and Bernice's daughters are Dorthey Love, Darlene Mullinax, Vera Mullinax, Norma Turner, and Bertha Welch.

What an amazing family. One can only imagine what the holidays must have been like at their home as they were young children and as they were young adults while serving in the military throughout the far reaches of the world. What great sacrifices were made by one family and what great parents Thomas and Bernice must have been to raise such patriots. We are so thankful for patriotic American families like the amazing Welch family.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

This week we honor fallen Knox County Sheriff Deputy Sergeant Tim Laycock who sadly passed away at his home on Thursday, July 23, 2021. The Knox County Sheriff's Office Family heartbrokenly announced his sudden passing. Sergeant Laycock was currently assigned to their school division. He began his career at the Knox County Sheriff's Office in February 1987 and worked various assignments while working his way up the ranks to Sergeant.

According to the Knox County Sheriff's Officer, "there will definitely be a void in our blue family. His sense of humor would have you



laughing until it hurt! We know he will be missed terribly by all who were blessed to know him." Sergeant Laycock served the Knox County Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Knox County with honor and integrity. It was an honor to

call him a personal friend. He will be missed by many. Remember his family both blood and blue in your thoughts and prayers in the coming days, weeks and months as everyone learns to live without him. Sergeant Laycock also demonstrated his genuine love for the Carter Community by devoting much time and energy as the Carter High School Assistant Football Coach for over ten years and the Assistant Softball Coach for several years as well.

Romans 12

Romans 12:1-2) The Christian and God: this section of Paul's letter begins a series of practical admonitions designed to help these beloved and kindred spirits in their Christian growth. He strongly urges the saints in Rome, in view of God's manifold expressions of mercy and their priestly service to him (1 Peter 2:5, 9), to present their bodies as "living sacrifices." They are to be aware of the Lord's ownership of them, hence maintain lives that are "holy," "well-pleasing," and "reasonable."

They were not to let their daily existence be "fashioned" according to the fads of a coarse, worldly society (in appearance, language, or lifestyle). Instead, they were to be "transformed" (changed in form) by the renewal of their minds. The body follows where the mind leads! The manifestations of the flesh are an index to the quality of the soul. In the renovated Christian life, one should demonstrate that he is motivated by the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.

(Romans 12:3-8) the Christian and Gifts: Paul, as a former persecutor of the Christians Way, is ever mindful of being a recipient of the wonderful grace of God. Hence, he humbly admonishes his brothers not to think more highly of themselves than they ought. The child of God must think seriously about his level of faith, acknowledging that such is the result of Heaven's generosity (v. 3). The body of Christ is one, but among the many members there are varying functional levels (v. 4). We thus must remind ourselves constantly that we are not isolated members, but members "of one another"; we should strive to operate as a unit (v. 5). We all possess gifts, but they come in different varieties---as God has chosen to bestow. The different gifts listed subsequently appear to be of a diverse nature---some supernatural (in the first century), others natural. All are blessings from God.

The gifts were given according to the Lord's favor. These listed are representative, not exhaustive. (a) Prophecy was the forth-telling of divine revelation. It could be either natural or supernatural. Supernatural prophecy was terminated with the completion of the New Testament Scriptures (1 Cor. 13:8-9). Natural forth-telling continues on. (b) The gift was to be exercised consistent with the measure of one's faith (Mt. 17:16-17), perhaps with a spirit of complete confidence in the message and submission to God in the exercise thereof. (c) "Ministry" is voluntary service to God and others, perhaps with an emphasis on helping those who have material needs (1 Cor. 12:28). (d) "Teaching" would seem to have reference to non-inspired instruction by the use of Old Testament Scriptures and gathered sources of New Testament revelation. Some are more gifted in instruction than others. (e) Exhortation" is the ability to encourage other in conforming to gospel teaching, to appeal to their consciences, and motivate them. (f) It seems odd that "giving with liberality" should be classed as a gift. "Liberality" suggests the idea of acting without self-interest or expectation of something in return. Some appear naturally to be more generous than others. Might one ask God for help in developing this gift? (g) "Ruling" has reference to leading well---perhaps in the home, on the job, in the church, etc. (h) "Mercy" is the gift of relieving distress in others without falling to pieces; it is the ability to ignite a cheerful disposition in needy souls under stressful circumstances.

(Romans 12:9-13) Brotherly Love: Paul en-

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courages his fellows to cultivate love of the most genuine kind. It is not the phony "love" that acts with a veneer of concern, but conceals wrath, self-interest, or other base attitudes behind a plastic smile. It is the springboard of various other noble acts (2 Cor. 6:6; 1 Peter 1:22). Several modes of expression love follow: (a) Hate evil and love the good. (b) Cultivate genuine affection for one another. (c) Divest yourself of primary personal interest---a most difficult hurdle. (d) Be vigorous in disposition and action in serving Christ---not sluggish. (e) Exude happiness in the pursuit of your hope. (f) Be patient under various pressures, and rely on prayer for strength. (g) Be generous in helping Christians in need, showing hospitality to kinsmen in Christ.

(Romans 12:14-21) Love for mankind: the apostle now addresses a broader range of responsibility---reaching out to non-Christians. (a) As hard as it may be, the divine ideal is to show kindness even to those who treat you badly. It is not enough to tolerate and ignore them; treat them with kindness. (b) Extend sympathy to those in sorrow; and what may be more difficult, share in the good fortune of others---even when their prosperity may exceed yours. (c) Try to cultivate your mind toward the interests of others, and help them in the pursuit of right. (d) Cease pursuing grandiose ambitions; instead, descend to humility and the assistance of others. (e) Stop being "struck on yourselves," imagining that you know more or are better than all others.

Noble attitudes must be translated into actions---challenging ones. (a) Do not retaliate for evil inflicted upon you. This is precisely what Jesus taught (Mt. 5:43-48). Of course, the ingenious person can think of all kinds of exceptions. (b) Act with honor at all times. Avoid suspicion and criticism---as much as possible. (c) Pursue peace with others; but if discord comes, make certain that you are not the responsible party. (d) If you have been wronged and justice needs to be rendered, do not take matters into your own hands. There are venues for appropriate redress (13:1). The Christian operates on a higher level than the worldly. He is not, however, obligated to accommodate lawbreakers. If there is no justice to be found in this life, leave the matter to the Judge of all mankind. Vigilante action is not permissible. God will make things right eventually (Lk. 18:7). His "wrath" will not be a pleasant experience for the wicked (1:18; 2:5, 8, 3:5; 4:15, etc.).

The proper treatment of one's enemies is a paramount challenge of life. Dozens of rationalizations for avoiding this responsibility have been cataloged. It must be noted, however, that these admonitions are not designed to victimize children of God beyond reason. (a) Discipline may be exercised against abusive church members (Mt. 18:15-17). (b) A Christian may seek redress for wrongs within the church (as opposed to pursuing matters in a court of unbelievers (1 Cor. 6:1). (c) Paul accepted the protection of civil authority when evil men sought to murder him (Acts 21:31; 25:11; Rom. 13:1).

Likely one of the most neglected and ridiculed methods of ameliorating the wrath of an enemy is to melt his heart with a living attitude and a helping spirit. Much evil has been "overcome" in this way.

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MELVIN HOWARD



David Zubler
Columnist

Faster help for your IRS problems

The IRS has created a new feature which will enable a tax practitioner to quickly represent you regarding your IRS problems. IRS representation by your tax practitioner requires authorization with a Power of Attorney (POA). The IRS has had a backlog of POAs which has resulted in taking many weeks to process a POA after it has been submitted. This new feature will quickly give you digital control over who can represent you or view your tax records. This is a groundbreaking step in the IRS's expansion of electronic options for taxpayers

and tax professionals.

The new feature, one of many recent enhancements to the Online Account for individuals, will allow you to authorize your tax practitioner to represent you before the IRS with a (POA) and to view your tax accounts with a Tax Information Authorizations (TIA).

"The ability for taxpayers to connect online with their tax professional is a groundbreaking step for the IRS," said Chuck Rettig, IRS Commissioner. "This is the first, basic step toward a more fully integrated digital tax system that will benefit taxpayers, tax professionals and the IRS." Tax practitioners can now go to the new Tax Pro Account on IRS.gov to digitally initiate POAs and TIAs. The new digital authorization requests are simpler versions of Forms 2848 and 8821.

After being completed and submitted by your tax professional, the authorization requests will appear in your Online Account for your review,

approval or rejection and electronic signature. Your identity will already have been verified at the time of login. You simply check a box as your signature and submit the authorization request to the IRS.

The completed digital authorization, if accurate, will go directly to the Centralized Authorization File (CAF) database and will not require manual processing. Most requests will be immediately recorded and appear on the list of approved authorizations in the taxpayer's Online Account and the tax professional's Tax Pro Account. Some authorizations may take up to 48 hours. Your tax professional may then go to e-Services Transcript Delivery Service to see your IRS records.

To connect with your tax professionals, you either login to your Online Account using your IRS username and password or you must create an account after passing a one-time identity verification process. If you cannot validate your identity, you cannot use this option, and your tax professional must use the fax, mail, or online submission process. However, the IRS will be announcing a new process for this application later this year. The initial launch of the Tax Pro Account represents the first release of the tool. Additional functionality will be added for taxpayers and tax professionals that will increase the options for electronic interactions. The digital authorization process is currently available only to individual taxpayers.

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

More and More Scams Aimed at Seniors

Most scams keep repeating year after year. After all, the scammers are making big money doing those Nigerian grandson/auto-warranty scams, so why would they drop them? However, new ones keep popping up.

If you shop online, beware of accidentally typing in the wrong name. Scammers have created websites with actual information from real store websites, but with a slightly different name. If you shop at a fake store and put in your credit card, the scammers will have immediate access to it.

If you learned how to do Zoom or other online conferences to talk to your family, beware any emails or messages you get about your Zoom. Scammers have set up thou-

sands of Zoom-related internet links for the sole purpose of getting you to click on one they send you. The instant you do, malware (malicious software) is loaded into your computer. From that point all your personal data is at risk. Ignore those emails or messages. If there's a problem with your Zoom, go straight to the Zoom site and check it from there.

In a sign of the times, there are fake COVID contact tracers that ask for personal information and Social Security numbers. Hang up if they call you.

A big problem is that often we don't report the scams. We're embarrassed, or we're afraid the scammers will retaliate, or we just don't know where to report it. If nothing else, you can call the police. If the scam happened on the Internet, contact the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (www.ic3.gov). The center has logged over 6 million complaint calls -- a big portion from those over age 60.

Scammers are everywhere, and it's up to us to stop them in their tracks by being wary of phone calls, emails and the internet.

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FLASHBACK

By Mick Harper

1. Which Kool & the Gang song was used in "Pulp Fiction"?
2. Who wrote and released "Silly Love Songs"?
3. Which Canadian singer won Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for "You Needed Me"?
4. Name the U.K. boy band who released "I Owe You Nothing."
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "If I see you tomorrow on some street in town, Pardon me if I don't say 'Hello.'"

Answers

1. "Jungle Boogie," in 1994, during the opening credits. The song has seen wide usage, ranging from a Justin Timberlake cover, to a Muppets short film, to playing at the Cincinnati Bengals home games.
2. Paul McCartney, in 1976. He wrote the song in response to critics (as well as John Lennon) who claimed McCartney only wrote silly love songs. The song went to No. 1.
3. Anne Murray, in 1979. The soap opera "Guiding Light" used the song in its show for two years.
4. Bros, in 1987. The song climbed charts in Australia, France, Iceland and more.
5. "Walk On By," by Leroy Van Dyke in 1961. Released on the country singles chart, Van Dyke's song spent 19 weeks at No. 1. That record held for 51 years until 2013, when it was topped by Florida Georgia Line's "Cruise."

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 (hopefully)

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 Payout 300/150/75 (min 6)

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