

# Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3

Volume 07 Number 39

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Your Community. Your News.



75¢

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## Lilly Bluff in the Fall



# Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

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# I'D RATHER BE READING.

#mocotoday



**Michael Nance**  
*Columnist*

# A Cold War with China?

The last decade of U.S. interactions with China has demonstrated that the Chinese government aims to surpass the U.S. as the global economic and military superpower. Many experts are hinting that recent events points towards a new Cold War on the horizon. Some would argue that we are already in a Cold War with China. What does history tell us, and the recent data predict? Those are the questions this article struggles to answer.

### *Current Military Assessment:*

Reviewing the comparison between the Chinese military and the United States reveals that China is not positioned favorably against the U.S. The U.S. has advantages on the number of tanks, aircraft, aircraft carriers and modern technology. The Chinese have the clear advantage in sheer number of troops. The United States has a total 2 million active and reserve troops, whereby the Chinese have 5 times that amount for a total of 10 million. This number initially makes everyone wince, but history is littered with modern examples where technology and quality of soldiers and equipment is the deciding factor in any military contest. The final piece of military comparison is nuclear weapons, again the U.S. has about 10 times the amount of nuclear weapons than are Chinese competitor.

### *Allies a Key to any Cold War:*

History evidences that allies are key to victory in any Cold War contest and the U.S. and China are near parity.

In favor of the U.S., Australia recently signed an agreement with the U.S. and Britain to assist the country in building nuclear-powered submarines. Although the deal means billions of

dollars to U.S. manufacturers, the real story with this agreement is that Australia is clearly aligning with the U.S. and Britain to create a significant military presence in the in the seas between India and Australia, an area known as the Indo-Pacific. Australia's move is also significant for strategic relations. For at least two decades the island nation has walked on eggshells balancing trade between the U.S. and China. Now they have clearly chosen sides, upsetting the Chinese government.

I would argue that Australia's moves towards the U.S. were authored by Beijing's arrogance. Responding to comments made by Australia's government officials concerning Covid-19, Beijing enacted damaging tariffs to Australian exports of coal, beef and barley. The tariffs continued to escalate finally resulting in an over 200% tariff on Australian wine. The good news for the U.S. is that Chinese economic hubris was misplaced and now they are strategically handicapped to fully repair relations with Australia.

To counteract the U.S. allies China recently conducted a joint military drill with Russia in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. Senior Colonel, Tan Kefei, spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of National Defense stated concerning the exercise: "It concluded with great success and achieved the targets of deepening China-Russia strategic mutual trust, strengthening exchanges and cooperation between the two countries, and unleashing their combat capabilities."

If a mature alliance between China and Russia occurs this could be a real challenge for the United States to navigate.

### *Economy, the Legs of Any Cold War:*

Ronald Reagan wrote the plan that defeated the Soviet Union in the 1980s, and in short, the plan was to out-

spend the Soviets on military hardware. The plan worked and eventually the communist economy proved no match for the U.S. free market.

China has attempted for decades to cultivate an economy that can compete with the U.S., and they have expanded their economy at an exponential rate. The Chinese government has used market and currency manipulation as well as being accused of stealing secrets from many U.S. based high tech companies. It appears their reliance on copying technology and not real research, development and innovation has finally exposed their dark underbelly of economic weakness.

Evergrande is a Chinese based company that develops property and owns a Chinese football team. The company has earned the title as "the worlds most indebted company." In recent news the company has received credit downgrading and is displaying symptoms that indicate it could experience a massive default on its more than \$300 billion dollars' worth of debt. The collapse of Evergrande could spark the fire that sinks the Chinese economy and some experts indicate it could trigger a global economic slowdown.

Recent unemployment data suggests that China is not navigating the new delta variant of Covid-19 as good as its peers. In the 16-24 age bracket the unemployment numbers in China are dismal. With over 16% unemployment, many recent college graduates are entering the Chinese job market only to find the opportunities contracting. This has been described as a "social time bomb" and we could soon see civil discontent as a side-effect. In short, the Chinese economy appears to be ripe for a major recession and in no shape to economically compete with the United States in the short-term.

### *Energy Strategy:*

Being energy independent or at the very least aligned with allies that can provide your energy needs is another imperative to victory in a protracted Cold War. China is building more coal plants than the rest of the world combined. China depends on oil imports and according to the major news outlets its current dependance is at its highest point in 50 years.

Conversely in 2019, the U.S. energy production was higher than consumption for the first time since 1957. Free market innovation in the oil and gas industry developed hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling and unlocked energy independence for the United States.

### *Conclusion:*

In almost every category a free-market economy generates innovation and a competitive advantage over her communistic competitor. Further, at this time, China is not currently in any position to win a Cold War with the United States and her allies. Be that as it may, the United States must control spending and recognize the national security implications of domestic spending. If Congress is allowed to raise debt ceilings, we could soon discover that our own misguided hubris will eliminate our ability to compete in the next Cold War, which is almost certainly on the horizon.

## MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK

Tue 28	82°/55°	
Wed 29	82°/57°	
Thu 30	82°/57°	
Fri 01	79°/54°	
Sat 02	77°/54°	
Sun 03	73°/53°	
Mon 04	73°/53°	

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## In Loving Memory

### Sarah Danielle Mullins, 35

Sarah Danielle Mullins of Wartburg (born September 29, 1985) passed away at Roane Medical Center on September 21, 2021 at the age of 35.

Sarah had a big, generous, and kind heart; always putting others before herself. When she would go shopping, if she found something she thought someone would like, she would buy it for them. It always made her happy doing good deeds for others.

She is preceded in death by her father, Denny Mullins; grandparents, Sterling and June Butler, and Lena Mullins; and uncle,

Carlos Butler.

She is survived by her mother, Charlotta Butler of Wartburg; sister, Deidra Burke; niece, Ana Ellis; nephews, A.J., Leroy, and Alex Burke; special aunt, Lolita Disney; and cousins: Kadian Butler, Travis Butler, and Terry Butler.

The family is honoring Sarah's wishes to be cremated. They will hold a memorial service at a later date.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Sarah Mullins.

### Mable Ann Patterson Young, 61

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Mable Ann Patterson Young, age 61 (born July 1, 1960), of Oliver Springs, TN. She passed away September 20, 2021 at her home. She was a member of the Red Oak Baptist Church on New River.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Doc Young; parents, Mindy & Walter Patterson; brother, J.W. Patterson; and nephew, Charles Patterson.

She is survived by her son, Jamie Young; brother, Doyle Patterson;

nephew, Jason & family and special aunt, Inez Carroll. She also leaves behind a host of extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends Friday, September 24, 2021 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 12:00 p.m. Interment will follow in the McCarroll Cemetery in Lancing.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mable Ann Patterson Young.

### Bryan Scott Fairchild, 47

Bryan Scott Fairchild, age 47, passed away on September 16, 2021, at Roane Medical Center with his family by his side.

He is preceded in death by his father, Milford Ray Fairchild; brother, Milford Ray Fairchild, Jr.; grandparents, Arthur & Beatrice Fairchild and Mac & Delphia Woodard.

He is survived by his wife of 16 years, Shonda Chitwood Fairchild; daughters, Simone Fairchild of Sunbright, Samantha and husband, David Berry of

Powell, and Sarah Finley also of Powell; mother, Patsy Fairchild of Glenmary; grandchildren, Carmen Parton, James Tate, Logan Fairchild and Gracelynn Finley and a host of aunts, uncles, and extended family.

The family will have a graveside service Thursday, September 23, 2021, at Coal Hill Cemetery in Glenmary at 1:00 p.m. with Bro. Tony Webb officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Bryan Scott Fairchild.

### John Scotton, Sr., 65

Mr. John Scotton Sr., age 65 of Oakdale, passed away Sunday September 19, 2021, at Roane Medical Center. John loved visiting the different churches in the area and getting food. He loved his Bruce Lee movies, so much so that you could say he was a Kung-Fu enthusiast. John loved his cat, Isabelle, but most of all, he loved his family.

He was preceded in death by his mother: Alice Merritt  
His stepfather: Cris Merritt  
One sister: Betty Scotton Vazquez  
One brother: Richard "Ricky" Swiggett

He is survived by his wife of 45 years: Josie Darlene Scotton  
Two daughters: Debbie Lear of Oakdale and Sherrie Manco of Maryland

One son: John Scotton Jr.  
Two sisters: Brenda and her husband Troy Marchione of Clemont, Delaware and Helen "Dee" and her husband Bobby Craig of Aberdean, Mississippi

One brother: Clarence "Buck" McBride and his wife Susan of Carbonado, Washington  
Six grandchildren  
Four great granddaughters (3 of which are on the way)  
Several nieces and nephews  
And a host of other family, friends and loved ones.

The arrangements will remain private.

Davis Funeral Home, Wartburg, is honored to serve the family of Mr. John Scotton Sr.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.davisfuneralhomes.com](http://www.davisfuneralhomes.com).

### Patsy Ellen Coleman Williams, 81

Patsy Ellen Coleman Williams went home to Jesus on September 16, 2021, at the age of 81. Patsy was born to Ed and Lois Coleman on February 1, 1940, in Taylor's Crossroads, Tennessee. As a child, Patsy loved playing with her siblings and cousins making mud pies and building forts in the woods. She met the love of her life, Ray Williams, in math class at Tennessee Tech her freshman year of college. Ray and Patsy married on August 29, 1959. Patsy was a devoted mother to their three children Donna, Eddie, and Jennifer. She served and protected her family with faithful devotion and loving care.

Patsy received her B.S. in Business from Tusculum College in 1991. She worked as a secretary from 1978 to 2010 at K-25, Y-12, and SAIC. Patsy also served as both the Chapter and State President of PSI/IAACP.

Patsy allowed God to use the difficult times in her life to strengthen and grow her faith in Him. In 1997, Patsy recovered from Ovarian Cancer, and afterwards lived with great conviction that God had spared her life for a purpose. She lived each day to the fullest, loving and caring for everyone around her as Jesus loved and cared for her. After the loss of her beloved husband, Ray, she chose to turn her mourning into action. God used this heartbreak in her life to equip her to develop the Plan B Widow's Small Group at her church. Patsy was not a stranger to hardship, but she was determined to not be a victim of her circumstances. She chose instead to be a victor in Christ, and to use the trials in her life as an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those around her. Patsy was an active member in her church family at Faith Promise Church. She served in the Small Groups

Ministry, Women's Ministry, Celebrate Recovery, and Stephen Ministry. Patsy loved large, was always available, and made those around her feel loved and welcomed into her family.

Patsy was preceded in death by her parents, Ed and Lois Coleman, sister Jan Coleman, husband Ray Williams, and sister-in-law Marilyn Coulthard.

Patsy is survived by her brother Joe Coleman, sister Carolyn (Mike) Qualls, brother-in-law Sammy Coulthard, children Donna (Jerry) Wigger, Eddie (Maryann) Williams, and Jennifer (Ken) Manning, nieces Cara (Mike) Steck and Renee Coulthard, nephews Griffin Qualls and Dale Coulthard, grandchildren Laura Leigh, Kayleigh, Rebecca, Dustin, Audrey, Abby, Tanner, Sam, Emily, Ellie Kate and Moriah, great-niece Camilla, and nine great-grandchildren.

Patsy lived her life in obedience to the Lord, following the example of her Savior, Jesus Christ. "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." Mathew 25:21

Services  
All services will be held at Faith Promise Church (Pellissippi Campus) 10740 Faith Promise Ln Knoxville, TN 37931

Receiving of Friends – Friday, September 24 from 6-8pm & Saturday, September 25 from 11am-1pm

Service – Saturday, September 25 at 1pm

Graveside Service to follow At Oak Ridge Memorial Park In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Bible Study Fellowship at [www.bsfinternational.org](http://www.bsfinternational.org) or Worthy Women Ministry at [www.worthywomenministry.org](http://www.worthywomenministry.org)

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Patsy Ellen Coleman Williams.

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

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Sandra Helton's weekly column

## Oakdale Area News

email: kvhelton@highland.net



Make plans to attend Oakdale High School's Homecoming Football Game this Friday night, October 1. Four young ladies and their friends and family have worked very hard the last couple of weeks raising money in hopes of being the 2021 OHS Homecoming Queen.

Oakdale School Alumni Association hopes to see all alumni at the Homecoming Game. There will be a tent set up where ALL alumni can register. They want to see which class has the most people in attendance. The Alumni Association will be recognizing former high school football players, cheerleaders and homecoming queens before the game. Registration for former players, cheerleaders and queens will begin at 6:15 pm near the front gate. Pregame recognition will begin at 7:00 pm. Please spread the word with your family and former classmates.

Congratulations to Tracey and Stella Beach who will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on September 30. They were honored with a family celebration on Saturday, September 25. Those attending included their daughter and grandson, Misty and Jacob Beach, Stacie Beach Bradley, Angie Beach Denzler, Madi-

son Janysek, Ruby Hickman, James Hickman, Jr, Glenda Galloway, Dylan Hickman, Blake Reynolds, Rodger Beach, Lynn Summers, Stanley and Patti Redmon, Isaac Collins, Lori Redmon, Macee Brackett, Lybee Brackett, Grady Allen, Huntley Grayson, Ryan, Kaylee and Zaiden Young, Kayden Remon, Bill and Gina Grayson and Brad Redmon. Everyone enjoyed lots of good food and family fun. The blessing of two people that fell in love so long ago is still going strong 50 years later. Tracey and Stella are so thankful for the celebration and would like to thank everyone who helped in anyway. They appreciate the love and support their family has given them through the years and each one holds a special place in their hearts. They hope to have more more years together.

Carter Moss is proud to announce the birth of his baby sister, Claire Elzie who was born Friday, September 17 at 7:52 a.m. She weighed 6 pounds 6 ounces. She is the daughter of Dakota and Alyssa Moss. She is the granddaughter of Greg and Susan Collins and Jeff and Michelle Adkisson.

Congratulations to Nicholas and Megan Grayson on the

birth of their daughter, Claria Dawn Grayson. She was born Monday, September 20 at 1:36 p.m. weighing 9 pounds 10 ounces. Her very proud grandparents are Bill and Regina Grayson and Donald Jones.

Cameron Clark celebrated his 2nd birthday September 22. He is the son of Jesse and Cortney Clark and his big brother is Colton. Happy Birthday Cameron!

Kameron Show turned 15 on September 15th. His sister, Jayla, turned 14 on September 25. They celebrated with a joint party with friends and family at Downtown Pizza Arcade and Events in Harriman on Sunday, September 19. Everyone had a good time. The claw machine was the hit of the party. By the time the party was over, you could see the bottom of the case. Kam and his brother, Crusade, won the most. Kam, Jayla and Crusade are the grandchildren of Kerry and Jennifer Ruppe.

Clayton James Disney, who has decided to call himself Jimmy Clay, turned 5 on September 22. He had a small family party that day but celebrated with friends on Sunday, September 26 with a bounce house. Clay is the son of Justin and Valerie Disney and he his big sister is Cartie.

Calem Helton celebrated his 8th birthday Saturday, September 25. He is the son of Josh and Gayla Helton and has an older sister, Gracie. He had a Baby Yoda themed party with an inflatable obstacle course. He loved celebrating with his family and friends. His favorite present was a tackle box filled with a variety of bait from his Papaw and Mimi, Mark and Tammy Helton.

Hutch, Marilyn and China Hutchinson of Nolensville visited family and friends this past Saturday. They began the day with a nice window visit with Marilyn's cousin, Becky Cochran, in Rockwood. While Hutch and China finished chores at their farm in Pine Or-

chard, Marilyn visited her Aunt Ruth Headrick. Later on Saturday afternoon, they attended Jeanette Powell's 100th birthday celebration at Riverfront Park in Harriman. Marilyn said Jeanette is a beautiful lady with an active life and alert mind. Happy Birthday Jeanette!

Girl Scout Troop 20742 is selling nuts and chocolates. Please support these young ladies by purchasing some goodies from them. To order, contact Robin Greer or Jennifer Lynne Lewis on Facebook.

The City of Oakdale will have a celebration for everyone in Oakdale and surrounding communities on Saturday, October 9 at Oakdale Park beginning at 1:00. There will be plenty of food, games, face painting, a bounce house and other fun activities. Everything will be FREE! Make plans to attend this family event.

I ran into Mrs. JoAnn Cheek last week at the Dollar Store in Mossy Grove. It was so nice to see you and I would like to thank you for your kind words about this column.

I also saw Marie Wormsley at the Dollar Store. I always enjoy catching up with her.

As always, please pray for the many needs in our homes, schools, communities and country. And....don't forget to give thanks for all God has done for us.

I read this on Facebook last week and felt that it was worth sharing.

**Welcome to Tennessee:**

**Winter is at 6:00 a.m.**

**Spring begins at 10:00 a.m.**

**Summer is at 2:00 p.m and**

**Fall is around 4:30ish.**

**Dress Accordingly!!**

# Americanisms



“There are only 3 colors,  
10 digits and 7 notes; it's  
what we do with them  
that's important.”

— Jim Rohn

Send Letters to the Editor  
Editor@mocotoday.com

## Perry Joins the Morgan County Today Team



We want to introduce you to the newest member of our team, Paula Armes-Perry. She comes to us with experience in the newspaper industry and will have a positive impact right away.

“Hello, my name is Paula Armes-Perry. I am the new Advertising Specialist for Morgan County Today. Some of you may already know me from my days at the Roane County News.

I look forward to meeting those in the community and working with you and for you. I have always made it my mission to work for the communities I serve.

Although I work in advertising and that is where I hang my hat and my expertise, I follow a simple belief. That belief is one of H.O.P.E. I strive to provide that for all my customers. To me, H.O.P.E. stands for Helping Other People Everyday.

I believe it and I live it. I care deeply for those I serve and for the communities I live and work for. I believe in myself and I believe in all of you.

I have been happily married to Jason Perry, the Sports Editor of the Roane County News, for eight years. I have two grown daughters and three grandchildren, two of which I am raising. All of them have my heart.

A little more than four years ago, I moved back here from Kentucky, returning to East Tennessee where I grew up. I graduated from Cherokee High School in Rogersville. Before that I attended Coalfield for a year and then went through the Karns school system from elementary to high school.

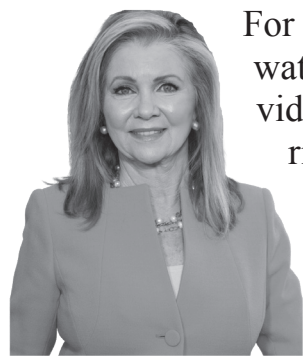
I still have many family members that reside in Morgan County.

I look forward to working closely with customers and the communities of Morgan now and in the future.

If I can help you, please don't hesitate to contact me at (865)466-6526 or at [advertising@mocotoday.com](mailto:advertising@mocotoday.com).”

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# The Biden Administration is Failing Tennesseans



*U.S. Senator  
Marsha Blackburn*

For the better part of a year, Tennesseans have watched the Biden administration create a divide between the White House and the American people. According to the inhabitants of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, America is thriving under their leadership; but this tale, manufactured by Democratic strategists, couldn't be further from the truth. American families know the administration's policies have made their lives all the more difficult.

For families trying to make ends meet, the cracks in the administration's messaging are evident. Inflation in the US is at its highest since 2008. Budgets are shrinking, and across Tennessee, prices are higher for gas, groceries, and nearly everything in between. How has the Biden administration addressed this economic crisis caused by rapid spending and supply chain shortages? By doling out more of your hard-earned money and all but crushing American manufacturing.

The administration's disconnect impacts more than just our economy. At our southern border with Mexico, Biden's promises of open borders and amnesty for all prompted a sudden surge of illegal immigration, resulting in a 21-year high in migrant encounters. Overnight, the cartels seized control of the border, smuggling caravans of migrants into human trafficking rings. The cartels are ruthless and unavoidable for those making the perilous journey into the US; cartels use GPS wristbands as a leash on their human cargo until the migrants pay for their passage across the border. The Biden administration doesn't want the American people to see the reality of their immigration policies.

Just last week, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) instituted flight restrictions to prevent capturing images of thousands of migrants flooding across the border. This blatant suppression of information will not change the fact that the lives of women, children, and families holding Biden to his campaign promises are now in the hands of drug and sex traffickers.

Most recently, the White House demonstrated their disregard for 20 years of American sacrifice by implementing a failed military withdrawal from Afghanistan. President Biden wanted the exit to serve as a victory lap for his administration, so he prioritized an arbitrary deadline circled on a calendar rather than focusing on the conditions our troops and allies were facing on the ground. Americans were not altogether opposed to exiting Afghanistan, but a large majority have criticized his inept handling of the situation. His incompetence directly resulted in the deaths of 13 US servicemembers.

On every level, the Biden administration has created a divide with Americans. In Tennessee, people feel the administration treats their needs as an afterthought, and they're exactly right. The same administration that ran on the promise of empathy has shown no evidence they care about the people who elected them. The White House would rather drown Americans in regulations or distract us with woke gymnastics than advocate for our best interests.

We know the administration has put our country in much worse shape. No amount of political messaging can wholly distract from reality; President Biden is failing our country. It's time for the administration to put their progressive agenda aside and listen to the citizens struggling under their reckless leadership.



MoCo Adventures

## TRAVEL IN THE MOUNTAINS





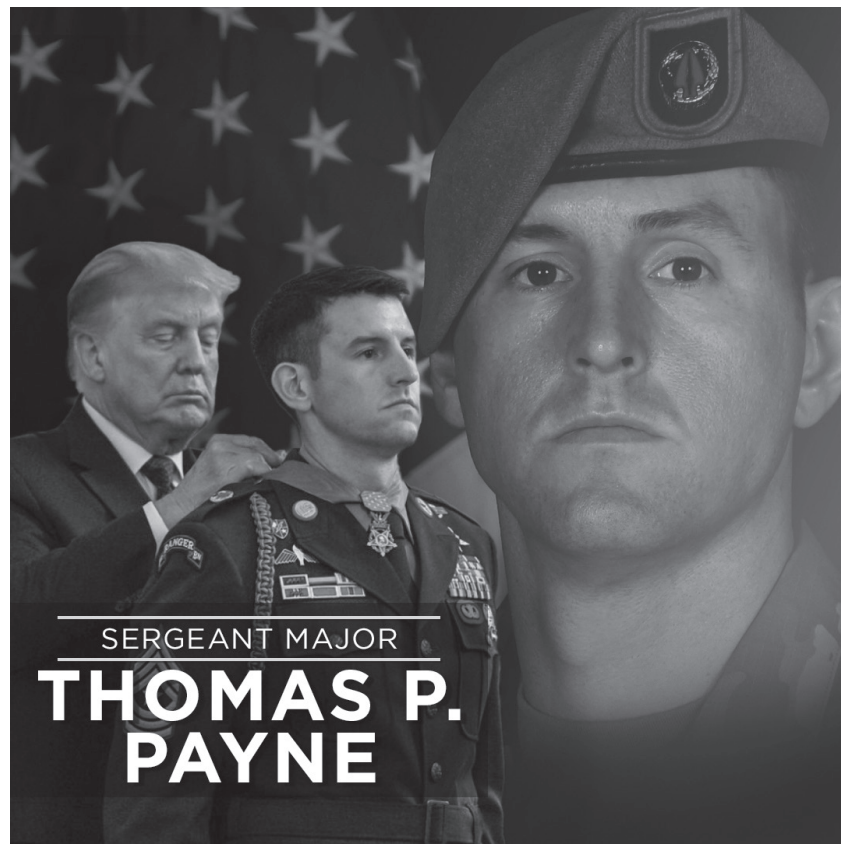
# Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week

This week we honor United States Army, Sergeant Major Thomas Patrick Payne as the veteran of the week. SGM Payne was awarded the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions on October 22, 2015 while serving in the War on Terrorism in Iraq. His Medal of Honor citation follows:

Sergeant First Class Thomas P. Payne distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, above and beyond the call of duty, on October 22, 2015, during a daring nighttime hostage rescue in Kirkuk Province, Iraq, in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. Sergeant Payne led a combined assault team charged with clearing one of two buildings known to house the hostages. With speed, audacity, and courage, he led his team as they quickly cleared the assigned building, liberating 38 hostages.

Upon hearing a request for additional assaulters to assist with clearing the other building, Sergeant Payne, on his own initiative, left his secured position, exposing himself to enemy fire as he bounded across the compound to the other building from which entrenched enemy forces were engaging his comrades. Sergeant Payne climbed a ladder to the building's roof, which was partially engulfed in flames, and engaged enemy fighters below with grenades and small arms fire.

He then moved back to ground level to engage the enemy forces through a breach hole in the west side of the building. Knowing time was running out for the hostages trapped inside the burning building, Sergeant Payne moved to the main entrance, where heavy



enemy fire had thwarted previous attempts to enter. He knowingly risked his own life by bravely entering the building under intense enemy fire, enduring smoke, heat, and flames to identify the armored door imprisoning the hostages. Upon exiting, Sergeant Payne exchanged his rifle for bolt cutters, and again entered the building, ignoring the enemy rounds impacting the walls around him as he cut the locks on a complex locking mechanism.

His courageous actions motivated the coalition assault team members to enter the breach and assist with cutting the locks. After exiting to catch his breath, he reentered the building to make the final lock cuts, freeing 37 hostages. Sergeant Payne then facilitated the evacuation of the hostages, even though ordered to evacuate the collapsing building himself, which

was now structurally unsound due to the fire.

Sergeant Payne then reentered the burning building one last time to ensure everyone had been evacuated. He consciously exposed himself to enemy automatic gunfire each time he entered the building. His extraordinary heroism and selfless actions were key to liberating 75 hostages during a contested rescue mission that resulted in 20 enemies killed in action. Sergeant First Class Payne's gallantry under fire and uncommon valor are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the United States Special Operations Command, and the United States Army.

## Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Marla Hines, Circuit Court Clerk

With saddened hearts we at Morgan County Today honor fallen Hardin County Sheriff Deputy Matthew Locke as the law enforcement officer of the week.

Hardin County Sheriff Johnny Alexander shared the following in an official statement on September 26, 2021.

Last night, Hardin County Sheriff Deputy Matthew Locke was assisting another deputy regarding a domestic disturbance call when he was senselessly fired upon. Deputy Locke ultimately succumbed to the injuries he tragically sustained while serving and protecting his community with honor and distinction.

In addition to serving his community as a law enforcement officer, Deputy Locke served his country as a member of the Tennessee National Guard.

We remember Deputy Locke for his selfless dedication, absolute courage and unparalleled commitment. Our country has lost a warrior. Our

community has lost a hero. Our department has lost a brother. We will never forget Deputy Locke, and we are all forever in debt for his sacrifice.

On behalf of myself and everyone with the Hardin County Sheriff's Department, we express our deepest condolences to members of Deputy Locke's family, his friends and loved ones. I also want to express my support, care and concern for all members of the Hardin County Sheriff's Department, the City of Savannah Police Department and our surrounding colleagues from other departments, as you are unfairly forced to mourn this tragic loss.



In closing, we ask that the privacy of Deputy Locke's family and friends be respected during this most difficult time. Please keep the family of Deputy Locke in your thoughts and prayers during the difficult days ahead. The TBI said deputies with

the Hardin County Sheriff's Office and Clifton Police Department were dispatched to the 3000 block of Nance Bend Road in reference to a domestic disturbance. Upon arrival, officers made contact with Todd Stricklin, who was armed with a handgun. Officers ordered Stricklin to drop the weapon, but he refused. As Hardin County Deputy Locke approached the home to assist,

the TBI said Stricklin shot him. Deputy Locke was taken to a local hospital where he died.

Stricklin ran from the scene into a wooded area. Numerous law enforcement agencies responded to assist in the search. Stricklin was located a few hours later and taken into custody by Tennessee Highway Patrol troopers. Deputy Locke's mother Lisa Benson posted the following on her Facebook page, "My heart is so broken and will never be the same. My Son served this country and helped protect this county. Now I have lost him. His daughter now has lost the best daddy ever. God, please help me."

Morgan County Today prays that Jesus Christ will bless Deputy Locke's family, friends, and loved ones with comfort, peace, strength, courage, and understanding during this tragic time of tremendous loss and hope that our readers do the same.

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423.346.2329 or emailing [publisher@mocotoday.com](mailto:publisher@mocotoday.com)**

# A Sad Ending to Life on Earth but a Promise of a Better Home in Heaven



**Tom Redmon**  
Columnist

As I sit here listening to YouTube, I cannot help but cry because the beautiful voice I am listening to is that of Joey Feek who was taken from us by cancer on March 4, 2016. Joey had the most angelic voice quality that I have ever heard. She and her husband Rory Feek hit the airwaves in 2008 and in every song they sang you could hear the love they had for each other. Joey Martin was from Indiana and she loved to sing at an early age and later on she was inspired to write songs. Rory Feek said he was from everywhere because his mother went from town to town with her five children, trying to make a better living for them. He and Joey got together in Nashville at a place where amateur country musicians and songwriters could get together and present their talent to an audience. I think this is where they fell in love. It was love at first sight.

Together, Rory and Joey Feek made it big. They recorded many gospel hymns and country songs. Joey did solos and her beautiful voice and their evidence of pure love on stage for each other made them very popular.

They were doing great when in 2014 Joey came down with cancer. It cut her life short and in 2016 she died at age 40. Many called this a tragic ending to a beautiful love story, but Joey said that God must have something for her to do in Heaven. In all the tapes I have heard them talk about Joey's death I've never heard them question God once.

Joey had two years to live after the cancer was discovered. She had already given birth to a little girl in which they named Indiana. They tried to live their life in a normal way. They had music concerts at their farm in Murray County. Joey volunteered to have her life filmed right up to the day she died. You can see much of this on YouTube. Cracker Barrel also has most of their recordings.

Rory Feek has been without Joey for five years. He will tell you that it hasn't been easy but life goes on. I can agree with Rory on that because in February, 1996 I lost my wife to pancreatic cancer. Cancer is no respecter of persons. It takes the rich and famous, as well as the common man.

My wife, Wanda's cancer was discovered in January 1993. The family was gathered around a table at Manatee Memorial Hospital when the doctor gave us the sad news. He said, your wife or mother has pancreatic cancer. The sound of the word cancer was enough to send me into a state of deep depression. Here Wanda and I had worked hard to get our children in a good home, a good education and in five years we would be retiring. I would keep our big house in Florida and would purchase one in Tennessee with around five acres of land. Our dreams were shattered. At the time none of the things we had planned mattered to me. I was devastated and close to giving up.

I did a little research on pancreatic cancer and everything I read was bad. Your chances of living five years are very slim. Usually, patients live six months or less. There are around 16,000 cases of pancreatic cancer every year in the United States so little research is done on this kind of cancer.

If you have lost someone close to you then you know about the grieving process. For

three months or more I walked around in a daze. They were building me a new school and I had to give input because I was the principal. We had a superintendent of school that I loved and he sent someone to fill in for me when I had to take Wanda to the doctor. I took her to the cancer center in Bradenton, Florida, to the Moffett Center in Tampa, and to the Cancer Center of America in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We had to realize there was no cure for pancreatic cancer. We prayed and the churches in Florida and Tennessee reached out in prayers. Our school brought food in for months and some teachers took Wanda to the doctor for me. We had a lot of friends who did all they could for us. In spite of us taking Wanda to two of the best cancer centers in the South she didn't make it. On February 10, 1996 Wanda passed away just three days after my mother had

at first both Joey and Wanda were shocked and hurt because they had a lot to live for. Joey and Rory had just made it big in music and had a big contract at a recording studio. Wanda had a good job at a school she loved and we were looking forward to retirement. Joey's faith was strong and she knew our God was omnipotent and He knew what was best for her. She loved life and she would love Heaven even more, and one day Rory and her family would join her up there and they could sing around the great white throne with Jesus. God gave her two years to prepare for her entrance to Heaven, and I believe she was closer to the Lord than she had ever been.

I was by Wanda's side for the two and half years she lived with cancer. She had some good days and some bad days. I took her to the best cancer hospitals available. One was the Moffett Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida and the other one was the Cancer Center of America in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She had the best of care. Wanda's outlook was great and she smiled and laughed a lot. She read her Bible through twice. She said she didn't want to face Jesus without her reading all of His word. She also believed she was a winner either way because if she lived, she would be with me and her children, and if she was called home she would be with

Jesus. Her faith was so strong. On February 10, 1996 she was called home. We all miss her and not many days go by that I don't think of her.

The good news is that if you are a Christian when your life is over on earth you will be joining Jesus in Heaven where you will no longer feel pain. There will be no goodbyes in Heaven for life up there is eternal.

Today our country is in trouble and many are worried. If you don't know Jesus there's no better time to accept Him as your savior than now. Jesus is in charge; not Biden or any other ruler. I do not worry because Jesus said "Do not be anxious about anything, turn it over to the Lord." I am concerned about what my children and loved ones will go through, especially if they are not Christians. But I know if we are his children, we have nothing to worry about.



passed away.

Rory Feek has continued his singing career and has even set up a one room school on his farm. No doubt as close as he and Joey were he really misses her. You never forget. I have gone on with living but Wanda is still in my heart and she's the mother of my three wonderful children. Wanda was only 53 when she passed away.

What I've told you about cancer so far is from a loved one's perspective. Oh! how we miss them and God understands our grieving. When Jesus was on earth he would also grieve because he had human emotion, and remember he felt pain when they nailed him to the cross. The shortest verse in the Bible is "Jesus Wept."

Now I want to tell you about how Joey Feek and Wanda Redmon, as Christians felt about what was happening to them. Of course,

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# Disappeared: Chapter 9



**Carol Hall**  
Author

## Maggie-Day 3

Sunbeams were streaming down through the opening in the rock ledge casting prisms of light across the pool. The storm had passed during the night and morning broke clear and bright.

Maggie awoke to find herself laying on the leaf and twig bed with Rose curled up next to her. Had she actually slept the whole night through?

As she stretched and yawned, she realized how stiff and sore she was. Her busted lip throbbled

and her palms and knees ached from the cuts and bruises.

She looked around the room and saw the sun glinting off the water in the pool. The thought of the water made her realize how bad she had to pee. Where did the Bigfoots go to pee?

She sat up and looked around her. The cave was lit fairly well from the sun filtering through the hole in the ceiling.

As she gazed around the room, she noticed a small crack in the wall past Brutus's bed that looked big enough for them to squeeze through. She wondered if that was their toilet.

She gingerly rose to her feet, her body screaming with every ache and pain. She limped her way over to the crack as quietly as she could. She didn't want to wake Rose up. She rather enjoyed the thought of relieving herself without an audience.

She glanced over at Brutus's bed as she passed and realized he wasn't there. I hope he is not in the toilet, she thought. That is something she seriously didn't want to witness.

The crack was plenty big enough for her to squeeze through. Once on the other side, she realized what she had entered was another small room. Very little light filtered through the crack, so the room was shrouded in semi-darkness. As her eyes adjusted to the dim light, she surveyed the room. It was small, not much bigger than a closet. It was empty except for a small item laying on the floor up against the back wall. As she cautiously approached the item, she realized it was her camera. She bent down to grab it when she heard a noise behind her.

Rose had slid through the crack and into the room. Maggie froze. Was she going to be punished for leaving Rose's side? For going into the room? She grabbed her camera and turned to face Rose.

Rose grunted softly and looked down at the camera in Maggie's hand. She didn't seem to care that Maggie had picked it up. She gently took her by the arm and led her out of the tiny room.

Maggie stopped Rose by gently tugging on the fur on her arm. "I have to pee," she said her. She gestured down at her privates. Rose didn't make any indication that she understood, but grabbed Maggie's arm again and led her to the cave's entrance. They made their way down the tunnel and out into the open air of the outside world.

They were standing on a small ledge just outside of the tunnel when Maggie noticed a small alcove to the left. She had not seen it the day before when they scaled the rock face. She had been too preoccupied with 'hanging on for dear life' to Rose to notice it. It was larger than the tiny room she just come out of. A large boulder partially blocked the entrance, so Rose helped her up over it before entering it herself.

Enough light shone into the room to make visibility possible. The room was circular with high ceilings and the floor was packed down with dirt and sand. On each side of the room there were two deep holes chiseled out in the floor. This was obviously the bathroom, Maggie thought. Crude, but usable.

The smell of the room made Maggie nauseated. She had used outhouses before during many of her camping trips, but this was worse than any outhouse she had previously used. Where did the urine go? Did it just evaporate? That must be why the room smelled so strong of waste. Even the air moving in and out of the alcove did nothing to alleviate the foul odor.

Rose squatted down over one of the chiseled out holes and began to relieve herself. Maggie would have preferred to do her business alone, but decided that she had to go too bad to worry about modesty, so she squatted over the other hole.

After finishing their business, they made their way back into the cave.

Maggie sat on the bed and checked her camera over. It didn't appear to be broken. She wondered why it was put in that room and who put it there? Brutus? Did he know what it was and didn't want her to use it? Was he trying to hide it from her? Certainly seemed so. She wondered if he would be mad when he came back and realized she had it again.

Rose watched her curiously as she examined the camera. Maggie removed the lens cover and pointed the camera at Rose. She snapped a picture. Rose flinched at the clicking sound, but continued to watch her with interest. She didn't seem afraid of it, just curious.

Maggie hit the review button and the picture of Rose popped up. She turned the camera screen toward Rose and showed her the picture. Rose jumped back and gasped. She leaned her head in and looked at the picture again. With her mouth wide open she looked at Maggie then back at the picture.

Maggie could tell she didn't realize she was looking at herself. She had probably never seen herself before. She must have thought it was

another Bigfoot.

Maggie turned the camera on herself and snapped a picture. Once it appeared on the screen, she showed it to Rose. Rose stared at the picture and then back at Maggie. She slowly pointed to the picture then at her.

"Yes, that is me," Maggie said. "I took a picture of myself."

She clicked back to the picture of Rose. "This is you," she said, pointing at the picture, then at Rose.

Understanding slowly dawned on Rose's face. She grabbed the camera and stared at her picture. After several moments, she pointed to the camera screen then at herself. She grunted at Maggie.

"Yes! Yes that is you, Rose!" she exclaimed. She was excited that Rose understood what she was looking at.

Rose continued to look at the picture for what felt like an eternity. Maggie gently reached up and took it out of her hands and laid it down next to her on the bed. She tapped Rose's knee to get her attention.

"My name is Maggie," she said pointing to her chest. "Maggie." She touched Rose's chest. "Rose. You are Rose."

Rose touched Maggie's chest and moved her lips trying to imitate her, but all that came out was a guttural sound.

Maggie was stunned. Rose was actually trying to speak. "It's ok, Rose. We will work on that. I am just glad you seem to understand what I am saying to you though."

Maggie felt a tenderness grow in her heart for Rose. She got up on her knees and leaned in towards her. She stretched her arms out around her as best she could and hugged her. Rose stiffened for a moment, then relaxed. She seemed to understand what Maggie was doing, because she suddenly wrapped her arms around Maggie and squeezed.

She squeezed so hard Maggie couldn't breath. Maggie started laughing as tears rolled down her cheeks. She gently pushed herself out of Rose's grasp and sat back down. She grabbed Rose's big hands and held them tightly in her own.

How was this possible? They seemed to be communicating. At least on an emotional level. Maggie believed that given enough time, Rose could actually learn to speak. Or rather mimic her own words. An excitement starting building in her. Could she actually teach Rose to communicate using words? She was certainly going to try.

She was starting to realize that she was developing feelings towards this animal. Rose was proving to be a kind, loving creature with a gentle heart. Not at all what Maggie had first thought. She was more human than animal. It was becoming increasingly easy to truly like her.

It dawned on Maggie that she hadn't thought of escaping since last night. She mentally shook herself. What was wrong with her? Was she actually sitting here trying to figure out how to teach Bigfoot to talk? It must be the teacher coming out in her. She should be focusing on how to escape, not making plans on educating an animal. But she had to admit, it was exciting to think about being rescued and showing her rescuers that Bigfoot wasn't just some dumb animal, but rather a smart, caring, human-like creature.

But if she was rescued and others found out about them, what would they do? Hunt them down and kill them, no doubt. The thought really troubled her. After spending time with Brutus and Rose, she didn't want them hurt or killed. How could she protect their existence, but still get found and rescued?

About that time, Brutus returned to the cave. Standing at the entrance, he grunted and snorted at Rose, then motioned with his arm for her to follow him.

She quickly got up and pulled Maggie with her.

"Where are we going?" Maggie asked, not fighting or pulling back this time, but willingly following her.

Rose pointed toward the tunnel. Brutus had stopped and was watching the two of them. His brows furrowed as he looked from Rose to Maggie and back to Rose. He said something to Rose in a series of grunts and throat noises. Rose answered back in the same manner.

Maggie wondered what they were saying to each other, but it became apparent that they were talking about her when Brutus suddenly knelt down in front of her and poked his enormous finger into her chest and grunted forcefully.

"What?" Maggie asked. "What do you want?" She looked down at his finger pressed into her chest, then up into his big face. He wasn't acting threatening toward her, so she wasn't afraid. It was more like he was asking her something.

She looked at Rose questioningly. "What does he want?" she asked her.

*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.*

# NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JoAnn Derson

- \* Keep the yolks in hard-boiled eggs from crumbling by wetting your knife between slices.
- \* "Save plastic bags that cannot be recycled, and use them to collect food scraps that cannot be composted or flushed." -- B.M. in New York
- \* "I use double-stick tape to hang lighter items on my walls, since it does not leave a hole, and I am a renter. You also can use it to reduce noise from vibrations. For instance, I used it in my car to keep the carpet lying flat in the trunk." -- J.T. via e-mail
- \* "To soften butter without melting it, warm a bowl that is bigger than the butter stick and invert it over the butter on a plate. It's nice be-

- fore a meal because it makes a hard stick of butter easier to spread on bread rolls, but not so soft that you use too much." -- T.G. in Indiana
- \* "That time of the year is almost here. You know, the time when running the heater gives the whole house the zaps. To keep our carpets from giving us static shock, we fill a water spray bottle with 1 part laundry softener and 4 parts water. Give the air and carpet a spritz, and it kills the zaps." -- A.O. in Canada
- \* "Hard-water stains in the toilet are no match for denture tablets. Simply drop one in the toilet and let sit overnight. A quick scrub and a flush in the morning should do it." -- P.S. in Washington

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

- \* The Chocolate River in the "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" was real! The production used 150,000 gallons of water, cream and chocolate. But the ingredients spoiled and smelled really bad when the movie ended.
- \* Studies have shown that playing Tetris can curb sex, drug and food cravings.
- \* C.S. Lewis coined the term "verbicide" to denote the killing of a word or distortion of its original meaning.
- \* A Vietnamese man was hospitalized after drinking too much methanol. Doctors transfused 15 cans of beer into his body to revive him. The liver breaks down ethanol

- before methanol, which gave doctors more time to do dialysis to remove the methanol from his system.
- \* The University of Oxford is older than the Aztec Empire.
- \* Santa Claus was issued a pilot's license from the U.S. government in 1927, along with airway maps and a promise to keep the runway lights on.
- \* The fighting on D-Day was so fierce that as much as 4% of the sand on Normandy beaches is magnetic due to shrapnel that has been broken down over the decades into sand-sized bits.
- \* Only official members of federally accepted Native American tribes may legally possess or collect eagle feathers.

- \* During a game, Babe Ruth would place a cabbage leaf under his cap to keep cool under the sun, replacing it every inning or two.
  - \* Instead of kissing his bride, Edward II of England sealed his wedding vows with a smooch to his lover, Piers Gaveston, 1st Earl of Cornwall.
  - \* A house cat could beat superstar runner Usain Bolt in the 200-meter dash.
- \*\*\*  
Thought for the Day: "Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you." -- Mother Teresa

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### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆**

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

**ACROSS**

1 "Arrivederci" —

5 Jazzy style

8 Wild guess

12 Slender

13 Piercing tool

14 Brownish purple

15 In — veritas

16 Corp. boss

17 Desertlike

18 Nowheresville

20 Saint Patrick's Day event

22 Hide-hair insert

23 Nine-digit ID

24 Engrossed

27 Promptly

32 Wedding words

33 Expert

34 Granada gold

35 "Wonder Woman" actress

38 Remain

39 Beer barrel

40 Stolen

42 Alpine home

45 Casts out

49 Opera set in Egypt

50 Guffaw syllable

52 Lavish party

53 Espy

54 Reuben bread

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15				16				17			
18				19		20	21				
22							23				
24	25	26		27	28	29			30	31	
32				33					34		
35			36	37				38			
39						40	41				
42	43			44		45			46	47	48
49				50	51			52			
53				54				55			
56				57				58			

**DOWN**

1 Answer an invite

2 Hodgepodge

3 Behave

4 Quantity

5 Scenic route, often

6 Have bills

7 Fall into a

8 Meager

9 Puccini opera pay

10 Battery fluid

11 Eliot's "Adam —"

19 Rejection

21 Bat wood

24 Predetermine

25 Oklahoma city

26 Bikini pattern

28 Sgt., for one

29 Tied down

30 Mouths (Lat.)

31 Playpen item

36 Trattoria desserts

37 Candle count

38 Refuses to

41 Symbol of strength

42 Juanita's home

43 Swinging joints?

44 Drive- window

46 Wife of Jacob

47 Diminutive suffix

48 Burpee buy

51 Novelist Rand

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# FEAR

# KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

TDA

TUCLE

♥ARLEG

♥TILF

♥DEFNOL

GFO

TGFI

♥CATTI

♥GDO

FODGLE

♥REGEA

♥LTDO

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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# BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Capernaum in the Old Testament, New Testament or neither?
2. From Exodus 28:39, what kind of head covering did the priest wear? *Turban, Snood, Scarf, Kalupto*
3. The Pentateuch refers to how many of the first books of the Old Testament? *2, 3, 4, 5*
4. From 1 Samuel 25:1 and 28:3, where was the burial place of Samuel? *Gilgal, Joppa, Corinth, Ramah*
5. Whose harp playing caused Saul's "evil spirit" to leave him? *Solomon, Alexander, David, Haman*
6. Esau sold his birthright for a mess of \_\_\_\_? *Gold, Pottage, Oil, Manna*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Turban; 3) 5; 4) Ramah; 5) David; 6) Pottage

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's 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

## Butterscotch "Cookie" Dessert

I don't know many folks who are too full to dig into a luscious serving of dessert. This scrumptious example is no exception!

- 18 (2½-inch) chocolate graham crackers
- 2 (4-serving) packages sugar-free instant butterscotch pudding mix
- 1⅓ cups nonfat dry milk powder
- 2 cups water
- ¾ cup fat-free whipping topping
- 2 tablespoons chopped pecans

1. Evenly arrange 9 graham crackers in a 9-by-9-inch cake pan. In a large bowl, combine dry pudding mixes, dry milk powder and water. Mix well using a wire whisk. Blend in whipped topping. Coarsely crush remaining 9 graham crackers. Reserve 2 tablespoons of cracker crumbs.

2. Gently stir remaining crumbs into pudding mixture. Spread pudding mixture evenly over "crust" in pan. Sprinkle pecans and reserved cracker crumbs evenly over top. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Serves 8.

• Each serving equals: 122 calories, 2g fat, 5g protein, 21g carb., 457mg sodium, 1g fiber.

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## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



"We always discussed things sensibly,"

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# Spirit of the Mountain Pow Wow

Native American & Taino Story Tellers  
Intertribal Dancing  
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Aho and Taino ti

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Sunday, 9:30am to 4:30pm

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Joey Karel,  
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Spirit Winds



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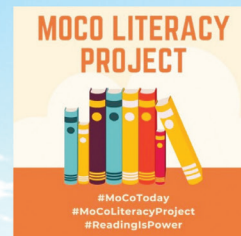
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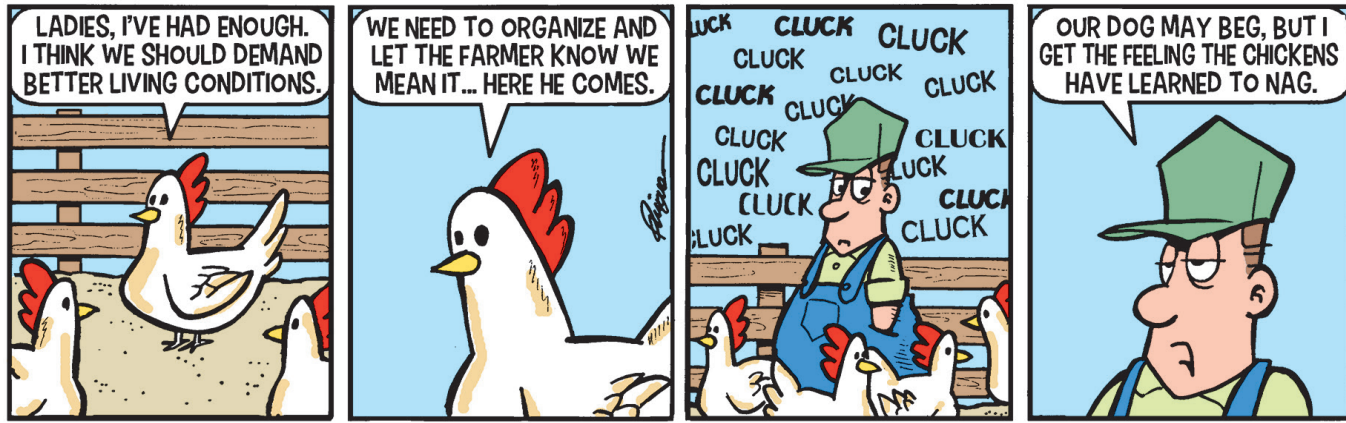
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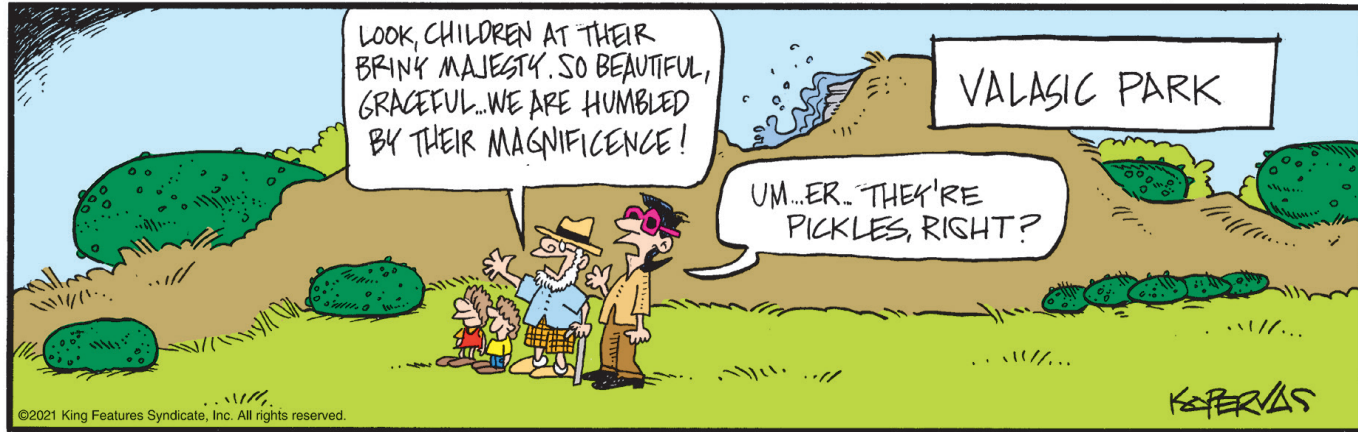
# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



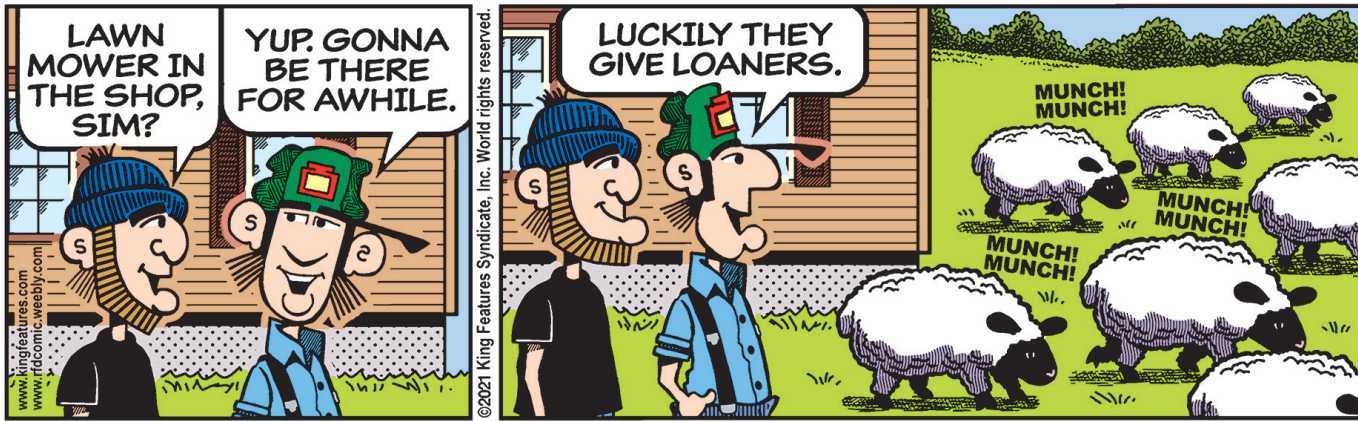
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by Gary Kopervas



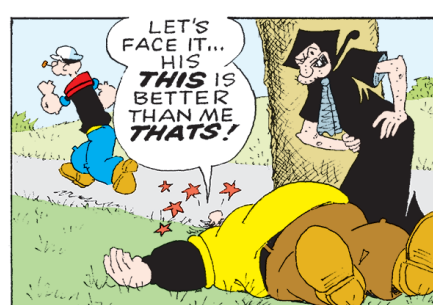
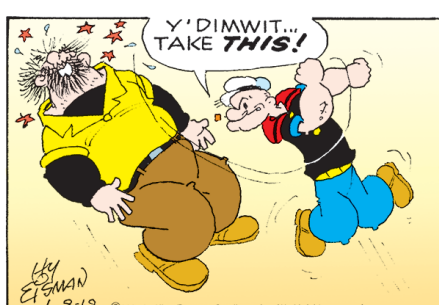
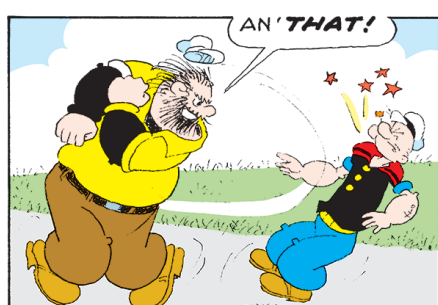
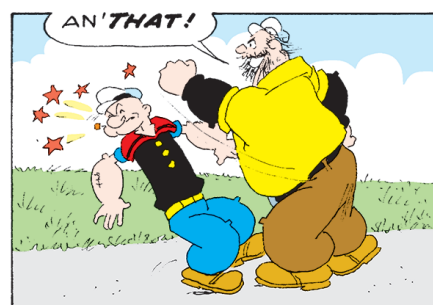
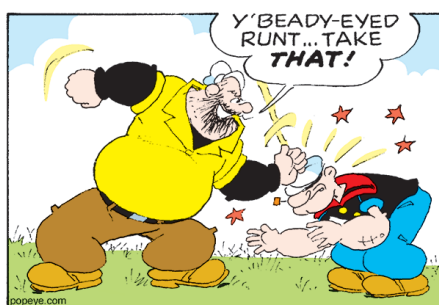
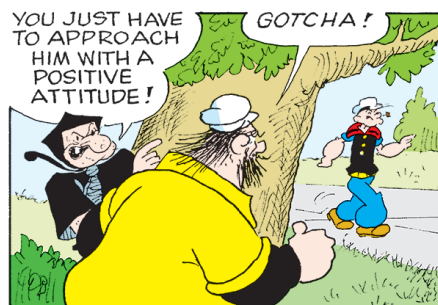
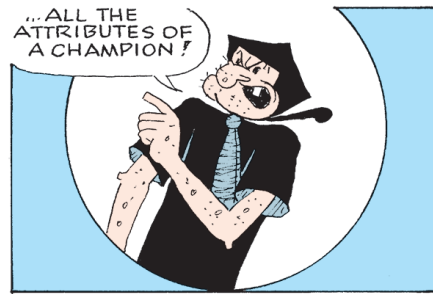
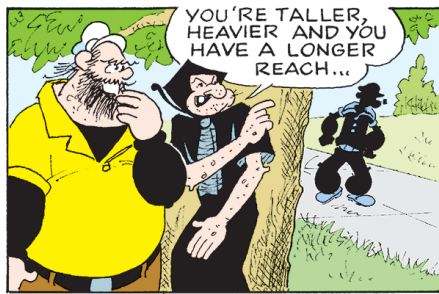
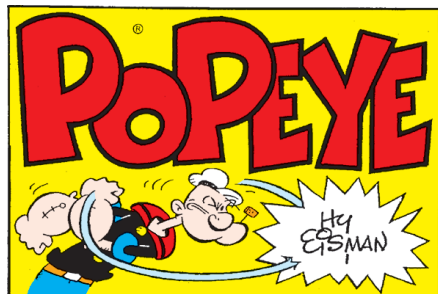
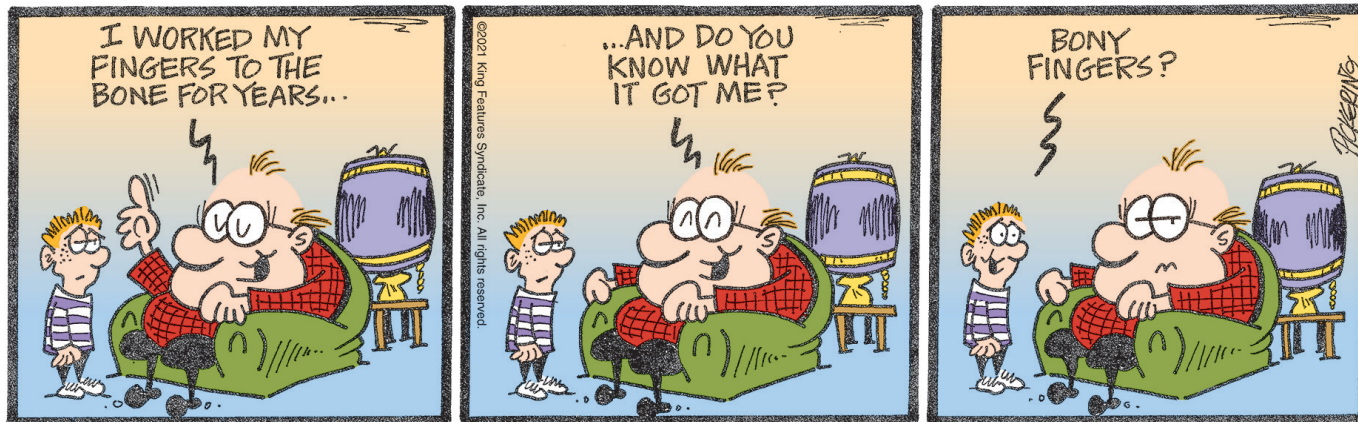
# R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



# The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



# MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

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 \* On Oct. 12, 1492, Italian explorer Christopher Columbus sights a Bahamian island, believing he has reached East Asia. Columbus, and most others, underestimated the world's size, calculating that East Asia must lie about where North America sits on the globe.

\* On Oct. 17, 1906, Wilhelm Voigt, a German shoemaker wearing a stolen captain's uniform, impersonates an army officer and leads an entire squad of soldiers to help him steal 4,000 marks from the mayor's office cash box, exploiting their blind obedience to authority. The Kaiser thought the story was funny; the German army did not.

\* On Oct. 16, 1946, at Nuremberg, Germany, 10 high-ranking Nazi officials are executed by hanging for their crimes during World War II after they were found guilty by the International War Crimes Tribunal.

\* On Oct. 13, 1957, the science-fiction thriller "The Amazing Colossal Man" premieres in theaters. The film revolved around an Army officer who began to grow uncontrollably after he strayed too close to an atomic blast in the Nevada desert.

\* On Oct. 14, 1968, the U.S. Defense Department announces that the Army and Marines will be sending about 24,000 men back to Vietnam for involuntary second tours because of the length of the war. The decision badly hurt troop morale and the combat readiness of U.S. forces around the world.

\* On Oct. 11, 1975, "Saturday Night Live," a comedy sketch show, makes its debut on NBC, with George Carlin as its host, and Billy Preston and Janis Ian as musical guests. Since its inception, SNL has featured a different guest host and musical act each week.

\* On Oct. 15, 1991, after a bitter confirmation hearing, the U.S. Senate votes 52 to 48 to confirm Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court. President George Bush had nominated the 43-year-old Thomas, an African American judge known for his conservative beliefs.

# THE RICH LOWRY COLUMN

By Rich Lowry

## A Western Society Goes Insane

The 18th-century English philosopher Jeremy Bentham came up with the idea of the panopticon, a prison designed to allow all the prisoners to be observed by one guard. What even Bentham couldn't conceive of, despite his creative musings about schemes of perpetual surveillance, was a society like contemporary Australia.

Heretofore an honorable member of the Free World, Australia has lurched into a bizarre and disturbing netherworld of bureaucratic oppression in the name of public health. Australia's COVID-19 lockdown mania has been so all-consuming that one assumes much of it would make Dr. Anthony Fauci blanch.

At the start of the pandemic, Australia determined to squeeze out COVID with lockdowns and travel restrictions, and as an island nation, had considerable success. It was the last of the G-20 countries to hit 1,000 total coronavirus deaths.

But this created an unrealistic expectation that Australia could have COVID-zero as a goal for the duration and use targeted restrictions and surveillance ("circuit-breakers") to maintain it.

As the pandemic has dragged on, this has become completely untenable and done violence to liberty and common sense in a great English-speaking nation.

Lockdowns have cut a swath through the norms and conventions of an advanced Western democracy, from the suspension of a state-level parliament to the banning of protests, to military enforcement of the COVID-19 protocols.

With the Delta surge, more than half of Australians are locked down, often in response to a tiny number of cases.

Australian authorities don't fool around. State premiers have vast powers and use them. In Melbourne, located in the state of Victoria, a curfew is in place and limits apply to people leaving their homes. There are hefty fines for noncompliance.

The spirit of the lockdowns was perfectly captured a few months ago by the chief health officer of New South Wales who warned, "Whilst it is in human nature to engage in conversation with others, to be friendly, unfortunately this is not the time to do that."

Ah, yes, the public health threat of over-chattiness. The Australian news media might as well be an arm of the public health bureaucracy and produces stilted and hysterical reports about lockdown violators worthy of some dystopian future.

South Australia has developed an app to enforce home quarantines. As a news report explains, "The app will contact people at random asking them to provide proof of their location within 15 minutes." If they fail to do so, the health department will notify the police, who will send officers to check on the possible malefactor.

Unrestricted travel is a hallmark of a free society, but Australians can barely leave the country. Travel has been cut off between states, creating an arbitrary patchwork of states trying to isolate themselves from coronavirus cases elsewhere.

Tens of thousands of Australians have been trapped overseas, unable to come back home because of monthly limits on returning Australians.

All of this economic and social disruption and coercion hasn't been enough to stamp out the Delta variant, which is outrunning the government controls.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison finally admitted the obvious, "This is not a sustainable way to live in this country." Australia initially fumbled its vaccination effort, which should have been a focus all along. But now the country hopes jabbing 80% of the population can get it out of the lockdown box of its own making.

The coronavirus is a serious illness, and no country has gotten everything right. Australia has proven, though, that dispensing with key elements of advanced liberal society in the hopes of total victory over the virus is foolhardy and wrong.

Australia isn't going to become a dictatorship, but this period in its national life stands as a warning for how easily core freedoms can erode away in even a well-established democracy.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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# Donna's Day

Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

## Faux-Leather Vase Shows Off Fall Finds

"The leaves are definitely turning in New Hampshire," friend Judy Barlow reported to me this week in an e-mail, "and my three kids are always the first to point out the beautiful reds and golds in our neighborhood. But to the kids, it's not really an appreciation of nature — it's more a signal that their favorite holiday is coming (Halloween) and their favorite season (winter) is just around the corner.

"We take them for lots of hikes in the woods at this time of year," she wrote. "They collect the most beautiful leaves, and then we iron them between two sheets of wax paper to preserve them. Or they build fairy houses in the woods with leaves and twigs (dead materials only), and we check back later to see if any 'fairies' have visited."

If you are as inspired as I was by Judy's description of fall in New England, turn a new leaf on your family activities this week and enjoy the unparalleled entertainment autumn brings. Get outside with your kids or grandkids, and if you come home with an armful of leaves, arrange them in a snazzy faux-leather vase — one your kids can create with a recycled jar,



Colorful leaves in faux leather vase

masking tape and shoe polish.

Here's how to make the vase to show off your fall finds:

Save a glass mayonnaise or pasta-sauce jar, or you may prefer a taller vinegar or salad-dressing bottle for your leaf bouquet. Wash the jar with sudsy water and remove labels. When dry, tear off 1- to 2-inch pieces of plain masking tape and overlap in a random fashion, jagged torn edges and all, to cover the entire outside surface of the bottle. Use a soft cloth to gently rub brown, tan or black shoe polish from a can over the masking tape to create a faux-leather finish.

Arrange leaves and other finds in a bouquet and set in the vase.

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

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# VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves  
**VA Emergency Rooms  
Prep for Elderly Vets**

Half of our 19.5 million veterans are over the age of 65, and they make up 45% of emergency room visits at Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals, according to the VA.

Seniors come with their own set of medical conditions, such as delirium, cognitive impairment and others. The VA will now address the medical concerns of our senior veterans with the creation of Geriatric Emergency Departments. The plan, in collaboration with several civilian groups, is to create accredited geriatric departments in 70 VA facilities with specifically trained teams that will cover everything from medical, social work and community resources to working with senior veterans to reduce avoidable hospital admissions.

There will be three levels of age-appropriate care, with specific education for doctors and nurses. The VA has gone to a lot of trouble to identify just what is needed in each area.

They'll do screenings to look for the risk of falling, caregiver burden, functional decline, delirium and cognitive impairment while recognizing underlying geriatric syndromes. (That's where the specialized education comes in.)

But that's just the beginning. They'll look for signs of elder abuse and overall frailty, help with pharmacy and medication (and identify inappropriate and duplicate or contraindicated medications), look into pain control, arrange for transportation home and more.

The model of care for emergency department accreditation is three pages long with no detail too small to consider. They've even thought of the need for a large font in all printed instructions, nonslip floors, handrails and big signs.

So far, 20 emergency rooms in 15 states have applied for accreditation, with 16 facilities already accredited. Ten are partially accredited. The remaining sites will likely apply for accreditation by the end of 2022. It looks like the VA is getting started just in time. The average age of veterans is 58, with the biggest bump in the curve ages 45 to 64 years old.

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## Historically Speaking The Oak Ridge Bombers – the team that lasted, part 2

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

The story of the Oak Ridge Bombers from the Black community came to me from Larry Gipson. He wanted to help me learn about the “real” Oak Ridge Bombers. I learned much about that unique piece of Oak Ridge history and met some wonderful people while doing the research.

While I am sure my research has only scratched the surface of this rich history in our midst, it has been a tremendous educational opportunity for me. The history of our black culture in Oak Ridge is as unique as the rest of our history and provides a rich tapestry for conveying the full story of Oak Ridge. I am most pleased to be able to contribute in a small way to telling that tremendous story.

Let’s continue the story of the Oak Ridge Bombers that lasted! This article will focus on the players of the Oak Ridge Bombers and especially on the experience of one of its last players, Ronnie Graham.

But first a little bit of history regarding the whole situation with the Negro Baseball League. This situation will help put the Oak Ridge Bombers team into perspective and help to explain how it existed for as long as it did.

This history of the Negro Baseball League will also help explain why the black players felt such an attachment to the Oak Ridge Bombers at the time and why even today people who recall that team do so with such reverence. It is very much a part of the fabric of the Oak Ridge black community. The Oak Ridge Bombers and the people who made that team a reality are perceived even today as the community leaders of that era.

The team’s history is legendary among those who experienced the phenomenon of a winning team of black players who were workers at Oak Ridge government plants. They were a group of natural athletes who played without practicing and who “whipped” almost every team they played, according to one of their leaders, James Capshaw. This was truly an amazing feat regardless of how it happened.

While unwritten, the understanding regarding the ban of black players from major league baseball succeeded in keeping them out of the game for many years. That is primarily what caused the formation of the Negro Baseball League. Blacks were not welcome in the majors, so they formed their own league with significant success up until the mid 1960’s when things seemed to change rather drastically regarding baseball and the black players.

The Negro Baseball League was possibly the most successful all black business venture of the time. The excitement created in the black communities across the nation had to influence the formation of such teams as the Oak Ridge Bombers. A lady, who had read last week’s article, stopped me and said, “thanks for writing about the ‘Bombers,’ you know going to ball games was our main social event during those days.” I believe her remark speaks volumes for that era and how the black community functioned socially. And to a large degree so did the white community.

Now back to the history of the team. James Capshaw told me that his younger brother William Capshaw, who also played on the Oak Ridge Bombers team, was an excellent hitter who hit more homeruns than James. This was an interesting expression of humbleness from a man respected by all for his excellent hitting record, but he wanted to be sure the truth of it all was recorded. William hit more homeruns.

This William Capshaw is our own Bill Capshaw’s father. You will recall that Bill is a noted local artist who produces excellent pottery, teaches art and plays African-style drums, among many other talents.

I must tell you that Bill Capshaw personally gave my oldest son, Mike Smith, a great deal of excellent guidance during a very pivotal stage in his life. Mike took an art class at the Oak Ridge Art Center when he was just a young boy and his instructor was Bill Capshaw. I believe Bill had more influence on Mike than any other instructor and built his self-confidence tremendously. Mike went on to study art in college and his portraits have “eyes that live” according to another local artist, Eiko Travaglini.

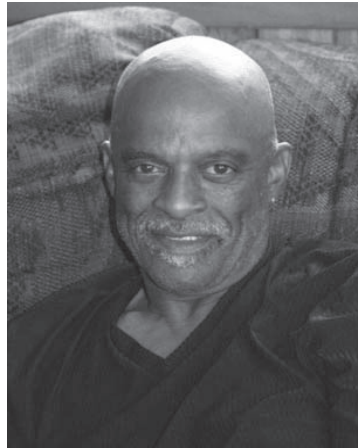
Another former Oak Ridge Bombers player I was pleased to get to know is Ronnie Graham. Ronnie played for the team near the end of the long run in 1962 and 1963. He and Rufus E. Shephard, Jr., or “Shep” as he is known to all, played at the same time. They played for two teams, the 1st Methodist Church team, coached by Robert Bailey and Ben Bailey, during the week at night, and the Oak Ridge Bombers during the weekends. This was while both were in high school!

Ronnie’s story and insights into the practical aspects of prejudice induced injustice will stay with me forever. I

count the time spent with Ronnie as one of my most special interviews. He opened his heart and let me see his soul. He was candid, frank and yet kind in his recollections of personal insult and unspeakably harsh emotional treatment. He also told me some of the humorous aspects of his baseball career.

Ronnie told me about many of the promotional events that would accompany the games of the Oak Ridge Bombers. These ranged from clowns to horse races. The horse race was one where a runner and a horse raced around the bases. Ronnie said the baseball players could beat the horse because the horse had trouble turning the sharp corners at each base.

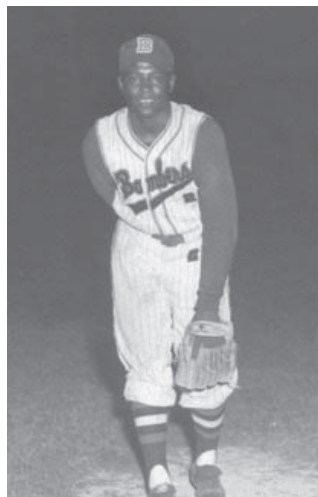
Another humorous aspect of the Bombers that Shep told me was that Jimmy Lewis’ daddy was the mascot for the Bombers. Shep recalled some



L: Ronnie Graham, Oak Ridge Bomber’s player and winner of ballgame when he had to have a special letter to just play baseball; R: William Capshaw, Sr., an excellent homerun hitter! (Photo Submitted)



L: Rufus E. Shepherd, “Shep” tells of his memories playing ball for both the 1st Methodist Church and the Oak Ridge Bombers; R: “Shep” (Rufus E. Shephard, Jr.) when he played for the Oak Ridge Bombers (Photo Submitted)



of the funny saying that he would yell out, such as: “Shep, we don’t need no water, we gonna pick ‘em dry!” and, “Ain’t nobody walkin’ but the mailman!” Shep was the pitcher, and such encouraging chatter was common and continuous. It was also part of the fun of the show, according to Shep and Larry.

Ronnie also shared a personal story with me from his days at Oak Ridge High School. He was playing the outfield on the Oak Ridge High School varsity team. They were playing in 1963 in Bill Meyer Stadium in Knoxville. He was so excited to be playing in that huge stadium.

He had a habit of picking a small handful of grass and pitching it upward to see the direction of the wind when he went to his position in the outfield. On this day, as they announced the team players, each of them running out on the field when their name was announced, Ronnie heard his name called and ran to his position.

Upon arriving there, he did his usual ritual of pulling a small handful of grass and throwing it in the air to detect the wind direction. When he completed that ritual, he noticed a large gathering of people at home plate. He did not know at first what was going on but was soon very much aware that the discussion was about him. That could not be a good sign.

There was a large problem, and it was Ronnie. The TSSAA (Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association) was questioning the right of Oak Ridge High School to field a black player. It seemed there was required a special letter indicating the school would not hold the TSSAA responsible for any injury incurred by a black player. Such a letter was not on file for Ronnie. Without that letter they would not let Ronnie play.

So, Ronnie was called off the field and placed in the dugout. He did not fully understand the problem, but the remarks of the man representing the TSSAA about him were such that Ronnie felt the prejudice and oppressive attitude of the

man. He called Ronnie names that I cannot print here.

Ronnie’s teammates attempted to comfort him. One of the first players to reach Ronnie was Len Hart who told him he was sorry to see him treated so and that he was sure it would be worked out. Ronnie remembers Len fondly even today for that kindness.

Tears were flowing down Ronnie’s face as he struggled to comprehend what was happening to him. The Oak Ridge High School coach, Steve Beacon, assured Ronnie that he would get to play. He was already on the phone getting the required letter written and delivered from Oak Ridge to Knoxville.

The interesting thing about this whole episode is that Ronnie did indeed get to play, and he actually won the game with his double and his stolen base to get him to third base and finally his scoring run that won the game. Don’t you know there were some frustrated people there that day when Ronnie, a black player from Oak Ridge, was the pivotal player who won the game beating Fulton High School.

It is still painful for Ronnie to remember the emotions a young high school age boy experienced when he was the target of prejudice in such a public forum. He still recalls the support of his team mates and speaks highly of his coach. This event happened in 1963, some eight years after Oak Ridge High School had integrated.

I find it incredible to think how long it took for integration to be realized and I find it even more incredible to appreciate the bigotry and thoughtless pain inflicted on young black people by otherwise normal white people. Prejudice is ugly. That is especially so when it is viewed in hindsight.

But we only have to search our past to find prejudice has been very much a part of that history. Oak Ridge was somewhat more progressive than our neighbors, but even in Oak Ridge, some black families can cite specific difficulties that remained for many years. Sad but true.

Ronnie also shared with me the story of his brother, Lawrence Graham...now Dr. Lawrence Graham. Lawrence would have set a high school broad jump record for Oak Ridge if he and not been listed as an “unsigned participant” rather than an Oak Ridge student in a competition. That was how blacks were treated then. Sad, I know, but things such as that happened routinely, unfortunately.

My mind had a tough time getting around the facts that Ronnie shared with me. I know such things happened. I am just incredulous that one human being can be so cruel to another. It should not be. We are better than that. I must believe that Oak Ridgers have helped erase such prejudice from our region.

There is more to tell about the Oak Ridge Bombers and we will continue to recall some of the more prominent players in our next installment. Such greats as Ed “Fireball” Hardin and Negro League Legend and Hall of Fame member Eugene Williams who also played major league baseball will be featured.

We will also look more closely at Shep and share a most unusual story about Curtis Williams. Larry Gipson expressed dismay that we could not include all the players, but he said if we listed all the names of players it would fill the paper!

I was asked by Parker Hardy if Sachel Paige ever pitched in Oak Ridge...I said, “no, but the team he played for was here once.” It is also said that Stan Musial pitched here in 1948 or 1949. Robert Lee told this to his great grandson, Marcus Caldwell. Such are the stories attached to the history of baseball in Oak Ridge, both the Oak Ridge Bombers that lasted and other teams.

Next, we will look at the stories of some additional members of the Oak Ridge Bombers team that lasted.

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

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

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

# Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

## 3 Ways To Know You Are Ready For Business

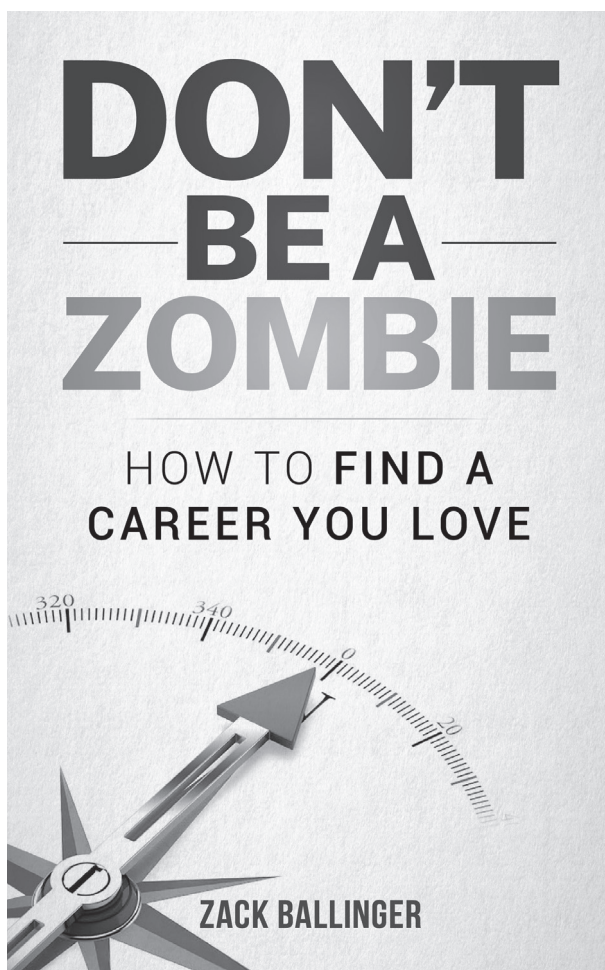
Are you ready to own your own business? Many of us have dreamed about owning a business. Entrepreneurship is not only highly rewarding and fulfilling, but often times it's a life's passion or calling. Anytime you decide to start a business adventure, there's going to be a lot of extra hours, challenges, and bumps along the way. This article provides 6 reasons why it may make sense for you to start your own business endeavor.

Part-time has turned into full-time:

Many small businesses start out as a side hustle. John worked in corporate accounting with a large conglomerate for over 10 years. He was getting burnt out in the corporate world. John enjoyed working outside and enjoyed mowing lawns. John started a side business to earn some extra income. His lawn care business exploded and he had to hire 2 employees. John was at a point where he was making just as much money in lawn care as in corporate accounting. John knew it was time to make the full-time transition to something he enjoyed doing, Lawn care. Once you're earning more or the same income as your full-time job, it may be time to start your full-time business.

You've tested the market and done your homework:

Small business owners that do their homework generally like to test the market with a prototype or service before making



a large investment. I encourage anyone interested in starting a small business to take their time, research the market, learn the competitors, talk to people that are in the business, learn the challenges, opportunities, barriers to entry, and most importantly the start-up costs to get the business running. Most small businesses fail due to lack of planning or lack of funding. Cindy loves to bake and has some unique dessert recipes. She starts selling the product to schools, churches, and local businesses. Cindy is trying to see if the demand is there before opening a bakery. She is testing the market with a prototype to see if the demand is there before starting a small business. Make sure to test your product or service.

Your idea and opportunity outweighs the financial risks:

I've met many business owners who didn't end up making their small business profitable. In fact, there's more of these types of stories than success stories. Business is hard. That's why you want to make sure you have done all your research. Most successful small businesses in North America have start-up costs less than \$5,000.00. Zack, "What if I want to own my own amusement park?" If your goal is to buy and run an amusement park, then obviously \$5,000.00 is going to be a drop in the bucket. Do you really want to bet everything you own on one idea? I would encourage you to start slow. Instead of buying an amusement park, what about creating a new amusement park ride design? What about leasing space at a Carnival and testing out a new game concept? If a small business idea has a low start-up fee and you can absorb the financial loss, why not try it? The downside is you may lose the money, but you can afford to take the risk. You can't afford to buy a billion dollar amusement park and absorb that type of financial risk. Weigh your financial options.

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

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



## Community Calendar

**The Morgan County Road Committee will meet on Monday, September 27 at 6 p.m. at the Road Department.**

**The Morgan County Jail Mitigation Committee will meet on Monday, September 27 at 7 p.m. at the Road Department.**

**Morgan County Chamber of Commerce Membership Luncheon Meeting is this Thursday, September 30th at Morgan County Central Schools on Flat Fork Rd., Wartburg. Luncheon will begin at 11:30am, meeting from noon to 1pm. Please RSVP by NOON Wednesday to 424.346.5740 or [chamber@morgancountytn.org](mailto:chamber@morgancountytn.org)**

**4 family Yard Sale 205 Ray Cross Road in Mossy Grove. We'll be on the back porch. Thursday Sept 30 & Fri Oct 1 8am-? Lots of Household items, women's and men's clothing, children's toys, tools, crafts, and lots of other good stuff.**

**Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center will be having a fried chicken dinner on October 2nd beginning at 4 until 7pm. Dine-in, take-out, or delivery available. Tommy will sing and play guitar in the gym. The menu will consist of ¼ of fried chicken or chicken tenders, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, dessert, and drink (tea or punch) all for \$8.00. Childs plate is \$6.00 and it will consist of chicken tenders and the trimmings. Deliveries made in a 5 mile radius of Deer Lodge. Please call before 4pm at 423-965-5000. All proceeds go for the upkeep of the Center. Please support your local Community.**

**Trunk or Treat at the City of Sunbright again this year on October 30, 2021 from 5pm to 8pm. Churches and citizens are welcome to participate.**



# Coal Dust: Making a Buck the Hard Way



**Terry Futrell**  
Author

*There is no substitute for hard work.*  
— Thomas A. Edison

Growing up in a rural community in the 1950s, there weren't many job opportunities for young people, so we jumped at any opportunity to make a dollar or two. Because Coalfield was still very much an agricultural community, almost all work opportunities involved farming in some way.

My paper route was the one exception to farming. Though it paid very little, perhaps \$1.50 per week, I could generally ride my bicycle on the route, which never seemed like work to me. My paper route took me throughout the area between Highway 62 and Little Brushy Mountain, and required me to travel through the Camp each day. One of my last stops on the route was at Elbert Jackson's dairy farm.

In addition to running a dairy farm, Elbert Jackson also drove one of the Coalfield school buses. Elbert's son, John, was in my class at school and was one of my closest friends. After high school, John and I shared a dorm room at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Elbert was one of the most congenial people that I ever met, always smiling and light hearted. He was also a prankster, and I seemed to be his favorite target.

When my bicycle had a flat tire, or was otherwise inoperable, I had to walk on my paper route. At such times, the paper route really was work because my route covered almost four miles. When walking the route, I would typically take a short cut across Elbert Jackson's lower pasture where cattle were grazing, which saved me almost half a mile of walking. Years later, I learned that my trips across Elbert's pasture provided one of his greatest sources of amusement.

When I walked my newspaper route, I carried the newspapers in a bag slung over my shoulder. Among the cattle grazing in Elbert's pasture were several young steers and heifers that apparently thought I was carrying food for them in the bag. They would come running to me, or at me - it really didn't matter which, it was a scary experience! I would walk close to the fence where I could quickly escape what appeared to a young boy as a charging herd of animals bent on doing me bodily harm. Apparently, Elbert looked forward to watching this take place each day, after which he would have a hearty laugh. I often wonder if he didn't intentionally feed the animals using a bag like mine just to train the animals to provide this entertainment.

When I delivered the newspaper to Elbert's house one day, he asked me if I wanted to make a dollar. He wanted to plant a lettuce bed near his grapevines down near the barn, and he offered to pay me a dollar to dig up a few square feet of ground. Naïve me never questioned why he didn't have one of his sons dig the lettuce bed. I had not yet learned to be suspicious of Elbert and this would be an easy dollar, so I jumped at the chance.

Digging where Elbert instructed me with the fervor of one who sees a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, I suddenly looked down and saw the ground covered with yellow jackets, and I was in their bullseye! Even though I ran as hard and fast as I could, I was stung three times by the yellow jackets before I could escape. With my heart racing wildly and filled with panic, I looked back towards Elbert's front porch and saw him practically rolling on the floor with laughter. Turns out he knew the yellow jackets were there all along and just wanted to have a few minutes of fun. However, I think his laughter turned to concern when he realized the danger he had placed me in. He was apologetic as he tried to hand me the dollar, which I was then too proud to accept because I hadn't finished the job.

Spring and fall provided the greatest opportunities for young people to make a few dollars helping farmers put up hay from the fields. Boys would even be excused from school to assist

the farmers because there was no other source of part time workers in the community and haying often could not wait until weekends because of the risk of rain. I always looked forward to working for the Jackson family during haying season. Not only did we get paid, but Mrs. Jackson would usually feed us a good meal as well.

There were two kinds of hay that we hauled for the Jackson dairy farm, soybeans and grass. Putting up soybean hay was a horrible experience - it almost never dried out in the field and was very heavy and scratchy to handle. A single bale of soybean hay might weigh even more than the young workers, and it usually took two of us just to hoist a bale up onto the wagon. By the time we finished, we would be exhausted and scratched all over. But, it was a satisfying experience to collect our pay and walk home to a restful night of sleep.

In comparison to soybean hay, grass hay was a pleasure to deal with. A single bale would typically weigh only 30-50 pounds, and one boy could usually toss a bale up onto the wagon. However, there were other pitfalls to grass hay that we discovered one evening. Whereas soybean hay was heavy and could be stacked tightly on the wagon, grass hay was light, could only be loosely stacked, and as a result was very unstable when being hauled.

We were returning from a remote hay field to the barn one evening with a load of grass hay. My friend John was driving the

tractor and several of us were riding on top of the load of hay on the wagon. As John rounded a curve in the road, the entire load of hay slid off the wagon with us on top. Fortunately, no one was hurt in the mishap, but it points out the dangers often faced in farm work that was typically our only source of making an extra buck.

The most unpleasant work I ever experienced on the Jackson dairy farm, or anywhere else for that matter, was shoveling manure out of the barn. Each spring Elbert would hire a couple of us to help John clean out the barn. We would shovel the manure into a spreader,

which John would then pull behind the tractor to spread the manure on the pasture. Though we didn't realize it at the time, this was also the most dangerous job that we ever did on the farm.

When manure decays, as it did while accumulating on the barn floor, it produces four primary gases, each of which can be very dangerous in the right circumstances, especially in a closed environment. These gases include hydrogen sulfide, methane, ammonia, and carbon dioxide. While all four gases were likely present in the Jackson barn, it was the ammonia that made the job so difficult. Ammonia has a distinct, sickening odor and can irritate the eyes and respiratory tract.

As we shoveled the manure out of the barn, each of us would almost vomit due to the putrid smell of the ammonia. It penetrated every part of our being, burning our eyes and causing us to choke. We could load only one shovel of manure before running outside the barn for a breath of fresh air. We took turns repeating this cycle until the job was finally done.

As it turns out, shoveling manure out of the Jackson barn probably did a better job of preparing me for my professional career than any other job that I had while growing up in Coalfield. When I later worked as an engineer and program manager in Oak Ridge after completing college, I quickly developed into a trouble-shooter and problem solver. It didn't much matter what type of problem came up, they were often thrown in my direction for a solution. So, I went from shoveling literal bovine excrement in my youth to shoveling the figurative variety as an adult - and it sometimes smelled just as bad!



*Shoveling manure was a necessary but unpleasant task on the dairy farm. [Photo: Library of Congress]*



## Breakfast Boats Make Brunch a Breeze

You know why we love brunch dishes so much? Because they're so versatile. They work for breakfast, brunch, lunch or breakfast-for-dinner. Also, most are easy to prepare and very inexpensive, making them perfect for stress-free entertaining or a lazy Sunday at home.

This breakfast-boat technique is especially drool worthy. If French toast and quiche had a love child it'd be a breakfast boat. You're basically baking a quiche inside a loaf of bread. Along with the salty, savory sausage, the eggs soak into the bread as it bakes, making a creamy custard while the bread crust gets all crispy-crunchy. It's just crazy delicious. It smells amazing as it cooks and looks gorgeously rustic on a platter.

As with many ideas I share through Divas On a Dime, this is an adaptable technique rather than a single recipe. You can adjust the ingredients to suit your family's taste, dietary requirements and, most importantly, your budget.

A couple of things to know before you make this recipe, the sizes and shapes of bread loaves vary greatly. This makes it difficult to offer exact quantities to fill your loaf or give an absolute baking time.

You can use any kind of unsliced loaf (French bread, whole wheat, Italian bread) as long as the crust is, well ... crusty. Day-old is preferable

because it better absorbs the eggs, is less likely to leak and is super affordable. If you fill your loaf with the egg mixture and it looks skimpy, add a couple more eggs.

### SAUSAGE AND VEGGIE BREAKFAST BOAT

**Yield:** 4 to 6 servings **Prep:** 20 minutes **Bake:** 35 to 45 minutes

Serving breakfast in a bread boat is fun and a major way to upgrade your eggs for the cost of a loaf of day-old bread.



www.JasonCoblentz.com

### French bread filled with cheese, eggs and sausage

- 1 (16 ounce) loaf French bread
- 1 pound breakfast sausage
- 2 cups mixed vegetables, such as onion and bell peppers
- 8 eggs
- 1/4 cup half-and-half
- 1 cup shredded cheese — cheddar or your favorite

1. Preheat oven to 375 F degrees. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil.  
2. Place the whole bread loaf, upside down, on the sheet. Place it in the oven for 10 minutes to lightly toast the exterior of the bread, set aside.

3. Meanwhile, in a skillet, cook and crumble the sausage until no longer pink.

4. Next, add 2 cups of veggies to the sausage, and saute until soft. (I used 1/2 cup each of diced onion,

red pepper, green pepper and sliced mushrooms.) Allow most of the liquid from the veggies to cook out, so the mixture isn't wet. Remove from heat and let cool slightly.

5. Whisk together eggs and half-and-half until well-combined.

6. Using a serrated bread knife, horizontally slice the top inch from the loaf of bread. Scoop out most of the center of the bread. Keep at least an inch away from the sides to avoid damaging the outer crust. (Make breadcrumbs with the bread you remove.)

7. Spoon the sausage and veggie mixture into the bread, distributing evenly, and top with the cheese. Slowly, pour the egg mixture over the sausage and let it percolate through toward the bottom.

8. Bake immediately for 25 to 45 minutes. It's done when the internal temperature reaches 160 F.

**TIP:** For variety, swap out different meats, vegetables and cheeses to vary the flavor. If you have about 4 cups of total "goodies," proceed with the recipe as directed.

### Here are some more ideas:

Quiche Lorraine — bacon, onion and Swiss cheese.

Tex-Mex — taco-seasoned hamburger, green chili peppers and pepper-jack cheese.

Italian — Italian sausage, peppers, onion and mozzarella.

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

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## Roy Freels' Singers to Sing at Angie's Restaurant

Gospel Singing at Angie's Restaurant downtown Wartburg. Come on out Friday night September 30th from 6 to 8 p.m. "The Roy Freels' Singers" and "Friends" will be singing. There will be representatives from different churches. For more information call: Angie's Restaurant at 423-346-7000 or Roy Freels at 865-253-0017. Make plans to attend. Door prizes will be given.

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**John Burns**  
*Opinion Columnist*

# Thou Hast A Name

The church of Sardis is the first of two churches about which Jesus Christ has nothing good to say. This church replaced the message of the blood of Jesus Christ cleansing a sinner from all unrighteousness, with doctrines found in the Torah and ended in the Gospels, to include the need for external water baptism. By believing God replaced Israel with the gentile New Testament denominations is exactly why Jesus Christ calls Sardis the dead church. The Old Testament is the story of our pre-destination, our calling, our justification, and our eventual glorification, as told in the lives of God's people.

We are introduced to God's eternal mercy in the Old Testament. Mercy is the only key that opens the door of grace found in the life of Messiah. Mercy is required every day in our Christian walk. If the church would get back to asking for mercy, grace will appear and the Holy Spirit will use men of God to bring miracles back into Christian faith.

God has never changed! Men change constantly like the weather. The persecution from the Jews in Jerusalem in the Ephesian and Smyrna Church ages led to the marriage of church and state at Pergamos and total compromise with Pagan Rome was consummated permanently in the city and church of Thyatira. But the reformation church is the one Christ calls the dead church.

What is the cure outlined by Christ in this letter? 1 John 5:4 is where we learn to become an overcomer in Christ. But Jesus Christ admonishes Sardis to repent and return to his two-edged sword, and believe every word of the Bible as literal and being fulfilled.

Study to show yourself approved only after losing all denominational doctrines, and pre-suppositions taught first by your ancestors. 1 John 2:27 for the anointing you have received from me is real not counterfeit, you do not need that any man to teach you. Become a Berean Christian and study the scripture daily to find out if what John Burns is saying were true.

Jesus Christ admonishes that after they repent, they should return to his doctrine of imminence taught as the rapture of the bride of Christ from within the body of Christ. This is the most important doctrine not understood or being taught from scripture. Jesus Christ's reward for his crucifixion was to be a virgin bride taken from all the nations of the earth during the gentile church age. After the dowry for our marriage to Christ was paid on Calvary, we were commanded to eagerly await the return of Messiah to claim his bride at the sound of the trumpet in the clouds.

The Church of Sardis has no hope. Of these three abideth faith, hope, and love. You cannot get to the blessed hope of the rapture without first experiencing the faith of Jesus Christ found in the Bible narrative.

The Old Testament is where we learn of God's intention to become the Lamb slain on Calvary. Faith in who it was on the cross and why he had to die is at the core of Christ faith. He had to die to redeem man to God and remove the curse on the entire creation due to Lucifer's rebellion. Jesus Christ's hope is that one day God will sound the trumpet and tell the Son to go retrieve your bride I promised you prior to creating this world inhabitable for humans. We are supposed to be the virgin bride of Christ, yet we deny his covenant relationship with our Jewish ancestors by teaching replacement theo-

logy.

The red stone of Sardis is representative of the reformation churches and denominations it spurned. It is the precious stone assigned to the tribe of Benjamin and the last stone of the high priest's ephod. I believe a Benjamite will be the head of national Israel before the return of Messiah to the earth at the end of the last seven years of Gentile reign on earth. These seven years are preceded by the rapture.

The purpose for the rapture cannot be understood from the New Testament alone. The Book of Daniel is where we learn of the 70th week of desolation upon the stiff-necked Jewish remnant in the holy land after the rapture. The week is identified as the times of Jacob's trouble. It is reserved for the final chastening of the Jewish people and the nations of the earth who have denied God's entire plan of redemption. The bride of Christ will be removed before this period begins. Are you the virgin bride of Christ? Are you eagerly awaiting the return of your risen bridegroom? Repent, for the kingdom of God is near!

Jesus Christ's desire for Sardis is for them to get under the blood of the Lamb, return to understanding God's plans for your life by becoming a student of scripture. Find your own life in the lives of our Old Testament Jewish ancestors. Pray continually for the return of Messiah to retrieve you as his bride. Ask for mercy every day, and never be afraid to share the reasons for the joy that is within you. Joy has a name. It is Yeshua ha messiah in Jesus Christ's native tongue. We English speakers refer to him as Jesus the Christ. He died to pay the only debt that matters when we die; our sin debt to God as creator.

The Old Testament is Jesus Christ in prophecy. The Gospels are Jesus Christ in history. The Acts of the Apostles was Jesus Christ in the Church. The Pauline epistles are Jesus Christ in practical Christian application. The Revelation is Jesus Christ in Glory.

To understand Revelation, one must travel to every book of the Bible to unlock the signs Jesus Christ commanded the angel to render what John saw into those Old Testament signs. The Revelation is the only book that promises a blessing for reading it as a believer.

Hebrews reminds us that Jesus Christ is the topic of every scripture found in the Bible. Of the abundance of the letter, it is written of me. Please begin a new relationship with the Jesus Christ of the Old Testament and New Testament. Jesus will appear in your life as a blessing to everyone you come in contact with.

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 9-27-2021

*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.*

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answer

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## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

R	O	M	A		B	O	P		S	T	A	B	
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V	I	N	O		C	E	O		A	R	I	D	
P	O	D	U	N	K			P	A	R	A	D	
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G	A	L	G	A	D	O	T		S	T	A	Y	
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C	H	A	L	E	T			E	X	I	L	E	S
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S	P	O	T			R	Y	E		F	A	T	E
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# 1 Corinthians: Chapter 5

(1 Corinthians 5:1-5) A serious moral problem: In addition to the division that plagued the Corinthian church, a moral cancer was eating away at its vitals. There was a “buzz” stirring the congregation because a brother was living in fornication with his father’s wife (his stepmother). The conduct was so outrageous that in some respects it eclipsed Gentile debauchery. Perhaps even more shocking was the fact that the church was not deeply saddened by this sordid situation; instead, they were “puffed up” (4:18). The same kind of pride that fueled their divisiveness was at the root of their immorality. The offender should have been dealt with already by means of a disciplinary action, but such had not been done (v. 2).

Paul thus asserts his apostolic authority. Though he was not there to orchestrate the discipline, he had sufficient information to “judge” (render judgment) the matter. The brother was guilty! This is a clear example that illustrates not all “judging” is wrong (Jn. 7:24). Some is mandated! Therefore, by the authority of Christ (Mt. 18:20) the church was to assemble, and in a formal way remedy this problem. Paul’s leadership in the implementation of the procedure was consistent with the power of Christ, not by his independent initiative.

The offender (nothing is said of the woman; presumably she was not a Christian) was to be “delivered unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh.” What is the meaning of this phrase? (a) It is not capital punishment for church heretics which was practiced by historical Catholicism and early Protestantism. (b) It was not physical death, as many commentators allege. (c) It was designed to save the spirit of the person (v. 5). (d) The procedure was the equivalent of “putting away the wicked” person, and withdrawing one’s fellowship from the individual (9, 11, 13, 2 Thes. 3:6). (e) The ultimate goal was that the fornicator might “destroy” his ungodly, “fleshly,” urge and reclaim a life of purity (see also 1 Tim. 1:20). It apparently produced a positive result (2 Cor. 2:6).

(1 Corinthians 5:6-8) The church must act: The church must desist in its “glorying” (puffed up) (v. 2) and get serious about morality. Did they not realize that the entire church could become infected, just as leaven permeates dough? As the Old Testament Passover required the purging of all leaven, Christ is our Passover, and in our lives we must rid ourselves of malice and wickedness, and pursue the unleavened bread (figuratively speaking) of sincerity and truth.

(1 Corinthians 5:9-13) Principles of operation: In an earlier (unpreserved) epistle, Paul had admonished the Corinthian saints to “have no company with fornicators.” He had not

meant to include those who were pagan. Christians cannot avoid all associations with the world. While we are to have no fellowship with the world’s sinful practices (Eph. 5:11; 1 Pet. 4:4), we are not to isolate ourselves as hermits, in monasticism. Instead, our “light” and “salt” must be allowed to influence others (Mt. 5:13:16).

The matter is different with renegade church members. After formal disciplinary action, the faithful Christian is “not to keep company” with fornicators (those engaged in illicit sexual intercourse), the covetous (brothers obsessed with materialism, either to obtain or retain), idolaters (those who place things or persons above God), revilers (verbal abusers), drunkards (people who become intoxicated---to whatever degree), and extortioners (those who take from other by force or inordinate pressure). These are specific actions worthy of radical “surgery” (v. 9-11). While we are not licensed to discipline the world (God will handle that), Christians do have the moral responsibility to check outrageous sinfulness in the church (v. 12-13). The impenitent wicked are therefore to be expelled from church fellowship (v. 13).

Matthew 15:19-20 “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.”

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be misled. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor perverts, nor homosexuals, nor the greedy, nor thieves, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, will inherit the kingdom of God. And these were some of you; but you were bathed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and in the Spirit of our God.” M.L.V.

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MELVIN HOWARD

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**The Garden Bug**


**Compost materials**



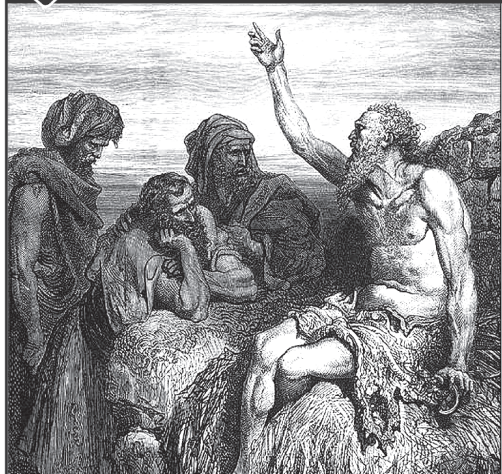
**“Browns”**  
Fallen leaves, hay, straw, cornstalks, shredded cardboard & newspaper (soy-based OK), paper plates, bags, towels, chipped brush, sticks, twigs, branches, bark, sawdust, pine needles (not more than 10%)

**“Greens”** Vegetable & fruit wastes, eggshells, coffee grounds, filters, teabags, farm animal manure, chemical-free weeds & grass clippings, seaweed (give it a good soak to remove any excess salt) – Brenda Weaver

Source: earthfriendlygardening.wordpress.com



### THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



*Behold, God is exalted by His power; who teaches like Him? Who has assigned Him His way, or who has said, ‘You have done wrong?’*

📖 JOB 36: 22,23 📖

Detail from “Job and his Friends” engraved by Regnier (1866) after Gustave Dore

## Premature IRS Tax Collection Notices Sent During Pandemic



David Zubler  
Columnist

The IRS mailed about 90,000 premature notices and demands for overdue taxes to taxpayers last year, despite the filing date being extended.

A recently released report by The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration discovered the IRS issued 89,338 premature notices and demands to 87,542 individual taxpayers about their 2019 tax returns before the COVID-19 filing date extension of July 15, 2020.

The letters were sent before the taxes were due. As noted in the report, “The notices showed that balances were owed even though the taxes were not actually due because of the filing extension.” The IRS included a form with the letter which said the notice might be premature. However, this resulted in confusion for many people and their tax professionals last year. This made the problem more difficult due to taxpayers and tax professionals having trouble calling the IRS to resolve the issue.

“Although the majority of these Notices and Demands included stuffers to explain the correct notice and payment due dates, taxpayers could be confused as to how to proceed, whether they received a stuffer of explanation with their notice or not, simply due to the original notices including incorrect information,” according to the TIGTA report. “The IRS had the opportunity to prevent undue burden to taxpayers by purging the outdated and incorrect notices and sending them at a later date.”

During this time, the IRS was supposed to be following a widely publicized People First Initiative that was meant to ease the economic impact of the pandemic on taxpayers.

“The nationwide state of emergency and the temporary closure of our Correspondence Production Services locations caused the IRS to accumulate thousands of notices of delivery, with outdated

information,” wrote Darren Guillot, commissioner of the IRS’s Small Business/Self-Employed Collection unit. “These notices, which inform taxpayers of their obligations and rights, must be provided to taxpayers. IRS senior leadership considered several options, balancing the need to comply with statutory obligations, provide accurate information to taxpayers, and operate within the constraints imposed by the pandemic. Based on this analysis, we concluded that our approach was the best use of our limited resources that would minimize the risk of confusion on the part of taxpayers.”

In the past, I’ve had conversations with Darren Guillot concerning different matters and have always been impressed with his professionalism and his genuine caring attitude for taxpayers. However, Darren and the other managers at the IRS have experienced several extremely difficult challenges. The IRS has had to overcome declining funding in recent years even though the number of delinquent taxpayers has increased. Additionally, the IRS was responsible for their employee’s health and safety during the pandemic, while also being responsible for meeting the taxpayer’s needs during a catastrophic pandemic.

Additional funding for the IRS will enable them to provide the taxpayer with better service by increasing the number of employees who answer phone calls and help them with their tax issues.

*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](http://YourTaxCare.com). David can be reached at (865) 363-3019 or contacted by email at [zublerdavid@gmail.com](mailto:zublerdavid@gmail.com).*

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

By Matilda Charles

### Holiday Gift Shortages

---  
If you will have holiday shopping to do this year, you need to get started on it now. Manufacturers and store owners are saying there will be shortages. There are labor problems, problems with container ships that can’t be offloaded in ports, trucks that can’t deliver the goods, material supply-chain problems ... you get the picture. Here are two suggestions to keep gift-buying simpler this year: toys and books.

**TOYS** -- If you have small children to buy for, shop now. Manufacturers of many of the most popular toys are saying that they’ve seen shortages of required materials on a global scale. Try local toy stores for items they have in stock now.

**BOOKS** -- Call your library and ask for age-appropriate suggestions for young

children. Then, list in hand, call your local bookstore. Ask if they have in stock what you need. If you can actually go to the store and pick up the books curbside, you’re ahead of the game. Otherwise try ordering online, but look for things already in stock.

For teens and adults, consider buying them a Kindle, an e-book reader available on Amazon. (I’ve had three different versions of Kindle since 2016 and truly appreciate the way I can order a book and have it appear on my e-reader within minutes.) A new Kindle, a \$15 case and a \$50 gift certificate for e-books would be welcome gifts for readers. Check the delivery dates of the various Kindle colors. Some are available immediately; others aren’t.

When it comes to online shopping, experts advise ordering items that are as close to home as possible, not across oceans. Beware of local shipping delays as well. Gone are the days of always receiving boxes in just a few days. If you order something online, track it, and follow up with a phone call if necessary.

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## FLASHBACK

By Mick Harper

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1. What was Byron MacGregor’s single claim to fame?
2. Which group released “Never Been to Spain”?
3. Steve Lawrence and Donny Osmond both had hits with the same song. What was it?
4. Name the first No. 1 hit in America by Yes.
5. What song contains this lyric: “What are we gonna tell your mama, What are we gonna tell your pa, What are we gonna tell our friends when they say ooh-la-la”?

### Answers

1. MacGregor released a spoken word recording of “The Americans (A Canadian’s Opinion),” with “America the Beautiful” played in the background, in 1973. It tells of one Canadian’s appreciation for all America has done to help around the world in response to crises.
2. Three Dog Night, in 1972. Hoyt Axton wrote and released the original in 1971, and it’s since been covered by numerous others.
3. “Go Away Little Girl,” released in 1963 and 1971, respectively.
4. “Owner of a Lonely Heart,” in 1983.
5. “Wake Up Little Susie,” by the Everly Brothers in 1957. The song shot to No. 1, even though it had been banned for having suggestive lyrics. Simon and Garfunkel released a cover years later, but it wasn’t even close. That sibling DNA in the brothers’ voices just can’t be duplicated.

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# Friday Night Spotlight

## A Tale of Two Coaches

By Terry Futrell

“I don’t need this crap inside,” shouted the angry coach to the five basketball players gathered around him during the timeout. Although his team was ahead at this point in the game, the coach was very unhappy with their performance. For most of the game, he had put on his own performance, much like a mighty lion tamer. Rather than use a physical whip, he had publicly whipped his players into obedience with words of harsh criticism directed at first one player, then another.

But these were professionals, you might say, and they were paid to perform perfectly. No, they weren’t professionals. Well, surely they were college players, preparing for the big money of the pros and deserving of such high expectations. No, they weren’t college players either. Neither were they in high school. The simple fact is that these players were middle school kids who should have been having the most fun of their lives.



Photo by Alliance Football Club

Instead, their game of basketball had been turned into a time of humiliation and pain. Sure, they were winning on the scoreboard, but there was no joy of victory. How did these kids respond to such treatment? As one might predict, they demonstrated on the basketball court the same offensive behavior portrayed by their coach at side court. Using their superior physical size to maximum advantage, every opportunity was taken to throw an elbow or push their undersized opponents around the court.

In stark contrast, I looked to the other end of the gymnasium where the coach patiently guided and encouraged his team as they battled against their much larger and more experienced opponents. Rather than shouting words of criticism that humiliated players before the large crowd of fans, one could see him place his arm around the shoulder of a player, gently offering encouragement and direction. Were his players motivated by this positive approach? You bet!

After what initially appeared to be a blowout by their opponents, these kids fought bravely, and most likely beyond their capabilities. They refused to give up, and with only moments left in the game, had almost evened the score with their opponents. No, they didn’t pull off a miracle and win the game - at least not by the score on the scoreboard. However, these kids were the true winners in the gymnasium that evening. They had given their best and could relish in the joy of knowing that they fought the good fight.

But what about the angry coach described above - is he an isolated example? Unfortunately, he is only one of many that I have witnessed demonstrate such behavior in this area over the past few years at both the middle and high school levels. Why is such behavior tolerated by school administrators and school boards? If the same behavior were demonstrated by a classroom

teacher, would we not demand their immediate dismissal?

Perhaps the real answer lies with the fans in the bleachers. Have we fans reached the point at which we expect victory at any cost? Have we lost the ability to applaud kids who give their best but who do not finish

with the highest score?

There is a key principle that I have been taught to apply in dealing with employees on my job. The principle is simple - maintain employee self-esteem when coaching, disciplining, or correcting. You may substitute player, student, child, or whatever for employee and the principle applies equally well. We all cherish self-esteem!

Those who choose to try to improve performance by harshly criticizing individuals in front of their peers or a crowd of fans do nothing more than humiliate and foster resentment. There are other ways to hold players to high standards without harsh public criticism. True motivation and improvement come through positive personal interaction and encouragement. Some coaches have learned this and serve as excellent role models as they develop both the athletic skills and the character of their players. Unfortunately, some coaches have not learned this and model the wrong behaviors - they should hang up their whistles and find something else to do that does not involve working with young people.

# Coalfield Shut Out by Gordonsville 21-0

By Terry Futrell



*Coalfield's Coalton Henry and Haden Hicks chase Gordonsville running back Bryson Greer. [Photo by Terry Futrell]*

For the second consecutive week, the Coalfield Yellow Jackets faced a tough team in non-regional competition. This week it was the unbeaten Gordonsville Tigers, ranked 5th in TSSAA Class A by MaxPreps and 3rd by CoachT. In three games against much larger top 20 teams in Classes 2A and 3A, the Gordonsville defense held their opponents to a total of 16 points. It was no surprise that the Jackets faced a formidable challenge in a hard-fought battle that they ultimately lost 21-0.

Although in Class A along with Coalfield, Gordonsville has almost twice as many students – 306 compared to 160 for Coalfield. The Tigers' roster includes 61 players, while Coalfield lists only 33 players on their roster. Gordonsville appeared much bigger than Coalfield, with 28 players tipping the scales at 200 pounds or greater.

The game can be summarized in this way – Gordonsville's defense shut down Coalfield's running game and forced the Jackets out of their comfort zone into an attack that was dominated by passing. Prior to this game, Coalfield had rushed 145 times and attempted only 63 passes. Clearly, the running game has been the Jackets bread-and-butter. Defensive pressure and pursuit applied by Gordonsville forced Coalfield to go to the air, with Coalfield having only 22 rushing attempts compared to 27 attempted passes. Many of the rushing attempts resulted from receivers being tightly covered by Gordonsville defenders.



*A Gordonsville ball carrier is brought down by Jackets Landon Lowe, Eli Roberts, and Levi Mullins. [Photo by Terry Futrell]*

Going into the game Coalfield quarterbacks had completed roughly two-thirds of their passes. Pressure by the Tigers forced hurried passes, resulting in only one-third of the Jackets 27 pass attempts being successfully completed for a total of 47 yards. Coalfield runners had no better luck, gaining a net 20 yards in 22 attempts.

The first quarter was a defensive battle that ended with no score. Gordonsville scored early in the second quarter when Canaan Musgrove carried the ball in from 17 yards out to cap a 13-play drive that covered 70 yards. Coalfield quickly responded by moving the ball from their own 39-yard line to the Gordonsville 12-yard line in a 9-play drive that covered 49 yards. This was Coalfield's best drive of the game, and it ended when the Jackets turned the ball over on downs. The Tigers carried a 7-0 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Gordonsville wasted no time in putting points on the board in the third quarter. Beginning on their own 16-yard line, Matthew Albritton completed a 46-yard pass to Landon Baker at the Coalfield 38-yard line. Baker was fronted by two Coalfield defenders, but somehow pulled off the miraculous catch. Five plays later, the Tigers scored when Albritton carried the ball in on a keeper from 16 yards out, as the Tigers expanded their lead to 14-0.

After Coalfield failed to move the ball, Gordonsville blocked a Jacket punt and took possession at the Coalfield 30-yard line. The Tigers quickly moved to the Coalfield 2-yard line, where Musgrove took the hand-off and scored. After the point after, Gordonsville led 21-0.



*Coalfield's Landon Galyon is tackled by two Gordonsville defenders after a pass reception. [Photo by Terry Futrell]*

Coalfield had four more possession in the game but lost yardage on the first three. The Jackets were able to advance the ball to the Gordonsville 39-yard line on their final possession in the fourth quarter but turned the ball over on downs. Gordonsville then ran out the clock and sealed their 21-0 victory over the Jackets.

The loss to Gordonsville revealed both strengths and weaknesses of the Jackets. The bright spot for Coalfield in the game was the play of the Jackets' defensive line and linebackers, who held the Tigers to just over three yards per carry in 34 attempts, for a rushing total of 115 yards. The Jackets had a difficult time stopping Gordonsville's passing attack – the Tigers completed 11 of 16 passes for 151 yards. In total, the Jacket defense held the 5th ranked team in the state to a total of 266 yards offense and 21 points, which was a noteworthy accomplishment. Offensively, Coalfield's protection failed to provide sufficient time for plays to properly develop.

Next week, Coalfield travels to Midway to face the Greenwave in a regional battle. Midway has a balanced attack that will test Coalfield's defense. In two weeks, the Jackets face perennial foe Greenback on Rochelle field in a game that typically determines the region champion. Greenback has an open date next week, giving them two weeks to prepare for Coalfield.

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