

Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3

Volume 07 Number 47

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Your Community. Your News.

75¢

Thankful, Grateful, Blessed



Turkeys: Happy Thanksgiving

Photography



Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

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CITIZENS & VETERANS

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AT WARTBURG, TN

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I'D RATHER BE READING.

#mocotoday

MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK

Tue 23	48°/26°	
Wed 24	57°/32°	
Thu 25	59°/31°	
Fri 26	46°/25°	
Sat 27	51°/32°	
Sun 28	52°/26°	
Mon 29	51°/32°	

Chancery Court Morgan County Wartburg, Tennessee	NOTICE TO CREDITORS	Case Number <u>P-48-21</u>
In the matter of the Estate of <u>LUCILLE WRIGHT</u> Deceased		
<p>Notice is hereby given that on the 10TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021, Letters of ADMINISTRATION in respect to the Estate of LUCILLE WRIGHT who died on the 23rd DAY OF JULY 2021 were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk of Morgan County, Tennessee. All persons, residents and non-residents, having claims, matured or unmatured against her Estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claim will be forever barred.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or</p> <p>(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or</p> <p>(2)</p> <p>Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.</p> <p>This the 10TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021.</p> <p><u>LINDA ROSS</u> EXECUTRIX</p> <p><u>ANGELA R. ANDERSON</u> Clerk and Master</p> <p><u>TONYA SHANNON</u> Deputy Clerk</p>		

Chancery Court Morgan County Wartburg, Tennessee	NOTICE TO CREDITORS	Case Number <u>P-51-21</u>
In the matter of the Estate of <u>MARY R WALKER</u> Deceased		
<p>Notice is hereby given that on the 9TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021, Letters of ADMINISTRATION in respect to the Estate of MARY R WALKER who died on the 4TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021 were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk of Morgan County, Tennessee. All persons, residents and non-residents, having claims, matured or unmatured against her Estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claim will be forever barred.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or</p> <p>(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or</p> <p>(2)</p> <p>Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.</p> <p>This the 9TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021.</p> <p><u>DIANE ATKINSON AND MICHELLE JONES</u> ADMINISTRATORS</p> <p><u>ANGELA R. ANDERSON</u> Clerk and Master</p> <p><u>TONYA SHANNON</u> Deputy Clerk</p>		

Chancery Court Morgan County Wartburg, Tennessee	NOTICE TO CREDITORS	Case Number <u>P-55-21</u>
In the matter of the Estate of <u>EVERETTE GOINS</u> Deceased		
<p>Notice is hereby given that on the 19TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021, Letters of ADMINISTRATION in respect to the Estate of EVERETTE GOINS who died on the 26TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2021 were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk of Morgan County, Tennessee. All persons, residents and non-residents, having claims, matured or unmatured against her Estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claim will be forever barred.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or</p> <p>(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or</p> <p>(2)</p> <p>Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.</p> <p>This the 19TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021.</p> <p><u>EVERETTE DONALD GOINS</u> EXECUTOR</p> <p><u>ANGELA R. ANDERSON</u> Clerk and Master</p> <p><u>TONYA SHANNON</u> Deputy Clerk</p>		

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sidney A. Lamance has applied for a permit to sell beer ON premises at the location known as: Sis's Place

**1535 Knoxville Hwy
Wartburg, TN 37887**

Anyone having reason to believe that this permit should not be issued, must appear before the Morgan County Beer Board on the 2nd day of December 2021 at 5:30 pm in the Office of the County Clerk

Send
Letters to the Editor
Editor@mocotoday.com

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Bids are invited for General Contract for the work of the following project.
A ROOF REPLACEMENT FOR OAKDALE SCHOOL
225 CLIFTY CREEK ROAD
OAKDALE, TN 37829

Bonafide Prime Bidders obtaining Bidding Documents by paying a Plan Deposit, by certified check or cashier's check, become Bidders of Record and automatically receive subsequent addenda. Prime Bidders will also receive Bid Packs including the Bid Envelope and other forms required for bidding.

Prime Bidders may obtain Electronic Bid Documents from the Designer.

Johnson Architecture, Inc.
2240 Sutherland Ave, Suite 105
Knoxville, TN 37919
865-671-9060

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 am, local time, on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at Oakdale School, 225 Clifty Creek Road, Oakdale, TN 37829. Bidders must be present at the mandatory Pre-Bid Conference for their bids to be considered.

Bidders bidding \$25,000.00 or more must be licensed per state law. Five percent (5%) Bid Security is required. Non-Discrimination policy applies.

Include with each bid, Bid Security in the amount equal to five percent of the total of the Bid, plus all Alternates, payable to the Morgan County Schools in the form of (1) a certified check or cashiers check or (2) a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by a corporate surety licensed under the laws of the State of Tennessee to execute such Bonds.

Bids will be received
Until: 4:00pm, local time
On: Thursday, December 2, 2021
At: Morgan County Schools, 136 Flat Fork Road, Wartburg, TN 37887

Each Bidder must be appropriately licensed as a Contractor in the State of Tennessee as provided in T.C.A. 62-6-101. Complete all blanks on the bid envelope, otherwise, the Bid will not be opened.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bid proposals and to waive all informalities. A conditional or qualified BID will not be accepted. Award will be made to the lowest responsible, responsive BIDDER.

Morgan County Schools does not discriminate based on race, color or national origin in federal or state sponsored programs, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C.2000d).

Saturday, December 4

Together Morgan County will host a Christmas Drive Thru at Frozen Head State Park Saturday, December 4 from 10:00 - 1:00. Scenes from classic Christmas stories will be featured. Gus the Bus will be there with holiday snacks and there will be other give aways.

Need part time workers for garbage pickup services for the City of Sunbright. Apply at 120 Melton Drive , Sunbright TN

In Loving Memory

Jeff Smith, 62

Jeff Smith age 62, of Jamestown, passed away on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at the Cumberland Medical Center Crossville surrounded by his family. Jeff was a member of Live In The Spirit Church of Jamestown. He was also a member of the NMCA & AMO Car Clubs. Jeff was an active Drag Car Racer who was sponsored by Chrysler.

He was preceded in death by his father Wallace Smith.

He is survived by his mother: Ann Smith

Children: Corey Smith (Nichole Hampton)

Kristian "Krissy" Smith

Hayley Smith (Andy Bradford)

Grandchildren: Jaden Villarre-

al Smith, Leilynn Blair Smith, Hayden Smith, Alaya Hampton Smith, Alice Hampton, Jacob Bradford and Adam Bradford.

Brother: Greg Smith

Sister: Becky (Gerald) Prichard

Nieces: Hannah and Sarah Prichard

The family will receive friends on Saturday, November 20, 2021, from 12-2 pm Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral services will follow with Pastor Dale Cox officiating, internment will follow in the Mount Hope Cemetery, Deer Lodge, TN

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Jeff Smith.

Billy Dwain Gunter, 48

Billy Dwain Gunter, age 48, of Sunbright passed away November 16, 2021, at Roane Medical Center. He was a very special son, brother, and Dad. And enjoyed being a lineman for cable contractors.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Deborah Gunter; father, Danny Gunter and nephew, Roy Young.

He is survived by his sons, Kaleb Gunter and Stacy Phillips; daughter, Rhiannan (Andy) Sammons; grandchildren, Peyton & Noah Sammons; mother & stepfather, Irene (Jerry) Wright;

brothers, Jack Gunter and Willie Gunter; sister, Danita Randolph; step-brothers, Jason & Michael Wright and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family.

The family will receive friends Friday, November 19, 2021, at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12-2:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Bro. Herb Judkins officiating. Interment will follow in the Sunbright Cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Billy Dwain Gunter.

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

Sandra Helton's weekly column

Oakdale Area News

email: kvhelton@highland.net



I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. We all have so much to be thankful for each and every day. It is nice to have this special time of year to reflect on our many blessings.

Happy 94th Birthday to Ruth Headrick who will celebrate her special day Wednesday, November 24. Your many friends and family members wish you a wonderful day Ms. Ruth!

Congratulations to Liam Smith who killed his first ever deer last Saturday. It was a young buck and Liam was super excited.

White Oak Baptist Church has enjoyed having young preachers recently. On Sunday morning November 14, Dave Weismuller preached and that evening, Marcus Nelson preached. On Wednesday evening, November 17, Jacob Helton preached. It is a blessing to have these young men of God in our communities.

Pine Orchard Clothes Closet will be open Saturday, December 11 from 10:00 – 12:00. The clothes closet is currently in need of winter clothes and coats.

Oakdale School High School Beta Club attended the Tennessee State Convention at Opryland Hotel last week. Thirty three OHS students attended. They entered several competitions including living literature, art categories and academic categories. They achieved 3rd place in apparel design.

First Baptist Oakdale will have Christmas music Sunday, December 19 at 11:00 a.m. followed by a message brought by Pastor Mike Winters. Everyone is welcome to join them as they sing about that Beautiful Star of Bethlehem.

During this time of Thanksgiving, Vera Scarbrough would like to thank everyone who prayed for her during the time of her surgeries and treatments. She desires continued prayers as she continues to recover. She especially thanks all of the local churches who have had her on their prayer lists. She is both a 20 year...and a recent...cancer survivor.

Todd Scarbrough and his children, Haley, Riley and Scout were recent guests of their

mom and granny, Vera Scarbrough. Haley was in from doing a six weeks rotation at Erlanger in Chattanooga. She will graduate medical school in June and begin her residency as an Ob/Gyn Specialist. At this time, she doesn't know where she will do her residency. Vera enjoyed the visit and is very proud of her family.

Morgan County was well represented at the Save the Children Summit at Opryland Hotel last week. The following attendees either live in the Oakdale community or work at Oakdale School: Michele Bingham, Hayley Colston, Kim Colston, Sierra Hamby, Sandra Helton, Chelsea Martin, Valerie Mathis and Mary Winters. There were others from across the county who attended. We all enjoyed the speakers and our time at the summit.

This information is from a recent press release: The Tennessee Holocaust Commission announces the winners of the first Mira Kimmelman "Learning from the Holocaust" essay and project contest. Mira Kimmelman (1923-2019) challenged students to reflect upon the history of the Holocaust and contemporary examples of injustice for over fifty years. The contest continues her work and legacy, asking Tennessee students to create projects that reflect how the lessons of the Holocaust are relevant to current events and their own lives. The contest has both middle school and high school entry options, all of which prompt students to reflect on the lessons learned through the study of Holocaust history. The contest is sponsored by the Kimmelman family and the Tennessee Holocaust Commission to honor and further Mira Kimmelman's lifelong efforts to teach children to never forget and to learn from the horrors of the Holocaust. There were 2 High School Winners and 11 Middle School Winners. The students were awarded cash prizes ranging from \$150 to \$750. Oakdale student Chloe Collins was one of the middle school winners. Congratulations Chloe!

Be sure to check out the Thanksgiving story in the story walk at Solomon Park in Wartburg. Details about a fun contest are also along the story walk and you must visit the story walk to learn more. The contest is sponsored by Together Morgan County and Morgan County Today. The deadline for

entering the contest is Tuesday, November 30 at noon. A Christmas story will be in the story walk in December.

Girl Scout Troop 20742 will hold a holiday event at Pine Orchard Community Center Saturday, December 11 from 2:00 – 8:00. There will be a chili supper including chili, hot dog, dessert and drink for \$5. There will be a silent auction with gift cards, attraction tickets and much more. Mr. and Mrs. Santa will arrive around 3:00 for pictures.

Together Morgan County is making plans for their 2nd annual Christmas Drive Thru which will be Saturday, December 4 at Frozen Head State Park. Different Morgan County groups will set up stations featuring various classic Christmas stories. Families can safely drive through the route from 10:00 – 1:00 and view the scenes. There will several different give aways. Anyone wishing to participate in the drive thru or wanting to volunteer or donate items to be given away can contact Sandra Helton at heltons@mcsed.net for more details. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend this family event.

Upcoming holiday events:

Harriman Christmas Parade – Thursday, December 2 at 7:00.

Together Morgan County Christmas Drive Thru at Frozen Head State Park, Saturday, December 4 from 10:00 – 1:00

City of Wartburg Christmas Parade – Saturday, December 4 at 6:00

Oakdale School Christmas Craft Fair – Friday, December 10 9:00 – 2:30

Condolences to the family of James Dodd who passed away Wednesday, November 17. He is survived by his daughter Krysti Spurling, his son Caleb Dodd, stepson Taylor and his grandchildren Madeline and Caden Dodd. He is also survived by his parents, Lynn and Doreen Dodd and his brother Jeff Dodd along with a host of other family members and friends.

Let our hearts be full of both, thanks and giving. Happy Thanksgiving!

To the Editor:

The Morgan County Community Collaborative known as Together Morgan County is making plans for their 2nd annual Christmas Drive Thru. This will be a Free Drive Thru Event for Families on Saturday, December 4 at Frozen Head State Park from 10:00 - 1:00. All safety precautions will be in place allowing families to enjoy this holiday event from the safety of their car. Scenes depicting classic Christmas stories will be create by Morgan County organizations. As guests drive along the route, they can view each scene and enjoy the creativity of the participants. Be prepared to see the Grinch, Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and more of your favorite Christmas characters.

Together Morgan County welcomes all businesses, organizations, churches and school groups to join us in providing holiday cheer to Morgan County Families. Anyone interested in creating a scene can contact Sandra Helton @ heltons@mcsed.net for more information.

Gus the Bus will once again be at the beginning of the drive thru. Peggy Hamby and her elves will be handing out hot chocolate and snacks. Anyone wishing to donate for this give away can contact Ms. Peggy at hambyp@mcsed.net.

For those who would like to participate in another way, donations are being accepted of items to be given away. Some suggestions for items are food/toiletries/necessities for families or books, coloring books, pencils/crayons, stuffed animals for children. These are only ideas. "Elves" that would like to assist in the give away distribution are welcome to do so.

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to do a scene, donate items or volunteer on the day of the event. It is appreciated and when working together, we can do more.

Together Morgan County is excited to work with everyone to make this a memorable event for families. Please share this post on your social media as well as with your schools, churches and local businesses.

Sincerely,

Sandra Helton

Morgan County Community Engagement Coordinator



David Zubler
Columnist

Strategy for substantially increasing your cruise deduction

In 1982, the tax law limited the amount of deductions for cruise ship conventions and meetings. Additionally, there were several other limitations. However, you will learn that there is a way for you to avoid the strict rules and limited amount of deductions.

It is important to know the cruise ship deduction rules. The amount of the deduction is limited to \$2,000 a year. This includes the cost of the cruise, convention, and travel to get to the cruise port.

The law requires that you attach a signed statement to your tax return. The statement must include your total days on the cruise ship, the hours you devoted to the business activity and the program of the scheduled activities.

To make matters worse, you need to attach to your return a written statement signed by an officer of the sponsoring organization, the daily schedule of business activity and the hours you attended.

The ship must sail under the U.S. flag, and the ports of call are required to be in the United States or its possession.

Fortunately, there is a way to avoid the \$2,000 limit and take a cruise on the ship and the destination you want. This is how it works:

Take a cruise and have a four-hour meeting on land at the last port of call. If the meeting lasts for four hours, the day qualifies as a business day. The days spent traveling from your home to the meeting and the days traveling home after the meeting are travel days. The travel days qualify as business days. Con-

sequently, every day of your trip would be a business day and would be deductible.

By taking the cruise ship to the business meeting and having the meeting on land in the tax-law-defined North American area, you can deduct the entire cost of the convention. This includes the cost of transportation to the cruise port and the cost of the cruise if it is less than the daily luxury water limits. The daily limit is more than the typical cruise ship cost, and you can find the information by googling “daily luxury water limits.”

The tax-law-defined North American area includes over 30 islands and countries. You can google “tax-law-defined North American area” to find all the locations.

For example, you could use this strategy to fly from your home to Miami and stay overnight. Then take a seven-day roundtrip cruise to a Caribbean Island and have a business meeting with your business associates or employees on the last island. Since the meeting is on land, you are not limited to a U.S. possession. If the food is included in the cruise price, you can deduct the entire cost of the cruise. This allows you to deduct the entire cost of the travel, meeting and the cost of the cruise.

This strategy eliminates the \$2,000 limit, excessive IRS paperwork requirements, and limited possibilities imposed by the U.S. cruise ship requirement. Fortunately, you can use this strategy to choose any cruise ship and go to destinations in over 30 locations.

David Zubler is a tax accountant and Enrolled Agent in East Tennessee representing clients before the IRS and has over 25 years of tax experience. He is the author of four tax books and is the founder and president of Your Tax Care. The company provides business and tax education to the public at its website, YourTaxCare.com. David can be reached at (865) 363-3019 or contacted by email at zublerdavid@gmail.com.

SENIOR NEWS LINE

By Matilda Charles

Christmas Dinner in a Parking Lot

My senior center is going to hold its annual Christmas dinner outdoors in the parking lot. If that doesn't bring a tear to your eye about the sad state of our world now, nothing will.

Santa will arrive by limo behind the fire truck, we're told, and will make his rounds through the tables set up across the asphalt, little elves at his elbow passing out presents. Students from the high school choir will sing while others from the culinary arts classes (they'll get extra credit) will hustle the food and drinks outside and serve it. Parking will be wherever you find it around the neighborhood.

In the middle of December? In New England? Why, some of us wanted to know, did they not simply use

the town's rec center? That large space would allow the tables to be spread out, with plenty of parking right outside the door. Best of all, it's indoors where there's heat. But no, they decreed, the dinner has to be next to the senior center where the kitchen is.

A poll of friends indicates a mixed review of this whole idea. One laughed and said no, he absolutely would not be there. Another said he'd been recruited to set up tables and bring the decorated tree outside, hoping he can find an extension cord long enough to plug in the lights. One adventurous soul decided she will indeed be there, wearing a down comforter over her winter coat, which will be over several other layers of clothing, including snow pants. (She's also bringing a Thermos of hot coffee and is practicing eating while wearing gloves.)

One only hopes someone has put the town plow-truck driver on notice. He might be called upon to plow out the parking lot that day before the dinner.

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FLASHBACK

By Mick Harper

1. What duo released “Time on Your Side (You're Only 15 Years Old)”?
2. Name the Merrilee Rush song that Connie Francis originally turned down.
3. Which Ricky Nelson song talks about having a girl in every port?
4. Who wrote and released “I Get Around”?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: “A long time ago, when the earth was still green, There were more kinds of animals than you've ever seen.”

Answers

1. Friend & Lover, in 1968. It was the b-side to “Reach Out of the Darkness,” the duo's highest-ranked song.
2. “Angel of the Morning.” Francis turned the song down because she claimed it was too risqué.
3. “Travelin' Man,” in 1961. Hank sings the song in “King of the Hill” season 3, and Toyota used it in a 2019 TV commercial.
4. Brian Wilson and Mike Love of the Beach Boys, in 1964. Love sued in 1994 to be added as a writer as he wasn't originally listed.
5. “The Unicorn,” by the Irish Rovers in 1968. The popular song (about an animal that was too late to get on the Ark) started out as a poem in Shel Silverstein's book “Where the Sidewalk Ends.”

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Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

Your Career Questions: Final

your competition. A prompt “thank you” note may show the hiring manager you’re excited about the position and enjoyed the conversation.

Compose a handwritten “thank you” after the interview. I always write both an email communication within a 12-hour window and a handwritten thank you note.

Have a blank thank you card with you and fill it out immediately after the job interview. The hand-written note doesn’t need to be a novel. A paragraph or two will completely suffice. Your detailed letter will be composed and sent via email. A common excuse I hear is, “but my handwriting is terrible”. Well, my own handwriting looks like chicken scratch from a one-legged bird. It’s absolutely terrible! That’s no excuse for me not to leave a handwritten note for the hiring manager. My handwriting is still terrible, but I can take my time to make it look as legible as possible. With handwritten notes, the general rule of thumb is that it’s like the bad Christmas present Aunt Kathy gives you each year: it’s the thought that counts.

Not many people write notes nowadays, which makes them even more distinctive. The best place to leave the handwritten note is underneath the meet-

ing room door after the interview, with a receptionist, or someone who can be trusted at the venue to get into the hiring manager’s hands. Most of the time the address on the hiring manager’s business cards are from their corporate office. Are they ever going to even be at the headquarters to receive a letter? Even if they do, your note may arrive after the hiring decision has been made.

There are several thank you letter templates and examples floating around on the Web. While these boring pre-formatted, unoriginal examples are readily available, your note still needs to be customized to you, the job, and the interview that took place. It doesn’t need to be a cookie cutter note you copy and paste. Do you think the interviewer has seen that same template before? Do you want to give the impression that you are sloppy, lazy, or uninterested in thanking the interviewer for their precious time? Make sure you customize your thank you email after the job interview.

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

Visit www.zackballinger.com for more of Zack’s travels and events.



This week’s question comes from Teresa in Wartburg, TN: Should I send a thank you letter after my job interview?

When it comes to the topic of job interviewing, most publications—whether books, articles, or newspapers—highly recommend you send a “thank you” note afterwards. There is normally a specified time frame each author suggests for taking this step after the interview has ended. Some experts are adamant it should be right after the interview, others have stated you have a maximum of a 24-hour window, and some often argue that it’s reasonable to take up to 48 hours to send a note.

I would argue that 48 hours seems a bit too long and right after isn’t always feasible. The Hot Seat generally recommends sending the note within a 12-hour time frame. Why? Technology controls most of our lives today. Most smartphones are equipped with email features. You can easily submit a “thank you” email right after the interview via your phone, tablet, or a laptop. Just do it and get it over with. Besides, the longer you procrastinate, the greater the chance of forgetting to email it at all. I would send a note the day of the interview or later that evening. This effort is one more thing that sets you apart from

Happy Holidays
from Our Family to Yours!

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Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week

We honor Tennessean David Robert Ray who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions on March 19, 1969 while serving in the United States Navy in Quang Nam Province, Vietnam.

David was born on February 14, 1945 in McMinnville, Tennessee. He served in the 2d Battalion, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division as a U.S. Navy Corpsmen. His rank was Hospital Corpsman Second Class.

David won a University of Tennessee Alumni Scholarship and attended classes from 1963-1966. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1966 and attended the Naval Hospital Corps School in San Diego. Ray served aboard the U.S.S. Haven. He requested a tour with the Fleet Marine Force and went to Camp Pendleton for Battlefield training. He was sent to Vietnam with the Marine Division in 1968. Bobby Ray Memorial Elementary School in McMinnville named in his honor. The U.S.S. David R. Ray, commissioned in 1977, is now in the mothball fleet in the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.



Below is his Medal of Honor citation.

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a HC2c. with Battery D, 2d Battalion, at Phu Loc 6, near An Hoa. During the early morning hours, an estimated battalion-sized enemy force launched a determined assault against the battery's position and succeeded in effecting a penetration of the barbed-wire perimeter. The initial burst of enemy fire caused numerous casualties

among the Marines who had immediately manned their howitzers during the rocket and mortar attack. Undaunted by the intense hostile fire, HC2c. Ray moved from parapet to parapet, rendering emergency medical treatment to the wounded. Although seriously wounded himself while administering first aid to a Marine casualty, he refused medical aid and continued his lifesaving efforts. While he was bandaging and attempting to comfort another wounded Marine, HC2c. Ray was forced to battle two enemy soldiers who attacked his position, personally killing one and wounding the other. Rapidly losing his strength as a result of his severe wounds, he nonetheless managed to move through the hail of enemy fire to other casualties. Once again, he was faced with the intense fire of oncoming enemy troops and, despite the grave personal danger and insurmountable odds, succeeded in treating the wounded and holding off the enemy until he ran out of ammunition, at which time he sustained fatal wounds. HC2c. Ray's final act of heroism was to protect the patient he was treating. He threw himself upon the wounded Marine, thus saving the man's life when an enemy grenade exploded nearby. By his determined and persevering actions, courageous spirit, and selfless devotion to the welfare of his Marine comrades, HC2c. Ray served to inspire the men of Battery D to heroic efforts in defeating the enemy. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

In honor of fallen Blair County, PA Corrections Officer Rhonda Russell. Yet another reminder of the danger that our local men and women in uniform undertake to serve and protect our community, state, and country on a daily basis.

tercation between Officer Russell and the suspect. The suspect had

was transported to UPMC Altoona, where she succumbed to her wounds.

Officer Russell had served 16 years with the Blair County, PA Prison. She was forty-seven-years old and is survived by her three sons, fiancé, and parents.



On November 17, 2021 Corrections Officer Rhonda Russell was shot and killed after a struggle for her firearm at the holding area of the Central Court building at 615 Fourth Street in Altoona, PA.

restrained Officer Russell and aimed the weapon at the officer. The officer shot at the suspect, but the suspect moved Officer Russell into the line of fire. She

der of the second degree and murder of a law enforcement officer of the second degree.

The inmate who attacked Officer Russell was charged with mur-

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Tom Redmon
Columnist

I'm Going to Florida but for a Different Reason

For about four months or ever since my son and daughter-in-law found out they had been assigned ownership of a large stand-a-long Chick-fil-a in Plant City, Florida I have been excited about going down there for the grand opening on December 2, 2021. When they found out they had the new franchise I was the first one Scott called to tell me the good news. He said, "I want you there on December 2, 2021. I will take a plane up there and you can come back with me." Scott and Dawn, ten years ago, were middle school teachers, and Dawn decided she wanted to take a different route so she took a job at a Chick-fil-a in Bradenton. In about five years she had her own store in Brandon, Florida, just a few miles out of Tampa. The Chick-fil-a store in Brandon really did well. Two years ago, they won a \$50,000 Tesla by increasing their sales by 18% over the year before. Dawn is a real pro in the business world and Scott had also quit his job teaching and joined Dawn in Brandon. Now on December 2nd they will open one of the largest Chick-fil-a restaurants in Florida.

I was really excited about going to Florida to see all my kids, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren plus to meet all the Chick-fil-a restaurant executives from Atlanta and witness a grand opening of a Chick-fil-a restaurant.

But now all that is secondary because my daughter Robin has come down with Parkinson's. No longer is my trip a pleasure trip. Oh, yes, I will be there in Plant City to see the ribbon cutting and see the new store come to life but my thoughts are mainly on my daughter.

Robin is my only daughter and she is the oldest child. She was born on March 23,

1964 in Harriman, Tennessee. She started school in Cookeville, Tennessee and finished in Bradenton, Florida. She was elected Miss Southeast in 1981-82 at Southeast High School.

Robin and Earl Nichols were married in March 1984 and they have two boys. Westin is in his early 30's and he and his lovely wife have a sweet little girl who is seven-years-old and twin boys who are four-years-old. Devin is in his 2nd year of college and is nineteen-years-old.

You can never tell what is in the future. In 1992 my wife and I were really doing good in the Manatee County school system. Wanda, Robin's mother, had a good job in a school that she loved. I was principal of a school where I had great parent support, well behaved students, and a brand-new school building. But in 1993 Wanda came down with pancreatic cancer and our world came apart. Our children were grown and we had worked

chased a house here in Wartburg and in the early 2000's I started organizing multi-classes reunions at Wartburg Central. The last reunion we had thirty classes together in the Central gym. At the same time, I was doing this. I was getting retired teachers and principals together in Florida. I love to get people together and renew old acquaintances. Another thing I loved to do back then was to sing. Bill Shannon and I got musicians together several times at a home here in Wartburg and some down at a home in Watts Bar Lake plus my home here. My days with Billy Christopher I will always prize because of our friendship and jamming together. What a man!

I wanted to record an album of country gospel music for my children so I got in touch with Ken Bonhord who knows every good musician in this area and I ended up making three albums with great musicians playing for me. I even wrote several songs for the album. When I reached the age of eighty my voice was

gone. I needed a new hobby. So here I am writing articles for the local paper. I started writing in 2018 and I think I'm on my 150th article. I love writing and I thank all of you out there who are reading what I write. What has kept me going is your letters and calls telling me you enjoy my articles. I also need to tell you that I have a wonderful wife who stands by me and keeps me going. Margaret and I have had eleven wonderful years together. Now I have another mountain to climb. I have classmates and friends who have lost a son or daughter and they tell me the grieving goes on. It is so hard to give up your flesh

and blood. We know Robin has Parkinson's, but we don't know yet which level she has. It is really working on her arms and body. I've seen people with Parkinson's and even though they can live several years with it I don't think their quality of life is good. We are praying for a miracle, but we also pray for God's will be done.

I must go on. It won't be easy but I've faced many hardships in my life. Pray for Robin, for me and the family.



hard all our time in Florida and in five years we would be retiring. It was not to be, because on February 10, 1996 Wanda passed away. Everything we planned was not to be and since 1996 I have had to lean on Jesus. I have not sat around and pined my life away. In 1997 I started visiting assistant living and nursing homes in Bradenton and Sarasota, Florida. Most of the time I had two other singers with me. Still life was not easy.

In 1997 I pur-



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Disappeared: Chapter 13: Part 2

Nick & Chris-Day 3, cont.



Carol Hall
Author

"If that were true, then where are the claw marks?" Les asked.

Nick was looking at the footprint in disbelief. What in the world? It was as clear as day. It looked just like a human footprint, only twice the size.

"Hey, Les," he said. "Have the dogs take a sniff at it and see what they do." He was getting a very uneasy feeling in the pit of his stomach.

Les, brought the dogs over and had them sniff the footprint. Immediately they whimpered and backed off.

"Ok, that is weird," he said to Nick. "That's what they did in the spot where Maggie disappeared."

"What does it mean," Nick asked impatiently. He was really starting to get a creepy feeling crawling up his spine.

"It means they don't like what they're smelling. Whatever it is seems to scare them." Les led the dogs away from the print and tied them back up to a nearby tree.

"Why would they be scared of a human?" Nick asked. "Isn't it their job to hunt humans? That doesn't make sense."

"Unless it isn't human," Walter suggested.

"Excuse me?" Nick demanded sarcastically. "And just what would you say it is then?"

"Maybe it's a Bigfoot." Walter replied.

"A Bigfoot. Are you kidding me?" Nick's anger was rising again. He couldn't believe he was sent out on a search with these people. Weren't they supposed to be professionals?

"Nick, let's just listen a minute," Chris said to him. "Nothing about this whole scenario makes sense. Not the way Maggie disappeared. Not the dogs reaction to things. Look at this campsite. Could a bear do this amount of damage? Maybe there is something unusual, unnatural, going on here. Just think about it a minute."

Nick stared at Chris as if he had lost his mind. "Not you too!"

"Well, nothing else makes sense. Maybe we need to consider other possibilities." "This is unbelievable. Truly unbelievable."

"Listen, Nick," Ted said. "If you'd done my job as long as I have, you'd begin to believe in the unbelievable. Believe me."

Nick just shook his head. "You guys are crazy." He walked off into the woods for a moment, then turned around and came back.

"Ok, then, tell me...if Bigfoot is real and he was the one who took Maggie, then tell me why...why would Bigfoot want my wife?"

"We don't have all the answers, Nick," Ted said. "But weird stuff happens out here and we can't explain it."

"Have any of you actually ever seen a Bigfoot?" Nick asked.

"Well, no," said Walter. "But at the sheriff's office, we get a lot of reports of hikers and campers claiming to see one."

"Well, there you go." Nick said. "Then I guess it must be true." He threw his hands up in the air and let them drop to his sides again.

"Nick, stop it," Chris said firmly. "Let's just admit that it's a possibility. You said yourself that Maggie would never have just wandered off by herself, so that could only mean someone or something took her. If someone had taken her, wouldn't we have heard a ruckus? Wouldn't she have screamed? Maybe, just maybe, Bigfoot is real. Thousands of people report seeing one every year. Can thousands of people be wrong?"

Nick felt defeated. He sat down on the ground and put his head in his hands. He was having a hard time accepting the Bigfoot theory. They were just fantasy. An urban legend. Surely they weren't real?

Just as he was trying to wrap his head around the idea, Ted's walkie talkie went off.

"Ranger Williams? Can you hear me? Copy," said a disembodied voice.

"Yeah, go ahead Base camp," Ted answered.

"We got word early this morning that one of the searcher's wives was hiking up the mountain to join in the search, but she never showed up. It's been several hours now."

"Which searcher's wife?" Chris asked. As far as he knew, his was the only wife not already part of the search. Did Evie decide to hike up here to join them? No, she would never hike up here all by herself. Had to be someone else's wife.

"Which searcher, Base camp? Whose wife?" Ted asked.

"Mrs. Gilbert, sir."

The world was suddenly spinning as the air left Chris's lungs. No, not Evie. Not his Evie.

"Copy, Base camp. Let us know if she turns up. Over and out," Ted clicked off the walkie talkie and put it back in its holster on his belt.

"Looks like we got another missing person, gentlemen," Walter said casually.

Before he knew what hit him, he was lying on the ground on his back, his lower lip bleeding.

Chris stood over him rubbing his fist. "That's my wife, you moron."

Ted instructed the two campers to collect their things and get out of the mountains. He took down their names and informed them that if they camped illegally again, he would draw up charges against them.

They quickly gathered up their things and left, promising not to camp there ever again.

The five of them stood around the footprint. No one said a word for several minutes. Finally Nick broke the silence.

"Ok, let's assume for a minute that Bigfoot is real and he took the women. How do we find them and how do we get them back?" He couldn't believe he was asking these questions. He was a very rational adult and this was not rational thinking. But, at this point, he was starting to get desperate for answers.

Chris was beside himself. His mind was in a fog. He simply could not comprehend

that Evie was missing too, now. He now understood exactly what Nick was going through.

"We hunt him down and take our women back," he said in a stoic voice.

"And just how do we hunt down something we aren't even sure exists?" Nick asked him.

"I don't know, Nick. But we have to do something."

Les walked over to the dogs and untied them. He let them go so they could go do their business. He knew that a simple call to them would bring them back if they wandered off too far.

Calliope disappeared into the thicket, when suddenly, she burst back into the clearing. Her nose was to the ground and she was sniffing hard. She worked her way over to where the tent had been and let out a long howl.

Les was immediately on her side. "What is it, girl? What did you find?"

Calliope followed a trail from the tent site over to just where the footprint was found. She lifted her nose into the air and howled.

"She picked up Maggie's scent!" Les called to the others who were watching the whole thing with anticipation.

Nick went running over to him. "Where? Where does it go?"

"She picked it up at the wood line, followed it to where the tent was, then over here to the footprint."

"Where does it go from there?" Nick asked, renewed excitement rising in him.

Les commanded the dog to search, but she sat down and whined when they got to the footprint.

"It ends here at the footprint."

"Well, that could be because she was carried out of here," Walter offered. "That's why her scent vanished from the trail where she disappeared from too. She was grabbed up and carried from the area."

"Well, that does make sense," Les said. "That's why the dogs lost her scent. Because there was no scent to follow. It disappeared when she was picked up and carried away. This whole Bigfoot theory is starting to make a lot of sense...oddly enough."

Nick stood there for several minutes pondering this new information. Did it make sense? Could that be why the dogs lost her scent, because she was carried away? A human man, even though bigger than Maggie, couldn't have carried her through this rough terrain without getting tired and setting her down, or rubbing her clothes up against the trees, leaving her scent behind for the dogs to catch. Ugh, he thought. Maybe this whole Bigfoot thing was real. It was certainly starting to make more sense than any other theory they had come up with.

"Well boys," Ted said. "It's getting late in the afternoon. Let's say we just make camp here for the evening and start the search again at first light?"

"Good idea," Walter grumbled. He was still rubbing his jaw where Chris had hit him. He tried apologizing, but Chris just shrugged him off.

Nick and Chris set up their tent in silence. Nick knew what Chris was going through. The fear, frustration and the determination to find their wives.

With the tent set up, Chris crawled inside and laid down on his sleeping bag. Nick crawled in and sat with him.

"Hey, it's going to be ok," he said. "We'll find them."

"Why was Evie hiking up here alone? I'm sure she asked for help. I never should have left her at the hotel. I should have just made her come with us. If I had, she would be here with me now."

"There's no sense beating yourself up over it now. What's done is done. Let's just focus on finding them now, ok?"

Chris propped himself up on his elbow and looked hard at Nick. "Do you really think it's Bigfoot who took them? I know I said we needed to at least consider it, but do you really believe it could be possible?"

"I don't know, Chris. It sure seems far fetched to me, but I'm starting to think maybe there is some truth to it. I mean, nothing else makes sense, right?" "Right."

"Les is building a fire to cook dinner over. You hungry?"

"No, I think I'll just hit the hay."

"I understand. I'll have them save you something anyway, just in case." Nick left the tent and joined the others around the fire.

They heated up some cans of soup for dinner. No one seemed particularly hungry, but they ate their meals and then got everything cleaned up.

As they sat around the fire, talk turned to the search again.

"You know," Walter said. "If the Bigfoot came here once, maybe he'll come again. We might have a shot of finding the women by staying here tonight."

"Doubtful," Ted said. "He would smell us and our fire a mile away. No animal will come close to here."

"So what is our plan in the morning?" Nick asked. "Which direction should we head in?" He wasn't really sure it mattered which way they went. If Bigfoot had the women, he could have gone in any direction. They were dead in the water here. Any direction could either lead them closer to or farther away from them. They had no idea where to go from here.

"I think we should head toward the river," Ted said. "We will need to refill our water canteens and it wouldn't hurt to clean up a bit while we're at it."

"You're the boss," Nick said without feeling. "See you all in the morning." He got up and headed for the tent.

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

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

NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JoAnn Derson

* Cookie sheets make great temporary mud and moisture trays for dirty shoes. Stash one at the entry to your home, and you will have less dirt tracked across your floors.

* "To make your drains fresh-smelling, shake a half-cup of baking soda into the drain. Then pour 2 cups of vinegar that you have warmed on the stove. It will froth and bubble. When it's done, run the hot water and give it a little scrub." -- R.C. in Idaho

* Blood pressure can be affected by many things, and seeing the doctor is one of them. Instead, request that your blood pressure be taken by a nurse or physician's assistant. Having a full bladder also can make your pressure reading higher, as can positioning your arm below heart level.

* "Keep knitting yarn in check with empty tissue box-

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* After the battle of Waterloo in 1815, scavengers removed the teeth from tens of thousands of dead soldiers for use in dentures. The so-called Waterloo teeth were in such demand because they came from relatively healthy young men.

* In 2003, there were 86 days of below-freezing weather in Hell, Michigan.

* The U.S. Navy sustainably manages over 50,000 acres of forest in Indiana with white oak trees more than a century old, to replace like for like on the 220-year-old wooden frigate USS Constitution.

* Heavy metal band Black Sabbath's original name was

The Polka Tulk Blues Band, after the brand name of a talcum powder used by Ozzy Osbourne's mother.

* Jellyfish are considered biologically immortal. They don't age and will never die unless they are killed.

* The party game of Twister was originally called Pretzel, but Milton Bradley changed the name in 1965 due to trademark issues.

* Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia is the fear of long words and is thought to develop from the fear of pronouncing long words incorrectly. (Hey, we get it -- we tried.)

* The opposite sides of dice always add up to seven.

* "Deaf flights" were pre-

scribed by doctors to cure hearing loss in the 1920s and '30s. Stunt pilots would take unsuspecting passengers up in planes and terrify them with loops, barrel rolls and dives.

* J.R.R. Tolkien was nominated by fellow author C.S. Lewis for the 1961 Nobel Prize in Literature, but was overlooked because the jury said the quality of his storytelling wasn't good.

* Philadelphia cream cheese was actually created in New York.

Thought for the Day: "Yearning for the seemingly impossible is the path to human progress." -- Bryant H. McGill

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es. Set your yarn ball inside the box, and let the string lead out of the top. When not in use, tape the string to the side of the box. Boxes can be stacked and stored for future projects." -- C.W. in Indiana

* "Try this baking tip from my mother: When you have a recipe that calls for dry spices (cinnamon, ginger, ground clove, etc.), cream them with the butter instead of sifting them with the dry ingredients. I do feel like they become infused in the recipe better." -- A. in Illinois

* Visit the dollar store for low-cost toys to use on car or airplane trips. You can get several busy toys and dole them out one at a time. Most parents will attest to what a lifesaver this can be.

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

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

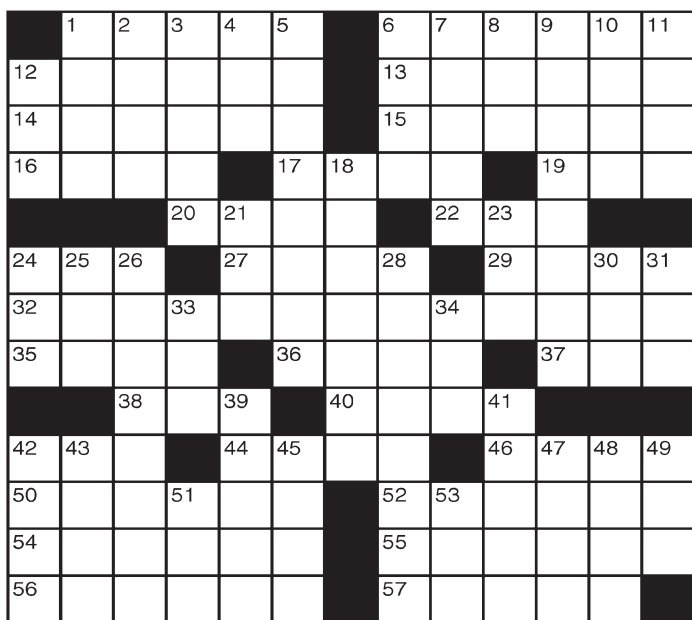
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Paid (up)
- 6 Tennis star Graf
- 12 False
- 13 Sounded content
- 14 Warm, as leftovers
- 15 Not certain
- 16 Cruise stop
- 17 Farm unit
- 19 Garten of Food Network
- 20 Austen novel
- 22 Perched
- 24 Recede
- 27 Force
- 29 Pleasing
- 32 Symbolic first step toward getting hired
- 35 Cab
- 36 British noble
- 37 Eggy quaff
- 38 Existed
- 40 Squabble
- 42 Past
- 44 Furnace fuel
- 46 Volcanic flow
- 50 Cheered (for)
- 52 Ogled
- 54 Topical anti-septic
- 55 Builds
- 56 Strong points
- 57 "Midnight Cowboy" role



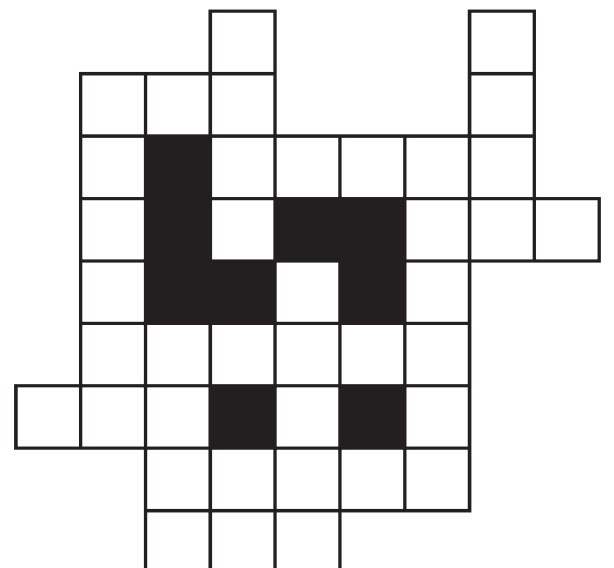
DOWN

- 1 Grieg's "— Death"
- 2 Actress Patricia
- 3 Private pupil
- 4 Sch. URL ender
- 5 "Feel-good" brain chemical
- 6 Incite
- 7 Jukebox picks
- 8 Hosp. areas
- 9 Fulfillment
- 10 Office plant
- 11 Notion
- 12 Greek consonant
- 18 Bach's "Coffee —"
- 21 1501, in Roman numerals
- 23 Moreover
- 24 Newt
- 25 Large snake
- 26 Ornamental garden trees
- 28 Best-selling Michael Jackson album
- 30 Bill's partner
- 31 Work unit
- 33 Spanish aunt
- 34 Sprite
- 39 Potpourri output
- 41 Swift
- 42 Met melody
- 43 Sticky substances
- 45 Praiseful pieces
- 47 Curved lines
- 48 Presidential power
- 49 TV spots
- 51 Dead heat
- 53 Epoch

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- EET
- GRINUT
- ♥ GAREN
- ♥ ETDO
- ♥ NARDGE
- ABC
- ♥ EDRA
- DUTEE
- DOA
- TAUCER
- GINET
- ♥ EBTA



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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THE RICH LOWRY COLUMN

By Rich Lowry

Joe Biden's Incredible Shrinking Presidency

Joe Biden was never exactly a colossus bestriding the Earth, but he's been getting smaller by the day.

A Washington Post poll over the weekend suggested that his presidency is, for now, a smoking political crater. It had him at a 41% approval rating, despite the passage of his long-sought infrastructure bill that was supposed to buoy him and his party.

Even more striking, the survey found that Republicans lead Democrats on the generic congressional ballot by 10 points, 51% to 41%, an unprecedentedly strong showing for the GOP that forecasts an earthquake, tsunami, and maybe a few more natural disasters for Democrats come next fall.

And who can be surprised? Biden is stumbling, out of touch, and weak. Two of his major initiatives, at the border and in Afghanistan, created completely avoidable catastrophes. He has given no sense of being in control of events or even his own party. He is an accidental president who is running smack into his own inadequacies and absurd pretensions.

No one in Washington over the last four decades ever said that Joe Biden was just the man with the foresight, wisdom and deft political touch to lead the free world.

No, he was an average senatorial bloviator whose first two presidential campaigns flamed out in embarrassing fashion, before he hit the jackpot when Barack Obama choose him as his running mate in 2008.

Showing the advantage of hanging around for a very long time, Biden won both the 2020 Democratic nomination and the presidency by default. In the primaries, the former vice president looked good in comparison to Bernie Sanders, and he ran in the general on not being Donald Trump.

Now, Biden is allied with Bernie Sanders, who helped write the first version of his Build Back Better plan, and Donald Trump no longer looms as large as Biden's foil.

The best case for Biden's presidency was that he could be a kind of consensus caretaker -- restoring a sense of normality and maintaining a low profile while riding in the slipstream of improving economic conditions and a diminishing pandemic.

Instead, he's been carried along by the left-wing tide of his party and repeatedly engaged in unconstitutional executive overreach. On top of it all, he's brought his own brand of incompetence, exemplified by the botched pull-out from Afghanistan.

His foremost mistake was overestimating an attenuated electoral mandate for pedestrian governance as a permission slip for passing nearly the entirety of the progressive agenda in the space of less than a year.

Not only has there been sticker shock over the price tag of the Biden agenda, but it has little connection to things people truly care about. The infrastructure bill polls well, but no one goes about their daily lives worried about the alleged crisis of crumbling bridges and tunnels.

Meanwhile, the Build Back Better bill started as a \$3.5 trillion grab bag of everything that progressives want but couldn't get in the infrastructure bill. Passing as much spending as you possibly can before you lose Congress a year from now, which is essentially the rationale behind Build Back Better, is not a compelling reason for a historic spate of federal spending.

That legislation has been pared down to largely a child care and climate change bill. That's an unnatural pairing that came about not because those are the top two things that the public wants from Washington, but because they happen to be what Democrats think they can pass.

Only now is the White House trying to argue that the infrastructure bill and Build Back Better will address real public concerns, namely the supply chain disruptions and the inflation that is outpacing wage growth. This is clearly a tendentious, after-the-fact argument.

The White House can hope that the supply chain bottlenecks ease and inflation declines, but Biden's disastrous first year speaks to a more intractable problem with the lackluster occupant of the Oval Office himself.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

Twist, Shape and Bake Healthy Bread Bears

Baking bread is just plain fun when your preschoolers shape prepared dough into adorable bear shapes. Toss in simple math along the way too, as your pint-size bakers divide the dough into halves, fourths and even sixths to form the bear's arms, legs and snout. They'll watch the dough rise before their eyes, and they'll love "painting" the bears with an egg wash before you pop them in the oven.

Serve them warm, drizzled with some honey from a little pot for a memorable afternoon treat.

Ingredients for two 8-inch-tall bears:

- One loaf of prepared frozen bread dough
- 1 egg, beaten with 1 tablespoon of water
- Raisins
- Honey (optional)

Here's the fun:

1. Thaw the loaf of frozen bread dough for two 8-inch-tall bears. Use it while it is still cold.

2. Cut the loaf in half. Set one of the halves aside for a few minutes while you form the first bear.

3. Cut the dough into two even pieces, and let your child roll one of the pieces into a ball with his hands. Set it on a large, greased cookie sheet for the body. Press it down to flatten slightly.

4. Cut the other piece in half. Roll one of the halves into a ball for the head and place it above the body. You may need to pinch the two parts together.

5. Pick off a small bit from the remaining piece for the snout. Cut the rest into six even pieces. Roll all seven small pieces into balls. Place a ball on the face for the snout, two ears at the top of the head, 2 arms at the sides of the body, and 2 legs to the bottom of the body.

6. Make tiny slits in the dough and insert raisins for eyes and for a belly button. Repeat steps for second bear.



Preschoolers can learn fractions while they help make these bread bears.

7. Let them rise, covered with a damp towel or plastic wrap, for about 45 minutes in a warm place until doubled in size.

8. Remove covering and brush some egg mixture on top of the bears. Bake at 350 F for 25 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on a cooling rack.

TIP: Make several bears, and dress them up with thin ribbons tied around their necks. Set in a basket as treats at a teddy bear party.

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

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VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

New Hires to Process VA Claims Backlog

The Department of Veterans Affairs has hired 2,000 claims processors to deal with the claims backlog. They're going to be busy, once they're trained.

As of early October, the VA was sitting on over 200,000 backlogged claims, meaning that of the 600,000 claims in hand, one-third were over 125 days old. In addition, they have now found more than 70,000 claims that must be reviewed after three new presumptives were added for Agent Orange exposure, bringing the total to 270,000 backlogged claims.

The three new presumptives -- Parkinsonism, bladder cancer and hypothyroidism -- have been added to more than a dozen existing ones. Those three conditions had never been approved as presumptives, but now that they are, we have the Nehmer lawsuit of 1986 to thank for the need to review those claims. Nehmer concluded that

if you ever filed and were turned down for illnesses that later made the accepted list of presumptives, the VA is automatically required to go back and review your claim. The bonus here is that any disability pay you receive now will be retroactive to the date of your original claim.

You don't have to refile, but as a precaution, check in with the VA and make sure it didn't lose your original claim. Be certain you're among those whose claim is being looked at. In addition, there are three new presumptives for airborne particulate exposure -- asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis -- for those who served in the Gulf during a certain period of time. If you've already put in a claim, it will be reviewed.

If you want to keep an eye on how the new claims processors are doing, check www.benefits.va.gov/reports/detailed_claims_data.asp for weekly reports. Note the accuracy-level reports. Those are worrying. Again, don't assume the new processors are reviewing your old claim. Call and find out.

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BIBLE TRIVIA

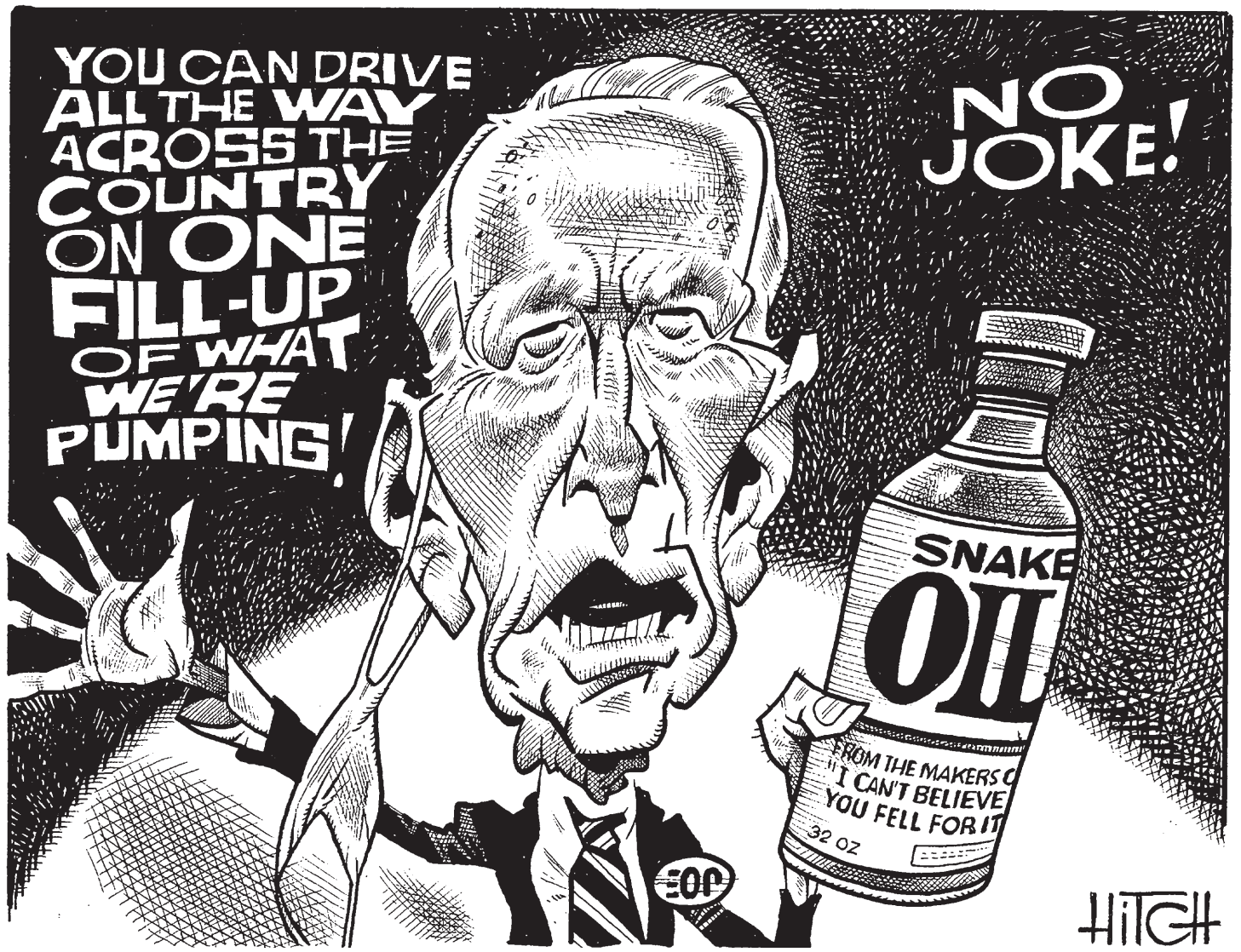
by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Habakkuk in the Old Testament or New Testament or neither?
2. Which book's chapter 3, verse 14 (KJV) mentions "the beginning of the creation of God"? *No book does, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Revelation*
3. From Mark 9, Hell is a place where "what" dieth not, and the fire is not quenched? *Worm, Body, Soul, Greed*
4. Who's the only woman in the Bible with her age mentioned (at death)? *Eve, Ruth, Leah, Sarah*
5. On what day of creation did God divide land and water? *2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th*
6. What did Methuselah become at 187 years old? *Saved, Invalid, Father, Martyr*

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Revelation; 3) Worm; 4) Sarah (Genesis 23:1-2); 5) 3rd; 6) Father

Looking for a great holiday gift? Wilson Casey's Golf Trivia 2022 daily calendar will challenge and entertain golfers of all skill levels. Available in stores and online.

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Comfort foods

Made fast and healthy

by Healthy Exchanges

Chunky Tomato Soup

Soups have always been one of my favorite foods, and autumn has always been my favorite season. Stir up this "pot of pleasure" on a cool late fall night and let it warm you up with pleasure-pleasing taste!

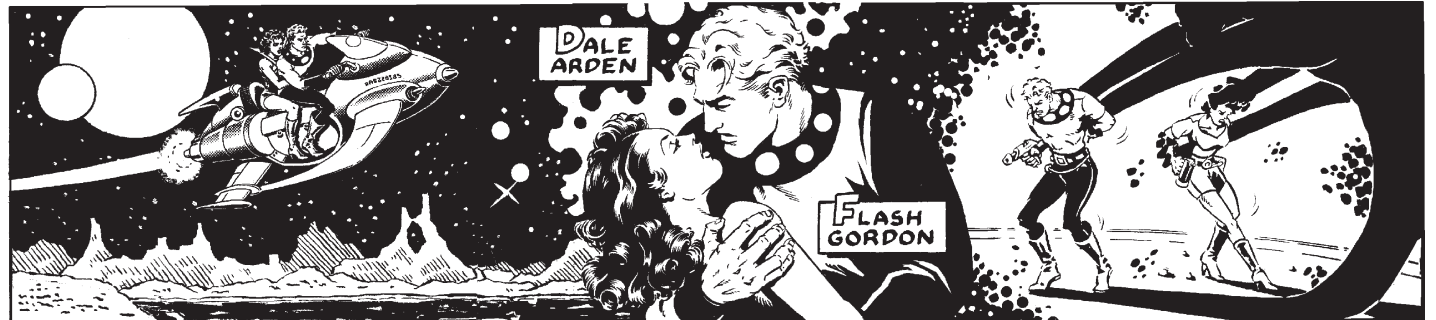
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 3/4 cups (one 14 1/2-ounce can) beef broth
- 1 (10 3/4-ounce) can reduced-fat tomato soup
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1 1/2 cups peeled and chopped fresh tomatoes
- 1 1/2 cups chopped, unpeeled zucchini

1. In a medium saucepan sprayed with olive oil-flavored cooking spray, saute onion for 6 minutes. Add beef broth, tomato soup and Italian seasoning. Mix well to combine.

2. Stir in tomato and zucchini. Bring mixture to a boil. Lower heat and simmer for 10 minutes or until vegetables are tender, stirring often. Serves 4 (1 1/4 cups each).

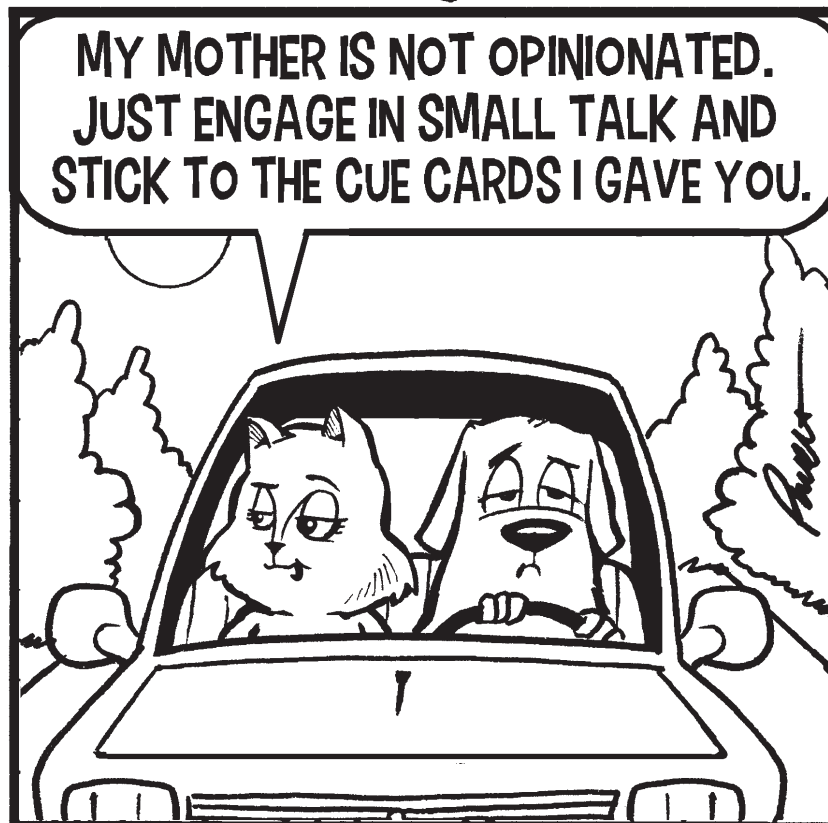
• Each serving equals: 94 calories, 2g fat, 3g protein, 16g carb., 604mg sodium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Vegetable, 1 Starch.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



"I only threaten him with the silent treatment."



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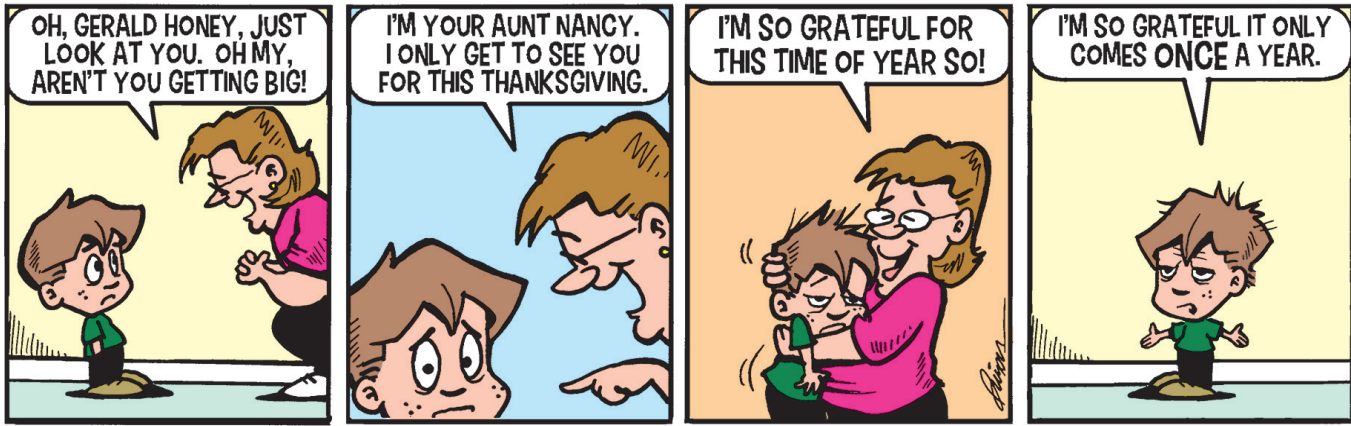
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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



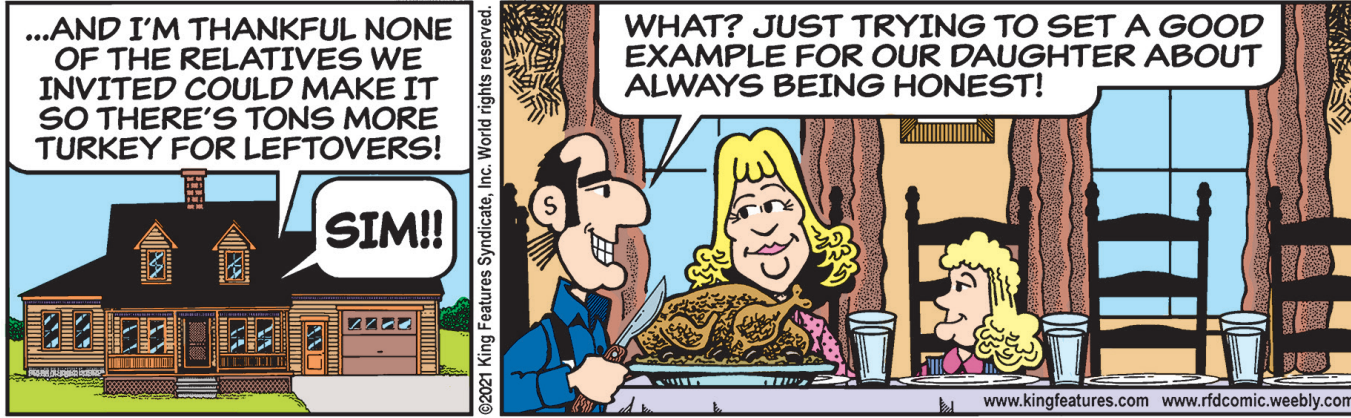
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



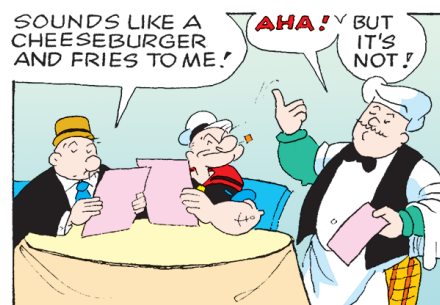
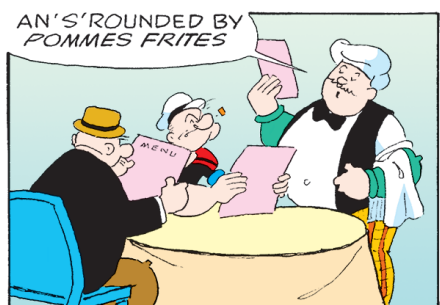
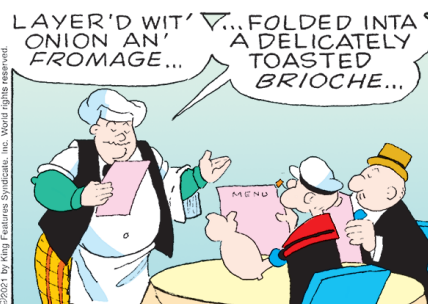
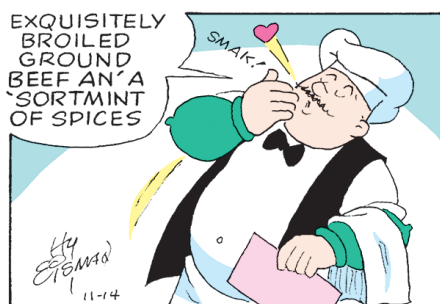
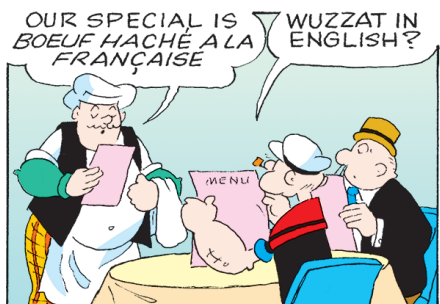
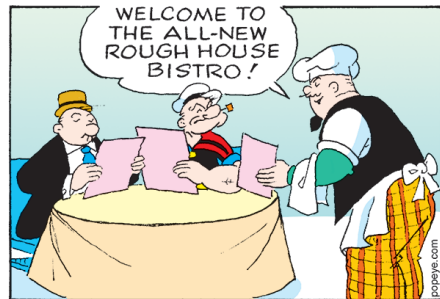
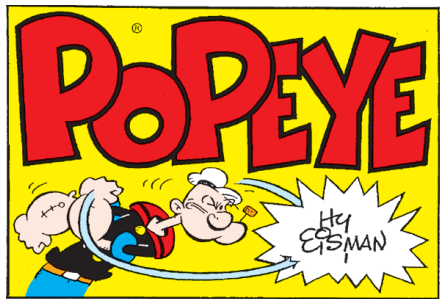
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

 * On Dec. 11, 1872, already appearing as a well-known figure of the Wild West in popular dime novels, Buffalo Bill Cody makes his first stage appearance in a Chicago-based production of "The Scouts of the Prairie."

* On Dec. 12, 1901, Italian physicist and radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi succeeds in sending the first radio transmission across the Atlantic Ocean, disproving detractors who said the curvature of the earth would limit transmission to 200 miles or less.

* On Dec. 6, 1917, a devastating blast occurs when the Mont Blanc, a French munitions ship, explodes after colliding with another vessel in Halifax harbor in Nova Scotia. The Mont Blanc was packed with 2,300 tons of picric acid, 200 tons of TNT and 35 tons of high-octane gasoline.

* On Dec. 7, 1941, a swarm of 360 Japanese warplanes descends on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii in a ferocious early morning assault. The surprise attack devastated the U.S. Pacific fleet and drew the United States into World War II.

* On Dec. 9, 1950, Harry Gold, who confessed to serving as a courier of top-secret information on the atomic bomb, is sentenced to 30 years in prison. Gold implicated his brother-in-law and sister, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were later executed for espionage.

* On Dec. 10, 1967, soul legend Otis Redding dies in a plane crash in Wisconsin. "(Sittin' on) The Dock of the Bay" would be released in its "unfinished" form several weeks later. The whistled verse was a placeholder for additional lyrics that Redding had yet to write.

* On Dec. 8, 1982, "Sophie's Choice," starring Meryl Streep as a Holocaust survivor, opens in theaters. The "choice" refers to a terrible decision Streep's character is forced to make about which of her two children will live or die while in a concentration camp.

Historically Speaking David Hall Cabin and Charlie Monday – Dowser Extraordinaire!

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

On a Saturday, I was invited by Libby Bumgardner to come to an open house at the David Hall Cabin, built in 1799. This home of the legendary Revolutionary War soldier is being well preserved by loving hands and is a virtual showplace of the early history of our area.

The cabin is in Claxton just east of the Tennessee Valley Authority's Bull Run Steam Plant and is on the route of the earliest road in this area, the Emery Road. This earliest road runs through Oak Ridge by way of the Emory Valley Road and a later addition to the road, the concrete and rock bridge just east of the Midtown Community Center. There is a historic marker near the bridge.

On this Saturday, I accepted Libby's kind invitation not knowing what to expect but knowing I would be pleasantly surprised by what she had planned for the day. Libby and Harry Bumgardner have devoted an enormous amount of energy and attention to detail to make this uniquely historic group of cabins a memorable place to visit. Two additional cabins have been moved and reconstructed on the site of the original authentic David Hall cabin.

They have even added an "outhouse." As might be expected of Harry, the outhouse is not your usual outdoor pit toilet covered with a small wooden structure with a door and a plank seat with a hole in it. No, this "outhouse" is equipped with ALL the modern conveniences of an indoor bathroom.

The commode and sink are modern porcelain fixtures. The impact of seeing those unexpected items there makes one smile when they open the authentic (from the exterior) wooden outhouse door and amazingly get to use a modern flushing toilet bathroom with a modern sink and real soft toilet tissue.

But the most amazing thing Libby had arranged that day might well have been the visiting displays that had been set up in the yard of the historic set of cabins. One of the people putting on a display of their wares was David Dodd of Roane County who had several pieces of leather hides on display as well as some knives and other unusual items.

One of the items David had on display was called a "Swamp Bugger." This is a taxidermist's idea of a joke...it is the whitetail of a deer with a set of teeth, mouth and throat of a small animal molded into position to make the whole thing look exactly like what you would think a "swamp bugger" might look like.

However, the thing that caught and kept my attention for several hours was Charlie Monday, Dowser Extraordinaire. Amazing is all it can say about what Charlie showed me.

Now, I have known of the practice of "dowsing" or "divining" for underground water streams. I had heard of that all my life and had no doubt that there was something to it. I just had never had the opportunity to try it out myself, or to even see someone who was a practitioner do their thing.

Well, on this occasion I sure got to experience dowsing. When I arrived at the David Hall cabin, I first saw Charlie Monday as he had set up his table close to the parking area where foot traffic would come right by his table on their way to the cabins.

I stopped and Charlie immediately engaged me in conversation about dowsing. I admitted I knew little

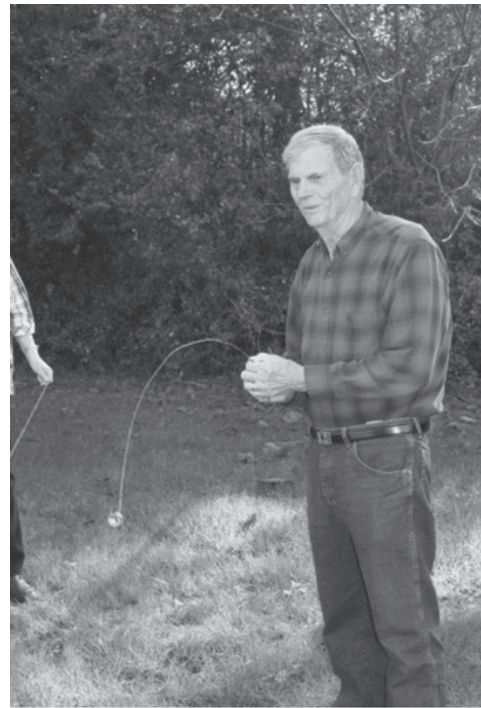
about it but thought there must be something to it. His reaction was gleeful as I am sure he knew he had found a kindred spirit.

Charlie began by tossing a quarter on the ground and then showing me that by using a set of two metal wires (I later found out they were simply insulation keeping wires like one would use to hold fiberglass insulation up between rafters), he could easily locate the quarter. When he passed over the quarter the wires crossed. When he arrived exactly on top of the quarter, the wires were parallel in the opposite direction. He could look down between the wires at the location of the quarter.

He then took a forked willow stick and did the same thing. Charlie then asked me if I wanted to try my luck. I said, "Yes" and soon was holding the forked stick as he instructed me (palms up and stick horizon-



Swamp Bugger, made from a whitetail deer skin (Photo Submitted)



Charlie Monday calculates the depth of the water stream using a large bolt and a coat hanger (Photo Submitted)



Historic David Hall cabin site (Photo Submitted)

tal). Nothing happened! I walked over that quarter several times and the stick just stayed where it was as dumb as could be.

Charlie then said, "Why don't you try the metal wires? I find that only a few people can dowse using forked sticks, however, a much larger percentage of the population can use the wires." I tried the wires by holding them loosely in my hands and balancing them out from me horizontally. Immediately upon moving over the quarter, the wires crossed, just as they had for Charlie.

I remember well the sensation of feeling those wires move involuntarily to cross above the quarter. Amazing is all I can say. I wondered aloud why witching for quarters worked and what did that have to do with dowsing for water. Charlie patiently explained it to me.

The wires can find any metal object as well as a stream of water beneath the ground. Okay, I decided to just accept it. I still don't see the connection. But I was to experience even more amazing things with the dowsing wires.

Charlie then pitched a penny on the ground about eight feet from the quarter. He proceeded to show me

the wires could locate the penny as well as the quarter. Then he did the most unusual thing. He walked straight between the two coins and said aloud "Find the quarter, find the quarter" and son-of-a-gun, those two wires moved to point to the quarter.

He then repeated the same procedure for the penny – it worked the same. Finally he closed his eyes and walking between the two coins Charlie said, "Find them both, find them both" and those fool wires pointed in two directions one toward the quarter and one toward the penny.

Then he really took a leap of faith. He asked me to do the same thing. I did. It worked, I don't have a clue how, but it worked...and not just once but every time I attempted it. I wonder if I might have influenced the wires unconsciously.

Next Charlie told me they had found a stream of water nearby. Of course, I wanted to see the dowsing work on underground water, so I asked him to show me what he had found. The most amazing thing of the day happened then. Not only did he identify the stream, the width of it and the direction of flow, he determined the depth – 90 to 100 feet!

The method for determining the depth was to place a large metal nut (about the size of a lug nut for a car wheel) on a coat hanger and hold it in an arched manner over the water's location and grip it tightly. Within seconds, the nut started to swing the coat hanger up and down...getting to upwards of a 10-inch swing, and continued to oscillate up and down for exactly 100 times and then just stopped.

Charlie then handed the rig to another person who held it over the water's location and lo and behold, the apparatus started again to oscillate up and down for exactly 100 times and then stopped. Now, that is amazing to me! Charlie claimed the water was at 90 – 100 feet underground. He says he has never missed on a well that has been drilled based on his dowsing. He has successfully dowsed six wells, all struck water within 10% of the depth he indicated.

Are you beginning to get the idea? Some amazing things being done here! Now for the even more unbelievable part...he dowses graves to find where people are buried in unmarked graves. He says this is a standard approach used by undertakers to assure they do not dig into an unmarked grave when burying someone.

Charlie says he can not only locate the graves (even infant graves) he can tell the exact dimensions of the grave and can tell whether the person buried there is a man or woman. That makes no sense to me.

Now, if you have already shaped two wires and are trying this yourself, and, if the wires are crossing over the coins for you, then try this. Check a table with the wires by moving them over it and assuring that they do not cross.

Then press your thumb into the tabletop to leave a thumbprint there and again move the wires over that spot...do they now cross over that spot? I find this most odd, but it works for me. Again, I believe I must be causing it. Maybe it is like the tendency to be hypnotized. Some folks are more readily influenced through suggestion to become hypnotized.

Charlie Monday has been featured on Channel 8, WKXT TV, The Tennessee Traveler with Alan Williams several years back. Charlie was also in Pigeon Forge, TN demonstrating his dowsing ability.



DIVAS ON A DIME

By Patti Diamond

Enjoying Thanksgiving Leftovers Is Easy as Pie

What's the best thing about Thanksgiving? I know we're supposed to say it's all the friends and loved ones gathered around the table groaning with traditional food and all the blessings and thankfulness. Yes, yadda, yadda, whatever. Just admit it: It's the leftovers.



www.JasonCoblentz.com

Thanksgiving leftovers baked in a pie

It's knowing for the rest of the long weekend you can stand in front of your open fridge with nothing but a plate and a fork and come away with the makings of a gastronomic masterpiece.

So, what if we could buy an extra ingredient while doing our last-minute shopping that will transform these anticipated leftovers and make them even better? Something beyond the usual soup and sandwich (no offense to any sandwiches or soups reading this). Something like pie dough or puff pastry.

You know that perfect Thanksgiving bite where you load up your fork with turkey, potatoes, stuffing and cranberry? Well, I think it's even better when it's wrapped in a buttery, flaky crust. See how I am?

THANKSGIVING HAND PIES Yield: 12 mini-pies Time: 45 minutes

- 1 package (two 9-inch) pie crust, or homemade equivalent
- 1/2 cup diced turkey
- 1/2 cup mashed potatoes
- 1/2 cup stuffing
- 1/4 cup sweet potatoes or carrots
- 1/4 cup cranberry sauce
- 1 egg
- Gravy for dipping*

1. Preheat oven to 375 F. Cover a baking sheet with parchment paper.

2. Thinly roll out the pie dough and cut into desired size circles. (I used a 4-inch cookie cutter.)

3. Using a teaspoon measure, place a small amount of each ingredient on one half of the round, being sure to leave about 1/4 inch clear on the outer edges. Fold each dough circle over to cover the filling, pressing around the edges with your finger, letting out as much air as possible. Use the tines of a fork to seal the edges. Place on baking sheet.

4. Whisk the egg in a small bowl with a teaspoon of water and brush the tops of the pies with the egg wash.

5. Poke the tops with a fork to vent steam. Bake for 30 minutes or until crust is golden and irresistible. Serve with gravy for dipping.

*optional, but why wouldn't you?

THANKSGIVING POT PIES Yield: 6 pies Time: 50 minutes

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 teaspoon poultry seasoning
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour

- 2 cups whole milk
- 2 cups cooked turkey, diced
- 3 cups assorted leftover Thanksgiving veggies
- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry (from a 17.3-ounce package), thawed
- 1 egg

1. Preheat oven to 375 F. Grease six (12-ounce) ramekins or bowls, place on a rimmed baking sheet.

2. Heat butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, 5 to 7 minutes. Add poultry seasoning and stir. Sprinkle flour over onion and cook, stirring, 1 minute. Slowly stir in milk.

3. Bring to a simmer; cook, stirring constantly, until thick and bubbly, 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in turkey and your choice of leftover veggies. Season with salt and pepper. Ladle into prepared ramekins, let cool.

4. Roll out thawed puff pastry on a floured surface to a 1/4-inch thickness. Cut out six circles, or squares, that are 1-inch larger than ramekins or bowls being used. Top each ramekin with puff pastry, crimping edges over sides to seal.

5. Beat the egg with a teaspoon of water or milk. Brush the pastry with egg. Bake until puffed and golden brown, 20 to 25 minutes.

So, to reprise, if you pick up a package of pie crusts or puff pastry, you can make perfectly portioned pot pies or palate-pleasing portable hand pies. Happy Thanksgiving leftovers from Divas On a Dime!

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

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1 Corinthians: Chapter 11:17-34

(1 Cor. 11:17-22) Problems with the Lord's Supper: This section begins a marked contrast in tone: Compare "I praise you" (v. 2) with "I praise you not" (v. 17). The former involved a misunderstanding in church decorum; the latter addressed a haughty, self-centered, factious spirit. Their "coming together" for the Lord's supper was seriously marred. The assemblies were tarnished by divisions (Rom. 16:17). Paul had censured party loyalties earlier (1:10), now he focuses on assembly dissensions. While heretical schisms are most unfortunate, at least one advantage results---those approved of God become "manifest," apparent. The "cream" does rise to the top (v. 19).

In a factious environment "it is not possible" to assemble in peace and partake of the communion supper in the tranquil mode God expects. Selfish ambition and elitism segmented these saints. What should have been a simple memorial service reflecting upon the Savior's death had become a common meal during which social classes had been segregated, resulting in some being left hungry while others were gorged (v. 20-21; 33-34). It was the opposite of the spirit of brotherhood unity. Their assemblies had abandoned the original purpose. It was a circumstance that did not justify praise, but rebuke (v. 22).

(1 Cor. 11:23-26) The communion as designed: The apostle's instruction regarding the communion supper had been received from the Lord (by inspired revelation). Jesus had instituted the communion celebration on the night of his betrayal. He had taken bread, given thanks, and distributed it, stating: "This is (a metaphor---this represents') my body, which is (about to be) sacrificed for you. This do (a command) in remembrance of me" (v. 24). "Remembrance" implies that when the supper was later engaged in the church assembly, Jesus would not literally be there (contra the dogma of transubstantiation). The phrase, "as often as," does not signify that the communion is an option rather than an obligation; the point of emphasis is consistency in purpose. Subsequently, he took the "cup" (its contents) and instructed them to divide it among themselves (Lk. 22:17), stating that this was a symbol of the "new covenant" involving the shedding of his blood for the remission of sins (Mt. 26:28). By this sacred ceremony Christians proclaim their confidence in the efficacy of Jesus' death until his return (v. 26). It was not a temporal institution, it is to continue every first day of the week until Christ comes (Acts 20:7).

(1 Cor. 11:27-32) The consequence of corrupt worship: A severe warning is placed upon any who would engage in the

communion supper "in an unworthy manner"---whether it be divisively, frivolously, inattentively, or capriciously. To do so is to be "guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord" (Heb. 10:29), a thought that should strike a note of terror in the hearts of some church members. Each person should "test" himself as whether his mental disposition accommodates this august act (v. 28). One who despises the person across the room, or who can't wait for an afternoon sports event, is light years from truth. To eat and drink without "discernment" of "the body" is to subject oneself to "judgment." or condemnation (v. 29).

Some consider the "body" a reference to the church. More likely it alludes to not properly reflecting upon the significance of the Savior's body as symbolized by the bread, the turning of the communion into a social feast instead of a memorial. In addition, Calvinists uniformly reject the idea that the "judgment" can be eternal judgment (yet see v. 27; Heb. 10:30). Many commentators see literal death visited upon the worldly Corinthians as temporal judgments for disciplinary purposes. To "sleep" (to literally die) in sin is hardly a disciplinary procedure. There is no postmortem salvation!

Consequently, if God's people would take inventory of their spiritual condition and correct their conduct, they would not be subjected to Heaven's judgmental wrath. If we do not attend to our soul problems, the Lord may chasten us (Heb. 12:10) to nudge us in the right direction that we may not be "condemned with the world" (v. 32). The verbal form reveals a distinct possibility. If this does not indicate that the child of God could be condemned along with the world, language has no meaning, and Paul's warning would have been deceptive.

(1 Cor. 11:33-34) Remedial recommendations: With a deep sigh for the welfare of this church, Paul draws a conclusion of admonition. "When assembly time comes, do not persist in your elitist fragmentation: (v. 21). A worshipping body should be united in their praise to God. Thus, they should worship together, instead of in artificially segregated assemblies. As for social meals, let these not be meshed with the communion memorial; you may satisfy your appetites at home. Do not turn your assemblies into an occasion deserving of God's judgment. He ominously notes there are other matters on his correction agenda, but these will wait until he addresses them face to face.

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MELVIN HOWARD

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City of Sunbriht --Now Hiring

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

You have set all the borders of the earth; You have made summer and winter.

PSALM 74:17





John Burns
Opinion Columnist

Rosh Hashanna is the beginning of the new year on the calendar Jesus Christ followed. It begins at sundown on Tishre 1. It is referred to as the head of months, for it is the beginning of the Hebrew civil year. 2021 ended in Israel on Elul 29 which was September 6. The new Shmita year began at sundown on September 7, 2021. Does it mean anything for Christians in America?

The month of Elul in the year 2022 begins at sundown on August 28. Elul 29 is August 25, 2022. Let's see if God has anything planned for America and the world?

I suspect being the first Shmita after the Jubilee of 2016, and the nation's rejection at the polls of Donald Trump, will lead to I believe, the American dollar completely collapsing, and the pattern of harbingers manifesting in America will continue.

America will be bankrupt, and Donald Trump is the only former president to emerge from bankruptcy, more prosperous than when it happened in his life. America will need Trump to bring us into the messianic age.

Now you know why the Democratic party and the Godless liberals in the Republican party united to allow the FBI and our State Department, to weaponize and stop him from draining the swamp they inhabit. They are united to stop the Biblical plan of God!

Is there any other Hebrew holidays Jesus Christ followed when he walked the earth that have anything to do with the true church Jesus Christ intends to marry?

Jesus Christ went to the temple to celebrate the feast of Dedication. Today it is referred to as Hannukah. Why would Jesus Christ celebrate Hannukah?

Hannukah is the feast when Jews gather to light the 7 golden candlesticks of Dedication. The Jews do it to remember the second temple that was re-dedicated after the Maccabean revolt. This is the Usurper King Herod's Temple.

I personally believe the true temple Jesus Christ was going to dedicate during the feast of Hannukah before his crucifixion was the temple of his earthly body. I also believe he was pointing the Jews toward the millennial temple that Messiah returns to after the Jews look upon him whom they have pierced, and cry hosannah, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Zechariah prophesied of this event at the end of the seven-year tribulation. It is reserved for interaction by God to chasten the nation he birthed in Egypt for the last time. It is the same time period the bride of Christ is in heaven receiving her prophesied crowns. It is identified by God as the time of Jacob's trouble.

What precedes the seven-year tribulation of the last days? Is it the time identified by Messiah as the times of the Gentiles? How does the times of the Gentiles end? Is the bride the object of Messiah's affection during this age? Has it been going on for 2,000 years? Is it almost over?

Jesus Christ referred to his church as the seven golden lampstands. In Hebrew, the church is the menorah of Israel. They just do not recognize it at this time and most Christians believe God replaced Israel with his Church. That is not what the Bible says. Eugenic minded Christian preachers have segregated us into denominations where the entire Bible is not studied. If it were, I would not have to be teaching this lesson from our God now.

In Revelation 1-3 the Church identified as the seven lampstands is on earth experiencing the times of the gentiles. In Revelation 4 the believers are in Heaven receiving their vestures as priests and their crowns as Kings, thus beginning Daniel's 70th week on Earth. The times of Jacob's trouble.

The Shmita

For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth shall, let until he be taken out of the way. Who is a he who now letteth that if taken out of the way would end the times of the gentiles? It is a he and he is also identified as the restrainer. Might it be the Holy Spirit?

If the Holy Spirit were removed from the earth is there a mechanism for people to come to Christ? Our guide is Stephen. He was Martyred for his testimony of saving faith in Messiah. If you enter the final seven years of gentile government on Earth your only chance for salvation is martyrdom. The body of Christ will persecute Jews and once again confiscate their property.

The Shmita of 2022 ends at sundown on September 25. The feast of trumpets is September 26. Is this coincidence or do trumpets serve a purpose for our God?

Four things are recognized by God on the feast of Trumpets. It is the day of judgement when Jews ask for forgiveness. It is also the day of remembrance when Jews remember the history of their people. It is New Year's Day to the Jew and our Messiah. Most importantly to Christians it is the day the shofar is blown.

The shofar is the root word for esophagus, the very trumpet by which God asks every person born of a woman to worship him as creator. We are all without excuse. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. He gave you your very own trumpet with which to witness to a fallen world and what are we doing with it?

Judging others while not acknowledging the sin in our own eyes which so easily ensnares us?

Gossiping about people not present to defend themselves? Singing everything but the praises of our God?

How does the feast of trumpets line up with the Bible narrative?

God tells Jesus Christ to retrieve his beloved from all the nations of the earth at the sound of the trumpet. Messiah comes in the clouds to receive his promised reward for enduring the cross. They return to heaven to celebrate the marriage supper of the Lamb which lasts seven years! The bride is in heaven while the rest of the world endures the tribulation.

Are you a virgin bride eagerly awaiting the return of the bridegroom to receive you unto himself? Have you worshipped the gods of this world and kept the Roman religious calendar in your church? I am the Lord your God you shall have no other gods before me. Will God compromise for our pitiful sake? I think not.

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 11-7-2021

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

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

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

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



answer

		A							T
C	A	B							O
U		E	T	U	D				E
R		T						A	D
A			T						N
T	R	U	I	N	G				
T	E	E		N					E
		A	N	G	E	R			
		D		E					

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Thankful, Grateful, Blessed

Coalfield School

Mrs. Lauren Smash's Second grade



Shiloh A.- I'm thankful for my family, friends, food, and toys. I'm thankful for Jesus and the life he has given us. I'm grateful to have a great school to go to. I'm grateful that people are kind, and are willing to help others in need.

Liam B.- I am blessed for having a good family. I am thankful for having food to eat. I am thankful for having a good life.

Izzy C.- I'm thankful for my friends, my teacher Mrs. Lauren, and food.

Carsen G.- I am grateful for my Papaw, Nana, Pops, Mimi, Dad, Mom, Cameron, Mikal, and sister. I am thankful for this world, food, my pets, and my school.

Roland H.-I'm thankful for my school and my teacher Mrs. Lauren. I am thankful to have food to eat. I'm grateful to have a silly sister, and a sweet Mom.

Maverick J.- I'm grateful my Dad who plays Minecraft and Roblox with me. I'm thankful for my Mom, sister, and brother.

Lacey L.-I'm blessed to have a great family, a good school, and having my teacher Mrs. Lauren. I'm thankful for God.

Emmett M.- I'm grateful to have a good family and friends. I'm thankful my teacher is the best teacher. I love my family!

Bradly M.- I'm thankful for my mom and dad. I'm thankful for food, family, and friends.

Waverly P.- I'm thankful for my family, my friends, the things I have, my teacher Mrs. Lauren, having shoes on my feet, and a home that keeps me safe.

Zavion R.- I'm thankful to have a great family, food, and toys. I'm blessed to be living. I'm blessed to have a very great teacher and an awesome school that helps me learn new things. I'm

grateful that God watches over us.

Axel S.- I am thankful for God and Jesus, the heavens and the earth. I'm grateful for my teacher Mrs. Lauren. I'm blessed to have my parents and be safe.

Jase W.- I'm thankful that God made us. That I'm alive and live in America. I'm thankful that God made food, water, cars, clothes, and animals. I'm thankful that God made school. I'm grateful to have a good family, and that God gave me great friends.

Oakdale School

Mrs. Amanda Bingham -1st Grade

Brynleigh- I am thankful for my family because I love them. I love my mom because she gets me a bike. I am thankful for my sister because she plays with me. I am thankful for my dog because it plays with me. I am thankful for my dad because I love my dad. I am thankful for my chickens.

Jayce- I am thankful for my cats because they cuddle. I am thankful for my mom because she gives me food. I am thankful for my home because it gives me a roof.

Bruce- I am thankful for my brothers because I love to play with them. I am thankful for my games because I love to play them. I am thankful for 1st grade because I learned to read. I am thankful for my mom and dad because my dad is so fun and my mom is good at hugs.

Callie- I am thankful for school because I like to read. I am thankful for my family because they take me to the playground. I am thankful for my teacher because she lets us do math.

Emily- I am thankful for my cat because if I did not have a cat it would be sad. I am thankful for my teacher because if I did not have a teacher it would be no fun. I'm thankful for my dog because if I did not have a dog it would not be fun. I am thankful for my family because they love me.

Kylar- I am thankful for my family because they love me. I am thankful for my cat because it sleeps with me. I am thankful for Christmas trees because they make Christmas fun.

Leigha- I am thankful for my family because they buy food. I am thankful for my cousin because she plays with me. I am thankful for my bed. I love my cats because they play with me.

Clara- I am thankful for my dad because he fixes stuff and my mom because she makes food for me. I am thankful for my brother and my sister because they let me watch them and my cats and my dog because they play with me. I am thankful for my grandparents because they love me.

Liz- I am thankful for my family because they love me. I am thankful for my mom because she feeds me. I am thankful for my cat because my cat is fun. I am thankful for my teacher because she teaches me to do math. I am thankful for the

veterans because they saved us. I am thankful for my dad. He is fun!

Elijah- I am thankful for my mom and my dad because they are good and they feed me. I am thankful for my teacher because she teaches me math and reading. I am thankful for my family because they put me to bed and my dad does the dishes and my mom does the cooking.

Dominic- I am thankful for my mom and dad and dog because I love my mom and dad and dog. I love my dog because I love it. I am thankful for the woods because no wolf can get me. I am thankful for my playground because I love it.

Sawyer- I am thankful for veterans because they saved us. I am thankful for Mom and Dad because they make food and money. I am thankful for God because he give you food and life. I am thankful for my home.

Damine- I am thankful for family because my mom loves me. I am thankful for my dog. I am thankful for my fish. I am thankful for my mom and my dad.

Branson- I am thankful for my mom and dad because I love them and they love me. I am thankful for my animals because I love animals. I am thankful for my friends because they play with me. I am thankful for my games.

Vivian- I am thankful for my mom and dad and sister because they play with me outside. I am thankful they buy me new things. I am thankful for my new baby kitten. His name is Midnight. He looks like a dark sky. I am thankful for my cousin because she plays with me all the time.

Mrs. Kristi Headrick's Second Grade Class



Callen B.- I am thankful for Veterans and the sacrifices they have made. I am also grateful for the United States of America. I also appreciate our freedom. I am also thankful for my family. I am also grateful for my dogs and my cat.

Kaiden C - I am thankful for the PTO. They help my class. I'm thankful for my family and friends. I'm grateful for lots of food to eat.

Neyland H - I am thankful for my pets. I am grateful for the PTO. They get us stuff for our classroom. I appreciate my friends. They help me up when I fall. I am thankful for my health. It gives me energy for me to play sports. I'm grateful for my grandparents. They fill me with joy. I appreciate my church. I get to learn about the Bible.

Thankful, Grateful, Blessed

Calem H - I am thankful for my cats. I like to play with them. I am grateful for my family. They love me. I appreciate the Veterans. They protect the country. I'm thankful for my friends. They are nice to me. I'm grateful for playing sports because I like to play with my friends. I'm grateful for my toys.

Cian K- I am thankful for toys. I am thankful for food. I am thankful for my tablet. I am also thankful for my house. I am thankful for my family. I am thankful for our chrome books. I am grateful for the PTO. I am also thankful for my mom and dad because they take good care of me.

Aubrey L - I am thankful for my family and friends. I am grateful for all the Veterans. I am thankful for my horse riding lessons. I am thankful for my school because you get to learn lots of things. I appreciate my teacher. She gives me joy. I love my mamaw and my cousins. I love spending time with my mom and dad. I am thankful for them helping with my homework.

Truly L - I am thankful for food and the doctors and nurses. I am also grateful for my house and my friends and my teacher. She is nice to me. They make me smile.

Ava N - I am thankful for my family. They take good care of me. I am thankful for my cat. She is so cute. I am thankful for my school. We learn to count money.

Jonah N - I am thankful for Veterans. They served and protected. I am grateful for doctors and nurses. Their vaccines help us get through Covid. I appreciate my toys. They entertain me when I'm bored. I am grateful for math books. They inform us. I am thankful for food. It gives us energy.

Caroline P - I am thankful for my cat and food. I am grateful for friends and family. I'm grateful for the United States. I'm also thankful for the Veterans. I'm grateful for counting money. I'm thankful for people. I appreciate helping my little brother get milk. I appreciate food. It gives us health. I am thankful for the PTO. They raise money for the school.

Wyatt P - I am thankful for my relatives. They take care of me. I'm grateful for the United States of America. I live in the United States of America. I appreciate God for giving me parents and brothers. My brothers are nice. I'm also grateful for chrome books that we can use in class.

Elizabeth P - I am thankful for my family. I love my family. I am grateful for my school. I love my school. I am grateful for my toys. I play with them everyday. I am thankful for my good. I eat my food in the lunchroom. I am thankful for my dog. I like to play with him.

Brooklyn S - I am thankful for my family. They take good care of me. I am also thankful for my friends. I like to play with them. I am grateful I get to be a cheerleader. It is a lot of fun.

Mrs. Amber Kirby's First Grade Class

I am thankful for my family and friends because

they play with me. I am thankful for my 2 dogs, 8 chickens, 2 hens, and 1 rooster because they give me eggs.
Camden

I am thankful for the park and my bike because I like to play outside. I am thankful for my mom and dad.
Colton

I am thankful for my family because they always play with me. And I'm thankful for my cat because it naps with me. And I am thankful for my hamster because it loves me.
Jaedin

I am thankful for the beach because it is fun! I am thankful for Rachel because she plays with me. I am thankful for my family because they do fun things with me.
Cartie

I am thankful for my dog because I feel safe. I am thankful for my cat because he snuggles with me.
Brinley

I am thankful for pizza because it is healthy. I am thankful for Fortnite because it is cool. I am thankful for my hamster because it is cute.
Nolan

I am thankful for my home because it is my favorite place. I am thankful for my mom because she loves me.
Melina

I am thankful for pizza because it is healthy. I am thankful for Dad because he plays with me. I am thankful for meat because it is healthy.
Tanner

I am thankful for my Mom because she is nice. I am thankful for Dad because he plays with me. I am thankful for my dog Rockco, because he is cute! I am thankful for my friend Emily. I am thankful for my cats Blackey and Wiggles. I am thankful for my friend Lakynn.
Ella

I am thankful for my baby brother because he is cute. I am thankful for V Bucks on Fortnite because I can buy skins. I am thankful for the army because they serve the country.
Stacy

I am thankful for my sister because she is learning at school. I am thankful for pizza because it is not healthy. I am thankful for people because they are nice.
Ashton

I am thankful for food because it keeps me alive. I am thankful for my dog because she pets me. I am thankful for my mom because she helps me.
Cameron

I am thankful for my family because I love them. I am thankful for Jesus and God too because Jesus gave us life and God gave us stuff because he wants us to live. I am thankful for my friends Ella and Clara because they play with me. I am thankful for my farm because I have a hard job.
Lakynn

I am thankful for my mom because she buys me stuff. I am thankful for Dad because he buys me games. I am thankful for my grandma because she gives me food and I love my grandma.
Kamden

I am thankful for my sister. I am thankful for my cat because he is so good.
Annabella

Ms. Michele Bingham's 3rd Grade Class



Noah A - I am grateful. I have two best friends I share stuff with. My two best friends there names are Ryder and Matteo and me I am thankful for them.

Matteo B - I am blessed. I give money to homeless people. I love to care. I care a lot for my whole family. I am blessed to be a good person. I love and care for people.

Anzley B - I am thankful for my friend. I am thankful for my family. I am thankful that my mom and dad don't breakup. I am thankful for my sothe. I am thankful for my bed. I am thankful for God.

Lily C - I am very thankful. I have a Mom and Dad. I am thankful for my little brother Lane. I am thankful for my bed. I am thankful for my Grandparents. I am thankful for my cats. I am thankful for my elf.

Jonas C - I am blest. My mom and dad are still together. I am grateful for my savior.

Madalynn H - I am blessed. My family is a blessing. My food and my drinks are a blessing. My pets are a blessing. My seven dad is the greatest blessings.

Kolton K - I am very thankful for my brothers and my mom and dad. I am thankful for my camper. I am thankful for my car.

Marissa L - I am thankful that I have a house. I am thankful to go to school because if I didn't go to school I would not learn. Im thankful for my teacher because the teacher teaches us to learn.

Teyla L - I am very thankful for my school and my friends. I am also thankful for god and Jesus. And, my family. I'm blessed to my brothers. I'm blessed.

Savannah A - I thankful for my family and my friends and my toys and my bed and I'm thankful for my schools and my teachers.

Thankful, Grateful, Blessed

Devion N - I am very blessed for my Mom and Dad and Brother and dog and tv and xbox.

Bentley P - I am thankful for my Mom and dad and papaw. I was thankful for this food.

Erasmio R - I am very thankful my mom and step mom is all alive. I am very blessed for my house and my cars and my family. I am grateful my dog is alive.

Ruger S - I am very thankful. I am thankful for my family and for my friends. I am thankful for God who created us.

Ruger S - I am thankful for clothes. I am very thankful for a nice teacher. I am thankful for a family.

Jace S - I am very blessed. I have clothes. I have a family. I have some dogs. I have a home. I have friends. I have a good class.

Briley S - I'm blest of my mom and my friends, my car, my house, and the world.

Katelyn W - I am grateful for Mrs. Michele. I'm very blessed for my kittens. I'm very thankful for my home.

Melissa Langley's 2nd Grade Class



Leland H - I am grateful for my family. I am grateful for my church. I am thankful for my mom and my dad.

Emma L - I am thankful for my grannie. I am grateful for my cat. I appreciate friends. I'm grateful for my family.

Noah P - I am thankful for a teacher. I am also thankful for a friend. I am thankful for a family. I am also thankful for God.

Isaiah G - I appreciate school. I appreciate my dogs and cats. I appreciate my bunnies.

Nate S - I am thankful that dinosaurs are dead because they are big. I am also grateful that bats are not big. I am grateful for my teacher.

Malachi M - I am thankful that we have kids in our class. I'm grateful that we have people in our world. I appreciate that we have a great teacher this year.

Abbi M - I am thankful for my family. I am thankful for my house.

Emery R - I am thankful for my mom and dad for paying for my earrings. I'm also grateful for God.

Aubree S - I am thankful that I have a family to support me. I am grateful that I have two good dogs. I'm thankful that I have a good mom. I'm thankful that I have a good dad. I'm also thankful

that I have a good cat. I'm also thankful that we have each other to support each other.

Noah G - I'm thankful for my friends cause they are very nice to me. I'm also thankful for this school because it is where I learned to read and I like reading. I'm also thankful for my family for helping me and loving me and for buying the farm and they help me and Nora and Noel take care of the farm.

Paisley S - I appreciate Mrs. Langley. I am also thankful for my mom and dad and also my neighbor Benjamin Collins who is in the fourth grade.

Easton M - I'm grateful for my family. I'm also grateful for my friends. I'm also grateful for my nintendo switch.

Zoey S - I'm grateful for my horses and my car. I'm also grateful for my class and my nail salon dryer. I'm also grateful for my electric ski bike.

Sunbright School

Paula Davis' 2nd Grade Class

Braxton B - I am thankful for my friends, family, and food.

Shelby S - I am thankful for my friends, family, food, pets, my home, toys, my teachers, and my school.

Gabriel M - I am thankful for my pets, food, my home, my friends, my family, and the earth.

Haydin G - I am thankful for my family, my friends, food, my home, the earth and my school.

Sirrenna H - I am thankful for my family, my friends, my teacher, my pets, the earth, and our food.

Bentley K - I am thankful for my family, home, my friends, my pets, my teacher, hugs, and the earth.

Jonah H - I am thankful for my family, my friends, my home, my teacher, food, and the earth.

Chanelle W - I am thankful for my family, my home, my friends, our food, my books, and my nana and paps.

Taylei H - I am thankful for my family, my friends, my home, my food, and hugs.

Gavin C - I am thankful for my family and my teacher.

Jaden C - I am thankful for my family, my teacher, my home, my food and hugs.

Victoria B - I am thankful for my pets, the earth, our books, my family, and my teacher.

Addison S - I am thankful for my family, my friends, my pets, my home, my teacher, and the earth.

Sean D - I am thankful for my family, my friends, my teacher, my pets, my home and my food.

Jayme M - I am thankful for my family, my friends, and the earth.

Mrs. Heather Dennis' 2nd grade Class

Aniston S - I am thankful for my mom and dad. I am thankful for my brother and my dogs. I am thankful for my nanny and my papaw. I am thankful for my friends. I am thankful for my grandma. I am thankful for my grandpa. I am thankful for my backpack. I am thankful for my school. I am thankful for my teacher. I am thankful for my cousin. I am thankful for my binder. I am thankful for my family. I am thankful for my clothes. I am thankful for my water bottle. I am thankful for my pencils.

Cruz D - I am thankful for my friends Mrya, Bella, Nevaeh, Aubrey, Avery, Caiden, and my mommy and daddy and all of my friends and Mrs. Dennis.

Myra S - I am thankful for Mrs. Dennis, Allie, the store, books, mommy, Jada, Dana, my baby brother, pop-its, my daddy, Kenny, Mrs. Regina, dog, math, reading, Nevaeh, Bella, Brantley, school, Cruz, Alyson, Avery, Aniston, Colby, Caiden, Ms. Shari, Wyatt, Juliette, Aubrey, Shane, water, and milk.

Nevaeh W - I am thankful for my friends. I am thankful for my family. I am thankful for my school. I am thankful for books. I am thankful for my teacher. I am thankful for my food. I am thankful for my water. I am thankful for my baby.

Bella G - I am thankful for my family, friends, brothers, my dad, my mom, reading, math, my toys, and the holidays. I am thankful for everything.

Alyson H - I am thankful to be in America. I am thankful for my family. I am thankful for God and Jesus. I am thankful that I can go to school. I am thankful for my friends. I am thankful for my home. I am thankful for the holy bible. I am thankful for the American flag. I am thankful for the holidays. I am thankful for my teacher. I am thankful for the months. I am thankful for the Army.

Allie M - I am thankful for my family, pets, friends, my teacher, house, food, school, toys, God, games, my class, learning, math, baby Alex, Jamerson, cake, cats, my bus driver, soldiers, the Army, the Navy, Juliette, soda, Canada, birds, dogs, drinks, pink, black, my mom, unicorns, stars, books, paper, cookies, Aubrey, Aubree, me, Allie, trees, and my world.

Avery I - I am thankful for my family. I am thankful for my school. I am thankful for my pets. I am thankful for my brothers and sister. I am thankful for where I live. I am thankful for my stuff. I am thankful for my mom and dad. I am thankful for my friends. I am thankful that I'm born.

Thankful, Grateful, Blessed

Juliette O - I am thankful for what class I am in and what food my parents serve for dinner. I am thankful for my friends and family and God. I am thankful for people who win something I didn't win. I am thankful for my clothes and my siblings and my grandma and grandpa and my mommy and daddy. I am thankful for Jesus and the soldiers that fought for my life. I am thankful for my toys and the work I get so I can learn a lot of stuff. I'm thankful for the presents my mom and dad buy for me. I am thankful for the people that my toys come from.

Wyatt S - I am thankful for God. I am thankful for Jesus. I am thankful for mommy. I am thankful for daddy. I am thankful for my sister. I am thankful for my brothers. I am thankful for my family. I am thankful for the Army. I am thankful for the Air Force. I am thankful for the Navy. I am thankful for all my toys. I am thankful for my clothes.

Bryson B - I am thankful for Mrs. Dennis. I am thankful for Colby. I am thankful for God. I am thankful for mom and dad. I am thankful for Brantley.

Colby W - I am thankful for Mrs. Dennis. I am thankful for Bryson. I am thankful for my mommy. I am thankful for my daddy. I am thankful for my sisters. I am thankful for my school. I am thankful for the flag. I am thankful for my house.

Caiden Webb - I am thankful for God, mom, dad, brother, me, Mrs. Dennis, classmates, mamaw, and my dog house and my cat and toys and sister.

Brantley Y - I am thankful for my mommy, my brother, my grandparents, my uncle, my dad, my cousins and I am thankful for the flag.

Shane M - I am thankful for my mommy.

Wartburg Central Elementary

Miss Patti Boyd's 2nd Grade Class



Brylee B - The first thing I am thankful for is for a home. I am also thankful for my pets, so many nice people in my family, and for having a lot of help with my homework. I am thankful for getting to go places that are fun and for getting to spend time with my Dad.

Carson B - I am most thankful for God that made us. I am also thankful for trees and nature that give us oxygen. Houses that we can live in. I thankful for my brother so I can play with him. Jesus died for us. I am also thankful for the ocean, lakes, and ponds with food in them. I am

thankful for my family.

Paxton B - I am thankful for my Mom, Dad, sister, and brother. I am thankful for my dog, lizard, frog, and butterfly.

Kinsley C - I am thankful for my birthday. I am thankful for my family and my cousins. I am thankful for my games on MineCraft. I am thankful for my class and my teacher.

Emmett C - I am thankful for my family, Dad, Mom, Riley, Koby, Papaw, Mamaw, Uncle Dallas, Madison, Aunt Talesa, and Scarlett. I am thankful for my video games.

Gage D - I am most thankful for my family, Mom, Dad, brothers, Grandma, and Grandpa. I am thankful for God and Jesus.

Elijah H - I am thankful for my family, my dog, my cat and for my Mom my Dad, my brother, and my sister. I am thankful for God I am thankful for my games. I am also thankful for my food, my clothes, the sky, my toys, and the clouds.

Eli H - I am thankful for the World that God gave us. I am thankful for Jesus dying on the cross. I am thankful for my family. I am thankful for doctors. I am thankful for brother Colton. I am thankful for the garbage trucks. I am thankful for the trees.

Dalton L - I am thankful for teachers, doctors, nurses, parents, grandparents, friends, schools, and everything.

Coraline M - I am thankful for my Mom and Dad. I am thankful for my friends. I am thankful for my food. I am thankful for my cat. I am thankful for my houses.

Brooklyn P - I am thankful for my aunt, my friends, my animals, my Mom and Dad, my friend Jaycee, my cousins, and my family.

Jazmine P - I am thankful for my Mom, sister, brother, cousins, my best friend, and my baby cousin. I am thankful to play a game.

Mason P - I am thankful for my Mom, Dad, Papaw, and brother. I am thankful for God. I am thankful for Mom and Dad getting me my games and my toys.

Grace S - I am thankful for Mom and Dad, all of my family, my dogs Molly and Dolly, and Central Elementary. I love Jesus who died on the cross. I am thankful for my school friends and teacher.

James S - I am thankful for my family, my brother, and my sister. I am thankful for God and Jesus. I am thankful for food and fresh air.

Hayden S - I am especially thankful for all of my family. They take such good care of me. The most important thing I am so thankful for is God and Jesus. I am thankful for Jesus who died on the cross. I am thankful for everything we have around us. I am thankful for my friends.

Jaycee W - I am thankful for all of my family. I am thankful for my class. I am thankful for my friends. I am thankful for God. I am thankful for food.

Jericho W - I am thankful for all of my family, friends, and my teacher. I am thankful for my dog, my cat, and the new cat I got last week. I am thankful for my xBox 360.

Koraline Z - I am thankful for my Mommy making breakfast, lunch, and dinner for me. I am thankful for my Mom. I am thankful for my doctor. I am thankful for my friends. I am thankful for my teacher.

Mrs. Michelle Human's 3rd Grade Class



Alyssa K - I am thankful for my family, my teacher, and my school. I am thankful for my cats and dogs, too. I am also thankful for Thanksgiving and a turkey.

Neveah F - I am thankful for my guinea pig and bugs. I am thankful for my home, family, teacher, and food.

Leland B - I am thankful for my family, my pets, life, God, food, transportation, and home.

Aiden K - I am thankful for my mom, Donna Kreis, and my dad, Timmy Kreis, my dog, Zeus, my sister, Kelsey Strand, and my papaw, Donny Hall. I am also thankful for my house, food, and my teacher, Mrs. Michelle Human.

Murphy N - I am thankful for life, family, God, Veterans, food, water, clothes, home, the world, pets, church, transportation, plants, and books.

Lettie S - I am thankful for my family, my friends, my home, my dog, and everything that I have. Especially my family because I love them. Especially my dog, too. She is SO cute!

Haden G - I am thankful for my mom, my dad, and my sister. I am thankful for food, water, and a place to stay. I am also thankful for friends, my church, a school to go to, and my mamaw and papaw.

Peyton P - I am thankful for my family. I'm also thankful for my friends and teacher. I'm thankful for everything I have. I'm thankful for a lot of stuff.

Tyler L - I am thankful for my house and my family. I am thankful that I get to go to school and learn.

Connor T - I am thankful and joyful to have friends. I am thankful to learn and to have a nice teacher. I am thankful to have nice friends.

Landyn S - I am thankful for the U.S.A.. I am thankful for our country, I am for God and Jesus and everyone in this world. I am thankful for the flag.

Thankful, Grateful, Blessed

Aubrey - I am thankful for a roof over my head, food on the table, family, and friends. Most importantly, the Morgan County Today newspaper.

Mason P - I am thankful for my family, my home, and my four wheeler.

Ellie F - I am thankful for my family, my bible, and food to eat. I am very thankful to have a warm house and a family that loves me. I am thankful for my friends, like Peyton. I am glad I have people to teach me. I'm thankful for my big sister, Lila, and my mom and dad. I love my dog, Bandit, and I am thankful for him.

Samara C - I am thankful for my family, my friends, my class, and the world in God's hands.

Jonas G - I am thankful for my family and my house. I am also thankful for my friends and my things. I like to be thankful! I am thankful for so, so, so many other things! I am also thankful for Jesus!

Alec W - I am thankful for my parents giving me presents. I am thankful for my sister. She always plays with me. I am thankful for my teacher teaching me how to divide. My teacher is the best.

Brenden D - I am thankful for my food and drinks. I am thankful for my mom, dad, brother, and sister. I am also thankful for my house, health, my dog and cat, air, school, safety, electricity to do dishes, and earth.

Grayson Z - I am thankful for my teacher, my family, and for my friends.

Mrs. Erica Beene's 3rd Grade Class



Kavan L - I am thankful for God and Jesus and the love and peace they have given us. I am thankful for my family, Mom, Dad, Sis, Bubba, me, Grandfather, Grandmother, Uncle, Aunt, a bedroom, and a bed. That is what I am thankful for.

Zander L - I am thankful for my family and friends. I am especially thankful for my school, my teachers, veterans, and all those who work to keep us all healthy and safe.

Aleeyiah T - I am thankful for my mom, dad, little brother, sister, my teachers, my friends, and the playground. I love my mom, my dad, my brother, my sister, my friends, my teacher. I love the world!

Jaxon Z - I am thankful for so much. I am grateful to have my house, my parents, my family, dogs, friends, clothes, toys, food, and water. I am thankful that I can play sports.

Scarlett C - I am thankful for food, family, and everything.

Phoenix B - I am thankful for my mom, my dad, my

sisters, my brother, Nana, and all my people. I am so thankful for my family.

Peyton S - I am thankful for my family and for being in the newspaper. I am thankful for getting news.

Preston K - I am thankful for a great family including my mom, dad, brother, nannys, papaws, uncles, aunts, cousins, friends to play with, UT football, sports, my teacher, and my animals. I am thankful to go to church and live in a great country. I get to enjoy living in a small county where I can hunt, fish, and do all the things that make living here great.

Brylie C - I am thankful for my family, friends, and Mrs. Erica. I am thankful for being with my family, for turkey to eat, and thankful God loves me.

Michael A - I am thankful for my mom and dad because they make me food and give me hugs.

Karsen L - I am thankful for a good school. I like doing PE. It is fun and exercise. I am thankful for my mom. She helps me a lot. I am thankful for my dad. He helps me, too. I am thankful for my whole family.

AJ S - I am thankful for my AMAZING teacher. She is nice and kind and the best teacher ever. I am thankful for all of the staff that cook our food and keep our school clean.

Braden S - I am thankful for my life. I am thankful for God and Jesus. I am thankful for my mom, my Chief, my brothers, my dad, stepsisters, Amanda, my Papaw Owen and Mamaw Helen, My Papaw Tom, Mamaw Linda, Papaw, GG and Grand, Tee Tee, Micah, and baby "Oliver" Wilder, all my cousins, aunts, uncles, my animals, my friends, my teacher Mrs. Erica, my Papaw Mouse, Nina and Pop, and everything in the world. Also, Caleb and Vincent.

Zoe H - I am thankful for Jesus, family, food, and God. I'm thankful that I can do gymnastics. I am thankful that I am healthy and happy, and that I have friends.

Madalynn B - I am thankful for my family and my friends.

Shannon W - I am thankful for my family, my dog Daisy, Sapphire, my cat, my teachers, and my friends.

Jayden S - I am thankful for my teacher, my friends, my family, my grandparents, and cousins.

Jaycee M - I am thankful for my family, my friends, food, and my house.

Charlie T - I am thankful for my family, my friends, and everyone around the world.

Kynlee E - I am thankful for being in Mrs. Erica's class this year and getting to go to school. I love going to school. It is so fun to go to. I love seeing my friends. I love my friends.

Ms. Kim Neskaug's 3rd Grade Class

Allie D - I am thankful for God, a house to live in. I'm thankful for my mom and dad, my sister and brother. I am also thankful for food, clothes, and a car. I'm thankful I can go to church, my pastor Bro. Tim Hamby. I'm thankful for a bed to sleep in. I'm also thankful for all my friends and family.

Levi P - I am thankful for my family, my friends, my dog, and my cats.

Kayman F - I am thankful for my dirtbike, my family, my friends, cats, food, house, and sports.



Bentley L - I am thankful for shoes and clothes and friends and family and backpacks to put stuff in and our teacher and friendship and best friends.

Isabella C - I am thankful that my adoption was finalized. I'm thankful for my family, my friends, and my teacher.

Arabella R - I am thankful for my family and siblings, friendship, my teacher, my friends and best friends, and my class.

Katelynn R - I am thankful for my mom, my dad, my brothers, my sister, my life, my house, and friends. Most importantly of all my teacher Ms. Kim. I love them so much and I'm very thankful for them.

Addison A - I am thankful for my mom and dad, my brother, and the food on my table.

Elliana S - I am thankful for my family, my friends, school, my home, my dad, my toys, Peppermint, Coco, our Elf on the Shelf, and my mom.

Silas H - I am thankful for my family, my friends, my dog, my cousins, and food.

Tony P - I am thankful for my family, food, a home, and water. I am thankful for life, God, and grace. I am thankful for my mom and PS4.

Ethan C - I am thankful for family, God, friends, and Jesus.

Nick S - I am thankful for my family, friends, food, clothes, backpacks, PS4, cats, and dogs.

Cora M - I am thankful for my family, electronics, stores, and food.

Colton H - I am thankful for my family, Jesus, and God. I am thankful for the people who are serving in the military and the people who have served in the military. I'm thankful for my friends and my teacher. I'm thankful for having people cook for us in the cafeteria and for having cousins.

Maya V - I am thankful for a nice teacher and I am thankful all of us learn from Ms. Kim. I am also thankful that I get to go to school.

Briar M - I am thankful for my family and that I'm moving to Florida or Arizona soon.

Kaden F - I am thankful for school, food, water, nature, animals, family, friends, teachers, and churches.

Friday Night Spotlight

Jackets Lose 22-21 Heartbreaker to Cloudland in Last Seconds

By Terry Futrell

What if? Those words are likely to echo through the minds of Coalfield players, coaches, and fans for years to come. Taking a 21-14 lead with 5:30 to go in the game, all the Jackets had to do was stop the Cloudland Highlanders one more time to advance to the Class A TSSAA State Semifinals. Whether you call it fate, bad luck, or simply determined play by the Cloudland Highlanders, Class A Mr. Football Semifinalist Seth Birchfield crossed the goal line with 1.4 seconds to go to bring Cloudland within one point. Always going for the two-point conversion, Birchfield then burst through the left side of the line to give Cloudland a 22-21 margin and seal the Highlanders first victory over Coalfield since 2001.

It is difficult to imagine a more competitive game at any level of football. Though the two teams played with vastly contrasting styles, it was clear from the outset that each team was determined to win and advance in the playoffs. As usual, Coalfield's offense was balanced and used a variety of pass and run plays. Two major obstacles hindered the Jackets' attack. The poor condition of the field made it tough for Coalfield receivers to run their deep passing routes. The size and speed of pursuit of Cloudland linebackers also made it very difficult for Coalfield ball carriers to run the ball outside, which has been a staple of the Coalfield offense throughout the season.

Cloudland's offensive approach was based solely on running the ball with no pretense of passing. Typically playing without a quarterback under center and with no wideouts, Cloudland used a compact formation that gave them numerical superiority on the line. Highlander running backs would take a direct snap from center and hit the small hole created by double-teaming a Coalfield defensive lineman. This placed the burden on Coalfield linebackers, who generally took 3-4 yards to tackle the hard-running Cloudland backs. Cloudland was content to gain 3-5 yards on each carry, with an occasional breakthrough run for more yardage. It was an approach that ate time off the clock and that also kept Coalfield's potent offense off the field.

Cloudland received the opening kickoff and executed a 7-play, 70-yard drive to take an early 8-0 lead. The drive ate 4:20 off the clock. Coalfield immediately responded with a 5-play, 61-yard drive to score, closing the gap to 8-7. Coalfield's drive was highlighted by a 12-yard pass from Cole Hines to Eli Roberts, a 12-yard run by Hines, and a 38-yard touchdown pass from Hines to Canaan Bowling. The drive took only 2:48 off the clock.

The rest of the first half was dominated by strong defense by both teams. The Jackets had two more drives in the half, driving first to the Cloudland 12-yard line, and then to the Cloudland 22-yard line. The first drive advanced on a 17-yard run by Landon Lowe and a 34-yard pass from Hines to Lowe. The second Coalfield drive began with an 11-yard run by Bowling and was highlighted by a 29-yard pass from Hines to Levi Mullins. On each drive, the Cloudland defense stiffened, and Coalfield gave up the ball on downs. While the Highlanders had three additional possessions in the first half, the tough Jacket defense held Cloudland to a total of 78 yards on the three drives. The Highlanders never advanced beyond midfield on two of the drives.

Coalfield took the opening kickoff of the second half and went 3-and-out. Cloudland took the punt at their own 25-yard line and drive 75 yards in 10 plays to score, eating 5:14 off the clock. Coalfield stopped the 2-point

conversion attempt and the Highlanders led 14-7.

The Jackets took the following kickoff at their own 40-yard line and drove 60 yards in five plays to tie the score at 14-14. The drive advanced with a 14-yard pass from Hines to Landon Galyon and ended with a 46-yard touchdown pass from Hines to Levi Mullins. The drive consumed only 2:11 of clock time.

On their following possession, the Highlanders drive 70 yards in 12 plays to the Coalfield 8-yard line where the Jacket defense forced a fumble. Levi Mullins scooped up the fumble and raced 92 yards for an apparent Coalfield score, only to have the ball called back to the Coalfield 46-yard line because of a block-in-the-back penalty that occurred far behind the ball. Undeterred, the potent Jacket offense marched 54 yards in 5 plays to score and take a 21-14 lead with 5:30 remaining in the game. The drive included three big plays – a 17-yard pass from Hines to Galyon, a 13-yard run by Bowling, and a 16-yard touchdown pass from Hines to Galyon.

Then began 5:28 of the most suspenseful football ever witnessed as the Highlanders started their final drive at their own 20-yard line. The Highlanders slowly, meticulously executed their game plan, alternating carries by Seth Birchfield and Caleb Sluder. At one point in the drive,

Cloudland was faced with a 4th down and 3 yards to go when Birchfield ripped off an 11-yard gain. The Jacket defense stopped Cloudland runners twice at the line of scrimmage and generally held them to runs of less than five yards. In eleven plays, the Highlanders advanced to the Coalfield 29-yard line.

At this point, the unexpected happened – Cloudland running back Seth Birchfield threw a 23-yard pass to Gage McKinney, the only Highlander passing attempt of the game. Flanked by two Coalfield defenders, McKinney held on to the ball along with one of the Coalfield defenders. By rule, possession defaulted to the offense and the Highlanders had a first down at the Coalfield 6-yard line. Sluder carried the ball for 3 yards, followed by a Coalfield encroachment penalty that moved the ball to the 1-yard line. Cloudland was then charged with a false start penalty, moving

the ball back to the 6-yard line with only seconds remaining. Birchfield then did what he does best – faking left, he raced around the right side and into the end zone for a touchdown with 1.4 seconds remaining. Coalfield's lead was cut to 21-20.

It is difficult to imagine any fan who was present or watching the game online being able to breath at this point. The outcome of the game clearly rested on Cloudland's upcoming 2-point conversion attempt. After a timeout, the Highlanders snapped the ball to Birchfield, who broke through the Coalfield line into the end zone to give the Highlanders a 22-21 lead. All that remained was the formality of an on-side kick by Cloudland to end the game with a hard-fought 22-21 victory over Coalfield and a trip to the TSSAA Semifinals.

While there are significant differences in many team stats, these resulted from the vastly different styles of play. Coalfield's big-play, balanced attack took only 18:20 of clock time, while Cloudland's short-yardage, grind-it-out running offense ate up 29:39 of clock time. Coalfield ran only 36 offensive plays, whereas Cloudland executed 60 plays, which took its toll on the Coalfield defense.

While Coalfield players and fans were disappointed with the loss, a phenomenal game was played by both teams. Clearly, it was the best executed football game we have seen all season. The way that both teams poured their hearts and souls into pursuit of excellence should make fans from both schools proud. These young men delivered far more than any of us could reasonably expect.



Coalfield's Landon Galyon advances a pass reception with Cloudland's Coy Laney in pursuit. Galyon caught three passes for 47 yards in Coalfield's 22-21 loss to Cloudland. [Photo by Cathy Bird]

Morgan County Today Names Cole Hines Player of the Year

By Terry Futrell

Morgan County Today is pleased to announce that Coalfield junior quarterback Cole Hines is selected as our Player of the Year for Class A, Region 2 football for 2021. Hines led the Yellow Jackets to a 10-3 season and an appearance in the TSSAA State Quarterfinals. For the 2021 season, Cole was 96-164 (58.5%) passing for 1,504 yards, 23 touchdowns, and 2 interceptions. He rushed 73 times for 417 yards and 8 touchdowns. Defensively, Hines had 45 tackles, 14 solo tackles, 0.5 tackles for loss, 2 interceptions, a fumble recovery, a pass bat down, and returned one interception for a touchdown. Congratulations to Cole Hines for an outstanding season.

