

Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3

Volume 07 Number 48

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Your Community. Your News.

75¢

**Inside:
Basketball Round Up
Weather
History**



**Kingston Lisle in
Rugby**



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Morgan County  Today
Your Community. Your News.

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**I'D
RATHER
BE
READING.**

#mocotoday

**MORGAN COUNTY
WEATHER THIS WEEK**

| | | |
|--------|---------|---|
| Tue 30 | 58°/35° |  |
| Wed 01 | 58°/45° |  |
| Thu 02 | 65°/47° |  |
| Fri 03 | 66°/49° |  |
| Sat 04 | 57°/36° |  |
| Sun 05 | 54°/38° |  |
| Mon 06 | 48°/32° |  |



Michael Nance
Columnist

New Omicron Covid-19 Variant Produces Global Travel Restrictions

During the last two years across the globe, we have suffered at the hands of the Covid-19 virus, which has created fatalities in people, economies and supply chains. Unfortunately, it appears the hits just keep on coming from the stubborn virus which continually mutates. Recently a new variant B.1.1.529 named omicron was discovered in South Africa, and it quickly garnered concern from the World Health Organization (WHO). Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove with the WHO was quoted as saying "This variant has a large number of mutations. And those mutations have some worrying characteristics."

The variant was potentially discovered in Germany on Saturday November 27th. On Saturday, German health authorities identified a suspected case of the new variant in Frankfurt from a traveler who recently returned from South Africa. Britain also confirmed on Saturday that the first UK cases of the Omicron variant had been detected by their health authorities,

As of Friday November 26th, The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has detected no cases of omicron in the U.S. If Covid-19 has taught us anything, it is only a matter of time before it lands on U.S. shores. The United States has responded by innating travel restrictions that are to be implemented by November 29th. Those restrictions include blocking travelers from South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique and Malawi. The U.S. was not alone in travel restrictions. Australia, Japan, Britain, Canada and India have all taken measures to either ban or rigorously test travelers from South African nations. Israel has banned all overseas visitors

in response to this new variant and reportedly will reintroduce counter-terrorism phone-tracking measures for contact testing and tracing.

South African officials were not pleased with the many travel bans instituted by the U.S. and others. According to the BBC, the South African foreign ministry was complaining about the travel bans stating: "Excellent science should be applauded and not punished," The bans were "akin to punishing South Africa for its advanced genomic sequencing and the ability to detect new variants quicker."

The irritation that the South African government was conveying is potentially related to the fact that new variants of the coronavirus appear all the time, why then are government health officials instituting travel bans and other restrictions that are surely going to damage economies. I for one consider this question to have merit and worthy of an answer.

The stated reason that the heightened concern for the Omicron variant is that the infection rates have been

detected at much faster levels than previous covid surges. This fact potentially infers that it could be much more transmissible than previous Covid variants.

According to Chris Whitty England's Chief Medical Officer another reason to approach this variant with caution is the belief that this variant could be vaccine resistant. He was quoted as saying: "This one here, really the biggest thing that is leading us to wish to move rapidly has to do with the least strong theoretical reasons to believe that vaccine escape is likely, given the number of mutations."

The bottom line is that after reading through the data, nobody really knows what this variant will do, and the fear of the unknown is driving the various governments to take actions. History will be the judge if these actions are prudent or overreactive, truly a difficult situation.



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In Loving Memory

Patrick Bradley Newport, 63

Patrick Bradley Newport, age 63, of Sunbright went to his heavenly home on Saturday, November 20, 2021, at his home surrounded by his family. Brad lived for his grandkids and the church. He was a long-time member of Shady Grove Independent Missionary Baptist Church where he served as a deacon, taught Sunday School and was a youth leader.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents, William Newport, Lydia Stringfield Newport, Ramsey Taylor & Anna Young Newport; uncle, Wendel Newport; niece, Jennifer Williams; nephew, Gabriel Jordan.

He is survived by his parents, Lemuel & Velva June Newport; wife of 43 years, Patricia Newport; daughter, Tessa (Paul) Quinney of Wartburg; sons, Curtis (Jessica) Newport of Sunbright and Clinton (Jacklyn) Newport of Sunbright, Summer, Becca & Casie Newport of Sunbright;

grandchildren, Courtney (Blake) Elliott, Caleb Quinney, Landon Quinney, Grayson Newport, Paxton Quinney, Jackson Newport, Reid Newport, Maggie Newport, Claire Newport, Tucker Newport, Deacon Newport, Truman Newport, Everly Newport; great grandchildren, Bradley & Henlee Elliott; siblings, Martha Carol Miller of Maryville, Carey (Martha) Newport of Florida, Gail Williams of Lansing, Joye (Todd) Bussen of Clinton; best friend, David Keathley aka "Bald Face Liar" and a host of foster kids, nieces, nephews and extended family.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, November 24, 2021, at Schubert Funeral Home in Sunbright from 1:00-3:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 3:00 p.m. Bro. Bill Durham officiating. Interment will follow in the Sunbright Cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Patrick Bradley Newport.

Marvin Jackson Hickman, 88

Mr. Marvin Jackson Hickman, age 88 of Oakdale, passed away Wednesday November 24, 2021, at Ben Atchley State Veterans Home in Knoxville. He was born in Potters Chapel, the second son of Mack and Corda Lee Hickman on November 24, 1933. At the age of 10, he moved with his family to Harriman. Marvin worked several jobs in Harriman, but in December of 1952 he left school and joined the United States Air Force. He served his country for the next four years, earned the rank of Airman Second Class and was honorably discharged on November 30, 1956. On Valentine's Day in 1958 he married the love of his life, Levena Humphreys, and together had two children during their 63 year marriage. Marvin worked for the Mead Corporation and the Harriman Paperboard Company for 26 years before moving to Georgia. He served as deacon at Coalhill Baptist Church for over 20 years, a deacon at Wilkerson Road Baptist Church in Rome, Georgia for 10 years and has served as deacon at Pine Orchard Baptist Church for the past 25 years. Mere words cannot give this man the credit he deserves, but we know that he is no longer in pain and is in heaven with Jesus celebrating his pain free body today.

He was a fantastic gardener, and what remains are the beautiful flowers that will be coming out in the spring. His guidance and instruction throughout life will remain cherished memories.

He is preceded in death by his parents, and his in-law: Reid and Lucille Humphreys.

His son: Marvin "Jack" Hickman. His brothers: Melvin and William "Buddy" Hickman. And his sister: Joycelyn James.

He is survived by his wife: Levena Hickman.

His daughter and son-in-law: Deborah and Curtis Newberry.

Three grandsons: Nick Hickman, Joshua Newberry, and Jacob Newberry.

Two granddaughters: Amanda Hickman, and Brittany Brown and her husband Josh.

And two great grandchildren: Conner Hickman and Elena Brown.

All services will be private.

Davis Funeral Home, Harriman, is honored to serve the family of Mr. Marvin Jackson Hickman.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.davisfuneral-homes.com

Vester Lee "Mo" Stringfield, 69

Mr. Vester Lee "Mo" Stringfield, age 69 of Lansing, passed away Thursday November 18, 2021.



He was preceded in death his parents: John and Lorine Stringfield One sister: Marilyn England And one brother: Billy Stringfield

He is survived by two daughters: Christie and her husband David Briggs and Brandy Chaney One grandson: Christopher Briggs One granddaughter: Katelyn Chaney

Two brothers: Harold and Marvin Stringfield Two sisters: Frances Denney and Arlene Paxton And a host of other friends and family

The family will honor Vester's wishes to be cremated. Service arrangements will remain private.

Davis Funeral Home in Wartburg is honored to serve the family of Mr. Vester "Mo" Stringfield.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.davisfuneral-homes.com.

Thomas Edward Sise, 61

Thomas Edward Sise, age 61, of Oak Ridge passed away suddenly on November 18, 2021 at Methodist Medical Center. Tom loved playing with his great nieces and nephews, watching wrestling, going to the races, and fishing.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Billy & Ruth Sise; sister, Teresa Kennedy.

He is survived by his brother, Doug (Melissa) Sise; brother-in-law, Terry Kennedy; uncles, Ralph Sise, Bill (Jean) Dean; aunt, Kathy Bradshaw and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

ed family and friends.

The family will receive friends Friday, November 26, 2021 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 2-3:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 3:00 p.m. with Bro. Bill Dean officiating. Private interment to be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Schubert Funeral Home, P.O. Box 326, Wartburg, TN 37887.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Thomas Edward Sise.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

**Sis's Place
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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

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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).

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 hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Most likely, the next few weeks will be very busy for everyone. My wish for each of you is that you can slow down, enjoy the season and remember why we celebrate Christmas. There is nothing wrong with all of the holiday events we enjoy but let's always be mindful of Christ's birth and why He came to earth as a baby many years ago.

The Harriman Christmas Parade will be Thursday, December 2nd at 7:00.

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 be 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.

The 1st Annual Christmas Tree Lighting event at the Pine Orchard Community Center will be held on Saturday, December 4th. A craft show and chili supper will be open from 4:00 -6:00 p.m. and the tree lighting will follow around 6:00 p.m. This year, they are starting out small and simple but this is something that they want to make bigger each year. The tree will be decorated but each

family is welcome to bring their own ornament to add to the tree. Please make plans to attend, bring your family, invite your friends and be part of a new community event.

The City of Wartburg Christmas Parade will be Saturday, December 4 at 6:00.

The annual Christmas Program at Camp Austin Lutheran Church will be Wednesday, December 8 at 7:00. This is always such a special service. Everyone is welcome.

The Oakdale School Craft Fair will be December 10th from 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Call the school office to reserve a table. \$10 per table.

The Pine Orchard Clothes Closet will be open Saturday, December 11 from 10:00 – 12:00. Everything is free.

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.

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.

Kelsey Smith went hunting for the first time last Friday with her dad Will and her brother

Liam. She sat in the tree stand with Liam and when they saw the doe, Liam helped her aim and she pulled the trigger and killed her first deer. She was very excited. She is looking forward to making deer jerky!

On Sunday, November 21, Brother Brandon Helton preached at White Oak Baptist Church. It was wonderful having Brandon and his family in the service with us. On Sunday evening, Brother David Weismuller preached and we were happy to see his fiancé Brook and his parents Dave and Irene. The White Oak Church family has enjoyed having these young preachers and we will continue to encourage and pray for them.

Ruth Headrick would like to thank everyone who remembered her on her 94th birthday. She appreciates each call, visit and the 23 cards she received. Her children gathered at the home of Reggie and Candy Headrick to honor her with a birthday supper on Wednesday night. She really enjoyed a visit from her dear friend Sue Redmon who brought her a birthday cake. I sure enjoyed my visit with Ms. Ruth on Tuesday night. She made me promise to not wait until her next birthday to visit again!

Fayette Helton's children and grandchildren gathered at her home on Thanksgiving Day. Velma, James, Keith and Melinda were there with their families. There was lots of good food and lots of laughter.

Congratulations to Bobby and June Horton who celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary November 27.

Congratulations to James and Terry Powers who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on November 27. Wishing both couples many more bless-

ed years.

Frederick, Joshua and Ryan Shelton visited Oakdale last week. They set up their camper in our backyard and just enjoyed being in the country. Kyle and Kayla Ruppe hosted a Thanksgiving supper for the Sheltons, Dennis, Tabitha and Kinley Hamby, me and Bunt on Friday night. We celebrated Josh's upcoming birthday which is December 1. We missed those that couldn't join us.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Marvin Hickman who was born November 24, 1933 and passed away on his 88th birthday, November 24, 2021. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Lavonna Hickman and his daughter and son in law, Deborah and Curtis Newberry. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Nick Hickman, Joshua Newberry, Jacob Newberry, Amanda Hickman and Brittany Brown and her husband Josh as well as his great grandchildren, Conner Hickman and Elana Brown.

More than ever, we need to pray, pray, pray! Our nation and leaders need our prayers. There are so many sick in our communities. Please pray for them and their caregivers. I know of several who have experienced accidents, including a few young ladies who have broken bones, so pray that they mend quickly. Remember the grieving. The holidays can be such a hard time when you have lost loved ones. Pray for our military, our schools, our churches, our homes and most of all, pray for the lost.

"Remember this December that love weighs more than gold." Unknown

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Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

The Blessings



book, *Don't be a Zombie: How to Find a Career You Love*, made it to #15 in the Job Hunting and Career Guide's category. This book is helping thousands of professionals and students in finding their purpose and passion.

I've met a lot of new friends and developed professional relationships with new people. This was possible via technology: the virtual world. My new career podcast hit over 1,000 downloads on the audio portion alone back in September!. I was able to visit my alma mater and provide my 4th annual scholarship to a lucky student at Wartburg Central High School and speak to the students on purpose and passion. I could go on forever.

I love Christmas music and one of my favorite songs during the holiday is, "The Blessing" by the group, Alabama. The song reflects the blessing of life and to thank God each day for what we have in our life. I'll end with my favorite lyrics of the song.

Many of you celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. 2021 has been a challenging year for many of us; there's no doubt about it. The past two years have been very challenging for many students. I know for me personally 2021 has been a tough year. I am looking forward to 2022. As I had time to reflect over the Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends, it reminded me of the blessings.

I remind myself every Thanksgiving of life's blessings. I am thankful for many things in my life. I am thankful for good health, a roof over my head, plenty to eat, an opportunity to make a living, family and friends, and most importantly another day to live. We take life for granted every day. I believe that each day is precious, and we need to embrace every moment. I am blessed to have another day to be writing this article.

I want to write about some of the positive things that happen to me in 2021. I believe self-reflection allows us to focus on positive moments. This year I have gotten to explore some beautiful scenery in the US. I visited the island of Maui, explored natural scenery in Alaska, and attended a small wedding for my sister. My newer

"The blessings, sent from above, oh, the blessings, a life full of love. When I look around, I can see, all that's been given me, so I lift my eyes up to the sky. I want to give my, my, my, my, my

thanks for the blessings. Sometimes I fall asleep at the end of the day and I forget to thank you, I'm ashamed to say, but as I lay my head down to sleep, I pray the lord my soul to keep. know you can hear me here on earth, thank you for giving me more than I deserve." - Alabama, *The Blessings*

Follow me on Facebook: www.facebook.com/thezackballinger

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



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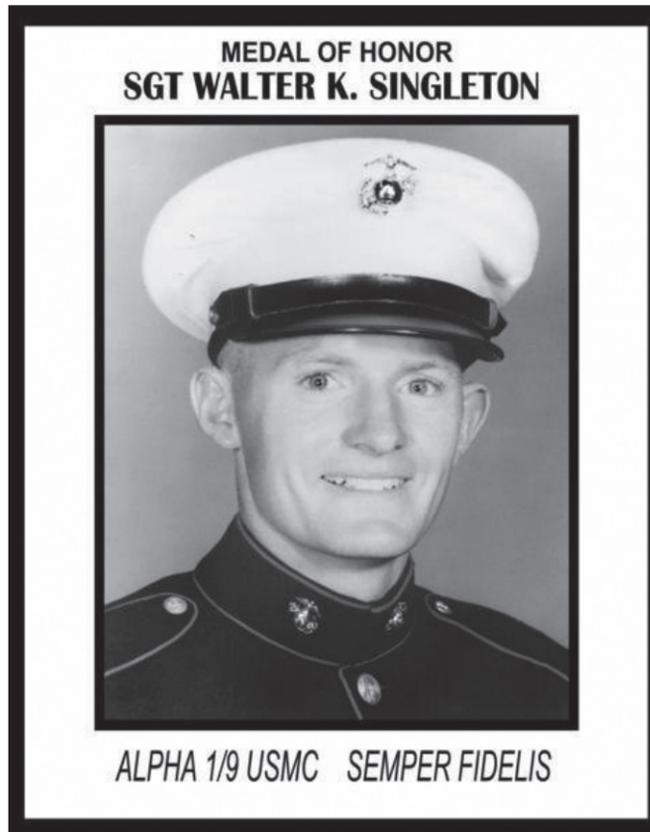
Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week

United States Marine Corps Sergeant Walter K. Singleton was born on December 7, 1944 in Memphis, Tennessee. He joined the USMC in 1963 and served as an instructor at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island and at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis. He received a letter of appreciation for qualifying 100% of the officers-to-be.

Needless to say, Sgt. Singleton was an excellent Marine and proved his courage and upmost devotion to the men whom he served with on March 24, 1967 while fighting in the Gio Linh District, Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam. On that day Sgt. Singleton gave his life and was later posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Sgt. Singleton's company was conducting combat operations when the lead platoon received intense small arms, automatic weapons, rocket, and mortar fire from a well-entrenched enemy force. As the company fought its way forward, the extremely heavy enemy fire

caused numerous friendly casualties. Sensing the need for early treatment of the wounded, Sgt. Singleton quickly moved from his relatively safe position in the rear of the foremost point of the advance and made numerous trips through the enemy killing zone to move the injured men out of the danger area. Noting that a large part of the enemy fire was coming from a hedgerow, he seized a machinegun and assaulted the key enemy location, delivering devastating fire as he advanced. He forced his way through the hedgerow directly into the enemy strong point. Although he was mortally wounded, his fearless attack killed eight of the enemy and drove the remainder from the hedgerow. Sgt. Singleton's bold actions completely disorganized the enemy defense and saved the lives of many of his comrades. His daring initiative, selfless devotion to duty and indomitable fighting spirit reflected great credit upon himself and the Marine Corps, and his performance upheld the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.



Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

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INDEPENDENCE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, ARKANSAS

END OF WATCH
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021

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On Thursday, November 18, 2021, Independence County Sheriff's Office (Arkansas) Deputy Frank Ramirez Jr.,

badge number 121 died when he was involved in a single-vehicle crash when answering a call for help.

It was near 12:50 am when Deputy Ramirez was attempting to respond to a call for assistance. The call had come into the 911 dispatch center, and Ramirez took the call. Ramirez was driving on State Highway 14 during the rain. He was traveling eastbound and approaching a curve in the road and became airborne.

Deputy Ramirez was 29 years old. He wanted to work in civil service to create a better world for his children, family, and neighbors. However, he decided that he was a good fit for law enforcement. Ramirez first worked with the US Border Patrol as a sworn agent. Then he worked with the Batesville Police

Department, gaining about two years of experience as an officer. Recently, Deputy Ramirez took a position with the Independence County Sheriff's Office and served for about five months.

Before the COVID19 pandemic, automobile accidents were the number one cause of line of duty deaths among law enforcement.

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Tom Redmon
Columnist

Rene Blaine Redmon – A True Patriot

Rene Redmon was born on February 4, 1952 in Greeneville, Tennessee, but he spent most of his early life here in Morgan County. He was the youngest child of Willie J. and Mabel Schubert Redmon.

I remember the first time I saw Rene in Greeneville he had been in a car wreck and had a broken leg. I really felt sorry for Rene because he wasn't much older than twelve months and the doctor had set his leg and he was rigged up in a contraption where he could hardly move.

I don't remember how old Rene was when they moved to Wartburg. I do remember that he was close friends with Rose and Jimmy Schubert's children who were his double first cousins. Rose was Willie J's sister and Mabel was Jimmy's sister. The children played together a lot and later on Rene and Ricky Schubert played football together at Wartburg Central. Rene was small in stature but he was as tough as a nail.

I was a teacher at Central Elementary in the middle 60's when Rene was in the 6th and 7th grades. He was a good student and extra quite for a middle school boy. He was left-handed and I thought how strange it is the way he held his pencil to write. I can't remember having many left-handed students in my classes.

Rene came to class one day holding his jaw. I asked him what was wrong and he said, Tommy, I mean Mr. Redmon I have a terrible toothache. I asked him if his parents knew how you were suffering and he said, "yes, but they hadn't taken me to the dentist." I asked him if it would be alright for me to call Dr. Russel Schubert and get an appointment. He said, it's okay. The next

day I took him to the dentist to get rid of the pain.

In high school Rene didn't try out for football until his coach saw him playing out during physical education. He asked Rene if he ever thought about trying out for football? I don't know what Rene's answer was but I do know that he ended up on the football field. He made a pretty good player. I think he played QB and running back. He took over the QB position when Ronnie Morgan got hurt.

Soon after high school Rene

Operations Forces Support Activity. A position he truly enjoyed and loved.

Rene was an avid outdoorsman, especially enjoying hunting and fishing – a legacy he left to his sons and grandsons. He enjoyed all sports and played most of them at various times throughout his life. He loved college football and was a loyal Tennessee Volunteers fan.

Rene was a true warrior as he battled pulmonary fibrosis for eleven and a half years to the amazement of all, including the medical community. The average lifespan from diagnosis is three to five years. Rene passed away at age sixty-nine on September 23, 2021.

I feel bad that I didn't help Rene out more when I was his teacher and even before. He was a great kid and he had to tough it out on his own many times.

Rene left behind his wife Pamela Crouch Redmon; his two sons, Michael Douglas (Melissa) Redmon and Robert Benjamin (Kimberly) Redmon; and four grandsons. He loved his family and will be greatly missed.



went into the Army. He only stayed in the Army one tour, but he continued his government service as a civilian at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond, Kentucky, retiring after thirty-five-years of service. He was a true patriot and credits the U.S. Army with the training and base for starting his government career.

Rene had to have the highest government security rating which was top secret. His job took him to many military bases where he met with generals and top government officials. He retired as a Project Officer, Special

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Disappeared: Chapter 14

Maggie & Evie-Day 4



Carol Hall
Author

Maggie woke to her stomach growling. The two food bars she had eaten the night before hadn't staved off her hunger for long.

She stretched and sat up. Looking around the room, she could tell it was early morning. Muted sunlight filled the section of the cave near the entrance, but the rest of the cave was still dark.

Getting up, she walked over to the edge of the pool and sat down.

Her body ached, she was hungry and she had no idea how she was going to get out of this mess.

Her thoughts turned to Nick. She missed him so bad. What if she never saw him again? What if she had to spend the rest of her life with Rose and Brutus? Well, if that happened, at least she had Evie.

She heard a soft rustling behind her. She turned and saw Evie coming toward her.

"What are you doing up so early?" she asked.

Evie sat down next to her. "Like I was going to be able to sleep. Do you have any idea how bad he stinks?"

"Yeah, I know."

"So what is going to happen today?" Evie asked.

"I have no idea. It's a crap shoot. I haven't exactly been with these guys long enough to pick up on their routine. I hope Brutus gets us some food though, I'm starving."

"Me too. What do they eat?"

"Night before last, we had rabbit. Believe it or not, it was actually really good. Or I was just so hungry I didn't care."

"At this point, I would be happy with rabbit," Evie said rubbing her stomach.

Their chatter must have awoken Rose. She shifted her massive bulk and rolled out of bed, gaining her feet in one swift movement.

"Uh-oh, we're in trouble now," Maggie whispered.

But instead of Rose being angry, she gestured toward the cave entrance. She grunted softly and motioned for Maggie and Evie to join her.

"Potty time," Maggie sang out. She stood up and followed Rose.

"Oh goodie!" Evie said, jogging to keep up. "I seriously have to pee."

Back in the cave, they gathered on Rose's bed. Rose was weaving some long grass together, while Maggie and Evie talked about what they would like to eat.

"A big salad with sliced egg, ham, plenty of croutons and big slices of cucumber," Evie said, a dreamy look on her face.

"I would order the biggest pepperoni pizza they could make. With extra pepperoni and cheese," Maggie said, licking her lips dramatically.

They started giggling. Their laughter got a little too loud and Rose growled a warning at them.

Too late. Brutus roused from his slumber and let out a roar that echoed through the cave.

"Sshhh, don't say a word and don't move. Just put your head down," Maggie warned Evie in a hushed tone.

Evie just nodded, though she was trembling with fear. Maggie had warned her about getting too loud. For some reason, the Bigfoots did not like them making too much noise.

Maggie sat stiffly anticipating a thumping coming from Brutus. He stood beside his bed and stretched. He yawned and scratched his belly.

He ambled over to them and plopped down next to Evie. Pulling her over to his side forcefully, he began rubbing his huge hand over her head and patting her. Evie flinched and looked helplessly at Maggie.

Maggie just shrugged. She was relieved not to be hit for making a ruckus, but she felt sorry for Evie. It was obvious she now belonged to Brutus and somehow, she didn't think he was going to be as gentle or caring with her as Rose was.

They all sat there silently on Rose's bed for several more minutes before Brutus shoved Evie away from him and quickly got up.

He made several grunting noises at them, then walked over to the pool. Leaning down, he splashed water on his face and over his head. He ran his hands over his head several times, then shook it from side to side to remove any excess water.

He turned to face them, making several more grunting noises. Rose grunted back.

She stood up and grabbed Maggie's arm, dragging her toward the entrance of the cave.

Evie just sat there unsure of what to do. Brutus walked over and grabbed her by the arm, pulling her toward the entrance as well.

As they made their way down the tunnel toward the outside world, Evie softly called to Maggie. "Where are we going?" she asked.

"I don't know," Maggie quietly answered back. "Hopefully we are after some food though."

When they reached the ledge outside the tunnel, Brutus leaned down on one knee and grunted at Evie. She just stood there looking at him, not sure what to do.

"Crawl up on his back," Maggie told her.

"Seriously?"

"Just do it!"

Evie reluctantly crawled up onto Brutus's back while making disgusted faces. Maggie chuckled as she climbed up on Rose's. She was getting used to

being carried, so she just clutched the fur on Rose's back and hauled herself up.

Once both women were passengers on their assigned Bigfoot, they began the descent down the cliff.

The ride down was daunting. It was almost a sheer drop. The Bigfoots seemed to handle it with ease, though. Not Maggie. She buried her face in Rose's back and held her breath till they reached the ground. She knew Evie had done the same thing.

Heavy fog blanketed the ground. The air was hot and humid. The smell of fresh rain and damp earth pervaded the forest around them. Even though the sun was up, Maggie knew it was still early.

Rose's damp hair clung to Maggie's arms and face. By now, she was so used to the putrid smell of her, she didn't even notice it. She was sweating herself and knew before long, she too, would stink.

They traversed through the woods for quite a ways. Maggie's body was still really sore, so she relaxed against Rose and just went along for the ride. She felt silly though. Here she was, a forty five year old woman, being carried like a child. It was humiliating.

They were moving at a leisurely pace, which Maggie was thankful for. At least she wasn't getting snagged by branches or cut up by thorns this time.

She wondered where they were going and for what purpose. She was ready for a break and was starting to feel a little cranky.

She began to wonder if Bigfoot thought humans were inferior to them, less intelligent, the way humans thought of animals. Well, it would serve us right if they did, she thought.

She caught a glance of Evie clinging to Brutus's back. She looked miserable. Poor Evie! She was so small and petite. She looked more like a tick stuck to him than a human. Maggie couldn't help but chuckle to herself. If they made it out of this, they would surely have some stories to tell.

Maggie's limbs were starting to go numb and her back ached from stretching her arms around Rose's neck for so long.

Evie wasn't faring much better. Maggie could hear her whine every now and then.

"Rose," Maggie said, tapping her on the shoulder. "Can we stop, please? I need a rest."

Rose seemed to understand and she grunted up at Brutus who was a few feet up ahead.

Brutus growled back and grunted a response. Rose turned her head to one side and grunted at Maggie, but kept walking.

"I guess not," Maggie said, disappointed. "Crap!" She let out a deep sigh and just relaxed against Rose again.

She was starting to get more cranky. Her body was screaming at her and if they didn't stop soon, she was going to throw a fit.

They walked farther along until they came to a river bank. The water was flowing quickly, due to the recent rains. It was spilling over rocks and downed tree branches, swirling and gurgling as it went.

Maggie was so hot and tired, she thought she could almost smell the fresh, clean water. She scrambled down off Rose's back and bolted for the water.

Laying down on her stomach, she filled her hands with water and lapped it up quickly.

Evie soon joined her and they lay there drinking the cool, clear water as fast as they could scoop it up in their hands.

Rose and Brutus waded out into the water and sat down close to the bank. The river was high enough that it came up to their waists. They cupped their hands and dipped them into the water. They drank so much water, they reminded Maggie of camels.

After everyone got their fill of water, Rose and Brutus motioned for Maggie and Evie to join them in the water.

"You don't have to ask me twice," Maggie said, jumping in without removing any of her clothing.

Evie stood on the bank and watched Maggie charge into the water without any hesitation.

"I can't swim," she said weakly. "I don't want to go into the water."

Brutus grunted at her and slapped the water with his hand.

Evie paced up and down the bank. Maggie knew she was afraid, but she knew Brutus would get angry if Evie didn't get in the water.

"Evie, just jump in. It isn't that deep. Brutus will grab you if you start to float away. Trust me."

"Maggie, I'm scared. What if he just lets me float away?"

"He won't. And even if he does, I won't. You will be ok. It isn't that deep. We can touch here."

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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

* Got plastic packaging that's a pain to get open? Use your can opener. Run it around the sides to break into your packages. It works!

* For every side dish that requires extra preparation time, plan for one or two that don't. For instance, if you are preparing a casserole with many ingredients and complicated instructions, serve a package of vegetables that require nothing more than steaming.

* Wine buyers tip: Experts say to multiply the number of adult guests by a half bottle to determine how many bottles of wine to buy for your holiday gathering. Add an additional glass of wine per guest for every hour after dinner you expect guests to linger.

* How to peel potatoes: Boil whole potatoes with skin on for 20-30 minutes (depending on the size of your potatoes). You should be able to stick a knife all the

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* During the first Gulf War in 1991, every U.S. soldier was sent a frozen Snickers bar as a Thanksgiving treat.

* Mario Puzo, author of "The Godfather" books who also helped adapt them to film, had no formal training and had never written a screenplay before. After winning two Oscars for the first two movies, he bought a book to help himself learn how to be a screenwriter.

* Delaware and Colorado allow a marriage to be annulled if it was performed as a dare.

* At the center of every snowflake is a pollen or dust particle on which an extremely cold water droplet has frozen

to form an ice crystal.

* "Passion purpura" is the medical term for a hickey.

* Saccharin, the first artificial sweetener, was discovered by accident when chemist Dr. Constantine Fahlberg forgot to wash his hands after work and tasted something "unspeakably sweet" during dinner. He interrupted the meal to sample every beaker in his lab, which fortunately contained nothing poisonous.

* The distress signal SOS does not actually stand for anything.

* "Buffalo buffalo Buffalo buffalo buffalo buffalo Buffalo buffalo" is a grammatically correct sentence using buffalo as a proper noun, verb and noun. To put it more simply: "Buffalo bison that other

way through without resistance. Then remove them to an ice bath for 10 seconds each. The skin will slip right off.

* "Have kids make their own whipped cream with a jam jar! Fill a screw-top jar (glass, chilled, works really well) halfway with heavy cream, a little sugar and any flavoring extracts you like, then seal and shake. Kids also can make butter with cream in a jar. You may add a pinch of salt instead of sugar, and shake longer." -- A.A. in Florida

* Researchers tell us that the best time to interview is late morning on a Tuesday. You will avoid the interviewer's likely Monday/Friday crunch, and have his or her full attention. Do your homework on the company, and get ready to shine!

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

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Buffalo bison bully also bully Buffalo bison."

* Donald Trump was the first president in 168 years not to have a pet in the White House.

* It took Frank Lloyd Wright 15 years, 700 sketches and six sets of working drawings to create the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

Thought for the Day: "The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe, the less taste we shall have for destruction." -- Rachel Carson

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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| | | 5 | | | 8 | | 3 | |
| | 3 | | 8 | | | 1 | | |
| | | 4 | | | 2 | | | 8 |
| 2 | | | 1 | 9 | | | | 4 |

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

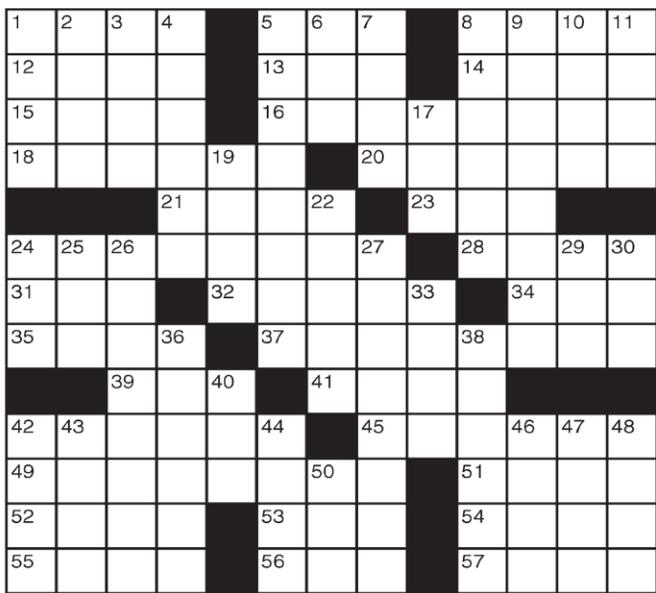
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Creche trio
- 5 The whole enchilada
- 8 Outlet letters
- 12 Teensy bit
- 13 Irish actor Stephen
- 14 Vivacity, in music
- 15 At the summit of
- 16 Her bed was too soft
- 18 Jungle trek
- 20 Make happy
- 21 Swindles
- 23 Workout site
- 24 Spaghetti topper
- 28 Whirled
- 31 Hosp. area
- 32 Small stream
- 34 "As I see it," to a texter
- 35 Lavish affection (on)
- 37 Lunar light
- 39 Family card game
- 41 Greek letters
- 42 Regard highly
- 45 Morals
- 49 Legume used in Asian cuisine
- 51 Acknowledge
- 52 Wax-coated cheese
- 53 Baton Rouge

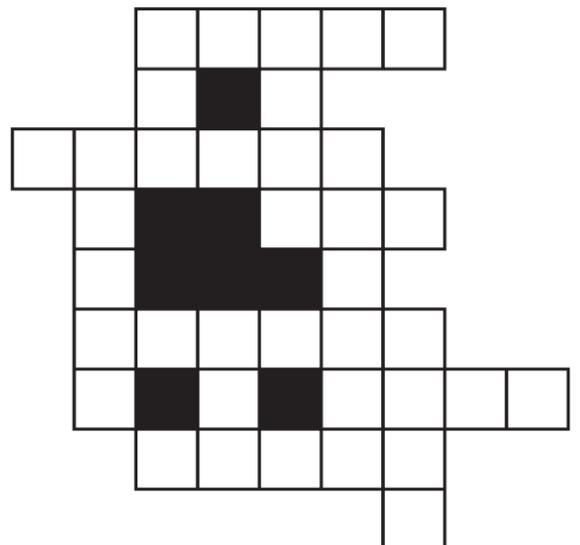


- 9 Slapstick mis-
- 36 Puzzle
- 38 It's equivalent
- 54 Country's McEntire
- 10 "Buenos —!"
- to C, in some scores
- 11 Apple center
- 40 Sphere
- 56 Shrill bark
- 17 H.S. math
- 42 Iowa city
- 57 "Hey!"
- 19 Eldest Stark child on
- 43 Ranch visitor
- 22 Sailing vessel
- 44 Slithery
- 24 Central
- 46 Currier's partner
- 25 Green prefix
- 47 Corn castoffs
- 26 Fall-related
- 48 Smack a baseball
- 27 Relax
- 50 "— was saying ..."
- 29 Actress Thurman
- 30 — de plume
- 33 Make a scarf

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- URC
- SARSOM
- ♥ETRIL
- MIBL
- BUSMIC
- ♥TPO
- ♥ISTL
- ♥URBAM
- ♥UTB
- ♥TRACLE
- IMPRS
- ♥IPLS



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

Harris v. Buttigieg would be the GOP's dream primary

The GOP has had plenty of reason for good cheer in recent months.

Nothing can compare, though, with the glad tidings of a potential showdown between Vice President Kamala Harris and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg to be Biden's successor in 2024 should he decide not to run for reelection.

Surely, there would be other serious candidates in that circumstance, but there is no doubt that Harris and Buttigieg would be high on the list of potential contenders, as various journalistic outfits have noted over the past week.

As it happens, they exemplify the contemporary Democratic Party's electoral deficiencies, while bringing their own flagrant personal political weaknesses to the equation.

If this is really the choice Democrats would face should Biden decline to run, they better hope he defies age, bounces back to robust political health, and is prepared to serve again well into his 80s.

Harris flamed out in the 2020 Democratic nomination well before the Iowa caucuses, unable to settle on a message or political identity. Her staff was obsessed with the progressive hothouse of Twitter, which is a powerful device for creating a false sense of what real voters, even Democratic primary voters, care about.

As vice president, she's basically picked up where her desultory campaign left off. In the latest USA Today/Suffolk University poll, Harris had a dismal 28% approval rating. It's difficult to rate that low without getting indicted or suffering some other embarrassing scandal.

Her allies, of course, complain that she's being treated unfairly because she's a woman of color. This fixation on race and gender plays much better with the left-wing activist class than with the public. The simpler explanation for Harris' woes is that she's a below-average politician serving under an unpopular president.

Pete Buttigieg has had a happier tenure. With his surprising success in the 2020 Democratic primary, he bootstrapped himself into a Cabinet position and is now enjoying a windfall of resources thanks to the infrastructure bill.

He embodies, to a fault, the party's growing strength among college-educated whites. He's smooth, credentialed, hyper-articulate and a quick study who knows enough -- sometimes just enough -- to charm and impress journalists and other white-collar creative types.

If a management consultant were to design a progressive white Democrat in a bottle, the result would look a lot like Buttigieg, himself a former management consultant.

It's become increasingly clear, though, that the Democratic Party's new base among college-educated voters is a trap if it is pursued to the exclusion of an appeal to working-class voters. The party's poor standing with non-college-educated voters has begun to show up in eroding support among Latinos, a constituency that was presumed to be a key pillar of the Obama-crafted "coalition of the ascendant."

A successful post-Biden Democratic future is more likely to be found in the likes of New York Mayor-elect Eric Adams than Harris or Buttigieg.

He is an African American former cop with a hard-knocks upbringing that gives him working-class street cred. He knows that woke bromides aren't the way to appeal to African American voters, who put him over the top in the Democratic primary. He's a standard progressive in many respects, but he has proven immune to fashionable left-wing causes. He not only defused a hot-button cultural issue -- namely, crime -- he campaigned on it and made it a strength, an ability that most national Democrats have lost as the party has moved left since 2016.

It's far too early to know how his City Hall tenure will actually turn out, but Adams has the qualities and approach that, in theory, could be fruitful for Democrats nationally.

Meanwhile, even if the GOP is on a roll at the moment, it shouldn't get its hopes up. At the end of the day, a 2024 Democratic primary dominated by Harris and Buttigieg is probably too good to be true.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Donna's Day

Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

Homemade Guacamole a Post-Turkey Treat

It's a rare day when I don't have an avocado "in waiting" on my kitchen counter. And when it's just ripe, guacamole is bound to be on the dinner menu as an appetizer with tortilla chips or as a final crowning dollop on a quesadilla, taco or grilled fish.



Guacamole adds zip to post-holiday meal

When Thanksgiving turkey, dressing and green bean casserole leftovers have run their course, add some zip to a meal with the yummy taste of guacamole. Who can resist the tempting combination of creamy avocado, fresh garlic, seasonings and zesty lime?

And while you are at it, let your school-age kids pitch in to help with an easy step or two. As they squeeze the last wedge of lime, invite friends over for an impromptu get-together. It just

might be the relaxing antidote everyone needs after a busy holiday week.

HOMEMADE GUACAMOLE

- 2 ripe Haas avocados, peeled and pitted
- 2 tablespoons lime or lemon juice
- 1/4 cup red onion, finely chopped
- 1/2 medium jalapeno pepper, seeded and finely chopped*
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 1/2 medium tomato, seeded and diced (optional)
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped cilantro or parsley (optional)

1. Mash avocados in a mixing bowl with a fork or potato masher, leaving some chunks.

2. Add lime juice, onion, jalapeno, garlic, salt and pepper. Stir well.

3. Fold in tomato and add cilantro or parsley, if you wish.

4. Serve immediately or place plastic wrap directly on top of guacamole. Leave on the counter to enhance the flavors until ready to serve within an hour or two. Makes about 2 cups.

*The juice of jalapeno peppers can be irritating. Wear plastic deli-style gloves when handling. Avoid hand contact with your eyes.

TIPS:

— Stretch the recipe by stirring in a half-cup of small-curd cottage cheese just before you spoon it into a serving bowl.

— For a quick dip, mash an avocado and add a tablespoon or two of your favorite salsa. Stir together and serve.

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

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VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

VA Expands Assistance to Homeless Veterans

With prices soaring all around us, imagine how bad it must be in places that already had high costs when it came to rental housing. In an effort to help homeless veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs has updated its grant program to raise assistance caps in housing and subsidies.

Specifically, in certain areas, the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) rent grant will increase from 35% to 50% of reasonable rent, without a need for recertification for two years. That has to be a huge aid to eligible veterans with families who are seeking stability.

Additionally, the length of time a veteran and the family can stay in emergency housing has increased 15 days to a maximum of 60 days. This will be especially helpful in places with few rental vacancies.

The SSVF program is a series of grants to private non-profit organizations that

provide support services to very-low-income veterans and their families. The role of these non-profits is to get them into permanent housing that includes a lease, either annual or month to month, or even home ownership. They determine eligibility for assistance in part by considering whether the veteran is at risk of becoming homeless without the grant, doesn't have a fixed place to sleep at night and will likely continue in that condition without the grant, or is at risk of becoming homeless within 90 days.

If you're a homeless vet with a family or are in danger of becoming homeless, hook up with Supportive Services for Veterans Families as soon as possible. There are several eligibility conditions, and you might qualify for Rapid Rehousing. Call them 24/7 at 1-877-424-3838. You also can call the nearest VA medical center and ask for the Homeless Coordinator.

The VA is behind this change so much that it finalized the rule without even waiting for the typical public comment period after publication in the Federal Register.

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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Psalms in the Old Testament or New Testament or neither?
2. From 2 Chronicles 26, at what age did Uzziah become king of Jerusalem? 16, 30, 65, 99
3. In Genesis 4, who did God ask, "Why is thy countenance fallen"? Eve, Ahaz, Cain, Esau
4. Which prophet saw the Lord's angel riding on a red horse? Hosea, Nathan, Zechariah, Isaiah
4. Who was the first person to build an altar unto the Lord? Abraham, Noah, Artaxerxes, Levi
5. From Exodus 33, who/what saw the back of God? Adam, The serpent, Abraham, Moses

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) 16; 3) Cain; 4) Zechariah; 5) Noah; 6) Moses

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in stores and online. It makes a great holiday gift.

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MARGULIES
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Comfort foods

Made fast and healthy

by Healthy Exchanges

Pea and Pasta Salad

During the hectic days leading up to the holidays, it's nice to have side salads waiting in the refrigerator for last-minute meals. This great pasta salad is perfect alongside grilled burgers or baked chicken breasts.

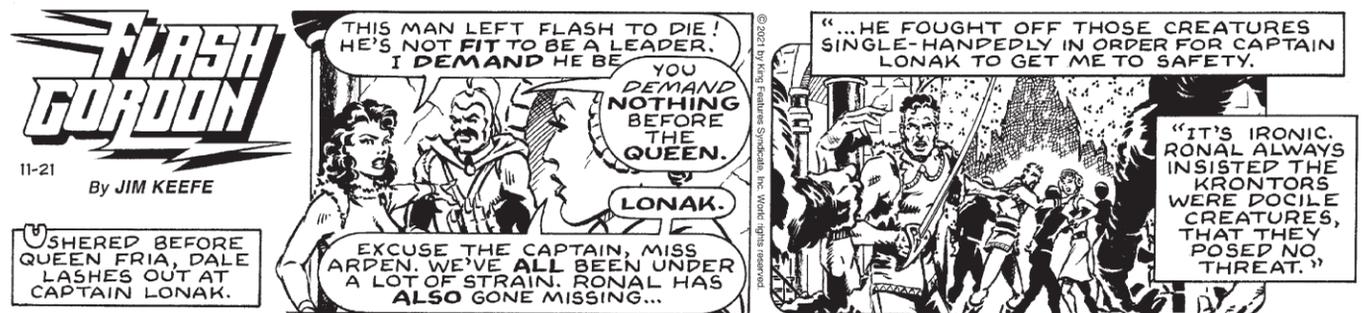
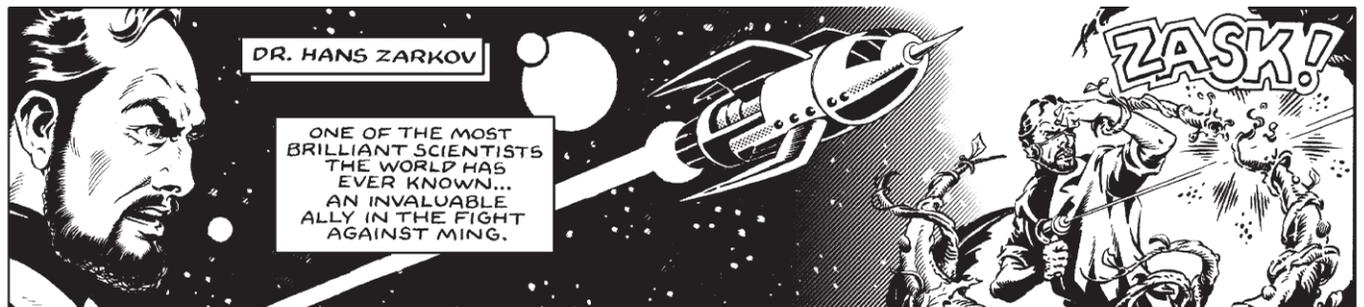
- 1/2 cup fat-free mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup sweet pickle relish
- 1 (2-ounce) jar chopped pimiento, drained
- 1 1/2 cups cold cooked rotini pasta, rinsed and drained
- 1 1/2 cups frozen peas, thawed
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons shredded reduced-fat Cheddar cheese

1. In a large bowl, combine mayonnaise, pickle relish and pimiento. Add rotini pasta and peas. Mix well to combine. Fold in Cheddar cheese.

2. Cover and refrigerate for at least 15 minutes. Gently stir again just before serving. Makes 6 (2/3 cup) servings.

• Each serving equals: 164 calories, 4g fat, 9g protein, 23g carb., 153mg sodium, 3g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Starch, 1 Meat.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



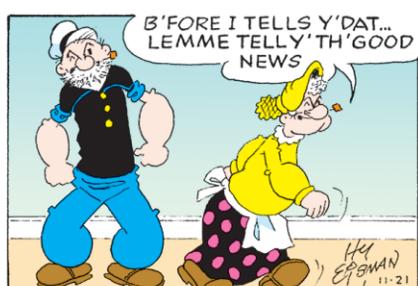
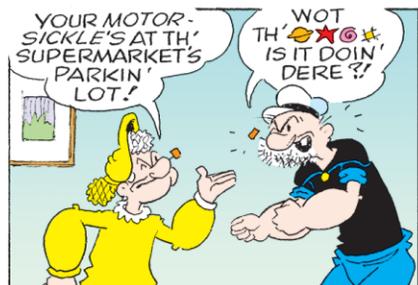
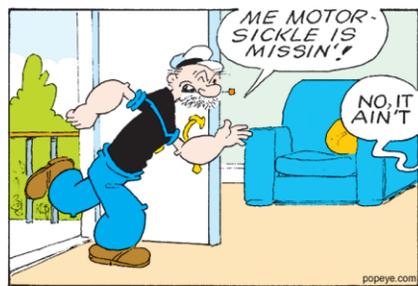
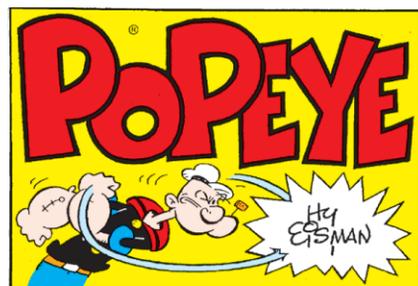
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

 * On Dec. 14, 1799, President George Washington dies. Two days earlier, he rode out into freezing sleet to survey business affairs on his estate. He returned home late for dinner and refused to change out of his wet clothes. The next day he developed a severe respiratory infection and died the following day.

* On Dec. 16, 1811, the greatest series of earthquakes in U.S. history begins near New Madrid, Missouri, when an earthquake estimated at 8.6 magnitude slams the region. The quake raised and lowered parts of the Mississippi Valley by as much as 15 feet and changed the course of the Mississippi River.

* On Dec. 18, 1865, following its ratification by three-quarters of the states, the 13th Amendment is formally adopted into the U.S. Constitution, ensuring that "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude ... shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

* On Dec. 13, 1916, a powerful avalanche kills hundreds of Austrian soldiers in a barracks near Italy's Mount Marmolada. Over several days, avalanches killed an estimated 10,000 Austrian and Italian soldiers.

* On Dec. 17, 1961, a fire at a circus in Brazil kills more than 300 people and severely burns 500 more. The fire may have been caused by sparks from a train passing nearby. There were 2,500 people in attendance, and many were trampled.

* On Dec. 15, 1988, singer James Brown, the "Godfather of Soul," begins serving a six-year prison sentence in South Carolina. Already on probation, Brown's reckless spree on Sept. 24 resulted in numerous criminal charges, including assault and battery with intent to kill.

* On Dec. 19, 1998, the House of Representatives approves two articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton, charging him with lying under oath to a federal grand jury and obstructing justice. Later, after being acquitted, Clinton said he was "sorry."

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Historically Speaking

Oak Ridge history documentary films and videos

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Among the best methods we have for effectively conveying our Oak Ridge history are the various forms of visual media which seem to continue to grow in popularity. The use of oral histories on video are also excellent means to tell our story. We have over 900 oral histories at the Oak Ridge Public Library (many of which are video): <https://cdm16107.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15388coll1>

The Atomic Heritage Foundation also has an enormous archive of 600 oral histories online: <https://www.manhattanprojectvoices.org/>. Cindy Kelly, Founder of the Atomic Heritage Foundation spoke to the Oak Ridge Heritage & Preservation Association recently and noted that there were 12 hours of General Groves oral history as well as an excellent oral history of Robert Oppenheimer that his family thinks is the best record of him speaking.

Several years ago, at the height of DVD popularity and well ahead of the recent recognition of these forms of communications such as Zoom and other virtual meeting formats, Keith McDaniel created the Secret City series of two documentary films (Secret City: The War Years and Secret City: Years 1945 -2006). I was pleased to be asked to assist by being on the advisory steering committee for him and to be included as a co-producer.

First released in 2005, this award-winning documentary film is what I consider the most effective history of Oak Ridge during the Manhattan Project years. It is now available online at: <https://www.y12.doe.gov/library/video/secret-city-war-years>. It is accompanied on the Y-12 website by the following apt description:

“A landmark documentary film that has become the definitive history of the Manhattan Project years in Oak Ridge, TN. The amazing story is told by many of the people who lived it. The Oak Ridge heritage is one of the great scientific and engineering feats in history. Told from the human perspective, the unique work undertaken in Oak Ridge literally changed the world forever.”

The second documentary film in the Secret City, The Oak Ridge Story series is also available online: <https://www.y12.doe.gov/library/video/secret-city-1945-2006> The website description states:

“A sequel documentary film to Secret City: The War Years that follows the history of Oak Ridge, TN after the Manhattan Project and documents many examples of science making history. The film continues the dramatic story of Oak Ridge as the once secret city grows and takes its place among the most important scientific and technological centers in the world.”

One of the most effective methods to use these documentary films for me has been the approach to encourage teachers to show segments of them to their students while asking the students to write down questions they would like to ask the Oak Ridge Historian. Then the teacher calls me using Face-time and I interact with the students directly by answering their questions on the phone.

Other documentary films and short videos are also available online. Many of these were created while I was the Historian at the Y-12 National Security Complex. Prior to retiring in November 2017, these videos were placed online: <https://www.y12.doe.gov/about/history/video-gallery>

Among the most viewed is the A Nuclear Family series of four 30-minute episodes on the history of the Y-12 National Security Complex created for the East Tennessee PBS television station. Also included are two additional short introduction and extras videos.

A video series, Our Hidden Past, includes popular videos such as The Prophet of Oak Ridge, which is the John Hendrix story, and From Oak Ridge to the Moon, which tells of

the production at Y-12 of the Apollo Lunar Sample Return Container or “Moon Box.” The Our Hidden Past series also includes the following: 1st Mission; Biology, Part 1; Biology, Part 2; Peacetime; and Precious Metals.

An introductory video to the Y-12 portion of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park is also included at this video gallery.

One of my favorite documentary films that I was working on just before I retired from Y-12 is Ed Westcott: Photographer. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U00_07swEY&t=5s

This film came about when Ed showed me a 16-millimeter film of him getting into a helicopter to take aerial shots of Oak Ridge and climbing the ladder to the water tower on Pine Ridge to make the famous panoramic photo of Oak Ridge. Right then I knew we had the heart of a documentary film.

Ed had had a stroke and was unable to speak clearly, so

Bomb; and Clifton Truman Daniel, grandson of President Truman.

Several local people such as Niki Nicholas, Manager, Manhattan Project National Historical Park – Oak Ridge; Alan Lowe, Executive Director, American Museum of Science and Energy; Terry Domm, Chairman of the Oak Ridge Heritage & Preservation Association along with Mick Wiest, Executive Director of ORHPA, and Emily Hunnicutt, Chair of the Oak Ridge History Museum Committee, have also been on the program.

Hidden History: Stories from the Secret City programs can be found on Facebook (just search for the page by name) and here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC52Ainl_FiRCGMvtZdLEvWg

And, by the way, Keith has posted his award-winning The Clinton 12 documentary film there as well!

There are other video based approaches being taken by the American Museum of Science and Energy, the Manhattan Project National Historical Park and Explore Oak Ridge. And even more are planned.

Here is an excellent example of what AMSE is doing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRyFX2PkUMY>. Riley is an intern working at the museum and she is a delightful host for several videos. Just search for “amse video riley” on Google and you will find videos introducing you to the museum’s main areas.

I am working with Katy Watt to feature a Historically Speaking column introducing

a video based promotional campaign. Of course, they already have several videos online. Here is a video that introduces our Museums: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUo5IghP-KM>

The Manhattan Project National Historical Park has several excellent short videos here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVIR49cPXZ8Maf-Ga_XZ-bMA/videos

This video features Ruth Huddleston, a Calutron Girl: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOdMxPiQZE>

This video features Katie Strickland’s biscuit pan: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xg2LIvMw70>

While I have listed many videos here, I am sure I have missed others such as those produced by the History Channel, Lost Worlds, Secret Cities of the A-Bomb, and Modern Marvels: The Manhattan Project and even the television series, Manhattan. I have also not mentioned the Knoxville TV stations that have done excellent video work featuring Oak Ridge history.

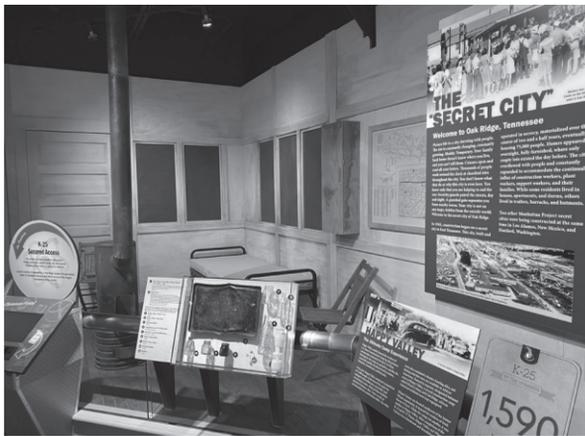
An example is the recent The Secret in Scarborough: The Oak Ridge 85 Documentary video produced by Yvonne Thomas of WBIR Channel 10: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Gia6ibaTMc> There are many other videos being produced more easily with today’s smartphones.

A few years back, there was a special effort to get high school students interested in producing short videos. I have been interviewed by many students who were producing videos for annual History Day competition.

Keith McDaniel is now teaching video production at Roane County High School. Bill Carey, History for Kids, is using zoom to teach about our history online. Much is happening! We need to be sure we are taking full advantage of visual media!

J. D. Phillips has produced short videos on YouTube about many locations in East Tennessee. Here is an example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdoXNF8VeUs&t=2s> Oak Ridge, Tennessee: The Early Years

My intent was to provide you readers access to some of the many local documentary films that are online and easily accessible.



Katie Strickland’s biscuit pan is on display at the K-25 History Center (Photo Submitted)



The Ed Westcott documentary film runs continuously in the Oak Ridge History Museum and in the Children’s Museum of Oak Ridge (Photo Submitted)

Secret City: The War Years



Keith McDaniel’s Secret City Series is in my opinion the best source of Oak Ridge history (Photo Submitted)

putting him on camera to talk was out of the question. I had struggled with how to make the film for some time. I often went to Ed’s house taking with me some of his photographs that I had printed for him to autograph and let me sell at auctions for nonprofits. He did that gladly.

But one time, he motioned for me to follow him into his bedroom where he had set up the projector and showed me the 16-millimeter film. I said, “Ed, let me get that digitized and I can use that to form a portion of a documentary film on your life.” He laughed, and said, “Go ahead!”

What a delight for me that was. I so wanted to honor Ed. I was privileged to be able to present the East Tennessee Economic Council’s Muddy Boot Award to Ed in 2013 and, of course, he had received many prestigious awards, but no film had yet been made about him.

Another visual media format gaining momentum now with more and more people using virtual meetings is the video podcast. Keith McDaniel and I created Hidden History: Stories from the Secret City. We began by thinking of an audio podcast, but Covid hit, and we wanted to still do the podcast but could not easily connect in person.

Zoom was just starting to be used and we agreed a video podcast would be better anyway. So, we started and have done a video podcast every other Saturday for the past year and nine months, except for a short break during the Knoxville Film Festival when Keith was busy there.

These programs last an average of 30-40 minutes and usually feature a guest who brings out some aspect of Oak Ridge history that may not be well known. Examples of past guests are Richard Rhodes, author of The Making of the Atomic Bomb; Robert Norris, author of Racing for the



How to Host a Fun and Easy Cookie Exchange

'Tis the week after Thanksgiving and holiday baking is officially in season. As we gear up for all the hoopla and fa la la la-ing, who has time to bake cookies?

You can kill two partridges with one pear tree and share the cookie duties with friends by hosting a cookie exchange party! You'll all save money and time, get a great variety of cookies, and have a low-effort, high-return holiday gathering. Here's ho, ho how:

Your invitation should state clearly that you are having a cookie exchange and that each guest is expected to arrive with cookies and that they will be taking cookies home. Each person bakes and brings the same number of one kind of cookie to share. I find that if everyone brings four dozen cookies, that works nicely.

Ask each guest to bring one dozen on a plate to enjoy at the party and three dozen to divide and send home. This way, no matter how many people attend, everyone goes home with three dozen cookies and a sugar coma.

Ask each invitee to let you know what cookie they plan to bring. This avoids duplications (and a potential

showdown throwdown, or is that just my friends?). Ask them to print the recipe to share, noting any common allergens, and put their name on it in case there are questions.

Serve an assortment of beverages: coffee, tea, cocoa and of course — ice cold milk! It's also important to offer a contrast to all the sweet with a light meal, like soup and sandwich, and some savory snacks.

If you're expecting children at the party, set up a cookie decorating station with sugar cookies, icing and sprinkles, and have a holiday movie ready to keep the little ones occupied. Prepare a kid-friendly protein-rich snack, like chicken nuggets, to minimize the sugar meltdowns.



www.JasonCoblentz.com

Buttery shortbread has just 3 ingredients.

Once all your guests have arrived, you'll have a head count. Set out that number of plates and divide each bag of three dozen (36 cookies) among the plates. For example, if you have 12 guests, you will have three of each type of each cookie on each plate. Wrap your plates in plastic wrap and be sure each guest leaves with one at the end of your frugal and fabulous party.

In honor of the crazy busiest, oops, I mean holly jolliest season, here's

the easiest buttery shortbread cookie recipe ... ever. Only three ingredients!

SHORTCUT SHORTBREAD

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened (I know! It's the holidays!)
- 2/3 cup powdered sugar
- 2 cups all-purpose flour

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

2. In a mixing bowl, with hand mixer (or a wooden spoon and brute strength), cream together butter and sugar. Gradually add flour and continue to mix until mixture forms a soft dough. Form dough into a ball with your hands. (If you mix by hand, you deserve an extra cookie.)

3. If you're making round cookies, you can take walnut-sized pieces of dough and roll them into balls, then flatten slightly. Place them on the baking sheet 3 inches apart, as the cookies will spread.

4. If you want to roll and cut out cookies, refrigerate dough for 1 hour to firm up. Roll dough 1/4-inch thick on a surface dusted with flour. Cut into desired shape and place on prepared baking sheets.

5. Bake for 16-18 minutes, or until cookies are light golden brown. Let cool on baking sheets at least 10 minutes before moving them.

Now you can cross cookies off your to-do list, keep calm and merry on!

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 12

(1 Cor. 12:1-3) Instruction of the Spirit: The following three chapters deal with the issue of miraculous spiritual gifts in the church. This chapter catalogs a number of the gifts and the unity that should prevail in the exercise thereof. Chapter thirteen discusses the disposition that should be employed in the use of the gifts and the limited duration of these endowments. Chapter fourteen addresses abuses of certain gifts as well as principles in regulating them.

Paul may be continuing a response to questions posed earlier (7:1). In the pre-Christians state of these Gentiles' lives, they had no spiritual guidance (a direct revelation) from God; hence, they wandered into idolatry in an attempt to satisfy their religious urges. Now it is different. The Holy Spirit provides direction through specially selected people (endowed with gifts by the imposition of apostolic hands (see 9:2; Acts 8:17-18; 19:6). No man speaking under the guidance of the Holy Spirit will speak against Christ and lead anyone into error. No one can provide the necessary information regarding the Lord and his religious system apart from the Holy Spirit's leading. In the apostolic age, the Spirit directly led some in the teaching; today, the Spirit instructs via the completed body of written revelation, the Scriptures (Eph. 6:17).

(1 Cor. 12:4-11) A variety of gifts: There were different types of spiritual gifts, ministrations, and workings, but each category is orchestrated under the sovereignty of the divine Godhead---Father, Son and Holy Spirit (4-6). Several spiritual gifts are listed, likely representative of others. These are extraordinary measures of otherwise natural attributes. (a) "Wisdom" is the practical application of data known. (b) "Knowledge" is the acquisition of facts and the proper correlation of these one to another. (c) "Faith" is probably a supernatural spiritual constitution exercised under extremely difficult circumstances (13:2). (d) "Healings" were miracles relating to the restoration of sick bodies or minds in special cases, and for the confirmation of divine revelation (Mk. 16:17-20; Heb. 2:3-4). They were not a general benevolent bestowal, as evidenced by the fact that many who were sick were not healed (2 Cor. 12:7; Phil. 2:25; 2 Tim. 4:20). (e) "Miracles" is a generic term suggesting unusual displays of power beyond any ordinary human ability. (f) "Prophecy" was employed in two senses: it could have reference to foretelling future events, or simply "forthtelling" gospel truth in the age before the Scriptures were completed. (g) "Discernment" involved the supernatural ability to evaluate a difficult situation---perhaps the kind of judgment exercised by Peter regarding Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). (h) "Tongues" involved the gift of speaking a foreign language one had never learned by natural education (Acts 2:4-11). (i) "Interpretation" was the gift of being able to translate from one language to another without the normal knowledge of the languages.

The gifts were designed to work in unison and were assigned to different persons according to the Spirit's "will".

(1 Cor. 12:12-13) The one body: The church is analogous to the human body. A single body is composed of many members. All of the members, working together, maximize the efficiency of the body. This is the way in which the body of Christ, the church, was intended to function. This is the aim of Christ the Lord.

It is by means of the gospel of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, that one is motivated to be baptized (immersed in water). This is not Holy Spirit baptism, as a comparison of several parallel texts reveals. Paul's use of "we" identifies this baptism with

that which he received (Acts 9:18; 22:16) and shared with the Corinthians (Acts 18:8)---namely water baptism. By baptism the candidate is transitioned "into one body" (the equivalent of "into Christ" or "into his death" (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27). The phrase, "made to drink of," is a metaphorical way of referring to the reception of the Holy Spirit subsequent to one's immersion (Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Gal. 4:6). This passage is parallel in principle with the new birth formula of "water" and "the Spirit" taught to Nicodemus (Jn. 3:3-5; Eph. 5:26; Tit. 3:5-6).

(1 Cor. 12:14-26) Honor the oneness of the body: The apostle again takes up the refrain of the one body and the cooperation of its members. Clearly this is another indictment of the divisive spirit that permeates some in the Corinthian church. The body is a unit of many integrated members. It is a design that works wonderfully well. With dramatic language, various body members are caricatured as if speaking to each other, criticizing one another and boasting of their individual superiorities (v. 15-17). How utterly silly such would be; yet that is precisely the condition of these squabbling saints.

Paul makes a devastating point. God made the body. He designed the constituent parts to function cooperatively, and "set" (arranged) them in place (v. 18). The verbal force indicates a decisive act in time, not a progressive development (as in an evolutionary process). As David expressed it: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psa. 139:14). Dr. Harrell Dodson, a clinical professor of surgery at a major university, and an accomplished surgeon, declared: "The complexities and interrelationships of the various cells, organs and systems of the body should make it evident that only God could be its designer." If there were but one member, there would be no body (v. 19).

Again, symbolically, the apostle has various parts of the body arguing his case for him. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need for you," etc. Even those members of the body that seem to be the most feeble, least honorable, or relatively unattractive, we treasure and bestow honor upon (v. 22). Why can't Christians treat one another with equal wisdom and love? God has so "tempered" (composed, adjusted) the various organs, that they are balanced, one with the others, for the function of the entire organism (v. 24). Get this point. There should be no "schism" (disharmony) in the body! Rather, the members should care for one another. When one suffers, others share in that agony; when one is honored, all should be happy (v. 26).

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He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

REVELATION 2:7

Detail of "Tree of Science" by Ramon Llull (1296)

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The Missionary Church



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

Messiah has now dictated five letters to John with each having certain qualities and certain problems. Philadelphia is one of two churches that has nothing bad said about it by Messiah. Is this church alive today?

Philadelphia is a feminine pronoun. It is made from two Greek words. Philo is friendly. Delphia is a city in western Turkey

at the crossroads of Greek culture and Roman conquest. It was a strategic city at the time of John the Revelator.

It was the wine producing region of the pro-consulate of Asia minor at the time of Christ. The Greek God Dionysius was being venerated, and it was an incredibly wealthy community. Christian missionary outreach began in Philadelphia to the Gentile world.

Jesus Christ introduces us to a term found in Isaiah 22. It is the key to the house of David. What does it mean?

David was chosen King by God long before he was born. His life is one of incredible valor, incredible peril, and incredible intemperance. Yet, he is the only man in the Bible God identifies as a man after his own heart. In both the New Testament and Old Testament. What is the key to his house?

We are introduced to Eliakim the scribe. His name transliterates into English as God raises up. He is the son of Hilkiah, the man appointed over the King's treasury under Hezekiah. David removes Shibna for the purpose of making Eliakim his treasurer over the house of Judah. Is this a Biblical paradigm playing out in the Church of Philadelphia?

With great wealth comes tremendous responsibility to those around us in the kingdom of our God. Hoarding wealth was the reason David removed Shibna and replaced him with Eliakim. At the time of the advent of Messiah, the high priest with the Pharisees and Sadducees were selling the message of salvation and hoarding tremendous wealth. Is that happening today in Church?

America became the envy of the world. With that envy came incredible missionary outreach. No nation on Earth sent more missionaries around the world than America. We became a nation that shared like no other, and God blessed us. We are the only nation on Earth to boast of a middle class. That middle class was built on the backs of Jews and Christians who believed in tithing and missionary outreach. Have they disappeared?

Shibna had begun to forgo the laws God established for the Jews in the Exodus. The Shmita was not being kept and the poor in Israel were suffering. The tithe was not being applied to feeding the poor with the first 10% of Israel's increase. They had begun to worship the two golden calves of military might and monetary strength. They were forgoing thus says the Lord in order to look like the world they were called out of, just like America today.

Jesus Christ introduces us to Philadelphia as a Church that he is fully in. He is the door which no man shutteth or openeth. He is the way, the truth, and the life, not their own ability to create and collect wealth. He is the provider of prosperity from which we are to share and not horde. The missionary church identified as Messiah's bride who will not go through the tribulation. He knows her works and he loves them.

This church has kept his entire word. As a Jewish Rabbi, that meant living the entire Bible. Christ is the subject of John's revela-

tion. Jesus Christ as God, is who is being revealed and doing the blessing and administering the admonishments found in five churches in five letters. He is holding the door open which no man can shut. In Laodicea, he will be standing at the door wanting back in to their church experience, and missionary outreach is how he intends to establish who his true bride is.

God created everything money can buy. Why do we worship our own ability to horde wealth and earn income? Why do men forgo the worship of God as provider, in favor of thinking he needs help providing for us? To learn to trust God as provider of all things monetary is the key to becoming a missionary outreach church.

Giving should never be done out of abundance but out of your need to fulfill God's will for his creation. Money has become the foundation by which nations fight wars. Natural resources are how they value currency. Every geo-political decision is made by nations for the hoarding and consumption of the resources God created. They are his not ours. What a Christian does with his or her money matters to God. He blesses you with prosperity for the sole purpose of achieving his goals for building the kingdom.

Jesus Christ was asked by the rich young ruler what must I do to be saved? Christ's answer: sell everything, give to the poor, and come follow me. We never hear from him again in the scriptures. What will you hold onto more than Jesus' command to help the poor? Do you worship what moth and rust decay? Are your things more important than your relationship to Messiah?

America was brought into existence by a loving God for the purpose of showing the world the cross and the God who bore our burdens upon it. Philadelphia is the place our founders gave us a government of, for, and by the people. Have we as a people fulfilled God's will for the world he desires to save?

Missionary outreach must once again become a critical part of our Christian experience. Tithing as taught by our Jewish ancestors found in the Old Testament must be rightly understood and rightly practiced if you intend to be blessed by God in your ministry. Malachi explains God's idea for tithing, and Genesis 12 identifies who we should bless with our missionary outreach. Return to tithing and giving to the poor and God will bless your church in ways you do not see coming.

Remember: No one can beat God at giving. He gave us his son to pay the only debt that matters when we die: our sin debt to God as creator.

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 11-22-2021 RLTW

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

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

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

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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Coal Dust: Deep, Dark Secret



Terry Futrell
Author

To keep your secret is wisdom; but to expect others to keep it is folly.
Samuel Johnson

Young people sometimes have experiences that get locked away in their minds, either consciously or unconsciously – deep, dark secrets that never see the light of day. My secret remained hidden for fifty years before I ever developed the nerve to tell even my wife.

The second semester of my sophomore year at Coalfield High School, I was inducted into the Beta Club chapter at the school. This was the first time that sophomores had been allowed into the club and was quite an honor for me.

Just a few weeks later, I traveled to Nashville with the Beta Club to attend the 1962 Tennessee State Beta Convention. This was before Interstate 40 was completed, and we had to travel winding U.S. Highway 70 from Rockwood to Nashville, stopping at Dewey's Restaurant in Lebanon for lunch along the way. It was a great, uneventful trip, but one that set the stage for my near disaster the following year.

In 1963, our Club again attended the State Beta Convention, traveling the same tortuous route along Highway 70. We traveled in two cars that belonged to our sponsor, Mrs. Ruth Huddleston. She drove one car, and student Jimmy Rivers drove the other. I was riding in the car with Jimmy, Ellis Jackson, and three girls. Mrs. Huddleston had a carload of girls with her.

It took us about four hours to reach Lebanon, where we again stopped at Dewey's Restaurant for lunch. Now, this was four hours without a bathroom break, and I was just about to drown by the time we

stopped. As soon as Jimmy parked the car, I made a mad dash into Dewey's and ran into the bathroom.

Ah! Sweet relief, at least for a few seconds until I realized that something just didn't seem right. Panic set in as I started to wonder if I had made a mistake in my haste and entered the wrong bathroom! I could just picture girls from our group entering the same bathroom at any moment. Only problem was, my bladder was so full that I just couldn't stop relieving myself and make a quick escape. There I stood, overcome by panic, trying to hasten that which just could not be hastened! Finally, I made my escape! I quickly glanced around as I exited the bathroom, only to find that I had used the girls' bathroom, which was not too cool in 1963.

Somehow, my great blunder had been pulled off without anyone being aware except me, and it remained that way for fifty years before I ever told a soul. As I look back, I can't help but wonder what the odds are of none of the girls on our trip being in a hurry to use the bathroom after being on the road for four hours. If I had been discovered and word spread around the school, my life would have been over! I concluded that there must have been divine intervention.

So, why am I now telling my deep, dark secret for all the world to see? Why, shucks, things have changed! Now, it apparently

is cool not to know whether you are a boy or girl and to demand the privilege to use whichever bathroom you choose. I certainly didn't have a problem with gender identity, but because of mistakenly using the girls' bathroom in Dewey's Restaurant on that fateful day in 1963, I have concluded that I was a trendsetter and fifty years ahead of the times! I reckon I should be proud rather than embarrassed.



Gender-inclusive restrooms did not exist in 1963 when Terry made his embarrassing mistake.

Americanisms



“Surround yourself with people who take their work seriously, but not themselves, those who work hard and play hard.”
— Colin Powell

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David Zubler
Columnist

You can avoid paying income taxes on the gain of a fixer-upper house. This strategy involves taking advantage of the tax-free gain on the sale of a home. For people who love to work on houses, this can be a great way to make money and pay no taxes.

This strategy requires that you live in the house for 2 of the last 5 years. The tax-free gain is up to \$500,000 for couples and \$250,000 for singles. The tax-free gain is a

lifetime gain. As an example, if you are married, you could sell 5 houses with gains of \$100,000 before paying any taxes.

Normally the gain is not reported on your tax return if it is a tax-free sale of home gain. However, if the sale is reported to the IRS on a Form 1099-S, Proceeds From Real Estate Transactions, you will need to report the sale on your tax return. Since you received a Form 1099-S for the sale, the sale should be reported on Form 8949 and Schedule D in your tax return. The sales price and cost basis will be the same amount, which will result in no gain.

If you have never flipped houses, you will need to have some crucial knowledge before jumping in. It's crucial that the real estate contract include an inspection clause.

To be successful with this strategy, you will need to be able to accurately estimate a purchase price that will provide the profit that you desire. This requires calculating the cost to repair the house and its likely market value after the renovation. Start by adding up the costs to renovate the property based on a thorough assessment of the condition of the house, including mate-

rials and labor. Include another 5 to 10 percent for unforeseen problems.

Remodeling a fixer-upper can cost a lot of money, so it's critical you have the right financing lined up. Some home renovation mortgages allow you to roll remodeling costs into your loan amount with a single mortgage.

These programs include the Fannie Mae HomeStyle Loan, Freddie Mac's CHOICERenovation Mortgage, FHA 203(k) loan, and VA renovation loan.

One problem that you may encounter with this strategy is that a lot of lenders are wary of approving mortgages on houses in poor condition to people without great credit. One way to get around this is to buy the home financed by the seller. This way, you also avoid any hassles with mortgage companies, and you can negotiate the interest rate with the seller.

This IRS rule allows you to repeat this process every two years, keeping all that tax-free income over and over.

Selling fixer-upper homes can enable you to make hundreds of thousands of dollars in profits while avoiding paying tens of thousands of dollars in taxes.

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 Moves Indoors

Those in power at the senior center have now decreed that we will have the annual Christmas dinner indoors instead of out in the parking lot. This flash of brilliance came after they received a number of responses that were more along the lines of "Are you crazy?" rather than the expected RSVPs.

The original plan was to spread tables across the asphalt outside, with culinary arts students bringing food and drink out from the kitchen in the center, and to park a bunch of senior citizens outside in the cold in the middle of December in New England to eat that dinner.

Saner heads prevailed, I hear, when a retired nurse posed the question: "And just

how many of our members do you suppose are going to end up in the hospital after two hours of exposure to outdoor December temperatures?" The student chef, I also hear, claimed that he'd been asked to provide a "hot dinner" and wasn't thrilled about having to work for hours over hot stoves only to have his creations subjected to icy temperatures.

As of now, the dinner will be indoors with fewer tables. Santa will still arrive via limo, and the high-school chorus will still sing (although they'll be out in the hall as there is no place for all of them in the actual room).

Watch this space, however, because I hear there is a movement afoot (as well as a petition from members) to ditch the sit-down dinner completely and instead have a standup event with finger foods arrayed on tables and a cash bar over in the corner. "We want to see our friends and mingle" has been the cry (as well as what is written on the petition). "We want some good dance music" penciled in one signer. In a perfect world, the powers-that-be would have asked the members first.

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FLASHBACK

By Mick Harper

1. Who wrote and released "Love Will Tear Us Apart"?
2. Which artist had the first hit with "Everlasting Love"?
3. Name the three truckers in C.W. McCall's "Convoy."
4. What was the title of John Travolta's debut single, his only Top 10 hit?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Snowflakes in the air, carols everywhere, olden times and ancient rhymes of love and dreams to share."

Answers

1. Joy Division, in 1980. Songwriter Ian Curtis wrote the song about his own relationship difficulties. Rolling Stone put it on their list of the 500 best songs in both 2004 and 2011.
2. Robert Knight, in 1967. Numerous others have covered the song since then, including Gloria Estefan, the Four Tops and the Temptations.
3. "Rubber Duck," "Pig Pen" and "Sodbuster." The 1978 film "Convoy" was based on the song. It was also used in "Grand Theft Auto V."
4. "Let Her In," released in 1976.
5. "Christmas Time Is Here," written by Vince Guaraldi and sung by St. Paul's Episcopal Church, in 1965. The song is most known for its use in the animated "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

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Michael Nance
Columnist

Oil Prices, Inflation and Supply Issues—A Global Slowdown on the Horizon?

Americans are facing economic circumstances that are chipping away at the credibility of the Biden administration. Gas prices at the pump are rising, inflation and supply chain issues are impacting lower- and middle-class wallets. All while our two major political parties are concentrating on winning the mid-term elections.

President Joe Biden stated on November 23 that he is authorizing tapping the nation's strategic oil reserve to reduce rising prices at the gas pump. This move didn't find many friends on Capitol Hill or among the general public. The president was quoted as saying: "Today we're launching a major effort to moderate the price of oil, an effort that will span the globe in its reach and ultimately reach your gas station, God willing."

China and India are also distributing portions of their countries oil reserves in a move meant to thwart OPEC's dominance on the oil prices. The move by the U.S. China and India met with subtle warnings from Saudi Arabia and Russia. According to major news outlets, Saudi Arabia and Russia are deliberating on a halt to their stated intention to increase oil production. On one notion everyone agrees, that releasing strategic oil is a temporary fix to OPEC's apparent misbehavior and displays a weakness in U.S. energy independence.

The political guillotine is being prepared for the Biden Administration

as the critics are growing. They point towards the Presidents mothballing of the Keystone Pipeline and regulations on frack oil as two areas where the current administration has chosen partisan ideology over the welfare of U.S. Citizens. Even Democratic Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) has called for the president to reverse his position on the canceled Keystone XL pipeline. The cancelling of the Keystone pipeline had a trifecta effect of eliminating high paying jobs, straining relations with Canada, and made the U.S. more dependent on foreign oil.

Moving from the United States and looking around the globe there are a host of issues that promise to challenge any global economic recovery from the devastating economic effects of Covid-19. In Britain they are experiencing rising fuel prices, shortages, and long lines at the pump. These circumstances are being compared to the energy crisis of the 1970s. Analyzing the causes, it isn't a lack of fuel, but a lack of drivers to deliver the fuel. Many of the nations truck drivers are older and retiring, while the younger generation that is taking their place are experiencing delays in obtaining licenses due to the Covid pandemic. Also truck driver wages have risen 25 percent in the short timespan of the pandemic. Grocery stores and restaurants are also feeling the pinch from the trucking issues creating British frustration not seen in decades.

In China, manufacturing is being curtailed due to the rationing of electricity. Considering the exports of China this

could contribute to a slower recovery of the supply chain problems plaguing almost every country. It also slows a Chinese economy that is propping up massive debt. Another wave of Covid restrictions could see the Chinese economy tumble and set off a global domino effect of debt failures.

Just 90 miles off of the Florida Coast we could soon see more trouble on the horizon for Cuba. Back in June of this year there were what BBC coined: "the biggest protests in decades" in the Island nation. The tourist driven economy of Cuba was devastated by Covid-19 and the protests in the tightly controlled country are a warning sign for the Castro dynasty who leads that country.

In conclusion, we are certainly experiencing challenges here in the United States but compared to the rest of the world we are faring far better than most countries. Here in Morgan County, we have an extra blessing to live in the State of Tennessee, where we have a Governor who obviously understands the dynamics of transportation and the free market. Governor Lee recently launched "Operation Open Road." He and other republican governors called on President Biden to remedy supply chain challenges by suspending onerous transportation regulations. This sends a clear signal that Lee and his governor peers understand how to remedy supply chain issues and the Biden administration would be well-served to heed their advice.

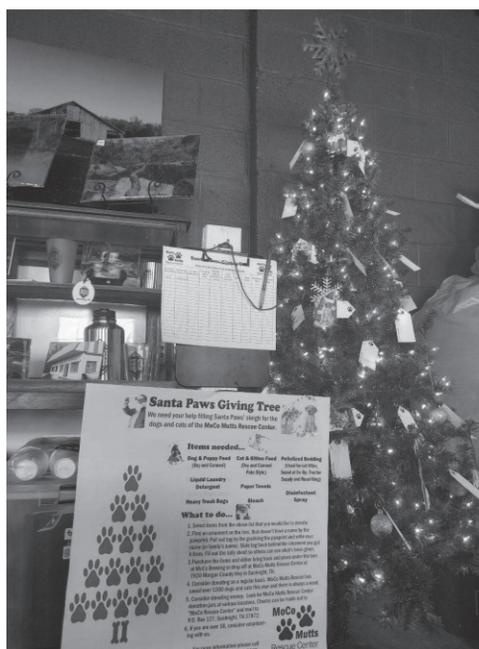
MoCo Mutts Fundraising Challenge

A generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous has pledged to match up to \$10,000 of all donations received by MoCo Mutts from Giving Tuesday (November 30) until the end of the year. Giving Tuesday was created in 2012 to encourage people to do good. Ever since then, the idea has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.

Already this year, MoCo Mutts has taken in over 1300 dogs and cats and typically cares for over 100 dogs and 20-30 cats every day until they are ready for adoption to their next forever homes or transported to other partner animal rescues that complete the adoption process. MoCo Mutts is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization staffed almost entirely by volunteers (one part-time kennel technician has been hired to offset volunteer shortages). Providing this care is very expensive and monthly costs often exceed the pledged amount of \$10,000, so every donation, no matter the size, is always appreciated and much-needed.

There are many ways to donate during the month of December to meet the challenge of doubling the donation of \$10,000. Cash, checks and credit cards can be taken at the Rescue Center, located at 7920 Morgan County Highway (Highway 27) in Sunbright. Moco Mutts will also host an online fundraiser on their Facebook page for remote giving. Locally, there are Donation Jars at many local businesses with more being distributed this week. In Rugby, donation jars can be found at RM Brooks store and Grey Gables Bed and Breakfast. Gather Coffee Shop in Oneida also has a donation jar. In Lancing, you can donate at Lilly Pad Hopyard Brewery and Pilot Mountain Diner. In Petros, Brushy Mountain Penitentiary has a donation jar and Johnboys BBQ Food Truck is collecting donations. In Wartburg, MoCo Brewing Project, Warpigs and Angie's Restaurant currently have donation jars. MoCo Brewing will also be hosting a Giving Tree collecting supplies for MoCo Mutts through the holidays. If you own a business and would like a donation jar to place near your cash register, contact us at (423) 628-5060.

To donate or get more information, or to volunteer, contact Lisa Hill or Tracy Wyant at (423) 628-5060.



The Tennessee Holocaust Commission announces the winners of the first Mira Kimmelman 'Learning from the Holocaust' essay and project contest.

Mira Kimmelman 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. The High School winners are:

Emily Salko - Oak Ridge High School, Oak Ridge, TN.
Haley Braden – Anderson County High School, Clinton, TN.

The Middle School winners are:

Emmie Wolf-Dubin – Meigs Magnet Middle School, Nashville,

TN.

Chloe Collins – Oakdale Middle School, Oakdale, TN.
Claire Bernheisel – Dyersburg Middle School, Dyersburg, TN.
Aiden Cantu – Robertsville Middle School, Oak Ridge, TN.
Kyleigh Langdale – Robertsville Middle School, Oak Ridge, TN.
Lennox Pack – Robertsville Middle School, Oak Ridge, TN.
Nathanael Peters – Robertsville Middle School, Oak Ridge, TN.
Julia Hussey – Robertsville Middle School, Oak Ridge, TN.
Alia Oakes – Robertsville Middle School, Oak Ridge, TN.
Teagan Tate – Robertsville Middle School, Oak Ridge, TN.
Audrey Thompson – Robertsville Middle School, Oak Ridge, TN.

The students were awarded cash prizes ranging from \$150 to \$750.

Congratulations to the winners and their teachers for all the thought and care that went into these essays and projects. You can view the winning essays/projects here: <https://tnholcom.org/kimmelman-contest/>

The Commission has announced the 2021-2022 Mira Kimmelman 'Learning from the Holocaust' Contest. Information concerning the contest can be found on the Commission website The 2021-2022 Mira Kimmelman Contest - Tennessee Holocaust Commission (tnholcom.org)

For more information, please contact us at tnholcom@tnholcom.org

Chamber of Commerce Happenings

Morgan County Chamber of Commerce will have our "2021 Hard Candy Christmas" Dinner Meeting at Country Joy Venue, 2615 Morgan County Hwy from 6 to 8pm on Thursday, Dec 2nd. Big Thanks to Schuberts Funeral Home for sponsoring our JohnBoy's Catered Dinner and to Plateau Electric Cooperative for sponsoring our Venue! We are also looking forward to some MOSAIC music by our very own Doug Freels! Please email or call to RSVP. 423 346.5749 chamber@morgancountyttn.org

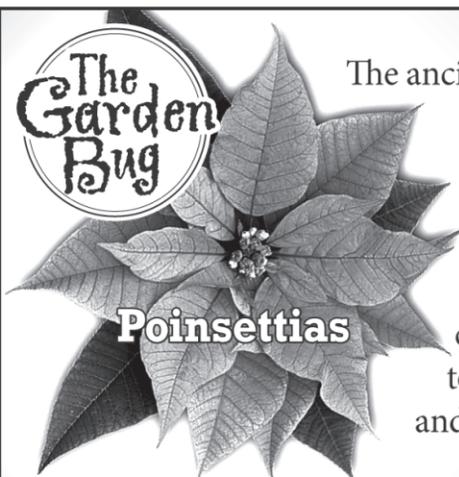
Morgan County Chamber of Commerce will be presenting our 2021 "Hard Candy Christmas" Tree Lighting at the Morgan County Visitor Center, 3804 Morgan County Hwy. at 7pm directly after the Wartburg Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 4th. Either take a moment to watch from across from Darnell's or... Drop by for a few moments with the kiddos for a little hot chocolate and let them count down to light the Tree and say "Hello" to Santa and MOSAIC Christmas with Doug Freels!

City of Sunbright will be having their annual Caroling and Park lighting on Friday Dec. 3rd from 5:30pm to 7pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

Pilot Mountain Diner
423-628-6200
6687 Morgan County Hwy.
Lancing, TN

Mon - Fri 6:00 am - 4:00 pm

Call In or Dine In



The ancient Aztecs called this brilliant plant *cuetlaxochitl*, or "the flower that perishes like all that is pure." It was very highly esteemed, and used medicinally and in worship to their gods. Later, during the Spanish colonial period, the plant continued to be used during the religious feasts and holy days in southern Mexico, and was called *Flor de Nochebuena* (the

Christmas Eve flower) by the monks. American diplomat Joel Poinsett brought samples of it from southern Mexico to his home in South Carolina, and it became popular as the "poinsettia" plant.

Sources: www.ambius.com, mexicounexplained.com

– Brenda Weaver

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Chancery Court Morgan County Wartburg, Tennessee | NOTICE TO CREDITORS | Case Number <u>P-55-21</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|

In the matter of the Estate of EVERETTE GOINS
Deceased

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.

- (1)
 - (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
 - (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
- (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This the 19TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021.

EVERETTE DONALD GOINS
EXECUTOR

ANGELA R. ANDERSON
Clerk and Master

TONYA SHANNON
Deputy Clerk

The 3rd Annual Christmas Market will be held in Downtown Wartburg on December 4, 2021
Wartburg, Tennessee – The Morgan County Tourism Alliance (MCTA) and Downtown Wartburg Revitalization (DWR) will co-sponsor the 3rd Annual Christmas Market in Wartburg on December 4, 2021 from 11am - 5 pm.
The Christmas Market will feature arts and craft vendors as well as food vendors selling baked goods and other food items. Tanner's Store will offer hot soups and drinks. Local businesses will also be open during market hours. Kids can get their picture taken with Santa!

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



MoCo Adventures

TRAVEL IN THE MOUNTAINS

High School Basketball Roundup

The 2021-22 high school basketball season kicked off this past week for Morgan County schools.

Coalfield Girls

- Nov 16 – Lost to Cumberland County 61-75
- Nov 18 – Lost to CAK 65-84
- Nov 23 – Defeated Midway 53-48

Oakdale Girls

- Nov 16 – Lost to Lenoir City 31-45
- Nov 18 – Lost to Sale Creek 37-50

Sunbright Girls

- Nov 16 – Defeated Scott County 45-30
- Nov 16 – Defeated Mt. Pisgah 65-42
- Nov 20 – Lost to Clay County 62-42
- Nov 20 – Defeated Kingston 70-58
- Nov 23 – Defeated Monterey 55-31

Wartburg Girls

- Nov 16 - Defeated Loudon 60-53

Nov 18 – Lost to Monterey 44-67

Nov 23 – Lost to Scott County 36-46

Coalfield Boys

Nov 23 – Lost to Midway 62-68 (OT)

Oakdale Boys

Nov 16 – Lost to Lenoir City 32-74
 Nov 18 – Defeated Sale Creek 68-56

Sunbright Boys

- Nov 18 – Defeated J. Frank White 45-43
- Nov 20 – Lost to Anderson County 45-50
- Nov 20 – Defeated Knoxville Ambassadors 54-42
- Nov 23 – Lost to Monterey 46-75

Wartburg Boys

- Nov 16 – Lost to Loudon 37-72
- Nov 19 – Defeated Monterey 80-78
- Nov 23 – Lost to Scott County 34-80

Sunbright Middle school Lady Tigers are now 7-1 on the season overall

Monday, November 22nd
Sunbright Middle Girls vs Jellico

Sunbright= 42
Jellico= 28

- 1st Quarter= Jel 9, SB 8
- 2nd Quarter= SB 16, Jel 13
- 3rd Quarter= SB 29, Jel 23
- 4th Quarter= SB 42, Jel 28

Stats:

#00 Addison Coleman
11pts, 11reb, 3stl, 1blk

#5 Adeline Rogers
10pts, 8reb, 1stl

#10 Emerson Nichols
15pts, 1reb, 1ast, 1stl

#11 Julianna Shelton

6pts, 2reb, 1stl

#12 Alaina Morgan
9reb, 3ast, 4stl



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