

Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3

Volume 07 Number 51

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

Your Community. Your News.

75¢

Merry Christmas

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” - Isaiah 9:6

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Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

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USPS PUBLICATION NUMBER (15400)

I'D RATHER BE READING.

#mocotoday



Michael Nance Columnist

The ongoing hostilities between Russia and the Ukraine have dominated many headlines across the globe, despite the surge in European covid cases via the omicron variant. Tensions have been high between the two countries since February of 2014 when the pro-Soviet President Viktor Yanukovich was purged from his seat of power and replaced by a western friendly interim government.

In recent months, Russia has been staging troops and equipment along its western border with Ukraine. Reportedly, 175,000 Russian troops are positioned presently, with material and supplies arriving daily. Before jumping off the ledge and assuming a war is afoot, it is worth considering that in the last two years Putin has made similar moves no less than three separate times. This could be just another ruse by the semi-dictator to determine what concessions he can obtain from NATO. In Ukraine, the government is extremely nervous and appear to be convinced that an invasion is imminent. In the first week of December, the Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksiy Reznikov issued warnings to his government that Russia could invade Ukraine as early as January of 2022.

Russia recently stated its demands to deescalate the crisis, which included a pledge from the U.S. and her allies not to expand NATO and include Ukraine in the alliance. This is a key moment for NATO and President Biden, who will blink first? If the rhetoric is any guide as to what will occur, it appears neither NATO nor President Biden have any intention of barring Ukraine from joining NATO. That sentiment is per a source in the White House who yet remains anonymous.

On the heels of that reporting, an ominous sign recently emerged, the Russians just deployed the Buk-M1, which is a medium-range surface-to-air missile system. This particular air defense system established a macabre reputation when in 2014 Russian proxies fired on a Malaysian airliner and killed all 298 passengers and crew aboard.

This air defense system is one of the many elements that an invading military force requires to protect logistical supply lines and may represent an escalation of Russian intentions.

What are Putin's motives for a Ukrainian invasion? Well, the answers to that question have both simple and complicated answers. First and foremost, Putin's political and military posturing has all the underpin-

Russia Testing NATO and the U.S.

nings of a power-hungry dictator intoxicated by his own hubris. Putin is obviously concerned about the Ukraine becoming a part of NATO and potentially having United States influence adjoining his western border. But there are other complicated reasons that may hint at future global paradigms. Before the breakup of the Soviet Union, Ukraine was the "breadbasket of the Soviet Union." The Ukraine is known for a robust grain production. A food supply which could be a critical resource for the Russian government in the years to come.

China has also recently issued warnings concerning food. The government has encouraged their citizens to stockpile food and typical family staples. This is purportedly in response to the Chinese energy shortages, bad weather, and the supply chain woes caused by the Covid pandemic. Considering the supply chain issues with Covid and the expanding world population the ability to produce food is a key imperative for both Russia and China.

So, what will the and the U.S. and their NATO allies do if Russia invades? If we take the recent comments of British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace, it will not involve deploying western troops. He was quoted as stating that the deployment of NATO troops was "highly unlikely" in response to a Russian invasion. President Biden's comments seem to infer economic sanctions against Russia if they choose to invade the pro-western nation.

Other scholars appear to hint, that the buildup of over 175,000 Russian troops is just another ruse by Putin. Alexander Clackson, a postgraduate researcher at the Uni-

versity of Lancaster (UK) who specializes in Russia made the case in November of this year that Putin has much to lose and very little to gain by a Ukrainian invasion.

He makes a strong case that if logic prevails, Putin will withdraw his troops. Clackson highlights that since 2014, the United States has provided \$2 billion in security assistance, which included the famed Javelin missiles. A Javelin missile is a tanks worst nightmare and has proven effective on the battlefield. Also, in November Britain finalized a treaty with Ukraine that will facilitate loans from London in order for the former Soviet state to purchase British warships and missiles.

Another piece of information that seems to hint the buildup of Russian troops is a ruse is inferred by the element of surprise. Typically, an imperative of a modern invasion is the element of surprise. Reports indicate that Putin has arranged this troop buildup to garner as much media attention as possible. This eliminates the element of surprise and supports Clackson's position.

It is clear that Putin is testing the resolve of President Biden and NATO in his militarily provocative actions. Putin has established that Russia is neither a democracy nor a complete dictatorship. Some scholars call Putin's Russia as a "hybrid regime" of an authoritarian species. Much like a grade school bully, Putin will have to be challenged or his demands and actions will increase in intensity. We can only hope that diplomacy and a firm position will alleviate this latest crisis and soldiers will not have to sacrifice their lives on the battlefield because of political hubris.

MORGAN COUNTY WEATHER THIS WEEK

Table with 3 columns: Day, Temperature (High/Low), and Weather icon. Rows include Tue 14 (61°/42°), Wed 15 (60°/50°), Thu 16 (62°/53°), Fri 17 (62°/57°), Sat 18 (61°/32°), Sun 19 (48°/40°), and Mon 20 (51°/34°).

Advertisement for RMG (Roane Metals Group LLC) featuring a recycling symbol logo, business hours (Open Monday-Friday 8 AM to 4:30 PM, Saturday 8 AM to Noon), and location (Roane County Industrial Park, Rockwood, TN). Includes contact info: 865-354-4282, 5605 Hwy 127 N, Crossville, TN, 931-707-0907. Bottom text: PAYING TOP DOLLAR FOR YOUR SCRAP METAL.

In Loving Memory

Rema Lane, 88

Mrs. Rema Lane, age 88, of Wartburg passed away Tuesday, December 14, 2021, with her family by her side.

She is preceded in death by her husband, J.T. Lane and several brothers and sisters.

She is survived by her daughter, Peggy & Leon McPeters; son, Darrell & Georgia Lane and a host of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The family will receive friends Friday, December 17, 2021, at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 4:00-6:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 6:00 p.m. Graveside services will be Saturday at 10:00 a.m. in the Liberty Church Cemetery in Wartburg with Dr. Paul Frick officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mrs. Rema Lane.

Barbara Hawn, 71

Barbara Hawn, age 71, passed away December 14, 2021 at Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge. Barbara loved taking care of her husband and children and will be missed so much by them all.

She is preceded in death by her sons, Jimmie Hawn and Oscar Hawn; daughter, Karan Hawn; parents, Billy & Margaret McGowan and brother, Richard McGowan.

She is survived by her husband, Jimmie Hawn; daughter, Teresa (David) Pierce; grandchildren, Crystal (Bart) Pierce, Sarah Pierce, Jonathan Pierce, Karan

Pierce; grand grandchildren, Madison Pickett, Hayden Myers; brothers, Bill & Cheryl McGowan and Donald McGowan and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family.

The family will receive friends December 17, 2021 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 4:00-6:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 6:00 p.m. with Bro. James Briggs officiating. Graveside services will be Saturday at 11:00 a.m. at Caney Branch Cemetery in Lancing.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Barbara Hawn.

Zonie Shannon Thomas, 96

Zonie Shannon Thomas, age 96 passed away December 11, 2021 at her home with the people she loved by her side. She was born January 31, 1926 to the late Herbert and Elizabeth Shannon.

Zonie was the oldest living member of White Oak Missionary Baptist Church in Sunbright. If you were ever in church with her, you will never forget it. When she prayed, Heaven listen. She was a prayer warrior and would sit for hours and read her bible. She will be missed by all who knew her.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Frank Gene Thomas of 68 years; brothers, Ambers Shannon, Lonas Shannon and Manus Shannon; sisters, Omia Voiles, Imogene Waters and Ina McMcluskey.

She is survived by her brothers, Coy Shannon, Amous Shannon and James Allen Shannon; sister-in-law, Wanda Bowling and a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and extended family. 4 special care givers who took great care of and loved her dearly, Shirley Duncan, Madge Overton, Kathy Armes and Bonnie Webb.

The family will receive friends Monday, December 13, 2021 at Schubert Funeral Home in Sunbright from 5-7:00 p.m. Funeral services will be Tuesday December 14, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at Schubert Funeral Home in Sunbright with Rev. Larry Waters officiating. Interment will follow in the Sunbright Cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Zonie Shannon Thomas.

Larry Clayton Galloway, 79

Larry Clayton Galloway, age 79, of Lancing, Tennessee went to his heavenly home on December 15, 2021. Larry retired from Highland Telephone after almost 40 years of service. He had a great love for his family and enjoyed farming.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Hurgin and Ruby (York) Galloway; brothers, Billy Odell Galloway, and Joe Dan Galloway; sister, Anna Lou Galloway.

Larry is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Glenda (Lavender) Galloway; daughters, Sandra and husband, Donnie Wilson, Cathy and husband, Phillip Stafford; son, Chris and wife, Julie Galloway; grandchildren, Taylor and

husband, Elijah Anderson, Kayla and Drew Stafford, and Clayton Galloway; brother, H.W. Galloway and a host of nephews and nieces.

The family will have a private service on Friday, December 17, 2021, at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg with Darwin and Doyle Nance officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Deer Lodge, TN.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Larry Clayton Galloway.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Farhaz Nooralli has applied for a permit to sell beer ON premise at the location known as:

**Rite Stop
6687 Morgan County Hwy
Lancing, TN 37770**

Anyone having reason to believe that this permit should not be issued, must appear before the Morgan County Beer Board on the 21st day of December 2021 at 5:30 pm in the Office of the County Clerk.

American Legion Post 149 December Events

December 31, 2021 – Our New Year Gala. Come roll in the New Year with us from 7:00 pm until 12:30 am. Tickets are \$45.00 for one person or \$80.00 per couple. We will have Bill Shannon and his band Chill Factor for live entertainment, door prizes, along with your choice of either prime rib or chicken with an abundance of sides and desserts. We have 96 available tickets so if your interested please call Mark Keck at 423-215-1734.

The Last and Final Reading of Ordinance # 111-21-AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SUNBRIGHT, TENNESSEE REPEALING ORDINANCE NUMBER 23: "PROCEDURES FOR SLUM CLEARANCE" AND ADOPTING THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY CODE ORDINANCE ON PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REGULATIONS

Ross Howard, 88

Ross Howard, age 88 of Sunbright, TN went to be with his Lord and Savior on Friday, December 17, 2021, at Ben Atchley's VA Nursing Home in Knoxville, TN.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Earlene Howard; Parents, Roy and Beatrice Howard and special aunt and uncle, Adra and Martin Galloway who raised him; brothers, Raymond Howard and Gaylon Howard; and Sisters, Eula Hamilton, Christine Butcher, and Wanda Dodd.

Survived by his Son and wife, Lonnie and Denise Howard of Wartburg; Daughter and husband, Lisa and Robert Hudson of Knoxville; Granddaughter and husband, Ashlyn and Matt Howard of Knoxville; Sisters, Loma Atkins and Mary Ann Yohey of Dayton, OH.

He was a longtime member of Sunbright United Methodist Church. Ross also served as CPL in the U.S. Army where he trained for the Korean War. He belonged to the Mountain Shadow Cruisers Club where he spent many years doing car shows and parades in his 1952 Chevrolet truck with many special car club friends.

The family will receive friends Tuesday, December 21st, from 10AM to 12 PM at Schubert Funeral Home in Sunbright. Funeral services will follow at 12 PM with Tom Robbins officiating. Interment will follow in the Sunbright Cemetery with military honors, American Legion Post #149.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Ross Howard.

Twas the Pint Before Christmas Donation

Medic Blood Drive will be at Hammers in Wartburg on Tuesday, December 21st, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. They will be giving away coupon to salsaritas, Snow tubing in Gatlinburg, and a T-shirt.

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



Merry Christmas! Thank you for all the Christmas greetings Bunt and I have received. We are blessed to live among so many family and friends.

Congratulations to Oakdale School Staff and Students on being nominated as a Cool School. The school was featured on WBIR Channel 10 last Friday. The school was also presented \$1,000 from Food City to be used for much needed supplies. Principal Misty Marsh said she plans to use some of the money for rewards for students. It was an honor for the school to be nominated but let's face it.....we all knew Oakdale School is a Cool School. If anyone missed the segment on Channel 10, you can go to YouTube and search "WBIR Cool Schools" to watch it.

Oakdale School PTO sponsored a Christmas drawing this year. All school employee's names were entered for a chance to win 1 of 5 \$100 bills. Congratulations to the winners who were Amanda Bingham, Crystal Devaney, Nicole Menard, Cindy Tilson and Jenny Wright.

Valerie Disney hosted her annual friend's Christmas party last week. About 5 years ago, she began inviting her friends for a fun evening at her home where no men and no children are allowed. Each friend brings a finger food and a gift to play dirty Santa. Valerie said it is one of her favorite days of the year because everyday life is so busy and she doesn't get to see her friends

often. This year, 7 of her friends attended. Valerie said she is very thankful for their friendships.

Boswell Chapel Baptist Church had their Christmas program Sunday, December 12. All the children did very well. Everyone enjoyed a time of fellowship and food afterward.

Mickey Bingham turned 3/4 of a century on December 15. His sons Jay, Michael and Michael's wife Regina joined Mickey and Jeanie for supper the night before. Jay's visit was a surprise. On his birthday, Mickey and Jay played golf. Jeanie made him a one layer heart shaped cake like his momma baked when he was growing up. Happy 75th Birthday Mr. B!

Last Friday night, Matt and Chloe Reynolds hosted Christmas for the Disneys in their new home. Matt and Chloe recently purchased the former Jerry and Jo Hardin home. Chloe has a stunning 12 foot Christmas tree in her living room. The Disney family appreciates her hosting their family gathering.

Girl Scout Troop 20742 would like to thank everyone who helped make their Christmas fund raiser a success. Thanks to all the parents who prepared food and helped with the event. Thanks to everyone who donated items for the silent auction. A special thank you to Santa and Mrs. Claus for coming all the way from the North Pole to visit with families and have their picture taken. Thank you

to everyone who attended.

Condolences to David and Gail Watson and their entire family due to the passing of their daughter, Felicia. Felicia is also survived by her husband Bruce, 5 children, 1 grandchild and her sister, Serena as well as many other family members and friends. Graveside services were held Friday, December 17 at Rankin Chapel Baptist Church.

Sympathy is extended to the friends and family of Jack Hill who passed away Saturday, December 18.

Luke 2: 7-11

7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because

there was no room for them in the inn.

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Chancery Court Morgan County Wartburg, Tennessee	NOTICE TO CREDITORS	Case Number <u>P- 60-21</u>
In the matter of the Estate of ROLETTA L. STORIE Deceased		
<p>Notice is hereby given that on the 6TH day of DECEMBER 2021, Letters of Testamentary in respect to the Estate of ROLETTA L. STORIE who died on the 28th day of SEPTEMBER 2021, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk of Morgan County, Tennessee. All persons, residents and non-residents, having claims, matured or unmatured against her Estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claim will be forever barred.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or</p> <p>(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or</p> <p>(2)</p> <p>Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.</p> <p>This 6TH day of DECEMBER 2021.</p> <p><u>VERONICA C. STORIE</u> Executor</p> <p><u>ANGELA R. ANDERSON</u> Clerk and Master</p> <p><u>TALLESSE ALLEY</u> Deputy Clerk</p>		

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Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

Merry Christmas

I want to wish you and your family a safe, wonderful Christmas. It's been a very difficult year for many of us. Christmas is my favorite holiday of the year. For many of us Christians, it's also a time of year to celebrate the birth of Christ. Many churches in the area are performing Christmas plays, services, and are proudly displaying their festive, nativity scenes. I want to share with my readers why Christmas is my favorite time of the year.

I love the concept of giving. I try to display that in my life throughout the year. I believe, generosity is one of the keys to a happy and successful life. Christmas time tends to be my favorite time of the year to give with outrageous generosity. I have never told this story because I believe in silent acts of generosity. In other words, you don't have to brag or tell anyone to enjoy giving, but this story may inspire you to help someone.

I sponsor a child at The Covenant House of Georgia every year. The covenant house takes in youth 18-22 years old who have fallen on hard times. Many of these adolescents never had family, were abused at a young age, or given up on during their childhood. A lot of them never received Christmas presents their whole life. I sponsor a child every year and make sure they never forget their first Christmas with gifts. I try to spoil them and let them know someone loves them; people really do care about them.

I also do a random act of kindness every year. I will go to a Waffle House or Denny's and order a cup of coffee. I usually do this the day of Christmas. I think if someone is working Christmas, they definitely need the extra money. I ask for the bill and hand back the black folder to the waitress. I tell them to keep the change. What they don't know is there is a \$100.00 bill tucked in the folder. Last year, I did this at Ruby Tuesdays and the

waitress began to cry. She said she needed the money to pay her power bill and she was 4 months pregnant.

I was raised to love Christmas. My granny and I used to decorate the apartment every year together since I was 10 years old. My granny loved Christmas. She loved giving presents and loved to open

her gifts. She was like a little kid; she was the one wanting to open our Christmas gifts early. We didn't have much money, but we were able to decorate the apartment well on a limited budget. I have a lot of great memories with her around the Christmas holiday.

I remember us going to church together, being in Christmas plays, visiting my family, shopping together, and singing Christmas music together. It's tough around the holidays, but the time we spent together will always supersede the tough days.

I know Christmas may be a difficult time of year for various reasons. Remember what Christmas actually means and let that inspire you to cherish life, make the most of the time we have on earth, and make sure to tell your loved ones how much they mean to you each and every day. Merry Christmas!!!

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.



Zack Ballinger



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Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week

Two Tennesseans received the Medal of Honor for actions during the Korean War. Sergeant Ray Duke received the Medal of Honor posthumously and was awarded South Korea's version of the Medal of Honor, known as the Taegeuk medal.

Sergeant First Class (SFC) Ray Eugene Duke was born on May 9, 1923, in Whitwell, Tennessee. He served in the United States Army during the Korean War as a member of Company C, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division.

Citation: SFC Duke, a member of Company C, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. Upon learning that several of his men were isolated and heavily engaged in an area yielded by his platoon, when ordered to withdraw, he led a small force in a daring assault to recover the position and the beleaguered men. Another enemy attack in strength resulted in numerous casualties but SFC Duke, although wounded by mortar fragments, calmly moved along his platoon line to coordinate fields of fire and urge his men to hold firm in the bitter encounter. Wounded a second time,



he received first aid and returned to his position. When the enemy again attacked shortly after dawn, despite his wounds, SFC Duke repeatedly braved withering fire to ensure maximum defense of each position. Threatened with annihilation and with mounting casualties, the platoon was again ordered to withdraw when SFC Duke was wounded a third time in both legs and was unable to walk. Realizing that he was impeding the progress of two comrades who were carrying him from the hill, he urged them to leave him and seek safety. He was last seen pouring devastating fire into the ranks of the onrushing assailants. The consummate courage, superb leadership, and heroic actions of SFC Duke, displayed during intensive action against overwhelming odds, reflect the highest credit upon himself, the infantry, and the U.S. Army.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

Staff from the Morgan County Correctional Complex (MCCX) spent the day delivering thousands of gifts to local school children earlier this week. Several hundred wrapped gifts were taken to the Morgan County Head Start and over 3,000 more were delivered to the Morgan County School System's Central Office.

On December 16, 2021, the Tennessee Department of Correction posted the following on their Facebook page.

One of the greatest things anyone could do during the holiday season is to spread happiness and joy, especially to those less fortunate. After the year we've had, there's a great need for unity and goodwill. Thanks to the kind and generous staff at the Morgan County Correctional Complex, there will certainly be no

shortage of goodwill in Wartburg and surrounding communities.

The MCCX team is well known throughout their region for their close partnership with the Morgan County School system, especially thanks to their involvement with the Angel Tree program. Every year, multiple fundraising events and toy/clothing drives are held at the facility in an effort to support the program and provide as much as possible for local children.

Thousands of items were donated



this year and hundreds more were purchased thanks to the kindness and generosity of MCCX staff.

Those items were boxed and wrapped by administrative staff and delivered to the school board yesterday.

In all, 350 children in the Morgan County area will have gifts and needed items under their trees this Christmas!

"This is our favorite time of year, specifically because of this project," MCCX Fiscal

Director Larenda McCormick said. "It's such a joy to be involved with Morgan County's Angel Tree program and knowing we're bringing smiles and happiness to so many children."

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The New Ground



Tom Redmon
Columnist

On my grandfather's farm there was a spot just recently cleared off. I guess during the depression grandpa and

his two boys felt they needed more land to farm so by hand they got their axes, cross cut saw, and mattocks out to clear around two acres near Jim's house and Ben Wol-lum's property line. I wasn't old enough to remember when this was done but I sure remember the new ground and the good stuff we planted there.

I remember one spring I was just old enough to ride a bicycle and I loved to ride out to the new ground and see how the crops were doing. One year they planted corn in the field and I found a few watermelon seeds to drop in a few heads of corn. I had seen one of the men do that and you might be able to grow a few small watermelons. In about three weeks I could see that around three to four heads of watermelon had come up and looked pretty healthy. Someone would hoe the corn and I would make sure my watermelon plants stayed undamaged. I told the older men and boys to watch out for my plants.

As time went on the corn grew to be really tall and the new soil produced some big ears of corn. It was the riches soil on the farm by far.

Soon little green striped watermelons began to appear on the vines. I would ride my bike after school to check on my crop. It was exciting for a seven-year-old youngster. A little later I noticed that a few of the watermelons seemed to wither on the vine and would fall off. But enough stayed on and grew rapidly to keep me excited.

After the corn was gathered the grass and weeds began to grow rapidly between the rows so when I went out to the new ground I took a broken hoe with me and cleared out around the largest melon. I had one watermelon that was my prize and I guess I cleaned out around it too much because someone found it and stole it. I laid there in the weeds crying, "oh, no this can't be. I had looked after this big

watermelon for weeks and now it's gone." I kept crying as I rolled in the weeds. It would be hard to go home and face life tomorrow after school. I had worked hard on this project and now comes the sad ending because I had failed.

I had rolled around five yards from where my big melon was growing. I felt something against me. I wondered what could it be. I turned my body over and low and behold there was the biggest watermelon I had ever seen. God had hidden it from the other boys and saved it for me. The new ground that God gave us had produced for me.

We grew a lot of sugar cane on those two acres of land and in the fall of the year

Muddy Pond. The new ground as we called it in the 1940's and 1950's is no longer a new ground. My cousin Carolyn Redmon Spradlin lives on part of the land.

All of you know as well as I do that nothing stays the same. The world is in a constant state of change. Some change is good but a lot of it is not. I guess you could say our government has broken some new ground and it is called socialism. We are already experiencing some of the changes and they aren't good.

Our country has been through some trying times that have severely strained the power of our endurance but because of our love for country we have pulled through.

Maybe the election results in Virginia on November 2nd was an indication that we aren't finished as a free country. People are starting to stand up. Old Glory is still flying over many capital buildings and court houses. The truth about socialism is evolving and with inflation and food shortages because of the supply chain people are beginning to see that this is not good. Parents are showing great concern about what is being taught in our classrooms. America is still alive and in 2022 maybe we can elect some real patriots who can help

us save that new ground our forefathers fought for in 1776.



I along with other kids would find myself out there stripping fodder off of the cane so we could make molasses. This was one of my favorite times of the year. Grandpa would work up into the night cooking that cane juice until it was thick enough to be molasses. Us kids would play on the tummy pile and have a big time.

People would drive over to watch us make molasses and see if grandpa was generous enough to give them a jar full. He always did. People would come through the flat woods with their jars. Men would stand around and talk as grandpa cooked. He didn't trust anyone else to get them just right.

Those old days of making molasses are gone. Our molasses today comes from

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Disappeared: Chapter 15: Part 2

Nick & Chris-Day 4



Carol Hall
Author

He turned to Chris who was staring down the river at the same spot, his mouth hanging open, his eyes as wide as saucers.

Nick took off running downstream along the bank toward where he saw Maggie and the Bigfoot disappear into the trees. He yelled out her name several times, but she was gone.

Suddenly, a deafening roar resonated around them. It was so deep, it shook the ground where they stood.

The five men froze, shock making them unable to move. The dogs, shaking, hid behind Les.

Nick returned to where Chris still stood, motionless.

"Nick, did you see..." Chris began, but was unable to finish.

"Yeah..." Nick said.

"Was it...uh...Bigfoot?" Chris asked, a tremor in his voice.

"Yeah..."

"Well, it looks like we have our answer now boys," Ted said in a low voice filled with awe.

"You all saw that, right?" Walter asked. "Tell me you all saw that?"

Les just stared at the spot that Maggie had disappeared from. He reached down and patted the dogs heads to quiet them. They hadn't stopped whining since the roar sounded. "In all my years of searching, I always wondered if they were real or not. I guess they are. This will be a new one for the books."

Nick just stared down the river to the far bank, where just moments ago, Maggie stood. He still couldn't quite wrap his head around what he had just seen. Bigfoot...he had just seen Bigfoot. This isn't real. No way this is real, he thought. He shook his head to clear it, but it didn't help. He didn't know what to think or feel at the moment. He was at a total loss. He looked helplessly at Ted.

"What do we do now?" he asked, barely louder than a whisper.

"We need reinforcements. We can't possibly go after those things alone," Walter said, looking at Ted. "Right? We are going back for help, aren't we?"

Ted was rubbing his forehead between his fingers and thumb. "Of course we are going back to get more help, Walter. I'm not an idiot. I can see we will need more help."

"Well, let's go then," said Walter, turning back toward the trail they came down to the river on. "I don't want to hang around this place waiting for those monsters to come back."

"They won't be back," Les said. "I don't think they heard us coming over the roar of the river or they would have hightailed it out of here long before we showed up. I think we surprised them. They didn't want to be seen. No, they won't be back."

"Well, what are we going to do now?" asked Chris. He was pale and his hands were slightly shaking. Nick knew he was scared. Evie wasn't as tough and strong as Maggie was and he knew Chris was worried sick about her. He was trying to put on a brave face, but Nick knew inside he was dying.

He wasn't faring much better himself. After seeing Maggie being grabbed up by that animal, he was scared too. Was she ok? Was she hurt? What were those things doing to her? How would they get her and Evie back? How did you fight against a Bigfoot? He felt sick to his stomach. "Hang on, Maggie," he thought to himself. "I'm coming. I'll get you back."

"We are going to head back to base camp and radio in for more help," Ted said.

"Let's get going. We're burning daylight and we have a long way to go."

No one said anything as they hiked back the way they had come. Everyone was lost in his own thoughts. No one knew quite what to say. They had all witnessed something that wasn't supposed to exist. Each man had to come to terms with that in his own way. The silence carried them all the way back to the camp site they had stayed at the night before. When they sat down to take a rest around the fire pit, Nick was the first one to speak.

"Who exactly do you call in for this sort of thing?" he asked.

"Well, for starters, we will need men with guns. Lots of guns," Walter said. He was the one who was taking this new knowledge of the Bigfoot's existence the hardest. He seemed edgy and nervous. He was sweating profusely and kept looking over his shoulder the whole time. Somehow Nick knew at the first opportunity, he would be leaving the mountains as fast as he could and they wouldn't see him again. He was proving himself to be a coward and Nick truly felt they would be better off without him.

"I'm going to radio down to headquarters and ask for several men who have fire-arm experience and we need a good tracker too. Possibly even someone with rock climbing abilities," Ted said. "Unfortunately, we may have to cool our heels at base camp for a couple of days until they can get here."

"Wait, what?" Nick and Chris asked in unison. Anger lacing their words.

"Wait a couple of days?" Nick asked incredulously. "Maggie and Evie might not have a couple of days. Did you see those things? They might be dead in a couple of days!"

"There's no way I'm waiting for days," Chris said angrily. "I'll go by myself if I have to, but I'm not leaving Evie up here with those monsters while we putz around!"

"I understand your frustration fellows, but I can't just snap my fingers and have help miraculously appear. You have to remember, it took us two days to get to where we are right now. By the time I radio down to headquarters, they have to have time to round up the guys we need and then there's the time needed for them to get up here. There's nothing I can do to speed up the process. We just have to wait for them to get here. The women have survived this long. Let's just hope and pray another couple of days won't matter."

"This is ridiculous!" Nick snapped. "I understand it will take a couple of days for our reinforcements to show up, but isn't there something we can do in the meantime?"

"Yes, there is," Ted said. "Pray."

Chris leaned over and put his hand on Nick's arm. "Can I talk to you privately for a minute?"

"Sure." Nick said as he got up and followed Chris away from the fire pit.

When they were out of earshot of the other three, Chris leaned in toward Nick and whispered, "Maybe you and me should go looking for them ourselves. Let Ted and the others go back to base camp and wait for backup, but you and I can head out and go look for the girls."

"If you guys are talking about heading out by yourselves, you have another think coming," Ted yelled over to them. "No way am I going to allow you to go off by yourself and look for them."

Nick stormed back over to the fire pit and pointed his finger at Ted's chest. "And just how do you plan on stopping us? You going to shoot us? Because that's about the only way I see that you are going to be able to stop us."

Chris came over and stood beside Nick. "You saw those things, Ted. If it was your wife, wouldn't you be going after her too, instead of sitting at base camp twiddling your thumbs?"

"I understand your concerns, boys, but what happens if you go barreling after them and get yourselves hurt or killed. You plan to just walk up to that big old Bigfoot and demand your wives back? How do you think that's going to go? You think they are just going to hand them over? Not likely. You have no guns, nothing to go up against a Bigfoot with. Now, let's be reasonable here, ok? Let's do the smart thing and get the help we need, then go storming after them. I don't want to haul you out of here kicking and screaming, but, by golly, I will if I have to." Ted looked from Nick to Chris, his expression stone cold. In that moment, Nick knew there was more to Ted than met the eye.

Nick hated to admit it, but he knew Ted was right. If they went off on their own, any number of things could go wrong and then what would happen to Maggie. He needed to be smart about this and he knew that waiting for the right help was the only way. Defeated, his shoulders dropped and he let out a long sigh.

"You're right," he said to Ted. "I know you are right, but dagnabit, this is hard!"

"You're giving in?" Chris asked Nick with disbelief. "Just like that? That's our wives out there! Are you just going to sit at camp and do nothing while those monsters are doing who-knows-what to them? Seriously?"

"Chris, Ted is right," Nick said. "If we go off and get hurt or killed, what good will that do Maggie and Evie? We need to do the right thing for them. Let's wait for the men and guns and go after them in the right fashion. I hate the thought of just sitting around waiting too, but we have to think of what the best way to get them back is."

Chris was fuming. He stalked off to the other end of the campsite. Nick knew he just needed a moment to cool down and then, he too, would see reason.

Ted laid his hand on Nick's shoulder. "I know this isn't easy, but we are going to do everything we can to get them back. Just trust us, ok. I know you think I am a jerk and that I don't have the sense God gave a goose, but I am going to prove you wrong. I may not have a lot of tact, but I have done this job for years now, and trust me when I say, we will do everything humanly possible to get your wives back."

Nick just nodded at him and took a seat on a log around the fire pit. Ted sat down next to him.

Walter and Les had been silent through the whole argument but now, Nick wanted to know what they were planning to do.

"What do you guys think?" he asked them, looking first at Les, then at Walter.

"I won't be joining the search this time," Walter said. "I didn't sign up for no Bigfoot hunt."

Nick looked at him with disgust and nodded. "I figured you would tuck tail and run at the first opportunity, so good riddance."

Walter gasped and began to sputter, but Nick cut him off. "You weren't cut out for this, I understand. Just go back to your desk job where you belong and leave the men's work to us." With that he turned his attention to Les, dismissing anything further Walter might have said. "Well?" he asked Les.

"I want to continue the hunt, but I won't be bringing the dogs along. They won't be of any use against those Bigfoot. They're scared of them."

"I agree. Thank you for continuing on with us though. I really appreciate it. Do you have any experience in hunting large animals like this?"

"Nope, but I know how to handle a gun and I'm a pretty good shot if you ask me.

I'm also not afraid to fight when I have to. I aim to see this through till the end." Nick clapped him on the shoulder in a gesture of thanks. Les just nodded at him and leaned down to pet the dogs. Walter had turned his back to them and pretended to be interested in something at his feet.

After a quick bite to eat, Ted called for everyone to round up so they could press on toward the base camp. It was still early enough in the day that if they pushed themselves, they should be able to make it back before dark.

The sun had just dipped below the treeline as the five exhausted men entered the campsite where base camp was set up. Ted immediately got to work making calls on his walkie talkie. Nick and Chris began setting up their tent, while Walter and Les set up theirs.

About an hour later, Ted came to Nick and Chris's tent. "Fellows, I need to talk to you for a minute please," he said pushing aside the flap of the tent to peer in at them. Nick and Chris crawled out of the tent to join him outside. It was pitch dark now. The only light was from the fire in the pit in the center of the camp. They made their way to it and each sat on a log. Ted was rubbing his forehead between his thumb and fingers again. Nick had seen him do this whenever he was stressed or had bad news.

"Ted, what's going on?" Nick asked, tension lacing his words. "You have some bad news or something?"

Chris looked from Nick to Ted, worry lines etching his forehead. "If something is wrong, Ted..." he began, but Ted waved his hand in the air to silence them.

"Nothing's wrong, per se," he said. He paused as if afraid to say whatever it was he needed to say. With a deep sigh, he continued. "They're predicting another bad storm to come through the area tomorrow and the atmospheric conditions are not allowing communications through the walkie talkies to go through very well. I'm going to have to hike back down tomorrow and go to headquarters myself and explain what is going on. I plan to round up everyone we need and grab some extra supplies while I am there. I have already called in the other search teams and they will be hiking out of here in the morning. I plan to hike back down with them. I should be back day after tomorrow. I am letting you know in case you guys wanted to join me. You are more than welcome to or you can stay here at camp."

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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

* To prevent candle wax from sticking to a candleholder, swipe the inside with a little olive oil. It'll do the trick!

* Make your own gift wrap from everyday items like newspaper (think color comics) and children's drawings, which can be glued together along the edges. For a really unique wrapping, try inexpensive fabric.

* Cookies are so fun to make (and to eat). To save some of your favorites for the new year, simply place dough balls on a cookie sheet and freeze. Pop into a freezer-safe bag, and you can have freshly baked cookies pretty much anytime! -- JoAnn

* "I have two carafes that I use for my breakfast bar. I keep coffee in one, and the other holds milk or cream. On holiday nights, I prep the cream carafe and put it in the fridge. In the morning, while the first

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* The Greek playwright Aeschylus was killed in 455 B.C. when an eagle, mistaking his bald head for a rock, dropped a tortoise on it. According to Pliny, Aeschylus was spending a lot of time in the open to avoid a prophecy that he would be killed by a falling object!

* Rats cannot vomit. Neither can horses.

* Soviet tenor Victor Ivanovich Nikitin had such an appealing voice that when he sang to his Soviet comrades during World War II, German troops on the Eastern Front ceased fire to listen.

* The human heart can squirt blood up to a distance of 30

feet.

* The American football huddle was invented in 1892 by Paul Hubbard, a quarterback from then all-deaf Gallaudet University, to stop the opposing team from reading their signs.

* A woman who was blinded in an accident developed multiple personalities -- some of which could see.

* An average raindrop falls at a speed of roughly 7 mph.

* When it comes to educating future billionaires, Harvard University holds the lead with an astonishing 29 billionaire alumni as of 2021.

* A town named Hell in Norway freezes over quite regularly.

pot of coffee is brewing, I fill the coffee carafe with hot water and let it sit until the coffee is ready. It keeps the coffee hot longer. Then guests can serve themselves some coffee while the next pot is brewing." -- D.A. in Ohio

* "Wine: Nobody I know is wasting it. But if you're done before the bottle is, pour the leftover wine into ice-cube trays to save it. You can use it later in recipes or (my favorite) to chill a glass of wine!" -- E. in Florida

* A can opener's crevices can be cleaned by "opening" a length of waxed paper. Kitchen scissors can be sharpened by folding a piece of aluminum foil and cutting through it with the scissors.

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

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* Do your lips get annoyingly dry in the winter? Better read the ingredients in that lip balm, as quite a few of them contain salicylic acid, which can exacerbate the problem and cause your lips to peel -- necessitating even more lip balm.

* The first plant to flower and produce seeds in space was Arabidopsis thaliana, grown in 1982 by the crew of the Soviet Salyut 7 on the International Space Station.

* It is illegal to step on money in Thailand because you would be insulting the king by treading on his picture.

Thought for the Day: "The only path wide enough for us all is love." -- Kamand Kojouri

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

4			8	6			7	
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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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Earring site</p> <p>5 Smack</p> <p>8 Blog entry</p> <p>12 Regrettably</p> <p>13 Fuss</p> <p>14 "May It Be" singer</p> <p>15 Dealer's foe</p> <p>16 Moving-day rental</p> <p>17 Aviation prefix</p> <p>18 Energetic person</p> <p>20 Galley supply</p> <p>22 Strikers' queue</p> <p>26 Manhandled</p> <p>29 Chemical suffix</p> <p>30 Hobbyist's abbr.</p> <p>31 Rue the run</p> <p>32 German conjunction</p> <p>33 Lavish party</p> <p>34 — Paulo</p> <p>35 Fuel stat</p> <p>36 Devil's domain</p> <p>37 Playgoer's souvenir</p> <p>40 Writer</p> <p>41 Short jacket</p> <p>45 Gambling game</p> <p>47 Jay follower</p> <p>49 San —, Italy</p> | <p>50 Help a crook</p> <p>51 Hosp. sections</p> <p>52 Author</p> <p>53 Striped fish</p> <p>54 Perched</p> <p>55 Deco artist</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Crow's-nest cry</p> <p>2 Skin care brand</p> <p>3 Hoedown site</p> <p>4 Jailbreak participant</p> <p>5 Mayhem</p> | <p>6 Greek mountain</p> <p>7 Ad nauseam</p> <p>8 Oyster's prize</p> <p>9 Biased</p> <p>10 Aleppo's land (Abbr.)</p> <p>11 Eastern "way"</p> <p>19 Central</p> <p>21 Consumed</p> <p>23 Monarchs</p> <p>24 Evening, in an ad</p> <p>25 Peepers</p> <p>26 Bygone days</p> <p>27 Exotic berry</p> <p>28 "So what?"</p> | <p>32 Chimney pipes</p> <p>33 Maker of ornate eggs</p> <p>35 Gents</p> <p>36 Coloration</p> <p>38 Shoelace woes</p> <p>39 Secret rendezvous</p> <p>42 Dread</p> <p>43 Send forth</p> <p>44 Portrayal</p> <p>45 "Terrif!"</p> <p>46 Lawyers' gp.</p> <p>48 Altar constellation</p> |
|--|---|---|---|
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By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ... OR DARE!

BEB

GULAPE

♥ NOALT

URBG

TABODE

PGA

UTER

NEPEC

♥ UNT

TREGGU

♥ DERBA

♥ IPSN

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

The Failure of 'Latinx'

 What the progressive culture elite wants, it usually gets. Single-sex bathrooms changing overnight to all-gender or non-gender bathrooms? Done. Illegal immigrants becoming known as undocumented persons? But of course.

So, when it was decided in the precincts of fashionable opinion that the term "Latino" would be retired in favor of "Latinx," one could have been forgiven for thinking that this hideous neologism would, like so much else in American life, go from a fringe cause to mainstream soon enough.

But a funny thing happened on the way to the Latinx ascendancy -- Latinos have rejected the term, at the same time that a big swing toward the GOP among these voters has highlighted the perils of high-handed cultural politics for the Democrats.

Latinx may end up being a woke experiment that failed, showing the vast gap between the identity-politics-obsessed progressives earnestly talking to one another in seminar rooms and on social media and the Hispanics in whose name they presume to speak.

Latinx is a project cut from the same cloth as the endless extension of LGBTQ, which, as of this writing, is now more properly and comprehensively rendered as LGBTQQIP2SAA.

The alleged problem that Latinx was invented to fix is that is Spanish has gendered nouns. This means that using the male Latino as an adjective to describe men and women of Latin American ancestry, let alone transgender and non-binary people, is supposedly exclusionary, hateful and downright dangerous. As a handbook on the terminology by a Princeton scholar explains, "To default to the masculine gender promotes interpersonal violence against women and non-binary individuals."

Latinx rose from the ashes of its predecessor neologism Latin@, an attempted amalgamation of the -o at the end of the Latino and the -a at the end of Latina. But no one knew how to pronounce the word. It was deemed insufficiently woke because the "o" was supposedly graphically dominating the "a" (yes, this is how some people think). And it caused confusion on social media where the at sign is used to tag someone.

Enter Latinx, which is only slightly less ridiculous. As Giancarlo Sopo of The Daily Wire, who has been on a one-man crusade against the rise of the term, points out, Latinx is incomprehensible to any Spanish speaker without some knowledge of English. Most Spanish-speakers don't think there is something desperately flawed about their language, or that Spanish grammar is a proto-hate crime. The Real Academia Espanola, Spain's official institution charged with maintaining the integrity of the language, has ruled against the -x appendage.

Out in the real world, "Latinx" polls even more poorly than Joe Biden does. A Politico poll found that only 2% of Hispanics prefer the term, while 68% opt for Hispanic and 21% favor Latino or Latina. The term is considered offensive to 40% of respondents and 30% said that they are less likely to support a politician or group using it.

Rep. Ruben Gallego, an Arizona Democrat, tweeted in reaction to the poll that he forbids his staff from using Latinx in official communications. "When Latino politicians use the term, it is largely to appease white rich progressives who think that is the term we use," he wrote. "It is a vicious circle of confirmation bias."

Still, elite media outlets and other institutions susceptible to progressive influence, as well as many elected Democrats, have dutifully defaulted to the term. It's one thing if an individual prefers to be called Latinx (or, the even more cutting-edge Latina/o/x or Xicanx), it's another thing to apply the term to a large group of people who have no interest in being called a name that makes no sense to them.

The pushback is a heartening sign of the limits of elite cultural power, and of the lack of interest of most Latinos in being pawns in the ever more strained and obscure progressive politics of perpetual victimology.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

Bake and Share Holiday Cookies

It was somewhere between a Norman Rockwell painting and a Hallmark Moment. Our extended family had just gathered for Christmas last year at our cozy cabin nestled in Northern California's coastal redwood forest. The kids



Make memories baking holiday cookies

were busy chopping wood in the misty, foggy air, and my husband was stoking the fire in the sturdy Norwegian stove, while I arranged fresh pine and eucalyptus down the center of our family's century-old dining-room table.

Then, just as Grandma Dolly cracked the last egg for her traditional Swedish rice pudding, we heard a knock at the front door. Beaming from ear to ear, our friend from down the road stepped inside to present us with a delectable plate of his mom's homemade treats. From crunchy peanut brittle to light coconut meringue, the gift assortment was the exclamation point to a perfect afternoon.

Mixed with family tradition, culinary talent and enough sugar to satisfy any sweet tooth, cookie and candy recipes

reign at holiday gatherings. Some of our best family memories are built around mounds of cookie dough, colored frosting and candy sprinkles strewn all over the counter and kitchen floor!

Here are some fresh ideas and hints for this year's family-memory making and baking:

— Start with a standard sugar-cookie recipe with your school-age kids. Let them practice their math and reading skills as you show them basic measuring techniques.

— Once baked and cooled, make frosting in several colors for decorating cookies. Spoon each color into a separate zipper-style plastic bag. Close and twist like a pastry bag, pushing the frosting to a bottom corner of the bag. Snip the corner with scissors to allow the frosting to flow. Raisins, nuts, coconut and colored sugars make tempting additions to your cookie art.

— Hang decorated sugar cookies on branches of mini Christmas trees for holiday guests to take home. Before baking, make a hole with a drinking straw at the top of each cookie. Squeeze frosting to write the names of guests. Thread ribbon through the holes, and hang the cookies.

— Tech-loving families will be inspired to try new recipes using the fun "Martha Stewart Makes Cookies" app. The inspiring "Cookie Runway" is a real hit with kids when they swipe across the screen through the 50-plus recipes. The innovative roulette-wheel recipe finder lets them pick their favorite type and flavor. I like the practical shopping lists I've sent to my iPhone, the nifty timer and the how-to videos. Preview the app at www.marthastewart.com/cookie-recipes-app.

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

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VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves
Boot-Camp for Veteran-Owned Businesses

Last summer, the Department of Veterans Affairs brought together 80 women veteran business owners for a six-month boot camp hosted by PenFed and the VA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU). The goal: teach them how to grow their businesses.

The education they received was like a fast-tracked MBA with hands-on classes in product/market analysis, business development and more. At the end of the six months there was a pitch competition to win a grant for their business.

The Veteran Entrepreneur Investment Program (VEIP), in collaboration with PenFed, has much to offer veterans who already have a business up and running.

To learn more about PenFed, go to veip.penfedfoundation.org. Read about its various programs, especially the Master's Program start-up fundraising accelerator. Application deadline for the Spring 2022 program is Jan.

30. The eight-week program is part of an intensive one-year Master's Program. Classes are open to veterans and their spouses who own businesses, and include fundraising coaching, mentor matching and investor deal day.

If you don't qualify for the Master's Program because you don't have the required number of years running your business or because you haven't even started your business, there is other help for you.

The Small Business Administration offers support, grants, low-interest loans and more to veteran owners of small businesses under the "Patriot Express" program. Search the VA website (va.gov) for small business. Look carefully at the eligibility requirements, such as that the business needs to be more than 51% veteran-owned. Look for information at the OSDBU website.

If your location to open a business is flexible, check the VEIP website (veip.penfedfoundation.org) for its list of top cities for veteran entrepreneurs. Find out which locations top the list in categories such as growing economy, support for veterans and ability to start a business. Don't miss the list of emerging cities to get ahead of the curve.

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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Immanuel in the Old Testament or New Testament or neither?
 2. Isaiah, who prophesied about the birth of Christ, lived about how many years prior? 50, 150, 400, 700
 3. Where does the Bible tell us that Jesus was born on Dec. 25? Does not, Matthew 3:4, Mark 1:1, Luke 7:7
 4. From Luke 2:2, who was governor of Syria at the time of Jesus' birth? Augustus, Barabbas, Cyrenius, Dalphon
 5. What priest was told he would not die until he saw the Savior? Joazar, Matthias, Simeon, Elioneus
 6. Who informed Joseph that the baby's name was to be Jesus? Herod, Pilate, Mary, An angel
- ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) 700; 3) Does not; 4) Cyrenius; 5) Simeon; 6) An angel

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge." Available in bookstores and online, it makes a great gift.

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Comfort foods

Made fast and healthy



by Healthy Exchanges

White Chocolate Cheesecake

If you're celebrating the New Year with a party, be sure to include this scrumptious cheesecake on the menu. It looks as festive as it tastes.

- 2 (8-ounce) packages fat-free cream cheese
- 1 (4-serving) package sugar-free instant white-chocolate pudding mix
- 2/3 cup nonfat dry milk powder
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup reduced-calorie whipped topping
- 1 (6 ounce) purchased chocolate pie crust
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 4 drops red food coloring
- 1 tablespoon slivered almonds
- 1 tablespoon mini chocolate chips
- 3 maraschino cherries, quartered

1. In a large bowl, stir cream cheese with a spoon until soft. Add dry pudding mix, dry milk powder and water. Mix well using wire whisk. Mix in 1/4 cup of the whipped topping. Spread mixture evenly into pie crust. Refrigerate while preparing topping.

2. In medium bowl, gently combine remaining 3/4 cup whipped topping, almond extract and food coloring. Evenly spread topping mixture over set filling. Sprinkle almonds, chocolate chips and cherry pieces evenly over top. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes. Serves 8.

• Each serving equals: About 206 calories, 6g fat, 11g protein, 27g carb., 641mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Starch, 1 Meat, 1 Fat.

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Artist Spotlight: Michael T. Gilbert



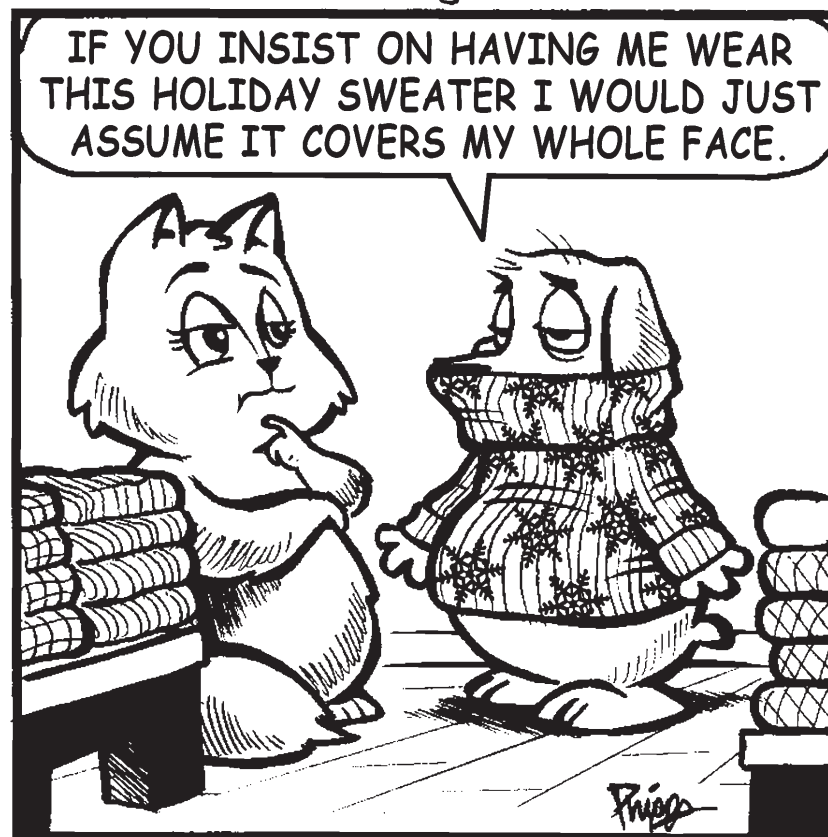
Today's Flash Gordon Sunday page features a ghastly gallery of Mongolian monsters... so who better to illustrate it than Mr. Monster creator Michael T. Gilbert?

Known for the versatility of his art and writing styles, Michael has worked on characters as diverse as Batman, Elric and Donald Duck.

In 1984 he breathed life into the ultimate monster-fighting hero, Mr. Monster.



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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StoreHouse Ministries Receives \$1200 in Honor of Ronnie Trout

Mary Simpson, Director of StoreHouse Ministries received a \$1200 dollar donation from the MOCO Democratic Party on 12/15/2021. MOCO Democrats are donating this money to help fellow Morgan Countians in need and to honor Ronnie Trout, who passed away this year. Ronnie was a long time member and past president of the MOCO Democrats and an active volunteer at StoreHouse Ministries. Pictured from left to right Della Trout, Mary Simpson, Larry Smarsh, Juanita Armes, Bobby Duncan and Jason Goodman. Photographer Wayne Brown.



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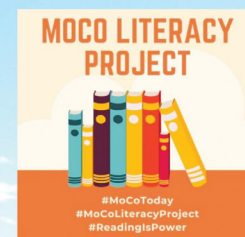



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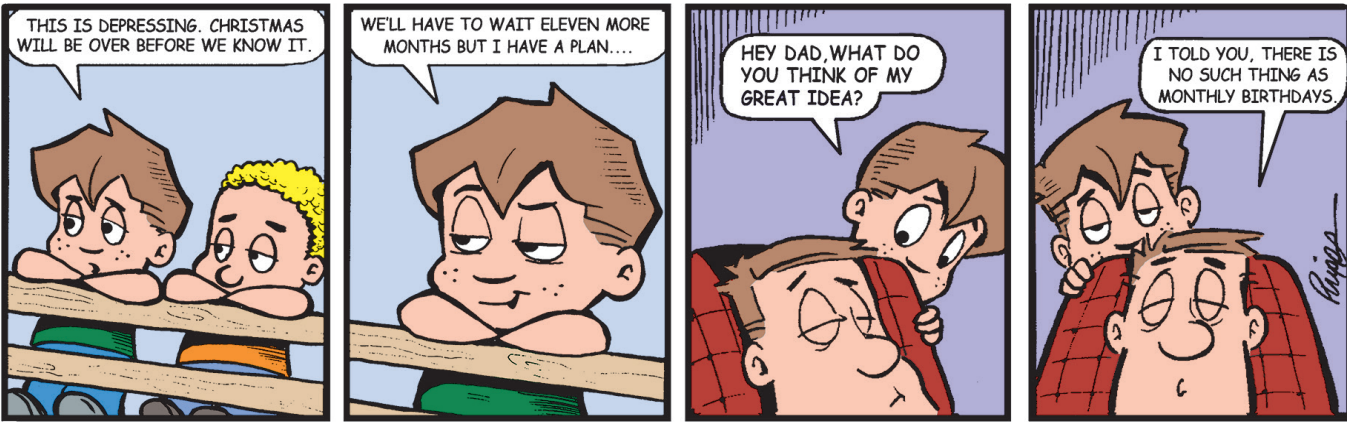


MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



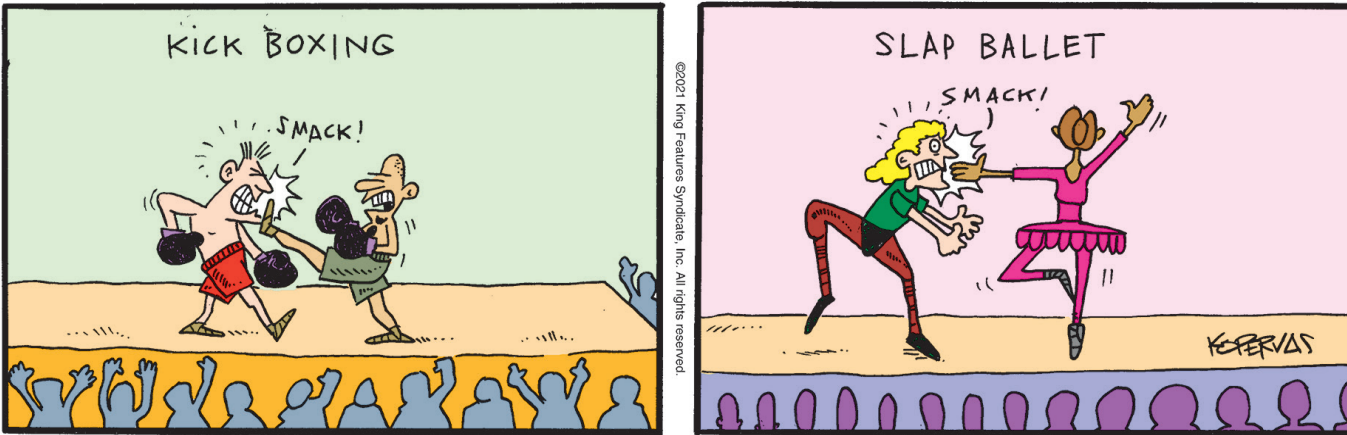
Amber Waves

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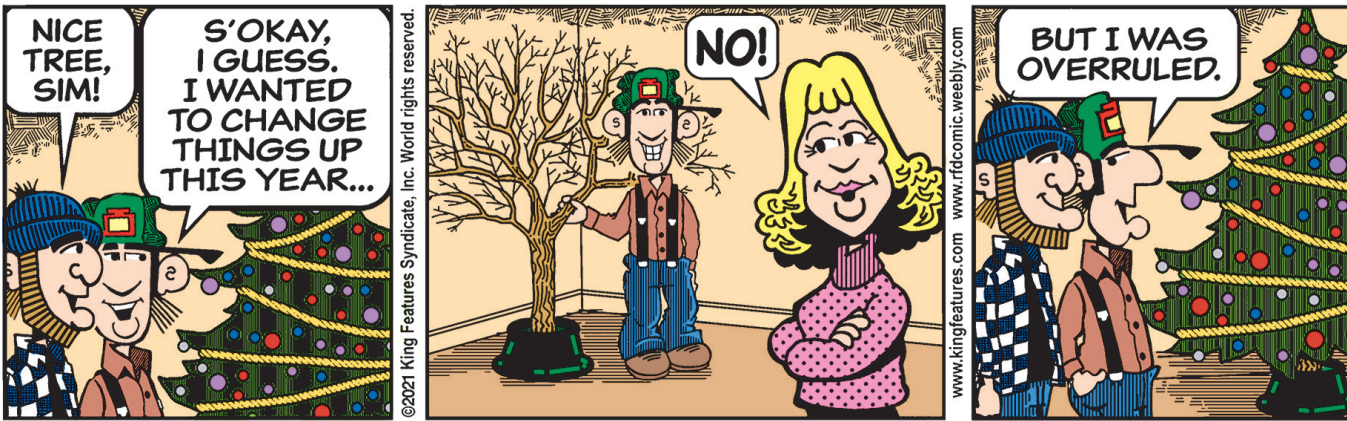
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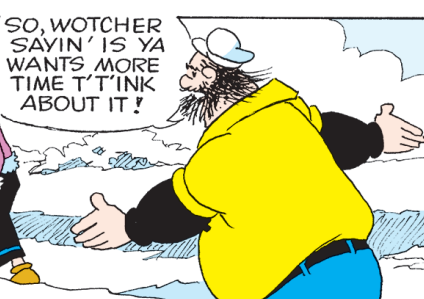
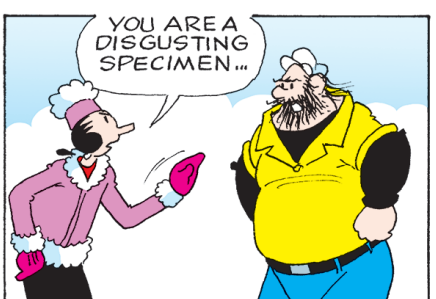
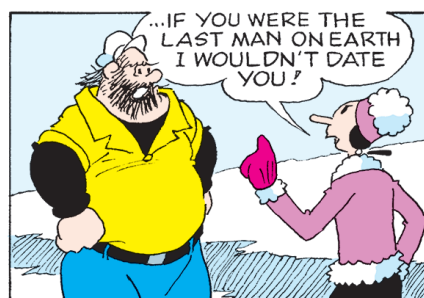
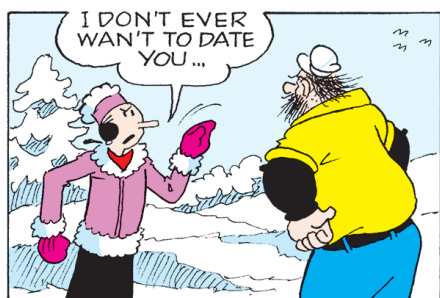
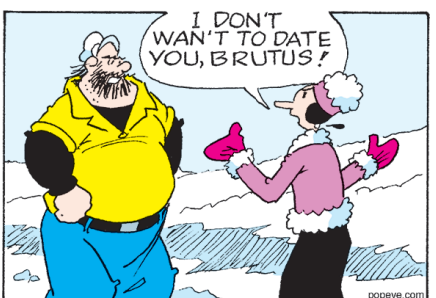
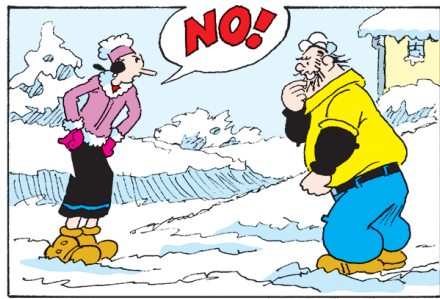
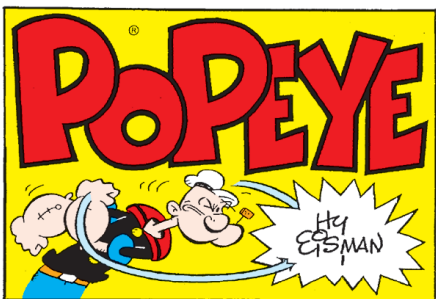
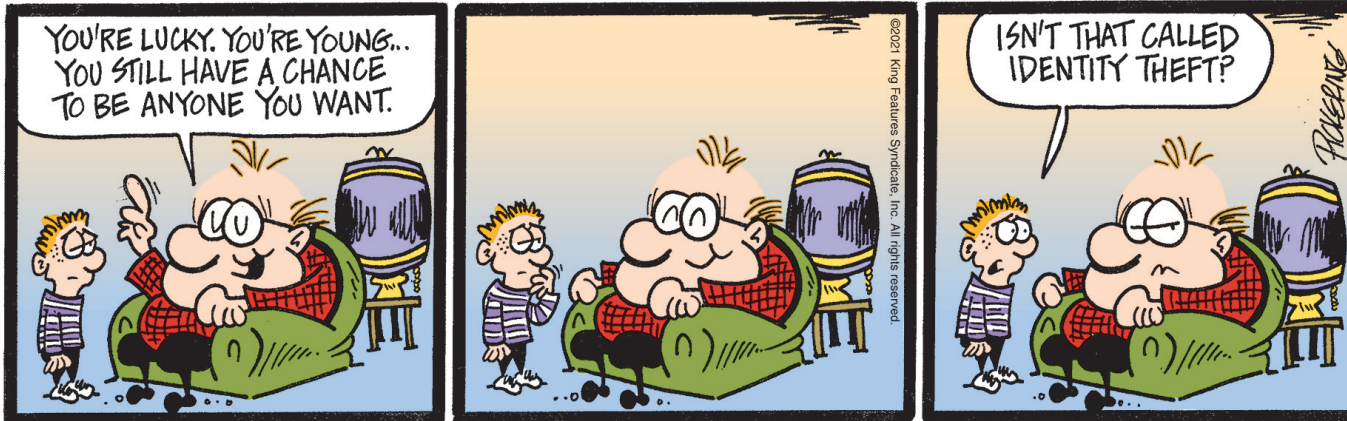
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

 * On Jan. 9, 1493, Christopher Columbus, sailing near the Dominican Republic, sees three "mermaids" and describes them as "not half as beautiful as they are painted." They were in reality manatees. Mythical mermaids have existed in seafaring cultures since the time of the ancient Greeks.

* On Jan. 6, 1759, a 26-year-old George Washington marries Martha Dandridge Custis. Historical documents have revealed that Martha may not have been the great love of his life. Washington wrote cryptic yet passionate love letters to Sally Fairfax, the wife of a friend.

* On Jan. 4, 1847, Samuel Colt rescues his faltering gun company by winning a contract to provide the U.S. government with 1,000 of his .44 caliber revolvers. Though never cheap, by the early 1850s, Colt revolvers were inexpensive enough to be a favorite with Americans headed westward during the California Gold Rush.

* On Jan. 5, 1945, Japanese pilots receive the first order to become kamikaze, meaning "divine wind." They needed little training to take planes full of explosives and crash them into ships. At Okinawa, they sank 30 ships and killed almost 5,000 Americans.

* On Jan. 7, 1959, six days after the fall of the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship in Cuba, the U.S. government believes it can work with Fidel Castro and protect American interests in Cuba. Less than two years later, the U.S. severed diplomatic relations and launched the Bay of Pigs invasion.

* On Jan. 8, 1962, at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, the Mona Lisa, is exhibited for the first time in America.

* On Jan. 3, 1990, Panama's Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, after hiding at the Vatican embassy in Panama City, surrenders to U.S. military troops to face charges of drug trafficking and is flown to Miami. In 1992, the former dictator was convicted and sentenced to 40 years in prison.

Historically Speaking

A brief history of the UT-AEC Agricultural Research Laboratory - Introduction

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Much of this Historically Speaking series comes from information contained in UT-AEC Agricultural Research Laboratory booklet published by the University of Tennessee Agricultural Experimental Station that operated the University of Tennessee/Atomic Energy Commission Agricultural Research Laboratory for the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission. The large facility was located on the southeast boundary of the Oak Ridge government reservation and functioned from 1948 until 1981.

Additional information was taken from J. Merrill Bird's Master of Science thesis at the University of Tennessee in 1952, provided courtesy of Bob Reynolds. Merrill Bird was the first top manager for the unique joint experimental effort of the University of Tennessee and the Atomic Energy Commission.

Other significant assistance was provided by Joe Lenhard and Bob Reynolds. Joe encouraged me to tell the history of this unique and historic experimental research operation and arranged to show me the remaining historic relics and facilities. Bob Reynolds worked at the UT-AEC Agricultural Research Laboratory later to be known as the Comparative Animal Research Facility (CARL) from 1954 to 1975.

Joe was the government safety officer responsible for the safety oversight of the operations of the research laboratory. Joe later became the federal manager responsible for oversight of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He came to work at Oak Ridge for the Atomic Energy Commission in 1957, worked for the Energy Research and Development Administration (that existed from January 19, 1975, to October 1, 1977) and retired from the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Operations in 1990.

Joe has seen many changes take place in Oak Ridge and the federal government's presence here over the years. He is one of Oak Ridge's icons and since retirement works tirelessly in support of the American Museum of Science and Energy, the East Tennessee Economic Council, the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee and various other vital interests of Oak Ridge. He is one of our primary champions of Oak Ridge's history and is personally dedicated to helping create our future.

Bob came to the UT-AEC Agricultural Research Laboratory as an employee of UT in October of 1954. But before he arrived here he had experienced a most unusual career in the U. S. Air Force.

This life changing experience happened when Bob was a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. In 1952, he was assigned to Task Group 132.1 of Joint Task Group 132 with headquarters in Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. He was given orders to report to Travis Air Force Base where he would "depart by 1 October 1952."

While his orders did not specify where he would depart to, ultimately, he was among those military personnel in the joint task group to witness atomic bomb tests at Eniwetok atoll in the Marshall Islands. Specifically, he observed Operation Ivy, the first explosion of a thermonuclear weapon, Mike. This explosion replaced the island of Elugelab with more than a mile-wide crater over 160 feet deep.

A 28-minute video of this atomic test that can be viewed at: http://www.archive.org/details/operation_ivy

Bob still recalls the huge display of enormous power of the world's largest atomic bomb tests at the time. There was also a second test of a pure fission bomb (King) that was the largest such explosion ever. Operation Ivy was an event that military personnel were proud to be involved. It was literally the cutting edge of nuclear weapons technology.

As Bob described for me the experience he had in this task group, I was convinced that he considered himself fortunate to be among the individuals selected to participate in this history making event. Bob continued to work with radiation for a large part of his working career. The work he did with the UT-AEC Agricultural Research Laboratory and later the Comparative Animal Research Laboratory kept him on the cutting edge of nuclear technology.

When Bob left the research laboratory after 24 years to join the UT Animal Science Department on July 1, 1978, he had contributed to 21 publications within the previous five years, was the Assistant Superintendent of the UT-AEC Comparative Animal

Research Laboratory and had developed extensive and innovative research protocols for radiation related livestock experiments.

A letter of introduction in his new assignment noted his extensive experience in livestock management and recognized his value as a researcher. He left during a time of extensive upheaval of funding and deliberation regarding the laboratory's future.

When Bob arrived in 1954, he moved his family into a beautiful old home located at 806 Bethel Valley Road near the intersection of Bethel Valley Road and Kerr Hollow Road. The house was located along with four others near the large shade trees still standing just south of the newly constructed Oak Ridge Baptist Church on this historic site.

Bob and his family's home was one of five white frame construction houses located on this picturesque spot. I believe at least four of these houses were moved there after 1948, when the AEC and UT



Robert (Bob) Reynolds, UT-AEC Agricultural Research Laboratory/Comparative Animal Research Laboratory Assistant Superintendent (Photo Submitted)



Jones home built in 1923 is now the offices of Life Development Center near Haw Ridge Park and is the only remaining example of the UT-AEC Agricultural Research Laboratory homes (Photo Submitted)



Picturesque AEC homes were located just north of the shade trees near the location of the Oak Ridge Baptist Church building (Photo Submitted)

formed the Animal Research Laboratory. Bob tells of the joyous times his family had living in this location. Living here on the grounds of the research laboratory enabled Bob to be close to the animals and to tend the livestock more easily. In turn he received his home rent free.

Another individual who lived in that unique group of old homes was H. E. Walburg, the top manager when the UT-AEC Animal Research Laboratory was

transferred to Oak Ridge Associated Universities on October 1, 1981. He had been appointed in 1973 and given the charge to convert the agricultural focus of the research facilities to "animal cross species comparisons aimed at extrapolating experimental animal data to man for radiation effects."

This change in purpose evidently resulted in the changing of the name from Agricultural Research Laboratory to Comparative Animal Research Laboratory. While I can't yet pin down the exact date of the name change, sometime between 1973 and 1978 seems most likely.

An interesting note regarding Walburg's move into the house at 822 Bethel Valley Road is that an "Ask Inky" column in The Oak Ridger, published on December 11, 1978, questioned the apparently extensive work being done on the house and several other actions regarding the move. All actions were explained in the answer provided and the use of a government vehicle to move Walburg's belongings was admitted as inappropriate use of government property.

Another indicator of the controversies obviously plaguing the CARL operation was a fable titled, "The Kingdom of CARL," written with obvious frustration at the way staff reductions had been required and the transition of the program from UT to Oak Ridge Associated Universities.

A section of that fable reads, "Once upon a time not too very long ago in the country of Tanacity near the town of OLFRIIDGE there was a tiny kingdom called CARL, which was ruled by a very stern king named WALFRED..." The fable continues, "... As times became harder, an effort was made to save the kingdom by merging it with a neighboring kingdom called OLDROW. The population was led to believe that this venture would save the kingdom and good times would return once more to CARL..."

Finally, the fable concludes, "...In the end some people gained but many also lost. It will take time for the scars to heal and for those who remained to see if those who left were wiser than those who stayed. King WALFRED himself became a servant to another king. And the Kingdom of CARL was no more..."

These beautiful old houses on this picturesque location were removed in 1982. Changes were obviously being required as this program struggled for funding and continued purpose.

Another "Ask Inky" article published in The Oak Ridger of June 16, 1983, provides further insight. The questioner wants to know the status of CARL and how it had changed since becoming a part of ORAU on October 1, 1981. The response provided states, "On March 1, 1983, the Comparative Animal Research Laboratory was made a part of ORAU's Medical and Health Sciences Division to provide closer collaboration between the CARL and MHSD staffs..."

The response continues, "...The former CARL building was renamed the ORAU Scarboro Facility...reduced funding produced forced some layoffs and a consolidation of administrative practices...These constraints also required selling off cattle and farm animals that were no longer needed in the scientific programs..."

Finally, the response recognizes that, "... There were 62 CARL personnel who transferred to ORAU when ORAU assumed the contract in October 1981. Of that total, 28 persons are still working at ORAU, most of them in the Medical Division's Field Site..."

The most telling comment in the response was, "...The Scarboro Facility has been partially renovated, and now serves as home base for the Radiological Survey Program of ORAU's Manpower Education, Research and Training Division and ORAU's Office of Safety and Health as well as the MHSD Field Site..."

Yep, the fable was right, the Kingdom of CARL was no more!

Next, we will examine the details of the historic UT-AEC Agricultural Research Laboratory. We will look at its original mission to study the herd of cattle that were exposed to radiation as a result of the July 16, 1945, Trinity atomic blast near Alamogordo, New Mexico. This world's first nuclear explosion resulted in the unique first opportunity to monitor the cattle to determine the potential harmful effects of exposure to radiation.

We will see the expansion of this most unusual farm-based research laboratory mission to include other animal experiments, other radiation related experiments on plants and seeds. We will also examine a radiation accident that occurred on February 4, 1971, at the Variable Dose Rate Irradiation Facility when an employee was exposing seed to radiation from a Cobalt 60 source.

Thursday December 16th
Sunbright Middle School Girls vs Oakdale

Sunbright Middle Lady Tigers are now 13-1 on the season overall

Sunbright= 47
Oakdale= 25

1st Quarter= SB 17, Oak 0
2nd Quarter= SB 26, Oak 9
3rd Quarter= SB 36, Oak 21
4th Quarter= SB 47, Oak 25

Stats:

#00 Addison Coleman
8pts, 7reb, 4stl, 1blk

#2 Alyssa Washam
2pts,

#5 Adeline Rogers
12pts, 4reb, 2ast, 3stl



#10 Emerson Nichols
22pts, 2ast, 7stl

#11 Julianna Shelton
3pts, 2reb, 1ast, 1stl

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

High School Basketball Roundup

High School Basketball Roundup December 20
Overall, District records in parentheses

Coalfield Girls (7-3, 1-1)
Dec 14 – Defeated Jellico 67-22
Dec 17 – Lost to Wartburg 58-71

Oakdale Girls (0-7, 0-2)
Dec 14 – Lost to Anderson County 43-59
Dec 17 – Lost to Greenback

Sunbright Girls (9-2, 1-0)
Dec 14 – Defeated Oliver Springs 66-22

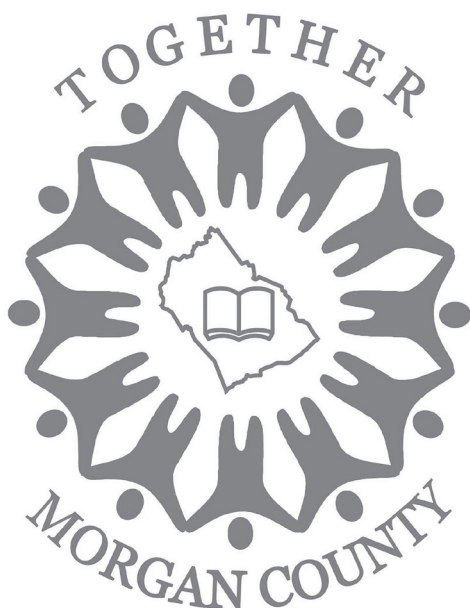
Wartburg Girls (5-5, 2-0)
Dec 14 – Defeated Rockwood 55-25
Dec 17 – Defeated Coalfield 71-58

Coalfield Boys (2-6, 1-1)
Dec 14 – Lost to Jellico 64-91
Dec 10 – Defeated Wartburg 78-70

Oakdale Boys (2-5, 1-1)
Dec 14 – Lost to Anderson County 39-101
Dec 17 – Defeated Greenback 54-49


Sunbright Boys (5-5, 1-0)
Dec 14 – Defeated Oliver Springs 73-66

Wartburg Boys (3-7, 1-1)
Dec 14 – Lost to Rockwood 40-54
Dec 10 – Lost to Coalfield 70-78



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1 Corinthians: Chapter 14-B

(1 Corinthians 14:26-36) Order in the use of gifts: The Corinthian saints must learn (or be reminded) that there are rules for the proper use of spiritual gifts---rules which they obviously had been violating and needed to correct. The opening question--"What is it then, brothers?"---appears to contain the continuing tone of a correction. "When you assemble, each one has his gift--a psalm, teaching, revelation, tongue, or the gift of translation." Some suggest that the expression, "each one," has the tenor of a rebuke, the design of which is to prohibit selfish individualism (1:12; 11:21; Phil. 2:4). This lust for attention stands in contrast to the real goal of the gifts, namely edification (v. 26). Some cite the mention of "a psalm" as precedent for solos or choirs in the church today. If so, there is no evidence for such elsewhere in the New Testament. First, the exegesis supporting that idea is woefully assumptive. Secondly, early Christian writers certainly did not see special singing (choirs, solos, etc.) separate from the congregation in this text. This modern practice was a much later innovation.

If several members have messages to be delivered in a foreign language, they must not speak at the same time. Only two or three should participate, they in turn (one at a time), and there must be a translator if the audience language differs from the speakers (v. 27). If no interpreter is present, the speaker is to remain silent (in the use of his gift), communing within himself and God (v. 28). This rule of order applies to the prophets as well. Having a spiritual gift is no excuse for creating confusion. If one is presenting a revelation and another brother receives an updated message, the first is to give way to the second (v.30). Prophesying is meaningful, but it must be done individually so that the church can "learn" and be "exhorted" (v. 31). Let no one claim that he just can't help himself, he simply must speak. That is false. The prophet's "spirit" is under his control. He must follow the rules and keep quiet. God was not pleased with the type of confusion being manifested in the Corinthian church (v. 32-33).

Paul's instruction was not restricted to the church in Corinth alone. All the churches were to be guided by these principles. Moreover, the women were to keep "silence," for they were "not permitted to speak"; they were to be in subjection,

the foundational principle of which had been revealed in Old Testament Scripture (Gen. 3:6). (a) The terms "silence" and "not speak" are to be viewed contextually, not absolutely. Otherwise, a woman could not say anything in church, including singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). (b) Women were not to speak in such a way as to violate the subjection principle. (c) Paul amplifies this issue in 1 Timothy 2:12; the woman must not speak (teach) in any official way by which the man becomes subordinated to the role of her student. (d) The women were to refrain from the active and vigorous back-and-forth instructional dialogues that were characteristic of those assemblies, in which they might be liable to assume the posture of authority figures (v. 34-35).

This section concludes with a rebuke. It is in the form of a rhetorical question with an anticipated negative answer. "It was not from you, was it, that God's word initially came forth, thus granting you the privilege of laying aside the rules of assembly decorum? Of course it wasn't! You need to recognize your place in the divine pan and refrain from this assertive disposition that has become your trademark."

(1 Cor. 14:37-40) Concluding instruction: Paul anticipates an antagonistic quibble in response to his legislation. If anyone imagines that because he has the gift of prophecy or some other spiritual endowment that he can dispense with the apostle's legislation, he had better reconsider. The apostle's written instructions are not his alone; they represent the "commandment of the Lord." If any critic persists in being ignorant of this fact (so the force of the verb), let him stay that way! He will suffer the consequence.

To not leave on such a sharp note, Paul says, "Wherefore, my brothers (a touch of tenderness), desire the ability to prophesy; it is an effective tool of instruction. And do not forbid the use of the gift of languages (just because some have abused their gift). All things must be done in a proper and orderly way" (v. 33). ("The argument that the teachings of these chapters was intended for the church at Corinth alone, and was not designed for the adherence of churches throughout the present era, is utterly unfounded").



MELVIN HOWARD

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A fresh snip from a **mint** plant in your garden can be used to granish plates, desserts or drinks. Cabbage and tomato plants are said to increase their yield if mint is grown nearby. Moths, ants and mice can be repelled by its scent. Mint plants can spread quickly if left unattended, so keep them cut back weekly during growing season.

- Brenda Weaver


Source: www.openpermaculture.com



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. EPHESIANS 2:19-22

"The new church of Haarlem" by Johannes Cornelis Busé (1891-1974)





Find Last-Minute Gifts on Candy Cane Lane

If there's an official flavor of the season it has to be peppermint. And if you've waited to the last minute to make holiday treats for your friends, don't fret! Peppermint has got you covered. There's a general rule of thumb that makes holiday gift giving much easier: When in doubt, go the foodie gift route.

That said, here are some favorite recipes starring the red and white cane. They're easy, fun to prepare, inexpensive and make great gifts. The hardest part is getting the stupid plastic wrap off the candy canes.

CANDY CANE VODKA

- 6 full sized candy canes
- 750 ml vodka

First, don't waste the good stuff. Buy inexpensive vodka. Use a food processor (or go medieval with a mallet) to render the candy canes into a chunky powder. Pour off a couple ounces of the vodka and reserve. Add the peppermint powder to the vodka and top off with reserved vodka to fill the bottle. Let it sit about an hour, shaking occasionally, until the candy canes are dissolved in the vodka. Admire the lovely pink color. Chill and serve. Easy peasy!

So what do you do with the peppermint infused vodka? You can sip it over ice, use it to adulterate hot chocolate or eggnog, make peppermint mochas with a kick, or make a martini.

CANDY CANE MARTINI

- 1 ounce peppermint vodka
- 1/2 ounce white creme de cocoa

Place vodka and creme de cocoa in a shaker filled with ice and shake. Serve in a martini glass with an optional float of cream or half and half on top. For extra points dip the rim of the glass in light corn syrup or honey and roll in crushed peppermint. Festive!

PEPPERMINT CHOCOLATE MARSHMALLOW POPS

- 12 small candy canes
- 12 large marshmallows
- 1 1/2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 5 small candy canes, crushed



www.JasonCoblentz.com

Peppermint holiday treats range from popcorn to martinis.

Push a small candy cane in each marshmallow. Using the microwave, melt the chocolate. Dip each marshmallow in chocolate, letting all the excess drip off. Allow the chocolate to set up for a minute then roll in crushed peppermint. These are perfect for stirring into hot cocoa.

PEPPERMINT BARK

- 16 ounces vanilla candy melts or vanilla almond bark
- 1 cup crushed peppermint candy canes, divided

1. Line a large cookie sheet with parchment paper. Melt the candy melts according to package directions.

2. Reserve 1/4 cup of the peppermint and add remaining peppermint to the melted chocolate, stirring to incorporate.

3. Pour the mixture onto prepared baking pan. Smooth with a spatula. Sprinkle the remainder of the crushed peppermint over the top, gently pressing to adhere.

4. Let cool and break into pieces.

CANDY CANE POPCORN

- 1/2 cup popcorn kernels (approximately 10 cups popped)
- 1 1/2 cups (12 ounces) vanilla candy melts or vanilla almond bark
- 1/2 cup candy canes, finely crushed
- 1 tablespoon decorative sprinkles (optional)

1. Prepare popcorn using your preferred method. Spread popcorn on a cookie sheet. Remove any un-popped kernels. Melt candy melts according to package directions. Working quickly, drizzle the white chocolate over the popped popcorn, add the crushed candy canes and mix.

2. Let popcorn sit for 30 minutes to let the white chocolate set. This is best fresh but can store in an airtight container for 5-7 days.

TIP: After Christmas candy canes go on sale for next to nothing. Buy now for next year. Store candy canes in their original packaging, in a cool, dry place, and they'll last 2 to 3 years.

All of us at Divas on a Dime wish you a cool yule, a swell noel and a very Merry Christmas.

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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Americanisms



“Experience is what you get when you didn't get what you wanted.”

— Randy Pausch

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David Zubler
Columnist

Turn non-deductible personal donations into a deductible business expense

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) makes it harder for most people to benefit from their contributions.

Fortunately, there is a way for you to benefit by deducting it as a business expense.

The TCJA made the standard deduction much larger, however it eliminated personal exemptions which reduced much of the actual benefit of the larger standard deduction.

If you are a business owner, you may be able to make a few modifications and use it as a different type of deduction. This can increase your tax savings from the donation.

A sole proprietor pays income tax and self-employment tax. When you itemize and deduct it as a charitable contribution it only reduces your income tax. Consequently, you can have a bigger tax savings when you deduct it as a business expense. Deducting your donation also reduces your adjusted gross income (AGI). You may receive additional benefits from this because it may enable you to take more non-business credits. You can convert a charitable contribution into a business expense by changing the contribution to advertising or marketing. There are several ways that you can take advantage of this strategy.

You may be able to deduct it as advertising by having a fundraiser for a nonprofit organization.

For example, you could have a fundraiser for your church or another charity. Let everyone know that you are the sponsor and give a short speech about how your services could benefit

the people attending.

Another strategy is to give a percentage of the sales proceeds to a charity.

Let your customers know that you will donate a percentage of your sales proceeds to charity. This would encourage your customers to buy your products or services because they know they would be supporting a good cause.

You could use a coupon with one of your products or services.

For example, the coupon could say that the customer should send the coupon to the charity to help the charity. You could also use a rebate to deduct the business expense. The donation must have a direct relationship to your business. Fortunately, you can deduct it even if you have a reasonable expectation of financial benefit will exceed the amount you paid. It's important to have a record of the amount spent for the activity, and document why you would expect the expenditure to bring in additional revenue. It's a good idea to have dollar estimates of your return on investment.

This strategy can be used for business entities other than a sole proprietorship, although it reduces both income tax and self-employment tax for a sole proprietorship. It's a win-win situation since it will help a charitable organization and reduce your 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

AARP Survey: We Want to Grow Older at Home

We want to stay home as we age. That much is clear from a recent survey by AARP.

The 70-question survey touched on all types of topics about home and community preferences, with responses broken down by age. Here are some of the answers from seniors age 50 and older:

77% of us want to stay in our own homes as we age.

79% of us want to stay in our communities as we age.

33% of us know we will need modifications to our homes so we can stay in them and be safe as well as independent.

The number of households headed by seniors in the next 20 years is going to rise from 34 million to 48 million. We're going to want smart home devices and bathtub grab bars (and a full bath on the

ground floor), as well as voice activated gadgets, wider doorways and easy access through the front door.

We'll also want accessory dwelling units (known as ADUs), such as in-law apartments or additions, so others can be nearby but not living with us. (AARP and Lowe's have announced a collaboration to launch Lowe's Livable Home, which will include services and products to help us create and build what we need so we can stay in our homes. See its website at www.lowes.com.)

Safety also is on our minds, and over half of us would move to another area if it's safer. Nearly half would move if it lowered our expenses.

But we want a nice community, too, with bike trails and fast internet, ideally a small town where stores and services are nearby.

If you want to see the survey questions and compare your own answers, go to www.aarp.org and search for 2021 AARP Home and Community Preferences Survey.

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FLASHBACK

By Mick Harper

1. Name the first group that had a No. 1 R&B hit with "Get Ready."
2. How many instruments did Prince play on his debut album in 1978?
3. How did Duane Eddy initially get that twang sound out of his guitar?
4. What was the first song played on "American Bandstand"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "When you're all alone in your lonely room, And there's nothing but the smell of her perfume."

Answers

1. The Temptations, in 1966. Rare Earth released a cover in 1970, and although their version went gold, it didn't top the charts.
2. All of them. On "For You," Prince played over two dozen different instruments. He was 19 years old.
3. Eddy used a gigantic empty water storage tank when the recording studio didn't have an echo chamber. His song "Rebel-'Rouser" was featured in the 1994 film "Forrest Gump" in the scene where Forrest runs from bullies and cuts across the football field.
4. "Whole Lotta Shakin Goin' On," by Jerry Lee Lewis, on Aug. 5, 1957.
5. "Cry to Me," by Solomon Burke in 1962. Burke's version was used in the 1987 film "Dirty Dancing" with Patrick Swayze. Take a listen to the version by unknown Anthony Alvarez on YouTube. In fact, check out his whole channel.

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Coal Dust: Christmas Memories and Drunken Santa



Terry Futrell
Author

Christmas... is not an external event at all, but a piece of one's home that one carries in one's heart.
Freya Stark

Growing up poor, Christmas was always a special time for our family. While expensive gifts were never an option, it was a time of celebration that included special food, such as my mother's delicious homemade jam cake and stack fruit cake, a pine or cedar tree that we cut from a fencerow or the woods and decorated, and at least some special gift under the tree.

My earliest memory of Christmas likely took place in 1949. It was before my dad owned a car and the highway between Coalfield and Oliver Springs was nothing more than a meandering gravel roadway. On Christmas eve, my dad had one of the neighbors drive us to the dime store in Oliver Springs. My folks let me pick out a small inexpensive gift – a plastic toy pistol that simply clicked when you pulled the trigger. It may have cost a quarter, but to a three-year-old boy, it was priceless!

When we returned home from Oliver Springs and walked into the house, there was a huge spider on the wall beside the fireplace. It seemed enormous and terrifying to me, and it quickly moved within the wall before my dad could kill it. I always expected that spider to re-surface and feast on me, but it never did. Yet, the resulting paranoia had a lasting impact, and I hate spiders to this day, even small ones.

One of my most vivid Christmas memories came a couple of years later and involved my dad's brother, Uncle Clarence, who was both a hard-working coal miner and a hard drinker. My dad was working at the K-25 Plant in Oak Ridge and now owned a car. He took us to Coalhill Baptist Church for the Christmas Eve service. At one point in the service, much to everyone's dismay, Santa Claus made an appearance, staggering down the aisle of the church reeking of the

strong smell of alcohol.

Later that evening, that same drunken Santa made an appearance at our house. I was sitting in Santa's lap and suddenly reached up and yanked off his fake beard, exclaiming "I thought I smelled Uncle Clarence!"

Oh, but the evening wasn't over. At that point, Uncle Clarence took me outside where the other kids were shooting firecrackers. He went to his car and pulled out a paper bag full of M-80s. These were very large, dangerous fireworks that today require a federal explosives license to purchase. Uncle Clarence would place an M-80 in my hand and ignite the fuse with a match, then I would toss the M-80 into the yard. I shudder as I think back to the danger of this situation, though as a five-year old boy I was unaware. I have always wondered whether Uncle Clarence would have done this had he been sober. The events of that Christmas Eve with drunken Santa led me to have no desire or use for alcoholic beverages.

My dad often worked evening shift on Christmas Eve because of the premium holiday pay at the K-25 Plant. We were never permitted to open our Christmas gifts until Christmas morning when he was home. My friends often opened their gifts on Christmas Eve, making our wait sometimes quite agonizing. While deep within I knew the truth about Santa Claus, I never dared admit it, even to myself.

Because of the small size of our house, I slept in the living room where the Christmas tree was located. When I was about ten years old, I lay awake during the night thinking about opening the gift that I might receive under the tree. At one point during the night I heard my mother creep into the room and place gifts under the tree. I then opened my big mouth and surprised her, not realizing until years later when I had kids of my own that I had robbed her of one of the special joys of Christmas. Somehow, Christmas lost some of its mystique that year and was never the same afterwards.



Terry's Uncle Clarence Futrell was a hard-working, hard-drinking coal miner who loved to play Santa Claus. [Photo: Submitted]

Correctional Officers Receive Much Needed Large Pay Increase

Statement from Senator Ken Yager regarding announcement that correctional officers will receive substantial salary increases

NASHVILLE – State Senator Ken Yager (R-Kingston) made the following statement regarding the announcement from Governor Bill Lee that correctional officers in Tennessee will receive competitive salary increases. Senator Yager represents many employees in one of the state's largest prisons located in Morgan County in Senate District 12.

"This is great news not only for the deserving workers who receive the pay raise and their families, but for the safety of all Tennesseans," said Senator Yager,

who has advocated for higher pay for correctional officers in the Tennessee Senate. "These positions are extremely important to operations in our prisons and are some of the most challenging and dangerous jobs in state government. Governor Lee's action to increase salaries is critical in keeping our veteran officers on the job whose valuable experience helps to make our prisons safer. The increase in salaries will benefit many correctional officers and help alleviate the problem Tennessee has experienced in filling and keeping correctional officers in a very competitive labor market."

Below find the release from Governor Bill Lee regarding the announcement:

Gov. Lee Announces Salary Increase for Tennessee Correctional Officers

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Today,

Tennessee Governor Bill Lee announced a competitive 37% salary increase for new Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC) correctional officers amid nationwide staffing challenges, effective Dec. 16.

"As we face staffing shortages across the country, rewarding officers with competitive pay will ensure we recruit and retain the most highly qualified individuals in our workforce," said Gov. Lee. "These Tennesseans play a crucial role in ensuring public safety and we remain committed to valuing their important work."

The 37% salary increase for new TDOC correctional officers will raise annual starting pay to \$44,500. Current security staff will receive a minimum 15% pay increase.

Additionally, TDOC provides a competitive benefits package including: Insurance coverage and retirement

benefits
Paid holidays and vacation
Tuition reimbursement and college degree programs
Equipment and uniforms provided
Overtime/compensatory time pay

TDOC will continue to offer a \$5,000 hiring bonus and part-time opportunities for current or retired law enforcement to meet staffing needs.

"The men and women who work in facilities across Tennessee are dedicated public servants," said TDOC Interim Commissioner Lisa Helton. "This salary increase makes our agency more competitive in attracting new talent and is a well-deserved raise for those currently serving our state."

Individuals interested in a TDOC career can find more information and apply here.

Sunbright City Celebrates Christmas

Sunbright City holds their annual Christmas Caroling and Park Lightning on December 3, 2021. The Senior Citizens Bell Ringers performed beautifully ringing in joy and glad tidings with holiday music directed by Ms. Jan Saunders. The caroling was led by Mr. Darrell Capps. Hot Chocolate and cookies were served while Santa greeted all the children with treats from the North pole. Even the kids at heart got to sit on Santa's lap! Thanks to all who came and enjoyed the evening.



Santa Letters

Sunbright School

Mrs. Heather Dennis 2nd Grade Class

Dear Santa,
PC and PS5.
I love you,
Bryson

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want a dog toy for Piper, a tractor for Aven, a sewing machine for my mom, a hot pink tool set for me, a Elsa and Anna sleeping bag for me, my two front teeth, a drone, a hover board, a new tool set for daddy, a elf for tomorrow please, some more dog toys for Piper, and some more stuff probably, and some love.
Love you Santa.

Love,
Aubrey

Dear Santa,
I want a hat, gloves, toys, \$100, friends, and wheelies.

Love,
Colby

Dear Santa,
I would like to have a peek-a-roo, cutecut, and a magic mixy. Olivia's list: Olivia would like the same things as me.

Love,
Alyson

Dear Santa,
I want a bike, a baby doll, a lot of LOL's, a LOL house, a Barbie house, and a foot spa.

Dear Santa,
I would like for Christmas...new tennis shoes,

magic wand, clothes for my cats, I have 4, chocolate milk, I want to meet JoJo Seiwa, to have a sleepover with Juliette, and candy, a BIG pop it, and key chains. Merry Christmas.

Love,
Allie

Dear Santa,
I would like 10 LOL and a LOL OMG house and I would like a sloth backpack and a reindeer headband. I would like a bow and a puppy and a kitty and some color pencils and a cowgirl hat and a Barbie doll and a doll house and a drawing board and some sloth headphones. Hope you have a good Christmas.

Love,
Juliette

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want a guitar and amp for it, electric drum set and a horse with a truck with men with a trailer and toy guns.

From Wyatt

Dear Santa,
I want for Christmas a big giant pop it and unicorn set and \$20,000, puppy, smelly good markers, 71 LOL dolls, elephant, necklaces, The Dot book, pops, gloves, boots, soft jacket, shoes, pens, pencils, and a science book.

Myra

Dear Santa,
Real kitty that's black and white, a new teddy bear, a toy for Axel, some new clothes, some new pants, a new dream catcher, a

picture of my Papaw, a real pet baby possum, a friend for my pet turtle, a gift for my mom and dad, new glasses, a new jacket, and a new bracelet. I love you Santa.

Aniston

Dear Santa,
I want a Roblox nurf gun toy, a Roblox book called How to draw Roblox, the crow2 for the xbox, a Game of Thrones. Have a good year.

Caiden

Dear Santa,
I would like wheelies. I would like a puppy. I would like \$1,000,000. I would like a pillow. I would like a gold dress. I would like a Iphone. I would like a sticky listic. I would like some makeup.

I would like some brushes. I would like some gold. I would like some silver. I would like some dogs. I would like some cats. Nevaeh

Dear Santa,
I love you Santa. I wish for a go cart and some legos and I want wheelies and a puppy with food and a bed toy. I love you.
Brantley

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like makeup, black stuff, and Roblox2k.

Love,
Cruz

Dear Santa,
Cats, kittens.
Shane

Local Hardwood Market



Michael Nance
Columnist

Morgan County has a long history of timber harvesting. "Logging" as it's referred to locally, has been a staple industry since the county was founded in 1817. It was the American chestnut tree that fueled sawmills

throughout Morgan County until the late 1930s. That industry continues today, albeit without the American chestnut tree. Many local families and cottage industries still rely on timber resources for income. You would imagine with the highly volatile and expensive lumber market that timber harvesters are filling their pockets up with money, but that is a patently untrue notion.

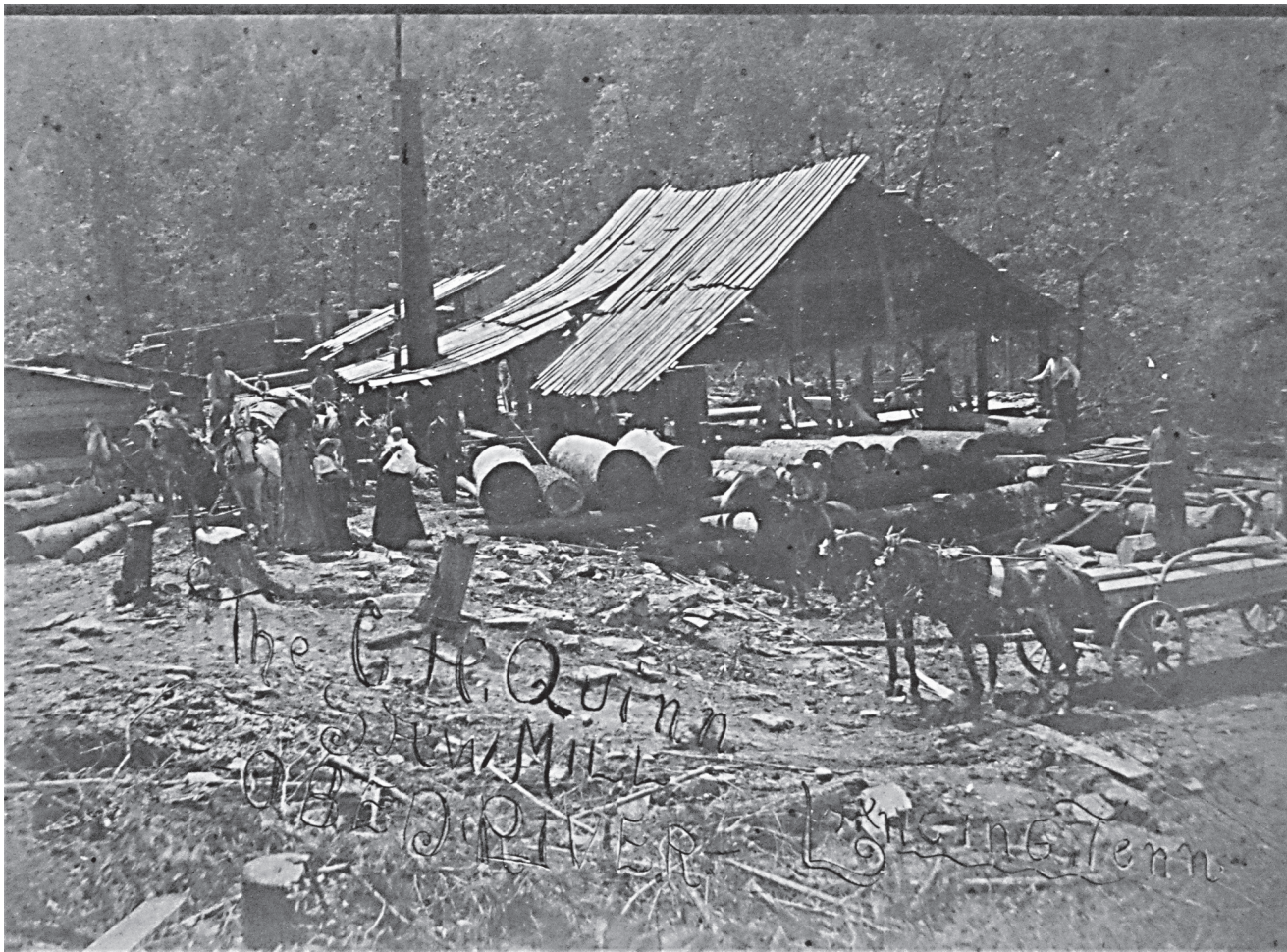
Generally, an increase in lumber prices does not always translate into the pockets of local timber harvesters. In the last few months local loggers have experienced a small uptick in log prices, which was welcomed news to the industry on the heels of coronavirus supply chain issues. However, some bleak news surfaced last week which has the potential to lower local hardwood prices.

The company we all know as Bowater, which is now actually Resolute Forest Products Inc. recently decided to idle the pulp and paper operations at their Calhoun, TN. facility. They also announced that tissue manufacturing and distribution will continue at the site.

Along with impacts on the local hardwood market, approximately 350 employees have now found their positions in question.

It appears that the pulp and paper operations have been a financial boat anchor for the company at Calhoun, despite arguably favorable market conditions. As of the end of September of 2021 the company reported an operating loss of \$62,000,000.

Major news outlets quoted the CEO of Resolute Remi Lalonde stating: "Success has proved elusive at Calhoun's pulp and paper operations, despite the best efforts of our dedicated employees and significant investments of time, energy and resources over the last few years."



Quinn Sawmill, circa 1930 located on Obed River, (Photo courtesy of James Howard)

Local loggers are anticipating that local hardwood prices will be impacted by the closure of the former Bowater plant. The Huber Engineered Woods plant in Rhea County is a major purchaser of local soft wood but has little if any hardwood exposure. The closure of the Bowater

plant will leave the International Paper facility in Pioneer, Tennessee as the only major bulk purchaser of local hardwood, excepting the smaller local sawmill operations. The decreased competition is almost certainly to lower hardwood prices in the months to come.

Although the short term prospects for the hardwood market are somewhat grim, there are ongoing initiatives that have the potential to move the hardwood market in a lucrative direction. The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture has partnered with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture on a grant which is intended to increase Tennessee hardwood to Vietnam.

Prior to the trade war with China,

Tennessee exported approximately 60 percent of its hardwood, those exports in the majority were to China. The trade war has accounted for a decrease of almost 100 million dollars in sales for Tennessee suppliers, which has been further exacerbated from coronavirus-related supply chain issues. It is these circumstances that are encouraging the initiative to increase hardwood exports to Vietnam.

Hardwood prices are a great example of how national policies can impact the economies of small rural counties. Regardless, local timber will continue to be a major contributor to the Morgan County economy in the years to come.

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by calling 423.346.2329 or emailing
publisher@mocotoday.com

Tim and Debra Adkins Celebrate the True Meaning of Christmas

Tim and Debra Adkins live at 124 Circle Drive, Wartburg, TN 37887. They have been decorating their home every year for Christmas since they purchased it in 1975.

Tim stated, "Christmas is all about the birth of Jesus Christ."

Tim explained that he has always enjoyed celebrating Christmas since his early childhood and continues to do so today to both bring happiness to children and to use his decorations as his way of witnessing Jesus Christ to them.

Last year Tim was unable to decorate their home due to both him and his wife Debra underwent a tremendous battle with COVID-19.

Tim was in intensive care for twenty-nine days.

Upon being discharged from intensive care he was placed in a nursing home and then continued his fight in home rehab. In total his battle lasted six long months and he even had to learn how to walk again.

Tim's battle caused him to retire early from being the Meat Department Manager for Ingles Super Market where he worked for thirty years. He also worked for Winn-Dixie for twenty years.



Today, Jesus Christ has blessed Tim with renewed health. He is back to riding his Harley-Davidson, has regained 66% of his lung function and is regaining more strength and lung function daily.

Debra's battle lasted ten days in the hospital but she is currently battling long-term effects from COVID-19.

This year Tim was reinspired to put up their Christmas decorations adorned with tens of thousands of lights by their

smiling faces and share with them the "true meaning of Christmas."

Jesus Christ said:

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 12:46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

grandchildren Kennedy (7) and Austin (2). Tim said that Austin kept saying, "lights, more, more!" Tim also said that their neighborhood kids ask him every year if he's going to put up their lights.

If you get a chance and want to see Tim and Debra's property adorned with Christmas lights galore all in the name of Jesus Christ, drive by their home. Be sure to glance at your children as the reflections of colorful lights bounce off their

Tim, Morgan County Today thanks you for devoting your time and energy in celebration of the true meaning of Christmas and by using your love of Christmas by showing and telling others about Jesus Christ. Keep being a shining light for Jesus Christ and may God bless you and your family!

Stricken Ministry Assists Morgan County

On Monday, December 13, 2021 Stricken (a local homeless street ministry) placed their first blessing box (food pantry) in Wartburg, TN. Morgan County Today showed their support of both Stricken's ministry and their compassion for anyone in need by allowing the blessing box to be placed in front of their newspaper office located at 510 Main Street, Wartburg, TN 37887.

Stricken filled the blessing box with Bibles, canned food and other nonperishable food items and placed a sign on top of the blessing box stating, free food. By 4:00 pm the same day "all" of the food and two Bibles were gone. This goes to show how much of a need there is for people that have nothing at all or are struggling to get by.

Stricken will restock the blessing box every Monday morning and they humbly ask for anyone who is capable and willing to please restock the blessing box with any nonperishable food as they are able. There have already been a few people that have made these much-needed donations and it's most appreciated.

The Bibles and food are for anyone and

there isn't a maximum number of items that an individual or family can take. There aren't any requirements or questions asked of anyone who takes anything. Stricken simply wants people



to have their basic needs met all in the name of Jesus Christ.

It's the goal of Stricken to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ through prayer and deed and to inspire others to do the same. Imagine someone who is lost without salvation experiencing the love of Jesus Christ in such a simple way which may lead them to know and accept him as their Lord and Savior. Their eternal life and relation-

ship with Jesus Christ may simply start with a can of food and a free Bible.

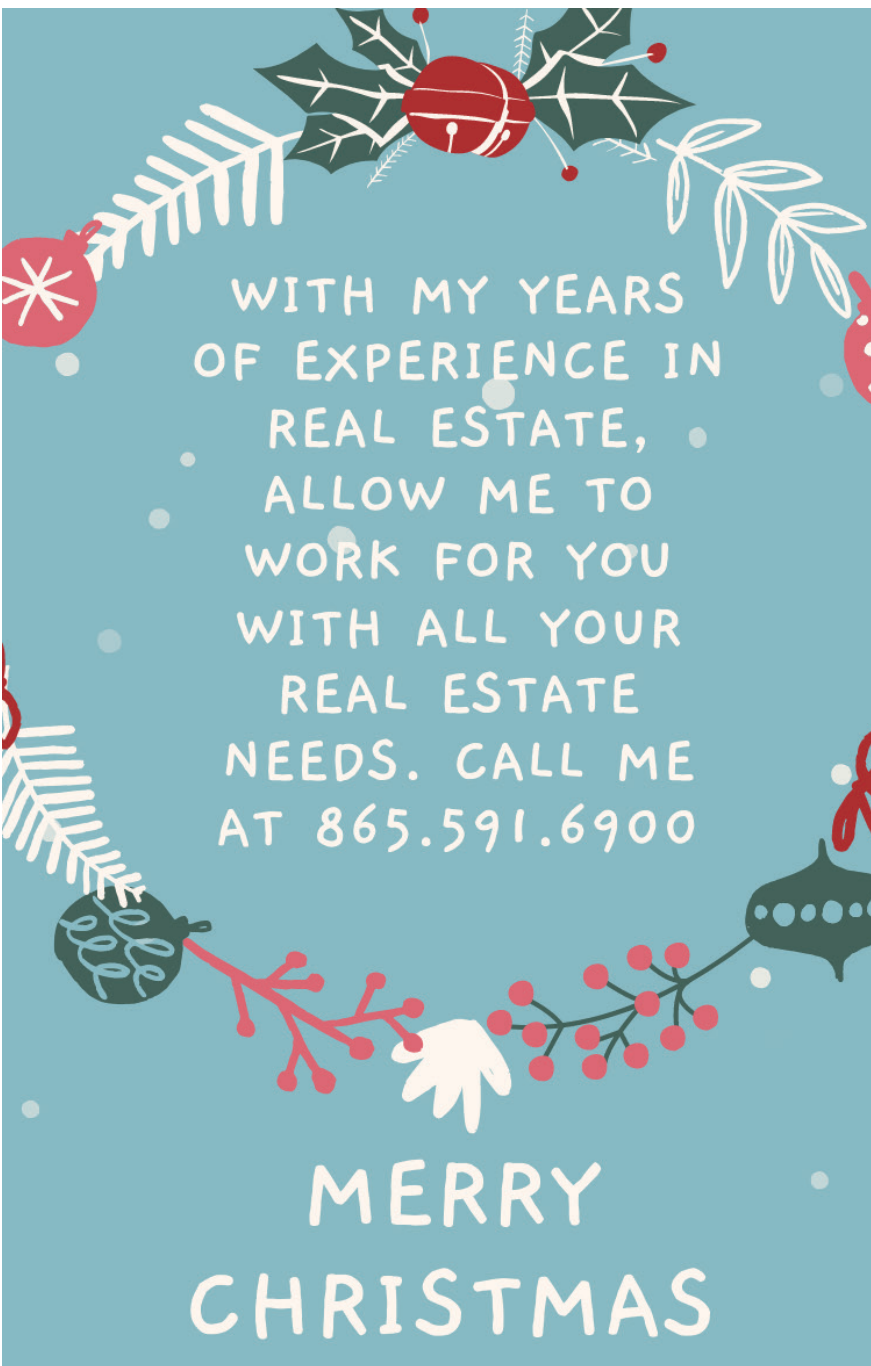
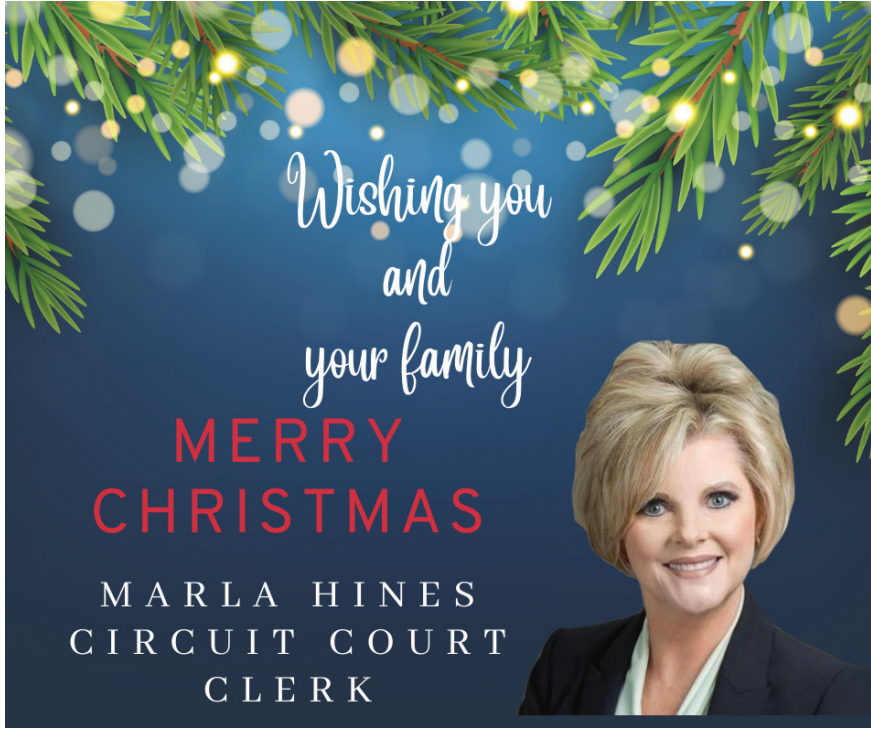
Simply put, no one can help everyone but everyone can help someone. The question is, "who will you help today in the name of Jesus Christ?"

To learn more about Stricken and their ministry visit their website at www.strickenministry.com.

Stricken would also like to hear from Morgan County Today's readers regarding where they feel the next blessing box should be placed in Morgan County. Please share your ideas and thoughts by emailing fredmize@strickenministry.com or Tommy Francis of the Morgan County Today at publisher@mocotoday.com.

Jesus Christ said in 1 John 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

Jesus Christ also said in Matthew 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.



Open Letter to Plateau Electric Cooperative Members

Among the many things that have become apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic is the importance of stability and reliability in our lives. Nowhere is that more critical than the electric power system. It keeps us comfortable. It keeps us safe. It enables our lives, both at work and at home.

Plateau Electric Cooperative and TVA are committed to keeping your power service reliable. Since 2018, we know there have been challenges that have impacted TVA's reliability in your area. In the southern portion of Plateau Electric Cooperative's system, from Robbins in Scott County to Sunbright and Wartburg in Morgan County, we have experienced higher-than-normal outage hours. This isn't the kind of service you expect from TVA, and we are actively working to reduce the risk of future outages.

There are several reasons the power outages in your area happen. Sometimes severe weather impacts our system, such as with the Braytown outage in August. That outage was made worse by individuals stealing protective copper wiring from substations, putting our personnel and equipment at risk. Others, such as the Rugby outage in September, are caused by equipment issues.

Whatever the cause, the end result is the same – lives are disrupted, work stops, and your family is inconvenienced. That is not acceptable to us. To that end, TVA is committed to continually improving both the reliability and resiliency of the system that serves the Plateau community.

Over the past several years, the TVA team has been working with Plateau Electric Cooperative to improve the reliability of the power system. We've added substations and equipment, replaced high-voltage power structures, and upgraded and modernized dozens of transformers and switches.

And we aren't finished. TVA is making additional upgrades to further expand our capacity to provide the energy that Plateau Electric Cooperative supplies to you.

While we can't guarantee that your lights will never go out again, TVA understands our responsibilities and the trust that you place in us and Plateau Electric Cooperative. Together, we will continue to work 24/7 to make your power system as stable and reliable as possible.

Don Moul

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer



Dave Cross

Chief Executive Officer

