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Volume 08 Number 07

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

Your Community. Your News.

75¢

Inside:
MoCo Literacy Project
Davis Insurance:
Players of the Year
Basketball Roundup
Weather
History

Who is your
Valentine?



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Morgan County Today

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Michael Nance
Columnist

What began in Canada as a trucker's protest against vaccine and mask mandates is now incubating in the United States and making its point known around the globe. The "Freedom Convoy" protesters initially began their fight against covid-19 mandates along the border between the U.S. and Canada.

Millions of dollars of goods and products have been disrupted as a result of the Canadian truckers blocking entry and exit points along the U.S. Canadian Border. One example that highlights the impact of the protest is found on the Ambassador Bridge, which connects Detroit and Windsor, Ontario. This logistical route is an artery that transports 25% of all trade between the U.S. and Canada. The recent stoppage on the bridge has already shuttered work at auto plants in both countries. Both Ford and General Motors have reported significant impacts on their operations in the region.

Last week, the Biden administration urged Prime Minis-

Freedom Convoy

truckers crossing the border would be required to quarantine once they return home.

Irrespectively of the Covid-19 policies, many news sources indicate that Justin Trudeau is moving Canada towards authoritarianism, while leaving democracy in the rear-

"Freedom Convoy" is also gaining supporters and subsequent momentum. Thousands of people have pledged to protest in Washington D.C. And now the online rumor is circulating that we could see a protest disrupt the Super Bowl. As the online following was growing, Facebook shut down



Photo by Naomi McKinney

view mirror. Just last week, the Canadian government worked with banks to seize accounts with donations to the "Freedom Convoy" movement. This action draws a stark contrast between the U.S. and Canada. It would be near impossible for the U.S. government to take such an action

many groups committed to planning a U.S. "Freedom Convoy." One of those groups shut down by Facebook was dubbed "Convoy to DC 2022," the group had more than 100,000 people joined before their Facebook account was taken down.

If the "Freedom Convoy" does conduct national protests which impact major ports and areas of commerce, the United States could see some difficult economic consequences and further supply chain issues that are certain to contribute to inflationary pressures. Inflation data has already shocked Wall Street and middle America when it was reported that the annual inflation rate in the US increased to 7.5% in January. That is the highest reported rate since February of 1982. Although they are a host of inflationary items, energy is the biggest contributor due to the surging gasoline prices.

To solve this issue may require compromise on the part of the Biden Administration, in one of the most sacred areas to democrats, covid-19 restrictions. Only time will tell, but the problems are mounting with no end in sight. The southern border crisis, Ukrainian crisis, Inflation, supply chain issues, big city crime surges, and the pandemic. All of these items are certain to present an interesting backdrop against the 2022 mid-term elections.



Protests in Paris photo by Norbu GYACHUNG

ter Justin Trudeau to use federal powers to resolve the blockade of the Ambassador Bridge. Early reports Saturday indicated that Canadian police were making progress clearing the protesters from the bridge.

What caused the protests in Canada? The stated hard spot is covid -19 restrictions and mandates. The final straw came when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal government announced that unvaccinated Canadian

against a protesting organization. Hence, it seems that the criticisms of Trudeau and his authoritarian posture appear true on the surface.

It is not just North America which is experiencing a protest of truckers against Covid-19 mandates and restrictions, Europe is feeling the pressure as well. This weekend "Freedom Convoy" protesters blocked traffic in Paris and had to be dispersed with tear gas.

In the United States the

WEEKLY WEATHER



Tue 15	56°/39°	
Wed 16	62°/55°	
Thu 17	60°/29°	
Fri 18	46°/24°	
Sat 19	55°/28°	
Sun 20	55°/35°	
Mon 21	59°/41°	



In Loving Memory

George "Sonny" Briggs,

George "Sonny" Briggs passed away Friday, February 4, 2022, at Tennova Turkey Creek.

Sonny was a faithful, loving, husband and loved to spend time with his family. Always joking with the ones, he loved. He enjoyed riding four wheelers, side by sides with his boys, outdoor sports every chance he got and spoiling his 2 dogs, Bella and Jaxson.

He is preceded in death by his parents, George Shorty Briggs and Violet Briggs; loving wife, Kyla Briggs.

He is survived by her 3 sons, David (Christie) Briggs, Buddy (Kenja) Briggs and James (Christy) Briggs; grandchildren, Christopher Briggs, Brandon Briggs, Chelsea Briggs, Sydney Ryan-Roberts, Savannah Daniels,

Chase Jackson and Kaylie Jackson; great grandchildren, Peyton Briggs, Parker Briggs, Caleesia Truitt, Ivan Truitt, Memphis Hall and Everleigh Rucker.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, February 10, 2022, at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 4:00-6:00 p.m. with the funeral at 6:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 6:00 p.m. with Dr. Paul Frick officiating. The family has requested a private graveside service.

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

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of George "Sonny" Briggs.

Delores Fickes, 84

Delores Fickes, 84, formerly of Claysburg, Pa, was peacefully called home on Friday, February 11, 2022, in Wartburg, Tn. She was born in Johnstown, Pa, daughter of the late Francis and Hannah (Warrick) Swope. She married Robert (Bob) Leroy Fickes on Nov. 21, 1955. He preceded her in death on October 17, 2020.

She is survived by two daughters, Deborah Lynn (Fickes) Vasko and Dana Lynn (Fickes) Humphreys; and three grandchildren: Mia Grace Humphreys, David Scott "Trey" Humphreys III, and Maxwell Cade Humphreys.

Delores was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She loved to cook and enjoyed feeding everyone who walked in her door. She was a CNA and had a passion for taking care of the elderly. Deloris and Bob were married for 65 years, and are now reunited for Valentines Day in their heavenly home.

Friends will be received from 5 P.M. until the 7:00 P.M. funeral service on Tuesday February 15, 2022 at the Leslie-Miller Funeral Home, Claysburg, Pa with Pastor Hud Crossman officiating. Local arrangements are by Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg, Tn.

Jerome Potter, Jr. 54

Jerome Potter, Jr., age 54, of Deer Lodge passed away February 9, 2022, at Cumberland Medical Center. He was born January 20, 1968.

Jerome was a hard worker, but he loved spending time with his grandbabies the most.

He is preceded in death by his wife Tammy Potter; father Jerry Potter and grandparents Elmer & Mary Howard.

He is survived by his daughter Kayla Potter; mother, Brenda Howard; grandchildren, Jazmine

& Nathaniel Potter and Kinsley & September Hitchcock; 3 brothers, Stephen, Michael & Larry Potter; sister, April Padgett and a host of nieces, nephews, uncles, aunts and extended family.

The family will receive friends Friday, February 11, 2022, at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12-1 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 1 p.m. Interment will follow in the High Point Cemetery in Deer Lodge.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Jerome Potter, Jr.

Patricia R. May, 65

Patricia R. May, age 65, passed away on January 29, 2022.

Patricia was a member of the Living Waters Baptist Church in Lancing, TN. She is preceded in death by her parents, R.C. and Hazel (Stringfield) May. She is lovingly remembered and survived by her sister Phyllis (Larry) Mutz; brother Phil (Theresa) May, and a large family of nieces and nephews; son David (Janelle) Bethuy, and two grandsons; two daughters Gabrielle Barnes and Elena (Zach) Desoto, and one granddaughter.

Whether you knew her as Trish, Tricia, Pat, or Patricia, her boisterous laugh and joyful smile meant for all who would accept it, unapologetically announced her arrival in any space. Early in her adult life she found joy and purpose in an eventful career performing center stage with Trica May & Calico as a successful live country music singer and entertainer. Patricia was a born

caretaker of all who called on her support. Her ingrained drive to sacrifice herself and look after her family and community, when able, overflowed and positively impacted countless lives during her time on this earth. Although there were struggles in health and family towards the end of her short life, she will be remembered and loved by so many people she had touched throughout the varied chapters of her life by her lively personality, unmistakable laugh, beautiful singing voice, and delicious cooking.

She was an amazing, complicated woman. The world is a little dimmer without her.

Receiving of friends will be held on Saturday, February 12, from 12-2 pm at the Living Waters Baptist Church in Lancing, TN.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Patricia May.

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl



Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist

It's here. It's

finally here! Everyone has been talking about the Super Bowl. I am so excited! I wonder what it will be this, Super Bowl. Is it going to be a bowl full of Honey Nut Cheerios? A bowl of Pupperoni? Oh, I wonder! It must be something great for it to be called the...Super Bowl. It's so great that Pap is having a party. Yum. Yum. Yummy! I can't wait to see what it is. Everyone has been talking about Rams and Bengals. I don't know what those beasts, have to do with a Super Bowl. I mean how will they fit, in my bowl?

Only a few more hours to go...Geez. The suspense is getting to me. Now, I have a case of the barks. Cause Pap is getting stuff ready for the Super Bowl. It's up on the counter top and I can't see. Maybe, it will be a

turkey leg! That will fit in my Bowl, I think. Well, Pap did sneak me some of that, when we had the sparkling tree. Maybe, it will be some ham. He gave me a nibble of it, too. He told me not to tell Mimi, cause he would be in trouble. Oh, could it be a Super Bowl of HAM?!



Now, we have company. We have so many here, to love on me. I almost forgot about the Super Bowl. Almost.

I'm still keeping an eye on my bowl and so far, I just have the same ol' bowl. I'm watching my bowl and everyone else is watching the black box and a bunch of people are hitting each other and kicking a ball. My question is: What does that have to do with my bowl and when are they putting the Super thing in my Bowl?

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



Daylight Savings Time will begin Sunday, March 13. We will Spring Forward one hour.

CONGRATULATIONS to Morgan County Schools for being recognized as a BEST FOR ALL DISTRICT by Tennessee Department of Education. Morgan County was one of 68 Tennessee counties to receive this recognition. The recorded event will be uploaded to YouTube soon.

Monday, February 21 is President's Day and is a Federal Holiday. Many federal, state and county offices will be closed. There will be no school in Morgan County on February 21.

February Hours for Oakdale Public Library are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 4:00 – 7:00 and Wednesdays 10:00 – 1:00.

This Wednesday, February 16, there will be BINGO for adults at Oakdale Public Library from 10:30 – 11:30. Space is limited. Like and follow Oakdale Public Library's Facebook page for updates and future events.

My Aunt Linda Shelton Ellis and Dub Jones visited Oakdale last Saturday. They enjoyed touring some places they remember from

childhood as well as a visit with their dear friend, Ruth Headrick. Bunt and I enjoyed our time with them.

The Oakdale School Alumni Association will have an online auction March 4 - 6. The Alumni Association gives annual scholarships to graduates and supports Oakdale School with projects. They recently made a donation to OHS for parking lot maintenance. Anyone wishing to donate to the auction can contact Tabitha Hamby at hambyt@mcsed.net, Sandra Helton at heltons@mcsed.net or Rebecca McClurkan at beckymc@bellsouth.net.

Oakdale High School Drama Club will present their spring play "Divine Stella Devine" March 28 – April 2. More details coming soon.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Faye Barger who passed away Friday, February 4. She is survived by two sons and daughters in law, Robert and Robin Barger and Ricky and Cindy Barger, three daughters and sons in law, Sue Kilby, Joanne and Thomas May and Jennifer and Carl Turpin. She is also survived by her sisters Agnes Wilkerson and Martha Gamble and her brother, Bobby Easter along with eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Services were held Mon-

day, February 7 and interment was Tuesday, February 8 in Crab Orchard Cemetery.

Prayers for all the sick in our communities and their caregivers. Prayers for our churches, pastors and missionaries, our schools, teachers and students, our homes and families and our country and leaders. Most of all, pray for the lost.

In honor of President's Day, I chose this quote by our nation's 16th president. This advice is as good today as it was years ago.

"Be sure you put your feet in the right place. Then stand firm."

Abraham Lincoln

Community Calender

March 4-6

The Oakdale School Alumni Association will have an online auction March 4 - 6. The Alumni Association gives annual scholarships to graduates and supports Oakdale School with projects. They recently made a donation to OHS for parking lot maintenance. Anyone wishing to donate to the auction can contact Tabitha Hamby at hambyt@mcsed.net, Sandra Helton at heltons@mcsed.net or Rebecca McClurkan at beckymc@bellsouth.net

ENBRIDGE AWARDS \$5K GRANT TO LOCAL LITERACY PROJECT

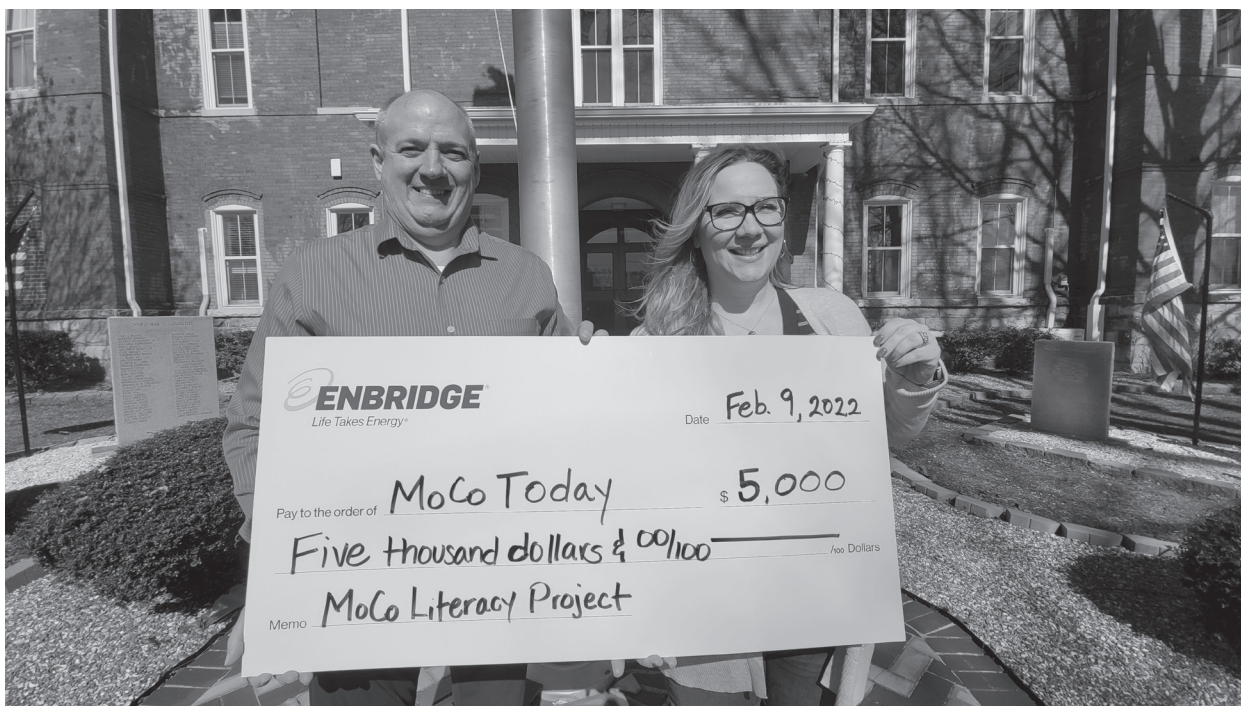
WARTBURG, Tenn. – February 9, 2022 – Enbridge, Inc., North America's largest energy infrastructure company, announced today it has awarded \$5,000 to the MoCo Literacy Project, a community initiative of the local newspaper, Morgan County Today. The MoCo Literacy Project partners with schools, school systems, libraries and other community stakeholders to bring awareness and provide solutions to literacy issues facing its rural community.

This grant is part of Enbridge's Corporate Citizenship Grant Program which is dedicated to investing in communities where the energy infrastructure company has a significant presence. Enbridge recently announced its plans for the expansion of its East Tennessee Natural Gas System which supplies low-cost, cleaner-burning natural gas to millions of Tennesseans. Grant eligibility and application information can be found at Enbridge.com.

"We're energizing communities, through the volunteerism and generosity of our employees, and through strategic donations and sponsorships that strengthen the safety, vibrancy and sustainability of communities where we live and work," said Art Haskins, manager of stakeholder engagement at Enbridge. "We are thrilled

to award this grant to the MoCo Literacy Project and look forward to more opportunities to invest in the future of Wartburg."

"Reading is the key to a successful future. In rural areas like ours, the literacy rates are drastically lower than other parts of the state and country," said Tommy Francis, publisher and owner of Morgan County Today. "These funds will help us work to give all those in our community an equal opportunity for a brighter future."



Art Haskins and Heather Francis (Photo Submitted)

About Enbridge Inc.

Enbridge Inc. is the largest energy infrastructure company in North America. We deliver safe and reliable energy people need and want to fuel their quality of life. Our core businesses include Liquids Pipelines, which transports approximately 25% of the crude oil produced in North America;

Gas Transmission and Midstream, which transports approximately 20% of the natural gas consumed in the U.S.; Gas Distribution and Storage, which serves approximately 3.8 million retail customers in Ontario and Quebec; and Renewable Power Generation, which generates approximately 1,763 megawatts of net renewable power in North America and Europe. Enbridge's common shares trade on the Toronto and New York stock exchanges under the symbol ENB. For more information, visit Enbridge.com.

Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

I Didn't Get The Job, Now What? Part 1

Hypothetical: You prepared diligently all week for an interview. You have completed the rigorous mission and discovered your passion in life. This is the job you want to do every day. This is, in fact, your dream job. You are ready to conquer the world. You are confident, articulate, and display a high level of passion during your interview. The first interview was a slam-dunk. You are fired up about the company and they are fired up about you. You are ready to nail the next interview and to then receive an offer in your hands in a few days.

They invite you back for the second step of the interview process to meet with the vice president. You are told the job is between you and one other candidate. You have poured blood, sweat, and tears, preparing for this job interview. You have rehearsed questions, written a business plan, and studied competitor information.

You have done every single step in this book and have worked all week researching the company, studying the industry, networking with people inside the company, practicing interview skills, and even prepared a PowerPoint presentation that coincided with your business plan. You have printed out stacks of articles and know everything there is to know about this particular organization. You are ready to knock the socks off the vice president.

You meet with the vice president and you feel like you did extremely well. Now, all you have to do is wait by the phone for a job offer. You are confident that you landed this job and it's just a matter of time before they call and make you an offer that you can't refuse. You are so excited and nervous at the same time. You hear your cell phone ring and it's a unknown phone number not saved in your contacts. You answer the phone with excitement, energy,

and enthusiasm. The air seems to thicken as you're struggling to inhale oxygen for your lungs. Breathing becomes difficult from anxiety. To your surprise, it's not the hiring manager. It's someone from human resources. They tell you the infamous words, "While we are impressed with your background, we have decided to move into a different direction. We will keep your résumé on file for future opportunities".

tions, you leave a nasty message on the hiring manager's voicemail. You scream at the top of your lungs, "Hey, you reject, you choose not to hire me and it's your loss. I hate your guts and hope your company burns to the ground." You slam the phone down and you feel like you have let out your frustration, disappointment, hurt, and anger—except the big problem is it didn't do anything to advance your position. What have you really accomplished by doing so? I have been rejected many times in many different industries after job interviewing. It is disappointing at the time, but it makes you stronger and a more effective interviewer. While you feel like letting all your hurt and disappointment out, this is not that appropriate way to respond to rejection.



Zack Ballinger



How do I know so much about this crushing heartbreak? I have been there several times during the course of my professional career. I got this same call or email probably 25 times before I finally figured out the art of the Hot Seat.

You are devastated. You call the hiring manager to lash out and give them a piece of your mind. In a fanatic frenzy of emo-

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

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Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week

Private First Class Lewis Albanese served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War as a member of Company B, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). On December 1, 1966 he heroically gave his life in fierce battle earning him the Medal of Honor.

PFC Albanese's Medal of Honor citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Pfc. Albanese's platoon, while advancing through densely covered terrain to establish a blocking position, received intense automatic-weapons fire from close range. As other members maneuvered to assault the enemy position, Pfc. Albanese was ordered to provide security for the left flank of the platoon. Suddenly, the left flank received fire from enemy located in a well-concealed ditch. Realizing the imminent danger to his comrades from this fire, Pfc. Albanese fixed his bayonet and moved aggressively into the ditch. His action silenced the sniper fire, enabling the platoon to resume movement toward the main enemy position. As the platoon continued to advance, the sound



of heavy firing emanated from the left flank from a pitched battle that ensued in the ditch which Pfc. Albanese had entered. The ditch was actually a well-organized complex of enemy defenses designed to bring devastating flanking fire on the forces attacking the main position. Pfc. Albanese, disregarding the danger to himself, advanced 100 meters along the trench and killed six of the snipers, who were armed with automatic weapons. Having exhausted his ammunition, Pfc. Albanese was mortally wounded when he engaged and killed two more enemy soldiers in fierce hand-to-hand combat. His unparalleled actions saved the lives of many members of his platoon who otherwise would have fallen to the sniper fire from the

ditch, and enabled his platoon to successfully advance against an enemy force of overwhelming numerical superiority. Pfc. Albanese's extraordinary heroism and supreme dedication to his comrades were commensurate with the finest traditions of the military service and remain a tribute to himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

LAST CALL FOR SGT. CHRIS JENKINS

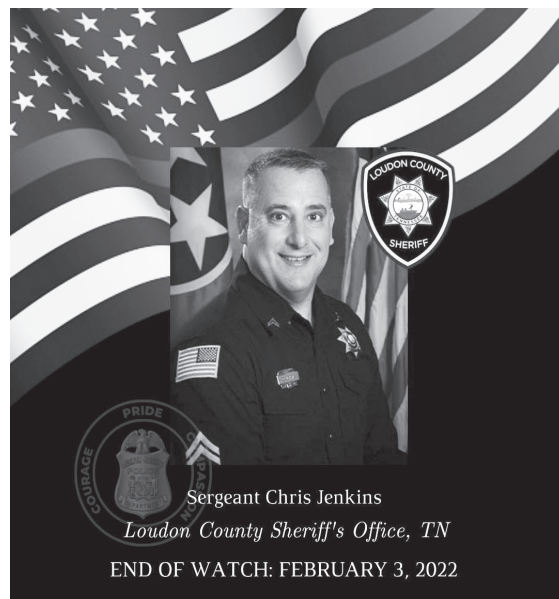
"This is the last and final call for Loudon County Sheriff's badge No. 904, Sgt. Chris Jenkins. On February 3rd, 2022, Sgt. Jenkins was killed in the line of duty while proudly protecting travelers on the interstate from imminent danger. Sgt. Jenkins you have served your community well. Your life and your actions have taught your 'blue' family – and even your own son – to follow in your steps to be peacemakers.

We love you. We will never forget you.

Central (dispatch) shows 904 out of service and shows 904 10-6 with 9-10. Rest easy sergeant, we have it from here." Deputy Sgt. Chris Jenkins, died Thursday morning (February 3, 2022). The Tennessee Highway Patrol said Sgt. Chris Jenkins died after being hit by a tractor-trailer despite conducting a rolling roadblock to stop traffic.

The truck driver accused of striking Jenkins, Christopher Savannah, 43 of Houston, Texas, has been charged with vehicular homicide by intoxication, vehicular homicide by recklessness, two counts of reckless endangerment, DUI, simple possession, possession of a handgun under the influence, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Sonny Beason, 35, of Loudon County, who was driving the truck that dropped an unsecured ladder, has been charged with three counts of misdemean-



or reckless endangerment and driving on a suspended license.

Sgt. Jenkins, 48, graduated from Loudon High School and served in the United States Air Force before joining the sheriff's office in 2002. Jenkins became a K9 officer in 2007, and was promoted to sergeant last year. Chris is survived by son Clay, daughter Chloe, fiancée Kristi Ingram and K9 partner Déjà Vu.

Deputy Sgt. Jenkins', late cousin, Deputy Jason Scott, also died in the line of duty while serving with the Loudon County Sheriff's Department. Deputy Jason Scott, was shot and killed in March 2004 while responding to a domestic disturbance call.

Deputy Scott was shot four times while he got out of his patrol car. A 16-year-old suspect had been beating his mother with a post before shooting Scott. Deputies had called for assistance and the teenager barricaded himself, armed with

numerous rifles. Three other officers were injured when they were being shot at by the teenager. Deputy Scott was flown to the University of Tennessee Medical Center where he was later pronounced dead. The 16-year-old suspect was found dead after the 30-hour standoff, suffering from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Deputy Sgt. Chris Jenkins' son Clay Jenkins, who also serves as a LCSO Deputy spoke during his dad's memorial service on Wednesday, February 9, 2022.

Clay Jenkins said his father was his hero with a badge, adding, "Dad, you were, and still are, Superman."

Clay Jenkins told the assembled crowd wearing a Loudon County sheriff's uniform was the most honorable thing he has ever done in this life

"I couldn't help but follow in the best footsteps," he said of his father. "I always wanted to make him proud."

Clay Jenkins said he will carry his legacy with honor, adding, "I want you to look at me and see the walking image of my dad."

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Disappeared: Chapter 18 : Part 2

Maggie & Evie, Day 6-



Carol Hall
Author

Getting up from the bed was still difficult for Maggie. Her bruises were a little better this morning, but she was still extremely stiff and sore. The swelling on her face had subsided a little, due in part, to the plant poultice Rose kept applying to it every few hours.

She carefully made her way over to the backpack and opened it up. She examined the contents to make sure they had enough food bars and water to last for a day or two. Satisfied that there was enough, she picked up her camera and tucked it into

one of the pockets inside. After zipping it back up, she went over to the bed and sat down between Rose and Evie.

Rose finished making the poultice and began smearing it liberally all over Maggie's face. She flinched at first expecting it to hurt, but surprisingly enough, it didn't. She was surprised at the gentleness with which Rose rubbed it in. It still amazed her that an animal that big could be so tender.

Suddenly Brutus stood up and growled low in his throat. He jumped to his feet and headed for the tunnel, disappearing down it before any of them even knew what happened.

Maggie looked at Rose to gauge her reaction. She was looking at the entrance, but didn't seem perturbed, so Maggie relaxed and let Rose finish rubbing the medicine into her face.

Evie suddenly grabbed Maggie's arm in a vice like grip.

"Maggie...", she began. She didn't say anything else, just stared at the tunnel entrance.

"What?"

"Do you hear that?"

"Hear what? I don't hear anything."

Then suddenly a voice drifted into the cave. It was faint, but it was definitely a voice. Someone was calling their names.

She and Evie sat perfectly still listening for the voice again.

Once again it drifted into the tunnel from some far off place.

Rose heard it too and jumped to her feet. She ran to the entrance of the tunnel and peered into it. With her back to Maggie and Evie, she stood motionless, listening for the voice again.

Evie grabbed Maggie by the arm. "Maggie, now is our chance! Grab the backpack and run for that far wall!"

Maggie didn't have a chance to protest. Evie quickly got to her feet and tiptoed to the fire pit. She grabbed a long stick from the pile of wood next to it and quickly wrapped the sock around it and stuck it in the fire. The sock caught fire immediately.

"Come on, Maggie!" Evie whispered impatiently at her. She was frantically waving her arm at Maggie to follow her.

Maggie jumped to her feet and bolted for the backpack. Snatching it up by the shoulder strap, she dashed over to where Evie was waiting for her, ignoring the agonizing pain in her body. They raced for the far wall as fast as their feet would carry them.

Rose turned around at the sound of the commotion. When she saw the two women running for the far wall, she let out a long bellow that filled the cave. She turned on her heel and stormed after them.

Maggie glanced over her shoulder as she ran and saw Rose coming up behind them, gaining ground fast. She could feel the floor of the cave tremble under Rose's heavy footfalls. Panic rose in her throat. If they didn't make it to the hole, Rose would surely kill them.

Evie suddenly dropped to her knees, grabbing Maggie by the front of her shirt and pulled her down with her. She crashed down on her hands and knees, but didn't take the time to acknowledge the pain. Evie had quickly crawled into an invisible hole in the wall that Maggie couldn't see due to the darkness that covered that part of the cave. Maggie turned her head to catch a glimpse of Rose, just as Evie yanked her into the hole. Rose slammed into the wall, swinging her mighty arm in a swooping motion trying to catch Maggie as she disappeared into the void.

From inside the small, cramped entrance of the tunnel, Maggie and Evie could hear Rose beating the wall and screaming. It was unlike any cry Maggie had ever heard before. It tore at her heart, the sound was so mournful.

Not wanting to take the chance on the possibility of Rose reaching into the hole and grabbing them, Evie and Maggie scurried farther into the tunnel. Rose's cries continued to echo down the tunnel after them.

The makeshift torch Evie had made was still burning, though by the looks of it, it wouldn't be for too much longer. The sock had come slightly unraveled and was hanging from the stick precariously.

"Come on, we need to get farther in and find that big opening while we still have a little light," Evie said. She held the torch up and began making her way along the tunnel. Maggie slowly followed.

"How far is it to the big room?"

"It's a little way, but if you need to rest at some point, just let me know. It's a straight shot, so even if the torch goes out, we'll be able to feel our way there."

With the help of the torch, they were able to make their way easily through the tunnel for some distance, but the sock eventually turned to nothing but ash and the fire went out.

Standing in the darkness, Maggie reached out, groping in the darkness for Evie. She managed to find her arm and gently pull back on it.

"I need a quick rest."

"Ok, just feel your way down the wall to the floor and we'll sit here and

rest for a moment. How are you doing?"

"Surprisingly well, considering," Maggie said. "I think the adrenaline rush made it to where I'm not feeling much pain right now."

"That's a good thing," Evie said.

They sat in the darkness holding each others hands for a few moments before Maggie spoke up. "Evie, I'm so proud of you."

"Why?" Evie's voice floated back to her in the darkness.

"I'm usually the strong one, the brave one, but you have really stepped up to the plate through all of this. I couldn't have done it without you."

"Maggie, you are the strongest person I know. You would have survived somehow on your own, even if I hadn't shown up."

"Evie, I've been beaten to smithereens. I have been drug through bushes, slid down a cliff, got hit twice. I'm dirty, hungry, tired and my body is killing me. I don't think I would have had the gumption to do something like this, but I sure am glad you did."

"I love you, Maggie," Evie said on a thin whisper. "I always have. You're like a sister to me."

"I love you too, Evie."

They sat in silence in the dark for a long while holding each other's hand. When Maggie thought Evie may have fallen asleep, she gently squeezed her hand.

"Evie?"

"Yeah?"

"You ready to get going again?"

"Yeah, you?"

"Yep. Let's go."

Evie stood up and helped Maggie to her feet.

Without any light for guidance, they grasped each other's hand and groped along the walls, shuffling their feet as they navigated their way over rocks, around bends and through tight spaces until Evie stopped short.

"We're here."

Maggie bumped into the back of her and caught her arm to regain her balance.

"Pull your camera out of the pack. We can use the flash to see what's in here," Evie said.

Grabbing the pack off her back, she fumbled around in the dark until she found the zipper. Rummaging around inside it, she located her camera. Pulling it out, she managed to figure out which way to hold it so that the flash would throw its light out in front of them. She held her arms out in front of her as far as they would go and clicked the button.

The flash illuminated a huge cavernous room. It was open for the most part, except for a few huge boulders that lined one wall off on the side. In the middle of the room was a huge pool of water. That was all they managed to see in the quick burst of light.

"Wow!" they both said in awe.

Another flash of the camera showed them that on the opposite wall from where they stood, a gap in the rocks promised another possible way out.

"Looks like there may be another tunnel on that far wall," Maggie said.

Using the flash, they made their way across the room to where the gap was. Maggie pointed the camera into the hole and pushed the button. Sure enough, another tunnel branched off to the left.

"Evie, I can't go any farther right now. My body is on fire and I am so thirsty, I could drink that pool dry."

"It's ok, Maggie, we can stop and rest for now. We both need a break and I'm hungry."

They found a place to sit on the floor next to where the new tunnel opened up.

Maggie searched around in the backpack until she pulled out a couple bottles of water and a few food bars. Handing some over to Evie, they leaned back against the wall and ate their meager dinner in the pitch dark.

When they were done eating, Evie grabbed Maggie's camera and began walking around the room shooting off the flash. Suddenly she made a whooping sound and started to giggle.

"What is it? What did you find?" Maggie asked her, amused at the noises she was making.

"You're never going to believe this, but I think I found a fire circle!"

"Seriously? Is there any wood?"

"Oddly enough, yes!"

Evie made her way back over to Maggie and helped her stand up. She took her by the hand and led her a short distance into the middle of the room.

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

* Store plastic wrap in the refrigerator, or even the freezer, to keep it from sticking to itself.

* "Take your medication tablets on a spoonful of your favorite yogurt! Place the pills on top of yogurt and they slide down. Follow with a second spoonful and smile." -- A Reader in Pennsylvania

* Do you have a screw loose ... in your eyeglasses? This is an easy fix. Paint the screw with a dab of clear nail polish and quickly re-screw. It works like glue. Dab the top of the screw for a little extra insurance.

* "I purchased a roll of reflective tape to mark our basement stairs. It reflects the light from the open doorway at the top of the stairs, and I can turn the downstairs lights off before heading up. I had some left over, so I put a strip on my dog's collar. When I

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* Rapper Snoop Dogg tried to rent the country of Lichtenstein for a music video, but was rejected.

* The Vatican has its own telescope staffed by priests, and has even received awards for the pursuit of scientific research.

* Until they are large enough to sleep upright, baby owls sleep on their stomachs because their heads are too heavy.

* Actual corpses were on the set and going to be used during the filming of "Apocalypse Now." However, the man who supplied them turned out to be a grave rob-

ber and was arrested.

* Oceans around the world contain about 20 million tons of gold in the water itself, worth hundreds of trillions of dollars at current prices.

* In 1997, Motley Crue created a soda called "Motley Brue" to help promote their new album "Generation Swine." For additional fun, they added enough blue dye to turn the drinker's urine green.

* Walt Disney accidentally "kidnapped" Richard Nixon by dispatching his monorail train before the Secret Service could get on.

* When added together, the numbers on a roulette wheel add up to 666.

* M&Ms were created so military soldiers could enjoy

heat-resistant and easily transportable chocolate during war.

* If your arm or hand falls asleep, try rocking your head from side to side. This will release the pressure on the nerves in your neck and wake up the limb.

* In 2003, PepsiCo offered Estonia \$25 million dollars to change the spelling of one of its lakes, Lake Peipsi, to Lake Pepsi, but was turned down.

* A man legally named Santa Claus was elected to the city council in North Pole, Alaska.

Thought for the Day: "I cannot believe the path to victory lies in staining our souls so black we become indistinguishable from those we fight." -- Anthony Ryan

let him out at night, I can shine a flashlight and spot him instantly, since the tape is more visible in the night." -- V.R. in Pennsylvania

* If you're leaving your home for a few days, make sure you don't turn off the heater altogether. Set it at a low 55 degrees F and open up the cabinets that have pipes exposed. This way, air will circulate, and it won't get too cold to allow the pipes to burst. Have a neighbor turn your faucets to a trickle if below-freezing weather is expected.

* Wrap the metal collar of your paintbrush with masking tape before painting. Then you can peel it off and there's no stuck-on paint.

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

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
18			19				20			
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23	24	25		26				27	28	29
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45				46				47		
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Fine, to NASA</p> <p>4 "Misery" star James</p> <p>8 Garbage barge</p> <p>12 — -mo (replay speed)</p> <p>13 Taj Mahal city</p> <p>14 Ocean motion</p> <p>15 Sunbather's goal</p> <p>16 Insect organ</p> <p>17 Oklahoma city</p> <p>18 Patsy Cline song</p> <p>21 Shoe width</p> <p>22 Little rascal</p> <p>23 Brilliance</p> <p>26 6 on a phone</p> <p>27 Gaiety</p> <p>30 "Dream on!"</p> <p>31 Ginormous</p> <p>32 Flintstones' pet</p> <p>33 Abolish</p> <p>34 Curse</p> <p>35 Summoned with a beeper</p> <p>36 Frenzied</p> <p>37 Jewel</p> <p>38 Words of empathy</p> <p>45 Made into lumber</p> <p>46 Drescher or Tarkenton</p> <p>47 TV schedule abbr.</p> <p>48 Currier's</p> | <p>partner</p> <p>49 Plane-related</p> <p>50 Debussy's "La —"</p> <p>51 Antitoxins</p> <p>52 Lincoln in-law</p> <p>53 Farm pen</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Wine region</p> <p>2 Norwegian saint</p> <p>3 Hawaiian coast</p> <p>4 Pill variety</p> <p>5 Marble type</p> <p>6 Woody's son</p> <p>7 Taking a siesta</p> <p>8 Precipitous</p> <p>9 Title akin to POTUS</p> <p>10 "Garfield" dog</p> <p>11 Marries</p> <p>19 Piece of lettuce</p> <p>20 "As I see it," via text</p> <p>23 Hearing thing</p> <p>24 Hit CBS series</p> <p>25 Cover</p> <p>26 Blend</p> <p>27 Pear-shaped fruit</p> <p>28 French article</p> <p>29 Affirmative</p> <p>action?</p> <p>31 Adipose tissue</p> <p>32 Slightly wet</p> <p>34 Chum</p> <p>35 Anise-flavored liqueur</p> <p>36 High-IQ group</p> <p>37 Sentry</p> <p>38 Egyptian deity</p> <p>39 Top choice, for short</p> <p>40 Pitcher</p> <p>41 Crunchy cookie</p> <p>42 \$ dispensers</p> <p>43 "Yeah, right"</p> <p>44 Not even one</p> |
|--|---|

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FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ... OR DARE!

W O V

T U S R Y L

W O L T E

♥ E A V N

W E B A L Y

♥ E A Y

♥ L W S O

♥ E S V R E

I L N

L I V Y A N

♥ Y A R S T

T A B I

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

Spotify Shouldn't Accept Cancelers' Premises

There have been many unpleasant paid jobs throughout history, from executioner to leech collector to nitpicker. Now, to this litany of gruesome and onerous work, must be added being employed by Spotify in the 21st century.

The CEO of the streaming company, besieged by a highly motivated cancellation mob out for podcaster Joe Rogan's scalp, apologized to his employees in a statement for "the way The Joe Rogan Experience controversy continues to impact each of you."

According to Daniel Ek, the Spotify team has been left "feeling drained, frustrated and unheard." Yes, following inane and hysterical commentary on Twitter, Instagram, and other social media platforms about the alleged evils of a podcaster who interviews people and listens to their views, then posts the recordings for other people to listen to as they choose, must be wrenching.

To his credit, Ek hasn't canceled Rogan and he backed free speech, although from a defensive crouch. Indeed, his groveling, cant-filled missive is characteristic of such statements by organizations under pressure to suppress unwelcome views. They almost always accept the premises of the cancelers and treat the aggrieved as delicate hot-house plants on the verge of collapse if they don't get their way.

Is it too much, for once, for people in a position of supposed authority to tell the offended to get over it and buck up like adults living in a free society? Ek's statement suggests the answer is still "no." He assured Spotify employees that he's thinking about "what additional steps we can take to further balance creator expression with user safety." He promised to consult outside experts on this question. He also pledged to devote \$100 million, equal to the amount Spotify spent on its licensing agreement for Rogan's podcast, on licensing, developing, and marketing music and audio content from "historically marginalized groups."

"I deeply regret," he reiterated, "that you are carrying so much of this burden."

All in all, it was a performance worthy of a college dean trying to talk down students who may come for him or her next. What, for instance, does "user safety" mean? Listening to a song or a podcast is not like operating a piece of dangerous heavy machinery. Anyone getting behind the wheel of, say, a mobile hydraulic crane needs absolutely to know what he is doing at imminent risk of causing harm to himself or others. Someone listening to an uncongenial podcast can turn it off and listen to something else or nothing at all, in total safety.

As for "unheard," it is left-wing argot that has seeped into the mainstream. It is a meaningless term in this context. If a coder at Spotify feels unheard, so what? It isn't his or her job to opine on controversies over content. Moreover, all too often those claiming to be metaphorically unheard insist that the only way to get themselves heard is to make someone else literally unheard via cancellation.

The pledge of \$100 million for more content is at least a gesture toward the notion that the solution to speech you don't like is more speech. Yet, it reeks of a shakedown and an implicit bargain throwing resources at the would-be cancelers of Joe Rogan so they will go away and try to cancel someone else.

Ek clearly believes that by giving ground, by putting content warnings on some Rogan podcasts and removing others, while making apologetic sounds, he can weather this storm. Maybe. But the fever for cancellations won't end until the likes of Ek are courageous and tough-minded enough to tell the mob and its whiny fellow travelers that offensive speech isn't a threat to anyone's safety or emotional well-being, and that they're done pretending otherwise.

The debate over speech in this country is too often defined by people using their childishness and sense of entitlement as weapons. That won't change until leaders are unafraid to tell them in frank terms to grow up.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

S'mores Indoors

For those of us who could use an unexpected surprise to chase away the winter doldrums, here's an idea that's hard to beat. No, it's not moving to a sunny beach somewhere far away. It's making mouthwatering s'mores — indoors! Sound impossible? It's not!



Chase away those winter blues with indoor s'mores.

Just swap out a classic campfire for your microwave, then grab the ingredients, and you'll have a finger-licking-good snack for everyone in the family in seconds.

Here's how to put smiles on everyone's faces in three easy steps:

1. On a small saucer, place a piece of a Hershey's chocolate bar on top of one half of a graham cracker. Add one large marshmallow, or several mini marshmallows.
2. Cook in your microwave on high

VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

TeleHealth Visits Avoid COVID Delays at VA

The deployment of the new electronic health record at one of the Department Veterans Affairs health systems has been delayed. As of now, so many employees are sick with COVID-19 and unable to work that the rollout has been moved from March 5 to April 30.

That particular system, with multiple VA locations in 15 counties, currently has a COVID positivity rate of over 30% with one county seeing an increase of 150% in the past two weeks.

Think about that, and ask yourself: Can your next appointment at the VA be accomplished via TeleHealth? While the VA was one of the first agencies to mandate that all their employees be vaccinated against COVID, facts and figures show that it's not complete protection.

TeleHealth uses computers, phones and tablets to connect you with your medical team in real-time video or a phone

for about 10-15 seconds, or until marshmallows puff and grow.

3. An adult should remove the plate from the microwave, top with the other cracker half and gently press down on the gooey marshmallow. Let cool a bit so the snack isn't too hot.

Make several and serve with big glasses of milk. For extra fun, gather everyone around in a circle on sleeping bags, wrap yourselves in blankets, sing your favorite camp songs and tell stories as you savor your treat.

Note: A toaster oven works fine, too. Cook the layered cracker, chocolate and marshmallow on the tray at 350 F until the marshmallow begins to brown. Remove and top with the other cracker half. Six s'mores fit on most trays.

More Ideas: I've tweaked the basic recipe with a few variations kids like.

- Substitute a Peppermint Patty or good chocolate syrup drizzled over the marshmallow for the chocolate bar.
- For a surprise taste, spread a thin layer of peanut butter on one of the graham crackers before you add the other ingredients.
- Add a banana slice.
- For a s'more without the microwave, let preschoolers spread marshmallow cream and chocolate frosting on a graham cracker.
- For a creative hostess gift, take along prepackaged s'mores. Wrap up fully assembled s'mores in neat little packages using waxed paper. Tie together with string and arrange in a tissue-filled container. Or, fill a gift bag with a box of graham crackers, a bag of marshmallows and a few chocolate bars for a simple kit.

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

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call. Accessing care this way means you don't have physically go in. This can be especially helpful if you are in a rural area far from a VA facility or are disabled, older or very ill. You can even talk to specialists via TeleHealth.

If you're not signed up, start here: telehealth.va.gov. Scroll down to See How It Works. On that same page, click on My HealtheVet. From there you can track appointments, get messages from your care team, view or print your medical records or refill your prescriptions.

Don't miss the VA Mobile Apps link. That's where you can get your Video Connect app for iOS, web or Android. Note that AT&T, SafeLink by TracFone, T-Mobile and Verizon will help you avoid data charges when using the VA Video Connect app. You'll also find the 24/7 help desk to get your app going (866) 651-3180 and a test site to try a practice session.

The VA has gone all out in battling COVID-19. Consider doing your part and ask if your next appointment can be accomplished from home via TeleHealth.

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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Valentin in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. According to Paul, what kind of giver does God love? *Loving, Generous, Cheerful, Reluctant*
3. Which Old Testament book reads like a love story? *Ruth, Daniel, Habakkuk, Song of Solomon*
4. How many times did Jesus ask Peter, "Do you love me?" *2, 3, 7, 10*
5. I Corinthians 13 is known as the chapter of ...? *Faith, Hope, Love, Pardon*
6. Where do you find the phrase, "God is love"? *Genesis, Nehemiah, Hebrews, 1 John*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Cheerful; 3) Song of Solomon; 4) 3; 5) Love; 6) 1 John (4:8, 16)

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

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Comfort foods

Made fast and healthy

by Healthy Exchanges

Mexican Chicken Bake

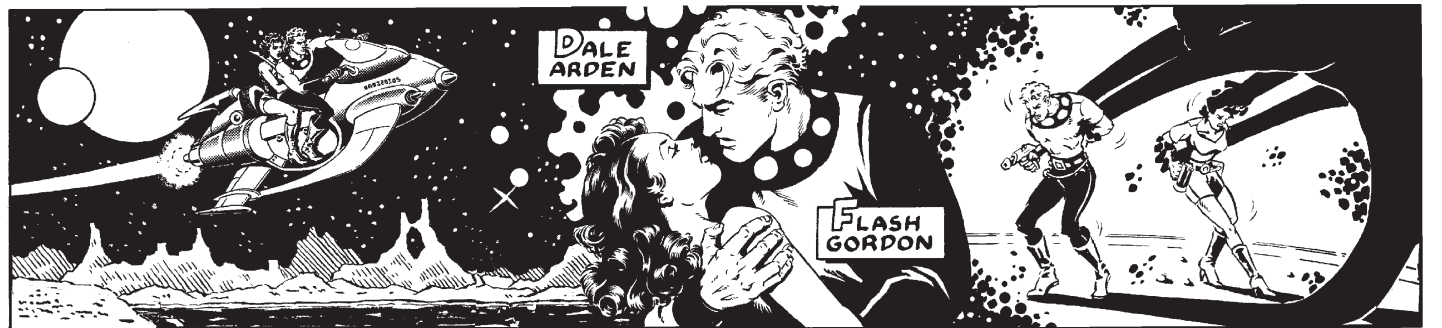
Sunny Mexico — where the warm blue sky is never-ending and the "spiciness" of the food can be as "hot" or as "mild" as you want it to be.

- 1/2 cup salsa (mild, medium, hot or extra-hot)
- 1 (8-ounce) can tomato sauce
- Sugar substitute to equal 1 tablespoon, suitable for baking
- 3/4 cup shredded reduced-fat Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup coarsely crushed baked nacho chips
- 1 1/2 cups diced cooked chicken breast
- 1 (15-ounce) can cut green beans, rinsed and drained

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Spray an 8-by-8-inch baking dish with butter-flavored cooking spray.
2. In a medium saucepan, combine salsa, tomato sauce and sugar substitute. Stir in Cheddar cheese. Cook over medium heat for 5 minutes or until cheese melts, stirring often.
3. Evenly arrange half of chips in prepared baking dish. Layer chicken and green beans over chips. Pour hot salsa mixture evenly over beans. Evenly sprinkle remaining chips over top.
4. Bake for 25 minutes. Remove from oven and place baking dish on a wire rack and let set for 5 minutes. Makes 4 servings.

• Each serving equals: 262 calories, 6g fat, 26g protein, 26g carb., 921mg sodium, 3g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 3 Meat, 2 Vegetable, 1 Starch/Carb.

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...DR. HANS ZARKOV WORKS FEVERISHLY TO MAKE REPAIRS.

THE ENGINES ARE BACK ONLINE, BUT IT'LL TAKE TIME FOR THEM TO FULLY CHARGE.



THE GROUND TREMBLES AS THE GIGANTIC BEAST APPROACHES.

ITS SOLE INTENT... TO DESTROY THE OBJECT WHICH HAS THREATENED ITS YOUNG!

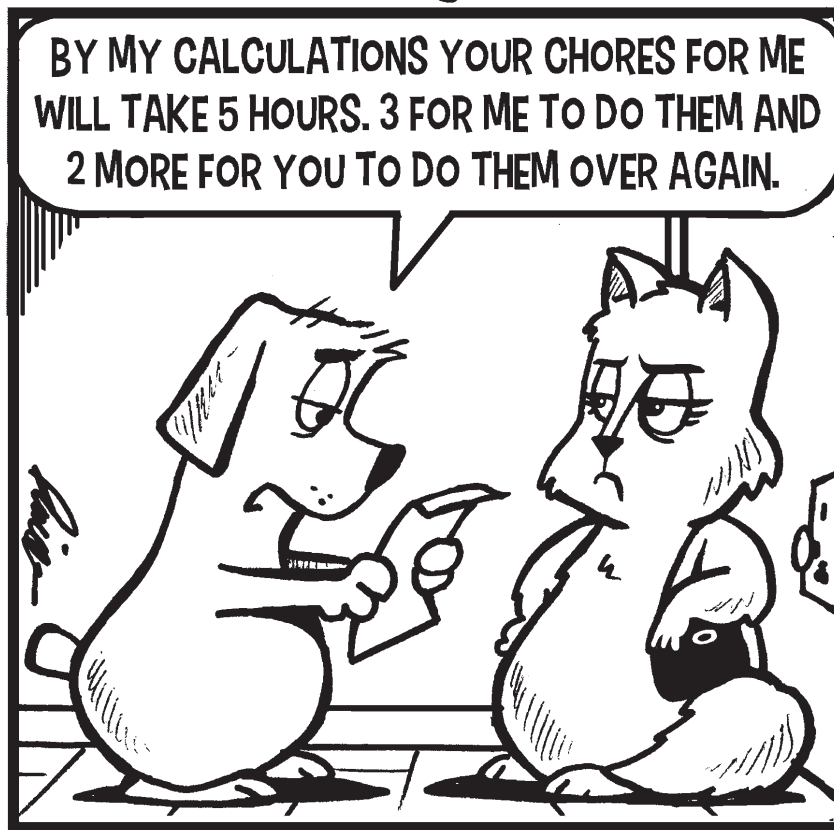


POWER LEVEL IS ALREADY AT 40%. HERE'S HOPING IT'S ENOUGH FOR A NEUROCHARGE...



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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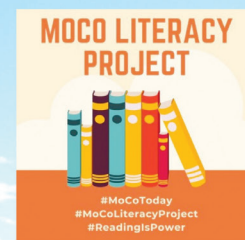
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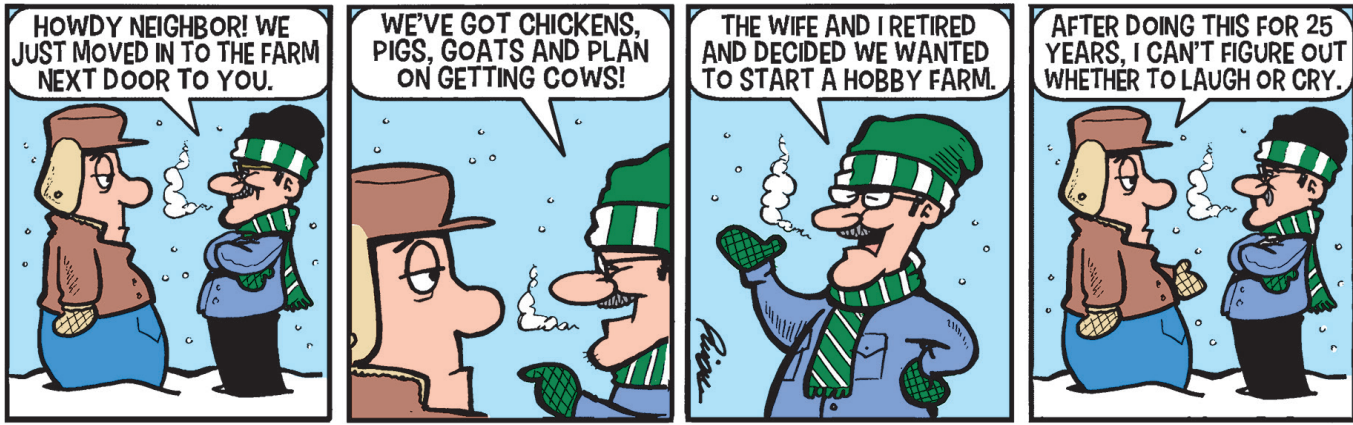
MOCO MULE MORNING SHOW

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



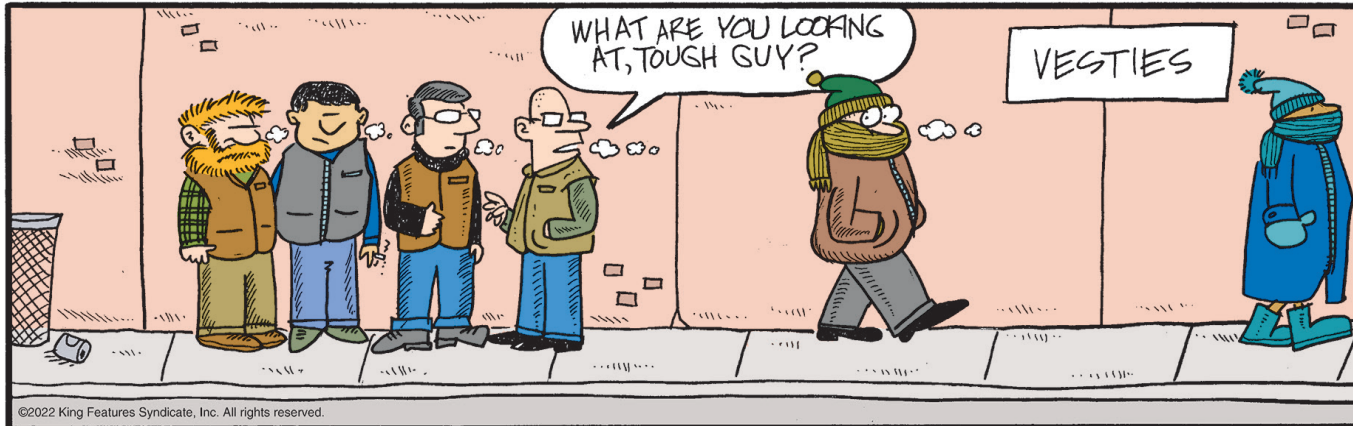
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



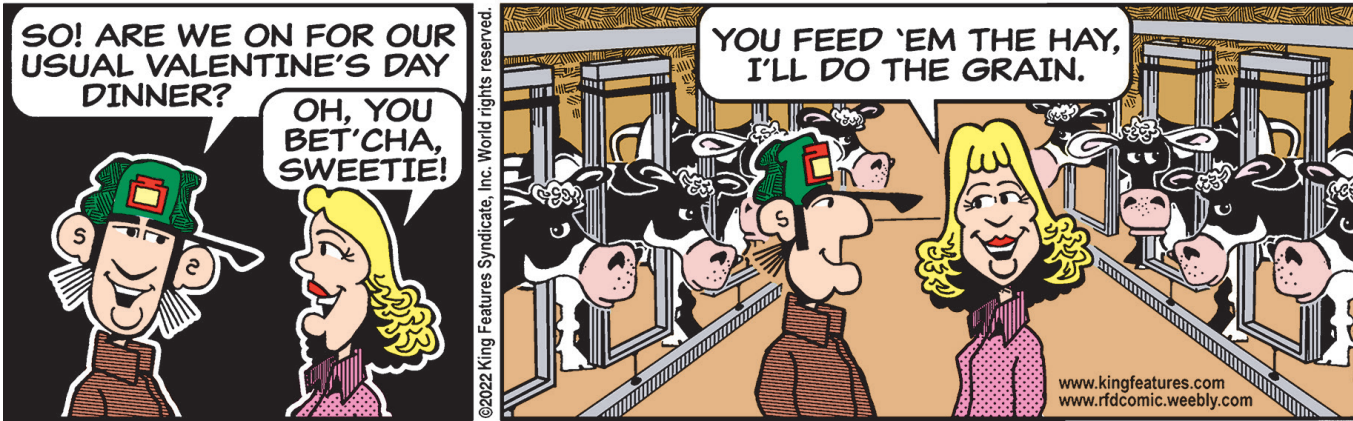
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



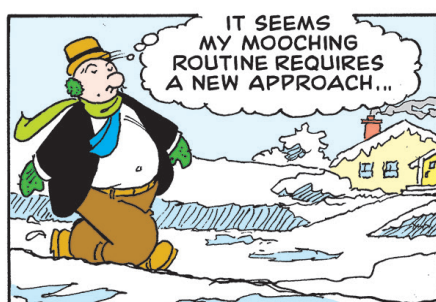
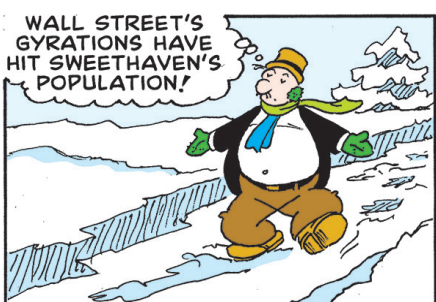
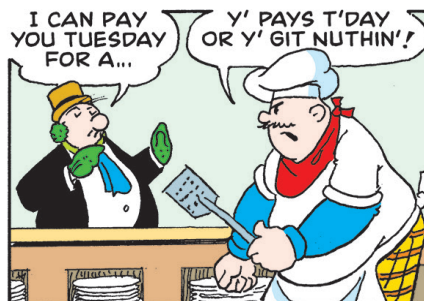
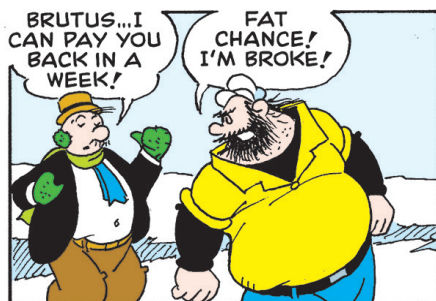
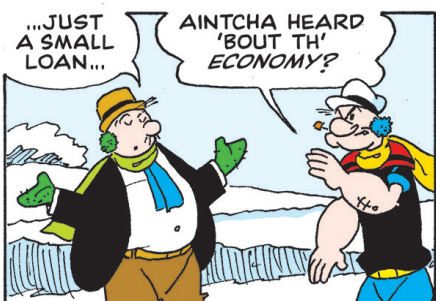
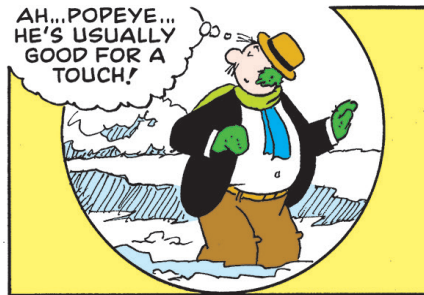
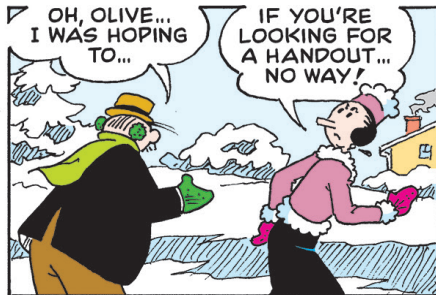
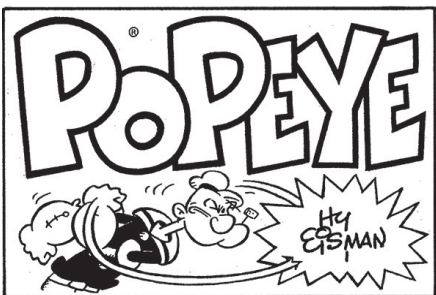
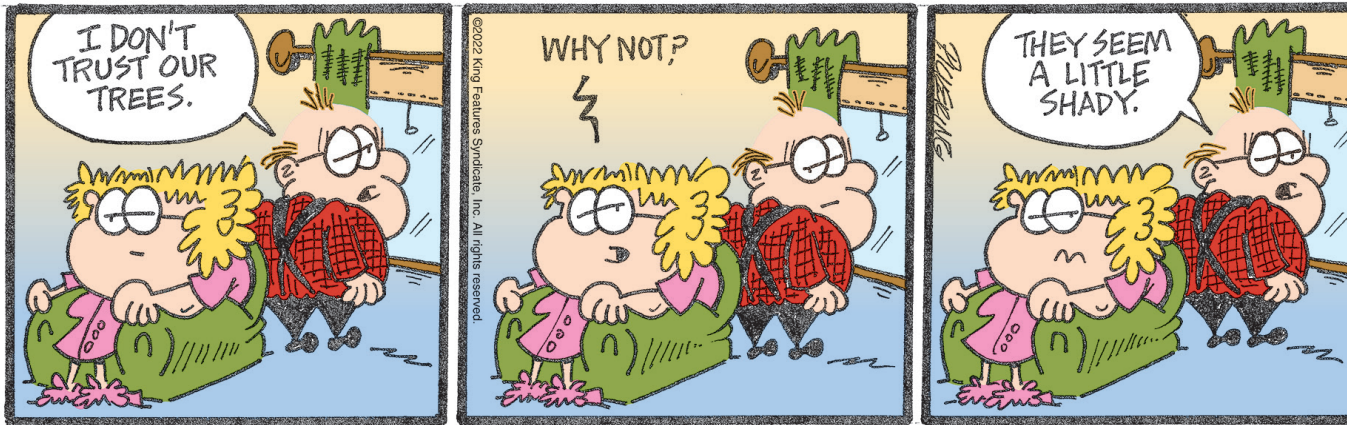
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

 * On March 6, 1776, a committee of the New York Provincial Congress instructs Major William Malcolm to dismantle the Sandy Hook lighthouse to prevent the lighthouse from helping the British by warning ships of the rocky shore. He succeeded.

* On March 3, 1845, Congress reins in President John Tyler's zealous use of the presidential veto, overriding it with the necessary two-thirds vote. This marked Congress' first use of the Constitutional provision allowing veto overrides.

* On March 1, 1932, Charles Lindbergh, Jr., the 20-month-old son of aviation hero Charles Lindbergh, is kidnapped from the family's new mansion in New Jersey. The baby's body was found a mile from the home. One of the \$70,000 ransom bills was discovered and tracked to a German immigrant. He was tried, convicted and electrocuted in 1936.

* On March 4, 1944, Louis "Lepke" Buchalter, the head of Murder, Inc., is executed at Sing Sing Prison in New York. Lepke's downfall came when several members of his notorious killing squad turned into witnesses for the government.

* On Feb. 28, 1953, Cambridge University scientists James Watson and Francis Crick announce that they have determined the double-helix structure of DNA, the molecule containing human genes. The molecular biologists were aided significantly by the work of another researcher, Rosalind Franklin, although she did not share the subsequent Nobel Prize.

* On March 5, 1963, the Hula Hoop, a hip-swiveling toy that became a huge fad across America when it was first marketed by Wham-O in 1958, is patented. An estimated 25 million Hula Hoops were sold in its first four months of production.

* On March 2, 1978, two men steal the corpse of the film actor Charles Chaplin from a cemetery in Switzerland. Chaplin's wife refused to pay the \$600,000 ransom and police later arrested two auto mechanics who were convicted of grave robbing and attempted extortion.

Historically Speaking

The Andrew Jackson Magnolia Tree Story

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

This saga of an historic magnolia tree and sprouts from that tree over the years comes from John Rice Irwin, founder of the Museum of Appalachia. It is a most intriguing story covering more than 180 years. It is a story of a tree that began in Tennessee, went to Washington, DC as a sprout, then returned to Tennessee as more sprouts and eventually replaced itself at The Hermitage, near Nashville.

This story started in 1829 when President Andrew Jackson left his Tennessee home and journeyed to the White House for his inauguration and presidency. At some point he had a sprout from one of Rachel's favorite magnolia trees on the grounds of their home, The Hermitage, planted at the White House. It was located on the South lawn at the west side of the entrance.

In fairness to history, I have to admit the actual date of the planting of the tree is in dispute. While I would like to think Jackson took the sprout when he first went to the White House and was in mourning for his wife who had died just a few months before his inauguration, it may not have happened that way.

However, there is some thought that the sprout(s) may have been nurtured in conservatories for some time before actual planting in the lawn. This would allow for an earlier date for movement from Tennessee to the White House.

The actual planting could have been as late as 1835, when President Jackson, in his second term, created the White House orangery (an early version of a greenhouse). He is known to have brought his own landscape gardener, Will Frost, from The Hermitage in 1834. Perhaps that is when the sprout was taken from The Hermitage to the White House, if it had not been taken there sooner. Several references indicate it was planted in 1835. This date is corroborated by Irvin Williams, head White House gardener, according to John Rice Irwin.

There is no dispute that the sprout was planted in memory of President Jackson's beloved wife, Rachel, who had died on December 22, 1828, after a grueling campaign where Jackson won the presidency but his dear Rachel was the brunt of many abusive campaign attacks regarding her previous marriage. Jackson was convinced that the unduly harsh treatment caused her death. He went to his March 4, 1839 inauguration while in mourning for his loss.

Taking a sprout of that magnolia tree obviously had strong meaning for Andrew Jackson. The majestic tree has held much strong meaning for several presidents and their families since. President Harry Truman found the tree a favorite, Jackie Kennedy was known to be very fond of it. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill are said to have sat "underneath that old magnolia tree."

In 1988, President Reagan treasured the magnificent old tree enough to provide a cutting to his retiring Chief of Staff, Howard Baker, Jr., who planted the treasured gift at his Huntsville, Tennessee, home.

This is the tree that caught John Rice Irwin's eye and forms the basis for this historic tree story that is being documented in Historically Speaking.

Lady Bird Johnson took sprouts from the Jackson Magnolia to her Texas homes. Sprouts were taken to Florida where a "Jackson Magnolia" stands near the capital. There is one on the south lawn of the Daviess County courthouse in Owensboro, KY. There is one in Mississippi and I am sure there are several other locations where cuttings have been taken and the "Jackson Magnolia" now grows as many majestic Southern Magnolia trees with special meaning because of the linkage to the original tree that Andrew Jackson took from Tennessee to the White House.

First lady Michelle Obama took a Jackson Magnolia seedling to the Department of Agriculture in February, 2009. The seedling was planted in the USDA's community garden, part of a larger USDA initiative to



View of the South Portico of the White House with the Jackson Magnolia on the left and the matching Southern Magnolia on the right (Photo Submitted)



View of the reverse side of \$20 bill prior to 1998 showing a single Jackson Magnolia tree southwest of the White House near the Southern rounded Portico (Photo Submitted)



View of South Portico of the White House with the single Jackson Magnolia shown to the left (Photo Submitted)

grow gardens at their offices around the world.

From 1928 to 1998, the reverse image on a twenty-dollar bill depicted the Jackson Magnolia tree standing alone just southwest of the White House near

the south portico. At sometime a matching magnolia tree has been planted on the east side of the south facing rounded portico. The two trees frame the entrance and create a balanced and artistically pleasing image...likely the most photographed view of the White House.

This grand tradition of Presidents planting trees at the White House has been followed by many presidents. A couple of recent examples are: George W. Bush planted a Cut Leaf Silver Maple in July, 2001. George H. Bush planted a Little Leaf Linden with the help of Queen Elizabeth II in 1991.

Another interesting tree on the grounds of the White House is an American Elm tree planted during the administration of Teddy Roosevelt somewhere between 1902 and 1906. During severe storms in 2006 the Elm came down. Take out a twenty dollar bill (since 1998) and look at the back. You can see Roosevelt's tree on the right side of the North Entrance to the White House.

You may recall that the Jackson Magnolia withstood an airplane crash in 1994. A single-engine, two-seat Cessna airplane initially hit the grass lawn about 75 feet from a holly hedge and the Jackson Magnolia tree. The plane skidded into the hedge, and its left wing was clipped by the magnolia tree which lost a large limb in the crash. The pilot was killed. The president was not at the White House.

The stately old magnolia tree formed the inspiration for one of two new sets of china that Laura Bush had designed for use in the Blue Room and the Yellow Oval Room above it, both rooms look out on the Jackson Magnolia.

This Jackson Magnolia tree also has special meaning for our John Rice Irwin, Founder of the Museum of Appalachia. In June of 1993, he was enjoying lunch at Senator Baker's Huntsville residence when he noticed a tall magnolia tree. As would be expected, John Rice inquired about the tree and wondered about its origin.

Can't you imagine the pride and joy of Senator Baker at being asked about this special tree? He must have reared back in his chair, raised his hand to the back of his head and with great expressions described the gift from President Reagan, some six years earlier. I'm sure he pointed out to John Rice that the Jackson Magnolia was pictured on the reverse of the twenty-dollar bill prior to 1998.

After hearing the grand story of the tree's history, John Rice asked for a cutting from the tree. Senator Baker agreed and arranged for two cuttings to be rooted and sent to John Rice at the Museum of Appalachia.

In the next installment of Historically Speaking we will pick up our story of the Jackson Magnolia and will tell you of the circuitous route that brought the tree back to its original home at the Hermitage near Nashville to replace the original tree that was destroyed by a tornado in 1998.



Tom Redmon
Columnist

College Days: An Education the Hard Way

From the time I was in the 8th grade I always knew I would go to college. I didn't know how because my parents were poor with five children in school when I graduated in 1954.

In the summer of '53 I went to DeKalb, Illinois and got a job packing Del Monte peas. I worked at the vinery on the farm where the conveyer belt brought the vine after the peas were removed by the machine. It was a hard job for a seventeen-year-old, but I endured until the packing season ended. I earned enough money to help out my senior year of high school. I cannot say that I like school. Like I have said before I was really shy and probably backwards as the country folks called it. I didn't talk or interact with the other children and because of this one would wonder how in the 8th grade I knew I wanted to go to college. As a matter-of-fact as a junior, I wanted to drop out. I was bored and wanted to go out into the world, get a job and have money in my pocket. If not for a teacher named Mary Jack Waddell I probably would have dropped out. She encouraged me to stay in school and fulfill my dream of going to college.

My senior year something happened that is hard to explain. I came out of my shell, started talking and interacting with classmates, playing football and being in three-act-plays. By spring of '54, I was one of the most popular boys at Central High. I got my first and second cars. The first was a 1935 Plymouth that I paid \$35.00 for. The second was a 1941 Ford. My dad also had a new Chevrolet at this time that I drove quite a bit. As someone used to say, "We were in high cotton." Back in the mid-fifties there were few jobs around my hometown. If you couldn't get on at Oak Ridge, you had to go north to find work. The boys and men around Wartburg usually went to Pontiac, Michigan or Joliet, Illinois. I didn't want to go to either one. I had been accepted at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee. They offered me a good job making 50 cents an hour. This would help pay about one-third of my tuition. I had no idea where the rest would come from, but in the fall of 1954, I entered college at LMU.

Lincoln Memorial University is a small private college located near Cumberland Gap where Daniel Boone led the pioneers through to the bloody

hunting ground called Kentucky. It played a part in the great western movement in our country. Our 16th president, Abe Lincoln, made a visit to this land once and was quoted saying that he wanted to do something for this poor land. Like many universities and colleges LMU got a government grant to get started. Kids from three states, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia would have an opportunity to get an education. If you know your geography, you are aware that these three states come together at the Cumberland Gap. You can stand in three states at once



Lincoln Memorial University (Photo Submitted)

there on the mountain with one foot in Tennessee, one foot in Kentucky, and ben over and touch Virginia with your hand. LMU has a beautiful campus. It is an ideal spot for college. Back in 1954-55 Harrogate was a real small town about the size of Wartburg. There was as I remember one restaurant across the street called Mom's Place. They had a bank, post office, and a variety store but little else in the way of commerce. This was a farm country. Across the mountain was Middlesboro, Kentucky which had a population of around 5,000. If you wanted to go to the movies you had to go to Middlesboro.

Mom and dad drove me up to LMU one pretty summer day in September, 1954. I stayed in Grant-Lee Hall which was the dorm for boys who played either basketball or baseball or for those who worked on campus. At the time the university had their own farm and raised their own food. We sat down family style and had three delicious meals a day.

At first, I roomed with a boy from Knoxville who had gone to Farragut High School. His name was Jim Wells. I thought he was pretty unusual and maybe he thought the same of me. He did get a date for me with a girl he knew and we went up into the Smokies together. He went with a girl name Jill that his parents didn't approve of for some reason. I thought she was pretty nice and they probably settled down somewhere in Knoxville and raised a family.

For some reason, and I can't

remember why I changed roommates in the middle of the year. My new roommate a tall drink-of-water named Lando Lockred; nicknamed, Country, because he was about as country as you could get. Country and I hit it off pretty good. He even came home with me and we went fishing at Mouth Obed. Country was from a small town up in Kentucky and he dated a girl who was called "Sunshine," because every time you saw her, she was smiling.

Country had the biggest hands I had ever seen on a man, and he was as strong as an ox, but as gentle as a lamb. I would love to know what he made in life. I feel that he probably taught school and coached for some country school in rural Kentucky. My sophomore year I transferred to Tennessee Tech in Cookeville and soon lost track of the boys I knew at LMU. I would love to have a reunion with them. We were a lot alike, even the boys from Knoxville. Our parents were poor or lower middle class and most of us struggled financially.

I cannot say that I sat the world on fire in the classroom the first year of college. I can say that I didn't fail any courses. My senior year in high school I had taken Speech Arts instead of English and I really paid for that. My mother even saw the mistake the school was making to let us skip English our senior year, and she only had an eighth-grade education. I also had to work around thirty hours a week and I went home too much on the weekends.

A writer by the name of Jessie Stewart went to LMU. I have read many of his works and I loved them. For some reason I think my writing is a lot like Jessie's. He was from a poor country up in Northeastern, Kentucky and he also was poor and had to work his way through college. Like me he became a school teacher and principal and a lot of his books are on his experience in teaching.

I did about everything on my job at LMU except work in the lunchroom. I cleaned the vice-president's office at night, I washed the windows, I worked on the farm and about everything they had for me to do. When I left LMU in the summer of 1955 I could look back and say, "Well I tried and first phase of college education was achieved, but I had a long way to go yet."

2 Corinthians: Chapter 5

(2 Cor. 5:1-10) Our eternal home: Paul did not agree with those moderns who assert they know “we cannot know anything.” The chapter begins, “For we know,” and indicates a connection with the previous discussion. He describes our physical body as “the earthly house,” the dwelling place we have for our existence on earth. There is no room for reincarnation here. Once this earthly house is gone, there will not be another. The physical body is a “tabernacle”---a temporary dwelling place. All physical bodies will be “dissolved” (except those alive at the time of Christ’s return (1 Cor. 15:51).

The Greek word for “dissolved” means to “loose down,” and it describes the disintegration process back to the dust. Interestingly, Paul later writes that he desires “to depart and be with Christ” (Phil. 1:23). “Depart” is to “loose up.”

The current body is grossly afflicted with the consequences of sin, thus we long for something better. We are anxious for the new, heavenly “habitation.” Being “naked,” without a body, appears to be unnatural (v.3). The Greeks disdained the human body; to the Christian, it is the temple of the Holy Spirit (v. 5; 1 Cor. 6:19). Paul desired that the “mortal” substance be swallowed up of “life” (v. 4). The abiding presence of the Spirit is the Lord’s “down payment” on the bliss to come (v.5).

God’s children, therefore, must take courage, realizing that as long as our spirits reside in our bodies, we are absent from the Lord--- in a direct, face-to-face sense. He is, of course, with us in other senses even now (Mt. 18:20; 26:28; 28:20; 2 Tim. 4:17). Recognizing that, “we walk by faith and not by sight” (v. 7); we must be of good courage, even in the face of death. What motivation do we have? The pledge that to be “absent from the body” is to be “at home with the Lord.” The preposition “with” literally means “facing.” This clearly repudiates the dogma of soul sleeping. Moreover, it negates the proposition that we will not be with Christ until our post-resurrection state. We are in the presence of Jesus following death. We will never be “at home” until we are with the Savior beyond this life. This gives real meaning to the phrase, “home, sweet home.”

We thus, says Paul, “make it our constant ambition (verbal force) to please the Lord---whether in the earthly body or separated from it” (v. 9). This implies active service after death and before the endowment of the new body---therefore, consciousness beyond death. The Christian must desire to please God for the very worth of it. Apart from that, however, there is the matter of the coming day of Judgment (Mt. 25:31; Rom. 14:10; Rev. 20:11). The Judgment involves: (a) obligatory accountability (“must”); (b) universal present (“all”); (c) individual accountability (“we”); (d) just examination (“be made manifest”); (e) authoritative declaration (“judgment seat”); (f) impartial judge, the God-man (“Christ”); (g) proportionate judgment (“each one”) (Lk 12:47-48; 19:16); (h) personal obedience (“according to that which he has done”---good or bad) (v. 10).

2 Cor. 5:11-16) the motive of Paul’s ministry: Paul was accused of having subversive motives in his evangelist work. The charge was both malicious and false. The apostle had developed a fear (reverential awe) of the Lord (combined with “love”) (v. 4), and on this basis he persuaded men to either yield to the gospel or to concede his personal integrity (v. 11). Both are possibilities. Paul pleads with the majority element of the church (in contrast to the factious minority) to compare his credentials and his record with that of his critics, and respond to them, when necessary. They boast of externals when their hearts obviously are corrupt (v. 12). “My enemies say I’ve been ‘beside myself

(acting deranged); if that were true (which it was not), it was to God’s glory. I’m persuaded, however, that you know I was in my right mind, and what I did was for your good” (v. 13).

“It is the love of Christ that constrains us” (v. 4). Does this phrase mean the love of Christ for us, or our love for him? Possibly both are welded together; his love for us motivates our love for him. Christ died so that all (potentially) could be saved (he stood in for us). As a result, all who obey him have “died” to the love and practice of sin (Rom. 6:2). We must no longer live for ourselves, but for him who died and rose from the grave (v. 15). Paul had learned not to evaluate people “after the flesh”. He once evaluated the man called “Christ” in this unfair way; the solid evidence of Jesus’ deity had long since abolished that notion. His detractors should learn from this and cease judging him irrationally.

(2 Cor. 5:17-19) the necessity of reconciliation: If any person is “in Christ,” he is a “new creature,” a Christian; he has a new relationship with Jesus. But what if he is not in Christ? And how does one get into Christ (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27)? The convert is a new creature in that: (a) his relationship to Christ is changed; (b) his past sins are pardoned; (c) his entire outlook on life is fresh (see Jn. 3:3-5; Tit. 3:5). Any creation process is from God, and this is no less true of the new creation. It must be accomplished by the divine plan, not by a self-directed, human substitute. God has provided a plan of “reconciliation” (“to bring together again”) through his gift of Christ and the “ministry” conveying that message, given initially to the apostles. God the Father, operating through Christ (providing him as a sacrifice for sin), was working to bring the “world” back to him. This is accomplished through the word of reconciliation.

(2 Cor. 5:20-21) the urgency of reconciliation: The gospel is conveyed through “ambassadors” (not directly from Christ) representatives bearing the message on behalf of the Lord, who speaks for God. A passionate plea is thus made: Be reconciled to God.” This is a command and reveals the human responsibility in accepting Heaven’s plan of reconciliation. The sinner is not passive in the salvation process.

Christ “knew no sin,” he was never intimate with sin; he was sinless (Jn. 8:29; Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 1:19; 2:22).

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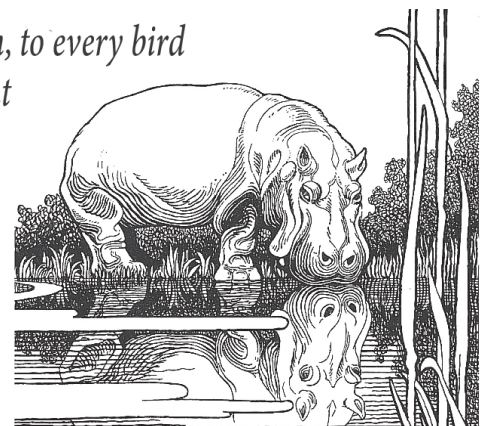


MELVIN HOWARD



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

“Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food,” and it was so. Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.



GENESIS 1: 30, 31

“Die Buecher der Bibel” by E. M. Lilien (1912)

Melvin Howard’s Weekly column is sponsored by

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102 Paxton Road, Lancing

Becoming a Faithful Bride



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

The Queen of Persia has surrendered her inheritance. She has embarrassed Ahaseurus and in turn she has empowered women all over the realm of Medo-Persia. This infuriates the men who advise Ahaseurus, and he in turn grants their request. Now Ahaseurus is regretting his decision.

The key men of Ahaseurus' realm conspire to find him a new bride. No doubt they each had ideas about who it should be based upon their hierarchy. The competition to find pagan King Ahaseurus a bride was on, and Haman had his ideas about which people should not be considered.

Haman is the epitome of what was wrong with ancient Israel when it came to relationship to Elohim their creator. He gave them specific commands about which people should be put to death when they entered the promised land, and as early as Joshua the Israelites compromised and allowed some to live.

God's war in Canaan is with the offspring of the fallen angels and daughters of Adam. The messiah was to be born of a pure Jewish bloodline, and Lucifer was attacking the posy flood descendants of Noah. Now Israel allowed some of them to live, and they will regret that decision until they cry hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord as they look upon him whom they have pierced. This will occur at the end of Daniel's 70th week. We call it the Great tribulation.

Agag was King of the Amalakites in Canaan. The Amalakites occupied the desert regions in the south of Canaan. They were descended from the Amorites and the moon god was their primary deity. Amalakite daughters had intimate relations with the fallen angels of Genesis 1 and 6. Their offspring were the male men of renown found in our bible narrative. Goliath was a descendant of fallen Joshua allowed some of these offspring to live. He also capitulated and allowed some of their ancestors to survive and practice their polytheistic religion in the promised land. He failed God leading to the Judges.

The book of Judges is the story of seven principal cities in Bethelhem-Judea. Because Joshua failed to do exactly what God said, moon worshippers descended from the Amalakites still control those seven cities today. The Psalm 83 war finishes the conquest of Joshua prior to the return of Messiah. I believe this event will follow the collapse of the US economy on the Shmita of 2022.

At the time of King Saul, the land has still not been Levitically cleansed of the pagan fertility altars in the promised land. Each successive person the Jews choose to lead them fail God at purifying the land he gave himself at creation. Israel is God's tithe and the Jews are its only authorized landlords! Peace will come to Israel only when Jesus Christ is accepted by God's covenant people as their King and Messiah.

Saul allows Agag to live and this ends up with a very wroth God. Samuel confronts Saul and then cuts off the head of Agag. It took a priest to do the job of the King! Agag's descendants allow for the birth of Haman. He is a direct descendant of Israel's oldest, and most consistent enemy, the Amalakites.

Now he is the number two man in the house of the most powerful pagan on earth. Ahaseurus promotes him no doubt due to his military prowess and the fact that he has ten sons that all serve Ahaseurus in the military. I wonder if Haman had a daughter, he wan-

ted Ahaseurus to consider for marriage?

Our God always raises up a deliverer. Lucifer might think he has God caught off guard, but God is pre-eminent, omniscient, omnipresent and altogether the author of this entire story known as the human existence. When Lucifer placed his man in Ahaseurus' circle, God presented him with Mordecai, a Jewish man who proved his loyalty by informing the king of the plot by two of his guards to kill him. Ahaseurus would later reward Mordecai, but not before Esther is chosen by Ahaseurus to be his wife and queen.

Esther is taken into the house of the keeper of the women for one year, until she is presented to Ahaseurus for his approval. This waiting period was to inform the king as to what type of woman he was getting. Esther proved her worth. She needed nothing but the promises of Mordecai that God alone raised her up for just the time as this. Her year went by, and she impressed the king's chamberlain the most.

Esther would be chosen to become the bride of Ahaseurus. She would go on to inherit favor no doubt learned from Vashti. Hadassah would be a humble and loyal Jewish bride to pagan king Ahaseurus. He in turn would reward her with access no one else in the realm enjoyed. This access would prove of incredible worth when the next plot is uncovered by Mordecai. It will lead to Esther saving the Jewish people from a plot to wipe them out and steal their possessions and property. An inquisition carried out by Israel's enemy.

Nothing has changed. Soon, forces in America will unite to destroy the Jewish remnant still in America and confiscate their wealth and possessions. Please pray for Jewish people in America. Their future is foretold in the Bible. Until the times of the gentiles are fulfilled, they will be blind to the Gospel. God has raised up messianic believers in Yeshua and soon Jesus Christ will rapture his bride. Ahaseurus is a picture of pagan government on earth. He has a loyal Jewish advisor who proves his worth by uncovering plots that could upset the power structure in Ahaseurus' realm. The courage of Mordecai is needed in Christian witness today.

God is not done with the Jewish people. Our future as believers is intertwined with the descendants of Jacob forever. Christians have lost connection to the Bible and our Jewish roots. Esther is a picture of what the church should be. An advocate for God's people in the body of Christ and our Jewish cousins.

He was crucified upon a cross of wood, yet he created the hill upon which it stood.

He is alive forevermore and he is returning for his bride very soon. John Burns 1-26-2022

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

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

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

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



answer

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	O	K		C	A	A	N		S	C	O	W
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I	V	E	S		A	E	R	O		M	E	R
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**DIVAS
ON A DIME**
By Patti Diamond

The 15-Minute Meal Miracle — Molletes

Here's the question, "I need dinner, now! What can I make that's inexpensive, faster than the drive-thru and just as tasty?" Here's my answer, "Make molletes!"



www.JasonCoblentz.com

Here's an easy meal that's faster than the drive-thru!

In Mexican cuisine, a mollete (moh-yeh-teh) is an open-faced sandwich made with beans and cheese. It uses bolillo rolls, split lengthwise and toasted, schmearred with creamy, savory refried beans, topped with lots of cheese then grilled or broiled to melty, gooey, glorious perfection. The sandwich is delectable just like this, but it's also a blank canvas for all kinds of toppings.

Molletes are often served with salsa or pico de gallo (pictured). For a heartier meal, a fried egg, sliced ham, bacon or chorizo can be added. Additional toppings like avocado, mushrooms, jalapeno or serrano peppers add variety.

Bolillo rolls can be found in the

specialty bakery department in most grocery stores. You can use traditional Mexican cheeses like queso ranchero or swap in any shredded cheese you like. Purchase your favorite refried beans, either black or pinto beans.

The recipe below is the easiest way to whip up a delicious meal for two in just 15 minutes using inexpensive ingredients easily found at the grocery store.

MOLLETES

- 2 bolillo rolls, or another sandwich roll
- 2 tablespoons butter, optional
- 1 (15.4 ounce) can refried beans, your favorite
- 2 cups shredded Mexican blend cheese

1. Preheat broiler. Slice bolillo rolls lengthwise spreading with butter if using. Place them under the broiler until lightly golden.

2. Meanwhile, heat the refried beans with 2 tablespoons water in the microwave or stovetop. Evenly divide the refried beans between the toasted rolls. Top with cheese and return to the broiler to melt the cheese. Serve with a side salad and you're Diva-dinner-done!

Now, if time and energy allow, you can dress molletes up for company by upgrading a few simple elements.

Ever wonder why restaurant refried beans are so creamy and flavorful? It's because they spend hours making them from scratch. I don't know about you, but I don't always have that kind of time. So, here's my 10-minute shortcut to dreamy, creamy beanies.

EASY RESTAURANT-STYLE REFRIED BEANS

Yield: 2 cups **Time:** 10 minutes

- 2 tablespoons butter, lard or olive oil
- 1/2 cup onion, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon cumin

- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 (15.5 ounce) can of pinto beans, partially drained
- 1/4 cup heavy cream or half-and-half
- Salt (if needed, to taste)

Optional ingredients: 1 tablespoon minced cilantro and 1/2 tablespoon lime juice

In a medium saucepan or large skillet over medium-high heat, heat the oil or fat. Add the onion and saute until softened. Add the garlic powder, cumin and chili powder and stir. Add the partially drained beans — you want a little of that liquid for texture. Add the cream or half-and-half and let this simmer for a few minutes. Now use either an immersion blender, a potato masher or the back of a fork to mash the beans to your desired consistency. If you're adding the cilantro and lime juice, now's the time. This recipe is worth doubling just to have leftovers.

PICO DE GALLO

Yield: 3/4 cup (easily doubles)

- 1 Roma tomato
- 1/4 cup onion, white or red
- 1 tablespoon jalapeno pepper
- 3 – 4 sprigs cilantro
- 1 teaspoon lime, juiced
- Pinch kosher salt

Please use caution when working with jalapenos. Dice and combine all ingredients in a small bowl. Mix well and adjust ingredients to taste as desired.

So, the next time you have the urge to hit the drive-thru, head home, because you're only 15 minutes away from a delicious homemade meal.

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

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Americanisms



"The test of good manners is to be able to put up pleasantly with bad ones."

— Wendell Willkie

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David Zubler
Columnist

IRS temporarily halting distressing incorrect taxpayer letters

Incorrect IRS letters and notices are confusing people and causing them unnecessary stress.

The IRS announced that it is temporarily stopping some letters and notices to taxpayers. The pandemic has created a backlog of unprocessed tax returns and mail which resulted in people receiving distressing letters in error.

The IRS had 6 million unprocessed individual returns as of December 31. Additionally, 2.3 million amended tax returns remained unprocessed as of January 8.

Many taxpayers who mailed their tax returns with their payment have received a CP-80 notice from the IRS incorrectly claiming their tax return was never received.

The CP-80 is generally sent when the IRS has credited payment of taxes but hasn't received a tax return for that period. Due to the backlog, it may be months before the tax return is processed.

The CP-80 Unfiled Tax Return notice states, "We haven't received your tax return. What you must do immediately? If you're required to file, please file today. If you've already filed, please send a newly-signed copy."

People are often overly alarmed when they receive letters from the IRS informing them that they haven't filed their tax returns. I've recently heard from readers of my column who have called regarding a CP-80 that incorrectly reported their return had not been filed. Fortunately, I was able to relieve their anxiety about the notice.

Many people who receive incorrect IRS notices can't get through to the IRS by telephone and don't know tax professionals that they can contact. Consequently, they remain unnecessarily stressed by the incorrect information.

The incorrect CP-80 notices sent to taxpayers will only result in the IRS receiving more mail. This unwarranted additional mail will increase the IRS backlog and further extend the problem.

The IRS has updated its website to warn people about the CP-80 notice. The section, Understanding Your CP-80 Notice, tells people not to refile their 2020 return if it has already been filed. However, people often don't go to the IRS website to research their issues. Unfortunately, they may rely on the information from the incorrect CP-80 and send a newly signed copy.

The Tax Professionals United for Taxpayer Relief Coalition, AICPA, and other professional tax organizations have requested that the IRS pause all automated compliance actions and provide relief from underpayment and late payment penalties.

People may receive computer-generated letters and notices for a few weeks. Generally, there is no need to call or respond.

Some additional suspended notices include:

CP-501 Balance Due-1st Notice

CP-503 Balance Due- 2nd Notice

CP-504 Final Balance Due Notice/ 3rd Notice/Intent to Levy

If you believe a notice is accurate and you have a balance due, the IRS will continue to accrue interest and penalties until your payment is received.

If you can't determine the best course of action, a tax professional should be able to provide a solution.

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

Dealing With Empty Store Shelves

There's been a shift in food availability across the country. If your area is just now getting hit with empty store shelves, this concept is shocking and new to you. For those of us who have lived with this for a long time (for over a year in my area), it's more of the same, but worse now. Here are a few thoughts to help you get through this.

Ask your store manager about any missing item. If he says that he's no longer able to order it, that likely means the item isn't on the store's list anymore. In that case, call the manufacturer. You might well discover that they're no longer making that particular item.

If, however, the reply is that he doesn't know when certain stock will be arriving on a truck, at least there's hope it

will reappear. That's when you need to be proactive.

Team up with a few friends and equip each one with a list of a few must-have items for each person. For one it might be distilled water for a C-pap machine. For another it might be one certain brand of low-sugar canned fruit. Then, when you shop, keep an eye out for those items. If you spot something, make a call and ask if you should pick it up while it's right there in front of you.

If you're desperate for a particular item you know is in stock, call the store manager and ask for it to be put it at the customer-service counter. If you don't do this too often, chances are you'll be accommodated.

If your store finally gets a missing item back in stock, don't hoard. At most, take just one extra if you'll use it within several weeks. That will buy you a little time if it goes missing again.

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FLASHBACK

By Mick Harper

1. What time is the train in BTO's "Takin' Care of Business"?
2. Which song was Barry Gibb's first try at falsetto?
3. Name the band that released albums titled "Equinox" (1975), "Crystal Ball" (1976) and "The Grand Illusion" (1977).
4. What was Bobby Vinton's "Mr. Lonely" about?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Darling, look both ways before you cross me, You're headed for the danger zone."

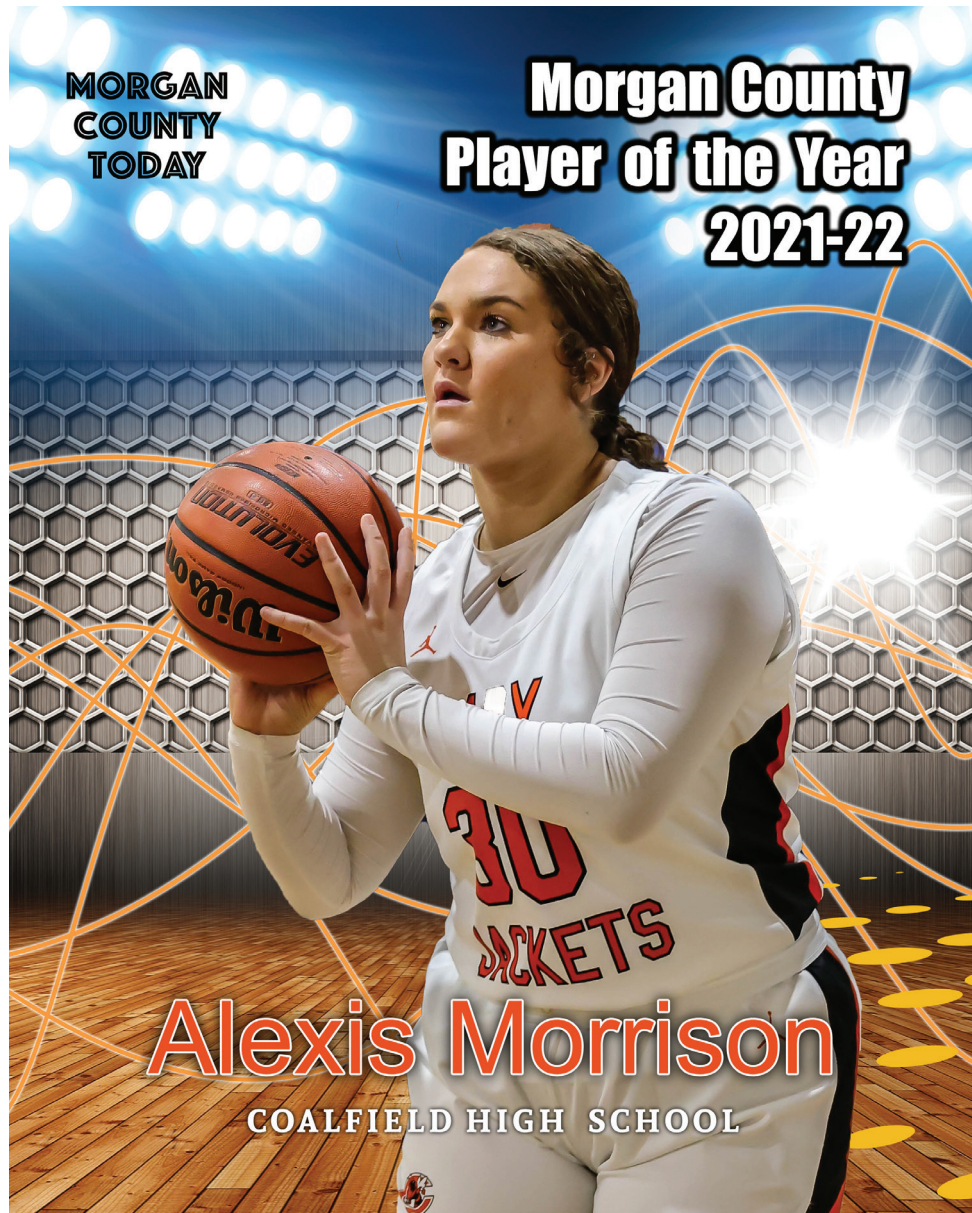
Answers

1. 8:15. Songwriter Randy Bachman said he wrote it about a music technician's trip into the city every morning.
2. "Nights on Broadway," in 1975, from the Bee Gees "Main Course" album. The song was cut from 4:25 minutes to 2:52 by taking out the slow part.
3. Styx. Those albums did well, but it wasn't until their 1981 "Paradise Theatre" album that they topped the charts.
4. Vinton started writing the song while serving in the Army, lamenting the fact that he was far away from home and never got letters in the mail.
5. "The Love You Save," by the Jackson 5 in 1970. Oddly enough for a young teen song, it mentions historical references, such as Benjie (Ben Franklin), Christopher (Christopher Columbus) and Isaac (Isaac Newton).

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Morgan County Today 2021-22

Players of the Year



Photos and Posters made by Terry Futrell

By Terry Futrell

Morgan County Today and Davis Insurance are pleased to announce that Coalfield junior Alexis Morrison and Wartburg Central senior Tanner Johnson have been selected as our 2021-22 high school basketball players of the year for Morgan County.

Alexis Morrison proved to be a real difference maker for the Lady Jackets, dominating at the post position throughout the season. Due in large part to Alexis' strong post play, the Lady Jackets finished the regular season with a 21-5 overall record, a 6-2 District 3-A record, and finished as top seed for the district tournament. Alexis' performance throughout the season is highlighted by the following:

- Averaged 14.3 points per game and 59.8 % field goal accuracy for 23 games
- Averaged 8.7 rebounds and 2 steals per game
- Achieved 100% field goal accuracy in three games in which she successfully made 22 of 22 field goal attempts
- Achieved 75% or greater field goal accuracy

in seven games, completing 56 of 65 field goal attempts

- Scored 15 points or more in 11 games

Note: Stats are for games played through February 4

Tanner Johnson has demonstrated exceptional basketball skills throughout the season, characterized by his shooting ability from any range and by his ability to penetrate defenses and drive to the basket. Tanner's accomplishments this season include:

- Scored 575 total points
- Averaged 25 points per game
- Scored 30 points or more in eight games
- Averaged 3.6 rebounds per game
- Averaged 2.9 steals per game
- Averaged 3.7 assists per game

Note: Stats are for games played through February 8

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Sunbright Duo Save Best for Last in Victories Over Wartburg

By Terry Futrell

Sunbright Lady Tiger Casie Newport and Tiger Colton Nitzschke saved their best performance until the last home game of their high school careers in front of a packed house. Newport poured in a career-high 27 points to lead the Lady Tigers in a 64-59 victory over Wartburg. Nitzschke put the icing on the cake as he scored a career-high 36 points to lead the Tigers in a hard-fought 87-78 victory over the Bulldogs.

With two of the best defensive teams in District 3-1A facing each other, the girls game was expected to be a low-scoring defensive battle. Someone forgot to tell that to Newport, who poured in 19 points in the first half for the Lady Tigers. Newport's teammates added 20 points as the Tigers took a 39-22 halftime lead over the Lady Bulldogs, who were held to seven baskets in the first half.

But bulldogs are known for their



Sunbright's Casie Newport poured in a career-high 27 points to lead the Sunbright Lady Tigers in a 64-59 victory over Wartburg. [Photo by Terry Futrell]

tenacity, and so it was with the Wartburg Lady Bulldogs. Behind a stepped-up defense and the sharp-shooting of Elizabeth Keathley, with 13 points in the second half, coupled with the driving penetration of

Olivia Davis, who added eight points in the second half, Wartburg came roaring back and took the lead 53-52 with 3:58 remaining in the game. Though connecting on only one basket in the fourth quarter, the Lady Tigers made 11 of 15 free throws in the final quarter to surge ahead to claim a 64-59 victory.

Newport led the Lady Tigers with 27 points, Alexis Northrup added 15 points, and Ashlin Trent scored 9nine points from the post position. Keathley led

Wartburg with 19 points, Davis scored 14 points, and Edge

Ann Williams added 12 points.

The boys game promised just as much excitement as the two best point guards in District 3-1A, Wartburg's Tanner Johnson and Sunbright's Colton Nitzschke, faced each other. Wartburg took a 22-16 first quarter lead in the face-paced game, with Johnson pouring in eight points and Nitzschke scoring six points. Nitzschke led a Sunbright comeback in the second quarter by scoring 10 points, while Johnson was limited to two free throws. With

the score tied 36-36, Sunbright's Cole Branstetter fired up a shot at the buzzer

from beyond the half-court line – swish! Sunbright took a 39-36 lead into the locker room.

The Tigers built their lead to 67-56 at the end of three, but the Bulldogs roared back as Caleb Quinney buried three treys in the final quarter and Johnson scored 17 points. The Tigers had balanced scoring in the fourth period, with Nitzschke, Jonah Freels, Logan Kries, and Garrett Rogers contributing critical scores, and held on for the 87-78 victory.

Nitzschke led Sunbright with 36 points, Branstetter added 18 points, and Freels scored 15 points. Johnson paced Wartburg with 27 points, Quinney tallied five treys for 15 points, and Elijah Heinz added 14 points.



Sunbright's Colton Nitzschke and Garrett Rogers make driving to the basket difficult for Wartburg's Tanner Johnson. Rogers made sure this shot was going nowhere. [Photo by Terry Futrell]



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High School Basketball Roundup

By Terry Futrell

High School Basketball Roundup February 14

Scores for the final week of regular season play are included below as well as the final rankings for each district that includes Morgan County teams. The big news this week is that Coalfield took the top ranking from Sunbright in District 3-1A girls play.

The District 3-1A tournament begins Tuesday, February 15 at Wartburg Central High School. District 4-1A tournament play begins Monday, February 14 with Oakdale girls hosting Rockwood in a play-in game. The remainder of District 4-1A play will be at Greenback.

(Overall, District records in parentheses)

Coalfield Girls (21-5, 6-2)
Feb 8 – Defeated Oliver Springs 56-25
Feb 10 – Defeated Jellico 67-27
Feb 11 – Defeated Mt. Pisgah Chris-

tian 68-45

Oakdale Girls (5-18, 2-6)
Feb 8 – Defeated Rockwood 54-35

Sunbright Girls (23-7, 6-2)
Feb 8 – Lost to Oneida 35-44
Feb 11 – Defeated Wartburg 64-59

Wartburg Girls (9-13, 3-5)
Feb 7 – Lost to Scott County 35-57
Feb 11 – Lost to Sunbright 59-64

Coalfield Boys (6-18, 3-5)
Feb 8 – Lost to Oliver Springs 48-68
Feb 10 – Lost to Jellico 68-79
Feb 11 – Defeated Oakdale 75-49

Oakdale Boys (6-18, 4-4)
Feb 8 – Defeated Rockwood 56-43
Feb 11 – Lost to Coalfield 49-75
Feb 4 – Lost to Harriman 58-68

Sunbright Boys (15-11, 4-4)
Feb 8 – Lost to Oneida 53-64
Feb 11 – Defeated Wartburg 87-78

Wartburg Boys (6-18, 1-7)
Feb 7 – Lost to Scott County 61-92
Feb 11 – Lost to Sunbright 78-87

FINAL DISTRICT RANKINGS

DISTRICT 3-1A GIRLS

Coalfield	6-2	21-5
Sunbright	6-2	23-7
Oneida	5-3	15-13
Wartburg	3-5	9-13
Oliver Springs	0-8	5-21

DISTRICT 4-1A GIRLS

Greenback	8-0	14-9
Harriman	6-2	14-9
Midway	4-4	8-14
Oakdale	2-6	5-18
Rockwood	0-8	2-21

DISTRICT 3-1A BOYS

Oneida	7-1	17-8
Oliver Springs	5-3	15-11
Sunbright	4-4	15-11
Coalfield	3-5	6-18
Wartburg	1-7	6-18

DISTRICT 4-1A BOYS

Harriman	7-1	12-13
Rockwood	5-3	9-13
Oakdale	4-4	6-18
Greenback	2-6	5-17
Midway	2-6	7-14

DISTRICT 3-1A

BOYS

MVP – Tanner Johnson (Wartburg)

Coach – Jacob King (Oneida)

TEAM – Mason Keeton (Oneida), Keaton McDonald (Oliver Springs), Javen Barger (Oliver Springs), Jonah Freels (Sunbright), Jacob Perry (Oneida); Brayden Burgess (Coalfield), Garrett Rogers (Sunbright), Tanner Melton (Oliver Springs), Rylin Duncan (Oneida), Colton Nitzschke (Sunbright)

GIRLS

MVP – Kelsey Pike (Oneida)

Coach – Ronnie Wilson (Coalfield)

FIRST TEAM – Olivia Davis (Wartburg), Alexis Morrison (Coalfield), Alexis Northrup (Sunbright), Kadence Jackson (Coalfield), Gabbi Lowe (Coalfield); **SECOND TEAM** – Edey-Ann Williams (Wartburg), Lindsey Brown (Sunbright), Raylie Bush (Oneida), Casie Newport (Sunbright), Faith Cross (Oneida), Emily Bias (Oliver Springs)

DISTRICT 4-1A

GIRLS

MVP – Addison Oliver (Harriman)

Coach – Angie Lucier (Greenback)

TEAM: **Greenback** – Keri Alexander, Kierra Bishop, Madison Graves, Mikah Morris; **Harriman** – Skyler Johnson, Lily Taylor, Madi Thompson; **Midway** – Sierra Cowell, Stella Tilley; **Oakdale** – Rhylan Hicks, Amelia Miller; **Rockwood** – Jazalyn Angel.

BOYS

MVP – Jordan McCullum (Harriman)

Coach – Shay Shannon (Harriman)

FIRST TEAM – Carter Smith (Harriman), Nick Pelfrey (Harriman), Ty Pryor (Rockwood), Ethan Parks (Midway), Sydney Gregory (Oakdale), Conner Morton (Greenback); **SECOND TEAM** – Xavier Hickman (Harriman), Joseph Summers (Oakdale), Nehemiah Cooney (Oakdale), Garrett Giles (Greenback), Emmett Hegland (Midway).

Job Title: Staff Accountant

Summary

Local company seeks to hire a Staff Accountant to assist with the daily, monthly, and annual compilation and reporting of financial statement data in accordance with accounting rules and regulations. Primary duties to focus on the management of fixed assets and the inventory/work order process. Secondary duties to assist the Accounting Manager with general ledger reconciliation and support for the month-end close process and special projects as assigned.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities include the following:

- Reviewing general ledger accounts and preparing adjusting journal entries.
- Performing account analysis and reconciliation, including intercompany general ledger accounts
- Maintaining support records for Plant fixed assets, including additions and retirements
- Creating, maintaining, and reconciling monthly work orders
- Performing end-of-month close procedures for inventory
- Compiling and updating information for annual state and government report filings, including property taxes
- Posting monthly, quarterly, and yearly accruals
- Verifying and/or completing payment of invoices associated with accounts payable and ensuring payments are charged to the appropriate accounts
- Providing outside auditors with assistance, gathering necessary account information and documents to perform annual audit
- Maintaining knowledge of acceptable accounting practices and procedures
- Answering accounting and financial questions by researching and interpreting data
- Performing other related duties as assigned by Accounting Manager

Education and/or Experience

Bachelor's degree from four-year college or university in Accounting and one to five years of experience required.

Required Skills/Abilities

- Strong mathematical and analytical skills
- Proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel
- Proven ability to handle multiple projects simultaneously
 - Excellent verbal and written communication skills
 - Strict attention to detail, highly organized and efficient
- Excellent interpersonal and time management skills to meet time-sensitive deadlines
- Understanding of and the ability to adhere to generally accepted accounting principles
 - Ability to read and analyze financial reports

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Chancery Court Morgan County Wartburg, Tennessee	NOTICE TO CREDITORS	Case Number P-10-22
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In the matter of the Estate of VENESS DIDEN
Deceased

Notice is hereby given that on the 3RD day of FEBRUARY 2022, Letters of Testamentary in respect to the Estate of VENESS DIDEN who died on the 19TH day of JULY 2021, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk of Morgan County, Tennessee. All persons, residents and non-residents, having claims, matured or unmatured against her Estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claim will be forever barred.

- (1)
 - (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or
 - (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or
- (2)
 - Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This 3RD day of FEBRUARY 2022.

LAWRENCE S. DIDEN
Executor

ANGELA R. ANDERSON
Clerk and Master

TALLESSE ALLEY
Deputy Clerk

Chancery Court Morgan County Wartburg, Tennessee	NOTICE TO CREDITORS	Case Number P-8-22
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In the matter of the Estate of DENNIS LARRY FOUST
Deceased

Notice is hereby given that on the 3RD day of FEBRUARY 2022, Letters of Testamentary in respect to the Estate of DENNIS LARRY FOUST who died on the 6TH day of DECEMBER 2021, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk of Morgan County, Tennessee. All persons, residents and non-residents, having claims, matured or unmatured against her Estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claim will be forever barred.

- (1)
 - (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or
 - (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or
- (2)
 - Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This 3RD day of FEBRUARY 2022.

JAMES T. NORMAND
ATTORNEY

BRENDA DENISE PALMER
Executor

ANGELA R. ANDERSON
Clerk and Master

TALLESSE ALLEY
Deputy Clerk

Morgan County Head Start/Early Head Start is accepting child enrollment applications for Head Start preschool (3- and 4-year-olds). We provide a high-quality learning environment and developmentally appropriate activities. We also provide breakfast, lunch, and school bus transportation. We are also taking enrollment applications for Early Head Start home base (prenatal to 36 months) for the 2022-2023 school year. If you or someone you know has a child in these age ranges, and are interested in signing the child up for Head Start/Early Head Start, you may pick up an application at our location at 105 Longview Drive in Wartburg (located behind the Subway restaurant). We are open Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 4 pm; Friday 8 am to 3 pm. You may also access our online application at our Morgan County Head Start/Early Head Start Facebook page. If you have questions, feel free to contact us at 423-346-6633.

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