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Volume 08 Number 08

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

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Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl



Ms. Avery Pearl Pet Columnist

I have been watching Mr Squirrel in the yard. I see him with this round brown ball all the time. He seems to really like it. So much so he carries it in

his mouth and bangs it on the steps that go down to the dock.

Mimi says she has to sweep up those shells of the round brown ball, every time she goes down there. She also says it hurts bare feet to step on the pieces of the round brown balls.

I have been so curious about what is so fascinating about them. Why does Mr Squirrel seem to wuff them so much? They are hard like wood. They don't do anything. They aren't soft. They don't squeak. They barely bounce. They aren't chewy. They don't smell like Ham.

Well, I went out on a potty break. While sniffing out my spot, I actually

found one! I am so ecstatic! I finally get to see what is so great about the round brown ball!

I throw it up in the air. I pounce on it. I roll it around. I am so happy,

it makes me tinkle a little bit. I roll it around. I carry it in my mouth like Mr Squirrel! Mimi tells me to let her have it because I will get choked. So, I take off running. I'm not giving it up. I get a case of the barks.

I'm trying to tell her that I love it and to let me play with it. She relents and allows me to play.

When Pap calls she tells him about my find. She laughs and tells him that I have found and have been playing with, A NUT! I don't know what a nut is but, I love my round brown ball.



WEEKLY WEATHER



Tue 22 65°/53° [cloud with rain icon]

Wed 23 64°/49° [cloud with rain icon]

Thu 24 66°/40° [cloud with rain icon]

Fri 25 45°/25° [cloud with rain icon]

Sat 26 46°/25° [sun with cloud icon]

Sun 27 52°/31° [sun with cloud icon]

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In Loving Memory

Delila A. Stringfield, 78

Delila A. Stringfield, age 78, passed away January 19, 2022 at Life Care Center of Morgan County.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Clifford & Minnie Stringfield; brothers, Edgar & Carl Stringfield; 1 sister, Yvonne Fairchilds.

Delila is survived by her brothers, Ernest "Ernie" and wife, Kay Stringfield of Lansing and Ronnie and wife, Lucy of North Carolina and a host of nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Delila was a member of the Pilot Mountain Missionary Baptist

Church. She loved the Lord, her family, and her friends. She enjoyed singing for the Lord and never met a stranger.

The family would like to express their appreciation to Life Care of Morgan County for taking such good care of her.

The family will have a graveside service on Monday, January 24, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at Lane Cemetery in the Annadale Community with Brothers, Ernie Stringfield and Ronnie Stringfield officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Delila Ann Stringfield.

Paula Brown, 70

Paula Brown, age 70, passed away February 14, 2022, at her home surrounded by her family. Paula loved quilting and spending time with her family, but she adored her fur babies, Toby, Henry and Lucy.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Ralph & Hazel Bouton; sister, Cindy; stepson, Danny Ray Brown

She is survived by her husband of 39 years, Danny Ray "Tucker" Brown; 2 sons, Bobby Looper and Chris Looper; stepson,

BJ Browns; 5 grandchildren; sisters, Kathy and Kelly; brothers, Pete Bouton and Mike Bouton and Quincy and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family.

The family will receive friends Thursday, February 17, 2022, at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 5:00-6:00 p.m. with the memorial service to follow at 6:00.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Paula Brown.

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

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



net, Sandra Helton at heltons@mcsed.net or Rebecca McClurkan at beckymc@bellsouth.net.

Today is Tuesday, February 22, 2022.....2/22/22.....so it is officially 2's Day!

I am loving this warmer weather and the longer daylight hours. I am looking forward to Daylight Savings Time which begins on Sunday, March 13.

Oakdale Lady Eagles were victorious in the first round of tournaments when they defeated Rockwood Lady Tigers. They lost to the number one seed, Greenback, last Thursday. At the time this column is being written, the Lady Eagles are scheduled to play Midway in the consolation game Monday, February 21.

The Oakdale Eagles beat the Rockwood Tigers Friday night and have advanced to play in the Championship Game against the Harriman Blue Devils tonight, February 22, at 8:00 at Greenback. Good luck Eagles!

Oakdale Alumni Association will meet Monday, February 28 at 6:00 p.m. in Oakdale School Library. Final plans for the March 4-6 online auction will be made. Please consider attending the meeting and also making a donation for the auction.

Two very special friends celebrated birthdays last week. Yvonne Norris had a birthday on February 18 and Diana Smith celebrated her birthday February 19. I hope each of you had a wonderful day.

February 26 is the birthday of two more special ladies. My sweet friend Vera Scarbrough and our granddaughter Maura Paige Lake will both have a birthday Saturday. I wish each of you a great day.

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.

Oakdale School is accepting donations of prom dresses, accessories and men's apparel for the upcoming prom season. Donations are due March 31 and can be dropped off at the school from 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. daily.

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

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

Oakdale Library held the first adult BINGO session last week. The group was small but it was a lot of fun. Everyone received a participation gift. Congratulations to Diana Smith who won a nice gift basket. Thank you to Siobhan Pehrson for organizing this community event. She hopes to have it monthly. Follow Oakdale Library on Facebook for updates. I will try to give updates in this column as well.

Tomorrow, Wednesday, February 23, Pre-school Playtime will be held at Oakdale Library from 10:30 - 11:30.

The Roane State Community College Dental Hygiene Program located at the Oak Ridge Campus is offering free dental cleanings for children ages 4-12 during February and March only. If you are interested in an appointment for a child or you would like more information, please call the RSCC Dental Hygiene Clinic at (865) 481-2016.

I am writing this column from Fayetteville, NC. Bunt and I made the trip over the weekend to celebrate Maura's upcoming 15th birthday. We look forward to spending this time with her each year and we are thankful that we are able to make the trip. It is always fun to see what Maura is involved in and learn about her interests. Of course we enjoy spending time with Joe and Valerie too.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Jeff

Goldston who passed away February 12. He is survived by his wife, Janet and his sons and daughters in law, Roady (Eddi) and Pace (Ann) Goldston and his grandchildren Ryne Goldston, Tucker Goldston, Alyssa Pace and Aleena Goldston. He is also survived by his brothers Tommy (Brenda) Goldston and Brent (Teresa) Goldston. Services were held Saturday, February 19 at Kyker Funeral Home in Harriman.

Condolences to the friends and family of Ann Bingham who passed away February 14. She is survived by her son and his wife, Alan and Lisa Bingham and her daughter and her husband Paula and Roger Powell and her grandchildren Jacob, Zach and Ty Bingham, Kaylah Gronda and Kyle Powell. She is also survived by 6 great grandchildren and a sister, Cheryl Cate.

It will soon be mowing time. Please consider supporting our local cemetery funds with a contribution to help with the upkeep.

"We are told to let our light shine, and if it does, we won't need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining- they just shine." - D. L. Moody

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

Coalfield Genealogical and Historical Society Meets the second Tuesday of every month Senior Citizens Building at 6:00pm

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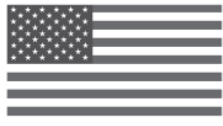
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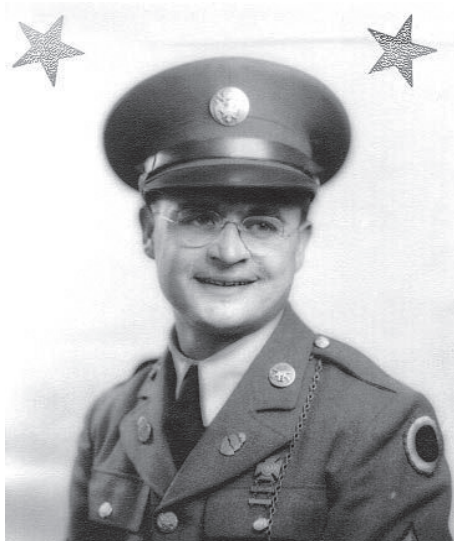


Davis Funeral Home's Veteran of the Week

United States Army, Private Rodger Wilton Young, served in the 148th Infantry, 37th Infantry Division during World War II. He earned the Medal of Honor for his heroic and selfless actions in fierce combat against the Japanese on July 31, 1943.

His family was presented with his Medal of Honor at Fort Knox, Kentucky by Major General Charles Scott on January 17, 1944.

His Medal of Honor citation reads: On 31 July 1943, the infantry company of which Pvt. Young was a member, and was ordered to make a limited withdrawal from the battle line in order to adjust the battalion's position for the night. At this time, Pvt. Young's platoon was engaged with the enemy in a dense jungle where observation was very limited. The platoon suddenly was pinned down by intense fire from a Japanese machine gun concealed on higher ground only 75 yards away. The initial burst wounded Pvt. Young. As the



platoon started to obey the order to withdraw, Pvt. Young called out that he could see the enemy emplacement, whereupon he started creeping toward it. Another burst from the machine gun wounded him the second time. Despite the wounds, he continued his heroic advance, attracting enemy fire and answering with rifle fire. When he was close enough to his objective, he began throwing hand grenades, and while doing so was hit again and killed. Pvt. Young's bold action in closing with this Japanese pillbox, and thus diverting its fire, permitted his platoon to disengage itself, without loss, and was responsible for several enemy casualties.

In 1965, Frank Loesser wrote a wonderful song titled, "Rodger Young" in honor and tribute of his ultimate sacrifice. The song was sung by Tracy Newman. Readers can find a video of Tracy Newman singing, "Rodger Young" on YouTube.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Presented by Jerry Duncan Ford

We honor fallen Flint, Michigan Police Captain Collin Birnie. Captain Birnie was killed in a vehicle crash on Friday, February 4, 2022. That tragic accident took place by an oncoming vehicle (driven by a sixteen-year-old) was attempting to pass other cars when it lost control and struck Captain Birnie's department vehicle head-on.

Collin was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan on May 4, 1968. On June 6, 1988, he married Tina Gott. Collin served in the United States Marines from 1988-92 and he served twenty-six years for the Flint Police Department.

According to a press release from the city, Birnie served in the Marines during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm before joining the police department. Then, over the course of his career at the department, Birnie served as the Patrol Bureau Commander, Bomb Squad Commander, Tactical Team Commander, and Lead Firearms Instructor.

Even with all of those titles, many Flint residents remember Birnie for going above and beyond the call of duty. He regularly attended neighborhood group meetings, got to know residents on a first-



name basis, and worked to bridge the gap between the police department and the community.

As a former Marine and a Captain for the Flint Police Department, Collin Birnie could have been an intimidating man— but he wasn't.

"It's funny because he was this big guy, but he was such a teddy bear," said Flint activist and parent Kenyetta Dotson. "He was the nicest guy you could ever want to meet. The nicest guy. And he had the best

personality."

Birnie's face is serious in his official police portrait, but those who got to spend time with him in the community recall his infectious smile—just one of the many parts of him they'll miss.

Collin was an avid hunter and enjoyed being in the woods whenever he could. He also enjoyed fishing and watching football. Surviving are wife, Tina; Children, Marista and husband Damon Dryden and Bailey and husband Blas Ramirez; Granddaughters, Evelyn and Jacqueline; Father, Reed Birnie; Mother and step-father, Stephanie and Jack Webb; Sister, Nicole and husband Nick Tefft; And nephews, Brevik and Barrett.

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Disappeared: Chapter 18 : Part 3

Maggie & Evie, Day 6-



Carol Hall
Author

“It’s right here at your feet,” Evie told her.

Maggie felt around with her foot until it connected with something solid.

“I found it,” she told Evie.

“Maggie, by any chance are there any matches or a fire starter in that pack?”

Maggie immediately dropped the pack to the ground and began unzipping all the pockets and running her hand through them. She felt something in the front pouch.

“I think I found something here. Flash the light down here a minute.”

Maggie pulled the object out of the pack and laid it in her extended hand. When Evie flashed the light, it illuminated the object that Maggie’s was holding. It was a magnesium flint fire starter.

“Oohhhhh yay,” shouted Maggie, her voice echoing around the room. “We’ll have fire in no time.”

Evie gathered up some of the wood that was laying around the fire pit, and in the darkness, stacked it up as best she could. She could tell it was very dry wood. It was brittle and lightweight. Good, she thought, it should light up with no problem.

Removing her remaining sock, she sat down and began ripping and tearing it up. Feeling her way around the stacked wood, she shoved the pieces of the sock in between the logs.

“Maggie, you’ll have to light the fire I’m afraid. I have no idea how to use one of those things.”

Maggie chuckled and scooted up to the fire pit. “That’s fine. I’ve done it a million times.”

She struck the flint close to the wood until a spark caught hold of one of the sock pieces. Before long, the dry wood ignited and a nice fire was burning in the pit.

The warm glow of the fire lit up the space enough that Maggie and Evie were able to make out the features of the room.

It was enormous. The floor was packed down and covered in a fine sand. The huge pool in the center of the room was as big as an Olympic sized swimming pool. The walls were covered in old paintings and drawings that they guessed were done by long dead Indians. The fire pit was large and surrounded by oblong shaped stones.

“I think we found an old Indian cave,” Maggie said in awe, still scanning the room and taking in all the colorful art work.

“If this is an old Indian cave, then that means there is definitely a way out,” Evie said.

“I would certainly think so. Hopefully it’s that gap over there.” Maggie pointed over to the gap they had found earlier.

“There is hope after all.”

“Absolutely.”

Excitement welled up in Maggie. Could it really be that easy? Could they actually have just escaped from Bigfoot, and now, possibly found a way out of this cave? She sure hoped so. The thought of seeing Nick again warmed her insides. She missed him so badly. Seeing him at the river yesterday only made her miss him even more. She couldn’t wait to feel his arms

around her again and hear him say, “I love you.” She was eager to get out of here and find the men, but her body was still beaten and worn out. She knew she needed to rest or she would never make it very far.

“I think we should rest here for the night and follow that tunnel in the morning. I’m wore out and I need to rest some more,” Maggie said.

“I agree,” Evie said. “We have no idea how long that tunnel may be and I don’t want to get started on it and have to sleep in there somewhere. At least here, we have fire and water.”

“Speaking of water, how would you feel about a quick bath?”

“I’d rather not, but I know you’re going to, so I may as well, too,” Evie said.

They stripped down to their underclothes and walked to the edge of the water. It was crystal clear and they could see the bottom.

“It doesn’t appear too deep,” Evie said, even though she sounded uncertain.

“Tell you what,” Maggie said. “I’ll jump in first to make sure and then you can follow.”

Maggie dipped her toe in the water. It was surprisingly warm. She took a few steps in and realized the bottom had a gentle slope leading deeper into the water the way a beach did. The sand on the bottom squished between her toes. She walked farther out until she was waist deep in the water.

“It’s not too deep right here. Come on out,” she called to Evie.

Evie approached the water and carefully made her way out to where Maggie was.

“This water is awesome. It’s so soft...and warm,” Evie said, dipping herself into the water up to her neck.

“I noticed that. It’s probably got minerals in it that are good for the skin. I bet that’s why the Indians used this cave.”

“I can totally understand why.”

They bobbed up and down in the water for several minutes. Evie got comfortable enough to lay back and float, though she kept a firm grip on Maggie’s arm to keep from going under.

After they soaked in the water for awhile, they waded back out and sat next to the fire to dry off.

“I think that water soothed my aching muscles,” Maggie told Evie. “I don’t feel as stiff and sore.”

“Hey, maybe we found the Fountain of Youth,” Evie said, wriggling her eyebrows at Maggie.

They sat around the fire and chatted for a long time. But eventually, the long soak in the mineral pool, as well as the warmth from the fire, soothed them both into a deep sleep.

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.

A KING’S RANSOM

By Carol Hall



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NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JoAnn Derson

- - * "Snow will better slide off a shovel that has been sprayed with furniture polish." -- T.L. in Minnesota
 - * Here's an old tip, but a good one: Before going away on vacation, put a couple of ice cubes in a plastic baggie, and set it at the front of the freezer. When you return, if there is any evidence of melting, you will know you lost power while you were gone. If the bag is one big, flat cube, you lost power long enough to suspect all your refrigerator items of being spoiled.
 - * To temporarily get a winter frost effect on a window, use this fun recipe: Dissolve 4 to 6 tablespoons of Epsom salts in a beer. When the salt is dissolved, dip a clean rag in the mixture and wipe it on your windowpane. As it dries, crystals will form, creating a frost effect. This is a great solution for a window you don't want to be clear but also don't want to per-

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- - * Valentina hot sauce was named for the intrepid Valentina Ramirez Avitia, who at 17 posed as a man to join the Mexican Revolution. She made it all the way to the rank of lieutenant before being expelled upon the accidental discovery of her braids.
 - * American fashion model Jeremy Meeks' police mugshot was so good that he got a modeling contract while still in jail.
 - * In 1524, a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary at Latvia's Riga Cathedral was accused of being a witch. At its trial by water it was thrown into the Dvina River, where it floated, resulting in a guilty verdict --

and burning.

* Missing a remote? Try looking where you last sat: A 2011 study found that 49% of the time it was in a couch, while 8% were found in the bathroom, another 8% in a dresser drawer, 4% in the fridge/freezer (your guess is as good as ours on that one) and 2% turned up outside.

* Twelve-year-old Rhiley Morrison swallowed 54 magnetic balls to see if he could get metal to stick to his stomach, as well as what they looked like when he went to the toilet. He survived the experiment after six hours of surgery and a two-week hospital stay.

* The wood frog can hold its urine for up to eight months.

* Violets can be smelled

manently alter. The effect washes off with soap and water.

* "If you get a residue inside your coffee cups when they go through the dishwasher, it might be time to give your machine a once-over. In the meantime, spray the insides of the coffee cups with a bleach-based cleaner like 409 just before your turn it on. That should help." -- E.T. in Michigan

* Cut your kitchen sponge in half, or even thirds. You can clean just as well with a smaller sponge, and you will extend its life, saving you money. A smaller sponge dries out more quickly, too.

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

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for only a few moments at a time because their scent comes from ionine, which shuts smell receptors off after simulating them. After a few breaths, the scent pops up again.

* In 2016, the Swiss city of Lausanne banned "silent disco" events because they were too noisy.

Thought for the Day: "I'm sick of following my dreams, man. I'm just going to ask where they're going and hook up with 'em later." -- Mitch Hedberg

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

4			8				7	
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1					6		2	4

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

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

ACROSS

- 1 Atlas page
- 4 Ivy League University
- 9 Science room
- 12 GPS suggestion
- 13 Haunting
- 14 Docs' org.
- 15 1989 Al Pacino film
- 17 Decks in the ring
- 18 Small battery
- 19 Yard tools
- 21 "Understood"
- 24 Membership
- 25 Tolkien beast
- 26 Civil War soldier
- 28 Pulitzer category
- 31 Abound
- 33 Narc's org.
- 35 Dr. McGraw
- 36 Anticipate
- 38 Chips go-with
- 40 Sugar suffix
- 41 Mark Harmon TV series
- 43 School break
- 45 Shun
- 47 Owned
- 48 Sashimi fish
- 49 New York City's -- Park
- 54 Decay
- 55 Ryan or Tatum

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13						14	
15			16						17	
		18				19		20		
21	22	23				24				
25			26		27	28			29	30
31			32	33		34	35			
36			37	38		39	40			
		41		42	43	44				
45	46					47				
48			49		50			51	52	53
54			55					56		
57			58					59		

DOWN

- 1 " -- Miniver"
- 2 Packed away
- 3 Shell-game item
- 4 "No cheating!"
- 5 Akin
- 6 Acapulco gold
- 7 "The First -- Club"
- 8 Required
- 9 Sierra Nevada resort
- 10 Cupid's specialty
- 11 Low range
- 16 Granola grain
- 20 John Irving hero
- 21 Teeny bit
- 22 Got bigger
- 23 Maryland beach town
- 27 Nap site
- 29 Avoid
- 30 Pub orders
- 32 Lansing's st.
- 34 Dunce
- 37 Steering system part
- 39 Gems from oysters
- 42 Pigs
- 44 LPs' successors
- 45 Jug handles
- 46 "Scram!"
- 50 Churchill gesture
- 51 Conditions
- 52 Pair
- 53 Conclusion

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FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ... OR DARE!

DCU

GALEWN

GILON

EHGU

CRINTI

♥ INT

GDNU

♥ RWEEH

♥ UGN

♥ NECADO

♥ ALIDE

♥ ELTA

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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.

THE RICH LOWRY COLUMN

By Rich Lowry

Durham's Righteous Investigation

From the perspective of several years ago, it's the stuff of an implausible political thriller or a conspiratorial YouTube account. One presidential campaign spies on another as part of a broad effort to get government agencies to pick up the baton and launch a high-stakes investigation of the new president that hampers his first years in office and consumes massive public attention.

Where could such a thing happen? Maybe Brazil or Equatorial Guinea? Well, we now know it happened in these United States. The latest from Special Counsel John Durham is that a tech executive connected to the Clinton campaign mined internet contacts between Russia and the entities connected to Donald Trump in a search for material to try to, as Durham put it in a court filing last week, "establish 'an inference' and 'narrative' tying then-candidate Trump to Russia." Durham's probe is a righteous effort to get to the bottom of a matter that deranged American politics for two solid years but has been derided or ignored by the mainstream press, with baleful consequences.

Russiagate did more than its share to undermine the norm that losing campaigns should accept the result of free and fair elections and to erode confidence in institutions at the highest levels of our government. One way to minimize the harm is to insist on accountability. The people who were most invested in Russiagate for the longest, though, are least interested in revisiting its origins, let alone in apologizing for their own credulousness or malice.

According to Durham, a tech executive named Rodney Joffe engaged in the information operation against Trump and his campaign. He allegedly coordinated with Michael Sussmann, a lawyer for the Clinton campaign, and his highly connected law firm, Perkins Coie LLP, that did work for both the Clinton campaign and the Democratic Party. Durham notes that Joffe also joined up with an investigative firm that Perkins Coie hired on behalf of the Clinton campaign, numerous cyber researchers, employees at various internet companies, and researchers at a U.S.-based university. He sought, he said, to please VIPs in both the Clinton campaign and Perkins Coie.

One can only guess that he succeeded. According to Durham, Joffe "exploited his access to non-public and/or proprietary internet data," and the university researchers he tapped "were receiving and analyzing large amounts of internet data in connection with a pending federal government cybersecurity research contract."

Joffe analyzed so-called domain name system internet traffic connected to Trump Tower and Trump's Central Park West apartment building. Shockingly, the data effort continued after Trump was inaugurated. Joffe took advantage of his company's "sensitive arrangement" to provide services to the executive office of the president "for the purpose of gathering derogatory information about Donald Trump."

Meanwhile, Sussmann used the deceptive work product from all of this sleuthing to try to convince the FBI and apparently the CIA that Trump was colluding with Russia. (Durham has indicted Sussmann for lying to the FBI to try to hide his connection to the Clinton campaign.) Durham pointedly refers to what Sussmann was hawking as "purported data." This operation was of a piece with the spurious Steele dossier that helped launch the FBI probe of the Trump campaign that morphed into the Mueller investigation.

Or, to use Durham's terms, purported data drove purported investigations and ungodly amounts of purported journalism, all building toward purported collusion that eventually, under the weight of facts and logic, came to absolutely nothing.

If anyone involved in this investigative and journalistic fiasco is embarrassed by it, they haven't shown it. If any of them thinks it's bad practice to spy on a campaign and a newly elected president to use the resulting information to try to gull U.S. government agencies, they haven't said so. If any of them are thinking "never again," they won't admit it.

Until they do, maybe they should temper their preachiness about threats to our system and norms.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

Have Fun Creating "Baby & Me" Book

What's one of the first things you do after your baby is born? I mean, after checking to see what sex it is. You look for the first smile, don't you? You hold the baby up to the mirror, and you point and coo and tweet, trying to get him to laugh. Of course, it takes some time, but soon it happens. The baby smiles! Life's first giggles. From then on, family life is filled with keeping a watch for these milestones.

But the older sibling in the family is growing, too. Why not write a simple book about it? What's the same? What's different? Your preschooler or primary-school child will gain a better sense of accomplishments and appreciate the baby steps we take as we learn and grow.

First, have a mini-interview with the older sibling to talk about his skills. Can he count to 10? Does he sleep in a regular bed? Can he hop? Jot down what he has to say, then put on your "publishing hat."

On the top of a sheet of construction paper, use markers or print on your computer a line such as "MY BABY SISTER ..." Finish the sentence with a fact noted earlier by your older child, such as "My baby sister crawls." At the bottom of the page, print in large letters a corresponding fact about the older sibling: "I can jump and skip!"

Other possibilities:
"My baby sister has one tooth. I have lots of teeth."
"My baby sister eats rice cereal and mashed bananas. I eat hamburgers."
"My baby sister uses a bottle. I use a cup."

End on a page where you note something the two kids have in common, such as "My baby sister smiles. I smile too," or "My baby brother likes his blankie. I like my blankie too!"



Here's a creative way to get sibling involved with baby.

Illustrate the cover and write a title, such as "BABY ASHTON AND ME." Decorate the cover and pages with photos and drawings or glue pictures from magazines. Punch two holes along the left side of each sheet and weave a ribbon through, finishing it off with a knot or bow.

Now you've added a new book to your family library! It makes for fine reading you can share time and again together.

TIP: For extra durability, laminate pages according to manufacturer's directions, or cover each page with clear, adhesive-backed paper.

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

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VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

VA Expands Services for Senior Veterans

Services for senior veterans have been expanded, including home-based primary care, veteran-directed care and medical foster homes. The plan is to make these services -- 75 home-based primary care teams, 58 medical foster homes and 70 veteran-directed care programs -- available at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers in the next few years.

The purpose of these programs is to allow senior veterans to either delay going into a nursing home and select the care environment that they prefer, or to age in place at home. What they've discovered is that veterans who use these services have fewer trips to the emergency room, fewer hospital admissions and fewer stays in nursing homes.

Medical foster homes are what you'd imagine: private homes where there is a trained caregiver 24/7. While living at one of these homes, the veteran receives home-based primary care. See www.va.gov/geriatrics/pages/Medical_Foster_Homes.asp for a list of the available medical foster home programs by state.

Home-base primary care is medical services supervised by a VA physician. Typically, the veteran has complicated health needs and is unable to keep medical appointments because of illness or perhaps has a caregiver who needs help because of the responsibility for medical care. See www.va.gov/GERIATRICS/pages/Home_Based_Primary_Care.asp for more information.

Veteran-directed care lets veterans receive both the home and community-based services they desire, like choosing from a menu. Veterans often need help with activities of daily living, or there is a caregiver who needs help. Daily living activities can range from dressing, eating and taking a shower to grocery shopping and more. Each veteran is given a budget for those services, which is managed by either the veteran or the veteran's representative. This menu of services lets veterans stay in their own homes. See www.va.gov/geriatrics/pages/Veteran-Directed_Care.asp for more information.

For a full menu of services for senior veterans, see www.va.gov/GERIATRICS/index.asp. Caregiver information, fitness and rehab, brain health, advance care planning ... it's all there.

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BIBLE TRIVIA

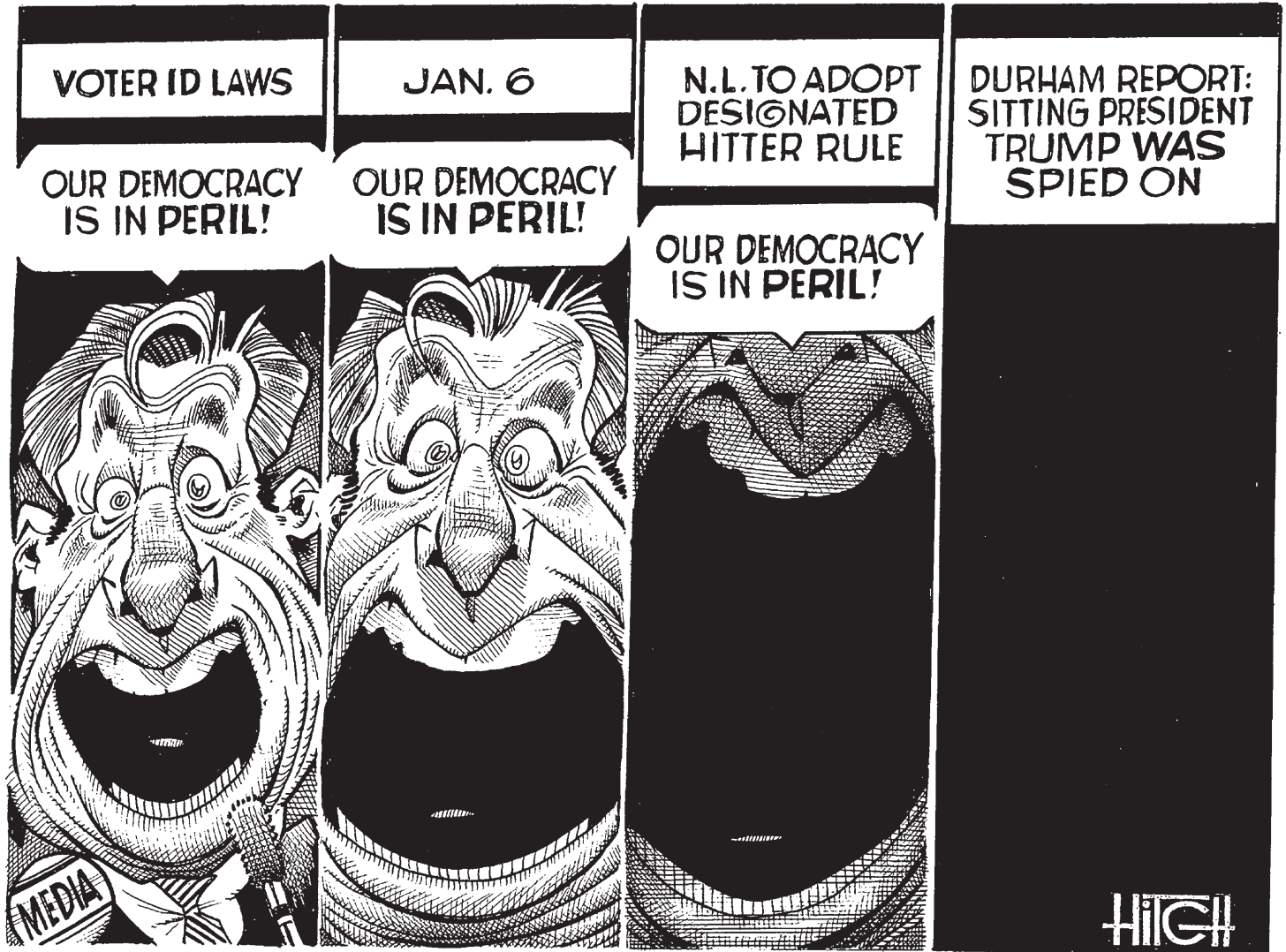
by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of James in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From 2 Samuel 6, who died after accidentally touching the Ark of the Covenant? *Achan, Zedekiah, Naboth, Uzzah*
3. In Judges 13, to whose wife did an angel appear, telling her she'd conceive a son? *Samson, Manohah, Josiah, Cain*
4. What godly son was born to Hannah and Elkanah in answer to prayer? *Ezekiel, Paul, Samuel, Hosea*
5. From Judges 14, what animal took Samson by surprise attack? *Bear, Fox, Lion, Boar*
6. Who burned David's city of Ziklag? *Amalekites, Nazarites, Gibeonites, Israelites*

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Uzzah; 3) Manoah; 4) Samuel; 5) Lion; 6) Amalekites

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

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Comfort foods

Made fast and healthy

by Healthy Exchanges

Sweet Fruit Focaccia

Wow! You mean THIS started with a can of biscuits!? It sure did — but it doesn't look or taste like it.

- 2 tablespoons fat-free milk
- Sugar substitute to equal 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 (7.5-ounce) package refrigerated buttermilk biscuits
- 1/4 cup apricot spreadable fruit
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans

1. Preheat oven to 450 F. Spray a 9-inch pie plate with butter-flavored cooking spray.

2. In a small bowl, combine milk, sugar substitute and cinnamon. Separate biscuits. Dip each biscuit into milk mixture, then arrange in prepared pie plate. Drizzle any remaining milk mixture evenly over top of biscuits.

3. Gently stir spreadable fruit to soften, then evenly spread over biscuit tops. Sprinkle raisins and pecans evenly over all.

4. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes. Place pie plate on a wire rack and let set for at least 15 minutes. Cut into 6 wedges. Serves 6.

• Each serving equals: 199 calories, 7g fat, 3g protein, 31g carb., 360mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Starch, 1 Fruit, 1 Fat.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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Historically Speaking The Andrew Jackson Magnolia Tree Story - Part 2

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

This Historically Speaking column continues the intriguing saga of the historic Jackson Magnolia tree at the White House and sprouts from that tree over the years covering more than 180 years. John Rice Irwin, Founder of the Museum of Appalachia tells the story of this majestic 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.

On Friday, April 14, 1995, a formal ceremony was held at the Museum of Appalachia to plant two cuttings from Senator Howard Baker's Magnolia tree located at his home in Huntsville, TN. This tree had grown from a cutting taken from the Jackson Magnolia at the White House and given to Baker by President Ronald Reagan upon his retirement as Chief of Staff to "take back to Tennessee."

The Jackson Magnolia stands to the southwest of the White House just west of the South Portico. It was planted there from a sprout taken to the White House by Andrew Jackson that came from his dear departed wife Rachel's favorite magnolia tree at the Hermitage near Nashville. This fine and majestic old magnolia tree stood on the grounds of the Hermitage near the grave of Andrew and Rachel Jackson until 1998.

John Rice said of the ceremony in a formal invitation, "We've named one [of the magnolia trees] Andrew Jackson, and Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr., himself will plant it in front of the Hall of Fame. The other tree has been named Howard H. Baker, Jr., and it will be planted by one of the state's most respected political leaders, Eugene Joyce of Oak Ridge."

John Rice then tells of the lunch where he and Senator Baker agreed upon the idea to bring cuttings to the Museum of Appalachia, "It was June of 1993 and I had the honor of having a late lunch with Tennessee's Howard Baker, Jr., at this home in Scott County. It was a sort of lazy afternoon and the Senator had eased away from the national limelight, but even so, 'urgent' calls were relayed to him by his assistant Fred Marcum during the 'meal' the three of us, with a little help, had put together. It consisted of sandwiches and vine ripened tomatoes from my garden, and Oreo cookies for dessert."

He continues the story, "Near the glassed-in sun room where we dined, there was a beautiful, young magnolia tree, a little out of place, I thought in that Cumberland Mountain region. I asked the Senator about it, and his story telling, love-of-history inclinations were set in motion."

As John Rice continues his story he said, "When Andrew Jackson went to the White House as the Nation's 7th president, Baker related, he took a cutting from a magnolia tree from his home, The Hermitage, near Nashville. This branch was planted in the White House lawn in memory of his beloved wife Rachel, who had died..." Rachel died on December 22, 1828, just a mere two weeks after he won the election to the presidency and prior to his March 4, 1829 inauguration.

Next John Rice said, "The tree grew and it prospered. It has been admired by every president ever since. In February, 1987, President Reagan asked the immensely popular and highly respected Baker, who had recently retired from the U. S. Senate, to become the

White House Chief of Staff, a position he held until July, 1988. When Baker left this office to come back home to Tennessee, President Reagan and members of the National Park Service, gave the Senator a cutting from old Andy's tree, to 'bring back to Tennessee.'"

"Baker, who is a National Republican Leader, was



John Rice Irwin stands in front of the Hermitage Magnolia/Jackson Magnolia/Howard Baker Magnolia/Museum of Appalachia Southern Magnolia planted by Howard Baker, Jr. and named in honor of Andrew Jackson that was used to provide a cutting to replace the original Magnolia at the Hermitage, the tree from which Andrew Jackson took a sprout to the White House in honor of his beloved wife Rachel (Photo Submitted)



John Rice Irwin stands in front of the Howard Baker, Jr., Magnolia planted by Eugene Joyce with the Museum of Appalachia Hall of Fame in the background (Photo Submitted)

obviously willing to forgive Jackson for helping to start the Democratic Party, and the Senator was happy to have a memento from this great Tennessean to add a bit to the perpetuation of the memory of one of America's greatest, and most colorful presidents.

"I wanted to include Senator Howard Baker in the Museum of Appalachia's Hall of Fame, and I told him that I'd like to have a cutting from this historic tree, to plant in front of the Hall of Fame building to augment the Baker story. He readily agreed, and the University of Tennessee President Joe Johnson arranged for cuttings from the boughs of the tree in Baker's yard to be nurtured until they were healthy little trees themselves.

"Some two years later, the two sprouts were ready... and I thought, too, that it would be most fitting if the Senator would plant one tree in honor of 'Old Hickory.' I relayed this idea to Baker's assistant, Fred Marcum, who immediately contacted the Senator, somewhere between Russia and Washington. Senator

Baker enthusiastically agree, but only if we'd feed him one of our old time, country cooked Tennessee meals. The deal was on!

"Then it occurred to me that we should plant both trees, one in honor of and named for Andrew Jackson, and one named for Howard Baker, Jr. The Senator will plant the one for Jackson and Eugene Joyce, one of Tennessee's most able 'elder' statesmen, will plant the one honoring Senator Baker.

The rest is history. The two trees were planted in a ceremony held at the Museum of Appalachia in front of the Hall of Fame on April 14, 1995. The Senator planted the Andrew Jackson tree and Eugene Joyce planted the Senator Howard Baker, Jr. tree.

However, the story of the Jackson Magnolia did not end there. In 1996 a cutting from the Jackson Magnolia tree line was provided to Senator Lamar Alexander who planted it at his home near the Smoky Mountain National Park. It is well over 30 feet tall now.

In 1998, officials at the Hermitage were distraught over the recent loss of many trees at the Hermitage at the hands of a severe storm and tornado including the original Southern Magnolia from which the Jackson Magnolia's sprout was taken. They noticed the articles in the newspapers about the Jackson Magnolia cuttings coming back to Tennessee and the event of April 14, 1995 at the Museum of Appalachia.

They requested a cutting from the magnolias at the Museum of Appalachia to replace the original tree, which had just been destroyed by the devastating tornado that struck the Nashville area on April 16, 1998. The Honorable Lewis Donelson, last descendant of the Jacksons officiated at the setting of the tree replacing the original magnolia that Rachel Donelson Jackson favored and from which Andrew Jackson took a sprout to plant the Jackson Magnolia at the White House.

In 2008, five more cutting were successfully propagated from the Museum of Appalachia's magnolias. So, the Jackson Magnolia continues to spread to various locations. It is becoming more and more widely grown into mature Southern Magnolia trees.

On June 19, 2009, John Rice Irwin talked to the Hermitage folks and said he, "learned that the original magnolia tree is indeed gone. The young sprout is now a 35-foot tree. Current officials at the Hermitage were not aware of the history of how it was obtained. They were elated to learn of its circuitous route. They plan to incorporate this information into Hermitage literature."

So, the Jackson Magnolia has now returned home and is a healthy and growing young Southern Magnolia set to bring pride to generations of visitors to the Hermitage just as the Jackson Magnolia brings pride to the occupants and visitors to the White House and the same can be said for the two Magnolias (Andrew Jackson and Howard Baker, Jr.) at the Museum of Appalachia.

This proud old specimen of Southern Magnolia continues to delight and remind many of its roots in the history of our nation. It's huge expanse of descendants across our nation convey the treasure of watching stately and magnificent trees age with dignity and serve as a constant reminders of our wondrous past and the individuals who helped make our country great.

Thank you John Rice Irwin, for once again causing our history to live at the Museum of Appalachia for the present and future generations.



Tom Redmon
Columnist

Needed: Honesty in Government & a Defeat of Two Bad Bills

If I were to ask you what was wrong in our government what would be your number one answer? Many of you would say let's do a better job in regulating how much money we spend in government or let's give our states more power in regulating more things. Some would say let's follow our constitution.

I admit there's a lot of things wrong with our government and some of those should scare us to death. For example, our election laws which were tampered with during our last election in 2020 should have never been in the hands of the federal government. Our constitution gives this power to each individual state. Are we going to just forget about the constitution?

Historians pinpoint a lot of our problems beginning in certain times of history. The 60's for example was a time for racial strife when our schools were integrated, when marching took place in our large cities like they did last summer, and violence erupted in many places. In 1963 our Supreme Court took prayer out of schools and soon society replaced the Bible with guns.

The 60's spilled over into the 70's when America started losing some of its values. In 1974 U.S. News and World Report interviewed Clare Boothe Luce, Author and Congressman, on the subject of America's values.

Mrs. Clare Booth Luce said that because we've lived for 200 years in a vast and bountiful land which has produced an endless quantity of material goods, where

the average American has always been better off – richer, free, better educated – than his parents and they think we will still reach an American utopia. But now we have begun to realize that although we are only 6% of the world's population, we now consume over 35% of the world's basic unreplaceable resources. How long will the billion of people in other nations let a handful of Americans go on consuming a lion's share?

When Mrs. Luce was asked



about patriotism – that old fashioned concept of flag and country she said if by "patriotism" you mean willingness to defend this country if it were attacked, I feel sure that it is still there. But if you mean by "patriotism" pride in the country, well a great many people, especially young Americans, aren't particularly proud of America just now.

The 70's also brought us the problems of abortion which I would say is the worst law that our Supreme Court has approved. So far, we have taken the lives of over 65 million babies. Some states are finally trying to do something about this terrible sin.

Now what would you say is most wrong in our government? I would have to say being dishonest with the people. You see it everyday

on T.V. and you hear it everyday on the news. It used to be that we only heard lying when an election was going on and the candidates would promise their constituents everything in the world.

Now we cannot believe our elected officials after they are elected. Do they think they can lie to us and we won't notice? It has gotten so that we do not know what is the truth. There are two cable stations that have been corrected several times but they still go on either telling falsehoods or truncating the truth to make it appear that the party telling the truth is lying.

There are at least two bills that are stalled in Congress that we had better hope will never pass. One is the election bill which has passed the house but stalled in the senate because two democrats will not vote to pass it. The reason is if it passes our country will turn into a one-party system. These two democrats know that it will not be good for our country. We will no longer be a democracy and the democrats would be elected every four years. How would you like to go on with the bad policies we have now? How about open borders from now on, or how about run-away inflation or shortages of food in the grocery stores? Do you like the possibility of war in a month? What about the crime rate going up all over our nation? Do you want to lose all of our freedoms?

The other bill is called the build back better bill that has everything in it that the good Americans do not want. This bill would increase inflation and the national debt would increase by as much as five trillion dollars. Hope and pray these two bills will die in the senate.




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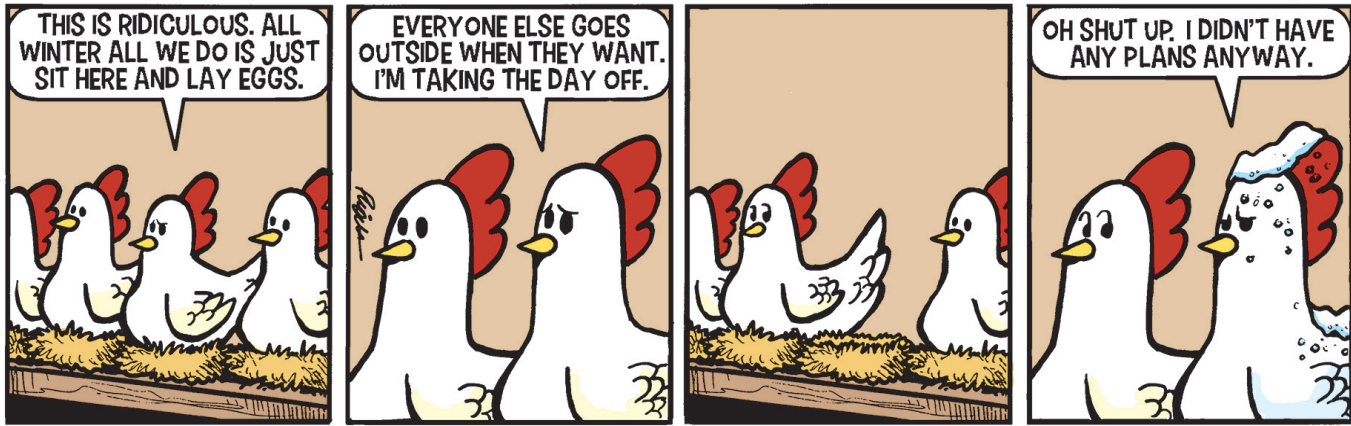
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by Dave T. Phipps



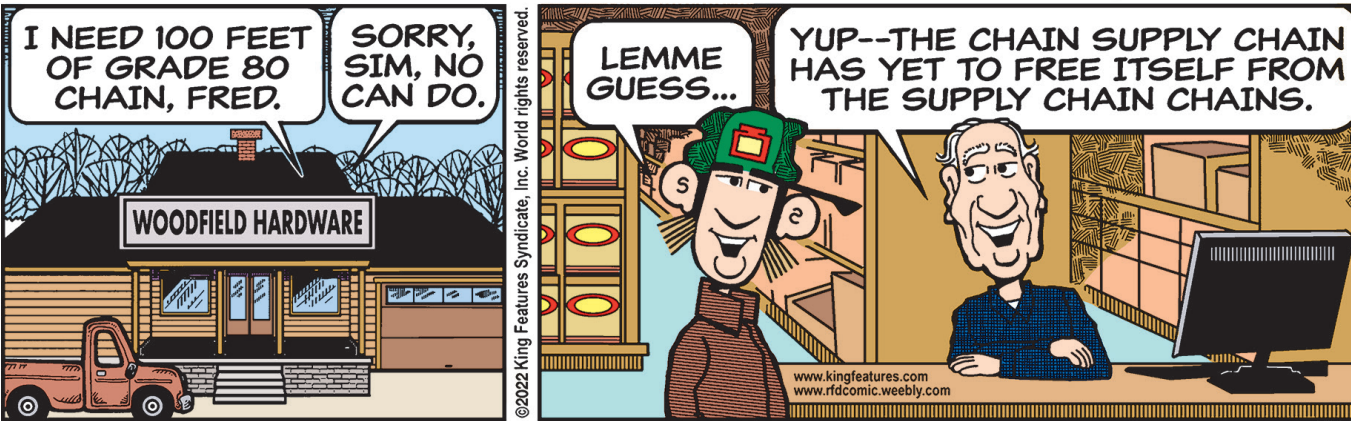
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



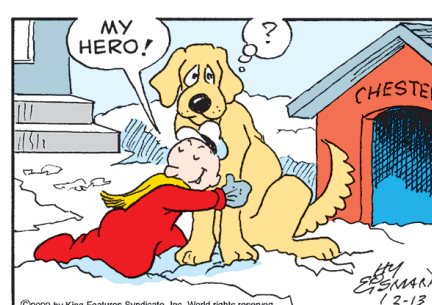
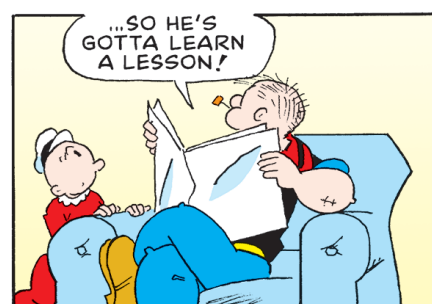
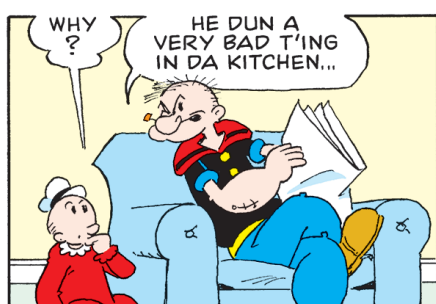
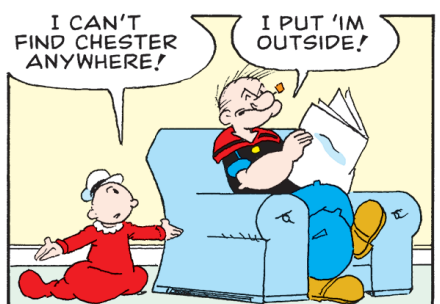
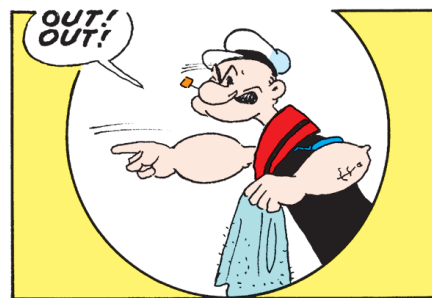
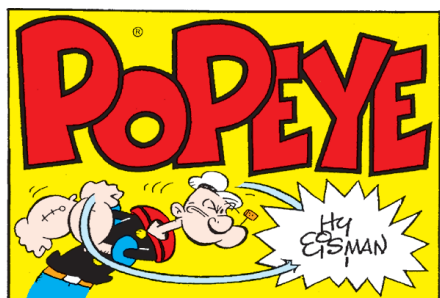
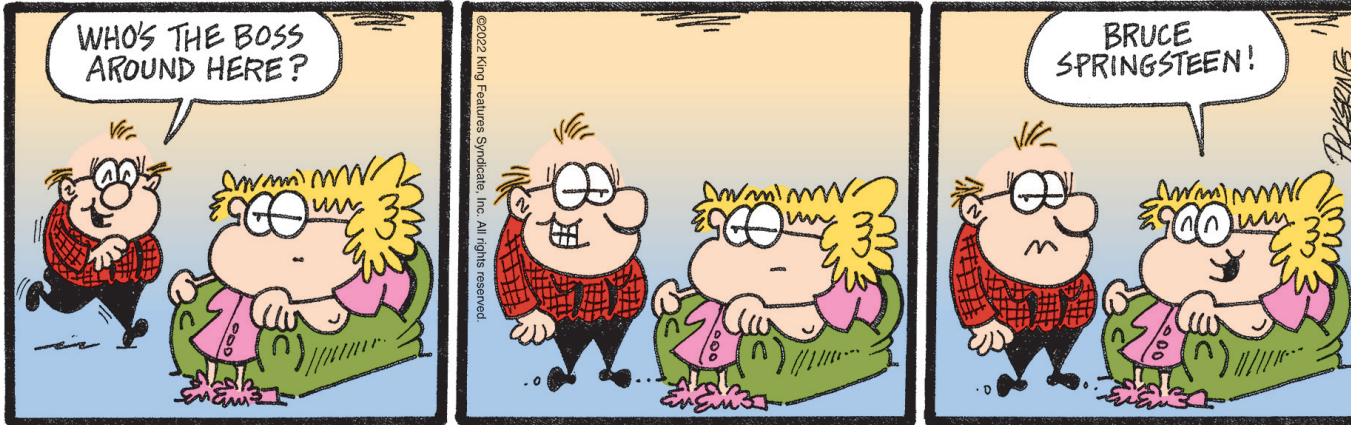
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

* On March 13, 1836, Texan Gen. Sam Houston begins a series of strategic retreats to buy time to train his ill-prepared army, which consisted of 374 poorly equipped men. A month later, his newly trained army won a stunning victory against Mexico's Santa Anna.

* On March 10, 1902, the U.S. Court of Appeals rules that despite his claims, Thomas Edison did not invent the movie camera. It did admit that Edison invented the sprocket system that moved perforated film through the camera.

* On March 8, 1917, the February Revolution begins when riots and strikes over the scarcity of food erupt in Petrograd. A week later, centuries of czarist rule in Russia ended with the abdication of Nicholas II. Vladimir Lenin returned home and took control of the Russian Revolution.

* On March 11, 1942, U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur abandons the island of Corregidor under orders from President Franklin Roosevelt. Left behind were 90,000 American and Filipino troops, who would soon succumb to the Japanese offensive. Only one-third of those left behind survived to see MacArthur's return in January 1945.

* On March 12, 1969, the London drug squad appears at house of Beatle George Harrison and his wife Pattie Boyd with a warrant and drug-sniffing canines. Sgt. Pilcher, the man behind the raid, was convicted of planting drugs in other cases and went to jail in 1972.

* On March 9, 1979, Major League Baseball teams are ordered by the MLB commissioner to allow equal access to all reporters. The order came after Sports Illustrated reporter Melissa Ludtke's successful lawsuit for refusing her access to clubhouses at Yankee Stadium during the 1977 World Series.

* On March 7, 1988, representatives of the Writers Guild of America called a strike for all the union's members. The five-month walkout was estimated to cost Hollywood some \$500 million, as many viewers began watching cable channels. (c) 2021 Hearst Communications, Inc. All Rights Reserved

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2 Corinthians: Chapter 6

(2 Cor. 6:1-10) The ministry explained: Working together with God (or Christ), the apostle pleads with the Corinthians to “receive not the grace of God in vain.” This text gives Calvinists spasms. They claim a person who receives God’s grace can never be lost, thus grace can never be “in vain.” Some allege, therefore, that Paul referred to those who had received a “false” gospel and never were saved. This is false. (a) The Greek very represents timeless action: “having received and continuing to receive.” (b) One cannot “receive in vain” what he never received initially. (c) Paul’s use of Isaiah 49:8 parallels the reception of God’s grace with the fact that the Lord had listened to them, and they enjoyed “a day of salvation” (v. 2).

They were not to provide an occasion of stumbling in any way, so that the apostle’s ministry might be blameless (which his opponents were attempting to impugn). Instead, they were to commend Paul and his workers as “ministers of God” who labored with much endurance in the face of hardships--- which adversities were credentials of his integrity. He catalogs some of these, “commending” themselves as worthy of their support (due to the nature of the task): (a) “afflictions” (a generic term, signifying “pressures”); (b) “necessities” (distress, pain); (c) “distresses” (“tight” situations producing anguish); (d) “stripes” (wounds from beatings) (11:23); (e) “imprisonments” (prison time) (Acts 16:23; 2 Cor. 11:23); (f) “tumults” (riots) (Acts 19:23); (g) “labors” (exertion to the point of pain); (h) “watchings” (loss of sleep); (i) “fastings” (without food) (11:27).

After listing certain trials of his ministry, the apostle lists positive, internal qualities that sustained him (6-7): (a) “Purity” (free from moral contamination) (11:3); (b) “knowledge” (practical knowledge, understanding of spiritual truth); (c) “longsuffering” (keeping one’s temper under control); (d) “kindness” (goodness in action); (e) “in the Holy Spirit” (walking, being led, and living by the Spirit’s direction) (Gal. 5:16, 18, 25; Eph. 6:17), thus producing his “fruit” (22-23); (f) “love unfeigned” (void of hypocrisy); (g) “in the word of truth” (22-23); (truthful speech or message); (h) “power of God” (through his word and providential activity).

Paul now shifts his grammatical gears from the introductory term “in,” to “by,” then “as”. He survived: (a) “by the armor of righteousness” on both sides (blunting the barbs of his adversaries); (b) “by glory and dishonor” (when commended or insulted); (c) “by evil report and good report” (the evaluation of others did not deter him); (d) as “deceivers” and “true” (whether labeled as a liar or truth-teller); (e) as “unknown” or “well-known” (regardless of his reputation); (f) as “dying” or “living” (on the brink of death or in safety); (g) “as chastened, and not

killed” (beaten almost to death, but not quite); (h) “as sorrowful but happy” (many heartaches but with an ultimate overwhelming joy); (i) as “poor” but making others “rich” (physically impoverished but conveying great spiritual wealth to many); (j) “as having nothing, and yet possessing all things” (financially strapped; owning all things Mt. 5:5).

(2 Cor. 6:11:13) A plea to children: the Corinthians are Paul’s children in the gospel (1 Cor. 4:15). The apostle’s “mouth” stands open (he has withheld nothing), and his “heart” stands enlarged---large enough to receive them all. They are not in a tight spot because of Paul’s lack of love for them; their own “affection” is where the problem lies (v. 12). It was time for them to return the apostle’s love in full measure. “Open your hearts to me as I have done for you” (v. 13).

(2 Cor. 6:14-18) The necessity of separation: What prevented the Corinthians from opening their hearts, as requested by Paul? Divided allegiance. Some were forming dangerous associations with non-Christians, and their faith had been weakened or destroyed. “Unequally yoked” embraces various relationships which would compromise the Christian’s faith---whether religious, business, social, or domestic. Some suggest that this text has no application to marrying outside of the Lord (1 Cor. 7:39). It is argued that the grammatical construction means, “Stop becoming yoked,” and this allegedly would conflict with the apostle’s teaching elsewhere in charging the Christian to stay with his or her unbelieving companion (1 Cor. 7: 12). But the use of the negative particle does not demand the severance of a union already entered. If the apostle had heard the report that some of the Corinthian saints were entering into unions with pagans, he might well have issued a caution---“Stop this practice”---without suggesting that once the marriage union (a universal relationship) is formed, it must be dissolved.

Several analogies make his point---righteousness versus iniquity, light versus darkness, Christ versus the devil, a temple of God with idols. Is it proper, then, that the Christian join himself to the non-Christian? God desires a special and exclusive intimacy with his people. Appealing to the Old Testament (Isa. 52:11; Hos. 1:10), the apostle argues that connective relationships are to be avoided. The Christian is not to shun all association with the outside (1 Cor. 5:9), otherwise he could never exert his influence as “salt” and “light” in the world (Mt. 5:13-16). But he must be careful about the extent of formal unions; even companionships can be dangerous (1 Cor. 15:33).





MELVIN HOWARD

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 THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



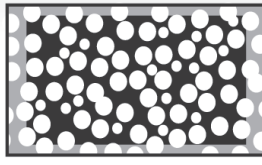
...I delivered the poor who cried out, the fatherless and the one who had no helper. The blessing of a perishing man came upon me, and I caused the widow’s heart to sing for joy. I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban.

“Head of an African Man Wearing a Turban” by Peter Paul Rubens (1609)

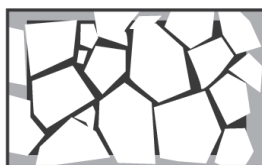
JOB 29: 12-14

 Soil particle size and the degree of compaction affect how much water drains *through* the soil vs. how much water holds *within* the soils.

Water and soil



Fine soil has smaller particles but more numerous “pores” than a coarse soil. It retains more water within its structure, allowing plant roots to access the water.



Coarse soil has bigger particles and less “pore” space between the particles than the fine soil. It is less able to retain any water for roots to access. - Brenda Weaver

Source: www.noble.org

From Egypt to Ahaseurus



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

The Bible narrative introduces us to seven post flood super kingdoms controlled by Lucifer. Daniel was exported to Babylon and is advising Nebuchadnezzar. Israel has always been a buffer state between the Assyrian empire and the Egyptian empire. History teaches us that both were influenced by the men of renown of the ancient world.

The Assyrian religion was consolidated at Babel. The world's first dictator Nimrod had taken a wife in adultery, she became pregnant, and they gave us the pollution of the Mazzaroth. The child she bore was claimed to be her offspring from being visited by the gods. She was impregnated by a fallen angel, maybe Lucifer himself.

Her son was born Tammuz 1. He was deified and given the title of son of the sun god. His father Nimrod assumed the title Pontifex Maximus, and the cult of the Babylonian religion was begun with a high priest who was also king. This is where men exchanged the worship of God as creator for the worship of all things he created.

It began with the worship of angels, fallen ones. Lucifer had his fallen angel army begin to lay with the daughters of men. Their offspring were all male, and they became the mighty men of renown. The Hebrew word Nephillim identifies these hybrid beings as having dual DNA. Their influence in all pagan religions cannot be understated.

Assyria and Egypt both had religious mythologies that point to the Nephillim influence. The oldest title of Egypt is Mizraim, denoting dual rulership by Nephillim. The ancient astrological temples permeating the lands of both, point to influence by beings that once inhabited the heavens. Whoever built their temples, had a view of our earth from above. The great Pyramid alone has ten special dimensions.

Assyria had faded into history, and today is reuniting to unite Nimrod's empire before Messiah returns.

Babylon had become the seat of human government on earth when Daniel was taken captive in 586 BC. He would go to advise the Medo-Persian King Cyrus the great, who would eventually issue the decree to allow Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild their temple for God the creator.

I believe I will meet Cyrus in heaven. 2 Chronicles 36 and Ezra 3 explain Cyrus' decree and his returning the temple implements Nebuchadnezzar had placed in the museum of Babylon. Cyrus testified that Daniel's God is the God whom made him King of Kings and King of all the earth. No empire in history did more for civil rights for those governed, than the Medo-Persian kingdom of Cyrus the great.

Cyrus' son, Cambyses 2 succeeds him to the Medo-Persian throne. He conquers Egypt, and consolidates the Kingdom of Persia with the eastern satrapies of Bactria, Sogdia, and Elam. His rule was from 530 BC to 522 BC. He died of a wound received in battle from gangrene. He died childless, setting the stage for Darius the Great to take the throne from Cambyses' brother after only 7 months.

Darius the Great would marry Cyrus' daughter Atossa, their son is Ahaseurus, in Greek his name is Xerxes 1. He is king in Medo-Persia from 486 BC to 465 BC when he too would be killed by a usurper guard leading to his son Artaxerxes Longimanus issuing the most important prophetic unction in our Old Testament found in the

book of Nehemiah. It points to Jesus Christ presenting himself as Israel's king on the exact date the prophecy said it would happen: April 6, 32 AD.

Ahaseurus ruled at a time when empires were expanding through subjugation and military conquest. Ahaseurus has returned from the subjugation of, and he is ruling as a Medo-Persian king from the throne in Babylon.

He is a Medo-Persian King prophesied by Daniel in Chapter 2 as the arms of silver making up our metal statue. He continues the policy of religious toleration throughout his entire realm. Setting up the showdown between Haman the servant of Lucifer, and Mordecai the servant of YHWH Elohim, the God of creation.

Ahaseurus' empire encompassed a massive landmass. It required certain compromises to govern effectively without the fear of an uprising. Polytheism permeated the lives of the people Ahaseurus governed, and he also had monotheists in his empire who were in slavery, and have no temple for their God in his home.

Jerusalem was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC. The Jews have been in Babylon for 100 years even though they were told they could return to Israel under Cyrus. Nothing has changed in Jewish history. In 1948 God called Jews home to Israel. Yet still they choose to remain in the Roman empire in bondage to the gods of the world?

Isaiah prophesied of Cyrus coming to the Medo-Persian throne in Babylon 100 years before he displaces Belshazzar as the last king in Babylon. This event plays out in Daniel 5. Belshazzar decides to drink from the Jewish temple instruments Nebuchadnezzar placed in his museum. It leads to the famous handwriting on the wall incident. Today that same handwriting is on our American wall.

We have an administration that desires to give God's kingdom to the same Medes and Persians of Ahaseurus' realm.

America is under the abandonment wrath of God, because we have usurped our responsibility to protect God's Jewish remnant in America. The Church has stopped studying the Old Testament, and they know not God's calendar playing out in the lives of our Jewish ancestors in Israel.

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

He is alive forevermore, and returning soon for his virgin bride. John Burns 1-28-2022

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

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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



Celebrate Mardi Gras With a Traditional Dish

Next Tuesday, March 1, is Mardi Gras! This calls for a celebration, and in true New Orleans fashion, everyone's invited.

"Mardi Gras" is French for "Fat Tuesday," the last day to indulge before Ash Wednesday, which begins the abstinence and fasting of Lent. Celebrate this last hurrah like a NOLA native with this frugal and fabulous jambalaya.

Jambalaya (jum-buh-LYE-uh) is an ideal example of the rich and robust style of Louisiana Creole cooking. This recipe is a Creole dish, referring to the original French settlers who came to Louisiana. Creole cooking has roots in Spanish, French and African cuisines.

This traditional stew combines rice with vegetables, meat, poultry and shellfish (usually shrimp or crawfish). When you're looking for a vibrant party dish to serve friends, look no further.

Like many traditional specialties, recipes vary from cook to cook. However, most start with the "holy trinity" of Creole cooking: 50% onions, 25% celery and 25% green or red bell pepper, although proportions can be altered to suit one's taste.

Also essential in jambalaya is andouille (an-DOO-ee) sausage, which has a spicy kick, giving the dish its characteristic smoky depth

of flavor. Several national sausage brands offer andouille, so it shouldn't be hard to find. If you can't find any, or prefer a milder sausage, substitute kielbasa or another smoked sausage.

Here is where I break from tradition. Customarily, the rice is cooked in the stew. I cook my rice separately because this recipe makes a good amount and there are usually leftovers. If the rice holds in the stew, it absorbs all that delicious liquid and gets mushy. It's still delicious, but not as visually appealing. I also use a frozen pepper and onion blend because it's convenient and costs less.



www.JasonCoblentz.com

Jambalaya is a New Orleans classic.

JAMBALAYA

Yield: 6 servings **Time:** 1 hour

- 1/2 *tablespoon butter*
- 1 *(13.5 ounces) andouille sausage, sliced into rounds*
- 1 *pound chicken, pork or a combo — cut into 1-inch cubes*
- Salt and pepper — to taste*
- 1 *bag (16 ounce) frozen pepper and onion blend — or fresh equivalent*
- 2 *green onions, chopped, white and green separated*
- 3/4 *cups (2 ribs) celery, sliced*
- 1 *can (14.5 ounce) petite-diced tomatoes*
- 1 *(8 ounce) can tomato sauce*
- 1 *teaspoon garlic, minced*
- 1 *bay leaf*

- 1/2 *teaspoon Cajun or Old Bay Seasoning*
- 1/2 *teaspoon thyme*
- 1 *(14.5 oz. can) chicken stock (1½ cups)*
- 1/2 *tablespoon Louisiana pepper sauce (optional)*
- 1/2 *pound raw medium shrimp, peeled*
- 1½ *cups long-grain white rice*

1. Thaw the pepper blend and the shrimp, if frozen. In a stock pot or Dutch oven, on medium-high heat, melt the butter. Add the sausage and cook until the fat is rendered. Add the cubed meats and brown, about five minutes, stirring occasionally, adding salt and pepper to taste.

2. Add the pepper and onion blend with any liquid, the celery and the white part of the green onions. Cook the vegetables about five minutes, stirring and scraping the bottom of the pan. Add the diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, garlic, bay leaf, Old Bay and thyme. Cook and stir about five minutes.

3. Add the chicken stock plus 1 cup water, and pepper sauce if using, and bring to a simmer. Simmer uncovered about 20 minutes. Meanwhile, cook the rice.

4. Right before serving, add shrimp and cook until they turn pink, about three minutes. Don't overcook! Serve over rice. Garnish with green onions.

Serve with cold beer and corn bread for the quintessential pairing. As they say in New Orleans — "Laissez les Bons Temps Rouler!" Let the good times roll!

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



"Short term success can always be obtained at the expense of the future."

— Tim Brennan

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David Zubler
Columnist

Taxpayers Vulnerable for Preparers' Errors

Taxpayers are responsible for mistakes made by tax preparers. You can't just point at your tax professional to avoid liability.

Using an incompetent tax preparer could be costly. Penalties and interest can be substantial depending on the circumstances.

If the IRS determines that you underreported your income, there are several types of penalties. One is the penalty for substantial underpayment of your tax liability. Substantial underpayment is understating your tax liability by

at least 10 percent.

The negligence penalty does not require a set percentage but applies to disregarding rules.

The IRS punishes fraud with a 75% penalty. As an example, if you owed \$10,000, the penalty would be \$7,500.

If you claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EIC) and committed fraud by error, the IRS may ban you from claiming the EIC for the next two years. When the IRS determines that a taxpayer fraudulently claims the credit, the EIC is disallowed for ten years.

Tax returns which include the EIC have the highest audit rates. In 2021, the EIC can be as much as \$6,728. Consequently, losing the EIC could be very costly.

Unfortunately, no federal competency standards currently exist for tax preparers. Anyone can be a tax return preparer with almost no knowledge. Tax return software's question and answer format enable people to prepare taxes without tax education.

The has recommended legislation to provide the IRS with authority to establish minimum competency standards since 2002. Both Biden and Trump Administrations have also recommended minimum standards for tax return preparers.

IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig has been a strong advocate

of oversight of tax preparers.

Several studies have consistently shown that non-credentialed tax preparers had a higher rate of returns with an error. They would also be responsible for the highest rate percentage of EIC overclaims.

A Taxpayer Advocate survey found that the low-income population is more likely to be taken advantage of by unskilled or unscrupulous tax preparers.

Since the tax code is so complex, the majority of taxpayers pay preparers to complete their returns.

Unfortunately, many people don't know how to determine whether a preparer is competent to prepare their tax return.

The vast majority of tax professionals are non-credentialed and are not required to take any courses in tax preparation or pass competency tests.

Requiring minimum competency standards for preparers would help to ensure accuracy and protect taxpayers.

Credentialed preparers, including attorneys, certified public accountants (CPAs), and enrolled agents (EAs), are generally required to pass competency tests and take a minimum amount of continuing education each year.

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

Beware of Ice

The local television weather guy made an announcement recently that was, I think, meant to be uplifting. He said, "And winter is now half over!"

Instead, I took it the other way: We still have half of this winter to get through.

My main complaint this year is ... ice. It's sneaky, it's everywhere, it's apparently invisible in the right circumstances, and yes, it's slick.

There I was, hauling a load of groceries out of the back of the car, having picked them up curbside from the store and arriving home after dark. One of the bags had fallen over and spilled its contents, requiring me to bend over and lean forward at the same time to retrieve the items that had rolled.

Unbeknownst to me, my foot was on a piece of ice. I did not fall, but I did twist my leg in a way that legs are not meant to be twisted. Within an hour the pain hit.

By Day 3 I was wondering if I'd broken something. Day 4 was a bit better, and I knew I was on the mend ... if only I could better plan my trips up and out of the recliner to fetch something instead of making multiple trips through the house for Kindle, water bottle, TV remote and more. Worse, I suppose, was that the cat was upset that she wasn't allowed on my lap during those days. She sat, with a hurt expression, across the room from me for four days.

I think there are multiple lessons to be learned from my brief foray into pain and incapacity, but the most important one is this: Schedule curbside grocery pick-up for daylight hours. Don't arrive home in the dark in the winter if there's the slightest chance of ice. It will find you.

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FLASHBACK

By Mick Harper

- 1. Archie Bell released one solo album after the breakup of The Drells. Name the album.**
- 2. Levi Stubbs, Abdul "Duke" Fakir, Renaldo "Obie" Benson and Lawrence Payton were the founders of what group?**
- 3. "Higher Love" became a chart topper for which artist?**
- 4. What group released "Walk of Life"?**
- 5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "When I was a young man and never been kissed, I got to thinkin' over how much I had missed."**

Answers

- 1. "I Never Had It So Good," in 1980. Bell continued to perform with The Drells now and then for the next two decades.**
- 2. The Four Aims. They later called themselves The Four Tops because they didn't want to be confused with the Ames Brothers.**
- 3. Steve Winwood, in 1986. The song also netted two Grammys in 1987, beating Whitney Houston's "Greatest Love of All" for Record of the Year.**
- 4. Dire Straits, in 1985.**
- 5. "Kisses Sweeter Than Wine," by The Weavers in 1951. Legend says Pete Seeger of The Weavers borrowed a 1937 Lead Belly blues version, which was rewritten from an Irish song about a farmer and his cow named Dicky. Others, including Jimmie Rodgers and Jackson Browne, have released versions.**

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Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

I Didn't Get The Job, Now What? Part 2

When you get this rejection, either through a formal email or a phone call, this is not the time to be upset and angry with the hiring manager. If the hiring manager does call you, gather yourself, and ask the hiring manager for some constructive feedback based on the interviews. More than likely, you will get the rejection call or email from someone in human resources, recruiter, or an automated email. I recommend you gather your thoughts, have a written game plan, and call the hiring manager back within a few hours.

In business, if an individual is interested in buying a franchise from a franchisor, federal law requires there be a "cooling off period". The franchisor is not allowed to contact the potential investor for two weeks in order to give the investor time to collect his thoughts, read over the franchise documents, and make a prudent decision after "cooling down". For example, if you are interested in buying a franchise from McDonalds, they present you with all the documents and give you two weeks to make a decision. I strongly recommend a cooling off period for a job interviewer after facing stiff rejection and disappointment.

Everyone needs constructive feedback in order to improve on areas in life. It is human nature not to like to be corrected, taught, or criticized, but in order to better ourselves, we need honest feedback.

If you want to be a millionaire, do you think it would be wise to actually talk to one to find out how they did it? You may ask them to look at your situation and give advice on what you should do in order to become a millionaire. They may critique you—like you're spending way too much on booze, you need to be investing in this

mutual fund or in this specific financial vehicle. Either way, you may not like their advice or critique, but you would trust what they recommend. He or she knows what they are talking about; they are the millionaires. This goes for jobs, too. The hiring manager knows which particular candidate he is looking for, so he can provide valuable feedback on your interview performance to help you land the next opportunity.



Why is all this necessary? There are many qualified candidates in the job market searching for jobs. By requesting feedback from a hiring manager, you develop your skills as well as put yourself in consideration for later opportunities. Constructive feedback is a healthy form of communication and we need to learn to accept it more readily. Notice I did say "we", because it's a continuous battle for myself. No one wants to hear what they are

doing wrong, I want to hear the positives. That doesn't help me grow though, and I must consider other ad-vice in order for me to grow professionally, spiritually, and physically.



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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Wartburg's Davis Scores Career-High 29 in 66-58 Loss to Coalfield

By Terry Futrell

Fans who expected a low scoring District 3-1A semifinal match between the Coalfield Lady Jackets and the Wartburg Lady Bulldogs, two very good defensive teams, must have been shocked by the fast-paced shootout that took place Thursday evening. Wartburg's Olivia Davis led the charge with a career-high 29 points. Not to be outdone, Coalfield's scoring duo of Gabbi Lowe and Kadence Jackson responded with 21 points and 19 points, respectively. The Lady Bulldogs could not counter the scoring output of Coalfield's twin towers, dual post players Alexis Morrison and Jayleigh Bunch, who poured in a combined 22 points, giving Coalfield a 66-58 victory over Wartburg.

The Lady Bulldogs were off and running

in the first quarter and built a 17-13 lead. Coalfield's defense stepped it up a notch and the second quarter, holding Wartburg to only five points. Meanwhile, the Coalfield offense put 10 points on the board to give the Lady Jackets a 23-22 halftime lead.

Wartburg rebounded and put 18 points on the board in the third quarter, paced by Davis' 10 points and Selena Byrge's seven points. Lowe put up eight points for Coalfield, and Jackson and Morrison added six points each to give Coalfield a 45-40 lead.

Davis continued her scoring spree with seven points in the fourth quarter. Byrge added five points and Elizabeth Keathley scored four points. Lowe and Jackson carried the load for Coalfield, with Lowe hitting 9 of 10 from the free throw line and Jackson adding six more points.

The 66-58 victory went to top-seed Coalfield, which plays Oneida for the district tournament championship Monday evening. Wartburg will face Sunbright in the district consolation game. Both teams will then face District 4-1A teams in regional competition.



Wartburg's Olivia Davis shoots over Coalfield's Alexis Morrison. Davis scored a career-high 29 points in the 66-58 loss to Coalfield. [Photo by Terry Futrell]

Lowe & Davis Join the 1,000 Point Club

MORGAN COUNTY TODAY

1,000 Career Points
February 10, 2022

Gabbi Lowe
COALFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

MORGAN COUNTY TODAY

1,000 Career Points
February 15, 2022

Olivia Davis
WARTBURG CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Photos and Posters made by Terry Futrell

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Lady Tigers 'Piked' in District Semis 47-43

By Terry Futrell

Indians outscoring Sunbright 10-8 and cutting Sunbright's lead to 25-21.

Oneida's offense came alive during the fourth quarter, with Raylie Bush and Pike each scoring five points. Sunbright connected on only two field goal attempts in the quarter and

dogs said "no" to a third defeat by the Jackets and forged ahead in the fourth quarter to eke out a 51-45 win. The victory earned the Bulldogs a spot in the District 3-1A semifinals Friday when they will play top-seed Oneida. The Bulldogs also earned a spot in regional play. The loss ends the season for Coalfield.

Coalfield defeated Wartburg during the regular season by eight points and by 10 points. The Bulldogs had won only one district match, defeating Oliver Springs on December 10. The Yellow Jackets had won three district games, defeating Sunbright on February 4 in addition to the two victories over Wartburg. The odds seemed to be in Coalfield's favor.

The game got off to a slow start, thanks to intensive defensive pressure by both teams. With district MVP Tanner Johnson taking the lead with five points, Wartburg took a 9-8 lead in the first quarter. Long-range shots were challenged by both teams and not falling. Play in the paint was intense and ferocious.

Steven Jones buried a trey for Wartburg in the second quarter and Taner Branstetter put five hard-earned points in the paint on the board. Brayden Burgess paced the Jackets with four points in the quarter. Coalfield was unable to sink any 3-point shots for the entire first half. Wartburg had a slim 21-17 lead at the half.

The Yellow Jackets fought back in the third quarter, outscoring Wartburg 16-13

and cutting the Bulldogs' lead to 34-33. Burgess continued to score for the Jackets, putting seven points on the board. Zach Armstrong buried a three and added five total points. Tucker West came through for the Jackets with four points. Jones buried his second three of the night for Wartburg, but it was Johnson who came through for the Bulldogs with eight points, including two threes.

Wartburg had their best scoring output in the fourth quarter, with Johnson and Branstetter scoring five points each. Caleb Quinney added four points, and five Bulldogs put points on the board. Burgess continued to deliver for Coalfield, adding five more points, with Tucker West scoring four points. Wartburg outscored the Jackets 17-12 and took the victory 51-45.

Key to Wartburg's victory was Johnson's 18 points and the strong inside play of Branstetter, who scored 12 points. Burgess led the Jackets with a game-high 19 points. West added 11 points and Armstrong contributed 9 points for Coalfield.

While this was considered a play-in game between the fourth- and fifth-seeded teams for the District 3-1A tournament, fans in attendance were treated to some of the strongest, most smothering defense by both teams that we have seen all season.



Lady Tiger Lindsey Brown drives to the basket for a layup. Brown scored eight points for Sunbright. [Photo by Terry Futrell]

For the first 33 minutes of the District 3-1A semifinal match between the Sunbright Lady Tigers and the Oneida Lady Indians, Oneida's Kelsey Pike, district MVP, must have felt like she had an added layer of skin. Sunbright's Addyson Shannon did a masterful job of guarding Pike, sticking like glue wherever Pike maneuvered on the court. During that time, Pike was held to only two baskets and a total of nine points.

Then, disaster struck. Shannon fouled out of the game with three minutes remaining in overtime and Sunbright leading 37-36. Like a genie released from a bottle, Pike found new freedom to use her exemplary skills as she took over the game, scoring eight additional points in the final three minutes to lead Oneida to a 47-43 upset victory. Oneida moves on to face Coalfield for the championship Monday evening, while Sunbright will face Wartburg in the consolation game.

Oneida took an early 11-7 lead in the first quarter. Sunbright's smothering defense took over in the second quarter and held the Lady Indians scoreless, while Casie Newport and Alexis Northrup put 10 additional points on the board to give Sunbright a 17-10 halftime lead.

Play in the third quarter was much the same, with the Lady

regulation play ended with the score tied 34-34.

Oneida took the lead 38-37 with three minutes remaining in overtime and never looked back, defeating the Lady Tigers 47-43. Lindsey Brown scored five points for the Lady Tigers during overtime, and Newport added four points. But it was Pike who dominated the overtime period, scoring two baskets and shooting 4-4 at the free throw line.

For Sunbright, Newport led all scorers with a game-high 22 points. Pike led Oneida with 17 points.

Wartburg Edges Coalfield 51-45 in Fight for Survival

By Terry Futrell

Some say the third time is the charm. So it was for the Wartburg Central Bulldogs Tuesday evening. After being swept by the Coalfield Yellow Jackets in two regular season games, the Bull-



Coalfield's Brayden Burgess shoots for two over Wartburg's Steven Jones. Burgess scored a game-high 19 points. [Photo by Terry Futrell]

Wartburg Lady Bulldogs end Oliver Springs' Season 43-36

By Terry Futrell

Sugar and spice, and everything nice – that's what little girls are made of. Well, they may be like that in real life, but on the court Tuesday night the Wartburg and Oliver springs girls basketball teams were anything but sugar and spice. With bodies repeatedly hitting the floor like bowling pins after a strike, the two teams engaged in a physical contest that was more a battle than a game. The stakes were high – the winner moved on to both the district and regional tournaments, while the season was over for the loser. After 32 minutes of intense battle, the Wartburg Central Lady Bulldogs emerged as the 43-36 victor and earned the opportunity to play top-seed Coalfield Thursday evening in the District 3-1A semifinals.

Fans who love fast-paced, high-scoring games probably would not have appreciated this game. It was a major defensive struggle with every shot challenged and every drive to the basket met with maximum force. Dirty Harry Callahan would have felt right at home.

Wartburg took a 14-4 first quarter lead before the Lady Bobcats got their offense in gear. Wartburg's scoring drive was highlighted by Olivia Davis scoring the 1,000th point of her high school career. Davis and Edye Ann Williams each chalked up multiple scores for Wartburg. Oliver Springs matched Wartburg's scoring during the second quarter, and the Lady Bulldogs took a 24-15 lead into the locker room.

Wartburg pulled away again in the third quarter behind the shooting of Selena Byrge and extended their lead to 37-22. The Lady Bobcats bounced back and put 14 points on the board in the fourth quarter behind the scoring of Christen Chasten. Aggressive defense by Oliver Springs held Wartburg scoreless from the field for



Lady Bulldog Edye Ann Williams drives for two of her eight points. [Photo by Terry Futrell]

the entire fourth quarter, and the Lady Bobcats cut Wartburg's lead to 40-36 with 1:22 remaining. The Lady Bulldogs closed out by hitting critical free throws for a 43-36 victory.

Words do not adequately describe the physical nature of this game – Oliver springs was called for 22 fouls and Wartburg was tagged with 18 fouls. There were several obvious fouls that were not called by the referees, who gave the teams much latitude in playing the game. One can only imagine the extent of the bruises and floor burns experienced by the "sugar and spice" ladies on both teams. If this game was an indication, the remainder of the District 3-1A tournament promises to be characterized by intense play by the four remaining teams, any of which could ultimately take the championship regardless of seeding.

Wartburg Falls to Oneida in District Semis 68-58

By Terry Futrell

For two quarters, it appeared that fifth-seed Wartburg might pull off a major upset in the semifinals of the District 3-1A boys basketball tournament as they led top-seed Oneida 30-27 at the half. Burying five 3-point shots in the half, and with six players contributing points, the Bulldogs played perhaps their

best half of the season. But there is always a second half, and this one turned out to be disastrous for the Bulldogs.

A rejuvenated Oneida Indians team emerged from the locker room and shocked the Bulldogs, outscoring them 20-8 in the third quarter and taking a 47-38 lead going into the final quarter. The Bulldogs connected on only one 3-point shot in the second half, and Oneida's stepped-up defense made it very difficult to drive into the paint. The best the Bulldogs



Oneida's Jacob Perry drives through Bulldog Elijah Heinze for a layup. Heinze was charged with a blocking foul. [Photo by Terry Futrell]

could do in the final quarter was to match Oneida's scoring, but Wartburg could not make up the deficit and lost the game 68-58.

Tanner Johnson led the Bulldogs with 26 points, but

he went cold during the second and third quarters, scoring only three points in each of the two quarters. Matthew Thomas contributed nine points in the paint, and Steven Jones added eight points, including two treys.

In addition to tough defense, balanced scoring was a difference-maker for Oneida. Mason Keeton led the Indians with 21 points, hitting 8 of 10 free throws in the final quarter. Hayden Brawner contributed 14 points for Oneida, and Landon Limburg added 12 points. In stark contrast to Wartburg, Oneida does not depend heavily on 3-point shots and scored no treys in the game.

Oneida moves on to face Oliver Springs in the championship game Tuesday evening, and Wartburg faces Sunbright in the preliminary consolation game.

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Sunbright Crushed by Oliver Springs in District Semis 53-38

By Terry Futrell

The Bobcats walked away with a 53-38 victory and the opportunity to play Oneida for the championship Tuesday evening. Sunbright will face Wartburg in the consolation game on Tuesday.



Sunbright's Colton Nitzschke shoots over Oliver Springs' Kane Gouge for two of his six points in the game. [Photo by Terry Futrell]

A disastrous first half led to the Sunbright Tigers crushing 53-38 defeat at the hands of the second-seed Oliver Springs Bobcats in the District 3-1A semifinals Friday evening. The Tigers' normal fast-paced transition offense came to a screeching halt as Sunbright was forced into a half-court offense that gave them little opportunity to score in the paint. As a result, the Tigers scored only two baskets in the first quarter, falling behind the Bobcats 10-5.

Led by Keaton McDonald's seven points, the Bobcats expanded their lead to 25-13 at the half. With Colton Nitzschke on the bench in foul trouble, the Tiger's continued to suffer offensively, tallying only three baskets in the second quarter.

Sunbright had their best scoring performance in the third quarter, matching Oliver Springs by putting 13 points on the board. The Bobcats continued to lead 38-26 at the end of three.

Nitzschke reappeared and gave the Sunbright offense a boost in the fourth quarter, scoring six points for the Tigers. But the Tigers could only muster 12 points in the quarter, while Oliver Springs' Tanner Melton led the Bobcats, scoring nine of their 15 fourth-quarter points.

Lady Eagles Lose to Greenback, Face Midway in District Consolation Game

By Terry Futrell

The Oakdale Lady Eagles defeated Rockwood 61-33 in the District 4-1A play-in game last Monday only to have to face top-seed Greenback in a semifinal match last Thursday. The Lady Cherokees proved why they are undefeated in district play as they crushed the Lady Eagles 58-15. While Greenback moves on to face Harriman for the championship on Monday, Oakdale will face Midway in the consolation game. The Lady Eagles were twice defeated by Midway in regular season play.

Oakdale Eagles Defeat Rockwood - Will Play for District 4-1A Championship



The Oakdale Lady Eagles face a challenge as they meet Midway in the District 4-1A Consolation Game Monday evening. The Lady Eagles were twice defeated by Midway in regular season play. [File photo by Terry Futrell]

By Terry Futrell

Unlike other Morgan County teams that are in District 3-1A, the Oakdale Eagles play in District 4-1A. The Eagles were seeded third for the district tournament behind Harriman and Rockwood. Being the underdog in their semifinal match with the Rockwood Tigers did not deter the Eagles, who had recently defeated the Tigers on February 8. Continuing where they left off, Oakdale soundly defeated Rockwood 62-49 in their district semifinal match Friday evening. Oakdale will now face Harriman for the championship Tuesday evening at Greenback.

This Week's Upcoming District Tournament Action

District 3-1A Girls, Monday, February 21 (at Wartburg)

6:30 pm, Sunbright vs Wartburg in Consolation Game
8:00 pm, Coalfield vs Oneida in Championship Game

District 3-1A Boys, Tuesday, February 22 (at Wartburg)

6:30 pm, Sunbright vs Wartburg in Consolation Game
8:00 pm, Oneida vs Oliver Springs in Championship Game

District 4-1A Girls, Monday, February 21 (at Greenback)

6:30 pm, Oakdale vs Midway in Consolation Game
8:00 pm, Harriman vs Greenback in Championship Game

District 4-1A Boys, Tuesday, February 22 (at Greenback)

6:30 pm, Rockwood vs Midway in Consolation Game
8:00 pm, Oakdale vs Harriman in Championship Game



For the first time in four years, the Oakdale Eagles will be playing for the district championship. [File photo by Terry Futrell]

MoCo Represented at AEW (All Elite Wrestling) Event in Nashville



NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Sipping, Snacking and Tooth Decay

Many parents across the country will issue a common refrain at dinnertime tonight: —You'd better eat that--it's good for you!! There's another old favorite in the parental arsenal of dietary admonitions: —Don't eat that—it'll rot your teeth!! Now more than ever, kids are faced with a bewildering array of food choices -- from fresh produce to sugar-laden processed convenience meals and snack foods. What children eat and when they eat it may affect not only their general health but also their oral health.

Americans are consuming foods and drinks high in sugar and starches more often and in larger portions than ever before. It's clear that junk foods and drinks gradually have replaced nutritious beverages and foods for many people. For example, in the U.S., on average, individuals consume approximately 50 gallons of sugary beverages per year! Alarmingly, a steady diet of sugary foods and drinks can ruin teeth, especially among those who snack throughout the day.

Common activities may contribute to the tendency toward tooth decay. These include — grazing habitually on foods with minimal nutritional value, and frequently sipping on sugary drinks.

Consuming too much sugar can also affect your overall health, such as becoming overweight/obese, or getting heart disease or type 2 diabetes.

When sugar is consumed over and over again in large, often hidden amounts, the harmful effect on teeth can be dramatic. Sugar on teeth provides food for bacteria, which produce acid. The acid in turn can eat away the enamel on teeth.

Almost all foods have some type of sugar that cannot and should not be eliminated from our diets. Many of these foods contain important nutrients and add enjoyment to eating. But there is a risk for tooth decay from a diet high in sugars and starches. Starches can be found in everything from bread to pretzels to salad dressing, so read labels and plan carefully for a balanced, nutritious diet for you and your kids.

Reduce your children's risk of tooth decay:

- Sugary foods and drinks should be consumed with meals. Saliva production increases during meals and helps neutralize acid production and rinse food particles from the mouth.
- Limit between-meal snacks. If kids crave a snack, offer them nutritious foods.
- If your kids chew gum, make it sugarless – Chewing sugarless gum after eating can increase saliva flow and help wash out food and decay-producing acid.

- Monitor beverage consumption

- Children should make healthy beverage choices such as water and low-fat milk.

- Help your children develop good brushing and flossing habits.

- Schedule regular dental visits.

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Across

- The tiny germs that can cause decay are called
- A special dental plastic that can coats your tooth to prevent decay
- Cleans between teeth
- Fluid in your mouth that covers your teeth and helps break down food
- You should visit the _____ twice a year to keep your mouth healthy
- What you put on your toothbrush to help keep your teeth healthy
- Type of tooth for chewing at the back of your mouth

Down

- The most common dental disease among young people
- Water with _____ can prevent tooth decay
- The hard outer covering of a tooth

February is National Children's Dental Health Month. Visit ADA.org/NCDHM2022 for activity sheets.

HEALTHY SMILE TIPS

- Brush your teeth twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste.
- Clean between your teeth daily.
- Eat a healthy diet that limits sugary beverages and snacks.
- See your dentist regularly for prevention and treatment of oral disease.

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Plateau Electric Cooperative is accepting applications through Friday, March 11, 2022 from qualified candidates for the position of journeyman lineman. Position performs all types of skilled work relative to the construction and maintenance of Plateau Electric Cooperative's overhead and underground electric system. Climbs poles or steel structures and works from aerial lift devices to install conductors, transformers, crossarms, insulators and other related equipment. Must be willing to work in adverse weather conditions. Position requires a high-school diploma or GED. The successful candidate(s) must have a valid driver's license, and be able to obtain a Class "B" Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Those interested may pick up an application at either of the Cooperative's offices in Oneida or Wartburg.

Plateau Electric Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity and Drug Free Workplace Employer

INVITATION TO BID

The Morgan County Solid Waste Department will be accepting bids to purchase a new roll-off truck. This truck must meet the following specifications. The truck must be a 2022 year model, tandem axle, automated manual drive, with a 60,000 lbs. cable hoist, with a rack and pinion hydraulic tarping system. The truck must not have no more than 260 miles on the odometer. The truck must have at least a 425 horsepower diesel engine. The truck must be delivered within 45 days of the sealed bid opening. Bid opening will be at 9:30 a.m. Friday March 4th at the Morgan County Courthouse on the Third floor in the Conference Room. Bids must be turned in by 9:30 a.m. Friday March 4th.

Bids can be mailed to: Morgan County Solid Waste, P.O. Box 250, Wartburg TN 37887 or turned into the Morgan County Office of Finance, Third Floor of the Morgan County Courthouse, or at the Morgan County Solid Waste Office located at 337 Flat Fork Rd, Wartburg TN 37887. Morgan County Government reserves the right to refuse and/or reject any or all bids.

INVITATION TO BID

Morgan County Emergency Medical Services is accepting bids for the following:

Metal Building to be EMS Station in Sunbright
This Building will be (W)x(L) 40X62 this building will have 2 36" walk in Doors, 2 14x14 Garage Doors with automatic openers, 2 36"x36" windows for living quarter area, it will be 16ft tall, and have insulation to all walls and roof. Price is to include delivery and set up. For any additional questions you can contact EMS Director Doug Lamance at 423-346-0746 or 423-539-8373 or contact the County Executive at 423-346-6288. Bid opening will be on Friday March 11th, 2022 at 10:00 am in the Conference Room of the Morgan County Courthouse in Wartburg, Tennessee. Morgan County Reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Morgan County does not discriminate based race, color, or national origin in federal or state programs, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d).

Bids should be addressed to:
Morgan County Office of Finance
Morgan County Courthouse Room 304
P.O. Box 250
Wartburg, TN 37887

INVITATION TO BID

Morgan County Emergency Medical Services is now accepting bids for the following:

One (1) New Ambulance Type III Class 1, 2 door, Chevrolet G-3500 cutaway van with a transferable modular ambulance body, Mini Mod that must meet or exceed KKK-1822D Requirements. AM/FM Radio, Vinyl High Back Captains Seats. Electric Windows and locks, on entire ambulance, four-wheel disc brakes, must have dual rear wheels. Must have a console with glove box holders in the cab and glove box holders in the back for three sizes of gloves. Must not have any carpet in any location in the ambulance. ALS Cabinets must accommodate a Lifepak 15 Heart Defibrillator/Monitor. Must meet Tennessee requirements for securing monitor and other ALS equipment and cot. The box must be 142 inches long and 90 inches wide. Must have CPR seat, must have cabinetry above doorway into the cab with adjustable vertical dividers, and must have vertical adjustable or removable dividers in all cabinets. All cabinets will be able to open on front with full hinge for ease of access and cleaning. Must have some type of Chrome Wheel Covers that bolt on, no hubcaps. Aluminum running boards and mud flaps behind rear wheels, and rain guards over cab windows. Two portable Oxygen brackets for rear and heavy-duty flooring, no linoleum. Must have an installed Inverter and a reading light on passenger side of the cab. Must have exterior cooling system for AC mounted above the cab that will meet our requirements, must provide Technical and repair services that will respond to our location for repairs. Must include a Stryker Power Cot with accs. #6506, Stryker Stair Chair Pro w/accs. #6252, LifePak 15 Monitor, Lucas Device, Medical Supplies meeting Tennessee Requirements, UV Lighting disinfecting system. Lettering and paint to match current fleet. Warranty information must be submitted with bid. Bid must be in a sealed envelope clearly marked in the lower left corner: Full Bid specs are available at the Morgan County Office of Finance or by contacting Doug Lamance (423-346-0746 or 423-539-8373) Bid Opening will be March 11th, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room of the Morgan County courthouse in Wartburg, Tennessee.

Bids should be addressed to:
Morgan County Office of Finance
Morgan County Courthouse Room 304
P.O. Box 250
Wartburg, TN 37887

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

CITY OF WARTBURG, TENNESSEE
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) CONSULTANT SERVICES

The City of Wartburg, Tennessee seeks to retain the services of a professional consultant firm to advise the City on complying with all ARPA Grant requirements. The City is requesting qualification-based proposals for the following ARPA consultant services:

- Project Development
- Public Notification & Involvement
- Project Eligibility
- Bidding
- Contracts/Wages
- Project Management
- Financial/Accounting Management/Reporting

The consultant's role will be to provide strategic recommendations, verify eligibility, provide guidance, review, and recommendation of the City's processes with respect to ARPA compliance. The City of Wartburg anticipates utilizing consultant services throughout the life of ARPA process for a performance period through December 2024.

To be considered, firms must submit a proposal to the City of Wartburg City Recorder, PO Box 386, Wartburg, TN 37887. All proposals must be received by the City of Wartburg Recorder on or before 3:30pm EST Friday, March 8, 2022, and the project name (ARPA Consultant Services) should be referenced on the submittal.

The proposal will be evaluated based on the following factors:

1. Consultant's Capabilities/Experience/References for the requested services.
2. Project Team-Personnel who would work with the City and experience of each team member.
3. Method of Approach-Firm's approach to working with similar projects.
4. Understanding of Requested Services and Experience with Comparable Municipalities.

The City of Wartburg evaluation proceedings will be conducted within the established guidelines regarding equal employment opportunity and nondiscriminatory action based upon the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, creed, age, and disability. All firms submitting proposals must be willing and capable to immediately enter a contract with the City.

Proposal shall be submitted to:
Courtney Griffin, City Recorder
PO Box 386, Wartburg, TN 37887
Or electronically by email: Wartburg@highland.net

For additional details regarding this project, please contact Courtney Griffin, City Recorder at (423) 346-2323 or by email at Wartburg@highland.net

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