

Morgan County Today

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Your Community. Your News.



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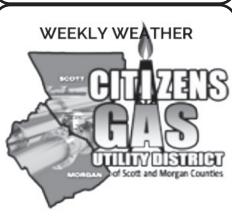
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Know what's below.

Call before you dig.

A Desperate Putin, How Far Will He Go?



Columnist

of the reputation of Russia on the world stage. Russia's rele-Michael Nance systematically vance is being stained in every facet, beginning

with their alleged military prowess. How far will Putin push the envelope to accomplish his goals? Will he ruin the strategic importance of Russia for years to come? Will he go all in and detonate a low yield nuclear weapon? These are all the

questions this article struggles to understand.

As of March 13, the Russian military has failed to accomplished air supremacy and the capital of Kiev remains in the hands of the Ukrainian people. In fact, the only Russian soldiers in Kiev are captured Russian

prisoners. The Protests at Trafalgar Square in London, Photo courtesy of Ehimetalor Akhere Unuabona Ukrainian

Government is apparently willing to release these prisoners, albeit to their mothers, not President Putin.

Anton Gerashchenko, advisor to the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs recently was quoted as saying:

Mothers of Russia, come to Kiev and take your sons, after the hell they endured invading our land, we know for sure that none of them will ever raise a finger against Ukraine again!

According to reports from the Ukrainian News, the Russians are paying a heavy price militarily to accomplish Putin's mandates. The news agency reported that the Russians have lost: "12 tanks on March 12, (374 tanks in total); 5 artillery systems (total - 140); 1 air defense system (total - 33); 15 aircraft (total - 74); 3 helicopters (total - 86); 15 units of automotive equipment (total - 600).

If these reports are true, it is yet another piece of evidence of a poorly planned military operation on the part of Putin. There are also many data points that infer that the Russian troops have low morale and poor training.

Oleksii Arestovych, adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, believes that Russia has become desperate and changed tactics, electing to employ the "Syrian option," which is synonymous with the encirclement and terror of population centers.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine recently announced on social media that

Putin is deploying mercenaries and prisoners from Russian correctional facilities to address the stiff resistance being encountered on the ground. The statement said:

Given the large combat losses of personnel and problems with the recruitment of reserve divisions and units, the command of the armed forces of the Russian Federation involves the so-called conscripts from the territory of ORDLO and military mercenaries from Abkhazia. South Ossetia and the number of prisoners from correctional institutions of the Russian Federation in the conduct of hostilities on the territory of Ukraine.

another miscalculation that led to poor military coordination and possibly hints that Putin expected little or no resistance. If that inference is true, Putin had extremely bad intelligence at his fingertips.

In a final assertion, Petraeus stated that Putin has strategically failed concerning NATO. NATO is now more relevant due to Putin's actions than any time in the recent past, certainly not the outcome that Putin desired.

It is clear from the assessments of many Generals, including Petraeus that Putin's conventional forces are in arrears and not capable of complicated conventional mil-

itary operations, leaving Putin with limited options to affect his goals. Although the author hesitates to even write about nuclear options at the Russian dictator's disposal. His own statements demand that this possibility be explored. Many mainstream news outlets are littered with statements of Putin who threatens

to use nuclear weapons if the conflict widens due to western involvement. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky calls these assertions a bluff, to keep the west from helping Ukraine. Not everyone agrees with Zelensky on this topic, including one of the most qualified and studied personalities

about Putin. Rebekah Koffler a former Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), specialist on Russian Affairs, and author of the book Putin's Playbook, disagrees that Putin is crazy, rather a cold-blooded killer synonymous with Ivan the Terrible. On an interview with Arkansas Governor Huckaby, she indicated that Putin was capable of using Low yield nuclear weapons in a strategy coined, "escalate to deescalate."

All of the information outlined in this article indicates that the world is at a historic crossroads with Putin. The choices that all the global leaders make could have extreme consequences for the world in the months to come. Considering that the sanctions against Russia are quickly idling its economy, and the war not going well for Putin, we can just hope and pray for a change in leadership in Russia. That seems like the only path forward that appears hopeful for everyone.

AINIAN SOLDIER FALLS, PUTIN WILL COME FOR YOU LADIES & GENTS!

The besieged Ukrainian city of Mariupol is another example of the desperation unfolding on the world stage. Mariupol is a city that has a significant strategic importance as it is located on the north coast of the Sea of Azov and being the tenth-largest city in Ukraine. According to the tweet of Ukrainian foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba: "Besieged Mariupol is now the worst humanitarian catastrophe on the planet. 1,582 dead civilians in 12 days."

Mariupol is the city where recently, according to the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry: "The mosque of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent was shelled by Russian invaders, "More than 80 adults and children are hiding there from the shelling, including citizens of Turkey."

The many interviews of military experts also confirm the information of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Former General and CIA director David Petraeus has conducted a host of interviews and his assessments are a dire prophecy for Putin and the Russian people he allegedly represents.

Petraeus's predictions begin with the acknowledgment that Putin cannot tame Ukraine in the long term. He was quoted as saying: "I don't think that this is a war, ultimately, that Russia and Vladimir Putin can win."

Petraeus also outlined how the invasion adopted a multi axis of attack into Ukraine at seven different points. He hinted that this was

Cover Photo By Alexis Berg

In Loving Memory

Barry Harris, 59

Mr. Barry Harris, age 59, of Wartburg, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, March 7, 2022. Barry was a longtime member of Elizabeth Baptist Church. Barry loved to go camping and spending time with his family, especially his great-nieces Cheyenne and Zoe, and great-nephew, Owen. Barry also loved his dog, Sam.

Barry was preceded in death by his brother, Dennis Michael Harris, and grandparents Harry and Lena Garrett, Robert and Molly Harris.

Barry is survived by his parents Willard and Geraldine Harris, nephew David Harris and wife Heather, nephew Stephen Harris and wife Lorra, great-nephew Owen, and great-nieces Cheyenne and Zoe.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. with Bro. Buster Armes officiating. Graveside services will be Thursday, March 10, 2022, at Elizabeth Cemetery at 11 am.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Barry Harris

Baking on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Fridays
Order thru their Facebook page or call 423-701-0702
1dz Glazed \$10.
1dz. Cinnamon & sugar \$12.
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Pick up time can be arranged. Local delivery fee \$2.

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





Subscribe to the Morgan County Today by calling 423.346.2329 or emailing publisher@mocotoday.com

Sandra Helton's weekly column

Oakdale Area News

email: kvhelton@highland.net



WOW! That old saying "If you don't like the weather, hang around a few days and it will change" definitely applied to our area last week. We experienced warm temperatures, sunshine and rain and ended the week with 6+ inches of snow. Spring is on the way!

There will be no school for students on Friday, March 18. This will be a teacher in service day.

Thanks to everyone who let me know they missed this column last week. I enjoyed a phone call from our friend Melissa Stewart who said she missed the column. I appreciated the kind comments from a gentleman I don't know. He approached me in Save A Lot and said he always enjoys the column and missed it last week. I appreciate the encouragement and I also appreciate those who help by giving me news items for the column.

Congratulations to Robert and Flora Walker who celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary Sunday, March 6. We wish you many more blessed and happy years.

Congratulations to Don and Wanda Powers who will celebrate their 50th anniversary on March 17. They were married March 17, 1972 by Reverend Fred Copeland. Their marriage was blessed with three sons and two daughters in law, Donald II and his wife Angie, Kevin and his wife Christy and Nathan. They also have four grandsons, Isaac, Caleb, Eli and Noah.

A HUGE shout out to everyone involved in the recent updates to Oakdale School Softball and Baseball Fields. Things look so nice. The volunteers who worked hard and gave their time are appreciated. Love that Eagle Pride!

Together Morgan County will host the first meeting of GREATS at Morgan County Schools Central Office, Tuesday, March 22 from

6:00 – 7:30. GREATS, Guardians Raising Exceptional and Talented Students, is a newly organized program to provide support for relatives raising relatives. This is a totally free program. Together Morgan County will provide a meal for the family along with some fun activities. Gus the Bus will be on site for the children to visit while the adults enjoy a round table discussion. There will be resource information and some give aways. Please share this event with those who might benefit from support. For more information, contact Sandra Helton @ heltons@ mcsed.net.

Happy Birthday to our local mail carrier, Carol Farmer, who is celebrating her birthday today. Wishing you a great day Carol!

Happy Birthday to our niece Alesha Massey who will celebrate her special day tomorrow, March 16.

Belated birthday greetings to Whitney Helton who had a birthday on March 8, Tammy Rogers and Teresa Gilbert who had a birthday on March 9, Kim Everett who celebrated her birthday on March 10 and Katrina Adcox who had a birthday on March 11. Happy Birthday to Rachel Ruppe and Alison Parker who celebrated their birthdays on March 12.

Happy Birthday to Lauren Shelton who has a birthday on March 17 and Peggy Snow who will celebrate her birthday March 18.

Happy Birthday to another niece, Keeli Redmon and our friend Bradley Rogers who have birthdays on March 19. Happy Anniversary to our kids, Joe and Valerie Lake, who will celebrate their 17th anniversary on March 19.

BINGO for adults will be at Oakdale Library Wednesday, March 6 at 10:30. Last month it was a lot of fun and I am sure it will be again this month. Preschool play

hour will be at the library on Wednesday, March 23 at 10:30.

Oakdale Alumni Association would like to thank everyone who helped with their recent online auction. A special thank you to Ashley Ruppe who photographed items and managed everything on Facebook as well as helped with delivery and collecting payment. Thanks to everyone who donated items for the auction and all those who made purchases. The auction was successful and the support of the community is appreciated.

There is a new story in the story walk located in Solomon Park in Wartburg. Together Morgan County is offering a contest for those who visit and details can be found within the story walk. Four pairs of Pigeon Forge attraction tickets will be awarded to four names randomly drawn at the end of the month from all correct submissions.

Dinner Theater is back this year at the Oakdale School Drama Club! Reservations are open! Just call the school at 423-369-3885 to make your Friday (April 1) or Saturday (April 2) reservation to see the hilarious southern comedy Divine Stella Devine! Cost is \$18 for dinner and a show. The meal will be catered by The Flying Pig. Dinner will be at 6:00 and the show will start at 7:00.

Oakdale students will be able to see the play Monday – Wednesday, March 28 – March 30. The costs will be \$2.00. General admission for the community will be Thursday, March 31 at 7:00. Cost will be \$6.00.

I have a correction from my last column. I am really bad to

refer to friends by their maiden names. I went to school with Sandy Grant and when men-



tioning her passing, I accidentally put Sandra Grant. Her name was Sandra Lowery. I apologize for my mistake.

Sympathy to Kim Miller and her daughter Chelsea(Aaron) Helton and family of the White Oak Community on the passing of their mother and grandmother, Icy Miller of Lancing who passed away March 4.

Our hearts were saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Benton Smith. When I think of Benton, I just think of his big smile and how kind he always was. He was good friend and neighbor to everyone. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Kathy and his children Amy Gibbs, Gregory (Valerie) Smith and Todd (April) Smith. He is also survived by his grandchildren Josh and Marli Smith, Jared Smith, Carlie Smith, Brianna Smith, Sarah Smith and Rachel Smith and his sisters Christine (Randy) Chapman and Kay (Tim) Johnson. Services were held Sunday, March 13 with interment in Pine Orchard Cemetery.

Pray, Pray, Pray! Pray for things happening worldwide and pray for our country which is in a mess. Pray for our local needs including those dealing with illness and their caregivers and the grieving. Pray for our families and homes, our schools, our churches, our missionaries and our military.

WORRY is a conversation you have with yourself about things you cannot change. PRAYER is a conversation you have with God about things He Can Change!

Ceramic Coating

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Full Detail &*
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Shampoo Interior
& Exterior *
Paint Correction

Custom Lettering

Tom Redmon Columnist

Island Surveillance in the Pacific

My time on Guam was getting short and there was one more thing that I would like to do before I left. There were many small islands near Guam, some unin-

habited and some with fewer than twenty-five humans on them. The United States owned some of these islands and we were in charge of surveillance. Every year a government official would go to these islands to see if any changes had taken place since the latest surveillant. Sometimes more than one official would go out and they had to take a photographer with them. VCP-61 Squadron, that I was in was in charge of choosing the photographer. I just wanted to be the one chosen in August 1960. I spread the word around so it would get back to the Chief in Charge. One day Chief Munson came to me and said, "so Redmon

you want to go island hopping, do you?" I said Chief I really do; I've studied a lot of geography and I would love to get off Guam again before I return to the states. I've been here sixteen months and I deserve this trip. Munson said, well we'll see what we can do.

In a few days I got the word that I was going to be flown to Saipan

to meet Lt. Jack Simmons and be flown by helicopter to the Northern Mariana Islands for island surveillance, and I was to take the camera gear that had already been packed for me.

Saipan, like Guam was where several World War II battles were fought. I was really looking forward to seeing Saipan because I had read a lot about the battle that was fought there in June 1944.

I had a few days to sightsee before Lt. Simmons got to Saipan.

Saipan is one of the four main islands in the Mariana chain. The other three are Guam, Tinian, and Rota. Tinian is where the B-29, Enola Gay took off to drop the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. Saipan is a beautiful island. It is 120 miles north of Guam and has a population of 47,565 people.

While waiting for Jack Simmons I visited the American memorial park. We had 3,500 Marines and Sailors killed there in the battle that lasted twenty days. It was hard to believe that here I was 10,000 miles from home sitting in the middle of a battlefield where just sixteen years before the Americans and Japanese were fighting a major battle in WWII. I also paid Suicide Cliff a visit where over 1,000 Japanese Soldiers ended their lives because they felt there was no other option. I visited Micro Beach and Bird Island where the water was crystal clear. All of the islands I saw were like this, especially Rota. Although the people spoke at least three different languages, beside English I had little trouble communicating.

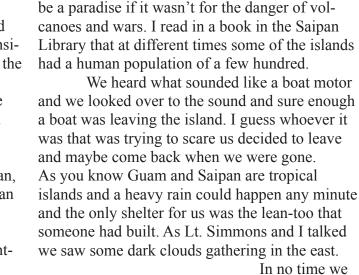
When Lt. Simmons came along, I liked

him immediately. A Lt. Blackwood on Guam and I had a few disagreements and I hoped for Simmons to be different. He was!

The first thing that Lt. Simmons told me was that our mode of transportation had been changed from helicopter to boat. A destroyer would take us near the island we would visit. Then a whale boat would take us on in. He said we will be talking on the boat about our responsibility. Basically, we are looking for changes to the island since last year when I was there.

The Marianas after Saipan was just like a chain of beads with about twenty islands in a straight line out in the Philippine Sea. Most of the islands were uninhibited because of active volcanoes and size. Some were named Anatahan, Sarigan, Juguang, Agrihan, Anatahan, and Pagan Islands.

The ride over on the Destroyer was uneventful but Lt. Simmons and I did get acquaint-



the island and see what all they have done. I'll

have to report this to the commander of island

security. I believe one night on this island will

do us. We looked around on the hill and down

below we saw a beautiful valley surrounded by

crystal clear water. My thoughts were, this would

In no time we were huddled in the leantoo as the rain came down like bucketful's. We ended up completely wet but we knew in the tropical sun we would dry fast.

The night passed slow-ly. We made our way down into the valley where the shots had come from. As we walked the Lt. wanted to take

pictures. He said, "Redmon I don't see a lot of changes here, so the men who were here might have been tourist from Saipan or fishermen looking for a place to camp." Whatever we will report it and say this was a pleasure trip." I told him I'm glad that I got to go on an island surveillance trip. Seeing Saipan was worth a lot to me and these beautiful islands are a site to behold. In North America we don't have anything like this." Afterwards

Americans cannot buy land on Saipan or most of the Mariana Islands but they will welcome you as tourist. Today both Guam and Saipan have been modernized with large apartment buildings along the coast. Japanese like to come here on their honeymoon. This is their Florida. The island's economy depends mostly on tourism.

Believe it or not taking a vacation in the Marianas is not any higher than in the U.S. A 3-star hotel cost \$87.00 a night and a 5-star hotel cost \$225.00 a night. Round trips from Florida to Guam cost \$1,914.00. The travel time is 17 hours and 10 minutes.

I would love to go back but I've waited too long.



ed. He told me since we would be on the island for a few days, roughing it you can call me Jack or Lt. Jack. I told him about my adventures flying with pilots and they were really easy to get along with.

The whale boat had a Captain to run the boat and another man to help carry our equipment and food up the hill to where we would camp. Jack told me to be careful going up the hills because there was a lot of loose rock.

When we got to the top of the hill where we laid our equipment down Jack looked around and said something is not right, someone has been here. He looked around and saw where someone had built a lean-too. There were also food wrappers laying on the ground and footprints in the loose sand, or was it volcano dust. Jack said, "Redmon we will have to be careful because these people are not supposed to be on this island."

We walked around to the edge of the hill and bullets began flying over our heads. We hit the ground and took our guns out of their holsters. I said, "well Lt. it looks like somebody wants to kill us." He said, "no Redmon we were sitting ducks and they missed us on purpose. If they kill us, they know that the whole U.S. Army would be after them. They want to scare us where we will get off and leave them on this island. It could be the Germans because in the early 1900's they owned this island. This would put them close to Japan and a lot of Asiatic countries. Just sixteen years ago they were in war with us and already they are wanting to expand their holdings."

Lt. Jack said tomorrow we will go all over

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl



Ms. Avery Pearl Pet Columnist

a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. What's so special about a pot of gold? Does the gold taste like Ham? No wonder He chases after it! Oh Yummo! Maybe the gold tastes like the turkey Pap let me try. Phew, makes me hungry

First there was a groundhog named Phil, then a dude in a diaper named Cupid, now a little guy in green with red hair. I think his name is Patrick.

He runs around chasing rainbows. He thinks there is look for the pot.

Could the pot be my bowl? It does have yummy goodness in it. My treats are sorta gold. Yeah that's it! The pot of gold, is my bowl full of treats! So if you see Patrick, don't tell him that I figured where the pot of gold is all by myself.

For more of my Pet Perspectives, like and follow me on Facebook @ Ms Avery Pearl.



just thinking about it.

This pot of gold could it be chicken? Maybe it is chicken nuggets. They are kinda gold. Ohhh, a pot of chicken nuggets!

I should seriously find this Patrick and help him

COURT SALE

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR MORGAN COUNTY, TENNESSEE AT WARTBURG

In the matter of ESTATE OF ARTTIE MELHORN P-48-20

In obedience to decree of the Chancery Court for Morgan County, Tennessee made on the 15th day of December, 2021 in the above styled cause, I will on Saturday, the 9th day of April, 2022, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time, at the Morgan County Courthouse on Main Street (jail side) Wartburg, TN 37887, offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash in hand and in bar or any equity of redemption, the following piece of described real estate, to-wit:

> Tax Map 108 Parcel 064.00 Property Address: 333 Spruce Drive, Wartburg, TN 37887

SITUATED in the Fourth (4th) Civil District of Morgan County, Tennessee, and being more particularly described as follows, to wit:

BEING Lot No. Forty-Three (43) in the Twin Lakes Estates as shown by plat duly recorded in the Register's Office of Morgan County, Tennessee, in Miscellaneous Book No. 11 at Page 215.

SUBJECT to the Restrictions but including the privileges as duly recorded in the Register's Office of Morgan County, Tennessee, in Miscellaneous Book 11 at Page 217-219.

TERMS OF SALE: Sale will be ten (10%) percent down on the day of the sale, balance due in full within thirty (30) days after confirmation of the Court. There will be a ten (10) day raised bid period. Bidders may register the day of the sale. If you have any questions regarding said property and sale, contact the Clerk & Master's Office at (423) 346-3881. The Clerk and Master does not make any representations or warranties regarding the accuracy of the above property description or title.

This the 18th day of February, 2022. Christopher Cronk, Office of General Counsel, Division of TennCare Scott A. Hodge, Administrator for the Estate

BY: ANGELA R. ANDERSON, CLERK & MASTER Publish: March 15th, March 22nd, March 29th, & April 5th



POSITION AVAILABLE

Maintenance Mechanic / Facilities Support Associate, Full-Time

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Oneida/Huntsville is accepting applications for a full-time Maintenance Mechanic to serve both the main campus in Huntsville and the extension campus in Oneida

Minimum Qualifications:

- Minimum of high school diploma or equivalent with evidence of Industrial Maintenance training Minimum of 2 years of work experience as a skilled maintenance mechanic
- Evidence of Forklift operator's certification
- Knowledge of occupational safety regulations
- Knowledge of procedures, equipment, and tools used in general repair and maintenance work
- Ability to evaluate situations and make sound decisions
- Effective written and verbal communication
- Must have evidence of strong organization skills and attention to detail
- Must have strong interpersonal skills, pleasant demeanor, and professionalism with coworkers, students
- Physical ability to carry materials, operate equipment, walk, stand, lift, stoop, and bend with or without

- Repair, service, and replace components for rooftop vents and make minor repairs to roof leaks
- Monitor, service, and repair HVAC components
 Repair or replace electrical components of indoor and outdoor lighting
- General mintenance to all buildings on all campuses
 Coordinate duties with other maintenance and custodial staff for cleaning of all restroom facilities, ensuring all paper products and hand soap are available in restrooms, cleaning/buffing/waxing floor removal of trash from classrooms and shop areas, etc.
- Ensure compliance of OSHA and TOSHA requirements
- Oversee grounds maintenance and ensure safety of grounds during extreme weather conditions
- Oversee organization and stock necessary maintenance and custodial supplies Work with vendors for purchase of maintenance supplies and/or equipment
- Perform a variety of construction and electrical tasks in the maintenance of all buildings and/or oth
- Perform a variety of plumbing tasks including, but not limited to, removal, replacement, or repair
- Perform work of an unskilled, semi-skilled, or skilled nature such as painting, masonry, etc

Applications and Resumes should be submitted online at:



POSITION AVAILABLE Machine Tool Technology Associate Instructor, Full-time

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Oneida/Huntsville is accepting applications for the position of Machine Tool Technology Associate Instructor. This will be a day program taught five (5) days per week on the Huntsville campus located at 355 Scott High Drive, Huntsville, Tennessee

Minimum Qualifications:

- Minimum of Associate degree or equivalent post-secondary diploma from an accredited technical training program in the related field; NIMS certifications are a plus
- Three (3) years' full-time, related work experience as a machinist within the last five (5) years
- Must have knowledge of and ability to operate conventional machinist and computer numerical controlled (CNC) equipment
- Must possess the organizational and communication skills necessary to be an effective teacher
- Computer skills (i.e., Microsoft Office applications, email, etc.) are required Indication of willingness to establish and maintain positive working relationships with students, staff, and
- business/industry personnel Commitment to remaining current with industry practices through professional development activities
- Must be able to travel and/or work after school activities such as graduation, in-service, etc.

- Teach and instruct post-secondary and high school, dual-enrolled students through lecture demonstrations, and/or audio visual aids
- Prepare syllabi of courses of study with detailed lesson plans
- Monitor, grade, and evaluate students' progress; Must develop and maintain effective student assessment practices and grading processes
- Develop industry partnerships and collaborate with partners regarding program initiatives and training methodologies
- Source and request necessary instructional supplies and equipment for proper instruction
- Maintain appropriate student records and submit timely reports
- Maintain required annual 60% completion, 70% placement, and 70% licensure rate pursuant to the Council on Occupational Education (COE) accreditation standards Assist in program recruitment and assist certified graduates with placement opportunities
- Ensure compliance with all TBR, institutional, state, and federal requirements

Salary: Commensurate with Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology salary guidelines

A criminal background check will be required for the selected applicant.

Application Deadline: Open until filled

Applications and Resumes should be submitted online at:

https://tbr.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/36/home/requisition/7359?c=tb

he Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Oneida/Huntsville does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability r age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies my West, Assistant Director, 355 Scott High Drive, Huntsville, TN 37756, (423) 663-4900, awest@tcatoneida.edu.

Gracm

Carol Hall Author

Disappeared: Chapter 19: Part 3

Nick and Chris-Day 6-

Chris landed hard on his back, almost knocking the wind out of him.

Nick, too, landed on his back, just a couple of feet away.

From outside, Brutus could still be heard roaring and beating on the wall.

The fall must have woke Nick, because he groaned and rolled over to sit up. "What happened," he asked groggily, rubbing the side of his head. "Where are we?" Chris, still laying on his back in the rubble, carefully sat up and looked around.

The only light filtering into the room was from the crevice, some 10 feet above where they lay.

"You got thumped by Bigfoot," Chris told him. "Then we fell through a hole in the wall. How's your head?"

"Feeling like I got hit over the head with a sledgehammer."

"I think a sledgehammer would have been better. You dropped like a sack of potatoes." Nick rubbed his head some more as he surveyed their surroundings. Slowly getting to his feet, he perused the room, checking out every detail. Chris got to his feet and followed him. "What do you suppose this room was?" he asked Nick.

"I think we found an old Indian cave. Look at the paintings on the wall."

The walls were covered in paintings of hunting scenes, weapons and different kinds of animals, as well as what daily life would have looked like to them. The paint was faded and peeling in spots, but it was still easy to depict what the scenes meant.

Nick and Chris stared in awe at the representations of the various scenes and the skill of the artist who so long ago painted them. Following the paintings around the room, they noticed some old pottery in a corner. They quickly ran over to it and began picking up the different pieces.

"Oh man, do you have any idea how old this stuff is?" Chris asked.

"I'd be willing to bet it's a couple hundred years old, at least."

"Well, let's leave it right where we found it. I'd hate to disturb something like this," Chris said.

They continued to search the room for any more relics, but found none.

Nick, his head still thumping, sat down in the middle of room. He pulled his backpack into his lap and opened it, pulling out some water and his flashlight.

"We need to find a way out of here," he called over to Chris who went back to exam the paintings again.

"I certainly don't want to leave the way we came. That Bigfoot could be lying in wait for us to come back out."

"Agreed. Do you see any tunnels leading off this room anywhere?" Nick began to shine his flashlight into the darker recesses of the room. His light picked up something in the far left corner.

"Chris, what is that to your left? Is that a tunnel opening?"

Chris tore his eyes from the Indian paintings and walked over to where Nick was indicating. "Shine your light over here again," he called to Nick.

Nick shone the light in that direction.

"There's a small, tight hole leading back in. I can't see how far it goes, though."

Nick got up from his resting place and walked over to where Chris was.

The hole was only about three feet high and two feet wide at best. Nick shined the light back into the hole. It went on farther than the light could reach.

"Well, I guess we should crawl back in there and see how far it goes. With any luck, it'll be a way out," Nick said.

Chris looked at him doubtfully. "Seriously? You want to crawl back into a tiny hole and see where it goes? Haven't you ever seen those movies where someone decides to do that and it ends in a horrible way? You know, people being eaten, lots of screaming and yelling?"

"You watch way too many movies," Nick laughed. "What's the worse that can happen? We either find a way out or we come back here and wait till Bigfoot gets tired of waiting, then make a run for it."

"What's the worse that can happen? I believe I just gave you a pretty ugly scenario."

"You really are scared to go in that hole, aren't you?" Nick couldn't keep the laughter out of his voice. He never realized how skittish Chris could be.

"I'm just saying..."

"Ok, tell you what," Nick said. "I'll crawl back in there and if I found something I'll let you know."

"Ok, but be quick. If you get eaten by some crazy cave dweller, don't blame me!" Nick laughed as he turned his flashlight on and aimed it into the hole.

"Here I go. If you hear me scream, you better come rescue me." $\,$

"Ha ha, you're real funny. Just hurry up, would you?"

Nick got down on all fours and crawled into the hole. It was tight and very narrow. His shoulders rubbed the sides and his back touched the ceiling in places. No light penetrated the hole and the beam of light from the flashlight barely cut through the darkness. He had to admit, it was getting rather spooky the farther in he went. He wasn't necessarily claust-rophobic, but the tight quarters and darkness almost made him feel like he was suffocating. He hurried along hoping to reach the end soon.

Suddenly, the tunnel widened out some and he was able to maneuver through it much easier. He still wasn't able to stand, but he felt like he could breath a little easier.

After crawling several more feet on his hands and knees, he rounded a bend where the tunnel opened up even more. Able to get to his feet, he shined the light around in all directions. It appeared the tunnel continued on, but it was much more open back in this part.

He turned around and headed back to go get Chris. He didn't relish the idea of going back through the tight space, but knowing it wasn't that far, he quickly made his way back. When he got back to the entrance, Chris was sitting there waiting for him.

Crawling out of the hole, Nick handed Chris the flashlight so he could pull himself out.

"Well?" Chris asked.

"It's a tight squeeze for a little ways, but then it opens up and you can stand. It looks like it continues on from that point, but I figured I'd better come back and get you before I went too far." Nick began dusting sand off his knees and out of his hair.

"How far back do you think it goes?"

"No idea. We'll have to follow it to see, but if this was an old Indian cave, I imagine they had more than one way in and out. If we're lucky, the passageway will still be open and not caved in somewhere along the way."

"You're just a regular ball of sunshine, aren't you?" Chris chuckled. "Let's just hope and pray for the best, shall we?"

"Agreed."

They grabbed their packs and started back into the hole. Nick went first, shoving his backpack in front of him as he went. The space was too tight to wear it on his back. Chris followed suit and they slowly made their way back to where Nick had stopped before.

Finally reaching the area where they could stand, they stretched and took several deep breaths.

"Well, that was no fun," Chris said, leaning from side to side to stretch his muscles.

"At least, we made it through. I didn't particularly like the idea of going back out the way we came. I have a feeling Bigfoot can be real patient. We might have been stuck in that room for a long time."

"Well, lead on, Tonto. I don't want to be stuck in this cave system all day."

They continued following the tunnel deeper and deeper into the cave. It was earily still and quiet. Darkness closed in on them on every side except where the thin beam of light from the flashlight struck the rock walls and illuminated the floor a few feet in front of them. They walked for a long time before Chris suddenly grabbed Nick's arm to stop him.

"Sshhh," he said. "Do you hear anything?"

"No, nothing. It's as quiet as a tomb in here."

"Nice analogy, Nick, sheesh."

"What did you hear?" Nick asked.

"I honestly thought I heard voices."

"What, like human voices?"

"No, ghost's voices," Chris said sarcastically. "Of course, human voices. Now shut up and listen, would you?"

They stood there in the cave not moving for several long moments, but no noise, except their own breathing was heard.

"I don't hear anything, Chris." Nick said.

"I guess I was just imagining things then."

"Let's keep going. This has to come out somewhere."

They walked on for several more minutes when the tunnel began to become very narrow. It was so tight in places, that they barely made it through. They had to squeeze through the narrow passageway for several hundred feet before it opened up again.

Suddenly voices, like whispers, seemed to fill the tunnel. It was hard to tell which way they were coming from. They floated by and then seemed to disappear.

"Ok, I heard that," Nick said.

"See, I told you I heard voices. Where are they coming from?"

"I can't tell. They seem to be all around us."

"Keep going! We must be getting close to something...or someone."

Nick picked up the pace and moved as quickly as he could through the tunnel. They walked on for about an hour, but no more voices were heard.

By this point, they had been in the cave for several hours. Nick estimated that it was getting near to evening.

"Chris, we need to find a place to stop and rest for the night. We could be in this cave for days. I hate to stop, but we need to rest. My head hurts and I'm getting very hungry."

"Well, I hate to admit it, but you're right. Let's move on till we find a big enough place to make camp."

They navigated their way just a short distance further when the tunnel opened up into a small oval shaped area.

"This looks perfect," Nick said. "We can both fit here comfortably."

"Works for me," Chris said, finding a place to throw his backpack down. "We can't build a fire, so it's cold jerky and dried fruit for dinner."

"That's fine with me. I'm exhausted."

They sat down and positioned themselves at either opening of the tunnel. Nick knew that once they turned the flashlight off, the darkness would cover them like a thick, heavy blanket. The pitch blackness of the cave would be smothering, but he figured he would just have to suck it up and deal with it. Mind over matter, he told himself.

They ate their meal, then tucked the garbage back into their packs. Curling up on the floor just a few feet from each other, they talked about what they would do when they found their wives. Nick said he planned on taking Maggie on a long cruise away from any mountains. Chris said he planned on taking Evie to New York City.

As weariness settled over them, Nick turned off the flashlight. He wasn't sure how much longer the batteries would last. He wished he could leave the light on all night, but knew that it would be out by morning anyway and he only had one set of spares. He figured they would need those for tomorrow, not knowing how long they would be in the cave.

His last thought as he drifted off to sleep was of Maggie. A smile crossed his face at the thought of her. He was looking forward to finding her and wrapping her in his arms again.

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

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

NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JoAnn Derson

- * Here's a great tip for freezing strawberries: Slip a berry into each section of an ice-cube tray, and then stack trays in the freezer. When frozen, transfer berries to a zipper-top bag and store in the freezer. They won't stick together, and you can just use what you need.
- * "Vinegar (1/3 cup) works just as well as rinsing agents in your dishwasher. Simply add it to the wash with your regular dishwasher detergent. It can help with cloudy glassware." -- W.C. in Washington
- * "Another great use for a length of nylon stocking, or a knee-high, as we used to call them: Slip over your pet brush and poke the bristles through. Brush vour cat or dog as normal. When you're done, you can pull the knee-high stocking right off and all the hair will be caught inside!" -- P.K. in Pennsylvania

- * If you have a pickle- or jelly-jar lid that's stuck on, try using the handle end of a butter knife to tap a few indentations around the edges. This can sometimes loosen the seal, making it easier to remove the
- * "When you get to the bottom of a bag of chips or a box of crackers, there usually are a lot of crumbs. I save ours in a baggie, then add them to breadcrumbs to bread fish or chicken. They add a lot of flavor, and it's basically free! It's funny, because I see packages of flavored breadcrumbs at the grocery store, and they are pretty expensive." -- R.L. in Virginia
- * Fresh ginger can be frozen. Simply grate as needed. The flavor remains, and it will stay fresh much longer.

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

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- * In 2006, an Athens court ordered the worship of the 12 gods of ancient Greece -- including Zeus, Hera, Hermes, Athena and others -- to be unbanned.
- * Vikings fed their wounded soldiers a strong onion soup to help gauge the depth of a stomach wound. After a few minutes, they would smell the wound and if they could smell the onion soup, they knew the wound was too deep and the soldier could not be saved.
- * The "artificial strawberry flavor" in a McDonald's milkshake is made up of around 45 chemicals.
- * "Jeopardy!" contestants stand on adjustable platforms

15

24 25

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so that they all appear to be the same height on camera.

- * On the last Sunday of November in Lopburi, Thailand, an annual Monkey Buffet Festival is held that provides food and drink to more than 2,000 local monkeys, as a thank you for drawing tourists to the town.
- * The role of U.S. first lady isn't reserved solely for the president's wife. Historically, some first ladies have included nieces, sisters or daughtersin-law of the sitting president.
- * The word "and" and the ampersand symbol (&) mean different things in movie credits. Two writers' names joined with an ampersand means they collaborated, while "and" means they worked on the script at different times.

14

17

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31 Collar 36 Scents

seven

"Hey!"

43 Ellington's

"Take -

Train"

46 Aesopian

also-ran

30 Yoko of music

Concerning

"Toodle-oo!"

41 40

45

30

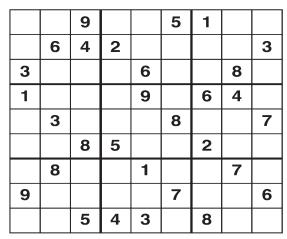
- * Researchers have discovered that the Fritillaria delavayi plant, which has been used in Chinese traditional medicine for 2,000 years, has evolved camouflage in heavily harvested areas.
- * In 1355, a dispute between two students from Oxford University and a local tavern owner over the quality of its wine grew so heated that it resulted in a three-day-long riot, which left 63 students and 30 locals dead.

Thought for the Day: "Every small positive change we make in ourselves repays us in confidence in the future." --Alice Walker

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

19

36 37

13

16

ACROSS

- 1 Soak up the
- sun 5 Joke
- 8 Sports figure? 12 Penne -
- vodka
- 13 Playwright
- Levin 14 "Oops!"
- 15 Picnic spoiler
- 16 Vacuum's lack
- 17 Novelist Jaffe 18 Chinese food
- assortment 20 Some mixolo-
- gists Docs' org.
- 23 "Uh-huh" 24 Tousle
- 27 "Locksley Hall" poet
- 32 Year in
- Mexico
- 33 Sock part
- 34 Stop dime 57 Six-pack
- 35 Short recital piece
- 38 Uppity one 39 Spike's warning
- 40 Three, in
- Rome
- 42 JFK's vessel
- 45 Brother's son
- 49 Levelina
- wedge
- 53 Antitoxins
- 50 Jurist Fortas 52 "I did it!"

55 Ireland

- 56 Tiny amounts

54 "- the sea-

son ...

- muscles
- 58 Head, to Henri
- DOWN
- 1 Poet of yore
- Jai Slender 3
- Sunflower 4
- State
- "Billions"
- "Exodus" hero
- actor Paul

Attire 7

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54

57

"Oklahoma!" carriage

28 29

- Oscar-winning 37 La-la lead-in actress Emma 38 Music for Top-of-the-10
- line 11 Compared to 42
- 19 Hesitant sound
- 21 Objectivist Rand
- 24 More (Sp.) 25 Popular card
- game 26 Lark, for one
 - 47 Tend texts
 - 48 Fade away
- 28 Very long time 51 Clothing pro-29 Fastidious tector trait
- By:rj johnson DARE! D O U B T ? ... O R PIM MUPPLE PATRA ♥ EMRI HUNSIR **♥** RMA RSYP **♥** TASRI **♥** IPH **TEPREA** LMESL **♥** ERPA

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.

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

- 1. Is the book of Ezra in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- 2. What color was the cord that Rahab hung out of her window? *White, Scarlet, Purple, Black*
- 3. From 1 Kings 17, who was called the "Tishbite"? *Elijah, Goliath, Job, Samson*
- 4. Who was the father of John the Baptist? *Uriah*, *Peter*, *Zechariah*, *Amaziah*
- 5. From Acts 14, where was Paul mistaken for Hermes? *Antioch, Perga, Gibeon, Lystra*
- 6. Who named all the animals on earth? *Adam, Eve, Noah, Moses*

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Scarlet; 3) Elijah; 4) Zechariah; 5) Lystra; 6) Adam

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com

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by Healthy Exchanges

Baked Banana Pudding

This easy-to-put-together dessert will please kids of all ages.

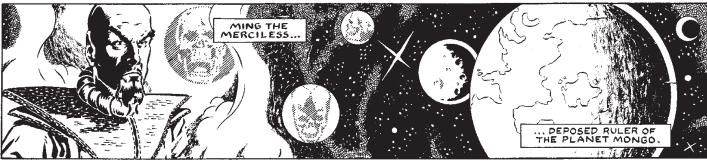
- 24 (2½-inch) graham cracker sauares
- 3 cups (3 medium) sliced bananas
- 2 (4-serving) packages sugarfree vanilla cook-and-serve pudding mix
- 11/3 cups nonfat dry milk powder
- 2½ cups water
- 1½ teaspoons vanilla extract
- 6 egg whites
- 1 cup Splenda Granulated
- 1. Heat oven to 325 F. Spray 8-by-12-inch baking dish with butter-flavored cooking spray. Evenly arrange 12 graham cracker squares in baking dish, then 1 1/2 cups banana slices over top.
- 2. In large saucepan, combine pudding mixes, milk powder and water. Cook over medium heat until mixture thickens and starts to boil, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Stir in 1 teaspoon vanilla extract. Spoon half of hot mixture evenly over bananas. Arrange 10 graham cracker squares evenly over hot pudding and remaining 1 1/2 cups banana slices over top. Spoon remaining hot pudding over bananas.
- 3. In large bowl, beat egg whites with an electric mixer on HIGH until soft peaks form. Add Splenda and remaining 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract. Continue beating on HIGH until stiff peaks form. Spread meringue evenly over top, sealing to edges. Crush remaining 2 graham cracker squares into fine crumbs; sprinkle evenly over meringue.
- 4. Bake 25 minutes or until meringue is golden. Place baking dish on wire rack; let set for 30 minutes. Refrigerate at least 1 hour. Cut into 8 servings.

TIP: A self-seal sandwich bag works great for crushing graham crackers.

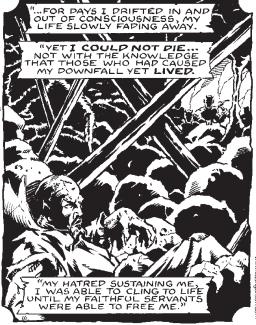
• Each serving: 210 calories, 2g fat, 10g protein 38g carb., 289mg sodium, 161mg calcium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Starch/Carb., 1 Fruit, 1/2 Fat-Free Milk; Carb Choices: 2 1/2.

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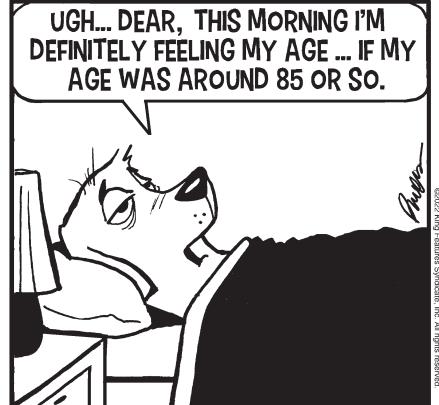






Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps





"It was named Car of the Year by

THE RICH LOWRY COLUMN

By Rich Lowry

What Putin Knew

There are forgivable intellectual and policy errors, and then there's the self-delusion that has driven the West into its dependence on Vladimir Putin's oil and gas.

Russia has long been a major supplier of energy to Europe. The depletion of European natural gas reserves has played a role in Russia's increased significance. Moscow has also benefited, though, from a deliberate choice by Europe to attempt a great leap forward into a green-energy future, especially in a Germany that turned its back on both nuclear and coal.

In taking this route, Europe made a holiday-from-history decision to forget the incredible power of oil, gas and coal -- the most reliable and efficient sources of energy the world has ever known -- and ignore the inevitable centrality of energy to geopolitics.

Greta Thunberg, the teenage climate activist who has been elevated into an oracle of all that is good and true, demanded nothing less. No matter what you've heard, the world hasn't embraced fossil fuels out of hatred of the planet, rather because they are so incredibly useful. If they didn't already exist -- thanks to sunlight and plants that lived millions of years ago -- we would have to invent them and wouldn't be able to.

Oil is a miracle fuel. Alex Epstein of the Center for Industrial Progress writes that it is "almost eerily engineered by natural processes, not just for cheapness, not just for reliability, not just for scalability, but also for another characteristic crucial to a functional civilization: portability." It powers cars, trucks and jets, without which the modern world as we know it wouldn't exist.

Coal, too, Epstein notes, is affordable, abundant and easy to extract and transport. There is a reason that developing nations invariably use it to power their economic advancement.

So, it's not surprising that fossil fuels are still the leading source of global electricity, with coal accounting for 36.7% and gas 23.5%. The total fossil fuel contribution, at 63.3%, is down only slightly from two decades ago.

In terms of overall energy, fossil fuels are an even larger proportion, 84.3%.

For its part, green energy -- wind, solar and other renewables -- account for around 10% of global electricity, and even less of total energy.

Vladimir Putin knew this and understood the power it gave him, even if European policymakers couldn't be bothered to think a tiny bit strategically.

Did they not notice that coal was the mainstay of Britain's rise to global power in the 19th century?

Did they forget the role of oil in World War I and World War II, let alone subsequent 20th-century history?

Petroleum wasn't particularly useful prior to World War I and, by the end of it, had become a pillar of national power. It fueled the motorized vehicles and airplanes that transformed warfare. British foreign minister Lord Curzon famously said at the war's conclusion that the Allies had "floated to victory upon a wave of oil."

In World War II, the Japanese attacked the United States in part for fear that the American de facto oil embargo would starve its war machine, and one reason the Nazis were defeated was that they ran out of fuel.

Of course, the strategic significance of the Middle East owed almost entirely to its vast oil reserves. The phrase "war for oil" is a cliche and usually a smear, but it is certainly true that no one has ever fought a war for wind.

In light of all of this, Europe still choose to subjugate itself to an anti-Western authoritarian and, even as Russian opera stars are getting canceled, it hasn't ceased purchases of Russian oil and gas.

Some perspective is necessary. While climate change may indeed prove a serious long-term challenge, it is not reducing parts of European cities to rubble or a threat to use a tactical nuclear weapon. If this horrifying episode hasn't scared the West straight on energy, nothing will.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

Donna's Creative family fun

Puff Pancake Makes for a Dramatic Breakfast

by Donna Erickson

Make weekend breakfasts extra special when you put this delicious puff pancake on your menu. Also called a Dutch baby, this version of the recipe is simple to prepare with kids, and dramatic to serve piping hot, right out of the oven. Believe me, mouths will be watering when it arrives at the table. Take a bow, and then serve with fresh fruit or other favorite toppings.

DRAMATIC PUFF PANCAKE

4 eggs

l cup skim or whole milk

1 cup all-purpose flour

1 tablespoon sugar

1/8 teaspoon salt

3 tablespoons unsalted butter **Topping:**

1 tablespoon powdered sugar and a squeeze of fresh lemon

1. Preheat oven to 425 F.

2. Let one of your kids count and crack the eggs into a mixing bowl. Inspect it to be sure there are no remaining shells. Beat eggs with a beater until light and pale.

2. Another child may measure and

gradually beat in the milk, flour, sugar and salt.

3. Meanwhile, place butter in a 10- or 12-inch cast-iron or ovenproof skillet, or a 9-inch-by-13-inch oven-safe glass baking dish. An adult should place it in the oven until it is hot and the butter sizzles. Remove from oven and pour batter into the hot butter. Return to oven and bake for 20-25 minutes or until puffy and golden-brown on the edges. (Keep oven door closed until done.)

4. Squeeze lemon juice on top, dust with powdered sugar and serve tableside immediately.



Make a weekend breakfast extra special.

Serves 4. Serve with fresh fruit, such as berries, grapes and kiwi slices.

Alternate blender method for steps 1-2: Put eggs in a blender and whirl for one minute. With motor running, add milk and slowly add flour, sugar and salt. Whirl for an additional 30 seconds. Proceed with step 3.

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 Proposes Changes to Disability Ratings

If you have a Department of Veterans Affairs-rated disability, heads up. They're proposing changes to the schedule for disabilities for auditory, respiratory and mental disorders.

If you receive compensation for one of those service-connected conditions, your rating won't change. The reason for changing the schedule, they say, is to "incorporate modern medical data and terminology" so veterans can receive more accurate and consistent decisions. Ratings will be based on "the most current medical knowledge" for the condition.

Some of the proposed changes are:
-- Looking at tinnitus as a symp-

stead of a stand-alone disability.
-- Modernizing the rating criteria for sleep apnea and how it
impacts earning capacity.

tom of an underlying disease in-

-- Evaluating mental-health conditions in terms of interpersonal relationships, life activities, selfcare and cognition. It's proposed

that the criteria include a 10% minimum and won't require "total occupational and social impairment" to reach 100%.

-- No current ratings will change, they say. If they're finalized, veterans can apply for increased compensation. There won't be any reduction in compensation unless there's an improvement in the disability.

If you want to read more, see the Federal Register where the document has to be open for comment for 60 days. Go to www.federalregister.gov and search for "FR Doc. 2022-02049" for two of the disorders, and "FR Doc. 2022-02051" for the third one. Be sure to look through the public comments. A vast majority have to do with sleep apnea and its daily life impact, including earnings.

What concerns me at first glance is that there's a lot of removing subparagraphs, combining other disability aspects, renaming headings, adding section notes and reorganizing the various sections. How, one wonders, are the ratings personnel supposed to do a realistic evaluation of impairment? Even ratings clerks who have a lot of experience are going to be starting all over again in learning the system.

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Historically Speaking Barkley Marathons 100 – the elite

Barkley Marathons 100 – the elite ultramarathon trail race that "eats its young" Part 2

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Last week we introduced the history of how the most difficult ultramarathon in the world came to be in our back yard – Frozen Head State Park. It was created as a result of James Earl Ray's famous "escape" from Brushy Mountain Federal Penitentiary. The Barkley Marathons 100 has been in existence for 36 years and has had over 800 participants with only 15 finishers.

The 2022 Barkley Marathons 100 was no different. 40 of ultramarathon's most experienced and best trained run-

ners began this race as has been the case for almost all of the race's history. There is always a waiting list and some even come to the race hoping an open slot will develop when a runner fails to show.

The night before the start,

maps are highlighted using carefully and very detailed instructions written by Gary. The Barkley alumni, those runners who have experienced the Barkley ordeal, gladly answer questions asked by those for whom this is their first attempt at the mystic race. The reputation of the Barkley is world-renowned as the toughest ultramarathon race in existence.

The frozen chicken, provided each year by the person for whom the race is named, Barry Barkley, Gary's neighbor, is grilled without thawing. This too is a tradition of the race and obviously enjoyed by the runners. Soon those who are to start the race the next morning (anytime after midnight) begin to drift off to their tents or cars to sleep for what may well be the last decent sleep for days.

Gary blew a conch shell to alert that the race would start in one hour and at 6:54 AM early Saturday morning March 8, 2022, the race began when he lit a cigarette signaling the actual start of the race. 40 runners started together. One runner

was Jasmin Paris who finished a "Fun Run" of three loops. She became only the second woman to do so.

This race is by far the most difficult ultramarathon in existence in the world. We are the community known worldwide among the ultramarathon runners community as the ultimate challenge. It is not unusual to have international runners compete in this famous trail race.

There are some Oak Ridge residents who have participated in the Barkley over the years. One, Leonard Martin, even has a section of the course named for him, "Leonard's Butt Slide," what an honor! Kerry Trammell and his wife, Leslie Trammell who is the only woman to finish 60 miles - even if she did miss the cutoff - she finished! And finally, Hiram

final loop in 2010, well over 20 runners and support crews were still there and gathered at the finish line for close to an hour listening to him talk about his experience and asking him questions, knowing questions by the runners who have also experienced the Barkley. It is a close knit group, the Barkley finishers alumni.

Even though they are separated by many miles, they are together in the spirit of the world's toughest trail race! The Barkley Marathons 100 usually has previous finishers

about ultramarathon runners is the un-

common sense of family and support

that exists for each other. When a runner

completes the Barkley Marathons 100, he

is accepted into the fraternity of finishers

When Jonathan Basham finished his

in a most unusual and unique manner.

finishers who come back to compete again. Their support, help and encouragement for the new runners is always obvious, and the respect for their accomplish-



Four of the nine finishers of the Barkley Marathons 100 – Jim Nelson – 2004, Andrew Thompson – 2009, Jonathan Basham – 2010, and Blake Wood – 2001 (Photo Submitted)

Rogers who works at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory has also competed many times.

My son, Zane, was accepted in the Barkley in 2010 and finished one loop and over half of another before running out of time. He lost time during the night by not knowing the course as well as he would have liked. He was glad to be a part of the historic Barkley Marathons and was accepted again in 2011 when he finished over two loops before running out of time.

This most prestigious trail race is documented in a book just published by "Frozen" Ed Furtaw, the first person to win a Barkley Marathons when it was first starting and only 55 miles. He ran again this year and I was pleased to meet him. I enjoyed the book, Tales from Out There – The Barkley Marathons, The World's Toughest Trail Race.

The other thing that is so unique

ment is obviously on the mind of all runners who have yet to finish the most grueling race that exists.

So, Oak Ridge and Morgan County have many unique features. Being a scientific community set in Appalachia that is continually evolving to fill its place in the world within which it is located. Over time a city that is taking on the influences of the surrounding communities more and more. And at the same time a city that is influencing its surroundings like nothing that has ever been a part of this area before

Unique aspects of East Tennessee such as the Barkley Marathons are a part of what makes our home communities such special places. Thanks to Gary Cantrell and Karl "Raw Dog" Henn for such a unique contribution to our heritage.

History is indeed being made all around us. Enjoy the experiences and appreciate the memories. Our historic heritage continues to be created in many varied and unusual ways.

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Harriman Gets Substate Reality Check by Hampton 55-41 By Terry Futrell

They say that all good things must come to an end – so it was with the Harriman Blue Devils quest to reach the TSSAA Class A boys state basketball tournament. Riding the crest of a wave of impressive district and regional victories that culminated in winning the Region 2-1A championship, the Blue Devils ran into a huge wall in the form of the Hampton Bulldogs Monday evening.

Demonstrating one of the toughest pressure defenses that we have seen all season, the Bulldogs totally disrupted Harriman's offensive flow. Hampton came back from an early deficit to tie Harriman, then pulled away for a 55-41 victory and a berth in the state tournament. For Harriman, it was a disappointing end to the 2021-22 season.

Located in upper East Tennessee in the foothills of the mountains separating Tennessee and North Carolina, Hampton has an enrollment only slightly larger than Harriman – both schools are in the upper range of Class A schools. This will make Hampton's sixth appearance in the state tournament since 2010. Two measures indicate the emphasis placed on sports at Hampton and the level of community support. First, Hampton had 20 cheerleaders in uniform at the Kingston game. Second, even though the round trip to Harriman was more than 320 miles and gasoline prices were at record levels, Hampton fans filled the visitors section of Harriman's gymnasium.

As the game got underway, it was all Harriman for the first four minutes as the Blue Devils built a 12-2 lead, with Carter Smith and Jordan McCullum contributing 3-point baskets. Steppedup defense by the Bulldogs held Harriman scoreless for the remainder of the first quarter. With four different players scoring, Hampton's offense slowly trimmed Harriman's lead to 12-8 at the end of the first period.

Hampton's full-court pressure defense took an even greater toll in the second period. After an initial basket by Harriman increasing the Blue Devils' lead to 14-8 at 6:50, Hampton continued to trim Harriman's lead and tied the game at 16-16 with 3:15 on the clock. The Bulldogs then pulled ahead to lead Harriman 26-21 at the half. Hampton outscored Harriman 18-9 in the second period, with Michael Harrison and Cadon Buckles each scoring six points. Harriman was limited to only three baskets, with Smith sinking another 3-pointer and Nick Pelfrey and Xavier Hickman each hitting a 2-point basket.



Harriman's Jorden McCullum stuffs the ball to score the Blue Devils' last two points of the game. McCullum's two dunks accounted for half of Harriman's four baskets in the second half of the game. [Photo by Terry

Hampton's onslaught continued after the break, as the Bulldogs held Harriman to two baskets in the third quarter. The Bulldogs' defensive pressure appeared to shake the confidence of the Harriman players. As an indicator of how tightly Hampton was guarding Harriman players, the Bulldogs were charged with eight fouls in the quarter compared to only two fouls on Harriman. Even Jordan McCullum, who almost never misses a free throw, was 3 of 9 from the free throw line during the second and third quarters. When Harriman occasionally found room for outside shots, they simply did not find their mark. Hampton outscored the Blue Devils 13-6 in the quarter and took a 39-27 lead behind the shooting of Morgan Lyons and Buckles.

The fourth quarter was more of the same – tight defense by Hampton and missed shots by Harriman. The Blue Devils performed much better at the free throw line, hitting 10 of 12 shots, but as in the third quarter, Harriman scored only two baskets. Of the four baskets scored by Harriman in the second half, two were dunks by McCullum. Harriman trimmed Hampton's lead to six points at 43-37 with 5:24 remaining but could not find the basket past that point and Hampton pulled away to a 55-41 victory.

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Davis Funeral Home's **Veteran of the Week**

United States Army, Private First Class Ross A. McGinnis was born on June 14, 1987 in Meadville, PA. He served as a member of 1st Platoon, C Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division (Attached to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division).

He gave his life to save four fellow Soldiers on December 4, 2006 while serving in the war on terrorism in Iraq.

He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his sacrifice and his parents were presented with his medal by President George W. Bush on June 2, 2008.

His Medal of Honor citation reads: Private First Class Ross A. McGinnis distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intre-

pidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an M2 .50-caliber Machine Gunner, 1st Platoon, C Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, in connection with combat operations against an armed enemy in Adhamiyah, Northeast Baghdad, Iraq, on 4 December 2006. That afternoon his platoon was conducting combat control operations in an effort to reduce and control sectarian violence in the area. While Private McGin-



nis was manning the M2 .50-caliber Machine Gun, a fragmentation grenade thrown by an insurgent fell through the gunner's hatch into the vehicle. Reacting quickly, he yelled "grenade," allowing all four members of his crew to prepare for the grenade's blast. Then, rather than leaping from the gunner's hatch to safety, Private McGinnis made the courageous decision to protect his crew. In a selfless act of bravery, in which he was mortally wounded, Private McGinnis covered the live grenade, pinning it between his body and the vehicle and absorbing most of the

explosion. Private McGinnis' gallant action directly saved four men from certain serious injury or death. Private First Class Mc-Ginnis' extraordinary heroism and selflessness at the cost of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Twenty-six-year veteran of the Florida Highway Patrol, Trooper Toni Schuck exemplified absolute courage, dedication, service, and sacrifice as a loyal law enforcement officer on March 6th, 2022.

With complete disregard for her own safety and well-being she placed herself directly in harm's way to protect others by using her patrol vehicle to stop a drunk driver that was heading toward thousands of runners participating in a 10K race on the Sunshine Skyway Bridge.



spective. I can speak for several runners when I say that her heroic actions are past heroic. If you will, I will call her a super-woman because many people would have run from the danger and she faced it head-on to save thousands of people," said race participant Mariah Mullen.

Trooper Schuck said, "I was sworn to protect and that's what I felt I did, hero, that's just a title."

Florida Highway Patrol states that fifty-two-year-old Kristen Kay Watts was the woman behind the wheel of the vehicle that collided head-on with Trooper Schuck. Watts remains in the Manatee County Jail facing multiple DUI-related charges.

According to an arrest report, Watts had a blood alcohol concentration more than three times the legal limit when she was being treated at the hospital.

Runners who participated in the Sunshine Skyway Bridge race are crediting Trooper Schuck for saving countless lives.

"Watching her dash cam footage, really put things into per-



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2 Corinthians: Chapter 9 & 10

(2 Cor. 9:1-5) Justifying the messengers: The apostle continues his discussion of the "ministering" (collection) for the saints in Jerusalem. He commends them on their readiness, just as he has praised them to the Christians in Macedonia. He told Macedonia that Achaia had been prepared with their contribution for the past year, and that this example of seal had been an encouragement to many. The messengers that are to collect these gifts will be on their way to Corinth shortly; they must be ready so that the apostle's boast regarding them might not be for nothing, and that neither of them would be embarrassed (v. 3-4). So Paul is sending the messengers ahead of his arrival, that they might pick up the Corinthian contribution before he arrives, that their generosity might be transparent, and it would not appear as if he had "twisted their arm" (v. 5).

(2 Cor. 9:6-15) The blessings of generosity: Paul reminds them of nature's law of sowing and reaping. Sow sparingly and you will reap sparingly; sow bountifully and you will reap in like measure. Some valuable principles of proper giving are set forth. (a) Giving must be personal; one person cannot sacrifice for another. (b) It must be intentional, of clear purpose, not haphazard. (c) It must be of noble motivation, not extorted, not for show, not regretfully, not with strings attached. (d) One's giving must be lovingly and happily exercised. God loves the "cheerful giver," for such a one is like his Son in this regard (6-7; Heb. 12:2).

God, who is Almighty (Gen. 17:1), is able to make "all grace" (the plentitude of his favor) abundantly available to his people, so that, being sufficiently supplied, they will be able to abound in every good work necessary to their cause. Note the comprehensive terms, "all," "always," "every" (v. 8). Does this not suggest that the generous giver's "cup runs over"?

We must always remember that it is God who supplies our necessities, and he will supply, and even multiply, the things we need for doing good, which increase the fruits of our obedience to him (v. 10). The Lord abundantly supplies our needs so that our enrichment may be used generously to assist others, that ultimately God may be glorified (v. 11). The service being rendered to those in Jerusalem will not only fill up the measure of their needs; it also will result in much praise of thanksgiving to God (v. 12). Through the gracious liberality of their gift, they would be demonstrating the integrity of their obedience to the gospel of Christ and their confession therefore---not only to the saints in Jerusalem, but unto "all." Who are the all? (a) The saints elsewhere; (b) even non-Christians who may be beneficiaries of this gift, either directly (Acts 24:17; Gal. 6:10) or indirectly, or hear of it as a result of widespread report (v. 13).

The Jerusalem saints will be so thankful to God for their kindness; they will supplicate him on their behalf, and have sweet affection for them on account of the "grace of God" which was channeled through them. How we must thank God for his gift, beyond our ability to adequately describe-even Jesus Christ---who had motivated us to assist others (v. 15; 8:9).

(2 Cor. 10:1-6) An authoritative appeal to the church: Paul begins this controversial section in the most diplomatic fashion possible. He pleads with them in the spirit of the meekness and gentleness of Christ. Nonetheless, he goes right to the point. His detractors had charged that when the apostle is with them in person he is quite timid, yet in his letters he is ex-

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tremely aggressive. He certainly hopes this will not need to be the case with his coming visit. It is not permissible for a Christian to act as he has been so grossly misrepresented (1-2).

Paul contends that while we live "in the flesh," we do not stoop to the tactics of those engaged in carnal conflicts. Our weapons are not false accusations, hatefulness, destructive tactics, false reasonings, human authority, etc. (If one cannot employ such manipulative maneuvers in destroying others, who would reason that he might use material weapons to kill his foes?) Our instruments are mighty before God (v. 4)---prayer, kindness, teaching, correction, rebuke, and discipline (2 Tim. 3:3:16-17). We analyze and demolish the false "reasonings," or arguments. We oppose every arrogant teaching that is contrary to "the knowledge of God." We capture and take prisoner every evil thought---not simply to defeat someone, but to bring them to obedience to Christ. It is to him they must surrender!

Paul suggests that when he arrives he will be assured that their "obedience is made full," that those who need to reform their conduct might be given the opportunity to do so. He seems to suggest that the church had been remiss in dealing with the critical faction. If necessary an appropriate "avenging" would be implemented. And contrary to the accusations that he was too weak to flex any "muscle," he would demonstrate otherwise by the exercise of his apostolic office (Acts 13:9-11).

(2 Cor. 10:7-11) Response to criticism: Paul rebukes them for their superficiality---perhaps in the church generally---especially the false teachers. They had a tendency to evaluate strictly on outward appearance. This they had done regarding him, and by that criticism they had undermined his apostolic authority. This was a serious mistake; they needed to turn attention to themselves (v. 7). Paul vigorously asserts his apostolic authority" (a) It was bestowed by the Lord. (b) It was for their edification. (c) He refuses to be intimidated by the opposition (v. 8). The accusation that he deliberately tried to frighten people with his letters (1 Cor. 5:9) was false. The slurs against his "bodily presence" and his lack of speaking ability were as petty as they were false (v. 10). This certainly was not the impression he made when at Lystra (Acts 14:12). The apostle affirms his consistency---whether he was dealing with them in person or by letters, it would be the same (v. 11). His critics would do well to brace themselves for his coming!

(2 Cor. 10:12-18) Rebuttal to false teachers: Paul had been accused of arrogance---namely that he was his own measuring rod. That accusation was mere psychological projection; his opponents were guilty of the very charges they thrust upon him. They were utterly bankrupt of "understanding" (v. 12). The apostle affirmed that he would not make idle boasts, as his antagonists were doing. But he had been appointed certain limits by God, and he would not hesitate to use his authority in attempting to reach them. His nobility shines even in the face of hostility! Paul denies he had overstepped his authority; he was commissioned by God. He was the first to expose them to the gospel; he had a fatherly prerogative

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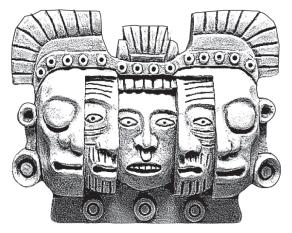
MELVIN HOWARD

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.

ACTS 17:29 🕰



Pre-Columbian Mayan carving from Tikal, Mexico

The true shamrock of Ireland

Two separate surveys were done in Ireland, one in 1893 and one in 1988. Both asked for examples of what people throughout the country considered to be the "true" shamrock, which were then identified botanically. The results of both surveys were very similar: *Trifolium dubium* (lesser clover, shown at right) was the top selection, followed closely by *Trifolium repens* (white clover). - Brenda Weaver

Source: wikipedia.org, www.claddaghdesign.com



John Burns Opinion Columnist

The Bridegroom's Choice

Ahaseurus has chosen Esther from amongst his realm of 127 provinces. As his bride and queen, she must be of uncommon virtue. She is a Jew in a pagan world. Israel as a nation is in bondage in Babylon. The same holds true today. Israel was alienated from their land for 1902 years while God was finding messiah a willing virgin bride.

What patterns in the life of Esther point to the times we are living in? Are there biblical patterns in scripture that point to its author existing outside of how we experience time? Are we all play actors in God's cosmic love drama?

Today there are thousands of churches in America all claiming to know the way to God. How can I know if any of them are of God? The life of Queen Esther points the way to understanding faith in God.

The three-dimensional space where you worship in, matters not to God. How you view time and how much of it you devote to knowing where we are in God's timeline, reveals whether or not church is more important than a belief in the God of the Bible and his ancient plan to redeem his creation.

Esther is a Jewess being raised by her uncle Mordecai. Mordecai has been raising her as a believer in God's plan for the Jewish people while they are slaves in Babylon and Medo-Persia. She understands God intends to save his people by one day providing himself as a lamb to pay the sin debt for all humanity.

For that to occur, she must save her people from the whiles of evil Haman. He is the pro-genitor of a people who have continuously harassed the Jews as a people, since they came out of Egypt. He is a polytheist that has been promoted to second fiddle over the entire realm of Ahaseurus.

Esther has unwavering devotion to Mordecai her Jewish uncle. God has raised him up to be the adviser to the king himself, but not yet. First, he must rescue his people from the antisemitic Haman.

Esther is a picture of what Christ's church was supposed to become. Devoted to protecting the Jewish remnant, and to be a witness to kings in the pagan world. It begins with the humility of one Jewish princess. Esther is a picture of the virgin Mary. A virgin prepared by God for his purposes alone.

Esther's example of unwavering devotion, plays out when she is going through the selection process. First, she claims to have everything she needs from God. No complaining from Esther. Her God provides all of her needs according to his riches in glory. Esther has been instructed by Mordecai in the things of virtue and piety. He is her Holy Spirit comforter.

She has forgone the gods of Persia to serve only the God of her uncle Mordecai. She is a monotheist in a polytheist world. Yet she is unwavering to serve God, and her people. She has courage in boatloads. Even while exiled from her homeland and temple, she trusts the God of creation. We are in the world but not of the world. Our home is Beulah!

Today in denominational and non-denominational churches across America, there are no Queen Esthers. No one is betrothed to Messiah our bridegroom, eagerly awaiting his return to receive us unto himself. Esther endures a year away

from her uncle Mordecai, and waited patiently for God to reveal his will for her as dealing with Ahaseurus. The true church has waited 2000 years for our bridegroom to return!

Church has not followed Esther's example. Roman holidays that venerate the fertility deities of Babylon have entered our houses of worship. Virginity to God, is a church that does not lay with the gods of this world. Church will suffer the fate of the 127 virgins of Ahaseurus' realm. Only the true virgin bride will be taken by Messiah at the rapture. Only Esther met the king's standard.

Church in America has become antisemitic. They cling to replacement theology believing God replaced his covenant people Israel with gentile believers in Jesus. You cannot truly believe in Jesus Christ without understanding his distinctly Jewish future!

Teshuva is needed in the American church experience. A return to sound Old Testament mercy so grace can once again appear in our land. Jesus Christ identified the Bible as a two-edged sword. Both are required to rightly divide the word of truth. Our children need their weapon back in public school. It is their Bible, give them free choice to decide if what is in it is true.

Esther is her Persian name. Hadassah is her Jewish name from birth. It is the Myrtle. The Myrtle is the flower used in every Jewish wedding ceremony. I wonder if Haman knew his adopted daughter would fulfill her call, and marry Ahaseurus?

We are adopted into the Jewish vine. It is a living vine which God alone redeems at the end of the tribulation of the last days. Will you accept Christ's hand in marriage, and become a virgin who is eagerly awaiting the return of her bridegroom?

Hosea the prophet is instructed by God to take a wife of whoredoms. After 28 years of daily searching scripture, I realize I am the whore who Messiah takes as a bride. I too have gone whoring after the gods of this world. Money, women, cars, jobs, and narcotics.

But none worse in God's eyes than the Roman gods and goddesses that I permeate my children's lives with at Christmas, Easter, birthdays, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Halloween, these are all pagan ceremonies venerating ancient fertility holidays denying the word of God as infallible over our lives.

Esther is our heroine made in the image of what God intended believers become after resurrection of Messiah. The time for salvation and revival is right now in our own lives. He was crucified upon a cross of wood, yet he created the hill upon which it stood.

He is alive forevermore, and he is returning for his virgin bride soon. John Burns 1-20-2022

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.

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- **King** Crossword Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

Maude Frost



February 20th marked one year since my granny, Maude Frost, went home to be with the Lord. I wrote an article last year about her legacy on my life. I could honestly write a book on her impact, but wanted to take this moment to shine a little light behind her life. It's a good reflection and hopefully this will encourage

others to live with passion and purpose.

My granny had a generous heart. I remember many times she would cook large amounts of food and give away meals to neighbors and her family up on Greasy Creek. She loved to cook, but I think she also enjoyed providing meals to others. I remember when I came home from college, she still would get my milk for me. She wanted me to enjoy my food and not get up from the table. Granny would take care of my dishes promptly and she wanted to wash her own dishes. She was a clean freak and didn't want anyone touching her dishes.

Granny's favorite holiday was Christmas. She enjoyed buying gifts and also enjoyed receiving them. Granny was like a kid when it came to Christmas;

she would be the one pressing me to open our gifts early. Thanksgiving her relatives always drew names out of a hat. She loved this time. Granny made the names every year and wanted to know who drew who's name. This process was supposed to be a secret, but she would try to figure out which relative got her name.

My aunt Lena and her walked a lot.
They used to walk in parks and around



Zack Ballinger

Greasy Creek. Granny enjoyed long walks and she walked at a really fast pace. I remember often times they would walk for miles just chatting, watching nature, and enjoying the sunny weather. When Aunt Lena wasn't available, she would walk with her friends and relatives. She really enjoyed the outdoors. She always loved flowers and her rose bushes. Granny enjoyed planting, digging, watering, fertilizing, and watching her flowers grow each day.

We fought a lot about the restaurant bill. I usually won, but she was pretty persistent about wanting to pay for our lunch and dinner. Granny worked very hard for her money; she was very independent and didn't' really like people paying for her. We fought over the bill almost every single meal. She always paid for my meal as a kid, so I never wanted her to pay for my meal as an adult.

Granny loved her family and church very

much. She was happy when she moved back to Tennessee. She went back to her childhood church, Elizabeth Baptist Church. Church was her Sunday routine and she rarely deviated from attending when the doors were open. Her faith was always very important to her and a big part of her life. Granny wanted the best for her daughters and grandkids. She would do anything for us or if we ever needed anything, she was always there for us. The good news is she is still with us; she's looking down on us from heaven.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." - Revelation 21:4

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.



Create Your Own Signature Spice Blends

An easy way to add great flavor to your meals while saving money is making spice blends at home. You're likely paying a premium for packaged spice blends that contain mostly salt and sugar.

Another great reason to make your own spice blends is that you choose what your family is eating. You control the sodium and sugar while avoiding MSG, partially hydrogenated oils, modified food starch and chemical preservatives. Your blends are made fresh and customized to your family's taste and dietary preferences.

It's fun to have a flavor experimentation party where everyone discusses their preferences about seasoning foods. It's a great way to explore flavors of various herbs and spices and create blends. Even young children can play along. Give them bowls and measuring spoons as they learn to measure, do simple math and stir to their heart's content.

When purchasing your herbs and spices, remember the bulk foods section of the grocery store, if you have one. The beauty of buying in bulk is you pay for only what you need. You can literally purchase by the teaspoon.

Next, you'll need containers. Glass is preferable as it's reusable, easy to clean and won't hold aromas. Baby food jars are perfect, as are small

glass canning jars.

Here are some basic recipes to get you started. Then you can experiment and get creative to make your own signature spice blends. You'll notice I didn't include salt. That amount is always to your taste.

CHILI SEASONING — 1½ table-spoons chili powder, 1 tablespoon garlic powder, 1 tablespoon cumin, 1/2 tablespoon onion powder, 1 teaspoon oregano, 1/2 teaspoon paprika. Seasons 2 pounds of ground beef or other meat for making chili.



ww.JasonCoblentz.com

Homemade spices can be blended to your family's taste and dietary preferences.

POULTRY SEASONING — 1 tablespoon sage, 1 tablespoon thyme, 1 tablespoon rosemary, 1/2 tablespoon parsley, 1/2 teaspoon ground pepper. Optional additions can include granulated garlic, celery seed, lemon peel, ground ginger, allspice, savory, oregano, dried onion, paprika or cayenne pepper. This makes enough to season two whole chickens.

ITALIAN SEASONING — 1½ tablespoons oregano, 1 tablespoon basil, 1 tablespoon garlic powder, 1/2 tablespoon parsley, 1 teaspoon red chili flakes, 1/2 teaspoon ground pepper. Use this in pasta sauce, Italian dressing, burgers and soups, or as a seasoning for ground beef, chicken or fish.

REAL LEMON PEPPER — 3 lem-

ons, 2 tablespoons whole peppercorns. Preheat oven to lowest setting. Using a vegetable peeler, peel the yellow part of the lemons, leaving the white pith behind. Onto a parchment-lined sheet pan, spread peels in a single layer. Place in oven for 2 hours or until dry. Place the dried lemon and peppercorns into a spice grinder and blend. Serve with fish, chicken or pork.

TACO SASONING — 1 tablespoon chili powder, 1/2 tablespoon cumin, 1/2 tablespoon garlic powder, 1/2 tablespoon dried minced onion, 1/2 teaspoon paprika, 1/2 teaspoon onion powder, 1/4 teaspoon ground pepper. Seasons approximately 1 pound of ground beef or other taco meat.

NO-SALT GARLIC HERB BLEND — 1 tablespoon granulated garlic, 1 tablespoon onion powder, 1 tablespoon dried parsley, 1½ teaspoons dried basil, 1 teaspoon ground thyme, 1 teaspoon ground black pepper, 1 teaspoon dried sage, 1/2 teaspoon paprika, 1/4 teaspoon

to poultry, meat and vegetables. **PUMPKIN PIE SPICE** — 4 teaspoons ground cinnamon, 2 teaspoons ground ginger, 1 teaspoon ground clove, 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg. Yields about 2½ tablespoons to help you get your pumpkin spice fix in pies,

cayenne pepper. Add a "dash" (wink)

cookies and, yes, coffee.

As you spice up your life creating your signature blends, remember these make great gifts, too!

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. Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com

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David Zubler Columnist

IRS plan for processing huge backlog

The IRS has a new plan to speed up the processing of the current backlog of returns and mail.

The IRS had over 17 million unprocessed 2020 returns and nearly 6 million items of taxpayer correspondence, according to National Taxpayer Advocate Erin Collin's testimonial on February 17, 2022. In her 2021 annual report to Congress, Collins said that she ranked recruitment, hiring, and training as the second of the ten most serious problems facing taxpayers. She

has been advocating for direct-hire for the IRS to speed up the hiring process.

On February 17, Collins told Senate Finance Committee that it currently takes the IRS approximately three months to hire a new worker, from advertising the position, accepting applications, and running security checks. Collins said the IRS had announced 5,000 new openings but only 179 had been filled by mid-February.

Collins also said low pay is part of the problem. Submission-processing staff generally offer a starting salary of less than \$25,000. "In this economy, it is not surprising that the IRS is having difficulty finding enough suitable job applicants," she told the House Ways and Means Committee's Oversight Committee.

National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) National President Toney Reardon said that the NTEU was informed that the IRS had been granted direct-hire authority for about 10,000 entry-level positions. The NTEU represents employees in 34 federal offices, including the IRS.

The IRS is planning to expedite its hiring process of about 10,000 workers for processing tax returns. The expedited process is intended to "address concerns that the IRS hiring process is difficult and slow," Reardon said. The direct-hire authority would continue

SENIOR NEWS LINE

By Matilda Charles

How Well Do You Know Your iPhone?

Did you know there is a flashlight on your iPhone? I just found mine. Courtesy of BoomerTECH Adventures online, I've not only learned that there is a flashlight, but how to access it.

BoomerTECH Adventures is a website aimed at seniors (although I don't know why it wouldn't appeal to anybody with an Apple device) who want to expand how they use their iPhone, iPad or Mac computer and learn about all the features.

Right on the home page of the website (as of this writing) is a free video about turning slides into digital images and a free video about how to change the email password on your iPad. In addition, there is a link to its blog covering a wide variety of Apple device-related topics.

Not all the videos are free, however. There are full courses, such as the Introduction to iPhone Basics (\$30), which includes four videos and a course booklet.

There is Introduction to Zoom Basics, wherein you can learn how to have those video calls with your family (\$30). This one consists of eight videos that cover everything you need to know from setting it up to how to have appropriate lighting.

Maximizing Your iPad's Potential is a \$30 course that covers over a dozen areas and iPad topics, such as basic navigation, personalizing the look and making folders, communicating with messages and video, using the camera, editing photos and much more.

Mac computer owners aren't left out -- there is an Introduction to Mac Basics (\$30) course.

BoomerTECH Adventures was started by a trio of educators, all of them seniors, which means they know we learn new things in different ways at different paces.

If you have an Apple iPhone and want to know how to do more than place a call, check BoomerTECH Adventures (www.boomertechadventures.com).

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through December 1, 2023.

After giving public notice, direct-hire authority allows agencies to hire any qualified applicant without being required to meet certain competitive requirements. Additionally, they are not required to give preference to armed forces veterans and their unmarried widows or widowers. It also allows the IRS to disregard the "rule of three," which required hiring one of the top three e candidates rated and referred to them.

The plan will help the IRS with its daunting task of processing an unprecedented backlog of prior year returns and correspondence. According to the latest IRS Data Book figures, the number of full-time equivalent positions in the IRS was approximately 75,700 as of 2020. Almost 25,000 of those positions were in filing and account services. If 10,000 employees are hired in a short time to process returns, the increase would quickly impact the enormous backlog of unprocessed returns and taxpayer correspondence.

The IRS will face additional problems processing returns in 2022. In 2021 math error correction notices increased from under one million in 2020 to over 14 million in 2021. In 2022 the IRS will have to correct returns that report an incorrect amount of Advance Child Tax Credit in addition to correcting the amount of stimulus received by taxpayers.

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.

FLASHBACK

By Mick Harper

- 1. Name the singer who wrote and released "Give Me One Reason."
- 2. What was the full title of the James Brown song "Hot Pants"?
- 3. What was John Denver's first No. 1 hit?
- 4. Who released "Instant Karma! (We All Shine On)" and when?
- 5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I still see her standing by the water, Standing there lookin' out to sea, And is she waiting there for me?"

Answers

- 1. Tracy Chapman. She performed the song during a 1988 tour but didn't release it until 1995. The song netted her the Grammy for Best Rock Song in 1997 and is still her biggest U.S. hit.
- 2. "Hot Pants (She Got to Use What She Got to Get What She Wants)," released in 1971. Side A contained "Hot Pants" part 1, with parts 2 and 3 on side B.
- 3. "Sunshine on My Shoulders," originally on the "Poems, Prayers & Promises" album in 1971. As a single, it slowly climbed to the top of the charts in 1974.
- 4. John Lennon, in 1970.
- 5. "Galveston," by Glen Campbell in 1969. Writer Jimmy Webb's original version was an anti-war song, while Campbell's revised chart-topping version was more upbeat and patriotic. Campbell wore a military outfit in the video.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 22

Together Morgan County will host the first meeting of GREATS at Morgan County Schools Central Office, Tuesday, March 22 from 6:00 -7:30. GREATS, Guardians Raising Exceptional and Talented Students, is a newly organized program to provide support for relatives raising relatives. This is a totally free program. Together Morgan County

will provide a meal for the family along with some fun activities. Gus the Bus will be on site for the children to visit while the adults enjoy a round table discussion. There will be resource information and some give aways. Please share this event with those who might benefit from support. For more information, contact Sandra Helton @ heltons@ mcsed.net.

Thursday, March 17

Morgan County Chamber of Commerce March meeting will be a St. Patrick's luncheon meeting on Thursday, March 17th from 11:30 to 1pm at MoCo Brewing Project in Wartburg! Our Luncheon will be graciously sponsored by WECO. WECO will be speaking to us as

well as Frozen Head Park Manager Joseph Ingram. Nate Schaar will also share a great new Chamber Member perk! Wear your GREEN. Please send RSVP to chamber@morgancountytn. org or 423.346.5740 ASAP

will also celebrate the American Legion's 103rd birthday at this meeting with an Irish dinner and a birthday cake. Bring your appetite and your ideas for the meeting.

Friday, March 25

the Legion will be hosting a free chili dinner with all sorts of sides and desserts and are planning to have live music from the Chill Factor from 6:30 pm until 8:30pm. While this event is free to all, donations are always welcome and aways appreciated.

Undated Events

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

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American Legion Events

Thursday, March 17,

the Legion will hold their members monthly meeting. We will start promptly at 7:00 pm. We



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by Dave T. Phipps



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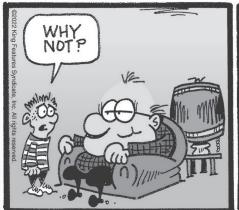
R.F.D.





The Spats







by Mike Marland



POPELE

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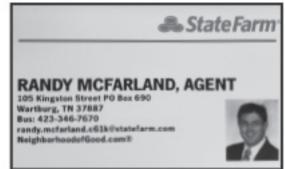


MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

- * On April 3, 1776, the Continental Congress, lacking sufficient funds to build a strong navy, gives privateers permission to attack all British ships. Any goods captured by the privateer were divided between the ship's owner and the government.
- * On March 28, 1814, the funeral of Guillotin, the inventor and namesake of the infamous execution device, takes place outside of Paris. Guillotin had built the guillotine to show the intellectual and social progress of the Revolution; by killing aristocrats and journeymen in the same way, equality in death was ensured.
- * On March 30, 1820, Anna Sewell, author of "Black Beauty," is born. "Black Beauty," the first significant children's story in the English language to focus on animal characters, established the precedent for countless other works. The story, narrated by the horse, showed Black Beauty's progression through a series of increasingly cruel owners.
- * On April 2, 1863, responding to acute food shortages, hundreds of angry women riot in Richmond, Virginia, demanding that the government release emergency supplies, breaking windows and looting stores. Confederate President Jefferson Davis threw his pocket change at them from the top of a wagon.
- * On March 29, 1927, Major Henry O'Neil de Hane Segrave becomes the first man to break the 200 mph barrier. Driving a 1,000 horsepower Mystery Sunbeam, Segrave averaged 203.79 mph on the course at Daytona Beach, Florida.
- * On March 31, 1959, the Dalai Lama, fleeing the Chinese suppression of a national uprising in Tibet, crosses into India, where he is granted political asylum. With the beginning of the Cultural Revolution in China, suppression of Tibetan Buddhism escalated, and practice of the religion was banned and thousands of monasteries were destroyed.
- * On April 1, 1963, the ABC television network airs the premiere episode of the daytime drama "General Hospital." The enduring soap opera would become the longest-running serial program produced in Hollywood.
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Coal Dust: Culture Shock



Terry Futrell Author

A first visit to a madhouse is always a shock. Anna Freud

After spending the first 18 years of my life sheltered in the rural community of Coalfield, Tennessee, I was totally unprepared for the culture shock of enrolling as a resident student at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. My

culture shock was the result of two major factors – the vastness of the University and the radically different philosophy of education.

At Coalfield, we had 205 students in high school during my senior year, with only 36 students in my senior class. There were only about 1500 residents in the entire Coalfield community at that time. With one appliance/drygoods store and four small grocery stores, Coalfield was perhaps the epitome of rural America. The crime rate was virtually non-existent, everyone knew and talked to their neighbors, and there was a strong spirit of

community. The word that best described Coalfield in 1964 was "peaceful".

In stark contrast to Coalfield, the University of Tennessee seemed as big as the universe – and, it was growing rapidly. Mine was the first class of post war baby boomers to enroll at the University. The resident student enrollment swelled from 16,226 in 1963 to 20,229 in 1964. During the next four years, the University resident enrollment exploded to almost 30,000 students. It was into this chaotic growth spurt that my Coalfield roommate, John Jackson, and I were thrust.

John and I were Hess Hall dormitory, where we

were placed amid mostly upperclassmen. The floor of our dorm was L-shaped with the community bathrooms in the center. It is embarrassing to admit this now, but I never ventured beyond the bathrooms to the other end of the floor for the first four months! To put things in even better perspective, our dormitory had a total population roughly equivalent to the population of all of Coalfield! This did not help us in assimilating into university life.

Even more shocking than the size of the University was its philosophy of education. I was an excellent math student in high school, scored 33 in math on the ACT, and could work just about any algebra problem that was thrown at me. I quickly found that none of this was relevant – no one cared if I could solve algebra problems. Instead, they wanted me to prove why, based on theories, it was possible to solve problems a particular way. Furthermore, the total focus of college algebra was on set theory, something not introduced at Coalfield until later. I was totally confused! As for understanding why it was possible to solve problems a certain way, I really didn't care. Life was full of problems and it was only the solution that mattered to me. I found this same theoretical approach taken in most of my engineering classes. It seems that the faculty wanted to prepare students for research in graduate school and I was more interested in getting a job in the real world.

To attend the University of Tennessee, I had to work throughout my college career. My first quarter was spent working in the cafeteria at the student center. What a horrible job! I would equate it to helping clean manure out of the barns on Elbert Jackson's dairy farm. The woman who ran the cafeteria was an absolute tyrant with all sorts of petty rules that made no sense. Sometimes I had to peel potatoes. Two stools were located at the station where we peeled potatoes, but if she caught you sitting while you peeled, you received a chewing out that would have made a sailor blush.

We were forced to take our pay in food - \$1.10 in food for each hour worked. If our food was less than that amount when we went through the line to check out, we were charged \$1.10 anyway. They wouldn't even let us pick up a piece of fruit at the register to make up the difference. However, if our food totaled even five cents more than \$1.10, we had to pay the difference in cash. This was nothing short of robbery.

> The student workers were really challenged on Saturdays when there were home football games. We were not allowed to eat until all customers were served, and often the cafeteria ran out of almost all food. Imagine working hard for several hours and then having to sit down to a meal of Jello in exchange for an hour of work!

water heater in the student center was not working. No matter! We followed the cafeteria manager's direction and placed the dirty dishes in the dishwashing machine where they were washed in cold water. While the dishes may have

One game day, the hot

The massive size of the University of Tennessee in comparison to Coalfield assigned to the ground floor of High School was a real culture shock for Terry. [Photo submitted]

looked clean, they certainly weren't sanitized and glasses were placed back on the line with milk residue still visible!

I became very sick one Sunday evening and was transported by ambulance to the student infirmary where I was kept in bed for two days. Apparently, it was a case of food poisoning. There was no opportunity to call and tell my cafeteria supervisor that I could not report for work. When I was released from the infirmary, I immediately went to the cafeteria manager to explain why I had missed work and received a royal chewing out in return.

The treatment of student workers by the cafeteria manager was quite harsh, unfair, and probably illegal. But for me it was a blessing in disguise! For the rest of my education and working career, I never had a supervisor who was that bad. At the age of nineteen, the worst was behind me.

Some years later, I read in the newspaper of the death of the former cafeteria manager. Turns out she was a friend of actor Burt Reynolds. She went to college with Reynolds and had a bit role in his movie W.W. and the Dixie Dancekings in 1975. Burt Reynolds came to Knoxville to attend her funeral. I never did like him after that!

Subsetbe to the Morgan County Today by calling 423.346.2329 or emailing publisher@mocotoday.com



Journeyman Lineman

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 highschool 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

Chancery Court

NOTICE TO

Case Number

Morgan County CREDITORS

_P-11-22

Wartburg, Tennessee

In the matter of the Estate of WILLIAM CLIFFORD CATE Deceased

Notice is hereby given that on the 16TH day of FEBRUARY 2022, Letters of Testamentary in respect to the Estate of WILLIAM CLIFFORD CATE who died on the 30TH day of DECEMBER 2021, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk of Morgan County, Tennessee. All persons, residents, and non-residents, having claims, matured or unmatured against her Estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claim will be forever barred.

(1)

Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or

Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or

(2)

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

This 16TH day of FEBRUARY 2022.

DAVID A. MONTGOM-

ERY ATTORNEY

Executor

ANGELA R. ANDERSON

WILLIAM ALLEN CATE

Clerk and Master

TALLESSE ALLEY
Deputy Clerk

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR MORGAN COUNTY TENNESSEE

IN RE THE ADOPTION OF: BENTLEY EDWARD LEE WALTON DOB: 10/26/2020) Docket No. <u>A - U - 2</u> 2

Non-Resident Notice

In this cause, it appearing from the Petition, which is sworn to, that the Respondent, Unknown and Unnamed Father, is a non-resident of the State of Tennessee or whose whereabouts are unknown so that ordinary process cannot be served upon him. Said Respondent must file an Answer in the Chancery Court for Morgan County, Tennessee, and with Petitioners' attorney, Jennifer L. Chadwell, whose address is P.O. Box 4038, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831, within 30 days of the last date of publication or a Judgment by Default may be entered and the cause set for hearing ex parte as to Respondent. This notice will be published in the Morgan County Taddator four consecutive weeks.

This the let day of Feb, 2022.

Attorney: Jennifer L. Chadwell

Entered this the 16 day of Feld

CHANCELLOR FRANK V. WILLIAMS III

APPROVED FOR ENTRY BY

JENNIFER L. CHADWELL 022723

Law Office of Jennifer L. Chadwell, L.L.C.

Attorney for Petitioners

P.O. Box 4038 Oak Ridge, TN 37831 Phone: (865) 685-0264 Fax: (865) 294-7100 CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
I certify that a true and exact copy of the judgement or action of the Court has been served on all parties or counsel of record not signatories hereon by depositing a true and exact copy of same in the U.S. Mail postage prepaid, to the last known address of counsel of record and/or parties not signatories hereon.

This the 10 day of 6 yr 20 22

ANGELAANDERSON, CLERKAND MASTER
BY:

INVITATION TO BID

The Morgan County Solid Waste Department will be accepting bids to purchase 3 new compactors and 3 new 40-yard Octagon Receiver boxes-7ga/10ga. These Compactors must meet the following specifications. The Compactors must be a Stationary 4 yd Compactor, 230 voltage, 3ph-Hydraulic Connections, Disconnects-Right Side, Remote Power Unit with weather cover, soft shift Hydraulics and Calibrating Technology with key lock start, reverse and e stop control panel, warning lights 80% and 100% Pressure gauge on Power Unit-Multicycle Hold to Run Ground Feed Side Load Hopper- (84 Rule Compliant) will be loading from both sides SC Guide (110") with Large Stops, or something compatible with the description. Bid opening will be at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 9th at the Morgan County Courthouse on the Third floor in the Conference Room. Bids must be turned in by 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 9th. 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

The Morgan County Solid Waste Department will be accepting bids to purchase a 3 / 4 ton 4X4 pick-up truck. This truck must meet the following specifications. It must not be older than a 2019 year model, must have at least a 6.2 liter gas engine, must be a crew cab, must be 4X4, truck must not have over 52,500 miles. Sealed bids must be submitted by 9:00 a.m. Friday March 11th. 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

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