

## Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3 www.mocotoday.com Volume 08 Number 14 Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Your Community. Your News.



#### Morgan County Today

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WEEKLY WEATHER

62°/52°

**71°**/44°

60°/38°

**52°**/36°

**55°**/36°

**65°**/43°

68°/48°

Tue 05

Wed 06

Thu 07

Fri 08

Sat 09

Sun 10

Mon 11

## Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

Ms. Avery Pearl Pet Columnist

This has been a crazy week. First, Will Smith slapped Chris Rock. Then, a snake came

into my kingdom.

Tommy went to the dock and there Mr Snake was. Just laying there, like he owned the place! The nerve he has!

What makes him think he can trespass on my property? He must think he is special or something. He just doesn't know who he is messing with.

This kingdom just ain't big enough for the two of us.

Dude, this land is for Ms Avery Pearl and her people. So, just slither along. Don't make me go all Will Smith on you. Cause this is my land and I will defend

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

Go to Morgan County Today on Facebook for Ms Avery Pearl's Spring Pet Photo Contest.



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### Tuesday, April 5

April 5: Road Committee at 5 p.m. at the Road Department

April 5: Solid Waste Com-

at 6 p.m. at the Road Department

#### Sunday, April 10

White Oak Missionary Baptist Church/Sunbright will be having The Youngs of Knoxville singing their morning worship service April 10, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is Welcome!

Nance will be bringing the Easter Sunrise Service message at Elizabeth Baptist Church at 6:30 am, outside, weather permitting. Everyone is invited to attend.

#### **Undated Events**

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

Morgan County Republican Party meets the last Thursday of every month at 7pm at the American Legion in Wartburg

#### **American Legion Post 149**

April 9, 2022 – Monthly Big Breakfast! We will be serving an assortment of food plus we now make fresh omelets, all for \$9.00 per adult, \$5.00 per child under twelve. To-go-

boxes will be available for \$9.50. We will start serving at 8:00 am and will finish at 11:00 am. April 21, 2022 – Will be conducting our monthly Legion members meeting. We will start promptly at 7:00 pm. This meeting is where we will vote for officers. Also, Morgan County Agriculture will provide dinner. To make sure we have enough food please call the office at 423-215-1734 by April 14, 2022.

#### Monday, April 11

Meadowview Baptist Church will begin a revival April 11th thru 13th at 7pm each night. Bro. Allen Johnson will be the evangelist. Pastor Ralph Nance and congregation invite everyone to atttend

Budget meeting 6pm

**County Commission** meeting 7pm

#### Sunday, April

On Sunday, April 17th, Bro Ralph

#### APRIL 2022 **Morgan County Schools** Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday DID YOU KNOW? . . . April is a great month for meteor MANAGER'S showers. One of which is the Lyrids **CHOICE** Meteor Shower, which appears from April 16th - 26th each year. Breakfart Eggs, Biscuit & Gravy Fruit Parfait Holiday Meal Fish or Ham, Colored Egg Macaroni & Cheese Baked Beans Garden Saliad Holt Roll resh Strawherins | Dessert Breakfast Burrito Fresh Smoothie Breakfast Sausage Biscuit Juice Lunch Spaghetti or Chicken Alfredo Steamed Broccoli **SPRING** Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Garden Salad Sister Schubert Roll **BREAK** Caesar Salad Veggie Sticks & Dip Garlic Sticks

SPRING PROF SPRING **BREAK BREAK** 

Pancake on a Stick
Juice
Lunch
Mini Corn Dog or Nuggets
Tater Tots Breakfast Sausage Biscuit Fruit Parfait

Mandarin Chicken Noodle Steamed Rice Steamed Vegetables Garden Salad Side Kick Broccoli & Cheese Garden Salad Fresh Veggies & Dip rawberry/ Blueberry C Breakfast Pizza, Cereal 25 Breakfast Chicken Biscuit Juice Fresh Fruit
Lunch
Chicken Sandwich
Seasoned Fries
Baked Beans
Pasta Salad
Tossed Salad
Jell-O Cup w/ Fruit Pizza Steamed Corn Caesar Salad

Fresh Veggies & Dip Fresh Berries Baked Cookie

SPRING

**BREAK** 

Breakfast
Mini Cinnamon Rolls
Fruit Smoothie
Breakfast for Lunch
Eggs, Gravy & Biscuit
Chicken or Sausage

Potato Fresh Berries Fruit Parfait Ba

Breakfast Steak Biscuit Lunch Frito Chili Pie Fruit Parfait

Breakfast
Eggs, Biscuit & Gravy
Fruit Smoothle
Lunch
BBQ or Hamburger on Bun
Trimmings
Baked Potato Wedges
Baked Beans
Tossed Salad
Cool Tropics Peaches- N- Cream Wal Peaches- N- Cream Wal Fruit Lunch Mini Calzones or Mozzarella Cheese Dippers Cheese Sauce Steamed Broccoli Fresh Garden Salad Fruit Breakfast
Breakfast Burrito
Banana
Lunch
Chicken Tenders
Macaroni & Cheese
Green Beans
Tossed Salad
Hot Roll
Berry Cup 28

14)

**SPRING** 

**BREAK** 

GOOD

**FRIDAY** 

All Morgan County Students will receive a reimbursable breakfast and lunch at **NO CHARGE** 

Variety of Milk & Juice Variety of Fresh Fruit & Veggies Available Daily

Breakfast & unch Menu are subject to change due to availability

> "This institution is an equal opportunity provider."



#### **In Loving Memory**

#### Abigail "Ooten" Griffith

Abigail "Ooten" Griffith passed away suddenly at her home on March 29, 2022, after being sick for an extended period.

She is preceded in death by her father, Cletus Ooten; grandfather, Ivan Howard; stepmother, Carolyn Ooten; sisters, Julie Ooten and Tina Ooten.

She is survived by her husband Mike Griffith; sons, Dusty Aytes and Travis Ledbetter; mother, Sharon Ashbrook; siblings, Karen Wyatt, Darren Ooten, and Misty Sagar; grandmother, Faye Howard.

Abby loved everyone and loved life. She especially loved her family and was a very kind person. Tenderhearted and forgiving and will be forever missed.

The family will receive friends Friday, April 1, 2022, at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00-2:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Rev. Roy Langley officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Abigail "Ooten" Griffith.

#### Anita Marie Hall, 69

Anita Marie Hall, age 69, of Harriman passed away peacefully at her home in Mossy Grove, March 29, 2022. Anita loved music and had always been about family.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Timberline & Betty Hall and sister, Candie Hardwick.

She is survived by her children, Angela Nelson, Jim Simmers and Jamie Wright; brothers, Randy Hall, Rickey Hall, Tom Hall, Wayne Hall, George Hall, Darrell Hall, Leonard Hall and Harold Hall; sisters, Julie Neal, Lois Hall and Karen Brummet; grandchil-

dren, Hayley, Terra, Alexandria Nelson, Jadyn & Paisley Wright, Ashleigh Simmers and Lukas Stewart and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family.

The family will receive friends April 2, 2022, at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00-1:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 1:00 p.m. with Rev. Randall Landrum. Interment will follow in the Forestner Cemetery in Lancing.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Anita Marie Hall.

#### Mary Woods, 86

Mary Woods, age 86, of the Joyner Community passed away March 28, 2022 at the Morgan County Lifecare Center.

She was the daughter of William "Buck" and Viola M. Howell of Roane County. She was a member of Meadow View Baptist Church.

Mary is preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Sharon "Sissy" Sensaboy Elmore; brothers, Herman "Boyd", and William "Pete" Howell; sisters, Willette Brezeal, Louise Webb and Jo Forrester.

She is survived by her husband, James Woods; sons, Ronnie and Michael (Donna) Sensaboy; sisters, Joyce (Jerry) Green, Brenda (John) Hinds, Wanda (Wayne) Franklin; grandchildren, Stacy

(Thomas) Nelson, Seth (Leanna) Sensaboy, Paul Elmore and Jamon Sensaboy; stepdaughter, Debbie (Johnny) Lively and step grandchildren, Leann (Scott) Beaty and Nathan (Kayla) Lively; great grandchildren, Austin, Bryson, Marshall, Gunner and Bentlee.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 6:00-8:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 8:00 p.m. with Rev. Ralph Nance and Rev. Randall Landrum officiating. Graveside services will be Thursday at 11:00 a.m. at Union Cemetery in Wartburg.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mary Woods.

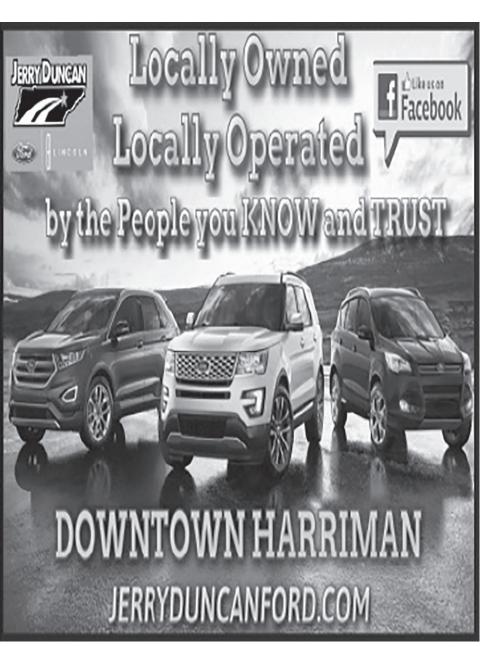
Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.



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#### What is Title 42 and how does it Impact Immigration?



**Columnist** 

It is impossible for the author to opine about Title 42 without first outlining a healthy dose of

Michael Nance irony concerning the politicizing of the covid-19

pandemic. Across the nation the vaccine mandates and mask policies have initiated a firestorm of political partisanship and court wrangling. Now, however, it appears that the left has decided that the pandemic has to take a backseat to immigration policies and subsequently the Title 42 power of public health officials. So, what is

Title 42, and how does it impact our lives locally? That is the question this article is intended to address.

Title 42 is a public health authority that gives federal health officials the ability to enact special measures when the country is experiencing a pandemic. These special measures are aimed at limiting "the introduction of communicable diseases." This power has been available to the federal government since 1883 but has never been so widely used and controversial.

The Trump administration used the Title 42 powers in March of 2020, to turn away migrants seeking entry. Many on the left have contended that Trump's implementation of Title 42 has closed America's borders to refugees and asylum seekers. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recently announced that Title 42, will be terminated on May 23. They go on to explain that the May 23 date will allow the Department of Homeland Security time to increase the vaccination programs for migrants entering the U.S.

Many on the right and left believe this is a terrible move on the part of the Biden administration and has cascading implications for the United States in a number of areas including illegal drugs.

Senator Joe Manchin, a democrat representing West Virginia spoke out against President Biden's decision to lift Title 42 and described it as a "frightening decision." Manchin's comments echo the concerns of many that more migrants will flock to the southern border after hearing news of the Title 42 lift. That may serve to please Biden's base, but it will certainly increase the flow of illegal drugs into the United States as the cartels routinely exploit migrants trying to cross into the United States.

In an interview in March of 2021, with Sharyl Attkisson, Republican South Carolina Senator, Lindsey Graham explained Trump's actions concerning Title 42 and the ongoing asylum abuse which Trump was successful at eliminating. The



following is an excerpt of Graham's interview:

"This is a disaster in the making. Trump was right about the asylum abuse. Under the old system, if you got one foot in the United States and you claim asylum, we have to process your claim. We release you into the United States. Your hearing is four years in the future. There's a million and a half people waiting to have their case heard. Nobody shows up. 90% of the people who were processed and released in the United States, never show up for the hearing four years later. So what did Trump do? He said the following to Mexico: 'if you will hold these people in your country until the court date comes, I will help you pay for that.' Guess what? The Remain in Mexico policy shut down asylum seekers. It went from being full to almost empty. Why? Nobody's going to pay \$20,000 from Guatemala, to wait in Mexico for four years. When the word got out that you can't stay in the United States, that they're going to send you back to Mexico, you're not released in the United States, the whole program dried up. Now word is out that the Remain in Mexico policy is being changed. So the smugglers and the human traffickers are

advertising in Guatemala and El Salvador and Honduras and other places that the old system is back. Guess what? They're taking the people that were staying in Mexico, they're bringing them back into the United States. They're going to release some like they used to do. And you're going to

turn on the faucet."

Even the Communication Director for the Biden administration Kate Bedingfield seems to agree that the border crisis will worsen as Title 42 is lifted. She was recently quoted as saying: "We have every expectation that when the CDC ultimately decides it's appropriate to lift Title 42, there will be an influx of people to the border, and so we are doing a lot of work to plan for that contingency."

Based on the available information it is the author's opinion that special interest groups and political partisanship are the main drivers behind the decision to lift Title 42. Lifting Title 42 may increase migrants and the flow of drugs into the United States, but it will also increase the consequences for the democratic party in the upcoming mid-term elections.

The author will wager a guess and predict that the lifting of Title 42 will not be popular with the mainstream public and the democrats will suffer the consequences in the upcoming mid-term elections. Stay tuned, this story will not go away anytime soon!



# Sheriff Wayne Potter Selected for U.S.- Mexico Border Delegation

By Michael Nance

The drugs crossing the U.S. Mexican border are flooding rural America, including East Tennessee counties. The Mexican cartels have shifted focus to the distribution of synthetic drugs like fentanyl and meth. The shift to synthetic drugs by the cartels, combined with the unprecedented ongoing border crisis guarantees that our local police will face increased danger at every corner.

This issue has not escaped the focus of United States Senator Bill Hagerty (R-TN). He recently announced that he is leading a delegation of Tennessee Sheriffs and

Mayors to the border to witness the national security crisis firsthand. It is obvious that Senator Hagerty understands the implications of the border crisis on small rural communities like Morgan County Tennessee. He was quoted as saying:

"What I'd like to share with you is what's happening in my home state of Tennessee. What we're seeing month after month are more overdoses and more deaths from illegal drugs that are coming across that southern border. That's why this weekend, I'm going to take a group of leaders, sheriffs and mayors from my home state that are experiencing this first-hand in Tennessee, we're going to travel



Senator Bill Hagerty with Sheriff Wayne Potter at the southern border. (Photo Submitted)

to the border so that we can all encounter this and see exactly what's happening and what's failing at the border, because it's precipitating deaths around the nation. 100,000 young people have died in America—just this past year alone—from drug overdoses,"

Senator Haggerty selected Sheriff Wayne Potter as a member of his delegation to the border, Potter was one of six Sheriffs and two county mayors who accompanied Haggerty along the southern border. Sheriff Potter spoke with leaders of the U.S. Border patrol and local sheriffs who are intimately familiar with the border problem.

Sheriff Potter returned from Texas late Sunday night and when asked about the trip made the following statement concerning the border problem:

"You would have to see it to believe it, after visiting all of the sites and seeing sections of an unfinished wall, I am certain that the border crisis is significantly contributing to the drug problem inside Morgan County." Potter went on to further explain that one of the deadliest drugs fentanyl, mainly originates from China and penetrates the weakest point of entry into the United States, which is the southern border. This storm of drugs passes from the southern border through East Tennessee traveling north." He concluded by Stating, "We are in the middle of the storms path!"

Potter visited the U.S. Mexican border at the following locations in Texas; McAllen, Anzalduas Park Marina, La Anacua Ranch, Laredo Texas, and concluding his trip at the World Trade Bridge.

Sheriff Potter's participation in Senator Haggerty's border delegation provides him with perspective and insight that will yield significant benefits to his department in combating the local drug problem.

This is a proud moment for Morgan County as never before has a Morgan County official participated in a delegation reviewing a national issue of such importance.



#### Sandra Helton's weekly column

#### Oakdale Area News

email: kvhelton@highland.net



I would like to give a huge shout out to Oakdale School Drama Club and director Julie Crowe for another fantastic production. There were several daytime performances last week as well as three nighttime performances. The students did a wonderful job in their roles. It was great to enjoy the dinner theatre after three years of not being able to do so. I am already excited about next year's show.

Morgan County Schools will have Spring Break April 8-14 and observe Good Friday on April 15. Students will return to school on Monday, April 18.

Congratulations to our nephew Bryant Human who recently retired from the United States Air Force after 20 years of service. We are very proud of him. Bryant is the son of RB and Velma Human of Wartburg, the grandson of Fayetta Helton of Oakdale and the great grandson of Irene Helton of Oakdale.

Belated Birthday Greetings to Dean Headrick of Crossville. Dean celebrated his birthday on March 31. He and his wife Debbie surprised his mother, Ruth Headrick, with a visit Thursday afternoon. I won't mention your age Dean but some might consider it a milestone!

Happy Birthday to Robert Walker who will celebrate his 91st birthday tomorrow, April 6. Robert is still going strong. He has already changed the oil in his lawn tractor in preparation for mowing season. We wish you many more blessed years.

Happy Birthday to our daugh-

ter, Kayla Ruppe, who will celebrate her birthday Thursday, April 7. Kathryn Meunier Zachary will also celebrate her birthday on April 7. Have a great day ladies.

Congratulations to Dennis and Tabitha Hamby who will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary Monday, April 11. Enjoy your day!

Oakdale Library will have crafting hour (geared for adults) Wednesday, April 6 from 10:30 – 11:30. Scrapbooking supplies will be available for anyone who would like to use them. There will also be another blanket to tack and donate as was done last month. Everyone is welcome to participate.

The Town of Oakdale will hold their 7th annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 9 at Oakdale Park beginning at 12:00 noon. This event is for all ages.

The Clothes Closet at Pine Orchard Baptist Church will be open Saturday, April 9 from 10:00 - 12:00. Everything is free.

Oakdale Area Volunteer Fire Department will host a pulled pork dinner and silent auction Saturday, April 23 from 3:00 - 7:00 at Pine Orchard Community Center. Cost for the dinner will be \$6 and takeout will be available. This will be the first fund raiser in several years so make plans to attend for an evening of food and fun. Anyone wishing to donate items for the auction can contact a volunteer fireman or Sandra Helton.

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Bunt and I enjoyed a short trip to the Smoky Mountains last week. We did a little shopping and hiking. We enjoyed our hike on Porter's Creek Trail where we saw a lot of pretty wildflowers.

Pre K and Kindergarten registration will be Monday, May 9 at Oakdale School from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. The following are requirements for registration:

- 1. Birth Certificate
- 2. Proof of Residence
- 3. TN form immunization/ shot record
- 4. Social Security Card
- 5. Court Documents
- 6. Pre-K enrollment requires proof of income. Kindergarten doesn't require this.

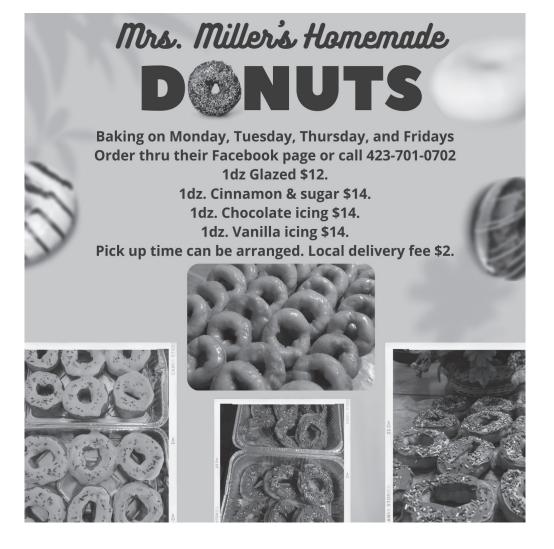
Condolences to the friends and family of Amy Jones Gray who passed away Tuesday, March 29. Amy and her husband Dwayne lived in Rockwood but she has strong family ties in Morgan County. Her late grandparents were Noah and Minnie Jones. She is survived by her husband Dwayne Gray, her daughter Gena Gray, her parents Mitchell and Stacy Jones, her brothers Jeremy and Kevin (Molly) Jones and her grandmother Ruby Whittaker

as well as a host of other family members and friends. The family received friends Saturday, April 2 with the funeral following. Graveside and interment was Sunday in Roane Memorial Gardens.

Sympathy is extended to the Pine Orchard Baptist Church Family due to the passing of their pastor's wife. Rhonda Nickell passed away Wednesday, March 30. Prayers for her family during this time. She is survived by her husband Ronnie Nickell, her son Joey (Kim) Nickell and her daughter Jessica Ariks. She is also survived by five granddaughters, Sara Beth and Myley Nickell and Laci, Abby and Madison Ariks. She is also survived by many other family members and friends. Services were held Sunday, April 3rd at the Grove Church in Kingston.

Please keep all the families who have lost loved ones in recent months in your prayers. Continue to pray for those who are ill and their caregivers. Pray for our country and our leaders as well as other countries who are dealing with difficult times.

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





Carol Hall Author

#### A King's Ransom: Chapter 2: Part 2

"Take a walk with me," Garrick said, holding out his arm to her.

Wrapping her hand around his proffered arm, she smiled up at him. "And where shall we walk to?"

"The edge of the forest, I think," he said. "It's a good walking distance, but it isn't too far. We can get there and back in thirty minutes."

"Sounds fine to me," Bronwyn said. She knew that the two of them were getting stares from some of the villagers they passed as they left the blacksmith's shop, but she refused to acknowledge them. Instead, she kept her eyes focused straight ahead and concentrated on the road in front of her.

The road narrowed as it neared the wood line. Tall, heavily leafed trees began to form a canopy over the road,

offering a shady reprieve from the heat that was beginning to rise. As they walked along, Bronwyn felt Garrick stiffen a little.

"Garrick?" she asked him, gazing up at his face. He wore an anxious expression that concerned her. "What's wrong?"

"Nothing's wrong, Bronwyn," he said. "But I need to talk to you."

"What about?" she asked, feeling an uneasiness grow in the pit of her stomach.

"My father is pushing me to get married," he said in a rush. "He says that a man of nineteen years should be married by now. Or at least engaged...with a marriage date set."
"Garrick..." Bronwyn began.

"Bronwyn, wait," Garrick stopped her. "Before you say anything, hear me out."

"Fine," Bronwyn said. "But you know how I feel. I'm not ready for marriage. Not to you, or anyone else."

"I know," Garrick said, a slight edge to his voice. "But maybe you need to think harder about it. Maybe you're just scared. Maybe you don't really know what you want."

"Maybe I don't know what I want?" Bronwyn repeated, angrily. "I know exactly what I want. It's just not you!"

She started to storm off, but Garrick grabbed her arm. "Bronwyn, wait."

"For what?" she asked, still angry. "For you to tell me what I want?"

"I didn't mean for it to sound that way," he said. "I just want you to consider it. We could be really happy together. I love you. I want to marry you."

"But I'm not in love with you, Garrick," Bronwyn said, putting an emphasis on each word. "Why would you want to marry someone who doesn't love you in return?"

"You will grow to love me," he said, placing his hands on her shoulders. "A lot of people

get married without being in love, but they learn to love each other."

"I don't want to learn to love you, Garrick," Bronwyn said, frustrated. "I've known you my whole life. You're my friend, and I care a great deal about you. Just not in that way.

Why can't you understand that?"
"Because...I...my father...," Garrick stumbled over the words.

"Wait...," Bronwyn said, laying her hand on his chest and shoving him back a step. "You only want to marry me because your father is pressuring you to?"

"He's a very persuasive man," Garrick said. "If I don't marry within the year, I don't know what he'll do. He's threatened to kick me out of his home if I don't find a wife, and soon."

"I'm so sorry, Garrick," Bronwyn said, sympathetically. "It's horrible that he's being like that. But that still isn't a reason to get married to someone you don't love. You could build your own house and live in it. You don't need a wife for that."

"Bronwyn, I need, and want, a wife," he said. "Father is right. A man my age should already be married."

"I'm sorry, but I'm not going to be that wife for you," Bronwyn said. "I want to marry for love. I want to be loved. Not just needed."

"But, I do love you," Garrick said.

"No, you don't," Bronwyn argued. "Not really. You only think you do because you so desperately want to get married. There are plenty of girls in this village that would love to marry you. Why don't you choose one of them?"

"They're all so giddy and childish," Garrick said. "I want a woman. I want you!"

"Garrick...," Bronwyn started.

"Please, Bronwyn," he pleaded. "Just think on it some more. I'll give you a week, and then I'll need your answer."

"You already have my answer," Bronwyn stated firmly.

Turning on her heels, she started off toward the village, leaving Garrick standing there with a look of defeat on his face.

She was about halfway back when the sound of distant hoof beats reached her ears. By the sounds of it, there was a whole army coming their way.

Fear seized her heart.

The king's men only came around for one reason.

Taxes.

Turning to look back at Garrick, she saw the look of alarm on his face. He heard it, too. "We have to get back!" Bronwyn yelled back to him.

"Go!" Garrick said, pointing toward the village.

They raced down the road as fast as their legs would carry them.

The king's men had not yet reached the village, but the cloud of dust rising in the distance warned them that they would be there soon.

"I have to get home," Bronwyn said when they reached the main street. "Mama probably doesn't know they're coming yet."

"Go!" Garrick said. "I need to get home, too. Father will expect me to be there."

The king's men were sent out once a year to collect the land taxes from each person in the surrounding villages of the Kingdom of Arramore.

King Radomir was a harsh ruler who demanded his subjects pay their due taxes, or else. The peasants in the small villages were expected to pay the same high fees as those in much higher social standings. Most couldn't afford them. When that happened, their lands were taken, they were dragged off and thrown in the dungeons, and some were even put to death. Everyone feared the king's men because no one knew what was owed until they came to collect.

Bronwyn knew her mother wasn't prepared to pay the exorbitant fees that would be expected of them. The king's men were months too early. They had not had enough time to gather up the necessary funds.

Since her father died, Bronwyn knew that her mother had no way of raising the money needed. She, herself, could not come up with a way to make the payment either.

Rushing down the road toward her house, she saw her mother step outside. She was wringing her hands in the front of her skirt. A sure sign she was nervous.

"Bronwyn!" her mother called out when she saw her running down the road toward her. "Hurry!"

Bronwyn reached her mother, but was out of breath. Bending over, she panted, "King's men...coming...be here...soon."

"I know," her mother said, almost in tears. "I saw the dust and heard the hoof beats coming this way."

Bronwyn strained her neck to look beyond the village toward the growing wall of dust

made by the horsemen.
"Why are they so early?" her mother asked. "They shouldn't be here for another few

months."

"I don't know," said Bronwyn. "Do we have anything to give them? Anything at all?"

"No," Rhoslyn said. "Not a cent. I thought I'd have more time."
"It's ok, Mama," Bronwyn said. "We'll just have to give them Nickers as payment."

"Do you think it'll be enough?" her mother asked, a nervous tremor in her voice.

"I sure hope so," Bronwyn said. "I'm going to go get Nickers from the blacksmith's shop."

"Hurry," her mother said. "They'll be here soon."

Bronwyn took off down the road at a dead run. She didn't know how much time she had, but the sound of the army approaching was growing louder with every minute that passed. As she rounded the corner into the blacksmith's yard, she saw Mr. Mowbray leading Nickers out of the barn.

"Mr. Mowbray," Bronwyn said, winded again. "I need to take him right away. The king's men are coming, and we don't have anything to pay them. We're going to see if they'll take Nickers as payment."

"Now wait just a minute," Mr. Mowbray said, pulling the lead rope away from Bronwyn's outstretched hand. "Your mother owes me for the shoes I just put on him. If you give Nickers to the king, what will she use to pay me with?"

"We'll worry about that later, Mr. Mowbray," Bronwyn said, hurriedly, reaching for the lead rope again. "But right now, I have to get home. They're almost here."

"I don't think so," Mr. Mowbray said, callously. "If you're mother can't afford to pay her taxes, then she won't be able to pay me either. I'll be keeping Nickers myself until she can pay up."

Bronwyn stared at the man in complete disgust. His mustache was twitching at the corners, and his paunchy belly was heaving. Sweat was breaking out on his forehead, and his small, beady eyes held a challenge in them.

"Mr. Mowbray, you know my mother is good for the money," Bronwyn said. "She just needs a little time. You'll get paid. But for now, I need this horse to pay for our taxes. If not, we could lose our land, or worse, be thrown in the dungeons."

"Young lady," Mr. Mowbray said, unsympathetically. "I don't care about your problems. I did you a service, and I want payment."

Bronwyn was losing her patience with the blacksmith. Knowing the soldiers would be arriving at any moment, she threw out her hand and grabbed the lead rope away from Mr. Mowbray.

"I don't have time to argue with you, sir," she said, placing her hand on his shoulder and shoving him backward. "I'm taking my horse."

Swinging herself up onto Nickers back, she gave a sudden, sharp kick to his ribs, causing him to rear up. When his hooves hit the ground, he was running. She didn't bother to look back. She knew Mr. Mowbray was shaking his fist in the air, throwing threats her way.

Oh well, she thought. They'd just have to deal with him later.

It took only moments for her to reach her home, but it was just in time to see a large group of armor clad men come galloping into the village.

By Carol Hall

## A KING'S RANSOM



CAROL HALL

Now Available on Amazon

#### NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JoAnn Derson

- \* A garden manicure is what my mother calls it: When working with plants and dirt, rake your nails across a bar of soap. The soap prevents dirt particles from lodging under nails, and the soap washes away easily when you are finished. Happy Gardening! -- JoAnn
- \* "If you have a spade with a long handle, you can transfer common measurements to the handle. Just lay a tape measure alongside the handle, and use a black marker to note common spacing, like feet and inches. Then, when you put in plants, you can check quickly whether they are spaced correctly. Very handy!" --P.E. in Arkansas
- \* "Garden tool storage doesn't have to be hard. Fill a wide mouth bucket with clean sand. Add a half quart or motor oil and stir. Then use the sand to clean and store your garden tools like shovels, rakes or hoes. The sand/oil mixture helps clean the metal surfaces,

#### STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- \* A honey badger named Stoffel, resident of a wildlife center in South Africa, was noted not just for repeated escapes from his enclosure, but his stubborn penchant for pursuing much larger animals than himself. After ending up in the clinic after attacking two lions, upon his release, he immediately broke free to attack them again!
- \* The novelty song "Monster Mash" by Bobby Pickett was banned by the BBC for over a decade on the grounds it was too morbid.
- \* Sorry, Honey Nut Cheerios fans, your cereal doesn't contain any nuts. While ground almonds used to be included, since 2006 just "natural al-

mond flavor" has been used, and that is typically derived from apricot and peach pits.

- \* An estimated 5% of the population has never experienced a headache.
- \* Who needs Red Bull? In the early 1900s, distance runners were given champagne, brandy or even strychnine (rat poison) as a type of "energy drink" during long races.
- \* Robert Pirsig's "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance" holds the world record for being the most-often rejected book to later become a bestseller, with a whopping 121 refusals before a publisher finally agreed to buy it.
- \* On the moon, the Earth doesn't appear to rise or set, just wobble a bit.

and the heaviness of the container lets you stick them in the sand without fear of everything falling down, like it would if you leaned them along a wall." -- E. in North Carolina

- \* Here's a recipe for a quickie bird feeder or bath: Flip over a nice-size flower pot, and place the pot's tray on the top. Fill with seed or water. The birds will thank you -- maybe even by eating some nuisance bugs along with the seed.
- \* If the string on your trimmer is always breaking or jamming, try this old trick: Give the coiled string a spray with vegetable oil before you thread it. It lubricates the line, making it less likely to pull and less likely to break.

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

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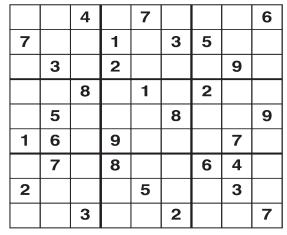
- \* A Ukrainian couple tried to save their failing relationship by handcuffing themselves together. They lasted about four months before throwing in the towel for good.
- \* Studies have shown that removing lead from gasoline was a factor leading to the decline of violent crime in 1990s America. Individuals exposed to lead at young ages have numerous conditions and problems with impulse control, all of which may negatively impact their decisions as they reach adulthood.

Thought for the Day: "You always pass failure on the way to success." -- Mickey Rooney

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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

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Justice Dept. agency
- 4 Physician's
- nickname
- 7 Grating
- 12 Vintage
- 13 Away from WSW
- 14 Mountain
- crest 15 Set afire
- 16 Yosemite peak featured
- in "Free Solo" 18 "CSI" evi-
- dence
- 19 Dewy 20 Billboard
- 22 Swiss peak
- 23 Bloke 27 Author
- Flemina 29 Abrasion
- 31 Planet circlers
- 34 Heart line 35 Coffeehouse
- bill collector
- 37 L-P link 38 Utah ski
- resort
- "Yoo- —!"
- 41 Pottery oven
- 45 Quotable Yogi 47 Eastern path
- 48 Bygone
- Cadillacs 52 Copper
- head?
- 53 Tierney of "Tha Affair"

- 10 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 22 24 25 32 33 35 40 52 53 54 55 56 57 58
- suffix 55 Texter's
- chuckle
- 56 Velocity
- 57 Irish actor
- Stephen
- 58 Decade parts (Abbr.)
- **DOWN**
- mi 2 Russian pan-
- cakes 3 Luggage

- attachment
- 4 Consider 5 Borrowed

6 Director

- 7 Engrossed "Exodus"
  - hero
- 9 Fixed 10 Sch. org 11 Hankering
- 17 Nile vipers 21 Martial arts
- warrior 23 Swindler 1 Creates origa- 24 Guffaw sylla
  - ble 25 Suitable
  - 26 Green shade 28 Simile part

Kinaston Trio

- 30 Paint container
- 43 Hard work 44 Seasonal songs

37

- 45 Thin nail 46 Nick and
- 31 1959
- initials 49 Napkin's place

Pavahle

50

33 Choose

Zeus

ting

Gloomy

32 Texas tea 36 Mother of 40 Sequence Tuscany set-Nora's dog 48 Ambulance



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.

# by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Iscariot in the Old Testament, New Testament or neither?

2. From Matthew 28:2, who rolled back the stone from the door of Jesus' tomb and sat upon it? Simon, An angel, Villagers, Disciples

3. When Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" came upon the risen Jesus, who did He ask them to inform? Priests, Disciples, No one, Villagers

4. From John 20, which disciple doubted Jesus had risen unless he could see the wounds? *Peter, Andrew,* Thomas, Thaddeus

5. How long did Jesus remain after His resurrection before He ascended into heaven? Instantaneously, 1 hour, 7 days, 40 days

6. According to the apostle Paul, above what number saw the risen Christ at one time? 100, 300, 500, 1000

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) An angel; 3) Disciples; 4) Thomas (called Didymus); 5) 40 days (Acts 1:3); 6) 500 (1 Cor. 15:3-8)

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

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by Healthy Exchanges

#### Lemon Supreme Pie

This recipe can be prepared with such ease, you'll be able to join in the Easter egg hunt and still have dinner on the table on time.

- (9-inch) refrigerated unbaked piecrust
- (4 serving) package sugarfree vanilla cook-and-serve pudding mix
- (4 serving) package sugarfree lemon gelatin
- cups water
- (8 ounce) package fat-free cream cheese
- cup reduced calorie whipped topping Sugar substitute to equal 1/4
- cup sugar
- teaspoon coconut extract tablespoons flaked coconut

1. Preheat oven to 450 F. Place piecrust in a 9-inch pie plate and flute edges. Prick bottom and sides with a fork. Bake 9 to 11 minutes or until crust is lightly browned. Place pie plate on wire rack and cool completely.

2. Meanwhile, in a medium saucepan, combine dry pudding mix, dry gelatin and water. Cook over medium heat until mixture thickens and starts to boil, stirring often. Place saucepan on wire rack and let set 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.

3. After both piecrust and filling have cooled, in a medium bowl, stir cream cheese with a spoon until soft. Stir in 1/2 cup whipped topping, sugar substitute and coconut extract. Spread cream cheese mixture evenly into piecrust.

4. Fold remaining 1/2 cup whipped topping into pudding mixture. Spread pudding mixture evenly over cream cheese mixture. Sprinkle coconut evenly over top. Refrigerate at least 1 hour. Cut into 8 pieces.

• Each serving equals: 179 calories, 7g fat, 5g protein, 24g carb., 362mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Starch, 1 Fat, 1/2 Meat.

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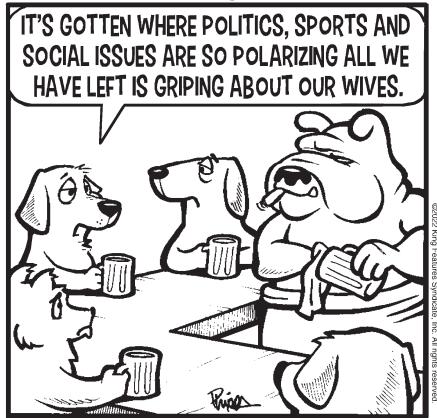






Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps







"Someone stole my identity, and I wasn't

#### THE RICH LOWRY COLUMN

By Rich Lowry

#### It's the Inflation, Stupid

---

Joe Biden is engaged in the most extensive test of whether an American president can survive elevated levels of inflation since Jimmy Carter, and it's not going well.

The latest NBC News poll has Biden at a dismal 40% approval rating that, if it doesn't change, will end the careers of Democrats up and down the ballot in November's midterm elections.

According to the poll, only a third of people approve of Biden's handling of the economy, a low that most presidents have needed a recession to hit. This number has sunk steadily -- along with Biden's overall standing -- from 52% in April of last year.

Inflation, which increased 7.9% from February 2021 to February 2022, is top of mind for voters. In the survey, 35% of people said cost of living is the first or second most important issue to the country. Climate change, in contrast, is at 17% and the pandemic at 8%. Given the choice, 68% would rather see Biden make reducing inflation and improving the economy his top priority, not the war in Ukraine. Elevated inflation represents a trifecta of doom for incumbent presidents.

Does it impact the lives of people in a discernible way that they will notice no matter what the president says or the media covers? Yes. Does it cut the pay of workers unless there are steep increases in wages? Yes.

Does it make the president seem powerless to control events? Yes.

It was a common question in the media a while ago why people felt badly about a good economy? Paul Krugman wrote column last year headlined, "The Making of a Feel-Bad Boom." The question, though, was miscast. An economy where wages are effectively falling is not a good economy, at least it isn't going to be felt by most people as such.

Even though wages grew by a robust 5.1% year-over-year this February, that wasn't enough to keep up with rising prices. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, real average hourly earnings declined 2.6% from February 2021-2022. During that 12-month period, the month-to-month change in real hourly wages was only positive in two months.

This is presumably why the NBC poll found that 62% say that their family income is falling behind, 31% say that it is staying about even, and just 6% believe it is going up faster.

Biden could combine the political talents of FDR and Reagan, the oratorical skills of Lincoln and JFK, and the common touch of Jackson and Truman, and this sense of falling behind would still be eating away at the foundations of his presidency.

Biden's default has been to reassure the public that inflation is only transitory, to place it in the context of global supply chain issues beyond the control of any one person, and to blame various malefactors, whether meat companies or Vladimir Putin, for surging prices. But the buck still stops with the president, even if the dollar has less purchasing power than it did a year ago.

Biden hasn't resorted to anything as readily mockable as President Gerald Ford's "Whip Inflation Now," or WIN buttons in 1974, but is flailing around nearly as badly (inflation did, by the way, drop steeply from 1974 to 1976, but it took a recession to achieve this momentary gain).

He's mostly trying to rebrand spending initiatives he already supported as steps toward curbing costs. Regardless, the Federal Reserve has a huge role and, so far, it, like the administration, has been slow to catch up to the new inflationary reality.

The American public has had no such luxury. For it, increased prices are a daily lived reality, and no amount of spin is going to change that. Unless conditions markedly improve soon, Biden's experiment is going to end very badly for him and his party.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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# Donna's Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

#### Create an "Egg Plant" With Easter Eggs

Shake and decorate hollowed-out Easter eggs, then save them as keep-sakes to display from year to year as a whimsical "egg plant" centerpiece. The lovely eggs, together with other favorites, can be "blooming" out of a pretty Easter basket, a medium-size flowerpot or several mini containers lined down the center of your table or along a windowsill.

Here are three easy steps for an afternoon of fun:

#### 1. BLOWING EGGS

To empty an egg, poke a small hole with a straight pin at each end of a washed raw egg. Carefully wiggle a toothpick or wooden skewer into one of the holes to break the yolk. Place a drinking straw over the hole on top, and blow through the straw, collecting the contents of the egg in a small dish. Rinse out the empty shell and let dry. Store in an empty egg carton until ready to use.

#### 2. SHAKE AND DECORATE

First, poke wooden skewers into a chunk of floral foam. Set aside. Scoop several tablespoons of brightly colored sand (available at toy and craft stores) into a clear plastic sandwich bag. Squeeze household glue from a plastic bottle in a simple design, such as zigzags or an alphabet letter, onto a

blown egg that is still white or dyed in a light color. Carefully set the egg in the plastic bag and close it lightly in your fist, keeping locked air inside. Gently shake the bag of sand to coat the glue on the egg to reveal the design you made. Remove the egg with your fingers and slip it onto one of the wooden skewers through the hole in the shell, making sure the skewer doesn't go through the hole at the opposite end.

#### 3. DISPLAY

Set the floral foam with skewers and decorated eggs in a flowerpot or Easter basket. Rearrange the skewers to balance the arrangement of budding egg "flowers." Add other decorated eggs you might have saved from previous years. Cover the foam with green moss or colorful Easter paper grass.



Hollowed-out eggs "bloom" in Easter centerpiece.

TIP: This year I lined a medium-size Easter basket with plastic, scooped potting soil inside and sprinkled wheat grass seeds on top. I kept it damp until the seeds sprouted. The green grass grew tall with sunshine and watering in just 10 days.

\*\*\*

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

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### VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

#### The Stress of IBD

Coming on the heels of a stressful two years of pandemic, the Department of Veterans Affairs has aligned with a website dedicated to those who suffer from stress-related inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. And just in time. A recent long-term study of veterans concluded that over time, the stress of veterans with bowel disease has increased.

There are likely 66,000 veterans with bowel disease who all need information and resources, and the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation (CCF) is the place to go. Right on the dedicated webpage (www.crohnscolitisfoundation.org/veterans), it asks important questions: What kind of doctor do I need? Where do I get care? How quickly can I get VA care once I'm registered?

As noted above, these last two years have put most of us under extra stress, and those with bowel disease are many times more likely than others to experience depression, PTSD

and anxiety as a fact of daily life. The CCF website points to coping tips that can help, such as meditation, relaxation techniques and exercise ... and getting help from a mental-health professional. Scroll to the bottom of the mental health page for sections on pain and fatigue, strategies to improve mental health, depression and anxiety, and daily life.

One section stands out: If you're going to be moving, you'll need a traveling veteran consult. Continuous care will begin before you leave and follow you through the move to your new location. With a traveling veteran consult, your records and info about your health and history will be ready for you on the other end. Any required care can pick up where it left off. Your responsibility will be to plan ahead and give them notice.

The website is loaded with information: diet and nutrition, complementary medicine, medications, resources and much more. The most help might be found in local chapters and support groups (there are over 200), where you'll find others who know exactly what you're experiencing.

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## Historically Speaking North Ridge Trail

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Steve Oliphant contacted me asking if I would be willing to give a talk on Oak Ridge history to a group of hikers as a part of an Oak Ridge High School reunion. I agreed and asked him more about what he had in mind. I was a bit surprised when he said he wanted the talk given in the Oak Ridge Turnpike Checking Station. I said, "Sure, I can do that." I think he was excited and am not sure he really expected me to get him access inside the checking station. However, I knew how to do that and arranged to check out the key for the date Steve specified.

I used to work for Steve's dad at Y-12. George Oliphant was a department head over the electrical department, and I worked in his department. George always started meetings exactly on time. I mean precisely on the hour! I think Steve has a bit of his dad's penchant for preciseness and he demonstrates that in his ability to know and tell of the history of Oak Ridge while leading Secret City Hikes members on trails in Oak Ridge.

He and I have come to be good friends and I have used Steve in the Stories from the Secret City Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning classes and with Keith McDaniel have had him as a guest on Hidden History: Stories from the Secret City video cast we do twice a month. Here is a link to the program featuring Steve: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-wL56CVmDa-k&t=1267s

Recently, I asked Steve to share his knowledge of Oak Ridge history along the trails of Oak Ridge in a series of Historically Speaking columns. This is the first of that series. Enjoy!

\*\*\*

The milkshake coupons were too good to pass up. It was 1972, I was finishing some light tree and yard work for Ed Spitzer, helping maintain his splendid patio view of the Windrock Mountain Range. Ed and Peggy Spitzer were best known for founding the three Dairy Queens in Oak Ridge: East, Middle, and West. They were popular in town as the experts of the DQ ice cream curl cone, an art that takes time and practice to master. The conversation turned to hiking as we were hanging the pruning tools on the pegboard.

As the last lopping shear was positioned, Ed was listening keenly to a step-by-step playback of a recent overnight trip to LeConte Lodge with my family. I told Ed I thought I was hooked; the hike strengthened my legs and knees; my spirit was telling me I would be going back to LeConte hundreds of times for the next 50 years or more. With a hopeful, cautious, and somewhat worried look, Ed gave me a smile . . . and a challenge.

I had just recovered from lengthy bouts of strep throat relapses, dangerous high fevers, and severe headaches that doctors couldn't seem to knock out, the ensuing rheumatic fever left me with a serious heart murmur and little hope of a lifetime of physical exertion. The Spitzers, long term family and church friends, visited me most days Liane Russell during the sidereal month I spent in the Oak Ridge Hospital and would leave a coupon for a free milkshake. I think the anticipation of redeeming those coupons kept me alive!

The North Ridge Trail is celebrating its 50th anniversary as a National Recreation Trail. It was the oeuvre of Dr. Liane Russell and her friends and neighbors. In 1965 some residents noticed surveying crews blazing the route for what was to be a 200 ft-wide swath for a powerline running along the entire length of the beautifully wooded northern greenbelt in Oak Ridge. The same greenspace that ran through Ed Spitzers back yard, where I pruned trees, the same greenbelt in my nearby parent's backyard.

It is where I grew up and spent most hours between the end of the school day and dinner time with the neighbors' collies as my woodland guides. After mobilizing an effort that relocated the powerlines to the developed Oak Ridge Turnpike, in 1969, this group of prescient citizens built an 8-mile-long hiking trail across the greenbelt with lopping shears, spades, and hand saws and presented it to the City of Oak Ridge as a gift.

"Steve, if you want a trail that strengthens your knees and ankles, that's perfect training to hike to Mt LeConte any time you want, we have the trail for you in the backyard. If you hike it, I will give you a milkshake coupon you can use at Dairy Queen East, at the finish, 9 miles away." Ed

Spitzer was intrigued by this new trail that started a block from his patio view at the Mississippi Avenue Cold War era evacuation road, and most thankful there would not be another powerline by the house.

As an eleven-year-old, I was intrigued there was a hiking trail that would go to a Dairy Queen, despite an 18-mile round trip. That was the first of my now golden jubilee annual hikes on the North Ridge Trail.

The late Julia Watson McClanahan was my lifelong school and church friend. She loved seeing my hiking pictures from all over East Tennessee, despite not being able to enjoy the spots in person due to health issues developed in childhood. She encouraged me to start a hiking group in Oak Ridge where members could post pictures, trail details, pointers, and information for the hundreds of miles of trails in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.



town as the experts of the DQ ice cream curl cone, an art *Steve at the Key Springs Road entrance to the North Ridge Trail* that takes time and practice to master. The conversation *(Photo Submitted)* 



Liane Russell Trillium Patch – the largest one I have ever seen (Pho-reminder to not block mailboxes or driveways when to Submitted)

You could feel Julia's face light up through her enthusiastic comments when our first 25 members started posting beautiful photos from Haw Ridge, Melton Hill Greenway, North Boundary Trails, Gallaher Bend, and the North Ridge Trail. Sadly, we heard the news that Julie passed away a couple of years ago as a group was starting a North Ridge Trail fall colors hike. That day I named my favorite North Ridge Trail view: Julia's View. We have 450 members now in our Oak Ridge hiking group named Secret City Hikes.

That brings me to the patches. But first, a few of my NRT favorite places.

The Lee Russell Trillium Patch is at the top of the Stairway to Heaven. There is a beautiful lengthy wooden staircase, built as a community project, near the eastern trailhead. In mid-April, at the top, there is a dense red and yellow trillium patch that is one of Tennessee's best. The petals appear as ballerinas dancing on top of each other for a hundred feet or so on both sides of the trail. Dr. Russell was best known for groundbreaking work in genetics in Oak Ridge including discovering the Y chromosome and the dangers of x-ray radiation on embryos.

She is equally remembered for groundbreaking environ-

mental advocacy in East Tennessee and as a founding member of the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning. The trillium patch is a wonderful place to stop and be thankful for her contributions, that is what I do when leading group hikes here, members in one of our groups said it should be named for her.

Julia's View can be found just east of the Old Batley Road access near Illinois Avenue. The trail crosses a perpendicular powerline cut that affords vast Cumberland Mountain views from Big Brushy Mountain to Vowell Mountain including a vantage point into Frozen Head and the Crab Orchard Mountain Range at the Obed River. This is Oak Ridge's best evening and sunset view and the view similar to the Spitzer's and my parents' backyard.

Just east is a unique rock formation at the Walker Lane access and one of Tennessee's best mid spring wildflower patches. The route is just wide enough to walk single file which gives the hiker a feeling of being close to nature with the least disturbance to the land. When the leaves are off the entire route has impressive views of the Windrock Mountain range.

In addition to the 8-mile linear trail (though far from straight or level) there is a spot I call the Dairy Queen Junction with trails blazed in white, red, blue, and yellow. The colors of vanilla, cherry, blueberry, and banana milkshakes, all available at 1970s Dairy Queens.

Like the Appalachian Trail, the main trail is blazed in white. Access trails are blazed in blue. A middle loop trail near the eastern section is blazed in yellow. The Delaware access is blazed in red; this is the trail that went to Dairy Queen. A hiker can take it up to Outer Drive, catch today's Pine Grove Greenway to California Avenue, from there it is a 15-minute walk to the corner of California Avenue and the Oak Ridge Turnpike, where Oak Ridge's original Dairy Queen was located (today it is a dental office).

I redeemed my milkshake coupon, and a hiking career was born. I have since hiked over 15,000 miles in the Great Smokies, and am a 900 Miler, having hiked all the trails in the GSMNP at least 4 times. But it was here I learned to train for strong ankles and knees, which not only contributed to an injury-free basketball career through college, but likewise important for safe hiking. My heart murmur slowly disappeared at the bemusement of cardiologists; hiking has tremendous health benefits.

The trail is maintained by the City of Oak Ridge and Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning Volunteers. There is Adopt-Section information on the TCWP web page. Maps can be found online at Oak Ridge Parks and Recreation, Oak Ridge Greenways, the Oak Ridge Visitor's Center, and Explore Oak Ridge.

The main trailhead is 105 Endicott Lane, there is signage designating the route as a national and state recreation trail. There are 9 other access points and parking areas that can be found on trail maps. The trail is day use only; pets are permitted, cell service is excellent. It is recommended to hike or shuttle with someone else for your first hike. Shuttle cars can be dropped at Key Springs Road or Mississippi Avenue. Residents are highly supportive of this backyard trail; however, it is a good reminder to not block mailboxes or driveways when parking cars.

As the milkshake coupons motivated me to get started on a lifetime hiking journey, the City of Oak Ridge and Oak Ridge Greenways award a Secret City Trekker Patch for hiking the original 11 trails in Oak Ridge. Our Secret City Hikes group has over 30 members now that have earned the patch.

As a way to commemorate what the Spitzers did for me, our hiking group also develops patches. One for each trail in Oak Ridge that hikers can earn when completing trails. In fact, the North Ridge Trail patch has become a collector's item, it is the only patch that has been fully distributed. That is fitting, the NRT is one of the USA's most impressive and historic trails.

\*\*\*

Thank you, Steve Oliphant! Readers, you are in for more of the same from Steve as he has agreed to write about other Oak Ridge trails. So, look forward to more of his extensive knowledge of our history and enjoy the trails with Steve.

#### **Amber Waves**









Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland





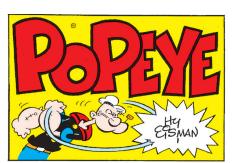
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering













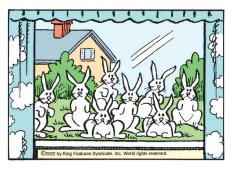












#### **MOMENTS IN TIME**

The History Channel

- \* On April 20, 1841, Edgar Allan Poe's story, "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," first appears in print. The tale, generally considered to be the first detective story, describes the methods used to solve a series of murders.
- \* On April 22, 1889, at precisely high noon, 50,000 to 60,000 would-be settlers make a mad dash into the newly opened Oklahoma Territory to claim cheap land. Towns like Norman and Oklahoma City sprang up almost overnight.
- \* On April 18, 1906, in San Francisco, an earthquake registering 8.0 kills 3,000 people as 30,000 buildings are destroyed. Two days later, 20,000 refugees trapped by a massive fire were evacuated from the foot of Van Ness Avenue onto the USS Chicago.
- \* On April 21, 1930, a fire at an Ohio prison kills 320 inmates, some of whom burn to death when they are not unlocked from their cells. The prison, built to hold 1,500 people, had 4,300 prisoners.
- \* On April 23, 1945, two weeks after taking over as U.S. president, Harry Truman gives a tongue-lashing to Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov. Truman was determined to take a tougher postwar stance with the Soviets than his late predecessor, Franklin Roosevelt, had. Molotov, indignant, stormed out of the meeting with Truman.
- \* On April 24, 1953, Winston Churchill, the British leader who guided Great Britain and the Allies through the crisis of World War II, is knighted by Queen Elizabeth II. He would win the Nobel Prize in literature later that same year.
- \* On April 19, 1993, near Waco, Texas, after a 51-day siege, the FBI launches a tear-gas assault on the compound of Branch Davidian leader David Koresh and his disciples as part of an investigation into illegal possession of firearms and explosives. The compound at Mount Carmel was burned to the ground, and some 80 Branch Davidians, including 22 children, died in the inferno.

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Results from April 2, 2022

Mod Mini 1.2B Shane Bullock 2.17 Daniel Moody 3.R26 Tom Patterson 4.7 Jeff Russell

Sportsman

1.24 Anthony White JR 2. 22 Jaylon Shannon 3.D22 DJ Shannon 4.D5 Colby Jones 5.777 Eric Jones 6.122 Jeremy Shannon 7.357 Zach Stringfellow 8.7 Bill Norwood

1.51X Pete Wright 2.48 Reagan Williams 3.H15 Riley Phillips 4.29 Kenneth Williams 6.44 Michael Owenby

Late Model 1.39 Eddie King Jr 2.2X Anthony White 3.23 Tim Damron 4.Z1 Zach Shannon 5.31 Brad Seagle 6.44 Caleb Marcum 7.117 Jesse Russell 8.00 Ted Lowe 9.06 Wesley Lester 10.44 Chris Marcum 11.23J Justin Meridith 12.1 Dalton Jones

Dwarf 1.28 Wes Jones 2.222 Devin Brown 3.22 Hunter Rich 4.07N Sam Nichols 5.96 Cody Norris 6.7 Ryan Hawn 7.92 Nick Hopper 8.21 Mason Fergason 9.15 David Dunlap 10. 66 Blake Nagy 11.12S Selena Byrge 12.97 Kerry Spaay 13.57 Dakota Richards 14.46 Steve Morris 15.65 Jake Shipley

Pony 1.20 Daniel Boles 2.12 Gary Hughes 3.1 Nikita Wright

16.28X Terry Meadows

Thunder 1.4 Dwayne Wilkerson 2.67 Billy SCarbough 3.B15 Tommy Jo Barber 4.74 Robert Russell 5.112 Billy Asbury 6.2020 Micheal Carroll 7.99 Aaron Harris 8.28 Raymond Hamby

**FWD** 

1.21 Dustin Duncan 2.13 Ryan Harness 3.59 David Mitchell 4.20 Jerrico Stephens 5.H1 Jacob Hooks 6.D3 Isiah Duncan 7.K7 Austin Kuskowski 8.26 Anthony Brock 9.25 Jordan West 10.75 Eric Partin 11.309 Eli Rutherford

Photos by Autumn Sexton with G&A Racing Photography

















#### **Urgent Care** Monday - Friday: 8am-8pm Saturday & Sunday: 8am-4pm

- · Colds/Flu/COVID
- Sore throat
- Seasonal allergies
- Vomiting & diarrhea
- Rash/Poison ivy
- Sprains & strains
- Broken bone (minor)
- Cuts needing stitches
- Minor burns
- Animal/insect bites
- And more! \*ALL AGES\*



### Coalfield Middle School Yellow Jackets Claims Victory Over Wartburg Middle School Baseball in Blow-Out Fashion, 13-1

Coalfield Middle School Yellow Jackets



Jackson Treece [Photo by Cathy Bird]

had no trouble on offense today, winning big over Wartburg Middle School Baseball 13-1.

Coalfield Middle School Yellow Jackets got things moving in the first inning. Coalfield Middle School Yellow Jackets scored two runs when Kaleb singled.

Coalfield Middle School Yellow Jackets tallied five runs in the third inning. The offensive firepower by Coalfield Middle School Yellow Jackets was led by Lucas Jackson, and Kaleb, who all drove in runs.

Jackson led the Coalified Middle School Yellow Jackets to victory on the mound. Jackson went four innings, allowing one run on two hits and striking out eight.

Noah took the loss for Wartburg Middle

School Baseball. The pitcher allowed three hits and five runs over two innings, striking out two.

Coalfield Middle School Yellow Jackets tallied eight hits on the day. Waylon and Kaleb each collected multiple hits for Coalfield Middle School Yellow Jackets. Kaleb and Waylon each collected two hits to lead Coalfield Middle School Yellow Jackets. Coalfield Middle School Yellow Jackets didn't commit a single error in the field. Lucas had eight chances in the field, the most on the team.

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## **Baseball and Softball Round-up**

**BASEBALL** 

Coalfield

3/29 – Defeated Oakdale 8-3

3/30 – Lost to Knox Catholic 5-6

4/2 – Defeated Grace Christian 2-1

4/2 – Defeated Christ School (NC) 12-8

#### Oakdale

3/29 – Lost to Coalfield 3-8

3/31 – Lost to Tellico Plains 6-9

4/1 – Defeated Wartburg 8-2

Sunbright
No scores reported

Wartburg Central

3/28 – Lost to Oliver Springs 4-9

3/22 – Defeated Oliver Springs 7-6

4/1 – Lost to Oakdale 2-8

SOFTBALL

Coalfield

3/28 – Lost Wartburg 3-11

3/29 – Lost to Knox Catholic 11-14

Oakdale

3/28 – Defeated Austin-East 30-13

3/29 – Lost to Harriman 0-10

4/1 – Defeated Austin-East 21-4

Sunbright

3/28 – Lost to Oliver Springs 0-13

3/31 – Lost to Wartburg 3-19

Wartburg Central

3/28 – Defeated Coalfield 11-3

3/31 – Defeated Sunbright 19-3

4/1 – Defeated Clarkrange 16-1

#### Track and Field

By Tara England

This week the track team has battled cold and injuries. In the process, they have competed at York Institute and at the Farragut Invitational.

At York Thursday evening the track team competed with the following highlights.

- Boys 4x400 relay team made up of Jonah Freels, Isaac Jones, Josh Nestle, and Caleb Quinney placed 2nd.
- -Jonah Freels was 2nd in the Long Jump.
- -Isaac Jones got a new personal record in Discus.
- -Caleb Quinney was first in the 400 and 2nd in the 1600.
- -Noah Cox was 3rd with a new personal record in the 800.
- -Charles Conner got a new personal record in the Shot Put.
- -Boys 4x100 relay team made up of Grant Carroll, Charles Conner, Nathan Ward, and Kent England got 3rd place.
- -Nathan Ward got a new personal record in the Discuss.
- -Josh Nestle got 3rd place in the 400.
- -Grant Carroll got a new personal record in the 300 hurdles.
- -Kendra Massey got 3rd in the Shot Put and a new personal record in the 400
- -Emerson Nichols got 3rd place in the 400 and the 100 hurdles.
- -Haylee Morgan got 2nd place in the 300 hurdles and a new personal record in the Shot Put.

Then on Saturday, the following athletes qualified to attend the Farragut Invitational Meet: Jonah Freels in the 100, 300 hurdles, and long jump, Caleb Ouinney in the 100, 400, and 1600,

Isaac Jones in the 100,

Noah Cox in the 1600,

Haylee Morgan in the Shot Put and Discus,



Kendra Massey in the Shot Put and Discus, and Emerson Nichols in the 100 and 400 meters.

The team finally started to get some better weather on Saturday but was still struggling with injuries. During the meet on Saturday, Emerson Nichols got a new personal record in the 400 meters and Haylee Morgan got a new personal record in the discus.

The track team's next meet is Monday at Lenoir City (the track is located behind Lenoir City Intemitiate Middle School). They will be competing against 9 teams from around the area. Field events will begin at 5:00 PM.

## Scott Goes 2-0 for the Week

By Richard Spears

The Highlanders got a convincing road win against Clinton, 4-1 Tuesday (March 22), which Scott High coach Eric Henry said was a satisfying win, "but I was disappointed we didn't shut them out. I was glad to get to play everybody. This was a good win for us."

The Highlanders led 3-1 at the half, with Hugo Henry scoring on an assist by Josiah Fladie and Phoenix Norris booting in a goal off an assist by Skye Babb. Scott's third goal of the frame was knocked in by freshman Aidon Roberts.

Phoenix Norris scored again in the second half, and the Highlander defense held the Dragons scoreless to give the final 4-1 win for Scott.

Scott followed the Clinton win with their second victory of the week, this time a 4-0 shutout



at Cumberland Gap on Thursday (March 24). "The shut out was important. I really liked what I saw out there tonight," Henry said. Highlander Conner Stanley had three goals for a hat trick, Skye Babb scored and Henry said he was pleased with the play of sophomores Toby Garrett, who had an assist, Skye Babb, Andy Blevins and Hugo Henry. "All those guys got a lot of minutes last year as freshmen, and they've just gotten better this season. Toby Garrett's defense was very strong, Josiah Fladie was all over the field. We had very few mistakes, and passed well. I got to work in a lot of our young guys, and this game was good experience for them," Henry said. He added, "We went 2-0 for the week, with a shutout. Adrian Parra continues to play well at keeper, and Luke (Bowling) had significant time at goalie, about 20 minutes and did very well. This was a good confidence builder as we prepare to play Oneida, Tuesday (March 29)."

## Oneida Plays Three Stout Teams On the Road

By Richard Spears

After running a gauntlet of three games against some very good teams, Oneida went 1-1-1, gaining what Oneida Head Coach Derek Keeton called "valuable experience that will serve us well come tournament time."

Tuesday (March 22) saw the Indians play a hard contest against the Knox Central Bobcats, with Oneida falling 7-1. But, Coach Keeton said, "We missed several close shots and were down just 2-0 at the half. We played the hardest team on our schedule. Central is a very skilled 3A team. It was good to get experience against them." Mason Keeton scored Oneida's goal, and Coach Keeton said he liked the play he saw from his team.

"Wes Hurst, our young guys, they are all getting better. I'm proud of how our guys stood up to the high level of competition we played at Central."

Three days later, in Gatlinburg, Oneida played Gibbs, another talented Knoxville team, and emerged with a 5-5 tie. "One of the most exciting games I've been a part of," Coach Keeton said. "At the half, we were down 2-1 and really played well. We outshot them in the first half and gave up a late penalty kick right before halftime." Mason Keeton scored



unassisted in the first frame.

Oneida's Luke Barna scored 2 goals in there second half to bring the game to a 3-3 tie, after which Central went up by two, score 5-4 Gibbs. Oneida answered with some strong defense and a score by Gabs Hacker to tie the game with 11 minutes left in the contest, which would be the final. Keeton said,"It was a fantastic high level game that was exciting for fans to watch but nerve wracking for Phil (Newport) and I to coach." But coming out of the game with the tie was encouraging, Keeton said. "Coach Phil and I really like this team and think we have a lot of potential."

Oneida wrapped up its Gatlinburg trip with a 6-2 win against the David Crockett Pioneers, a 3A team. Mason Keeton scored 4 times, Luke Barna nailed a goal and Levi James scored on "a beautiful header on a corner kick with an assist by Gabe Hacker," Coach Keeton said. "Gavin Keeton finished with 11 saves and gave our team great momentum transitioning to offense. This win against a high quality 3A team in the fashion that we were able to do was an amazing effort by our team. I'm excited to play Scott High on Tuesday (March 29)."



# Morgan County Today Easter Coloring Contest



"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10b)

Coloring contest instructions: Children 12 and under can enter. Prizes for winners. You may mail, email, or drop off your entry. Include name and age. Morgan County Today, P.O. Box 451, Wartburg, TN 37887. email: publisher@mocotoday.com | Call for more info 615.739.3009

## DAVIS INSURANCE

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i'm lovin' it Oneida, TN

#### Tom Redmon Columnist

until recently.

## The Oakdale Bank Robbery

Have you ever heard about the Oakdale bank robbery of 1921? My dad talked a lot about it but I had never read about it

It seems that four men; Charles Petree, John McClure, Otto Stephens and Tom Christmas devised a scheme that not only failed but ended up with all four of the men getting the death penalty.

The four men got together in Harriman and it was thought that they were not contemplating the crime they would later commit but they wanted to rob the Oakdale bank. They couldn't find a suitable get-away car in Harriman so they went to Clinton on May 29th, 1921 to find the kind of car they needed. But after looking all over Clinton and not finding a suitable car they decided that Knoxville surely had the car they were looking for. They were in luck. They found a car and they persuaded a man by the name of Andrew Crumly to be their driver. Crumly was from Knoxville and he wanted to pick up a friend by the name of George Lewis. It is hard for any sane person to believe what happened next because originally, they only planned to rob the Oakdale bank. I guess at least two of the four believed that the extra baggage they had picked up needed to be disposed of. Maybe all four men were hardened criminals because what they did turned out to be one of the most brutal crimes in the criminal history of Oakdale, Tennessee because on the night of May 30, 1921 these four criminals murdered George Lewis of Knoxville on the road between Clinton and Oliver Springs.

After stopping where Oak Ridge is located now the four men bound and gagged George Lewis and Andrew Crumly. They took them in a wooded hollow then proceeded to brutally beating the two men to death. The four criminals proceeded to Harriman to spend the night and then go to Oakdale the next morning to rob the bank. The only trouble Crumly hadn't died. He was able to find his way to a nearby house.

The morning of May 30th the assassins parked their get-away car behind the Oakdale and Trust Company. Two of the men, Christmas and Stephens re-

mained on guard outside while Petree and McClure entered the bank window. Then they waited for the cashier to open. What follows is how they failed in somewhat of a comical way and it had a wild west feel to it. The men covered the cashier with their revolvers but another who was behind him slipped away and sounded the alarm. The bank manager recognized Stephens although he had a mask on. He used an alias (Harvey Wilson).

When the alarm sounded the four men ran to the car and in their haste went the wrong way toward Piney instead of



Harriman and found themselves in a ditch. They managed to get the car out of the ditch and headed back down the hill toward Harriman. They drove past the bank and Oakley, the bank manager, and several men saw them, jumped in their cars and the chase was on. Whoever was driving the Chandler failed to make it round the curve and wrecked the car, hanging the back end over the Emory River Bridge. By the time Oakley and the men reached the robbers they had gone down the railroad track. Petree and McClure were captured in a culvert near the track. Christmas and Stephens were spotted fleeing and Oakley fired at them, but they got away.

Walter W. Roberts, Sheriff of Roane County put the two in the Harriman jail for the night, but fearing that they were not secure enough the Sheriff deputized Jim Delosier, a restaurant owner the next day and transported them to Knoxville.

Meanwhile a \$900.00 reward was offered for the capture of Stephens and Christmas. A posse of 300 to 500 men was organized to scorer the mountains around Harriman with blood hounds from Knox-

ville.

The two fugitives had gone the other way and ended up at Nemo. Christmas had a friend there and he gave them food as they hid in a cave above his house.

After two weeks of hiding out in a cave they decided it was time they needed to move on. Christmas' friend would go into Oakdale to meet with Lee Christmas, Tom's brother. Lee would drive the two out and Sheriff Roberts and four men would be waiting for them. Roberts told a different story and he became a hero because he had captured two dangerous

criminals. Actually, Christmas and Stephens gave up without an incident.

The four men would remain in the Knoxville jail until their trial would take place in Clinton in July 1921. Governor Taylor would appoint A.G. Walter Bultram as prosecutor along with Will Baswell of Oakdale. The defense would be headed by William Hannah of Harriman, Charles Davis of Wartburg and D.W. Burge of Oakdale. The population of Clinton would double in size during the trial.

Andrew Crumly who lived after a terrible beating, would be the main witness, and many believe the only witness needed. The mothers of the four men begged for the death penalty

to be changed to life in prison.

The jury reached a "Guilty in the First Degree" and recommended death. Judge Hicks sentenced the men to die on March 1, 1922 by electrocution. It would be the first time and the only time that four men would be electrocuted the same day. Also, it was the only time a condemned man would not take the witness stand.

#### Epilogue

Andrew Crumly lived to be 70 years of age. He died in 1964. George Lewis' oldest daughter sat through the entire trial and then the electrocution. She had lost both her mother and father before she was 25 years old. The gruesome murder took place just west of present-day Illinois Avenue and north of Iroquois Avenue in present day Oak Ridge. In 1921 it was called Black Oak Ridge in Robertsville, Tennessee. D.W. Burge who was present for both the trial and electrocution said he would never be a witness to another electrocution.

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## Davis Funeral Home's

## Veteran of the Week

United States Navy Veteran, Hospital Corpsman Third Class (HC3c) William Richard Charette fought in the Korean War while attached to Company F, 2D Battalion, 7TH Marines, 1ST Marine Division.

Corpsman Third Class Charette was presented the Medal of Honor at the White House on January 12, 1954 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower for his heroic actions in combat on March 27, 1953.

His Medal of Honor citation reads: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action against enemy aggressor forces during the early morning hours. Participating in a fierce encounter with a cleverly concealed and well-entrenched enemy force occupying positions on a vital and bitterly contested outpost far in advance of the main line of resistance. HC3c. Charette repeatedly and unhesitatingly moved about through a murderous barrage of hostile small-arms and mortar fire to render assistance to his wounded comrades. When an enemy grenade landed within a few feet of a marine he was attending, he im-



from his person, HC3c. Charette resourcefully improvised emergency bandages by tearing off part of his clothing, and gallantly continued to administer medical aid to the wounded in his own unit and to those in adjacent platoon areas as well. Observing a

seriously wounded comrade whose armored vest had been torn from his body by the blast from an exploding shell, he selflessly removed his own battle vest and placed it upon the helpless man although fully aware of the added jeopardy to himself. Moving to the side of another casualty who was suffering excruciating pain from a serious leg wound, HC3c. Charette stood upright in the trench line and exposed himself to a deadly hail of enemy fire in order to lend more effective aid to the victim and to alleviate his anguish while being removed to a position of safety. By his indomitable courage and inspiring efforts in behalf of his wounded comrades, HC3c. Charette was directly responsible for saving many lives. His great personal valor reflects the highest credit upon himself and enhances the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

mediately threw himself upon the stricken man and absorbed the entire concussion of the deadly missile with his body. Although sustaining painful facial wounds and undergoing shock from the intensity of the blast which ripped the helmet and medical aid kit

#### Law Enforcement Officer of the Week

Deputy Sheriff Darren Almendarez with the Harris County, Texas Sheriff's Office was shot and killed while off duty on Thursday, March 31, 2022.

He and his wife were returning to their car in a grocery store parking lot when he observed three men attempting to steal their vehicle's catalytic converter. He instructed his wife to run from the scene before confronting the subjects. A struggle ensued after one of the men produced a handgun. During the struggle, Deputy Almendarez pulled out his off-duty weapon, and shots were exchanged in which he and two of the three suspects were wounded.

Deputy Almendarez was transported to Houston Northwest Hospital where he succumbed to his wounds. The two wounded

suspects drove themselves to the same hospital and they were taken into custody. The third suspect was arrested a few days later.

Deputy Almendarez was fifty-one-years-old and is survived by his wife.

He had served with the Harris County Sherriff's Office for twenty-three-years and was assigned to the Auto Theft Task



Force.

Another "Hero" taken.

You helped make this world a safer place to live.

May God grant you eternal peace.

Prayers to your loved ones and to your department.

Det. Billy Russo (Ret.) Nassau County PD, NY April 3, 2022



## Around The World and Back Again

with Zack Ballinger

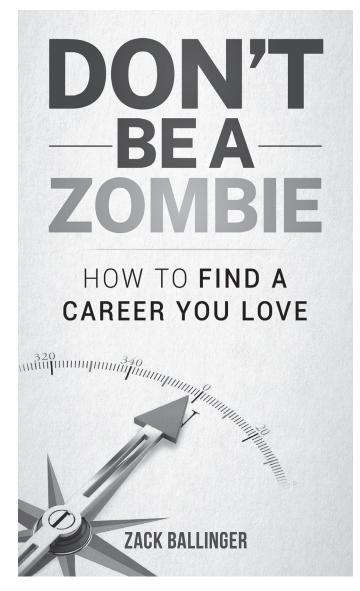
#### Don't Be a Zombie: **Discover your Passion** and Purpose Part 1

"I have looked in the mirror every morning and asked myself: 'If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am about to do today?' And whenever the answer has been 'No' for too many days in a row, I know I need to change something."

—Steve Jobs

For many years, I struggled with the question most people are asked at the age of 5, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" After I graduated college, I still had no clue what I really wanted to do with my life, career-wise. I wanted a career doing something I loved, while providing a reasonable financial wellbeing for myself.

I always thought the overall goal in life was to make as much money as possible, even if you didn't like your profession. My plan was to make a six-figure annual salary and retire at the age of 60. I only had to work approximately 38 years before I could be happy and retire rich. Who wouldn't be happy making a



six-figure income? I graduated from the University of Tennessee with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. I

thought working in the business world would bring me happiness, since

**Zack Ballinger** that was my area of study. My concentration was marketing,

but I ended up taking a sales job right out of college. I was miserable from day one. I loved sales, but disliked what I was selling.

After three years of working in sales, I met one of my friends from college for dinner. We had lost touch after graduation and wanted to catch up on old times. David majored in Elementary Education. He was an elementary school teacher who advanced at a rapid pace and was recently promoted to Assistant Principal. Over our dinner conversation, his eyes lit up when he spoke about his new job and how much he loved what he did. I could hear the passion and excitement in his voice. It seemed like the whole dinner conversation was centered on David's career joy. I let him share all the details because I could tell it made him happy to talk about it. He explained that he woke up an hour early every

morning just to prepare for his day. He absolutely loved what he was doing. He found his calling in life by leading and mentoring children and teachers. Even

though his job was very stressful, every morning he woke up excited about going to work.

I never told David, but I always had a deep down jealously of him after that night. David wasn't a millionaire, but was financially very comfortable. "How could this be?" I always thought to myself. How could David really like what he was doing and still make a decent living? I mean, can anybody really be happy going to work? I desperately wanted that happiness for my life.

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

Visit www.zackballinger.com for more of Zack's travels and events.



#### Diner Classic Made Easily at Home

Here's a classic comfort food that makes everyone happy. It's a staple on diner menus across the country: the Patty Melt. Picture a burger patty slathered with caramelized onions, oozing with melted Swiss cheese on buttered, grilled rye bread. Delectable, right? Well, we can make it at home, and it



Patty melt with caramelized onions.

doesn't cost any more to make than a plain ol' hamburger. Come to Mama! Should you choose, this recipe lends itself to stretching a buck by adding a little filler to the ground beef. A general rule of adding filler is one cup filler per pound of uncooked hamburger. Typical fillers include breadcrumbs, oatmeal, cooked vegetables, beans or lentils.

For this recipe, if you choose to add filler, I recommend choosing cooked lentils. They add vitamins, fiber and extra protein, bringing a nice meaty texture while reducing the amount of fat per serving. If you add 1 1/2 cups cooked lentils to the recipe below, you'll have six (six-ounce) patties rather than four. I see tomorrow's lunch happening.

#### PATTY MELTS

**Yield:** 4 (6-ounce patty) servings

- pounds (85/15) hamburger teaspoon kosher salt, plus
- more for cooking teaspoon pepper
- tablespoon Worcestershire
- tablespoon butter, plus more softened butter for schmearing
- slices Swiss cheese
- slices rye, marble rye or sourdough bread
- cup caramelized onions (recipe below)
  - 1. In a mixing bowl, combine the hamburger, salt, pepper and Worcestershire. (If you're adding lentils, now's the time.)
  - 2. Divide the mixture into 4 (or 6) portions and form them into patties that are a little bigger than your bread. Sprinkle each side with a little kosher salt to help make a nice crusty sear on the patties.
- 3. In a large skillet on medium-high heat, add a pat of butter and cook the burger patties for 3-4 minutes per side.
- 4. To assemble the sandwiches, schmear the "outsides" of the bread with butter, place in the skillet butter side down. Add a slice of cheese, a burger patty, some of the onions, another slice of cheese and top with another slice of bread that's been buttered on the "outside." When the bottom slice of bread is golden brown and delicious, carefully flip the whole thing over and grill the other side. Mmmmmmm. Repeat with the

remaining sandwiches.

5. Keep the diner vibe going by serving this with French fries and coleslaw or a dill pickle.

#### **CARAMELIZED ONIONS**

Yield: 1 cup Time: 30-45 minutes large yellow onion, about a

- pound
- tablespoons butter
- tablespoon olive oil Pinch of sugar Salt and pepper
- 1. Slice that big ol' onion in half, then into half rings. Make these as thick or thin as you wish. The thinner they are, the faster they cook, but thicker slices come out sweeter.
- 2. In a heavy-bottomed skillet on medium heat, melt the butter and oil together. Add the onion and turn to coat; sprinkle with a pinch of sugar to help speed up caramelization. Reduce heat to medium-low and cook, stirring occasionally, for 25-45 minutes or until delectably soft and golden brown. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Now, if I'm going to take the time to caramelize onions. I make at least a triple batch. They're great on EVERYTHING from burgers, sandwiches, steak, chicken and pork to salads, soups, pizza, casseroles and omelets — you name it! Keep some in the fridge or freezer to instantly upgrade practically everything you eat.

The next time you buy ground beef, get out of the hamburger rut! Back away from the burger! Make this instead.

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

#### Commonly missed tax deductions

Sales tax is one of the commonly missed deductions.

A sales tax deduction is allowed for states that don't impose an income tax. The states without an income tax include Alaska, Florida, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming.

There are two ways to claim the state sales tax deduction on your return.

You can keep your receipts and deduct all the sales tax you paid throughout the year.

The easiest option for claiming the sales tax deduction is to use the IRS's Sales Tax Calculator. Additionally, you can deduct any sales tax paid for a car, motorcycle, boat, motor home, or airplane. If you use the vehicle for your business, the sales tax can't be deducted on Schedule A. Sales tax on building materials can also be deducted.

If you are building a new house, the sales tax paid on building materials can be substantial. However, the maximum tax deduction, including property taxes, is \$10,000. When building a new home, your sales tax deduction will be well over the average deduction if you claim your sales tax.

Relatively large numbers on a tax return can cause an audit. If you claim the sales tax when building your home, it's essential to keep all your receipts. In the event of an audit, you will need to provide copies of the receipts. Receipts often fade over time, so it's good to make copies of the receipts before they fade and become illegible.

Out of pocket charitable contributions are another com-

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

By Matilda Charles

## Breaking News Alert! Turn Off the Television

I learned a lesson this week when I discovered I'd spent over 10 hours glued to the news on television. Afterward, I was depressed and full of anxiety. I knew that couldn't be good for me.

It makes sense that a gym chain turned off the TVs in their locations in 27 states, believing that cable news wasn't good for a healthy lifestyle. And this was several years ago, when the news was comparatively milder than it is now. Consider how much different our lives -- and the news -- are today, and it makes a lot of sense to avoid an overdose of what's going on in the world.

My newest tactic is to use a timer. At the top of the hour, I'll turn on a cable news channel, watch for several minutes ... and then turn it off. Whatever is new will be talked

about then, but it's often a repeat of the top of the previous hour.

What do we do instead once we turn off the news? Change to a different channel, perhaps one that shows reruns from a previous era. The "Andy Griffith Show" comes to mind. So do "My Three Sons," "I Love Lucy" and "Columbo." Then there's premium fare like The History Channel, Smithsonian Channel and even best of British TV channels.

Or we can turn the television off altogether and, now that spring is here, go outside and walk. Or start a new garden. Or talk to neighbors who are also escaping the television.

There are specific health reasons to get away from the television news, and sitting too long is at the top of the list. It leads to memory decline, anxiety, stress ... which leads to insomnia and changes in diet. We think we need to keep up with current events ... but at what cost?

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monly missed deduction. It's easy to remember the large charitable gifts that you made throughout the year. However, the little things add up and can make a difference in your return. The cost of any office supplies and postage used for a nonprofit organization is deductible. The ingredients for food that you prepare for nonprofit organizations are also deductible. If you drove your car for charity, the mileage is deductible.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is available to millions of people. However, according to the IRS, 25% of eligible people fail to claim it. Tens of millions of individuals and families qualify for the credit who are considered middle class. The new 2021 tax law enables many more individuals to claim the credit. Previously only childless individuals between the ages of 25 and 64 were eligible for EITC. The age limits for people without children have been changed to include people over 18. Consequently, many senior citizens will be eligible for the EITC.

If you have already filed your return, you can amend your return to claim the missed deductions.

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. Who was Max B. Yasgur?
- 2. Dickie Lee, Clarence Carter and the duo Dala all released songs with the same name. What was it?
- 3. Name the group that released "Love or Let Me Be Lonely."
- 4. Who released "Saved by the Bell"?
- 5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "There goes my baby with someone new, She sure looks happy, I sure am blue."

#### Answers

- 1. He owned the farm in Bethel, New York, where the Woodstock music festival was held in 1969. The town was so furious that he was allowing the festival to be held that he was no longer welcome in the area. He sold the farm two years later.
- 2. "Patches" by Dickie Lee in 1962, Clarence Carter in 1970 and Dala in 2005.
- 3. The Friends of Distinction, in 1970. The song did well on all the charts: Hot 100, Adult Contemporary and R&B.
- 4. Robin Gibb, in 1969 on his debut album.
- 5. "Bye Bye Love," by the Everly Brothers in 1957. The song is considered their debut. Others have covered the song, including the Beatles and Simon & Garfunkel. Rolling Stone magazine included it on its list of the 500 Greatest Songs of All Time.

#### 2 Corinthians: Chapter 13

(2 Cor. 13:1-4) The agenda for His coming: Speaking of his forthcoming trip, Paul says this is the third time he is coming (12:14). He will demand responsibility from his accusers. Their charges against him must conform to an appropriate legal criterion---sufficient, credible witnesses (Dt. 19:15). He issues a stern warning. He had previously admonished these false teachers; if the condition remains when he presently arrives, he will "not spare" whatever discipline might be necessary (v.2). "You have challenged me to demonstrate that Christ is speaking through me. These teachers claim that Christ is powerfully working through them" (v.3).

The apostle appealed to Christ, whom he faithfully served. Jesus was crucified through weakness (his human nature), yet now he is forever alive by the power of God (having been raised from the dead.) "Even so, though we are weak (constant victims of abuse), and, in a manner of speaking, have been crucified with Christ, we will be invigorated by means of our relationship with the Lord, and God's power will be administered toward you" (v.4). This is not an idle threat. It's a warning of possible temporal judgment.

(2 Cor. 13:5-10) Paul's earnest appeal: The apostle forcefully admonishes this church. "Try your own selves, whether you are in the faith; prove your own selves." (a) There is an obligation: this is a command. (b) It is individual; each person is accountable. (c) There is a self-inspection, with an indicated evaluation, which must be sustained. (d) "In the faith" is the objective standard, the gospel system (Gal. 1:23: Jude 3). (e) There is the possibility that some no longer are steadfast in the faith. (f) "Proving" involves a continuation of putting to the test after examination. The factionists were trying to prove Paul a heretic, but gave no attention to themselves. Do they not know whether Christ is in them? Of course, they may fail the test and be demonstrated as phonies (v.5).

Paul hopes they will become convinced that he is not

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reprobate (not one who has flunked the "in the faith" test) (v.6). The apostle prays for them: (a) He prays they do no evil. (b) He prays they do that which is honorable. (c) He is selfless; he appears to want them to do the right thing even if it makes him look bad (he may incur disdain by not demonstrating his apostolic power in discipline) (v.7). "We can do nothing against the truth; we only act in its interest" (v.8). He was not suggesting he lacked willpower to do anything wrong; rather, he was compelled by his love for Christ to remain loyal. It was a spiritual compulsion of choice (1 Jn. 3:9).

With a generous heart, Paul suggests he will not be offended by those who see him as weak, if they will only be strong. He does not mind withholding judgment if such contributes to their strength. His abiding interest was in the perfecting (repairing, as in the setting of a broken bone) of their spiritual welfare (v.9). Paul hopes that by sending this message by letter it may prevent a head-to-head clash when he arrives, in which case he would be compelled to deal "sharply" by his apostolic authority. Ultimately, that would work for the building up of the church, and not its tearing down (v.10).

(2 Cor. 13:11-14) Parting words: In his closing, Paul employs six imperatives (verbs indicating a command, or at the least a strong admonition). "Finally, brothers, farewell (literally, continue to rejoice; be happy). Be perfected (be restored); be comforted (come to one another's side; be encouraged); be of the same mind (be united in doctrine and disposition); live in peace (come together peaceably). Greet one another with a holy kiss" (Rom. 16:16). This platform, if adopted by conscientious people, would heal every church problem.

Paul's benediction embraces the entire Godhead. It is in the form of a prayer to the entire Godhead. "May the favor of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all."

BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo FortifyYourFaith.org



**MELVIN HOWARD** 

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For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

1 Corinthians 15: 3-5 🖎

Detail of "The Resurrection" by Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528)



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#### Wise Men From The East



John Burns Opinion Columnist

The sovereignty of our God is on display in Babylon at the time of Ahaseurus. The priests who advised him, were a hereditary priesthood. The son inherited the mantle from the father when he passed. Medo-Persian life and Babylonian life, were combined under Cyrus and continued in Babylon, until Alexander the great defeated Darius Hystaspes

at the battle of Gaugemela.

We are introduced to these priests in the book of Daniel.

Daniel 2 finds the King Nebuchadnezzar having a dream that none of his wise men or astrologers can identify or interpret.

Enter the young man of God.

Daniel reminds the king that no man is able to do what he wants, however there is a God who reveals dreams and gives interpretations for the purpose of correction. Daniel prays to God and then proceeds to save the lives of hundreds if not thousands of false priests throughout Nebuchadnezzar's realm. He reveals and interprets the king's dream, revealing the entire history of gentile empires on earth.

His first reward is the acknowledgement by Nebuchadnezzar, that Daniel's God is indeed the God of creation and worthy alone to be worshipped by the citizens of his realm. He rewards Daniel by placing him in charge of teaching all the Magi in the realm, of the God of the Hebrews. He is placed in charge of all the wise men in the realm.

This appointment would lead to the famous furnace and Daniel's friends in it. The Magi revolted against Hebrew rule and convinced the king that Daniel's friends would not bow down and worship Nebuchadnezzar's statue. Jesus Christ himself came to their rescue in the furnace, and the wise men would become witnesses to the power of Daniel's God.

It would not end there for Daniel. He became the advisor to every successive Persian king after Cyrus. Under Darius 1 the Mede. Daniel again would have a plot hatched against him as the head of the priests in Babylon. The Magi would do anything to throw off the yoke of monotheism under Daniel. Has anything changed in church today? Do today's preachers forgo prophecy, and teachers of the Word, to hang on to traditions God abhors? Jealousy will again be their downfall.

The magi united to reveal to the king that Daniel would not worship the gods of Medo-Persia and convinced Darius that Daniel was the problem. Enter the lions' den. This would be the last time magi doubted the God of Daniel.

The king rewarded Daniel by killing the conspirators and all of their offspring. Thus, destroying the hereditary priesthood of the magi. Daniel could now influence Persia through his God, and teaching the magi God's plan of redemption.

Where did Daniel glean the wisdom to teach the magi God's single plan for all of humanity? Dare I say Job 38? Was the Mazzaroth, the tool Daniel was able to employ to teach the magi about the coming King in Israel, and his messianic calling for humanity?

The Mazzaroth is the twelve constellations of stars, we all enjoy in the night sky, that pagan nations began to worship at the tower of Babel. From Babel to Canaan, to Egypt, the Nephillim

permeate the stories of how ancient civilizations began to gaze skyward in search of the home of the gods. Front and center, was God's Mazzaroth.

When viewed in the order of brightness, they tell the story of God's plan to redeem man through a virgin Jewish girl. She would give birth to a Lamb that would destroy the serpent when he gives his life to redeem creation to God. The Lamb would be the offspring of God himself. God's seed would become the seed of the woman.

Enoch would be the first teacher in the Bible to share God's plan by gazing skyward and instructing the pre-Noahic peoples of God's single plan of redemption. To think before God created man, he gave us his plan in the stars of heaven. This is why humanity is without excuse. Now Daniel was teaching the magi.

Daniel would teach the magi that God intended to redeem Israel by becoming the Lamb sacrificed on Calvary. He would teach them when that Lamb was to be born. The method for finding him, was the astronomy they had come to love and worship. They would interpret the times and seasons the same way as Enoch. By gazing skyward.

At a predestined time, the Lamb would be born in Bethlehem. That Lamb would grow into maturity and be slain for the sins of humanity. He would be raised incorruptible, as the King of Israel. His kingdom would not be fully realized, until every letter in scripture was fulfilled. The magi would learn all about our Jesus and they came to worship Israel's Messiah and King. Hallelujah!

Our God is sovereign. He wrote every word of scripture before he called man into existence. Our entire world was created by God, and points only to him as creator. To think the God of creation would do all of this because he loves his creation. What an amazing love drama contained in scripture.

Daniel is one of only two men in scripture the Bible says nothing bad about. The other being Joseph, another advisor to the pagan king of the known world at the time. Is this God's teaching paradigm?

God alone raises up holy men willing to be Christian in the face of incredible odds. Learn the faith of Daniel and you are on solid ground to begin ministry. His courage led to educating priests as to the truths of the word of God. Today, Christian priests need humility to pray for mercy. They have gotten comfortable in human traditions foregoing the truths found in every word of scripture.

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

He is alive forevermore and he is returning for his bride very soon. John Burns RLTW 2-8-2022

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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**Weekly SUDOKU** 

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## King CrosswordAnswers

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atttend

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Flying Panda Specialty Beverage Co., LLC has applied for a Manufacturer's or Distributor's permit at the location known as:

Flying Panda Specialty Beverage Co., LLC 3796 Airport Road Rockwood, TN 37854

Anyone having reason to believe that this permit should not be issued, must appear before the Morgan County Beer Board on the 14th day of April at 5:30 pm in the office of the County Clerk

Chancery Court NOTICE TO Case Number Morgan County CREDITORS P-15-22

In the matter of the Estate of VADA IRENE LOWE Deceased

Notice is hereby given that on the 18TH DAY OF MARCH 2022, Letters of TESTAMENTARY in respect to the Estate of VADA IRENE LOWE who died on the 10<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2022, 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.

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

This the  $18^{TH}$  DAY OF MARCH 2022.

LAWRENCE WOODS EXECUTOR

ANGELA R. ANDERSON

TALLESSE ALLEY
Deputy Clerk

Clerk and Master

THOMAS G. ALLEN, M.D.

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#### **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,

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.

in Miscellaneous Book No. 11 at Page 215.

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

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