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Psalm 100:3
www.mocotoday.com
Volume 9 Number 50
Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Your Community. Your News.

75¢

Inside:

Sunbright Lady Tigers Ranked No. 1 in State
Sunbright Lady Tigers vs Harriman
Basketball Photos & Highlights
Weather History



Cover Photo
By: Terry Futrell

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

- Ephesians 2:8



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Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

PUBLISHER:

TOMMY LEE FRANCIS

PUBLISHER@MOCOTODAY.COM

EDITOR:

HEATHER FRANCIS

EDITOR@MOCOTODAY.COM

ADVERTISING:

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**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

I have been worried, y'all. You see, Ms Ivory Girl has been sick. Poor little thing has had the most awful runny nose and cough.

I was happy about that. I also liked the new doctor and vet tech Ms Camera. However, Dr Spence did stab me in the neck not once, but twice! It's okay though, Mimi said it was just something dogs have to do. She says that she wuffs her girls that we have to get our preventive vaccines to ensure we stay healthy.

Well, Mimi to her the the vet twice (the first time in Knoxville) in order to get all her pet care changed over. A few days later, Ms Ivory was still sick so Mimi took her to Roane Veterinary Hospital. There are several new staff members at RVH. They even have a new cool doctor. Her name is Dr Spence. She is so nice and smart, like Dr Bristol.



I am so glad that Dr Bristol and the other doctors have lots of new staff at Roane Veterinary Hospital. Their practice is certainly growing. I like them all but, Dr Bristol will always be my hero because she saved my leg.

Anywoof, she said that Ms Ivory had kennel cough and gave her 2 prescriptions. They did the trick and Ivory is almost over her sickness. What a relief!

The Roane and Morgan County areas are certainly blessed to have such kind, loving and knowledgeable vet care.

Then, wouldn't you know Mimi took me today for my well-dog checkup. Ms Heather and Ms Ann (who used to do my hair) had to come see me,

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

Invitation To Bid

Morgan County Schools is accepting bids for the following:

Door replacement and repair at Oakdale School, 225 Clifty Creek Road, Oakdale TN

This bid is for Interior and exterior doors

Specifications can be obtained by contacting Jim Aytes, Maintenance Supervisor, Morgan County Schools at 423-539-8801. Sealed bids should be delivered to Morgan County Schools, 136 Flat Fork Road, Wartburg TN 37787 and should be identified as "2023 Oakdale School Door Bid"

Bid opening will be Thursday December 14th, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Large Conference Room of Morgan County Schools, 136 Flat Fork Road, Wartburg TN 37887. Morgan County Schools reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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

WEEKLY WEATHER

Tue 12	51°/29°	
Wed 13	55°/26°	
Thu 14	54°/30°	
Fri 15	54°/38°	
Sat 16	52°/39°	
Sun 17	49°/37°	
Mon 18	51°/32°	

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The City of Wartburg will have an upcoming Beer Board meeting on Friday December 15, 2023 to begin at 2:30p.m. The meeting will take place in the conference room at City Hall.

DLARMC CHANGE IN MEETING TIME.

The Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center has changed its meeting date. The Center will now meet on the third Monday of the month at 6PM. Please make a note of this change.

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

The City of Sunbright is now accepting applications for a clerical position. Make arrangements to pick up/fill out an application at City hall. For more information call 423-628-5250

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Covid-19 Pandemic Policies, Almost Four Years Later



Michael Nance
Columnist

In March of 2020, I first wrote about Covid-19 in The Morgan County Today. The headlines of the paper read: "Covid-19: "Morgan County Has First Confirmed Case of Coronavirus." In an accompanying article, I speculated that the policies spawned pandemic would affect the very social and economic fabric of America. So, where are we now and what consequences has America faced as a result of the pandemic policies our government adopted?

In this article, I will focus on how government and scientific experts have seen public confidence fade and skepticism rise.

To be honest, American trust in the government has been declining since the 1960s. Scholarly organizations have linked the eroding of trust to the Vietnam War, Watergate, the oil embargos for the 1970s, and so on. But government responses and censorship during the Covid-19 pandemic have added onto an already skeptical American public in a hyperpolarized political climate.

In May of 2022, The PEW Research Center conducted a survey which verifies Americans have lost confidence in Government institutions resulting from the Covid-19 response. The New York Times, reporting on the Pew Study, stated the following:

As the coronavirus pandemic entered its third year, the American public had lost much of its trust both in public health experts and in government leaders, and was less worried than before about Covid-19, according to a survey conducted in early May and released Thursday by the Pew Research Center.

Also in June of 2022, Gallup conducted a survey as well, below is a quote from the report outlining the survey:

This year's poll marks new lows in confidence for all three branches of the federal government -- the Supreme Court (25%), the presidency (23%) and Congress. Five other institutions are at their lowest points in at least three decades of measurement, including the church or organized religion (31%), newspapers (16%), the criminal justice system (14%), big business (14%) and the police.

According to the British Academy, even the world's most recognized monarchy is having difficulty in public to trust after the Covid-19 policies. The following is a quote from their report:

Following a brief initial increase, trust in the UK Government and feelings of national unity are in decline. Trust in local government and feelings of local unity have been higher and steadier. Declining trust is a major challenge that needs to be addressed because it undermines the ability to mobilize public behavior for wider social and health benefits.

The available data leaves no room for debate, the pandemic policies of

the U.S. Government and governments throughout the world resulted in the loss of credibility, in many cases for selfish, one-sided, and politically motivated reasons.

Potentially, the most damaging facet of the Covid-19 policies was the censorship that occurred in the United States. Diverging opinions were silenced and anyone questioning the government's position received rapid retribution. To be fair, this occurred across the globe, especially in autocratic and dictatorial nations like China and Venezuela. That is no excuse for the same to happen in the U.S., we are better than that.

Crisis always provides a gateway to censorship, extreme legislation, and one-sided policies. In democracies, the public always has an insatiable thirst for information during a crisis, which accelerates public consumption of mass media. These circumstances dictate that any censorship activities will have exaggerated effects on public opinion. Our founding fathers realized the impact of censorship and placed protections against censorship activities, those protections were subverted due to the "emergency circumstances" of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Even the courts have ruled in this matter, A September 8th ruling in Missouri v. Biden prevents federal officials from pressuring social media platforms to take down protected free speech. It was the suspension of social media accounts of accomplished author Alex Berenson which was mentioned in the case. Berenson, former winner of the Edgar Award, and New York Times best selling author attempted to expose information concerning Covid-19 policies, which resulted in his Twitter account being removed.

On the topic of scientists, many news outlets are now calling for them to admit their mistakes during Covid. A quote from the Financial Review, stated this on the subject:

During the pandemic years, Americans' trust in scientists fell, according to a Pew poll released this month. In 2019, only 13 per cent of Americans were distrustful enough to say they weren't confident in scientists to act in the public's best interest. Now that figure is 27 per cent – despite recent triumphs in astronomy, cancer research, genetics and other fields.

The United States famed scientific expert, Dr. Fauci, is not even worthy of a discussion. The only statement I will make is review his steering of the public during the crisis and see what science has revealed now, make your own decision.

So, where do we go from here as a country? Our elected officials and government offices should immediately attempt to restore credibility to their institutions. How do they accomplish that in today's environment? Good question, not sure that anyone has that answer, but they better begin to formulate a plan. If the public trust in our government continues to erode it is bad for everyone, republican, democrat and independent alike. Let's hope and pray that we soon see policies that bring sanity back to the government.



Photo Courtesy of Önder Örtel



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 Friday, November 24th-CLOSED
 Monday, December 25th-Christmas Day CLOSED
 Tuesday, December 26th-CLOSED
 Monday, January 1st-New Year's Day CLOSED



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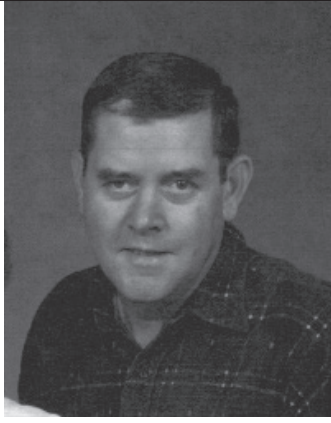
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— In Loving Memory —

Woodrow "Woody" Hinds, 79

Woodrow "Woody" Hinds, age 79, of Lansing Tennessee passed away Saturday December 2, 2023. He was born April 13, 1944.



Siblings; Anna and husband Howard, Faye Duncan, Milton Hinds and wife Cathy, Sharon Roysden, Darrell Hinds, Tammy Crouch and husband Eddie. Close family friends; Richard McCann and

He was a retired truck driver for 22 years and Morgan County school bus driver of 9 years. He loved to spend time with family and friends, being in the woods hunting. He had a passion for raising and trading hound dogs for hunting foxes and rabbits.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 43 years, Doris Kennedy Hinds, stepdaughter Carol Lee Jones, stepson Timothy Lynn Jones. Sisters and brother in laws; Velma and Denver Choate, Edna and Frank Booher and Jean and Otto Booher

He is survived by his stepsons Mike Jones, Adam Hubbard, Sam and wife Rhoda Smith.

Wife Shannon, Rhonda McCann Raines. A host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews and nieces.

The family will receive friends Tuesday, December 5, 2023 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. Russell Jones officiating. Interment will follow in the Pleasant Green Cemetery in Deer Lodge.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Woodrow "Woody" Hinds.

Della "Dee Dee" Bunch, 55

With a very sad and heavy heart, Della "Dee Dee" Bunch, age 55 has went home to be with our Lord and loved ones that went before her. She passed on December 4, 2023 at Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge.



Kennedy, Nancy Ward, Cassie King, and Blake King along with many nieces, nephews and other family members.

Dee Dee loved life and "keeping up with the Jones".

She was a spitfire who loved her family. She will be very missed by all that knew her.

She is preceded in death by her father James "Jimmy" Davis; mother Corene Davis; sisters Brenda Sue Hensley, Wanda Potter and Sherry Davis.

The family will receive friends Monday, December 11, 2023 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with a memorial service to follow at 7:00 p.m. Dee Dee's wishes is to be cremated.

She leaves behind her daughter Danielle McCartt and husband Samuel; grandchildren Camden, Austin and Colt Samuel; husband Edward Bunch; ex-husband David (Keela) Greene; special family Lorene

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Della "Dee Dee" Bunch.

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

Billy G. Garrett, 87 - USAF Veteran

Billy G. Garrett, age 87 of Crossville passed away Thursday, December 7, 2023. He was born September 20, 1936 in Lansing, Tennessee, the son of Guy and Bes-sie Anderson Garrett.



and Bruce Garrett of Crossville, TN.; 2 daughters Terry Lynn Papesh of Tama, Iowa and Joni "Joe" Parks of Crossville, TN.; 7 grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren and 1 great grandchild and

a host of nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

Billy proudly served his country in the United States Air Force.

The family will receive friends Monday at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00-1:00 p.m. EST / 11:00-12:00 p.m. CST with the funeral to follow at 1:00 p.m. EST. / 12:00 p.m. CST with Bro. Roland Kesterson. Interment will follow in the Elizabeth Cemetery in Lansing.

He was united in marriage to Donna Wheeler Parks on February 12, 1972 in Tama, Iowa. Billy founded T.C. & E in Toledo, Iowa in 1973 and T.C. & E. in Crossville, TN, in 1976. In later years an entrepreneur in construction building several beautiful homes in Crossville, TN, and surrounding areas.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to Hospice of Cumberland County or Shriners.

Billy is preceded in death by his parents; 2 brothers James and David Garrett; 1 sister June Landrum.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Billy G. Garrett.

He leaves behind his wife Donna Garrett of Crossville; 2 sons Darrell Garrett of Taft, TN.,

Matthew 14:27

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

- Jesus Christ

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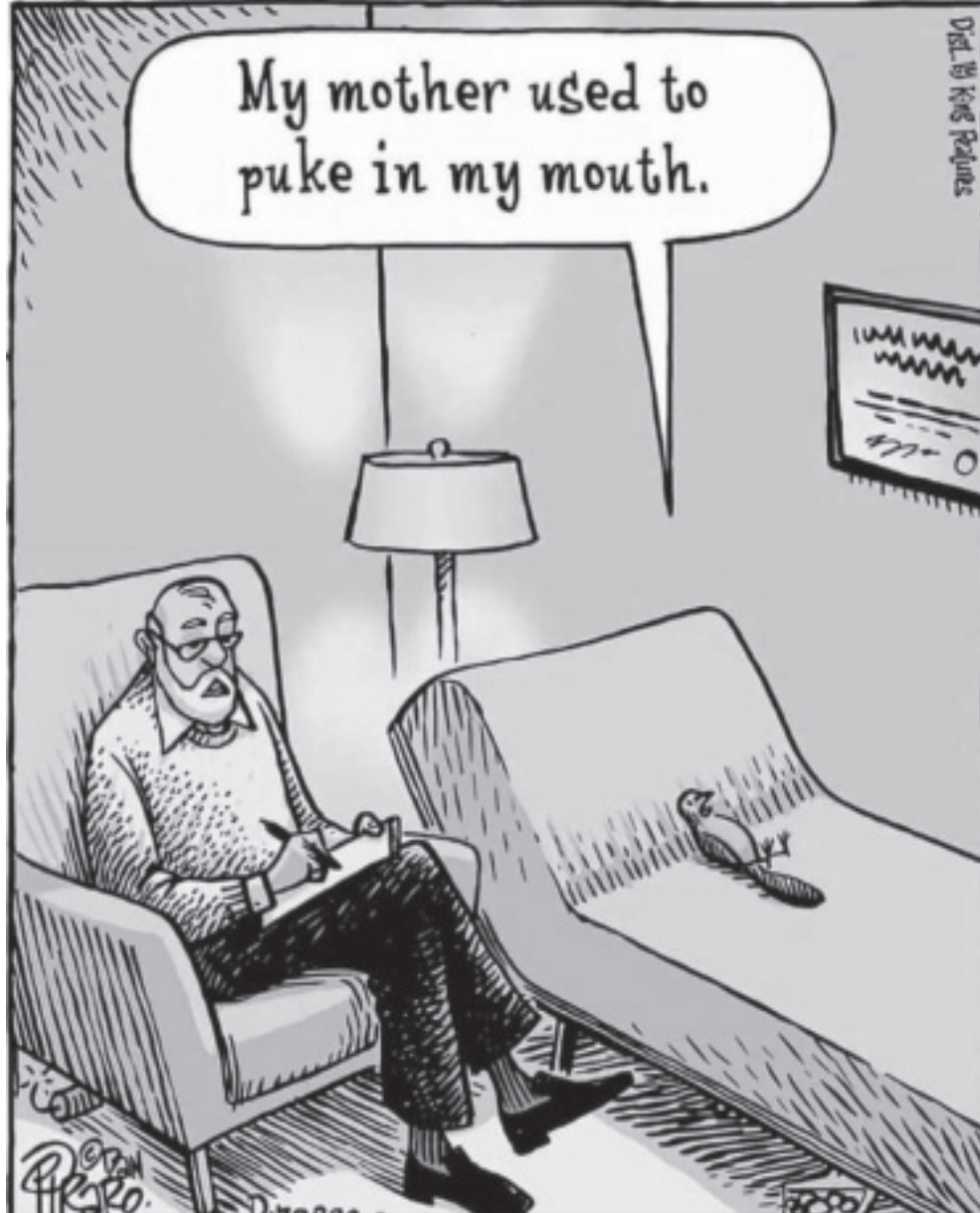
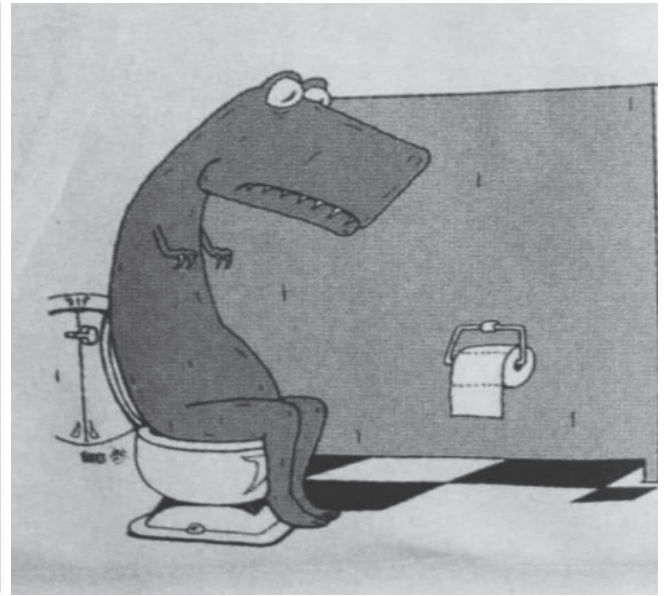
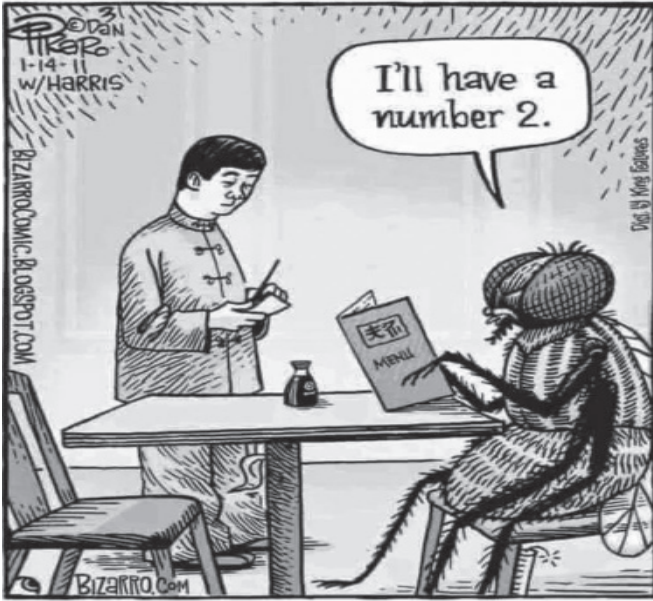
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FLASHBACK

By Mick Harper

- 1. Who sang the theme song for the TV series "Secret Agent Man" in the 1960s?
2. What was the Hully Gully?
3. Who released "Blue Suede Shoes" before Elvis Presley did?
4. Name Patti LaBelle's first No. 1 single.
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Late at night I'm still listening, Don't waste my time chasing sleep."

Answers

1. Johnny Rivers. The show was the American version of the British "Danger Man" series.

- 2. A dance that started in Florida in 1959. It was a line dance with the steps being called out. The dance has been seen several times, including in "The Blues Brothers" film and a "Roseanne" episode.
3. Carl Perkins, who both wrote and released the song in 1956. His version went to No. 1 on the charts. Presley's did not even hit the Top 10.
4. "If Only You Knew," in 1983, on the R&B charts. It only hit No. 46 on the Hot 100 chart.
5. "Pilot of the Airwaves," by Charlie Dore in 1979. This was the final song played in 1990 by Radio Caroline, an unlicensed, illegal radio station that broadcast from the open seas. It was named for Caroline Kennedy, daughter of President John F. Kennedy.

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- * Sweden has a ski-through McDonald's.
* The world's most expensive perfume, Clive Christian No. 1 Passant Guardant, will set you back a cool \$143,000 for a 30 ml bottle. Of course, it does come in a flask studded with 2,000 diamonds.
* A 2018 psychology study found that millionaires who earned their wealth are moderately happier than those who inherited it.
* George Washington moved his slaves in and out of Pennsylvania every six months to avoid their taking advantage of a law whereby slaves residing in the state for longer periods could claim their freedom.

- * One billion hours of video are watched on YouTube every day.
* When Peter Benchley had trouble coming up with a title for his novel "Jaws," his dad suggested "What's That Noshin' on My Leg?"
* Bored with your limited supply of cuss words? Try learning Latin, which contains about 800 obscenities to English's approximately 20 (depending on how we define the latter).
* In 1924, half of the world's cars were made by Ford.
* Folks who have difficulty recalling someone else's name shortly after they've met can blame it on the "next-in-line-effect," or having too much anxiety about themselves and what they'll say next to focus on the name of someone to whom they were just introduced.

- * A cyberchondriac is someone who scours the internet looking for details about their illnesses.
* Actor Frankie Muniz, who starred as the titular character in the TV series "Malcolm in the Middle," doesn't recall his time on the show, due to multiple concussions and TIAs (transient ischemic attacks).
* Fyodor Dostoevsky wrote "The Gambler" to pay off his gambling debts.

Thought for the Day: "Don't confuse your path with your destination. Just because it's stormy now doesn't mean you aren't headed for sunshine later. Don't lose faith." -- Trent Shelton

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers pre-filled: Row 1: [] [] 3 [] 6 [] [] [] 7; Row 2: [] 6 [] [] [] 9 3 [] []; Row 3: 5 [] [] 7 [] [] [] 6 2; Row 4: [] [] 6 5 [] [] [] [] 1; Row 5: 1 8 [] [] [] 4 [] 7 []; Row 6: 2 [] [] [] 7 [] 6 [] []; Row 7: 3 [] [] [] [] 6 [] [] 1; Row 8: [] 4 [] 3 [] [] [] 2 []; Row 9: [] [] 7 9 5 [] [] [] 8

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 North —
5 Green prefix
8 Oodles
12 Writer
13 Kingsley
14 Capri, e.g.
15 Souvenir seller
17 Move like a butterfly
18 Tours season
19 Snaky fish
20 Ceases
21 Solidify
22 Twitch
23 Shroud city
26 He can hold his head high
30 "Dream on!"
31 Zero-star review
32 Santa's runway
33 Old English Sheepdog feature
35 Skilled
36 Tramcar contents
37 "— the season ..."
38 Poker ploy
41 Fish propeller
42 Spa sounds
45 Protracted
46 Decorative paper
48 "There!"
49 Santa's help-

11x11 crossword grid with numbered squares for clues.

DOWN

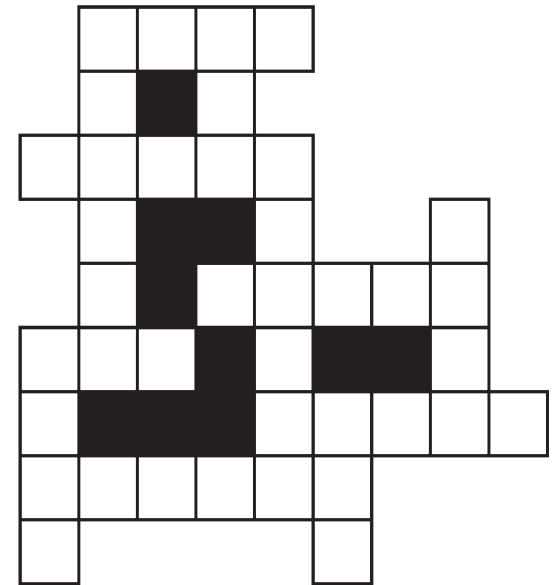
- 1 Leaf
2 Skip
3 Biography
4 Ballpark fig.
5 Lucy's pal
6 "Neato!"
7 "Alley —"
8 Prepaid stocking
9 Capital on a fjord
10 Radar image
11 Collections
16 Beheld
20 — Lancelot
21 Eloquent person's talent
22 Can metal
23 Indent key
24 GI entertainers
25 Tease
26 Cowboy's sweetie
27 Nemesis
28 Dandy guy
29 Newt
31 Bakery pur-

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By: rj johnson

- HET
NECTIE
TERIA
INRE
HASGRI
♥GLE
♥IETD
♥ELTSO
♥ATR
EGERDE
LENCO
♥AGTO



Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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Tom Redmon
Columnist

Here today I am sitting in my son's and daughter-in-law's house. It cost my kids a lot of money, maybe \$650,000 or more. I am proud of them for what they have done with their lives. It has

everything you can think of inside and out, even a swimming pool. But you know what I think of a lot is my grandpa's house back in Morgan County Tennessee on that hill where we road sleds in winter time and had a big time there.

Grandpa's dad came from Ireland in 1848 during the potato famine and he settled about a half mile from my Grandpa James' house where highway 27 would run. They were never rich but John had a little money when he arrived here and he invested it in land. At one time John had over 600 acres of land that reached from mountain to mountain. Today that land is all cut up, although some Redmons live on it, much of it is owned by who knows who. I have a place in Morgan County but its not on Redmon Road.

We had very little back then to call our own but sometimes I feel maybe we were the lucky ones.

Grandpa James married a lady who was living at Potter's Falls by the name of Vola Potter. Grandpa called her Ollie. I believed he loved this woman more than he loved anything on earth. He never wanted her to leave that house on the hill. She took good care of him and James worked hard on the farm for her. Grandma always dreamed of seeing the ocean and in 1967 when she saw it she disappointed. Grandpa only left the state of Tennessee one time and that was back in the 1920's he went up to Stearns, Kentucky, right across the line to look at a sawmill to buy. Someone asked him, when he got back,

The Big House on the Hill

"Jim how was your trip?" and he had traveled all of 46 miles and he said, "boy it was a long one." He went in a T-model Ford.

The house on the hill was built back in the late 1890's by Grandma's half brother



Three boys sledding in the 1950s.

Ramey Potter. Now he was a good carpenter but he didn't have the best lumber or the best tools. The houses built back then had very little or no insulation in them and sometimes you could see daylight through the cracks. This house was a two-story with a full 2nd floor and three fireplaces. I remember going over to ride my sled in winter time and going inside to warm my hands. Grandpa was always sitting there in a chair that Ramey made. I'd love to have one of those chairs today. The wood in the fireplace would be popping and sometimes we would slip a few little fire crackers in there and Grandpa would laugh and say that wood really had spirit.

I loved to sit on the front porch in the summertime and talk to Grandpa or just look at the beautiful mountain view. East Tennessee sure is pretty.

Grandpa didn't talk much but he always asked, "what was your dad doing today?"

I think sitting on that porch was the best therapy a man could get and we had quite a few Redmon reunions there. They had a large family of five girls and three boys and all of them, except two, had a lot of children. Every summer we could meet there and get to know our cousins better. All the girls settled in Knoxville and Greeneville, while all the males were momma's boys and they stayed close to Momma. They also got most of the land.

The farm consisted of 90 acres of the bigger spread owned by John Redmon my reat-grandfather.

My dad had the other two sons built their homes real close to my grandpa's house. That was good because we played a lot with our two first cousins, who are still living today.

Before the big house on the hill was torn down it was rented out to several families.

It was cheap rent. Two of my brothers lived there. It was cold in the winter time and hot in the summer but to me that house was precious. Today the land that it stood on is owned by a Redmon.

Life was simple back then and although we had little in the way of riches, I would give anything to go back to those days.

It is hard to estimate how much that big house cost to build back then but I would say less that a \$1,000 but today it would be worth a lot. I would give a million.

Notice: The location of the house today would be on Redmon Road. At one time only Redmon's lived on this road.



David Zubler
Columnist

Beware of New Law with Enormous Penalties

Many businesses will have a new filing requirement with civil penalties of up to \$500 a day with a maximum of \$10,000. Additionally, the penalty includes imprisonment of up to two years for anyone who willfully provides false information or fails to update the information.

The new federal filing requirement will affect about 32 million small businesses and rental property owners.

If you are an owner of a corporation, limited liability company (LLC), or limited partnership you may be affected by the new law. The Treasury's financial intelligence unit, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) enforces the filing requirement.

Congress enacted the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) to help prevent the use of anonymous shell companies for tax evasion, money laundering, and other illegal activities. The CTA primarily applies to smaller businesses that the government doesn't heavily regulate.

If your business is subject to the CTA, your business is called a "reporting company" and must file a beneficial owner information (BOI) report with FinCEN on or before December 31, 2024. The BOI report is filed online at a new FinCEN database called BOSS (Beneficial Ownership Secure System). You can begin filing the report on January 1, 2024. There is no filing fee.

The beneficial owners are individuals who own and/or control a reporting company.

There are two different types of beneficial owners:

- Individuals who own or control at least 25 percent of the ownership interests in the company.
- Individuals who exercise "substantial control" over the company.

The company BOI report never expires and never has to be renewed. However, you need to update it within 30 days if any information in the report changes.

If you are the owner of a one-shareholder corporation or a one-member LLC, you are personally responsible for abiding by CTA compliance.

The BOI report includes the names and contact information of the individuals who own or control the company.

Larger businesses are exempt from the new filing requirement. Exempt large businesses include: more than 20 full-time employees, who work more than 30 hours a week, \$5 million in domestic gross receipts or sales on their prior-year tax return, and a physical presence in the U.S.

The CTA does not apply to sole proprietors that aren't an LLC. Owners and managers of small businesses should determine whether their business is a reporting company and subject to the CTA reporting requirement. They should gather the required information and make sure it is current when their initial report is filed. They should also implement a procedure to keep track of any information changes so that it's updated before the deadline.

David Zubler is a nationally known tax accountant and Enrolled Agent that resides in East Tennessee. He is the author of six tax books and a syndicated columnist who has shared tax advice on podcasts and national TV and has been referred to as America's Tax Guru.

He is the founder and president of Your Tax Care. He represents clients nationwide before the IRS and provides tax strategies, and tax education, including David's one-minute tax tip radio recordings at YourTaxCare.com. David can be reached at (865) 363-3019 or by email at david@yourtaxcare.com

Historically Speaking

What I learned from Jack Case

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

This Historically Speaking column is written by Gordon Fee and I have chosen to let it follow the last column featuring the letter from Jack Case to Tom Tuck that initiated the conversation between Gordon and I resulting in him agreeing to write it. I think you will find that Gordon's "Lessons I learned from Jack" is insightful into the success of Y-12 and forms excellent basic leadership principles. Principles as applicable today as they were when Gordon learned them and applied them to his leadership of Y-12 and later the Martin Marietta Energy Systems and Lockheed Martin Energy Systems company that had responsibility for all Department of Energy facilities in Oak Ridge, Paducah, KY, and Portsmouth, OH.

Enjoy Gordon's reflections on Jack Case leadership principles:

In reading the letter that Ray Smith recently received (from Tom Tuck's daughter - Ray), that showed how it was in 1962 under the leadership of Jack Case, it made me think about the "lessons I learned from Jack." You see when it was announced in 1981, that the longest serving plant manager of Y-12 was going to retire, I was given the honor of being selected to follow in his footsteps as Plant Manager of Y-12.

For a year I was Jack's understudy and worked with him every day, learning what leading Y-12 really meant. Jack was not the type of leader that would give motivational speeches in front of an audience. He was the type of leader that led by example and who used good old "common sense" as his best tool to solve problems. Jack was at Y-12 during the Manhattan Project days and came up through the ranks from being a machinist to Plant Manager, so he knew the plant inside and out. Here are some of the lessons I learned from Jack, a man who, in my opinion, did more to shape Y-12 into what it is today than anyone else.

1. There are no weapons parts manufactured in the Administration Building. You solve problems by getting out in the plant and going to the site of the problem. Jack expected those in administration to go out to the shops and not take valuable time away from the primary mission of making weapons parts. He taught me that the more you "walked the floors" of the chemical processing area or the machine shops the more you will understand about how the plant functions and is known for doing the impossible when it comes to manufacturing.

2. Remember every person on the payroll is an important member of the team. Treat every person with respect and they will treat you with respect. Yes, there are people who have great skills at what they do but they don't function very well when there is lousy food in the cafeteria, or the bathrooms are filthy. So, remember the janitorial folks are just as important to the team as the smartest person in Development. So at Jack's retirement party he only thanked one person, the janitor who cleaned his office every day for his last two years.

3. Remember you are not near as smart as half the people who are working for you. Listen to them, listen to them, listen to them. Listen to Dr. John Googin, when he tells you how to solve a complex technical problem, listen to Charlie Robinson, Bob Keil and Jim Hamby when it comes to handling union relations, listen to Hershel Hickman when it comes to working with the Feds. The more you keep your mouth shut the better the plant will run. I must admit I sometimes had a hard time listening to Jack's advice in this area.

4. Remember a leader's main function is to handle conflict between different factions in the plant or different people. Jack was not exact-

ly known for using the most politically correct language, so about once a month he would remind me that a true leader is one who listens to two sides of *^% story, knowing both sides of an argument are exaggerating their stories and decide which of (*^%\$ people is lying the least. Every time I faced a major problem, I remembered Jack's advice.



Jack Case as he appeared when he was the
Y-12 Plant Manager

5. Remember to take care of each other. In at least six times during my year under Jack, he called me into his office and handed me a one-page resume of someone and said, "Hire this one today." I, of course, would say, "why is this some specialist in the skills we need, what can they do?" To which Jack would respond, "It doesn't matter what they can do, their hus-



Gordon Fee as he appeared when he was the
Y-12 Plant Manager

band passed away yesterday, he worked here 20 years, and she will need work to pay the bills. Get her on the payroll." Today I suppose we would all be fired for doing this and not following procedures, but this was the kind of leader Jack was.

Y-12 has always been known for its ability to do the impossible when it comes to manufacturing weapons parts and Jack loved to brag on this point. There are several stories of a time gone by that may be a little more myth than truth" as they have been told over the years. One is "The Funeral of Killed Parts." Y-12 had received a challenging assignment to make a very difficult part that required precise machining. The shop was struggling with getting

parts that met specifications and only about 50% of the parts were acceptable. Jack gave the instruction to buy a casket and put it in the center of the shop and every time an out of specification part was produced you had to put it in the casket with your name on a tag. At the end of the week when the casket was very heavy, a funeral was held in the cafeteria for the dead parts and the supervisors were pall bearers. Guess what, "the next week the yield went up to 85% and the week after 95%, proving once again Y-12 could deliver."

Another story that may be a little more myth occurred at the quarterly plant managers' meeting. At this meeting a decision was made as to where a particularly difficult part would be made, i.e., which plant would get the assignment. Jack was not known for speaking a lot at these meetings but when he did it was like the old advertisement says, "When Jack speaks everyone listens."

This time in the heat of the debate about this assignment, Jack bragged about his team being able to do the job better than any other site. When the decision was made to give Y-12 the assignment the losing plant manager said to the group, Jack, I sure am tired of hearing you brag about how Y-12 can do anything, why I bet you guys could even build a metal outhouse."

Well, Jack took this literally and at the next meeting presented his rival with - you guessed it - a brass outhouse! And it was made from an exotic brass metal that was known to be almost impossible to weld.

As I hope you can tell, I admired this man a lot and he rightly deserved having a building named for him at "HIS PLANT," i.e., the Jack Case Center.

People often asked me what he told me as he left his office for the last time. Well, at the time Oak Ridge National Laboratory had the mouse house on the Y-12 site where there were over two hundred thousand mice in residence. Y-12 had nothing to do with the scientific work going on at the mouse house, but Y-12 was responsible for keeping them warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

So, Jack's last profound advice to me was, "Remember, boy, you can miss a weapons delivery schedule and you will get your wrists slapped but if one of them little buggers dies because they were too cold in the winter just clean out your desk because they will fire your a%#." To me Jack Case will always be Y-12!

Thank you, Gordon, for a unique and most interesting perspective on a legend at Y-12. You readers will recognize that I included the brass outhouse story last week and then also Gordon's version this week. I felt it deserved the telling both ways. Gordon did not tell you what he was instructed to do with the special belt buckles stashed in the bottom drawer of Jack's desk. You see, some workers would cut stainless steel pipe into short sections and weld them together in the shape of a belt buckle and often someone would present Jack with one. He just took them a put them in his desk drawer. When he retired, he told Gordon to send them up to the foundry and get them melted down.

The lessons Gordon learned from Jack are valuable ones and leaders today would do well to adapt some of the commonsense ideas. I think it is a fact that Y-12 never missed a weapons parts shipping schedule all during the Cold War and maybe even beyond. It is not something talked about outside Y-12 much, but within the ranks at the plant a lot of pride is taken in Y-12's success over the years. I am proud to have worked there for 47 years!



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**The American Dream Under Biden:
Out of Reach for Too Many**

Monday, December 4, 2023

According to a new Wall Street Journal poll, only 36% of Americans believe the American dream still holds true, down from 53% in 2012. It is clear that Americans are losing hope under Biden, and who can blame them? The average Tennessee household has to spend an extra \$10,344 per year in order to enjoy the same standard of living as in January, 2021. The majority of the blame for Americans' increasing cynicism regarding the chaotic state of the economy lies at the feet of the Biden administration. While the economic situation worsens under Bidenomics, there are steps we can take to reverse America's decline, namely reigning in federal spending, cutting taxes, and curbing inflation.

When examining the obstacles that stand in the way of many Americans' ability to achieve the American dream, look no further than sky-high market prices. Countless Americans are living paycheck to paycheck. While inflation has declined since hitting its peak in June of 2022, prices are still substantially higher than when Biden took office. Even with wages for the bottom 10% of earners increasing at the fastest rate in four decades over the last few years, many are still struggling under Biden. High prices are hitting Americans where it hurts, including at the pump and the grocery store. Core inflation stands at 4.02% – roughly double the target rate. And since Biden took office, overall prices have risen by 17.6%, gasoline prices have risen by 54.8%, and grocery prices have risen by 20%. Overall, inflation is costing Tennessee families an average of \$862 per month, eating away at the savings of hard-working Americans. This is simply unsustainable.

One of the greatest promises of living in America is building a household in a stable economy that encourages family formation. Yet, under Bidenomics, raising a family has become un-

affordable for many. The 30-year fixed mortgage rate is sky-high at 7.69%, the highest rate since 2000. To add insult to injury, for families renting homes, the rental price for primary residences has risen 15.6% since Biden took office. Compounding these issues is the fact that the U.S. is facing a major housing shortage, with the housing market short 6.5 million homes. While Biden wants to dodge accountability for this crisis, his policies are largely to blame. Because of Biden's rampant spending, the Federal Reserve was forced to raise rates so drastically that it has robbed many Americans of the ability to buy a house. It is no wonder that scores of Americans believe the American dream is no longer a reality.

We must tackle the economic crisis facing our nation head-on. We can do this by extending former President Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in order to spur business growth and guarantee that middle-income Americans end the year with more money in their pockets. It's time we freeze federal hiring in order to crack down on the increasingly bloated administrative apparatus. Finally, this means slashing federal spending. Congress should adopt my across-the-board 1%, 2%, and 5% spending cuts that I introduce every Congress in order to tackle the deficit and steer our country toward fiscal responsibility. Americans have to balance their budget every year – the federal government should have to do the same.

Americans are financially strained because of Biden's reckless spending policies that have fueled inflation and forced the Fed to raise rates, to the detriment of American families. The American dream should be attainable for Americans once again. We need to restore sound economic policies to Washington so that Tennesseans can receive the economic relief they deserve.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

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December 2023

Morgan County Schools

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



Morgan County Schools FOOD & NUTRITION

4
Breakfast
Sausage Biscuit
Fruit
Lunch
Chicken Nuggets
Macaroni & Cheese
Steamed Broccoli
Salad
Fresh Veggies w/ Dip
Wheat Roll, Mandarin Oranges

5
Breakfast
Breakfast Burrito
Yogurt Fruit Taco
Lunch
Chili or Variety of Soup
Grilled Cheese Sandwich
Fresh Veggie Sticks & Dip
Garden Salad
Orange Wedges
Strawberry Shortcake

6
Breakfast
Cinnamon Roll
Fruit Juice
Lunch
Choice of Pizza
Steamed Corn
Carrot Coins
Fresh Veggies & Dip
Side Kick

7
Breakfast
Assorted Bread
Yogurt, Fruit
Christmas Lunch
Roast & Gravy or Ham
Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans
Festive Salad
Sister Schubert Roll
Dessert

1
Breakfast
Steak Biscuit
Fruit Smoothie
Lunch
Hamburger on Wheat Bun
Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese
Pickle, Onion
Crisp Baked Fries, Baked Beans
Veggies w/ Dip
Orange Slices

11
Breakfast
French Toast, Hot Cocoa
Juice
Lunch
Popcorn Chicken
Macaroni & Cheese
Peas
Hot Roll
Fruit Parfait

12
Breakfast
Sausage Biscuit & Gravy
Fresh Fruit
Lunch
MANAGER'S CHOICE

13
Breakfast
Breakfast Pizza, Donut
Fruit Smoothie
Lunch
Salisbury Steak/ Drum Stick
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Fresh Veggies w/ Dip
Salad, Roll
Fresh Fruit

14
Breakfast
Pancakes or Waffles
Juice
Lunch
Hot Dog
Tater Tots
Pasta Salad
Fresh Veggies & Dip
Fruit Parfait

15
Breakfast
Donut
Juice
Lunch
SACK LUNCHES

18

19

20

21

22

CHRISTMAS BREAK

25

26

27

28

29

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TRIVIA TEST

- GEOGRAPHY:** Which famous highway that stretches across the United States is sometimes known as the Will Rogers Highway?
- MUSIC:** Which country did the pop group ABBA come from?
- TELEVISION:** What article made Frosty the Snowman come to life in the popular TV special?
- FOOD & DRINK:** What is colcannon?
- U.S. STATES:** Which state is home to the Volcanoes National Park?
- MOVIES:** What is the name of the acapella group that Anna Kendrick joins on "Pitch Perfect"?
- INVENTIONS:** Who invented the Barbie doll in 1959?
- MATH:** How many tablespoons are in 1 cup?
- LITERATURE:** What is the title of the sequel to "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by Roald Dahl?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Which elected president is the only one to fail to gain his party's nomination for a second term?

Answers

- Route 66.
- Sweden.
- A magic hat.
- Mashed potatoes and cabbage.
- Hawaii.
- The Barden Bellas.
- Ruth Handler.
- 16.
- "Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator."
- Franklin Pierce.

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SENIOR NEWS

By Matilda Charles

Getting Educated About Scams

There is a movement online among the children of seniors to instruct us about scams we might come across. All sorts of advice is being handed out to them about how to approach us with these scam facts, mostly falling in the "gentle" category to be sure we're not offended by being told we could become a victim of a scam.

I can see where this could go. Amongst the advice about possible financial scams there could be "suggestions" that we perhaps turn the management of our money over to others. Or perhaps it would mean someone else would balance our checkbook each month to verify just where our money is going. I don't think so.

The way around this -- should these types of discussions come to your house via well-meaning others -- is to be one step ahead and be very well versed in the typical scams that are aimed at seniors.

In a banking scam, you know not to click any email links or give any information over the phone. You hang up and call the bank directly to ask if they called you.

In the charity scams, you'll be asked to give money over the phone. Don't do it. If you want to give, send a check directly to the charity.

In the grandparent scam, a fake grandchild will call and say he's in trouble and needs bail money. No, you'll simply hang up.

No, the IRS will never call and insist you make a payment with gift cards.

In the romance scam where a fake online love interest suddenly needs cash, you won't hand over a single dime. Period.

Go here to read about the various scams: www.aarp.org. Put "Fraud Resource Center" in the search box to get the details on the 70 scams listed. Know what you're talking about when others come to you to "educate" you about scams.

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TOP-RANKED SUNBRIGHT LADY TIGERS DEFEAT HARRIMAN 51-36

Photos and Sports Coverage by Terry Futrell

The Sunbright Lady Tigers, ranked No. 1 in the state in Class 1A by MaxPreps.com, extended their perfect season record to 8-0 with a come-from-behind win over Harriman tonight. Thanks to a tenacious defense, Harriman held a 24-20 lead over the Lady Tigers at the half. Sunbright came back from the locker room with their own stifling, full-court defense and held the Lady Devils to only 12 second-half points. Meanwhile, the Lady Tigers poured in 31 points in the second half. Alley Shannon led Sunbright with 22 points. Adeline Rogers added nine points, and Addison Shannon and McKenna Smith each added six points. Ansley Moore led the Lady Devils with nine points.



Sunbright's McKenna Smith drives the lane for a shot over a Harriman defender. Smith tallied six points for the Lady Tigers.



Lady Tiger Addison Shannon fires up a shot from 3-point range. Shannon buried two treys in the game for six points.



Lady Tiger Adeline Rogers works the ball into the paint for a shot over a Harriman defender. Rogers scored nine points for Sunbright.



Sunbright's Alley Shannon drives past a Harriman defender for two of her game-high 22 points.

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Photos by Terry Futrell



GUEST	0.0	HOME
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FOULS	PLAYER-FOUL	FOULS
3	00	2



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Nothing Makes Sense



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

I was released exactly 6 months to the day I reported to prison. While incarcerated I learned a lot about the man I saw when I looked in the mirror. I had made a commitment to follow Dan Busch's example and never care what men think about me again. The only thing that matters is what God thinks.

I now had the Bible to lean on anytime I encounter tribulation and temptation. I returned to Columbus, got a job building fences, received my back pay for service-connected disability payments now that I left the prison.

I eventually rented a house and joined a church. As I enquired of the beliefs of the Assemblies of God, I decided I would discover their history before committing to any doctrines I may find as unscriptural. I enrolled my daughter in Christian pre-k, and began a life as part of the church community.

I decided to study the history of the Bible and how we got the English King James translation. My journey took me through every empire in the book of Daniel, and I realized so many things church was practicing were not scriptural and bordering on polytheism.

I could not believe how the pastor justified prosperity when half of his congregation was in the military or retired and living just below the poverty line. I realized the only man to get paid for the gospel in the New Testament was Judas.

I searched for a new church home. They all were violating the first commandment. They had married the world system and were accepting tax breaks from the government for being designated as non-profits.

Jesus Christ said render unto Caesar that which is Caesars. Accepting tax breaks will lead to eventual persecution. The state controls which messages are now appropriate in Christian pulpits. There are now ministers serving in the Senate. Jesus Christ separated church and state when he washed his disciples' feet. True Christian leadership!

I began to rely wholly on the words of scripture which ignited my desire to learn biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek. The Holy Spirit ignited a fire in my brain that has been in overdrive for 22 years and counting. I have become a Berean Christian out of Acts 17:11.

I began to reverse engineer the Bible by beginning my study of the book of Revelation. It caused me to study every other book of the bible to understand its contents. Revelation was the only book of the bible I read in prison that promised a blessing for reading it.

Now it was guiding every study I have ever done. I realized that most Christian denominations are antisemitic in their practice. They cling to New Testament only theology, denying 87% of the rest of the Bible. Their religious traditions imported from Babylon, have replaced sound Old Testament mercy.

Here is an abject lesson in double minded thinking JB style. I had been trained as a leader by the 75 th Ranger Regiment. I never quit anything. Somehow, now I was rationalizing leaving the accountability of a Church which was craving Christian leadership. I knew I should stay and continue studying and praying for what God wanted me to do. I got ahead of God.

Relapse was right around the corner. My frustration led me once again to link up with addict friends who were now smoking crack and shooting heroine. I was on supervised release. It was only a matter of time before I tested positive for dope. It came sooner than I expected.

My new probation officer required I go into an inpatient rehab-

ilitation program. The next two years of my life would see me enter and complete six programs and relapse within moments of finishing. I also got kicked out of no less than three programs for using in the program.

I was now living in a van my buddy gave me. My wife and daughter had moved to Utah. My only structure of friends were all using dope of some form. I was working to support my addiction and in some sick way, trying to get closer to God by studying the Bible every night in my Van.

I was within a few months of completing probation. Anxiety had me get on methadone as I met the woman I would eventually marry and spend the last 21 years with. She was living in Atlanta and, as long as I stuck to methadone, I could travel to see her.

There are no words to describe my wife. She endured insanity in my life while I fought a war to get off illegal narcotics. I have had old injuries and even newer injuries that were serious enough to be prescribed narcotics.

I had to find the answer in the Bible.

For the weapons we fight with are spiritual not carnal, for the pulling down of strongholds. In the koine Greek tongue, strongholds are the word Pharmakia. It is men who give us narcotics for the control of the mind. If America wanted to win the drug war it could? Drugs make money.

Government exists to sow chaos. Politics require crisis. Politicians manufacture crisis, in order to increase budgets, for the purpose of printing incredible amounts of money, to deal with the crisis they manufactured. The money makes its way to the lobbyists in neighborhoods where it can be laundered. Then taxes are raised to demand we foot the bill for the crisis they manufactured. Our grandchildren and six generations after them could work 100 years each and our national debt would not be paid. Our entire system requires a political elite class of people ordering our footsteps.

My faith is at odds with those who took the Bible and prayer out of public school. Now people who have never read the bible are teaching our children he does not exist. My life had reached the point of no return. Christian insurrection is now my lot, and words are my tool.

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

He is alive forevermore, and he is returning for his virgin bride very soon. John Burns 11-27-2022 RLTW

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

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

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

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

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answer

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D	E	G	R	E	E				
E						G			

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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

Revelation Chapter 14



Melvin Howard

(Rev. 14: 1-5) The 144,000: John saw a Lamb standing on Mt. Zion, along with 144,000 men, each of whom had the names of God and Christ on their foreheads (in contrast to those who had the “mark” of the beast (13:17). A loud voice, together with harpers playing their harps, were singing a “new song” (5:9) before the throne, the four living creatures, and the elders (5:6, 8). The new song was known by none except the 144,000, because it is the song of redemption, the “lyrics” of which rebels know not! These have been “purchased” out of the earth, out of the this-world crowd; they are the church of Christ (Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 6:19-20). They are symbolically described as: (a) virgins, never defiled with women, they maintained their purity; (b) followers of the Lamb (their example); (c) having been purchased by the Lamb’s blood as a result of their obedience to the gospel plan of salvation (5:9; 12:11; 1 Pet. 1:18, 22). These were the “first fruits,” set aside for God (Ex. 23:19; 34:26), and the promise of a harvest to come (Lev. 23:9-14). They spoke the truth, and their lives were upright.

(Rev. 14:6-12) Three angelic messengers: John now sees three angels which, in the symbolism of the text, bring messages to men. The first angel delivers a message regarding the “everlasting gospel” given for the benefit of all people on the earth. It is a message of repentance. God must be revered and glorified (in contrast to idols, etc.). The Creator is to be worshipped. (The doctrine of creation---not naturalistic evolution---is a reoccurring biblical theme.)

The second messenger announces the eventual fall of apostate “Babylon”---the past tense suggests the certainty of the event. Babylon pompously proclaims herself as “great.” Her influence has been near universal, and highly corrupting.

The third angel with a loud voice warns of the consequences of receiving the “mark of the beast” (see 13:16). This involves giving “worship,” religious devotion, to apostate “Christianity.” Similarly, those who receive the beast’s “mark” upon their foreheads or their hands will be lost. These two expressions probably imply giving mental assent or extending the “right hand of fellowship” (Gal. 2:9) to the false teaching of the system that has abandoned the gospel (1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 4:1). What follows is possibly the most terrifying illustration of hell in the entire New Testament. The person who dies lost will: (a) drink of the wine of the “wrath” of God; (b) suffer punishment “unmixed” (undiluted) in the cup of his anger; (c) experience “torment” (conscious punishment) with “fire and brimstone” (a figure for exceptional intensity); (d) suffer in the presence of the Lamb and the holy angels, accelerating one’s consciousness of just guilt; (e) suffer unending torment (no annihilation). Sadly there are many religious people who are anti-Christ. The bible does not mention (quote: the anti-Christ). 1 John 2:18 “Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.” Those who denieth that Jesus is deity (God) come in human flesh are anti-Christ. If Jesus was not God, his blood would be no more effective than the blood of bulls and goats.

Thus, God’s people must remain steadfast and determined to be obedient, maintaining “the faith” (fidelity to the gospel system) of Jesus.

(Rev. 14:13) The blessed dead: To the contrary, “blessed (happy, spiritually rewarded) are the dead who die in the Lord.” This phrase involves the initial entrance “into Christ” (Jn. 3:5; Acts 2:38; 8:12; 8:35-39; 16:15; 22:16; 16:32-33; 19:1-7; Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:20-21) and maintenance of one’s integrity to the Savior. Indeed, the “Spirit says” (clearly the Spirit is a divine person) that they may “rest”

(Mt. 11:28) from their “hard labor,” for their “works,” their acts of obedience, will accompany them. These are not “works” of human ingenuity or innate merit. They are the equivalent of submission to the divine will. “Works” is not a dirty word in the sacred lexicon. Noah did not earn his salvation, but by God’s grace he labored for many, many years. Genesis 6:22 “Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.”

(Rev. 14:14-16) A fourth angel: John saw a vision of one “like unto a son of man.” Clearly it is Christ. Daniel 7:13-14 “I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.” He is sitting on a white cloud (Acts 1:9-11), adorned with a golden crown (signifying victory (Mt. 24:31), and holding a sharp sickle. A message comes from “the temple” (from God) through an angel; the hour has come for the harvest, and Christ is so informed. Matthew 24:36-39 “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Thus, the reaping of the earth was initiated. Some see this as a primary reference to the gathering of the saints to be with the Lord (1 Thes. 4:15-17).

(Rev. 14:17-20) Two angelic reapers: Now John sees two additional angels coming from the temple-altar (Mt. 13:39). The emphasis now appears to be upon the punishment of the wicked. Earth’s “grapes” were “fully ripe,” and the time for “gathering” had arrived (Joel 3:13). The grapes therefore were gathered and cast into the “winepress,” which signified the “wrath of God” (v. 19; Isa. 63:1-3). (In 19:13 Christ is represented as also taking part in the judgment upon earth’s rebels.) The winepress was said to be “outside the city.” This likely is a veiled reference to the place where Jesus was crucified (Heb. 13:12; Jn. 19:20); there may be a judicial irony in the fact that in this imagery the punishment is rendered at the site of the crime!

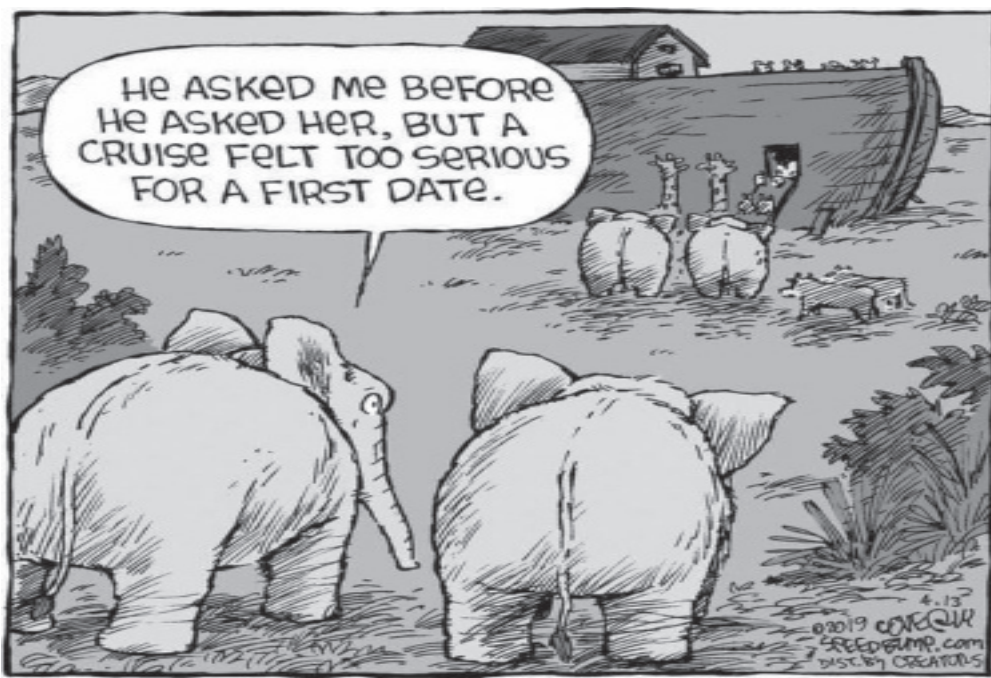
The carnage of the scene taxes even the symbolism of biblical drama. The “blood” of the harvest poured from the winepress and rose up to the height of a horse’s bridle, and flowed to some 184 miles distant. Both the depth and distance (significantly beyond Palestine) are obvious figures of speech depicting both the horror and completeness of divine judgment. (Observe that there is no hint in this imagery that there is a thousand-year span between the judgment of the righteous and the wicked, as dispensational premillennialism alleges.)

BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo
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