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Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3
www.mocotoday.com
Volume 9 Number 51
Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Your Community. Your News.

75¢

Inside:
Christmas Edition
Weather
History

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

- Isaiah 9:6



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Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

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(15400)

WEEKLY WEATHER



Tue 19	41°/23°	
Wed 20	48°/27°	
Thu 21	54°/35°	
Fri 22	55°/41°	
Sat 23	55°/40°	
Sun 24	57°/43°	
Mon 25	57°/44°	



**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

Hello Dr Holmes,

I am so excited about the Christmas season. Ms Ivory and I have been loving all the festivities. We have been good

girls and not bothered a thing!

Mimi and Pap have made the house look all sparkly and pretty. One thing though, Mimi sort of fusses at Pap because he uses his teeth all the time when he needs to use scissors and such.

Mimi says it is bad because, she learned that lesson the hard way. She damaged her teeth by opening pop bottles when she was a kid. Now, she regrets doing that.

As dogs we have to use our teeth for everything. My question, is Mimi right about that? I sure hope you enjoy the first Holidays with your precious baby.

Merry Christmas,
Ms Avery Pearl

Hi Ms Avery Pearl!

I hope you and your family are doing well. I am sure you are all thrilled with the new member of the family, Ms Ivory. Thank you for the questions about people using their teeth for tasks other than eating. Here is some important information because **TEETH ARE NOT TOOLS**.

We have all done it, using our teeth for tasks other than what they are intended to and built for. Some of their functions are chewing food, speaking, supporting the lips and cheeks, and making a beautiful smile. None of their functions include such things as: nail clippers, bottle openers, package opener, or “a third hand” to carry things. A few situations for you to think of when this is done are: holding bobby pins or hair clips with your teeth, fishermen using their teeth to cut fishing line, parents using them to tear open packages for their little ones (we often have our hands full), or pulling a cork out of a bottle of wine.

Most people think their teeth are strong enough to handle such tasks. Others think teeth are meant to



take on these tough jobs. In general, a healthy tooth will not chip or break during normal function. During chewing and speaking, the teeth do not touch. During chewing, food separates the teeth. The teeth are naturally separated during normal speech. Abnormal use of the teeth will damage them. Healthy teeth do NOT have the perfect design to tear open packages, cut

fishing lines, and hold bobby pins. And that just applies to healthy teeth. When teeth are not healthy and strong, the risk for damage from abnormal activity is extremely high. Teeth that have active decay or extensive dental work are weaker than natural teeth and will suffer damage much more easily. Using your teeth as tools can also break or dis-

lodge existing dental work, so you might have crowns or fillings fall out. Cracked teeth are weaker and more likely to crack or break even further. Areas where enamel has chipped away expose the inner structure of the tooth to cavity-causing bacteria.

So let's say that you did not know all of the previous information and you have been using your teeth as tools. What is involved in the repair process? It will depend on the extent of the damage. Some minor chips in the teeth are simply repaired with a tooth colored filling. A broken crown or veneer requires complete replacement because porcelain cannot be repaired. If damage is severe it may lead to an extraction or root canal. So to prevent any of this from happening, and now you know... **DO NOT USE YOUR TEETH AS TOOLS**.

Merry Christmas to you and little Ms Ivory.

Dr Holmes

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

Visit Dr Raymond Holmes and his staff at:

Roane Dental Associates 2717 Roane St Highway, Harriman. 865-717-7743

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Together Morgan County

Will meet Friday, January 12, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. EST at Morgan County Schools Central Office located at 136 Flat Fork Road in Wartburg. Everyone is welcome to join the collaborative as plans are made to support students and families in Morgan County.

Joe Biden's 2024 Presidential Bid



Michael Nance
Columnist

All eyes are on the upcoming Presidential race and the speculation is all over the map. Will Donald Trump be in jail? Will Joe Biden receive the democratic nomination? These are just a few of the questions being tossed around in the media.

Beginning with Joe Biden's future, it doesn't look promising for the democrats. 53 percent of Americans disapprove of the President according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll published in early December. President Biden has so many political headwinds that even

staunch democratic experts are voicing concern.

David Axelrod, former President Obama's senior adviser stated on the "Hacks on Tap" podcast: "You know, job approval down, ratings generally down, most of the comparatives with Trump ... not good."

As far as the polls go, it's important to remember the words of former Clinton democratic strategist James Carville in 1992., "It's the economy stupid!" A recent article by Reuters confirms that the economy continues to be the

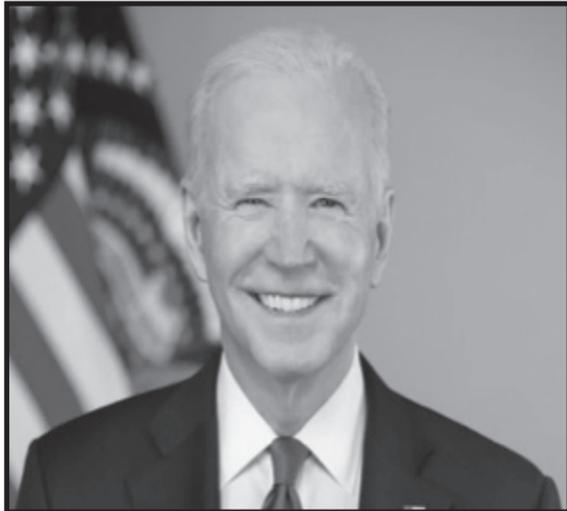
most important issue to Americans, and this is an area that President Biden is in trouble.

When I state he is in trouble, this is especially true in his traditional strongpoints, the big blue cities like New York and Chicago. The open border policies and massive influx of migrants are tanking the local services and economies of the sanctuary cities. If this continues, it will translate into poor voter turnout for the democrats, in areas they traditionally don't have to compete for votes.

However, it is certain that Biden will influence the Federal Reserve to lower interest rates in the months to come, which should improve the economy. This could make his popularity increase coming into the election cycle.

The final straws for the Biden campaign are charges of corruption and questions about his cognitive abilities. It is becoming more apparent, even to democratic supporters, that the Biden family has made money peddling influence, and worse, this is coming to light as many law enforcement agencies under Biden are attacking former President Donald Trump. His cognitive abilities are egregious, he has difficulty reading from a teleprompter and walking to and from the podium makes many Americans hold their breath!

But before republicans rejoice, the economy can be improved, and Biden could backtrack on his border policies. Even this potential outcome



President Joe Biden, Image Courtesy of the White House



45th President of the United States Donald J. Trump, Image courtesy of Trump Make America Great Again, 2024.

could improve Biden's bid for president, but it would almost certainly fracture the democratic party by alienating the hyper left of the party.

So, what about the republicans? Well former President Trump has significant legal headwinds. From the Georgia election tampering case, to the various accusations in New York, its no-doubt that the Trump legal team is near exhaustion. Trump also is a polarizing character in an time where Americans are exhausted from political fighting. There is a thirst among many Americans for political

moderation. However, it appears that the schedule of the cases against Trump have convinced many in the American public that these legal tactics are firmly aimed at eliminating him from the election. His popularity seems to grow almost every time a new case or accusation is made against him. Something that if the democrats want to win, they should learn from.

Reviewing the other republican candidates, Ron DeSantis, who was favored early on, cannot get campaign traction between Trump and Nikki Haley. It appears to many experts that his presidential bid is waning. If Trump is eliminated from the presidential race, a DeSantis-Haley, or Haley-DeSantis, republican ticket has a good probability of materializing.

The 2024 election is sizing up to be historic for certain. I predict that Trump will survive and make the run for President, despite all of the naysayers, many of which are my good friends. Joe Biden's future is clouded, even CNN has run a potential list of names that are mentioned to replace him listed below:

- Kamala Harris: Even many democrats cringe when they hear her name mentioned.
- Pete Buttigieg, who has been associated with Biden's infrastructure bill.
- Elizabeth Warren: Not sure what to say about her??"
- Amy Klobuchar: A Minnesota senator.
- Roy Cooper: The North Carolina governor served as the vice chairman of the Democratic Governors Association.

The final candidate that has been recently mentioned to replace Biden is Michelle Obama. Now this should cause the republicans concern. She can marshal the democratic party and ride the wave of Obama supporters. If she is the candidate for the democrats, the 2024 election promises to be a nail biter to the end.

Year-end Business Tax Strategies



David Zubler
Columnist

Year-end tax strategies can save businesses a substantial amount of taxes. There are many tax-saving strategies and multiple strategies can be used for increased savings. This article contains several of these strategies..

Temporarily quit billing patients and customers. If your business is on a cash basis, you can stop billing for the remainder of the year to reduce your income. Cash-based accounting records revenue when it is received and records expenses when they are paid. Customers and patients can't pay you if they haven't been billed. This allows you to move the taxes to next year.

This strategy is even more effective if you've had a very profitable year and expect the profit to decline next year.

Prepay your expenses. IRS Regulation 1026(a)-4(f) has a safe-harbor rule that enables cash-basis businesses to prepay and deduct qualifying expenses up to 12 months in advance without any challenges and changes by the IRS. Qualifying expenses include payments for business vehicles and equipment, rent and lease, and business insurance. Some landlords wouldn't be happy to receive a large payment for next year in the current year. You can avoid this problem by sending the payment by certified mail on December 31. The receipt will prove that you mailed your payment in the current year and the delivery receipt will provide proof that the landlord received the payment next year.

Buy equipment. Bonus depreciation and Section 179 can both be used to expense equipment in the current year rather than depreciating it over several years.

Get a credit for setting up a retirement plan. Eligible employers may be able to claim a tax credit of up to \$5,000 for three years, for the costs of setting up a retirement plan. You can also choose to start claiming the credit in the year before the tax year in which the plan becomes effective.

Make a credit card purchase before midnight on New Year's Eve. Credit card purchases are deductible on the date of the purchase. Sole proprietors can use their personal credit cards to make the payment. If you have a corporate credit card, the deduction is taken on the day of the purchase. If you use your personal credit card to make a purchase for your corporation, the deduction is taken on the day the corporation reimburses you for the purchase. Offset capital gains with capital losses. The maximum short-term capital gains rate is a maximum of 37% in 2023, depending on your tax bracket. Selling stock at a loss will offset gains.

Reimburse your Section 105 Medical expenses. If you previously set up a husband-and-wife Section 105 medical reimbursement, make medical reimbursements before midnight on December 31.

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

In Loving Memory

Tina Bradley, 49



Mrs. Tina Bradley age 49 of Sunbright, passed away suddenly on Saturday, December 9, 2023.

Tina enjoyed going to music concerts and spending time with her family. She was preceded in death by her grandparents Dorothy and Claude Miller and Margaret and John Roberts.

She is survived by her husband Roger Bradley, Parents Raymond and Catherine Miller, Daughter Amber Rice and Jonathon Flowers, Son Brandon Miller and wife Corina, Grandchildren Caleb, Autumn, Aiden, Ava, and Doobie, Brother Dwayne Miller and wife Missy. Niece Merissa Miller.

The family is honoring Tina's wishes to be cremated and no services are planned at this time.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Tina Bradley.

Myrtle Cook, 89



Mrs. Myrtle Cook, age 89 of Huntsville passed away Wednesday, December 13, 2023. She enjoyed listening to Lester Flatt's music and playing her harmonica and singing. Myrtle was preceded in death by her parents Elisha and Vertie Anderson, Husband D.T. Cook, sons Bobby and Sam Bo Cook, grandsons Thomas and Bobby Preston, brothers John Henry, Lance, Kermit and Lonnie Anderson, sisters Helen Tuner, and Bernice Anderson.

Surviving are daughters Deanna Lewallen, Peggy Smith and Margaret Preston.

Grandchildren Ashley and Samantha Moore, Michelle Slaven, Margaret Deanna (Shane) Lawson, Katie and Jessie Cook.

Great grandchildren Harley Sexton, Summer Duncan, Ada Moore, Jeremiah Slaven, Elijah, Gabriel, Aaliyah, Canaan Lawson, and Chloe Preston,

Eva Bowling, Dylan Mosser, Rocky Kepler and Hallie Hall.

Very special friend and caregiver Ashley Smith.

Also surviving are a host of other friends and relatives.

The family will receive friends on Friday, December 15, 2023, from 11am to 12 pm Schubert Funeral Home, Sunbright. Funeral Services will follow with Rev. Craig Waters officiating. Interment will follow in the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, Sunbright.

Pallbearers: Jeff Sexton, Nathan Smith, Ashley Smith, Kenny Newport, Heather Duncan and Chris Barrett.

Music will be provided by Concord Baptist Church Kenny Newport.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Myrtle Cook.

Susan Elizabeth Barnes, 79

July 6, 1942 - December 12, 2023



Susan Elizabeth Barnes, of Crossville, passed away on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at the University of Tennessee Medical Center. She was preceded in death by her husband Roland "Gene" Barnes, parents George H. Varney and Beatrice Blanchard Varney, Brothers-in-laws Van Barnes and Clem VanNorstran, nephews Charles Barnes and Len VanNorstran, nieces Dotty VanNorstran and Lisa Reubush.

Barnes, Mark Barnes, Van Barnes, Gene Barnes, Richard (Carla) VanNorstran, Clem "Digger" VanNorstran, Ralph (Susan) VanNorstran.

Also surviving are dozens of great nieces and nephews.

The family is following Susan's wishes to be cremated and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Susan Elizabeth Barnes.

Surviving are her Brothers Donald Varney and Steven Varney, Sister Mary Ann Varney Brewer, Brother-in-law Barney (Madge) Barnes, Sister-in-law Claudine Davis, Special Niece Brenda Barnes, Nephews Stanley

Tommy Armes, 79



July 10, 1944 - December 14, 2023

Tommy Armes, age 79 of Petros, passed away at Tenova, Turkey Creek Medical Center on Thursday, December 14, 2023, with his sister-in-law Norma Armes, and special niece Rachel and great nephew Eli by his side.

Tommy was always a drifter and a loner. Never, making a family of his own.

Tommy was preceded in death by his Father Luther and Mother Ester Ward Armes, Brothers; Bobby, and Ronnie. Sister Pat Armes Jackson.

He is survived by his Brothers; B.J., Daryl, Larry, Carlos, and Eric Armes. Sister; Jewel Armes.

Tommy's wishes were to be cremated.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Tommy Armes.

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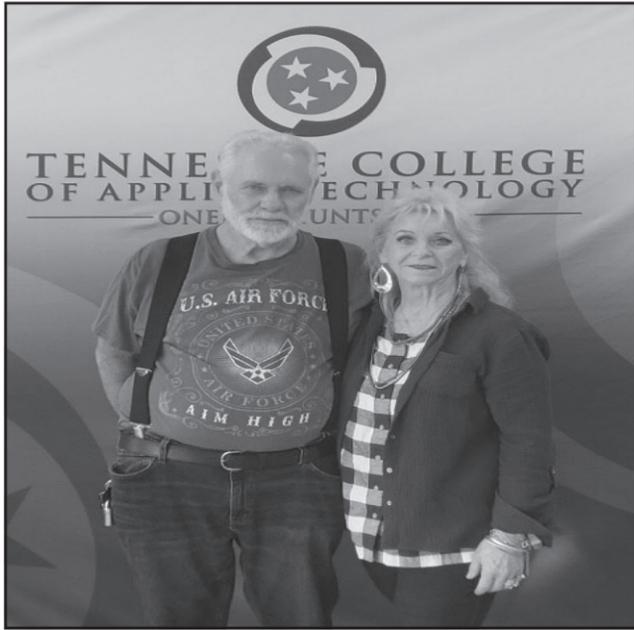
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TCAT Recognizes Morgan County Vietnam Veteran



The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Oneida/Huntsville recognized Johnnie Long and awarded him the Chancellor's Commendation for Military Veterans. Mr. Long is a student enrolled in the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Oneida/Huntsville evening Welding Technology Program taught at the Morgan County Career and Technical Center satellite campus in Wartburg, Tennessee.

Mr. Long joined the United States Air Force in 1968. He did his base training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. From there he was stationed at Sawyer Air Force Base in Michigan. In 1969 he was sent to the Da Nang Air Base in Vietnam. He served 2 tours of duty in Vietnam.

After his tours in the Vietnam War he was stationed in Columbus, Missouri and Charleston, South Carolina before he was sent to U-Tapao Air Base in Thailand. He was transferred from there to Eielson Air Force Base in Fairbanks, Alaska where he was stationed for 5 years. He retired in 1988 as an E6 Technical Sergeant with over 20 years of service in the United States Air Force.

During his military career he performed maintenance on aircraft and other machinery used by the U.S. Air Force. Upon retirement, he returned to Tennessee where he started J & M Trucking. After 5 or 6 years of ownership, he sold the company and worked at Averitt Trucking as a professional driver until he retired.

Mr. Long is a unique student in the fact that he is a Vietnam Veteran who is 74 years old working to improve his welding skills by enrolling in a college program. It is also unique that his wife Derita is a student in the evening Welding Technology program. He is an outspoken advocate for the welding program at TCAT Oneida/Huntsville. The college recognized 15 other veterans who are either students or faculty at a luncheon.

TCAT Oneida/Huntsville has immediate openings in the evening Welding Technology program taught at Morgan County Career and Technical Center. If you have any questions about this or any other program, call 423-663-4900 or email tcatoneida.edu.

TCAT Oneida/Huntsville has immediate openings in Culinary Arts, Farming Operations, and Welding Technology I. For more information on these terrific training programs call 423-663-4900 or by email www.tcatoneida.edu

Culinary Arts Evening Program

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Culinary Instructor Sarah Shanks

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Program Description: The mission of the Culinary Arts program is to provide the opportunity to build knowledge, skills, and attitudes that are essential for successful entry-level employment in the food service field through technical instruction and training.

This program is designed to meet the educational needs of individuals desiring to work as chefs and head cooks. Students are involved in food services, sanitation, food and safety, nutrition and menu planning, as well as administrative/personnel management. Expected employment options include full-service restaurants, limited-service eating places, and traveler accommodation.

Class Schedule: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 4-9p.m. (EST)

Financial Aid available to those who qualify

***Evening Program located at Morgan County Career & Technical Center, 132 Flat Fork Road, Wartburg, TN 37887**



www.tcatoneida.edu

423-663-4900

Tennessee College of Applied Technology - Oneida/Huntsville does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, and disability. See: <https://tcatoneida.edu/about/tn-non-discrimination-statement>. TCATOH 23-02

Farming Operations Technology

Location: Morgan Co Vocational
123 Flat Fork Road
Wartburg, TN 37887
423-346-6285

Start Your 2024 With a College Class



Program Description: Farming Operations Technology program will provide students with skills and knowledge needed for today's farming operations which include, but not limited to, row crops, animal agriculture, and precision agriculture. Students may earn certificates by completing courses that offers exposure to principles in agriculture, livestock equipment, and precision agriculture. Other courses for credentials will present welding, farm based electricity, and shop principles as well as agriculture finance. Students will be presented material for understanding farm machinery maintenance, soil and plant management, crop and livestock marketing, and herd management. Precision agriculture is the future of the industry and will be offered as an individual diploma.

Class Schedule:

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday
4 p.m.-9p.m. (EST)



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Welding Technology | Evening Program

Location: Morgan County Career & Technical Center | 132 Flat Fork Rd, Wartburg, TN 37887

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Program Description: The Welding program provides the basic techniques of welding processes common in the industry. To prepare for rewarding job opportunities, the student learns specific operations such as flame cutting, grinding, metal preparation, the use of tools and equipment related to welding combined with instruction in related math, physical properties of metal, effects of heat, thickness allowances, shrinkage, basic joint design, layout, blueprint reading, and fabrication. Practical work experience prepares the student in the safe use of modern equipment while emphasizing the four basic positions of welding: flat, horizontal, vertical, and overhead.

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FLASHBACK

By Mick Harper

1. Mad Dogs & Englishmen were the backup band for which artist on their 1970 American tour?
2. Which was bigger: Woodstock or Summer Jam at Watkins Glen?
3. Who wrote and released "I Feel Like I'm Fixin' to Die Rag"?
4. To whom did the Beatles write "Dear Prudence"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Now, your daddy don't mind, And your mommy don't mind if we have another dance."

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* We should all be so lucky as to have vision like that of the mantis shrimp: Not only do its eyes possess four times as many color receptors as a human's, it can see UV, visible and polarized light as well.

* The rise in global temperatures has led to flowers emitting less scent.

* Lightning hasn't brought down an airplane since 1963, thanks to engineering that allows a bolt's electric charge to run through and out of the aircraft.

* Spinraza, a drug prescribed for spinal muscular dystrophy, has a list price of \$750,000.

* By 2018, more than 100

people living in the U.S. owed at least \$1 million in federal student loans.

* A one-euro breakfast featured at an IKEA store in the Netherlands proved so popular that it had to be canceled after it attracted too many customers and even led to highway traffic jams.

* Kellogg's All-Bran cereal is actually 87% bran.

* Heading for the gym in the new year? Be sure to take some hand sanitizer! A report found that a typical gym's free weights boast 362 times as much bacteria as a toilet seat.

* During the Cold War, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to put aside their political differences if Earth was ever invaded by aliens from outer space.

* Nicaraguan Catholics who abstain from meat during Lent include iguanas and armadillos in their diet.

* In 1978, Equatorial Guinea's President Francisco Macias Nguema, widely considered one of history's most brutal, possibly even insane dictators, tempted fate by changing his country's national motto to "There is no other God than Macias Nguema."

* More than four tons of old American paper money is mulched into compost every day.

Thought for the Day: "Your life is your story. Write well. Edit often." --Lisa Nichols

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Answers

1. Joe Cocker. Upward of 20 musicians were in the group. They were named after the Noel Coward song of the same name.
2. Summer Jam, in 1973, saw 600,000 people come through the gates at the Watkins Glen Raceway.
3. Country Joe and the Fish, in 1965. The song was a counter-culture protest against the Vietnam War and appeared on their album of the same name.
4. They wrote it to Prudence, the sister of Mia Farrow, who was studying meditation with them in India in 1968, as a way of getting her to stop hiding in her hut.
5. "Stay," by Maurice Williams & the Zodiacs, in 1960. Songwriter Williams wrote the first version of the song as a teen when he tried to convince a date not to go home yet.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

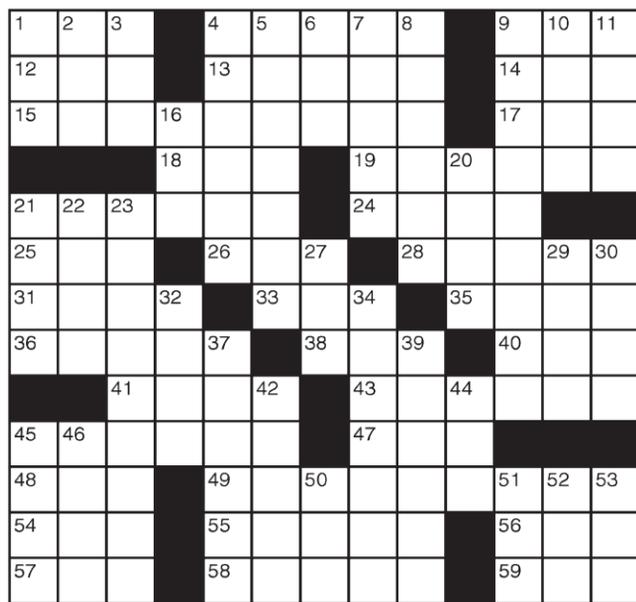
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 TiVo precursor
- 4 Wide
- 9 America's uncle
- 12 Consume
- 13 Heart line
- 14 La-la lead-in
- 15 Gym machine
- 17 And so on (Abbr.)
- 18 Nabokov novel
- 19 Bowling lanes
- 21 Packs tightly
- 24 Go yachting
- 25 Yale grad
- 26 Author Umberto
- 28 Aegean island
- 31 Building wings
- 33 Farm female
- 35 Steakhouse order
- 36 Rice recipe
- 38 PC key
- 40 Chaney of horror films
- 41 First lady of scat
- 43 Bistro furniture
- 45 Telepathic
- 47 Sushi choice
- 48 Hostel
- 49 Heavy burden
- 54 Memo letters
- 55 Deadly virus

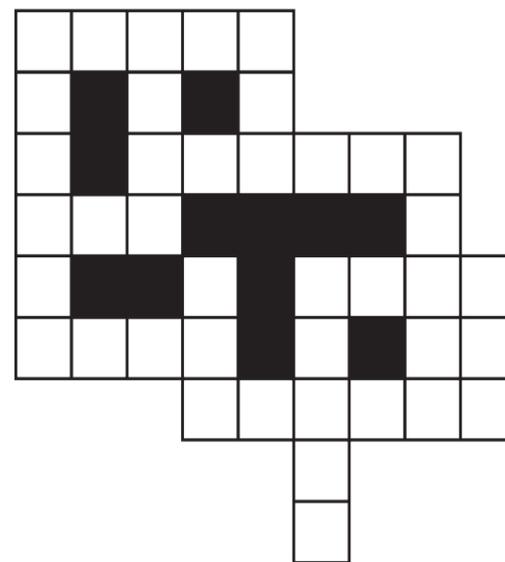


- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 56 Schlep | 10 Bohemian | 34 Getty of "The Golden Girls" |
| 57 Air safety org. | 11 Apple computers | 37 Fireplace flickerers |
| 58 Philly hoopster | 16 Small batteries | 39 Salad type |
| 59 Director Lee | 20 Tale teller | 42 Suspect's excuse |
| DOWN | 21 Army transport | 44 Crunchy sandwich |
| 1 Animal doc | 22 "That's — need to know" | 45 Peeve |
| 2 Train unit | 23 1,000-year spans | 46 "May It Be" singer |
| 3 Hwy. | 27 Have debts | 50 Bagel topper |
| 4 Villain | 29 Bassoon's kin | 51 Slangy suffix |
| 5 Woo | 30 Taxpayer IDs | 52 Sister |
| 6 "... — quit!" | 32 Pretzel topper | 53 Silly Putty container |

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- SEY
LEH SOA
GYNIL
♥ ITNH
♥ SPIDLE
♥ ATF
♥ AEDF
♥ OSHTE
♥ NEO
THURGO
FYTHE
♥ ASFO



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**

Christmas for Mama

As told by Johnny, not in our family

Christmas was always special at our house. Oh, yes! The children always looked forward to getting a Christmas tree in the woods above or below the house, and the girls always enjoyed decorating the tree and even the house with the limited decorations they had. We always thought that Mama also like Christmas because she always wrapped a lot of presents because with her ten children, thirty grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren she loved them

all and wanted to get them all something. How she did it, we all wondered, where did the money come from. Daddy had a good job but with twelve mouths to feed there wasn't much left at the end of the pay period. Just recently he had been able to get a used pickup truck. Since we had gone without a vehicle for all our lives, it was a welcomed item in our family. But there were many other things that Mama wanted to get for the house.



They had recently gotten electricity ran to our house, down from highway 64. It was great even though we only had lights, and they were hanging down from the ceiling – knocked light bulbs that was another indication that we were poor.

We had a cow that gave a lot of milk but we had to consume it within two days because we had no refrigeration. At one time Mama had me and my brother to take a jar full of milk to a single lady down the creek from us. I know she had one little girl and maybe more. She was poor and Mama wanted to help her out so we did it for 20 cents a gallon.

Mama always looked forward to Christmas and having our large family to come in. When everyone got here, we were wall to wall with people. Many of the kids had to sit in the floor and somehow, we always managed for adults to have a sitting place.

There was one thing that Mama dreaded about Christmas and that was the men were binge-drinkers and since they were off from work, I guess it was a good time to pull a good drunk. Mama didn't allow whiskey or beer in the house so they hid the bottles in grandpa's crib.

Mama had talked to Daddy about it many times but I guess the temptation was too strong. Maybe, she thought this Christmas would be better.

We all hoped so, especially for the little ones. The oldest members of the family had already taken up drinking. Johnny one of the middle boys had talked with several members of the family who had jobs. His words were, "you know Mama has really done a lot to keep this family together. You've all seen what she does for us every Christmas. Over 40 Christmas presents wrapped under the tree. If not for her I don't know if we would have shoes to wear." Ben stated, "yes we know, but what do you have in mind?"

Johnny said, "for once why don't we have Christmas for Mama?"

She needs a lot of things for the house and we all can utilize some benefit from all of them, or most of them."

Carolyn, the oldest girl said, "I think I know what you are getting at, but those are expensive things."

"I know but all of us could chip in and maybe we can afford one or two items this Christmas. Can anyone give today so I can start planning? There's only twenty days until Christmas."



Johnny got \$20.00 from all six who were there. Not much he thought, maybe payday will be better. Johnny wanted to get up the nerve to talk to his Daddy about not drinking this Christmas and putting in money to help them buy some thing Mama really needed. You know things like a refrigerator and

washing machine. You know how she has suffered out there in the winter weather hanging out those diapers and clothes on those clotheslines. We will ask all the adult family members to contribute. We all love Mama. I will give \$50.00 or more although we are pretty low this time of the year.

Daddy, listened but made no promises. Johnny, went up to the two appliance stores in our small town. The refrigerator was \$290.00 and the washing machine was \$178.00 and the dryer was \$189.00. That was total of \$657.00 a lot of money in 1949. Mr. Davis said he would carry us for six or even twelve months if we could pay \$200.00 down. That would be around \$76.00 every month for a period of six months.

Johnny didn't have a lot of money but he was determined that his mama would get those things for Christmas. Two or three other children were positive about the whole idea and they told Johnny that he was right. Mama needs those things.

Two boys and a girl didn't put any money into the Christmas fund for Mama. But six put in some money, at least enough to get the refrigerator, washing machine, and dryer. A range could come later.

Johnny went up to Davis Appliances and paid \$450.00 down and made a note to pay the rest off.

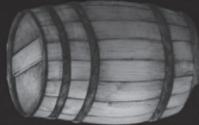
On the day before Christmas one of the children took Mama out to the bigger town out of Washburn to ship for last minute gifts. While they were out the appliances were delivered and were covered up so Mama couldn't see them. Mama came in late and we hurried to bed.

Christmas for Mama, ended up one of the best Christmases our family ever had. Mama was elated and went around thanking all of the family. No longer would they see Mama outside hanging up clothes to dry. Milk would be good for almost two weeks and Mama would have to do less than half the hard work she was accustomed to. Johnny paid Davis off when he got his income tax money back.

Praise the **LORD** for Mama's Christmas!

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Christmas
to all!!!

**Historically Speaking
USS OAK RIDGE (drydock ship for
destroyers, submarines, and landing
craft – named for our city)**

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

For several years now many of the surviving crew members of the US OAK RIDGE, named for Oak Ridge, have gathered for annual reunions in Oak Ridge. It has been a great experience to be able to get to know them and to enjoy their banter and fun of being gathered in reunion.

This year was likely the last formal reunion. Future gatherings will be informal and lower key. At this last formal gathering the city was given a porthole from the ship and a buoy ring. This is in addition to a commemorative bell that was presented to the city several years ago.



Bob Rawls

The following description of the ship's history was provided by Bob Rawls:

With a rich history beginning during World War II, USS OAK RIDGE, a Medium Auxiliary Repair Drydock, (ARDM-1), was a mainstay in the Rota harbor from 1964 until 1979. The ship, later referred to as USS OAK RIDGE, was originally commissioned as an ARD-12-class floating drydock designed for docking destroyers, submarines and a variety of landing craft.

In 1944 ARD-19, part of the ARD-12 class, was towed to the Pacific theater. Later that year, the ship was moored with USS ROSS (DD-563) in dock undergoing repairs. A Japanese aircraft launched a Kamikaze attack, crashing into the drydock. The aircraft passed through the starboard wingwall of the dock, significantly damaging both the ARD-19 and ROSS. Another aircraft conducted a strafing run, but was downed by gunfire from the ARD, ROSS, and LST-556. Repairs were made, and the ship resumed its drydocking mission in the Pacific until after the end of World War II.

In 1948, ARD-19 was towed back across the Pacific and served with the Pacific Reserve Fleet at Long Beach. In March of 1949, she was moved to Orange, Texas, for service with the Atlantic Reserve Fleet until her first decommissioning in September of 1949.

Thirteen years later in September 1962, ARD-19 was removed from decommissioned status and upgraded to enable support of Los Angeles class attack submarines. Subsequently, when reclassified as the ARDM-1 class in October 1963, the ship was recommissioned as USS OAK RIDGE. In June of 1964 OAK RIDGE was towed to Rota, Spain. The ship serviced nuclear powered attack submarines and other craft for fifteen years until June of 1979.

OAK RIDGE was then towed to Kings Bay, Georgia. After the ship was decommissioned and stricken from the Naval Register in 2001, it was transferred to the United States Coast Guard in 2002 and served at Curtis Bay Yard, Baltimore, MD, until being sold to a civilian contractor in 2018.

SIGNIFICANT SHIP DATES

- MAR 1944 Commissioned as ARD-19
- NOV 1944 Impacted by Japanese Kamikaze
- OCT 1948 Assigned to the Pacific Reserve Fleet
- SEP 1949 Decommissioned and assigned to the Atlantic Reserve Fleet
- SEP 1962 Converted to support forward deployed submarines
- OCT 1963 Recommissioned as USS OAK RIDGE (ARDM-1)
- JUN 1964 Towed to homeport of Rota, Spain
- JUN 1979 Towed to homeport of Kings Bay, GA
- AUG 2001 Decommissioned and struck from Naval register
- FEB 2002 Transferred to U. S. Coast Guard
- DEC 2018 Transferred to civilian contractor



Bob Rawls and his father Robert S. Rawls

**COMMENDATION
LT R. S. Rawls**

Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet has awarded USS OAK RIDGE (ARDM-1) the Battle Efficiency "E", Engineering "E", Supply "E", and Damage Control "DC" for Fiscal Year 1978. These awards recognize the outstanding performance of the officers and men of OAK RIDGE and represent exceptional reliability in assigned mission areas, complete readiness and overall excellence throughout the competitive year. Winning the Battle Efficiency, and the second consecutive Engineering, Damage Control "DC" and Supply "E" as a forward deployed unit Confirm the unequaled dedication and professional skill of all hands. As a crew member aboard OAK RIDGE participating in competitive exercises during Fiscal Year 1978, you can take great pride in these awards, for they were attained through the perseverance, dedication, and professional skill of all hands. For your part in this team effort and in the excellent results obtained you are hereby commended.

Congratulations on a job well done,
F. W. Clemenger, CDR, USN
COMMANDING OFFICER
BATTLE EFFICIENCY "E" 1978

I wrote a Historically Speaking column featuring the USS OAK RIDGE reunion in 2022 that includes more details you might like to review: <https://www.oakridger.com/story/lifestyle/features/2022/12/02/the-uss-oak-ridge-crewmembers-reunion/69668797007/>

I asked Bob to bring the history of USS OAK RIDGE up to date from 2002. He gave me the following details.

On June 26, 2018, Bob was on the USS OAK RIDGE in Baltimore, MD, at the US Coast Guard Curtis Bay Yard with Ken Forsberg. They raised flags in commemoration of the ship arriving in Rota, Spain for duty. Bob then mailed the flags and photo of each flag hoist to crew members and sent one to Mayor Gooch. The flag used for their ceremony this year in Oak Ridge was also one that was raised over the USS OAK RIDGE.

On October 8, 2018, during the ship sale process, Bob and two other crew members were given permission to remove some historical items before the ship left Curtis Bay Yard. That is when the porthole was removed from what used to be the Executive Officer's (second in

command) stateroom.

Bob said he thought it more appropriate for the porthole to be displayed indefinitely somewhere in Oak Ridge - the ship's namesake - rather than kept personally, only to be tossed away by some future generation. I agree and am proud that an exhibit is being planned for the items from the USS OAK RIDGE.

Bob has provided the name and email for the current owner, and I have sent a request to know what has happened to the USS OAK RIDGE. His response was: "...walls were cut down two levels, for use as a commercial drydock. It's coming to Norfolk in the next week or two and will be used to drydock a submarine that's being demilitarized and scrapped, then ownership is likely transferring to another Norfolk company for their shipyard so I can semi retire.

So, that is the latest we know about the final destiny of the USS OAK RIDGE. I am anxious for the museum exhibit to be completed so visitors to Oak Ridge can see and appreciate the ship named for our city!



USS OAK RIDGE



USS OAK RIDGE drydock ship



USS OAK RIDGE



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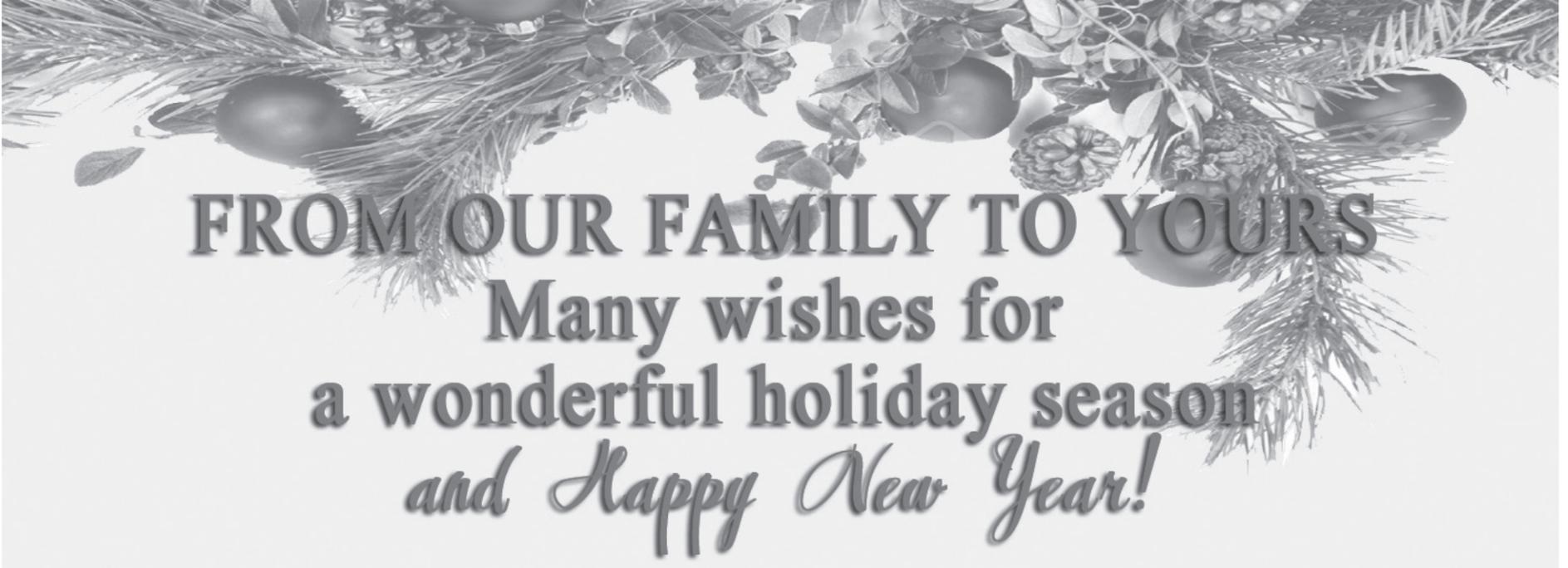


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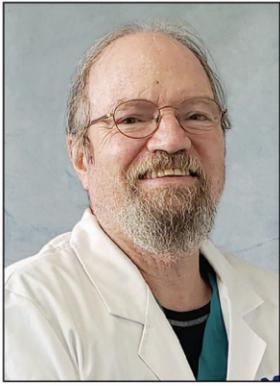
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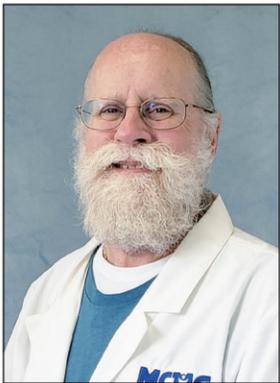
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Greg Casalenuovo, FNP



Angela Brown, FNP



LeeAnna Woods, LPC



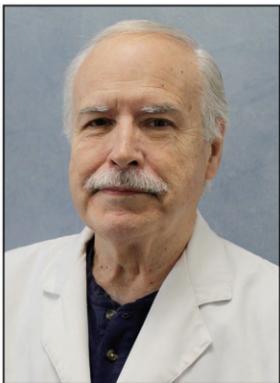
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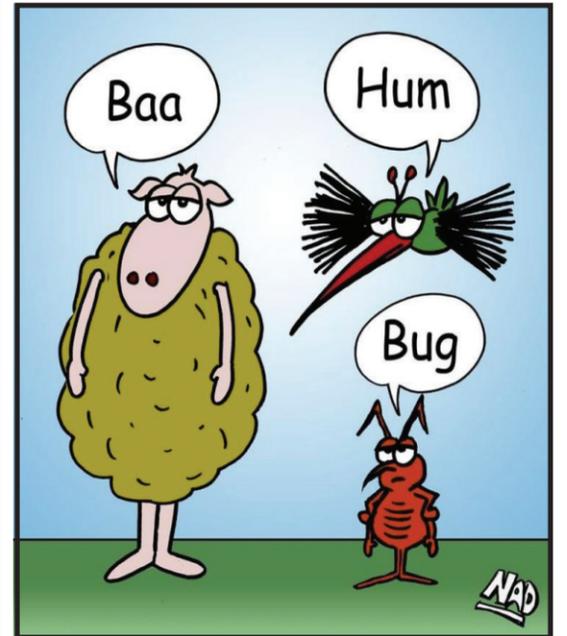
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John Burns
Opinion Columnist

A Ranger Wrestling Match

Returning to Columbus after my incarceration, proved to be a great challenge. The seeds of Bible belief had been sown into my troubled mind. I had become obsessive compulsive in the study of God's word.

I had joined the Assemblies of God. I had somehow managed to hold down a job in construction. I was separated from my wife, and I was sharing responsibility for raising my daughter. I was accountable to a probation officer alone. Little did I know, the shining one had set many traps.

With my history of abusing narcotics, I was required to complete an outpatient substance abuse program. I would once again be joining other addicts on supervised release, trying to adjust to a society that has labeled them as career felons.

The system required strict adherence to established social norms. The government is so entrenched in keeping up the narrative of fighting a drug war, addicts have become pawns in justifying increasing budgets and manpower to keep the prison industrial complex lucrative for politicians.

Law schools are full because our laws encourage lawless behavior. A class war is being waged by college educated elitists who profit from the illicit narcotics industry. The government has no intention of winning the drug war in America. In fact, the war they are waging is not against suppliers, it is against users?

Government has always waged a war for the control of the flow of worldwide opium. History is littered with empires vying for control of the poppy plant, and, the drugs that are manufactured to supply the consumption mentality plaguing America like no empire in history.

Vietnam began with the narrative of stemming the western expansion of communism. once the CIA got involved, opium began to flow into America and no inner-city neighborhood was spared. America had North Viet Nam on the ropes until Richard Nixon announced his war on drugs.

Three trillion dollars has been spent fighting this war without end to date. Our cities are now being filled with a synthetic opioid manufactured by Americas' enemies. China and Mexico are entrenched in the manufacture and sale of illicit narcotics to American citizens. Our elected officials are implicit.

I have the unfortunate testimony of homeless in my repertoire. I had become disillusioned with the American dream. I believe our government exists to control every aspect of our lives. Narcotics are no different. The government is the largest drug dealer on our planet.

The Pharmaceutical lobby is the largest lobby by far. They enjoy a relationship to our elected officials that is at least criminal. Their influence in writing laws that punish drug salesman they do not control, has become untenable. Delusion has manifest in America, and politicians cannot be trusted!

Whenever illicit narcotics became my crutch, government Doctors at the Veterans Administration stepped in to prescribe their version of a legal narcotic. Control was ceded by myself, and I had let the wolves into my henhouse. My dealer now was Uncle Sugar!

Absolute power over my mind would need to be sacrificed to allow Government to solve the issue of addiction plaguing my life. Double mindedness became my ally and a long road awaited my footstep. I became voluntarily homeless and moved into my van under a bridge along the Chattahoochee River. I began to hang out with numerous people hooked on crack cocaine. I myself dabbled in crack for a relatively short time. It did not do anything to help my obsessive-compulsive nature. I would be awake for days on end. Studying the bible while homeless, became my new drug.

Along the way God began to show me our entire system, to include the American Church experience, did not have Gods' pleasing perfect will as their

goal. Church and state exist to make money. God exists to forgive, and show the Love of Jesus Christ suspended between heaven and earth.

I began to see addicts as a product of the system that had no intention of helping them remain clean. There is way too much money entrenched in the federal and state budgets set aside to deal with addiction and incarceration. One interdependently supports the other.

American politicians and law enforcement officials need people addicted. Budgets are decided by projections about the number of people that will violate probation. Prisons are built and the entire system feeds off the misery of poor folks addicted.

The prison industrial complex in America is real. The drug war has been manipulated by the people we elect and they have no intention on fighting the real criminals flooding our rural neighborhoods with poisons that kill our unsuspecting children. Incarceration fuels greed in America.

Homeless people spend their lives most often running from a system that has failed them. The home is not what is missing from their lives. It is the love of the home that has disappeared from their lives.

Narcotics are where people who have lost their first love hibernate. The hamster in a cage mentality takes over, and the system feeds their desire to segregate from the love of the home. Narcotics are where disenfranchised people begin to find refuge.

Look in the mirror to find out what is wrong with your loved ones addicted! They are missing the unconditional love the American dream once promised. Incarceration has become a tool of government to increase budgets to deal with a crisis they are orchestrating.

Government will never wash anyone's' feet! Jesus Christ does. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He frees the imprisoned. He delivers those addicted to strongholds our government has no intention on eliminating.

Jesus Christ alone began to pull down the stronghold of addiction plaguing my existence. I had to see this world through his eyes and his eyes wrote the entire bible before he spoke our universe into existence.

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 12-12-2022 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



answer

H	E	F	T	Y					
A		A		E					
L		D	I	S	P	E	L		
O	N	E						Y	
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					E				

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

Revelation Chapter 15



Melvin Howard

(Revelation 15:1) Introduction: Several prevailing themes punctuate the final book of the New Testament---the persecution of God’s people by enemies of the truth, the ultimate victory of righteousness over the servants of Satan, and the wrath of God in the administration of justice. The wrath of the Lord accentuates chapters fifteen through twenty. John sees another “sign” in heaven; it is great and wonderful. Again, the number seven is prominent for the idea of completeness. Seven angels are seen having seven “plagues.” Plagues are paramount in the Old Testament as instruments of punishment upon the wicked, as in the case of those visited upon the Egyptians who held captive the people of Israel. In this vision the wrath of God is compared to a lethal poison contained in seven bowls to be poured out upon the enemies of divine truth. The pouring out of these “plagues” will “finish” the exercise of Heaven’s justice, though the consequence thereof will be eternal (14:11).

(Rev. 15:2-4) Song of the Saints’ victory: Before a discussion of the “bowls of wrath,” however, there is a message of encouragement to the faithful. John sees a “sea of glass” which reminds one of proximity to God’s throne (4:6). Standing nearby is a “victorious” multitude that has overcome the “beast,” having refused to receive his “mark” (13:16-18). They are ecstatic with joy, praising God. It is reminiscent of the elation of Moses when the Israelites were delivered from Egypt (Ex. 15:1-22), except the joy is infinitely greater because of the Lamb’s victory accomplished at Calvary. The singular form, “song,” reveals the continuity between the two covenants---those of Moses and Christ.

An anthem of praise goes up to God: (a) There is an acknowledgement of Jehovah’s works, in creation and redemptive history. (b) There is the recognition that his nature conforms to what is right and true (whether we understand that or not); the Lord is never duplicitous. (c) The affirmation that God is “king of the ages” (nation) is a celebration of his sovereignty and providential action. (d) Who would be so foolish as to not reverence the Almighty and glorify him? He alone is infinitely holy! (e) All nations will come to worship. This does not imply universal salvation. It may suggest that the victorious throng will be international in scope; or it may refer to the universal acknowledgement of God’s righteousness at the time of judgment (Rom. 14:11), though grudgingly rendered (16:21).

(Rev. 15:5-8) Suffering of the sinners: The scene now changes dramatically. John sees the “most holy place” of the ancient tabernacle “opened.” This was the area of the tabernacle where the presence of God was focused in Israelite worship (Ex. 25:21-22). It was designated the “tabernacle of the testimony” because the two tables of stone containing the ten commandments were in the ark of the covenant in the holy of holies of the tabernacle. From the “sanctuary” came the seven angels bearing the plagues. They are dispatched by God, and their apparel suggests a priestly function. The entire scene is designed to emphasize the fact that the seven bowls of wrath to be poured out upon the Lord’s enemies (16:2) represent an entirely just punishment. Note that the bowls are “full” of righteous wrath! The temple was filled with “smoke,” which was a symbol of God’s glory and power (Isa. 6:4). The time of a devastating judgment is coming, and no one would be permitted to “enter into the sanctuary” to hinder or stop the process of judgment. The task would be completed! The clock is ticking.

Philippians 4:7 “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Peace as a guardian: The inspired writer affirms that God’s peace is able to effectively function as a “guard” for the soul. The term phrouresei means “to keep, to protect, to act as a sentinel.” And so peace is said to protect both the “heart” and the “mind.” This likely is an allusion to the fact that divinely initiated peace provides both emotional and intellectual support for

the Christians. Let us consider these two items more closely.

First, let us remind ourselves that heavenly peace is not a mere bubbly feeling grounded in emotion alone. No, it is based upon evidence. Careful research will establish the fact that the Bible is a true revelation from God, and therefore its promises may be viewed as reliable. One’s peace of mind will, to a large extent, depend upon the confidence he has in the source of his counsel. The Scriptures promise a peace that is based upon concrete acts of obedience to the Lord’s will, as made known through biblical revelation. These unassailable truths provide a sense of confidence that generates a joy and calmness that are not merely speculative.

Second, this knowledge-based peace is thus able to protect the “heart” from those brain-maggots which eat the vitals out of daily tranquility.

Third, God’s peace shields the intellect as well. A thousand skeptical arguments can never breach the fortified soul that experiences the sort of peace mentioned above, that which is anchored in solid evidence. We must confidently emphasize: Christianity is grounded in history; it is checkable. It is not a mere mystical system that wafts on the winds of fantasy. One can study it, test its factual information, and then tie down to it as a stable foundation of religious and ethical instruction. This is the most reliable basis for “peace of mind” in existence.

Conclusion:

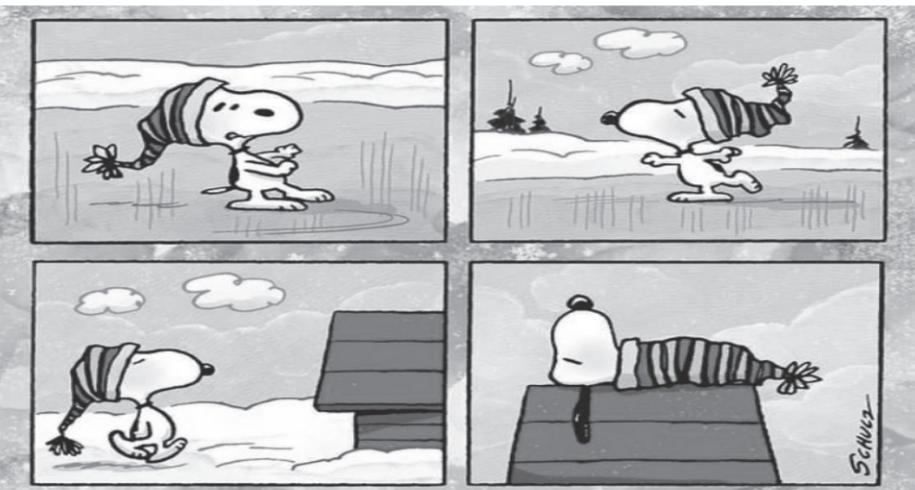
- (1) As to its nature, the ultimate peace is from God, and none other. It is a divine peace. He communicates it and sustains it. There is no other source for it.
- (2) It is the result of a spiritual life. “For to be spiritually minded is life and peace” (Romans 8:6). True peace cannot be divorced from right living. One cannot compartmentalize his life. He cannot “think wrong” and “feel right.”
- (3) Peace is an abiding treasure for the Christian as long as he walks in the light of God’s word. “Great peace have they that love thy law” (Psalm 119:165). “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee” (Isaiah 26:3). Note: whose mind is stayed on thee.
- (4) We cannot truly savor this peace, any more that a blind man can appreciate a beautiful sunset. Moreover, with all our alleged intellectual brilliance, humanity has never been able to devise his own system of psychology which can generate and sustain sweet peace in his heart.
- (5) Divine peace anoints the soul with a balm that allows the child of God to hold up his head in the storms of life, and, with an anticipatory vision, look to the hope of eternity.
- (6) Heavenly peace tempers the mind, helping to deflect the barbs of irrational atheism. Peace both inoculates against skepticism, assists in repelling disquieting thoughts when they arise.
- (7) Peace is a guard against sin. “The religiously peaceful are morally strong.”
- (8) Since our peace is centered “in Christ,” and as He “abideth” as our High Priest continually (Hebrews 6:20; 7:3), we may be assured that as long as we remain in fellowship with the Savior, our peace will remain (see 1 John 1:7).

Surely the scriptural theme of “peace” should provide joy for our day and delightful rest at night.

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