

## Tis the season for savings!!!

The All CAR!



## Morgan County Today

www.mocotoday.com **Volume 9 Number 51** Tuesday, December 26, 2023

Your Community. Your News.

## Inside:

Merry Christmas from Morgan County Today! Weather History

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

- Matthew 1:23









## PEC Celebrates in 75TH Annual Scott County Christmas Parade & Morgan County Christmas Parade





Kendalyn Thompson
Morgan County 2023
Fairest of the Fair







#### Morgan County 🔤 Today

Your Community. Your News.

#### PUBLISHER:

TOMMY LEE FRANCIS
PUBLISHER@MOCOTODAY.COM

#### EDITOR:

HEATHER FRANCIS EDITOR@MOCOTODAY.COM

#### ADVERTISING:

ADVERTISING@MOCOTODAY.COM

#### MAIL DELIVERY SUBCRIPTIONS

CALL 423-346-2329
POSTMASTER:
SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO
P.O. BOX 451,
WARTBURG, TN 37887

#### **IN-COUNTY RATES**

\$40; \$35 FOR SENIOR CITIZENS & VETERANS

#### **OUT OF COUNTY RATES**

\$55; \$50 FOR SENIOR CITIZENS & VETERANS

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT WARTBURG, TN USPS PUBLICATION NUMBER (15400)



Monney of Scott and Morgan Counties					
Tue 26	<b>58°</b> /41°	7			
Wed 27	<b>49°</b> /37°	<b>*</b>			
Thu 28	<b>47°</b> /35°	<b>*</b>			
Fri 29	<b>46°</b> /29°	7			
Sat 30	<b>45°</b> /27°	<b>*</b>			
Sun 31	<b>44°</b> /25°	<b>*</b>			
Mon 01	<b>43°</b> /25°	<b>*</b>			



Ms. Avery Pearl Pet Columnist

## Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl



All snug in her bed beside

Mimi and Pap,

Ms Avery Pearl had just settled down, for a long winters nap.

When she heard a noise, she flew like a flash. All while sounding the alarm. To get more treats for her stash.

In front of her eyes,
what did appear?
A tiny, fat man
With a fluffy white beard.

Dressed all in red. From the bag on his back to the hat on his head.

Watching from her perch, she couldn't believe. He was laughing, HE, HE, HEE!

What did he proclaim as he rode away on his sleigh?

Merry Christmas from

Morgan County Today!!!

## 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.

#### **Heightened Concerns of a Terrorist Attack?**



Michael Nance Columnist

Recognizing that the current administration has adopted an open border policy, many are concerned about another terrorist attack. Is this concern real, or a result of political polarization? Well, the evidence is compelling that this is a legitimate concern, and the U.S. is at a heightened risk for a terrorist attack.

It is not only average citizens that have these concerns, but also a host of notable experts. A retired FBI assistant director, Chris Swecker was quoted by Newsweek as stating: "that I have never

seen America so open to Islamic terrorism." This mirrors recent warnings from the Department of Homeland Security, that an Islamic terrorist attack has greatly increased since the Israel-Hamas War began.



FBI Director Christopher Wray, Image courtesy of FBI

Current FBI Director Christopher Wray claimed earlier this month that terror threats have achieved an unprecedented level since the Hamas October attack on Israel. Wray even advocated during a hearing with lawmakers to renew a law that allows for the warrantless surveillance of certain foreign targets. He also warned that the U.S. southern border may be exploited by terrorists and said the FBI is "working to identify and disrupt potential attacks."

These heightened concerns from the FBI and Department of Homeland Security are exponentially troubling when you also recognize that many of our nations leading academic institutions appear to make excuses for Islamic extremism.

I always mentally pictured Ivy League Schools as the place



Image Courtesy of Baudouin Wisselmann

where the world's biggest problems are analyzed, and students prepared for the globe's future challenges. Listening to the recent testimony of the presidents of Harvard, University of Penn, and MIT, my obvious misunderstanding was exposed. Considering that the testimony of the Ivy league leaders all displayed an antisemitic tilt. This leads to the potential conclusion that Islamic extremism now has a voice and influence in U.S. academia.

The final piece of evidence that the prospects for a terrorist attack against the U.S. are ripe, is motivation. Similar to the motivations that Hamas had to attack Israel, the same groups and types of extremists share similar motivations to attack America. Many Middle East experts assert that Iran was the catalyst that drove Hamas to attack Israel. The reasoning was simple; to foil the many diplomatic efforts that were ongoing between Israel and its Arab neighbors. If a terrorist attack by Muslim extremists was to occur inside the United States, it would certainly draw a military response. That response would certainly degrade U.S. relationships with Saudi Arabia and other Arab nations, which is exactly what Iran wants to happen.

In summary, the United States has a potential penetration point for terrorists along the southern border, and near nothing is being done by the current administration to abate this risk. The FBI and Homeland Security agencies are both sounding the alarm about the probability of another terrorist attack. And finally, if Hamas was to sponsor a terrorist attack against the U.S. it would set back U.S.- Arab relations for a decade. So, it's difficult not to share the opinion of the many experts that indicate that the United States will be incredibility lucky not to sustain another terrorist attack in our near future.



#### In Loving Memory —

#### Rhonda Rhe (Goodman) Schultz



Our Angel Mother, Rhonda Rhe (Goodman) Schultz entered the Kingdom of Heaven December 17, 2023. Her hard work, integrity, and selfless love was prevalent in every aspect of her life. She touched the hearts of many throughout her beautiful journey of life making family her first priority.

She will be deeply missed by her husband Glen N. Schultz Jr., her six children:

Carrie (King) Yard, Andy Schultz, Nicole Schultz, Megan (Schultz) Booth, Marsha King, and Shane Rehman. She also leaves behind 12 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. She leaves her beloved sister and best friend Teresa (Goodman) Brown to carry on her work of love and devotion to family.

The family is honoring Rhonda's wishes to be cremated. No services will be scheduled.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Rhonda Rhe (Goodman) Schultz.

#### **Bernice Brown Hennessee**



Bernice Brown Hennessee passed away Sunday, December 17, 2023. She was born at Catoosa at home.

She is preceded in death by her parents Ira and Zola Brown; siblings Doyle Brown, Eloise Johnson, C.L. Brown, Glen Brown, and Katie Heidel.

Bernice leaves behind husband David: children Cindv (Curt) Williams and Patrick Hennessee (Jeff); grandchildren Jordan (Brandy) Williams, Megan Williams; brother Clayton Brown;

sister-in-law Linda Taylor; brothers-in-law Billy (Sam) and Mitchell Heidel and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family and friends. We wish to thank her caregivers Sonny, Rachel, and Sara.

The family will receive friends Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. with Pastor David Graves officiating.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wartburg.

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

#### Kevin Raymond, 69



Kevin Raymond, age 69 of Wartburg passed away December 20, 2023, at his home surrounded by his family. Kevin was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He loved classic cars, traveling, and spending time on the road in his 18-wheeler.

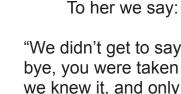
Kevin leaves behind his wife Anita Phillips Raymond; sons Eric (Rebecca) Raymond of Copenhagen, Denmark, Sam (Melanie) Raymond of Toluca, IL.; daughters Felicia Miller of Mossy Grove, Jessica Ownley of Elizabeth City, NC.; grandchildren Sam

Raymond, Hannah Ownley, Hunter Ownley, Lukas Raymond, Veronicia Conovali, Blake Ownley, Harlie Raymond and Tega Raymond; stepchildren Philip (Shannon) Daugherty of Kingston, Justin Daugherty of Kingston, Trey Daugherty of Chattanooga, Christina Hackett of Knoxville; step granddaughter Sage Daugherty; fur baby and canine friend Zavion and a host of extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends Friday, December 22, 2023 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 2:00-4:00 p.m. with Military Honors American Legion Post 149 to follow.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Kevin Raymond.

#### **Clansy Gunter**



In Memory of Clansy Gunter

06-09-1912 to 12-23-1988

She lost her life in the worst way - just before Christmas Day – checking her mail, crossing the road to her home, hit by a driver who fled the scene and left her lying on the road to suffer and die alone. The grief and missing her is still the empty place in our hearts that cannot be filled.

"We didn't get to say goodbye, you were taken before we knew it, and only God knows why. A million times we needed you, a million tears we cried. If love could have saved you, you never would have died. In life we loved you dearly and we love you still. Our hearts hold a place that no one else could ever fill. It broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn't go alone for part of us went with you the day God took you Home."

Missed so much by your family of daughters, sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

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

Proudly serving Morgan, Roane, Anderson & the East TN region for 99 years since 1924





All types of services including your monument needs.



**Locally Owned & Operated | schubertfuneralhome.com** 423-346-6677

## FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOUR Many wishes for a wonderful holiday season and Happy New Year!

Regular Hours M-F 9am-5pm
Holiday Hours
Wednesday, November 22nd-Closing at 2pm
Thursday, November 23rd-Thanksgiving Day CLOSED
Friday, November 24th-CLOSED
Monday, December 25th-Christmas Day CLOSED
Tuesday, December 26th-CLOSED
Monday, January 1st-New Year's Day CLOSED



### DAVIS INSURANCE GROUP

423.346.4978

Allen Davis - Owner/Insurance Specialist
Jennifer Davis Ridge - Office Manager/Agent

## From Our Family to Yours! Wishing Everyone A Happy & Blessed



Locally owned by Kevin, Crystal, Danny & Wanda Hailey 19820 Alberta StREET Oneida, TN 37841









## Wishing All of You The Joy and Blessing of Christmas

NOW AND IN THE YEAR TO COME!



# Merry Christmas! GREAT DANE

470 Huntsville Industrial Drive Huntsville, TN 37756 423-641-7193 www.greatdane.com/careers













## Now Open & Accepting Patients

Alcohol & Drug Residential Detoxification and Residential Rehabilitation Treatment

(865) 297-4811

18797 Alberta St, Oneida, TN 37841 www.myrtlerecoverycenters.com



#### FLASHBACK By Mick Harper

- 1. Name the girl group that had a No. 1 hit with "Will You Love Me Tomorrow?'
- 2. Who released "The Name Game"?
- 3. What was the first song Tom Jones released that topped the
- 4. Who wrote "Give Peace a Chance"?
- 5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "In the crowd of a million people I'll find my valentine, And then I'll climb to the highest steeple and tell the world he's mine."

#### Answers

- 1. The Shirelles, in 1960. The Satintones came back with an answer song called "Tomorrow and Always," borrowing the original melody, but they forgot to credit the songwriters.
- 2. Shirley Ellis in 1964. The song, also called "The Banana Song," used nonsense words and syllables to make changes to someone's
- 3. "It's Not Unusual," in 1965. It was the second song he'd ever released. Several other artists quickly released covers, including The Dells and Brenda Lee.
- 4. Former Beatle John Lennon, in 1969.
- 5. "Where the Boys Are," by Connie Francis in 1961. The song was used as the theme song in the 1961 film of the same name. Francis eventually recorded the song in six other languages.
- (c) 2023 King Features Syndicate

#### STRANGE BUT TRUE By Lucie Winborne

- \* In 1837, Thomas Saverland took Caroline Newton to court for biting off part of his nose after he forcibly kissed her at a party.
- \* The original Xbox had sound snippets of real space missions.
- \* Korean college students once launched a protest against the amount of air in potato chip bags by building a raft out of them and sailing it across a river.
- \* When Michael Orchard broke into his neighbor's burning home to rescue their dog, his heart was in the right place but his timing wasn't: The house fire was merely his LSD-induced hallucination.
- \* Frozen cow manure was the first-ever puck used in a

hockey game.

- \* The word "thug" comes from 1350s India and the Hindi word
- "thag," which means "deceiver" or "thief" or "swindler."
- \* Ten thousand light years away from Earth, a huge cloud 1,000 times larger than our solar system's diameter contains enough alcohol to fill 400 trillion pints. To drink it all, everyone on Earth would have to drink 300,000 pints each day for 1 billion years.
- \* A violin known as "the Blackbird," carved entirely from stone produces sound comparable to traditional wooden violins.
- \* Research has shown that people born in September, October and November are more likely to live 100 years or longer.

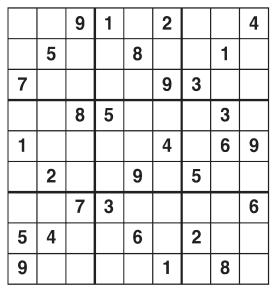
- \* French performer Michel Lotito, aka "Monsieur Mangetout," or "Mr. Eat All," could hardly be accused of being a picky eater, having earned a Guinness World Record for strangest diet. His gastronomic feats included downing bicycles, razor blades and even an entire airplane.
- \* Much like humans, chimpanzees use strategic high ground for reconnaissance on rival groups during "chimp warfare."

Thought for the Day: "Every day the clock resets. Your wins don't matter. Your failures don't matter. Don't stress on what was, fight for what could be." --Sean Higgins

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

### Weekly **SUDOKU**

#### by Linda Thistle



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

#### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆ ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY!

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

#### King Crossword

#### **ACROSS**

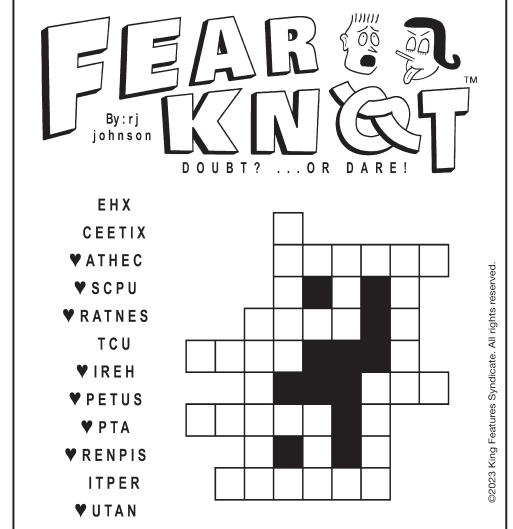
- 1 Jog 5 Cry
- 8 Goblet fea-
- ture 12 Stead
- 13 Spanish aunt
- 14 Tortoise's opponent
- 15 Ride-sharing arrangements
- Work units
- 18 Sixth sense 19 Forbidden
- acts
- 21 Stylish wrap 24 Flintstones'
- pet 25 Comic strip
- possum "Yellow" band 26
- 30 Where Lux. is
- 31 Primitive
- 32 Brit. record label
- 33 Slapstick
- missile 35 Perched on
- 36 Evergreens
- 37 Ickv
- 38 Where Gauguin painted
- 41 Pen name 42 Out of the
- storm
- 43 Temporary lodging
- 48 Furnace fuel

- 13 15 23 22 25 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 40 38 39 43 45 48 49 52 53
- 49 Snaky fish 50 Jazzy
- Fitzgerald 51 Maintained
- 52 Lay down the lawn
- 53 Deli loaves
- **DOWN** 1 Pampering,
- for short
- 2 Estuary
- 4 Elvis' birth-

- 3 Not 'neath
- place
- 5 Halt 6 Texas tea 27 Jared of

- 7 Historic
- Cyndi Lauper hit 9 Poi base
- 10 Thus 11 Disarray
- 16 Sugary suffix 20 Tennis champ Murray Detail, briefly
- 22 Go sightseeing
- 23 Shrek, for one 44 Old Olds 24 Writer Lessing 45 Layer 26 Whims
- "Panic Room" French prison 28 Book after Joel
  - 29 Shrill barks 31 Send forth
  - 34 Off course 35 Sagittarius 37 USO audi-
  - ence 38 Dash gauge 39 Skin soother
  - 40 Make well 41 Hardly hirsute

  - 46 Pub order 47 "- Kapital"
- © 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.



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.

We at Morgan County Today want to wish our dear friend **Tom Redmon** a Happy **88th** Birthday!!!

January 1, 2024 not only marks a new year but Tom's 88th birthday.

There's no one else in the world like you Tom because you're simply that special of man.

Tom we want you to know you're a blessing to all of us.

With love, your friends at Morgan County Today.

Tom Redmon Columnist

#### The Little Things in Life Matter

I can go back to my young days and realize just how much little things mattered in my life.

The hill up above my house was my hill, or so I claimed. When I had a sack of marbles in my pocket, I was a happy boy. They cost, maybe ten cents back then, but it made me feel like I had a million dollars. We loved to walk down to the little swimming hole to go swimming. It made us feel that our world's playground was worth more than the

world's largest swimming pool. Like Hank Williams Jr. sang about, "I'm glad I was a Country Boy."

I remember when
Dad drove that used 1940
truck ome. He purchased it at
Schuberts Motor Company
and we treated it like a new
1948 Chevrolet. I was only
twelve-years-old but I couldn't
wait to get behind the wheel.
My sister and I took the truck
up to the pasture and practiced
our driving. We had gotten
electricity about the same time
so we were what they say hen
you hit the jackpot, "we were
in high cotton."

The good things kept coming along. All we needed to do in life was to keep thanking the Lord for what he had done for us and blessed us with. Dad got us a new 1951 Chevrolet in 1951 and now we felt rich.

In the fall of 1954, I loaded up in Dad's new car and headed to LMU. I had to work over 25 hours a week at the college, but at least I had a way to work my way through college and I didn't have to ask the government for a penny. It wasn't easy but it turned out to be a blessing because it provided a sure way to get an education.

In the spring of 1958, I felt it was time for me to join up with Uncle Sam's Navy. I joined in Cookeville, Tennessee headed for San Diego and was blessed because my sinus and allergy problems left me in three days. I was

really blessed because this had been a problem for me for many years. Because of the blessing I really enjoyed the training.

Then after the 7 th week of training Company 190 chose me as the recruit that made the most progress in our company. I was less fortunate in "A" School in Pensacola, Florida when I got really ill and had to go to the hospital for a week. The Master Chief went to bat for me and instead of sending me out to the fleet I made a high grade on the final test and I went

on to my first duty station in Guam.

In May of 1962 I met Wonda Stinger who became my wonderful wife. We both got through college and became educators in Bradenton, Florida. The little things in life turned out to be big things in life.

We had three wonderful children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. They have all made us proud. Our two boys got college degrees, and they have great jobs. A granddaughter got a degree in medicine, and a grandson is in a high office, another granddaughter got her degree in business and has a great job with chances of moving up. Two other grandchildren are working toward degrees.

But these are not the most important things in life. The little things

God blesses us with everyday are

God blesses us with everyday are what really counts.

I have lived a long life and I've had a long time to think about what is most important in life. Its not how much education you can get or how much money you can make in life or even the number of people vou can influence in life. It's really the number of people you can help who struggle through life. It's the little things that you experience day by day as you go through this life witnessing to the lost. It's the opportunity that you have to do the best you can do and never be a slacker. You can make a difference in somebody else's life.

As a teacher I did a lot to try to make

a difference in young people's lives. But I never did enough because some kids, I never tried to help. I wish I had. Some elderly people I never visited or tried to help; I wish I had.

Folks that is what life should be all about. I wish I could go back and do more for others.

The amount of education, or the amount of money I have made in life is of less importance to me as I age in life.

The little things that show our love for one

another mean more to me today than those big things like college degrees.

When my buddy hugs me and says I love you Tommy, well that's what counts in life.

Amen!



**Boys Playing Marbles in the 1940's** 



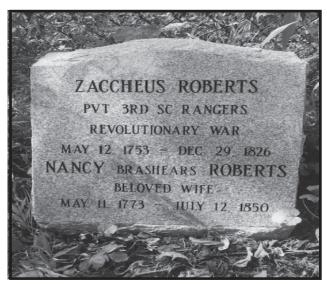
1940 Chevrolet Truck



#### Historically Speaking Private Zaccheus Roberts Revolutionary War Veteran

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Dennis Eggert brings us up to date on his continuing research in to the history of the Roberts family. He and Ralph Martin have done a really good job of researching the Roberts family history. Enjoy Dennis Eggert's latest research into this Revolutionary War veteran buried in Oak Ridge.



Zaccheus and Nancy Roberts' tombstone at Preserve on the Clinch (Roberts Cemetery)

Much of the knowledge of Zaccheus Roberts' life has already been thoroughly documented thanks to the works of local historian Snyder Roberts (now deceased), and many other knowledgeable Roberts' family descendents. It is through their diligent research that I began my journey to discover Zaccheus Roberts' unique story of becoming one of eleven known Revolutionary War veterans buried within Oak Ridge.

Initially, I was unsure as to where he is actually buried. Knowledgeable Roberts descendents disagree as to his actual burial site. They document three potential sites, two within the Oak Ridge city limits and one outside.

Additionally, Zaccheus Roberts has two separate tombstones marking where he is thought to be buried. One is in the Roberts Cemetery also known as the Merrywater Homepark Cemetery located off Bendamere Drive in Lawnville. Another tombstone is in the Roberts Cemetery located in the Preserve on the Clinch subdivision within the Kennedy bend of the Clinch River.

The third cemetery where Zaccheus Roberts was thought to be buried is in the Elias Roberts Cemetery located on the other side of the Clinch River.

From diligent family research, we know that brothers Zaccheus and Elias were born in Brownsville, Pennsylvania (1753 & D. Later, when the Revolutionary War erupted, the two brothers enlisted to fight the British and went their separate ways. Elias remained in the North and joined the Continental Rangers where he fought at the Battles of Monmouth and Brandywine. Later his unit was ordered to the Southern campaign where he served at the ill-fated defense of Charleston, South Carolina.

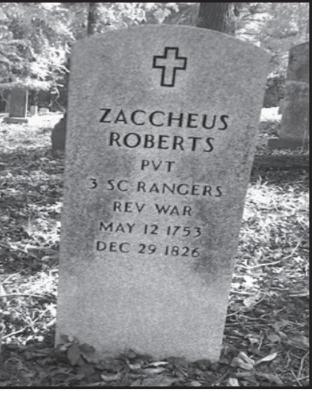
Brother Zaccheus migrated to South Carolina where he served in the Third South Carolina Rangers. He fought at the Battles of Fort Moultrie, Eutaw Springs, and Hanging Rock.

Immediately after the war, Zaccheus and Elias reunited in the Pendleton District of South Carolina. Here they met two sisters, Nancy and Rebecca Brashears whom they would ultimately marry. Robert Samuel Brashears, father of Rebecca and Nancy, became the patriarch of this extended family. In 1794, they migrated to what would later become Roane County, Tennessee.

Patriarch Samuel Brashears settled one ridge beyond the Clinch River in Sugar Grove Valley. Elias bought 500 acres of land along Poplar Creek just before it empties into the Clinch River. From Elias' home, it was not uncommon for this family to see Native Americans canoeing up and down Poplar Creek. Just across the Clinch River and slightly down from the mouth of Poplar Creek, Zaccheus Roberts bought 50 acres of land.

Here, the Roberts families raised their children. Elias and Rebecca had ten children and Zaccheus and Nancy had eight that survived through childhood. These children and later generations of Roberts' children would often go swimming on Elias Roberts' property at a bend in Poplar Creek. They would spend many happy summer days jumping off "Granny's Bluff" into the waters below.

Often, the Roberts brothers along with local neighbor Hezekiah Love would enjoy quality time together retelling their experiences while serving in South



Zaccheus Roberts' tombstone at Merrywater Homepark Cemetery (Roberts Cemetery)

Carolina during the Revolutionary War. It was common knowledge among all of their neighbors that these three

were indeed Revolutionary War veterans. In later years Zaccheus and Elias' wives, Nancy and Rebecca, documented these treasured stories in Nancy's military affidavits for her widow's pension.

By 1802, Zaccheus was serving in the Roane County Militia in Captain Hugh France's Company. In those days all able-bodied men on the county tax rolls were subject to be called up for temporary duty within a county militia company. This duty required them to perform additional services such as repairing roads and delivering mail. It is ironic that later that same year, Zaccheus sued Roane County for damages to his field due to a public road built through his property. Ultimately, Zaccheus lost his case; the jury ruled that "Zaccheus Roberts hath received no damages inconsequence of the road."

Later in December 1802, Zaccheus faced another legal issue when he assaulted Roane County Sheriff John Brown. The details of this assault are not known but what is known is that Zaccheus inflicted "great damage" to this peace officer. In the end, it was Zaccheus Roberts who

had to suffer; he had to pay Sheriff John Brown a very expensive compensation along with hefty court costs.

In 1806, at age 46, Elias Roberts died of unknown causes and was buried on his farm. His wife Rebecca then took ownership of the farm until her death in 1859 when she passed it down to her heirs.

Zaccheus lived another 20 years until his death on December 29, 1826 just 3 hours before daylight. He was buried on his family farm. The family did not place a marker on his grave but instead erected a wooden shed over it. Overtime, the shed deteriorated and was replaced by a primitive marker. It is believed that his wife, Nancy, who died in 1850, is also buried there.

In 1834, the heirs of Zaccheus decided to sell the family farm and it was sold to local farmer, Annias McKinney. However, the land title had one stipulation: the family was to retain a small 30-foot square plot where Zaccheus Roberts was buried. Thanks to this land title, we know the location of his grave! Over the years, this small Zaccheus Roberts Cemetery was neglected but not forgotten. Its location remained known and at some time a fence was erected around it.

The years passed. Thanks to Roberts family historians, connections to their roots remained intact. In 1944, local historian and Roberts descendent Snyder Roberts located the Zaccheus Roberts' family Bible. At that time, it was in the possession of Mrs. H. M. Hedgecock, a Roberts descendent that was living in Kingston.

Sadly, the genealogy pages to this Bible were in a severely decrepit condition. Snyder pleaded with Mrs. Hedgecock to donate this priceless treasure to the Tennessee State Archives which she did in 1945. This Bible then became the property of the state of Tennessee. Today, the genealogy pages of the Zaccheus Roberts Bible can be accessed by everyone via the internet through the Tennessee State Archives, Family Bibles.

In 1942, this land that was once owned by Zac-

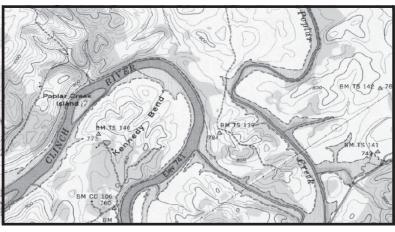
cheus Roberts changed forever. The advent of World War II and the need to condemn land for the effort to develop the atomic bomb isolated Kennedy Bend.

Although Kennedy Bend was not included within the security area of the Manhattan project, it was still under federal ownership. One local Lawnville resident whose family roots go back generations informed me that the government then planted pine trees. This transformed the fertile farmland into an arboreal landscape that provided cover and obstructed the view across the river. The Roberts Cemetery became lost within a forest of pines.

After World War II, Kennedy Bend went through another transformation. After federal ownership of this area ended, local residents began visiting Kennedy Bend again. The roads in the bend in the early 1970's were still in good condition which made easy access. Residents would drive their family cars here to enjoy outings, family picnics, and especially to reconnect to their departed loved ones buried in family cemeteries.

Then in 1987, Kennedy Bend was sold to the Boeing Company. Boeing's plans for development here did not materialize and in 2001, they sold Kennedy Bend to the developers of Rarity Ridge. Then in 2003, the city of Oak Ridge extended its borders across the Clinch River to annex Kennedy Bend.

However, the recession beginning in 2007 had a devastating effect on the Rarity Ridge development and ultimately they went into bankruptcy. After the collapse of Rarity Ridge, a planned neighborhood development



Pre-Oak Ridge Topo Map of Kennedy Bend

was implemented in 2017. Homes are again being constructed in what is now the Preserve on the Clinch.

Today, this successful effort is transforming Kennedy Bend, now Campbell Bend, into a vibrant residential community. Yet, located away from the booming construction, neglected, primitive roads still exist that are only accessible by rugged off-road vehicles.



1942 Army high altitude aerial photo of Kennedy Bend (This is pre-Oak Ridge.)

Here, visitors can see remnants of old stone walls and forgotten cemeteries. Using their smart phones, they can access a map with a GPS marker indicating the location of the Roberts Cemetery.

Abandoning their vehicles they must follow this signal deeper into the backwoods until they stumble upon the gravesite of Private Zaccheus Roberts. Here, lying in silent repose is one of only two Revolutionary War veterans whose graves are each documented as being in separate Oak Ridge historic cemeteries.

Thank you, Dennis, for this excellent detail of Zaccheus Roberts history as well as the area of Oak Ridge just west of the Clinch River.

## THOMAS G. ALLEN, M.D. FAMILY PRACTICE & SPORTS MEDICINE

Proudly Serving Morgan County Since 1992



## WARTBURG FAMILY MEDICAL CENTER

950 Main St. (Suite A) Wartburg, TN 37887

423.346.2620

## McGill's Garbage Service

\$25 per month
Weekly Pick-up
Use your can or ours
We accept Cash, Check
Debit/Credit and Paypal



Serving all areas of Morgan county and South Fentress

We offer military and senior discounts! Give us a call today!





### OUTPATIENT SERVICES IMAGING SERVICES

- X Rays
- · Mammography Screening
- Ct Scans
- · Bone Density Testing
- Ultrasounds

#### CARDIOPULMONARY SERVICES

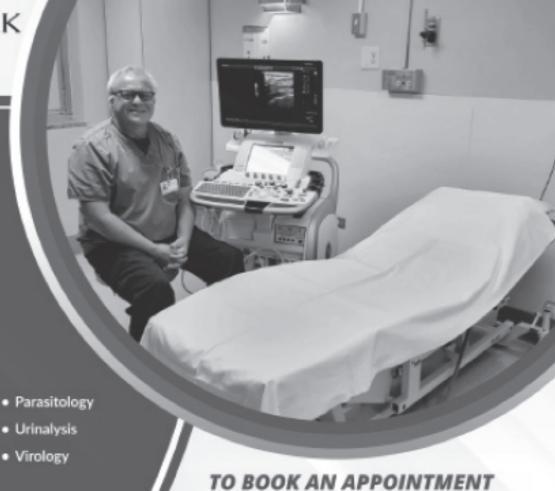
- · Arterial Blood Gas
- EKG
- Breathing Treatment

#### LABORATORY SERVICES

- Bacteriology
- Hematology (Routine)
- Chemistry (Routine)
- Immunohematology
- Endocrinology
- Mycobacteriology
- General Immunology
- Mycology

#### OTHER OUTPATIENT SERVICES

- Blood Transfusions
- IV Antibiotic Therapy
- Hydration Therapy



CALL (423) 569-8521 bigsouthforkmc.com

## We Are Hiring!

Visit www.bsfmedical.com/careers for more information!

### WHAT EVERYBODY WANTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!!!

**NEW FDA Approved Semaglutide Plus and Tirzapetide** 

"Walk-ins" Welcome

Injections Now at Dr's Weight Loss Clinic!

Call to schedule your FREE Consultation



Physician Supervised
Prescription Diet Pills
Lipo Myoden
B12 Injections
Health and Wellness Supplements

#### **DR'S WEIGHT LOSS CLINIC**

19102 Alberta Street, Oneida, TN 423-286-7546

1035 Old Hwy 127 S, Jamestown, TN 931-879-8444





## Merry Christmas









#### **MAKE YOUR CARDS HOLIDAY READY!**

Shop with confidence and added security with CONTROL MY CARD by KTVAECU<sup>®</sup>. Freeze your cards, change your PIN, set travel plans, set custom alerts, add to digital wallet, and so much more!

Learn More! 4 (865) 544-5400 \* tvacreditunion.com

NCUA

Be sure the Credit Union has your latest email address before registering your card with Control My Card. Data and message rates may apply. Ask for details. Control My Card by KTVAECU® is a registered trademark of Knoxville TVA Employees Credit Union.









### BASKETBALL SCOREBOARD

#### MORGAN COUNTY

BOYS

WARTBURG
DEC. 15 VS. COALFIELD W 61-58
DEC. 19 VS. GREENBACK CANCELLED

COALFIELD DEC. 15 AT WARTBURG L 58-61 DEC. 19 AT ROCKWOOD L 45-51

SUNBRIGHT DEC. 12 VS. OLIVER SPRINGS L 39-65 DEC. 15 VS. EAGLETON CCA L 22-61

OAKDALE DEC. 15 VS. GREENBACK W 70-59 DEC. 19 AT JELLICO L 83-50 GIRLS

WARTBURG DEC. 15 VS. COALFIELD W 65-46 DEC. 19 VS. GREENBACK

COALFIELD DEC. 15 AT WARTBURG L 46-65 DEC. 19 AT ROCKWOOD L 53-57

SUNBRIGHT DEC. 12 VS. OLIVER SPRINGS W 50-24 DEC. 15 VS EAGLETON CCA W 50-15

OAKDALE DEC. 15 VS GREENBACK W 61-46 DEC. 19 AT JELLICO W 54-52

## BASKETBALL SCOREBOARD

SCOTT COUNTY

BOYS

ONEIDA DEC. 15 AT GATLINBURG L 93-52 DEC. 19 VS. WILLIAM BLOUNT L 51-70

SCOTT DEC. 12 VS.ANDERSON CO L 65-74 DEC. 14 VS. MARYVILLE CHS L 50-52 GIRLS

ONEIDA DEC. 15 AT GATLINBURG L 32-73 DEC. 19 VS. WILLIAM BLOUNT W 55-43

SCOTT DEC. 12 VS.ANDERSON CO W 49-43 DEC. 14 VS. MARYVILLE CHS W 44-30

TMT TRUCKING

4758 KNOXVILLE HWY
OLIVER SPRINGS, TN 37840
865-435-1047





McDonald's of Oneida Locally owned by Kevin, Crystal, Danny, &

Wanda Hailey





RustyWallaceHonda.com

**I=75 AT CALLAHAN DRIVE** 

865-938-4222



## The Bulldog Banner





Cole Burchell (CatFish Cole)

**SEC History: Football**By: Cole Burchell

The SEC or Southeastern Conference is the most dynamic college football conference in the NCAA. With over nine decades of touchdowns and triumphs across the gridiron, the SEC is truly special when it comes to athletics. Today we focus on the greatest sport known to mankind, college football.

A game of both endurance and wit, college football brings the best athletes across the nation to face off against one another to achieve their dreams of fame and success. However, no other conference across the nation brings together athletes such as our very own SEC. Sporting over 26 national tiles across the current 14 members of the SEC. With two more members arriving next year with the introduction of the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Oklahoma to the SEC lineup. However, one issue of being a part of such a successful and prestigious conference is that we hate each other's guts. That's why today we will be ranking the current, past, and confirmed future college football programs of the SEC.

As to address the elephant in the room, I am a University of Tennessee, Knoxville fan and will be for life. To prevent the bias my passion will bring into this ranking I will be basing my findings solely on factual evidence. My process includes ranking a program in the following 4 categories, All-Time Win-to-lose Ratio, National Championship Titles,

All-Time Bowl Game Performance, and NCAA Conference Titles. Once the program has been ranked statistically the programs ranking in each category is added up. An example is Florida State University (not a participating school in this ranking) placed 1st, 3rd, 7th, and 15th in the prior categories. I add these numbers to come to the sum of 26 which I then divide by 4, the number of categories. The result is 6.50, I repeat this process with the remaining programs and then rank them accordingly. The lower the score a program receives the higher it is placed in the following categories.



Daniel Bunch (Big Man Dan)

Notes - AP or Associated Press has acted as the chief ranking system since 1936. # Claimed represents the amount of National Titles a program has claimed from other accredited sources. App. stands for appearance as in the Bowl Game appearances.

What I have found from this study is what most would expect with the Crimson Tide pulling ahead with Oklahoma not far behind and Sewanee in dead last since it was demoted to Division III. It was also interesting to see that Kentucky holds the title of the oldest football program being 142 years old. Though of course, it is most saddening to see my Vols just outside the top 5. Though maybe in the years to come, we could find ourselves there.

Data collected from Winsipedia and NCAA.

Notes - AP or Associated Press has acted as the chief ranking system since 1936. # Claimed represents the amount of National Titles a program has claimed from other accredited sources. App. stands for appearance as in the Bowl Game appearances.

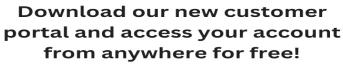
The following graph shows the various statistics in play and the program rankings:

	All-Time Win-to-Loss Ratio	National Championship Titles	All-Time Bowl Game Performance	NCAA Conference Titles
#1 University of Alabama (1.25)	965-336-43 / .734	12 AP / 18 Claimed	75 App. / 45-27- 3 / .620	34
#2 University of Oklahoma (2.25)	944-340-53 /.726 7 AP / 7 Claimed		56 App. / 31-24- 1 / .563	50
#3 University of Texas at Austin (3.00)	948-391-33 / .703	3 AP / 4 Claimed	58 App. / 31-25- 2 / .552	31
#4 University of Georgia (4.75)	880-429-54 / .665	3 AP / 4 Claimed	61 App. / 37-21- 3 / .631	15
#5 Louisiana State University (5.00)	842-434-47 / .654	3 AP / 4 Claimed	54 App. / 29-24- 1 / .546	16
#6 University of Tennessee (5.50)	875-414-53 / .672	2 AP / 6 Claimed	55 App. / 30-25- 0 / .545	16
#7 University of Florida (8.50)	759-445-40 / .626	3 AP / 3 Claimed	49 App. / 25-24- 0 / .510	8
#8 Auburn University (8.75)	799-470-47 / .625	2 AP / 2 Claimed	46 App. / 24-20- 2 / .543	12
#9 Georgia Institute of Technology (9.00)	755-540-43 / .580	0 AP / 4 Claimed	45 App. / 25-20- 0 / .556	15
#10 Texas A&M University (10.67)	778-503-48 / .603	1 AP / 3 Claimed	42 App. / 20-22- 0 / .476	18
#11 University of Arkansas (10.75)	740-539-40 / .576	0 AP / 1 Claimed	44 App. / 17-24- 3 / .420	13
#12 University of Mississippi (12.50)	675-547-35 / .551	0 AP/ 3 Claimed	40 App. / 24-15- 0 / .615	6
#13 University of Missouri (13.75)	712-588-52 / .546	0 AP / 0 Claimed	35 App. / 15-20- 0 / .429	12
#14 University of Kentucky (15.00)	652-646-44 / .502	0 AP / 1 Claimed	22 App. / 12-10- 0 / .545	2
#15 Mississippi State University (15.25)	594-609-39 / .494	0 AP / 0 Claimed	26 App. / 15-11- 0 / .577	1
#16 Vanderbilt University (15.50)	618-665-50 / .482	0 AP / 0 Claimed	9 App. / 4-4-1 / .500	13
#17 Tulane University (15.75)	564-673-38 / .457	0 AP / 0 Claimed	15 App. / 7-8-0 / .467	10
#18 University of South Carolina (15.75)	635-612-44 / .509	0 AP / 0 Claimed	25 App. / 10-15- 0 / .400	1
#19 Sewanee: The University of the South (19.00)	489-539-39 / .477	0 AP / 0 Claimed	0 App. / 0-0-0 / 1.000	15

The following graph shows the rankings each program received in the 4 categories below:

	All-Time Win-to-Loss Ratio	National Championship Titles	All-Time Bowl Games Performance	NCAA Conference Titles
#1 University of Alabama (1.25)	1st	1st	1st	2nd
#2 University of Oklahoma (2.25)	2nd	2nd	4th	1st
#3 University of Texas at Austin (3.00)	3rd	3rd*	3rd	3rd
#4 University of Georgia (4.75)	5th	5th	2nd	7th*
#5 Louisiana State University (5.00)	6th	3rd*	3rd* 6th	
#6 University of Tennessee (5.50)	4th	7th	5th	6th
#7 University of Florida (8.50)	7th 6th		7th	14th
#8 Auburn University (8.75)	8th	8th	8th	11th
#9 Georgia Institute of Technology (9.00)	10th	10th	9th	7th*
#10 Texas A&M University (10.67)	9th	9th	10th	4th
#11 University of Arkansas (10.75)	11th	12th	11th	9th
#12 University of Mississippi (12.50)	12th	11th	12th	15th
#13 University of Missouri (13.75)	13th	17th*	13th	12th
#14 University of Kentucky (15.00)	15th	13th	16th	16th
#15 Mississippi State University (15.25)	16th	14th	14th	17th
#16 Vanderbilt University (15.50)	17th	17th*	18th	10th
#17 Tulane University (15.75)	18th	15th	17th	13th
#18 University of South Carolina (15.75)	14th	16th	15th	18th
#19 Sewanee: The University of the South (19.00)	19th	19th	19th	19th







Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become GREAT!

## Ohistnus

Marla Hines Circuit Court Clerk



Cindi Jones MC Trustee



















Plateau DrugCenter
Bill, Brent, & Blake Dunlap, Pharmacists





Scott County Pharmacy





Mike Baker, Brent & Blake Dunlap, Pharmacists





Call 346-3600 to schedule an appointment!



**√** JUNK REMOVAL

**DUMPSTER RENTAL** 

**▼** BRUSH REMOVAL

**MATERIAL HAULING** 

gaylorpropertyservice@gmail.com





Call us to transfer your prescriptions!

Curbside Pickup Free Delivery

Mon-Fri: 9:00-6:00 Sat: 9:00-12:00

### **State Farm**■ State Farm



### Randy McFarland

105 S Kingston Street PO Box 690 Wartburg, TN 37887-0690 (423) 346-7670

www.randyismyagent.com



Associates

**Real Estate Agent** Glenda Johnson

Direct: (865) 591-6900 Office: (865) 376-2121 x102 **License: 251289 TN** glenda6900@bellsouth.net

With all my years of experience in Real Estate, allow me to work for you with all your Real Estate needs.



### **A TCAT Family Affair**



Members of one family have chosen to further their education at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Oneida/Huntsville. Three of the siblings are currently enrolled at TCAT Oneida/Huntsville. Houston West, the oldest of the siblings, is currently enrolled in the Computer Information Technology program where he is pursuing a career in cyber security. Houston has earned his IT Fundamentals certification and is currently working on his Linux certification. Beau Phillips graduated from the Power Line Construction and Maintenance program and is currently employed in a neighboring county. Beau also attended the Machine Tool Technology program as a dual enrolled high school student. Following in his older brother's footsteps, Elijah Phillips chose to attend the Power Line Construction and Maintenance program where he is currently enrolled and will graduate from the program in December 2023. While enrolled in the PLC program, Elijah has earned his CDL license, forklift certification, and OSHA-10 certification. Elijah plans to pursue a career as a lineman. Elijah was also a dual enrolled high school student in the Machine Tool Technology and Building Construction Technology programs. Elijah's twin sister Presley Phillips is currently enrolled in the Cosmetology program where she is currently working toward a cosmetology diploma. Presley attended the cosmetology program as a dual enrolled high school student and earned hours which will count toward her diploma. Presley's education has been focused on perfecting her hair styling, hair cutting, and hair coloring techniques along with other skills such as pedicures, manicures, waxing, and facials. Presley plans to pursue a career as a cosmetologist at a local salon.

Not only have the siblings attended TCAT, but the mother of the foursome, Tiffany Phillips, attended the Administrative Office Technology program and is currently employed by the Elgin Foundation. Furthermore, Houston's grandmother, Becky West, completed the Office Occupations program and was a long-time employee of the school until her retirement.





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







John Burns Opinion Columnist

## Georgia on My Mind

I managed to finish my supervised release. My fines were all paid. I could once again make my own choices. I decided to move to Atlanta, and enter the VA methadone program. The year, was 2002.

America had been attacked while I was in the throes of addiction. I had been introduced to Islam in Somalia. I had learned the very American and, militant brand of Islam, taught to inmates in federal

prison. These men are angry, and Louis Farrakhan fuels that anger.

The Nation of Islam is inherently racist. I do however understand their frustration. I wish, they would understand why they still struggle. The politicians that pretend to represent black communities, have left their inner city and poor rural communities destitute for fatherhood.

I listened intently to men who boiled with hatred of me for being white. As I listened, I began to realize I needed to find out why. The two-party system had failed these incarcerated men for four generations. Their mothers were now raising their great grandchildren as black men served long prison sentences.

While incarcerated, I learned the history through my own eyes, of what happened. The very political party that has always been on the wrong side of racial division, had come up with a plan to destroy the moral fabric in the black community.

These eugenic minded politicians have enriched themselves incarcerating black men. Joe Biden authored the 1994 crime bill as the Democrat answer for crime occurring in black neighborhoods. They once again created a false narrative to engineer a crisis.

Money was printed and laundered in these poor communities. Drugs flowed as politicians did absolutely nothing to confront the inherently racist policy. Selling powder cocaine occurs mostly in white circles. Freebase cocaine had ravaged the black community disproportionally.

I wondered if invading Panama in 1989 fueled the need for Mexican cartels to get into the business of cocaine. America has spent 3 trillion dollars in the drug was since 1968. They cannot keep a joint of elementary school. It leads me to believe they are complicit with the cartels?

Two industries make money for politicians in both political parties. The drug industry, both legal and illegal. The prison industry which competes with the military industrial complex for exclusivity in political circles. UNI-corps is the prison system controlled by the congress. It is criminal!

The 1994 crime bill targeted the sale of crack cocaine when it began to affect white people in suburban communities. Only then did the congress act. Joe Biden targeted young black men as he came up with mandatory minimum sentences for the sale of crack cocaine.

The term kingpin became vernacular, as the senate moved to designate black gangs as continuous criminal enterprises. Carrying a mandatory life sentence. This was all orchestrated by democrats in the senate and signed into law in 1994 by William Jefferson Clinton.

Now I found myself incarcerated with black men I came to admire even if I did not agree with them. I understood the allure of Islam when you are angry at the system that has failed your family for generations.

I began to adopt the policy of hard truths over easy lies governing what the spirit inside me was saying. I began to confront my own inherent racism. Being raised in an all-white neighborhood, and all-white church. Playing pretend while fearing black people. Stereotypes over substance.

I began to see that government never touches anything that turns to gold. Policies promising to lift people out of poverty, have only created more poverty.

The removal of the black man from the community, coupled with the destruction of manufacturing has crippled most black women and harnessed

them to government sponsored programs.

Take away income earners, and take away jobs, you can harness people to failure for years as you give them handouts while enriching yourself. A caste system hiding in plain sight. A new type of slave master disguised as a savior. Who is advocating for these communities?

When America lost the Prophet sent from God to educate us to his own internal struggle, radicals adopted a plan. This was counter intuitive to achieving his vision of a new America. Content of character was replaced with advocating first for the color of one's skin.

Dr. King believed in the entire bible. He understood Gods plan 's for the fledgling nation of Israel emerging after the holocaust. He quoted Moses as he prophesied of his own demise.

The mountaintop would not be achieved in his lifetime, and he was ok with loving Jesus Christ while in the greatest valley of his own life. His vision was one of unity. Does that match the replacement theology that grew out of the black liberation theology adopted after Dr. King's death?

Dr. King believed Jesus Christ died for all sinners. Now the Bible and prayer had been removed from the lives of black children in public education. The Bible tenets that had driven Dr. King's dream were abandoned for new religious traditions adopted in homes where the Bible was read by all previously.

Public schools were desegregated as government sponsored forced utopia led children to solve problems of race. Kids began to realize their ancestors were inherently eugenic most often leading to closet practiced racism in segregated communities.

The government was advocating for teaching children to be racist based on the color of one's skin. One book answers the question of race better than any, and now government succeeded in legislating that book out of your child's life.

Teachers became implicit in racist ideology being purported by those who control the flow of information to our children. Public school became the social engineering project the radicals in power engineered to keep common people in a state of chaos.

America needs a new prophet with God's vision for utopia, front, and center. if we are to ever solve the problem of government engineered racial division. God will have to raise up prophets again.

His name is Yeshua Ha Mashiach. Jesus the Christ to us born again believers.

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.

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



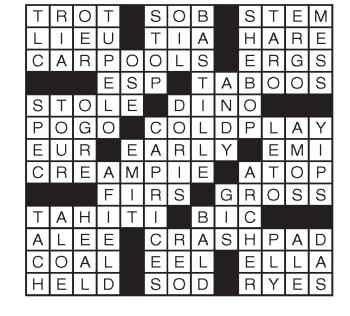
#### Weekly SUDOKU

#### Answer

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

## - **King** Crossword *Answers*

#### Solution time: 23 mins.



## **Revelation Chapter 16**



**Melvin Howard** 

(Revelation 16:1) Introduction: John heard a great voice coming from the holy of holies in the temple. The seven avenging angels were instructed to pour out the seven bowls of wrath upon the wicked of the earth.

(Rev. 16:2-7) The first three bowls of wrath: The first bowl was poured out into the earth. Horrible and painful sores broke out on those who had adopted the "mark of the beast" (see Rev. 13:16-18) and those who gave him spiritual devotion. The punishment is incurable.

The second bowl was emptied into the sea. It became like the blood of a corpse, providing no life-sustaining power; in reality, it produced universal death. The scene is gory.

The third bowl was poured into the fresh water systems of the earth, and they turned to blood. There could only be death in the wake of such a devastating judgment. God is not to be censured for such a punishment---he is the Righteous and Holy One---they are receiving precisely what is deserved. The rebels under review slaughtered the saints and the prophets, pouring out their blood; thus, in a manner of speaking, they will have their own blood to drink. And they are worthy of it! There was a heavenly confirmation of the integrity of the Almighty's judgments.

(Rev. 16:8-16) The fourth, fifth, and sixth bowls of wrath: The fourth bowl was poured out upon the sun. It "was given" (suggesting divine orchestration) unto it to "scorch" men with fire. The sun was designed by God to bless humanity, to provide light and heat. But men chose to blaspheme God, ignoring his power to punish and refusing to glorify him as God (Rom. 1:21); hence, they continued recklessly in their sins. Hell will be the abode of incorrigibles.

The fifth angel poured out his bowl of wrath upon the throne of the beast. The dark kingdom was darkened even more; no light of any sort was apparent. The pain is described as so intense that the victims chewed even their own tongues. Still there was no sign of remorse! In their pain they continue to blaspheme God, with no semblance of repentance at all.

There is clearly an escalation of events as the hourglass of time drains toward its conclusion. The sixth bowl is poured out upon the Euphrates, and its water was dried up that the "way might be made ready." The region of the Euphrates River, to the east of Palestine, was the traditional source of hostility against God's people (the Assyrian and Babylonian forces). These ancient forces symbolize the Lord's enemies. However, they come for their own destruction! The enemies of truth are depicted as a sort of "unholy trinity"---the "dragon" is Satan who empowers evil, the "beast" may reflect the corruptions of civil forces (13:1), and the "false prophet" likely hints of apostate religion (13:11). They probably are symbolized in the vision as the "frogs" (similar to the plague of frogs in Egypt), but they represent evil forces that assault the Lord's church. These antagonistic powers progressively work in concert to engage the Lord in a horrific "war" which will occur on "the great day of God, the Almighty." This certainly is the day of judgment; it is God's day, for the victory will be entirely his!

Verse fifteen constitutes a brief pause which contains a kindly admonition for Christians. Look, the Lord will come most unexpectedly, just as a thief accosts his victim unawares (Mt. 24:36; 1 Thes 5:2). The Christians must maintain constant vigilance (the force of the present tense "keepeth") to maintain a life of purity. Otherwise, his filthy garments would have to be disposed of and his shameful nakedness be exposed to all. The text unquestionable implies the possibility of falling away from the faith and being subjected to eternal shame.

We now are poised for the mention of the great culminating battle of human history. The forces of conflict are to be "gathered" (the passive voice indicates that God is orchestrating the event) to a place called "Hur-Magedon," the hill of Megiddo. Megiddo is an elevated plateau (about fourteen by twenty miles) in northwest Palestine. The plain of Esdraelon-Jezreel nearby was the most famous battlefield of the antique world (Hurlbut; Judg. 4:6, 15-16; 7:1; 2 Kgs. 23:29). The area, therefore,

provides the symbolic background for the judgment day conflict. Here the forces are merely assembled for battle; the actual consummation takes place later (see 19:11). (Dispensationalists, who press the language into a literal mold, find themselves in self-conflict. At times they locate the battle at Megiddo in northwest Canaan; on other occasions they place it at Jerusalem, misapplying Zechariah 14:2). "Har-Magedon is symbolic of the final overthrow of all the forces of evil by the might and power of God" (Mounce).

(Rev. 16:17-21) The seventh bowl of wrath: As the seventh bowl is poured out, a voice comes from the temple (heaven), a regal voice of authority. The pronouncement is "It is done"---permanently) the force of the verb). Earth's history is on the precipice of destruction! Ominous lightnings and crashes of thunder accentuate the terminal scene. An earthquake occurs, the magnitude of which was unknown in history. The "great city" (not specifically identified) is split and destroyed; perhaps the image is of the capital city of the anti-God forces. "Babylon," the captor of the Lord's people, was "remembered." She was never forgotten, though it may have seemed so. She was forced to drink of the poisonous potion in the cup of divine wrath, and it was fierce indeed. The upheaval of nature illustrates the devastation (v. 20). The destruction was somewhat analogous to a horrendous hailstorm of stones weighing between sixty and one hundred pounds. But not even this curbed the wickedness of godless people; they blasphemed God all the more!

God is the author of our being. He knows us inside and out. He made us in His own image (Genesis 1:26). He knows what will give us satisfaction---now and in the future. The Lord Himself is happy; He is the "blessed (happy) God" (1 Timothy 1:11), and He designed us for that same disposition. If we are not contented with life, it will simply be because we do not know how to be, or else we choose not to be.

Second, we must understand that the hand-book for human contentment is the sacred Bible. We must examine the vast amount of solid evidence that demonstrates that the Bible is a book from heaven. It is the book that contains the hope of the life which now is, and that which is to come (1Timothy 4:8). A thousand volumes of humanistic, psychological garbage is not the equal of single paragraph of the Sermon on the Mount.

Third, we must continually refresh our souls with the knowledge of Heaven's love for us as demonstrated in the gracious gift of Christ. We echo Paul: "Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift" (11 Corinthians 9:15). Though we are certainly marred by the effects of rebellion against our Maker, we can be regenerated by the sacred plan that was implemented by the work of Jesus. It is like being born all over again (John 3:3-5; Titus 3:4-7). Can anything be more breath-taking than this?

Fourth, we must attempt to cultivate a loving frame of mind toward all other members of the human family. Remember that each soul is the off-spring of God (Acts 17:29), and the Lord would have them come to a knowledge of the truth and be save (1 Timothy 2:4). Each lost person is precious in His sight (Luke 15:1). When you become discouraged about folks' wickedness, renew your efforts to reach them with the good news about Christ, and, ultimately place your hope in God, knowing that He will make all things right eventually, We must try to cultivate patience with others, remembering that we ourselves were once foolish and disobedient (see Titus 3:3). Of course in this process, we must firmly cleave to the truth and never compromise with the theological errors of our contemporaries.

BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo FortifyYourFaith.org

Melvin Howard's Weekly column is sponsored by The Lord's Church

102 Paxton Road, Lancing

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

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

## RustyWallaceKiaKnoxville.com

## All of us at Rusty Wallace Kia wish all of you a very Merry Christmas!!!



865-688-8886

