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Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3
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Volume 10 Number 3
Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Your Community. Your News.

75¢

Inside:

- Student Broadcast Basketball Schedule
- Tribute to Martin Luther King Jr.
- Insight by Local Columnists
- Biblical Thought
- Weather
- History

O come, let us worship and bow down:
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

- Psalm 95:6



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Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

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**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

You guys Mimi had a fit because there was a roach (that is what she thought) in her bathroom, the other night. She yelled for Pap to come get the evil, nasty, ugly thing.

He said, "What is it?" She told him what she thought it was. He told her that there was no way that's what it was. He asked her where it went, she told him. So, he picked it up with some tissue. Mimi exclaimed, "FLUSH IT!"

She then asked him if that is what it was. He said it did kinda look like one but, didn't understand how it could have been in mine and Ivory's castle. Mimi was sooo grossed out! She told him that he was going to spray the whole property inside and out!

Well, Pap was sickened by the thought of having one of those ugly things, too. He said that it could have been in a box that was brought in. Well, Matthew said that it could have been a water bug, cause some of them look like that, too. He said that since we live on the lake that is probably what it was because Mimi and Pap keep our castle spotless. It seems like Matthew is right because we have had so many illegal invaders, since we moved to the water. All I know is, that disgusting thing had better not have any other illegal buddies trying to steak their way in. Cause if they do, they will meet the same fate. The only crawly things here are called Avery and Ivory when we are playing pounce on Pap.



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

WEEKLY WEATHER

**CITIZENS
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Tue 16	23°/6°	
Wed 17	29°/21°	
Thu 18	41°/26°	
Fri 19	32°/13°	
Sat 20	26°/13°	
Sun 21	33°/19°	
Mon 22	40°/28°	

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Morgan County Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development

The Chambers first membership meeting scheduled for January 26, 2024 beginning at 11:30 at the Schools Central office.

DLARMC CHANGE IN MEETING TIME.

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

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

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

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

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2008 Financial Crisis Part 2

Leading Through a Financial Crisis



Michael Nance
Columnist

As George W. Bush finished his last term as President, and the election contest between Barack Obama and Arizona Senator of Arizona John McCain was ongoing, many in the nation worried about what a presidential transition would mean during a financial crisis.

But the business of keeping the country viable continued nonstop through the election cycle. The SEC banned brokers from shorting financial stocks between September 19 and October 8, 2008. Christopher Cox, SEC chairman during the financial crisis, said that the biggest mistake of his tenure was agreeing to the three-week ban on short selling. Cox said that he was under intense pressure from then-Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Federal Reserve Chairman Bernanke to take this action and did so reluctantly.

President Bush signed into law the Troubled Asset Relief Program (Tarp) on October 3, 2008. The program committed \$700 billion in taxpayer funds to purchase mortgage-backed securities and other assets from financial institutions on the brink of collapse. This move was an obvious effort to restore public confidence in the credit markets. Just a few days later, the Dow experiences its largest one-day loss when it lost 1874 points which immediately heighten concerns in the mainstream media. Utilizing the TARP program, the Bush Administration later bailed out Citigroup, General Motors and Chrysler. In December of 2008, The Federal Reserve lowered short term interest rates to 0% for the first time in U.S. history.



Barak Obama, The 44th President of the United States,
Photo Courtesy of the White House.

American confidence. He hinted at the failure of the Federal Government to rein in the large financial institutions in his speech when he stated:

That we are in the midst of crisis is now well understood. Our nation is at war against a far-reaching network of violence and hatred. Our economy is badly weakened, a consequence of greed and irresponsibility on the part of some, but also our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare the nation for a new age.

President Obama's words ring true today. It is mainstream academic sentiment that inadequate government regulation, especially with the larger financial institutions allowed the crisis to occur. A sentiment that a future president would address. Although I am almost never a fan of the government being the answer, in this case, they should have exposed the risks with sub-prime mortgage loans being peddled on the open market. Obama began with passing a \$410 billion omnibus bill that he even complained contained congressmen's pet projects, known as earmarks. Earmarks were a chief complaint among the republicans as well.

House Republican leader John Boehner encouraged President Obama to veto the Bill stating:

A recession is not an excuse for politicians to spend taxpayers' hard-earned money with reckless abandon. By vetoing this bill, the President can send a powerful message that he intends to keep his promise to fight for spending discipline and fiscal transparency at a time when such things have never mattered more to American families.

The U.S. Market continued to stall by February 2009, the Dow had



plummeted 50 percent, to just over 6,500. The MBS market had infected the investments around the world. The subprime mortgage debacle traveled the globe as hedge funds and banks revealed holdings in MBS products. On August 9, France's BNP Paribas announced that three of their hedge funds lacked liquidity. Other European banks would soon follow suit with similar announcements.

Obama's omnibus bill missed the mark by most accounts, but he signed the Dodd-Frank Act into law in 2010. The act did bring meaningful reform to the U.S. Financial system, and some would say it was an overreaction based in crisis circumstances.

The Dodd-Frank Act included the Volcker Rule (named after former United States Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker), which restricted banks from owning, investing, or sponsoring hedge funds, private equity funds, or proprietary trading operations for their own profit.

Many critics of the Dodd-Frank Act complain that the act burdens the system with too much regulation and slows economic growth. Supporters say the Act addresses many of the drivers of the 2008 crash. The Dodd-Frank Act is still a point of contention between republicans and democrats. In 2017, the republicans pass the Choice act in the House aimed at dismantling the Dodd-Frank Act. This Bill, however, fails to pass in the Senate.



Donald J. Trump 45th President of the United States,
Photo Courtesy of the White House.

In 2018, Donald Trump signs the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act. This measure passed congress with bipartisan support. The bill kept in place the major protections of the Dodd-Frank Act, however, it exempted many smaller banks from the same scrutiny as the larger financial institutions.

An example of how this Bill navigated the differences between larger and smaller banks is contained in Section 203. Banks with assets valued at below \$10 billion were exempt from the "Volcker Rule."

By all accounts this was a genuine compromise between the republicans and democrats. So, in aggregate, the 2008 Crisis was navigated by three different presidents leaving us where we are today.

In closing, the 2008 crisis recovery took more than a decade. It was a terrible crisis that circumnavigated the globe, but could have been much worse, leaving many to think that the global economy narrowly dodged a bullet.

1 Dixon, Lloyd, Noreen Clancy, and Krishna B. Kumar. "Hedge Funds and the Financial Crisis of 2007-2008." In *Hedge Funds and Systemic Risk*, 39-62. RAND Corporation, 2012. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7249/j.ctt1q60xr.12>.

2 (Paley and Hilzenrath, 2008).

3 Duffie, Darrell. "Prone to Fail: The Pre-Crisis Financial System." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 33, no. 1 (2019): 81-106. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26566978>

4 Nasaw, D. (2009, March 11). Barack Obama signs \$410bn omnibus spending bill. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/mar/11/obama-omnibus-spending-bill-congress>

5 Text - S.2155 - 115th congress (2017-2018): Economic Growth, regulatory ... Congress.gov. (n.d.). <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2155/text>

— In Loving Memory —

Isaac H. "Ike" Tucker, 89 - USN Veteran



He is survived by his children: Alan, Candy, and Misty. Grandchildren: AJ and Carmella, Savannah, Kaylenea, and Jonathan.

Great-grandchildren: Eliana and David

Sister: Carrie

Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

Caregiver: Kay

Lifelong friend: Vernon.

In conjunction with Ike's brother Frank, the family will receive friends on Monday, January 8, 2024, from 11am-1pm at the Union Baptist Church, 3615 Knoxville Hwy, Wartburg, TN. Funeral services will follow with Bro. Don Long and Bro. Matt Ward officiating. Interment will follow in Petros Cemetery, with Full Military Honors provided by the Brandon-Kries American Legion Post 149.

Mr. Isaac H. "Ike" Tucker, age 89 of Lancing, passed away Thursday, January 4, 2024, a few hours before his brother Frank.

He served in the United States Navy and retired from Chrysler Corporation.

Ike was preceded in death by his wife: Ginger, his parents: Jack and Nellie, son: Brian, brothers: Herman, TJ, James, Lewis, Martin, Bob and Sam, and sister: Creola.

Ike was a member of the Black Diamond Masonic Lodge #625 F&AM of Petros, and an avid fan of the Chicago Cubs.

Mark Duane Stedam, 54

Mr. Mark Duane Stedam, age 54 of Lancing, passed away Friday January 5, 2024, at Cumberland Medical Center in Crossville.

Mark was born on July 25, 1969, in Anderson, Indiana to the late Les and Linda Stedam.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister-in-law: Freda Stedam.

He is survived by his brother: Mike Stedam.

Two nieces: Kayla Martin and Leah Stedam.

Three great nieces: Marleigh, Emory, and Charleigh.

His loving dog: Roxy.

Along with several aunts, uncles, cousins, and close friends.

The family would like to express their gratitude to Michael Potter's family for being such good friends to Mark.

The family will receive friends Thursday, January 11, 2024, at Davis Funeral Home, Wartburg from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

A graveside service will follow in the Beasley Family Cemetery in Lancing with Pastor Randy Griffis officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to assist the family with expenses.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.davisfuneralhomes.com.

Davis Funeral Home, Wartburg is honored to serve the family of Mr. Mark Duane Stedam.

Larry Ray Hargis, 58



Hargis, Savannah & Phoenix Beasley; nephew Blake Hargis; great nieces Gracie & Mary Ann Smith; great nephew Beau Rodgers, special friend Mildred Young.

The family would like to say a special thank you to the staff of Life Care Center of Morgan County.

The family will receive friends Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. with Rev. Timothy Hamby officiating. Graveside services will be Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. at the McCartt Cemetery on Gobey.

Larry Ray Hargis age 58, of Gobey, Tn passed away January 6, 2024.

He is preceded in death by his parents Billy ray and June Hargis; great aunt Blanche Human.

He is survived by his sons Devin (Katie) Hargis of Wartburg and Daniel Hargis of Wartburg; sisters Dorothy (Ronnie) Brown of Baxter; brother Paul (Tonya) Hargis of Wartburg; grandson Hudson Hargis; nieces Olynda Smith, Ryleigh

Kenneth Paul "Kenny" Knight Sr., 66



Two daughters and sons-in-law: Christy and James Briggs, Melissa and JJ Copeland.

Three grandchildren: Kaylie Jackson, Chase Jackson, and Alley Copeland. And a host of brothers and sisters.

The family will receive friends Monday, January 8, 2024 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Davis Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral services will follow at 7:00 PM with Pastor James Briggs officiating. Graveside services will be private.

Mr. Kenneth Paul "Kenny" Knight Sr, age 66, of Mossy Grove went home to be with his loving Father on January 2, 2023.

He was preceded in death by parents: Raymond Knight Sr and Nancy Stringfield Knight. His loving wife Delphine "DeeDee" Jackson Knight. Along with several siblings.

Davis Funeral Home, Wartburg, is honored to served the family of Mr. Kenneth Paul Knight.

He is survived by his son: KP Knight Jr.

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

Psalm 86:4-5

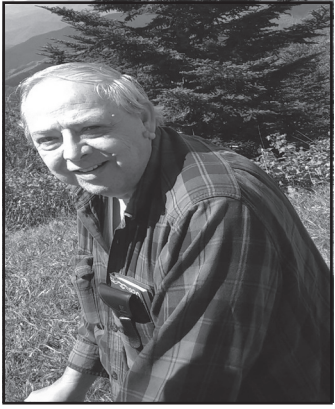
4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.



— In Loving Memory —

Amos Kenny Watson, 71



Amos Kenny Watson
March 4th, 1952 - January 9th, 2024

Amos Kenny Watson, 71, of Lancing Tennessee went home to be with the Lord on January 9th, 2024 at Parkwest Medical Center surrounded by family. Amos was born, raised, and resided in Lancing TN. In his younger years, Amos was an avid fisherman and loved the outdoors. As Amos aged, he loved to sit and birdwatch from the comfort of his home. Amos was a loving father of four beautiful children, a slew of grandchildren, and a few great-grandchildren. Amos is fondly remembered as the definition of true love and great forgiveness.

Amos Kenny is preceded in death by his parents, Amos and Nina Watson; grandparents Ray and Millie Melton; grandparents Laban Jack and Bessie Watson; several uncles, aunts, and cousins; and three great-grandbabies.

Amos Kenny is survived by a sister, Mary (Donald) Potter; children Christopher (Rhonda) Watson, Jacqueline (Jeremy)

Coffey, Nicholas (Amber) Watson, and Alexander (Leisha Terry) Watson; grandchildren Jasmine (Dustin) Hardwick, Cheyenne Coffey, Gabrielle (Ryan Wagner) Coffey, Skyler (Brandon) Patterson, Tyler (Abigail) Watson, Timothy (Cassie) Coffey, Samuel Coffey, Abigail Watson, Kyleigh Watson, Jaycee Watson, Cordellia Watson, Lilly Watson; great-grandchildren Brock James Hardwick and Ruth Marie Coffey; and very loving friends Phillip and Priscilla Fann.

The family will be receive friends on Thursday January 11, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Schubert's Funeral Home in Wartburg with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Rev. Bill Durham officiating. Interment will follow in the Kubly Cemetery in Lancing.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Amos Kenny Watson.

Franklin D. "Frank" Tucker, 84 - USA Vet



Mr. Franklin D. "Frank" Tucker, age 84 of Wartburg, passed away Thursday January 4, 2024, at his home with his family by his side.

He was a member of Emerald Lodge # 377 in Wartburg.

Frank lived a life of service to his fellow man. He retired from the United States Army after more than 20 years of service to our country.

After his retirement, he returned home and worked as a deputy for the Morgan County Sheriff's Department for Sheriff's Dennis Ledbetter and Bobby Gibson. He then went on to serve as the Supervisor for ETHRA's 9th Judicial District.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Jack and Nellie Armes Tucker. Eight brothers: Ike, T.J., Robert, James, Lewis, Martin, Sam, and Herman Tucker. And one sister: Creola Lasky.

He is survived by his wife: Nancy Mynatt Tucker.

His son and daughter-in-law: Clark and Rose Tucker.

His daughter: Regina Hysell.

His stepchildren: Michael and wife Brandy Lewis, Kathy Clark.

His sister: Carrie Priest.

Eleven grandchildren: Alicia and husband Chris Jones, Mikki and husband Dusty Taylor, Christopher Cox, Ashley and husband Rodney Phillips, Megan Webb and companion James Adams, Jessie and husband Woody, Chandler Tucker, Lexie Lewis, Abigail Burke, Kadie Lewis and fiancé Hunter Hester, and Jacob Hysell.

Fifteen great grandchildren: Dominic Jones, Riley, Messi, Lincoln, and Kasey Taylor, Aden, Chester, and Lula Cox, Maddie, Emma, and Elias Phillips, Neyland Brummitt, Braydon Janes, Nova Webb Adams, and Wade Woody.

Frank's services will be in conjunction with the services for his brother, Ike. The family will receive friends Monday, January 8, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Union Baptist Church. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 PM with Rev. Don Long officiating. A joint graveside service will follow in Petros Cemetery with Pastor Matt Ward officiating and the Brannon-Kreis American Legion Post 149 providing military honors.

Condolences may be sent to the family at, www.davisfuneralhomes.com

Davis Funeral Home, Wartburg, is honored to serve the family of Mr. Franklin D. Tucker.

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





**Tom Redmon
Columnist**

The Adventures of Al, Tim, and Benny

The three boys loved the great outdoors. They put on their ole worn dungarees that had the knees worn out and headed for the bank of the nearby creek or river. They could be classified as the Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn of the 50's, and they really had an adventure planned for this day. When they came out into the yard, they lifted their hands into the air and yelled, "Nemo, here we come!"

Tim and Al were twelve-years-old and Ben was almost eleven. Nemo was around eight miles away but they were determined to walk it. They dreamed a lot about fishing down on that river but had no vehicle to drive them. One of their mothers used to say, "well, walking is not crowded" and it wasn't. On one August day they were on their way.

Why these three boys didn't fix them some food and water I'll never know. Maybe they were going to rough it like Tom Sawyer.

The sun was already up at 7:30 am and they were on their way. Al said, boys lets get down to the river in less than an hour. Tim said I believe we can Al and Benny said I don't know boys but we can sure give it all we've got.

All the boys were excited because they loved the outdoors and going down to the river was what they had talked about for months.

They went through the small town of Wartburg and wished they had some money in their pockets. A Coke sure would taste good right now. They would have to wait until they went to Bill Jones' house where they asked him for a cold drink of water from his well.

A few cars passed them but they didn't stop and really the boys didn't expect them too. This is meant to show themselves that they could endure the entire eight miles to the river. They were young and Tom Sawyer didn't have a thing on them.

The boys had already cut their poles by the time they got to the water. Little Benny got his line in the water first and pulled a big bluegill in. Al was fussing when he said one got away and it was a good one.

Benny replied "Boy, this is something else. We'll get us a mess before dinner." Al laughed and said, "I believe I'll go down the river a bit." Tim had gone a little further down and Benny was by himself.

Little Benny didn't notice two men coming toward him and they were upon him before he realized it. One big man capped his hand over his mouth as the other smaller man began to tie him up. Ben fought to get free but the men were big and strong. He wanted to yell so his buddies could hear him but it was no use. He would hope Al and Tim could rescue him.

The two men waited a little while knowing that they would come back up the river. They hid in some nearby bushes as little Ben was hid down the river tied to a sapling. Soon Al and Tim came up together. They

saw the two men coming toward them. They ran to where they could find weapons.

They both picked up two good size limbs and waited for the two men to come around the large rocks. The big man came around first and Al's big limb came down on his head. He grabbed hold of his head and said, "I'll get you for that you little rascal."

When the little guy, came around the big rock Timmy let him have it with a good size rock. "Oh, heck that hurt! I'll get you for that," yelled the man. In the mean time Al said to

Tim lets find Ben and go up the hill and roll some rocks down on them. Ben said, "boy this is fun." A rock was rolling toward the smaller man but he got out of the way and it missed but Tim's rock hit the big man and knocked his legs out from under him. He got up hurriedly and was determined to get these three boys. They were going to pay for this.

But just as the big man reached Al who had a big rock in his hand, Tim hit him with a big fist full of sand. He threw it in the man's eyes and he yelled loud enough you could hear it all over the river valley.

To the three country boys it looked like the two men were about to give up, but the smaller man still had one more trick up his sleeve. The little man pulled something out of his pocket and it looked like a small gun. The three boys ran as fast as they could behind some bigger rocks. They noticed that the big man was still down trying to get the

sand out of his eyes. Tim said, "Boys we can win against that other fellow. Al, you go get up on that rock and jump down on him when he comes around the rock. I will yell when to jump and I'll hit him low. Ben, you yell at him and make sure the big fellow is not coming. Our plan worked perfectly because when the fellow showed up Al landed on top of him and Tim hit him low and down, he went. Ben grabbed his gun and noticed it would not shoot. Ben went back to get the rope they had used to tie him up. The boys tied the two crooks up and when they went through Wartburg they stopped and told the sheriff about their adventure on the wild river.

As the three boys headed for home, they found busted watermelons on the road. They had rolled off a truck as they came up the steep grade. One boy said I believe this is all the providence of God. It couldn't have happened any better for the boys.

The real trouble they got into was at home because they slipped off to the river when they were supposed to gather corn... and boy did they get a whipping!

But to Al, Tim, and Ben it was worth the adventure.



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Historically Speaking

Atomic Elks Lodge

1301 Roberta Bohanon Temple 1381

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

This history is brought to us by Rose Weaver, a dedicated historian and supporter of Oak Ridge history in ways that continue to amaze me. I am proud she chose to use Historically Speaking to bring this history to you readers. Enjoy learning more of our unique Oak Ridge history:

It is amazing the history that surrounds Oak Ridge and even in the community I grew up in. I share with you information on an unknown Temple that ventured to improve the quality of life in the Scarboro community through socio-economic programs, youth enrichment



The Atomic Lodge 1301 and Roberta Bohanon Temple 1381 was named after the Jim Bohanon Exalted Ruler's wife Roberta Bohanon

programs as well as serving as a social club.

Like other's migrating to Oak Ridge during the late 1940's and 1950's, Negroes brought with them several organizations such as the Elks that improved the quality of life in the Scarboro community.

"The Atomic Lodge 1301 Roberta Bohanon Temple

1381 is one of the oldest organizations in the Scarboro Community and maybe Oak Ridge," said Doc Stewart in an interview in 1976. Stewart was among the many workers that migrated to the Oak Ridge during the early days of the Manhattan Project.

Through the organization's archived reports, the Atomic Elks Lodge received its charter around 1949 and the property was vested in the United States District Court on October 6, 1942, and property deeded October 15, 1958, with Trustees J.H. Bohanon (Exalted Ruler), Clarence Buckley, David Washington, George Phipps, Trustees of Atomic Lodge No. 1301. The building was designated the 15 th day of October 1955. (See photo from The Oak Ridger 1977 article of some of the chartering members).

Although 31 members were required to be chartered, the Lodge opened with 80 members. The first lodge meetings we held in a small shack located on what is now Carver Avenue in Scarboro. Stewart went on to say that Mose Say was the first Exalted Ruler and in 1955 the Exalted Ruler was Jerome Taylor, 108 Spellman Avenue.

The Lodge is one of the last surviving economic buildings owned by African Americans in the Scarboro Community.

The Lodges mission is: To provide a safe space for members of the Scarboro Community, and that the welfare of our members, their families, and the community, be uplifted through fraternal principles of charity, justice, with brotherly and sisterly love.

According to Stewart the lodge was moved to the old cafeteria where Spurgeon Chapel Church now sits and then to an old building on Tuskegee Avenue. In 1957 the members purchased one of the dormitories on



At the Tennessee State Elks of the World Convention held during the summer of 2016 in Oak Ridge, Atomic Elks Lodge 1301 sponsored the winning Oratorical Contest contestant, Darryl Bonner. Pictured are: Mabrey Duff, State Education Director; Laverne Grigsby, Regional Directress of Education; Darryl

Wilberforce Avenue which has become the permanent place of the Lodge.

Along with the Mason's the Elks contributed toward the building of several commercial and residential buildings in the Scarboro



Elks Lodge State Meeting in the 1960's at the old Oak Ridge High School.

Community such as the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. The Lodge was also instrumental in providing educational scholarships and



The original Atomic City Elks Lodge Charter Members - Jerome Taylor, exalted ruler; "Doc" Stewart, charter member; Willie Pettus, secretary, and John William Smith, charter member.

continues to sponsor youth participation in state oratorical contest and a yearly Parents Christmas Night Out.

The Lodge was known for collaborating with other organizations throughout the city to assist bereaved families, aid assisted living facilities, provide scholarships to youth, as well as sponsor athletic sports, and oratorical contests.

The meetings are held the second and fourth Sunday of the month and are open to any interested party. The Elks Lodge currently serves as a social venue and provides educational enrichment programs for youth.

In 2021, the Lodge sponsored a vaccine clinic in partnership with HealthCare Solutions Inc., of Knoxville providing COVID vaccines.

"This is a historic building, and we are striving to redevelop the current building to make it more accessible for ongoing youth enrichment collaborations and social programs in the Oak Ridge/East Tennessee community." said Ernest Comer, Atomic Elks Lodge member.

The club has a rich history and desires to continue the legacy fostered by the chartered members along with the Block Area in Scarboro that provides dances, food, and serves as part of the economic district.

Today's vision according to Mabrey Duff, secretary of the Atomic Lodge 1301 and State Education Director of the State Elks Lodge is to broaden the usage of the current building by renovating and making the building more accessible for business and educational meetings, serving as a future social venue for the Oak Ridge/East Tennessee community.

The club has a rich history and desires to continue the legacy fostered by the chartered members in 1948. As I research more about this Club, I will share it so we all will know of this history.

Let us support them in their future endeavors to become an economic investment not only in the lives of the Scarboro Community, the Oak Ridge Community but the state of Tennessee.

In May 2024, some 1,000 people will come to Oak Ridge for the State Elks Convention hosted by the Atomic Lodge 1301. This could be an economic return for all of us. Roger Williamson is the present Exalted Ruler and invites everyone who is interested in the future efforts of the Atomic Elks Lodge 1301 and Roberta Bohanon Temple 1381 to attend an Information Meeting on January 11, 2024, at 6:30pm, at 262 Wilberforce Avenue, in Scarboro."

Thanks, Rose, for sharing this history with us.

Morgan County Today

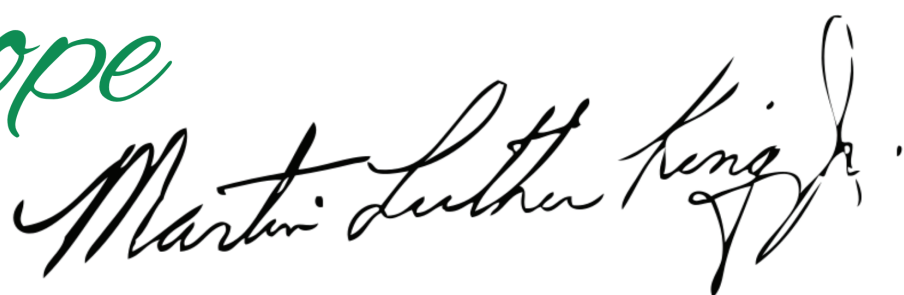
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Words of Hope

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”



“Let no man pull you low enough to hate him.”



“No one really knows why they are alive until they know what they’d die for.”

“I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too much of a burden to bear.”


“He who is devoid of the power to forgive, is devoid of the power to love.”

“We must accept finite disappointment but never lose infinite hope.”




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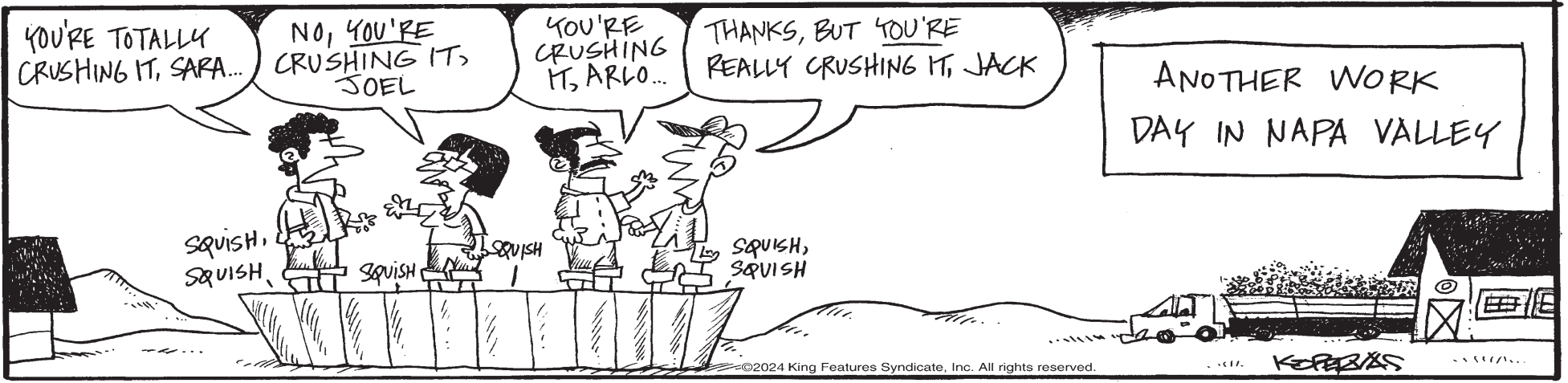
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Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



STRANGE BUT TRUE
By Lucie Winborne

- * From 1953 to 1959, the Cincinnati Reds baseball team went by a different moniker, the Cincinnati Redlegs, in response to America's fear of communism during the McCarthy era, when the term "Reds" could be problematic.
- * The word "whisky" comes from the Gaelic phrase "uisge beatha," or "water of life."
- * According to researchers at Japan's Nagoya University, electric eels can use their shock to transfer genetic material to nearby fish larvae, altering the larva's genes in the process.
- * An AI program using merely 10 seconds of human speech

- has been able to identify whether someone has diabetes with 89% accuracy.
- * Workers at an Akron, Ohio, auto wrecking company creatively stopped a potential car thief by using a forklift to raise him, while inside the vehicle, 20 feet into the air until (no doubt amused) police arrived on the scene.
- * If you make a visit to Iceland, you might run across a tiny, intricately designed house known as an alfhof. But it wasn't built for a family of dolls. Rather, such structures are created for the "hidden folk" of Icelandic folklore, creatures often invisible to humans but who are believed to lead lives similar to ours.
- * Smokers with better math skills are more inclined to quit smoking.

* When Reza Baluchi, a 44-year-old man from Florida, aspired to cross the Atlantic on a visit to London, he didn't take a plane or boat, but a floating contraption much like a giant hamster wheel! Unfortunately, his mode of transportation was deemed "manifestly unsafe" by the Coast Guard off the coast of Georgia's Tybee Island, and after a three-day standoff, Baluchi's mission was aborted.

Thought for the Day: "What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals." -- Zig Ziglar

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Essence
- 5 Sprint
- 9 Weed whacker
- 12 Part of a French play
- 13 Draft status
- 14 Jackson 5 hit song
- 15 Bribe of a sort
- 17 Kanga's kid
- 18 Hindu hero
- 19 Mature, as fruit
- 21 Laugh track sounds
- 24 Painter Joan
- 25 "East of Eden" son
- 26 College life
- 30 Kitten's cry
- 31 Nearby
- 32 USN bigwig
- 33 Wagered
- 35 Shade provider
- 36 Candied veggies
- 37 Plano's state
- 38 Recap
- 40 Wild hog
- 42 — pro nobis
- 43 Website assistance features
- 48 Motorist's org.
- 49 Biblical grain

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15				16						17		
			18					19	20			
21	22	23					24					
25					26	27				28	29	
30				31						32		
33			34							35		
		36						37				
38	39					40	41					
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49					50		
51					52					53		

- 50 Slugger
- 51 Carrier to Amsterdam
- 52 Sean Astin film
- 53 Wan
- 8 October outing
- 9 Brother of Groucho
- 10 Bassoon's kin
- 11 Nobel Prize subj.
- 16 More (Sp.)
- 20 Fury
- 21 Soccer star Mia
- 22 Region
- 23 Cowboy's greeting
- 24 Sail support
- 26 Priests' garments
- 27 Runner
- 28 Notion
- 29 Iowa city
- 31 Moth repellent
- 34 Vichy water
- 35 Nobel-winning Mother
- 37 Highland hat
- 38 Drench
- 39 Russian river
- 40 Ran in the wash
- 41 Nashville venue
- 44 Outback bird
- 45 Refusals
- 46 Show to a seat, slangily

DOWN

HOCUS-FOCUS

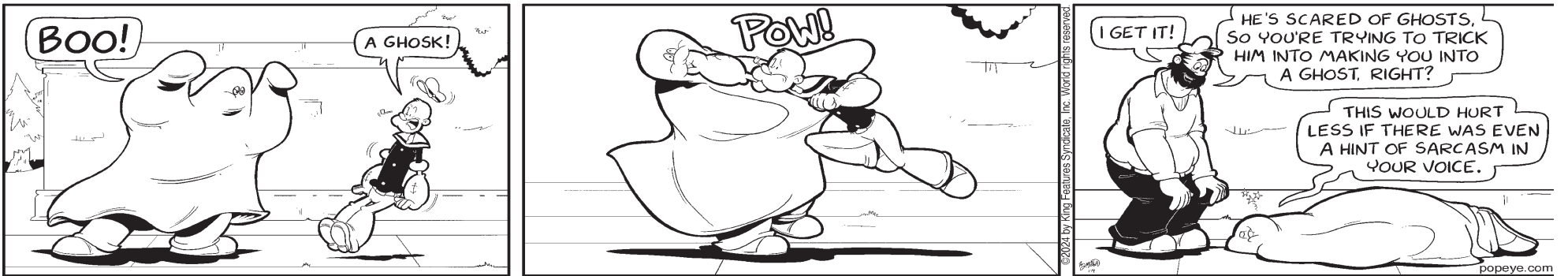
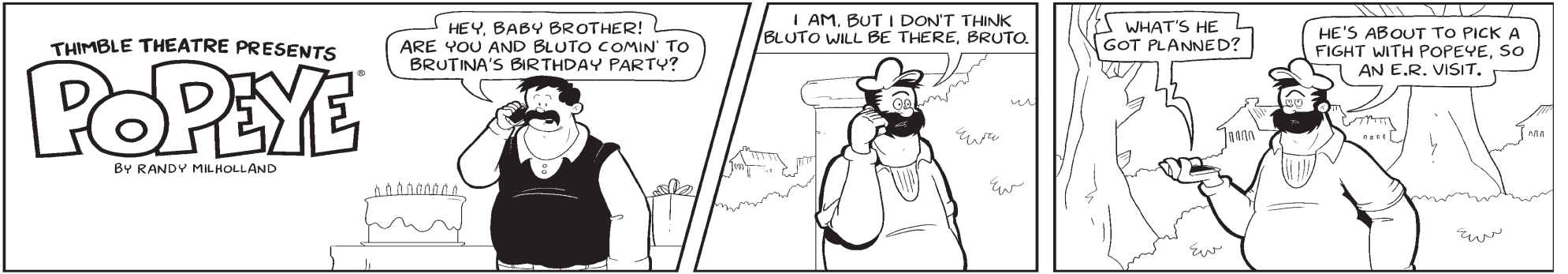
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



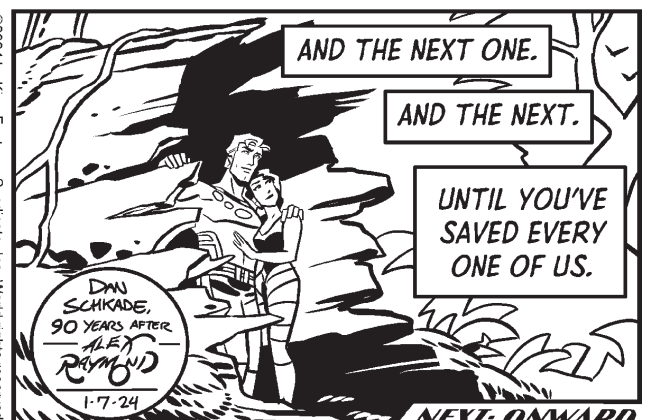
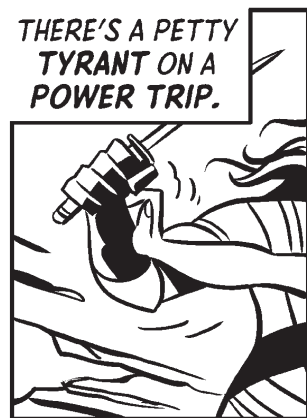
Differences: 1. Lampshade is wider. 2. Curtain is shorter. 3. Leaf is missing from plant. 4. Sleeve is longer. 5. Foot is smaller. 6. Arm of chair is different.



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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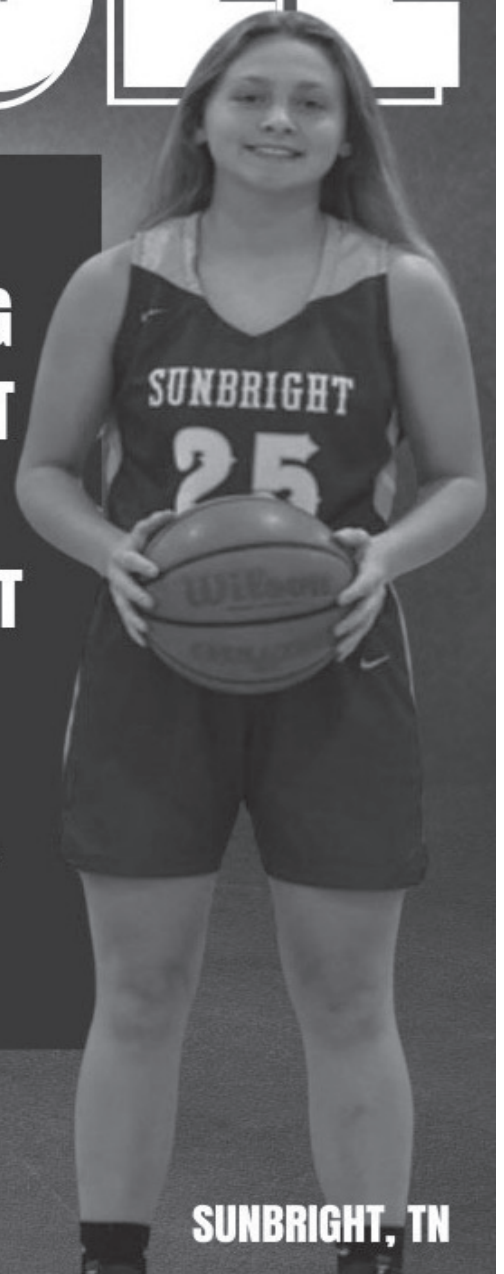


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STUDENT BROADCAST

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JAN 9 MIDWAY@WARTBURG
JAN 19 SUNBRIGHT@WARTBURG
JAN 22 KNOX AMB@SUNBRIGHT
JAN 23 OS@WARTBURG
JAN 29 ROCKWOOD@SUNBRIGHT
FEB 2 JELIGO@WARTBURG
FEB 6 MEIGS@WARTBURG
FEB 9 WARTBURG@SUNBRIGHT
FEB 13 DISTRICT TOURNEY

WARTBURG, TN

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Understanding Biblical Strongholds



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

My Love for the Bible, shifted into overdrive, after moving to Atlanta and experiencing what most humans would call a sense of normalcy. I was attending Church services, reading my Bible, and settling into my relationship with my new bride.

We had rented a house close to the Veterans Administration Hospital where I was attending drug outpatient therapy. I was taking methadone daily, all the while asking myself a rational question. Have I

replaced one horrible addiction, with another sanctioned by medical professionals? What does God think?

I had begun to understand that we are indeed pawns in a spiritual battle between God and Lucifer. I had made the decision to accept Christ debt payment plan. I believed the blood of Gods' lamb had covered my unrighteousness, yet I was still caught up in addiction to methadone.

I understood that we are justified by faith. What I did not realize, is that is where our journey in Christ begins. It is not over when we accept the most preposterous debt payment plan in human history. When a human accepts Christ testimony of himself, Lucifer musters his fallen angel army to stop you from fulfilling Gods' perfect pleasing will.

For the weapons we fight with are spiritual, not carnal, for the pulling down of strongholds. We are indeed in a battle. Christ is our divine protector and he is the one who fights for us. His only requirement is for Christians to become noble Bereans and search the scripture daily.

Revelation reveals that those Christ loves, he chastens. No one enjoys being told they are wrong, especially after they have accepted Christ mercy. Salvation begins and ends with the eternal mercy from God. Mercy is all about biblical correction, and the humility to admit each day that we are sinners.

2003 saw my faith shift to understanding the entire Bible from a literature perspective. I figured the Bible was a book I needed to know how it was conceived and by whom. Religion taught me God revealed it to men over time.

I believed the Word was conceived by Elohim the creator, before he spoke the universe into existence. Now, I was beginning to see history in the pages of the Bible. An obsessive, compulsive nature had been my conundrum since birth, and I decided to apply that to Bible study.

I had read that all scripture was God-breathed. That meant the Old Testament is as important as the New Testament. My knowledge of construction led me to believe that God would never build his house upon a foundation that was not ancient. What I learned astounded me.

I began to realize that the entire New Testament was concealed in the Old Testament. I realized the entire Old Testament was revealed in the person of Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

What really excited me, was the knowledge that Jesus Christ was indeed the writer of the entire Bible in eternity past. Not only was he the writer, but every letter and number pointed to his first and second advents.

I had read that all scripture was available for reproof and correction. No other book claims to correct itself by only looking to other books of the Bible for the correction or understanding needed. This is how I began to discern that most western preachers rely on other men's writings about the Bible.

Western seminary denies 87% of scripture each time they claim the Gentiles replaced national Israel in Gods' single plan of redemption. I learned that Church in America long ago left solid Old Testament foundations, to convince other men that they alone hold the keys to understanding God.

I realized a hostage crisis was taking place in Church on Wednesday and Sunday. It was simple for me. God is not the respecter of persons. He wrote the Bible and gave us the chance to receive the Holy Spirit for the distinct purpose of teaching us his truth. No need for preachers.

In my own life, this was playing out with my addiction to methadone. Preachers who I trusted, were condemning me. I tried to find one place in the Bible where Christ condemned. It has been 20 plus years and I still only find mercy in Christ ministry?

The Old Testament laid the groundwork for gentiles to become fellow heirs with the remnant of Jewish believers in Messiah that God has always maintained. Gods' propensity to show mercy is not something he does; it is actually who he is! Mercy is his divine attribute all believers should strive to understand.

All scripture is prophetic. The plan of God was carried out by the players in the Old and New Testaments, exactly how God wrote the script. The sooner one settles it in your heart that you are a pawn in a divine Love drama written by the God of creation in eternity past, the sooner the Bible can be rightly divided.

These revelations began to come to me in the throes of addiction, which led to me beginning to understand that God is indeed in control. Sovereignty is often misunderstood as humans look to blame sin on free will. Sin is how I began to realize God intended to save me in spite of sin.

Forgiveness is what was needed in my life. I had to allow God to forgive me, then I could begin to overcome the stronghold that plagued my human existence.

Mercy led me to study the ancient Greek manuscript where the word stronghold became real to me.

The word stronghold in Koine Greek written by Paul is the word Pharmakia. It is taken from the root word Pharma. In God's eyes strongholds are a product of pharmaceuticals. Narcotics are one more way Satan tries to stop the plans of God for your life from coming to pass.

He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of us is upon him, and by his stripes we are healed. Choose this day to accept healing of the flesh from Christ and claim the promise of Isaiah 53 to overcome addiction.

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.

3-26-2023 JB 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

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Ottoman is turned. 2. Drawer is added. 3. Phone is moved. 4. Legs are shorter. 5. Hat is turned around. 6. Boy is moved.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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

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Latest Taxpayer Advocate Report



David Zubler
Columnist

The National Taxpayer Advocate is the watchdog of the IRS and is legally required to submit reports to Congress each year. The latest report shared both good news and bad news.

The IRS was successful in eliminating its backlog of personal returns. However, it was ineffective in eliminating its backlog of individual amended returns, business amended returns, and correspondence. The backlog is still more than double the level before the pandemic. Almost half a million taxpayers waited an average of 19

months for help resolving their identity theft issues. IRS data shows that 69 percent of taxpayers whose identity theft cases the IRS resolved had income at or below 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Refunds are often used by taxpayers to pay for their living expenses. Waiting 19 months for refunds created a financial hardship for many taxpayers.

The large levels of amended returns and correspondence remained high because of how the IRS deploys its staff. The IRS customer service representatives are trained for multiple functions which include answering the phone lines, and processing returns and correspondence. To achieve high telephone service levels, the IRS staffed its phones so there were enough staff to handle calls during peak periods. However, callers regularly could not reach anyone at the IRS during busy periods and customer service representatives were often sitting around wasting their time waiting for the phone to ring during low periods. Instead of wasting time their time waiting for the phone to ring, customer service representatives could have been processing amended returns and correspondence.

"The IRS cannot easily shuffle employees back and forth between answering phones and processing correspondence, so unproductive employee time was the price it had to pay to improve telephone service levels," said the national taxpayer advocate Erin M. Collins.

IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel said in a statement that the taxpayer advocate "raises a number of very important areas that we are looking at to make improvements," by tapping into multi-year Inflation Reduction Act funds.

"Many of these issues identified in her report ultimately depend on adequate IRS resources," Werfel said. "This is another reason why the Inflation Reduction Act funding and our annual appropriations are so critical to making transformational changes to the IRS to help taxpayers and the nation."

The primary system that IRS uses to process individual taxpayer account data was built in the late 1960s, about the same time astronauts were being sent to land on the moon. The primary system helps the IRS assess taxes, generate refunds, update accounts, and more. Maintaining the system is getting harder because it relies on a computer programming language (COBOL) that fewer and fewer programmers know.

The report also noted that the IRS continues to struggle to hire qualified candidates in many key areas. "If the IRS does not make significant changes, these staffing shortages will compound and pose significant threats to federal tax administration and taxpayer rights," the report states.

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.

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Revelation Chapter 19



Melvin Howard

(Rev. 19:1-2) Praise from heaven: The expression “Hallelujah” is found four times in this chapter (v. 1, 3, 4, 6), and only here in the New Testament. It has Hebrew roots and means “praise Jehovah.” It is found a number of times in the Greek version (LXX) of the Old Testament (Ps. 110-118, 134-135, etc.). The emphasis is on Jehovah’s wisdom and power as reflected by his acts. John hears the voice of a “great multitude” in heaven. Who are these? Some say angels, others think they are a collection of

angels and redeemed people. Still other scholars think it most likely that these are the spirits of the redeemed. They are set apart from the “elders” and the “living creatures” (v.4). They praise God for his glory and power as manifested in salvation. His true and righteous judgments are evidenced in the overthrow of “the great harlot” who corrupted the earth with her degenerate doctrine, and by her persecution of the Lord’s servants. To apply this destruction to imperial Rome alone, we believe, is an unfortunate interpretative mistake.

(Rev. 19:3-5) Eternal punishment for the harlot: Jehovah is praised because the vile woman has been thrust into hell and the smoke of her torment ascends eternally. Hell is not a temporary phenomenon, as some would like to believe. The praise is endorsed by the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures (4:4), who fell down and worshipped God. Another voice came from the throne, exhorting praise for the Lord from all who reverence him, both great and small. The “great and small” embrace all levels of human maturity, regardless of educational level, economic status, innate ability, etc.

(Rev. 19:6-8) The Lamb and His wife: Again there is the voice of “a great multitude” (v. 1; 7:9), similar to the mighty rushing of water or the ear-splitting crack of thunder. God is praised as the “Almighty,” for he is to crush his enemies of every sort. It will be demonstrated that he is reigning (continuously)---not they. His reigning has never ceased since its commencement, no matter how the circumstances of earth appeared. It is a time of rejoicing and gladness: God is to be glorified because the time for the “marriage feast of the Lamb” has arrived. The “wife” is the church, and she has “made herself ready” by having her garments made white in the Lamb’s blood (7:14). The Lord provided the remedy for the sinful human condition, but, clearly, human responsibility in accepting such is involved. Her wedding attire of linen, “bright and pure” (in contrast to the gaudy harlot), reflects the obedient “acts of the saints,” submitting to the righteous requirements of God (v.8). Efforts to exempt men from obedience on the ground of this text (as some have sought to do) are absolutely futile.

(Rev. 19:9-10) The marriage supper invitation: John was instructed to write: “Blessed (happy, spiritually prosperous) are they who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” As noted earlier, “Lamb” is a designation used frequently for Christ in this book (twenty-eight times). It reflects his innocence, his submissive disposition, and his sacrificial death (Isa. 53:7; 1 Pet. 1:19). Only those adequately prepared are invited to the festive occasion. John was assured of the integrity of the message; these were “true words of God.” Some are troubled by the fact that the Lamb’s “marriage supper” implies that the Lamb is not yet married, whereas elsewhere in the New Testament Christ is pictured as already being married to the church (Rom. 7:4; Eph. 5:23). There is no problem when one recognizes that a character may occupy different roles in the same format of pictorial imagery when the context is different. In John 10, Jesus is represented as both the “door” and the “shepherd” in the same discussion---with different points of emphasis involved.

When the apostle heard the message from this unidentified voice (v.9)---presumably an angel (22:8)---he fell down to worship. He was interrupted, however, being informed that the speaker was a “fellow-

servant” with John and those who have embraced the testimony of Jesus. The apostle must desist. Only God is to be worshipped. The testimony given by Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. This may mean Jesus’ testimony fulfills the prophecy of the Old Testament, or that Christ’s ministry is a prophetic oracle (the “good news” of redemption). (Since only God is worthy of worship, and yet Jesus received such (Mt. 14:33), it is clear he acknowledged himself as deity. Additionally, since angels do not accept worship, and yet Christ did, this implies he was not an angel---as the Watchtower Witnesses contend.)

(Rev. 19:11-16) The victorious Lamb: The curtain of heaven is opened and the apostle is permitted to view a pictorial representation of the final judgment. He beholds a “white horse,” which is a projection of victory (6:2). The rider will conquer his foes. The rider (later identified as Jesus) is designated as “Faithful,” because such was the nature of his whole life; he is “True” because he proclaimed nothing but truth. Whereas human conflicts are unrighteous (usually ignited by greed, thirst for power, etc.), this warrior will “judge” and “make war” in absolute righteousness (16:5-7). Note the parallelism between “judge” and “make war.” The day of judgment is the equivalent of the “war of Armageddon” (16:16).

The rider of the horse clearly is Christ. His eyes burn as flames of fire (1:14; 2:18), and upon his head were many regal crowns, suggesting his absolute authority (which has been usurped by others) (12:3; 13:1). The “secret name” likely hints of the inability of man currently to appreciate the plentitude of Jesus’ marvelous nature (v.12). The rider is clothed with a garment that has been “dipped in blood” (v. 13). (“Dipped” has better manuscript support than “sprinkled,” as in the ASV.) While some view this as the Lord’s shed blood, the language (borrowed from Isaiah 63:1-6) and the immediate context of victory over one’s foes indicates this is the blood of the rider’s enemies---dramatically illustrated. The day of judgment will be a slaughter! The horseman’s name is “the Word of God,” he is the incarnate Word, our Lord and Savior (Jn. 1:1, 14; 1 Jn. 1:1).

Armies in heaven follow this courageous and conquering leader (v.14); they too were on white horses (sharing his victory), and are clothed in fine linen, pure and white, indicative of the cleansing by their Master’s death. A sharpen sword, symbolizing his penetrating word, would strike the nations and “rule them” (v.15; 2:27; Psa. 2:9), where the sense is “break them” and “dash them in pieces”). This is their punishment. He will “tread” upon them like grapes in a vat, with a fierceness of wrath that only God Almighty can administer. He is “King of kings and Lord of lords.”

(Rev. 19:17-21) The plight of the vanquished: Meat-eating birds are summoned to come and consume the dead who have been slaughtered in this great battle (Mt. 24:28). Heaven’s opponents in their varying categories are described---from the great to the small. Hell is no respecter of persons! The beast and the kings of the earth assembled for a last-ditch effort to defeat Christ. The beast and the false prophet (who performed his “lying wonders”) (13:13; 2 Thes. 2:9) were cast alive into the hell that burns eternally, and so were those who received the beast’s mark and worshipped his image. The expression, “the rest,” does not signify that some of the Lord’s enemies will escape hell. Rather, it may merely indicate there will be a distinction between those who were instrumental in leading the assault and those who were undiscerning followers. There are degrees of eternal punishment (Mt. 11:22, 24; Lk. 12:47-48; Heb. 10:28-29).

BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo
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BIBLE TRIVIA - By Wilson Casey

1. For possible new year’s resolutions, Proverbs 16:3 says, “Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be ____.”
Resolved, Established, Directed, Bountiful
2. Likewise, Psalm 37:5 instructs us to, “Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to ____.”
Nurture, Pass, Action, Light
3. Which book proclaims the first day of the new year is for resting and a memorial sounding the trumpet? Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers
4. 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 2:20 are among the verses to focus on what in a new year? Blessings, Moving forward, Grace, Church attendance
5. In which month of the religious calendar did the new year begin in the Bible? 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th
6. From James 1:5, what may one lack and if they ask God it shall be given? Love, Wisdom, Truth, Goals

ANSWERS: 1. Established, 2. Pass, 3. Leviticus, 4. Moving forward, 5. 7th, 6. Wisdom

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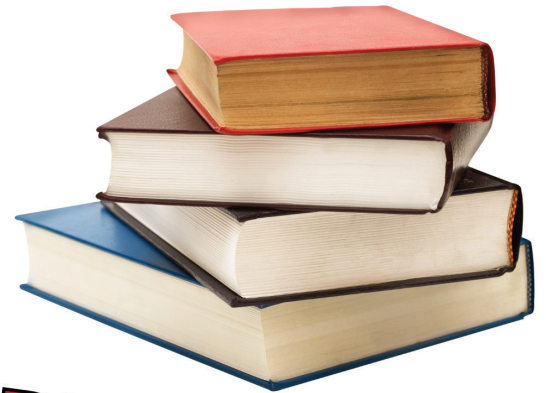
A teacher
takes a hand,
opens a mind,
and teaches a
heart.



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