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**Summer Fun in the Sun
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See Back page for your coloring page. Entries must be in by 9am July 28th.

Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3
www.mocotoday.com
Volume 09 Number 26
Tuesday, June 27, 2023

Your Community. Your News.

75¢

**Inside:
Weather
History**



**Red Headed
Woodpecker**



Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

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CITIZENS & VETERANS

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AT WARTBURG, TN

USPS PUBLICATION NUMBER
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**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

It
has
been

a ruff
week on
my little

heart. My dog-feller Mr Murphy moved to Georgia! Mimi says it is a far away land, where Bulldogs reign.

Does that mean that Ms Pat, Mr Ron and my Mr Murphy are going to forget about me, Smokey, and Good Ol' Rocky Top?

I sure hope they don't start wearing red instead of big orange. Ms Pat says they won't, that they are VOLS for life.

I am happy for them. They are going to be living in a nice new home where Mr Murphy will be able to run without a leash. I am also, sad because they had to move so far.

Another thing happened this week that just breaks my heart. You see my friend, Ms Ginger went to Heaven. Ms Trish and Mr Roy are so lost without her. She was their fur-baby for a long time.

I wonder if Heaven is near Georgia, since they



are both far away? I also wonder if, Mr Murphy and Ms Ginger will get to play together, if it is.

Any-woof, I know one thing. I am going to give my Mimi and Pappy extra wuffins. I hope that next week will be better. I have faith that it will.

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

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WEEKLY WEATHER



Tue 27	82°/60°	
Wed 28	82°/60°	
Thu 29	85°/66°	
Fri 30	86°/68°	
Sat 01	85°/67°	
Sun 02	81°/66°	
Mon 03	80°/67°	

Tennessee 811
Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DLARMC CHANGE IN MEETING

The Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center has changed its meeting date. We will now meet on the 3rd TUESDAY of the month at 6 PM. All are invited to attend.

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

BINGO for adults is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10:30 – 11:30. Our current hours are Monday 10:30-3:00, Tuesday 3:00-7:30, and Wednesday 9:00-12:00.

Oakdale Public Library Hours are Mondays 1:00 – 3:00, Tuesdays 4:30 – 7:00, Wednesdays 9:00 – 12:30 and Thursdays 9:00 – 1:00. On the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, there is Preschool Story Time from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays there is Family Story Time from 10:00 – 11:00. BINGO for adults is on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10:30 – 11:30. For more information, follow Oakdale Public Library on Facebook or call 423-369-3051.

The Morgan County Tourism Alliance meetings are on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm held at Tanners Cafe.

The City of Sunbright is taking applications for employment for a part time/full time employee. Applications can be picked up at 120 Melton Dr. in Sunbright.

VENDORS NEEDED FOR 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

The Deer Lodge Abner Ross Memorial Center is soliciting vendors for the 4th of July Celebration to be held on Tuesday, July 4th in Deer Lodge, rain or shine. Booths are \$30.00 in advance for a 16x16 area. Electricity is available for an additional \$10.00. Bring your own tent, table and chair. The 4th of July Celebration starts at 11am (EDT) with the parade and concludes with fireworks at dusk. For more information call Bob Brimi at 423-628-2850.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Joseph Calandrino d/b/a Luciano's
Has applied for a beer permit to sell beer ON premises at the location known as:

Luciano's
111 North Kingston St.
Wartburg, TN 37887
Anyone having reason to believe that this permit should not be Issued, must appear before the City of Wartburg Beer Board on the 2nd day of June , 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room at City Hall

ORDINANCE 404-23 Amended
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #381-16 OF THE CITY OF WARTBURG PERTAINING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

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Parade begins at 7:00 pm
Fireworks at 10:00 pm



For more
information
contact the
Town of
Huntsville

In Loving Memory

Marjorie E. Langley, 98

Marjorie E. Langley, age 98, of Oakdale passed away June 19, 2023 at the Jamestowne Assistant Living in Kingston. Marjorie was a retired Math and Science teacher at Oakdale High School for 24 years and worked at Clinton Engineer Works at K-25 for 6 years. She was a lifetime member of the Oakdale United Methodist Church. Marjorie was a graduate of the University of Tennessee.



Marjorie was preceded in death by her parents James E. & Amanda Arhant Patching; husband Welda Ernest Langley, Jr.; siblings James Patching, Jr., George Patching, and Elizabeth Patching; daughter-in-law Karen Langley.

Marjorie leaves behind her children Welda Langley III., of New Orleans, Russell (Paula) Langley, of Kingston and Robert (Kelly) Langley, of Rockwood; sister Helen (Dave) Stevenson; grandchildren Adam (Jessica) Langley, Brandon Langley, David (Jennifer) Langley and Kathryn (Shelton) Hunt; great grandchildren Jared (Lonnie) Langley, Hannah Langley, Addison Langley, Emily Langley, Branson Langley, Walker Hunt and Hudson Langley; and great great grandchild on the way, Mason Langley.

The family will have a graveside service Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at Morgan Memorial Gardens in Wartburg with Pastor Jennifer Spieth officiating.

In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to: Oakdale United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 176, Oakdale, TN 37829.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Marjorie E. Langley.

John Evans, 72

John Evans, age 72 of Lansing passed away June 20, 2023.

He is preceded in death by his parents Robert Fred and Annabell Evans; brothers Charles and Rex Evans; sister Julie Evans.

He is survived by his sisters Helen Evans, Sue Rollins, Gail (Joe) Deblo, Wilma (Paul) Bledsoe; brothers Curtis (Lisa) Evans, Robert (Deb

Evans, Chester (Angela) Evans, Thomas Evans, and Timothy Evans and a host of nieces, nephews and special friend Karen Williams.

The family is honoring Johns wishes to be cremated. No services are scheduled at this time.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of John Evans.

Geraldine Harris, 88

Mrs. Geraldine Harris, age 88, of Wartburg, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, June 22, 2023. Geraldine was a longtime member of Elizabeth Baptist Church. Geraldine loved to do crafts such as pottery and was often painting or working on home projects. She loved spending time with her family, especially her husband of over 60 years, Willard Harris.



Geraldine was preceded in death by her sons, Barry and Dennis Michael Harris, parents Harry and Lena Garrett, and brother James Dale Garrett.

Geraldine is survived by her husband Willard Harris, grandson David Harris and wife Heather, grandson Stephen Harris and wife Lorra, great-grandson Owen, great-granddaughters Cheyenne and Zoe, sister-in-law Roberta Garrett, and a host of nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends on Monday, June 26, at Elizabeth Baptist Church from 9:00-11:00 a.m. with the services to follow with Bro. Buster Armes officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mrs. Geraldine Harris.

Billy Joe Brock, 62

Billy Joe Brock age 62 of Sunbright got his Heavenly wings on June 18, 2023.



He was preceded in death by his parents Ollie and Ion Brock, and brothers Sam & Russell Brock.

He leaves behind his children:

Samantha & Curtis LaRue and Justin & Eda Brock Grandchildren: Sumalee LaRue, Cora and Jase Brock Brothers: Wayne & wife Janet, Jerry & wife Wanda, Luther & wife Lori, Bobby & wife Rachael. Sisters: Linda, Minnie & husband

Tony Huling. Sisters-In-Laws: Arlene & Kathy Brock Also a host of nieces, nephews and other family and loved ones.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, June 20th 2023, from 4:30-6:30pm at Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral services will follow with Bro. Tony Huling officiating. Interment will follow in the Brock Cemetery, Sunbright, TN.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Billy Joe Brock.

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

City of Sunbright General and State Street Aid Amended & Proposed Budgets

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Amended Budget 2022-23</u>	<u>Proposed Budget 2023-24</u>
<u>Revenues</u>		
Total Local Taxes	\$212,756.69	\$212,850.00
Total State Govt. Allocations	\$ 95,576.29	\$ 85,400.00
Total Other Revenues	<u>\$ 7,927.50</u>	<u>\$164,500.00</u>
Total Revenues	\$316,260.48	\$462,750.00
<u>Expenditures</u>		
Total Expenditures Gen. Govt.	\$127,244.53	\$273,271.00
Total General Govt. Salaries	\$ 23,856.35	\$ 27,800.00
Total Public Safety Expend.	\$ 36,786.30	\$ 36,800.00
Total Public Works Expenditures	\$ 33,902.34	\$ 59,879.00
Total Public Works Salaries	<u>\$ 58,480.96</u>	<u>\$ 65,000.00</u>
Total Expenditures	\$280,270.48	\$462,750.00
Excess Revenues/Expenditures	\$ 35,990.00	\$ 0.00
Beginning Fund Balance	\$525,238.00	
Ending Fund Balance	\$561,228.00	

The General Fund has 2 full time employment positions and 2 part-time positions.

<u>State Street Aid</u>	<u>Amended Budget 2022-23</u>	<u>Proposed Budget 2023-24</u>
<u>Revenues</u>		
State Gas & Fuel Tax	<u>\$ 18,893.92</u>	<u>\$ 20,000.00</u>
Total Revenues	\$ 18,893.92	\$ 20,000.00
<u>Expenditures</u>		
Asphalt, Paving Materials	\$ 2,369.40	\$ 3,500.00
Equipment Purchase	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,500.00
Equipment Repair	\$ 1,891.61	\$ 1,500.00
Vehicle Operations	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,000.00
Street Lighting	\$ 9,421.59	\$ 9,500.00
Misc. Expenditures	<u>\$ 1,063.80</u>	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
Total Highways & Streets	\$ 14,746.40	\$ 20,000.00
Excess Revenues/Expenditures	\$ 4,147.52	\$ 0.00
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 44,201.00	
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 48,348.52	

ORDINANCE #114-23

**ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF SUNBRIGHT, TENNESSEE
AMENDED BUDGET FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
JULY 1, 2022, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023, AND FOR
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
ENDING JULY 1, 2023, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024**

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Ukraine War News



Michael Nance
Columnist

The Russian and Ukraine war continues to bring strife and terrible conditions to the people living in

Ukraine proper, and the areas annexed by Russia in Crimea. As the U.S., Germany and many others continue to supply more technological-ly advanced weapons, Putin seems more desperate in his tactics to retain power. For many weeks the rumors of a Ukrainian counterof-fensive have dominate the headlines, and mysteriously the Kakhovka dam was breached, and the waters flooded Ukrainian's Kherson region. To be fair, Russia blames Ukraine for the dam breach and Ukraine blames Russia. No one knows which country breached the dam, as both countries are employing intensive media campaigns to place blame for the disaster on each other.

For sure, the breach of the dam was an ecological and humanitarian disaster and points towards the desperation of the conflict.

From a historical perspective, blowing up dams was a tactic employed by the Russians during World War II. In 1941, the Russians blew up the Dnieper dam at Zaporizhzhia, causing the Ukrainian industrial center of Dnepropetrovsk to be evacuated. It also slowed down advancing Nazi troops.

There are many other parallels to the Russian and Ukraine War, whereby the

Russians are employing many WWII tactics on the battle-field.

One area where the Russians are using the WWII playbook is with their infantry soldiers. They are using their



Zaporizhzhia-Dam, Ukraine
Photo courtesy of Llya Pavlov

poorly trained conscripts as cannon fodder. Russia is sacrificing the first wave of infantry to locate the defensive positions of the Ukrainian soldiers. In most cases, this first wave of infantry is poorly equipped and trained. A second wave of semi-trained infantry will construct counter defensive positions to be used as launching points for their third wave of well-trained infantry to assault from. This approach is a carbon copy of the Russian tactics in WWII.

Ukraine has begun their counteroffensive, and by all accounts it is a slow grind navigating the many line mine fields and detailed defensive trenches that have been constructed by the Rus-

sian Military. But Ukraine is demonstrating a very high military acumen from a strategy perspective. Recent reports indicate that the Ukrainians have only committed about 25% of their combat power to

the offensive. They have adopted a probing and maneuver approach which is making the Russians shift forces from one area to another.

This is classic United States military strategy and brings the most important facet of combat to the forefront, information! As Russia has to move troops and equipment from one area to another you can quickly identify which units are weak and which are strong. This is a critical step in determining where to mount your largest attack with a high chance of success.

In concert with the Ukrainian offensive, Putin is receiving pressure from many of the South African countries to settle the war. The Rus-

sian-Ukraine War has drastically impacted food exports to many South African countries and could eventually lead to a food crisis.

The Russian economy may eventually be the root cause for the end of the war, and possibly signal the end of Putin himself. Despite his claims of a strong Russian economy, according to at least three credible sources 2022 was a terrible year for the Russian economy. Estimates indicate that in 2022, Russia's gross domestic product (GDP) contracted by 2.1%. Many estimates indicate that 2023 will be a worse year for the Russian GDP.

Make no mistake, despite the rhetoric the Russian government is feeling the impacts of the cost of the war and the many financial sanctions. Recently it was announced that a one-time 10% windfall tax would be levied on large Russian companies and their oligarch owners. Many of these oligarchs have already experienced many of their foreign assets seized which further exasperates Putin's internal standing in Russia. This is further evidence of the desperate circumstances that Putin must constantly navigate.

In the end, the Ukraine War may end the same way the Cold War ended, when the former Soviet Union ran out of money due to military spending. Only time will tell, let's all pray this war ends soon.

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NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JoAnn Derson

* Save the rubber bands from broccoli. You can put them around the body of a drinking glass so that it will be less slippery as it condensates.

* "I save the wrappers from my unsalted butter sticks in a baggie in my refrigerator. I use them to grease a pan when baking." -- M.M. in Wisconsin

* Corn is best cooked within a day or two of being picked, so farm-stand corn is the best. Add a little bit of milk to the cooking water, and it will bring out the natural sweetness.

* Cherries are in season! Much like strawberries, they need to be kept refrigerated but taste best at room temperature. Before eating your cherries, let them sit out for about a half-hour.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* The largest volcano in the solar system is Olympus Mons, on Mars, standing at an impressive 13.6 miles high with a diameter of approximately 370 miles. That's nearly three times the height of Mt. Everest.

* During World War II, a U.S. naval destroyer won a battle against a Japanese submarine by throwing -- wait for it -- potatoes at them. The Japanese thought they were grenades.

* Lettuce is a member of the sunflower family.

* Gennaro Pelliccia, a taster for Costa Coffee, had his tongue insured for \$22 million.

* To leave a party without telling anyone is called, in English, a "French exit." And in French? Appropriately enough, it's known as a "partir a l'anglaise," or, to leave like the English.

* The rotund Buddha so commonly depicted in statues and pictures isn't at all an accurate representation. Instead, his real-life counterpart was actually quite thin, due to self-deprivation.

* GPS may be free to use, but it still costs \$2 million per day to operate. The funds are supplied by American tax revenue.

* No, the color red doesn't make bulls angry -- they're colorblind.

* One of the World Trade Center towers was purposely built to a height of 1,776 feet to reference the

year the Declaration of Independence was signed.

* Want to generate electricity from mud? Crazy as the concept may sound, it is indeed possible, thanks to *geobacter sulfurreducens*, which belongs to a group of organisms known as electrogenic bacteria that are able to transfer electrons from organic matter to metals or other conductive materials.

* According to a study done by French researchers, if you listen to loud music, you are more likely to drink more in less time.

Thought for the Day: "Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings when the dawn is still dark." -- Rabindranath Tagore

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* Mmmmm. Dried lentils don't need to be soaked prior to cooking like other dried beans. And they're packed with protein.

* "If you lose a contact lens and can't find it right off, try turning out the lights and shine a flashlight across the ground. The lens might reflect the light and cause a flash. That will make it easier to find." -- T.L. in Texas

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

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18				19					20			
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38	39	40					41			42	43	44
45					46				47			
48					49				50			
51					52				53			

47 Granada gold	7 Musical mixes	to exercise
48 "Mamma Mia" group	8 Trembled	class
49 La Scala solo	9 Undecided	32 Ms. Moreno
50 Apprehend	10 Duel tool	34 West of Hollywood
51 Katy Perry hit song	11 Sly	35 Ape
52 Adolescent	19 Reddish horse	36 Asparagus unit
53 Ninny	20 Flamenco cheer	37 Prove untrue
	23 "Top Gun" target	38 Despot
	24 — jiffy	39 Vagrant
	25 Pooch	40 Exile isle
	26 Nap site	41 Give a darn
	27 Bagel topper	42 Hawaiian coffee
	28 Automaton, for short	43 Historic periods
	29 Hog haven	44 Filches
	31 Pad you bring	

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FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ... OR DARE!

- ♥ TPI
- MOYENT
- ♥ SNEAP
- ♥ HNIC
- ♥ SLOREM
- ♥ WNO
- ACWL
- ♥ ORWET
- ♥ ASW
- ONCSIA
- ♥ OCMAR
- PILM

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

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David Zubler
Columnist

Taxpayer Advocate mid-year report

National Taxpayer Advocate Erin Collins recently released her mid-year report to Congress. The Taxpayer Advocate Service helps taxpayers resolve problems with the IRS, makes administrative and legislative recommendations to prevent or correct the problems and protects taxpayer rights.

The mid-year report analyzes the IRS's effectiveness in processing original returns, amended returns, taxpayer correspondence and answering taxpayer telephone calls.

Erin Collins said, "In submitting this report, I'm finally able to deliver some good news: The taxpayer experience vastly improved during the 2023 filing season. The IRS caught up in processing paper-filed original Forms 1040 and various business returns; refunds were generally issued quickly; and taxpayers calling the IRS were much more likely to get through – and with substantially shorter wait times. Overall, the difference between the 2022 filing season and the 2023 filing season was like night and day."

The IRS improved its processing of paper filed tax returns. According to the report, there 13,300,000 unprocessed paper returns as of April 22, 2022. That number dropped to 2,600,000 as of April 22, 2023.

The IRS was given credit for making significant improvements. However, the IRS is still behind in processing amended tax returns and taxpayer correspondence. Generally, employees in the IRS's Accounts Management function perform two functions. They answer telephone calls, and they process taxpayer correspondence and amended returns. The correspondence includes processing taxpayer responses to IRS notices and many types of taxpayer requests,

such as applications for Employer Identification Numbers, a high percentage of Identity Theft Victim Assistance cases, and tax return preparer authorizations.

The IRS's Accounts Management has not made notable progress in reducing its paper inventories over the past year. The inventory is just six percent lower than at the same time last year. In April, it was taking the IRS 130 days to process its adjustments cases. That represents a substantial improvement from the 214 days it was taking last year, but it is still well above the IRS's standard processing time of 45 days.

The report says the IRS was much more effective in answering taxpayer calls this year, "but [that] could only be accomplished by prioritizing the phones over other IRS operations, and it resulted in greater delays in the processing of paper correspondence."

The report urges the IRS to prioritize information technology upgrades that will improve the taxpayer experience. It says that although the COVID-19 pandemic was an unexpected development, the refund delays and service challenges taxpayers experienced over the past three years would have been substantially less severe if the IRS had better technology.

David Zubler is a tax accountant and Enrolled Agent in East Tennessee, providing tax strategies and representing clients before the IRS, and has over 25 years of tax experience. He is the author of six tax books and has shared tax advice on national TV. He is the founder and president of Your Tax Care. The company provides business and tax education, including David's one-minute tax tip radio recordings at YourTaxCare.com. David can be reached at (865) 363-3019 or contacted by email at david@yourtaxcare.com.

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**2023
Kia Soul**



SENIOR NEWS LINE

By Matilda Charles

Memory Aids We Can Use

There may come a time when you can no longer immediately remember the 25 telephone numbers that used to be easily recalled. I suspect it comes to us all. When it does, it's time to start making lists.

Having a cellphone is probably the easiest way to save all those numbers. But the problem comes when the phone is on its charger and can't be accessed. Written lists are a lifesaver then.

I made such a list for my father many years ago, not suspecting then that I would need the same type of list someday. I'd taped his list inside the cabinet door in his kitchen, the one right above the phone on the wall.

I now have a similar list taped to the inside of my own cabinet

door, but in one other place as well: a slim piece of paper on the side of my computer monitor. Of the two, that's the most handy because I'm often at the computer.

I've also made a list for the other side of the monitor of important dates with items such as inspection and new tags for the car and the next date to pick up a three-month batch of prescriptions at the pharmacy.

One thing that was helpful for my father years ago when he was very senior and using his first computer: I made him a notebook of instructions. In a three-ring binder I put pages with one instruction per page, with titles like "How to Send Email," and I'd start each instruction with "Turn on the computer," because that's where his skill level was. Periodically, as his computer skills grew, he'd request additional instruction pages. It was a lot easier than trying to teach him by telephone.

Nowadays, if he were still living, I'm sure I'd be creating a "How to Use the Cellphone" notebook for him. I'd be happy to.

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FLASHBACK

By Mick Harper

- 1. ABBA won the 1974 Eurovision contest with which song?**
- 2. Name the group that released "Boogie Fever."**
- 3. Who was "Sloopy" in "Hang On Sloopy"?**
- 4. Which duo released "Lady Godiva"?**
- 5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "Stayed in bed all morning just to pass the time; There's something wrong here, there can be no denying."**

Answers

- 1. "Waterloo." Then, in 2005 at the 50th anniversary of the contest, the song was picked as the best song in the whole history of the contest, edging out "Nel blu, dipinto di blu" (aka "Volare") by Italian Domenico Modugno.**
- 2. The Sylvers, in 1975. The group, consisting of nine of the 10 kids in the family, originally called themselves the Little Angels.**
- 3. Legend says that Sloopy (born Dorothy Sloop Heflick in 1913) was a singer in Ohio and an Ohio University student. "Sloopy" is the fight song of the Ohio State University Buckeyes and was named the state's official rock song in 1985.**
- 4. Peter & Gordon, in 1966.**
- 5. "It's Too Late," by Carole King in 1971. The song snagged a Grammy for Record of the Year in 1972 and made it onto the Rolling Stone's list of greatest songs of all time.**

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**City of Wartburg
General, State Street Aid & Drug Fund
Amended & Proposed Budgets**

General Fund	Amended Budget 2022-23	Proposed Budget 2023-24
Revenues		
Total Local Taxes	\$829,198.35	\$766,975.00
Total State Govt. Allocations	\$239,397.48	\$ 96,250.00
Total Other Revenues	\$482,703.30	\$192,825.64
Total Revenues	\$1,551,229.13	\$1,056,050.64
Expenditures		
Total Expenditures Gen. Govt.	\$ 166,018.55	\$151,113.00
Total General Govt. Salaries	\$ 54,652.98	\$ 54,000.00
Total Public Safety Expenditures	\$ 132,394.32	
\$172,500.00		
Total Public Safety Salaries	\$ 203,490.80	\$189,550.00
Total Public Works Expenditures	\$ 149,555.77	\$233,136.00
Total Public Works Salaries	\$ 177,576.10	\$203,540.00
Total Recreational Expenditures	\$ 222,102.03	\$ 52,221.64
Total Expenditures	\$1,105,790.55	\$1,056,050.64
Excess Revenues/Expenditures	\$ 445,508.58	\$ 0.00
Beginning Fund Balance	\$1,022,793.00	
Ending Fund Balance	\$1,481,283.92	

The General Fund has 10 full time employment positions and 1 part time employees

State Street Aid	Amended Budget 2022-23	Proposed Budget 2023-24
Revenues		
State Gas & Fuel Tax	\$ 29,367.05	\$ 30,000.00
Other Income	\$ 241.54	\$ 225.00
Total Revenues	\$ 29,608.59	\$ 30,225.00
Expenditures		
Asphalt, Paving Materials	\$ 7,447.00	\$ 1,975.00
Purchase of Equipment	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 4,000.00
Street Lighting	\$ 25,776.51	\$ 24,000.00
Misc. Expenditures	\$ 0.00	\$ 250.00

Total Highways & Streets	\$ 35,723.51	\$ 30,225.00
Excess Revenues/Expenditures	\$ (6,114.92)	\$ 0.00
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 92,011.00	
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 85,896.08	
Drug Fund Account	Amended Budget 2022-23	Proposed Budget 2023-24
Revenues		
Sale of Equipment	\$ 62,703.00	\$ 25,000.00
Total Drug Investigation Revenues	\$ 5,960.00	\$ 6,000.00
Interest Income	\$ 6.33	\$ 7.00
Other Revenues	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 500.00
Total Revenues	\$71,169.33	\$ 31,507.00
Expenditures		
Drug Investigation Costs	\$ 316.00	\$ 10,000.00
Purchase of Equipment	\$ 6,973.18	\$ 10,000.00
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 4,362.63	\$ 11,507.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 11,651.81	\$ 31,507.00
Excess Revenues/Expenditures	\$59,517.52	\$ 0.00
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 38,179.00	
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 97,696.52	

**ORDINANCE No. 406-23
AN ORDINANCE OF THE
CITY OF WARTBURG, TENNESSEE
ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023 AND ENDING
JUNE 30, 2024**

**ORDINANCE #405-23
ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF WARTBURG, TENNESSEE
AMENDED BUDGET FUNDS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
JULY 1, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023**

THE CITY OF SUNBRIGHT is accepting sealed bids for construction of a New Office Facility to be built by the following bid Specifications:

**FOUNDATION PAD TO INCLUDE ADA RAMP
METAL BUILDING 40 X 60
CONSTRUCTION OF INTERIOR OF BUILDING
DRY WALL HUNG AND FINISHED
HVAC SYSTEM**

REQUIRED INSURANCE: Worker's Compensation, General Liability, Builder's Risk
A PRE-BID MEETING WILL BE HELD ON: FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2023 at 10am FOR BIDDERS INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING DETAILS OF THE BID. The City of Sunbright reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Bids must be received "Sealed" no later than 9:30 A.M. by U.S. Mail or HAND CARRIED on bid opening date FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2023
Bids will be opened at 10am

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Tom Redmon
Columnist

Who Said Basic Training Wasn't Any Fun March 1953 – June 15, 1958

When I went into the Navy in March 1958, I was expecting the first twelve weeks, which was called Basic Training or Boot Training, to be rough. I had heard boys who had been in the Navy verify that for me. My two older brothers had told me something, and my oldest brother said there was some crying in the barracks after the lights went out. I figured that it was rough or it could be home sickness. I had been away from home some so I expected to deal with that part okay.

The first three weeks were pretty rough. For me marching in rank was not easy. But I was determined even if I did have two left feet. Chief Mazza didn't come down on me. He told the RCPO (Recruit Chief Petty Officer) to take me aside and train me. It would come pretty fast.

It seems that all they could do was yell at you. Even the recruits who had mess cooking had to get into the act. If you had a button on your shirt unbuttoned, they would ask you, "recruit, do you want that button?" Then they would take a knife and cut it off and hand it to you. That night you would be sewing it back on. Now I know why we were issued a sewing kit.

We had to wash our clothes by hand, and then we had to tie them on the line with cloth stops. We had to wring that cloth-stop around the line a certain number of times. If they said seven times then it had better be seven when they inspected.

Every morning we had a barracks inspection and yours had better been made right. One recruit made his bed good at night before taps then he would sleep on the hard floor. Soon the old boy walked all bent over and in six weeks he had to go to sick bay with back trouble. But he passed every barracks inspection.

We also had a personnel inspection every morning which I hated. One morning we were gathered around our washing area when I noticed that I had a little speck of dirt on the rim of my white hat. I decided that I would take one of my white hats off the line to wear and tie the one I had on and cover up the dirty spot.

The only trouble was the old RCPO saw me do this and he just loved to get me into trouble. When our company commander walked up Castello walked over to him and I just knew that I was in trouble.

Chief Mazza walked over to me and said "Redmon did you get a white hat off of the line?" I said, "Yes, sir, I didn't want to get the company a gig so I changed the hats." He looked at me and I thought well here it comes. But he didn't say anything to me. He let it go and old Castello was fit to be tied.

One morning we were out on the grinder (marching area) when the C.O. walked up. He went straight to my buddy from Tennessee that I promised I would look after. Mazza was about 5'2" or 3" and just about 99.9% of the men in Company 190 were taller than he was. He looked up into the face of James Carr and did give him a chewing out. He said, "Logue you are a total mess-up and I'm getting tired of you pushing the rules. You had better watch it buddy or you are in trouble." Poor Old Carr's face was as red as a pickled beet. I thought to myself why doesn't he tell him who he is. Both Carr and Logue have red

hair and they do look like each other if you only glance at them. Finally, Carr said, "Sir, I'm not Logue, I'm Carr."

I'm telling you it got quite out there on the grinder. I felt sorry for Carr but I also felt sorry for Logue. I wanted to tell Company 190 to get down on their knees and say a prayer for him because Mazza might want to kill him later on.

After Chow one day, we were back in the barracks before hitting the grinder. C.O. Mazza had something important to tell us. He asked us if we knew what and why did Regimental Headquarters call the names of company commanders? Some of us said no we didn't. "Well, I'll tell you boys," He answered.

They have messed up royally and when they go over there, they are in for a good a@@@ chewing. About that time the loud speaker came



on loud and clear, "Will Chief Mazza Company 190 please report to Regimental Headquarters immediately."

I'm telling you half of Company 190 had their hands over their mouths and the other half had to turn away from him. It was funny but we knew better than to laugh. Mazza's name had never been called to R.H. and being a squared-away trainer, we didn't expect it to ever be called. But it was, at the most opportunistic time. Five recruits got mess cooking and lucky me I was one of them. It lasted a week which turned out to be the easiest week of Basic Training. The head cook (1st Class Petty Officer) didn't have much for us to do so we spent most of our time laying in the potato bin. That is except one boy named Magnolia. We called him Maggie and he was just dying to help the Chief Cook out. I guess the cook told him to get the big vat of spaghetti out of the oven and

bring it up to him. Magnolia didn't know that the floor was cleaned and slick. When he started across the kitchen four recruits were placing bets on how many steps he would take before falling. Well, somewhere close to the middle of the room ole Magnolia's feet flew up in the air, the big vat of spaghetti came down on the poor boy and the floor. There he laid with tears in his eyes saying, "I messed up, and fell."

The Chief Cook said boys this is lunch for the boys so we'll still have to use it. He said the floor is cleaner than anything else on this base so get a big spoon and start dipping. I didn't know Basic Training would be so much fun.

Company 190 had not been doing very good one week and Chief Mazza was not happy with us. He said, "Listen to me carefully you bunch of screwups. I'm coming up there tonight at taps and I'm going to tell you what I expect from you from now on.

Well, there stood Chief Mazza in the doorway when taps sounded. The lights went out and Mazza started. "I've told you what to expect if you keep screwing up. Well, it won't be funny when you are out there on the grinder marching all night, and further-more I will take your liberty away from you. A booming voice in the back of the barrack said, "give me liberty or give me death."

The C.O. said, "all right, who said that?"

Another voice at the other end of the barracks said, "Patrick Henry!"

It was funny but it wasn't funny marching all night.

I would bet anything that the two characters who said that were from Tennessee. They were nuts.

Company 190 graduated on June 13, 1958. I graduated in the top 10. I headed for home and then Norman, Oklahoma for prep-school. I'll always remember Basic Training and the rest of my time in the United State Navy.

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John Burns
Opinion Columnist

Ecclesiastes 7

A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death, better than the day of one's birth.

It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.

Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.

The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.

For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool; this also is vanity.

Surely oppression maketh a wise man mad; and a gift destroyeth the heart.

Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof; and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry; for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.

Say not thou, what is the cause that the former days were better than these? For thou do not enquire wisely concerning this.

Wisdom is good with an inheritance; and by it there is profit to them that see the sun.

For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.

Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight that he has made crooked?

In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider; God also have set the one against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.

All things have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just man that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man that longeth his life in his wickedness.

Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself?

Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?

It is good that thou shouldest take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all.

Wisdom strengthens the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city.

For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken: lest thou hear thy servant curse thee: For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others.

All this have I proved by wisdom: I said I will be wise but it is far from me.

That which is far off, exceeding deep, who can find it out?

I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness:

And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her: but the sinner shall be taken by her.

Behold, this have I found sayeth the preacher, counting one by one, to find out the account:

Which yet my soul seeketh, But I find not: one man amongst a thousand have I found; but a woman amongst all those have I not found.

Lo, this only have I found: that God hath made man upright: but they have sought out many inventions.

No Bible teaching upended my beliefs like Ecclesiastes. Solomon entreated us to incredible wisdom, in the Proverbs. In Ecclesiastes, Solomon switches gears and becomes a preacher.

This, the heart of a man, chosen by God because of a promise given to his father, King David. Solomon has come to the end of his life, and he is confronting his shortcomings, to preach that all in this life is vanity without the wisdom from God our creator.

Solomon begins by acknowledging that the day of his death is more important than the day of his birth. Hebrews did not celebrate their birthday until Jeroboam allowed for pagan traditions to migrate into Jewish worship of God. A little leaven had begun to leaven the whole lump.

Our creator is concerned with the day you are born again, and begin to die to the world men have created. Culminating in the joy we should feel as professing believers, on the day that Jesus Christ calls us home. Our death should be pure joy, for we are with the Lord forever!

Solomon teaches us that we are to celebrate poverty as much as celebrate wealth. God is sovereign over men's affairs. He is concerned with what you do with the blessings he has given you. His perfect will is for all men to come to the knowledge of Christ. If your money and wealth are advancing the kingdom, then, get wealthy!

Solomon reminds us that God made man upright. Man chose to join Eve in the transgression, quit blaming sin as if it is God's fault. Choices are the foundation behind responsibility. You want to know why society is breaking down, their bad choices have built an irresponsible house!

The greatest bad choice we have made as Americans, is to choose to remove the Bible from our children's learning experience. By removing prayer, we have taken the weapon God gives all of us. Prayer is God allowing us to take part in what he is doing!

We have confused our offspring and God is not happy! I pray for mercy in America. I pray we will return to the morality of the Bible before God has to step in.

The humility of Ecclesiastes is what is missing from the American experience.

Solomon's only hope, was that one day, God would provide himself as the Lamb to cover all his vain imaginations.

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. 10-1-2022 John Burns

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

FEAR KNOT

answer

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Historically Speaking

How Bil Lepp interprets Oak Ridge prophet John Hendrix's legend

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

During his June 3 performance for the sixth annual Flatwater Tales Storytelling Festival in Oak Ridge's Historic Grove Theater, renowned storyteller Bil Lepp gave his interpretation of the story of John Hendrix, the legendary prophet of Oak Ridge. I was honored to be able to help Bil with his research by providing a book I had written on John Hendrix and a video produced while I was at the Y-12 National Security Complex serving as Y-12 Historian.

I also answered his questions as he prepared for the event. It was a delight to help him understand the nuances of the story. It is one that dates to the beginning of Oak Ridge in written form and by oral tradition before that.

Here is Carolyn Krause's summary of Lepp's story about John.

Storyteller Bil Lepp opened his narrative about John Hendrix, the legendary prophet of Oak Ridge, by giving part of a quote from the Bible: "We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land." (Daniel 9:6)

His point was that maybe the people living in the Oak Ridge area where John lived decades before the start of World War II should have taken his prophecy seriously if they knew of it.

Lepp reminded his audience that 3,000 people living in what became known as Oak Ridge were forced to leave their homes and lots in 1942. The reason: the government had chosen the site for nuclear fuel production plants for the Manhattan Project to help win World War II. Some of those unfortunate residents had been kicked off their property previously in the 1930's when the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was established and when TVA built Norris Dam.

Wherever they lived, Lepp said, "The government said, 'Go!' I don't know where they went, but I would have left Tennessee, I'll tell you."

Lepp read John's prophecy that he made in 1900 about the future of the Oak Ridge area. Here is the essence of the prophecy: "I've seen it coming. Bear Creek valley someday will be filled with great buildings and factories, and they will help toward winning the greatest war that will ever be."

John mentioned that "the center of authority" would be in "a big city on Black Oak Ridge." He concluded that in his envisioned great city "big engines will dig ditches and thousands of people will be running to and fro. They will be building things and there will be great noise and confusion and the earth will shake. I've seen it. I've seen it coming."

If the residents of Black Oak Ridge had known about John's prophecy when the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 caused the United States to enter the war, Lepp suggested, they might have prepared to take action to protect their property. "I'm not saying that the people who lived here wouldn't have supported the war effort," he said, "but maybe they could have formed a homeowners association to help the people get a better deal for their land."

He noted that Curtis Hendrix, John's son by a second wife, received only \$850 from the government for the 60 acres of land he owned in Black Oak Ridge. He and 1,000 other families were shocked in 1942 to read the heartless message in the Declaration of Taking letter.

Lepp said that the federal government "put a fence around the city and the only way you could get back in is if you died." He was right; General Leslie Groves decided that the Oak Ridge cemeteries must be protected; many of the living were evicted but not the dead. "So," Lepp said in jest, "you could be buried in your family cemetery, but before you could come back in, they opened your coffin and inspected it to make sure you weren't up to no good." Lepp explained that the federal government selected the Oak Ridge area as a site for the development of the war-winning atomic bomb because of the availability of water, electricity from Norris Dam and ridges and valleys that allowed separation of the nuclear fuel plants. "If one factory exploded," he said, "the damage would be con-

tained to just that valley and the whole thing wouldn't go off like a chain of firecrackers."

Oak Ridge grew fast; in three years some 75,000 people lived here. Available to them were a library, symphony orchestra, sports complexes, seven movie theaters and worship services for 17 different denominations. "You got 17 church services, and you got 17 restaurants and cafeterias, so they just rotate so nobody has to fight over who gets served first on Sunday," Lepp said.



Original grave marker (Photo by Ed Westcott)



Paralee Raby and her adopted daughter, Grace Raby Crawford

He then told the story about John Hendrix that many Oak Ridgers know. John was born on Nov. 11, 1865, right after the Civil War, making him a Baby Boomer, Lepp speculated. In 1888 he was married.

Hendrix and his wife had four children. In 1900, their two-year-old daughter Ethel died. John's wife blamed him for her death because he had punished her; however, she may have succumbed to typhoid fever or tuberculosis. Angry at him, his wife left and took the three children to Arkansas.

Distraught by his daughter's death and the departure of his wife and children, John turned to religion and prayed to God to show him the future. He was told to go into the woods and lay his head on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights so that the future would be revealed to him. One woman heard him wailing as he prayed on a wintry day and saw that his hair was frozen to the ground; so, she gave him a blanket and chicken soup. Lepp said from what he read it was not clear to him whether the prophecies came all at once or over time or whether John took more than one pilgrimage into the woods over the 40 days.

Besides his Oak Ridge prediction, John prophesied correctly that the L&N railroad would be coming into the area and that cargo would be carried through the air. The latter

prophecy was made before the airplane was invented. He made another prediction after he escaped from a "poor house" institution to which he had been committed by neighbors who considered him crazy.

John said that this "was an evil place and that God would burn it to the ground in 30 days." Within a month lightning struck and burned down a building in the area. But it may not have been the institution where John had stayed, Lepp said, because it did not close until 1968.

In 1909 John married his second wife, Martha Jane, and their son Curtis was born. John worked hard on the 15 acres of land he had bought in Black Oak Ridge by laboring for 50 cents a day to pay off his owner. Then he became ill with tuberculosis, so he moved to the cabin on the property so as not to expose his wife and baby son to the disease.

He was cared for by his stepdaughter, Paralee Raby, daughter of Martha Jane and wife of Perry Raby. Lepp expressed admiration for her because she raised the baby of a man whose wife died in childbirth and cared for many neighbors afflicted with diseases that Paralee never caught. She "loved her neighbor as herself," wrote her adopted daughter, Grace Raby Crawford.

John Hendrix died in 1915. "His last request was to be buried on the hill overlooking his farm and his apple orchard so that he could watch the thieves," Lepp said. "I wouldn't go steal apples from that orchard." Perry bought a \$8 custom-made coffin for John that he paid off in three years. For \$20 Perry bought a house on the farm next to the one John had. In 1942 Paralee, like Curtis, received the government notice demanding that she move away in six weeks.

In trying to discern the lesson from the legend, Lepp asked, "Why did God give this prophecy to John?"

After all, it didn't help the prophet or his immediate family profit long on their land. Assuming that John made the Oak Ridge prophecy (and there are doubts about that), Lepp said the lesson is that "we don't listen to prophets that tell us things we need to hear. We ignore them for whatever reason." And if the John Hendrix story is not completely true, Lepp's conclusion is, "That's how folklore works."

Thank you, Carolyn, for attending the Flatwater Tales Storytelling Festival and capturing Bil Lepp's rendition of the John Hendrix story. It is one I tell everyone who comes to Oak Ridge and is included in all my presentations and tours about Oak Ridge history.

This amazing story was first introduced to me by Ed Westcott. He sent me a photograph of the original tombstone. The one that is there now was placed there by Dorothy Bruce and her 1966-67 Jefferson Junior High School students.

For more information read: <http://smithdray1.net/historicallyspeaking/2006/5-30-06%20Joe%20Oakes%20article%20on%20John%20Hendrix.pdf>

And

<http://smithdray1.net/historicallyspeaking/2006/6-6-06%20Joe%20Oakes%20article%20on%20John%20Hendrix%20part%202.pdf>

This first written story about the legend was published on November 2, 1944, in the Oak Ridge Journal. Until I found that publication the earliest publication I knew of was in George Robinson's The Oak Ridge Story published in 1950.

Ed also told me about a man who knew John Hendrix, Clay Seals. Read about that here: <http://smithdray1.net/historicallyspeaking/2006/4-24-06%20John%20Hendrix%20-%20Clay%20Seals%20by%20Ed%20Westcott%20part%201%20published%205-2-06.pdf>

And

<http://smithdray1.net/historicallyspeaking/2006/5-9-06%20John%20Hendrix%20death%20-%20Clay%20Seals%20by%20Ed%20Westcott%20part%202.pdf>

2 Peter Chapter 1

(2 Peter 1:1-2) Salutation: The writer identifies himself as Simon Peter. The best textual evidence has the first name written as “Symeon”, a Hebrew spelling (Acts 15:14), which some scholars see as an incidental clue of authenticity, since no forger would likely use this unusual form. Peter confesses himself to be a “servant” (slave) of Jesus and officially, an “apostle”. He does not suggest that he is the “head of the church”, nor is he the “bishop of Rome” (as Catholicism claims). He addresses fellow Christians who have “obtained” a like precious faith with us. It is again important to note that he does not elevate himself above others in any redemptive sense. He knows nothing of the grandeur ascribed to him by apostates of later times.

“Righteousness” is the quality of absolute “rightness” characteristic only of deity; here the expression may be extended to the plan of righteousness for the redemption of those who seek such in obedience to the gospel (Rom. 1:16; 3:20). The manner in which “God” and “Savior” are constructed in the Greek text reveals that the same person is in view; it is an affirmation of the divine nature of Jesus (v.1). The salutation of “grace” and “peace” is extended, with the wish that such be multiplied in the increasing expansion of knowledge that pertains to both God and Jesus our Lord (v.2).

(2 Peter 1:3-11) Exhortation to grow: It is by the Lord’s “divine power” (as manifested through the gospel) (Rom. 1:16) that we have been given everything we need for the development of spiritual “life” (having been rescued from “death”) (Eph. 2:1) and personal “godliness” (piety). Such does not occur in a vacuum, “but through the knowledge of (or from) him” (resident in the messages of inspiration) who has called us (through the gospel) (2 Thes. 2:14) and motivated us by the excellence of his own “glory” and “virtue”.

These “things” (v.3) subsequently are depicted as “precious and exceeding great promises,” through which we become “partakers of the divine nature” (v.4). This does not mean that we, in any sense, become deity (as Christ was deity in nature). It does suggest that by means of the in Christ relationship we are influenced through the Scriptures to increasingly partake of the pristine moral and spiritual qualities of God (2 Cor. 3:18; Col 3:10; Heb. 12:10). Through the conversion process, the Christian has escaped (note the danger) from the corrupting influences of worldliness that non-saints are prone to craving (v.4).

Maintaining the exalted status is very important but is not without effort. Christian people must be diligent, therefore, to supplement their faith in several dimensions (v. 5-7). These qualities must be added: (a) “virtue” (moral fiber); (b) “knowledge” (the ability to discern truth from error in harmony with sacred revelation); (c) “self-control” (abstinence from things harmful, moderation in things permissible); (d) “patience” (steadfastness under trying circumstances); (e) “godliness” (piety combined with a God-towardness disposition); (f) “brotherly kindness” (a practical love that reflects a care for others that normally would be expected of brothers) (1 John 4:20); (g) “love” (the noblest emotion of all; it is a self-less dedication to others) (Jn. 3:16).

If these noble qualities are incorporated into the fabric of one’s makeup and are cultivated, he will be vigorous in action and fruitful in production, attaining to a full knowledge of the plan Christ has for his people (v.8). This is a recipe for Christian maturity. On the other hand, the one who fails to cultivate these qualities is afflicted with spiritual myopia. He has no distant vision, and has forgotten the thrill of having been cleansed from sin at the point of conversion. This is a horrible affliction.

There is then a call for urgency. Brothers in the Lord are to be all the more vigilant to make their “calling and election”, their relationship with the Lord, absolutely sure (v.10)! How can this admonition make any sense at all if the child of God cannot do otherwise (“his calling and election” are sure---no matter what he does or does not do---as hyper-Calvinism insists)? The term “for” (v.10) is explanatory. The verb “do” reflects sustained action. Thus, the one who steadfastly practices these things will never stumble. But what if he does not maintain that steady course? In this fashion, through faithful obedience, will God’s people be richly supplied an entrance into the “eternal kingdom” (2 Tim. 2:10; 4:18) of Christ, our Lord and Savior (v.11).

(2 Peter 1:12-5) The apostle’s personal concern: Though these saints had knowledge of the truth and were firmly grounded therein, it is in the nature of the case that people can be forgetful. Hence, Peter stands ready to remind them of things crucial to their spiritual welfare. He declares it is nothing but “right” (his solemn duty) that as long as he continues to live in his “tabernacle” (temporal body) (2 Cor. 5:1) that he keep on stirring them up by constantly reminding them of their duty to faithfulness (v.13).

He is confident that the “putting off” of his body (implying an inward soul) is

“coming swiftly”, decisively quick, when the time arrives. He indicates that his unnatural death had been “signified” by Christ himself (v.14). The apostle refers to the incident recorded in John 21:18-19 (which see), when Jesus foretold the violent manner of Peter’s death. This is supporting evidence of Peter’s authorship of this document. Peter wants these brethren to remember, after his “decease”, these valuable truths. “Decease” in Greek is exodus (“Exodus” in the Old Testament); death involves a “departure” of the spirit from the body (Phil. 1:23; Jas. 2:26). Man is not wholly mortal, as materialists allege!

(2 Peter 1:16-21) The credibility of the Christian system: Christianity is not grounded in “cunningly devised fables”. This expression suggests clever “myths” with no basis in historical fact, stories about the “gods,” “the creation of the world,” “miraculous happenings.” Etc. There is nothing new under the sun; the same sort of illusionary myths are foisted upon society today (the theory of organic evolution). Christianity is grounded in factual, incontestable history! Peter declared that “we” made known unto you the “power” and “coming” of the Lord Jesus. “Power” sometimes pertained to the supernatural works of Christ that Peter and the other apostles witnessed (Acts 2:22), but in this case the term appears to be connected with the Lord’s final coming. The “coming” of the Lord was an allusion to his second coming, as reflected in the technical term parousia (Mt. 24:39; 1 Cor. 15:23; 2 Thes. 2:1, 8).

Peter introduces an event in the ministry of Jesus as evidence for the reality of the Lord’s second coming. He states “We were eyewitnesses of his majesty” (v.16). He specifies the occasion. Christ was honored and glorified by the Father when God (designated as the “Majestic Glory”) spoke, saying: “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” Clearly this refers to the “transfiguration” scene (Mt. 17:1-13; Mk. 9:2-13; Lk. 9:28-36). This apostle declares that “we” (he along with James and John, joined by Moses and Elijah) heard the voice and were with him in the holy mountain (v.17-18). (This is another internal clue that Peter was the author of this letter.)

The apostle declares that “the word of prophecy” (the testimony of the Old Testament prophets regarding the coming of the Messiah) was made even more sure (“more certainly guaranteed”) by the transfiguration events. Thus, the recipients of this letter are to “take heed” to the message, which shines like a lamp in this world of dismal gloom---a world to be more brilliantly illuminated by the influence of Christ in their hearts by means of the gospel (v.19). In the case of these Christians, it would suggest a deeper level of knowledge than they currently possessed. Here is a truth that must be known (understood). First, there is a reference to “prophecy of Scripture.” Likely, Old Testament prophecy is principally in view, but the term can include the New Testament as well. It is prophecy that has become a part of written revelation.

The text set forth (by affirmation or implication) several great truths regarding divine revelation. (a) “Prophecy” is a comprehensive term, referring to the past, present, or future. Moses was a prophet, yet some of what he wrote had to do with the past (the creation record in Gen. 1-2). Amos was a prophet but wrote concerning what he “saw” concerning Israel (1:1). Isaiah foretold glorious things pertaining to the coming Messiah (53:1-12). (b) Prophecy did not originate in the minds of the prophets; it came through them, not from them as a source. The Holy Spirit was the controlling agent in bringing the message, and such conveyed the will of God. (c) The recipients of prophecy were expected to understand the message when it was explained to them (Acts 2:16) and they exercised their own intelligent initiative (Eph. 3:4; 5:17; 1 Thes. 5:27; 1 Jn. 2:12-13). (d) Prophecy has a precise meaning, either in a primary or secondary sense (or both as in the case of some messianic texts, Psa. 69), and no one has the right to manufacture a meaning to buttress his own theology (as dispensationalists so often do).

(The misuse of 2 Peter 1:20 by some Roman Catholics---namely that no individual has the right to personally interpret the Scriptures, rather, “the Catholic Church” must deliver the correct interpretation---is as self-defeating as it is misguided. The appeal to this passage in that defensive effort assumes that this text can be understood, thus “guts” the papal argument.)

Luke 1:1-4 makes it very clear that the word of God is written so that we can read and understand the scriptures. Luke 11:52 the papacy has taken away the key of knowledge.

BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo
FortifyYourFaith.org



MELVIN HOWARD

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Also known as “tickseed” or “pot-of-gold,” coreopsis is easy to grow. Sprinkle the seeds over a prepared area of soil in a very sunny location, and cover lightly with soil. Keep this area watered until the seeds germinate in about 3 weeks. This plant tolerates heat, humidity, and drought. It is well suited to beds, borders and containers. Not only do bees and butterflies love its nectar, but also small birds like goldfinches love its seeds. It’s an excellent cut flower in a mixed bouquet. – Brenda Weaver

Sources: linnet.geog.ubc.ca, www.gardeningknowhow.com, almanac.com



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



Laban said, “It’s better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me.” So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

GENESIS 29:20

Detail of “Leah and Rachel Catch Jacob” by Luba Lukova (2000)

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Cole Burchell
(CatFish Cole)

A Wise Man Once Said

By: CatFish Cole

Today we as a society have advanced and surpassed the limits of communication far beyond the invention of the telephone in 1876. As now with the simple press of a button we are granted the ability to talk with those across the globe. Though this process was not overnight, it is like all things and has its own unique history. It is filled with great people, especially great communicators, who have spread their word throughout the decades. Although we have become oblivious to the messages and signs conceded by those great communicators especially in this modern age. That's why I was honored this past Tuesday to be given the opportunity to speak at 8th grade promotion at WCMS. Below is my speech -

On behalf of WCMS I would like to welcome you all here this evening to celebrate the accomplishments of the 2023 8th grade class. For our deepest gratitude goes out to you, the parents, grandparents, aunts & uncles, and other support systems, because without you we would not be where we are today. Though thinking on the subject of graduation and how another school year has passed. We often reminisce and look back at all the memories we've made over the years here at WCMS. But today we should look

forward, to this next chapter in our lives. One that we will meet head on with determination and perseverance as we have before. For as I gaze upon my fellow students I see the next generation of doctors, lawyers, architects, farmers, electricians, and most importantly, Americans. I see potential in every aspect of our lives as we must never forget that we live in the land of opportunity, and that nothing is out of reach. As a wise man once said, "There are no constraints on the human mind, no walls around the human spirit, no barriers to our progress except those we ourselves erect." As I close I wish to leave you with this final thought. So easily can our dreams become reality through hardwork and determination. Thank you

Why I was honored to speak that day is simple. I was given the opportunity to remind people of an old forgotten truth. One that this nation was founded on and I will stand behind as long as I live. The power of the idea of freedom, possibility, and hope, which allows us to achieve incredible things. The idea that fuels the American spirit and dream today. For it is not the nation or physical land that makes me feel pride, but the endurance of our founding fathers and all Americans through our harrowing times. Concord & Lexington, The Alamo, Gettysburg, Pearl Harbor, Korea, Vietnam, 9/11, and Covid, and it's through this adversity we stand strong as a people. A people who are men, women, trans, black, white, hispanic, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, rich, poor, Republican, Democrat, tall, or short, but at the end of the day American.



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"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." – Mark Twain



Come join the Quality Family
for
a fun day at the Fair!

July 25th
10:00am-2:30pm
at the
Morgan County Fairgrounds

Lunch of Chili Dogs, chips, cookie, and a drink will be provided.

Events to include:

- Ms. Senior Fairest of the Fair Pageant
- Photo Booth
- Hat Decorating Contest
- Bingo BLOWOUT
- Special Guest Elvis
- Lots of Door Prizes and Chances to Win





Independence Day Celebration
Tuesday
July 4th.

Everyone is invited

No Entry Charge after 7:00 pm



July 4th.

Picnic in the Park

Under umbrella by gift shop
Begins at 7:00 pm
Grilled hotdogs, chips
And a Drink

July 4th.
Duck Race at 8:00



\$500.00 grand prize

Ducks can be purchased at admissions




July 4th.
Fireworks at
Dark



Hotdog
Eating Contest
7:30
Funbrella by the gift shop
\$1.00 Fee

Lifeguard
Kayak Races

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HUNTSVILLE ANNUAL FIREMEN'S 4th FESTIVITIES PROMISE LOTS OF FUN FOR EVERYONE

By Richard Spears



a great parade, carnival games, live entertainment, craft vendors and many different food vendors. And, of course fireworks to cap the day off. Everything has gotten bigger and better for this annual event that is attended by thousands of our local folks, as well as families that come in from all over," Jeffers told the Morgan County Today.

Beginning the day at 7 a.m. with a pancake breakfast, and the New River 5K and 10K runs, the 2023 Firemen's Fourth festivities will be a full day of great family fun. Jeffers said, "The parade will take a little different route this year, since the parade line has gotten to be so long. This year, the parade, which steps off at 7 p.m., will come down highway 63 and turn into the first entrance to the square, go around the mall, then proceed out the entrance to the square that has traditionally been the entry point. Then, the parade will go on highway 63 to the Huntsville Park to finish up and disband. We expect a parade of over a mile long this year." Any group or vehicle participating in the parade will need to meet at First Baptist Church of Huntsville, just east of Huntsville Elementary School at 6 p.m. said Jeffers.

Huntsville Mayor Dennis Jeffers remembers going with his family to the Huntsville Mall, to enjoy the Firemen's on the Fourth celebration every Fourth of July when he was a kid. "It has always been a great place to celebrate the 4th of July holiday, with

Jeffers added,"I can say from experience, the Huntsville Mall will be the place to be on Tuesday, July 4. A fun time will be had by all. Come on out and join us !"



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