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Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3
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Volume 09 Number 46
Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Your Community. Your News.

75¢

Inside:
ScoCo Today
Weather
History



**Senator Yager's
Chili Supper
Nov 17th**



**Coalfield Crushes
Rockwood 31 - 0**

Cover Photo by Cathy Bird



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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

Dear Dr Bristol, You know it is my favorite time of the year. It is food fest aka, the holidays. First up is turkey day! Oh, I can just smell it now. Yummo! LYou know how I wuff

turkey, ham, and all that stuff. My Mimi scolds my Pappy when he sneaks me some of the yummy stuff. She tells him that us furry ones have to be careful when it comes to people food, no matter how yummy it is. That woman, I know she wuffs me but I gotta say, she hurts my feelings sometimes cause she won't let me have all that deliciousness. I

Gobble, gobble. Ms Avery Pearl. I'm also ready for some delicious, homemade Thanksgiving food.

Oh, wait a second. You're not supposed to eat all of the fatty, yummy foods that we enjoy during the holidays. I hope you know what to avoid, Ms. Avery!

Unfortunately, fatty/greasy foods (our favorites!) are really bad for our furry little friends. These foods can cause pancreatitis (inflammation in the pancreas) that can lead to vomiting and diarrhea. Sometimes, these cases are mild, but some pets with pancreatitis can require hospitalization as this can be life-threatening in severe cases.

Even worse, some dogs that experience several bouts of pancreatitis when they're young pups can develop diabetes as they mature due to fibrosis and scarring within the pancreas (our insulin-producing organ). So... pork, dark-meat turkey, dressing, corn casserole, rolls, and any other foods with loads of delicious butter can be very bad for our pets.

Additionally, bones are a big no, no for our pets as they can cause gastrointestinal obstructions and/or lacerations in the stomach or intestines. Grapes and raisins can cause kidney damage, and some nuts such as walnuts and macadamia nuts can cause nervous system and musculoskeletal damage. Onions and garlic can cause damage to red blood cells which can require IV fluid therapy and blood transfusions if large quantities are ingested.

And, unfortunately, Ms. Avery Pearl, you won't be able to enjoy most of our desserts either. Chocolate (and anything with caf-

feine) can cause vomiting and diarrhea in small quantities and can cause tachycardia (increased heart rate) and neurologic side effects in larger quantities. Xylitol, an artificial sweetener that may be used in some desserts, can cause liver damage and hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) that can be life-threatening. Blueberries and a little canned pumpkin are safe, but blueberry cobbler, pumpkin pie, pecan pie, etc., are not - too much butter and sugar!

So... I know that I make Thanksgiving sound like a terrible holiday for pups like you, Ms. Avery, but... it's not all bad. For starters, most sweet girls like you enjoy spending time with their people more than anything else. We can take a break from cooking, cleaning, and football, to play a bit of fetch with our furry friends. If we're feeling a little sluggish after dinner, most critters will enjoy snuggling on the couch with us as we settle in for the evening, too. It's nice to remember that food is not the only way to our friends' hearts.



But, if we really want our furry friends to partake in our food marathon, we can offer them a few healthy snacks. Green beans (frozen or straight out of the garden or can) or carrots are great, lean snacks for our critters. Additionally, a small bite of boiled, skinless white meat chicken is okay for pets without any chicken allergies. There is another great, healthy option involving a little sneakiness, too. Sometimes, Ms. Avery, we can place dog treats or kibble in

a container at the "big person table" and then give this to our begging pals on the floor. Most pups still feel like they're receiving some of the "good stuff" when we do this.

I know I've put a kink in your holiday plans, Ms. Avery Pearl, but I'm sure you and your family will still have a wonderful time! I just hope your Mimi is a better cook than I am. Everyone eats lean at my house! ;o)

Happy Thanksgiving! Dr. Bristol

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

WEEKLY WEATHER



Tue 14 65°/42°

Wed 15 62°/42°

Thu 16 65°/51°

Fri 17 64°/48°

Sat 18 60°/38°

Sun 19 63°/47°

Mon 20 60°/47°

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

2023 Thanksgiving Dinner DEER LODGE ABNER ROSS CENTER ANNUAL COMMUNITY DINNER

The Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center will host its Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday

November 18th beginning at 12 noon and lasting until 3pm. The meal will consist of Turkey, Ham, Green beans, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Rolls, Dessert and Beverage. Patrons can dine-in or carry-out. We encourage everyone to come enjoy a meal with old friends and make new ones. Cost will be \$6.00 to cover the Center's costs. This is an outreach event to give back to the community for the support of the Center. All donations are appreciated to help with cost. For more information, please contact Bob Brimi at 423-628- 2850 or Martha Griffin at 423-965-4142.

For delivery within a 5 mile radius of Deer Lodge Center, please call before 10 am, Saturday November 18th at 423-965-5000. (Beverage not included in deliveries)

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 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

CITY OF SUNBRIGHT AGENDA FOR November 21, 2023 (6pm)

- Report on following: -Meeting begins at 6pm. -Progress of new build at city hall complex -Progress of slum clearance phase 1 -Christmas Lighting Friday December 1st at 6pm with caroling, hot chocolate, and cookies. At 7pm the park will be lit. -Senior Citizen Bell Ringers will be performing at the lighting of Sunbright.

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

A Friendly Debate about San Francisco, California



Michael Nance
Columnist

Good tidings to all the readers of the Morgan County Today. Instead of an article concerning research, history or current political affairs, I instead offer the contents of a conversation that I had earlier this week at a hotel in Nashville. My current job requires a tremendous amount of traveling. I cover seven states and spend more time than I want to in hotels. Now, after traveling

on and off for a least 15 years of my career, there is only one thing that I enjoy about traveling... meeting new people. Earlier this week I was sitting in the hotel lobby, which included a bar. Sitting at the bar was a couple in their sixties enjoying an alcoholic beverage. The man was a big fellow, and the way he carried himself you could tell he had blue collar roots. The lady was almost the opposite, her tone, demeanor, and speech put you in the mind of a college professor. Although I wasn't sitting at the bar, I could not help but overhear the man complain about the taxes on the drink he purchased. He said to his wife: "look here is an alcohol tax! This one drink has cost me seventeen dollars!" After hearing that statement, my opening had arrived. I walked up to the bar, looked at the man with empathy and said: "they don't miss too many opportunities to tax you in Nashville, welcome to a blue city in a red state."

The man grinned as I made the statement, but his wife was not enamored with my comment. She looked at me with

disgust and announced very proudly that they lived in San Francisco, California and were just in Nashville on some real estate business. Knowing that I had just poked a political hornet's nest, I tried to walk off, but the lady was not having it. She immediately engaged me in a question and asked, "have you ever been to San Francisco? At this point I realized that I was not going to escape this lady without a political debate, so I decided to push forward. I replied, that in fact I had visited San

Francisco circa 2010 for a work conference. I continued that I was amazed that the restaurants in downtown San Francisco would not take credit cards at the time. I concluded with, "it was my assumption that the tax structure was so egregious that the restaurants were attempting to avoid paying taxes." Before either the lady or I could muster further debate, her husband looked at me with a grin and said, "well they take credit cards

now because they are scared to keep cash. Most

of the restaurants are repeatedly robbed and they are scared of any cash. Crime has increased their tax revenue!"

The lady looked at her husband with a look that could kill, turned and left the lobby and mumbled something at her husband who replied, "well it's the truth."

Worried that I had just contributed to a divorce, I retired for the night and will never again jump in on a conversation about California.



Photo Courtesy of Timo Strohmann

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

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



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In Loving Memory

Donald Ray Vann, Jr., 51

Donald Ray Vann Jr., age 51 passed away November 3, 2023 at Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge.



mother-in-law Shirley Hamilton; brother-in-law Eddie Gilmore; and a host of uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews and extended family.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents Rommie and Zell Vann and Howard and Sephie Russell; father-in-law Edward Gilmore Sr.

He leaves behind his wife Angie; son Dylan (Tabitha) Vann; daughter Sydney Vann; 3 grandchildren Tinzlee, Cooper and Brody Vann; parents Donald and Pat Vann; sister Camey (Bobby) Rutledge; brother Jamie (Christy) Vann;

The family will receive friends Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. with Rev. Tommy Helton officiating. Graveside services will be Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. in the Brasel Cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Donald Ray Vann Jr.

Sidney Clark, 74

Sidney Clark, age 74 of Lancing formerly of Oakdale passed away Thursday, November 9, 2023 at Roane Medical Center in Harriman, TN.

Sidney was a 1966 graduate of Oakdale High School. He was a very proud Army Veteran. He was proud to have worked as an airplane mechanic while in the service.

He spent years driving a coal truck and doing bulldozer work then worked at Brushy Mountain Prison and retired from Morgan County Regional Complex.

Sidney is preceded in death by his father Sidney Clark; mother Inez Delius Clark Coffey; stepfather Leonard Coffey; grandparents Bill and Jessie Clark

and Albert and Daisy Delius and a host of many other family members.

Sidney leaves behind his wife of 53 years Joann Hamby Clark and son Darrell; sister Melissa Coffey Stewart (Carlos), sister-in-law Barbara Johson; brothers-in-law Burnis Hamby (Brenda), Roger Hamby (Terri), Nathan Hamby (Darlene), Jim Hamby (Monica), Kelly Hamby (Pam) and a host of family members and friends.

The family will have a military graveside service Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the Lane Cemetery in Lancing with Rev. Charles Webb officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Sidney Clark.

Mona Nell (Tucker) Patrick, 70

Mona Nell (Tucker) Patrick, age seventy (70), passed away at her home on November 8, 2023. Mona was born in Petros to the late TJ and Anna Mae (Lilles) Tucker on September 23, 1953. She was also preceded in death by her son, Dusty D.J. Vought, grandson Tj Williams, sister, Marilyn (Tucker) Goss, brother, Tim Tucker, and many other family members and friends.



Mona was a member of the Indian Creek Missionary Baptist Church. She was known to be a talker; you could not get off the phone with her, and she was notorious for sending her daughter text messages that were like books. She could spend hours in any store, even though someone would be waiting for her outside (mostly Gary). The love she had for her family was unmeasurable. Through the years she maintained her faith and love for God. Her family will miss her, but knowing she is in the Lord's hands and her fragile body no longer hurts gives them comfort.

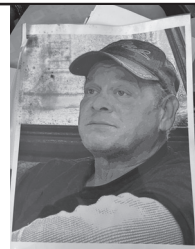
Mona was survived by her Husband of forty-one (41) years, Gary Patrick, daughter and son-in-law, Tracey (Vought) and Tony Williams, grandchildren Ryan (Desirae) Vought, Nathaniel Vought, and Jereme Vought, great-grandchildren Brynlee Williams, Chasen Williams and Rylan Vought, and brothers Charles (Rosemary) Tucker and Mark Tucker. She also considered Shelby (Ryan) Sharpe as her granddaughter and Bentley Sharpe as her great-grandson. The family would also like to acknowledge her cousin and special friend, Susan Tucker, and friend, Donna (Vincent) Sabella.

The graveside service will be Sunday November 12, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at Old Petros Cemetery in Petros, TN with Dr. Jim West and Bro. Thomas Vanada officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mona Nell (Tucker) Patrick.

Vernon Leon "Bernie" Williams, 68

Vernon Leon "Bernie" Williams age 68 passed away at his home on November 4, 2023. Bernie enjoyed racing in his younger days but as he got older, he enjoyed painting and drawing.



Paul (Debbie) Williams; brother and sister-in-laws David Ward and Rita Dishman and a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, special friends: Joe Armes and Johnny Marlowe, and extended family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his wife Rena Williams; son Jessie Williams; grandson Isaiah Williams; mother Geneva Armes; brother-in-law James Clay; daughter-in-law, Keisha Williams.

He leaves behind children Josh Williams; Heather (Junior) Daughterty, Heidi (Ron) Harris; sister Randy Clay; brother

The family is honoring Vernon's wishes to be cremated. There will be a memorial service at a later date.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Vernon Leon "Bernie" Williams.

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

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Journeyman Lineman

Plateau Electric Cooperative is accepting applications through Friday, November 17, 2023 from qualified candidates for the position of journeyman lineman. This position will be reporting to the Morgan County office. Position performs all types of skilled work relative to the construction and maintenance of Plateau Electric Cooperative's overhead and underground electric system. Climbs poles or steel structures and works from aerial lift devices to install conductor, transformers, crossarms, insulators and other related equipment. Must be willing to work in adverse weather conditions. Position requires a high-school diploma or GED. The successful candidate(s) must have a valid driver's license, and be able to obtain a Class "B" Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Those interested may pick up an application at either of the Cooperative's offices in Oneida or Wartburg.

Plateau Electric Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity and Drug Free Workplace Employer

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or veteran status.

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Jackets Rock Rockwood

By Brody Jones

Morgan County Today

The Coalfield Yellow Jackets put in a dominant performance on Friday night against Rockwood, shutting out the Tigers 31-0.

Jaiden Bunch blasted through the Tiger defense for the first score of the day on a two yard plunge into the promised land of the end zone following an eight play and 50 yard drive. Jack Treece split the uprights on the PAT to make the score 7-0 with 4:01 left in the first quarter.

Coalfield turned up the wick in the second quarter when Coalton Henry capped off a five play and 51 yard drive with a quarterback keeper from one yard out running the wildcat package. The PAT by Jack Treece sailed true and through to make the score 14-0 with 7:05 left in the second quarter.

A Jaiden Bunch interception for the Jackets helped set up the next score on a five yard Luke Treece to Waylon Burgess strike, capping off a six play and 52 yard drive. The PAT was good, making the score 21-0 with 2:11 left in the first half.

Coalfield's next score came courtesy of a 26 yard field goal by Jack Treece, making the score 24-0 with 3:36 left in the third quarter.

The Jackets put the game on ice with a 38 yard Luke Treece to Eli Roberts touchdown strike. Jack Treece hit the PAT to make the score 31-0 with 5:40 left in the game, which was how the game would end.

Luke Treece (7/14, 193 yds., 2 TD's) had a solid day behind center. Jaiden Bunch (18 carries – 78 yards – 1 TD) led Coalfield in rushing. Eli Roberts (2 rec. – 73 yds. – 1 TD), Bunch (2 rec. – 52 yds.) and Coalton Henry (1 rec – 52 yds.) led the Jackets on offense. The Jacket defense was led by Eli Justice (12 tackles, 1 tackle for loss), Lucas Adcock (9 tackles), Coalton Henry (8 tackles), and Jaiden Bunch (1 INT).

Next up for Coalfield is a second edition of the "Big Mountain Brawl" in the third round of the TSSAA playoffs against longtime rivals, the Oliver Springs Bobcats.



Photos by Cathy Bird

Senator Yager Announces Stars of the Grand Ole Opry Playing at Chili Supper

Opry stars Mike Rogers and James Carothers will provide entertainment at the Chili Supper set for Nov. 17

(NASHVILLE) – Senator Ken Yager (R-Kingston) is pleased to announce Grand Ole Opry stars Mike Rogers and James Carothers will provide entertainment at the 28th Chili Supper and Silent Auction on Nov. 17. Between the two of them, these Nashville musicians have played with many of country music's greats including Alan Jackson, Craig Morgan and Jimmy Fortune.

Mike Rogers is an accomplished musician, songwriter and producer, who currently sings and plays acoustic guitar for Ricky Skaggs as a member of his band Kentucky Thunder. Rogers has also played acoustics and lead vocals for bluegrass legend Doyle Lawson as well as written songs for well-known artists such as Craig Morgan, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, and Jimmy Fortune.

James Carothers, a native Tennessean, is a Nashville honky-tonk crooner. Carothers is best known for his stone-country originals and spot-on impressions of some of country music's greatest icons. Just before the 2020 shutdown, Carothers made his Grand Ole Opry debut at the Ryman Auditorium, receiving a standing ovation from the crowd. More recently, Carothers was selected by Alan Jackson to open his show at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, as well as at several other dates of Jackson's "Honky Tonk Highway" tour from 2019 to 2022.

"I am excited to announce these talented musicians and Grand Ole Opry stars James Carothers and Mike Rogers will provide entertainment at our upcoming Chili Supper," said Yager. "Great music is a staple of our Chili Supper, and these two country and bluegrass artists are certain to impress. I look forward to enjoying great music and good food with all who attend."

The 28th Chili Supper and Silent Auction sponsored by Senator Ken Yager (R-Kingston) is set for November 17 at Roane State Community College in Harriman at the Vann Student Lounge from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. EST. Proceeds from the event will go to Family Promise of Roane County <<https://familypromiseroane.org/>> - a local nonprofit that serves homeless families with children. Tickets for the event will be \$5 and can be purchased at the door.

NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JoAnn Derson

* OK, I'll say it: I love tradition, but sometimes I want to mix it up for Thanksgiving dinner. I keep the main dishes the same as they always are, but I add my drama in the details. For instance, mix your choice of herbs into a stick of softened butter. Using a plastic baggie with the corner cut off or a decorating bag, pipe the herbed butter onto a butter dish. Refrigerate and enjoy the oohs and ahs. -- JoAnn

* "In the week before Thanksgiving, have a leftovers day and get all those bits and pieces out of the refrigerator. It will make it easier to clean so you'll have room for the turkey and the sides." -- S.T. in South Carolina

* "For easier cooking, when making large holiday meals, simply choose two side dishes that can be oven cooked in the same amount of time at an average temperature. I like one or two that can be cooked in the microwave as well." -- E.U. in Texas

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* That straight-line rise of bubbles in your holiday champagne glass is due to the soap-like compounds called surfactants that not only give the beverage its signature bubble chain, but also contribute to its unique flavor.

* If the human eye was a digital camera, it would have 576 megapixels.

* In 1994, a 75-pound bag of cocaine fell out of a plane and landed in the middle of a Florida crime watch meeting.

* Karl Josef Silberbauer, the SS officer who arrested Anne Frank and those in hiding with her during WWII, later bought a copy of Anne's published diary to see if he was

mentioned in it.

* Alcohol kills one person every 10 seconds worldwide.

* Sand from the Sahara Desert, which contains phosphorus, is blown by the wind all the way to the Amazon rainforest, where it replaces the phosphorus annually washed away by rains and floods.

* While in prison in 1924, Adolf Hitler wrote to a Mercedes dealership in Munich to beg for a car loan for a limousine he admired, until his royalties for "Mein Kampf" came in.

* Chimpanzees can develop their own fashion trends.

* Christmas ham, originally a pagan tradition, was endorsed by the Catholic Church as a test of truthful

conversion from Judaism.

* Actor Al Pacino was the first "face" on Facebook.

* Death penalty trials are 20 times more expensive than those seeking a sentence of life imprisonment without parole.

* Doritos originated from the left-over tortillas at Disneyland.

* English phrases such as "long time no see," "no go" and "no can do" come from literal translations of Chinese phrases.

* In Japanese mythology, Namazu is a giant catfish that causes earthquakes.

Thought for the Day: "Every job is a self-portrait of the person who does it. Autograph your work with excellence." -- Ted Key
(c) 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

* "For a delightful twist on cranberry jelly, slice and sprinkle with orange zest. Dress up your mashed potatoes with a sprinkling of chopped fresh chives." -- via email

* The night before serving your large sit-down dinner, put all the serving pieces on the table, and all the dinnerware in the dining room. You don't want to have one person trying to get plates and spoons when you are getting dinner on the table. -- JoAnn

* "You know what works really well to keep hot casseroles hot when waiting for other sides to finish? A cooler. Line it with a towel and set your casseroles inside. Then, when they are on the table, stick the cooler back in the kitchen. You can throw the casserole dishes back in dirty after you pack away leftovers. Add some warm soapy water and they can even wait until the next day to get cleaned." -- M.B. in Georgia

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 Mausoleum
- 5 "Born Free" lioness
- 9 Branch
- 12 Ornamental jug
- 13 Jupiter counterpart
- 14 Sheepish remark
- 15 Famed diarist
- 17 Squeak stopper
- 18 Historic times
- 19 Grown-up
- 21 Town square
- 24 Tizzy
- 25 Occupy the throne
- 26 Imaginary
- 30 Right angle
- 31 Count with an orchestra
- 32 Simile center
- 33 Bloated, in a way
- 35 Computer brand
- 36 Literary Jane
- 37 Puccini work
- 38 Curry spice
- 40 Roundish do
- 42 Palindromic constellation
- 43 Yearly charge
- 48 Up to
- 49 Oboe insert
- 50 Cupid's realm
- 51 Compass dir.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13					14		
15				16					17		
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38	39				40	41					
42				43	44				45	46	47
48				49				50			
51				52				53			

DOWN

- 1 Earl Grey, e.g.
- 2 Have
- 3 Gents
- 4 Light wind
- 5 Poet Pound
- 6 Meadows
- 7 Day light
- 8 With suspicion, as a look
- 9 Complete reversal
- 10 Banister
- 11 Beer ingredient
- 16 Monk's title
- 20 Cato's 502
- 21 Get ready, briefly
- 22 Humdinger
- 23 Like the Supremes and the Pointer Sisters
- 24 Use scissors
- 26 Lose color
- 27 Tempe sch.
- 28 Addict
- 29 Zhivago's love
- 31 Novelist Malamud
- 34 Memo letters
- 35 Lunar program
- 37 Mouths (Lat.)
- 38 Felines
- 39 "The Haj" author
- 40 From the start
- 41 Elmer of cartoons
- 44 "The Matrix" role
- 45 Dandy guy
- 46 Actress Mendes
- 47 Moray, for one



- UGL
- FYILEW
- GANLI
- ♥ANLE
- OLEGRA
- GWI
- ♥EGUL
- FUYNI
- ♥UGN
- HOYWAN
- ♥GUTHO
- ANFW

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.

Historically Speaking

The Oak Ridge Boys ties to Oak Ridge (As first published in The Oak Ridger's Historically Speaking column on February 13, 2007) By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

This is a reprint of the original Historically Speaking column on the history of how the Oak Ridge Boys got their name with added lyrics to John Hendrix's Vision. As two of the Oak Ridge Boys, William Golden and Richard Sterban, will be in Oak Ridge outside the Historic Grove Theater, on next Monday, November 20, 2023, at 3PM for the unveiling of the Tennessee Music Pathways marker, I thought it would be good to refresh readers on this history.

On August 6, 1945, the world learned about Oak Ridge, Tennessee. People in Knoxville were obviously surprised to learn just exactly what was being done just across a few ridges from their town. Of course, most of the folks behind the gates at Oak Ridge learned the same amazing facts at the same time.

Some people were quicker than others to capitalize on the name "Oak Ridge." One such individual was John Wallace "Wally" Fowler, born February 15, 1917, and died June 3, 1994. Wally was singing in church at the age of six. As a teenager he sang baritone in a gospel quartet in Rome GA. He was also a member of the first gospel quartet to become members of the Grand Ole Opry – The John Daniel Quartet – again singing baritone. While he grew up in Georgia, at some point by the early 1940's he had moved to Knoxville.

In 1944, he gained recognition for songs he wrote such as, "Mommy Please Stay Home with Me Tonight" recorded in 1944 by Eddy Arnold and "I'm Sending You Red Roses" also recorded in 1944 by Jimmy Wakeley. Also in 1944, Wally also formed a larger singing group, The Georgia Clodhoppers, who performed on Knoxville's WNOX's Mid-Day Merry Go Round. Wally and three members of this larger group sang in the Knoxville area as a gospel quartet known as the Harmony Quartet. A number of references indicate they sang in and around Oak Ridge, where the atomic bomb was developed. The Oak Ridge Boys' official web site <http://theoakridgeboys.com> states,

"The Oaks represent a tradition that extends back to 1943, before Hank Williams had a career. The original group, based in Knoxville, TN, began performing country and gospel music in nearby Oak Ridge where the atomic bomb was being developed. They called themselves the Oak Ridge Quartet, and they began regular Grand Ole Opry appearances in the fall of '45."

While I have not found actual documentation that Wally and his Harmony Quartet sang in Oak Ridge, as you will see below, in mid-1945, he was obviously close enough to Oak Ridge to realize the commercial value of that unique name that was on everyone's lips and appearing in print media worldwide. Just three weeks after the first atomic bomb was dropped on Japan, Wally renamed the Harmony Quartet the Oak Ridge Quartet with Lon "Deacon" Freeman, Curly Kinsey and Johnny New and played the Grand Ole Opry under that new and exciting name – the Oak Ridge Quartet.

In the September 6, 1945, Oak Ridge Journal there was an article stating: "Grand Ole Opry" Coming Here Sunday Afternoon – The WSM Grand Ole Opry will appear in Oak Ridge on Sunday, September 9, (1945) giving two performances in the High School auditorium. Doors will open at 12:00 noon for the shows, which will begin at 1:00 and 3:00 PM. Admission will be \$1.20. The nationally-known Barn Dance show will feature such characters as Curley Fox, the world champion fiddler; Texas Ruby, the original yodeling cowgirl; Uncle Dave Macon, the Dixie Dewdrop; Icabod, Satchel Britches and the Fox Hunters, along with many other stars. The performance is sponsored by the Recreation and Welfare Association."

In the Thursday, September 13, 1945 edition of the Oak Ridge Journal there was an advertisement that read: "Big Hillbilly Jamboree, Oak Ridge High School, Sunday, 1:30, September 16 - in person from WSM Grand Ole Opry, Wally Fowler and his Georgia Clodhoppers." By this time the quartet made up of four of the members of the Georgia Clodhoppers were known as the Oak Ridge Quartet!

In October 24, 1946, the following item was included in the Oak Ridge Journal's Oak Leaves section, "LATEST RELEASE from the Hollywood office of Capitol records says Wally Fowler and his Oak Ridge Quartet have made a recording... "On the Jericho Road" and "Dese Bones A'Gwinna Rise Again" are the numbers. ... We know Wally Fowler has written a folk song based on the story of the Hendrix prophecy on Oak Ridge. But does anyone know the origin of the Oak Ridge quartet?..."

Seems the question regarding the "origin of the 'Oak Ridge Quartet'" is not a new question at all. In 1946 folks from Oak Ridge were wondering, yet the quartet had performed in Oak Ridge in September the previous year. Well, I hope this column is going to answer the question for all regarding how the Oak Ridge Boys/Oak Ridge Quartet got their name – thanks to Wally Fowler.

And, would I ever love to find the lyrics to the "folk song based on the story of the Hendrix prophecy on Oak Ridge" mentioned in the above Oak Ridge Journal article! Think I will ask the Oak Ridge Boys about that when they come to Oak Ridge this summer to perform in the Secret City Festival on June 16, 2007! They will likely be as surprised as you are that Wally ever wrote

such a song. (Since I wrote this article, I have not only found the words to the song Wally Fowler wrote in 1946, "John Hendrix's Vision."

Wally's three singers soon left the Oak Ridge Quartet and others who had sung with him, including Neal Matthews, Jr., of Jordannaire fame a bit later, also moved on to other groups. He hired the Calvery Quartet to join the Oak Ridge Quartet and they played the Grand Ole Opry regularly and toured using the by then famous name for a number of years.

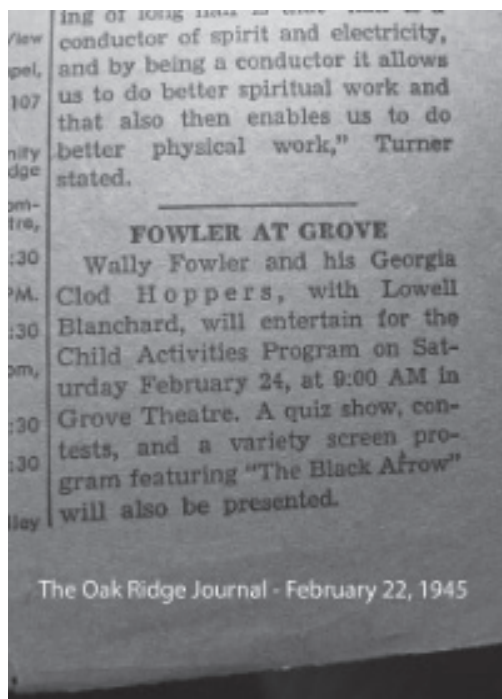
In 1957, Wally sold the rights to the group's name to Smitty Gatlin, a member of the group, to cover a debt. More changes in personnel continued and sometime in or after 1962 the singing group's name was changed from the Oak Ridge Quartet to The Oak Ridge Boys. According to one reference, this change was made by their producer, Bud Praeger in an attempt to reflect their new contemporary sound.

However, another source gave credit to Smitty Gatlin for making the name change in 1961. They were no longer limiting their singing to gospel and the name change seemed intended to get away from the "quartet" terminology. Wally Fowler attempted to form another Oak Ridge Quartet, but was prevented from using that name by Gatlin and the other Oak Ridge Boys. The "Oak Ridge" name was seen as having significant value and was already becoming well known in music circles.

In January 1965, Bill (William Lee) Golden joined the group singing baritone. Although he was dropped from the group for a time, he is the present member of the group who joined at the earliest date. In 1966, Duane Allen, lead singer, replaced Smitty Gatlin who became a minister of music and stopped singing with the group. Richard Sterban, who sings bass, joined the group in 1972. Can't you just hear him singing his trademark "oom-pop-



The Oak Ridge Boys with Lon "Deacon" Freeman, an original member of the Oak Ridge Quartet – www.oakridgeboys.com



Advertisement in the Oak Ridge Journal on February 22, 1945 announcing Wally Fowler will entertain on Saturday, February 24, at the Grove Theater

a-mow-mow" bass tag line in "Elvira?" The last of the present group to join the group was Joe Bonsall, the tenor singer, who joined the group in 1973.

Their popularity began to grow when they joined with singers like Johnny Cash, The Carter Family and Roy Clark to record and to tour with them. Roy Clark's manager encouraged them to focus more on country music rather than gospel. While they retained some of the gospel flavor, this transition worked well for them for a while, but the mix of country and gospel - without a clear single genre identity – resulted in a drop in sales of their music for a time.

However, in 1977 "Y'all Come Back Saloon," "You're the One," "I'll Be True to You," "Cryin' Again," "Come On In" and "Trying to Love Two Women" in 1980 had them well on their way to the top. Then the song that made the group a runaway hit with a wide range of audiences, "Elvira," was a cross-over hit that won a Grammy Award for them. In addition to its number one standing on the country charts, it also made the Top Five on the pop charts. The album containing "Elvira," named "Fancy Free," was their first album to top the country charts and ultimately became their best selling album. Other songs to did well for them were, "Bobbie Sue," "American Made," "Love Song," "Everyday," "I Guess It Never Hurts to Hurt Sometimes," "Little Things," "Make My Life with You," and "Touch a Hand, Make a Friend."

They continued to have top hits through the early and mid 1980's, however, in the late 1980's their appeal was slipping.

In an attempt to reassure the public of their clean cut image, in 1987, they fired Golden whose rugged appearance and lifestyle was not seen as compatible with their desired image. The hits continued but at a slower pace and with reduced impact. Among the songs recorded in the late 1980's and early 1990's were, "It Take a Little Rain," "This Crazy Love", "Gonna Take a Lot of River" and "No Matter How High." Ultimately the streak of top hits consisted of 16 number one hits and 29 hits in the Top Ten.

Golden sued the group, and they settled out of court. Not only did they settle their dispute, he was brought back into the group in a surprise appearance during their 1995 New Years Eve show. Golden remains the most dramatic symbol of the group with his long flowing silver hair and beard. His appearance has now become a mainstay of the group's image.

Steve Sanders, who replaced Golden during his absence from the group and who was a guitar player in the backup band, shot and killed himself in 1998. Noel Fox, one-time bass singer with the group, who went on to run the group's publishing operations died in April 2003.

The Oak Ridge Boys have performed regularly in Branson Missouri at the Grand Palace. They are scheduled to appear there 20 times in 2007.

Interestingly enough, Wally Fowler also wound up in Branson in the early 1980s. He formed a group known as Wally Fowler's Tennessee Valley Boys until they changed their name to the Branson Brothers. They were the resident band at Silver Dollar City in Branson for a number of years.

So, Wally Fowler sang under a wide variety of group names during his career. I doubt that he ever had another brainstorm a good as the one he had in August of 1945 when he saw the potential to capitalize on a name that was immediately recognizable world-wide - Oak Ridge.

I think he acted wisely by jumping on the chance to change the name of his "Harmony Quartet" to "Oak Ridge Quartet." The quartet was a small set of his larger "Wally Fowler and the Georgia Clodhoppers" that performed in Oak Ridge on September 16, 1945 at the Oak Ridge High School.

Information for this history of the Oak Ridge Boys came from their web site www.oakridgeboys.com as did the photograph including Lon "Deacon" Freeman, original member of the Oak Ridge Quartet, singing with the Oak Ridge Boys. Other web sites I used were, www.cmt.com biography pages, and wikipedia.

However, the most helpful source and by far the most fun research was done using Dave Miller's archive of early Oak Ridge Journals when Bill Wilcox and I perused those old volumes reverently last Sunday afternoon. I hope you have enjoyed learning the ties the Oak Ridge Boys have to Oak Ridge as much as I have enjoyed writing about them!

The Oak Ridge Boys were a featured group in Oak Ridge's 2007 Secret City Festival. They played Saturday night, June 16, 2007.

I hope you have enjoyed this review of the history associated with the Oak Ridge Boys and their connection to our city of Oak Ridge.

Here are the words to Wally Fowler's song about John Hendrix:

John Hendrix's Vision
By Wally Fowler 1946

Wally Fowler changed the name of his Harmony Quartet to the Oak Ridge Quartet to take advantage of the recent release of information about Oak Ridge when he was invited to play on the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. He sang the following song on Ernest Tubbs' Radio Show The Checkerboard Jamboree in Nashville on September 23, 1946.

Many, many years ago lived a prophet we now know
And his name was John Hendrix we are told
In the valley of Tennessee, he did tell his prophecy
To be laughed and scoffed at by his neighbors bold

Chorus: John Hendrix's vision foretold a city
That would be built to help win a war and called Oak Ridge
And now he's given atomic power
And its grown ever since they built Clinch River bridge

God told John Hendrix 'fore he died
Of the things he'd prophesied
After he'd slept for 40 nights head on the ground
Just like in the days of old when old Noah was foretold
Of a great flood that would cover the world around

Chorus: John Hendrix's vision foretold a city
That would be built to help win a war and called Oak Ridge
And now he's given atomic power
And its grown ever since they built Clinch River bridge

Let us keep our faith in God while this sinful world we trod
And beware of this atomic energy
Like John Hendrix we must pray unto God each night and day
Then our mission going to grow in every way

Chorus: John Hendrix's vision foretold a city
That would be built to help win a war and called Oak Ridge
And now he's given atomic power
And its grown ever since they built Clinch River bridge



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Scott County Today

LORI PHILLIPS-JONES IS ONEIDA'S NEW MAYOR

By Richard Spears

RECEIVES ALMOST 60 % OF ONEIDA'S MAYORAL VOTES

The voters of this election cycle for the town of Oneida have chosen Lori Phillips-Jones as the new mayor, by a majority of 202 votes over challenger Bruce Mays, 545 for Phillips-Jones to 342 total votes for Mays. About the same number of voters went to the polls this time as voted in the 2019 general election. For 2023, 920 votes were cast, as compared with the 933 who voted in the last election. This time, as usual most voting was early, as 743 Oneida voters went to the polls during the early voting, and 177 turned out to cast their ballots in Saturday, November 4 Oneida General Election Day.

THREE NEW ALDERMEN SELECTED

In the race for Oneida's four aldermen, former coach and Oneida Principal Rick Harper joined Dakota Smith and Jeff Tib-

bals as newly elected city aldermen. One incumbent, Mark Byrd retained his seat to join Harper, Smith and Tibbals.

Harper got a whopping 606 votes, 66% of all ballots cast.

Smith was elected by a total of 487 votes, or 53%.

Byrd was elected by 469 votes (51%).



And, if you think your vote isn't important, or doesn't count, ask Jeff Tibbals what he thinks. Tibbals, elected as Oneida's fourth sitting alderman, received 457 total votes (or 49.6%), and edged incumbent Oneida alderman Tobey Mays by one vote, as Mays received 456 (or 49.5%)

votes of all ballots cast.

Lori Phillips-Jones told the Morgan County today, "I'm looking forward with great hope for where our city is headed in the future. Thanks to everyone for their hard work and support."

Oneida's newly elected leadership will take office on Saturday, November 11, 2023.

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David Zubler
Columnist

IRS adjusts for inflation to lower taxes

The IRS announced an inflation adjustment to the tax rates and tax code. The adjustment will allow millions of people to take home more pay in 2024.

The changes will affect the standard deduction and individual income brackets, and other provisions such as the contribution limits to an IRA.

The IRS is adjusting the tax brackets upward by 5.4%. The IRS relies on a formula based on the consumer price

index, which tracks the costs of many goods and services typically purchased by consumers. Last year the tax brackets increased by a historically high 7%, which reflected the year's high inflation.

There are seven income tax rates, which were set by the 2017 Tax Cuts and Job Act. The income tax rates are 10%, 12%, 22%, 24%, 32%, 35% and 37%.

Since our taxation is progressive, tax rates get higher the more you earn. Many people have the common misconception they pay their highest tax rate on every dollar of their income. An increase in income doesn't cause all your income to be taxed at the highest bracket. Only the amount in the highest bracket will be taxed at the higher rate.

The IRS adjusts tax brackets annually and other provisions to counter the impact of inflation. You get a tax break if more of taxable income falls into a lower bracket as a result of the higher thresholds. That can help avoid so-called "bracket creep," which is when you are in a higher tax bracket due to cost-of-living raises even though their standard of living may have remained the same.

Your marginal rate is the highest tax rate paid on your income. For example, if your income was taxed in the 10%, 12%, and 25% brackets, your marginal rate would be 25%. Your effective tax rate reflects your actual tax rate. If your income was \$100,000 and paid \$18,000 in taxes, your effective rate would be 18%. An increase of the standard deduction reduces the amount of income on which you're taxed. The standard deduction will go up to \$29,200 for married couples filing jointly, an increase of \$1,500. For single taxpayers and married individuals filing separately, the standard deduction will rise \$750 to \$14,600. Finally, for heads of households, the standard deduction will jump up \$1,100 for tax year 2024 to \$21,900.

The maximum Earned Income Tax Credit amount for 2024 is \$7,830 for qualified people who have three or more qualifying children, an increase from \$7,430 for 2023.

The dollar limitation for employee salary reductions for contributions to health flexible spending arrangements increases to \$3,200. For cafeteria plans that permit the carryover of unused amounts, the maximum carryover amount is \$640, an increase of \$30 from taxable years beginning in 2023.

The annual exclusion for gifts increases to \$18,000 for calendar year 2024, an increase of \$1,000 from 2023.

The maximum credit allowed for adoptions for tax year 2024 is the amount of qualified adoption expenses up to \$16,810, increased from \$15,950 for 2023.

These changes will reduce taxes for millions of Americans.

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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Tom Redmon
Columnist

Did you know that 27% of people in the United States are living alone, and in 1950 only 10% of people in the United States were living alone?

In Genesis 2:18 God, said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." But with the animals that God created Adam found no suitable helper. So, God caused Adam to fall asleep and He took out one of his ribs, closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord made woman from his rib.

Since the beginning of time, it has not been good for man to be alone. We know from what God has said in the first book of the Bible that it is not good to be alone. Man needed a helper for sure but we find out later he needed more. Man could not bear children but his wife could. So that settles the argument that these stupid people have brought forth that man too can bear children.

Paul probably knew more people when he walked the earth except for Jesus Christ, and much of his life in prison was lonely times. The second time Paul was thrown into prison he knew that he was close to the end of his life. In 2 Timothy 4:6 he says, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand." He goes on to say I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Paul was lonely. He urged Timothy to come to him quickly, because he loved this world that deserted him. Get Mark, and bring him with you for now only Luke is with me. They had put Paul in a deep, cold dungeon so Paul told him to bring his cloak and his scrolls. He needed companionship.

He said at first no one came to his defense, everyone deserted him. Paul always had God with him, but God said that man does not need to be alone. He begged Timothy to be with him in the end.

I had a friend who liked to have his classmates and friends around him as often as he could. When he was in the hospital for his last hours he was like Paul. He invited all his classmates that he could get ahold of. I don't know how many were in his room when he died but I heard it was quite-a-few. He really believed that man should not be alone.

In jail and prison why do they put men in solitary confinement for punishment? Being alone for hours or days is about as bad as it can get. I talked to some ex-POWs from WWII days and they confirmed that. They said being isolated away from your soldier buddies, even if you hardly knew them was torture. Some went crazy but others figured out a method to survive. I have heard people say that being alone after a divorce is the worst loneliness you can experience. You have had someone with you, maybe for years, and suddenly, she or he tells you they are not coming back. You feel as though your world has fallen apart. The loneliness and gloom hit you and depression sets in. It is worse than a death in

It is Not Good for Man to be Alone

the family. You say, "Lord we said our wedding vows, don't they mean anything anymore?"

I guess for many they don't because today 70% of second marriages end in divorce. In our society today people will tell you, "Well go on and get a divorce its okay today." But according to God's words in the Bible it is not okay today. God's laws do not change to fit our changes in culture. Nearly, 27% of people sit alone today for some reason and it isn't good to be alone.

I have a plan for my life and I can manage to be with people a lot. I had two great neighbors who were always there for



me when I needed them prior to me moving back to Florida. I had at least three people who I went out to eat with. The week I wrote this article I went out to eat with three different people on three different days.

I also have two younger brothers in Morgan County that I saw on a regular basis and I was visiting shut-ins and widow ladies. As Billy Graham said, "when you are lonely you need to look up someone who is in worse shape than you." You can find them at the Life Care Centers.

I have planned for old age. First, you need to make sure you have planned for your financial needs. To live on the same level that you did, while working you need to have at

least 100% of your working income when you retire. If at all possible, when you retire do not have a mortgage on your home. At one time I had two houses, and both were paid for. Try to have no debt. I have paid cash for everything I've bought since retirement except gas and I paid that when the bill came in.

Another key to living alone is to always have plenty that you like to do. I've got hundreds of books to read, and over 5,000 LP albums of all kinds of music. I have two good guitars that I used to play. I have my own CDs and many other good country gospel CDs like Alan Jackson. I have a computer for research and sports. I have YouTube which is the most enjoyable technology that I use. I read the Bible and pray a lot. Our country is in a mess so we all need to be on our knees a lot.

Many times, when people grow old, they lose their spouse and find themselves alone. A classmate of mine has experienced that recently. After sixty-eight-years of marriage she finds herself alone after her husband departed. For her it is a lonely world. I know because several years ago I lost my first wife and being alone after Wanda died was hard to describe. She has been hard to replace, but God guided me into Christian mission work that filled the void until I go to heaven and see Wanda again.

One thing we do not need to forget or neglect is visiting with lonely people who are alone.

My mother went to Liberty Church most of her life and Dad died long before she did. I used to sit on the front porch talking to her. Inevitably she would bring up the fact how she would love to have someone from Liberty Church come and visit her. That is all she wanted, just someone to show they cared. This is where the churches fail. It doesn't take much to make lonely people happy. Christians should visit more.

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Revelation Chapter 8 and 9

(Revelation 8:1-5) Silence and anticipation: The seventh and final seal was opened. There was breathless silence for about a half hour (a figure for a brief period). The “silence” likely is designed to emphasize the heightened drama. John saw “the seven angels” that stand before God (mentioned nine times in this book). Seven again suggests the completeness of the task that lies ahead. The angels were given “seven trumpets,” trumpets being sometimes used for warnings of coming judgments (Ezek. 33:3; Joel 2:1). Verses three through five describe a scent of sweet “incense” wafting upward to God, representing the prayers of the saints (5:8). The imagery obviously indicates the importance of Christians’ prayers as related to earthly judgments. The remainder of this chapter describes the sounding of the first four trumpets.

(Revelation 8:6-13) The first four trumpets: The first trumpet sounded (v.7), and an earthly judgment was unleashed. It was characterized by fire and hail, similar to the seventh plague upon the Egyptians (Ex. 9:24). It wrought but a partial destruction (providing time for serious reflection) but hinted of a greater devastation to come ultimately.

The second trumpet (v. 8-9) was something like a burning mountain that was hurled into the sea. It symbolized troublesome times; the sea was partially turned into blood, as in the case with another of Egypt’s plagues (Ex. 7:20-21). It is a sign of Jehovah’s displeasure of events transpiring upon the earth. It should arrest human attention.

The third trumpet (v.10-11) sounded, and from heaven there fell a great, blazing star (meteor-like) that devastated a significant portion of earth’s waters, causing them to be like “wormwood” (some varieties of which could be lethal) (Lam. 3:15, 19). This image was figuratively employed of sin and punishment (Dt. 29:18; Prov. 5:4; Jer. 9:15).

The fourth trumpet (v. 12) involves the dimming of the heavenly luminaries; the sun, moon, and stars were all obscured by one-third. Again, the fractional dimension suggests the destruction is partial, not total (as will be the case at the final judgment). Once more, the plague reminds us of that plague of darkness as a punishment upon ancient Egypt (Ex. 10:21). It is not coincidental that these judgments are analogous to some of the punishments that came upon the Egyptians who had enslaved the people of God. There are consequences to be reaped---both now and in eternity---by those who persecute the cause of Almighty God and persecute his devoted subjects! (Some expositors have attempted to align these punitive judgments with specific historical events. There is no doubt that there are historical applications. Specificity, however, at least to the point of dogmatism, is not prudent.)

Verse thirteen provides a pause in the sounding of the trumpets. John “saw” (in a vision) an eagle flying in mid-heaven, crying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe, (an interjection of warning for those on earth). The eagle can be a token of judgment (Mt. 24:28). This is addressed to rebellious humanity. “Earth” is frequently used of those who have refused Christ as Lord (3:10; 6:10; 11:10, etc..) These

“woes” are to prepare the reader for the final three trumpets that are about to sound. It appears that the judgments are accelerating in intensity.

Revelation chapter 9: This chapter deals with the sounding of trumpets five and six, and a continuation of the punitive action to be visited upon a rebellious humanity. There is an obvious difference to be noted between the first four trumpets and the final three. The preceding judgments were implemented indirectly by means of natural phenomena, the earth, waters, and heavenly bodies. The final three are to afflict rebellious humanity directly.

(Rev. 9:1-11) The fifth trumpet depicts a “star” that has fallen from heaven to earth. He (note “him” in v. 1) was provided with a key to the abyss (“bottomless pit”---found seven times in this book), apparently a reference to the present abode of wicked spirits. When the pit was opened, out of it billowed black smoke (hinting of the sinister) in which was a plague of “locusts” (a symbol for a devastating force). These were not ordinary locusts. They devoured not the earth’s vegetation; their victims were those not “sealed on their foreheads,” they were enemies of Christ. Their purpose was to torment, rather than to destroy. The evil inhabitants of earth were terrorized. The appearance of the locusts was hideous and they afflicted their victims for “five months,” for a controlled, limited period. The providence of God can even manipulate the forces of evil to punish evil people! These wicked punitive powers had a leader, labeled “the messenger of the abyss.” This malignant leader is identified simply as “Destroyer.” Some parallel this character with the “fallen star” (v.1).

The futility of attempting to historically identify these word pictures specifically is seen in the diversity attributed to them. For example, the “fallen star” has been associated with Satan; the gospel, as contained in the word of God; men in opposition to God; an angel; etc. The second “woe” of the three (8:13) prepares the reader for the sounding of the sixth trumpet (v.13-21). A voice comes from the four horns of the golden altar of incense in the holy place of the temple (the Lord’s voice or his representative). This was the place from which the prayers of the saints ascended (5:8). The sixth angel with the trumpet is instructed to loose four angels that were bound at the Euphrates. Israel’s ancient enemies came from beyond this river. These angels had been providentially prepared for their task and for a precise mission in time. A fierce army of thousands of horsemen, terrible in appearance (like horses and lions with fiery breastplates), were dispatched to slaughter a third of those in rebellion to God. In view of this slaughter, the remaining remnant should have been expected to repent of their evil, but they did not. They continued to worship “demons,” to be engaged in idol worship (Acts 17:18, 1 Cor. 10:20). Moreover, they were obsessed with various forms of immorality, murder, sorcery, fornication, and theft.

What is the significance of this? It is not the “great tribulation” of dispensationalism! That entire eschatological scheme is without merit. BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo FortifyYourFaith.org



MELVIN HOWARD

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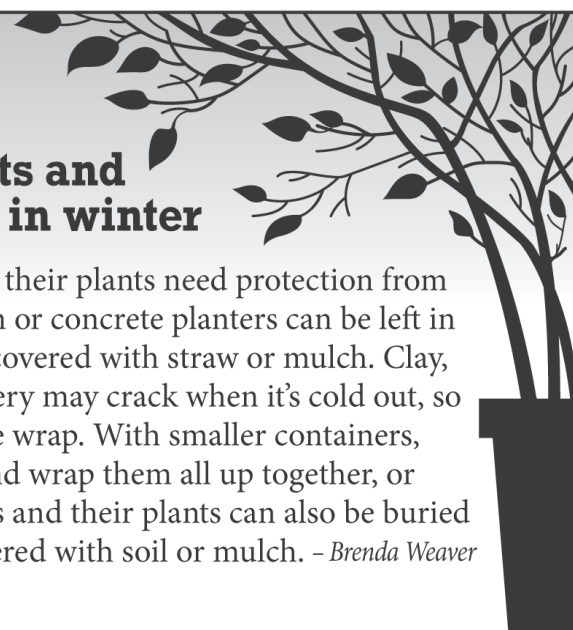
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The Garden Bug

Pots and plants in winter

Your outdoor pots and their plants need protection from the cold. Large wooden or concrete planters can be left in place and their plants covered with straw or mulch. Clay, ceramic or glazed pottery may crack when it’s cold out, so wrap them with bubble wrap. With smaller containers, you can group them and wrap them all up together, or move them inside. Pots and their plants can also be buried in the ground and covered with soil or mulch. – Brenda Weaver

Source: extension.psu.edu





THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.

PROVERBS 15:3

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The Po River – Vicenza, Italy



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

Larry Bernard, Roy Brown, Robbie Knight, Steven Palmer, John Kenneally, Dominic Pilla, Lorenzo Ruiz, Kasey Joyce, Jamie Smith, Jim Cavaco, Richard Kowalewski, Dan Busch, and Glenn Harris. Toby John Young. Know their names. These men are my Ranger brothers who died serving the American idea of freedom.

Your freedom debt has been paid, by American Rangers in peace and warfare. 3d Ranger Bn. In the 1990's and beyond, had proven that being a Ranger held real and present dangers. Freedom has a price, the protected rarely grasp or understand.

This is not a statement of arrogance. Rangers serve at the behest of the President. They sign up for a profession that can not be fully grasped, until service in the 75th Ranger Regiment becomes reality. I had no idea what I was getting into, yet I loved this profession more than any other in my life.

I had left home in 1987 in search of a little upward mobility. I was raised by proud ancestors who served in every war America had fought in the 20th century. The American dream constantly seemed elusive coming from a family that worked hard. The military had become my home.

I had recovered from my wounds and had begun running again in October 1994. Exactly 11 months since returning from Mogadishu injured to be precise. By January 1995, I had taken on the added dimension of preparing for marriage, and an overseas duty assignment.

My new wife would be accompanying assignment to Vicenza, Italy. I would be traveling by myself in May and she would come over once I had found housing on the Italian economy. Arriving in Italy with a plan to serve as a platoon sergeant and then attend selection, gave me renewed Ranger purpose.

I signed in to the Bn, after being picked up at the airport by a PSG from alpha 3/325 PIR. There was a position coming open for 3d platoon, and he invited me to their yearly ball being held Friday evening.

After my interview with the CSM, he decided to assign me to the S3 office. Alpha company 1sg Atkins intervened. I would serve as weapons squad leader for one month and then take 3d Platoon. I would meet my new platoon members at the ball on Friday evening.

I had not fully grasped the effect my combat service meant to men who only ever played pretend war.

I word my dress blues to the ball, and the questions about my Combat Infantry Badge, BSMV, and Purple Heart, began in earnest. I was a 27-year-old, two-time combat veteran, with 7 years in the service and the young soldiers I was assuming command of were ready to learn.

Monday through Friday's would be spent training for war, Ranger style. I had a young company commander in Mike Iacobucci who understood the regiment that made me who I was as a leader. His trust and support, led to our platoon successes immediately.

The Bn, planned a helicopter drop outside Aviano Airbase. I was current in my qualifications to run a Helicopter drop zone. I was summoned to Bn. Headquarters and the S3 to be briefed on my upcoming TDY trip and my need for a qualified driver from the platoon.

My choice of driver led to a lifetime of friendship. Ryan Edwards would drive me on the upcoming trip. We would be leaving in the morning. Uniform was BDU's, Boots, Berets, and civilian clothes for three days. Equipment would be one DZSTL kit from Bn. and Golf Clubs.

Specialist Edwards would learn a lot about Ranger Burns ideas of team building. I believed in training hard for War. Only because I believed in partying harder in peace. The Road Goes on Forever, and The Party Never Ends!

The drop was uneventful and a success. My golf game was no where near Ryan's,

but none-the-less, he became very important to me when I returned to leading men. The platoon I had inherited were losing in the motivation game. Time to increase standards by being an example.

Our Bn. was given a training contingency mission to support UN objectives in Bosnia. Three things became evident. Helicopters would be our method of insertion. Our objective was an urban environment, our platoon would be in danger.

I had spent the previous 5 years preparing for this moment. My Ranger mentors faces appeared in my dreams, as I prepared the platoon for war. I began to teach demolitions at the behest of Captain Mike Iacobucci. The Company was motivated, as training intensified in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

We left Aviano airbase and did an Airborne insertion into Hoenffel's. On the Drop Zone was Brigadier General Dave Grange, My former Ranger Regimental commander.

He saw my combat scroll and called me over for a reunion. The last time he had seen me was leaving the medical evacuation aircraft in Washington DC. It was great to let him know I was back in the fight.

He alerted me to the fact that this mission was serious, and that there was a great chance President Clinton would sign the deployment order. I had now been told this three times, and the previous two times it occurred. I had a job to do getting these men's game faces on.

The platoon achieved success and we were certified ready to conduct our mission. A return to Vicenza on a long bus ride was in order. Awaiting our platoon at home was a long weekend. Awaiting me, was a date with a criminal investigation division investigator.

My involvement with anabolic steroids had caught up with me. I would now be required to answer questions and this time, my wife would also be questioned. I was not someone geared to tell on myself. A date with the polygraph led to my admission of guilt.

I did however refuse to tell if anyone currently serving in the Regiment were involved. Fact is, I devised this plan all by myself. Yes, there are people I served with who knew what I was doing. They played no role in my guilt and the bucks always stopped with me.

CID wanted me to tell on people who had nothing to do with my operation. I was also charged with lying, because I refused to implicate others. Criminal investigation divisions prove constantly that they will commit a crime to catch others in guilt.

My time in the Army was over. I had made E7 in 7 years and now I made E1 in ten minutes! I was discharged with, an other than honorable discharge and the loss of all military benefits. I would be home in America in four days. The army discharged me with the Quote; No Longer Needed by The Service.

My wife and I would move to Palm Beach Gardens, Florida and a rendezvous with my Ranger buddy and Somalia veteran, Tim Bone Moynihan.

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

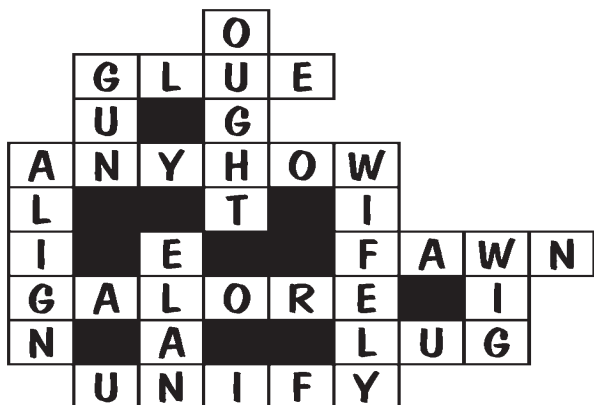
He is alive forevermore, and he is returning for his virgin bride very soon.
John Burns 11-27-2022 RLTW

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

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

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

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

T	O	M	B	E	L	S	A	A	R	M
E	W	E	R	Z	E	U	S	B	A	A
A	N	N	E	F	R	A	N	K	O	I
E	R	A	S	A	D	U	L	T		
P	L	A	Z	A	S	N	I	T		
R	U	L	E	F	A	N	C	I	F	U
E	L	L	B	A	S	I	E	A	S	A
P	U	F	F	E	D	U	P	A	C	E
E	Y	R	E	O	P	E	R	A		
C	U	M	I	N	A	F	R	O		
A	R	A	A	N	N	U	A	L	F	E
T	I	L	R	E	E	D	L	O	V	E
S	S	E	D	O	W	D	O	P	A	L

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