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# Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3  
www.mocotoday.com  
Volume 09 Number 43  
Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Your Community. Your News.

75¢

**Inside:**  
Bulldog Banner  
ScoCo Today  
Weather  
History



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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 Holmes, I am so glad that you are joining us

here at Morgan County Today to help us all with oral health! Mimi says

that taking care of our teeth is very important. No matter what age, young or old, oral care should be a priority. So, what should parents do with all that candy that the kids will be getting during this most sugary time of the year? Also, when kids (even adults) indulge, how do they minimize the affects of all that yummy stuff on their teeth?

Your friend, Ms Avery Pearl

Hello Ms Avery Pearl! Here are my ideas on what to do with all that candy and how to keep healthy teeth, for kids and the kids at heart, during this Halloween season. You are correct, this is the sugariest time of the year.

1. Enjoy the Holiday! Halloween is once a year and it is a time for enjoying candy and treats, and that's okay. Be sure that brushing the teeth is last thing before bedtime. Making sure not to sneak snacks after the last brushing. Don't let little ones (or adults) go to sleep with sugar or other treats still in their mouth. Also, Drink plenty of water - Plan to take some water bottles during your trick-or-treat adventure. Staying hydrated (and rinsing candy from your mouth) is the best way to counteract the rush of sugar in the mouth.

2. Candy is not a snack. Moderation is key. Avoid letting your child snack on candy between meals. The more sugar our children eat, the higher their risk of cavities (as well as other general health concerns). Candy is completely empty calories--they will provide a short term burst of energy. However, when this "sugar rush" is gone, usually a craving for more sugar or candy will return. So instead, try

giving candy more as a treat or dessert at the end of a normal meal.

3. Consider Trading Candy. Kids love candy, but they also love toys, money, or even a new pair of shoes. Consider a family trade-in program where kids can use their candy to "purchase" something else.

4. Give Candy Away - There are some great programs out there that will accept your unwanted (or excess) candy, like Soldiers' Angels- Treats for Troops.

5. Sticky Candies Are A Nightmare For Teeth! They are the worst for causing cavities. They have a high concentration of sugar, AND they stick in the grooves and surfaces of teeth for a long time. Chocolate will melt away from the teeth much faster in the warm environ-

ment of the mouth. Parents should help children sort their bag of loot and eliminate all the gummy, sticky, gooey, and sour candies. When we splurge on candy, we need to be sure to brush or rinse with water very soon after.

I hope that all the kids enjoy this Halloween season and that all the spooky costumes don't scare you too much, Ms Avery Pearl.

Your pal, Dr Holmes

For all your dental needs visit Dr Raymond Holmes and his staff at: Roane Dental Associates 2717 Roane State Highway Harriman TN 37748 865-717-7743

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



WEEKLY WEATHER



Tue 24 72°/48°

Wed 25 72°/53°

Thu 26 74°/57°

Fri 27 75°/56°

Sat 28 77°/57°

Sun 29 76°/55°

Mon 30 66°/49°



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

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

State Farm logo and advertisement for Randy McFarland, Agent, including contact information and a photo.



# In Loving Memory

## Garland Ralph Heidel, 83



Garland Ralph Heidel, 83, passed away Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge, TN. He was born in Wartburg, TN on September 4, 1940, to Carl H. and Thelma L. (Moore) Heidel. He was a faithful member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wartburg, TN.

He was preceded in death by the love of his life, Delonha (Donnie) Spradlin Heidel, grandchildren, Alexander David Heidel, Dakota Robert Heidel, great-granddaughter Sydney Heidel, his parents Carl & Thelma Heidel, his father and mother-in-law Gorman and Geneva Spradlin, brother-in-law's James Spradlin and Louis Basler.

He is survived by his children, Charles (Chuck) and Ann Heidel, Lee and Denise Heidel, Allen Heidel, Robert (Rob) and Stacey Heidel, and Lorie and Richard Marcum. Grandchildren, Jessica and Andy Webb, James Heidel, Derek Heidel and fiancée Vanessa Smith, Jennifer and Troy Arquette, Amber and Nick Watson, Dustin and Teresa Heidel, Logan and Kristie Heidel, Amelia, Larry, and Alexandra Marcum. Great-Grandchildren, Elizabeth Webb, Dewayne and Ella Heidel, Abigail Kate Heidel, Aiden and Aria Arquette, Lily Watson,

Charlotte and Clara Heidel and coming in November Colt Heidel. Sisters and Brother-in-laws, Arnetta Basler, Ida Mae and Wayne Hamby, Shirley and Benny Parks. Sister-in-laws Norma Price, Carolyn Spradlin, Pamela Kay and Wayne Gibbs, Sandra and Michael Roysden, Debra and John Mallett. Brother -in-law Steve and Sue Spradlin. Special great nephew Joseph Childs. Special friend Patty Heidel. And a host of nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers the family ask that a memorial be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church, P. O. Box 67, Wartburg, TN 37887

The family will receive friends Friday, October 20, 2023 at Schubert Funeral Wartburg from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Funeral services will be Saturday, October 21, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wartburg with Pastor David Graves officiating. Interment will follow in Morgan Memorial Gardens in Wartburg.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Garland Ralph Heidel.

# Oakdale School Fall Play 2023 Pumpkin Stuffers

By Geff Moyer

### Synopsis

All the fun of a marathon trick-or-treating session is packed into this Halloween comedy in thirteen short scenes. Looking for witches, zombies, Dracula, Frankenstein, werewolves and ghosts? You'll find them here, along with other hilarious and spooky characters!

In "The Potion," watch as four witches attempt to brew a potion that will allow them to fly without brooms - without much luck. "A Frank Surprise" gives us a hilarious take on the TV show "This is Your Life" - with Frankenstein as the subject. In "The Fortuneteller," the Wolf Man confides his transformation issues in a gypsy fortune teller, while Dracula tries to sneak out for a night with the guys in "The Family Spat." Dr. Frankenstein has difficulty telling his servants, Igor, Egor and Agor apart in "A Servant Problem,"

and Anne Ricepaddy interviews famous Wolf Man, Lon Chaney, in "Interview with a Werewolf." Not to mention Zombies that are trying to go modern and change their image from being mindless to mindful in "The Image," and traditional sheet-wearing ghosts that provide us ghastly jokes between scenes. You will also meet an entire host of Halloween characters and narrators introducing each scene that is sure to provide you a trick and a treat! Show times and prices are below:

**School Shows**  
 Wednesday, November 1 - Grades K-4 - 1:00 p.m. - \$2.00  
 Thursday, November 2 - Grades 5-6 / Guest Schools - 1:00 p.m. - \$2.00  
 Friday, November 3 - Grades 6-12 - 1:00 p.m. - \$2.00  
**General Admission**  
 Thursday, November 2 - General Admission - 7:00 p.m. - \$6.00  
 Saturday, November 4 - General Admission - 7:00 p.m. - \$6.00  
 Concessions available at 6:00 p.m.

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

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**Tom Redmon**  
Columnist

## Citizens Must Always Have Guns for Two Good Reasons

Our forefathers proved to be smart people when they decided not to sign the Constitution until the Bill of Rights was added and at least one of those has kept us

free. Our liberals do not like the 2nd Amendment. "A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

For years some people have tried to deny citizens the right to own guns. For some states they have been partially successful but its because people in these states do not stand up for their rights.

In the minds of the colonists in pre-revolutionary America the threats posed by the standing British army loomed large. Resistance was widespread. In two years unarmed citizens were gunned down in the streets of Boston. This is what became known as the Boston Massacre and the fuse that lit the powder keg of debate over the right of citizens to be armed.

The debate goes on and on. Every time we have a shooting in our country the liberals come up with another bill that is aimed at hurting gun owners in some way. When are they going to learn that people kill people, not guns. Thousands of people own guns and only a fraction of them ever kill anybody and it took a person to pull the trigger.

We need guns for self-defense because criminals fear armed citizens. Self-defense is the most basic of all human reactions. It is triggered by the threat or fear of harm. Why do you think these young criminals pick the easy targets like schools and churches? They pick them because no one is armed at these facilities.

In 1993 after German tourist were attack by juvenile criminals, officials questioned jailed juveniles why they went after tourist. The answer was simple. Tourist are considered easy marks, they not only have cash and expensive video and camera equipment, they are unarmed and defenseless. These Juveniles may be criminals but they are not stupid. They don't want to be shot and so they avoid people who may be armed and might defend themselves.

Every month the American Rifleman Publication talks about an armed citizen using a gun to protect themselves. One example in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, a man heard someone banging on his door around 10:00 pm on April 24th. When the man opened the door, a man rushed in and started punching the home owner. However, the man had armed himself before opening the door and when the man attacked him the armed citizen shot him in self-defense. The home invader died from the gunshot wounds and the police believed the shooting was justified.

It is estimated that every year more than two million times firearms are used for

personal protection. A lot of times without a shot being fired, the presence of a firearm can prevent crime. When a criminal looks down the barrel of a gun, they change their mind a lot of the time.

According to a lot of law officials the presence of guns in homes cuts down on crime. We all should know that both felons and children under eighteen do not have the right to own arms. We also need to do more to keep guns out of the hands of mentally handicapped people. Parents or guardians need to be more responsible for those in their household. You should know what your children are doing in the basement or on the



computer. It is sad to learn how little parents know about their kids and what they are into.

Did you know that more than 70 percent of all felony crimes involve the use of motor vehicles?

Using the logic of gun prohibitionists shouldn't lawmakers consider banning the following motor vehicles?

Black BMWs (assault cars) – vehicle of choice of drug dealers.

Sports cars – goes over 100 MPH.

Compact cars – (SNS) small in size making them easy to hide out of sight of police.

Vans – hold large number of people making them useful for drive-by shootings.

Pickup Trucks (thief's express) thieves can put large amounts of stolen goods in from homes or businesses.

Consequently no one should have anything other than a station wagon made to hold children and groceries.

Crime can be reduced if we get rid of the vehicles listed above. This is absurd of course. Just like the anti-gun people who want to get rid of all guns or assault weapons at last.

If they take guns away from law abiding citizens, I guarantee that outlaws will get guns and more people will be killed by guns. Criminals will have a field day because there will be so many easy targets.

In 1995, 46,800 people were killed in motor vehicle accidents while only 1,400 were killed by guns.

As citizens of a freedom loving country, we must defend our Constitution and that means the 2nd Amendment and other rights

listed in the Bill of Rights. There are many gun-ban bills before the U.S. Congress and hundreds more before the state legislatures and city councils. Many of our politicians ignore the Founding Fathers' intent. For the sale of political expediency, the anti-gun lobbyist, the anti-gun media, and the anti-gun politicians including the president, have twisted, tangled and misinterpreted their words.

These anti-gunners need to pay heed to the words of Ben Franklin, "They that can give up essential

liberty to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety."

In the words of Dwight David Eisenhower, "Freedom has its life in the hearts, the action, the spirit of men and so it must be earned daily and refreshed – else like a flower cut from its life-giving roots, it will wither and die."

There are many of those who would like to take all guns from us and deny us our Christian faith. If they did these two things a dictatorship would be easy to establish. We never want these two things to happen. The 2nd Amendment was put there for a good reason.

We must keep our guns!

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# NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JoAnn Derson

---  
 \* It's (past) time to weatherize your home. Temperatures are dropping, and if you haven't done it yet, don't sweat it. We have a few ideas for you. Here are mine: Layer up and keep a sweater on when lounging about the house. Extra clothes don't cost anything to wear, and they don't dry out the air, either! -- JoAnn

\* Heavy drapes can be a great investment to draft-proof your windows. Best are insulation-lined, but you can double hang some good quality curtains to get a similar effect.

\* One of the best investments I made was a water heater cover for my unit. It's in the garage, and it gets very cold in there. The blanket was easy to install, and it keeps my water heater from having to work to keep all that water heated. It wasn't very expensive. -- R.A. in Washington

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

\* In a survey of hundreds of Oreo cookie eaters, Kraft Foods came to the conclusion that biters were easygoing and self-confident; dunkers displayed a more energetic and adventurous side; and twisters leaned toward the sensitive and trendy.

\* The average person spends 38 days brushing their teeth during their lifetime.

\* Not only does the moon have its own time zones, but an astronomer designed a watch relying on "lunations," the amount of time it takes for the moon to revolve and rotate around the earth.

\* There are more than 10 holidays that support chocolate. Naturally,

we fully support that.

\* The "Trembling Giant" in Utah's Fishlake National Forest includes over 47,000 quaking aspen trees that share the same root system. Some scientists have estimated its age at nearly a million years old.

\* An hour of drumming will burn between 400-600 calories. That's more than hiking or weightlifting.

\* The oldest known prosthetic wear, a toe made primarily of wood and bound with leather thread, possibly dating to 950 B.C., was discovered on the mummified body of an Egyptian noblewoman in Cairo in 2000.

\* Male Hercules beetles possess an elongated horn that can surpass their body length.

\* Stanford University's English

department offers a course titled "The Last Great American Songwriter: Storytelling with Taylor Swift Through the Eras," in which students analyze Swift's albums and draw connections between her lyrics and classic literature.

\* Only four words in the English language end in "dous."

\* Cambodian bamboo trains are made of an electric generator and a makeshift bamboo platform for seating and run at speeds of up to 40 km per hour. While unmaintained tracks do indeed make for some bumpy rides, at least the fares are low.

\*\*\*  
 Thought for the Day: "Doubt kills more dreams than failure ever will." -- Suzy Kassem  
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\* Don't overlook your outlets when weatherproofing. They are really just a hole that is covered by a plastic plate. The hardware store sells fireproof insulated inserts that work very well to keep electrical boxes from stealing your house heat. -- M.M. in Indiana

\* Draft dodgers, or door snakes, are easy to make and provide reasonable protection against drafts. To make one for yourself, you'll need a pair of thick tights, fabric scraps cut into inch-wide strips and a big bag of rice. Cut the tights off into two long leg portions. Stuff them with fabric scraps and then add rice to give weight and fill in the holes. When the long "socks" are full, tie them off. Lay them out along the threshold, pushing them tight against the door, where they will block the draft!

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 Lass
- 4 Choose
- 8 Beanies
- 12 Historic time
- 13 Actor's quest
- 14 Theater award
- 15 Contingency funds
- 17 Goddess of victory
- 18 Orange veggies
- 19 Pursuing
- 20 Cellist Casals
- 22 Innocent one
- 24 New York canal
- 25 Misfortune
- 29 Balloon filler
- 30 Pal
- 31 Big D.C. lobby
- 32 Melancholy melodies
- 34 Alike (Fr.)
- 35 Aftermath
- 36 Condition
- 37 Of the Arctic
- 40 Chinese dynasty
- 41 Egg
- 42 Believed
- 46 Ganges wrap
- 47 Skip
- 48 Apprehend

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
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41				42	43				44	45
46				47				48		
49				50				51		

### DOWN

- 1 Prized possession
- 2 Altar constellation
- 3 Small beetle
- 4 Teaser ad
- 5 Charged bits
- 6 The Browns, on scoreboards
- 7 Lock opener
- 8 Have a huddle
- 9 Slightly
- 10 Toll road
- 11 Crystal gazer
- 16 Like ganders
- 19 "Dear —"
- 20 Stew veggies
- 21 Operatic solo
- 22 Police ID
- 23 Tosses in
- 25 Nonsense
- 26 Attractive
- 27 "I smell —!"
- 28 Hardy cabbage
- 30 Sow's mate
- 33 Hindu teachers
- 34 Sicilian volcano
- 36 Prepares flour
- 37 Sit for a photo
- 38 Ellipse
- 39 Hide in the bushes
- 40 1502, in Old Rome
- 42 Brick carrier
- 43 "I — Rock"
- 44 Eastern "way"
- 45 "Game of Thrones" ailer

# FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ... OR DARE!

NNO

♥ MAINCE

ACBIA

TFNO

BLONIA

♥ URB

♥ NECO

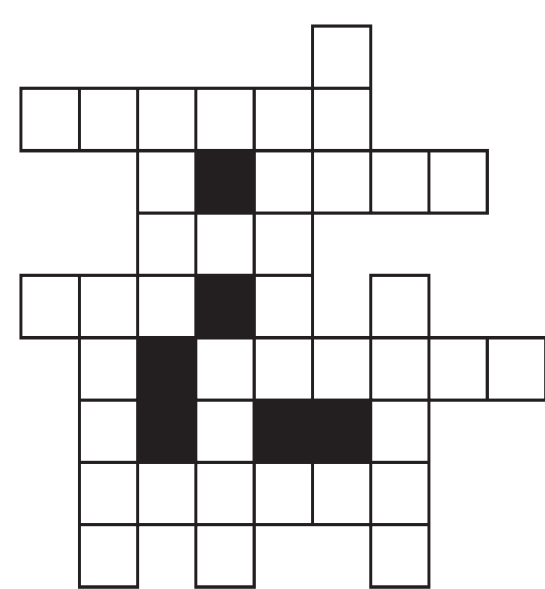
ATCLO

♥ NTA

EEFCUS

BENLO

♥ RBNA



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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# Scott County Today

## MICHAEL, "BRIGHT STAR" PERFORMERS DAZZLE AND DANCE TO THE THRILL OF HUGE "MUSIC ON MAIN" CROWD

By Richard Spears



While the UT football team was struggling to beat Texas A&M in Knoxville, a crowd of over 250 people looking for a rousing alternative gathered at Oneida's Main Street in the crisp fall air on Saturday, October 14 to peruse and partake of the various food and craft vendors' wares, listen to some excellent live music, and watch the dual highlights of the afternoon's "Music on Main" event. First, the crowd was riveted to a performance of Michael Jackson's "Thriller," played to perfection by Knoxville's Greg Karney and the K-Town Zombies; then, Scott County's Plateau Players gave spectators a taste of their upcoming live theatre production of Steve Martin/Edie Brickell's play, "Bright Star," and left the crowd excited and wanting more.

An obviously mesmerized onlooker told the Morgan County Today, "Wow! What a show. First Michael Jackson, and then a scene from a play that looked like something you might see in New York or Atlanta. They all were awesome!"

Knoxville's Michael Jackson, aka Greg Karney told the Morgan County Today, "We've been doing this since 2009, when Michael died. There are about 30 dancers who play the zombies, and we bring about 10 of them to a venue when we perform. Each year, we audition new zombie dancers, mostly from Knoxville's Broadway Academy of the Arts. I have enjoyed playing Michael Jackson for quite a while now." Karney not only enjoys what he does, he's very good at it. On this particular October Saturday, folks from all over the region were kind of wandering around the stretch of vendors on Oneida's Main Street, but within less than 30 seconds after Karney and his crew launched into "Thriller," everyone in attendance knew there was something special going

on in front of local business The Black Cat, and a huge crowd pressed in to see and hear what looked like the real thing, Michael Jackson and some well choreographed zombies playing out "Thriller". "It's still the number one music video of all time, and we loved coming to Oneida tonight to do it. This is a great area with great people," Karney said.

Then, the topping of the evening's exciting live performances came with the Plateau Players' awesome rendition of the scene and song, "Whoa, Momma," acted and sung by "Bright Star's" two leading characters, Jimmy Ray (Seth McMillan) and Alice Murphy (Samantha Connolly), accompanied by the show's dance ensemble. The "Music on Main" crowd was obviously drawn in to the actors' fine delivery of the dialogue and the following song, carried by the exceptional musical talent of both players, backed up by some well timed dancing to boot.

"Bright Star" director Glenda Gray told the Morgan County Today, "This is such a beautiful story, and it has the overriding theme of hope throughout the play. I want to invite everyone to come to the production. You'll be uplifted and wonderfully entertained by some very talented local people."

The Plateau Players' production of "Bright Star" will be staged November 10, 11 and 12, at the Scott County Christian Care Center's Black Box Theatre. The Christian Care Center is located next to the Plateau Drugs shopping center in Oneida. For information about the show, and to reserve tickets, call 423-393-7640, or visit the Appalachian Society of the Arts website, [www.ASotA.art](http://www.ASotA.art)







# The Bulldog Banner



## Wokeism, America's Fate? By: CatFish Cole

**Cole Burchell  
(CatFish Cole)**

The media as always is a place of half truths and half lies, half rights, half wrongs, half good, half bad, and all polarized, so one may ask what exactly is wokeism. Well, Ditionary.com claims it's the promotion of liberal progressive ideology and policy as an expression of sensitivity to systemic injustices and prejudices. Cambridge Dictionary claims it's a way of referring to the acts and opinions of people who are especially aware of social problems such as racism and inequality. If these sources claim it to be this, this must be our answer. However, this is only a heinous under-interpretation of the agenda of the liberal force sweeping America.

Looking back you and I were taught from a young age to treat people with respect, and what was right and wrong. We were taught to care for and help those in need, those vulnerable to the wrath of man and to worship God. We were taught to protect what is ours, our family, our country, and our beliefs. Now children across America are taught to reward, retribute, segregate, and discriminate based on one's political opinions and race. They are taught to silence the voice and will of those who stand up to the left's regime. Taught to subject their children to sexuality, and discard the life of the unborn as an object.

Oh how the mighty have fallen, oh how have we come to this, America the land of the free and home of the brave. We have faced so many adversities only to succumb to the leftist, Marxist, socialist, views of a crooked agenda built to cripple the American Dream. Imagine the look of horror on our forefather's faces if they could see us now. Every day and days past we see the signs, COVID-19 and the Vaccines, Abortion, LGBTQ and BLM extremism, the Plummeting Economy, mail-in Ballots, Afghanistan, Ukraine, and hopefully not Israel, Hunter's Laptop, China's Growing Influence, the Immigration Crisis, the Spy Ballon ordeal, oh and don't forget we literally lost a F-35 stealth fighter jet built with certain Chinese parts.

Now I know you share my frustration as it seems things keep getting worse, but don't allow yourself to degrade to the level of those who we resent so much. As our own founding fathers were liberals, though, in their own time, they would stand for liberty and equality while having some common sense and faith in God. Balance is essential with all things but not in the sense of give and take, but the contrast of many ideas and views to create a more perfect union under the Constitution. America is a nation of many ideas and people, and truly special especially compared to those who look down upon us.

A common belief in political science is a cycle in which a civilization will navigate occurring over and over again through

out history. To best explain this ideal is The Heritage Foundation - "America's financial mismanagement has gotten so bad that some say our country's decline is now inevitable, drawing parallels to the Roman Empire's collapse. To fund wasteful domestic spending, Rome devalued its currency to institute a hidden tax on its people. Confiscatory taxes drove commerce out of the Roman Empire, or underground in ragtag form, while idle laborers turned to breadlines. Today, excessive taxation and regulation send jobs overseas, and the unemployed are on welfare. Debt rose at unsustainable and accelerating rates. Today, the United States has over \$33 trillion in federal debt. As decline set in, Rome doubled down on spending, borrowing, inflating, and war, using bread and circuses to tranquilize an angry and desperate populace." The similarities go on and on and you can see how one nation's decline 1,500 years ago correlates so closely to that of our own. Why did the Roman Empire fall, the division of



**Daniel Bunch  
(Big Man Dan)**

its people. Once united under the cause of expansion and glory the Roman people settled, and became corrupt, once an accepting people they began to discriminate against those who made up their empire. The slippery slope of tyranny quickly took hold of the empire cementing its fate.

Though America is different, we still have time to save ourselves and the world from tyranny. It is our duty as Christians, Tennesseans, and Americans to fight this progressive mob and restore the simple American way of life for generations to come. Some say change is inevitable, but did that hinder the spark of inspiration gleaming that night in Boston, 1773? Did we after 176 years of British rule say oh well, NO, we fought even as we were outmanned and outclassed. Now comparatively the ideological split in America is around 50/50 which sounds like much better odds to me, so stand up with me, do your research, become or remain active in local government, and don't settle. Of course, there is a right and wrong way to handle our issues as we were taught so keep this in mind. "Violence is the last refuge of the incompetent." - Isaac Asimov.



Above: Graph showing the 8 stages bell curve rise and fall of civilizations

The Course Of Tyranny

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# A Ranger Family Reunion



**John Burns**

**Opinion Columnist**

In November 1993, about 12 days from my 26th birthday, I was notified that I would be traveling to Ft. Benning for the Bravo Company Awards ceremony for feats of heroism. I would be flying home to Columbus and a rendezvous with my Ranger family.

I was taken by ambulance to a waiting military transport airplane bound for Columbus, Ga.

A van greeted myself and a couple other BCO wounded, able to travel back to B company.

As the van entered our Ranger compound outside building 4832, the entire company was standing in formation. As we exited the van, our brothers broke ranks to greet us, and welcome us home. Many of us had not seen each other since the morning of October 3.

After greeting first platoon, and my ranger brother Sean T. Watson, I moved on to 3d platoon. I had not seen the members of my squad, since my medical evacuation from Mogadishu. We had much to discuss. It was amazing to be back in the platoon area. Minus two amazing Ranger leaders. Dominic Pilla was my primary machine gunner assigned to SSG Jeff Strueckers' HMMV in Mogadishu.

Lorenzo Ruiz was my number two on my HMMV.

We had a terrible day. From my position on the ground assault convoy, the events of October 3, unfurled before my eyes like a flag. I saw many men shot, blown up, maimed, and heroic all at the same time. The day was won by Ranger's doing what Rangers do.

The ranger leadership model worked. When a SSG or Sgt were wounded, the Specialist's and Private first classes moved up the leadership ladder of responsibility. I was most proud of the members of my platoon. 5 of the 6 Ranger KIA's occurred on the ground assault convoy.

On my HMMV, Specialist Ritchie was wounded early by small arms fire. My primary Gunner, Clay Othic was wounded in the turret engaging the enemy with his 50-caliber machine gun. Clay would find another ride on the five-ton truck being driven by Richard Kowalewski.

Lorenzo would take over for Clay. No hesitation from this warrior from El Paso, Texas. SGT Ruiz was fearless in life. He saved many lives with precision fire from the turret. A bullet fired from the roof of a two-story building would fell Lorenzo. SGT Weaver killed the Somali gunman.

I was wounded slightly by a single piece of hot shrapnel after communicating with SSG Dave Wilson as he was blown up. I was shot in my left scapula when Lorenzo was hit. My third injury and worst gun shot wound, would come as I looked down on Kasey Joyces' face as we engaged an enemy ambush.

My Medic John Stansfield was most heroic after being knocked semi-conscious by a bullet to his helmet.

As he awoke almost immediately, he went back to work treating at first Clay, and later Lorenzo. John was a borrowed medic from Alpha company. God saved John for a purpose. I later learned that he was a believer in Jesus Christ. I knew immediately, why I am alive.

I witnessed Corporal Jim Cavaco get hit in the turret in the vehicle to my immediate front. Killed instantly by a Somali bullet. The worst was still yet to come.

I would run past the stretcher carrying Kasey as the Task Force green medic pronounced him dead. He would be loaded onto the cargo HMMV for transport back to our base. The truck would end up disabled and abandoned as we were rescued by My PL Larry Moores and his relief convoy.

On that HMMV were two other wounded Rangers and the body

of SGT Joyce. The wounded Seal Howard Wasdin. Two other Seals and members of Matt Eversmann's squad trying to re-organize at crash site one. Thank God he had Specialist Dave Diemer and Pfc Jason Moore's.

These two young Rangers kept us in the fight. They engaged enemy targets constantly as we meandered our way home on flat tires and an engine about to explode. These young rangers were heroes!

I would be cross loaded onto a five-ton truck now being driven by a more experienced operator from task Force Green. On that truck were the Somali prisoners from the original target building. Many had been injured or killed by bullets aimed at our Rangers on board.

I was seated across from MSG Tim Griz Martin. He had been blown up while seated behind Adalberto Rodriguez on two MK 19 ammunition cans. An enemy Rocket Propelled Grenade had breached the thin-skinned vehicle and detonated the ammunition sympathetically.

Both men were launched airborne with severe injuries. MSG Martin had lost his legs. He was still trying to organize Rangers to defend the truck. He was seated next to the mangled Specialist Rodriguez.

The worst situation was PFC Kowalewski. He had a live Rocket propelled grenade lodged in his torso, and his arm was severed. He was dead. The RPG was fired from so close, it never armed. Now we were riding home under fire with this added drama.

I had witnessed Super 61 assume an orbit above my initial blocking position. I watched as the helicopter frantically tried to rotate its fuselage to give the gunners a chance to engage the RPG gunner who would knock it out of the sky. Dan Busch was on that bird.

I spoke with my Platoon Sergeant moments after he himself was shot in his hand. Bob was still cool under pressure as he sent me back to my vehicle with the instruction of disseminating to all what the current plan was. We had just driven past crash site one for the first of three times.

This is what we discuss as a platoon but not this night. Tonight, we would party and go visit our favorite place to view girls hardly dressed. Tonight, we would honor our dead and wounded brothers by throwing down third platoon, Bravo company style.

I was glad to be home. I was changed. I just did not realize to what extent the change affected my judgement as an Airborne Ranger combat veteran.

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 veery soon. John Burns 11-23-2022

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

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

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

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



answer

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## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

G	A	L		P	I	C	K		C	A	P	S	
E	R	A		R	O	L	E		O	B	I	E	
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# From A Grandpa's Heart: Jonah's Debut



On September 10th of this year (1 day before his 8th birthday), Jonah and his Knoxville Seams 8u travel team traveled down to Marietta Ga. to play their first kids pitch baseball games. It was a beautiful but warm day as the excitement for baseball feele the air everywhere. With nervous anticipation from the parents, grandparents and fans, Jonah took the mound as the starting pitcher for his team. But Jonah's debut as pitcher got off to a rocky start. He got himself into a big time mess walking the first 3 batters (hitting 1 in the helmet), which loaded the bases. When Jonah hit the batter the look on his face was not only of shock, but one of him about to be sick. But the fan's and his teammates rallied behind Jonah with encouragement knowing Jonah could do his job. What happened next was total excitement for everybody to see. Although the clean up batter was at the plate, Jonah kept throwing gas but with more accuracy.

One by one Jonah started mowing them down, striking out the next 6 batters in a row and 8 of the next 9 walking 1. The team Jonah faced was from Atlanta Ga. and put a whooping on us a few months earlier in coach pitch. But not this time! Nobody could hit him, and what fun it was for the fan's and especially me. When Jonah's pitching debut was over, he had thrown himself a no-hitter. On the day he gave up 3 walks, 1 hit batter, had 8 strikeouts and threw 54 pitches with 50 being the limit. He also drew 3 walks. The final score was Seams 6 Warriors 0. But this was just the first of three games in a row for Jonah and the Seams.

In the 2nd game Jonah started in his normal position at shortstop, and o ya, the excitement continues. Their opponent this game was from Alabama called The Right Way. This game was a needed win for both teams and The Right Way gave us all they had. When the game was over Jonah had done his job again by making all the plays he was involved in and made no era's. At the plate he went 2 for 3 with 3 RBI'S. It was the Seams 7 The Right Way 3.

Now to the 3rd straight and most challenging game of the day. This was also the championship game. In this game Jonah was going to do the catch-

ing and you could tell him and is teammates were wearing down, but the excitement didn't stop. Being the ball player he is and the attitude he has, Jonah toughed it out, played hard and continued to give it all he had. In this game Jonah threw a runner out trying to steal 2nd and had another chance to throw a runner out at 2nd but he had to pick up his bobbled ball. But bobbling the ball didn't stop Jonah from trying and he still almost had him. He also threw out a runner at 3rd and it wouldn't even close, but the ball was dropped. At the end of the game the Seams were on the short end of the stick, we had lost 11-2 and went 2 and 1 on the day. Even though we were on the field for 6 straight hour's, Jonah was awesome, he had played his heart out.

More important than wins and losses though is the way Jonah plays the game. He plays it with passion by the excitement he shows and gives others. He shows kindness and leadership by the way he helps other's on and off the field. Jonah tries and wants to be a leader. He also knows to be humble and never give up. To go along with the way he plays the game is the work ethic he has. It's hard work, alot of repetition and alot of time, but he knows it makes him better.

Jonah, I want you to know that you played awesome in your first games of kids pitch. To tell you the truth, I was so proud of you that I was shedding tears during your games. Continue to be yourself, work hard and have fun and we'll watch you in the Big Leagues. Me and your Nana love you very much Jonah!

Your biggest #1 fan  
Pa

*Above: Jonah Morales*

*Below: Jonah Morales and Pa (JD Morgan)*





# Revelation Chapter 5

(Rev. 5:1-5) The sealed book: John continued to observe the heavenly vision. He noticed that in the right hand of the Almighty there was a scroll, written on both sides (suggesting the completeness of the message). It may have been composed of several pages, for it was sealed with seven seals. A strong angel with a loud voice asked: "Who is worthy (who had the spiritual qualifications) to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?" No creature anywhere was suited for such a notable task. Obviously because the message dealt with events to come, only a divine being would be capable of directing future earthly activity. What a commentary this is regarding Christ!

When John contemplated the possibility that the scroll might remain sealed, he audibly wept much (so the original word indicates). One of the twenty-four elders interrupted him: "Stop crying." He then explained, "Behold, the Lion that is of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath overcome to open the scroll and the seven seals thereof" (v.5). Note the following: (a) The regal authority of Christ is suggested by the descriptive "Lion" (Gen. 49:9). (b) He was from the tribe of Judah. The Old Testament had foretold the coming of the Messiah out of the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10; Heb. 7:14)> (c) Jesus is the "Root of David." This is generally viewed as a reference to the fact that Christ was descended from the Davidic line. Normally, however, a "root" is the source from which the plant springs (1 Tim. 6:10). Moreover, in 22:16 Christ is both the "root" and the "offspring" of David. "Root" thus seems to be something different from "offspring." It appears to stress Jesus' deity in contrast to his humanity. (d) Christ is said to have "overcome." The tense indicates that the event has already been achieved. The victory was won at Calvary---the rest is a mopping-up campaign!

(Rev. 5:6) The victorious Lamb: John saw (in the midst of the throne, the living creatures, and the elders) a Lamb, standing as though it has been slain. The "lamb" as a symbol of Christ is common in this book. It appeared to have been slain, but it was "standing" (the perfect tense form suggests that it stood up and remained standing!). The Lamb had seven horns. Since "horn" frequently symbolizes power (Dt. 33:17), and as "seven" denotes perfection, there is the suggestion here that the Lamb is perfect in power.

It has been observed that no one but an inspired composer would have used the lamb motif as a symbol for Christianity. Men employ ravenous beasts to represent their movements. The United States used the eagle; Russia, the bear; Great Britain, the lion; France, the tiger. Only the kingdom of heaven would dare use the lamb as a symbol of its might. The Lamb had "seven eyes," which represented an affinity with the "seven Spirits of God" (the Holy Spirit) (1:4), sent forth (perfect tense---hinting of the abiding nature of the mission) into all the earth.

(Rev. 5:7-14) The Lamb worthy of worship: The Lamb took the scroll from the right hand of the Creator. Note the cooperation between these divine persons. The act evoked a magnificent response from the living creatures and the elders. They fell down before the Lamb---a strong affirmation of the deity of Christ. Each of these heavenly creatures, prostrate before the Lamb, has both a harp and a golden bowl full of incense, symbols of praise and "the prayers of the saints" (Psa. 141:2; Lk. 1:10). It is crass literalism to suggest that these figures afford justification for the use of mechanical instruments of music or the burning of incense in Christian worship. (see video: "The Acappella Church by Mike Mazzalongo").

These heavenly creatures were singing a "new" song which declared the worthiness of the Lamb to open the scroll (with the obvious intent of revealing its message). Christ is qualified to assume this function because of his death (v.9). The death of Jesus and the victory achieved thereby are dominant themes in this document (1:5; 5:12; 7:14; 12:11, etc.).

As a consequence of the blood which he shed, the Lamb was able to "purchase" a people for his own possession. Elsewhere this group is identified as the church of the Lord Jesus (Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20). Notice also that these purchased ones are a "kingdom"---a clear argument that the church and the kingdom constitute the same organism. Moreover, the international nature of the church is emphasized. These citizens of the kingdom are from every nation, and they are serving as priest in the house of God (1:6; 20:6). No specialized priesthood is needed when all of the Lord's people are priests.

John then records: "And they reign upon the earth" (5:10). Observe that the "purchased" ones are reigning upon the earth---not the elders, etc., as suggested in the King James Version. There is a manuscript variation between "reign" (present tense ASV) and "shall reign" future tense kjv). Which is correct? The context favors the present tense, because the "reigning" is that of this kingdom of priests---a circumstance which was present, not future. There is no reference here to a supposed future millennial reign.

Most of the religious world likes John 3:3, but they do not know how John 3:5 is applied. Using only John 3:3, they will manipulate you to submit to the doctrines of various men. John 3:5 Jesus says: "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Jesus is not talking about an embryo entering the kingdom of God. But, except man, old enough to comprehend several things which the Holy Spirit delivered through words recorded in the new covenant, (Matthew through Revelation) and believes them enough to submit to King Jesus in immersion (in water symbolizing the burial of one) who is dead in trespasses and sins he cannot enter God's Kingdom (Rom. 6:3-5).

John then heard a voice, a chorus consisting of thousands upon thousands of beings---angels, the twenty-four elders, and the living creatures. Each was praising the Lamb because of his sacrificial death. As a result of that event, Christ is worthy to receive worship due to his power, riches, wisdom, might, honor, glory, and blessedness. The seven traits here catalogued perhaps suggest the complete adoration that is due the victorious Son of God. In other places in this document, these same qualities are ascribed to the Father (5:13; 7:12)---again, evidence of the divine nature of our Lord.

The final expression of praise of the five recorded in chapters four and five is the proclamation of "every created thing" that exists---in heaven, on earth and sea, under the earth (the Hadean realm)---to the glory of both Father and Son. The entire creation acknowledges this truth. Nature's praise of deity is a form of figurative language known as personification (Psa. 148:7-10; Rom. 8:22). Not every person worships the Father and Son, of course, but the divine Godhead is worthy of such. Finally, to nature's anthem the four living ones and the elders add their agreement.


BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo  
FortifyYourFaith.org



MELVIN HOWARD

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**The Garden Bug**

**The ghost plant**

*Monotropa uniflora* lacks chlorophyll pigments and appears white. It grows in the decaying debris of dark, dense-growth forests across the Northern hemisphere. Each stem bears a single delicate flower that hangs downward, which protects its pollen from the rain and lets insect pollinators access it. The clear fluid from its stems has been used to treat eye problems, skin problems, seizures and pain by Native Americans and traditional medicine practitioners. - Brenda Weaver

Sources: medium.com, wildadironacks.org



**THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE**

Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord...

DEUTERONOMY 18:10-12

Detail of "Witches Presenting Wax Dolls to the Devil" from The History of Witches and Wizards (1720)





David Zubler  
Columnist

## Free income tax filing in Tennessee

The IRS announced that it will conduct a pilot free filing program during the 2024 tax season for thirteen states which includes Tennessee.

Eligible taxpayers may choose to participate in the pilot next year to file their tax year 2023 federal tax return for free, directly with the IRS.

Direct File will be a mobile-friendly, interview-based service that will work as well on a mobile phone as it does on a laptop, tablet or desktop computer. The service will be available in English and Spanish for the pilot.

“This is a critical step forward for this innovative effort that will test the feasibility of providing taxpayers a new option to file their returns for free directly with the IRS,” said IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel. “In this limited pilot for 2024, we’ll be working closely with the states that have agreed to participate in an important test run of the state integration. This will help us gather important information about the future direction of the Direct File program.”

The Direct File pilot will be a limited, phased pilot. It will not be available to all eligible taxpayers when the IRS begins accepting tax returns. Because the IRS wants to make sure the program works effectively, Direct File will first be introduced to a small group of eligible taxpayers in filing season 2024. As the filing season progresses, more and more eligible taxpayers will be able to access the service to file their 2023 tax returns. You will continue to have choices including tax software and a tax professional.

If you participate in the pilot, you will have access to help from IRS employees staffing the Direct File customer support function. Direct File will cover only individual federal tax returns during the pilot. The 2024 filing season serves as a pilot for Direct File, and the purpose is

to learn about the Direct File service itself and the needs of taxpayers who use it. By starting with a pilot, the IRS can efficiently learn about Direct File’s effectiveness, identify areas of improvement for future iterations and ensure it meets the needs of taxpayers who want to use it.

Eligibility to participate in the 2024 pilot will be limited to reporting only certain types of income and claiming limited credits and adjustments. The tax scope for the pilot is still being finalized and is subject to change, but the IRS currently anticipates it will include:

Income reporting

W-2 wage income

Social Security and railroad retirement income

Unemployment compensation

Interest of \$1,500 or less

Credits

Earned Income Tax Credit

Child Tax Credit

Credit for Other Dependents

Deductions

Standard deduction

Student loan interest

Educator expense

The IRS will publicly share the results of the pilot when available.

*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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# SENIOR NEWS LINE

By Matilda Charles

## Social Security Increase for 2024

The 3.2% Social Security increase for 2024 is higher than it has averaged over the past two decades, but it certainly is nowhere near the 8.7% increase we received for 2023.

This 2024 increase will mean \$58 more per month for those receiving the average benefit in 2023. Out of that \$58, we’ll pay an additional \$10 for Medicare Part B.

How do they get these increase numbers every year? They get these numbers by comparing this year’s third quarter to that of the previous year and do a cost of living adjustment (COLA) based on that. They also use the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) to calculate what they call a “basket of goods and services.”

Therein lies our problem. While that index is no doubt useful for those who have to set financial policy for the country, the CPI-W index they use to calculate our Social Security benefit isn’t geared to seniors. Instead, that index is geared toward blue collar (hourly) wage earners for 200 items and is broken down into eight groups: medical care, housing, food and beverage, transportation, housing, apparel, education and communication, and other goods and services.

You can see immediately why that doesn’t work for seniors. We have vastly different medical costs, approximately double. Our housing costs are not the same. Transportation isn’t the same, and neither are apparel, education or any of the others.

Another price index, however, the Consumer Price Index for Americans 62 years of age and older (R-CPI-E), considers the differences between the two groups ... but they still don’t use the “E” index to calculate our Social Security.

Why is that, we wonder? I bet our representatives and senators in Congress would know the answer if we call them.<sup>(c)</sup>  
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# FLASHBACK

By Mick Harper

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- 1. Which group stayed together from 1963 to 1997 without changes in members?**
- 2. What did duo Simon & Garfunkel call themselves when they started in 1957?**
- 3. Why is Aug. 5, 1957, significant in the history of music?**
- 4. Name the last song Elvis Presley released.**
- 5. Name the song that contains this lyric: “Debonair lullabies in melodies revealed, In deep despair on lonely nights, He knows just how you feel.”**

## Answers

- 1. The Four Tops. Today only one of the original members remains: Abdul “Duke” Fakir. The group, with different members, still performs, with Fakir.**
- 2. Tom & Jerry, specifically Tom Graph and Simon Jerry Landis. They then billed themselves as Kane & Garr before performing under their real names starting in 1964.**
- 3. That’s the day “American Bandstand” went national. After being a regional show in Philadelphia since 1952, “Bandstand” went national on ABC with Dick Clark as host.**
- 4. “Way Down,” in 1977.**
- 5. “When Smokey Sings,” by ABC in 1987. The song was a tribute to Smokey Robinson. The song did well around the world and topped the U.S. dance club songs chart. Even Robinson is said to have liked it.**



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