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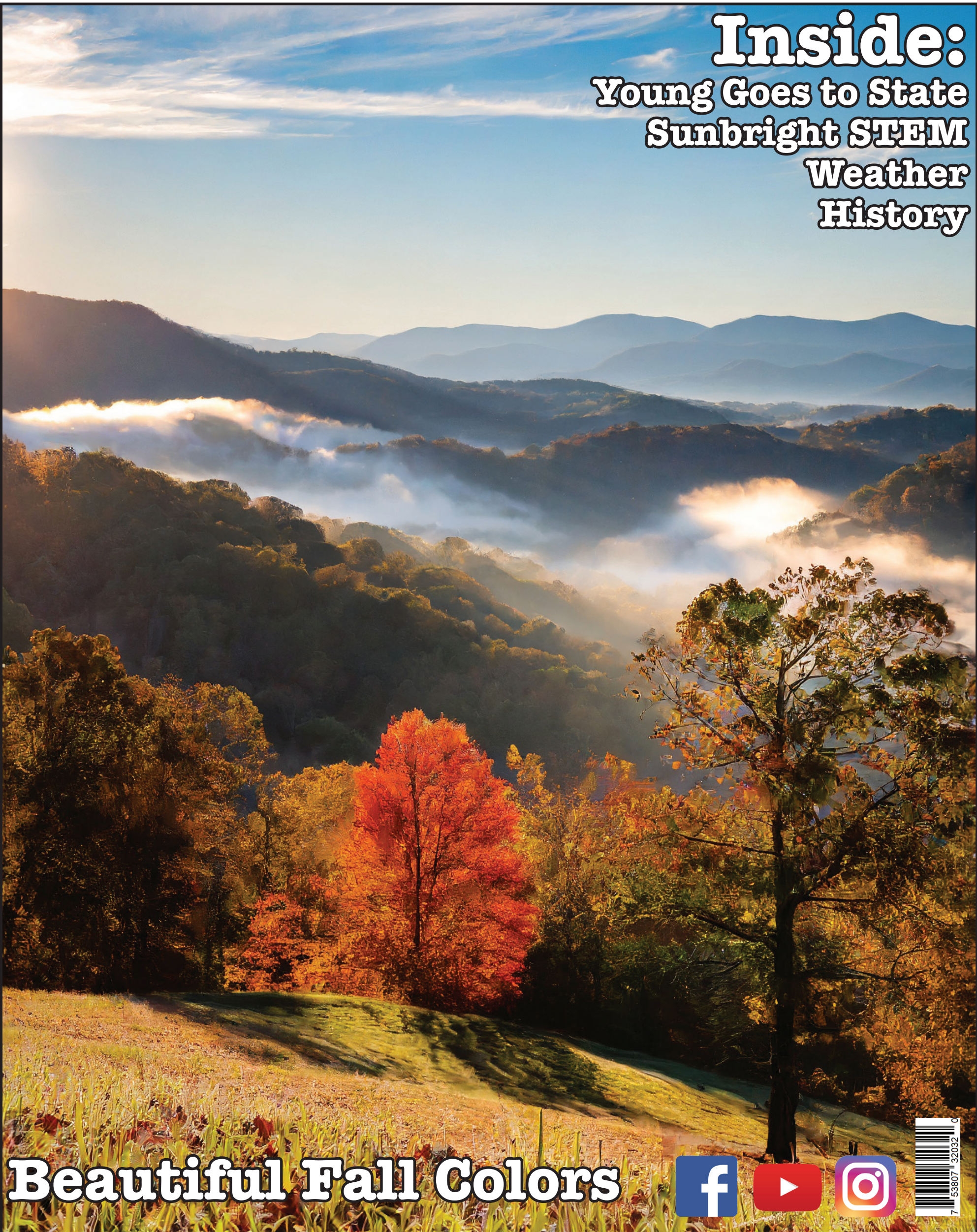
# Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3  
www.mocotoday.com  
Volume 09 Number 44  
Tuesday, October 31, 2023

Your Community. Your News.

**75¢**

**Inside:**  
Young Goes to State  
Sunbright STEM  
Weather  
History



**Beautiful Fall Colors**





Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

PUBLISHER: TOMMY LEE FRANCIS PUBLISHER@MOCOTODAY.COM

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WEEKLY WEATHER



Tue 31 52°/26°

Wed 01 47°/26°

Thu 02 57°/33°

Fri 03 62°/38°

Sat 04 66°/44°

Sun 05 68°/45°

Mon 06 65°/45°



Ms. Avery Pearl Pet Columnist

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

It's finally time for the Ms Avery Pearl Halloween Pet Picture Contest. I'm so excited! Reply

in the comments with your favorite picture of your pet (doesn't have to be in costume). The winner will be featured in the Pet Perspective With Ms Avery Pearl column in Morgan County Today and receive \$25! Good luck to all my furry friends.



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. Franken-



stein has difficulty telling his servants, Igor, Egor and Agor apart in "A Servant Problem," and Anne Rice-paddy 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 ghostly 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.

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 contact information for Randy McFarland, Agent: 105 Kingston Street PO Box 690, Wartburg, TN 37887, Bus: 423-346-7670, randy.mcfarland.c61k@statefarm.com, NeighborhoodofGood.com



# In Loving Memory

## Standford Lee (S.L.) Guffey, 90

Standford Lee (S.L.) Guffey, age 90 of Rockwood passed away peacefully at home on Friday, October 20, 2023. He had just celebrated his 90th birthday on Wednesday with family and friends.



He was born in Catoosa in Morgan County, TN, on October 18, 1933. He married Billie Abston of Rockwood and raised two daughters in Kingston. He retired from Y-12 in Oak Ridge. Then he and Billie traveled and enjoyed playing golf. His family was very important to him, and he loved them all. He was an avid gardener and his friends and family benefited from his hard work. He kept in touch with his High School Classmates and helped organize many of their reunions. The last one was the 65th in 2017.

He is preceded in death by his wife Billie, his parents and sister Lillian.

He is survived by his daughters: Debbie (Terry) Smith and Linda (Lawrence) Valdivia

Grandchildren: Brian Cox, Anthony Valdivia, Claire, Kenric & Jordan Smith  
Great grandchildren: Amber, Adam & Avery Cox, Grant, Andrew, Aubree, Olivia, & Wesley Smith.

Sister-in-law: Brenda (Sam) Turner

Brother-in-law: Jerry Abston  
Also surviving are a host of nieces and nephews and special friends Peggy Lowe, Wayne & Vickie Melton, and Jeff & Stacie Tilley.

The family would like to thank Professional Case Management Nurses and personal care givers for their care and support for the last three years.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, October 26, 2023, from 5-7 pm Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral services will follow at 7 pm with Pastor Steve McCullar officiating. Graveside services will be Friday 11 am at the Nelson Cemetery, Catoosa.

In lieu of flowers the family request donations be made to the Nelson Cemetery Fund for upkeep of the cemetery. Send donations to Nelson Cemetery Fund c/o Debbie Smith, 121 Lakescene Road, Kingston, Tn 37763

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Stanford Lee (S.L.) Guffey.

## Christopher S. McCormick, 84

Mr. Christopher S. McCormick, age 84 of Lancing, went home to be with his Lord and Savior surrounded by his family on October 23, 2023. He loved making a garden, loved playing music, and he loved hand quilting with the love of his life Pauline. They had been together for 59 1/2 years.



Grandkids Mandy Williams, Mikie McCormick, Donald Williams, Jr. and family, Wayne Pride and family, step granddaughter Tiffany and family. Sisters Geneva Potter and Helena Nelson.

He is also survived by several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

He is preceded in death by his childhood sweetheart Pauline McCormick, parents John and Gracie McCormick, brothers, and sisters-in-law Charles (Marcia), Bro. John, Jr. (Alene), August, George (Virginia), brother-in-law Russell Potter, Bob Nelson and sister Juanita McCormick, nephews Kenneth, Ricky and Odis McCormick, also grand daughter Jennifer Pride.

He is survived by his children Stephanie (Donnie) Williams, Kevin (Larenda) McCormick, Jill (Terry) Bales

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, from 12 to 2pm Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral services will follow at 2 pm with Bro. Mitch Hawn officiating. Interment will follow in the Potters Chapel Cemetery, Potters Chapel Community, Lancing, TN.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Christopher S. McCormick.

## Melissa Ann Brys, 51

Melissa Ann Brys, age 51, passed away peacefully Thursday October 26, 2023 at her home surrounded by her family. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bryan Keith Brys. She is survived by her mother, Brenda Johnson; children: Carrie Brys and fiancé Henry Taylor, Megan Brys, Luke Brys, Adam (Tara) Phillips, and Rylee Phillips; fiancé, Chris Philips; grandchildren: Colton Taylor, Lilly Taylor, Myia Freels, Maverick Brys, Sawyer Jackson, Jaxon Brys, Henry Phillips, and Ian Phillips; siblings, Leslie (Lynn) Sexton, Chris (Glenda) Sexton,



and Danae (Dylan) Johnson; aunts: Shelia (Howard) Moon and Sandy Humphrey; along with a host of extended family and friends.

Melissa enjoyed riding motorcycles and side by sides with her fiancé, Chris, and her family. She enjoyed being outdoors, especially working on her farm. Everyone who knew Melissa knew her to be the life of the party.

The family will receive friends Monday October 30, 2023, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg with the funeral to follow at 7:00.

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

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**NOTICE ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE HIGHLAND TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC. WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023 HUNTSVILLE, TENNESSEE AT THE SCOTT HIGH SCHOOL BEGINNING AT 10 A. M. EST. DOROTHY HILL WATSON, SECRETARY THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.**

The Annual Election of Directors of Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. will be held November 11, 2023 from 9 A. M. to 4 P. M. for Pine Knot, Kentucky Exchange and the Huntsville, Robbins, and Petros, Tennessee Exchanges.

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**Michael Nance**  
*Columnist*

# The October War, The Attack Against Peace, Israel and Hamas at War

Since October 7th every news outlet has been covering the brutal attack by Hamas on Israeli civilians and soldiers alike. The news has been hard to digest as women, children and even babies were decapitated in the attack.

The attack was obviously well-planned as it was a land, sea and air attack. From speedboats to motorized gliders, Hamas intended to strike fear and anger on the global stage, but why?

Without taking a deep dive into the complex geopolitics that reach back to the end of World War II, and only looking at recent events, the attack by Hamas is intended to inflame global tensions and prevent the Palestinian people from finding peace.

In truth, this attack aimed to stammer the peace deal that the United States was brokering between Saudi Arabia and Israel. In the deal, Saudi Arabia was prepared to formally recognize Israel for concessions to the Palestinian State. The deal would have been a refreshing piece of good news for the Palestinian people. This deal was close to being closed when Hamas attacked Israel using the brutal tactics of terrorizing a civilian population.

Their plan seems to have worked, according to sources Saudi Arabia is freezing talks until the violence between Hamas and Israel as ceased. Saudi's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman also spoke to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on Thursday, causing many U.S. diplomats to wonder if the Hamas plan is working.

This begs another question; why would the Saudi Prince



*Western Wall Israel-Photo Courtesy of Toa Heftiba*

freeze negotiations as he obviously understands the obvious motive of Hamas?

The answer is omnipresent in Saudi Arabia; many radical extremists within the country could cause the crown prince a lot of trouble. The Crown Prince understands to sign a peace deal with Israel in the environment of an Israeli ground operation in Gaza could ultimately create internal challenges and threaten his ability to govern.

Almost no scholar will predict what the result will be after Israel begins its ground offensive against Hamas. Considering that the Gaza Strip is occupied with over 2 million Palestinians living in a 140 square mile territory, it will be an overwhelmingly tough challenge to clear and control by any military.

Israel has issued advise to the Palestinian people to leave Northern Gaza before it begins its ground operation. The operation is targeting Hamas leadership who operate and effectively govern the area.

When the ground operation begins innocent civilians will be killed, it is unavoidable, but we must understand that the blame for the innocents that have and will perish because of this conflict are firmly on the shoulders of Hamas. They must be eliminated to prevent another chapter of atrocities happening again in the future.

In closing, the only person other than the terrorist organizations that are rejoicing this attack is Vladimir Putin. This conflict will redirect military resources and media attention from Ukraine. But that is a topic for a different day.



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### Oakdale School Veterans Day Program

Oakdale School will host our annual Veterans Day Program on Wednesday November 8, 2023 at 9am in the Fred Snow Gym. All Veterans and members of the armed services are invited to attend. Following the program a special brunch will be held in honor of all guests.

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# NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JoAnn Derson

---  
 \* Mail service is a wonderful thing. Order what you want on the internet and it's in your mailbox or on your doorstep tomorrow. From efficiency to penny pinching, you can use the mail order to help out in numerous ways. Or, use it to bring a smile to someone's face: Keep a stack of stamped postcards with you. Jot a note and mail one off whenever the mood strikes. I almost guarantee a great response from the recipient! Who doesn't love real snail mail? -- JoAnn

\* To save on prescription costs, ask if your health insurance participates in a mail order service where you can get three months of a drug for a discounted cost. Mine costs less for three months than it does for one month in my local drugstore, and I don't even have to go pick it up. -- B.W. in Virginia

\* I love to shop, and for the best deals, I go online to trusted e-retailers. When shopping online, don't

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

\* Australia is the only continent without an active volcano.

\* A world championship for throwing mobile phones has been held annually in Finland since 2010. Contestants are judged on their technique as well as the length of their throw.

\* The Sky Beam that shoots out of Las Vegas's Luxor Hotel attracts so many insects that it's established a new ecosystem of moths, bats and owls.

\* Sponges hold more cold water than hot.

\* You've undoubtedly heard of wishing upon a star, but how about an eyelash? An old superstition

held that if one lost an eyelash, they should place it on the back of their hand, then throw it over their shoulder while picturing their desire. Or they could place it on the tip of their nose, then blow it off. But if the lash got stuck, they were out of luck!

\* The term "grumble" is used to refer to a group of pug dogs.

\* According to Greek historian Herodotus, a solar eclipse ended a six-year war in 583 B.C. when the act of "day turning into night" resulted in a draw that led to a peace treaty.

\* A statue of Nikola Tesla in Silicon Valley provides free Wi-Fi.

\* Not that we expect them to attempt it anytime soon, but cows cannot descend stairs. First, they can't easily see the ground after

their feet, but their knees and hips also make it difficult for them to move at a downward angle (like some humans!). Plus, their weight would leave them off-balance and at risk of toppling.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "Few people know how to take a walk. The qualifications are endurance, plain clothes, old shoes, an eye for nature, good humor, vast curiosity, good speech, good silence and nothing too much." -- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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forget to factor in shipping and handling, as some companies offer free shipping on orders over a certain dollar amount; some don't!

\* One of the greatest assets in our communities is the public library, and mine has just added a new service that I'm over the moon about: delivery! I can search the card catalog from home and have the books I want delivered right to my house. It's so convenient. -- J.H. in Florida

\* My uncle is really hard to buy for. He doesn't get out much, and he has everything he could ever need in his apartment. I hit gold with gift mail order memberships. We've done beer, cheese and fruit, and this year is meat! They send a different one every month. You can find these services on the web. Thought I'd pass it along as a gift idea. -- W.L. in Arkansas

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆**

◆ Moderate    ◆◆ Challenging  
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!  
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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Netting
- 5 Composer Porter
- 9 "I'm not impressed"
- 12 Dog food brand
- 13 Send forth
- 14 Chopper
- 15 "Arrivederci!"
- 16 Marathon fraction
- 17 Blemish
- 18 Difficult
- 19 JFK info
- 20 Gentle soul
- 21 Victory
- 23 Greek X
- 25 Quick run
- 28 Cry of distress
- 32 Exact moment

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
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		37				38					
39	40	41		42	43			44	45	46	47
48				49				50			
51				52				53			
54				55				56			

- 7 Fragrant flowers
- 31 Historic time
- 8 Summer on the Seine
- 35 "Take your time"
- 9 Crib cry
- 36 Panda's diet
- 10 Physical
- 39 South Pacific nation
- 11 Basil or thyme
- 40 Eve's grandson
- 20 Bread and butter, so to speak
- 41 "Do — others ..."
- 22 Chip giant
- 43 Sax range
- 24 Seraglio
- 45 Gumbo veggie
- 25 Resort
- 46 Friend
- 26 "Wham!"
- 47 Beams
- 27 Estuary
- 49 Some coll. degrees
- 29 — de cologne

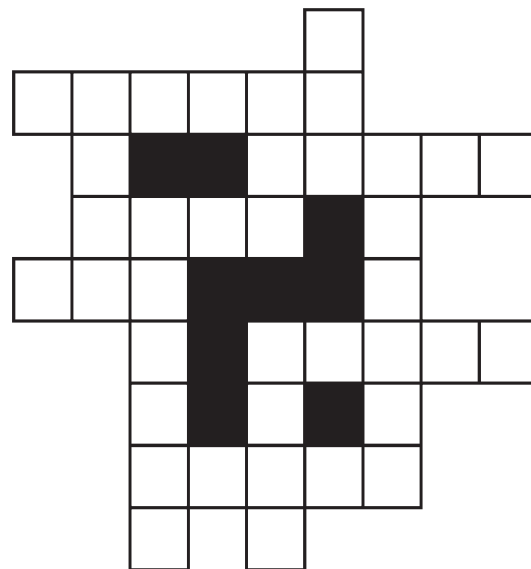
### DOWN

- 1 Jet speed measure
- 2 Director Kazan
- 3 Practice pugilism
- 4 Bamboozled
- 5 Scribble (down)
- 6 Skip

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- FYA
- LUYEGO
- ♥ DIGLE
- ♥ RTNA
- DRENGU
- ♥ NDE
- OFDL
- ♥ ENRAG
- ♥ NGU
- ♥ TEFRI
- TUFEL
- ♥ YERL



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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## Historically Speaking Vietnam Vets, Part One

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Benita Albert has taken a different approach from her normal story development. She has focused on a group of men who are Vietnam Veterans. One of them, Jim Roper, is a friend I have known for several years. The others I just met a few weeks ago when she asked me to sit in on one of the breakfast meetings at Jefferson Soda Fountain, a favorite breakfast place for me.

You should know that I am a proud Vietnam Veteran as well. I am very pleased to see Benita focus on these veterans with Oak Ridge connections, three of them graduated from Oak Ridge schools and the fourth has children who have attended school here.

She begins by reflecting on the long tradition of veterans from Oak Ridge and then focuses on the Vietnam era. Enjoy learning from Benita about these veterans.

The story of war runs deep in Oak Ridge history. As their parents worked long shifts to create the infrastructure necessary to support the Manhattan Project in our Secret City, many Oak Ridge High School students signed up for active duty in the military. Seven seniors of the first ORHS Class of 1944 received their diplomas early and left to join U.S. forces. Many would follow.

ORHS Principal Charles Oliver gave a parting speech to the Class of '44 offering the following advice, "Some of you boys, by choice or otherwise, will soon find yourself in some branch of the armed services. It is regrettable but true that we have a war to fight, a victory to win, and a peace to win. I dare you to make valiant soldiers, courageous sailors, or fearless marines."

Sam Langstaff (ORHS '45) recalled that he got both his ORHS diploma and an army summons from Uncle Sam on his ORHS graduation day. He was inducted into the U. S. Army that same day.

Charlie Price was one of very few students who enrolled as a freshman at ORHS on the first day of school in 1943 and later received a Class of '47 diploma. However, he also left ORHS early to join the Army.

His tour of duty included being a part of the U.S. occupation forces in Japan. He saw the devastation of WWII all around Tokyo, and notably, he also made a visit to view the ruins of Hiroshima. Charlie said he never did know what his father did for work in Oak Ridge. He does remember his father deflecting questions about his secret work and always smiling while saying that he made "striped paint." (The Oak Ridger, Dec. 21, 2018)

In August of 1950, eleven rising seniors from ORHS learned their next year would not be in the classroom. They were members of the Oak Ridge National Guard assigned to the 194th Engineering Combat Battalion. More of their story was told by Barbara Pullen (ORHS '51) in the book "Celebrating 75 Years of Excellence in Education in the Oak Ridge Schools: 1943-2018", Class of 1951 story.

The students were also honored with a special ORHS Oak Log page entitled "To Our Boys in the Service." Their duties included road maintenance and bridge construction and/or destruction as needed for supply flow or for deterring enemy transit. They were awarded the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for "Outstanding performance against the enemy from September 1950 to July 1952."

In writing the story of U.S. Army four-star General B. B. Bell, I learned that this Oak Ridge native (ORHS '65) was the Executive Assistant to General Norman Schwarzkopf who planned and led Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield. General Bell's father was one of

the earliest Oak Ridgers, a 1943 West Point graduate deployed to Oak Ridge on an engineering assignment with the Manhattan Project.

In his three-year assignment under Schwarzkopf, then Colonel Bell worked as a key liaison with senior military and political leaders in Washington as well as across the Central Command: the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. General Bell's final military posting was as the Four-Star Allied Commander of all military in South Korea where he led over a million men and women in uniform with the mission of deterring an attack from North Korea. He retired from service in 2009. More of his life story was published in two parts and appeared in The Oak Ridger on November 8 and November 11, 2019.

### Vietnam Veterans

The above-mentioned heroes and many, many others from Oak Ridge have answered the call of duty across the now eighty-year history of this WWII-birthing city. However, in my collection of stories across those years, I find that one very long war, the Vietnam War, has not been a part of my writings. Oak Ridge students from the classes of 1960s and the early 1970s were profoundly affected by this second longest war in U. S. history. I was particularly struck by this thought while attending a 50th reunion of the ORHS class of 1971 as a former ORHS teacher. Class President Charlie Ergen gave tribute to the Vietnam veterans in attendance, an emotional moment for everyone there.

It is past time to tell some of their stories, and I feel fortunate to have found four remarkable men with Oak Ridge roots who all have interesting stories to share. They are all Vietnam Vets. Three are Oak Ridge High School graduates: Richard T. (Tommy) Ethridge (ORHS '61), Jim Roper (ORHS '67), and J. Richard (Rick) Young, Jr. (ORHS '67). The fourth, Jimmy Luttrell, is a graduate of Knoxville Rule High School (Class of '62) who is now celebrating 56 years of marriage to Mary (Kilgore) Luttrell (ORHS '63). He has been an Oak Ridge resident since 1967. Jimmy and Mary have seen their children and grandchildren all graduate from ORHS.

Jim Roper named the group the "ROMEO Club," a moniker that I was somewhat reticent to have explained. His answer, "Retired Old Men Eating Out," greatly relieved my first thoughts. I had named them "The Jefferson Fountain Saturday morning breakfast club." That is how we met, hungrily queuing up for the first eggs off the grill and the bottomless cups of coffee.

Tommy can be expected to arrive in one of his latest classic cars to join the group just as the doors open at 8:00 am. Jimmy and Rick noticed that my husband, Mark Albert, also wore a veterans cap. It is a special bond across branches of service, time, and experiences that Mark and I now cherish in these new friends we found. Look for the long back table, just in front of the fireplace, where they choose to dine and to greet the many fellow patrons and Jefferson Fountain staff who enjoy their genuine camaraderie.

### Tommy Ethridge

Tommy Ethridge, with his parents and four siblings, arrived in Oak Ridge via Greyhound bus in 1952. When the family spied their new home, an assigned TDU (Temporary Dwelling Unit) on a treeless lot at 105 Hickory Place, they suggested getting back on the bus to their former Alabama home. Tommy's father, Charles, was hired as a machinist at Y-12, a job that he would continue until retirement.

Tommy remembered his father's adherence to the vow of secrecy his early work entailed. His dad delighted in telling curious friends and family that he made windshield wipers for submarines. Later Charles would serve as an inspector on moonrock cases he helped build

for the NASA Apollo Missions.

Tommy shared the following story. "Astronaut Alan Shepard had to use his own belt to secure a case full of rocks that would not latch during his Apollo 14 mission. That case was returned to my dad for inspection. He discovered that a tiny overlapped piece of a zip-lock bag holding some of the rock samples had compromised the sealing tolerance of the case, and thus, it would not lock." No doubt, it was a finding that provided great relief for the Y-12 designers and fabricators.



Tommy Ethridge

Tommy's mother, Jackie Estell, served as the minister for the Mountain Assembly Church of God in Oak Ridge.

Tommy recalled that, at the encouragement of Robertsville Junior High coach Robert Stuhlmiller, he began playing football at Robertsville then later at ORHS. He played right tackle on offense and left guard on defense. He was proud to note that he played with friends whose Wildcat team became state champions in their senior year of '61.

He also had high praise for RJHS art teacher George Wilson who introduced him to a lifelong passion for art, a hobby that Tommy still enjoys, namely painting and carving.

Tommy described himself as a "distracted student, bright but prone to trouble making." ORHS Principal Tom Dunigan suggested Tommy take a battery of tests to certify his credit requirements for early exit from ORHS and the Class of '61. Tommy said, "I was bored and needing a change of scene." His test results validated his knowledge and skills. His ORHS diploma was mailed to him some two years later, after he had enlisted in the Air Force.

Older brother Charles (ORHS '54) was an example for Tommy of post-high school pursuits. Charles was a career military man who served in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He later died from the debilitating effects of Agent Orange exposure in 1968. Tommy chose to enlist in the U.S. Air Force. Two weeks into boot camp he received a call from his dad informing him that a military draft summons had arrived for him. The Army needed soldiers, but as for Tommy, his military future was underway as an airman and refueling specialist.



## Historically Speaking Continued:



*Jimmy Luttrell*

Jimmy Luttrell

Jimmy Luttrell had no idea when he visited the west end Oak Ridge skating rink in 1962 that the cute girl who caught his eye would be his future wife. He found himself making many more Oak Ridge visits to get to know Mary Kilgore.

Mary's family arrived in 1944 when her father moved from TVA dam construction jobs where area work was drying up. It was his TVA supervisor who advised workers that government jobs were waiting for the entire crew to help build a new city in East Tennessee. Her mother insisted on delaying the family's move until two weeks after Mary, the youngest child, was born. Mary said, "My mom did not want army doctors delivering me in the new secret city."

Before the Kilgore family of four children were assigned Oak Ridge housing, they lived in a farmhouse just outside Elza Gate. Mary said she could look outside their home's windows and see people waiting for the gates to open in the early morning. The family later moved to a flattop on the east end of Oak Ridge followed by one more relocation to a TDU in the Grove Center area. Her father was first employed as a mortar man alongside brick masons on federal construction projects before joining the City of Oak Ridge maintenance services at MSI.

Mary described a popular teen hang-out, the Oak Ridge skating rink, as a structure with oiled wooden flooring and large wooden window flaps that could be propped open for greater air circulation. Jimmy and a friend of Mary's brother had a habit of visiting area rinks to, as Jimmy put it, "Look for women." He found Mary and they began dating, but he said, "My 'Uncle Sam wants you letter' in May 1965 put any future planning on hold."

Mary was in nurse's training when he left, and she soon thereafter began work at the Oak Ridge Hospital. They mutually agreed to allow each other space during Jimmy's enlistment, only writing sporadically. However, a letter from Mary within the last two weeks of Jimmy's active duty, brought

him back to Oak Ridge in May of 1967. They married on July 1, 1967 after what Jimmy described as his concerted attempts to woo Mary away from another aspiring suitor.



*Rick Young*

Rick Young

Rick Young's parents moved from Georgia on the promise of a war-supportive job in 1943. His father had a 4-F classification, and he had previously worked in a mill and in the Savannah shipyards before being selected for craftsman work in Oak Ridge at Y-12.

The family stayed in Oak Ridge where Rick and his fraternal twin brother David were born, and where his father's career advanced to a craft foreman. Rick remembered one of his father's proudest work accomplishments, a team project to design and build the cases the NASA Apollo Missions used to collect moon rocks.

Both Rick and his brother David played Robertsville Junior High and Oak Ridge High School football, at guard and tackle positions respectively. However, due to a knee injury in Rick's sophomore year, Wildcat Coach Don Bordinger recommended Rick for specialized sports training and moved him to a student manager and trainer for the team.

After two-quarters of study at the University of Tennessee, Rick dropped out to work. That decision was soon followed by an invitation from Uncle Sam, a letter advising him to report for Army service. Rick joined in 1969 and served his two-year obligation with one year of that time spent in Vietnam as a cable splicer. This work experience would help define his future career.

Jim Roper

Jim Roper's mother, Lurlene, followed her older sister, Juanita, to seek work in Oak Ridge in 1946. Lurlene was hired as a telephone operator at the Oak Ridge Hospital, a job she held for 51 years. Soon after her arrival, other family members chose Oak Ridge as their home. Jim remembers that at one time, the tiny flattop the family was assigned housed seven of his extended family including his grandmother who cared for Jim while his mother worked. The family was later assigned a TDU on Robertsville Road, a

home in which Jim still lives some 67 years later.

Jim suffered with asthma from an early age. Many absences due to his illness meant that he had to repeat first grade. Jim described himself as too small for most sports, but he praised the efforts of Robertsville Coach Bob Stuhlmiller who offered him chances to overcome his limitations. Jim said, "He got me to try gymnastics, and he encouraged me to play RJHS football. He gave me new confidence." Jim did not continue to play football due to his size, but he tried new adventures at ORHS and still smiles when recalling his lead role in the school play, "Mr. Twister."

Jim confessed that he did not care much for school, and thus, he chose to enroll in the Distributive Education program where he could work part of the school day and beyond school hours in a local business. He started as a busboy at Shoney's and later worked at Kroger's. When he and a buddy failed tests to place them into military service shortly after high school graduation, Jim continued to work in Oak Ridge, that is, until his draft letter arrived in 1968. He was shipped to Vietnam in January 1969 after completing advanced infantry training at Fort Ord, CA.



*Jim Roper*

Telling these stories of brave, young Oak Ridgers who served during a time of war when their country required their commitment and service is challenging. Roughly 10% of their generation served in Vietnam, and yet many others of their generation opposed the war. All these men returned home to Oak Ridge, raised families, and retired here. I thank them for their willingness to serve, for putting their lives on hold to serve our country, and for the sacrifices they made in being away from friends and family.

Part Two of their story will overview their assignments during the Vietnam era as well as their later post-military lives.

\*\*\*

Thanks Benita, I am sure our readers are anxious to read part two.



# Audrey Young Competes at State



Central Middle School Eighth-grader Audrey Young competed at the Tennessee State Elementary School/Middle School Championship in Memphis on October 28, 2023, finishing 217th overall in a very competitive field of 275 middle school girls. Audrey was the first student athlete at the middle school to qualify for a state championship as an individual.

For the past two seasons, Audrey was the top girl runner on the WCMS team which was started by volunteer coaches, Mark and Vicki Simpson in the fall of 2022 shortly after they relocated from Chicago, Illinois. The Simpsons had prior experience working with their daughter, Stephanie, who ran cross country as a student back in Chicago and Vicki ran in school and has been an avid runner in adulthood.

Audrey improved her time since her inaugural season by cutting two minutes off her two-mile time. She had her best run time at the Kingston Meet at Fort Southwest Point in September, tackling the 2-mile, hilly course in 15:35. She qualified for the Chattanooga Regionals on October 21, 2023, and finished as a top 25 individual runner, which qualified her for the state championship.

The students and faculty at WCMS rallied around Audrey's success and had a fundraiser at the school to offset travel expenses to the championship. They even had a spirited send off at the school on Friday afternoon with students and staff waving signs and banners and offering lots of encouragement to the young runner.


Audrey is already planning for next year's season, when she will be competing at the high school level during Central High School's inaugural 2024 season of the program, which is being initiated by Head Coach Mark Simpson. His wife, Vicki Simpson will remain as Head Coach at the Middle School. The high school program will be a combined program with participants from both Wartburg and Sunbright Schools.

Coach Mark -


We're so very proud of Audrey. With this program in its infancy in Wartburg there is no place but up for her and all the student athletes.

Audrey- "I am nervous but I breathe in strength, and i breathe out weakness"





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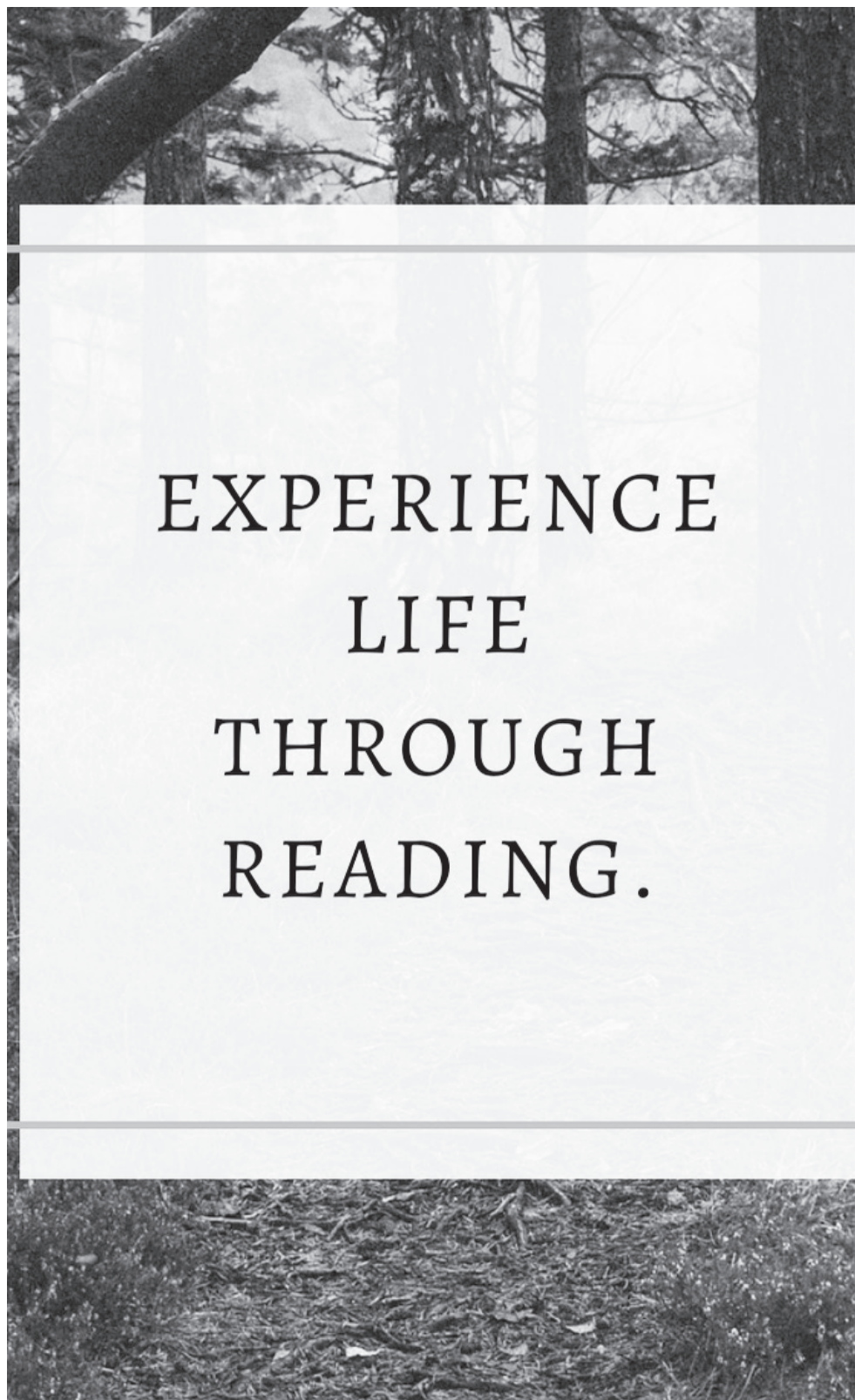
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# 3D Printing STEM Class at Sunbright



Students in Sunbright School's Save the Children Afterschool Program have spent many Fun Fridays working on projects in their new 3D Printing STEM lab. Some of their projects include designing name keychains, bubble wands for other STEM projects, Halloween figures like Jack-o-lanterns and spooky cats, and fraction bars. For their fraction bar project, students were given a number to be used as the whole, then had to do the calculations to find how long to make their  $3/4$ ,  $1/2$ ,  $1/4$ , and  $1/5$  bars. This has provided our students with opportunities to use math skills they're learning while developing designing skills using technology.



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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.

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## Why Does It Happen



**Tom Redmon**  
Columnist

Note: I wrote this article prior to my recent move to Florida from my home in Wartburg, Tennessee.

As I look over at my neighbors' house there is still sadness and a departed nature since I attended the funeral a week ago. Their son's life ended here on earth and at thirty-four-years of age he left three young children and two grieving parents who have lost their only child. I cannot imagine the feelings they have and the pain they suffer from their loss.

I met this young man when he was around nine or ten years old. I bought this house up in Tennessee as a place to go to for a vacation and renew my boyhood memories and maybe get away from the fast pace of life in Florida. It has been worth the price.

When I used to look over to the neighbors' yard, I saw a lot of joy and excitement. Grandpa and Grandma adored the twin girls who are now eight years of age and their grandson who is around ten or eleven. They showed their love not only in hugs and kisses, but also in the many toys and pretty things they bought them to show how they adored them.

Now when I look over there, I see nothing that resembles happiness. The yard is empty and there is a feeling of gloom. You cannot help but feel for this family even though you were not close as neighbors. When I moved up here, I went to all the neighbors' houses to introduce myself and take them some Florida citrus and a house gift. When the twins were born, I took them a card and money. Like it is all over this entire nation we don't have close neighbors anymore. But I love them just the same. This death has affected me just like he was close to me.

When something like this happens you cannot help but wonder what you can do to help them out. They used to go to our church. Yes, we pray diligently for them but is that enough? Some say well time will heal, but will time heal something like this?

Another sad event happened recently near my home in Wartburg. A sixteen-year-old boy was driving to work in Oak Ridge when his vehicle slammed into a big truck on Hwy-62. Here is a boy who had a job and had a life ending accident at just sixteen-years of age. I cannot imagine what these parents feel today. They said he was a good boy who had gone out fishing most of the night. Maybe he fell asleep driving. Regardless it was a tragedy. This boy's life had just

begun. Its not the first death we've had on Hwy-62.

Several years ago, a terrible accident happened in front of the Bullon's house on Hwy-62. Two cars hit head on and several people were killed. I don't know all their names but I do know Linda Strand whom I taught at Deer Lodge school back in 1962-63. She was a great little girl that I thought so much of. For some reason I thought this group of children would all live to be a ripe old age. So many of them who were in the 6th grade are already dead. Sometimes I wonder if



life is fair. I loved these kids and I have precious memories of Deer Lodge.

There are others who are dying in our country everyday and they shouldn't be. You can look in the obituary and see many young men and women who have died much too young. I don't mean to insinuate that all those who are in their 20's, 30's, or 40's have committed suicide but many have. In the past few weeks, I know of two young people, one male and one female who have ended their own life. Maybe all who overdosed while abusing drugs didn't mean to kill themselves, but I'm sure a lot did.

I have not made a study of this but

somebody needs to. We need to try to help those who are diagnosed and troubled. I know we feel that it is a psychological or mental problem that needs to be handled by knowledgeable professionals, but there aren't enough doctors qualified to take care of the many who are in need. I think first of all, we need loving families who will take care of the ones who they brought into this world. The disappearance of the American family is one of the biggest problems in our society. When you have some of our high government officials saying we need for the government to take over the raising of our children. I say "bull" to that. We need more loving parents who show their children they really love them and never neglect to take care of their needs, physical, mental, or spiritual.

Young people don't need to be raised by the social media. They need real people to love them and not a phone or computer. I really believe children need better homes and gardens and they sure need Jesus in their lives.

We get excited when new technology comes along and it is amazing the things that have come about the past 35 years. I'm afraid to say it but I believe that technology is part of the problem.

God tells us in the first book in the Bible that we need the closeness of others. David and Paul both expressed the need of companionship. Later I will be writing an article about being alone.

It won't happen but I think we need to put our smart phones away sometimes and come together in person with our friends, neighbors, and siblings.

Society has taken the wrong turn and we are paying the cost. Many of our young people are ending their lives because they feel depressed and life is not worth it.

Oh! how I've suffered from the loss of loved ones who died much too soon.

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# Revelation Chapter 6

The loosing of six seals: Chapter six of the book of Rev. begins a series of visions which constitute the prophetic portion of this final section of the New Testament. It has to do with the loosing of the seals of the scroll which the Lamb had taken from God. The first four seals, which form a unit, contain the material pertaining to those images commonly known as the four horsemen of the Apocalypse. The first horse, a white one, obviously denotes a time of conquest. The next horse is red. The picture suggested is one of bloodshed. The third animal is a black horse; the accompanying figures hint of a time of famine. Finally, the last is a pale horse, upon whose back is a rider denominated as Death, who is trailed by Hades. The picture is one of widespread devastation. The fact that these horsemen are instruments of heavenly judgment is indicated by the multiple usage of "was given" (v. 2, 4, 8), which suggests divine concession. The great movements of history are related to the authority of Christ. There are significant differences of opinion as to the identity of these horses, depending upon one's interpretative presuppositions.

(Rev. 6:1-2) Seal one – A rider is invited to "come." He is on a "white horse" and carrying a bow. He was given a "crown." A "conquering" force is indicated. There is wide disagreement on the identity of the white horse and its rider. (a) Some contend that the representation is that of Christ and the success of the gospel. (b) Others maintain that the depiction is that of "the prosperous period of the Roman Empire". (c) Still others believe the vision reflects the work of the Antichrist---a view wholly without justification.

The most prevailing view among commentators is either (a) or (b), each of which can be reconciled with general biblical truth; the "Antichrist" theory cannot be.

(Rev. 6:3-4) Seal two – The "red horse" bore a rider who was given a "great sword"; he came forth to "take peace from the earth." There were great slaughters, men against men. How was this fulfilled? The figure may be: (a) a period of bloody persecution of Christians following the initial success of Christ and his gospel (Mt. 10:34); (b) an era of tumultuous conflict in the Roman Empire---civil war lasting nearly a century.

There may be elements of both forces involved in blood-letting under this symbol.

(Rev. 6:5-6) Seal three – John saw a "black horse" whose rider had a "balance scales" in his hand. The ration of wheat, a day's worth for one person, would cost the equivalent of a day's salary (Mt. 20:2), and barley, the cheaper grain (used mainly for animals), would consume the same wages. Oil and wine would be luxuries, not affordable to the impoverished. (a) This may depict the extreme poverty that Christians would suffer as a result of the economic persecution they were forced to endure. (b) This period follows the political turmoil of the empire, resulting in excessive taxation, skyrocketing prices, scarceness of food, etc.

(Rev. 6:7-8) Seal four – The apostle next sees a "pale horse" upon whose back was a sinister rider whose name was "Death," and who was followed by "Hades." Death refers to the receptacle of the body when a person expires, while Hades is the state of spirits separated from their bodies. A fourth part of the earth was decimated by violence, famine, death, and wild beasts. The fact that these devastations were "given" their "authority" suggests the permissive will of God. (a) There are consequences to human rebellion. Christians, however, living in the same environment, necessarily suffer as well. The gospel age is one of glory and hardship, Opportunity and discipline, a precursor of glory or doom. The forces of hardship, however, were to be limited---only a portion of the earth was crushed. Some expositors contend that these conditions and patterns will be coextensive of

the entire Christian age. (b) Those of the historical school see this as focusing particularly upon the conditions of the late third century A.D. (c) The dispensational view that these events apply to calamities just preceding the millennial reign of Christ is based upon a series of false premises.

(Rev. 6:9-11) Seal five - When Christ opened the fifth seal, John saw a holy environment, after the fashion of the tabernacle and temple. He saw a vision of the sacrificial alter, underneath which were the souls of them that had been slain for the word of God and for their Christian testimony. These souls cried out, asking, "How long, O Master, holy and true, will you hold back from judging and avenging our blood upon our persecutors?" There was given to each one a white robe, a symbol of purity and victory. They were told to rest yet for a little time until Heaven's schedule of affairs was completed (during which period hateful persecution would continue). Several important truths are apparent. (a) Human beings have souls apart from their bodies. (b) Death separates the soul from the body (Jas. 2:26). (c) The soul is conscious after death. (d) Not all questions are answered as soon as one dies. (e) The righteous are, to a certain degree, rewarded immediately after death. (f) There is "rest" for those who await the reunion with fellow Christians. (g) Christ has a time plan he is pursuing, and we are not prepared to understand the intricacies of that schedule. We confidently know he is in full control!

(Rev. 6:12-17) Seal six – This section of John's vision is the subject of much debate among scholars. It falls into two sections. First, there is the description of a great upheaval of the material universe. The earth quakes, the sun and moon are altered in appearance, the stars fall, seasons are erratic. There is the shaking of heaven and earth (v. 12-14). Second, there is the terror of humanity at these phenomena; the inhabitants of earth beg for protection from divine wrath (v.15-17). Two questions arise: (a) Is the language to be viewed literally or symbolically? (b) Does the scene represent a temporal judgment, or is it a depiction of the final judgment? There is biblical precedent for both uses.

There are many Old Testament texts which project the destruction of the enemies of the Lord's people by means of images that depict the violent upheaval of nature's forces (Isa. 13:10; 34:4-5; Jer. 4:23, 28; Ezek. 32:7-8; 38:19; Joel 2:28). Some scholars, therefore, see these examples as precedents for the violent shakeup of the Roman world in the era when the back of anti-Christian persecution was significantly broken by a period of relief from pagan Rome.

On the other hand, other respectable scholars insist that the scene described here can have reference to no other event than the second coming of Christ and the judgment to be visited on that occasion. The brief glimpse here is said to be fragmentary and would be developed more fully later. It is purported to be "looked at proleptically here (the alteration of the time sequence) and more fully later". Several concluding observations are in order. (a) The diversity of opinion, even among respectable conservative students, is evidence of the difficulties in this book for the modern student. The "code" nature of apocalyptic language is effective! (b) The judgment of God upon evil doers is providentially possible and ultimately certain. (c) The Lord does not tolerate rebellion, and his ultimate judgment will make all things right and understandable. (d) These difficult texts are not to be employed as a "happy hunting ground" for views of current or end-time events (in the dispensational scheme of things).

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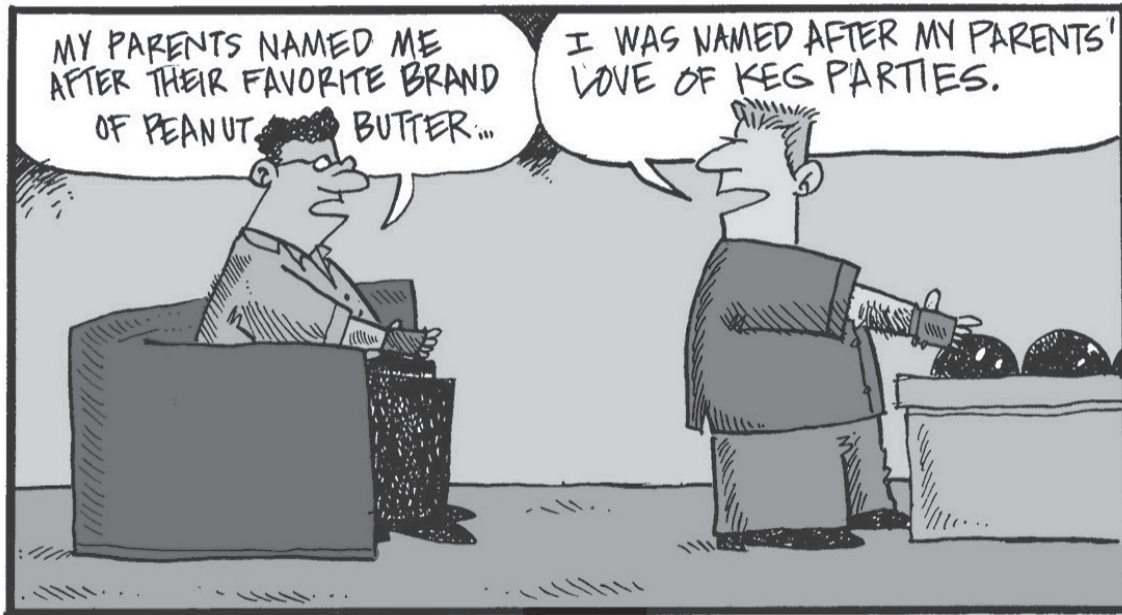
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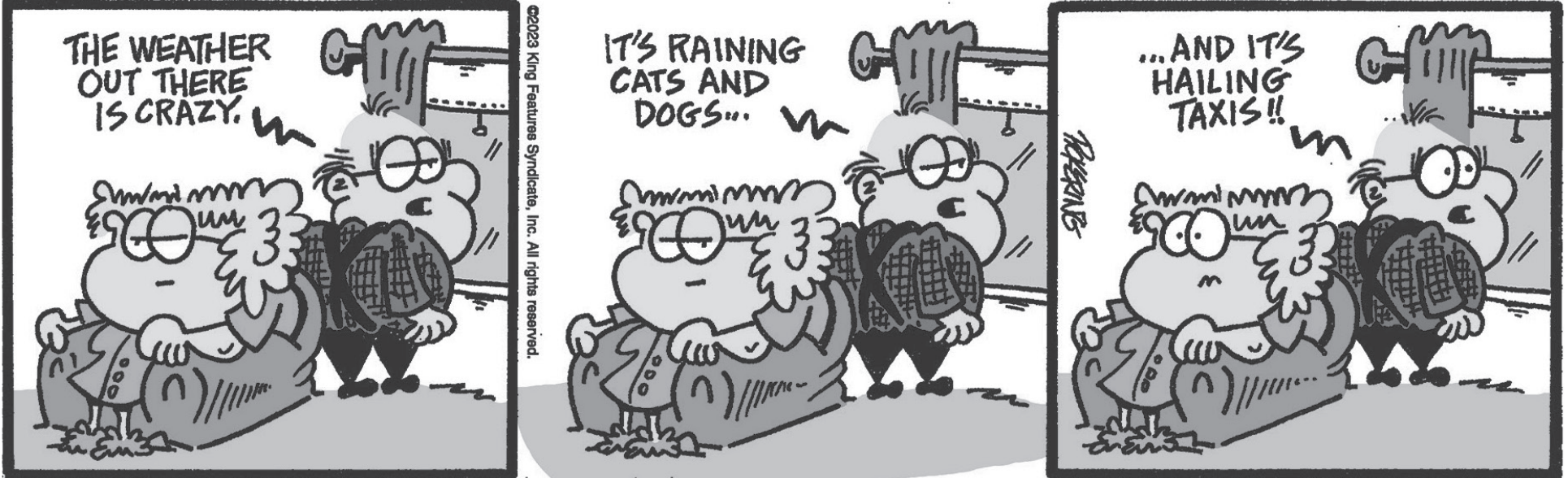
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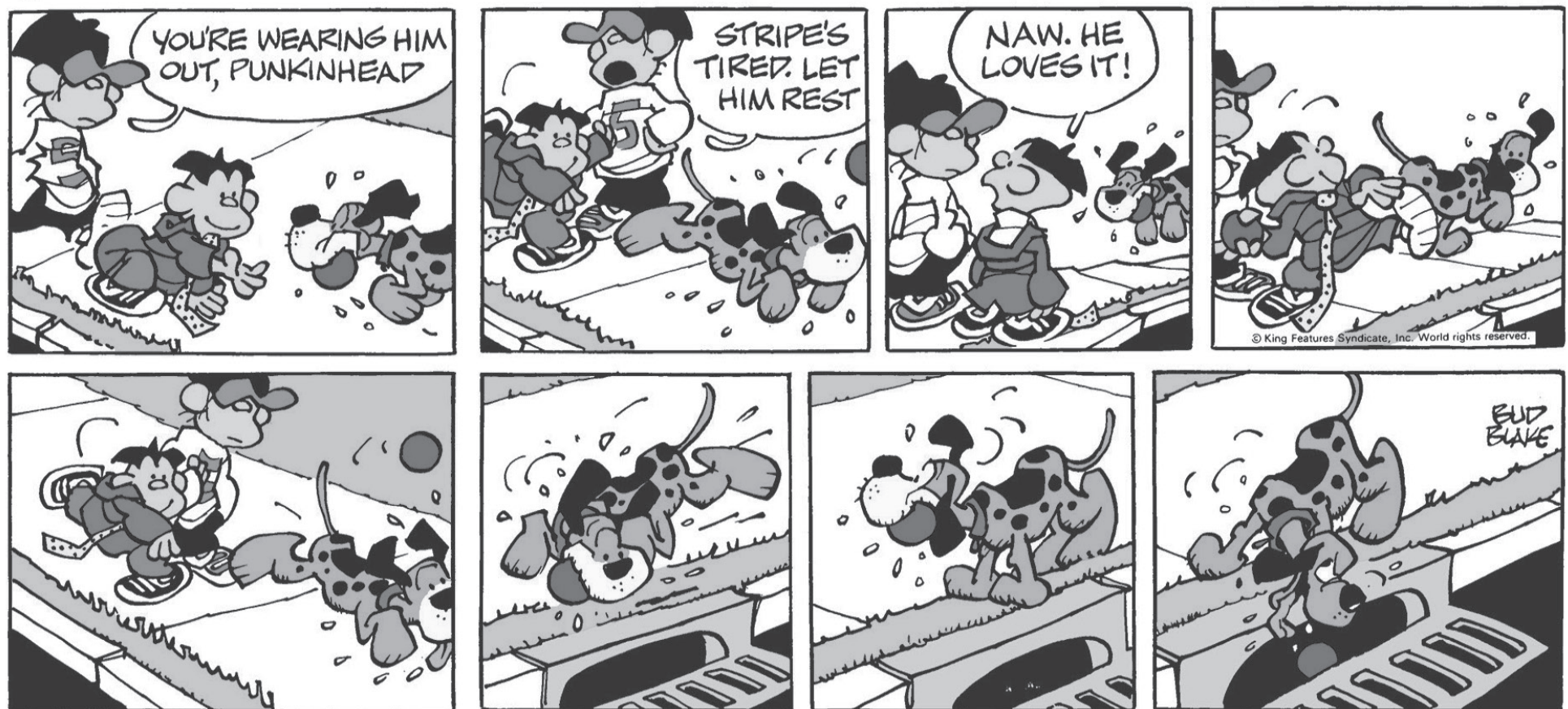
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**John Burns**  
*Opinion Columnist*

1993 ended in tragedy on a scale not experienced in Regimental history. 6 Rangers from one Ranger company killed on a combat mission. 41 rangers from bravo company wounded. 3 years running in my life, where rangers paid the ultimate price for our freedoms as Americans.

I was 26 years young. I had been to war, twice. I had a choice to make. Continue serving as a Ranger, or leave military service to find out what all the freedom I was fighting for, is about. My ideas about freedom would prove to be unhealthy.

I was operated on in November. Dr. Heekin, an Orthopedic surgeon agreed to assume control of my healing process. My goal was to be off the military profile list, to reenlist for another 6 years. A bone graft and nerve graft were needed to restore motion in my left leg.

I had saved some money while injured. I had never owned my own new car. I decided to take 5 grand and place a down payment on a Canary yellow and Black convertible Mustang GT. I ordered a five speed without thinking completely through my left leg injury.

My answer to the problem, find a girl to drive you everywhere you need to go. I put less miles on my own car than the girls I befriended while attending college at UCLA. To Rangers: University of Columbus Longside the Airport. To civilians; Columbus State University.

My education experience in university began like most college students. Alcohol and sex made class attendance easy. I found university education as lacking and not at all challenging. I figure my experience in war had tainted my ability to understand peace.

I began to sleep on a couch in a home rented by no less than 5 or 6 Rangers in the Wynnton road area of Columbus. The house was huge. Motorcycles fit easily in the living room. The number of women who stayed at that house can never be numbered. We were young men home from war.

I had too much time off! I had been accountable to my men and my Platoon Sergeant for 6 years of Army service since leaving home. Now, I only reported to John Burns. This is the beginning of the unraveling of a ranger career.

I had begun to work out at the local Gold's Gym. My Ranger buddies were still training for war. The party never stopped in 1994. I decided to include anabolic steroids in my recovery process. Problem # 1 is, they are completely illegal without a Dr. Prescription.

In the summer of 1994. I concocted a plan to travel to Poland, via Germany, to purchase steroids in quantity at a cheap price. I enlisted a civilian friend who was Polish to aid my travel. He introduced me to his brother who could purchase the product and pack it for transport.

My brain had stopped worrying about consequences. It was as if I was in the Army on paper alone. John Burns needed the structure of the Ranger platoon. Given too much time, a little money, and my brain will start figuring out how to come closest to the edge of challenging social rules.

# 1994

I began flying to Germany monthly, renting a car in Frankfurt, and traveling over the Polish border in the town of Oder. I would meet my connection, load the package, and return to my hotel in Frankfurt and await my flight in two days.

This occurred three times. The money I made furnished rangers with unlimited party favors. I even paid Rangers' rents when they struggled on an Army salary. The road goes on forever, and the party never ends! Thank you, Mr. Robert Earl Keen.

While attending college, I somehow made the promotion list for Sergeant First class. It was my first time in the secondary zone of promotion. I had 6- and one-half years on active duty. I never believed I would make this list at this time in my life.

I wanted to return to being a ranger squad leader first. Never-the-less, the Army decided I was worth promoting. Next stop the Non-commissioned officer academy and a date with ANCOC. This is a requirement for promotion to SFC.

My college experience ended in August of 1994. In September the promotion list was published and my Platoon Sergeant Rick Merritt, decided I should attend ANCOC as a walk on. I was still on a physical profile and I had not run two feet since October 3, 1993 when I was wounded.

I reported to ANCOC and received an alternate slot. I would share the classroom with SSG Jim Phippen and SSG Todd Hibbs, both men who would achieve great things in their own respective careers.

First, I had to inventory equipment and, assume responsibility for the Special Skills Shop at 3d Bn. I was now assigned to HQ company. The veil of comfort and hiding on 3d platoons' roster was over. I would attend ANCOC with a graduation date of December 1994.

While attending ANCOC, I appeared on the Levy roster for Vicenza, Italy. I know now that the CSM had decided I should take my Ranger leadership abilities to another unit, I did not agree. No use arguing. I wondered if this was not a setup for my steroid business, I thought no one knew about?

My reporting date would be July 1995. I would pass ANCOC, but not before tragedy struck Bravo company for the fourth year running. My heart would be broken and take the next 26 years to begin healing. I would lose another mentor and friend to a ranger training accident.

December 1994, would again not be a merry Christmas or happy new year.

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 11-24-2022

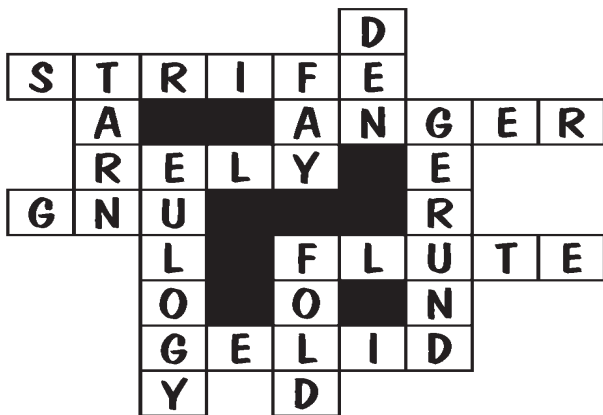
*Staff Sergeant John Burns enlisted into the United States Army on September 23, 1987 as an 11C Infantry Mortarman. He graduated from the 7th Infantry Division, Ranger Class 11/89 and served in the invasion of Panama, Desert Storm and the Battle of Mogadishu while assigned to the 75th Rangers.*

*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

## FEAR KNIGHT answer



## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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



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## Employee Retention Credit scams



David Zubler  
Columnist

The IRS is warning employers to be wary of companies advising them to claim the Employee Retention Credit (ERC). Scammers are claiming the ERC for businesses that don't qualify.

Many scammers are contacting businesses and claiming they qualify for the ERC. However, they would only know if you were eligible for the credit after obtaining your records first. They often provide fake documents to support their claim.

These scams can be very costly. The scammer's fees for making fraudulent credits can be quite expensive. Improperly claiming the ERC could result in your business being required to

pay back the credit and any penalties and interest.

The ERC was created to encourage businesses affected by the pandemic to continue paying their employees. The credit can be as much as \$28,000 a year for each employee.

Many firms charge 20% to 30% of the amount of the ERC refund. The large fees provide an incentive for firms to file for fraudulent credits.

Many scammers will shut down after making a substantial profit, leaving you to deal with the IRS problems they created.

There are numerous ways to prevent an ERC scam.

Work with a company that has been in business for a long time. They are more likely to avoid scams that would end their business.

Demand the company to provide actual proof of your ERC eligibility.

Ask if the company provides audit protection. Audit protection requires the company to reimburse you for penalties and interest in the event of an audit.

Find out if the company is licensed with the IRS.

Beware of anyone asking for an upfront fee or promising an ERC refund from the IRS.

You should check their track record of successfully helping their helping clients receive the maximum benefit. Check online reviews and ask for referrals from past clients to determine their level of customer service satisfaction.

You can also contact the Better Business Bureau to learn about complaints against them.

If you receive an email that claims they are the IRS, do not reply. Forward the email to phishing@irs.gov and then delete the email.

As a result of the enormous refunds that the EIC can provide to businesses, it creates an excellent financial opportunity for scammers.

Be wary if you are contacted by a company claiming that you qualify for the ERC. Being scammed can be very costly.

Many reputable companies can help you obtain the ERC. By doing research, you can avoid being conned by a fraudulent company.

*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

## How Much Exercise Do We Need?

What does "vigorous physical activity" mean? Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it means the hard stuff, like playing basketball or singles tennis, or swimming laps or running, ideally for 75 minutes per week. "Moderate intensive activity," such as playing doubles tennis or pushing a lawn mower, requires that we double the number to 150 minutes per week.

Those are the kinds of numbers that will keep the sedentary among us from even trying. The first step would be to check in with our doctor, certainly, to make sure we can start vigorous exercise. And the second step would be to find a basketball court. At the very least, for moderate exercise, we would need a walking partner or a lawn to mow.

Leave it to the Brits to come up with a study that we can get behind. This study concluded

that a mere 15 to 20 minutes of vigorous physical activity per week was associated with a 16-40% lower mortality. Bump that up to 50 or 57 minutes per week, and the numbers are even better. What this says to us is that small amounts of exercise per week can add up to reduced mortality and chronic disease.

Even the CDC agrees that at least some amount of physical activity is better than none.

Get out of the chair, walk around ... take an exercise class for seniors.

SilverSneakers, a seniors exercise program, is available online if you have a membership. If you have a Medicare Advantage plan, see if the SilverSneakers membership is part of your plan. If so, you can attend in person in your area or sign in and watch online.

The National Institute on Aging has a section with exercise information videos for seniors ([www.youtube.com/@NIHAg-ing](http://www.youtube.com/@NIHAg-ing)). Included are videos on balance, endurance, flexibility, strength and standing on one foot.

While you're on YouTube, do a search for "exercise for seniors" and see if anything appeals to you.

It only takes a few minutes.  
*2021 King Features Synd., Inc.*

# FLASHBACK

By Mick Harper

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- 1. How did Wayne Fontana (born Glyn Geoffrey Ellis) of the Mindbenders come up with his stage name?**
- 2. Which artist released "Sea Cruise"?**
- 3. Name the group that released "Looking Out My Back Door."**
- 4. The four Beatles were married a total of nine times. Name the remaining Beatles and their current wives.**
- 5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Why am I losin' sleep over you? Relivin' precious moments we knew? So many days have gone by, Still I'm so lonely."**

## Answers

- 1. He took the name from a combination of actor John Wayne and Elvis Presley's drummer, Dominic Joseph (D.J.) Fontana.**
- 2. Frankie Ford, in 1959. Since then the song has been covered by Herman's Hermits, Freddy Cannon and Jimmy Buffett, among many others.**
- 3. Creedence Clearwater Revival, in 1970. The song topped the charts in Sweden, Norway, Canada, Austria and Australia, as well as the U.S. CashBox.**
- 4. Paul McCartney is married to Nancy Shevell, and Ringo Starr to Barbara Bach.**
- 5. "Over You," by Gary Puckett & the Union Gap, in 1968. Surprisingly enough, none of the Gap's songs ever topped the charts in the U.S., with only "Young Girl" going to No. 1 in the U.K.**



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