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# Morgan County Today

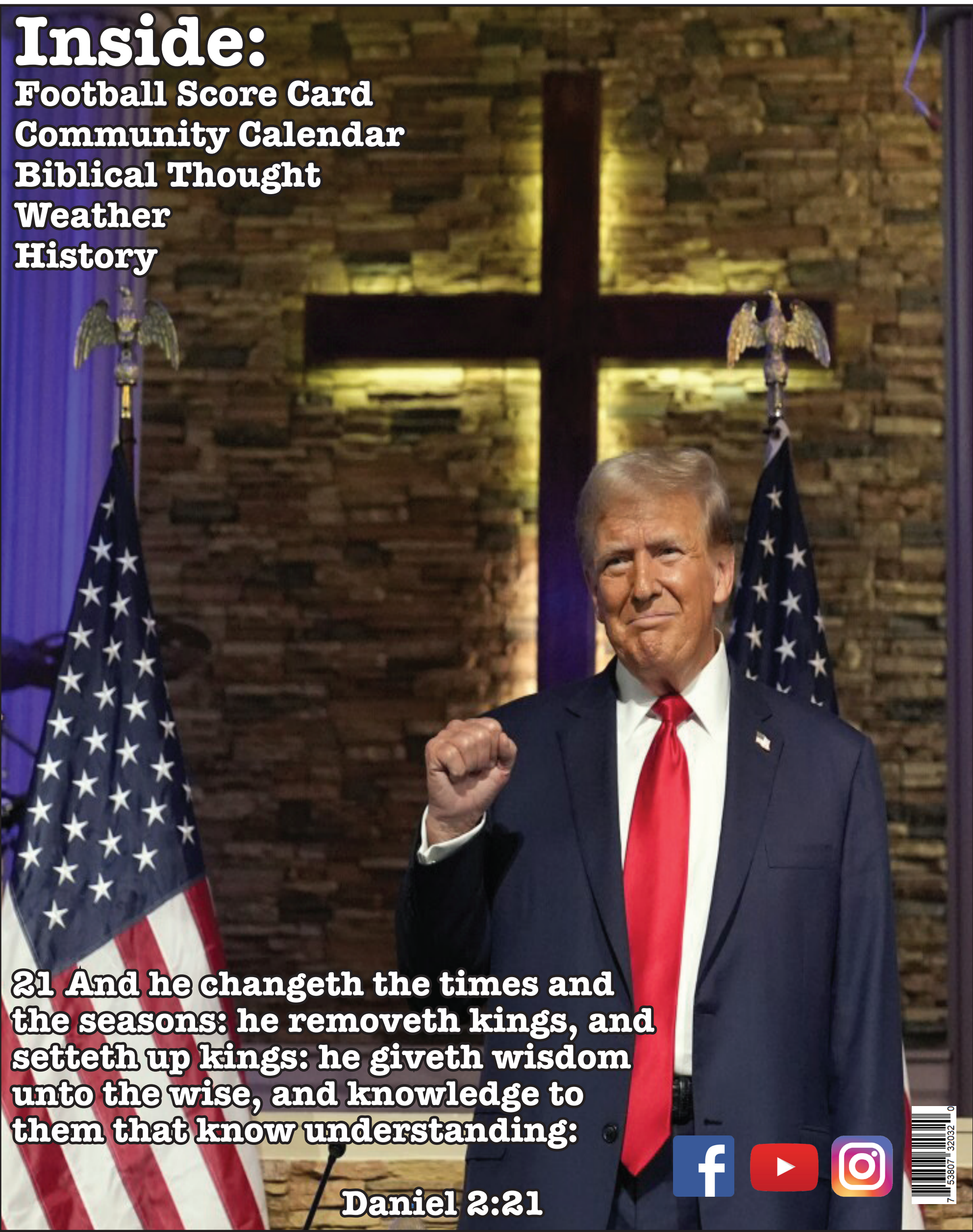
Psalm 100:3  
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Volume 10 Number 45  
Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Your Community. Your News.

75¢

## Inside:

- Football Score Card
- Community Calendar
- Biblical Thought
- Weather
- History



**21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:**

**Daniel 2:21**



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Your Community. Your News.

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**Ms. Avery Pearl  
Pet Columnist**

# Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

## Thankful Season, Yay!

Phew, now that election thingy is over, I sure hope that we can all put those ugly words and stuff behind us! Golly, that was ruff.

Now, its on to the best time of the year! It's Thanksgiving Season Y'All! It's the time of year that everyone pauses and reflects on the goodness in their lives. Time that we all look at our families and are thankful that we have people to wuff, that wuff us.



Isn't that what life is about? Wuffing others is just the best thing ever!

Then, there's this big dinner and lots of family comes over. That's when the greatest, most yummy thing happens! Pap sneaks Ms Ivory and me some yummy turkey and ham. Shhh, don't tell Mimi cause Pap will get in trouble.

During this wonderful time of year don't forget to watch those you love, laugh and play. Enjoy the love and joy on their faces. Absorb those memories, they are so precious. Don't forget to take pictures, you will be glad that you did.

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

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Senator Yager's 29th Annual Chili Supper set for Friday, November 22

*Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$5. All proceeds benefit a local nonprofit dedicated to reducing youth substance abuse*

(NASHVILLE) – On Friday, November 22 at 5:00 pm, State Senator Ken Yager (R-Kingston) will hold his 29th Annual Chili Supper and Silent Auction at Roane State Community College in Harriman. Proceeds from the event will go to the Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition - a local nonprofit dedicated to reducing youth substance abuse. The world-famous chili will be ladled by well-known celebrity servers, including many state and local officials. Live music will be provided by Grand Ole Opry stars Mike Rogers and James Carothers.

Senator Yager promises it will be a great time and encourages all citizens to attend the Chili Supper.

“This will be a great event where many will gather for a worthy cause,” said Yager. “I am grateful to have the opportunity to raise money for the Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition which does incredible work to combat youth substance abuse and strengthen our community.”

“In addition, this will be a fun, family-friendly community event with great food, good music and lively conversation,” added Yager. “We will have a large crowd, and I look forward to spending time with all who attend. The more the merrier!”

The live music entertainment will be provided by talented Grand Ole Opry musicians Mike Rogers and James Carothers. Mike Rogers is an accomplished musician, songwriter and producer, who currently sings and plays acoustic guitar for Ricky Skaggs as a member of his band Kentucky Thunder. James Carothers, a native Tennessean, is a Nashville honky-tonk crooner. Carothers is best known for his stone-country originals and spot-on impressions of some of country music's greatest icons.

The event will take place from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Roane State Community College in Harriman at the Vann Student Lounge on Friday, Nov. 29. Tickets will be \$5 and can be purchased at the door.

### December 7

The 5th Annual Christmas Drive Thru will be Saturday, December 7 from 10:00 - 1:00 at Frozen Head State Park. Guests can drive through to enjoy holiday scenes while enjoying a cup of hot chocoate. Anyone wishing to participate should email [heltons@mcsed.net](mailto:heltons@mcsed.net).

**The Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center** meet on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 PM.

**Coalfield Genealogical and Historical Society** meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Senior Citizens Building at 6:00 PM.

**Morgan County Republican Party** meets the last Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at the American Legion in Wartburg.

### WEEKLY WEATHER



Tue 12	64°/43°	
Wed 13	66°/49°	
Thu 14	62°/40°	
Fri 15	63°/41°	
Sat 16	67°/49°	
Sun 17	68°/55°	
Mon 18	66°/56°	



# Disgraced Senator Menendez, Senate Seat Up for Grabs

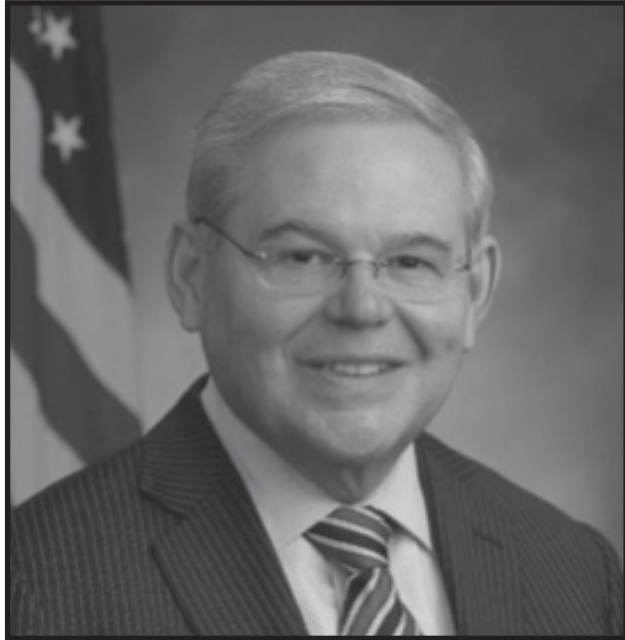


**Michael Nance**  
*Columnist*

The disgraced Senator on all 16 counts of the indictment. Menendez's sentencing was originally scheduled for October 29th of this year, but now has been rescheduled for January 29, 2025, making the Presidential election very important for Menedez.

With all eyes on the Presidential Election this month, the New Jersey Democratic Senators seat has left many mainstream media headlines. New Jersey Senator Bob Menendez was convicted of bribery in August of this year, bringing his long democratic political career to an end.

Menendez was charged with a wide range of corruption charges which included providing influence for money to certain individuals, some of which are closely linked to foreign governments. The Jury agreed with prosecutors and convicted the



**Senator Robert Menedez,**  
photo courtesy of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

The New Jersey Governor appointed his former aid George Samir Helmy to the Senate seat upon Menendez's resignation. On August 16, 2024, Governor Murphy officially appointed Helmy to the United States Senate, and he took office on September 9th, making him the sixth Arab American to obtain office in the Senate.



Photo Courtesy of George Helmy for Senate

Democrat Andy Kim current Congressional Representative for New Jersey won the three-way democratic primary, while businessman, Curtis Bashaw is the Republican nominee. Also on the ballot for the seat are four independents: Libertarian Kenneth Kaplan, Green Party candidate Christina Khalil, Joanne Kuniansky of the Socialist Workers Party and Patricia Mooneyham.



**Curtis Bashaw, Rublican Nominee for New Jersey Senate,** Photo Courtesy of Bashaw for Senate



**Andy Kim Democrat Nominee for New Jersey Senate,** Photo Courtesy of Congressional Office.

The N. J. Senate race has big implications for the political parties as the Democrats currently hold a 51-seat majority. This includes four independent Senators who caucus with the democrats and the republicans only need to flip two seats to regain control of the Senate. Many Senate democrat incumbents are facing tough reelection races in swing states which include Ohio, Montana, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

The Senate elections this month has huge governance implications, but they are not gaining many headlines due to the public polarization between the republicans and democrats.



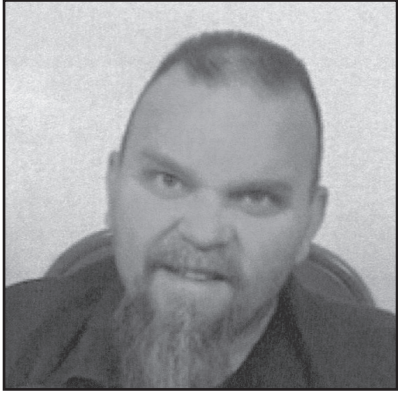
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— In Loving Memory —

**Onvie Michael Ray Brewster, 56**



Onvie Michael Ray Brewster of Wartburg, born August 25, 1968, passed on November 3, 2024, at his home.

He leaves behind his loving wife of 34 years, Lori Brewster, son Michael and wife Jada, daughter Olivia and Dustin Young, 6 grandchildren, Brynleigh, Coralyn, and Lainey Brewster and Annsley, Addison, and Jaxon Young. His mother, Wanda Brewster and brother James and wife, Kim Brewster, and brother Kevin Berry also remain.

He was blessed with having a large family, which includes father and mother in law, Larry and Cindy Walker and many family members which include sisters and brothers in law,

aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, all of whom loved him dearly. He will also be missed by his work family at Stower's Machinery, where he worked for 30 years.

He was preceded in death by his father, Mike Brewster, grandparents Onvie Brewster and Helen and Harold Hagen, and sister, Tonya.

Ray enjoyed traveling, on and off of his motorcycle. He was an avid barbeque enthusiast.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 from 12-1 pm Schubert Funeral Home Wartburg.

Funeral services will follow at 1pm with Bro. Garry Martin and Bro. Russell Jones officiating. Internment will follow in the Anderson Memorial Gardens, Clinton, TN.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Onvie Michael Ray Brewster*

**Lillian R. Scott, 82**



Lillian R. Scott age 82 of Deer Lodge, passed away on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, surrounded by her family.

She was preceded in death by her husband Hershel L. Scott, Parents Earl and Enith Cox and Brother Ike Cox.

Lillian is survived by her two children: Son; Daniel Scott, and Daughter Barbara (Chris) Rogers. Two Grandson's Corbin Rogers and Kendall (Aaleyah)

Rogers. One Great Granddaughter Miley Jo Rogers. Brothers and Sisters: Buddy (Lucille) Cox, Norman Cox, LeRoy (Diane) Cox, Betty (Randall) Armes, Danny (Charlotte) Cox, Susie (Larry "Tubby") Williams, Donald (Teresa) Cox. Also surviving are a host of Nieces, Nephews and friends.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, November 7, 2024, from 11am-1pm Schubert Funeral Home Wartburg. Funeral Services will follow at 1pm with Bro. Russell Jones and Bro. Roy Langley officiating. Internment will follow in the Mt. Hope Cemetery, Deer Lodge, TN.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Lillian R. Scott.*

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

**Psalm 123:1**

**Unto thee lift I up mine eyes,  
O thou that dwellest in the heavens.**

**Daniel Caine Norman, 39**



Daniel Caine Norman of Petros left this earth suddenly on November 5, 2024, at the age of 39.

Daniel was born February 18, 1985. He is preceded in death by his mother, Kim Norman; maternal grandmother, Melvaline Daugherty; paternal grandfather, Reece Liles; uncles John Daugherty, James Daugherty and William Liles; and Cousin Amanda Daugherty.

He is survived by his father, Mark Norman of Petros; children, Bentley Caine and Mya Love Norman of Wartburg; one brother, Jeremiah Norman of Petros; grandmother, Carolyn Liles; uncle Todd and Kelly Norman, aunts Carolee and Travis Heidle and Sherry Worbington. His loving girlfriend, Heather Frye and her daughter Everly.

He also leaves behind a host of cousins: James and TJ Daugherty, Jamie Daugherty, Tonya Jones, Drake Liles, Sierra Liles Akin, Milas and Jubal Campbell, evi and Shelby Heidle, and Lauren Norman.

Daniel attended Coalfield High School. Academics was not his forte, but he was one hell of a football player. A local news station even did a story about Daniel, aka "Stormin Norman" in his little league years after he rushed for over 2000 yards. When Daniel got the ball, it always took him a little bit to get going; he started out in what looked to be slow motion, but when he finally got up to speed, he was gone. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing, spending many early mornings in the woods with his dad.

Daniel was the life of the party. He was a storyteller. It's still up in the air whether his stories were true. He told some of the most outlandish and absurd stories and would have you crying from laughter by the time he was done. Even as a little boy, he had a smile that would take up his whole face while making people laugh.

Sadly, Daniels journey through life was marred by drug addiction. He fought that addiction for many years. He fell down many times, but he kept getting back up. Sadly, on November 5, he just wasn't able to get back up. Addiction extinguished his light just as it has for so many others in our community.

Families have been ashamed to talk about the people they lose to addiction for far too long. While addiction is nothing to be proud of, it must be acknowledged; the addict and their family and friends have to say its name aloud; we must admit it exists. Addiction only ends one of two ways: in recovery or in the grave. There are treatment centers. There are grants available for those without money or insurance. Take action. Get treatment, or help your loved one get treatment. And, stop tolerating the distribution of these deadly drugs in your community. You know who the dealers are. Report them. They're trying to kill your family members, after all. Treat them like that's what they're doing. And keep reporting them until they're no longer a problem.

Your life doesn't have to end like Daniel's did; your child's life doesn't have to end that way; your neighbor's life doesn't have to be that way.

Admit that addiction is real. Look it in the eye. See it for how evil and ugly it is. Then, fight it like you're fighting for your life, or fighting for your child's life – because you are.

The family will have a graveside service Saturday November 9, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at the Norman Family Cemetery in Petros, TN, with Bro. Gary Massengill officiating.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Daniel Cain Norman.*





**Tom Redmon**  
Columnist

## Choosing the Right Road to Take

A lot of us can look back on our life and say that life was not fair. It sure isn't.

From the time I was five-years-old until I was in my thirties, I was plagued with allergies and hay fever. Mom would say Tommy has a summer cold and the doctor must have agreed with her because all I remember taking was aspirin. How I passed in school was a miracle, because many days I could barely hold my head up? Back in those days. Aller-

gies were not considered a disease and we had no specialist like we do today. We just went on suffering.

In my years from nine to twelve, I was lucky to get through them. First, I had a bout with appendicitis that kept me down half the time. I loved to go on fishing trips with the family and sometimes I hurt so bad that I had to stop in the woods while Dad and my brothers and sister went on to the river. Finally, when I was in the 4th grade my parents had to get me to the hospital for an operation. With that problem solved I thought life should get better. But it didn't.

When I was ten or eleven-years-old everything hit me except cancer. First, I had a garden sprayer to blow up in my face. The plunger came up and hit me on my chin and the damage it did was immediate and long standing. I almost bit my tongue off and my gums were severely damaged. I couldn't eat solid food for several months. When I was in my 40's and 50's all my lower teeth turned dark and the dentist said the roots had died from the severe blow. When I was forty-five-years-old I had zero cavities but I lost all my lower teeth.

The next thing that happened was properly the worst thing that could happen to a young boy. My brother and I were playing in an old barn when two boys attacked us and sexually abused us. For along time I blamed myself because we had slipped off; we were told to play in our yard. For years this affected me greatly. I wanted to wear a heavy coat in the summer time and I didn't want to take a shower with other football players and with fellow sailors while serving in the Navy. It got better after I got married. Wanda, my wife was really the reason, but some of the symptoms have lasted throughout the rest of my life.

The next thing that happened was getting shot on a fishing trip. It was an accident and I never blamed Junior Phillips. It could have been two other boys who were shooting wildly at cans in the river. The bullet hit me in the chest and could have been fatal if it had gone another inch further and hit a major blood vessel. Dr. Bowman said I could have bled to death before they got me out of the wilderness. Here at eighty-eight, I still have the bullet in my chest.

While all of those things were happening to me there was a little girl who lived on Liberty Road that I had a crush on. I mean I dreamed of this sweet girl a lot. I was a Lone Ranger fan so of course I was seated on a white stallion that looked like Silver and Margaret was on a beautiful paint and I envisioned that we were on my hill up above my house. It was quite a show.

When I was on Liberty Road I always wanted to slow down and look up on that little hill at the house where Margaret lived. It was a special place to me. Margaret lived there until she was a junior in high school. Then her dad moved to Wartburg to be closer to where her dad's store was located.

All through elementary school I was hoping Margaret would be in my class. I wasn't so lucky in 5th and 6th grades but in Miss Ruth Jones' 7th grade class and Mrs. Stilla Maden's 8th grade class I hit the jackpot. Margaret didn't sit by me in either class, nor did I talk to her much. Still Margaret remained my secret love. What helped is that Margaret went to Liberty Church where I attended but still, I didn't let anyone know that I was crazy about her.

Somewhere about this time in my life I made a vow that I would go to college and make something of my life. Because of what had happened to me in that barn when I was between ten and eleven years of age maybe I could be worthy of Margaret's love. I had grown to believe it wasn't my

fault but still I felt dirty inside because of it. Also, some of my siblings were not doing good in their marriages and lives. All four who were older than me had dropped out of school and my next oldest brother was about to marry bad blood and regardless what Mom and Dad said he wouldn't listen. No Redmon in the John Redmon clan had finished college but maybe I could. I never knew how I could do it but I was willing to work hard and give my all. My two older brothers had joined the Navy and I was proud of them for that. As-a-matter of fact Willie J. was my hero because he was in WWII.

Later on, when I was in high school, I figured college would take me five or six years and the Navy four. I would be twenty-six or twenty-seven-years-old before I could get married. At that time in my life, I didn't think there was chance I could get Margaret, but you can bet I still dreamed about her.

Then when I was a senior something happened. All the girls said that Tommy Redmon is the most handsome boy they had ever seen. I was chosen not only most handsome but prettiest eyes and the second most popular in school. I dated a lot of girls but I didn't date Margaret. But Margaret got with Shirly Melhorn, and told her to invite Frank Osborne down to her house and somehow, she could get Tommy Redmon down. This was my opportunity. I went home and thought about it long and hard. For years I

had been struck on Margaret Brasel and I wanted to start dating her. But this thought came to me; if I date Margaret one time and hug her, I would be deeply in love and school would be out. I would want to marry her. I would find myself married without a job around home. I would find myself like my brothers and sister struggling through life because of a young marriage. I would have ended up in Joliet, Illinois or Pontiac, Michigan and I sure didn't like factory work.

I guess most of you know which route I chose. I guess somehow, I thought Margaret wouldn't get married right away, but she did, and she got a good husband. I think they have a good life together.

And as for me, I think I did pretty good in life too. I earned a B.S. and a Master's degree, plus sixty hours toward another degree. I taught thirty-three and a half years in Tennessee and Florida. I taught 11th and 12th grade in Cookeville, TN and was the teacher of the year in 1969. I loved what I was doing. I had a wonderful wife who gave me three children, and now I have five grandchildren and four grandchildren have graduated from college with one being a doctor. One grandson is married to a wonderful school teacher and most of my family are Christian.

Oh, by the way I was a school administrator over twenty-years.

Still, I can't help thinking about that little girl on Liberty Road. Life is funny in how it works out. I think God has certainly been in my life and Margaret's too.

- Epilogue -

Hooney and Margaret are my best friends. We talk to each other on the phone and we see each other at class reunions. I'm happy for them. I can see the joy reflected in their faces.

I thank the Lord for helping me on the long journey of preparing me for teaching, the job that I loved. When I look back, I have to think that I had taken the right road. I learned that the first day I entered the classroom.

When I look at Robin, Scott and Jason, my three children I have to think of the gifts they have brought me. Sometimes I think of Margaret and what I really missed, and believe me it was hard to do what I did. I turned my back, so to speak, on the girl that I loved for many years. I suffered through many years wondering where I could get the money to pay my way through college. In 1958 I had suffered through two bouts of flue and I could have given up, but when I got my call to the Army, I realized that it was my time to serve my country in the Navy. I could finish college later, and I did. Yes, I was twenty-seven when I got married. We moved to Cookeville and I got my B.S. and Master's and kept going. The G.I. bill helped me and four a change at the end I got an education and had money in my pocket.

Thank you, **Lord**.



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## FLASHBACK, By Mick Harper

1. Which group released "Rag Doll"?
2. Name the artist who wrote and released "Dreamy Eyes."
3. Which group released "Green-Eyed Lady"?
4. Who wrote and released "Cracklin' Rosie"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "If I could take my pick of all the girls I've ever known, Then I'd come and pick you out to be my very own."

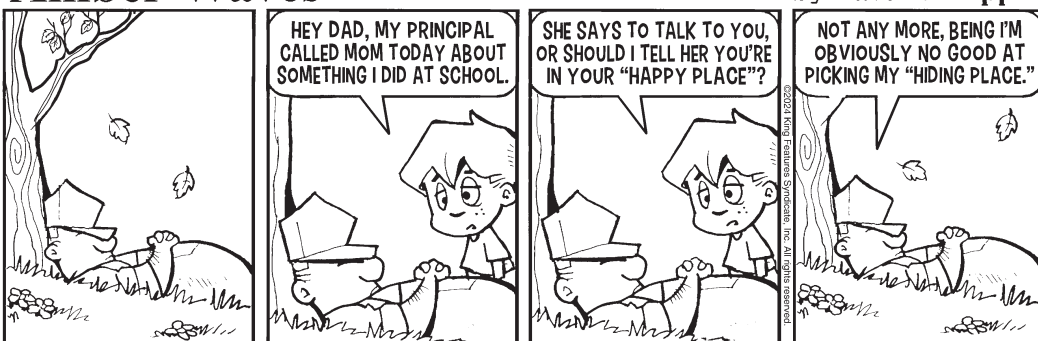
### Answers

1. The Four Seasons, in 1964. The song spent two weeks at the top of the Hot 100 chart and reached No. 1 in Canada as well.
2. Johnny Tillotson, in 1958. The song was his first single and made it on to the Hot 100 chart. Tillotson penned several more hits over the years, including "Poetry in Motion."
3. Sugarloaf, in 1970. A few years ago an old tape was found of the group's live performance in 1975. It was remastered and turned into a vinyl album titled "Sugarloaf Live 1975." It's available online.
4. Neil Diamond, in 1970.
5. "Never Be Anyone Else But You," by Ricky Nelson, in 1959. Nelson's song has been covered by several artists, including internationally, over the years. The song has recently been used in a TV commercial for chicken noodle soup.

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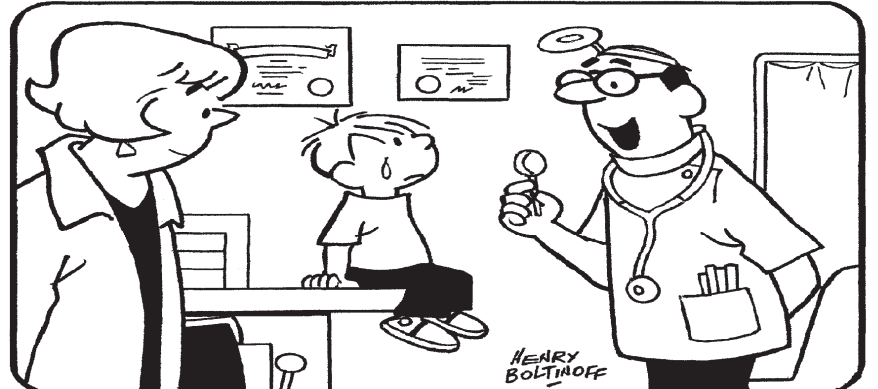
## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

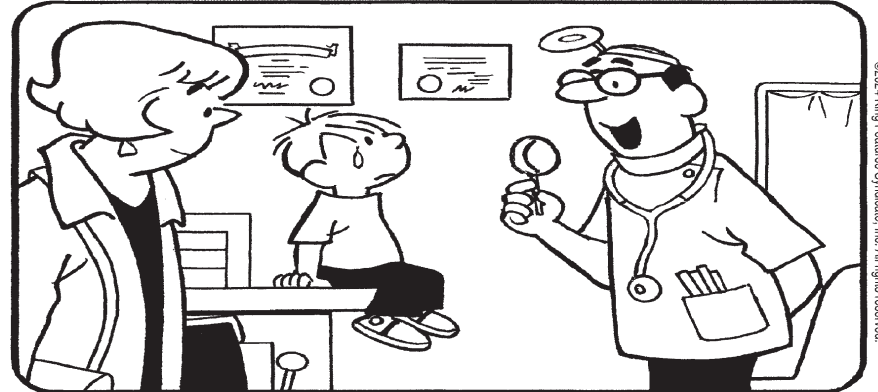


## HOCUS - FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTAOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Exam table is not as long. 2. Pocket is reversed. 3. Teardrop is higher. 4. Lollipop is larger. 5. Curtain is not as high. 6. Purse is added.

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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 Thursday, November 28th-Thanksgiving Day CLOSED  
 Friday, November 29th-CLOSED  
 Tuesday, December 24th-Christmas Eve CLOSED  
 Wednesday, December 25th-Christmas Day CLOSED  
 Thursday, December 26th-CLOSED  
 Tuesday, December 31st-Closing at 1pm  
 Wednesday, January 1st-New Year's Day CLOSED



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2024 Soul



David Zubler  
Columnist

## New rules for hiring subcontractors

The Department of Labor (DOL) has made it harder to classify workers as independent contractors for labor law purposes.

One benefit of hiring independent contractors instead of employees is that subcontractors are not protected by most of the federal and state labor laws.

The new changes will result in more companies having to pay time-and-a-half to workers who were previously exempt from the overtime rule.

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) sets minimum wages and overtime standards for employees. You are generally subject to FLSA rules unless your annual business sales are less than \$500,000. You can't be engaged in interstate commerce to qualify for the exemption. Employees who are exempt from the FLSA rules include executive, administrative, professional, computer related, and outside sales employees.

FLSA rules require businesses to pay all non-exempt employees time-and-a-half when they exceed 40 hours a week.

If a business fails to pay overtime, it can be required to pay back overtime pay for two years along with compensation for breach of contract. If the misclassification is determined to be intentional, the back pay period is three years.

Under the new DOL rule, six factors must be considered when determining whether a worker is considered an independent contractor or employee. No single factor determines the status, and all should be considered.

**These are the six factors to be considered:**

1. **Opportunity for profit or loss.** Independent contractors can earn through their independent effort and ability to make decisions including hiring their own staff and buying material.

2. **Investment in facilities and equipment.** Independent contractors make decisions regarding purchasing their own equipment and tools.

3. **Permanency of the relationship.** Independent contractors generally work on a project for a specific period. A long-term indefinite work relationship can be a sign of an employee relationship.

4. **Nature and degree of control.** Your business's control over an independent contractor should be limited to avoid being considered as an employee.

5. **Integration into the employer's business.** If the work is done for a job that is critical to the company's business, it is more likely to indicate an employee relationship.

6. **Skill and Initiative required.** Workers who use their own specialized skills, and plan their projects are more likely to be considered as an independent contractor.

Hiring workers who are an entity such as an LLC or corporation can increase your chances of having them ruled as independent contractors. However, making workers create an entity solely for the purpose of being ruled as an independent contractor won't work.

Businesses that use independent contractors should require them to sign an independent contractor agreement that waives the right to bring or join a class action lawsuit against your business for worker misclassification.

*David Zubler is a nationally known tax accountant and Enrolled Agent that resides in East Tennessee. He is the author of six tax books and a syndicated columnist who has shared tax advice on podcasts and national TV and has been referred to as America's Tax Guru. He is the founder and president of Your Tax Care. He represents clients nationwide before the IRS and provides tax strategies, and tax education, including David's one-minute tax tip radio recordings at YourTaxCare.com. David can be reached at (865)363-3019 or by email at david@yourtaxcare.com.*

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## Historically Speaking “Duty, Honor, Country”:

### ORHS Class of ‘22

#### Twin Brothers at West Point

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Benita Albert brings us this intriguing story here at Veteran’s Day.

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Caden and Jamison Uptgraft began their junior year in mid-August by participating in the 2024 West Point Affirmation Ceremony. The occasion affirmed their commitment to complete the next two years of study and to serve in the U.S. Army and to defend the United States Constitution. The ceremony was held on the night before classes began for the newly minted Second-Class Cadets. They will complete 500 more days of academic studies focused on learning and leadership development followed by a minimum five years of active-duty service.

Twin brothers, Caden and Jamison, are ORHS Class of 2022 graduates whose family arrived in Oak Ridge after their father’s retirement from the U.S. Army in 2019. ORHS was the eighth school they attended in their K-12 educational journey, a not uncommon test of resiliency academically and socially for many military children. However, these brothers knew that ORHS would be their last and final school. Their parents, Amy and Jamie Uptgraft, placed a high priority on finding a rich cultural, educational, and recreational environment where the family of four children could grow and thrive. They chose Oak Ridge.

I first heard of Caden and Jamison when I met the twins’ grandfather, Jim Uptgraft, during a breakfast with mutual friends.

Jim counts four United States Military Academy (USMA) appointees in his progeny: his son Jamie (USMA Class of ’99), his ORHS grandsons Caden and Jamison (USMA Class of ’26) and an Indiana grandson, EJ Reichert (USMA Class of ’25). When I heard this, I was gob smacked! I immediately asked Jim if he could connect me to his twin grandsons for a story for Veterans week 2024, a story celebrating two more ORHS grads who have chosen military service. Jim and his wife, Denise, made Oak Ridge their new home after moving here from Indianapolis in 2021. How fortunate Oak Ridge is to welcome even more of the Uptgraft family.

Jamie Uptgraft (the twins’ father) was a four-year letterman on West Point’s Black Knights basketball team who graduated from the Academy in 1999. He spent 21 years in the Army, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was an infantry officer who led men and women from the platoon to battalion level. He deployed into combat five times: two to Iraq and three to Afghanistan. His wife Amy said, “He once told us that his most rewarding deployment was in support of Joint Force Katrina in 2005 because he was able to help Americans get to safety.” Jamie currently works for Consolidated Nuclear Security at Y-12 as the Director of Security Transportation. His military interests continue through his volunteer work on the Board of Directors of the Mountain Man Memorial March, as President of

the East Tennessee West Point Society, and as a United States Military Academy Field Force Representative.

Amy Uptgraft (the twins’ mother) graduated with a theatre degree from Purdue University and was a working actress in New York City before marrying Jamie at the start of his active military service in 1999. She counted thirteen moves and seventeen different homes as well as the birth of four children during her twenty-one years as a military spouse. In addition to Caden and Jamison, there are two daughters: Peyton, a senior at ORHS and Wynnie an eighth grader at Jefferson Middle School.



Caden and Jamison Uptgraft at age 6

Amy has acted, directed, and taught in theatres all over the country. She currently directs the fall play at ORHS and teaches acting workshops for the Masquers theatre program. She is active in support for military spouses, and has been involved in creating the Veteran’s Spouse Project. The Project documents generational military spouse stories through a program called “Stories We Tell,” and the Project also offers online writing and creative arts classes. Amy has written two plays, “I Will Wait” and “in\*Between” honoring the role of military spouses. To learn more about the Project visit the website [www.veteransspouseproject.org](http://www.veteransspouseproject.org)

Amy’s grandfather adds more to the military ‘stories to be told’ and honored in the family. Amy wrote, “The twins’ great-grandfather, Lloyd Ball, was a tanker who invaded the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, and was injured in the line of duty, receiving a Purple Heart. When the war ended, he returned to farming in Indiana. The last trip that he took was to watch his future grandson-in-law, Jamie, graduate from the United States Military Academy in 1999.”

I asked Caden and Jamison to share their diverse educational experiences in seven different schools from grades K-9. Those schools ranged across the country from New York to Kansas to Tennessee to Colorado to Alaska and finally Georgia. Shared sentiments included: “It seemed

we always had to prove ourselves at each new school and to make new friends, but it helped to know that we always had each other.” Seventh and eighth grades in Anchorage, Alaska received a top vote. Caden commented, “I loved the sheer beauty of the place. We were always outside playing and not wanting to come in during the long hours of daylight.” Ever the risk takers, they loved snowboarding, that is, until Jamison broke both arms pursuing the sport. Salmon fishing rated high as a new and exciting pastime. They made friends in Alaska with whom they keep in touch still, including two friends who are now at West Point.

Their first impressions of ORHS were that it was much larger than their previous Columbus, GA school, that the basketball arena was awesome, and feeling excited that this would be their school for the next three years of high school. They marveled at the vast course offerings and the diversity of the school population. They brought athletic skills that placed them on the Wildcat basketball team, Jamison as a shooting guard and Caden as a power forward, where they lettered all three years. Caden also played third base and center field positions on the ORHS baseball team.

Both pursued rigorous academic schedules including Advanced Placement coursework in U.S. History, Statistics, Environmental Science, and Human Geography. They expressed praise for their ORHS teachers who they felt were strong influences in their future choice of majors at West Point. They both served as Wildcat mentors to underclassmen, and they achieved membership in the National Honor Society. Caden worked for two summers at the Clinch River Environmental Studies Organization. They both held part time jobs in the community.

Their school records and leadership were worthy of admission to any university, but their final choices came down to the University of Miami and West Point, vastly different options. They insist their final decision was made independent of each other. Jamison said, “We had five days after the West Point offer was extended to decide.” Caden said that one of his considerations was the impact on his parents if they had two college tuitions to pay simultaneously, but he also said, “We both knew we wanted to serve. We deeply admired our dad’s commitment and service.” Jamison added, “It would eat me up if I turned it down.” Once final decisions were made, neither was surprised, and perhaps both were relieved to know that they would once again be taking on a new, challenging adventure together at West Point.

The admissions standards for the Academy are extremely high. They accept only 12% of all applicants, and the first seven weeks of grueling “Beast Barracks” averages a 5-10% dropout rate. West Point ranks third in top public liberal arts colleges on the 2023-24 Best College Rankings. They require stellar high school academic records and evidence of strong leadership skills in their candidates. They require every cadet to participate in at least one competitive sport and to pass the Army Combat Fitness Test twice each year.

### Historically Speaking

“Duty, Honor, Country”:

ORHS Class of ‘22

Twin Brothers at West Point

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

I asked them to give advice to future Wildcats who might want to consider a service academy beyond ORHS.

Jamison: “You should go for it. Many 18-year-olds don’t even consider this choice, though they are many levels above requirements and could place. If you are thinking about it, I would say it is a best option for future success. West Point will mold you into a leader.”

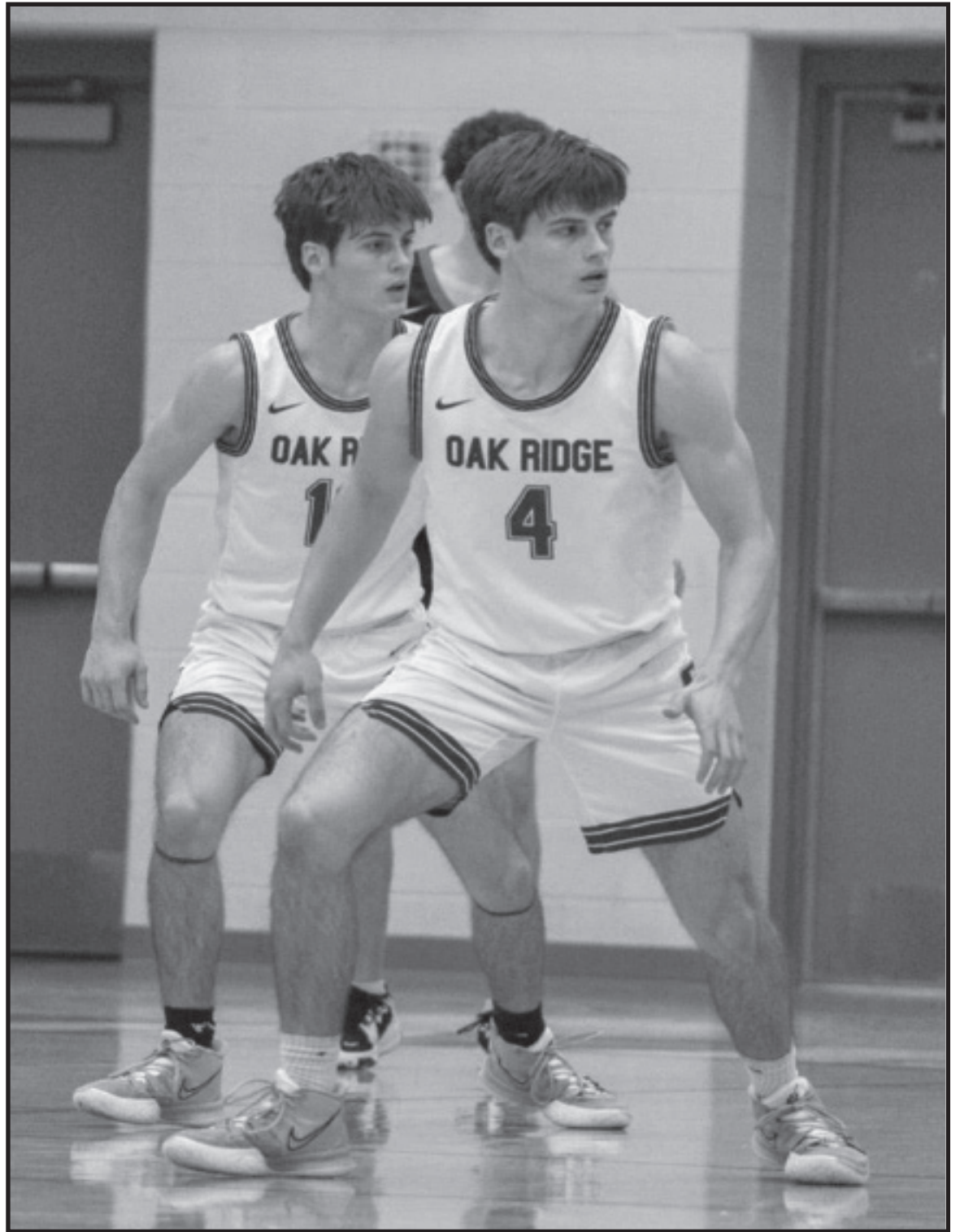
Caden: “Try a little bit of everything in school: sports, activities, academics. Look for leadership opportunities at school and in the community. Develop public speaking skills.”

And finally, in sober reflection on their comments, Caden advised: “Be aware that wake-up call comes at 5 a.m. And know that you will be yelled at frequently.” His comments were delivered with sincerity, and also an impish smile. Caden added, “I am grateful for our West Point opportunity and the fact that it has worked out for the two of us.”

The United States Military Academy graduates more than 900 new officers annually which represents roughly 20% of new lieutenants required by the Army. (Fact Sheet, USMA) Caden and Jamison have completed most of their core requirements and are now focusing on higher level coursework in their majors while also developing and assuming greater leadership responsibilities. More on their experiences at West Point will be featured in the second installment of this story.

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Thanks, Benita, Readers, look for the rest of the story next.



Caden and Jamison playing Oak Ridge High School basketball

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# Becoming the Tau, Psalm 119 Vs 169-176



**John Burns**  
**Opinion Columnist**

Vs. 169 Let my cry come before thee Oh Lord; give me understanding according to thy word.

Vs. 170 Let my supplication come before thee; deliver me according to thy word.

Vs. 171 My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes.

Vs. 172 My tongue shall speak of thy word; for all thy commandments are righteousness.

Vs. 173 Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts.

Vs. 174 I have longed for thy salvation, Oh Lord, and thy law is thy delight.

Vs. 175 Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help thee.

Vs. 176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep, seek thy servant, for I do not forget thy commandments.

Today we finish our study of the supernatural acrostic psalm of King David with the 22d letter of the Hebrew aleph-bet. The Tau. It is pronounced Taw. It possesses a scriptural numerical value of 400.

The Tau is defined as a cross shaped mark. It appears in English translations of the Bible as the letter T. This revelation changed entirely how I began to understand the Bible. The Tau brought tears to my eyes, each time I realized that our entire story points to the finished work of Christ's crucified.

The Tau first appears in scripture as the mark of Cain. The word mark in Hebrew is represented by the letter Tau as one letter. He appears to be creation's first murderer and the world's first evangelist to a fallen world. God placed the cross upon his head and sent him into the world as a witness of mercy.

Within the story of Cain and Able is the paradox of faith. What is your faith actually in? Does your own ability to stop sinning matter? Is sin our problem, or is how we intend to answer God for sin the true problem in creation? Has religion prostituted grace without daily requiring unending mercy?

Religion teaches that Christ is a reaction to sin. Faith teaches that sin is the lot for those born of a woman. Sin is the only mechanism by which we begin to understand why Christ was God's sovereign plan all along, God cannot learn and he cannot lie. Christ crucified is the plan of God.

Cain had come under the influence of the shining one who deceived Eve and Adam by getting them to question the authentic promises of God. Lucifer convinced Cain to become jealous over Abel's faith. Jealousy led to the murder of Abel. Abel's faith was in God's promise to Adam.

Abel was following the plan of God taught to Adam after they transgressed and began the first church service. God prepared the blood of an unblemished Lamb to cover their nakedness while Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves in the hopes that a temporary covering would be enough.

All sin begins when God's word is questioned in any way. Sin indeed has consequences. God's came up with the most preposterous plan to deal with the sin he knew would engulf humanity under the influence of the fallen angel army. Christ crucified is God's one answer for all sinners.

God wrote the word to every person born of a woman. No preacher has a monopoly on biblical revelation for the anointing we each receive from God is real not counterfeit. We do not need men teaching us the ways of God if we daily submit to biblical correction.

God gave us the incredible creation language of Hebrew to teach us his mind. His mind views each one of us exactly alike. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. We all need the Tau covering our nakedness. Only the blood of the Lamb covering our sinful flesh pleases God.

God's word is his Aleph-Bet or Alphabet. The Aleph has been revealed in the creation name of God the Father. The Aleph is the Ox. It is a burden bearer to be sacrificed for the sin of humanity. Now the Aleph-Bet ends with the Tau, the mark of Christ, the cross.

We are born in the waters of our mother's womb. We are born again at the foot of the Tau. Mercy and grace are the open hands of Elohim our trinity, nailed to the cross as a sign. The sign gave birth to the resurrection. To be raised incorruptible begins each day with our solemn cry for unending mercy.

Lucifer has succeeded in getting men to separate God's word and people. Denominations all have their own ideas about the mind of God and its application in all questions of faith. Their ideas are not our Creator's ideas. Church chases an idea about God. God chases individual sinners to the foot of the Tau.

Next time someone asks you if the cross is in the Old Testament, you are prepared to give a scriptural answer. Everywhere the letter T appears in English, the subject is the cross of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ in Hebrew teaches us of the letter of the law it is written of me. All scripture points to Jesus Christ.

Sovereignty is God's promise to sustain every aspect of creation. Our God is an extremely jealous God over his divine attributes as sole Creator. The Hebrew Aleph-Bet is a miracle revealed by our Creator in the life of Jesus Christ. Remember; the God we claim faith in cannot learn and he cannot lie.

His written word is his warranty deed over his creation. It is his promise to all those who would not mock him. His word is his insurance policy to all who would believe in this most preposterous plan devised by the Trinity of creation in eternity past. Our eternal life exchanged for Christ's death.

I am a soldier who took human life in war. War had caused me to focus completely on what divides humans. My faith now affords me an opportunity to share God's ideas about unity. Unity begins each day when I join myself to God in earnest prayer for mercy over my own life.

Only then will grace begin to appear in the lives of others and only when humility becomes our Christian testimony. Does God trust us with leading others to the foot of the Tau of Christ?

God called us to go ye into all the world and teach the gospel of unending mercy from God, leading to the revelation of unwavering grace in the person and likeness of Jesus Christ my risen bridegroom.

God's greatest gift in my life has been his call to teach for free what Christ freely offers from that lonely hill entitled Calvary. I pray this study of the Language of Jesus Christ blesses you with scriptural correction as it continues to do each day when I look in my mirror and cry out for mercy.

Blessed are the merciful, for they alone shall be shown mercy from God.

I love you all in Christ. Pray often for this humble teaching ministry. In Christ's love and eternal service, JB.

**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.**



# Luke Chapter 5, 6, & Chapter 7



**Melvin Howard**

(Luke 5:1-11) The miraculous catch of fish: As Jesus went about Galilee preaching, the crowds pressed upon him and heard the word of God. Standing by the Sea of Galilee, the Lord needed a convenient place to teach; he saw two ships, one of which belonged to Peter. He had the disciple push him out slightly from the shore, sat down, and began to teach (v. 1-3). When he had finished, he asked Peter to push out into deeper water and let down his nets to catch some fish. The apostle, known to argue with his Teacher on occasion, responded by implying he might

know more about fishing than a carpenter. They had fished all night and caught nothing. (Interestingly, even today many fishermen fish that lake at night; one can see their boats coming in about dawn.) Nonetheless, he agreed to do whatever Christ suggested (v. 4-5).

Following the Lord's instruction, the nets were lowered. Amazingly, they were filled immediately. The catch was so large that the nets began to tear. Help was summoned of their partners in the other boat. Both boats were so loaded with fish they began to sink (v. 6-7). The meaning of the miracle hit Peter like a hammer. Jesus could control nature---in this case, the fish of the sea. It was an act of God! In the presence of deity, the disciple fell to his knees and cried: "Depart from me: for I am a sinful man, O Lord." One cannot but be reminded of a similar response in Isaiah's life (Isa. 6:5). Others were amazed as well, including James and John, who were partners in the fishing business. The Lord encouraged Peter, saying, "Stop being afraid [the force of the Greek]. From now on you will be in the 'men-catching' business." Was an impression made? Indeed; they left everything and followed the Master.

(Luke 5:12-39) Healing a leper (Mt. 8:1-4; Mk. 1:40-45), the paralyzed man and his four friends (Mt. 9:1-8; Mk. 2:1-12, the call of Matthew (Mt. 9:9-13; Mk. 2:13-17, and a question about fasting (Mt. 9:14-17; Mk. 2:18-22) read all of these.

(Luke chapter 6:1-19) the controversy over plucking grain (Mt. 12:1-8; Mk. 2:23-28), the man with the withered hand (Mt. 12:9-14; Mk. 3:1-6; and choosing the twelve (Mt. 10:2-4; Mk. 3:13-19) please read all.

(Luke 6:17-49) The Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5-7): Some expositors believe this sermon is similar though not the same as the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's record; this one was on "a level place" (v. 17). Most scholars appear to accept Luke's version as the same presentation, though significantly condensed. Matthew reflects the general area (on a mountain) while Luke depicts a specific location (a level place on the slope).

(Luke 7:1-10) Healing the centurion's servant (Mt. 8:5-13): read.

(Luke 7:11-17) Raising the widow's son: This event is unique to Luke. The Lord leaves the Capernaum area and travels about twenty-five miles southwest to the community of Nain. He was accompanied by his disciples and a large crowd. As Jesus drew near to the gate of the walled community (note the detail Luke has gathered in his investigation), there was a funeral procession making its way away from the village toward a burial place. A "young man" (v. 14), the only son of his widowed mother, had died--a double tragedy. The dead usually were buried quickly before the onset of decomposition. It is ludicrous to allege, as some critics have done, that the lad was only unconscious. There was a large company with the dear lady (v. 12), and they were all too familiar with the nature of a dead body.

When the Lord saw her (the verb gives prominence to the discerning mind), he immediately was "moved with compassion" for the sorrowing woman and gently said, "Stop crying." The Greek word reflects a loud weeping. Jesus approached the bier (a portable frame) on which the corpse was being transported and touched it (not the lad). The pallbearers stopped. Jesus spoke: "Young man, I say to you, 'Arise'." The verb is a passive form---"be raised"---showing that the power of the resurrection was not in the youth, but in him who is the "resurrection and the life" (Jn. 11:25). The youth sat up (without assistance) and started speaking. Then there is this tender touch: "And he gave him to his mother" (v. 15). Human curiosity clamors to know what he said, but the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit on Luke's pen did not reveal it. A reverential awe seized the crowd, and they glorified God saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us; and God has visited his peo-

ple." The report of this spread throughout the "whole of Judaea." "Judaea" is sometimes used to embrace the whole country (1:5).

(Luke 7:18-35) John's bewilderment (Mt. 11:2-19): read.

(Luke 7:39-50) A visit to home of Simon the Pharisee: This account is found only in Luke's Gospel. A Pharisee (the strictest sect of Judaism and normally opponents of Christ) wanted Jesus to dine with him and invited the Lord into his home. His motive is not revealed; we can surmise, however, that at best it was mixed. At least he was curious to know more, and Jesus loved him for it. At meals, the tables were low, close to the floor, and people reclined around the table in a very relaxed format. As Simon and his guest (with perhaps others) were eating, a woman came into the room. She had a notoriously sordid reputation throughout the city and was most unwelcome.

She obviously had heard of Jesus' presence there and wanted to see him; hence, she "crashed" the event. She had an alabaster (stone) jar of ointment with her. She came to where the Lord was and, standing behind him at his feet, began to cry audibly (so the Greek). Her tears fell like a torrent and wet his feet. Perhaps embarrassed, she likely knelt and began to dry his feet with the tresses of her long hair; then, perhaps impulsively, she repeatedly kissed (the force of the verb) his feet, anointing them also with the ointment. The room was doubtless a commotion of consternation, not the least of which was Simon's horror.

When Simon observed all this, the logical wheels of his mind began turning. (a) If this man, who professes to be a prophet, were in fact one, he would have known of the disreputable quality of this woman, and he would not have allowed her to touch him. (b) But he did not restrain her. (c) Therefore, he is not a prophet. His fallacy was in his major premise. He never openly expressed this, but it was in his mind.

At this point Jesus said, "Simon, I have something to say to you." The Pharisee replied, "Go ahead, Teacher." He was polite in his unbelief! Christ then told a brief parable. "A man had two debtors who owed him money. One owed a hundred dollars [if we may convert the currency], and the other ten. The lender cancelled both debts; which of the two will love him most?" Cautiously, Simon replied, "I suppose, the one forgiven the most." One of the purposes of a parable, on occasion, was to cause folks to concede to a truth before they saw the applicability to themselves. The trap was sprung and Simon was caught. Christ now explains the background. This woman was no stranger to the Son of God. They had met before. And the contrast between the Pharisee and the sinful woman was dramatic.

When the Lord entered this home, he was not afforded the common amenities of a respectful host. Christ had been provided with no water to wash his feet; the woman had washed his feet with her tears. Simon had not anointed the Teacher's head with common oil; the woman had anointed his feet with expensive ointment. Simon had given no greeting kiss; she had smothered his feet with loving kisses of gratitude. The difference was miles apart. Yes, this woman had been a sinful creature in the past, but her sins had been "forgiven" (the verb indicates a past act with abiding results). Her overtures on this occasion, therefore, were the result of her love and thanksgiving for the pardon she previously had received. The lesson was this: those who have the greatest appreciation of forgiveness will be bound to show it most; those with little gratitude, if any will demonstrate it scarcely at all. The woman's faithful response to Christ's mercy on a previous occasion had brought her salvation. The Savior told her to go and be at peace with herself. What a powerful lesson. On more than one occasion, Luke shows sympathy for the sinful and their distressful plight.

BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo  
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