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Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3
www.mocotoday.com
Volume 10 Number 46
Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Your Community. Your News.

75¢

Inside:
Community Calendar
Biblical Thought
Weather
History

For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

Isaiah 41:13



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Morgan County Today
Your Community. Your News.

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**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

Mimi Took A Fall

Ms Ivory and me got a big scare the other day. It all started when Mimi decided to decorate for Christmas.

So, Pap got all the decorations and trees out of the closets and stuff. Man, what a mess. Well, Pap went to work the next day and Mimi was trying to get some of the decorating done, while he was gone. She decided to rest her back and sit on the couch. That's when she realized that she left her phone on the step ladder by the steps. She went up the steps to get her phone, turned around and it happened.

Some how she managed to fall! It was a frightening sight! Ms Ivory and me, well we went crazy. We sounded the alarm like we never have before. We tried to help Mimi but, no one heard us.

Well, she managed to call Ms Mary. Ms Mary came right over. Mimi was so thankful to know that if she needed help, we have good neighbors.

Any-woof, Pap came home and Mimi and Ms Mary were on the couch. Mimi is banged up and sore, but okay. She bruised her hip and shoulder pretty bad but it could have been worse.

Phew, Ms Ivory and me are so glad Mimi is alright. I have been sticking to her like glue. That woman always takes care of me when I'm hurt or sick and I have to give her extra wuffins, to help her feel better.

Moral of the story, keep your phone in your pocket, that way you have it if you need to call for help. By the way, this is me sitting guard at the top of the steps and hoping that never happens again.

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



WEEKLY WEATHER

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Tue 19	63°/57°	
Wed 20	62°/36°	
Thu 21	44°/34°	
Fri 22	42°/33°	
Sat 23	49°/31°	
Sun 24	54°/38°	
Mon 25	57°/43°	

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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 impersonations 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.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The 5th Annual Christmas Drive

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 chocolate. Anyone wishing to participate should email heltons@mcshed.net.

City of Sunbright - AGENDA FOR November 19, 2024 Meeting begins November 19th at 6pm

- Agenda:
- Issues with SAVFD
 - Scottie Lane Properties/Pigs
 - Sunbright clean Up
 - Potential Property Owners
 - Progress of growing city

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.

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Election Night, November 5, 2024, The Red Wave



Michael Nance
Columnist

As Tuesday night approached, my family, close friends and I sat down and had a meal together before the results started to roll in. We had committed to making this night memorable, so my wife cooked a cake that took literally 9 hours to put together the day before. It was a recipe that Abe Lincoln's wife reportedly cooked for him at the news of his reelection, if the cake was like the one my wife cooked, it must have been a real treat for the war beleaguered Lincoln. We all wondered who would win the Presidential Election, and no-one had any delusions that the votes could be counted by the end of the night. Another topic that came up at the dinner table, was the fear that regardless of who won the contest, we could see civil disobedience in some of the densely populated cities of the U.S.

So, what were some of the media predictions on the election before any results came in? We discussed those as well.

Allan Lichtman, a university professor who has several past election successes under his belt, predicted that Vice President Kamala Harris would win the contest. On the other side of the coin Nate Silver, who is a statistician, writer, and poker player who analyzes and predicts the outcomes of baseball, basketball, and elections hints that Trump will win the election in a close race.

Watching the election coverage one of the first notable items was that over 84 million voted early, no-doubt a new national record that demonstrated a high total early voter turnout. One of the items that both left leaning and right leaning media outlets were agreeing on was the importance of Pennsylvania in the contest.

By 7:01 EST, one of the major networks called the states of Kentucky and Indiana for Trump, both were foregone conclusions, as Trump always performs well in both states.

By 10:15 EST, it was obvious even to the novice onlooker that Trump was firmly in the lead and the Red Wave began. In the end, Trump and the republicans won not only the Presidential Election but are firmly in control of the United States legislative bodies for at least two years. This gives Trump a great platform to get his legislation passed, and it is obvious that is the will of most of the American people.

So, in this contest Nate Silver called the election correctly and Allan Lichtman now adds an incorrect prediction to his tally. And despite the many concerns there was not any significant civil discord around the country, a great result!



Image Courtesy of the Scottsdale Mint

By the next day the left leaning democratic networks were in shock, and the finger pointing had already begun. By November 10, it was clear that many democrats were convinced that Biden's economic performance, the border, and the far left in their party are the reasons that the majority of voters repulsed their policies and candidates.

Now with the republicans in almost total control of the government comes great responsibility and a genuine need for compromise. It is when one party is in total control, they have the greatest opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to the country and our system of government.

If the republicans can solve the border crisis, end the many wars, and most importantly solve our countries astronomical financial issues, all while demonstrating civility, it will be a great four years for our country. If they push the ideological needle to far to the right, well, they just need to look what happened to the democrats this election to see what the results will be. Our system of government is obviously the best in the world, even with its many problems. One of the reasons is the ability to self-correct when the ideological needle goes too far left or right. Trump has the most historic opportunity, and the proven skill set, to bring our country together, lets all pray that it happens.

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Hazel Mae (Goode) Anderson



in (Chasity) Anderson Granddaughters: Lindsey, Cassidy, Corrianna, Erica, Millie Anderson Grandson: Caleb Anderson Great Grandsons: Ryker and Cash. Sisters: Lou (Tommy) Christmas, Mary Ayers Also surviving is her special friend: Karen Lamance-Brown.

Hazel never met a stranger and loved doing things for others.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, November 16, 2024, from 12-2 pm Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral services will follow at 2pm. Interment will follow the funeral in the Fairview Cemetery, Lancing, TN.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Hazel Mae (Goode) Anderson

Hazel Mae (Goode) Anderson went home on November 6, 2024, Hazel was born in 1950 to Milton and Ruth Goode.

She is preceded in death by her husband: James Anderson, father: Milton Goode, mother: Ruth Patton, sisters: Edna Justes, Pauline Woelk, Debbie Brantley, brothers: Cecil Goode, J.D. Goode, Daughter-in-law: Misty Anderson.

She is survived by her sons: James Mark Anderson, Kev-

Linda Jane Diden, 65



survived by several nieces and nephews. Also surviving is a dear friend, Connie Brimi.

The family wishes to express great appreciation to the staff at Life Care and to the staff at the Michael Dunn Center of Kingston. We also appreciate the care given by Adoration Hospice in her final days.

Linda Jane Diden, age 65, passed away on Nov. 13, 2024 at the Life Care Center of Morgan County.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Jeff and Helen Newberry Diden of Wartburg and brother, James Diden, of Wartburg.

She is survived by her brothers and their wives, Edd and Joan of Oak Ridge, Johnny and Wanda of Wartburg, and Curtis and Jenny of Lancing. She is also

The family will receive friends Saturday, Nov.16 from 12:00 to 1:00 at Schubert Funeral Home with the graveside immediately following at Wartburg Cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Linda Jane Diden.

David Wayne Hall, 75



Austin, Hannah, Haven Hall; brothers and sisters Ricky Hall of Lancing, Randy Hall of Lancing, Leonard Hall of Crossville, Darrell Hall of Georgia, Julie Neal of Kentucky, Lois Azua of Cleveland, Tennessee and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00-2:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Bro. Dustin Bonham officiating. Interment will follow in the Forrestner Cemetery in Lancing.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of David Wayne Hall.

David Wayne Hall, age 75 of Wartburg went home to be with the Lord on November 10, 2024.

He was in the war in the 70's.

Wayne is preceded in death by his parents Timberline and Betty Hall of Lancing; sisters Anita Hall, Kandie Hardwick; brothers Tommie Hall, and George Hall.

He is survived by his wife Creasie Hall; sons Timothy Hall and Jason Hall and wife Penny all of Wartburg; grandchildren

The staff of Schubert Funeral Home would like to show our appreciation to the families we have served this year.

We invite you and your family to attend our Annual Memorial Service remembering those who passed away this year.

The service will be Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 2:00 P.M. in the Chapel of Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg.

Refreshments will be served following the service.

The families that plan to attend, please R.S.V.P. by November 22, 2024 in order to have your loved ones ornament ordered.

Psalm 123:1

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





**Tom Redmon
Columnist**

Redmon's Grand Reunion

My time in Tennessee this summer ended up producing some excitement and adventure, if you want to call it that.

My three children; Robin, Scott and his wife, and Jason came up on Thursday, September 12th to participate in the Redmon reunion and the Liberty Church

home coming.

The Redmon reunion on September 14th turned out to be a big success. I would say around 150 people, who were descendants of John and Mary Redmon turned out for the event. John Redmon had come to the United States in 1848, landing in Baltimore, Maryland at age thirteen and being befriended by the Bassler family, they eventually ended up in Morgan County.

Ireland was in the middle of the potato famine and John let one of his father's employees talk him into stealing the payroll and catch a ship headed for the New World. John married Mary Bassler and they had a large family of six boys and three girls. My grandfather James Redmon was the first born in January 1872. From this brood of nine children came the Phillip's, Melhorn's, and Redmon's and others making up the big reunion we had on September 14th, like all Baptist get-togethers we had what is known as dinner-on-the-ground, and boy did we eat some great food.

Remembering John Redmon as the 1st generation, all the 2nd and 3rd generation had passed away. Among those you would find Mary Redmon Phillips and my grandfather James Thomas Redmon, both children of John and Mary. My dad Perry was in the 3rd generation and Willie James Redmon, born in January 1928 was in the 4th generation. Mary would marry Sherman Phillips and they would have seven children, six boys and one girl and all of them are deceased. Jimmy Phillips was the last to go. His daughter Brenda Phillips was at the reunion.

So, all of the Redmon reunion was made up of the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th generations. It was amazing to see all these offspring come together and thanks to one man and one woman who came to the United States in the 1840's was responsible for this large group of descendants.

I saw people there I hadn't seen in over fifty years and I saw some cousins I had never seen. It was good to see Emily Cox Cook and her sister Judy Cox the daughter of Glessie Cox (Redmon) who had lived with our grandpa James and Grandma Redmon, at one time.

A lot of the 4th and 5th generations had chosen to live close by where they were born, but several had chosen to live in other parts of Tennessee and the United States. Oak Ridge where work was available played a big part in keeping the descendants here.

Like all the other families who had settled in East Tennessee the farm land provided the 2nd and 3rd generations of Redmon's a way to make a living. There was rich soil for farming, and timber and coal at that time was plentiful, but as those resources diminished the 4th and 5th generations

began to look for other ways to provide for their families. Oak Ridge was the answer for a lot of those families.

Many of those men that I saw at the reunion had served in the military. I met one who had served during the Vietnam War and his father was a

World War II veteran. I would say that most of the men there at the reunion were veterans.

At least three were ministers and several were teachers, but I would say most of them were just outstanding citizens who loved their country and still God, family, and county were important in their lives.

I believe all those Redmon's and the one's who had married into the Redmon family were happy to be there at Liberty Baptist Church on September 14, 2024.

Maybe we will never see each other again on Earth but I'm looking forward to that great reunion with Christ our Savior in Heaven.

Thanks to Betty Redmon and Barbara Phillips for organizing this reunion.

Great job girls!



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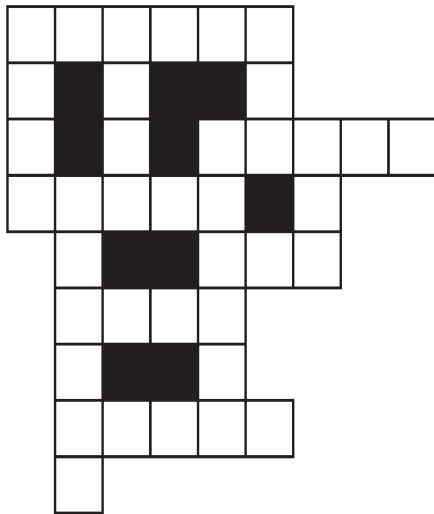
FEAR KNIGHT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!



- DRO
- WODNAR
- OHIRN
- UDEC
- ♥ HANCRO
- ♥ EWD
- HWSI
- ♥ ORDEW
- OWC
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- ♥ RDADE
- ♥ NWEA



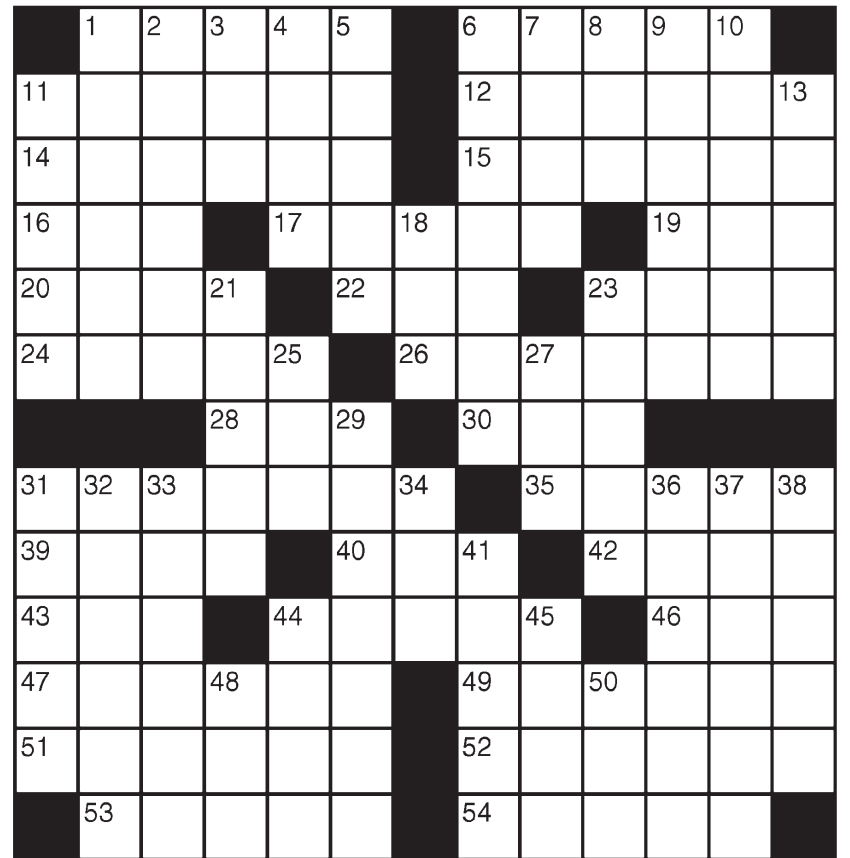
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Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or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

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Clutch
- 6 Modern messages
- 11 "Queen of Soul" Franklin
- 12 Used a modern car service
- 14 Irish singer O'Connor
- 15 More promising
- 16 "— Mine" (Beatles song)
- 17 "Zorba the Greek" star
- 19 Hit CBS series
- 20 Morning droplets
- 22 Pump up the volume



- 23 Bit of dust
- 24 Road curves
- 26 Test monitor
- 28 Wardrobe malfunction
- 30 Sharing word
- 31 Driving instructor?
- 35 Flavor
- 39 "Les Etats—"
- 40 Hosp. areas
- 42 Earth sci.
- 43 Astern
- 44 "Star Trek" doctor
- 46 Computer acronym
- 47 Band aide
- 49 Fly
- 51 Blood givers
- 52 Evening prayer
- 53 Newbies
- 54 Perfume compound
- 6 Start playing for pay
- 7 Black, in verse
- 8 Ballot marks
- 9 Lingerie fabric
- 10 Handles
- 11 Stage comment
- 13 Less damp
- 18 Little rascal
- 21 Feudal farmers
- 23 Jazz singer Carmen
- 25 Use a straw
- 27 Ump's call
- 29 Method
- 31 Sentry
- 32 Walking
- 33 Lengthy list
- 34 Tolkien creature
- 36 Abrasion
- 37 Horn blower
- 38 Gantry of fiction
- 41 Italian wine
- 44 Surrealist Joan
- 45 Saint Laurent of fashion
- 48 "Le Coq —"
- 50 Follower (Suff.)

DOWN

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	3	7					4	
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			1	7				6
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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: ♦♦

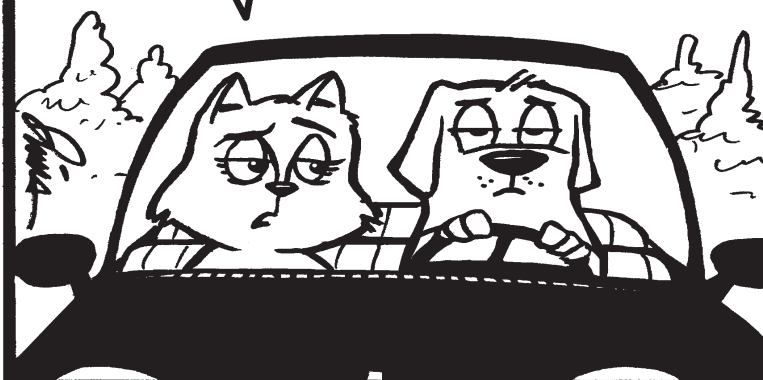
- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

JUST REMEMBER, WE ARE LEAVING IF YOUR MOTHER SAYS SOMETHING OFFENSIVE. YOU'LL KNOW BY IF HER MOUTH IS MOVING.



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FLASHBACK, By Mick Harper

- Who wrote and released "Stuck in the Middle With You" in 1973?
- What were the names of Bob Seger's three bands over the years?
- Mr. Mister had two songs that went to No. 1 on the charts. What were they?
- "Every Rose Has Its Thorn" was a chart topper for which group?
- Name the song that contains this lyric: "Well, you can rock it, you can roll it, Do the stomp and even stroll it."

Answers

- Stalers Wheel. The Scottish rock group was only together for three years before disbanding. They reunited in 2008 long enough to begin producing a music video for the song.
- Bob Seger and the Last Heard, The Bob Seger System and The Silver Bullet Band. His first real break came when "Katmandu" was used in Cher's 1985 film "Mask."
- "Broken Wings" and "Kyrrie," both in 1985. The group netted Grammy noms in 1986 and 1987.
- Poison, in 1988.
- "At the Hop," by Danny & The Juniors, in 1957. The Juniors, originally called The Juvenairs, were introduced to the song when it was known as "Do the Bop." Concerned that The Bop dance craze was fading, the song was changed to "The Hop."

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— **King Crossword** —
Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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MOMENTS IN TIME

- * On Dec. 2, 1972, the Temptations earned the last of their four chart-topping hits when "Papa Was a Rollin' Stone" made it to No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100. The group was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1989.
- * On Dec. 3, 1984, an explosion at a Union Carbide pesticide plant in Bhopal, India, marked the worst industrial accident in history. At least 5,000 people died immediately, according to official estimates, while approximately 20,000 died over time and another half-million were injured when toxic gas enveloped the city.
- * On Dec. 4, 1917, psychiatrist W.H.R. Rivers presented a report titled "The Repression of War Experience" to the Royal School of Medicine. The report was based on his work at the Craiglockhart War Hospital for Neurasthenic Officers, near Edinburgh, which was one of the most famous hospitals used to treat soldiers suffering psychological trauma after serving on the battlefield.
- * On Dec. 6, 1961, Syracuse running back Ernie Davis became the first African American player to win the Heisman Trophy, beating out Ohio State fullback Bob Ferguson. Earlier that day Davis had met John F. Kennedy at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York, remarking that he'd "never thought I'd ever be shaking the hand of the president of the United States."

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

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 Wednesday, November 27th-Closing at 2pm
 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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 Vanessa Taylor - CSR/Office Assistant/Notary Public



David Zubler
Columnist

Solar tax credit options for businesses

Two tax credits are available for businesses that purchase solar energy systems.

The investment tax credit (ITC) is a tax credit that reduces your federal tax liability. The credit is 30% of the eligible cost of the solar system.

The production tax credit (PTC) is a 2.75 kilowatt-hour (kWh) tax credit for electricity generated for the first 10 years of a system's operation. It reduces your federal income tax liability and is adjusted annually for inflation.

Construction must begin before 2033, and the solar system must meet labor requirements issued by the Treasury Department.

All factors should be considered for determining which credit to claim.

The ITC is a quicker tax credit not determined by system performance. The PTC provides tax credits earned over time.

Eligible solar equipment purchased through debt financing qualifies for the ITC. However, the portion of the solar project paid with nonrecourse financing is not immediately included when calculating the ITC. Generally, large-scale photovoltaic (PV) projects will receive more tax savings if they choose the PTC in sunny places. Solar systems located in less sunny areas, that have high installation costs, or that are able to take bonus tax credits, are more likely to maximize tax savings from the ITC.

Smaller-scale PV and concentrating solar-thermal power (CSP) projects benefit more from the ITC, especially if they qualify for the Low-income Communities Bonus Credit, which is not available with a PTC.

The ITC calculation is based on the cost of building the system, so understanding the eligible expenses is crucial in determining the credit.

Unused tax credits may be carried back three years and forward 22 years for systems placed in service in 2023 or later. After 22 years, one-half

of any unused credit can be deducted, with the remaining amount expiring.

The domestic content bonus can provide a 10 percent tax credit or 10 percentage points. The credit is available to taxpayers who certify that their energy project was built with specific percentages of steel, iron, or manufactured products that were produced in the United States.

The ITC can be claimed in the first year. However, the business must own the solar system until the sixth year of the system's operation, or the company will be required to repay part of the tax credit.

Another factor to consider is the net effect of claiming the ITC, bonus depreciation, and accelerated depreciation on its 2025 tax liability versus the PTC, bonus depreciation, and accelerated depreciation on your tax liability.

If a business doesn't have a large tax liability, tax equity financing can help the business to take full advantage of the credits by using two strategies.

Partnership Flips: The investor and developer create a partnership, and the economic returns "Flip" from the investor to the developer after the investor takes advantage of the tax benefits.

Sale-Leasebacks: The developer sells the solar system to a tax equity investor who leases the solar equipment back to the developer.

The solar credit can provide substantial tax savings. However, maximizing the solar credit can be a complex process.

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

Twin brothers at West Point part 2

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Benita Albert concludes her Veteran's Day series featuring the Uptgraft twins, Caden and Jamison. Enjoy the rest of the story...

Caden and Jamison Uptgraft, ORHS Class of '22 alumni, left Oak Ridge soon after their Wildcat graduation for R-Day at the United States Military Academy (USMA). The "R" in R-Day stands for Reception, and quite the reception it is!

Candidates report early in the day for in-processing while parents and family members may visit certain areas of West Point, hear remarks from leadership, and view the Oath Ceremony on the Plain (the parade field) at the end of the day. During in-processing, cadets do such as undergo medical exams, accept issued uniforms, receive haircuts, and march in formation onto the Plain to repeat the oath they pledged earlier in the day, but this time in the formal Oath Ceremony before their family members.

The Oath: "I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign or domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

I was privileged to relive this experience with Caden and Jamison and their mom, Amy, during a sit-down interview. We met during the twins' three-week visit home this past summer. Recalling R-Day, Amy said, "We parents had 90 seconds to say goodbye after cadet candidates were quickly debriefed. My husband, Jamie, and I were proud to be there, but those last 90 seconds of hugs were tough for me. Perhaps Jamie was less conflicted than me being that he had done this earlier as a member of the USMA Class of '99."

When I queried them about the unusualness of twins being admitted, the guys answered that there were three other sets of twins in their class. They also mentioned a first cousin who is in the class ahead of them. They noted the advantage of having a father who knew the traditions, the challenges, and the expectations they needed to meet in their first year.

Their first six weeks of Cadet Basic Training (CBT), better known to the plebes as "Beast," was followed by a week of Army field experience. Plebe year focuses on learning to be a follower so that you mature as a better leader with time and experience. Jamison said, "During Beast, you feel that you are yelled at for everything. Caden and I were in separate companies during it all, and we were able to see each other only at church services each Sunday. We sat on the back row where we were able to communicate some during the sermon." Caden added, "It was tough physically and mentally, but I knew my brother was going through the same stuff and holding up. I knew that we would make it through."

As if Beast was not enough of a challenge, both Caden and Jamison applied to attend the USMA Air Assault School the summer after finishing their plebe year. The Air Assault Course is mentally demanding with numerous written tests as well as is physically challenging for the daunting tasks to accomplish. Upon graduation from the course, Caden and Jamison certified skills required for use of helicopter assets in such as rappelling and sling load operations. The program, conducted by instructors in the Sabalauski

Air Assault School from Fort Campbell, KY, has been described as one of the most physically challenging 10-days in the Army.

Their choice of a West Point sport, Team Handball (THB), was a new athletic adventure for this writer to explore. The club's acronym THB is apropos to its values: Teamwork, Honor, and Brotherhood. The West Point THB Club competes against other colleges and universities at regional and national levels. Founded at West Point in 1976, it is considered one of the premier handball clubs in the United States. As of 2023, the team has won a total of 37 College National Championships including all the past 15 years of competition.

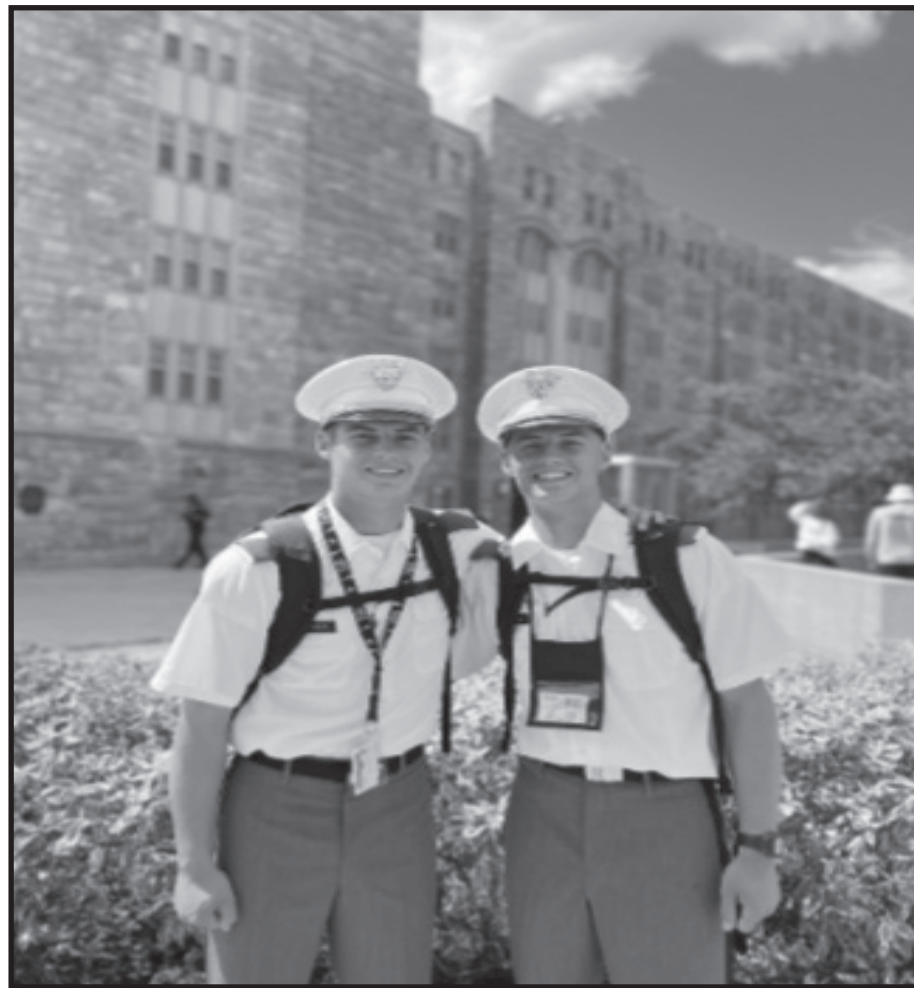
The sport requires two teams of seven players who each pass a ball with their hands with the aim of throwing it into the goal bypassing the goalie (seventh man) of the opponent. A widely played sport in Europe and a Summer Olympics sporting event since 1972, the game is extremely fast paced and physically demanding. It has been described as a combination of soccer (but no ball contact below the knee) and basketball. The twins had never played the sport before West Point, but this year they have advanced to the first team, the Black Team, where Caden plays at Right Back or Center Back and Jamison plays Left Wing or Left Back.

On the scholastic side, the USMA first year is a common academic exposure where plebes take the same core courses. During the second semester, they select a major followed by a second-year choice of a three-course engineering program. Both Caden and Jamison chose the Geography and Environmental Engineering Program (GEnE), a choice richly supported by their AP coursework at ORHS. The twins gave credit to several of their ORHS teachers for piquing their interest in and modeling a passion for their Geoscience choice of studies. The USMA GEnE program summarizes their mission as: "Educate, develop, and inspire cadets to think globally and geospatially in applying their understanding of human-environment interactions to develop culturally appropriate, and sustainable solutions." Both young men said that much of their last two years of study will focus on their major and minor coursework.

Before they sat for this interview in mid-June 2024, Caden and Jamison had already completed an upper-level, summer course in the History Dept. The course, entitled "Modern Poland," offered two weeks of in-class study in Polish history followed by two-weeks of on-site study throughout Poland including visitations to World War II concentration camps.

Upon their return to the Academy in late June of this year, Caden engaged in field training. Jamison participated as a cadet leader for new plebes who were in Beast training.

I asked both young men what they envisioned for their futures. Obviously, they are both well-aware of the five-year military obligation they will serve after USMA graduation. Both agreed that anything beyond those first five years seemed far out at this point, and that a clear option they will consider is to continue to serve in



Caden and Jamison Uptgraft as plebes

some capacity as a career military officer like their dad.

Caden volunteered that he finds the opportunity to eventually become a Foreign Area Officer (FAO) intriguing. FAOs are experts in a specific region's military operations who are given the directive to provide leadership and advisement in partnership with regional government officials and agencies. Caden also indicated an interest in teaching and coaching. Jamison responded that he finds the possibility of working with Planet Earth or National Geographic intriguing future possibilities.

When I asked this amazing two-some to identify their most important role models, I was not surprised at their quick answers, namely, their parents. Their comments concerning their dad began with their pride in his military service and being grateful for his sacrifices in defense of America. Jamison also mentioned his dad's strong encouragement and support of their physical growth and athletic endeavors.

Caden described his mother's courage and her stabilizing effect on family life during his dad's many deployments. Caden said, "She was our rock," and Jamison added, "She helped to develop our emotional maturity." At this point in the interview, I teared up. Yet, I thrilled hearing the sincerely offered praise from two sons who clearly have flourished under the pressures of military dependents' lifestyle and beyond.

Caden and Jamison are past the midpoint in their USMA experience. I asked them to be candid in reflecting on their greatest challenges as a cadet. And candid they were! Caden described it as a mix between college and prison citing the restrictions on leave time and the lonely Saturday nights in the dorm thinking of former friends who were likely out and partying. He said, "The isolation was hard." Jamison jumped in to complain about the weather, the humidity of summer and the winter freeze. He added that the academic load was vexing at times, especially his experience in Russian language classes.

Then I asked them to describe their proudest moments at West Point. Their eyes brightened and their animated answers went on for at least ten times the length of their answers to the challenges noted in the above paragraph. I will start the list of numerous items with Jamison's first observation. He answered, "We have made so many new, great friends, and our friends help us get through hard times."

- Continued on Page 13

Historically Speaking
Duty, Honor, Country: ORHS

Twin brothers at West Point part 2

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

We all want to serve, we are goal driven, and we have created close bonds for a lifetime.” Caden added, “I am grateful for West Point and that it has all worked out. Honestly, the first two years are hard, but now I see how different I am, that I am confident and able to lead more.”

They also expressed joy in completing the rigorous Air Assault School, a challenge that truly tested their mettle. Caden described being a part of the Corps during the Army-Navy football game and participating in the Long Gray Line as “the culmination of pride.”

In response to “crazy traditions,” they described the SOSH Run as an event not to miss. The Social Sciences Run (SOSH Run) is a race against the deadline for cadets to turn in their Introduction to International Relation’s required paper. It is considered a rite of passage for third-year cadets. Many cadets race in costumed attire before an audience of cadets and faculty who line the walkway to cheer them on. Cadets who encase their paper in a brown binder have nicknamed the packet the “brown bomber.”

Laughing and simultaneously talking as they told what they considered the craziest of traditions, I can only hope I got Caden’s and Jamison’s version right. They both eagerly weighed in on “the Naked Man” tradition. They began by saying that after the Christmas Banquet, it is an optional tradition to gather outside on the parade grounds to smoke cigars.

Checking on this part of their story, I found a website verifying that at stressful points in the school year or during times of high spirits (such

as the Christmas Banquet) one might witness the “Naked Man.” Certainly, a perfect time for such an appearance might be an occasion where large numbers of holiday revelers are gathered on the parade field. Caden and Jamison said that at the 2023 Christmas Banquet there was gender equality.

Three streakers appeared in the distance racing across the parade field wearing only running shoes and a smile. The streakers were one man and two women, all of whom ‘miraculously’ made a safe and anonymous getaway via an



Don't they just look grand...our country is in good hands!

awaiting car. If caught, it has been rumored that the consequences could result in an automatic turnback, meaning the offenders would be required to repeat a year of coursework.

My final question was delivered with a front-end apology. I was sure it was something that had been asked of them too often in their life, but I was also curious to see if my impressions of each of them aligned with what I had observed in conversation. I felt there was an ESP between them, and yet I also observed individual personalities and independent thinking. I asked them to summarize how they are alike and how they are different. A summary of their responses follows.

They share a common love of video games, music, sports, and belief systems. They both described themselves as very determined and hard working academically and physically. Caden replied, “I am laid back and extroverted, I let Jamison boss me.” Jamison described himself as more introverted and serious. He said, “I am a planner. I like to be in charge.” Mom Amy offered concluding remarks after hearing their comments. She said, “Caden makes Jamison lighten up. They are not overly competitive with each other but rather supportive and mutually driven to succeed.”

Caden and Jamison are most deserving of our gratitude and respect. They have chosen a path less traveled by a majority of their peers, and they have successfully measured up in a program that requires their tenacity, discipline, and commitment to service. They will graduate West Point and be commissioned as Second Lieutenants alongside fellow members of the Class of 2026.

They will observe the tradition of tossing their white service caps into the sky and then assume active-duty assignments after graduation. They will take the West Point tradition with them as proven young men who understand and assume the United States Military Academy motto: “Duty, Honor, Country.”

Author Joseph Campbell wrote, “A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.” My sincere thanks to all veterans for your service and sacrifice. And to Caden and Jamison, thanks for assuming a role in our future national security.

Thank you, Benita, for a most insightful commentary on two young gentlemen whose chosen careers seem to fit them just right. I am sure we will hear more from each of them as they continue to grow and mature into these careers. Our military is served well by such young people who desire to serve their country.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Becoming Pergamum



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

Revelation 2:12 And to the angel of the Church in Pergamos write: these things sayeth he which hath the sharp sword with two edges.

The local application must be applied to rightly divide Jesus Christ's supernatural message being revealed to John. Pergamum was a Greco-Roman town in modern western Turkey, where the gospel traveled after Paul's conversion, and after Stephen was martyred. In 95 AD, John has been released from his exile to

Patmos, upon the death of Domitian who was murdered after 15 years on the throne. He is the son of Titus and grandson of Vespasian. He will be the last of the Flavian emperors.

Verse 13 reveals exactly what was going on in the pagan temple town of Pergamum. I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and has not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you where Satan dwelleth.

Pergamum is 26 kilometers from the Aegean Coast on a mountain outcrop. It was settled by the ancient Lydians in the 8th century BC, as Greek colonization landed on the shores of the Hittite empire.

Cyrus of Persia would defeat the Lydians and tribute was required to be paid annually. Cyrus allowed Hellenistic culture to thrive. Pergamos had a temple to Zues and Athena. The pagan altar at Pergamos, Jesus Christ labeled as Satan's throne on earth. A major clue in church history.

Upon Alexander's conquest of the Persian empire, Pergamum once again fell under Greek control. Upon Alexander's death, Lysimachus gained control of Pergamum. He revitalized Greek culture and the worship of the Greek pantheon was once again dominant.

Pergamum boasted to be the home of the Aescapellion. Home and birth place of Aescapellus. He is the medical practitioner who first offered medicine for money. His contributions to modern medicine are visible in the symbol of the brass serpent on a pole ministry begun by Moses in the Midian desert.

His medical library has survived 2,300 years. His knowledge of the healing properties found in natural hot springs, transformed wound care in the volatile land of the sword and spear. Pergamum also contained hot springs from where Aescapellus healed soldiers returning from far away outposts.

After the defeat of the Greeks by Rome at the battle of Corinth in 146 BC, the town of Pergamum was Romanized. The Roman priesthood began in Pergamum. Caesar adopted the name of the High Priest of the religion of Babylon, Pontifex Maximus. Caesar became a God in Pergamum.

The Roman religion begins and ends with the deification of Caesar. He is god as man, and his rule was considered absolute. A pagan dictatorship cloaked in religious piety to the pantheon of the gods.

Greek gods and goddesses were given Babylonian names and Latin became the language of the priests and educated class of citizens. Pergamum is where Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Egypt, were married to the one world order of Roman dictatorship

Vespasian was given the task of subjugating Judea during the beginnings of the Christian persecutions by the Pharisees and Sadducees under the direction of an Edomite high priest in Jerusalem. He would destroy the temple, and pull down the walls of the city in 70 AD as prophesied by Messiah.

Vespasian's son Titus would be called upon to finish the job, as Nero died and Vespasian returned to Rome, the Jews held out on Masada. This

would end in 74 AD with Rome in control of the land and the inhabitants transferred as slaves to the furthest reaches of the Roman empire.

John the Revelator appears to have appointed Bishops for when his life would be complete and the Church would have leadership that took part in evangelizing the Greco-Roman empire. At Pergamum Antipas was chosen.

The Roman model for church hierarchy was chosen and Bishops began adopting a priesthood made of men. They are called the Nicaolaitans. Those who rule over the people. Mixing Roman religious practices with a whole lot of outwardly pious Jesus the man. Here the Gospel would be perverted.

Antipas appears to be devoted to his faith in what Jesus Christ had done for him. He willingly defended the faith even under the threat of martyrdom. The famous altar at Pergamum is where Zeus was born. An infant was placed inside a bronze bull, it was heated by fire, and Zues was born from the smoke.

Pergamum boasted to have the largest bronze altar of sacrifice in the world at the time of John receiving this revelation from Messiah. The bull represents the earliest depictions of the oldest pagan cult of sacrifice in history. It all began with the worship of bulls and calves.

Human sacrifice was codified in ancient Sumeria with the first pagan cult that venerated the Moon-god. His original name was Sin. The Bible labeled him as Baal. His likeness was the head of a bull and body of a man. The Roman cult of Mithras can be traced to Babylon and codified in Pergamum.

The word Pergamum is the masculine form of the pronoun proper name. Pergamum is where the western world adopted the eastern practice of deifying men as demigods, and women as demigoddesses. Zues and Athena became Jupiter and Aphrodite.

The Pergamum altar held the key to where all pagan religions began in antiquity and their origin. The frieze above the altar depicted the fight between fallen angels and men as demigods who gave us the race of giants known as the Nephillim. The ancient battle for men's souls continued in Pergamum.

The Babylonian priesthood is alive today in Rome and every where Catholicism has traveled. The Nicaolaitans and their Luciferian deeds are still hated by our Messiah.

Let him who has ears hear what the spirit is saying. John Burns 9-17-2024

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 8 and 9



Melvin Howard

(Luke 8:1-3) Partners in the gospel: Not long afterward, Jesus went through various cities and villages bringing “good tidings” of the kingdom of God. Needless to say, the implication was that the kingdom was near and those who chose to be citizens could enter therein (Jn. 3:3-5). There was a hint that it would be postponed for thousands of years, as dispensationalists allege. Traveling with the Lord were the twelve apostles and certain women who rendered valuable service. Some had been healed of demon possession and other infirmities. One of these

was Mary Magdalene, who formerly had been possessed of seven demons and who would be the first disciple to see the resurrected Savior (24:1). Another named was Joanna, who was the wife of a steward who served Herod Antipas; she was among the women who later went to Christ’s tomb (23:55-24:10). Also, there was Susanna (and others) who supported the divine cause with material sustenance. These were little known heroines who endangered their lives for their convictions.

Three passages bring the kingdom and the church into proximity with each other. The first is Matthew 16:18-19, “I will build my church...I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.” This passage will be explored in more detail below, but for now it may be noted that there is no indication of a change in subject, so the church and the kingdom must be related in some significant way. Peter was given the function of granting or denying entrance to the kingdom. Those who entered formed Christ’s assembly.

The second passage to be considered is Hebrews 12:23 and 28. Those who have come “to the assembly [church] of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven” are said to receive “a kingdom that cannot be shaken.” The kingdom as the eschatological reign of God is already possessed. The description in verse 23, too, may be eschatological, but, even so, it is the people in the present who are being addressed. The association of a people in assembly (or who will be in assembly) with receiving in the present the unshakable kingdom of God connects the church and the kingdom.

A third passage connection the church with the kingdom is the most explicit of all, Rev. 1:4, 6, & 9. John writes “to the seven churches that are in Asia” (Rev. 1:4) and says to them that Christ “made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God” (Rev. 1:6; 1 Pet. 2:9). Then he declares, “I, John, your brother who shares with you in Jesus the persecution and the kingdom and the patient endurance” (Rev. 1:9). The churches, by the activity of Christ, from a kingdom (realm) and share a kingdom (reign or realm), but like the kingdom of Jesus himself (John 18:36), not of this world nor according to the world’s expectations, for it is a kingdom that involves the patient endurance of persecution and suffering.

Without using the word “church,” another passage explicitly places the “saints and faithful brothers and sisters” (Col. 1:2) in the kingdom: “Giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Col. 1:12-14). Two spheres of power and influence are presented: that of darkness and that of God’s beloved Son. Each person is under the sway of one or the other. Those who have received redemption and forgiveness in Christ are under his power and rule. They have the inheritance and belong to the realm of light. They are in the kingdom in the present. The significance of this correlation of church and kingdom may be seen in the equivalent expressions used in the New Testament for, and in conjunction with, the kingdom. These equivalent terms show the significance of being under the rule of God in Christ.

One way of describing the kingdom hope of the Bible is in terms of God acting for the salvation of his people. The ideas of kingship and salvation occur together in the Old Testament (Ps. 74:12; Isa. 33:22; 44:6). This association is reflected in the accounts of the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The acclamation “Hosanna” means “Save!” (Matt. 21:9; Mk. 11:9-10; John 12:13). Matthew and John make the royal connotations of the event explicit by including a quotation of Zechariah 9:9 (Matt. 21:5; John 12:15). John uses “King of Israel” in the crowd’s acclamation, but Matthew used “Son of David”; the latter introduces his quotation of Zechariah with a

phrase from Isaiah 62:11, a phrase followed in Isaiah by “See your salvation comes,” evidently understood by Matthew as the equivalent of “your king comes” in Zechariah 9:9.

An impressive New Testament declaration is the following: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God” (Rev. 12:10). Salvation, power, kingdom, and authority are associated, and they are realized because Satan has been conquered (Rev. 12:11). The nature of that salvation is further spelled out in other words associated with the kingdom.

For Luke, “To testify to the good news of God’s grace” is to go about “proclaiming the kingdom” (Acts 20:24-25). Luke also parallels the terms “redemption” and “kingdom” of God” (Luke 21:28, 31). God’s goal for his people is righteousness, and kingdom and righteousness occur together: “But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness” (Matt. 18:8-9) uses as parallel ideas “to enter life” (Mk. 9:43, 45) and “to enter the kingdom of God” (Mk. 9:47).

(Luke 9:51-56) The inhospitable Samaritans: As the time of his death approached, Christ began to move southward with fixed resolution toward Jerusalem. The Galilean ministry had been concluded. Being on the western side of the Jordan, he would pass through the central region, Samaria. There were hostile feelings between Jews and Samaritans (Jn. 4:9), the latter being viewed as a mongrel breed---a Hebrew-Gentile mixture. Normally, Jews detoured around the area when traveling north to south or vice versa. En route, the Lord sent messengers ahead, doubtless to secure overnight lodging. When the Samaritans discovered, however, that Christ and his company had Jerusalem as their destination, they were incensed. They concluded that the Hebrew temple was the focus of their interest, and such was the rival of their own temple which had been built on Mt. Gerizim (Jn. 4:20), but had been destroyed in 128 B.C. Hence, hospitality was abruptly refused (v. 53). The singular pronouns “he” and “him” make it clear that their animosity was aimed at Jesus.

When James and John, nicknamed “sons of thunder” (Mk. 3:17), saw this, their anger boiled. With noble intentions but operating on adrenalin, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven and consume them?” (v.54). Though the words, “as Elijah did”, are generally believed to be an interpolation, the request does remind one of the fate of the priests of Baal in that prophet’s day (1 King. 18:38). But the Lord rebuked the brothers and they went on to another village (v.55)---maybe across the border into Judaea.

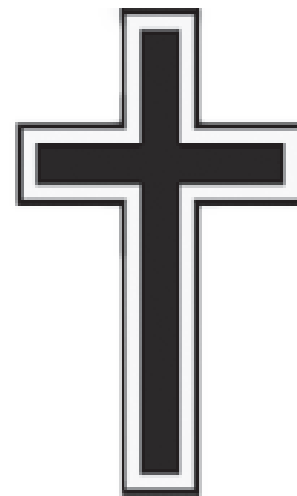
(Luke 9:57-62) The cost of discipleship (Mt. 8:8-22):

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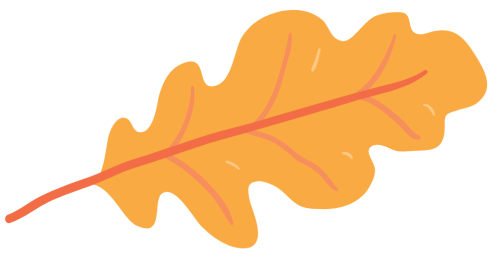


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