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Psalm 100:3
 www.mocotoday.com
 Volume 10 Number 32
 Tuesday, August 13, 2024

Your Community. Your News.

75¢

Inside:

- MoCo/ScoCo Football Preview**
- Community Calendar**
- Biblical Thought**
- Weather**
- History**



5 Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

- Jeremiah 17:5



Morgan County Today
Your Community. Your News.

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**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

Mimi's Eye Surgery

You guys, my Mimi had surgery on one of her eyes and guess what?! SHE CAN SEE! Isn't that wonderful?

She has never been able to see without very thick glasses or contact lenses. She says it is a miracle!

The doctor that helped her is a veteran and is at the Eye Center of Oak Ridge. He is very kind and very good at what he does.



His name is Dr David Hessert. He is a native of Wisconsin and chose to make his home in East Tennessee, after retiring from the Air Force. He performs Lasik, cataract and eyelid surgeries at the surgery center at the Eye Center of Oak Ridge. Their surgical team was so sweet and reassuring because Mimi was nervous. Mimi said they were great at calming her nerves and all that stuff, even though the only name she can remember is Bonnie.

Mimi thinks that he is a hero for serving his country and for giving her the gift of sight, without those old coke bottle glasses or contacts.

So, thank you to Dr Hessert and everyone that helped my Mimi through all of this. Especially Dr Natalie Frasier, who got the whole ball rolling on getting her eyes fixed.

Pray that the other eye does just as well, when she has it done.

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

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Sat 17	86°/67°	
Sun 18	86°/66°	
Mon 19	86°/65°	

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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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NOTICE TO CONSULTANT ENGINEERS REGARDING A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND LETTERS OF INTEREST**August 12, 2024, to August 23, 2024**

Morgan County an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer, seeks to retain the services of a professional Consultant/Engineering firm to provide services related to the completion of a Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Action Plan, funded in part by the U.S. Department of Transportation (US-DOT) in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the State of Tennessee. The project shall be accomplished in accordance with program guidelines as described by the US-DOT and managed locally through the Morgan County Highway Department. Although the project will not be run through TDOT, the professional Consultant/Engineering must be on TDOT's pre-approved list or have a completed pre-qualification form filed with TDOT by the deadline for the Letters of Interest.

Responsibilities of the professional consultant firm include, but are not limited to:

Required Scope of Services

- Provide coordination of Action Plan meetings to ensure engagement with the public and relevant stakeholders.
- Provide data driven analysis in support of the Action Plan
- Provide engineering evaluation of data in support of the Action Plan
- Provide technical assistance for the Action Plan process.
- Prepare documents for the Action Plan meetings as well as the final Action Plan document for submission to the County for approval.
- Assist the County in getting the final Action Plan up on the County website.
- Ensure that all eligibility requirements are met for the SS4A program on the FINAL Action Plan document.
- Any other services needed to complete the Morgan County Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Action Plan project.

Estimated Schedule for Performance of Work

- September 2024, Federal consultant selection process complete, consultant under contract with Morgan County.
- October 2024, Action Plan committee selected, first meeting set.
- April 1, 2025, SS4A Action Plan process completed, final Action Plan submitted to County Road Board for approval.
- February 15, 2026, SS4A Action Plan Final Report completed.
- December 1, 2025, SS4A Action Plan completed and approved and adopted by County Road Board.

Firms may request consideration by submitting a letter of interest along with qualifications to the **Morgan County Highway Department, P.O. Box 250 Wartburg TN, 37887. Attn: Joe Miller or email them to morgancohwy@highland.net with subject line identified with SS4A grant.** All letters of interest must be received by the Morgan County Highway Department on **or before September 13, 2024**. The letter of interest and qualifications shall indicate the scope of services to be completed by any sub-consultants.

Evaluation

Firms shall submit letters of interest with firm contact information including name, address, and e-mail of primary contact. Along with the letter of interest, firms shall submit their qualifications for evaluation.

The Morgan County Highway Department will evaluate firms on the following criteria (relative weight):

- a. Experience in the required disciplines. (20%)
- b. Experience with Federally funded projects. (10%)
- c. Experience with Federally funded transportation projects (20%)
- d. Qualification and availability of staff. (20%)
- e. Ability to meet schedules without compromising sound engineering practice. (10%)
- f. Experience with SS4A Action Plans for local governments and other similar local government planning grants (20%)

TDOT prequalification procedures, example letter of interest, list of pre-qualified firms and certified DBEs, TDOT's standard procurement policy, and additional information can be found at this internet address <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/business-redirect/consultantinfo/consultantinfo-forms.html>. For information on prequalification, please contact Christine Smotherman at (615)741-4460 or Christine.Smotherman@tn.gov.

Evaluation proceedings will be conducted within the established guidelines regarding equal employment opportunity and nondiscriminatory action based upon the grounds of race, color, sex, creed, or national origin. Interested certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms as well as other minority-owned and women-owned firms are encouraged to respond to all advertisements by Morgan County.

Details and instructions for DBE certification can be found at the following website:

<https://www.tn.gov/tdot/civil-rights/small-business-development-program.html>

MOMENTS IN TIME

* On Aug. 26, 1791, John Fitch and James Rumsey were each granted a federal patent for the steamboat. The men were rivals who devised different systems for, and battled over claims to, the invention.

* On Aug. 28, 2003, pop singers Britney Spears and Madonna shared a kiss at the MTV Video Music Awards, delighting some viewers and offending others. MTV received hate mail "from the older generation," according to network president Van Toffler, who said: "I think the beauty of the VMAs was the combustibility. You wanted to make it fun and semi-chaotic. That's what we did."

* On Aug. 29, 1982, Swedish-born actress and three-time Academy Award winner Ingrid Bergman died of cancer on her 67th birthday. Bergman was best known for her role as Ilsa Lund in "Casablanca" alongside Humphrey Bogart, as well as the international scandal she sparked in 1950 when she had a son with Italian director Roberto Rossellini, to whom she was not married at the time.

* On Aug. 30, 1859, Edwin L. Drake successfully drilled the first oil well near Titusville, Pennsylvania, ushering in the modern petroleum industry. His discovery of an efficient way to extract oil from the ground revolutionized energy production and would help transform the global economy.

* On Aug. 31, 1989, England's Princess Anne, the only daughter of Queen Elizabeth II, publicly announced her separation from her husband, Mark Phillips, but the couple stated they were not intending to divorce.

* On Sept. 1, 1928, groups of Boy Scouts placed approximately 2,400 concrete markers at sites along the Lincoln Highway to officially mark and dedicate it to the memory of President Abraham Lincoln.

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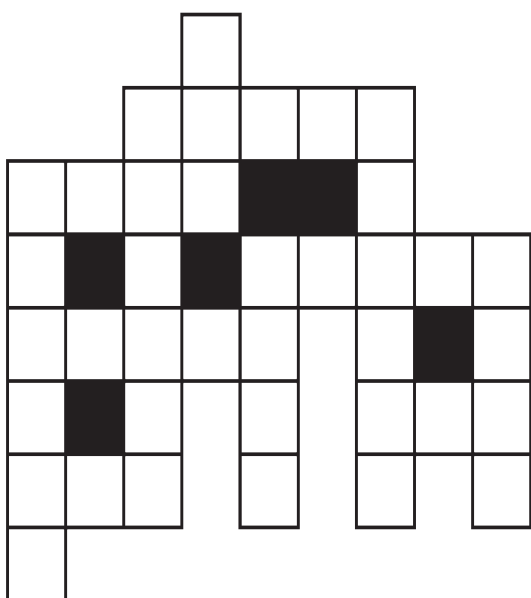
FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!



- CPA
- VENICO
- RUENT
- ♥VREO
- TRODLE
- UND
- ♥APLE
- ♥AVLEN
- ♥ELE
- PRIUNT
- OATPI
- UNNO



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

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Persian leader
- 5 Kipling hero
- 8 Dull sound of impact
- 12 Earring site
- 13 Enzyme suffix
- 14 Bagel feature
- 15 River to the Baltic
- 16 Boom times
- 17 Director Preminger
- 18 Spanish explorer
- 20 Some babies
- 22 Contemplate anew
- 26 Vatican VIPs
- 29 Televisé
- 30 Italian article
- 31 Jazzy Fitzgerald
- 32 Automaton, for short
- 33 Farmland unit
- 34 Oklahoma city
- 35 Weir
- 36 Grove units
- 37 Contemplate anew
- 40 Eyebrow shape
- 41 Excuses
- 45 Pocket bread
- 47 Passing craze
- 49 Aloe —
- 50 Scott Turow book

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13			14				
15				16			17				
18			19		20	21					
			22		23				24	25	
26	27	28			29			30			
31				32			33				
34			35			36					
37			38			39					
		40				41			42	43	44
45	46				47	48		49			
50					51			52			
53					54			55			

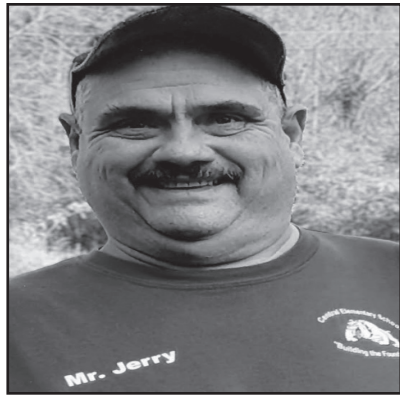
- 51 German conjunction
- 52 Black, in verse
- 53 Go by
- 54 Nonclerical
- 55 Lairs
- 7 Camper's dinnerware
- 8 Daring swimwear
- 9 Tabasco, for one
- 10 Last (Abbr.)
- 11 "Gloria in Excelsis —"
- 19 Surprised cries
- 21 Rowing need
- 23 Model Campbell
- 24 Concerning
- 25 Burnsian turn-downs
- 26 Bartlett, for one
- 27 Shoppe descriptor
- 28 Mollifies
- 32 Timid
- 33 Showed up
- 35 Pol. party org.
- 36 Business card no.
- 38 Face-to-face exams
- 39 — Warbucks
- 42 Actress Neuwirth
- 43 Press
- 44 Without
- 45 Soda
- 46 Chef Garten
- 48 Santa — winds

DOWN

- 1 No neatnik
- 2 "Today" cohost Kotb
- 3 First victim
- 4 Chamomile product
- 5 Island of Hawaii
- 6 MSN, for one

— In Loving Memory —

Jerry Glenn Jordan



Jerry Glenn Jordan born July 10, 1963 in Pineville, Kentucky but was raised in Tennessee; calling Mossy Grove his home for 57 years. He attended Wartburg Scholls until 1981.

To ask anyone about Jerry, they'd tell you he was, caring, loving, kind hearted person, and most of all calling him a dear friend. All these things being true you may never have met a nicer man. He never met a stranger and if they were, it wasn't for long.

Jerry enjoyed many things in life; family, friends, music and "tinkering/piddling" was a big hobby of his. He piddled so much on things, sometimes to the point of breaking them, just to find a way to put it back together again.

Jerry was a true believer and follower of Jesus; he would sit and talk the Bible with you all day if you liked.

He married his wife Stephenie on November 14, 1992 after just six months of dating; like any couple through the years there were up and downs for 31 years, but there was always love.

During those years they had two daughters, Cierra and Cheyenne who were loved very dearly by their daddy. He would say "who would a thought I would have two beautiful daughters." He raised them with love and teaching them what he could, even if it was something to do with cars or pulling pranks.

Jerry was a family man through and through. He loved to make others laugh and smile; he would bake up some cakes for

those he loved. He was a very proud Poppop to four amazing grandchildren loving each one of the dearly. He will be watching over them throughout the years.

He worked several places over his lifetime. Even on his sick bed he would just keep saying he wanted to go back to work. His last 15 years was spent working as a custodian for Wartburg Central Elementary; jerry was loved dearly by staff and kids.

Jerry fought his illness for months and unfortunately lost that battle on August 5, 2024 at Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge, with his wife by his side when he took his final breath. Arriving later were his daughters and surrounded him with love.

Jerry has entered his Heavenly home with the others who have gone on before him. He may have lost the battle but has won the war being in heaven where he waits for the rest of us.

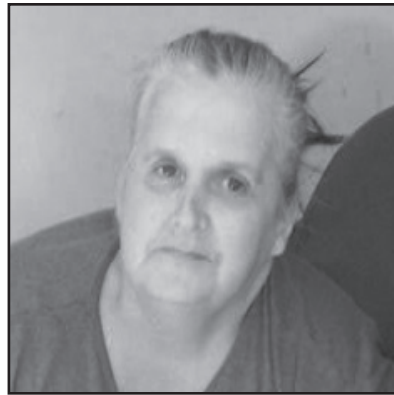
He is preceded in death by his mother and father; James and Louise Jordan Brothers; Eugene and Kenneth Jordan Granddaughter; Ophelia Dare Wangler.

Survived by his wife Stephenie (Cross) Jordan; Daughters and son in law; Cierra (Mathew) Wangler and Cheyene Jordan Grandchildren; Gabriel Jordan, Torvi Wangler, Howard Wangler and Gwydolyn Wangler. Along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, sister in laws, other family and close friends.

The family will receive family and friends on Friday August 9, 2024 from 5-7:00 pm at Jackson Funeral Home and Cremation 51 Edmonds Drive, Oliver Springs, TN.

Funeral to be held on Saturday August 10, 2024 at 11:00 am at Beech Fork Holiness Church with interment at the Nichols family Cemetery in the Joyner Community

Vickie Lynn Adkisson, 64



Vickie Lynn Adkisson, age 64, of Harriman passed away July 25, 2024 at Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge. She was born March 13, 1960 to Roy & Betty Royfield.

Vickie loved doing crafts and making scrap books.

She is preceded in death by her husband Gary Adkisson; mother Betty Davis.

She is survived by her daughters Crystal Duncan and

Ashley Kindall; father Roy Rayfield; grandchildren Autumn, Justin, and Kayleigh Howell, Olivia Howell, Nevaeh Howell, Zachary Moreland, Melinda Neal, and Neytiri Ezell; fiancé William Myracle and his children William Myracle, Jr. and Heidi Summer Rain Myracle; brothers Scott and Ruley Royfield and extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends Sunday, August 11, 2024 at Schubert Funeral Home from 1:00-2:00 p.m. with a memorial service to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Rev. Garvin Walls, Rev. Early Byrge. Vickie's wishes are to be cremated.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Vickie Lynn Adkisson.

Randell Anthony Lloyd Newport, 51



Randell Anthony Lloyd Newport, age 51 of Sunbright passed from this life on August 1, 2024.

Randell is the son of Wendell Lee Newport and Marilyn Joyce Newport of Sunbright.

Randell was a dedicated son, father, and grandfather.

Randell was a volunteer firefighter, and he took pride in his family farm. He loved hunting, fishing, and just a simple life. Randell always tried to lend a helping hand to anyone he could help. He enjoyed picking on the people he loved and would do anything to make everyone smile. He will be greatly missed.

Randell is preceded in death by his father Wendell Newport; uncle and aunt Lemuel and Velva June Newport. Randell leaves behind his mother Marilyn Newport of Sunbright; son Ethan (Destiny) Newport; granddaughter Oakleigh Newport of Bloomington Springs, TN; brother Jeff (Jackie) Newport of Sunbright and a host of niece, nephew, aunts, uncles from Kentucky and multiple cousins as well.

The family will receive friends Saturday, August 3, 2024 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 11:00-1:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 1:00 p.m. with Rev. Charles Webb and Rev. David Dial officiating. Interment will follow in the Sunbright Cemetery in Sunbright.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Randell Anthony Lloyd Newport.

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.**



Algorithms, Social Media and Political Polarization



Michael Nance
Columnist

Recently I was having a friendly political debate with a good friend who resides on the opposite spectrum of my political leanings. We conducted a long conversation where we debated what each of us thought were the facts. After about an hour, we both agreed that the internet, social media, and newsfeeds were spewing mostly misinformation, or at the very least tailored information to the right or left side of the political aisle.

After performing a small amount of research and having another call, we agreed on a second topic, that big tech algorithms are preventing opposing opinions and sources from getting their fair share of consideration. That is the genesis of this article, which I hope informs the reader of the dangers of only getting one side of the story.

Technology and the internet have combined in today’s modern society to provide the public “with the most user-friendly services available.” The development of internet algorithms which customize your internet searches to content that is most likely to be favorable to your personality.

Algorithms are used by internet search engines, social media, and most of us experience them everyday on our smartphones. Initially, algorithms were hailed as a tool for internet platforms to ensure that user experience was efficient in locating the desired information or content, while preventing having to search through undesired information. The most common algorithm used is the “recommendation algorithm.” This type of algorithm ranks and personalizes content which is displayed in the user’s newsfeed based on preferences which are determined by a plethora of variables such as likes, clicks shares etc.

The net result of the use of algorithms is that the user mainly only accesses information that reinforces existing biases or leanings, further pushing their opinions to the far points of the scale.

Many scholars and journalists alike are now highlighting the role that internet platforms, social media, and the use of algorithms are having on the polarization of society. Recently an article from AP stated the following: “The powerful algorithms used by Facebook and Instagram to deliver content to users have increasingly been blamed for amplifying misinformation and political polarization.”

One fact to keep in the forefront of the big tech algorithms is pointed out by a 2020 article out of UC Davis which states: “Despite these increasing concerns and debates, little is known about the social and political implications of search algorithms.”



Photo Courtesy of BoliviaInteligente

The same article argues that democracy itself may be jeopardized as a result of algorithms that reinforce our political opinions. If in the political arena we only read or see information that is aligned with our political leanings, then eventually our brain is flooded with only one side of the story.

Although Algorithms are founded in science, I argue that they push people to think illogical. Looking at the definition of logic, which one definition states: “reasoning conducted or assessed according to strict principles of validity.” The key word in the definition is validity, or the information being valid. In today’s political environment social media and algorithms are providing validity to users, instead of the traditional study of topics utilizing sound research principles.

To be fair on the subject, there are several sources, including the Harvard Kennedy School which claim that search algorithms have limited effects on polarization. However, most of the articles that allege algorithms are not to blame, lack a defined alternate theory.

It is undeniable that American Society is polarized, and most studies indicate that it began to accelerate in the 1970s. Based on that premise, algorithms used in social media and internet platforms are not responsible for the polarization, rather they are amplifying it. In the quest to get “likes” or “shares” society is moving farther to the extremes. There is only so far it can go before society changing discord will erupt. We can only hope some way American Society finds it way back to the middle.

1 BEARDOW, JYE, SCROLL, CLICK, LIKE, SHARE, REPEAT: THE ALGORITHMIC POLARISATION PHENOMENON, Australian National University Journal of Law and Technology, Volume 2 Autumn of 2021

2 KLEPPER, DAVID, Deep dive into Meta’s algorithms shows that America’s political polarization has no easy fix, AP, July 27, 2023

3 Jaeho Cho, Saifuddin Ahmed, Martin Hilbert, Billy Liu & Jonathan Luu (2020):

Do Search Algorithms Endanger Democracy? An Experimental Investigation of Algorithm Effects on Political Polarization, Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media 4 Oxford

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"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches"

Proverbs 22:1





Tom Redmon
Columnist

ticket didn't have a chance. But according to Franklin Graham, President of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association they didn't understand or consider the God-factor.

Now after the Trump rally in Butler, Pennsylvania on July 13, 2024 our former president is giving God credit for saving his life. He said, "I am standing here tonight because of the providence of God." If the bullet had been over a few millimeters or inches, our president-to-be, would not be here. How close he came to being killed.

Trump has long identified as a Presbyterian and since his election in 2016 he's increasingly made references to God in his speeches and taken steps to cultivate a good relationship with Christian leaders and Christian media. Dr. James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family, said that "only God knows the condition of a person's heart," but there are many Christian leaders who are serving on a faith advisory committee for Trump, and Dobson said he was one of them. Some of the twenty-five are Robert Jeffress, Jack Graham, Ben Carson, Jane Robinson, Michele Bachmann and many more.

Countless mainstream media, TV networks, newspapers, magazines, and online news sets are collectively chanting the mantra that Trump had dangerous Nazi and Adolf Hitler like psychological tendencies. So, you see why Trump is on the wrong side of the elite.

To the democratic party we as conservatives are against things they have on their platform like abortion, same sex marriage, and gender change. As Christians we are fighting against these things while they want those and others expended. Abortion for example, many states especially in the south want laws that restrict abortion after the first trimester or even sooner. They look at abortion as killing a baby while the liberals look at it as a woman's right. Trump is pro-life and he also says this should be a state issue.

Some psychologist after WWII conceived of the "authoritarian personality" as a patten of attitude and values revolving around adherence of society's traditional norms, to the point of hatred and aggression toward those who either challenge in group norms or in other words the people who has the "authoritarian personality." (as Trump does) refuse to go along with "out groups" such as homosexuals, illegal immigrants, and Muslims.

America has been a blessed nation because America first of all has been a Bible-believing nation. While not all our founding fathers were Bible-believing Christians, our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and Declaration of Independence were formed directly out of a biblical worldview that our "Creator" has given us "certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

So, it is God that has given us our rights, not men. This makes the American system of government different from that of any other nation on

Trump, Christianity, Faith & Freedom

Is Donald Trump a Christian? I don't know but he sure hangs around a lot of Christians. Maybe we should ask Dr. Robert Jeffress or maybe Michele Bachmann.

After the 2016 election the secular media keeps asking the same questions such as; "How did this happen?" "What went wrong?" "How did we miss this?" Some are in shock. Political pundits are stunned. Many thought the Trump/Pence



earth, when freedoms and liberties are granted by men and man-made institutions that can be taken away at the whims of man.

The key to American's greatness is that the Pilgrims and puritans who came to America in the 1600s in search of religious freedom entered a covenant with God based on the one He made with ancient Israel recorded in Deuteronomy 28:1-2 "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: 2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God."

Like Israel we could be blessed. I believe along with many others this is the reason our constitution has carried us to freedom for 248 years. Without the influence of the Bible and the Great Awakening in the early 1700s there would have been no American Revolution in 1776 nor the United States of America.

The globalists are now pushing for a new world state, and have been since the end of WWI ended when President Woodrow Wilson in 1918 tried to get the U.S. Congress to join the other nations of the world in starting the League of Nations with the dreams of a world organization that would assure "world peace." Our Congress had enough sense to defeat the pipe dream. But the pipe dream did not die because the massive carnage of WWII caused the United Nation to be created in 1945.

Trump gained a basic understanding of the New World Order and its conflict with the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the American dream.

Whether Trump fully realized what he was walking into when he began to openly challenge and conflict globalism and the New World Order the result was that Hell broke loose against him, his family, and his policies. It seems that the world turned against him.

Trump joining up with Christians has caused him to be hated even more by the elite and liberals. I've thought for a long time that if the liberals can get rid of the Christians and our guns, they would have us where they want us.

I don't know about you but for me I'll take Jesus any day and I really love my gun too. One day I might have to use it.

FLASHBACK, By Mick Harper

1. Which group released "Do You Believe in Magic"?
2. Name the first rock group that appeared on "The Ed Sullivan Show."
3. What was the name of the vacation resort in the 1987 film "Dirty Dancing," and where was it?
4. Who released "The Love I Lost"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I guess the dance is over now, So you just curtsy, and I'll bow, And ask the band to play us Auld Lang Syne."

Answers

1. The Lovin' Spoonful, in 1965. The song was their debut single. They went on to quickly release seven more that reached the Top Ten.
2. Bill Haley and His Comets, in August 1955. They performed "Rock Around the Clock," the first rock and roll song to be played on a national television show.
3. The resort was called Kellerman's, in the Catskills in New York. It was filmed, however, in Virginia and North Carolina. Look for the movie sequel in May 2025.
4. Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes, in 1973.
5. "More Like the Movies," by Dr. Hook in 1978. Dr. Hook (called Dr. Hook & the Medicine Show until 1975) was known mostly for soft rock, acoustic guitar and easy listening.



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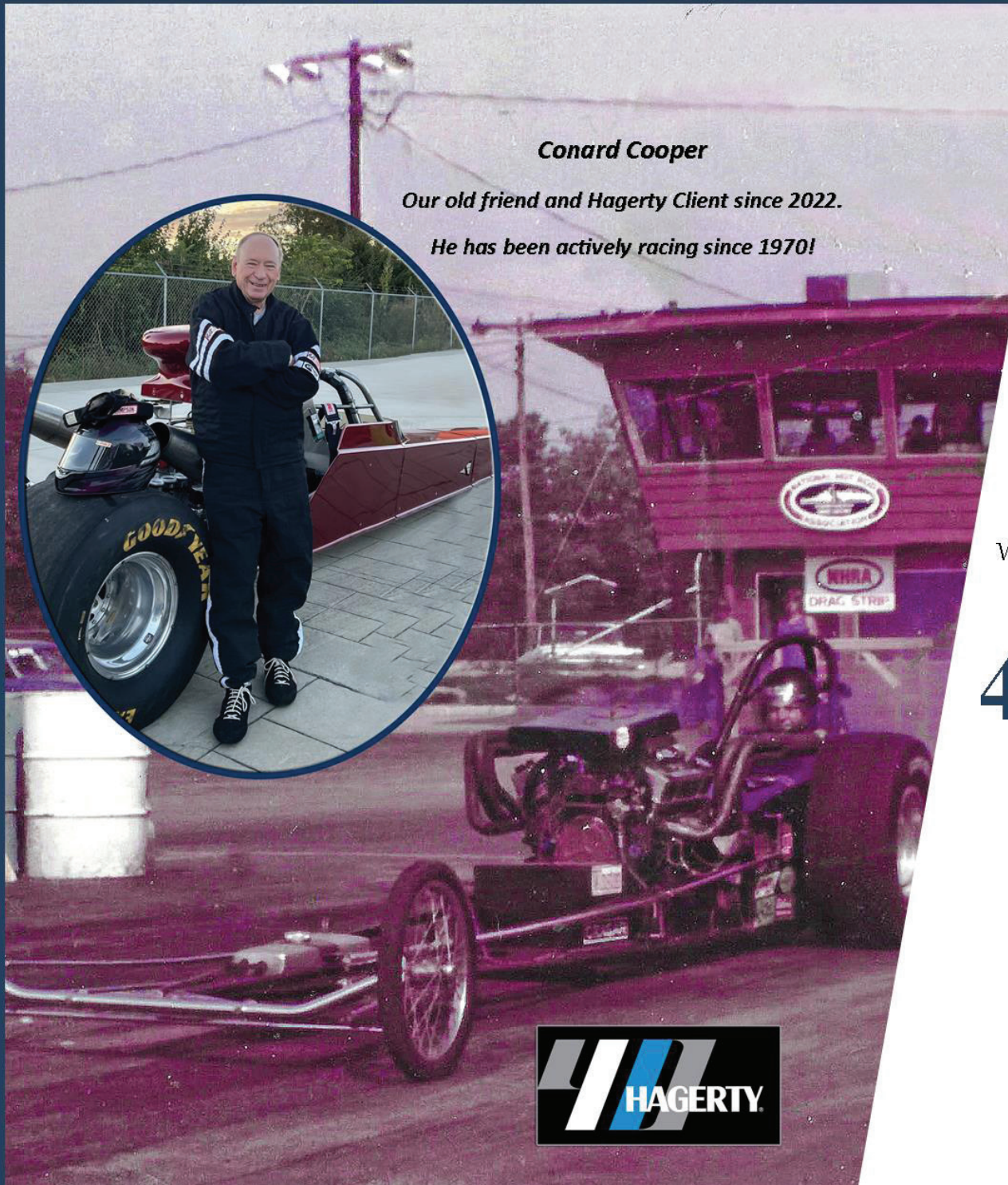
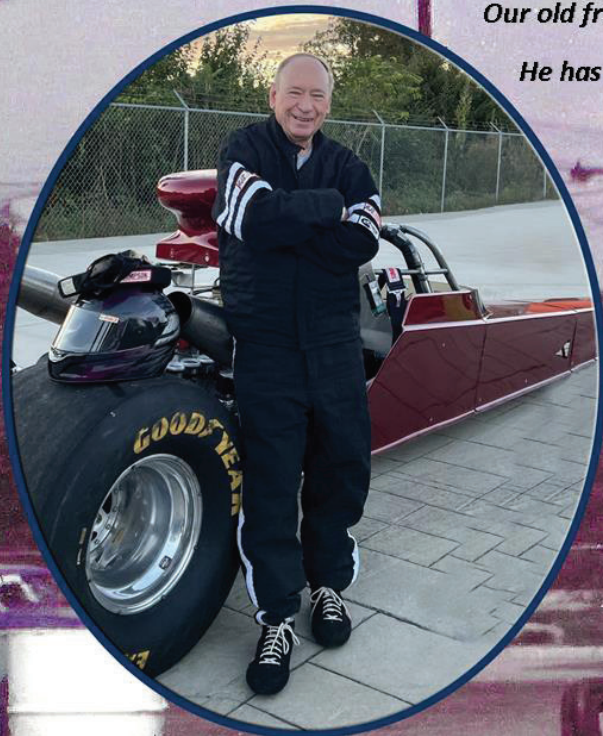


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* - denotes region/district game

Scott High

- 8-23-2024 at Cumberland Co. High School 7:00
- 8-29-2024 at Eagleton College and Career Ac. 7:00
- 9-6-2024 at Clinton High School 7:00
- 9-13-2024 Knox Central KY 7:30
- 9-20-2024 at Kingston High School *
- 10-4-2024 at Whitley County KY 7:30
- 10-11-2024 at Union Co. High School *
- 10-18-2024 Alcoa High School * 7:30
- 10-25-2024 Pickett Co. High School 7:00
- 11-1 2024 Austin-East High School * 7:30



Wartburg

- 8-22-2024 Coalfield High School 7:00
- 8-30-2024 at Harriman High School 7:30
- 9-13-2024 Oneida High School *
- 9-20-2024 at Bledsoe Co. High School * 7:00
- 9-27-2024 at Eagleton College and Career Ac. 7:00
- 10-4-2024 Polk Co. High School * 7:30
- 10-11-2024 Oakdale High School 7:30
- 10-18-2024 at Sunbright High School Homecoming 7:30
- 10-25-2024 at Alvin C. York Institute * 7:30
- 10-31-2024 at Tellico Plains High School * 7:30

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Sunbright

- 8-23-2024 at Red Boiling Springs High School 8:30
- 8-30-2024 Pickett Co. High School 7:30
- 9-6-2024 at Oakdale High School * 7:30
- 9-13-2024 at Rockwood High School * 7:30
- 9-20-2024 Midway High School * 7:30
- 9-27-2024 at Oliver Springs High School * Homecoming 7:30
- 10-11-2024 at Coalfield High School * 7:00
- 10-18-2024 Wartburg Central High School Homecoming 7:30
- 10-25-2024 Greenback High School * 7:30
- 11-1-2024 Harriman High School * Senior Night 7:30

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Coalfield

Oneida

8-22-2024	at Wartburg Central High School	7:00
8-30-2024	Oneida High School	7:00
9-6-2024	Greenback High School *	7:00
9-13-2024	at Midway High School *	7:30
9-20-2024	Harriman High School *	7:00
9-27-2024	Sequatchie Co. High School	7:00
10-4-2024	at Oakdale High School *	7:30
10-11-2024	Sunbright High School *	7:00
10-24-2024	at Oliver Springs High School * Rivalry Thursday	7:30
11-1-2024	at Rockwood High School *	7:30



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8-23-2024	at Rockwood High School	7:30
8-30-2024	at Coalfield High School	7:00
9-6-2024	Eagleton College and Career Ac.	7:30
9-13-2024	at Wartburg Central High School *	
9-20-2024	Polk Co. High School *	7:30
9-27-2024	at Greenback High School	7:30
10-4-2024	at Alvin C. York Institute *	7:00
10-11-2024	Tellico Plains High School *	7:30
10-25-2024	at The King's Academy	7:30
10-31-2024	Bledsoe Co. High School *	8:00

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Oakdale

8-23-2024	at Pickett County	7:00
8-30-2024	Jellico High School	7:30
9-6-2024	Sunbright High School *	7:30
9-13-2024	at Oliver Springs High School *	7:30
9-20-2024	Greenback High School *	7:30
9-27-2024	at Harriman High School *	
10-4-2024	Coalfield High School *	7:30
10-11-2024	at Wartburg Central High School	7:30
10-25-2024	at Rockwood High School *	7:30
11-1-2024	Midway High School *	7:30

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David Zubler
Columnist

IRS Whistleblower has paid \$1.2 billion

The IRS announced that it has paid over \$1.2 billion in awards to whistleblowers since the program was established. The program has been successful in collection of over \$7 billion from non-compliant taxpayers.

The announcement was made to honor the importance of the IRS whistleblower program on National Whistleblower Appreciation Day. National Whistleblower Appreciation Day is recognized on July 30 because America's first whistleblower law was passed by the Continental

Congress on July 30, 1778. The Whistleblower Office was established in 2007.

In 2023, the IRS paid awards totaling \$88.8 million based on whistleblower information which resulted in collection of \$338 million. The Whistleblower Office established 16,932 award claims in 2023, an increase of 44% compared to the average of the prior four years.

A whistleblower may qualify for an award when use of the information results in proceeds collected. The awards paid to whistleblowers generally range between 15 and 30% of the proceeds collected and attributable to their information. Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section 7623 provides for awards, in some cases mandatory, when the IRS takes action based on a whistleblower's information.

IRS Form 211 is used by whistleblowers to report non-compliant taxpayers. The following information should be provided:

- A description of the alleged tax noncompliance, including a written narrative explaining the issue(s).
- Information to support the narrative, such as copies of books and records, ledger sheets, receipts, bank records, contracts, emails, and the location of assets.
- A description of documents or supporting evidence not in the whistleblower's possession or control, and their location.
- An explanation of how and when the whistleblower became aware of the information that forms the basis of the claim.
- A complete description of the whistleblower's present or former relationship (if any) to the subject of the claim (for example, family member, acquaintance, client, employee, accountant, lawyer, bookkeeper, customer).
- The whistleblower's original signature on the declaration under penalty of perjury (a representative cannot sign Form 211 for the whistleblower) and the date of signature.

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

African American achievers with roots in the Oliver Springs region

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

The theme of the Tri-County African American Cultural Museum in Oliver Springs, which opened in March and had its grand opening on Aug. 3, is "Road to Freedom: Past, Present, and Future." It starts with the story of museum founder Julia Hopper Daniel's great-great grandmother, who was enslaved at birth in 1845 through 1865, spending the last 10 years of her enslavement on farmland where Julia lives.

An apt description of the museum's purpose might be the African proverb cited by Julia, who is passionate about historical preservation: "Until the lion tells his side of the story, the tale of the hunt will always glorify the hunter." One of her messages in the talks she gives is that "you should tell your own history and not wait for others to write or tell your story."

African Americans make up only about 3% of the Oliver Springs population of more than 3,300, but this new museum complements the Oliver Springs Historical Society in telling the history of almost all people in the town, as well as African Americans who have lived elsewhere in Anderson, Roane and Morgan counties, a small part of which Oliver Springs occupies. In this article, Carolyn Krause provides information on some of the past and present African Americans highlighted in the museum. ***

Jo Ann Boyce, an Oliver Springs native, was one of 12 African American students who broke the color barrier and integrated nearby Clinton High School in 1956. As Jo Ann Allen Boyce, she co-authored the award-winning 2019 book "The Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality."

It tells the story of the turmoil caused among students and townspeople by interfering outside agitators.

The children's book won several awards, including the 2019 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for Nonfiction, a Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor and A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year.

In 2023 Oliver Springs native Charles Boyd, who played on the Oak Ridge Bombers baseball team, was presented with a proclamation by Rev. Derrick Hammond, member of the Oak Ridge City Council. It states that November has been declared to be Oak Ridge Bombers Month in the city of Oak Ridge. Both men were featured in a front-page photograph in The Oak Ridger.

The museum's building project manager is the Rev. David Benjamin, pastor of Little Leaf Missionary Baptist Church in Oliver Springs. On Jan. 30, 2020, at the State Capitol in Nashville, he was designated Chaplain of the Day by Cameron Sexton, speaker of the House of Representatives for the 111th General Assembly of the state of Tennessee. He was cited in the proclamation for his "outstanding service and dedication to the state, and extraordinary interest in governmental processes."

A photo in the museum shows a teacher standing with children sitting in front of the Chester Benjamin International Academy in Liberia. The school was built in the name of David's father, the late Rev. Chester Benjamin. The C.B. Helping Hands Ministries, founded in 2006 in Oliver Springs and New Mexico to honor the enduring legacy of the late Rev. Chester Benjamin and Sister Dorothy Benjamin, provides services in Ghana and Liberia.

The ministry builds schools, pro-

vides scholarships, offers vocational training, provides free medical care and health education, installs wells and water filtration systems and distributes food to combat malnutrition.

Elizabeth Stallings, a native of Oliver Springs and a student in Mayme Carmichael's one-room elementary school, became an outstanding nurse and director of nurses. She worked briefly for the Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge.

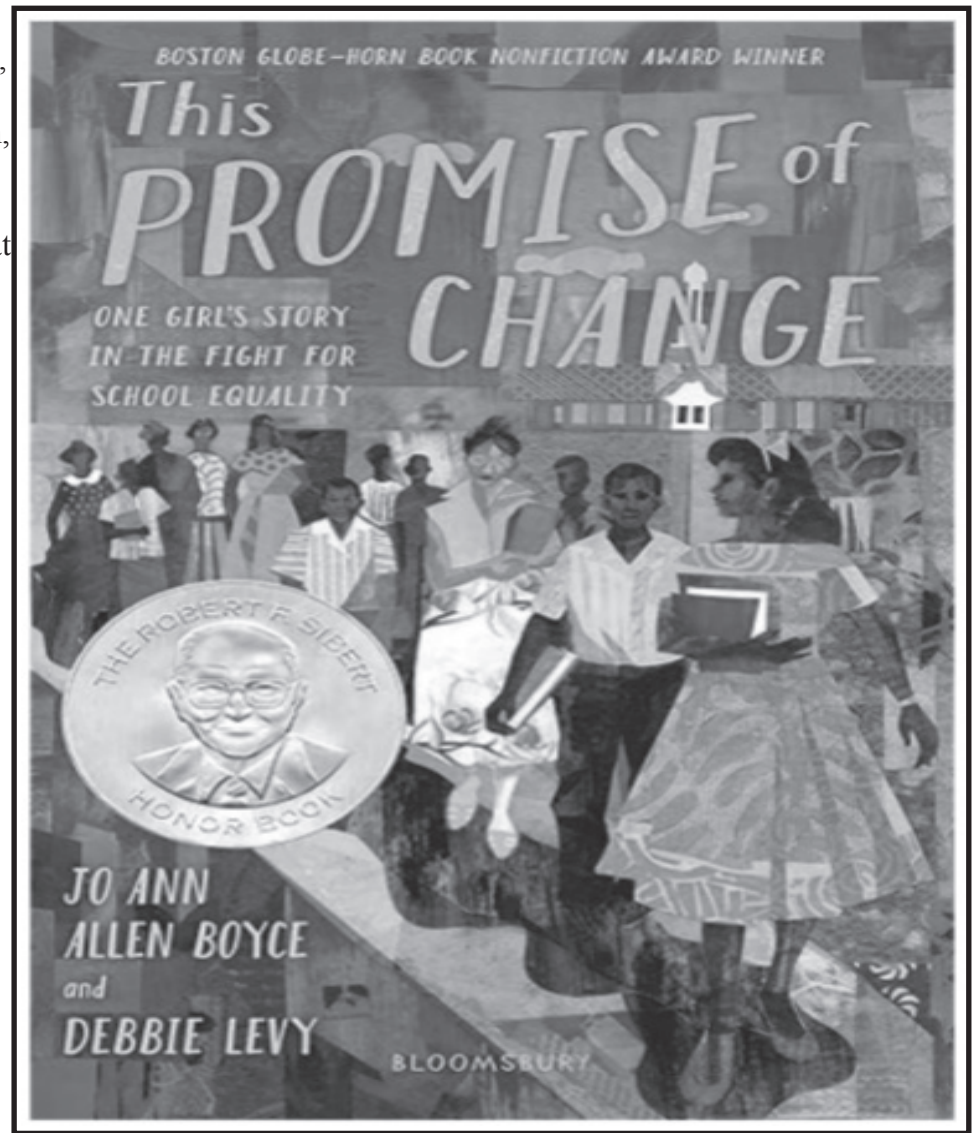
As a registered nurse she received extensive training at Cornell University on transplanting kidneys and using dialysis to cleanse the blood of patients lacking normal kidney function. She was recognized for initiating the training of spouses of dialysis patients to administer dialysis at home, saving families considerable travel and waiting time involved in transporting patients to dialysis centers frequently for the life-saving procedure.

Carolyn Bush Roddy, a college and professional basketball player who grew up in Oliver Springs, was selected and inducted in March 2024 as a member of the Tennessee Community College Athletic Association Hall of Fame. She played basketball at Roane County High School and Hiwassee College in Madisonville, where she earned All-American accolades.

Upon graduation from Wayland Baptist College in Texas, she was a member of the 1975 Pan American team, which earned the Gold Medal at the 1975 Pan American Games. She played basketball professionally for the Dallas Diamonds of the Women's Professional Basketball League. Later, she became an assistant women's basketball coach at Roane State Community College in Harriman and then the head women's basketball coach at Hiwassee College and at Knoxville College.

Clarence "King Pleasure" Beeks was a popular jazz vocalist and an early master of "vocalese," singing words to a well-known instrumental solo. A native of Oakdale in Morgan County, King Pleasure first achieved popularity with his recording of "Moody's Mood for Love" based on a 1949 James Moody saxophone solo to "I'm in the Mood for Love." Pleasure's 1952 recording is considered a jazz classic. He was cited as a major influence on other well-known singers. He died in Los Angeles.

Abigail (Gail) Hopper Brown, a native of Oliver Springs, was an educator in the Oak



Jo Ann Allen Boyce, who grew up in Oliver Springs and was one of the Clinton 12, coauthored this award-winning 2019 children's book

"This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality."
(Courtesy the Tri-County African American Cultural Museum in Oliver Springs)

Ridge School System. She is Julia Daniel's older sister. Both Gail and Julia were taught for eight years by Mayme Carmichael at the Oliver Springs Colored School.

Gail, who was valedictorian in her high school senior class, graduated with a B.S. degree in business administration and an M.S. degree in education from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. From 1969 to 2001, she worked at ORHS as a business education teacher who



Julia Hopper Daniel, a founder of the Tri-County African American Cultural Museum in Oliver Springs, spoke recently at a "From the Grassroots Roundtable" panel discussion on "Preserving Places and Stories in the East Tennessee Black Community" at the East Tennessee Historical Society in Knoxville.
(Courtesy of Carolyn Krause)

taught economics and technology.

Gail's daughter is Molly Brown, a graduate of ORHS and Northwestern University, who serves as the deputy program manager for the New START Treaty within the U.S. Navy Strategic Systems Programs command. In her Navy national security job, she told Benita Albert in an Historically Speaking column in October 2022, "I stumbled upon the arms control treaties and agreements world with my first job and have stayed in this niche field since. I started working in chemical and biological treaties, eventually working my way to the Compliance Assessment Group."

Her work with the U.S. Navy requires that she render policy advice and oversight on international and domestic laws requiring compliance. Her job involves research, problem solving, travel, communication skills and diplomacy.

Historically Speaking
African American achievers with roots in the Oliver Springs region

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Charlene Webster, who attended elementary school in Oliver Springs, majored in cosmetology at the Historic Pearl High School in Nashville and then passed the test to earn a cosmetology license. In 1976 she moved to Oak Ridge and founded and opened Mahogany Hair Designs, one of the first African American salons in the city.

Clarence Fritts was a coal miner who learned how to repair radios and TV sets for Oliver Springs residents. One of his children, Anna Rose Fritts Eskridge, worked for 35 years as a registered nurse at the Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge.

Lt. Samuel W. Harper, son of Julia Hopper Daniel's grandfather (William Julian Hopper Sr., a coal miner and railroad worker in Oliver Springs), was a Tuskegee Airman. The Tuskegee Airmen were African American fighter and bomber pilots and military airmen who fought in World War II.

On my visit to the museum, I met Ronolda Dooley, a cousin of Julia Daniel and daughter of Bronce Odell Griffin. She told me stories about the Griffin family, starting with a sad story about her great-grandfather James Griffin. When Ronolda was asked about whether the three counties had any known lynchings of

African Americans (hangings for alleged offenses with or without a legal trial), the answer was that each county had two lynchings.

Ronolda then told the story from oral tradition about James when he was squirrel hunting. He saw a white man aim a gun at him, so in

self-defense James shot him in the leg, crippling him. James feared he would be lynched so he left the area and never returned, abandoning his wife Eliza, his daughter Ella Mae (who became a public-school teacher) and son Walter Joe Griffin.

Walter was Ronolda's grandfather, husband of Laura Anna Crozier, father of eight children and a coal miner for more than 40 years. He worked in coal mines in Tennessee's Walden Ridge and in East Kentucky. For a time when he was using a pick and shovel in an underground Windrock Mountain coal mine, he experienced "life in the camps" and his family lived in "designated homes for the colored" on the mountain, Ronolda said.

The Griffin family left Windrock Mountains for more suitable housing in the Oliver Springs area. Walter never owned a car, but he was willing to walk five to eight miles daily to work in a coal mine. He had no more than a third-grade education, but he took pride in teaching himself the 13 x13 multiplication tables while working in a mine (his two children who were college graduates majored in mathematics).

He valued education so much that he entered a walking race from Oliver Springs to the Cas Walker Grocery Store in Knoxville that was established by local merchants in Oliver Springs. He came in second but won enough money to help fund the college education of his daughter Alma.

His son Bronce, father of Ronolda, enrolled in Knoxville College under the GI bill. He was president of his class and graduated summa cum laude with a major in math and chemistry. He taught these subjects at a Virginia high school and then started working at the Tennessee Valley Authority, where he worked as a materials tester at TVA's Kingston Steam Plant; his job involved analyzing samples of deliv-

ered coal to measure its physical and chemical properties to determine whether it was suitable when burned to generate electricity.

He later worked at TVA's Gallatin Steam Plant as a chemical laboratory analyst. Then he was promoted to chemical engineering associate at Bull Run Steam Plant where he directed the analysis of water samples from various plant sources and called for corrective actions to ensure the water met environmental limits.

According to Ronolda, the value that Walter Joe Griffin placed on education was embraced by his children and grandchildren, many of whom became physicians, lawyers, counselors, educators, chemists, engineers and professional football players. Also, like him, they have been dedicated to supporting their families and churches in various ways.

Thank you, Carolyn, for insights into the newly opened Tri-County African American Cultural Museum.



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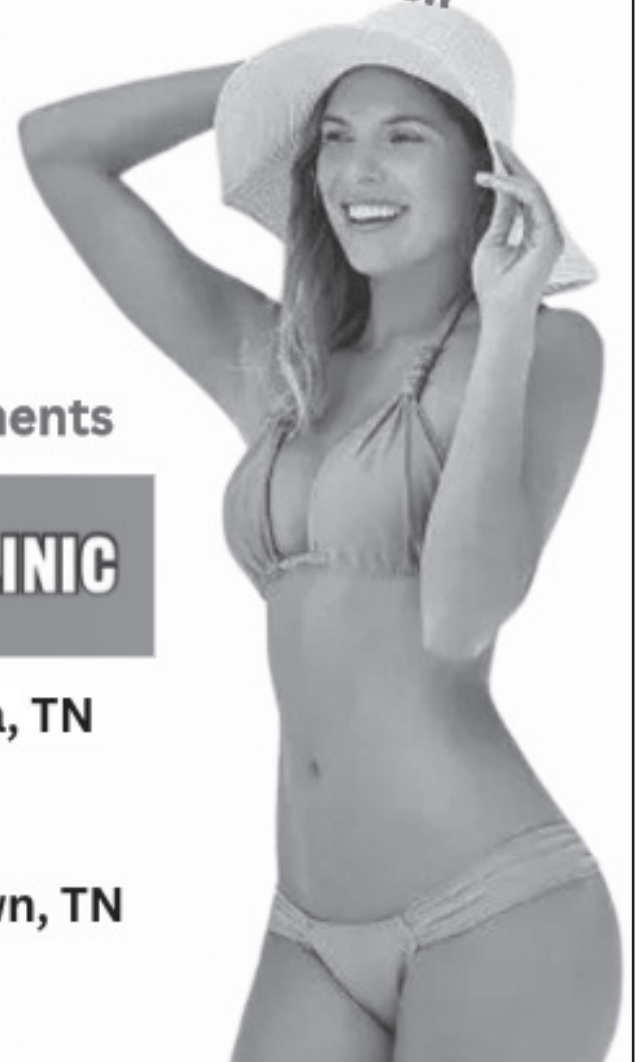
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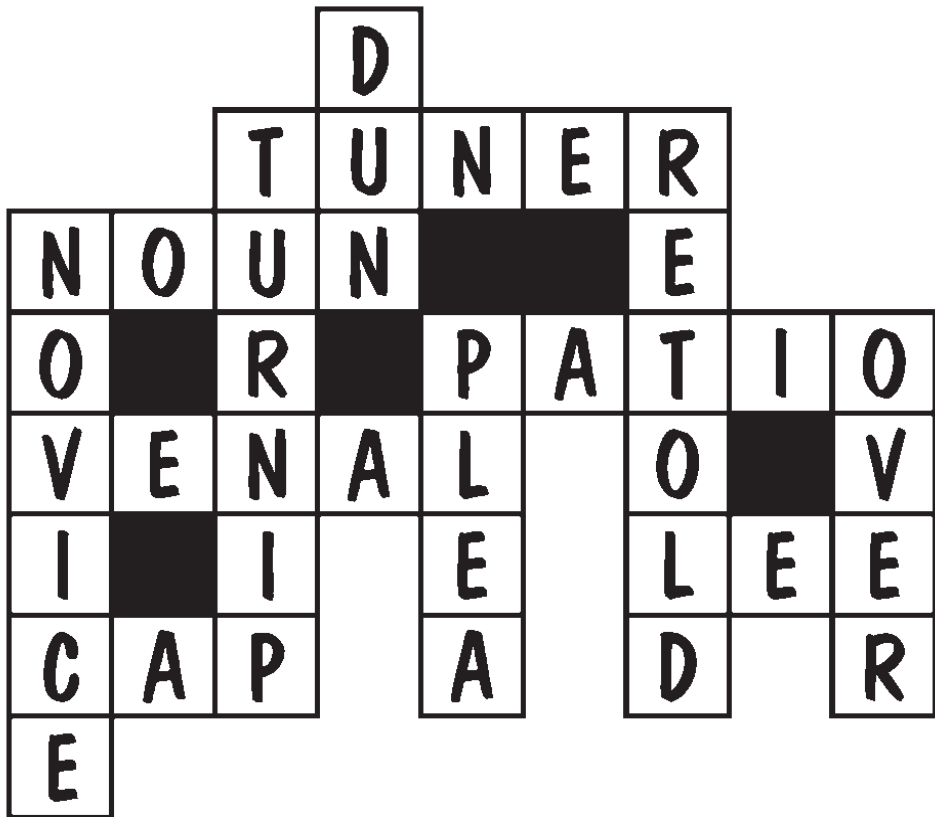
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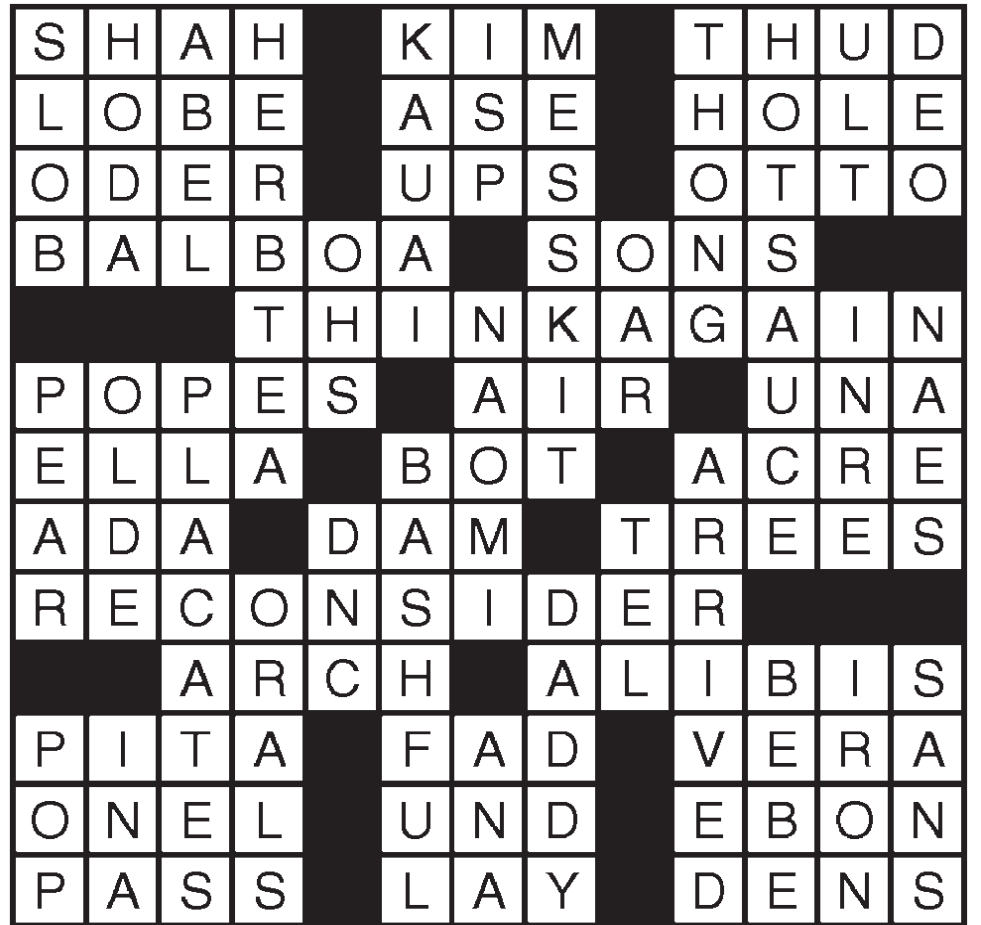
answer



King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.



STRANGE BUT TRUE, By Lucie Winborne

* After 10 minutes of looking at yourself in a mirror in a dimly lit room, your bored brain will distort your reflection, triggering the appearance of imaginary monsters such as "Bloody Mary."

* Sologamy is the act of marrying yourself.

* In 1895, there were only two cars in the entire state of Ohio... and they still ended up crashing into each other.

* The record for most passengers on an airplane was set in 1991 when 1,086 Ethiopian Jews were evacuated to Jerusalem on a Boeing 747. However, the plane landed with 1,088 passengers, as two babies made their earthly debut during the flight.

* Pineapples were a status symbol in 18th century England. In fact, they were so expensive that you could rent them by the night and take them to parties with you.

* In the first quarter after Covid lockdowns, lipstick sales shot up nearly 50%.

* The Apollo 11 astronauts had to go through customs upon their return to Earth and declare moon rocks, moon dust and other lunar samples, according to the form signed by all three and filed at the Honolulu Airport in Hawaii on July 24, 1969.

* Cymothoa exigua is a parasite that severs the blood vessels of a fish's tongue and becomes a new functional tongue.

* Bella and Edward's relationship in the "Twilight" book and film series meets all 15 criteria set by the National Domestic Violence Hotline for being in an abusive relationship.

* An estimated 10% of Europeans are immune to HIV infection because they have an ancestor who survived bubonic plague.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

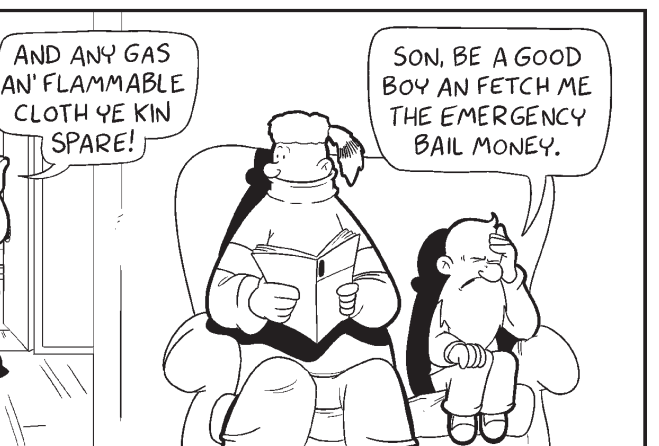
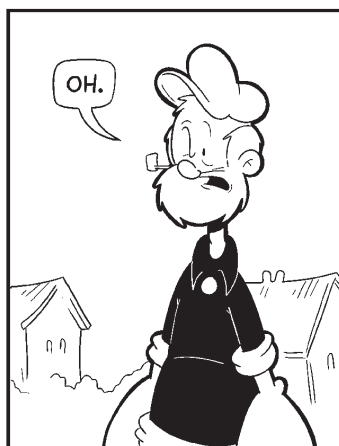
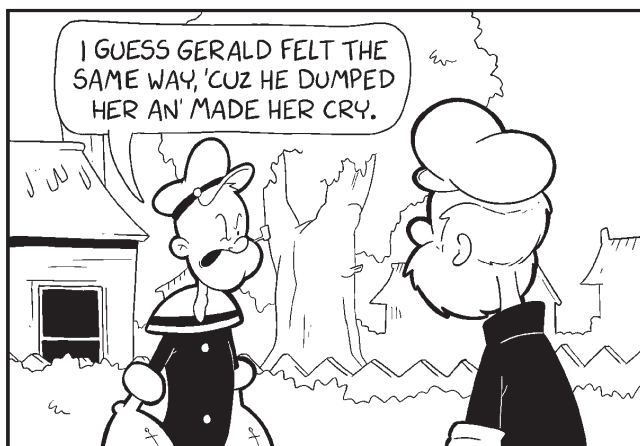
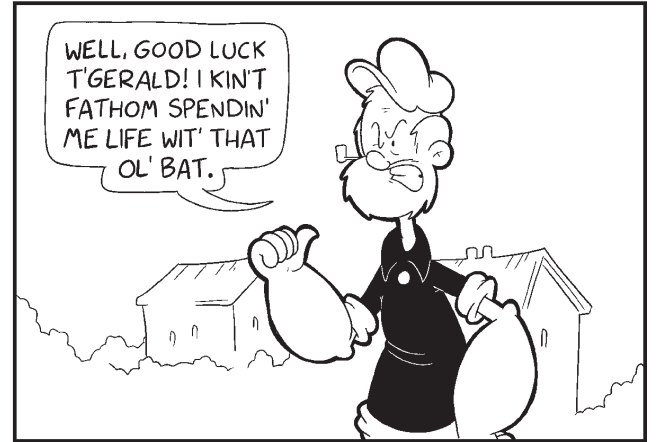
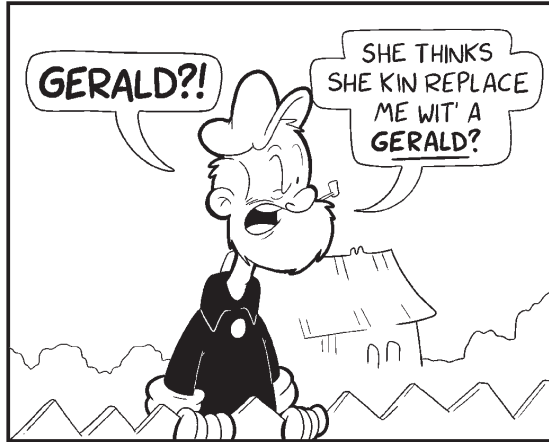
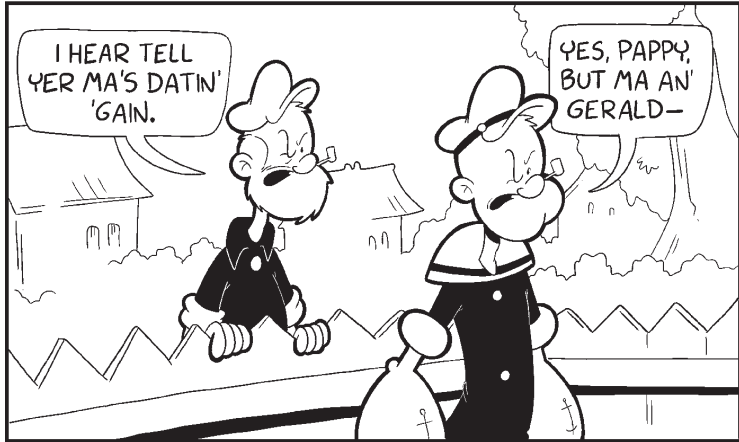
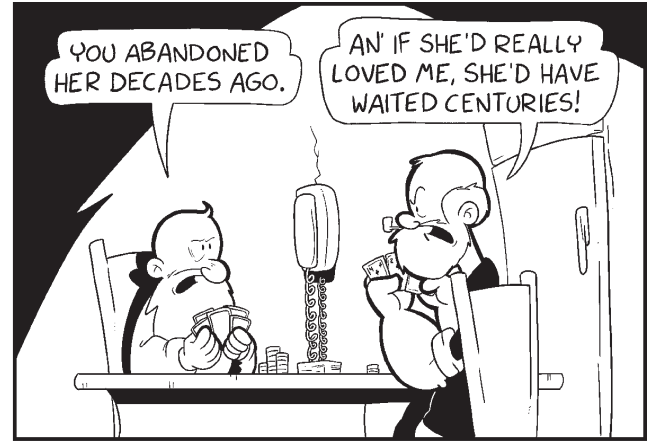
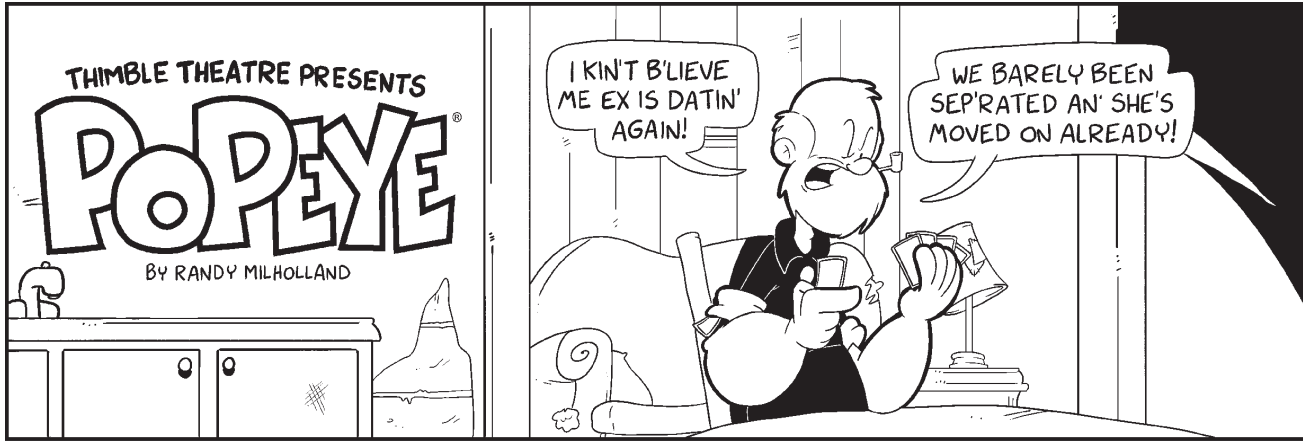


Differences: 1. Shingles are different. 2. Bowl is larger. 3. Doghouse opening is different. 4. Bottom of shirt is different. 5. Paw is moved. 6. Finger is moved.

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps





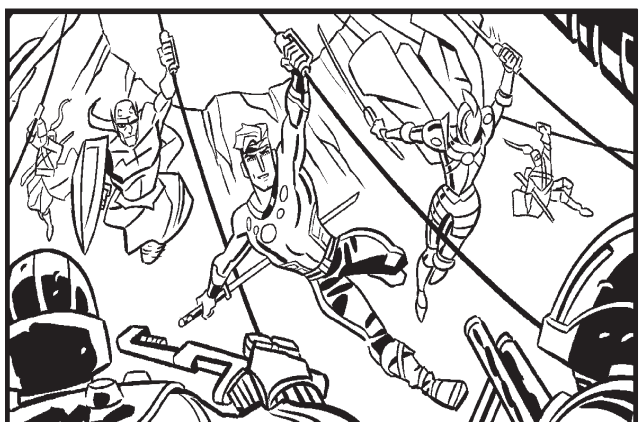
MONTHS AGO, WE ALL BROUGHT DOWN THE FLAGSHIP, AND THE REIGN, OF EMPEROR MING.



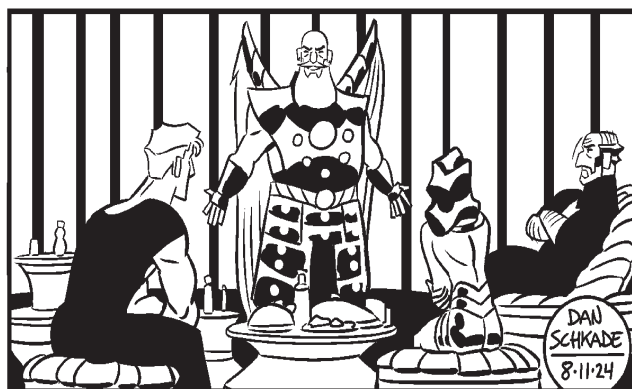
PRINCE BARIN WAS M.I.A. -- WE CROSSED A DESERT, A JUNGLE, AND A LUNATIC TO FIND HIM.



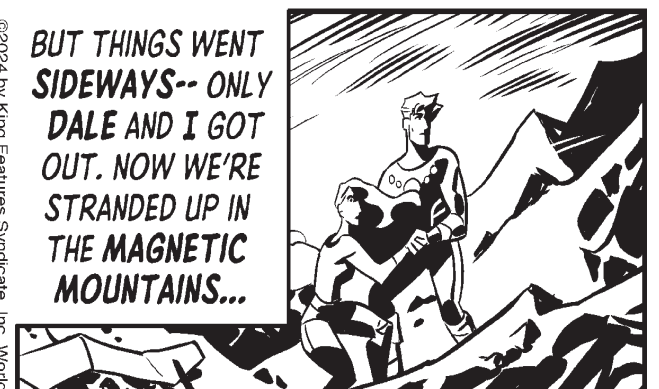
AT BARIN'S WEDDING, I GOT FRAMED FOR A MURDER. DALE AND ZARKOV FOUND THE REAL KILLER, BUT WE STILL HAD TO GO ON THE RUN.



WE SAW SOME ACTION UP IN FRIGIA. IT WAS FUN, HONESTLY... UNTIL IT WASN'T.



WE ENDED UP IN SKY CITY, WHERE VULTAN STRONG-ARMED US INTO HELPING HIM BUILD A WEAPON. NOTHING FOR IT: WE HAD TO ESCAPE.



BUT THINGS WENT SIDWAYS-- ONLY DALE AND I GOT OUT. NOW WE'RE STRANDED UP IN THE MAGNETIC MOUNTAINS...

RIGHT BY WHERE MING'S FLAGSHIP CRASHED.

NEXT: THE KILLING STONE

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Becoming the Teth Psalm 119 Vs. 65-72



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

Vs. 65 You have dealt well with your servant, Oh Lord, according to your word.

Vs. 66 Teach me good judgement and knowledge, for I believe your commandments.

Vs. 67 Before I was afflicted, I went astray. Now I keep your word.

Vs. 68 You are good, and do good: teach me your statutes.

Vs. 69 The proud have forged a lie against me, but I will keep your precepts with

my whole heart.

Vs. 70 The heart is as fat as grease, but I delight in your law.

Vs. 71 it is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn your statutes.

Vs. 72 The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver.

Today we begin the study of the paradox, between good and evil in our world.

We now encounter the Hebrew letter Teth. It is the 9th letter of the Hebrew Aleph/Bet. The numerical value of Teth is nine.

This psalm is designed to get believers focused on personal relationship to God, through belief in his written revealed word alone. The Teth is a question of recognizing evil versus good.

David is speaking to believers in God's plan of redemption. The Teth appears as a serpent coiled in a basket when written. The Teth is behind religious traditions that are unscriptural.

Teth is an abject lesson in religious legalism. Religions require a devotion to men who believe they alone hold a monopoly on revelation about God. This has led to church agnosticism. Possessing wrong information.

Religion denies the total sovereignty of God ordering man's footsteps. Teth raises a few questions. Who controls evil in our world? What is the purpose for God allowing evil? Did Jesus Christ die to make bad men good? Is the Bible a self-help manual?

We all possess inherent qualities God desires to use, based upon time. The bad qualities, God desires to turn into our testimony to help others not make the same choices.

The good qualities, God begins using for his glory. His glory is expressed in getting others delivered from sin, and headed down the road to his future kingdom on earth. The is a lesson in human paradox.

Is how we look on the outside, more important than how God is forming us on the inside? Is the goal of the cross to get us all to recognize our inner qualities?

Is judging others guilty, while never addressing how we personally deny Messiah through unbelief and religion, going to be rewarded by Jesus? I think not.

Has it produced more kingdom worshippers and God-fearing humans? Has telling the world they are sinners, while practicing Babylonian traditions, imported to church, by Roman compromise, ok with God?

God is returning our world to the times of the Acts of the Apostles. Church as an organization has failed miserably. Legalism in Church judges all others guilty while never fixing what is wrong personally.

We live in the Laodicean church age, with the hallmark of apostacy standing at the door of our hearts. The corporate church has people on a wide road that will lead to their destruction. Only a return to individual Bible literacy can save a human being from church deception.

What has religion in church delivered in your life? Are your children secure in their salvation? Are they leading others to Christ? Are you comfortable believing Christ has saved you to become a pew squatter?

What is the fruit of your testimony producing for God? Mercy is defined as scriptural correction. Can a man be truly saved apart from learning the complete mind of God our creator?

These are the paradoxical questions we all should be answering in Bible study daily.

Mercy outlined as scriptural correction, leading to Grace defined as scriptural restoration. Both offered as free gifts from God to all those with the humility to admit that without God I will be separated from eternal life in heaven, and be sent to hell for denying God's entire plan of redemption.

Religion gets no one saved. Salvation is found in the testimony of God to King David. Faith in the statutes of God, and setting our minds to endure correction, will alone lead to the outpouring of grace in the lives of others. This is true faith in Adonai Elohim, the Trinity who loves his creation.

Today, meditate upon what Jesus Christ did for all of us on Calvary. He did it to prove the love of the father to humanity. Harness yourself to the idea that only Bible belief will aide me when I stand before God to give a just recompense for those things having done in the flesh with my testimony.

Only one answer will clear your path to Messiah's kingdom and eternal life. I am chief amongst sinners, oh God. I believe that nothing but the blood of Jesus can justify me before a righteous creator.

Have mercy upon me Oh Lord, according to your lovingkindness. According to your unending mercy wash me from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin, for you alone are holy and able.

In Jesus Christ's name. Let him who has ears, hear what the spirit is saying.

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

He is alive forevermore, and he is returning for his true virgin bride very soon.

JB 4-15-2024

Staff Sergeant John Burns enlisted into the United States Army on September 23, 1987 as an IIC 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.

BIBLE TRIVIA, By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Terebinth in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What sprang up and shadowed over Jonah's head, delivering him from his grief? Hemlock, Gourd, Flowers, Fig tree
3. From Judges 16, where did Samson tell Delilah that his great strength lies? Deep voice, Mighty arms, Long hair, Kind heart
4. Who married King David after her evil husband, Nabal, died? Tamar, Abigail, Vashti, Sarah
5. Which man's name in the book of Genesis means "hairy"? Seth, Cain, Abel, Esau
6. How many times is the word "Lucifer" in the Bible? 1, 13, 39, 66

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Gourd, 3) Long hair, 4) Abigail, 5) Esau, 6) 1 (Isaiah 14:12)

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Matthew Chapter 26



Melvin Howard

(Matthew 26: 1-5) Jesus' final prophecy of his death (Mk. 14:1-2; Lk. 1-2): After a masterful discourse on his ultimate role as the Judge of all humanity, he ironically predicts the event in which a spiritually corrupt court will "judge" him. This would be late Tuesday evening as we reckon time, early Wednesday as the Jews counted it (v. 2). The Son of Man is soon to be delivered up to be crucified. This is the first time the specific manner of death has been stated (v.1-2).

Gathered together were chief priests (those who held or had previously occupied the high-priestly office, along with prominent members of that family) and elders (members of the Sanhedrin). They assembled in the court of the high priest, likely a hastily called group to get things moving. The high priest was Caiaphas (served A.D. 18-36), the son-in-law of Annas (see Jn. 18:13), a former high priest. The group "took counsel" concerning how they would "take Jesus by stealth" and kill him (v. 4). The Greek word behind "stealth" suggests baiting a trap, deceit. One with ethics need not apply. They were careful not to create a furor at feast time due to the popularity of the Lord.

(Matthew 26:6-13) The anointing at Bethany (Mk. 14:3-9; Jn. 12:2-8): Matthew, in his non-chronological fashion, inserts here an earlier episode because of its thematic relevance. This occurred six days before the Passover (Jn. 12:1). Jesus was in Bethany, the residential community of Lazarus, Martha, and Mary, yet visiting in the home of Simon the leper (who perhaps had been healed by Christ, in view of the socialization on this occasion). Lazarus' family had prepared the meal and all were visiting in Simon's home; in fact, Martha served the meal (Jn. 12:2).

Mary entered (v. 7), having an alabaster container of very precious ointment (equal in value to three hundred days' wages) (Mk. 14:5; Mt. 20:2). She poured the expensive substance on her Lord's head (v. 7), also anointing his feet and drying them with her long hair. The house was filled with the fragrance (Jn. 12:3). Judas Iscariot spoke up and bitterly complained about the "waste." It could have been sold, he said, and the revenue given to the poor. He had been embezzling money out of the bag from which the apostolic band bought supplies (12:6). He seems to have been the treasurer. Further, his negative influence apparently infected some of the other disciples, for they likewise were "indignant" and filed the same complaint (v. 8).

Jesus issued a kind rebuke: "Do not trouble the woman. Let her alone. The poor you will have with you always, but me you will not have." Mary's generous act, not realized even by her at the time, was a dramatic hint of the Savior's impending death---only days away. And the graciousness of that sweet gesture would be proclaimed worldwide as a memorial for her. The very fact that this selfless act was incorporated into three of the Gospel accounts and we are reading about it twenty centuries removed from the event is testimony to the integrity of the Bible record.

(Matthew 26:14-16) The treachery of Judas (Mk. 14:10-11; Lk. 22:3-6): Satan entered into the heart of Judas---not by force, but by invitation (Lk. 22:3). The devilish impulse has been working for a while; the action begins now in earnest. Judas seeks out the chief priests and proposes a deal. "What will you pay me for delivering him to you?" He would supply them with the necessary information and positive identification for the apprehension of the Savior. Five centuries earlier, the prophet Zechariah (11:12) had foretold this haggling of conditions between these parties, and the New Testament confirms the accuracy of the deal precisely (see "covenanted" Lk. 22:5). The agreed amount was thirty pieces of silver (v. 15), the common price of a slave under the Mosaic law (Ex. 21:32). The cheap price for such a wanted man is commentary on the malice that burned in the heart of the traitor. From that moment, Judas began to look for an ideal time, away from the crowds (Lk. 22:6), to deliver up the one who had so befriended him.

(Matthew 26:17-19) The preparation for the Passover (Mk. 14:12-16; Lk. 22:7-13): The events of Wednesday of the passion week are passed over by the biblical writers in silence. How very unusual at such an important time---except by divine design. The Bible's omissions are as significant as its inclusions in the matter of evidence for its inspiration. Perhaps the Lord sought some solitude in Bethany in preparation for the ordeal ahead. It is now Thursday. Preparations for the Passover dinner needed to be made and the disciples inquired about the matter (v. 17). Jesus sent two of them (Peter and John) (Lk. 22:8) into Jerusalem. They were to look for a man carrying a pitcher of water (usually a woman's chore) and follow him to his house. They were to tell the gentleman that their Teacher wished to use his guest-chamber for the celebration of the Passover with his disciples. The man (obviously a follower of Christ) would then show them a large upper

room all made ready (Mk. 14:13). Peter and John did as the Savior instructed and the details transpired just as Christ had specified with amazing prophetic accuracy.

(Matthew 26:20-25) The traitor discreetly identified (Mk. 14:18-21; Lk. 22:21-23; Jn. 13:21-35): It now was evening and Jesus was dining with the twelve. During the meal, Jesus, quite troubled in his spirit (Jn. 13:21), bluntly said, "Truly I say to you, one of you shall betray me." The shock must have been stunning. They had been previously told that he would be "delivered up," but they likely never dreamed it would be one of them. They became exceedingly sorrowful (v. 22). They looked at one another, most perplexed (Jn. 13:22), and one by one began to ask: "Is it I, Lord?" The Lord replied affirmatively, "It is one of you twelve; he who dips with me in the dish" (Mk. 14:20).

Christ explained that his coming death was a divine "determination" (Lk. 22:22; Acts 2:23) that had been prophetically foretold in the Scriptures; nonetheless, woe to the man who initiates the betrayal. He will be acting on his own volition, and would have been better if he never had been born (v. 24). (If Judas did not exist before his conception, and as a result of his evil deed he would die lost (Jn. 17:12) and go out of existence (as the advocates of annihilation contend), why would nothingness before [his birth be "better" than nothingness] after his death?) The disciples began to discuss among themselves as to which of them would do such a thing (Lk. 22:23). Finally, Judas, with words dripping with insincerity, asked, "Is it I?" Jesus replied affirmatively.

(Matthew 26:26-30) The Lord's Supper (Mk. 14:22-26; Lk. 22:19-20): During the course of the supper, Jesus took some bread and "blessed" it. This does not signify that the composition of the bread was altered; it simply is an idiomatic equivalent of "giving thanks" (Lk. 22:19). From the larger context we learn that it was unleavened bread (azumos) (v. 17), but usually the more generic term is employed (artos) for the communion bread. Jesus broke the piece of bread and distributed it to the disciples, instructing, "Take this and eat it; this is my body." Obviously it was not literally his body; he employed a figure of speech, a metaphor, to show that the bread represented his body about to be sacrificed upon the cross. For similar metaphors, see John 10:7, 11, 15:5.

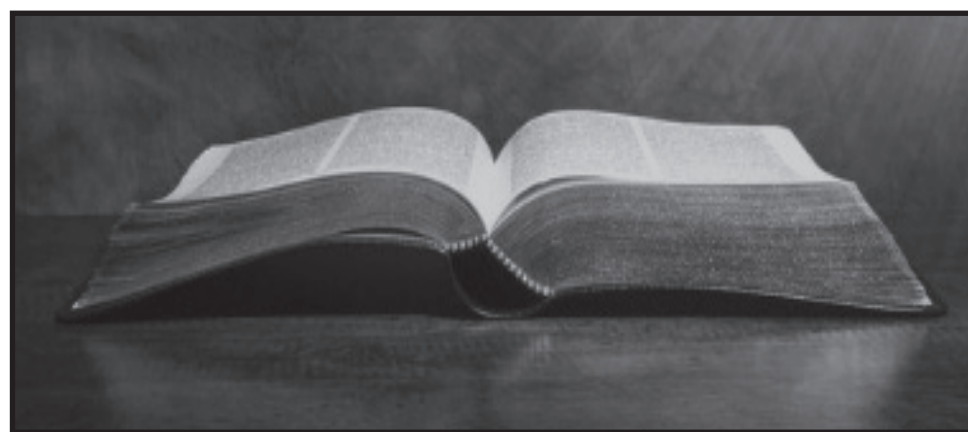
Jesus then took a cup, gave thanks, and said, "All of you drink of it" (v. 27). "All" (masculine pronoun) refers to the disciples, not the contents of the cup. The fact that "all" are commanded to drink of the fruit of the vine contradicts the Roman Catholic dogma of "communion under one kind," which contends that for the "laity" both elements are included in the bread. Again with a metaphor, he says, "This is my blood of the covenant." The "covenant" is the new covenant (in contrast to the Mosaic system) foretold by Jeremiah (31:31-34). The covenant would be ratified by the shed blood of the Lord (Heb. 8:7; 9:15-17). His blood was to be "poured out for many unto the remission of sins" (v. 28). "Poured out" indicates a violent death (Isa. 53:12; Zech. 12:10; 13:1); "many" is an idiom for "all" (Rom. 5:12; 15). The phrase, "unto the remission of sins," states the purpose of his death (the identical phrase in Acts 2:38). Jesus declared that he would not henceforth drink of "this fruit of the vine" (it had not turned to blood---contra the dogma of transubstantiation). Christ spiritually communes with Christians when they partake of the Lord's supper each first day of the week (Sunday) (v. 29; Acts 20:7). At some point, Judas left (Jn. 13:30), and the men sang a hymn and departed eastward toward the Mount of Olives (v. 30).

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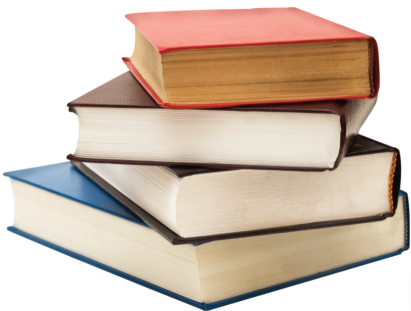
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