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Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

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WEEKLY WEATHER



Tue 10	81°/60°	
Wed 11	85°/63°	
Thu 12	87°/68°	
Fri 13	83°/69°	
Sat 14	83°/69°	
Sun 15	82°/68°	
Mon 16	80°/68°	



**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective

Pappy Is Tough!

Well, Pappy got a new knee yesterday. He is so tough and strong. He's been walking around, doing his exercises, his ice therapy, coughing and deep breathing to prevent pneumonia, and all that kind of stuff.

He says, the more you move the better after surgery to avoid stiffness and blood clots.

Ms Ivory and me have been keeping a close eye on him and staying out of his way when he is walking all around the house, including up and down the steps. Did I say he's tough?

Here I am helping him with his exercises. He says I'm the best physical therapist ever and the prettiest one, too. Ain't that just so sweet of him to say? Ms Ivory and me wuff our Pap. He is the best feller, ever!

Please keep him in your prayers as he heals with his new knee.

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



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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.

USDA FOODS DISTRIBUTION

East Tennessee Human Resource Agency (ETHRA) will distribute USDA Foods, Thursday, June 12, 8 am to 12 pm, at the Wartburg Civic Center. You may pick up for 3 households only. Please bring a box for your commodities. For more information, call 423-346-6651 or 865-312-7741, option 5. This program is funded under an agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

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— In Loving Memory —

Lois Marie (Stringfield) Galloway, 93



Lois Marie (Stringfield) Galloway, age 93, passed away at her home on May 31, 2025.

She loved her quilting even in her last year of life. She also had fond memories as a teacher's aide at Sunbright High School.

Lois is preceded in death by her parents Earl and Opal (Human) Stringfield; husband of 57 years George Donley Galloway; infant daughter Donna Denise.

Lois leaves behind her children Melissa Galloway (Robert) Mil-

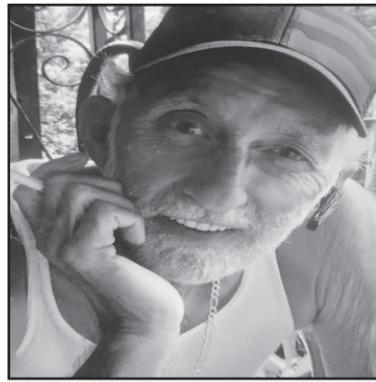
ing and Lori Galloway (Mark) Lyons; grandchildren Mitchell (Sarah) Miling, Ashleigh Miling (Nick) Pipla, Madeline Lyons (Brandon) Duncan; great grandchildren Ayla Miling, Carter Miling, and Cole Duncan.

The family would like to acknowledge caregiver Mary Jo Phillips, Quality Hospice caregivers Brenda and Tianne, and community of loving friends and church family.

The family will receive friends Thursday, June 5, 2025 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. Mike Hammons officiating. Interment will follow in the Sunbright Cemetery in Sunbright.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Lois Marie (Stringfield) Galloway.

Willard Shields Jr.



Willard Shields, Jr., passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family and friends on May 31, 2025.

He is preceded in death by his parents Willard F. Shields and Effie Stewart Shields and baby Willard Shields III.; brother Ted Sexton; sisters Laura Sexton Goe and Fayrene Shields Human and niece Rosie Human Barger; special friend Lena Phillips.

He is survived by his sisters Doris Kay Basler and Willa Dean Patterson; nephews Roger Shields and Jerry (Heather) Patterson, Ted (Pati) Sexton, Johnny Human and niece Vir-

ginia (Bill) Burns; great nieces Ashton (Gabe) Lowe, Aleah Patterson, Martina (Manni), Amanda (Andy) Arndts and Jamie Robinson; great nephews Brandon (Sarah) Shields, and Matthew Ellison; special friends Carylon Jones, Brenda Self, Chucky Kesterson, Jerry (Kay) Alsip, Charlie (Gail) Mabe, Randy (Holly) Goforth, Randall Woods, Benny Jones, Eric aka Oscar Aquhart.

Jr was a truck driver from the age of 16 and loved to work. He loved to ride his motorcycles and wash his many cars and trucks.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, June 7, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 10:00-12:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 12:00 p.m. Interment will follow in the Lane Cemetery in Lancing.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Willard Shields, Jr.

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

Ricky Lee Woods, 63



Ricky Lee Woods, age 63, of Joyner was called home on Tuesday, June 3, 2025.

Ricky was a lifelong resident of the Joyner Community and was loved by all. He was a loving father, partner, grandfather, and great grandfather.

Ricky is preceded in death by his parents Robert & Hester Woods and his grandparents Claude & Faye Woods and Wayne & Uvine Lowe Justice.

He leaves behind his daughter Jenna (Dammion) Teems; granddaughter Elenor Louise Teems of Atlanta, GA.; long-time partner Julia Chilton and family Christina (Douglas) Beason, Alli Laymance, Kohen Laymance, Wesley Smith, Rebecca Chilton, Jaxon Chilton, Averie Chilton, Sarah (Jake) Simpson, Lorelei Simpson, and Amelia Simpson.

The family will receive friends Saturday, June 7, 2025 at Beech Fork Holiness Church in the Joyner Community from 1:00-3:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 3:00 p.m. with Bro. Mike Nichols and Kevin Nichols officiating. Interment will follow in the Nichols Family Cemetery in Morgan County.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Ricky Lee Woods.

Psalm 86:4-5

4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.



— In Loving Memory —

Charlie Frank Williams, 74
United States Army, Vietnam War Combat Veteran



Charlie Frank Williams, age 74, passed away at his home on June 4, 2025, surrounded by his wife and children.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Mary Grace Williams and Jr. Williams.

He is survived by his wife, children, brother, Lyndell Williams of Norris, sister Debbie Williams Flick (Jim) of Oak Ridge, and special nieces and nephew, Shannon Harness (Scotty) of Oak Ridge, Gary Province (Haven) of Briceville, and Brittnee Williams of Norris.

Charlie was a devoted husband to his wife, Patty. Together, they built a stable, loving home; a home filled with strength, warmth, and unwavering support. He was a proud father to three children: Lyndell Joe Williams (Sherri), Michelle Campbell (Late husband -Joey), and Lyndon Williams. We always knew we were loved. We always knew we were safe. He

made sure of that every single day.

Our dad was the most amazing man. His life was rooted in love, dedication, and service- to his family, to his country, and to his community. He gave so much of himself without ever asking for anything in return.

Before he was a husband or father, he was a soldier. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War as a reconnaissance soldier, courageously providing intel for critical missions. For his bravery, he was awarded the Bronze Star. That courage, that sense of duty- it followed him throughout the rest of his life.

In 1981, he began a long and dedicated career as an EMT with Anderson County EMS, serving faithfully for 34 years. He also worked for Morgan County EMS, serving our community for over 20 years. Through those years, countless lives were touched- saved - by his hands, his calm under pressure, and his deep compassion.

Dad didn't just do a job. He built a legacy. He mentored generations of EMT's and Medics, passing on not just knowledge, but integrity and heart. In 2014, he was honored with the Region 2 EMS Director's Lifetime

Achievement Award- a recognition of the profound and lasting impact he made in emergency services. And in 2015, when the Anderson County EMS Next Steps Scholarship was renamed to the Charlie Williams Award and Scholarship, it was more than a tribute. It was a promise; that his commitment to community service would live on.

As much as Dad gave to his work and to others, there was one role that mattered the most to him, and that was being Paw-paw. His grandchildren were the absolute light of his life: Hannah Heidle, Lauren Heidle, Marcus Williams, Connor Williams, Ashley Foster, James Foster, and Brently Williams. Every story he told, every smile he gave, somehow always found its way back to one of them. They brought him joy, laughter, and pride beyond measure. The love he had for them was deep, constant, and unmistakable.

Charlie Williams touched more lives than we can count. His legacy lives on in the EMT's and Medics he trained, in the families he comforted in their darkest hours, and in the love he poured into his family each and every day.

To us, he was a hero. Not just for what he did, but for who he was. Kind. Strong. Humble. Fun-

ny in the quietest ways. You always knew when he was in the room--not because he needed attention, but because everything just felt a little steadier, a little more grounded.

Dad, thank you. Thank you for the sacrifices, the love, the strength, and the example. Thank you for being our foundation and our protector.

We will carry you with us always.

We love you.

The family will receive friends Monday, June 9, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. with Pastor David Graves officiating. Graveside services will be Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Rocky Top.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Charlie Frank Williams.

Psalm 123:1

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



Don't fall for refund scam



David Zubler
Columnist

The IRS has issued a new alert warning everyone to be aware of an increasing refund scam. The recent IRS announcement said criminals are sending emails that appear to be coming from the IRS. Con artists typically claim that people are eligible for a tax refund as an error correction or as a missed stimulus check.

The emails claim that you are eligible for a tax refund and instruct you to "click to verify your details." The emails utilize IRS branding and official-looking logos to deceive individuals.

The scammers are focusing on:

- People who filed paper returns
- Filers with amended or delayed refunds
- Elderly individuals
- Low-income households
- People using free online tax software

The criminals are counting on deceiving people so they can get their social security number, bank account information, and other important information and take their money.

President Donald Trump said he's considering a plan to pay out \$5,000 stimulus checks to taxpayers in the form of a DOGE dividend. He explained it as part of allocating 20% of the savings identified by DOGE to be returned to American taxpayers. Many people may be hopeful of receiving money from the IRS. Consequently, some people may be more easily fooled into believing the IRS is sending them money. However, there are no plans for stimulus checks at this time.

If you receive a suspicious email, the IRS encourages you to take the following steps:

- Do not click any links or download attachments
- Forward the message to phishing@irs.gov
- Delete the email after reporting it
- Monitor your credit score and IRS account for suspicious activity

You can also check your IRS account at [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) to confirm whether a refund is pending.

The IRS never initiates contact by email to request sensitive financial information. The IRS initially corresponds with taxpayers by mail. Rarely do they call the taxpayer, and it's only after first corresponding by mail.

The IRS stated that it is continuing to collaborate with law enforcement and cybersecurity agencies to identify and shut down fraudulent domains.

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](https://www.YourTaxCare.com). David can be reached at (865)363-3019 or by email at david@yourtaxcare.com.



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Historically Speaking

Manhattan Project 2.0:

Oak Ridge's Nuclear Renaissance

(Or...We could NEVER do that today!) Part 1

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Recently, I have been asked to provide information on why the Manhattan Project was able to be so successful in a very short time compared to what folks envision can be done with a similar project in today's environment. The project being considered is Manhattan Project 2.0, as requested by Chris Wright, the Department of Energy Secretary, while in Oak Ridge a few weeks ago.

I gave a brief 10-minute talk about the Manhattan Project to a group of 25 leaders in Oak Ridge. I also suggested how lessons learned from that successful project might be applied today. Here is a link to a later recording of a somewhat extended version of that presentation: <https://youtu.be/a2YD-zA3Y4g?si=sVfwJ821Y-jeNocFe>

If Manhattan Project 2.0 is to succeed, the very first thing that must be done is to eradicate the very thought that "We could NEVER do that today!" That attitude MUST go! Replace it with "We CAN do another Manhattan Project today!"

The Manhattan Project succeeded in World War II because of several unique conditions—political, industrial, and scientific—that are difficult (but NOT IMPOSSIBLE) to replicate today. Here are five key factors:

1. Unprecedented Federal Authority and Funding

- Massive, rapid investment: Over \$2 billion (~\$30B today) was committed without typical budgetary constraints.

- Centralized decision-making: The Manhattan Engineer District (under Brigadier General Leslie Groves) had sweeping authority to bypass red tape with an AAA rating and almost unlimited but audited funds.

- No congressional micromanagement: Most of the project was kept secret, avoiding political interference.

2. National Sense of Urgency and Unity

- Existential threat: Fear that Nazi Germany would build an atomic bomb first created extraordinary motivation.

- Wartime mentality: Patriotism and the urgency of defeating fascism overrode personal or political hesitations.

- Mobilization of talent: Scientists and engineers eagerly joined, often postponing or leaving careers.

3. Centralized Scientific and Industrial Collaboration

- Concentrated brainpower: Top physicists (Oppenheimer, Fermi, Szilard) were assembled at places like Los Alamos and Oak Ridge.

- No corporate silos: DuPont, Union Carbide, and others worked under government coordination, not for profit but to win the war.

- Full-spectrum effort: Basic science, engineering, and full-scale production were integrated into a single coordinated effort.

4. Security and Secrecy

- Strict compartmentalization: Workers were aware only of what they needed to know, thereby limiting leaks and distractions.

- Censorship and surveillance: Tight information control prevented espionage (although not completely, as evidenced by the cases of Klaus Fuchs and George Koval) and public scrutiny.

- No internet or social media: Protected the project from the kind of leaks common today
- 5. Willingness to Take Risks (Unlike the "zero risk" mentality of today, which MUST be eradicated)

- Experimental scale-up: Pilot plants (like at

Oak Ridge and Hanford) were built before full proof-of-concept.

- Flexible timelines and decisions: Groves and others made bold choices without months of deliberation.

- Failure was tolerated: Multiple enrichment methods were pursued in parallel (gaseous diffusion, electromagnetic, thermal diffusion)

Contrast with Today:

- Modern projects face environmental reviews, regulatory hurdles, fragmented leadership, politicization, budget constraints, and media exposure—none of which significantly delayed the Manhattan Project.

Additionally, the first Manhattan Project had one commanding officer holding unilateral, broad powers to make decisions (subject to the Secretary of Defense, the Office of Scientific Research and Development committee, and ultimately the President of the United States) serving as an Assistant Chief of Engineers over the Project. The government found reputable contractors and hired them to perform specific tasks, then stepped out of their way.

Time was important. People were getting killed. How do we build a sense that time is important today, or the Chinese will beat us globally? They were willing to take risks. Compare the X-10 Graphite Reactor build with Kairos' construction schedule for Hermes today. How many pages of documentation have already been created for Hermes versus the Graphite Reactor? Little Boy was not even tested.

They attracted the best people in the country and did not depend on building a support structure out of universities. Universities played a minor role. They were given priority to procure materials. The management model did not incorporate a lot of committees.

THE GOAL OF THE PROJECT WAS VERY CLEAR. However, very few of the 600,000 workers knew the goal. It will be challenging to build that commitment to the mission in today's atmosphere.

The Manhattan Engineer District managed the entire project with only 5,000 Army personnel in total, not just in Oak Ridge. The District Engineer, in agreement with the Commanding General of the Manhattan Project, delegated authority and management.

In the heart of East Tennessee, Oak Ridge is once again at the forefront of nuclear innovation. More than 80 years after the original Manhattan Project transformed this quiet region into a hub of atomic research, a new chapter is unfolding with Kairos Power's Hermes reactor. This modern endeavor echoes the urgency and ambition of the past, drawing parallels between the rapid development of the X-10 Graphite Reactor and today's advanced nuclear initiatives.

A Legacy of Innovation: The X-10 Graphite Reactor: During World War II, the U.S. government embarked on the Manhattan Project, a secretive mission to develop nuclear weapons. Oak Ridge played a pivotal role, housing the X-10 Graphite Reactor—the world's first reactor designed for continuous operation. Constructed in just nine months, X-10 became operational on November 4, 1943, serving as a pilot plant for plutonium production and laying the groundwork for the reactors at Hanford, Washington.

The success of X-10 was a testament to the leadership of General Leslie Groves, Colonel Kenneth Nichols, and physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer. Groves, appointed commanding general of the Manhattan Project on September 23, 1942, oversaw Intelligence, overseas work, the training for the bomb delivery, and the Los Alamos operations. He delegated his authority to, but closely coordinated with, Nichols, who, as district engineer, supervised the design, construction, and op-



Colonel Kenneth Nichols was the district engineer of the Manhattan Engineer District reporting to the commanding officer of the Manhattan Project, Brigadier General Groves. He ran the day-to-day activities. Such a person(s) will be required in the second Manhattan Project.

(Courtesy of Barbara Scollin)

erations of the Oak Ridge and Hanford facilities, the production of fissionable materials, the seven procurement offices in New York, and internal security operations. Oppenheimer, as the scientific director of the Los Alamos bomb laboratory, brought together some of the brightest minds to solve unprecedented challenges.

The entire Manhattan Project was completed in two years and nine months from November 1942 to August 1945. Oak Ridge, TN, Los Alamos, NM, and Hanford, WA were the three major locations. Many other locations supported those three. 600,000 people were employed in the project. 14,700 tons of silver were borrowed from the US Treasury. Much of what was done had never been done before. Most of the workers had no idea what they were creating. They only knew it was something to help stop the awful war.

To show what kind of challenges have to be faced in today's environment, here is a comparison of the time it took to bring the X-10 Graphite Reactor online versus the projected timeline for the Kairos Hermes Reactor under construction at the K-25 site.

X-10 Graphite Reactor Timeline:

July 1942: Decision made to build a pilot plutonium production reactor (later named X-10) before full-scale reactors are developed.

August 1942: Design and planning for the reactor began under the direction of Eugene Wigner and the Metallurgical Laboratory at the University of Chicago.

September 1942: The area to become known as Oak Ridge and Clinton Engineer Works was selected. DuPont is contracted to design and build the reactor.

- Continue on Page 9

Historically Speaking Manhattan Project 2.0: Oak Ridge's Nuclear Renaissance (Or...We could NEVER do that today!) Part 1

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian



Robert Oppenheimer was the scientific lead for the Manhattan Project. His expertise was unparalleled, and General Groves saw he was the man for the job.

Groves personally pushed through a security clearance even when there was considerable risk associated with Oppenheimer's associates in the Communist Party. General Groves took that risk. Some risks must be taken for the second Manhattan Project to succeed. (Photo by Ed Westcott)

November 1942: Site preparation begins at Clinton Engineer Works. February 2, 1943: Construction began at the X-10 site when ground was broken. Mid-1943: Installation of the graphite

moderator and uranium fuel is underway. The reactor structure and adjacent facilities (including the chemical separation plant) were completed rapidly.

November 4, 1943: X-10 Graphite Reactor went critical, becoming the world's first reactor designed for continuous operation.

Less than 16 months (July 1942 – November 1943)! Only nine months from construction start to criticality!

Hermes Reactor

Timeline:

September 29, 2021: Kairos Power submitted its construction permit application for the Hermes test reactor to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

December 14, 2023: The NRC issued a construction permit for the Hermes reactor, authorizing Kairos Power to proceed with construction at the Oak Ridge site.

July 17, 2024: Site work and excavation commenced at the Hermes location in Oak Ridge.

May 7, 2025: Kairos Power completed the first safety-related concrete pour for the Hermes reactor, marking a significant milestone in the construction phase.

Target Operational Date: The Hermes reactor is projected to be operational by 2027.

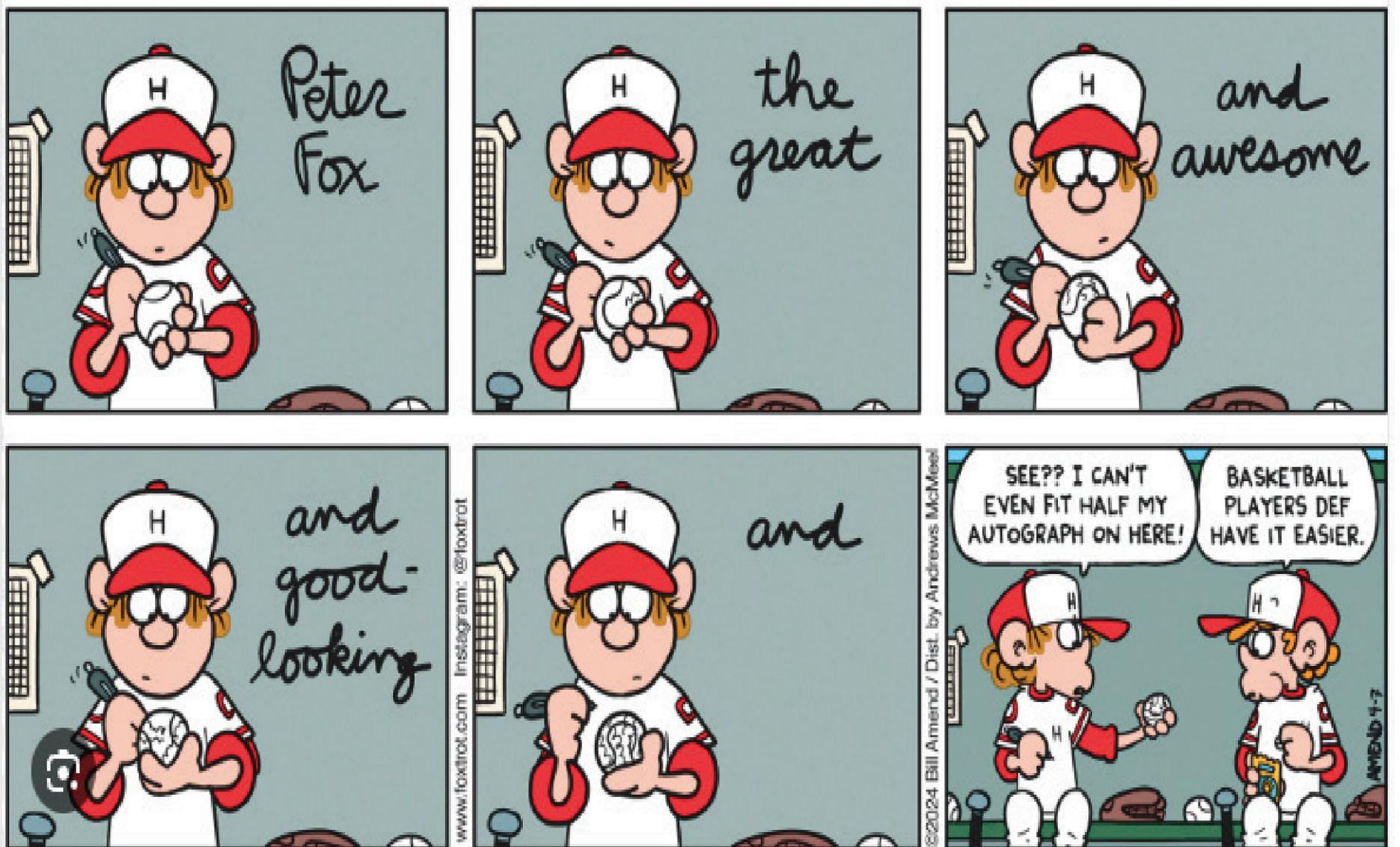
That is six years! Only two years and nine months for the entire Manhattan Project! Less than three years for the X-10 Graphite Reactor.

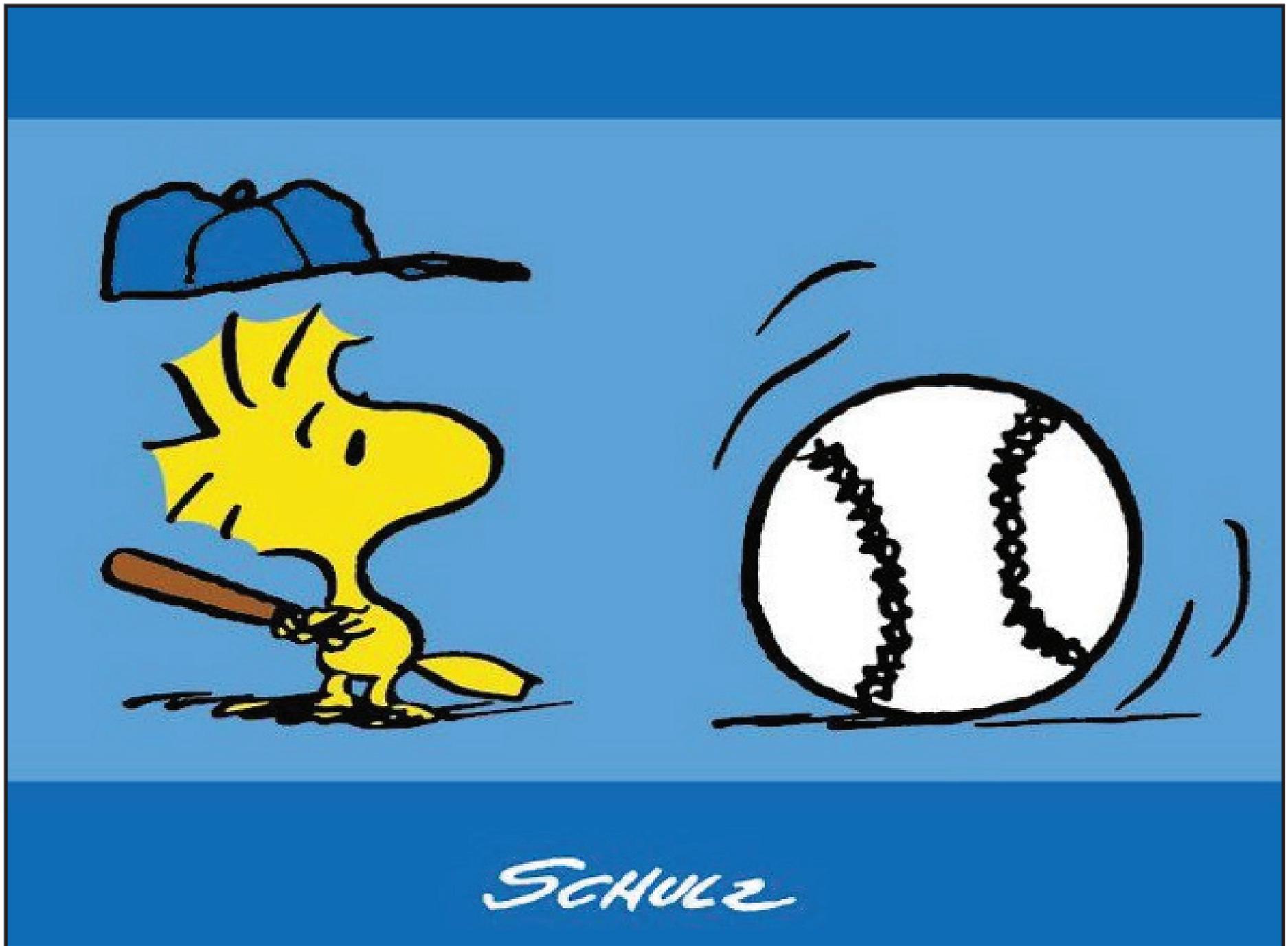
Next, we will look at the practical requirements to achieve a second Manhattan Project.



General Leslie R. Groves was the key person in the first Manhattan Project. His command was clear. He was THE person in charge. He made the decisions. I am told by his grandson, Dick Groves, that his grandfather would only allow himself one hour to make even the most difficult decisions. That kind of urgency is required for the second Manhattan Project!

(Photo by Ed Westcott)





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John Chapter 15



Melvin Howard

(John 15:1-11) The Allegory of the Vine and the Branches: An allegory is a story in which certain comparisons are made to teach lessons. In this allegory, there are three main items---a husbandman, vine, and branches. The husbandman represents God, the vine symbolizes Christ, and the branches reflect the Lord's disciples. Note the following important points: (a) The branches are those "in" Christ (Galatians 3:27 "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.") A branch that does not bear fruit

is cut off, has no practical union with the vine. Fruit-bearing branches are pruned (perhaps with painful experiences) so that they will bear more fruit. (b) Jesus' disciples were "cleansed" because of the teaching received from the Lord. There is no cleansing apart from Christ. (c) The branches must "abide" (remain) in him---implying they can leave. (d) If a branch does not abide in the vine, it cannot bear fruit. (e) Branches that remain joined to the vine will bear much fruit. (f) If a branch does not remain in the vine, eventually it will be cut off and burned. (John 15:4-6 "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.")

Christ makes the application to his disciples: (a) If they remain in union with him, and his words remain in them, they may solicit from him whatever they need to be fruitful and it will be provided. Growth and production are associated with his words. (b) When disciples bear fruit (make new converts), God is glorified. (c) Christ loves his people and wants them to remain in union with him. (d) If we keep his commandments, we will remain in his love. (e) This illustration has been given so that disciples may remain faithful and so fulfill Christ's joy, and their own joy will be made full. There is no "full joy" apart from serving the Lord.

(John 15:12-17) The True Friends of Christ: Jesus commands that his followers love one another as he has loved them. Can one command an emotion? No, but he can command dedication, and that is the emphasis here (13:34). The greatest love of all is when one is willing to lay down his life "for" (the Greek means "in the place of") his friends (v. 13). The friends of Jesus are those who do what he has commanded. Is the Lord teaching legalism? Hardly! Ultimately, these obligations are from God. No longer are the disciples to be viewed merely as servants to whom the master does not reveal his plans. Instead, they are friends, for they have been made privy to the Father's "things" even though, at this point, they have not understood these things. They will!

The disciples did not choose him; he chose them and appointed them as his special spokesmen. The text has no reference to John Calvin's "unconditional election." The choosing referenced here had to do with apostleship, not salvation. The disciples were saved when they obeyed the conditions set forth for salvation. The "choosing" involved going forth to bear fruit---and healthy fruit that would endure no matter what. In the process, God would bless them consistent with their requests (v. 6). Love for one another is a divine obligation (v. 17). But this love is not mere emotion; it is action.

(John 15:18-25) Warnings about Persecution: Jesus declared that the "world" has "hated" him. The verb indicates an ongoing, determined hate. Therefore, the disciples can expect no better treatment. The events of the book of Acts---indeed, all subsequent history---will confirm this. Persecution is inevitable from the world because those who are evil hate those who, by their godly lives, cast them in a bad light (Heb. 11:7). Christians have been "chosen out of the world"; thus, the world hates them (v. 19).

A servant is not greater than his Lord (13:16). If, therefore, they hate the greater (the Lord), surely they will show no mercy to the lesser (the disciple). On the other hand, if one respects Jesus Christ as Lord, he will respect the message of those who represent him. Those who persecute the followers of the Lord bear eloquent testimony to the fact that they have no regard, ultimately, for God Almighty himself (v. 21). Christ indicts the Jews with the following argument. If he had not come and proclaimed his message to them, they could not and would not have committed the sin of rejecting him. But he did come and declare his identity to them; hence, they have no excuse for "the sin" (Greek text) of rejecting him and likewise rejecting his Father (v. 22). This text affords not the slightest justification for the old saying, "Ignorance is bliss."

To hate the Son is to hate the Father also, because they are "one" in essence (10:30). The term "also" reveals the distinction between the Father and Son as persons. Jesus affirms that his miracles made him unique. The Jews, thus, were guilty of sin because they saw these signs and yet rejected him. Rejection of the Son is the equivalent of rejecting the Father (v. 24). There is utterly no virtue in claiming: "I believe in God, but not Jesus Christ." Those who reject Jesus do so "without cause," as was written in the Jews' law (Psa. 69:4). (a) The rejection of Christ was foretold a thousand years earlier in David's psalm (Rom. 11:9-10). (b) The Lord was rejected without cause, thus killed as an innocent victim. (c) The Psalms were a part of the law; therefore, no one today can justify a religious practice by a law that was cancelled at the cross (Colossians 2:14-17 "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ").

(John 15:26-27) The Mission of the Comforter (The Holy Spirit): There again is the promise of the coming Comforter (14:16, 26). The promise is: when Christ ascends to heaven, he will send the Holy Spirit from the Father. The unity of the Godhead is wonderfully emphasized. The Spirit will bear witness of Christ. (John 15:26-27 "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning"). This is an important point. Thousands make false claims about being possessed of the Spirit, supernaturally blessed by the Spirit. If they actually had the Spirit, they would not be compelled to speak obsessively about him. The Spirit's role was to glorify Christ (16:14), not himself. The apostles would also bear testimony of Christ under the power of the Spirit, rehearsing the things they personally had witnessed from the beginning.

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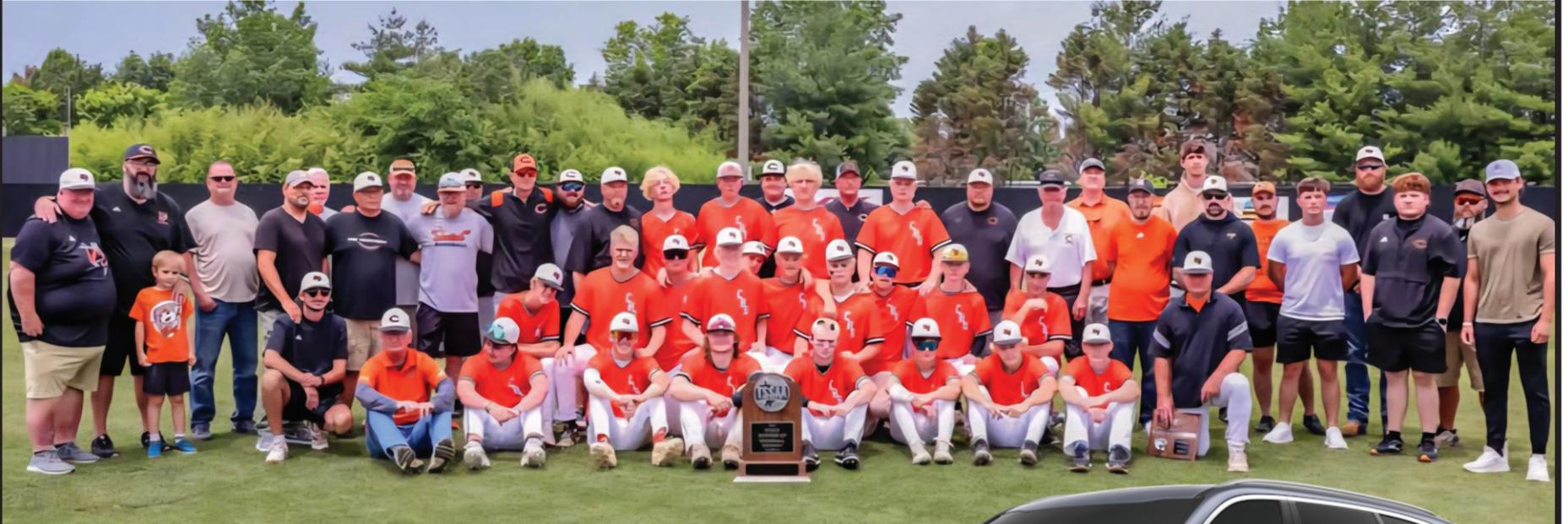
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