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Thu 10 **85°/68°**

Fri 11 **86°/69°**

Sat 12 **87°/69°**

Sun 13 **86°/67°**

Mon 14 **87°/68°**



**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective

Boom-Boomz

Ms Ivory and me had a terrific 4th of July. We had so much fun and lots of ear scratches and belly rubs from all the visitors. Everyone just wuffed the patriotic dresses that Ms Ivory and me had. They were perfect for the occasion.

However, the very BEST part of the day was when we were fed so many tasty treats and found all the morsels of deliciousness that were dropped on the ground, YUMMO! There was this stuff called BBQ, hot dogs, hamburgers, and of course the ever tasty fish.

It was one of the best days ever...UNTIL...

These things I call the big loud BOOM-BOOMZ, started. Ms Ivory was so scared she was vibrating all over like she does when it storms. Me, I don't particularly care for them but they don't terrorify me like they do her. Mimi says I'm a brave girl.

Any-woof, I hope everyone had a wonderful time celebrating the birthday of our home, sweet home. God bless, America!

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.



David Zubler
Columnist

Overcome IRS installment plan issues

The IRS will soon begin sending millions of letters to individuals who owe taxes.

If you are one of the millions of Americans who are setting up an IRS payment plan this year, you may experience exasperating technical issues when trying to set it up.

The IRS announced that taxpayers are increasingly encountering a frustrating issue when trying to set up an installment agreement. People have been receiving a “payment plan submission error” message. The IRS problem is delaying people from setting up an installment agreement and causing confusion. And with the reduced IRS staff, people are having trouble getting in touch with the IRS to resolve the issue.

According to the IRS, the payment plan issue can be caused by several factors.

The IRS computer system may occasionally become overwhelmed. The IRS recommends retrying to set up the plan during midday and mid-week.

Clearing your browser cache or using a different browser may help resolve the issue. Outdated cache and cookies can interfere with the process.

Changing your payment date to a date other than the first day of the month may also help.

Attempting to set up an installment plan too soon after filing can prevent you from setting up a payment plan. It often takes 2-3 weeks for the IRS computer system to update your account balance after your return has been processed.

To qualify for an online installment agreement:

- You must be compliant in filing previous tax returns
- You must owe \$50,000 or less for long-term plans
- You must owe \$100,000 or less for short-term plans

Unfiled tax returns and non-compliance with prior agreements can prevent the IRS from accepting your payment plan. If you haven't filed all your previous returns, you will need to file them before a payment plan is accepted.

If your tax liability exceeds these amounts, you will need to apply by mail using Form 9465. However, you can make an initial payment to get your balance below the threshold.

An IRS short-term payment plan allows up to 180 days to pay the tax debt in full.

A long-term installment agreement typically allows you to make payments over a period of up to 72 months (6 years).

The first IRS letter sent to individuals who owe taxes is typically a CP14 Notice, which provides details about the amount owed, including any interest and penalties. It also informs you that the collection process has started.

When a CP14 Notice is received, you should verify its accuracy. Check your payment records and compare them to the notice.

If you disagree, contact the IRS using the phone number on the notice and have your supporting documentation ready. Depending on your scenario, you can have penalties abated.

Failing to address the CP14 Notice will result in additional penalties and interest.

Knowing how to overcome the IRS installment plan issues will help reduce frustration and the time spent completing it.

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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— In Loving Memory —

Cheryl Ann (Melhorn) Jeffers, 58



Melhorn, Whitney Melhorn, Jacob Melhorn, Olivia Melhorn, Jordan Melhorn, Jesse Melhorn and Evan Melhorn. She is survived by a host of great Nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Betty Katherine Bonham Melhorn and Father, David E. Melhorn Sr.

Cheryl Ann (Melhorn) Jeffers, age 58 of Harriman, TN departed this Earth and entered into Heaven on June 28th, 2025 with her family by her side. Cheryl lived life to the fullest, always up for adventure. Cheryl fiercely loved her family, always their biggest support and cheerleader. Cheryl also loved her dog, the beach, riding her Harley, her friends, her work and her Big Orange football. Cheryl was a member of Big Emory Baptist Church in Harriman, TN.

Cheryl was born in Joliet, Illinois on May 31st 1967. Cheryl was raised and lived in Wartburg, TN most of her life, she was a graduate of Central High School Class of 1985.

She is survived by her immediate family, her husband Tim Jeffers of Harriman, TN. Daughter Heather (Dustin) Weaver of Sunbright, TN. Niece Angela (Nate) Burgess of Clinton, TN. Granddaughters: Emerson Weaver, Karlie Weaver and Gracie Wilson.

She is also survived by brothers: David "Henry" Melhorn Jr. (Peggy) of Friendsville, TN. Stephen Melhorn (Penny) of Wartburg, TN, Robert Melhorn (Nancy) of Wartburg, TN. Nieces and Nephews: Joshua Melhorn, Jerika Melhorn, Ethan

Cheryl was caring and selfless. Helping others and taking care of everyone. She was a Registered Nurse and spent the last 40 years taking care of other people in their time of need, both at work and in life. She was dependable and passionate. She continued to be selfless till the end, her last wishes were to continue to help others in their most vulnerable time. She was a registered organ donor and her gifts allowed others life and to continue on their journey here on Earth.

Cheryl never met a stranger; she bubbled with energy. She laughed and loved and was a joy to be around. Although our hearts are broken and she will forever be missed, we know she is still with us in spirit.

The family will receive Friends Wednesday, July 2nd 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 6:00-8:00 pm with funeral to follow at 8:00pm with Dustin Snow officiating. Graveside services will be Thursday July 3rd 2025 at 10:00am at Morgan Memorial Gardens in Wartburg.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Cheryl Ann (Melhorn) Jeffers.

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.



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Historically Speaking Ron Garret's Reflections on His Early Oak Ridge Life

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Benita Albert brings us another of her excellently researched stories of Oak Ridge School's graduates. This one tells the story of a person who chose to change his name. I am sure you will enjoy learning about him.

Ron Garret is an adventurer in his personal and professional life. His ever-curious mind and creative problem-solving talents have led him to a broad range of experiences. He has pursued research in robotics and artificial intelligence, has written code software for outer space projects as well as developed one of the first online crowdsourcing applications, has studied filmmaking and produced a feature-length documentary film, has created blogs on topics from quantum mechanics to coding in Common Lisp, and has sought cultural enrichment via eclectic world travels. Ron's resume' includes work across government and corporate projects as well as an entrepreneur for, and/or angel investor in, several startup companies.

Helen Keller wrote, "Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing at all." Pablo Picasso observed, "I am always doing that which I cannot do, in order that I may learn how to do it." These quotes from two 20th Century notables combine to offer a better description of Ron Garret than my own verbiage allows. Ron is fearless, incessantly curious, and eager for new challenges.

I first knew Ron as Erann Gat, my Oak Ridge High School (ORHS) Calculus student for two years in the early 1980s. In 2004, Erann changed his name to Ron Garret, a decision made to circumvent the many mispronunciations of his birth name. Erann recalled that his dad had also changed his surname, thus Gat was not a multi-generational family name. His parents, Ruth and Uri Gat, moved to Oak Ridge in the summer of 1974. Uri accepted an appointment at Oak Ridge National Lab in nuclear engineering. Erann enrolled in fifth grade at Linden School in the fall of 1974 and later matriculated through Robertsville Junior High School, ultimately graduating with the ORHS Class of 1982.

His parents' heritage and their devoted support of Erann and his younger sister, Irit, were instrumental in shaping their values and inspiring their dreams. Uri was born in Jerusalem and Ruth in Haifa, both a part of Palestine at the time. They would later meet upon Uri's move to Haifa, but their interest in each other grew during the time they served in the Israeli Air Force from 1954-56. Uri was a fighter pilot who flew combat missions in the 1956 Sinai Campaign. Uri attended the renowned Technion University, the Israel Institute of Technology. Uri and Ruth married in 1961 and moved to Juelich, Germany, in 1963 for furtherance of Uri's postdoctoral studies in nuclear engineering. Erann was born in 1964, followed by Irit's birth in 1966. The family immigrated to the United States in 1969 when Uri accepted a teaching position in the University of Kentucky's Engineering School.

Ruth Gat completed both a bachelor's and a master's degree in marriage and family counseling from the University of Kentucky by 1974, just before the family moved to Oak Ridge. Ruth and fellow therapist, Sandy Smith, co-founded Area Counseling Services, an Oak Ridge based organization where she worked until her retirement in 2015.

Irit Gat graduated from ORHS in 1984 and later completed doctoral studies that certified her as a clinical psychologist. She spent the most of her career in academic teaching and adminis-

tration. Her last assignment, before her untimely death in 2020, was as the Dean of Psychology and Social Sciences at Antelope Valley College in Lancaster, CA.



Bil Lepp
(Photo courtesy of Bil Lepp)

Reflecting on his Oak Ridge childhood, Erann recalled long bus rides to and from school and of being an after-school, latch-key kid since both parents worked. In those afternoons he remembers watching TV reruns and game shows. His introduction to American pop culture was shaped by such as: "Bat Man," "Gilligan's Island," "The Brady Bunch," "The Match Game," and "The Price is Right." He said, "I was a C student for my first few years until I realized that getting A's wasn't really that hard, and it made my parents happy. I started putting in some effort." His efforts paid off as he completed the most rigorous academic coursework at ORHS and subsequently earned admission to a half-dozen top-tier universities.

Erann described his young self as lacking motivation, opining that "laziness was my super power." However, as his math teacher, I never observed this. I remember a young man full of enthusiasm for learning, one constantly in search of challenges beyond the curricular constraints of his coursework, an incredible wit, and a student with a natural talent and infectious zeal for science and math.

It was during his junior high years that a whole new world of exploration opened-up and shaped his future. I learned this when I asked Ron who (or what) inspired his beyond-Oak Ridge educational and career choices. His response follows.

"There was an easily-definable inflection point. Around 1978, the American Museum of Science and Energy (AMSE) hired a fellow named Jim Dunion to develop exhibits using these newfangled 8-bit computers. The Oak Ridger published a story about him where he said that anyone in the community was welcome to drop in and use the machines, because he had a dozen of them but could only use one at a time himself. My mom saw the story and suggested that I pay him a visit. She had to lean on me pretty hard (lazy remember?), but eventually I went and introduced myself and started hanging out at the museum.

Jim set me up with a computer of my own on a table in the hallway. I would walk there after school and teach myself programming, staying until my dad picked me up after his workday. The main benefit for me was that it let me avoid riding the bus which I had grown to detest. I didn't really get into programming at first, but after a while I started figuring it out. It grew on me, and after

one year, the museum hired me. It was my first job, and it started a pattern that has pretty much held true throughout my career of having extraordinary opportunities just fall into my lap."

His job largely involved writing code in BASIC and keeping the computer-based exhibits running. The latter involved loading programs from cassette tapes.

Erann's memories from ORHS included a student trip to Mexico sponsored by ORHS teacher Lloyd Wattenbarger. Recalling this more than four decades later, Ron marveled at the freedom to sightsee and experience the local culture with minimal supervision, something that he feels might no longer be a liberty afforded current student groups. He bought a huge sombrero, so large that he had to suffer the embarrassment of wearing it, rather than packing it, for the plane trip home. That sombrero hung in his parents' home thereafter, a reminder of what he called one of his "idiotic purchases," the other being two switchblade knives that surprisingly made it through customs.

He also remembers the freedom offered students to pursue their own interests and projects in computer programming class at ORHS. There were others of his peers who had become proficient in coding prior to enrollment in the course. At AMSE, Erann worked on a Sol-20 computer where he taught himself to code in BASIC, thus a transition to the Fortran language at ORHS was an easy transfer. At home, his first computer was a Commodore PET (1978) followed later by an Apple 2+ where he wrote his first program using Lisp, now one of the oldest programming languages, along with Fortran, that are still in use. Ron observed that he still uses Lisp code in the chip design work he currently performs.

As for ORHS extracurricular activities, Erann participated in the Model United Nations, Computer Club, Science Club, and the National Honor Society. He worked with the Computer Club and Student Council to design a unique fundraising venture. He developed a computer dating system where participating students submitted answers to a common multiple-choice questionnaire. Answers were then compared across all other ORHS survey responders for best matches. It was an immediate hit and a successful fund raiser. The day students received the names of their top data matches was eagerly anticipated. The computer printouts each participating student received often revealed surprising pairings, and some results even sparked new relationships. The dating match program continued as a wildly popular student activity for many years beyond Erann's tenure at ORHS.

Another of Erann's computer projects earned him the Grand Prize at the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair. The title of his research was "The Twenty-five Cent Apple II Real-time Clock." A real-time clock is a device that provides the computer with time information without disrupting the computer's normal functions. Erann's research provided an alternative to the more expensive options offered commercially, by designing his own interrupt counter at a total cost of 25 cents or less. Erann's research produced his first scientific publication. If you are a computer science historian or perhaps a former Apple II user, you might find his paper to be an interesting read. You may access it online at: https://www.atarimagazines.com/compute/issue9/030_1_THE_25C_APPLE_II_REAL_TIME_CLOCK_php

With his science fair research, Erann earned a first publication credit while still in high school. This accomplishment, plus so many more to come in his professional career, provoked me to chide him re his statement that "laziness was his super power." Ron defended his claim and the benefits it brings.

Historically Speaking Ron Garret's Reflections on His Early Oak Ridge Life

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

"It's not intended to be ironic. Laziness has turned out to be a super power, because it has motivated me to seek out ways to make hard things easier. That (making things easy) actually turns out itself to be pretty hard, but the payoff is that I then don't have to work so hard to do the other hard things."

As mentioned earlier, Erann's ORHS coursework challenged the highest offerings available, a schedule heavy with Advanced Placement classes. Resultant strong performances on AP exams earned him many college credits. He was accepted to several prestigious universities, and his final choice was Virginia Tech. He summarized his decision saying, "They offered

me a full scholarship; thus, it was less of a financial burden for my parents. It was far enough away from home to feel like I was getting away, but close enough to make it fairly easy to come home... And finally, when I visited, I just really liked the vibe."

He added, "Because of all the AP credit I got at ORHS, I entered Virginia Tech as a sophomore, and after one quarter I was a junior. I finished my undergraduate degree in eight quarters, which were interrupted by two six-months-long co-op jobs at IBM in San Jose, CA. I finished my undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering in the fall quarter of 1985."

Erann completed a PhD in Computer Science in 1991 while also making a name for himself as a NASA research scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. His career was only beginning, a nonlinear journey across varied work projects and ventures, such as noted in the first paragraph of this Part One of his story. A sub-

sequent Part Two feature story will highlight the impact Erann Gat, now known as Ron Garret, has had in pursuing his passion for learning, problem solving, and futuristic thinking.

Thanks, Benita, for an excellent insight into the early life of Erann, later Ron. The second column will be interesting as we see him mature and fashion an amazing career.

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John Chapter 19



Melvin Howard

(John 19:1-16) “Behold your King!” (Mt. 27:27-30; Mk. 15:16-19): When the Jews clamored for Barabbas instead of Jesus, the fickle Pilate concluded that, for political reasons, he must concede. He delivered Christ to be whipped. This scourging was a brutal experience and many could not survive it. The Son of Man must have been physically strong. Mockingly, the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns for his “regal” head and adorned him with a royal purple robe. They saluted him with, “Hail, King of the Jews,” and

hit him with their hands.

Pilate went out again to the Jews and declared for the second time: “I find no crime in him” (v. 4). Jesus emerged wearing the adornments of ridicule and the governor announced him, “Behold, the man!” whereupon the chief priests and temple police began to yell: “Crucify him, crucify him!” Their rage can hardly be described. Pilate yielded: “Take him yourselves, and crucify him: for I find no crime in him” (v. 6). The judge proclaims him innocent three times, and yet turns him over to the mob. No greater travesty of justice has ever been perpetrated---and it was all for us!

The Jews charged Jesus with a capital crime in claiming to be the Son of God. This frightened Pilate even more. He escorted him back into the Praetorium, asking, “From where have you come?” But the Lord answered him not. This infuriated the governor who threatened to use his power to crucify Jesus. But the Lord bravely told him: “You would have no power at all against me, unless granted from God. He who has delivered me unto you has the greater sin” (v. 11). These facts are evident: (a) God is sovereign over civil powers (Dan. 2:21; 4:17); such are appointed and removed at his pleasure. (b) Jesus was the actual “judge” in this situation! Pilate was guilty of setting aside legal justice, but Caiaphas and his cronies, who should have known the Scriptures and recognized their Messiah, had the greater guilt, and ultimately would be judged more severely. (c) There are graduated levels of guilt and punishment (Mt. 11:20-24; Lk. 12:45; Jas. 3:1; Heb. 10:28-29).

Pilate, like a reed blown in the wind, attempted again to release Jesus, but the Jews were in psychological control. They attacked the governor’s “Achilles heel,” charging: “If you release him, you are no friend of Caesar’s. This man claims to be a king, thus a rival of Caesar’s.” Pilate had already discussed the “king” issue with Jesus, and he knew the Lord was no political threat, but every drop of courage had evaporated from his soul. Christ, thus, was brought out to the platform where judgment was to be pronounced formally, and the judge took his seat. These events were on Friday of the Passover week, and it was six o’clock in the morning. This indicator is based upon Roman time, not Jewish. Thus, counting from midnight, this would be six a.m. It is unlikely that John would have used the Jewish time system, since he wrote his Gospel account a third of a century after the Jewish system had become obsolete in A.D. 70. Pilate declared, “Behold, your King,” and turned the Savior over to the frenzied crowd for crucifixion.

(John 19:23-24) The Crucifixion: Read Matthew 27:32-56.

(John 19:23-24) The Distribution of the Garments: As the Lord hung upon the cross, the soldiers took his clothes (five pieces total) and divided them. This strongly suggests that Jesus was totally disrobed on the cross, as the practice usually was. It was an additional form of humiliation. Artists since have favored us with a semblance of modesty. The inference is that there were four soldiers involved in the crucifixion. Each received a piece of clothing---possibly a headdress, sandals, an outer garment, and belt (or sash) for girding up the outer garment during vigorous activity (Acts 12:8). The under-tunic was “seamless,” hence, the soldiers “cast lots” for it so as not to spoil it.

John cites Psalm 22:18: “They parted my garments among them and upon my vesture did they cast lots.” The apostle is emphatic that this incident occurred “that the scripture might be fulfilled.” Psalm 22 is a marvelous portrayal of the sufferings associated with Jesus’ crucifixion, together with the victory resulting from the ordeal. While some see the original narrative as “typical” of Christ, it is more reasonably concluded that it is strictly predictive, having application to no one but the Lord Jesus. Josephus mentions that the high priest wore a “seamless” garment (Antiquities of the Jews 3.6.4.). Perhaps this point is merely incidental, but it is interesting that Christ was in the process of being offered as a sacrifice, and was on the threshold of entering his role as High Priest (Heb. 8:1; 9:11; 24; 10:19).

(John 19:25-27) Jesus and His Mother: Standing near the cross were several of Jesus’ women disciples, along with the apostle John. Jesus spoke to his mother, “Woman [entirely respectful], look, your son!” Then to John he said: “Look, your mother.” Both Mary and John drew the proper inference; from that hour, John took Mary into his own home to care for her. This

would imply: (a) Joseph was dead already; (b) the Lord’s half-brothers were not yet believers. Historical fragments suggest that John cared for her until her death.

(John 19:28-30) The Savior’s Death: “After this Jesus, knowing that all things are now finished, that the scripture might be accomplished, said, ‘I thirst.’ There was set there a vessel full of vinegar: so they put a sponge full of the vinegar upon hyssop, and brought it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, ‘It is finished’: and he bowed his head, and gave up his spirit” (18-30). (The fact that he bowed his head reveals a residue of strength yet in his body. Too, observe the “he gave up” phrase; it denotes a voluntary act).

The reference to “scripture” is obviously from Psalm 69 again (see 15:25). While the original context had an immediate application to David, there was a remote fulfillment of verse twenty-one in the suffering of Christ. The Old Testament passage reads: “They gave me also gall for my food; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.” This act of the soldiers was one of absolute mockery and meanness of spirit. It was but a further commentary on the utter hate that was poured upon him “without cause.” This act on the part of the Roman soldiers reflects a Gentile participation in the horrible act of killing the Messiah.

(John 19:31-37) The Soldiers and the Body: Because the Sabbath was approaching and the Jews did not want their religious scruples offended, they asked Pilate for permission to have the legs of these victims broken to hasten death. Soldiers were dispatched to accomplish the task. They broke the legs of the two thieves, but Jesus “was dead already” (v. 33). This is most important. Infidel critics have claimed that Christ was not dead, only unconscious. Later, he was revived and proclaimed his resurrection. Incredible! Can experienced, though Roman soldiers not tell the difference between a corpse and someone merely unconscious? They did not even break the Lord’s legs to make sure.

Clearly this narrative is indirect testimony to the fact that the Passover lamb of the Mosaic law was a “type” of Christ, who was “the lamb of God” (1:29). Paul depicts Jesus as “our Passover” (1 Cor. 5:7). The death of the Passover victim, together with the application of its blood, saved the firstborn from death (Ex. 12:13). By the shedding of the blood of Christ, Christians are spared spiritual death (Rom. 6:11, 23) and are recognized as “firstborn” (Heb. 12:23). Divine instruction specified that no bone of the sacrifice should be broken (Ex. 12:46; Num. 9:12).

(John 19:38-42) The Burial of Christ’s Body (Mt. 27:57-61) “When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus’ disciple: He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed. And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre.” Also read: Mk. 15:42-47 and Lk. 23:50-56.

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701 Callahan Drive
Knoxville, TN 37912**

There are three age categories:

3 - 7 yrs | 8 - 12 yrs | 13 - 18 yrs